

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Sandy Sue' *Courtesy American Camellia Society*

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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. Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: \$7.50.

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THE COVER FLOWER C. JAPONICA 'SANDY SUE'

'Sandy Sue' is a chance japonica seeding that was developed by Caryll W. Pitkin of San Marino, California. It is being propagated by Al and Vera Parker in their Redwood Empire Camellias nursery in Sebastopol, California and Wilkes Nursery in Moultrie, Georgia. The peony form white flower is 5 inches in diameter, not gibbed, and has heavy textured wavy petals. It is named for the Pitkin's daughter-in-law Sandy Sue Pitkin.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

The Fall 1973 issue of *Gulf Coast Camellias*, the official Bulletin of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, contained a schedule of 1973-1974 camellia shows in the six states that the Society covers; namely, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Tennessee. I counted 38 shows in this area. That got me to wondering how many camellia shows are held in the United States during a camellia season, so I went to the November 1973 issue of the A.C.S. *The Camellia Journal*. Their Show Date Schedule lists 18 shows in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Washington, D.C. and Maryland. We hold 15 shows in California. That gives a total of 71 camellia shows.

The first show of the season was at Nacogdoches, Texas on October 27-28. The last shows will be at Washington, D.C. on April 20-21 and at Baltimore, Maryland on April 21. Many thousands of people attend these shows.

This attendance at camellia shows must mean that many thousands of people like and grow camellias. I have walked the line along the tables at the Descanso Gardens show and have been interested in the number of people who in their discussion show more than a casual knowledge of camellias. They do not belong to camellia societies. Julius Nuccio tells me that their nursery would go broke if they had to rely solely on camellia society members for their business. What is wrong that the societies do not attract more of these people to membership? Based on what I read in the A.C.S. CAMELLIA JOURNAL and the Bulletins of other Societies that I receive, the membership problem is general and not confined to Southern California societies.

First, we must recognize that American people at large are not joiners. There must be a good reason for them to join any society. It is up to the societies, then, to have and present good reasons when asking a person or a family to become a member.

To compete in camellia shows is not a compelling reason for people who attend camellia shows for the pleasure of looking at camellias. To the same degree that we are not joiners, most Americans are not competitive participants in an activity.

It is my opinion that the thing that will cause these people to join camellia societies is the expectation that they personally will get some pleasure and value through associations with other people who grow camellias—pleasure and value in growing the camellias in their own gardens. Some of these people will decide to compete in shows. Many others, however, most of them, will continue to enjoy their camellias in their own gardens, just as many of our present members do. The bait is to present this picture, then turn it into reality.

Harold E. Oyler

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A CAMELLIA

P. G. Valder

School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney

*The following paper was presented at the meeting of the
International Camellia Society in Sydney in July 1973*

1. THE LIFE CYCLE AS IT OCCURS IN NATURE

Many enthusiasts have carried a camellia through its complete life cycle from pollination, through seed setting, harvest, and germination, back to flowering. Since not everyone has a really clear idea of what has happened, let us start by taking a close look at that most complex of organs, the flower.

The flower, like the rest of the plant, is made up of a large number of cells, each of which contains a nucleus, which in turn contains a number of chromosomes on which occur the genes, which determine every characteristic exhibited by the plant. The chromosome complement of each nucleus is made up of two sets, identical in appearance but differing in genetic make-up, one of which has come from the pollen-parent and one from the seed parent.

In each nucleus an exact copy is made of every chromosome, so that, when the nucleus divides, the group of chromosomes in each new cell is an exact replica of that which was present in the original cell before it divided. Thus in every cell the complete genetic make-up of the plant is recorded on an identical set of chromosomes.

It is because of this that botanists have been able to take a single cell from a plant and produce from it a complete plant, identical with that from which it was taken. We do the same sort of thing on a much less sophisticated scale when we propagate plants vegetatively. Mercifully, biologists have not yet succeeded in doing the same with human cells, or we might all be competing with

younger but otherwise identical versions of ourselves.

The number of chromosomes in each nucleus of a particular organism is known, not surprisingly, as its chromosome number. For instance our chromosome number is 46, made up of a set of 23 from each parent. Most camellias have a chromosome number of 30, made up of a set of 15 from each parent.

Some camellias have more than two sets of chromosomes. Those with 60 have four sets, each parent contributing two, and those with 90 have six sets, each parent contributing three. Occasionally camellias are found with 45 chromosomes, and it is thought that these plants arose from crosses between parents with 60 and 30 chromosomes respectively, the former contributing two sets and the latter one. Plants with three sets, or any other odd number, are usually sterile, since the chromosomes cannot divide into two equal groups. This is the most common reason for sterility in hybrid camellias arising from crosses between parents with different chromosome numbers.

Now in the flowers there are some special cells in the young anthers and ovules which undergo a special sort of cell division. In the anthers, each of these cells divides into four, but each of these four cells gets only one chromosome of each type, a single set of 15 in most camellias. These cells are the pollen grains.

Likewise in the ovules there are also special cells which divide into four. Unlike the anthers in which there are lots of such cells, each ovule has only one and, after it di-

(Continued on next page)

vides into four, only one cell survives. This then divides to form a group of cells called the embryo sac, one of the cells of which becomes the egg cell with a single set of 15 chromosomes. For further development to take place there must next be fertilization, which can only take place if it is preceded by another event, pollination, the transfer of pollen from the anthers to the stigma.

Most camellias are pollinated by insects or birds, which are attracted to the flowers by their appearance and in some cases, scent, their reward being a meal of pollen.

The anthers of camellias open by means of slits along their sides and it is from these that the pollen is shed. When an insect or bird touches the anther, it picks up pollen and then may move off to another flower, perhaps on another plant, and some of the pollen may be wiped off onto the stigma. The mature stigma bears small projections which trap the pollen grains. The stigma then provides them with moisture and food materials for their further development. Also, if experience with other plants is any guide, it will probably be found that it inhibits the further development of pollen grains of most plants other than camellias.

After the camellia pollen grain has been deposited on the stigma it commences further development. Each pollen grain has a conspicuous pore or pores in its wall and through one of these a tube develops which then grows into the tissue of the stigma, down the style, and into the ovule where it discharges two nuclei into the embryo sac. One of these nuclei fuses with the nucleus of the egg cell to produce a cell with two sets (30) of chromosomes once more. This cell commences dividing and develops into the embryo of the next generation and the tissues surrounding it also develop further, the whole thing becoming the seed. Fertilisation also triggers off the further development

of the ovary which enlarges, as the seeds develop, becoming a fruit of the type known as a capsule.

As the seed matures the embryo ceases development and becomes dormant. At this stage, however, there has already been considerable differentiation. The embryonic stem bears at its base an embryonic root, the radicle, and at its apex an embryonic growth bud, which will develop into the shoot. On either side of this are two seed leaves, the cotyledons, in which is stored sufficient food to enable the seedling to establish itself and commence manufacturing its own food.

The seeds fall when the capsules open and may roll or bounce some distance from the parent tree. These seeds have no obvious dispersal mechanism but, being large and rich in food materials, it is possible that they could be carried away by animals.

If the seed falls in a suitable place, it will germinate, sooner or later, when conditions of temperature and moisture are satisfactory. The seed absorbs moisture and the cells of the embryo commence dividing once more, the embryo continuing its development with the aid of the food materials stored in the cotyledons. A root emerges from the seed and grows down into the soil and the young stem grows up into the air. The young seedling then becomes independent, its root system absorbing water and dissolved substances from the soil, and the shoot absorbing carbon dioxide and light energy. It then grows on and eventually flowers, the cycle being repeated.

Seed production ensures dispersal, continuity of the species in time, and variability, since each seedling has a different complement of genes received from the pollen nucleus and egg cell from which it developed.

The development of the seedling is, of course, influenced by many en-

vironmental factors. Since gardeners are likely to provide adequate moisture and nutrients and some protection from diseases, pests and other adversities, the factors which will be considered here are day length and temperature.

In temperate climates most camellias grow and produce flower buds when exposed to the long days and high temperatures of summer. The flower buds appear to be terminal or lateral on the current years shoots but actually form in the axils of the bracts of the buds which will produce the following seasons growth. Light intensity is also important as flower buds will not form if it is low. As the days shorten and temperatures fall the plants, apart from the flower buds, become dormant. The onset of short days and low temperatures, however, induces the opening of the flower buds. Then, with the rising temperatures and increasing day length of spring, the dormancy of the shoot buds is broken and growth recommences. Thus the responses of the plant to temperature and day length ensure that it does not produce soft growth at a time when it might be injured by frost. The response of camellias to day length, however, appears to be less clearly defined than it is with many other plants.

There is another feature of the behaviour of camellia plants which seems worthy of mention. As happens with most plants, the roots of camellias enter into complex relationships with fungi. The absorbing organs of the plants are thus not just roots, but roots invaded by a fungus. When such an association appears to benefit both partners we call it a symbiosis, and the symbiotic association between a root and a fungus is called a mycorrhiza.

The type of mycorrhizal association into which camellias enter is called vesicular-arbuscular mycorrh-

iza. It has been shown that, while the fungus is parasitic on the plant, the disadvantages of this are far outweighed by the increased efficiency of the mycorrhizal roots in the taking up of minerals, particularly phosphorous. It is probable that plants growing under natural conditions in poor soils would be unable to survive were it not for these mycorrhizal associations. In cultivation, however, the plants will grow perfectly satisfactorily without the fungus, provided they are given adequate mineral nutrients.

The root systems of camellias are similar to those of most trees and shrubs. They grow through the soil as a result of the elongation brought about by the rapid division of a group of cells at the tip. These cells divide to produce the root cells on one side and the root-cap cells on the other. The root cap cells are loose and easily pushed off and, being continuously replenished, they protect the root tip from injury as it pushes through the soil.

In tranverse section it can be seen that each root has a layer of large cells surrounding a central core of conducting tissue. The fungus grows into the outer layers but does not penetrate the conducting tissue.

2. SOME PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR HYBRIDIZERS AND SEEDLING-RAISERS

For those interested in raising species or hybrids from seed, a detailed knowledge of the growth and reproduction of camellias can be of considerable use. Some of the practical aspects are examined below.

(a) *Emasculation.*

Because of the strong tendency for cross-pollination to occur, open-pollinated seed is notoriously unreliable except from plants growing in the wild or which flower at a time when there is nothing else for them to be crossed

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with. Hence, under garden conditions hand pollination is essential, and even this must be combined with measures which render cross-pollination impossible.

Firstly, if a cross is to be attempted, all the anthers must be removed from the flowers of the seed parent before the buds open, preferably well before if you wish to avoid self-pollination, since in many species and hybrids the pollen is mature and can be dislodged before the flowers open. It is usually easiest to remove most of the corolla with scissors and then cut off the anthers.

(b) *Pollination*

Many authorities say that following the removal of the anthers, the flowers should then be covered with a bag and left till the stigmas mature before pollination is carried out. It is certainly easy to get the pollen to stick on if this is done but it is much less fuss to carry out the emasculation, pollination, bagging and labelling as part of the one operation. The proportion of "takes" following pollination at this time is probably no less than when it is carried out later when the stigmas have matured. If it proves too difficult to attach a mass of pollen to an immature stigma, it can be wetted with a drop of water, or even better, a 10% sugar solution (two ounces in one pint of water). Under laboratory conditions camellia pollen has been shown to germinate and grow in such a solution. However, with a little practice, it should not be necessary to have to resort to such devices.

The easiest way to pollinate a stigma is to hold an anther by the filament and touch the pollen against the stigma. The use of camel-hair brushes, or forceps, is finicky and they have to be sterilised between each use if contamination with unwanted pollen is to be avoided. The hands, of course, should always be thoroughly washed if there is any

chance of their carrying unwanted pollen. It should always be remembered that pollen should be taken from unopened flowers only, as otherwise one cannot be certain that it has not become mixed with pollen from other flowers.

Following pollination the flowers should be enclosed in a bag and left there till the stigmas wither and are no longer receptive. Brown paper bags are the best. They shade the flowers and allow movement of moisture and gases in and out. Plastic, cellophane, or waxed paper bags are much less satisfactory. They retain moisture, which encourages the development of moulds, and, if sunlight strikes them, the flowers heat up and may well be injured, since they are in a water saturated atmosphere and are not cooled by evaporation from their surfaces as they would otherwise be.

Failure to emasculate properly, to bag the flowers, and to take pollen only from unopened flowers are undoubtedly the factors responsible for some of the unlikely-sounding parentages recorded for some hybrid camellias.

(c) *Pollen Storage*

Sometimes the most desirable crosses turn out to be those between species or cultivars which do not flower at the same time, or in which there is no overlap between the opening of the last flowers of one and the first of the other. This problem can easily be overcome by storing pollen, which keeps quite well in a dry atmosphere, and will remain viable for quite long periods, at least six months, if kept in a refrigerator. There is little doubt that pollen collected in the northern hemisphere in March could be used to pollinate flowers in the southern hemisphere in the following August.

If anthers are collected from flowers about to open and laid out in a matchbox or some other small con-

tainer, and placed in the refrigerator with one end of the box slightly open, they will dry out and the pollen will remain viable for a couple of months at least, which is all most people want. The more sophisticated may wish to store their pollen in gelatin capsules over silica gel in a sealed container, although for most purposes this is an unnecessary refinement. However it is quite easy to do. The anthers are placed in gelatin capsules, or folded in pieces of paper, which are just as good, and placed in a jar with some silica gel. The silica gel should be blue (if it is pink, heat it in the oven until it goes blue) and can be kept in place in the bottom of the jar with a layer of cotton wool. The jar should be tightly sealed to exclude moisture. If the gel starts to go pink it should be replaced or reheated at once.

The only alternative to pollen storage is a retardation or advancement of the flowering time of one or other of the proposed parents. This, of course, is much more bother and is unnecessary. Ordinarily, it doesn't matter which of the parents is the seed parent as, in spite of the claims of some, geneticists are of the opinion that the progeny will be similar either way. However, if a cross is found not to take it is always worth trying the reverse cross, as this may overcome compatibility problems.

(d) *Seed Harvesting*

"In autumn, at the first sign of the capsules splitting, they should be carefully harvested and stored in a cool, dry, place, etc. etc.," say many authorities, and good advice it is too. Then when the capsules have dried out fully and split open, the seed can be taken out.

The impatient camellia breeder, however, may wish to be a bit more reckless. If the capsules are picked a month, or even more, before they are expected to mature and allowed to dry out, they can be broken open

(they don't always split if picked green) and viable seeds obtained. These may look rather pale compared with those from mature capsules but, if they are sown at once, they germinate and a new generation gets under way earlier than would otherwise be possible.

It may be that these immature seeds do not keep as long as those from ripe capsules, but then they wouldn't have been harvested early if they weren't going to be sown at once.

(e) *Seed Raising*

As everyone knows, seeds need moisture, air, and warmth to germinate, and they won't get far after that if there isn't some light as well. An open compost with good water-retaining ability, such as equal parts of peat and sand, is the best and seeds should be planted a little below the surface. They will germinate most rapidly at about 25°C but, even where this cannot be provided, it is probably best to plant them as soon as they are ripe.

One reads a lot about germinating seeds in jars in cellars, removing them as they germinate, pinching off the end of the tap root to encourage branching, then potting them up. This obviously works but so does the simpler process of putting them straight in a pot, then separating them when they are a few inches high. As one might expect they don't seem to suffer any disadvantage if the tap root is left alone. The pots can be watered with a soluble fertilizer, such as aquasol, every three or four weeks.

(f) *Supplementary Light*

Unless you live in a frost-free climate or have a glasshouse or growth room, it is not worth worrying about artificial light of any sort. However, if temperatures remain high enough for growth to take place throughout the year, supplementary light may enable the seedlings to keep grow-

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Show Results

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

San Diego, California—February 2-3, 1974

- Best Large Japonica—'Elegans Splendor,' Mel Gum, San Gabriel
Runner-up—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Franklin Moore, Covina
- Best Medium Japonica—'China Doll,' Dr. & Mrs. F. M. Mowrey, San Diego
Runner-up—'Reeves Sweetheart,' Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Harmsen, Claremont
- Best Small Japonica—'Ave Maria,' Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
Runner-up—'Hishi Karaito,' Harry Humphrey, San Diego
- Best Miniature Japonica—'Pink Smoke,' Mr. & Mrs. Stanley W. Miller, El Cajon
Runner-up—'Hopkins Pink,' Alfred Krueger, Monterey Park
- Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino
Runner-up—'Elegans Splendor,' Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Treischel, Glendale
- Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Margaret Davis,' Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up—'Flame,' Judy Simmons, La Crescenta
- Best 5 Japonicas—'Premier Var,' Les Baskerville, San Diego
Runner-up—'Guilio Nuccio,' Caryll W. Pitkin
- Best Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Crimson Robe,' Mr. & Mrs. Stanley W. Miller
Runner-up—'Valley Knudsen,' H. S. Putnam, Long Beach
- Best 3 Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Mouchang,' M. L. Schmidt, Arcadia
Runner-up—'Milo Rowell,' R. P. Treischel
- Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage over 5"—'Elsie Jury,' Grady Perigan, Arcadia
Runner-up—'E. G. Waterhouse,' Paul M. McClelland, Orange
- Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage under 5"—'Fire Chief,*', Grady Perigan
Runner-up—'Arbutus Gum,** R. O. Braid, Pomona
- Best 3 Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Freedom Bell,' Grady Perigan
Runner-up—'Tiny Princess,' Robert McNeil, San Diego
- Best Species Other Than Japonica and Reticulata—'Shishi Gashira,' Fritz Kahan, El Toro
- Best Special Culture Bloom—'Grand Prix,' Caryll W. Pitkin
Runner-up—'Arch of Triumph,' Dr. & Mrs. F. M. Mowrey
- Best New Japonica Seedling—Alfter & Freeman, Bakersfield
- Best New Reticulata Seedling—W. F. Goertz, San Marino
- Best New Sport—'Betty Beauty,' Franklin R. Moore

* The winner and runner-up are both reticulata hybrids—Ed.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Los Angeles County Arboretum—February 9-10, 1974

- Best Large Japonica—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino
Runner-up—'Grand Slam,' Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Stropshire, Cucamonga
- Best Medium Japonica—'Eleanor Martin Supreme,' Mr. & Mrs. M. S. Schmidt, Arcadia
Runner-up—'Nuccio's Gem,' Rose Gish, Sunnymead

- Best Small Japonica—'Maroon & Gold,' Mr. & Mrs. Mel Canfield, Bakersfield
 Runner-up—'Alison Leigh Woodroof,' Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
 Best Miniature Japonica—'Hopkins Pink,' Mr. & Mrs. Walter Harmsen, Claremont
 Runner-up—'Pee Wee,' Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Guilio Nuccio,' H. S. Putnam, Long Beach
 Runner-up—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Caryll W. Pitkin
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Nuccio's Gem,' Mr. & Mrs. Pat Novak, Van Nuys
 Runner-up—'Wildfire,' Mel Gum, San Gabriel
 Best Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Kohinor,' Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino
 Runner-up—'Pharaoh,' Mr. & Mrs. Pat Novak
 Best 3 Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Pharaoh,' Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
 Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Angel Wings,' Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
 Runner-up—'Elsie Jury,' Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino
 Best Treated Japonica—'Elegans Supreme,' Mel Gum
 Runner-up—'Carter's Sunburst Var,' Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Abramson, Tulare
 Best Treated Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Howard Asper,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale
 Runner-up—'Silver Mist,' Mel Gum, San Gabriel
 Best Treated Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Julia Hamiter,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
 Runner-up—'Anticipation,' Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
 Best Species Other Than Japonica and Reticulata—'Star Above Star,' Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
 Best Japonica Seedling—'Silver Plumes,' Alfred Krueger, Monterey Park
 Best Reticulata Hybrid Seedling—Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland
 Best Non-reticulata Hybrid Seedling—Harry Reich, South Pasadena
 Award of Honor for Blooms on Court of Honor—Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Pace
 Runner-up—Mel Gum

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Redwood City, California, February 9-10, 1974

- Sweepstakes—Mr. & Mrs. Robert Erhart, Walnut Creek
 Runner-up—Charles A. Boynton, Lodi
 Best Large and Very Large Japonica—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Dr. & Mrs. Hugh H. Wang, Pleasant Hills
 Runner-up—'Granada,' Mr. & Mrs. Ken Thompson, Fresno
 Best Medium Japonica—'Jean Marie,' Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Bernhart, Redwood City
 Runner-up—'Ville de Nantes,' Jack Lewis, Concord
 Best Boutonniere Japonica—'Puritan Lass,' H. W. Oliver, Menlo Park
 Best 3 Medium to Very Large Japonicas—'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' William H. Stewart, Sacramento
 Best 3 Boutonniere Japonicas—'Lady Hume's Blush,' Mr. & Mrs. Fred Heitman, Lafayette
 Best 5 Japonicas—'Lady Kay,' Jack Lewis
 Best Hybrid with Reticulata Parentage—'Mandalay Queen,' Mr. & Mrs. Charles O'Malley, Woodside
 Runner-up—'Butterfly Wings,' Mr. & Mrs. Jack L. Mandarich, Menlo Park
(Continued on next page)

- Best 3 Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Howard Asper,' Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Morton, Lafayette
 Best 3 Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage, Different Varieties—'Howard Asper,' 'Butterfly Wings,' 'Purple Gown,' H. W. Oliver
 Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Angel Wings,' Mr. & Mrs. L. Mazzei, Concord
 Runner-up—'Anticipation,' Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Batt, Windsor
 Best Tray of 9 Different Blooms—Mrs. W. R. Breuner, Orinda
 Best Member's Bloom, Japonica—'Grand Slam,' Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Rothert, Menlo Park
 Best Member's Bloom, Hybrid—'Valentine Day,' Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Rothert
 Best Japonica Seedling—#711, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Mandarich
 Best Hybrid Seedling—Frank V. Purcell, Oakland

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pomona, California — February 16-17, 1974

- Best Large Japonica—'Elegans Supreme,' Mr. & Mrs. Roger P. Treischel, Glendale
 Runner-up—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Franklin R. Moore, Covina
 2nd Runner-up—'Carter's Sunburst Pink,' Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
 Best Medium Japonica—'Sawada's Dream,' Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Stiern, Bakersfield
 Runner-up—'Midnight,' Mr. & Mrs. Mel Canfield, Bakersfield
 2nd Runner-up—'Nuccio's Gem,' Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino
 Best Small Japonica—'Ave Maria,' Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
 Runner-up—'Fairy Fountain,' Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
 Best Miniature Japonica—'Hopkins Pink,' Mr. & Mrs. Carey S. Bliss, San Gabriel
 Runner-up—'Angels Blush,' Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'White Nun,' Marion McClendon, Claremont
 Runner-up—'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Franklin R. Moore
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'April Shower,' Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Schmidt, Arcadia
 Runner-up—'C. M. Hovey,' Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Shropshire, Cucamonga
 Best 3 Small or Miniature Japonicas—'Maroon & Gold,' Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria
 Runner-up—'Bob's Tinsie,' Franklin R. Moore
 Best Very Large Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Moutancha,' Fred V. Hamilton
 Runner-up—'K. O. Hester,' Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
 Best Large Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Sunninghill,' Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino
 Runner-up—'Valley Knudsen,' Bob Krause, Shafter
 Best 3 Hybrids with Reticulata Parentage—'Crimson Robe,' Mel Gum, San Gabriel
 Runner-up—'Howard Asper,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale
 Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Elsie Jury,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
 Runner-up—'Angel Wings,' Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Shropshire
 Best 3 Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Freedom Bell,' Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
 Runner-up—'Brigadoon,' Dena Radford
 Best Other Species—Rusticana, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Eskridge, Julian

- Best Treated Bloom—'Mouchang,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
 Runner-up—'Crimson Robe,' Mel Gum
 Best Japonica Seedling—#68-07, Alfter & Freeman, Bakersfield
 Best Reticulata Seedling—Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Abramson, Tulare
 Best Sport—'Tricia' (sport of 'Pat Nixon'), Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

San Jose, California—February 16-17, 1974

EXPERT CLASS

- Best Large Japonica—'Fashionata,' The Harlan Smith Family, Modesto
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Grand Slam,' Carolyn Slobe, Sacramento
 Best Medium Japonica—'Alta Gavin,' Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Johnston, Fresno
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Lady Kay,' Jack Lewis, Concord
 Best 5 Japonicas—'White Nun,' Mr. and Mrs. D. Lesmeister, Sacramento
 Best Boutonniere—'Willamina,' Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro, Modesto
 Best 3 Boutonnieres—'Alison Leigh Woodroof,' Mr. and Mrs. D. Lesmeister, Carmichael
 Best Retic-Hybrid—'Moutancha,' Jack Mandarich, Menlo Park
 Best 3 Retic-Hybrids—'Valentine Day,' Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Hallstone, Lafayette
 Best Large Non-Retic-Hybrid—'Elsie Jury,' John Mendoza, Jr. and Son, Santa Clara
 Best 3 Non-Retic Hybrids—'Angel Wings,' Mr. and Mrs. D. Lesmeister, Carmichael
 Best Medium Non-Retic-Hybrid—'Angel Wings,' Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro, Modesto

REGULAR CLASS

- Best Large Japonica—'Veiled Beauty,' Mr. and Mrs. Ken Thompson, Fresno
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Jessie Katz,' Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rusher, Lodi
 Best Medium Japonica—'Dr. Tinsley,' Mr. and Mrs. Norman Thorp, Pleasant Hill
 Best 5 Japonicas—'Guilio Nuccio,' H. F. Cederlund, Walnut Creek
 Best Retic-Hybrid—'Aztec,' Albert Biggs, Sacramento
 Best 3 Retic-Hybrids—'Valley Knudsen,' James Randall, Sacramento

NOVICE CLASS

- Best Japonica—'Drama Girl,' David A. Sunseri, Santa Clara
 Best Retic-Hybrid—'K. O. Hester,' Mrs. John Bettincourt, Watsonville

MEMBER CLASS

- Best Japonica—'Lady Kay Var,' Gilbert Cochette, Santa Clara
 Runner-up—'Elegans Supreme,' Gilbert Cochette, Santa Clara
 Best Retic-Hybrid—'Valentine Day,' Mr. and Mrs. Bobby G. Jones, Salinas
 Runner-up—'Milo Rowell,' Gilbert Cochette, Santa Clara

ALL CLASSES

- Best of Show—'Fashionata,' The Harlan Smith Family, Modesto
 Caesar Breschini Seedling Trophy—Japonica Seedling, Jack Mandarich, Menlo Park
 Richard Roggia Memorial Trophy—'Elsie Jury,' John Mendoza, Jr. and Son, Santa Clara
 Violet Oliphant Memorial Trophy—'Wilamina,' Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro, Modesto

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL

Descanso Gardens—February 23-24, 1974

- Award of Honor for Honor Table Flowers—Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale
Runner-up—Dr. & Mrs. Hugh H. Wang, Pleasant Hills
- Best Large Japonica—'Easter Morn,' Dr. & Mrs. Hugh H. Wang
Runner-up 'Elegans Supreme,' Mel Gum, San Gabriel
- Best Medium Japonica—'Nuccio's Gem,' Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo, Fresno
Runner-up—'Pink Pagoda,' Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
- Best Small Japonica—'Demi-Tasse,' A. Wilkins Garner, Glendale
Runner-up—'Hishi Karaito,' Mr. & Mrs. Norman Krueger, San Gabriel
- Best Miniature Japonica—'Pink Smoke,' A. Wilkins Garner
Runner-up—'Fircone,' Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
- Best Very Large Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Moutancha,' Dr. & Mrs. Hugh H. Wang
Runner-up—'Kohinor,' Douglas H. Batt, Windsor
- Best Large to Small Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Descanso Mist,' Mr. & Mrs. Willis Farr, Glendale
Runner-up—'Elsie Dryden,' Harold E. Dryden, San Marino
- Best Large Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Elsie Jury,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale
Runner-up—'Wilber Foss,' Douglas H. Batt
- Best Medium or Small Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'E. G. Waterhouse,' Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
Runner-up—'Julia Hamiter,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Mark Alan Var,' Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up—'Coronation,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best 3 Medium or Smaller Japonicas—'Commander Mulroy,' Mr. & Mrs. Harry Novick, Woodland Hills
Runner-up—'Magnoliaeflora,' The Art Gonos Family, Fresno
- Best 5 Japonicas—'Nuccio's Gem,' Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino
Runner-up—'Dixie Knight,' Harry & Florence Humphrey, San Diego
- Best 3 Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Cornelian,' Dr. & Mrs. Hugh H. Wang
Runner-up—'Howard Asper,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best 5 Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Valentine Day,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
Runner-up—'Cornelian,' Mr. & Mrs. Carey S. Bliss, San Gabriel
- Best 3 Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Anticipation,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
Runner-up—'Elsie Jury,' Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
- Best Other Species Bloom—Rusticana, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Eskridge
Runner-up Purpurea, Harry Reich, South Pasadena
- Best Treated Japonica—'Grand Prix,' Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Runner-up—'Tomorrow's Dawn,' Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Abramson, Tulare
- Best Treated Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Valley Knudsen,' Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Runner-up—'Arch of Triumph,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Elsie Jury,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson

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THE CAMELLIA AND I (Continued)

Ernie Pieri

The Pacific Camellia Society's show held in the Glendale Armory was one of the finest indoor shows I have ever seen. The decor of the exhibition tables and the professional growers stalls were in keeping with each other. I don't remember the color of the inside walls of the building, but all of the tables with their blossoms and trimmings seemed to be blended together. As a matter of fact I don't even know the name of the Show Chairman for the show. I know that it was during a holiday weekend because I went over to see the preparation of the show. The only people that I knew very well were Billie and Vern McCaskill, and they were decorating their exhibit around the camellia that they were introducing that year, 'Casilda.' A lovely pink blossom! As beautiful as it was at that time, I doubt if there are many camellia people today who know of it, or who exhibit it in our camellia shows. It was at that time, through the McCaskills, that I met Rose Marie and Al Dekker. They were right in there pitching, working to get the tables ready for the exhibitors for the next day.

The Temple City Camellia Society had to move around quite a bit before we finally found the Los Angeles County Arboretum as our home. Tents were used for a couple of years and then they held one of the first out-of-door shows in Southern California. We had secured permission from the Parks and Recreation Committee of Temple City to use the park that faces Las Tunas Blvd., just south of the new Methodist Church. Display tables were set up along the pathways of the park and it really was a sight to see people roam among the tables of camellias.

The Temple City School District would not renew our permit to use

the grammar school auditorium so we had to scout around for another meeting place. The only place that we could get for our meeting place rent free was the small American Legion Building, just south of the Temple City Womans' Club House. There were no more outdoor shows as we couldn't get a permit from the Parks and Recreation Committee. Through the efforts of Clarence Rose, who was a member of the Temple City Masonic Temple, we obtained permission for the Society to hold the next show in the Temple building.

We started preparing the building for the Show on Friday. Some of the members who had small trucks volunteered to pick up the tables from a church in Alhambra, haul them to the building and help set them up. Other members of the Society were there to help set out the bloom containers. One of the reasons for the cooperation, I am sure, was that the ladies had agreed to put on the evening dinner for all of the people who worked in the setting up of the show. What a culinary feast! Can't remember what we had but everybody had enough to eat.

Clarence Rose and "Pappy" Campbell of Longdon's Nursery decided to use the stage for their out-door patio theme, using garden furniture and umbrellas and decorated with 'Debutant' plants from Clarence's nursery and 'C. M. Wilson' camellias from Pappy's Garden. The main lodge room was used for the single bloom displays and the outer rooms for the multiple bloom displays. An admission charge was made and we had quite a number of people for both Saturday and Sunday. There was quite a gang that showed up for clean-up. Trucks were loaded with the chairs and tables which were re-

(Continued on next page)

turned to their owners Sunday night.

We were not so fortunate the next year. We were permitted to use the Temple Building for our show, but on clean-up we had an accident which ended our stay at the building. It seemed that while the patio exhibit was being dismantled, someone ran one end of the closed patio umbrella through the plaster on the wall of the back of the stage. No more Masonic Temple Shows.

We needed a larger place for our monthly meetings anyway and a place large enough so that we could also hold our show. We found that we could rent the Temple City Women's Club House for our meetings and use the auditorium for our Shows. Our pot luck dinner program for financial help from our members worked out so well that we continued the program for setting up our Shows in the Women's Club House. We were still placing our flowers according to color and not by variety. The stage was to be used as our trophy and honor table. We used the main auditorium for the single bloom displays and the outdoor porch for the multiple bloom displays. Each year the number of exhibitors seemed to get bigger and we usually had our tables pretty well filled with blooms. We used the Women's Club House for a number of years before the cost of renting the place was out of reach financially for our small group. We used the building for our meetings, later, but not for our Shows. (I still have a tape recording of a panel meeting held in the building during 1958-59. Merle Gish was moderator and the panel members included Al Dekker, Alton Parker, Clarence Rose and the late Les Marshall. They talked about the growing of camellias, the same things that they talk about at our meetings today.)

1958, my first term as president of the Society, found us with a meeting place but no place to put on the show.

After talking to members of other Societies, it was suggested that I talk to a building and loan company or a bank manager. So I visited the nearest place to the club house, the First Western Bank and talked to the manager about finding a spot to hold our show. A couple of days later he offered the bank building for this purpose.

Our show was to be held in conjunction with the Temple City Annual Camellia Festival and Parade. Since the outside windows were all painted for the festival, the only way to attract attention to our show was by a sign in front of the building and the open doors. This was the Show at which the late Betty Councilman introduced her beautiful white camellia 'Angel' and Mr. Holland of Upland introduced 'Onetia Holland,' another beautiful white camellia. Both blooms attracted a great deal of attention. The show had not reached the number of exhibitors as it has today, but the tables were pretty well crowded. The single bloom display was on tables in front of the Tellers' windows, with an arrangement in front of and at the counter level of each window. The multiple bloom displays were placed around the office desks. The bank paid for the guard on Saturday night which helped a great deal. Our show had quite an array of blooms and flower arrangements and both the Society and the bank manager were satisfied with the results. The manager asked us to return again the next year, which we accepted with thanks. We used this building for the next year, but on the third year the bank was undergoing some interior remodeling and we had to find a new location. The manager of the First Western Bank was very cooperative and was able to get the Security First National Bank, in Temple City, for our Show. We went all out for this 1959 edition of the Temple City Camellia Society.

The late Betty Councilman had a friend who was a back drop decorator for studios in Hollywood. She proposed that we use a Japanese Tea Garden motif. So Betty got her friend to make us a number of Japanese Gates as entrances to the various sections of the Show, and we used Japanese lanterns strung across the counters of the bank. Again we placed the tables in front of the tellers windows with a flower arrangement in front of each window. The multiple blooms were displayed on the office desks.

In 1959, when Peter Folino was president of the Temple City Society, we decided to find another place for our meetings and a place to hold our show. My wife Dorothy, a member of the Board at that time, learned that the Fern and Begonia Societies held their meetings at the Los Angeles County Arboretum at no cost to the Society. So being money-minded, Dorothy and I visited the Arboretum Superintendent and found that we too could have the use of the Lecture Hall in the Arboretum for our meeting place and also for our annual camellia shows. We reported this information back to the Society Board of Directors, who immediately accepted the idea. The dates of our meetings have varied through the years until we finally found our permanent meeting night of the third Thursday of the month for our six meetings.

The Southern California Camellia Society also had its problems trying to find a permanent place where it could hold its meetings and camellia shows. I can remember one year when the Show was being held in one of the Pasadena Junior High School Cafeterias. I met Dr. John Taylor for the second time at this show, and the meeting had a bearing upon some of my future work with camellia shows. While they were engaged in placing their blooms, they found that there were not varietal cards for several of

the varieties. I had been helping others by printing varietal cards for their blooms, and he asked if I would letter additional cards that were needed. Of course I was glad to help him and the Show. He asked me, after he had placed his blooms on the display tables, if there were any of his camellia varieties that I liked and if any, he would be delighted to give scions of those varieties for my grafting program. Dr. Taylor was the only person that I have known who could grow and bloom the beautiful 'Jessie Katz' camellia. Of course I wanted that one. We made a date for a time when I would find him at his home in Flintridge. His camellia garden was under huge, tall, oak trees. Maybe the area was conducive to the growing of so many and such beautiful 'Jessie Katz' plants. Of course he loaded me with scions of other camellias that he thought I might like. Would you believe it, I do not now have a plant of any of the varieties that I grafted.

One of the more outlandish places for one of the Southern California Camellia Society Shows was the one that was held in the Pasadena Elks Lodge Auditorium. With theatre style seats, we had to place the tables in the outside aisles, in front of the stage and on the stage. Also, the lighting was the worst one could imagine. All of the white and pink flowers took on a purplish cast. I can remember Bill Woodroof remarking after the judging that "this was the damndest place he had ever seen for a place to hold a camellia show, and how anyone could judge a good bloom was beyond his imagination. Never again!"

I think it was after that experience that through the influence of either the Drydens or the Pitkins, or both, the Southern California Camellia Society was able to get the San Marino Women's Club House for their meetings and shows. Since the advent of the Los Angeles Camellia Council

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FERTILIZING CAMELLIAS

Harold E. Dryden

Along with the problems of obtaining gasoline to go places, camellia people in Southern California, at least, may have to give some thought to the question of fertilizer for their camellias in 1974. There are two reasons for this sudden change of affairs. First, for reasons not generally known, the abundant supply of cotton seed meal in a cotton growing state has suddenly disappeared and the price of that which is available has skyrocketed. Second, the prices of all fertilizers have increased along with those of beans and potatoes. This piece is not for people who own oil wells in Arabia or whose devotion to camellias outweighs their prudence with dollars.

As of February 12, 1974, Nuccio's Nurseries posted a price of \$14.50 for a 50-pound sack of cotton seed meal. (I give the date because I was told that prices are being revised upward rather regularly by the distributors). That is almost twice what I paid last year for an 80-pound sack. 25 pounds costs \$8.95.

The three principal elements in fertilizers for camellias are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. Additional elements, known as trace elements, are also important and are included in fertilizers that are prepared for acid loving plants such as camellias and azaleas. These elements are always shown on fertilizers containers as percentages, with the nitrogen-phosphorous-potash components receiving the major attention. In fact, a fertilizer is often described according to its content of these three elements, as, for example, 6-3-1 (6% nitrogen, 3% phosphorous, 1% potash) in describing cotton seed meal.

Nitrogen is the element in the fertilizer that gets the new growth under way. Some regular users of cotton seed meal have used as their initial

fertilizer a heavy nitrogen fertilizer such as a liquid fish fertilizer which gives the plant a "shot in the arm," then started their regular use of a slow working medium such as cotton seed meal or a balanced camellia fertilizer under a brand name. Some have used blood meal to supplement their balanced fertilizer. Blood meal is 13% nitrogen. The February 12 price was \$11.91 for a 25-pound sack. I asked Julius Nuccio what he thought about Ammonium Sulphate for high nitrate. It is 14% nitrogen and the cost is much less than that of blood meal. He is afraid of it on the basis of it being too hot. Hoof and Horn is 13.5% nitrogen and has also been used by some growers. The February 12 price of that was \$8.75 for 20 pounds and \$21.50 for 60 pounds.

The phosphorous and potash are the body building parts of the fertilizer. Some growers supplement their growing season fertilizer with a 2-10-10 or 0-10-10 mix, starting after the new growth has ceased. Some do this on the basis that it develops larger flowers.

Nuccios have been a consistent user of cotton seed meal for both camellias and azaleas. During the past two years they have been experimenting with a new fertilizer that is called Grow Power. They are satisfied with their results and expect to use it heavily in 1974. The price on February 12 was \$6.95 for 50 pounds. The components are 5-3-1 with 1% iron and small amounts of manganese and zinc.

There are, of course, commercial fertilizers that have been prepared especially for camellias. Bandini is a well-known brand in Southern California. Bandini's Camellia Food has components of 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorous, 5% potash, 4% calcium, 6% sulphur, 3% iron and traces of

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THE GROWTH OF AN INSTITUTION

Diane Peterson

Secretary Peninsula Camellia Society

Peninsula Camellia Society has just given its sixth annual auction. It was very successful. 104 rare camellia plants and assorted gardening items were sold to the highest bidders. Sometimes less than retail price was realized, but often bidders paid more for a prized plant. Our auctioneer was Jack Mandarich, who was spelled by Howard Burnette. We didn't count the number of people present, but there were surely over a hundred. Also, this year the auction "made" *Sunset* magazine's list of monthly garden events. The auction is our primary source of income for giving an admission-free camellia show, although we do have raffles at monthly meetings.

The auction began in a small way in 1968. Members asked local nurseries for plant donations—whatever they could spare. A general meeting in October was given over to the auction. There were about 45 plants. Also, each member was requested to donate an item, preferably a desirable camellia plant. The next year we expanded our requests for donations, and included large camellia nurseries. The response was very generous. In 1971 it was decided to have the auction as a separate event on a January Saturday afternoon, because it was growing too big for a weeknight meeting. Two of our members were the auctioneers with no previous experience. They grew in effectiveness as the audiences expanded. The Redwood City Park Dept. combined forces with the Society with their workers soliciting donations for us. We are able to have the auction at the Veterans' Memorial Bldg. in Redwood City because of their sponsorship.

In 1973 understock was purchased by the Society for grafting plants to be sold at the auction. Many of the

members have 5, 10 and more plants growing at home for the future. All members are still asked to donate items each year, and we still solicit nurseries. There are orchids, citrus trees, timer clocks, garden hoses, clipper in addition to camellia plants.

This year we also purchased ten plants from a large camellia nursery at wholesale prices. They were new introductions, and rare, and were much appreciated by the buyers.

The auction is enjoyed by our members. They really pitch in to work for it, and to attend it. Best of all, it is fun!

NEW YOUTH DIVISION

Bob Erhart of the Northern California Camellia Society reports that his Society has taken steps that it believes will encourage youth participation in the camellia hobby. Specifically, it has added a Youth Division in the camellia show schedule and has removed the rule that has prevailed for years that members of a family must enter a camellia show as a single unit.

In taking these steps the Northern California Society believes that camellia societies generally have discouraged youth participation by the camellia show rules. The result is limited interest, both in the growing of camellias and in show competition. They hope that the steps they have taken will correct this condition.

Line an old baking dish with white pebbles, put a few clay-potted foliage plants, in matching saucers, on it and you have a customized indoor garden for window ledge, table top or floor area.

PRUNING CAMELLIA PLANTS

W. F. Goertz

San Marino, California

(Reprinted from March 1967 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW)

Many articles have been written and much has been said about the proper pruning of camellias. Even though this is one of the important phases of good camellia culture, it is probably the most neglected. Some people have an abhorrence of using the shears for anything other than cutting off the blooms and with the shortest possible stems! There are numerous reasons for pruning and hobbyists should be as concerned about the well-groomed appearance of the plant as with the production of super blooms. Of course, one leads to the other and to produce show quality flowers it is quite necessary to keep the plant properly trimmed and thinned out.

The time to begin to develop a well shaped camellia plant is when it is small. Some varieties start out with rather erratic growth in various directions. Pinching off new growth which starts off in the wrong direction will force new growth elsewhere and perhaps accomplish the desired control. A few varieties will be found to grow symmetrically upright naturally and thus need little attention.

Older plants which have never

been pruned (and we see many such plants around older homes whose owners often wonder why they do not get the large healthy blooms seen at the shows) appear as ragged shrubs full of dead or weak wood, a mass of long and knotty branches. Heavy feeding of such plants will serve little purpose unless the poor wood is cut out. The restoration of such old plants to fresh, vigorous health cannot be accomplished without severe pruning.

To promote a plant to a healthy and good looking specimen which is capable of producing good blooms, it is necessary also to eliminate crossing branches and those growing too close to each other — leaving insufficient room for the blooms to develop freely. This, together with the controlling of the long “shoots” by constant pinching back will tend to give the plant an airy and graceful appearance. The first season after a very drastic pruning may not see a profusion of blooms, but with constant attention for a period of time in the form of nipping off new growth where not wanted, then proper dis-budding, an old woody plant can be beautiful and productive.

INTRODUCING IN 1973

BOB HOPE
SILVER TRIUMPH

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Disbudding is another form of pruning and should be done from June to November, a constant activity during these months as many varieties will replace flower buds taken off earlier. One bud to each terminal branch is the maximum if you are striving for top quality blooms. Some varieties which are grown strictly for garden color need not be disbudded but pruning on these should not be neglected. Drastic pruning is never necessary if it is a continuing process throughout the season.

The best time to do the major portion of pruning is in late March and early April, after the blooming season and before the new spring growth begins. Cut off the low hanging branches as this gives you freer access for fertilizing and cleaning up spent blooms. Flowers which may grow on such low branches are usually worthless by being mud splattered. When cutting blooms or scions or cutting branches for purposes of shaping, be sure to cut just above a healthy lateral growth bud. When cutting branches near the trunk, or off of other branches, be sure to cut close to the stem and do not leave a stub which can die back. Any cut over one half inch in diameter should be coated with a mastic such as "Tree Seal."

Camellia pruning is a continuing operation — after main cutting in spring we must be on the constant lookout for growth and cut or pinch it off immediately.

For many of us who never seem to have enough room in our gardens it is important to keep the plants within bounds. The height must be controlled also and when a plant gets up out of reach the top should be cut back. Who wants to get out the ladder for disbudding and cutting blooms?

There are some japonica varieties which are very difficult to shape and practically impossible to force to grow

into proper upright plants — even with staking, tying and cutting. We have one such plant, a healthy 'Coronation' which "just got away" — so the only solution was to plant it next to a wall and tie the long, limber branches flat and let it be an espalier.

When training young plants, staking and tying is often necessary. After a few years such a plant will support itself in an upright position and have a better chance to grow symmetrically for an improved and balanced appearance.

When moving a large plant which has been growing in the ground we often cut and damage the root system. To compensate for this shock and loss of root it is necessary to cut away a good portion of the top.

It is difficult to kill a healthy camellia plant by over pruning. For example, in most cases when large plants have been sawed off for grafting — where the graft then fails — we find new shoots being forced out and in a short time vigorous new growth replaces the original foliage.

Spraying for pest control is so much easier after thinning out, and it is more important to spray inside the plant than the outside foliage.

Remember, to keep your camellia plant healthy, vigorous, shapely and a producer of the finest blooms, don't be afraid to use the shears!

CAMELLIA AND I (Cont.)

(now the Southern California Camellia Council) both the Pacific Camellia Society, in Glendale, and the Southern California Camellia Society have given up the staging of their own camellia shows. It was not until 1973 that the Southern California Camellia Society joined forces with the Huntington Library and Art Gallery management in staging the camellia show in the Huntington Botanical Gardens and thus returned to staging a camellia show.

PANEL FROM SOUTH AT TEMPLE CITY MEETING

The Temple City Camellia Society at its February 22nd meeting called on people from the South who were on their way to Sacramento to provide the program. Son Hackney of Charlotte, North Carolina was moderator of a panel that consisted of W. F. (Hody) Wilson of the staff of Louisiana State University at Hammond, Louisiana; Marshall Rhyne of Belmont, North Carolina; Mrs. Bea Rogers of Belle Fontaine Nursery of Theodore, Alabama; Dr. Herbert Racoff of Columbia, South Carolina; and Mrs. Pearle Cooper of Springfield, South Carolina.

The moderator announced that the panel members would talk for about ten minutes on specific subjects, then questions would be answered at the conclusion of the talks.

Hody Wilson talked about his work with virus at Louisiana State University. He said that virus is a disease. A camellia plant with virus is weaker and will not take sun as well as the non-virus plant. It is transmitted only by grafting, and not by seeds. One can variegate a solid color flower with virus and do a good job at it. We cannot predict what effect the virus will have in the way of variegation because different plants react differently. Some plants with virus will show the effect in the leaves, others in the flower.

When Wilson wants to establish and maintain virus, he grafts a virus effected scion, then strikes cuttings of the newly grafted plant. He uses two scions in the operation, one of the variety he wants to virus and one of an already virus-effected variety. He lets the newly grafted plant grow to 8 or ten inches, then cuts off the growth of the virus-effected scion. The important thing in this operation, of course, is to remember which scion is which.

Wilson does not believe that virus

is transmitted by pruning shears. He says that it might be but it is not probable. He bases his opinion on experiments he has made.

High doses of iron will kill virus and application of lime will restore variegation that has been lost.

The moderator introduced Marshall Rhyne as the man who grows big flowers in the South. Rhyne said that he joined A.C.S. in 1962 and built himself a greenhouse in 1963. He attributes his success to the fertilizer he uses. His mixture is as follows: 2 gallons of cotton seed meal, 1 gallon of bone meal, 1 gallon of dried blood and 1 gallon of a 0-14-14 fertilizer. He uses this in his first fertilizing, using 1/4 cup to a 7 gallon container. One month later he uses a 4-8-8 mix. In June he goes back to the original mix. In September or October he uses Esmonal (comparable with Vim), which consists essentially of trace elements, with a spoonful per plant. He also uses Ammonium Sulphate with equal parts of lime, with a cup to a 3 gallon container. He never fertilizes a dry plant. He also uses a foliage spray in both Spring and Fall.

Bea Rogers talked about packing blooms for taking to shows. She regularly takes flowers to the shows for her nursery display. She freezes her container box (which is a packing box used for fish). She puts a cooler in the bottom of the box and a wire rack over that, then tops it off with polyester fiber. She puts the flowers in cups or tubes (she prefers the latter) that are filled with a solution of floralife and a table spoonful of sugar. She refills the cup or tube two or three times because the water evaporates or spills out. She does not spray the flowers, relying on the contents of the receptacles for moisture.

Son Hackney introduced Dr. Herbert Racoff as the Frank Reed of the South with regard to use of gibber-

ellic acid and Dr. Racoff talked on that subject. He explained the importance of gibbing to the South, in that it produces flowers before the winter cold sets in. He starts to gib in August and has flowers starting in October. This provides pleasure for the growers who gib and makes it possible to have Fall shows. He has large plants that have been gibbed regularly for many years and there is no indication of any harm to the plants. There are several forms of gibberellic acid and he does not believe that the type of gib used is important. Healthy plants will produce good gibbed flowers. He uses a gib that comes in tabs of 4 grams each, with one tab to 5 ounces of water that does not contain chlorine. The solution must be filtered to remove the residue, which would clog up the needle if not removed. The filtering reduces the strength of the gib solution somewhat but he does not think this reduction is material.

He sprays his summer grafts with gib 6 or 8 times and believes that he gets better plants.

Pearle Cooper was introduced as the new Editor of CAROLINA CAMELIAS, the publication of the Carolina Camellia Societies. She said that being an editor does not mean that she knows about growing camellias and she would not talk about that. She asked that California people become members of a Carolina society, just as many people in the South are members of the Southern California Camellia Society. The annual dues are \$4.00.

A question was asked whether a greenhouse and gib give a double boost to the size of a camellia bloom. Hody Wilson said he doubts that we know. He said that plastic houses came into vogue about the same time that gib was first used, therefore they do not have experience of greenhouse growing alone with the present type

of greenhouse. He said that he can grow greenhouse flowers that are as large without gib as they are with gib. The benefit of gib is in the early blooms.

LIFE CYCLE (Cont.)

ing continuously. Otherwise, as the days shorten and temperatures begin to fall at the end of their first season, they will become dormant.

The response of plants to day-length is in fact very largely a response to night-length. As the nights lengthen the plant becomes dormant. By lighting the plants for a short period in the middle of the night, the dark period is divided into two short "nights" and no dormancy occurs. The plants just keep on growing, provided temperatures are high enough.

The intensity of light needed is very small, and, since the wavelengths required to affect the day-length responses are at the red end of the spectrum ordinary incandescent light bulbs are as good as anything. Without acquiring any complex apparatus, the desired effect can be achieved by hanging a bulb above the seedling and leaving it on all night, or, more simply, all the time. The ordinary daylight provides the plants with the energy they need for growth and the light bulb stops them becoming dormant.

Sooner or later the plants will have to be transferred to the natural seasonal regime, and this should be done in late spring or summer so that the plants can adjust before the days shorten. Then they will become dormant in the usual manner in the autumn. However as a result of the early seed harvest and treatment with supplementary light, the seedlings should be pleasingly large eighteen months after pollination.

HOW CAMELLIAS GET TO THE PUBLIC

Julius Nuccio

*Resume of talk to members of Pacific Camellia Society at
January 3 1974 meeting.*

How many people have had the experience of having an acquaintance say, in effect: "Where can I obtain X camellia variety. I saw it at a camellia show (or in your garden), liked it, and went to the nursery to buy a plant. They didn't have it so I went to some other nurseries and they did not have it." You gave him the name of your camellia specialist nursery, such as Nuccio's, and he later thanked you for making it possible for him to obtain this particular variety.

You people who belong to camellia societies and specialize in growing camellias are interested in newer varieties of camellias and are accustomed to go to nurseries such as ours that specialize in growing camellias for people such as you. We cater to your desires and you and we together determine what are good and what are not good enough to retain. Through this process of trial by growing, the camellia specialists, that is the specialist nurseries and the specialist growers, determine which are outstanding among the many new varieties that are introduced.

We camellia specialists, both growers and nurseries, are a small part of the public that is interested in camellias. There are only three nurseries in California today that can be called camellia specialists, that is,

whose major product is camellias and its garden companion, azaleas, and sell to the public. They are Vern McCaskill in Pasadena, Al Parker in Sebastopol and our nursery. The three of us supply only a small part of the camellias that are grown and sold in California. Most of the plants are grown by large nurseries that have camellias as only one of the many items of horticulture that are their stock in trade. They have salesmen who cover their trading areas that may extend into other states. These large nurseries are the source of the camellias that are sold by most of the retail nurseries that are located in nearly every community and hamlet. What these nurseries have for sale in the way of camellia varieties depends entirely on what their suppliers, the large nurseries, have propagated.

It will be helpful in understanding the picture to know how we, the specialists, and these big nurseries operate. I shall use Nuccio's as an example of the specialist nursery. We cater principally to people such as you, the specialist growers. We try to carry the new and popular varieties, sometimes with only a few plants of a variety. The plants we sell are mostly grafts; in fact, all are grafts except those of older established varieties that are grown from cuttings. We

SHOW RESULTS (Cont.)

- Runner-up—'Galaxie,' Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best Seedling, Large Japonica—#74-2, Alfter & Freeman, Bakersfield
- Best Seedling, Medium or Boutonniere Japonica—'Dr. Tinsley' Seedling, Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland
- Best Seedling, Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—Chance seedling of 'Crimson Robe,' Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Abramson
- Best Seedling, Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—Granthamiana 70-1, Alfter & Freeman
- Best Sport—'New Horizon' pink sport, Kramer Bros.

try out many new varieties, both our own seedlings and some of other people who bring their seedlings to us for trial. When we have something that we think may have commercial possibilities, we make a few grafts, maybe five, on egg can understock. We make 50 or so the next year if it still looks promising. If we then decide it should be introduced, we will make 500 or so grafts the third year. We release it usually with no more than 500 plants on hand to sell. We really do not sell these plants; rather, we have them on hand for people who come to our nursery to buy.

In contrast, the large nurseries operate on a scale of large production. They grow their plants from cuttings in lots of hundreds and thousands. They do not experiment with new varieties but grow only varieties that have proved themselves through the testing that people such as you camellia hobbyists and we camellia specialist nurseries have given them. When they are ready to introduce what to them is a new variety, they push it through all their sales people and may spend thousands of dollars in advertising to build up a demand for it. Monrovia Nurseries, for example, spent thousands of dollars to promote 'Pink Pagoda' when they introduced it. We thought one time of promoting 'Nuccio's Gem' through advertising before we introduced it. We consulted an advertising man and when we told him how much we were prepared to spend, he replied that our amount was less than the cost of one insertion in color in the horticultural section of the Los Angeles Times Sunday magazine. We decided that this type of promotion is for the large nurseries with their salesmen covering the entire retail field.

These large nurseries have been slow in increasing the number of

varieties that they carry. Back in 1930 they carried a white, a red, a pink, a variegated, etc. They gradually gave attention to varieties instead of just colors, and their list grew to some twenty to twenty-five varieties that included 'Alba Plena,' 'Blood of China,' 'C. M. Wilson,' 'Chandleri,' 'Colonel Fiery' ('C. M. Hovey'), 'Covina,' 'DaiKagura,' 'Debutante,' 'Gigantia,' 'Glen 40,' 'High Hat,' 'Jordan's Pride' ('Herme'), 'Kumasaka,' 'Magnoliaeflora,' 'Mathotiana,' 'Mrs. Charles Cobb,' 'Pink Perfection,' 'Pope Pius' ('Prince Eugene Napoleon') and 'Purity.'

This list held pretty steady until the early 1960's. Then they slowly added new varieties such as the following: 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' 'Carter's Sunburst,' 'Kramer's Supreme,' 'Drama Girl,' 'Mrs. D. W. Davis,' 'Guilio Nuccio,' 'R. L. Wheeler,' 'Tiffany' and 'Yuletide.' 'Guilio Nuccio' was introduced in 1956 but has only recently made the large growers list. 'Tiffany' made the list rather quickly because of the publicity it received in Reader's Digest. I think it will interest camellia hobbyists to know that the sasanqua 'Yuletide' is one of the most popular camellias that is sold through the large nursery channel.

The group that is now receiving consideration by the big nurseries includes 'Ballet Dancer,' 'Margaret Davis,' 'Elegans Splendor,' 'Elegans Supreme,' 'Grand Prix,' 'Grand Slam,' 'Granada,' 'Lulu Belle,' 'Nuccio's Gem,' 'Silver Waves,' 'Spring Sonnet' and 'Tomorrow Park Hill.' Note that not all of these varieties are new. 'Spring Sonnet,' for example is twenty years old. What do these people look for when they add a variety to their list.

First and all important, it must grow from cuttings, on its own roots as the nurserymen say. All varieties

(Continued on next page)

do not do this. We at Nuccio's also are interested in this because we too like to grow from cuttings when our volume of sales of a variety calls for it. One of the first things we set out to learn about popular new varieties is whether they will propagate well on their own roots.

Second, does it bud well on small plants? The best sales argument that can be provided for a plant in a one gallon container is buds and flowers, particularly the latter. 'Lulu Belle' for example, buds up well on small plants and blooms in November, sometimes in October.

Third, what kind of a plant does it make. The large nurseries have not liked the 'Tomorrow' group because the plant itself is not attractive. They are breaking down with 'Tomorrow Park Hill' because of the attractiveness and popularity of the flower. 'Ballet Dancer,' introduced in 1960, is just now receiving consideration largely because the plant is attractive.

Reticulatas generally have not been propagated by the large nurseries, one reason being that the early reticulatas do not propagate well on their own roots. Monrovia Nurseries, believing they should have a reticulata listed in their catalog, has propagated 'Buddha' by grafting. The new reticulata hybrids have changed this. Some of them grow well on their own roots and the plants generally are more attractive than the original reticulatas are. Receiving consideration for volume production are 'Arch of Triumph,' 'Firechief,' 'Francie L,' 'Howard Asper,' 'Rose Parade,' and 'Valley Knudsen.'

In the hybrid group 'Elsie Jury' is liked. The sasanquas 'Bonanza' and 'Little Pearl' are being looked at.

How do these large nurseries go about the selection of varieties to add to their volume production operations. As has been stated previously, nurseries such as ours are the cata-

lysts in the operation. We do the original testing and you and we together determine a variety's public acceptance. The large nurseries watch what is going on. They talk with us and pick our brains. They buy plants from us when they become interested and watch them grow. Then, when they begin to start propagating a variety, they come to us and buy enough plants to get them started, maybe 50 plants if we have that many to sell them. The large nurseries are among our customers.

Bearing in mind that they will not add a variety to their catalog until they have on hand some 3000 or 4000 plants, it will then take them four years or so to build up the quantity they will need to start selling it. So even though they may start this year to build up a stock of 'Granada,' for example, it will be several years before your friend will be able to find it at the community nursery.

FERTILIZING (Cont.)

zinc and manganese. The posted price on February 12 was \$6.95 for 50 pounds.

This piece is not written as a treatise on fertilizing, but rather to call attention to a new situation that faces camellia growers. Neither is it written as an advertisement for Nuccio's Nurseries, who have always been gracious in providing information for the good of camellia growers. For the camellia grower with a large collection, it might be worth while to study the subject of fertilizers a bit and pay attention to what the label says. It is the components of the fertilizer that counts, not the brand name of the product. When you know the desirable components, you can check on them at your garden supply or discount store.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: John Fortenberry; Secretary: Mrs. Marcia Krause, 1160 Weyard Way, Shafter 93263
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Paul Nielsen; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705
Meetings: 3rd Thursday Nov. through April at Great Western S/L cor. 15th St. and N. Main, Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Herbert Martin; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, Oct. through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Arthur Gonos; Secretary: Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727
Meetings: Nov. 14, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 at Mayfair School, Mar. 20 at Fresno State College

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Arthur Gonos; Secretary: Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, Nov. through March at Sumitomo Bank, 620 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Donald W. Hurst; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: Third Wednesday October through April at 1st Federal S/L Community Room, Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Thomas Hughes; Secretary, Mrs. Haidee Steward, 130 S. Citrus, L.A. 90036
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harlan Smith; Secretary: Helen Caputi, 1605 Victoria Dr., Modesto 95351
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Edward A. Hays; Secretary: Wm. Lockwood, 3226 Primrose Ln., Walnut Creek 94598
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley; Secretary: Mrs. Rex W. Peterson, 27 Walnut Ave., Atherton 94025
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: Frank Burris, 3016 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont 91711
Meetings: 2nd Thursday November through April in Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harry Humphrey; Secretary: Mrs. Mabel Higgins, 2152 Clematis St., San Diego 92105
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday November through April Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 P.M.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: John M. Augis; Secretary: Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fairvalley Court, San Jose 95215
Meetings: 2nd Thursday Sept. through April.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Nadine Greene; Secretary: Mrs. Marylin Batt, 10047 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor 95492
Meetings: 4th Thurs. Nov. through April, except Nov. and Dec. in Multipurpose room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Sergio Bracci; Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton, San Gabriel 91776
Meetings: Nov. 16 (Fri.), Dec. 21 (Fri.), Jan. 25 (Thurs.), Feb. 22 (Fri.), Mar. 28 (Thurs.), Apr. 25 (Thurs.)

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