

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California 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.

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THE COVER FLOWER

'MOUTANCHA' is a Yunnan reticulata, the first cultivars of which, came from China to the U.S.A. in 1948 under the auspices of Ralph Peer and the Descanso Gardens. (The name "Moutancha" means, Peony Flower.) The bloom is a large formal double with bright pink wavy, crinkled, crepe-like petals. The petals are veined and striped a silvery white on the inner part of the bloom. The plant has a medium growth and it blooms in the late season. This photo was taken by Yvonne Cave and the color separations are courtesy of the New Zealand Camellia Society.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

Much has been written about the escalation of costs surrounding the publications of the Southern California Camellia Society. Printing costs, paper, ink and postage all make their yearly contribution to boost the cost of maintaining the standards of CAMELLIA REVIEW and CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. This editorial will address itself specifically to CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE and the efforts of your Society to continue its publication. First of all, let us agree that CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE is unique in the English speaking world of horticulture. Few, if any other genus of flowers, have a "bible," a ready reference, a point of departure if you will, with which to consult. One can be quick to exclaim that the publication is not perfect. Yet, when one looks for a nomenclature on, for example, azaleas, roses, or lilies, to name a few, we find that we possess one of the finest compendiums in the flower world. Secondly, let us confess that, over the years, CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE has always paid for itself. The funds expended to publish and deliver the book have always been recovered at the end of the two or three year life of the edition. The difficulty in the past, as far as subsidizing costs is concerned, has not been too apparent. However, with the advent of the 1981 Edition, the escalation of costs has nearly exceeded the ability of the Society to finance its creation. Here are some rough figures which can illustrate the dilemma. The 1972 Edition cost roughly \$2400 to publish and mail out. The 1974 Edition cost about \$3200. In 1976, the cost jumped to \$4400 and in 1978, the Society invested about \$7000 to print and post its NOMENCLATURE. This investment was almost all recovered by October 1981. Now, the 1981 Edition has cost, roughly, \$13,000 to publish and mail out! The point I am trying to make is this: If the 1984 Edition were the follow the same curve of escalation it would require an investment of from \$20,000 to \$25,000! This amount of money is beyond the scope of the Southern California Camellia Society to handle under its present membership structure. Your Board of Directors has made one move to curb costs. They have voted to declare the 1981 Edition as the Historical Edition and thus eliminate old and forgotten cultivars. This will cut the size of the book by about one fourth and possibly cut costs. Another and even more significant course of action has now been approved. The Southern California Camellia Society has set up an Endowment Fund for the maintenance of future editions of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. The funds generated from garage sales, special raffles, and individual contributions will be allocated to this Fund. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to this Endowment Fund can do so. The contribution is tax deductible. The aim is to raise \$25,000 which will be invested in money-market funds to generate the financial support for future editions. It behooves each one of us to get behind this fund raising drive. No matter how large or small your contribution is, you will know that you are helping to perpetuate an institution which has served us all for over 35 years. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to continue the publication of the "bible" of the camellia hobby. Contributions should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society or to Mr. T.B. Mitchell, 520 N. Segovia Ave. San Gabriel, Calif. 91775. the Endowment Fund Chairman.

THE FIRST 10 YEARS

by Meyer Piet

ED. Note: This talk was presented at the February Meeting of The Southern California Camellia Society.

It has been 10 years since my first hybridizing effort. In 1971 I used Mouchang pollen and crossed it into Cornelian. It had a take and the resulting seed pod produced 10 seeds. I grafted all ten seeds on old discarded plant understock (Japonica) and in about 3 or 4 years the grafted seedlings bloomed. Seedling #7 was a beautiful accidentally variegated, 6 to 6 ½" diameter natural, high semi double flower. About 2 years later the original seedling bloomed and as expected it was an all red version of the variegated flower. I watched the flower for an additional 2 years waiting for some new grafts on Sasanqua understock to bloom. The new blooms and plants were excellent. When Lee's wife, Emma Gaeta, first saw the flower she liked it so much that I was very pleased to name this flower for her.

At the present time, Lee Gaeta, Mel Gum and I have introduced 3 new plants.

1. Arcadia — Mouchang X Bonanza
2. Hody Wilson — Robe X Kohinor
3. Emma Gaeta — Cornelian X Mouchang

Last year we discarded about 300 known crosses and 200 chance Japonica seedlings. This year we are really cleaning out the camellia patch. About 300 known crosses have already gone to the butcher's block, that is, given away to local societies to be used for understock.

This method of only retaining the desirable plants for additional work is called "Selective Breeding" and as far as I am concerned, it's the name of the game if you want to be successful. Once we get a good new flower we immediately start using its pollen and try to set seed on it to further its good characteristics, be it color, form, size etc. I believe this is the reason that Lee, Mel and I can continue to show a high level

of enthusiasm. We are successful now and have many new flowers that will come forth in the near future.

We are now using only Sasanqua understock that Mel has been growing for the last 3 or 4 years. This assures us of an excellent root system to keep our grafting loss to a minimum and to help us grow a 3 foot plant the first year it is grafted. The same season, after the new growth has hardened off, we will put-up to a two gallon size in which the plant will grow until its flower blooms.

It's a problem keeping the new seedlings growing without experiencing a reasonable loss. Since almost all seedlings are known crosses and have the expectation of producing a good flower, we hate to lose any of them. This season, perhaps for the first time, we are root grafting the seedlings. I have some slides that show how we do it. If it works out as well as I expect it to, and it certainly shows all the signs of being a vastly improved system, I will write a separate article for the Southern California Camellia Review on "An Optimum Method of Seedling Culture." We will have to wait 3 or 4 months to see exactly how good the new system is. Hybridizers should immediately see the logic in "root grafting."

Well, our first "go for yellow" seedling bloomed this year and if anyone is interested in a 2 inch miniature, white, granthaniama, we have it. We will show a picture of it. From the humor side, if we are going to dish it out, we also have to be able to take it. This new flower is a real puzzler, how in the world we could get a 2" white flower when both parent plant flowers are 5" diameter and one is yellow, is hard to understand. It's a bit disappointing, but I am certain we will see encouraging results next year. One nice thing is my wife remarked, "Why don't you zap some of the yellow pollen back into it?" Right-on, she's really learning. It's exactly what we will do next season.

Because we continually lose seedlings I have taken an actual count on

existing 3 foot plants in two categories. These do *not* include new seedlings.

1. For yellow or special Red-Black pollen.
 - A. Granth × Yellow pollen — 8 different plants
 - B. Granth × Red Black pollen — 4 plants
 - C. Granth × Sas/Granth - irradiated pollen — 1 plant
 - D. Parkhill Cream × Yellow pollen — 1 plant
 - E. Granth/Retic × Yellow pollen — 2 plants
 - F. Sas/Granth × Yellow pollen — 9 plants
 - G. Sas/Granth × Red Black pollen — 2 plants
 - H. Granth × Yellow caste flowers — 2 plants
 - I. Yellow caste flowers VS Yellow caste flowers — 13 plants

Total 42 different plants

These plants could bloom next season.

2. For full-sun-big flower garden plants, for the 3rd or 4th generation flowergirl crosses we have 27 different crosses. These parentages get complex.
 - A. C. Robe/Nuccio Ruby X F/G (Flowergirl)/San Mariono
 - B. Mouchang Bonanza (Arcadia) XA Gum/F/G
 - C. F/G/San Marino X Nuccio Ruby
 - D. Royalty X F/G/Firechief

- E. F/G/Red China X Arcadia
- F. F/G/Red China X Elsie Jury
- G. Etc. — Etc.

Let's stop the talk and see the actual pictures. There is no decent way to really describe what a flower looks like, so we have 3 sets of slides, Old Flowers, Culture, New Flowers. After the slides we will resume the talk.

It is obvious from the color slides that this season has been a good one. We have shown pictures of 33 flowers prior to this season, and 19 flowers seen this season, obviously, the total of 52 flowers are an accumulation of the ten years work. This season still has about 2 months to go and we expect to see still more excellent flowers for the first time.

The seed set for last year probably total about 300 to 350. These have all been grafted on one gallon Sasanqua understock. These new seeds are excellent crosses. They include about 50 more F3 or F4 generation 'Flower Girl' seedlings and about 50 crosses of the two white retic hybrids, shown in the slides, that should give a show quality, white, rabbit-ear, retic hybrid. There are also about 6 to 8 additional yellow crosses. This season we are using the pollen from the Pink Sparkle X H Asper #2 flower and Firechief X Nuccio Ruby #4 very extensively. We now have a *very* dark red retic hybrid that rabbit ears and we would be fol-

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ish if we did not try to utilize this rich red color into other flower forms. I am certain that when the season ends we will have seed pods that will result in about 400 new seedlings.

Since Mel has been growing these healthy weeds (*Sasanqua understock*) we are more liberal in our grafting so in conjunction with grafting the 300 or so seedlings we are grafting an additional 300 to 400 plants.

It is obvious that we are being very successful in our hybridizing work but success in itself presents problems. How do we speed up the distribution of these new flowers so that many people can enjoy their beauty?

The distribution system now is an extremely slow one, and there are some very good reasons for this. At the outset of this article I mentioned the flower 'Emma Gaeta,' the seed was originally set 10 years ago, I saw the beautiful variegated flowers for 3 seasons before I grafted any additional plants, and it took an additional 2 years for others to see its beauty. I believe Nucciois will release this plant next year.

How can we speed things up? If we don't do something our success is going to self destruct our effort. One of the ways we can help the nursery man is to graft up about a dozen each of those flowers that look good enough to warrant further evaluation. This will take about 2 years off the distribution cycle, because once the decision is made to release a new flower 100 to 200 scions would be available. We can do this thanks to Mel's hard work on the *Sasanqua understock* problem.

I would welcome suggestions by the nursery people as to the logical direction for a better release system here in the USA and also abroad. Remember, we are talking about both show flowers and complete new families of sun-loving garden plants with excellent flowers.

Another thought I had that could be helpful in showing others what we are doing, and what they can also accomplish if they are willing to do the neces-

sary work at *Camellia* hybridizing, is to reproduce the 76 color slides we have shown tonight and send them to various other societies around the World to use in one of their own programs to show what is being accomplished in Southern California.

In the past, I have received 4 or 5 requests to do a program outside of our own area, but I have graciously (I hope) turned them down because in the present time frame I simply do not have the time to devote to this phase of the *Camellia* game. I could send the color slides as mentioned above to any society requesting same, at no charge. I will be pleased to stand the expense of Air Mail one way, and then after the society has, and uses the pictures they can Air Mail return them to me.

Since I believe next year and thereafter, as long as Mel, Lee and I are willing to put forth the like effort that we can generate a new set of pictures each season that are well worth looking at.

I am only making a suggestion, I would be pleased to receive correspondence on ideas others may have along this line.

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HOW TO GROW WINNERS

by Bill Donnan

There have been many theories and a lot of articles written on how to produce *camellia* blooms which will, consistently, win trophies at our shows. Some hobbyists ascribe the win to better fertilizer; or more careful watering; or the soil mix in which the plant is growing. There are pruning and thinning addicts and people who will disbud down to five or six buds on the entire bush. There are "fresh bloom" advocates who won't pick a bloom until the morning of the show. And then there are "refrigerator" advocates who might pick a bloom a week or ten days before a show and preserve it in a

tupper-ware bowl. Then they wait until ten minutes before judging starts to bench the bloom, and it wilts one hour after the judging ends.

Recently I read, with interest, a theory put forth by Gene Snooks in his San Diego Camellia Society Bulletin. Snook's article, "The Strain's The Game" suggests that people win trophies with the same flower, year after year, simply because they are lucky enough to have planted a superior clone of that particular cultivar. He may have something here. How many times have you seen Rudy Moore win with his 'Ave Maria?' Of course, Rudy Moore wins with other cultivars too and maybe it is a result of his cultural practices. Yet, have you ever in your life seen 'Magnoliflora' blooms that looked as perfect as the ones Lee Chow usually wins with?

Jack Woo wins a lot of trophies, but man, does he ever disbud! I wonder what Art Gonos does? Maybe he does a Greek dance around his plants. Sergio Bracci gives talks on how he produces winners, but if you analyze what he says it is mostly just good husbandry. Furthermore, he is a good husband, and thus his wife helps out with the camellia culture. I think that Bracci does well because Norman's Nurseries, one of the largest in the West, is right across the fence. Thus he

can get tips from the workers there.

About eight years ago, I asked Fred Hamilton what his secret was in growing all of his winners. He had just "cleaned up" at the Temple City, Pomona, and Descanso Shows on successive week-ends. Each time he had won with — I think it was 'Mouchang' or maybe it was 'Moutancha.' Fred said that the secret was to have five or six plants of the same cultivar. This gave you a wide choice of blooms from which to choose top specimens to bench. You know, I think Fred is right. That is why Harry Putnam wins a lot with his 'Cornelian.' His plant is 20 feet high and on any given Friday — during the Show season — he has 20 or 30 perfect blooms from which to choose some winners.

I have a 'Buddha' plant which was given to me by Ronnie Aronovici about 15 years ago. It is now 20 feet high. In those years when the weather is good and the petal blight is recessive, I have a ton of blooms to choose from. One year, when "the bulls were brave" and "the wine was noble" — in other words — an outstanding year — I took twenty 'Buddha' blooms to the San Diego Show. That day I benched: Best Tray of Five; Best Tray of Three; and Runner-up Best Retic of the show! That was several years ago — but there is always next year!

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SHOW RESULTS

San Diego Camellia Show — Feb. 7 & 8, 1981

Best Large Japonica	<i>'Tiffany'</i>	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-Up	<i>'Elegans Champagne'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Treischel
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Eleanor Martin Supreme'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt
Runner-up	<i>'Desire'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Grace Albritton'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Runner-up	<i>'Tom Thumb'</i>	Chuck Gerlach
Best Miniature	<i>'Kewpie Doll'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Garner
Runner-up	<i>'Man Size'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jess George
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>'Francie L.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Valentines Day Var.'</i>	Ron Braid
Best Non-retic Hybrid	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Waltz Time'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Walt Harmsen
Best 3 Large Japonica	<i>'Elegans Supreme'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Runner-up	<i>'Tiffany'</i>	Mildred Murray
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	<i>'Eleanor Martin Supreme'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Mrs. R. L. Wheeler'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best 5 Japonicas	<i>'Elegans Splendor'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	<i>'Giulio Nuccio Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Best 3 Retic Hybrids	<i>'Francie L.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	<i>'Francie L. Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Best 5 Retic Hybrids	<i>'Francie L. Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Mouchang'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Best 3 Non-retic Hybrids	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	<i>'Freedom Bell'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Species	<i>'Star Above Star'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Treated Japonica	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner-up	<i>'In The Pink'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Treated Retic	<i>'Mouchang'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Hybrid	<i>'Anticipation'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Best New Seedling		Won by Kramer's Nursery
Best One Year Old Grafted Plant		Won by Ben Berry
Best Two Year Old Grafted Plant		Won by Dr. & Mrs. Ben Woodward
Best Graft of the Show		Won by Ben Berry
Best Collector's Tray		Won by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up		Won by Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best bloom by a novice exhibitor	<i>'Giulio Nuccio'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Cooks
Runner-up	<i>'Alba Plena'</i>	Sonya Rhea

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'Splash Of White'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
'Purity'	R.S. Pozdol
'Mini Pink'	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
'A.L. Wheeler'	Harry Putnam
'Midnight'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Coral Delight'	Mr. & Mrs. Berkely Pace
'Francie L.'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Tiffany'	Mr. & Mrs. Nowlin
'Mrs. R.L. Wheeler'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Silver Cloud'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Angel Wings'	D.T. Gray Family
'Pharoah'	Fred Hamilton
'Crimson Robe'	Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mowrey
'Coronation'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
'Grand Slam'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Miss Tulare Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo

SHOW RESULTS

South Coast Camellia Society Show

January 24 & 25, 1981

Best Treated Large Japonica	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Runner-Up	<i>'Fashionatta'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Treated Medium Japonica	<i>'Spring Sonnet'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Runner-Up	<i>'Ballet Dancer'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Large Japonica	<i>'Guilio Nuccio Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-Up	<i>'Granada'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Midnight'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Runner-Up	<i>'Ballet Dancer'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Miniature Japonica	<i>'Cotton Tail'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Runner-Up	<i>'Rosey Posey'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Bob's Tinsie'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Runner-Up	<i>'Jingle Bells'</i>	Julius Christinson
Best Treated Reticulata	<i>'Francie L'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	<i>'Miss Tulare'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Non-treated Retic	<i>'Valentine Day Var.'</i>	Ron Braid
Runner-up	<i>'Kohinor'</i>	Fritz Kahen
Best Treated Hybrid (Non-retic)	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	<i>'Angel Wings'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Hybrid (Non-retic)	<i>'Angel Wings'</i>	D.T. Gray Family
Runner-up	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
Best Species	<i>'Botan Yuki'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner-up	<i>'Lutchuensis'</i>	V. Desmond
Best Japonica Seedling	<i>Small Formal Double</i>	Bill Donnan
Best Reticulata Seedling	<i>Large Pink</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Best Tray of Three Treated Japonica	<i>'Carter's Sunburst Pink'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Tray of Three Treated Retics	<i>'Miss Tulare Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Tray of Three Japonicas	<i>'Midnight'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Best Tray of Three Boutonnieres	<i>'Ava Maria'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Tray of Three Hybrids	<i>'Angel Wings'</i>	D.T. Gray Family
SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEMBER'S DIVISION		
Best Non-treated Japonica	<i>'Betty's Beauty'</i>	V. Desmond
Runner-up	<i>'Katie'</i>	Tom Hughes
Best Non-treated Hybrid (Retic or Non-retic)	<i>'Arch of Triumph'</i>	Harry Putnam
Runner-up	<i>'Dolores Hope'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Jones
Court Of Honor Blooms:		
'Katie'		Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Marie Braccy Var.'		Mr. & Mrs. Mel Canfield
'Chow's Han-ling'		Dr. Lee Chow
'Mathotiana Supreme'		D.T. Gray Family
'Pharoah'		Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
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'Francie L.'		Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mowrey
'Rosafloa'		Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
'Waltz Time Var.'		Art Gonos Family
'Little Slam'		Bill Harris Family
'Fircone'		Bill Harris Family
'Guilio Nuccio Var.'		Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
'Elsie Jury'		Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Kiku Toji'		Mr. & Mrs. Mel Canfield
'Francie L.'		Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Curtain Call'		Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Garner

'Lady In Red'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Leonora Novich'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
'Arch of Triumph'	Harry S. Putnam
'Descanso Mist'	Mr. & Mrs. George Butler
'Elegans Supreme'	Art Gonos Family
'Higo Seedling'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Harold Paige'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Margaret Davis'	Mr. & Mrs. George Butler
'Nuccio's Gem'	D.T. Gray Family
'Spring Sonnet'	Bill Harris Family
'Grand Prix'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dryden
'Emmet Pfingstl'	Rudy Moore
'Valley Knudsen'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
'Funny Face Betty'	Art Gonos Family

SHOW RESULTS

Temple City Camellia Society — Feb. 14 & 15, 1981

Best Large Japonica	'Carter's Sunburst'	Mr. & Mrs. Berkley Pace
Runner-up	'Chow's Han-ling'	Lee Chow
Best Medium Japonica	'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	'Nuccio's Pearl'	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
Best Small Japonica	'Grace Albriton'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Runner-up	'Demi-Tasse'	Mel Canfield
Best Miniature Japonica	'Angel's Blush'	Pat Novak
Runner-up	'Bob's Tinsie'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Best Retic Hybrid	'Valentine's Day Var.'	Ronald Braid
Runner-up	'Nuccio's Ruby'	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Treischel
Best Non-retic Hybrid	'Elsie Jury'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	'Angel Wings'	D.T. Gray Family
Best Treated Japonica	'Kramer's Supreme'	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
Best Treated Retic Hybrid	'Pharoah'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Treated Non-retic Hybrid	'South Seas'	Mr. & Mrs. John Sullivan
Best 3 Large Japonicas	'Grand Slam'	D.T. Gray Family
Runner-up	'Silver Triumph'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	'Eleanor Martin'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up	'Betty Foy Sanders'	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Jones
Best 3 Retic Hybrids	'Cornelian'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	'Francie L.'	D.T. Gray Family
Best 3 Non-retic Hybrids	'Freedom Bell'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Runner-up	'Elsie Jury'	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
Best Species Bloom	'Shishi-Gashira'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Best Japonica Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. Walt Harmsen
Best Retic Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Best Non-retic Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Best Grower Bloom	'Nuccio's Ruby Var.'	Nuccio's Nurseries
Award of Merit		Mr. & Mrs. John Movich

COURT OF HONOR

'Clark Hubbs Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Walt Harmsen
'Sandy Sue'	Caryll Pitkin
'Easter Morn'	D.T. Gray Family
'Freedom Bell'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
'Betty Foy Sanders'	Dr. Lee Chow
'Nuccio's Gem'	Ron Braid
'Tom Knudsen'	Caryll Pitkin
'Franci L.'	Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mowrey
'Eden Queen'	Caryll Pitkin
'Bernadette Karsten'	Mildred Murray
'Allison Leigh Woodroof'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
'Men's Mini'	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW

February 21 & 22, 1981

Best Large Japonica	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Premier Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Garner
Second Runner-up	<i>'Mr. D. W. Davis'</i>	Jim McClung
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Glen 40'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Nuccio's Jewel'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
Second Runner-up	<i>'Eleanor Martin Sup.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Braid
Best Small Bloom	<i>'Ava Maria'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Demi Tasse'</i>	Marvin Belcher
Second Runner-up	<i>'Little Slam'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Tray of 3 Small Blooms	<i>'Freedom Bell'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bracci
Runner-up	<i>'Little Slam'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Second Runner-up	<i>'Allison Leigh Woodroof'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Three Large Japonicas	<i>'Julia France'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Stiern
Runner-up	<i>'Grand Slam'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Second Runner-up	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	Frank Davis
Best Three Medium Japonicas	<i>'Betty Sheffield Sup.'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Magnolia Flora'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
Second Runner-up	<i>'Jennie Mills'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Steirn
Best Australian Bloom	<i>'Margaret Davis'</i>	Frank Davis
Best Very Large Hybrid Bloom	<i>'Harold Paige'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Curtain Call'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Second Runner-up	<i>'Francie L. Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Best Large Hybrid Bloom	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Valentine Day Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Braid
Second Runner-up	<i>'Nuccio's Ruby'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
Best Medium to Small Hybrid	<i>'Waltz Time Var.'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
Runner-up	<i>'Rose Parade'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Second Runner-up	<i>'Coral Delight Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Best Species	<i>'Koto Hajime'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Tray of Three Very Large Hybrid Blooms	<i>'Francie L.'</i>	Frank Davis
Runner-up	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Second Runner-up	<i>'Milo Rowell'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Walt Harmsen
Best Tray of Three Large Hybrid Blooms	<i>'Valentine Day'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Nuccio's Ruby'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Treischel
Second Runner-up	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Best Tray Of Three Medium Hybrids	<i>'Angel Wings'</i>	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-up	<i>'South Seas'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
Second Runner-up	<i>'Mayehyinhung'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Treated Japonica	<i>'Elegans Supreme'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Nuccio's Jewel'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ab Sumerson
Second Runner-up	<i>'Fashionata Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Treated Hybrid	<i>'Pharoah'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Garner
Runner-up	<i>'Howard Asper'</i>	Jerry Biewend
Second Runner-up	<i>'Harold Paige'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Commercial Display	Clark Thomas Camellias
Best Commercial Bloom	<i>'Elegans Splendor'</i>	Clark Thomas Camellias
Award of Excellence:		
'Alba Plena'		Sandy Swanson
'Elegans Splendor'		George Gibbs
'Nuccio's Gem'		George Gibbs

EXHIBITORS	50
VISITORS	1,500
BLOOMS BENCHED	1,460

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW

February 21 & 22, 1981

Sweepstakes winner		Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner-up		Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamine
Best Very Large Japonica	<i>'Easter Morn'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Large Japonica	<i>'Margaret Davis'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	<i>'Mrs. Fred Weise'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Spring Sonnet'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. James Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Nuccio's Gem'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Jean Clere'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Breener
Best Miniature Japonica	<i>'Lady Humes' Blush'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Heitman
Best Japonica Bloom in the Show	<i>'Easter Morn'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Very Large Retic Hybrid	<i>'Harold Paige'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hallstone
Runner-up	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. E.F. Achterberg
Best Medium Reticulata	<i>'Betty Ridley'</i>	Mrs. J. Bettencourt
Best Non-retic Hybrid	<i>'Angel Wings'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Grosso
Best Three Miniature Japonicas	<i>'Baby Sis Pink'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Earhart
Best Three Large Japonicas	<i>'Ragland Supreme'</i>	Harlan Smith Family
Best Three Retic Hybrids	<i>'Valentine Day'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Barry Pitts
Best Three Non-retic Hybrids	<i>'Coral Delight Var.'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Five Japonica Blooms		Won By Mr. & Mrs. Bob Marcy
Best Nine Camellia Blooms		Won By Art Gonos Family
Best Japonica Seedling		Won By Mr. & Mrs. Jack Mandrich
Best Hybrid Seedling		Won By Kramers Nursery
Best Member's Japonica	<i>'Swan Lake'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Heitman
Best Member's Hybrid	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Kolak
Best Youth Exhibitor's Bloom	<i>'Raspberry Ice'</i>	Kirk Smith
Number Of Blooms Benched		1838

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL SPRING SHOW

February 28 & March 1, 1981

Best Large Japonica	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	The Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Grand Slam'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Glen 40'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Wild Fire'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Maroon And Gold'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
Runner-up	<i>'Ava Maria'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Miniature Japonica	<i>'Tammia'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	<i>'Bob Bob'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Very Large Reticulata	<i>'Royalty'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Miss Tulare'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Stiern
Runner-up	<i>'Miss Tulare Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Non-retic Hybrid	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
Runner-up	<i>'Anticipation'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ab Summerson
Best Three Large Japonicas	<i>'Tomorrow's Dawn'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best Three Medium Japonicas	<i>'Jennie Mills'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Stiern
Runner-up	<i>'Wild Fire'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best Three Small Japonicas	<i>'Hishi Karaito'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Little Slam'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Five Japonicas	<i>'White Nun'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best Three Retic Hybrids	<i>'Lasca Beauty'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Francie L. Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks

Best Five Retic Hybrids	'Francie L.'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Three Non-retic Hybrids	'Coral Delight Var.'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Freedom Bell'	Bill Harris Family
Best Species Bloom	'Star Above Star'	Art Gonos Family
Best Treated Bloom	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Grand Prix'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best New Sport	'Mamie Blush'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe

COURT OF HONOR BLOOMS

'Easter Morn'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Tomorrow's Dawn'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Fashionata'	Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt
'Tomorrow'	Art Gonos Family
'Nelly McGrath'	Marvin Belcher
'In The Pink Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Chow's Han Ling'	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
'Black Tie'	Art Gonos Family
'Magnolia Flora'	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
'Nuccio's Jewel'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Margaret Davis'	Caryll Pitkin
'Ballet Dancer'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Mandalay Queen'	Bill Harris Family
'Mouchang'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Emma Gaeta Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
'K.O. Hester'	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Stiern
'Dr. Louis Pollizzi'	Dr. & Mrs. Lee Chow
'Little Man Formal'	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
'Man Size'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Angel Wings'	Bill Harris Family
'Freedom Bell'	Art Gonos Family
'Patty Bengston'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci

THE CAMELLIA — ITS ORIGIN, CULTURE AND USE

by Benjamin H. Berry

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE camellia to the Western World came about through both accident and design. The accident being on the part of the sailing ship captains who thought they were getting tea plants and the design being on the part of the Chinese who gave them plants that looked like tea plants but weren't. At the end of the 17th Century European sailing vessels were trading in the Asian waters and tea was becoming a popular beverage, so popular that tea plants were sought for cultivation in Europe. Thus some of these early ship captains sought to buy the tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*, from the Chinese. Not wishing to lose this trade they sold the ship captains a plant of the same genus, the *Camellia japonica*. In outward appearance the plants seem to be the

same. In time it became evident that these early plants were more to be admired for their flowers rather than their leaves. The flowers were so striking and the bloom came at a time when so little else furnished color that they were not long in finding homes on estates both large and small. Today on the English estates many of these older camellias may be found that are thirty or more feet in height and almost as broad. The beauty of the plant and of the flower soon made it a favorite in all of Europe. Shortly after the Revolutionary War camellias began to find their way to the United States and, in turn, across the country.

The camellia is native to Asia though closely related plants are found in other parts of the world including the United States. Various of the spe-

cies have become popular and are to be found growing in all but the coldest areas of the United States. Even in these coldest areas a few hobbyists are growing them in hot houses. Some camellias have peculiar characteristics, like the *Camellia rusticana* or snow camellia. It is a willowy plant that bends to the ground under the weight of winter snows but with the spring thaws it rises again and very soon breaks forth in a lavish display of flowers. Then there is the *Camellia lutchuenis* with very small leaves and very small white or pinkish flowers that have a delightful fragrance surrounding the plant like an aura.

Camellias are native to all of Asia. At the time the first plants found their way to the Western World, Japan was yet a closed country not welcoming foreigners. Thus, it was not until some years later that the camellias that have been cultivated by the Japanese for several hundred years found their way to the Western World.

The first of the species introduced to the Western World was the *Camellia japonica*. However, in 1948, several of the *Camellia reticulata* plants were brought to California from the Orient. These are noted for their large blooms (six to eight inches across) and their wavy, crinkled petals. Much hybridizing has been done crossing the *reticulata* with the *japonica* and with other species. The results have been outstanding and the *reticulata* hybrids are rapidly increasing in popularity. One of the foremost hybridizers in this area is San Diego's own Howard Asper.

Another of the camellia species that finds much popularity is the *sasanqua*. Generally it is earlier blooming than the *japonica* or the *reticulata*. However, there are later blooming varieties of great beauty that are currently available in local nurseries. Both the leaves and the flowers of *sasanqua* are smaller than most *japonicas*. The flowers of the *sasanqua* have a tendency to hold on the plant for a far less time than those of the *reticulata* and the *japonica*. While this has not been a serious objection to the

sasanqua, the newer varieties seem to have a tendency to hold the bloom on the plant for a longer time.

Over the years much has been said about the beauty of the camellia flower. All of this is true. But the plant has other virtues that sometimes go unnoticed. Camellias are evergreens. Most of the *japonicas* have shiny deep green foliage, the same being true of the *sasanquas* though the *reticulatas* have a less shiny foliage with leaves usually longer than the other two. The camellia flowers during its dormant period, generally from November through March. Some *sasanquas* begin flowering in September. In southern California we usually have less garden bloom during the months of December, January and February unless, of course, we have sufficient planting of camellias. This period is the height of camellia blooming and many gardens are a riot of color. During the summer months when flowers are abundant in southern California the camellias furnish a rich green background imparting a cooling and tranquil effect to the garden.

The camellia is perhaps one of the easiest of all plants to grow. Those of us in southern California are fortunate in having a climate that is ideally suited to the growing of camellias. In fact, in southern California we may grow certain of the species as garden plants that require special culture in many other parts of the so-called "camellia belt". Camellias do not require constant care and attention to thrive. If given a suitable location they may thrive on seeming complete neglect. The needs of this plant are simple and its wants are few. All camellias need a well-drained soil — one that is not constantly wet but only slightly moist. It also needs a soil that is slightly acid having a pH factor of about 5.5. It will thrive on regular feedings and it will thrive on only occasional feedings. There are camellias that have not been fed since the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. But do not be fooled by this rarity. These plants are growing in an ideal situation and

derive such food as needed from decaying vegetable matter. In its native habitat the camellia grows in the filtered shade covering of a not too dense forest. Decaying vegetable matter from the fallen leaves of the trees furnish the plant all of the food it requires. There it flourishes and grows into large shrubs or, if you wish, small trees. In man's constant attempt to improve on nature, we find ourselves feeding some plants more than would normally be required to maintain healthy growth. Some camellia hobbyists fertilize at six to eight week intervals. Others believe only in feeding during the period of active growth, from about May through November at six week intervals. Some who use this last method supplement it with feedings of 2—10—10 every four to six weeks during the period of dormancy. Regardless of the method used each is happy with the results obtained. And who said camellias were hard to grow?

While camellias may be easy to grow it cannot be disputed that they are sometimes unhappy with their local conditions. One of the foremost hobbyists in southern California planted a row of camellias along his western fence. At first they appeared happy with the morning sun and the afternoon shade. But in time they began to decline. Inspection of the ground revealed that the fruit trees of a neighbor that were a good fifteen feet away had invaded the camellia bed seeking their moisture and their food. Camellias will grow and thrive in the ground but they will not successfully combat invasive roots. Proof of their ability to grow and thrive in the ground under the filtered shade of overhanging trees may readily be found at Descanso Gardens or Huntington Gardens. As earlier noted, camellias must have good drainage. They will not tolerate wet feet. Certain areas of San Diego City and County have an underlying hard pan that prevents adequate drainage. Yet many lovely camellias are grown in these areas through the use of raised beds. Enclosing walls are built up

about three feet and then are filled with good camellia soil mix. The only camellias that will seek to put their roots more than twelve to eighteen inches in the ground are seedlings whose tap root was not pinched off when the plant was quite young. None of the camellias bought from reputable nurseries should have tap roots. In fact, most of these plants are rooted cuttings which do not produce a tap root.

There are certain camellias that cannot be induced to be happy with a particular location. In my location near the coast I have tried to grow Pink Perfection, a real oldie but yet a beautiful small shell pink formal double. I have grown one of these on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. Sometimes a late hard freeze accompanied by stiff northwest winds would rob me of the uppermost blooms but the lower and more protected branches were reward enough. So I tried it here. I tried it in partial shade and in full sun — tried everything until I finally pulled it up and put it in the garbage. Then after joining the San Diego Camellia Society, I learned that this camellia requires a certain amount of cold weather which we don't have. Around Ramona they may be found growing in full sun and yielding a profusion of bloom, even on frosty mornings. I have seen one of these plants growing near Ramona in rather deep shade and it was the saddest looking specimen that can be imagined. It obviously wasn't getting the required sun and so what has been said about filtered shade is not universally the truth but only a majority truth. I'm trying it — so far without disaster. On the other hand, there are camellias that will thrive in our coastal climates and not do well in our inland climates. Usually your nurseryman can give you some guidance in this area.

Some of our gardens do not provide the filtered shade required by most of the *japonicas*. Many camellia hobbyists who have show place gardens have provided this shade through the use of lathe houses and some through the use

of saran cloth. Others have utilized those areas in the yard and around the house that allows for the morning sun but provides shade from the hot afternoon sun. Most of the sasanquas will take full sun and have been utilized with great effect in the more sunny areas.

Currently the colors in camellias range from whites which shade into pinks, which, in turn, shade into the reds, even the deep reds. But the hybridizers are busy. In time we will have the blues and yellows. The Australians and New Zealanders have an anemone form camellia whose outer petals are a yellowish white but the petaloids are a butter yellow. Recent attempts by a southern California camellia hobbyist

at grafting scions of this plant were not successful but it won't be long before we have this and many other camellias that are yellow, blue and purple.

The camellia is one of the most pest free plants that adorn our gardens. Little bothers it to any degree. Most hobbyists still follow a regular spray program as a precautionary measure using isotox, diazinon or malathion. If you are seeking prize blooms rather than just garden color, such a spray program is recommended. On the other hand, where garden color is all that is desired, spraying may rarely, or not at all, be required.

Ed. Note: Reprinted from California Garden Magazine, Vol. 66, No. 1, Jan.-Feb, 1979.

USED CAMELLIA BOOKS FOR SALE

The Southern California Camellia Society from time to time receives copies of used camellia books and magazines. These items are placed in its Library and, about once a year the Library is canvased for duplicate items.

These are sold as a method of raising money for the on-going programs of the Society. A recent canvas of the Library has revealed that the following items are surplus and thus are offered for sale. Many of the items listed are one-of-a-kind and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Herewith is the present listing:

Back copies of the ACS Yearbook \$3.50 each
 1954 to date un-bound volumes of CAMELLIA REVIEW \$5.00 each
 1954 to date bound, hard cover volumes of CAMELLIA REVIEW \$12.00 each

One-of-a-kind complete set of CAMELLIA REVIEW —

Vol. 5 through 41 — 37 Volumes — Unbound (as is) \$200.00

Hard cover bound \$450.00

“Camellias In The Huntington Gardens” by Hertrich

Vol. #1; #2; & #3 \$15.00 each

“A Revision Of The Genus Camellia” by Sealy \$40.00 each

“Beautiful Camellia Of Descanso Gardens”

Paperback with 80 color plates of camellia blooms \$3.50 each

Back Editions of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE 1950 to date \$3.00 each

Bound copies of 1981 (Historical Edition) of

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE \$15.00 each

Bound copies of “What I Know About Rare Camellias And Azaleas”

by Julius Nuccio (Autograph book containing 460 blank pages) \$5.00 each

If you are interested please contact Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW

The United States Representative for the International Camellia Society is Mr. Tom H. Perkins III — P.O. Box 750, Brookhaven, Miss. 39601

PLEASE NOTE

The United States Representative for the International Camellia Society is Mr. Tom H. Perkins III — P.O. Box 750, Brookhaven, Miss. 39601

CAMELLIA GREATS — HARVEY SHORT

Harold E. Dryden

I first met Harvey Short in late 1952. I was Program Chairman of the Southern California Camellia Society. Somebody told me that a man named Harvey Short could give an interesting talk about developing new varieties of camellias. Harvey was then employed at Coolidge Nurseries in Pasadena, one of the several nurseries in the area that featured camellias, where among other things he had a section of camellias that he called "camellias of tomorrow." They were largely if not entirely the new camellias that he had developed. I went to the nursery and talked with Harvey, and received the polite but firm "no" that I was to receive occasionally in future years when I was to know him better. Harvey did not like to talk in public, and on the occasions when he elected not to talk he called on that rare ability to say "no" with the graciousness that characterized his manners.

Harvey was in the nursery business in Ramona, San Diego County, California when he came on the the camellia scene. His first camellia introduction was in 1948 with 'Pink Lotus.' He introduced 8 new varieties in 1950, which was the start of a series of yearly introductions that to my knowledge is unequalled in camellia history — 2 in 1951, 1 in 1952, 16 in 1953, 5 in 1954, 9 in 1955, 7 in 1956, 4 in 1957, 3 in 1958, 8 in 1959, 8 in 1960. In the 11-year period 1950 to 1960 he introduced 71 new varieties, 83% of the 86 varieties that are credited to him in "Camellia Nomenclature."

He did little or no hand pollinating, going on the premise that the bees had started the business of pollinating and were fully competent to carry it on. When he wanted to cross two varieties, he placed the two plants adjacent to each other and relied on the bees to do their part. He obtained good results

with 'Lotus' seeds and used 'Lotus' extensively in the early years. His 1950 introductions included "Bride's Boquet," his first Margarete Hertrich Award winner, and 'Masterpiece,' a beautiful medium sized white formal that unfortunately nobody but Harvey could grow to its potential. It took the camellia world in Southern California by storm when it came out but interest waned when most people found out they could not grow it successfully.

He left Coolidge Nurseries and was employed by the Huntington Botanical Gardens where he was in charge of the greenhouse. He maintained his camellia garden at his Pasadena home and thus continued his camellia interest. He retired to La Mesa, a San Diego suburb, where his camellia garden consisted largely of the better varieties among his introductions. One of the pleasures in our trips to the annual San Diego camellia show was in seeing Harvey's display at the show and then on Sunday morning to visit Harvey and Margaret in their La Mesa home and garden. It was the congregating point for their many friends of their Pasadena area days.

Harvey's 86 introductions were not all great flowers, at least by 1980 standards. They were all japonicas. I was familiar with his garden until he broke it up shortly before his death, and I do not remember having seen a reticulata or hybrid in it. He enjoyed the flowers and operated on the rule that if a flower was good enough to satisfy his pleasure, it was good enough to have a name. And it had a name from the very beginning, no number or letter such as with growers I know. And what names! There has been much jesting over the years over who selected the names, Harvey or his wife Margaret. For example, the 1950 names: Bride's Boquet, Deep South, Frosty Morn, Heart O'Gold, Masterpiece, Pink Shadows, Scented Treasure, and Sun Dial. There were few names after people or places. I find only three that are named for people; one is for his wife Margaret Short and

one is for his close friend of his Ramone days and for years thereafter, Owen Henry. He waited until 1958 to name a variety for Margaret, then unfortunately did not select his best flower.

I have stated that all of Harvey's introductions were not great flowers by 1980 standards. But they were good flowers by the standards of the 1950's. As I look through the list of his introductions during that period, memory tells me that I grew 20 or 25 of them. Three of them were Margaret Hertrich Award winners — 'Bride's Boquet' in 1952, 'Pink Clouds' in 1953, and 'Guest of Honor' in 1955. Some good ones failed to make the Hertrich group — 'Frosty Morn,' 'Sunset Glory,' 'Fire Falls,' 'Grand Finale,' 'Ballet Dancer,' 'Extravaganza,' 'Owen Henry.' Few of them now get to the Honor Table in shows, 'Ballet Dancer' and Les Baskerville's variegation of 'Premier' being the exceptions. Maybe this is because these camellias of the 1950's and 1960's are not up to what the 1970's have brought us, or maybe it's because present day judges (Dryden included) are so dazzled by newness that they fail to see the beauty in the old timers.

It was a privilege to know Harvey Short and to be called his friend. He saw beauty in flowers and that enriched his enjoyment of living. He saw good in people; he did not look for faults in others, he enjoyed what was best in them. I never heard anything critical being said about him. He brought pleasure to us through the flowers that he gave us and in our association with him. To me he is truly a Camellia Great, not because of the seedling camellias that he grew but because of the man himself.

LES JURY'S BREEDER PLANTS

by Bill Donnan

The "Breeder Plants" which were developed by Les Jury in New Zealand have now been propagated here on the

West Coast of the United States. Nucio's Nurseries of Altadena has grafted scions sent to them by Mr. Jury and the grafts have been propagated. Nucio's Nurseries is making the one gallon plants available to the Northern California Camellia Research Committee free of charge. Anyone, particularly hybridizers, wanting scions of these "Breeder Plants" should contact Mr. Ken Hallstone or other members of the Northern California Camellia Research Committee for their needs. The list of cultivars is as follows: 'Dark Nite'; 'Ville's Delight'; 'Mrs. Jones'; 'Fantastic'; 'Rondevous'; 'Jury's Yellow'; 'Scarlet Buoy'; 'Bright Buoy'; 'Crimson Buoy.'

CAMELLIAS IN CONTAINERS

by David Trehane

Cornwall, U.K.

Ed. Note: Reprinted from Chapter #4 of Wisley Handbook #37, Camellias, published by the Royal Horticultural Society, London. (This Handbook was given to me by my good friend David Davies and when I wrote to Trehane asking permission to reprint his article he wrote back — "I would not have thought that we could teach your camellia growers anything about growing plants in containers! You are very welcome to use it."

Although camellias in the ground have shallow spreading roots they grow remarkably well in pots, tubs, urns, and the like. Plants five feet high or more (1.5cm), will flourish in 10-inch pots for many years and demand no special skill from their owner.

In greenhouses the use of containers enables a large collection to be grown, and varied, in a small space and allows that small space to be put to maximum use.

Outdoors camellias in ornamental containers, or in purpose-made recesses, on patios and terraces, make admirable accent plants and surmount the barrier of adverse soil.

There is one cardinal rule which is absolutely vital. Camellias in pots, or

any other container, must never be allowed to have their roots frozen through. If the soil in the container freezes solid the roots die. Whatever the weather prophets say it must be a routine measure to insulate the pots with straw, bracken, woodwool, sawdust, whatever is available, in the autumn.

Compost

Camellia plants sold in pots are either in a loam-based compost — a mixture of loam, peat, sand — or in a peat-sand mix.

The loam-based compost has three advantages. It is heavier and therefore gives greater stability to top-heavy plants. The loam supplies trace elements, which have to be added to peat-sand mixes. A loam-based compound is easier to water.

The standard loam-based composts, the John Innes (JI) composts, were devised by Messrs Lawrence and Newell, and in their book *Seed and Potting Composts** they included camellia in the list of plants successfully grown in JI composts containing chalk. On p. 59, they said 'The chalk is an essential ingredient . . . and should always be added except in the case of some calcifuge plants.' They went on to list one rhododendron doing well in the standard compost and another doing better without the chalk and advised the reader to try calcifuge plants with and without chalk and to note the results. On page 54 they said 'It is probably best not to add lime to a compost if the loam is neutral (pH7.0) or alkaline.' Later, in *Science and the Greenhouse*** they introduced JI 'A' (for acid) composts in which sulphur was used, instead of lime, to suit calcifuge plants. Camellias, except *C. sasanqua*, are recognized as calcifuge shrubs.

Unfortunately JI 'A' compost is unknown to most vendors of composts and many samples of JI compost on sale have not had the pH regulated, the loam is top soil from gravel workings and has never been stacked as it should be before mixing.

To sum up, therefore, the best advice that can be given to a buyer of compost is to ask for John Innes 'A'; if this cannot be gotten ask for JI potting compost No. 1, 2 or 3 **without** chalk, to be made up and supplied. JI No. 1 is for small plants, up to No. 3 for large (the fertilizer content is increased with the number).

The best advice for making JI compost is to use acid loam if available, neutral if not, and to omit the chalk. The formula for the potting compost is 7 parts by loose bulk of medium loam, 3 of medium grade moss-peat, 2 of coarse (acid) sand, adding for JI No. 1 the JI base fertilizer at 4 oz to a bushel (36.31) of the mixture, 8 oz for No. 2 and 12 oz for No. 3. This will then keep for two months. Loam should be sterilized but can be used without this treatment.

The alternative to a JI compost is a mixture of peat and sand, generally sold as 'Ericaceous' or 'Rhododendron' compost.

If a Universal compost is offered ask what its fertilizer content is and for an assurance that it is lime-free.

All potting should be done immediately after flowering. In modern commercial practice, using standard composts which drain well, crocks are no longer put in the bottom of pots. A layer of chippings may be found in plastic bags.

Potting on

Assuming the purchase of a plant 18 to 24 inches high (45-60 cm), if it is in a 5-inch pot it will need potting on, that is moving on into a larger container. If it is in a loose compost in a larger container it will have been potted on recently as is standard practice in some garden centres. If in doubt, turn the plant upside down and tap it out of the pot. If few roots are visible it will stand a year. If it shows a tight mass of roots it must be potted on.

Traditionally camellias have always been potted on in stages from 5-inch to 7-inch to 9-inch, and so on to the final size.

Similarly it has been recommended that, instead of moving it straight from a 5-inch pot into a large urn or tub, a camellia should be potted on into a 7-inch and plunged in soil or sand in the urn. The reason given was that this was to prevent the large volume of unoccupied compost going 'sour.' There is no recorded research on this and there must be many camellias which have been safely grown with just the one move from a small pot into a large container.

If potting on, compost is put into a larger container, the plant is stood on it, compost heaped over its roots and shaken, topped up and then pushed down the sides with a stick to eliminate air spaces. Given a sharp tap on the bench and topped up lightly it is ready for watering. The top of the compost in a 10-inch pot should be 1½ inches below the rim (3.8cm).

Re-potting

When a camellia has been put into its final container some natural shrinkage of the compost will occur each year and this can be made up each spring with a top-dressing of JI No. 3.

The time for more drastic action comes when normal feeding and watering fail to keep the plant in good health and the flowering diminishes. It must then be re-potted.

The same container can be used after cleaning. The procedure is to take the plant out of its container, brutally if necessary, to rub or comb off an inch or two of the root-ball at the base, around the sides and off the shoulder. A layer of new compost is then put in the bottom of the container, the plant put back and filled in round as for potting on, vibrating the plant as much as possible to work the compost in among the roots, and get rid of air spaces.

Watering

After re-potting, water in once and then take care not to kill the camellia with mistaken kindness. Damping over will probably be enough until new roots have grown. Correct watering is a matter of observation and getting the feel of the plant! Modern gadgets to in-

dicade the need for water do not entirely take the place of sound judgement. In the commuter's fully automatic greenhouse it can be left to the electronics along with the heat, shading, ventilation, feeding and humidifiers but it is still worthwhile checking how plants in the back row compare with the rest.

The type of container affects the demand for water. If a plastic pot requires water every three days, a clay pot will need it every two. The amount of leaf affects the demand. *Reticulata* camellias take less water than japonicas.

When watering with a hose the top compost is liable to be washed out of the pot. A layer of pebbles will prevent this.

Whereas some houseplants prefer to be nearly dried out before being well watered, extremes should be avoided in watering camellias. Generally a plant left to get very dry will recover after a soaking. It may lose its flower buds. Over-watering until leaves have yellowed and begun to drop is usually fatal. By that time the roots have rotted. The natural tendency to over-water has to be curbed.

Most mains water is deliberately hardened, some is naturally very hard, and this may be a problem when plants are in containers. Although there is a natural process of acidification going on in the compost, the volume of compost is small compared with soil around a camellia planted outdoors.

The simplest plan is to store rain-water from the roof, which is about pH 5.75, and when it is used up to fall back on mains water. If very hard water must be used, the rise in pH can be countered by using aluminum sulphate as for blueing hydrangeas.

Under glass, or on a standing-out ground, plants in plastic pots can be sub-irrigated. A plastic sheet is laid flat with the edges turned up over boards or bricks to allow 2 inches of building sand (5cm) to be spread over the sheet, the pots are stood on it and gently pressed in to make contact. Water is then trickled into the sand, or a more

sophisticated tank and ball-valve can be installed, to maintain the water level. Some such device is invaluable in a holiday period. The plants take up water by capillary action from the sandbed.

Feeding

Camellias in pots should be fed between April and August inclusive. The simplest method is to mix the feed with water; when watering on a small scale this can be done with a watering can. For a collection of plants a feed-bottle with a dilutor can be attached to the hose-pipe. Most shops sell several solid and liquid feeds.

The proportions of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P) and potash (K) vary in the feeds available. The analysis is printed on the label. Choose one high in N for April, May, and June, and one low in N and high in P and K for July and August, following the directions for dilution. After August stop feeding. Some of the feeds contain trace elements. For camellias in pots, especially those in a peat-sand compost, it is an advantage to use such a feed for at least part of the season. Sequestrene is of no value to camellias in pots. *Reticulata* camellias require less feeding. Stop at the end of July and start again in April.

If a camellia is fed after August, when it is becoming inactive, a salt concentration will build up in the compost. If the first sign of this is a lining of white or brown powder edging the leaves it may not be too late to soak the salts out of the compost and quickly re-pot. Then keep the roots on the dry side, damping over the leaves. Once the leaves turn brown and yellow and drop off the roots will have rotted and the plant will die.

RULES TO LIVE BY

Editor's Note: In 1929, when I was a Freshman Civil Engineering student, the various Laws and Principles in the Physics courses, such as: Moment of Inertia; Laws of Friction; Newton's Laws of Gravity; the Laws

of Thermal Dynamics; and the Principle of Kinetic Energy left me petrified! Perhaps you readers won't enjoy these correlative pronouncements as much as I have in reading them.

1. MURPHY'S LAW: If anything can go wrong, it will.
2. O'TOOLE'S COMMENTARY ON MURPHY'S LAW: Murphy was an optimist.
3. THE UNSPEAKABLE LAW: As soon as you mention something, if it's good, it goes away, if it's bad, it happens.
4. NONRECIPROCAL LAWS OF EXPECTATIONS: Negative expectations yield negative results. Positive expectations yield negative results.
5. HOWE'S LAW: Every man has a scheme that will not work.
6. ZYMURGY'S FIRST LAW OF EVOLVING SYSTEMS DYNAMICS: Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can.
7. ETORRE'S OBSERVATION: The other line moves faster.
8. SKINNER'S CONSTANT (FLANNAGAN'S FINAGLING FACTOR): That quantity which, when multiplied by, divided by, added to or subtracted from the answer you get, gives you the answer you should have gotten.
9. LAW OF SELECTIVE GRAVITY: An object will fall so as to do the most damage.
JENNING'S COROLLARY: The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.
10. GORDON'S FIRST LAW: If a research project is not worth doing, it is not worth doing well.
11. MAIER'S LAW: If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of.
12. HOARE'S LAW OF LARGER PROBLEMS: Inside every large

problem is a small problem struggling to get out.

13. **BOREN'S FIRST LAW:** When in doubt, mumble.
14. **THE GOLDEN RULE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:** Whoever has the gold makes the rule.
15. **BARTH'S DISTINCTION:** There are two types of people: those who divide people into two types, and those who do not.
16. **SEGAL'S LAW:** A man with one watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure.
17. **NINETY-NINETY RULE OF PROJECT SCHEDULES:** The first 90 percent of the project takes 90 percent of the time, and the last 10 percent takes the other 90 percent.
18. **FARBER'S FOURTH LAW:** Necessity is the mother of strange bedfellows.

And I will add one more.

19. **DONNAN'S CONTENTION:** If it is a joke someone is bound to enjoy it.

1000 POTS LATER

by RAY GARNETT

VICTORIA — AUSTRALIA

It is hard to say when this silent invasion first began. The back yard is under siege! The patio and terrace have already been taken over, and now they have begun to edge onto the paths and lawns, with the driveway their next objective. Of course I am now aware of the danger. Who are they, you ask? **CAMELLIAS** and **POTS!** Both are synonymous! I dare not plant anymore in the ground, so there is only one place to contain them, "IN POTS."

The strategy now is to work out a plan on how to reduce their numbers, and hold them at bay. Their ease of cultivation is due to the mild Melbourne climate, which is so ideal for the growing of camellias. Our climate seems to be on a par with the climates of both California and New Zealand.

It is not unusual to find late flowering Hibiscus and Roses set against a background of Sasanqua, Japonica, and early Reticulata hybrid blooms, with an early flowering Magnolia adding to the charm.

There are no extremes of heat or cold, with the exception of a few days in the 100° during the summer, and a number of light frosts during winter, so very little Camellia damage is ever recorded from these effects, where average cultural requirements are met. Even die-back is seldom encountered.

It is possible to find Camellias growing in most suburban gardens. These are often some of the old and tested cultivars such as — **EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**, **CONTESSA CALINI**, **WELBANKIANA**, **CUP OF BEAUTY**, **STOREYII**, **LADY LOCH**, **ASPASIA MCARTHUR**, and sports, **USUOTOME** (Pink Perfection), **MARIANA** (Red Waratah), **LADY ST. CLAIR**, **CAPTAIN RAWES**, **SHIRAGIKU** (Purity), **FIMBRIATA**, **ALBA PLENA**, **C.M. HOVEY**, **MAGNOLIAEFLORA**, **LADY CLARE**, **GREAT EASTERN**, **ELEGANS VAR.**, **DEBUTANTE**, **DONATION**, **VIRGINIA FRANCO**, **HANA FUKI**, **EDITH LINTON**, **DR. TINSLEY**, **LADY HUMES BLUSH**, etc.; and especially **THE CZAR**. This is a Melbourne raised seedling (1913), that performs exceptionally well in our climate. It is claimed by many, that this cultivar gave stimulus to the Camellia boom in Victoria. By way of Camellia Shows, shopping displays, and media presentations to the general public by the Camellia Society and Camellia Specialist Nurseries, many of the newer cultivars from the U.S.A. and New Zealand are being readily sought for exhibition and garden decoration.

Some of these include **GUILIO NUCCIO**, **TIFFANY**, **SILVER ANNIVERSARY**, **KRAMER'S SUPREME**, **BALLET DANCER**, **GRAND PRIX**, **ELEGANS SUPREME**, **DESIRE**, **TERRELL WEAVER**, **DR. CLIFFORD**

PARKS, LASCA BEAUTY, K.O. HESTER, ARCH OF TRIUMPH, HOWARD ASPER, and those two lovely New Zealand cultivars WATER LILY, and DEBBIE.

The first Camellias I purchased were USU OTOME (Pink Perfection) ELEGANS VAR, THE CZAR, CORNELIAN, (The label said CRIMSON ROBE), GUILIO NUC-CIO, EXQUISITE (Sas.), and LADY LOCH. They had flowered for a number of years before I suddenly began to appreciate their beauty. At the time I was more interested in Roses, but our sandy soil did not grow these to perfection, and I was for ever spraying. I found Camellias grew and flowered well with least attention. Then a visit to a local Camellia Show where countless cultivars were on display sold me completely. It may have been better if I had not tried to grow every beautiful variety that appealed to me, and finally not to have become absorbed in hybridizing.

Of course most Camellias lovers try to grow nearly every new cultivar created and therefore end up in the same predicament as I am in!

I often read enviously of those who are fortunate enough to have large expanses of garden in which they can grow hundreds of cultivars, all ideally spaced, and all growing in near perfect conditions. For those like myself who live in an average suburban home, this is but a dream.

To even grow a limited number of Camellias in the ground with the majority in pots so that they can be controlled, is a must. Then when we begin hybridizing, things can become chaotic. Hybridizing is possibly one of the last frontiers for the crusading and adventurous spirit of domesticated modern man.

In past centuries he would have sailed in a ship to exotic distant lands to seek the exhilaration of the unknown. Now he is left to find it in his own back yard as each seedling begins to flower, offering an instant thrill to the monotony of daily life. With all these new

seedlings, there is the work of potting, watering, fertilizing, and repotting.

Potting mixes are always peculiar to the locality. Originally, I, like many other members, used a mixture of mountain soil and river sand. The mountain soil used in Melbourne, is a type of rich red volcanic soil found in the nearby mountain ranges. When mixed with a coarse river sand at 3 of soil to one of sand, it creates an ideal growing medium. The addition of more sand allows it to be more friable and less likely to set hard when dry. Although many Camellia growers still use this formula as a potting mix, I now prefer a lighter mix, and usually experiment between different ratios of mountain soil, pine bark chips, manure enriched compost, and river sand. I vary the addition of river sand to give the mixture the friability required for the container size used. As the price of peat is so exorbitant, its use is confined to the early seed raising mix, and is dispensed with in later potting.

There are many fertilizers on the market, and the basic ones SUPERPHOSPHATE, AMMONIA SULPHATE, MURIATE of POTASH are always on hand, and are often added to the mix, or spread on the surface and watered in. Cotton seed meal, which seems an excellent slow release fertilizer, is not readily available in Melbourne. The nearest fertilizer to this is blood and bone or hoof and horn and bone. These two only contain phosphate and nitrogen, so require the addition of potash and trace elements to become complete fertilizers.

I have found 'Osmocote' exceptionally good for potted plants, and use this in many of the mixtures. When this is not used, I add some of the prementioned fertilizers, (depending on how rich the compost is), and then supplement by watering a number of times during the growing season with 'Aquasol' and 'Nitrosol,' two complete water soluble foods. These, I hope, will give a fairly even supply of all the required Camellia nutriment.

The addition of Dolomite to the mix creates the marginal pH of 5-5 to 6-5.

As I am not growing Camellias for exhibition, I do not therefore try to force large flowers, only healthy plants. With many hundreds of pots, watering is always a constant job.

Our rainfall is not exceptionally high, although cool spells often occur during spring, summer, and autumn, very little prolonged heavy rain results. As misty light rain often falls during winter, plants in light sandy soil and in pots need to be continually checked for dryness. Because of the mildness of our flowering season, outdoor hybridizing on all Camellia species and cultivars is possible.

The ease with which they set seed has resulted in large quantities of chance seedlings being raised annually. This has led to many fine cultivars being introduced in recent years. The recent upsurge in controlled hybridizing throughout the Camellia world has caused many ardent Camellia lovers to try their hand at this fascinating pastime. Many interesting controlled crosses are now being attempted, with the possibility of some beautiful cultivars being created in the near future.

I usually begin hybridizing in Autumn, and continue until Spring. Seed will set during all periods of this time.

It would not be unusual to record a temperature of (18°C) in winter, and as I always bag my crosses, I feel the added temperature in the bag assists in pollination. Most of the hybridizing I do is interspecific, although I still try intraspecific crosses simply to see what two beautiful flowers can create in their progeny. Possibly with the amount of space I have, it is fortunate that most of my crosses are interspecific, as I quite often cross over 1000 flowers in a season with less than 50-100 seeds gathered from all of these crosses. As many of these are weak, a certain percentage of loss is certain.

Cleft and approach cleft grafting is carried out as soon as the seedlings are large enough, and at a later date, bark and approach bark grafting is used.

At the present moment as space is so scarce, I am discarding many seedling plants once I have successfully grafted them onto larger stock. I may be forced to even graft again onto these same stocks with future seedlings if the present ones flower and prove worthless. In this way I hope to overcome the continuous build up of pots. These problems are inherent to all dedicated Camellia lovers, and each finds a solution hopefully before their houses are absorbed under a mantle of Camellia plants and their beautiful flowers.

GARDENING TIPS

FROM GOLDEN GARDENS, FROM GRANDMA AND FROM THE BIRDS

By Eunice Stickland

Las Jardineras Garden Club, San Jose

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the November-December 1979 issue of Golden Gardens.

It was in *Golden Gardens* for April/May, 1974, that I first read how epsom salts (really magnesium sulphate) can help in a garden. Since that date it has been mentioned again — “about 2 ounces worked into the root area of a rose bush and watered in . . .;” “put it into the planting hole when setting tomatoes . . .”

Then when a garden club member told us of an effective insect spray which she made, with ½ teaspoon of an organic household soapy cleaning fluid per gallon of water, I remembered how our grandmothers sloshed their soapy wash water over the roses.

Putting two and two together, I experimented. After using this concoction

tion for several years, I have found that aphids, earwigs, ants, and even sow bugs and leafminers, DON'T LIKE epsom salts and soap.

Into the hose-end dispenser jar (15 gallons), goes ½ cup of epsom salts (the bath kind), 6 generous teaspoons Basic H (some say baby shampoo will do), and then the jar is filled with water. Every eight or ten days this spray goes over the entire garden. A most refreshing shower bath which makes everything glow, especially roses and citrus. Spray it over and under leaves, around root areas, and even the house windows look cleaner when sprayed with this soapy bath.

The above mentioned pests don't show up, or quickly disappear, if this routine begins as soon as new growth shows on the roses in spring.

This treatment does not replace dormant winter sprays, nor the regular feeding, watering and raking program of spring and summer and fall. There are some garden pests which are not phased by epsom salts and soap. And that is where the birds come into this story.

We all love to see birds come to our garden. Who doesn't thrill at the sight of plump Robin Red Breast strutting across the lawn, stopping now and then to "cock" an ear, then quick as a flash tug up a big worm. But when flocks of black birds, starlings or sparrows settle onto the freshly watered lawn and start feasting, we can be sure there's trouble underfoot. It's time to spray an insecticide to kill those root-eating grubs.

One of my best lessons from birds came from a flock of little birds who day after day visited one spot of dichondra, pecking away. One day as I watched them I suddenly remembered reading of the tiny black flea-mites which would riddle a dichondra lawn if not checked, I rushed for the diazinon spray and drenched that grass. No more birds! And, I supposed, no more fleas!

However, some days later, I looked out, and there sat a row of little birds

along a fence very near to the same patch of dichondra. But this time they took turns alighting on the blooms of a near-by salmon-pink geranium bush, peck, pecking at something. I went out and picked one of the bright flowers. There I could see plainly, the tiny specks of fleas and the holes they had nibbled.

A fast diazinon shower on the geraniums as well as on some dwarf dahlias, which had not been able to finish their blossoms. As much as we all dislike poison insecticides, I found the Sunset Garden book, as well as Crocker rank diazinon high among the safest and most effective insecticides for many pests. So I've added another spray, beginning early in Spring — whenever needed. Those fleas can jump, and we gardeners must hump to keep ahead of many little creatures who love a lushly growing garden.

But I still want to attract birds to my garden, so I follow the advice of a feed-store salesman, "Scatter a little cracked corn, instead of putting out wild bird seed — every tossed seed of which comes up in the lawn as wild grass or weeds."

Such adventures are part of the fun of gardening. Never a dull moment. There's always something new to learn, from reading, from garden friends, from Grandma and from the birds.



Self control: Having all the ailments the other person is describing and not mentioning it.



The reason talk is cheap is because the supply exceeds the demand.



A person's good judgment comes from experience — and a person's experience comes from poor judgment.



A rare book is one that comes back after you have loaned it out.



Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Leland Chow; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: To be announced.

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Roy Zembower; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, Ann McKee; Secretary, Mrs. Zella Mack, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Kellas; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, November through March, Central Contra Costa Sanitary Dist. Treatment Plant, (Imhoff Drive) Martinez.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Warren Dickson; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ron Kellogg; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, David Hagmann; Secretary, Judith Toomajian, 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Alice Neely; Secretary, Marge Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Mandrich; Secretary, Robert Arney, 1898 Kirkmont Dr., San Jose 95124. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway Redwood City.

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Eugene Snooks; Secretary, Mildred Murray, 467 E. Fulvia St., Encinitas, 92024. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 349 Condon Ct., Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Allstate Savings 1304 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Woody Passinetti; Secretary, Mrs. Nona Passinetti, 295 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Piner Grade School, Santa Rosa.

*SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Wallace Jones; Secretary, Mrs. Martha Ann Walter, 671 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach 90277. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Sergio Bracci; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 21; Fri. Dec. 19, Thurs., Jan. 22; Thur., Feb. 26; Wed., Mar. 26; Thur., April 23. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

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