

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Vol. 46

January-February, 1985

No. 3

# *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 Hall of Environmental Education, Arboretum, Arcadia. 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, \$15.00

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The flower pictured on the cover is called "Winner's Circle" and was developed and released by Nuccio's Nursery in 1984. This reticulata hybrid is very large, salmon pink, semi-double to loose peony form. It has a vigorous, husky upright growth pattern and generally blooms from mid to late in the season.

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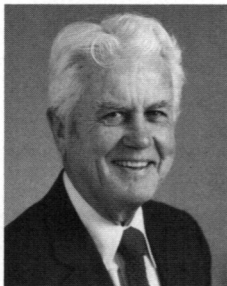
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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

As a relative newcomer to camellias, I am curious about the people behind the blossoms whose names grace the pages of the Nomenclature Book. When glancing through the membership list, the name K. O. Hester appeared and on the spur of the moment, I dropped a note asking if he would be interested in writing about his experiences in camellias. The reply was prompt and in a strong, legible hand which no one would take to be that of a man who claims to be in his 90's. Is it possible gardeners have a longer, more vigorous life span than average? The result is the article by K.O. which appears in this issue.

While at the Camellia-Rama, I mentioned K.O. to Julius Nuccio and his eyes lit up. He said that K.O.'s enthusiasm was such that it carried other people along with whatever he was involved in.

With curiosity piqued, we drove from Fresno to about 10 miles north of Stockton and turned off at Micke Grove Park, a beautiful family-oriented regional park, part of which is a truly exquisite Japanese garden area. Adjacent to this and naturally associated with it is the K. O. Hester Garden identified by a bronze plaque on a large stone at the entrance. Quiet paths meander through about an acre of mature, well cared for camellias which any gardener would cherish and seems an asset to encourage new camellia gardeners.

I did notice that a number of the permanent plant markers were illegible, bent or missing. It might be a worthwhile project for one of the central or northern societies to take on replacement and perhaps plant some of the newer varieties.

## WRITERS WANTED

SEND ARTICLES, COMMENTS, CLIPPINGS,  
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TO YOU OR OTHERS

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## Southern California Camellia Society

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Pasadena, CA 91105

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL GIB SHOW DEC. 15-16, 1984

Best Large Treated Japonica	<i>'Mark Alan Var.'</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Fritz Schumacher
Runner Up	<i>'Show Time'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Best Medium Treated Japonica	<i>'Sawada's Dream'</i>	Jack & Anne Woo
Runner Up	<i>'Alta Gavin'</i>	Al & Lois Taylor
Best Small Treated Japonica	<i>'Ave Maria'</i>	Chuck Gerlach
Runner Up	<i>'Kiku-Toji-Pointed'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Geo Butler
Best Miniature Treated Japonica	<i>'Fircone'</i>	Al & Lois Taylor
Runner Up	<i>'Hopkin's Pink'</i>	Al & Lois Taylor
Best Non-Treated Large Japonica	<i>'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descan'</i>	Bob & Alice Jaacks
Runner Up	<i>'Marie Bracey Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Mel Canfield
Best Non-Treated Medium Japonica	<i>'Donnan's Dream'</i>	Herman Belcher
Runner Up	<i>'Pink Pagoda'</i>	Butch & Aura May Verity
Best Non-Treated Small Japonica	<i>'Tom Thumb'</i>	Chuck Gerlach
Runner Up	<i>'Ave Maria'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Best Non-Treated Miniature Japonica	<i>'Pink Smoke'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Garner
Runner Up	<i>'Hopkins Pink'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Harms
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>'Harold Paige'</i>	Bob & Alice Jaacks
Runner Up	<i>'Miss Tulare Var.'</i>	Elain Abramson
Best Non-Retic Hybrid	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Jack & Anne Woo
Runner Up	<i>'Julia Hamiter'</i>	Art Gonos Family
Best Species	<i>'Star Above Star'</i>	Bob & Alice Jaacks
Runner Up	<i>'Shibori-Egao'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Best Three Large Japonicas	<i>'Pink Frost'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Runner Up	<i>'Miss Charleston Var.'</i>	Elaine Abramson
Best Three Medium Japonicas	<i>'Debutante'</i>	Herman Belcher
Runner Up	<i>'Marie Bracey'</i>	Jack & Anne Woo
Best Three Boutonniere Japonicas	<i>'Fircone Var.'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Runner Up	<i>'Little Slam Var.'</i>	Dave & Alma Wood
Best Three Reticulata Hybrids	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks Var.'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Runner Up	<i>'Valentine Day'</i>	Bob & Alice Jaacks
Best Three Non-Retic Hybrids	<i>'Freedom Bell'</i>	Chuck Gerlach
Best Three Species	<i>'Shibori-Egao'</i>	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Runner Up	<i>'Yuletide'</i>	Dave & Alma Wood
Best Three Mixed Varieties		Jack & Anne Woo
Runner Up		Jack & Anne Woo
Best Collectors Tray		Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Runner Up		Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Best Seedling		Bob & Alice Jaacks

## COURT OF HONOR

'Miss Tulare'	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
'Al Gunn'	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
'Rosea Superba'	Al & Lois Taylor
'White Nun'	Al & Lois Taylor
'Elizabeth Weaver'	Frank Serpa
'Harvey Short's Finale'	Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mowrey
'Nuccio's Jewel'	Dean & Marcie Alltizer
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	Rudy Moore
'Pink Diddy'	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
'Margaret Davis'	Dr. & Mrs. Fritz Schumacher
'Elegans Champagne'	Bob & Alice Jaacks
'Angel Wings'	Herman Belcher
'Little Slam'	Wilbur & Mary Anne Ray
'Margaret Davis'	Bob & Alice Jaacks
'Little Michael'	D. T. Gray Family





## K.O. HESTER — CAMELLIA ENTHUSIAST

by K.O. Hester

When I was a youngster, of grade school age, I lived in the outskirts of a southern Indiana city, and I tried to supplement my meager allowance by raising tomatoes and a few flowers.

I was in the Navy for a couple of years during World War One, and after discharge I lived in various areas — none of which provided yards that were large enough for a garden.

Then in 1934, I built a home in the Verdugo Woodlands section of Glendale that was on an 85' × 185' lot and that gave me the space needed to get my green thumb working.

I had previously met and become a friend of Carl Tourje, and Carl introduced me to the (J & J Brothers) Julius and Joe Nuccio — and that was when the camellia bug bit me.

Fifty years is a *long* time for a ninety-year-old to remember, but I believe that my first three camellias were "Joshua Youtz," "Fred Sanders" and of course, "Pink Perfection."

Fortunately, my wife, Lucy, was as fond of camellias and azaleas as I was, and so were we off to the races. We created overhead shade with lath protection and enthusiastically entered the scramble to try to raise good camellias and to eventually produce a NEW worthwhile camellia.

In 1955, I had the opportunity to become a partner and the manager of the Seven Up Bottling Co. of Stockton and naturally moved to that city.

At first in Stockton, we rented as we looked for a building lot with space enough to really start seriously raising camellias. We finally located a lovely building lot in the Marada area about five miles north of Stockton and about half way between Stockton and Lodi.

This lot was large, nine-tenths of an acre.

We built a nice home there on Hildreth Lane and a bit later had a 35' × 80' lath house erected and equipped with many, many misting sprinkler nozzles that took the drudgery out of watering the 700 camellias, plants that soon filled the lath house (a great many of these, then, were seedlings that I raised until they bloomed and then used a grafting stock).

While there on Hildreth Lane, I must have raised more than a thousand seedlings, among which were "Lucy Hester" and "K.O. Hester." Both of these we turned over to the Nuccio Brothers for propagating.

When I sold my interest in the Seven Up Bottling Company, and contemplated moving back to Southern California, I was faced with the problem of what to do with the (approximately) 600 named varieties.

With the help of Mr. Mark Anthony, who for many years was Superintendent of Descanso Gardens, with his knowledge and help we worked out a detailed plan for a camellia garden at Micke Grove Park, which is about halfway between where I lived and Lodi, California.

The San Joaquin County Supervisors were glad to accept the 600 camellia plants and the K.O. Hester Camellia Garden at Micke Grove Park was formally dedicated by Mr. Carl Tourje.

I haven't been well enough to get back to Stockton (for seven years) but I feel sure this garden is a creditable camellia garden, nestled among some giant black oak trees and a neighbor of a large and very nice Japanese Garden.

## K.O. HESTER

*Significant Name for a Significant Camellia*

by **Helen Dobson Brown**

California Life Camellia Columnist

from the *Sacramento Bee* 3-29-75

The phrase "What's in a name?" has special significance when it applies to "K.O. Hester."

This new *reticulata* hybrid is named for Kenneth O. Hester, well known camellia hobbyist, propagator and accredited judge of the American Camellia Society.

Hester's deep interest in camellias and desire to share their beauty with others motivated establishment of two public camellia gardens: The Lucy Hester Memorial Gardens in Descanso Gardens at La Canada and the K.O. Hester Camellia Garden at Micke Grove Park, near Lodi.

This exquisite new hybrid was grown originally by Hester from a seed of *reticulata*, 'Tali Queen,' while he resided in Stockton. There, after watching its performance for several years, the Nuccio Brothers, nurserymen from Altadena, propagated the plant and named it after its originator.

Blooms of K.O. Hester are rosy orchid pink. Typically large-to-very-large, they open into rather full semi-doubles with irregular, crinkly, and ruffled upright petals, interspersed with light gold stamens.

Vigorous, upright growth habits, not typical of most hybrids, make this variety a handsome specimen plant. Flower arrangers find it appealing. Buds form like small candles at terminals. Leaves are unusual and elongated.

K.O. Hester became available as a new hybrid in the fall of 1972. Plants were eagerly purchased by collectors and hobbyists, resulting in rave reports from growers in the southern part of the state as the camellias came into bloom.

In 1974, it was chosen for the "Frank L. Storment *Reticulata* Award" of the Southern California Camellia Society, one which may be given yearly to an outstanding seedling of *reticulata* or hybrid with *reticulata* parentage.

Freezing temperatures here in December of 1972, however, caused considerable plant damage and bud drop — especially among *reticulatas* and hybrids. If you are one of the growers who hasn't yet had blooms on your plant, have patience. They are worth waiting for.

There were a number of excellent K.O. Hester blooms in the Sacramento Camellia Show, even though this was a late season. And a five-foot plant in the garden of one hobbyist, with eight or more flowers open at once, could only be described as spectacular.

### CAMELLIA LITERATURE FOR SALE

A Revision of the Genus *Camellia*-Sealy

Published by R.H.S. .... \$40.00

American Camellia Society Yearbooks, 1950-70 ..... 5.00

Beautiful Camellias of Descanso Gardens  
80 full-page color pictures, etc. .... 4.00

Bound copies 1981 Historical Edition *Camellia*  
*Nomenclature* ..... 25.00

Paperback copies 1981 *Camellia Nomenclature* ..... 12.00

Bound volumes *Camellia Review* 1954-1980 ..... 12.00

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Contact: William W. Donnan, 700 S. Lake Ave. #120, Pasadena CA 91106

# A VISIT WITH TED & VIRGINIA ALFTER IN THEIR CAMELLIA GARDEN

By Charlotte Johnson

In 1959, when Ted read in a magazine that camellias could not be grown in Bakersfield, he, as a concrete contractor, knew where there's a will, there's a way and set out to prove the editor wrong. However, this magazine repeats in its 1984 publication that it's too hot in Bakersfield to grow camellias. Ted laughs as he points out to how much trouble he has gone to prove them wrong.

Each year one can see 500 to 1,000 beautiful seedling camellias at Ted's. Each seedling carries a label telling its parentage. More often than not, Ted has been the bumble bee, crossing things that the bee needn't worry about. Ted has found that the pollen (male) dominated the flower, while the pistil (female) dominates the shape and vigor of the plant. Since form is important, Ted avoids the single flowers and uses pollen from the semi-double, loose peony and full peony flowers. If by chance you find any pollen sacs on the filament, use that and your crosses will be larger blooms and have more substance. Ted makes from 25 to 50 camellia crosses a year. "When I have the blooms" Ted says, "I take pollen from the single yellow to put on a light yellow-cream, loose peony and full peony that have fast growth and good size and substance"

Patience is an attribute when growing camellias, and if retired, they will take as much time as you can give them. The many variations in bloom size, color and formations make it an exciting hobby. After picking the seeds that you have pollinated, plant them and watch them grow and bloom. There is seldom a dull day, in fact it's exciting!

## Grafting

Be sure to erect your hot house or glass house or lean-to on the south side of your house or garage. Ted's is a 6

foot by 18 foot walk-in with panel ray heater and with thermal controls set at 70°F. There are two benches the length of the hot house with an aisle running between them. One bench has two decks with room for 200 grafts. Ted grafts the year around. Some of this year's grafts are 12 to 18 inches long. Ted blooms camellia grafts in 18 months from scions 12" to 15" long. Some of the grafts are made from December to February; however, retics are grafted in the summer.

Double grafting is done to virus the solid reds etc. There have been two natural fasciations (these are flattened stems grown together), one is on a japonica and two grow on reticulata bushes. One retic bloomed and was crossed with japonica; it set seed pods that produced 10 seeds. These have germinated and are growing. Ted loves his fusion experiment because it grafts so easily in three weeks on a cleft graft and forty-five to sixty on an approach graft.

Learn all you can about meristem or cloning. It has a bright future.

## Blossom Blight

Blossom Blight can be 100% eradicated when camellias are grown in plastic planters on pea gravel base. As an old Army man would, Ted uses a blow torch which he calls his flame thrower. He says he gets 100% kill on the flower blight. All camellias must be moved from the area treated and care must be taken not to spread fire. Repeat twice a flower season. This method is useful to those having small collections of less than 100 plants.

## Virus

Ted has been excitedly working to make good use of oft-hated virus. Virus is the white you usually see in the leaves of a plant. Plants with too much



virus have a hard time with the photosynthesis process and often show a poor tolerance to sunlight. One of the most valuable finds emerging from Ted's experiments is the switch of this white virus from the leaves of the camellia to the flower. He has successfully perfected the white band which he fixes on almost all varieties he has worked with and is currently blooming many varieties with the most beautiful freckles ever imagined. He is more excited over the seedlings of some of these babies of his which show this virus on their second set of leaves. If they didn't bloom, they would be an asset to the garden.

Ted calls his virus experiment "Typhoid Mary" as it is now showing less in the foliage (in its dangerous form), but appearing as a strong transmission into the blossom.

Ted's garden is under some electric transmission wires and he sports several odd (weirdos) which amaze me. One is a chimera (pronounced ki-mir-a). There are two, one is at a union, another is at a union and coming through a gall (injury). A gall has been known to change genes (example: Gene's Feathery Touch). A formal double has been changed to a seed-setting semi-double, loose peony or other form from an injury. This is a fun experiment in a controlled action.

*Editor's Note: This article should send you to your dictionary a few times. Perhaps we might have included a glossary of words seldom used.*

## "TEN REASONS WHY I SWEAR"

1. It pleases Mother so much.
2. It is a fine mark of manliness.
3. It proves I have self-control.
4. It indicates how clearly my mind operates.
5. It makes my conversation so pleasing to everybody.
6. It leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to my good breeding.
7. It impresses people that I have more than ordinary education.
8. It is an unmistakable sign of culture and refinement.
9. It makes me a very desirable personality among women and children and in respectable society.
10. It is my way of honoring God who said, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."



One can find good seed setters to hybridize with and care should be taken to use those varieties that are acclimated to your area. Ted has done his best work introducing varietal crosses that stand our violent hot summers and cold winters.

### Trivia

If you are just starting to get interested in camellias, visit a wholesale and retail dealer who grows his own plants. They can advise you correctly as to the desired exposure for your area.

Camellia people are a grand bunch. They usually have been a success in a business and are using the camellias as a pressure release valve and source of pleasure. There are few squares in the crowds one meets at a camellia show, but some fine, fine people.

As an amateur grower Ted insists I include his house rules: Patience, look dumb, act dumb, be smart as heck — don't know what I'm doing, but devote full time to it.

"My wife Virginia says I sure do follow the house rules 100% just like she told me to."

One may want to wait a few years for more research on the yellow, cream, apricot and blue camellias.

THEIR TIME WILL COME.

# HAROLD DRYDEN

by Pat Greutert

Affection and respect have followed Harold Dryden all his life. In 1919 his Occidental College classmates chose the popular Phi Beta Kappa to give their valedictory address. Later on, Pacific Telephone chose him for a position of great responsibility and the Southern California Camellia Society members chose him for their highest accolade, honorary life membership in the Society.

In his valedictory address Harold proposed that "the purpose of school is not to get good grades but to get an all round education." He spoke "off the top of my head with only a few notes," a practice he has continued all his life.

Just one teacher complimented Harold after his talk, the rest were mute. But speaking his mind has never troubled Harold. He would probably give a similar talk today.

Not long after commencement the tall young business graduate went to work at Pacific Telephone staying until he retired in 1961. Harold advanced quickly in the company and soon was in charge of assembling the phone directory.

A thousand employees followed his bidding as they compiled the huge book. Harold learned organization and also found that if you have high expectations for people they usually live up to those expectations.

At the late Cliff Johnson's suggestion, Harold joined the Southern California Camellia Society in 1947, a few years after its founding.

Early Society members followed the Telephone Company's lead and began heaping responsibility on Harold. Following a year as program chairman he was elected to the board of directors and, at their first meeting, was chosen president!

"I found myself president without any experience in Society affairs," remembers Harold.

That same year he was flower show chairman!

After two years as president he went on to serve as secretary for several years and editor of the then eight issue *Camellia Review* for 14 years. He also assisted Bill Woodruff as Bill edited *Camellia Nomenclature*.

As Society president, Harold's sense of order and aptitude for seeing what needed to be done enabled him to run the organization smoothly.

"I learned a long time ago that you don't get things done by doing them yourself. You have to delegate jobs," says Harold.

He set up certain procedures and made certain that those who were assigned jobs knew how to carry them out.

Julius Nuccio, noted camellia nurseryman, has some descriptive words about Harold. He calls him "the great balancer."

"He keeps peace in the Society. He walks like a two by four and straight as an arrow," says Julius.

When Harold talks to a person he looks him straight in the eye and chooses his words carefully, speaking slowly and thoughtfully. This cogitation and weighing of words have earned him a deserved reputation as a fair and judicious man.

Harold may get that straight back Julius speaks of from pushing his own non-motorized lawn mower and doing all his own gardening. He chuckles when people suggest he get some exercise.

Not only does his beautiful garden give him exercise, it keeps him healthy in another way. Five orange trees in his front yard keep him and wife Elsie supplied with fresh juice every morning. Working in the garden also keeps his bald pate nicely dotted with freckles.

In his back yard Harold lodges 150 or so camellias. Not particularly com-

petitive, Harold enters a few special blossoms in shows and has developed two of his own seedlings — “Elsie Dryden” named after his cherished wife and “Lulu Belle” named after his mother to whom he attributes his green thumb.

Harold’s skill as a speaker, writer and gardener prompted New Zealand camellia specialist Tom Durrant to invite him to New Zealand in 1967 to address the New Zealand Camellia Society annual meeting about camellia culture.

Harold proved an excellent ambassador. Ever since, camellia hobbyists, not just from New Zealand, but from England, Japan and Australia have partaken of his and Elsie’s hospitality. Harold has picked up many a camellia enthusiast at the airport and chaffered him to area camellia sights.

He also kept up a flourishing correspondence with many of them during his more active years with the Society.

Since 1954 when the Orange County Camellia Society put out a call for a camellia judge needed for the next day’s show, Harold has been obliging, judging shows up and down the California coast.

Nowhere is a man of Harold’s capabilities more useful than in this sensitive position. “The great balancer,” always fair, always respected, has cooled many a hot temper and helped clarify many decisions.

A silver award usually goes to the grower of the “Best of Show” blossom. Southern California Camellia Society “got the gold” when Cliff Johnson held the door open for Harold Dryden nearly forty years ago.

## ADDING STRESS TO YOUR DAY

With tongue firmly in cheek, Dr. Mortis Spier, an industrial psychologist at the United States International University in San Diego, offers these tips for adding stress to your day.

- *Don't believe the praise you receive for your work. If you were responsible for a job well done it was probably just luck.*
- *Be sure to approach everything as if it were a competition, one that must be won at all costs.*
- *Never admit that you don't know how to do something, or that you need help.*
- *Whenever you get an assignment or a project, try to imagine all of the things that can go wrong. Don't worry about something specific, just worry.*
- *Remember, if you are not an overachiever, you are probably a failure.*

When these rules are engraved on the stone of your soul, here are the actions and attitudes you can adopt from day to day that will add even more stress to your life.

If traffic is slow during your drive to work, keep changing lanes — every milisecond counts.

When you get to work have some coffee and doughnuts. “The effect of both caffeine and sugar will really get you working like a yoyo,” says Dr. Spier. “In fact, you can keep yourself spinning all day if you have another coffee and something sweet at mid-morning, dessert at lunch, then coffee and a candy bar later in the afternoon. And don’t forget to have a couple of drinks before dinner.”

Before you sit down to work, write a long “to do” list and study it. It will remind you of all the pressure you are under; then start to worry.

Once you are ready to really begin work, be sure to let everyone in your office know that your door is always open. This way you will have lots of interruptions, and you will never be able to concentrate.

If you do delegate, keep checking on the people who are supposed to be doing work that may cost you your job. When you are not checking up on them, worry about how well they are doing.

# FROM THE OREGON CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## Sept. 1984, Volume 35, #36

### *Cultural Tips for Sept.*

*Disbudding:* There are two schools of thought on this. Andy Sears believes that early disbudding results in another crop of buds which have to be removed later. Others believe that as soon as buds are large enough and are crowding each other, some buds should be removed. This is especially true at crowded tips. As a rule, buds shouldn't be left closer than two or three inches apart for blooms to develop well.

*Cuttings:* Cuttings can still be taken. Wm. Ingram has good luck putting the cuttings in a container with a growing plant. Perhaps the growing roots produce a rooting hormone or some rot-inhibiting chemical.

*Fertilizing:* The subject of Fall fertilizing is still debated. Some believe it induces new growth which can be damaged by frost. Others feel that late fertilizing gives the plant an anti-freeze by increasing the sugar and salt content of the sap. (A molar solution — anything dissolved in water — has a freezing point depression of 3.4.)

*Watering:* Most people believe that heavy watering after bud set should not be practiced. Rain is sufficient.

*Gibberellic Acid:* August through October is the time to "Gibb." Al Parker will tell us how to do it. This can be obtained from The American Camellia Society. \$6.50 per gram postpaid. Address: P.O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030. (A gram will do hundreds of flowers.)

*Pests:* Continue to watch for scale and root weevil damage. Scale will look like white cottony blobs under the leaves. Spray with Orthene or Cygon now, or paint around the trunk an inch or so. Later, a light oil spray can be used when weather is cooler. For root weevils, damage can be seen by notched leaves. Spray with Orthene or

Cygon now and use a drench at root base to kill grubs which feed all winter on roots and cambium layer.

### *Cultural Tips for April*

1. Pick up as many fallen camellia blossoms as you can. The petals may harbor "petal blight," a fungus that discolors (especially white and light colored camellias). The fungus is perpetuated by reaching the ground via fallen petals, sending up spores that attack next season's flowers.

2. Start feeding program (liquid fish, cotton seed meal, commercial "camellia food," etc.) as new growth appears.

3. Prune to take out dead and frozen or weak branches. This opens up the plants for better air circulation and makes for more blooms. This also discourages scale.

4. Check for insect damage. Orthene drench and spray will kill root weevils, loopers and other chewers. A band of Orthene or Isotox, full strength, painted an inch or so around the trunk of the plant will kill most scale in the migratory stage.

5. Air layer plants for multiplication. A "layer" is made 12-18" from the tip of a limb. Two parallel cuts about 1" apart are made around the stem, and that part of the bark is lifted off. Take a handful of damp (wrung out), unmilled sphagnum moss and wrap around the cut. Cover snugly with aluminum foil or plastic to keep the moss moist. Check periodically to see that it is damp. Roots should form in the moss so that a new plant can then be cut off by Sept. Plant moss and root mass intact.

6. Keep a record of which camellia plants come through the freeze and which ones flowered well. This will help nurserymen and hobbyists to know which camellias do well in our area.

# THEY HAVE GIVEN US PLEASURE IN NEW RETICULATAS

by Harold E. Dryden

I worked on the reticulata section of the current issue of *Camellia Nomenclature*. As I went through the proof sheets, proof-reading and otherwise looking over the copy, I noticed a repetition of names of people who had introduced the varieties. One day when I had nothing of importance to do I decided to make a tally of these people who had contributed so much to our enjoyment of reticulatas. Following are the eighteen people who have introduced five or more varieties of reticulatas, arranged according to the number of introductions. As the pollsters say, the tally is accurate "within four percent." I know or have known most of these people and have made some comment where I think such comment is significant.

## **Frank Pursel, Oakland, California — 79**

I would like to hold a contest among knowledgeable camellia people to see who could name most of these introductions. This is a good example of what happens when a scion man gets hold of a person who enjoys hybridizing and pursues it for a hobby.

## **Edgar Sebire, Australia — 25**

I remember my visit to his orchard home near Melbourne, how he manifested the pleasure he derived from his hobby. I corresponded with him for some time after I returned from Australia and regret that I did not keep it up.

## **Dave Feathers, Lafayette, California — 22**

Dave is one of the pioneers among hybridizers in the United States and has introduced some varieties that are standing up well.

## **Mrs. I. Berg, Australia — 18**

I visited the Berg garden when Mr. Berg was living. She has carried on what her husband and she started.

## **Howard Asper, Escondido, California — 16**

One of the pioneers in reticulata hybridizing and probably the most successful insofar as commercial introductions are concerned. Howard worked at Descanso Gardens at the time the first reticulatas were imported from China and was one of the few who nurtured the cuttings into full life. I shall always remember the reaction when he showed his first flowers at the meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society.

## **Jack Clark, New Zealand — 15**

Jack was a nurseryman in Auckland, New Zealand. So far as I know, most if not all of his introductions were chance seedlings. They were beautiful at the time, which was in the early days of reticulata history, but have not stood the test of competition at the shows in recent years. Jack's greatest achievement has been that he was the mastermind and chief stimulus in the building of Eden Gardens in Auckland, a garden that has converted an abandoned quarry into a garden paradise.

## **F. S. Tuckfield, Australia — 14**

A garden lover who named the chance seedlings that he grew and liked.

## **Kramer's Nursery, Upland, California — 13**

Ben Mackel has been the guiding force in the activity at Kramer's.

## **Dr. W. F. Homeyer, Macon, Georgia — 11**

The most active of the people in the United States outside California who have introduced reticulatas.

## **Tom and Betty Durrant, New Zealand — 9**

Tom, a retired English army Colonel, and Betty emigrated to New Zealand after Tom's retirement. Tom was one of the founders of the New Zealand

Camellia Society, is now the Society's Honorary Patron. Ralph Peer sent him scions of the early introductions of *reticulatas* and Tom has been an avid grower of *reticulatas* ever since. He has imported several varieties since the original importation.

**Frank Maitland, Sylmar, California — 9**

Frank grew camellias for foliage that he sold to the flower market. His introductions were all chance seedlings, many of which were popular at Southern California camellia shows. I have three of them in my camellia collection.

**Dr. Clifford Parks, formerly connected with the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, California, now at the University of North Carolina — 9**

Dr. Parks did his most important work in camellia hybridizing while at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. Some of his introductions are still winners at camellia shows.

**Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, California — 8**

Nuccio's have introduced new varieties only when they thought the introductions would be successful

commercially, and have not introduced "new" varieties that resembled varieties already being grown.

**Dr. T. E. Pierson, Australia — 8**

**Dr. Bryan Doak, New Zealand — 7**  
A New Zealander, a Ph.D. transplanted to Australia in his later years. Most of Dr. Doak's introductions were in the early years of *reticulata* outside China.

**Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta, Arcadia, California — 7**

A partnership in a hobby, their entry into *reticulata* hybridizing is relatively recent. They have abandoned more good flowers than they have introduced. Their real objective: to introduce yellow into a good camellia flower and to develop fragrance in camellias.

**Paul Gilley, Grandridge, Fla. — 6**

**Dr. Jane Crisp, New Zealand — 5**

Dr. Crisp, a Ph.D., is the daughter of Tom and Betty Durrant. She has spent most of her adult life at a university in Australia. Her *reticulata* introductions were in her early years while she was "home," so possibly her five should be added to Tom's nine to make a total of 14 for the Durrant family. One of her introductions was named for her father.



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. ETTORE'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.

*To be continued next issue*



# THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

by Bill Donnan

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens is an institution of considerable renown. The three repositories, — Library, Art Galleries, and Botanical Gardens complement each other and serve as a magnet for thousands of visitors each week of the year. When one thinks of the Huntington, one's thoughts immediately conjure up its priceless collection of books and manuscripts. Then the focal point moves to the vast collection of paintings and other art objects. It is only at this point that attention is gathered to the surrounding gardens which form the magnificent setting for the Library and Art Galleries. By their own right, the Huntington Botanical Gardens contain objects of supporting interest which rival that of any other arboreta in the world.

Encompassing some 200 cultivated acres, the Huntington Botanical Gardens has been under constant development and improvement since 1904. Within the grounds is the famous Cactus and Succulent Collection known the world over as the largest of its kind under outdoor cultivation. Secondly, its collection of Palms and Cycads is, perhaps, one of the most complete in the United States. Last but not least, its collection of Camellias is one of the most comprehensive anywhere in the western hemisphere. It is this "Library" that I propose to write about; a veritable "Camellia Library."

There were two camellia shrubs on the Huntington Estate in 1905 when the late William Hertrich commenced his career as the curator. Subsequent small plantings of camellias were made around the new Huntington residence. Then, in 1913, Mr. Huntington purchased a Japanese Tea House and all of the oriental plantings surrounding it, and moved everything to his Estate. The Tea House itself may be seen today as part of the Oriental Gardens. It is surrounded by an Oriental landscape, of which camellia shrubs form a

part. Beginning in 1915 regular shipments of plant material were arriving from Japan. Among these were the best cultivars of *C. japonica*. From time to time modest additions were made to the camellia collection and by 1942 there were about 200 named cultivars growing in the Gardens and some 1000 seedlings being propagated for grafting stock.

In 1942 an organized cultural group, The Friends of the Huntington Library, took considerable interest in augmenting the collection of camellias. To this end funds were provided and purchase was made of 125 new camellia cultivars. Many of these new shrubs were planted under the oak trees in the North Vista of the Gardens. Then in 1944 the Southern California Camellia Society entered into an agreement with the Trustees of the Huntington Library to foster the collection of camellia plants. The objectives of this agreement were: (1) To obtain, if possible, all known cultivars of *C. japonica*; (2) To acquire other camellia species; (3) To test various species as to their suitability for growth and propagation in Southern California; and (4) To induce intensive study of hybridization under the supervision of the Huntington Botanical Gardens Staff. To this end scions were procured from all over the world and understock was grafted. By 1951 upwards of 800 to 900 different varieties and cultivars of camellia shrubs were thriving.

Meanwhile, in the Spring of 1948, air shipments of *C. reticulata* from the Kunming Botanical Gardens to Descanso Gardens in La Canada and to the Huntington Gardens resulted in the eventual survival of 20 *C. reticulata* cultivars. The advent of these shrubs, together with the introduction of other species of camellia, fostered a concerted effort on the part of nurseries and amateur growers to hybridize new cultivars. In the 1960s and 1970s many new camellia hybrids were de-

veloped and most of these have found their way into the Huntington Gardens Collection. A recent 1982 addition of some 60 more of the Kunming *C. reticulatas* has augmented the Collection. Today there are over 2000 different camellia cultivars at the Huntington Gardens. Among these are: 1500 *C. japonicas*; 200 *C. reticulatas* and *reticulata* hybrids; 150 *C. sasanquas*; and 35 different species. Thus it would seem that the Huntington "Library of Camellias" is quite extensive.

From time to time requests have been made to the Southern California Camellia Society for scions of a certain camellia cultivar. Invariably the quest will end at the Huntington Botanical Gardens where the shrub will be found. Recently, Nuccio's Nurseries decided to celebrate their 50th Anniversary of their business. Among other things, they wanted to assemble at least

one plant each of the more than 100 different cultivars which they had developed. After a search of the nursery it was found that two of their early releases, namely 'Primavera' and 'Judge Solomon' could not be found. However, a check of the files at the Huntington Botanical Gardens revealed that these two shrubs were growing there. The card files also pin-pointed the general location of these two plants and thus it was easy to locate them. Scions were cut and grafts were made so that, once again, Nuccio's Nurseries had a specimen of each of the camellia cultivars they had introduced over the years. In this day of rapid changes in camellia preference and in the flood of new introductions which come out each year, it is nice to know that most of the Old Favorites are still thriving in the "Camellia Library" at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

## CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA X — 1984

by Mary Anne Ray

It was a RSVP three day Birthday Party and "We'll be there!" was the response of nearly 200 persons including the Parkers, McCann and Ingrams from Oregon. From far north Santa Rosa came the Grants and from the far south (California, that is) came the Mowreys, Baskervilles, Berrys, Snooks and McNeils . . . and from all points in between came those wonderful camellia friends. And we were ready!

The first weekend in November the Central California Camellia Society hosted the Tenth Annual California Camellia-Rama in Fresno at Smuggler's Inn. Guests were welcomed Friday in the "Camellia Hospitality Room" (a transformed bridal suite) with a great variety of soothing liquids and over 50 "solid specialties" prepared by the CCCS members. Overseeing this special room were Elaine Abramson, Evelyn Johnston and Fritz and Esther Schumacher. "Meeting-

old-friends" and "getting-to-know-you" were the businesses at hand.

Saturday began with registration, bloom entry, viewing that great dissolving slide show by Walter Harmen and enjoying coffee or tea and coffeecake. Art Gonos welcomed everyone and the symposium was under way. Several people have been to every Camellia-Rama and more than half present have been to all but one due to illness or other camellia related meetings.

Julius Nuccio took us to China, especially the Kunming Gardens, and told of the developments they are pursuing with camellias. (He also gave some questionable reports on his girl, Bonnie.)

Sergio Bracci took us to Japan, including a fantastic camellia show. He and Elsie met Julius and Bonnie Nuccio and several of the adventures unfolded.

Master photographer Walter Harm- sen showed how to take those excellent pictures of camellias for which he is so famous.

Jerry Coe, professional mountain climber, tour guide and world traveler, took us on quite a different tour of China — into many interior areas. Rhododendrons over 100' tall were found on this particular trip. The slides were of National Geographic quality — outstanding. In 1985, with the “blessings” of the Chinese government, Jerry will be taking a scouting trip into the Yunnan Province and, in particular, the “rain forest” to search for new plant materials and new camellia species.

Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray in their “Impressions” of facts and trivia on “Little Ones” reminded everyone that shows must make room for those little ones. In the last few years some shows have gone from 30 entries to 300 or more. Space to be provided must accommodate not only the bloom BUT also the entry card AND the hand placing the bloom, as well as the clerk's hand who marks the card. In the Trivia game everyone discovered how few small or miniature camellias begin with “I” or “V.” Mary Anne gave her own clarification on Nuccio Nomenclature, the end result being — with indisputable proof — that Julius Nuccio, “The Elder,” is “JUDE,” and Julius Nuccio, “The Younger,” is “JUGE” (pronounced JOOOO as in juice and GEEEEEE as in Gee Whiz). Oh, yes, “Jude” is as in St. Jude, The Impossible.

Bob and Ruth Marcy presented Show Winners and 10 years of Camellia-Rama Memories. Nostalgia prevailed. We were humbled when we remembered the many wonderful persons who worked so hard to bring Camellia-Rama into being, the great speakers, and then laughed till we hurt at our fun costumes and fun-loving shindigs.

Dr. John Weiler, Plant Science Department, California State University,

Fresno, held the audience captive as he explained “Tissue Culture and Its Exciting Possibilities.” Nearly 100 lab cultures (Boston Ferns) in test tubes were passed around for hands-on inspection. These had been divided (“cloned”) some four or five times already. The pertinent points of benefit to camellias would be (1) Rapid multiplication of exact duplicates; (2) “Cell Culture” — especially helpful with those species that do not readily set seed; (3) Insertion of “genetic information into specific kinds of cells that will teach them to do *other* things.” Needless to say, an extended period of interesting questions followed.

The symposium ended with the usual camellia-related announcements and all disappeared until the CCCS Champagne Hour. Costumed “Kids' Favorites” tried to recognize each other and shared the now famous “Fu Ling Yu” fortune cookies in the Hospitality Room for that hour just before dinner.

At the appointed time His Royal Highness King Arthur (Gonos) and Merlin the Magician (Chris Gonos — she really is a magician handling all those registrations) led the “KIDS” to the dining room now decorated for the Kiddie Birthday Party complete with individual favors, stuffed toy table decorations and a huge camellia birthday cake. A super raffle, a special drawing, a costume contest, some unusual entertainment and some unexpected tricks filled the rest of the evening.

Remember these? “Buckwheat” and “Jolly Green Giant” (gave candy corn this year) — Jackie and Jim Randall; “The Old Woman Who Lived In The Shoe” and “Prince Charming” — Mary and Don Bergamini (Shoe has really gone modern — a mobile home no less . . . a roller skate!); lovely “Maid Marian” and her dashing archer “Robin Hood” — Kay and Ken Hallstone; the grinning “Cheshire Cat” and the puff-huf-puffing “Caterpillar” — Ali and Ken Henley; “Good Fairy” with the Magic wand

— Eleanor Biggs. It took quite a while to discover that Ahab — the fierce, bearded, harpoon-toting “Whaler,” was really Bonnie Nuccio. The Gingerbread Man kept his secret the longest. Wilbur Ray might still have everyone fooled if someone hadn’t discovered who “the little old lady he ran away from” was.

And then, of course, there were the unbelievable and unforgettable, adorable “Little Miss Muffet” with long, shiny, golden curls and fluffy yellow ruffles (a trillion at least), AND her (er, I mean His — Sergio Bracci) beautiful, soft, velvety, eight-legged Black Widow “Spider” (Elsie). Now we do try to think of the “little things” at C-R and one of them is “Escorts as needed.” Why? Well, you see, the restrooms are *not* Unisex and some fellow had to look out for Sergio.

In the Special Drawing Harriet Martin (Sacramento) won the D & MA Quilt; Fred Mowrey (San Diego) the Ray Finished Barrel Halves; Edna Baskerville (San Diego) Al Biggs’

stained glass Ville de Nantes; and Irene Ashuckian (Lafayette) Pozdol’s Camellia Clock.

Bloom winners were: Best Large Japonica and Best of Show — ‘ELIZABETH WEAVER’ — Sergio & Elsie Bracci (San Gabriel); Best Medium Japonica — ‘SPRING SONNET’ — Jack & Anne Woo (Fresno); Best Boutonniere — ‘FIRCONE VAR.’ — Al & Lois Taylor (Fresno); Best Reticulata — ‘DR. CLIFFORD PARKS’ — Bob & Alice Jaacks (San Gabriel); and Best Non Retic Hybrid — ‘ELSIE JURY’ — Bob & Alice Jaacks (San Gabriel).

Sunday morning we all gathered in the Woo’s beautiful garden for that now famous C-R breakfast. They hummed with camellia conversation and a comment often heard was “I knew Jack Woo could raise super camellias but I didn’t know he was a gourmet cook *too!*” He can and he IS!

Thank you one and all for joining us. We loved having you. See you at Camellia-Rama XI.

## NEW ZEALAND NEWS ITEM 24 NOVEMBER, 1984 CAMELLIA MEMORIAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Following consultation with the Professors of Horticulture at Lincoln College and Massey University, the New Zealand Camellia Society will award an annual scholarship for research on the Genus *Camellia*.

The Camellia Memorial Scholarship will be awarded each year, beginning in 1986, to a student reading for a post-graduate degree in horticulture at either Lincoln College or Massey University.

The Scholarship Fund will be administered by the Camellia Memorial Trust established for this purpose. The Trustees are: Colonel T. Durrant, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.H.R.I.H., Patron of the New Zealand Camellia Society and author of ‘The Camellia Story’; (Chairman); Dr. R. L. Bielecki,

F.R.S.N.Z., Director of Horticulture and Processing, Mt. Albert Research Centre, D.S.I.R.; Mrs. P.A. Nelson, President of the New Zealand Camellia Society and convener of the Society’s Senior Judging Panel.

The three trustees are well-known as growers of a great variety of camellias. The secretary is Mr. J.N. Rolfe, editor of the New Zealand Camellia Bulletin.

The Camellia Memorial Scholarship will be funded by an initial grant from the New Zealand Camellia Society and from private donations to honour the memory of deceased friends and relations. The names of people honoured in this way will be recorded in perpetuity in the published reports of the Trust.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FROM MARJORIE O'MALLEY  
Notre Dame's Biggest Nut!!!  
65 Robles Drive  
Woodside, California 94062

12/6/84

Dear Mr. Smith,

This is not the time for me to write an article about playing "Bach" to my camellias because they have been neglected their last two years and haven't heard any good music. The people helping (?) me here were "hippies" and gave them bad vibes. Next week I'm going to start having them listen to "Bach" and I will report later.

I did write an article for the Camellia Review several years ago and it did

appear in the Review with illustrations. Check it out; I think it was when Notre Dame lost to Nebraska in the Orange Bowl — about 1971-1972.

When I'm more inspired, I'll write the article, OK????

*Editor: Following is article referenced, reprinted from The Camellia Review, Oct. 1973.*

### CAMELLIAS LIKE BACH

by Mrs. Charles (Marjorie) O'Malley  
Woodside, California

Where to Start?

At the beginning, of course, our own Camellia Family Tree.

Grandfather grew his Camellias (old-timers from 1902) in the north end of the greenhouse back in the 1920s near Detroit, Michigan, which has two seasons; winter and the 4th of July. Father also grew Camellias in two greenhouses in this same lovely climate in the 1940s (more modern varieties á la 1930s).

Then, "Go West," not so young man to Pacific Palisades, California. Father's dreams had come true; beautiful climate, a huge square enclosed patio and room outside the house for many, many camellias. He had them in tubs next to doorways, around wooden posts supporting patio overhang, under lath, on tables, chairs, on the extra lot, and as background plants in the garden. It was very elegant clutter — BUT to children and grandchildren, DO NOT TOUCH!!!

"Crabby Conrad," his gardener, would disbud the plants every July and collect the buds by the bushelbasketful. I don't know what he did with his bushels of buds; he certainly wasn't the type to make tea! (Probably homebrew).

Enter Marjorie in California, now 1950, in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles, with camellias in the ground, in tubs, under lath, under overhang and in the garage area.

Right away, I joined three Camellia Societies, Pacific, Los Angeles and Southern California Camellia Societies. This was most confusing — trying to attend the right meeting on the right night; i.e., Pacific Camellia Society at the Tuesday Afternoon Clubhouse on the Thursday night.

That was a banner year, as we met the Nuccios and Al and Vera Parker! Later, Frank Williams called me on the phone one night for some information. This was a big thrill as he had some

large, different looking Camellia flowers.

We must find out about these huge blooms —.

A stockbroker friend of mine made a bet with me on the performances of some stocks on the New York Stock Exchange. The wager was a new hat vs. those five certain one gallon plants (really twigs) with the huge flowers at Nuccio's Nurseries.

I won the bet, and I won my Retics! Brentwood was their first home under golf umbrellas during rain; they were fed my usual concoctions and REAL FERTILIZER, listened to me through the opened patio doors playing classical music (Bach) on the organ, and received many pats and "lovees."

They went with me, thanks to Bekins movers, to two other homes in San Fernando Valley.

One of the highlights of San Fernando Valley hiatus was a friend with two great Danes visiting their brother and sister, "Rogue" and "Maggie," —OUR two Great Danes on a rainy Sunday. It was hilarious (?) when all four romped and stomped through the Camellia Garden, and then came in the house with muddy feet on a new white, deep pile, shaggy wool carpet.

'Nuff said . . .

Then, north to Atherton, where the Bekins men had to drag my plants in tubs, again through a white carpeted living room to the patio on a rainy January day.

Would we ever learn???

We all (people, plants, 1 Great Dane, 1 Cocker Spaniel and 2 cats) lived in Atherton for two years while building a new home in Woodside. This was the ideal location, under oak trees, with two greenhouses, huge patio and plenty of land for Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas. I had visions of something like Bellingrath Gardens!

Nobody had told me how much it rained up here!

Hence, all pots had to be placed on the patio temporarily; more (this time

third generation) elegant clutter.

We finished landscaping, finally, after removing old soil, and then planted Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons with U.C. mix in raised beds. The rain had stopped for a week or so, and we could stand back and admire our handiwork!

Then, it turned HOT in April! *Every*, and I mean *every* single plant had to be watered by hand; six thousand square feet of Camellias, Azaleas and Rhodes, junipers and pines were cared for by my husband, Charles, and me in our twin "Camellia Suits!!"

Jack Stafford, our landscape architect, received a rush call. We needed a completely automatic sprinkler system with bubblers, sprays and soakers.

All our beautiful planting had to be dug up to allow for trenching for plastic pipes, electric underground wiring, control boxes and all the paraphernalia required for an automated system on time clocks to be hooked up to a master control for 20 settings and stations.

After one week of bedlam, chaos and confusion: plants lifted and burlaped temporarily, mounds of dirt, open trenches, etc., everything was replanted in their beds — BUT, in replanting, imported U.C. mix top soil was on bottom and the hard-pan shoveled on top.

At that time we also had horses, sometimes two, and sometimes five. Did you ever see 2 or 5 horses in a Camellia Garden? I hope you don't; but some of the results weren't too bad after all. We were rather "avant-garde" in organic gardening.

We have had many joyful experiences up here in Woodside — the nicest of which is our annual Camellia Luncheon in conjunction with the Peninsula Camellia Society Show in February.

One year, the day before the Show, the electricity went off; as a result, the refrigerator motor burned out and we had to transfer flowers to the bar refrigerator. The flowers loved the alcoholic humidity; so much so that after I had forgotten to take them to Show, they



made a beautiful display for Judges during "happy hour" before luncheon. Unfortunately for me, (I was told officially) one of them would have been Best Flower!

Another year at the Camellia Luncheon, we were treated to a dog fight — 1 canapé was given to two dogs, our Great Dane, "Aunt Gussie," and "Princess," a feisty Dachshund. You know who ate the canapé; and "Princess" owner had to be rushed to the hospital for stitches in his right hand, and as Pat Ehrhart remarked casually, "What do you expect with two dogs and one cocktail frankfurter?"

Still another year we had a "phantom" in the bushes: an employee who, on the day before the Show, took to drink suddenly and curled up under the Rhododendrons off the patio — good think it wasn't under the Camellias.

This year, 1973, somebody forget to order the bar (HORRORS!) and 90 chairs for the guests. I guess we all were supposed to stand during luncheon; this would be all right for Helen Augis, Hazel Grosso, Newt Pratt and Marian Stewart. But how about Jack Mandarich, Milo Rowell, Ken Hallstone and Richard Roggia?

The flowers enjoy this annual visit from the judges and put forth their best effort to please the visitors.

We preen, groom, talk to them and play classical music months ahead in anticipation of this occasion.

During the football season they listened to Notre Dame football games on two portable radios; 1 radio was tuned to a San Jose station and the other to San Francisco, just in case one station's signal faded.

According to Author Jerry Baker, "Plants are like People," plants need their exercise, so what is more arousing than Notre Dame Victory March? Our "Family Camellia Tree" plants have been exercising to it in California since the forties. (Remember Father was a Camellia lover and a Notre Dame fan).

It was a "Black Day at Woodside" during the Notre Dame-U.S.C. game. Notre Dame lost, and plants wept . . . They drowned their sorrows by my application of wine, later coffee grounds, and somehow pulled through the 7-day "Big Freeze" in December.

January 1st, 1973 was most traumatic for Camellias . . . ORANGE BOWL!! DISASTER!!

Since it was New Year's Day, champagne was in order. BUT, since we could only drown our sorrows so much, the Camellias received an extra ration of Korbel Brut!

They revived beautifully and were at their best during the Camellia Show Luncheon.

But Camellias do pout, wither and cringe ("Oh, dear, here comes her husband, Charley"), especially when Charles appears carrying a 24" electric hedge clipper! "I'm going to take care of your plants, I'll cut right here, I'll whack 18 inches off the top, we can't see out of the window — etc., etc." Whack, whack, whack — chomp, chomp, chomp! — Later we had piles and bundles of leaves, branches, twigs and flowers which carpeted our patio. We had a nice view but very naked, blushing Camellias.

Charles does keep our "16 foot Camellia Jump" (which consists of two pillar 'Setsugekkas' at both ends, and 10 'Yuletides' in the center) at 3 to 3 1/2 feet, as this is the height that horses for old ladies and children are supposed to jump over when riding cross-country.

Camellias here in Woodside have other troubles, i.e., gophers, moles and squirrels.

The gophers are so clever they climb over our wire mesh baskets and frolic among the roots inside the baskets. Other than what our cats catch on our other 9 acres, the only gopher we can really account for is the one I spotted barely underground, circling around 'Grand Prix's' mesh basket. In hostess gown, carrying a before dinner cocktail in my right hand, I bent over, lifting skirt carefully, grabbed whole live gopher with left hand and hurled him

on the driveway . . . I didn't soil the dress and did not spill a drop!

Squirrels are still another big problem. They have picnics on Camellia seeds and fat buds under 'Mrs. D.W. Davis' and 'Buddha' outside bedroom patio.

I was given a BB gun just to frighten them but Charles hid it after I had used it just to scare them. "For you," he announced, "this is a dangerous weapon!" because I missed the squirrels but put three holes in the greenhouse glass panes!

After all this, "The Perils of Marjorie, (not Pauline)," Camellias are really fun, and we have had many amusing laughs and experiences with some of our professional friends.

Did you ever see Julius Nuccio or Al Parker deliver plants, slam on the

brakes of the delivery truck, jump out to gaze startlingly at a "real winner"; a 7-inch plastic flower on a plant tucked 'way back in the lathhouse?

One of the nicer things about growing Camellias is that we can interest our grandchildren in the beauty of Camellias; they are very interested in our lath house and garden. We now are in 5th generation "greenthumbers" with Patrick (age 6) starting seeds under lights in his *very own* small greenhouse.

Instead of "shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves in three generations" the maxim should state "greenhouse to greenhouse in five generations" . . .

In conclusion, after all the joking and troubles, laughter and fretting, the most pleasant part of Camellia Culture is the nice people one meets: the Nicest People in this World!



## "THAT'S NOT MY JOB"

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Author Unknown

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## TESTING! TESTING!

by Bill Donnan

You have no doubt heard the master of ceremonies get up in front of a microphone and say: "Testing, testing" to find out whether the public address system is working. This article is about testing. Testing camellia seedlings to find out whether they are worth registering, propagating, and marketing. Testing new camellia seedlings is one of the most important steps needed in the certification of new camellia cultivars. Too often no testing is done. This is why we have had over 4,500 named cultivars listed in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. Perhaps 50 percent of them have been forgotten and could not be found in a concerted search.

It is only natural for a camellia hobbyist to want to discover and name a camellia cultivar. We have all gone through this experience. Hobbyists dream of finding a new seedling which has some unusual features. It is O.K. for the hobbyist to give it a name (like 'Aunt Alive') and graft up 4 or 5 scions to give to family members. But he should not register it unless he has gone through a very thorough and time consuming testing of the cultivar. Only then should he consider registration. I can recall a nice red formal double seedling which I grew. It looked pretty darn good when it first bloomed. The second year I took two blooms up to Nuccio's Nurseries and they thought it was pretty good, so they grafted four scions. That winter I entered the bloom in a seedling division at one of the shows as 'Donnan's Early Red.' It won best seedling and I grafted six more scions. Neither my grafts nor the ones Nuccio's made bloomed true. We tried a few cuttings. They turned out to be "dogs." Finally we gave up. I also caught a seed pod on 'Ville de Nantes' and the seedling bloomed a nice red formal double. I called it 'Donnan's Ville' and we grafted four scions. These have since

been found to be much inferior to the "mother" plant and we have discarded them.

When a seedling blooms for the first time you are lucky to have more than one bud to look at. Nuccio's Nurseries caught a gorgeous red formal double in the early Fall of 1980 which they numbered #8101. It had two buds and both of them were "out of this world!" They made six grafts but none of the grafts budded up in 1981-82. Not to be discouraged they made 15 more grafts in January, 1982. In February, 1983 they saw the first blooms on the original six grafts. They were all "dogs." Some of the blooms had anemone centers! Rather than cut off the grafts they decided to give the 21 grafts one more year. This year all the plants are budded up. The first few blooms looked fairly good. However, all the subsequent blooms were inferior and the 21 grafts were cut off and used as understock!

This is a good example of how getting the right scion or even the right "eye" from a scion can influence the size, shape and form of the grafted plant. When 'Elegans Champagne' was found as a sport on 'Elegans' the small branch which produced the sport was cut off and three grafts were made. Two of these grafts lived and one of them produced the excellent creamy blooms which one sees on the trophy tables at the California Shows. The other graft was inferior and it was destroyed. Seedling #7722 at Nuccio's Nurseries is another good example of testing. This cultivar first bloomed in the Fall of 1976. It was tested in 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981. All this time there was some question whether it would prove to be a winner. In 1982 it looked better. Then, this Fall, 1983, it came into its glory. It blooms early. The flower is a sweetpea pink with a white formal bud center. The blooms

are medium to large. This camellia promises to become a winner at the shows.

In order for a camellia to become a good saleable item it must have most of the characteristics one looks for. The bloom must be unusual. It must have an unusual color or an unusual size (large or miniature). It must have easy opening buds. The bloom should have good petal arrangement and have a non-shatter tendency. Early blooming is desirable with long lasting blooms and long lasting stamens. The shrub should be fast growing with an upright form and should have good leaf color and ample foliage. The plant should be easy to propagate both by grafts and cuttings. All of these factors should be tested, weighed, and analyzed prior to naming and registering the plant. One cultivar cannot have all of these attributes, but if it has enough of these plus factors, it is worthy of registration. If it has only a few of the factors, chances are that it will never gain acceptance. One cultivar which has almost none of these factors but, yet, seems to have found its way into many hobbyists' gardens is 'Feathery Touch.' This camellia is one of the very hardest plants to grow in the camellia kingdom. Yet, the outstanding nature of the bloom keeps hobbyists trying to grow it. I have tried with three different plants and I have never been able to bring a bloom of 'Feathery Touch' to the show bench!

Perhaps the best recent example of testing on a new cultivar is the story about 'Silver Clouds.' When this seedling first bloomed, in 1976, Bill Woodroof is alleged to have shouted: "Glory Hallelujah!" The bloom was a very large, white, loose peony with bright yellow stamens. The plant grew vigorously with bright green foliage. It propagated easily both by grafts and by cuttings. The release was eagerly anticipated and the release date was moved up a year to October 1980 because it looked like a sure thing and there were plenty of saleable plants. After it was in the hands of the hobby-

ists complaints started to come in. "The buds won't open. It bull-noses," etc. Subsequent testing has shown that the first buds to ripen on the plant are hard to open. However, after the first buds have matured, the second and subsequent buds produce the enormous white blooms first seen on the seedling. Nuccio's Nurseries conjecture that in their haste to get more and more scions and cuttings they were pre-harvesting the initial bud set on their plants. The second and subsequent bud set was giving them the expected large white blooms and they had not witnessed the tendency of the first buds to refuse to open. They caution plant owners to disbud or discard those buds which first show a touch of color and then wait for the subsequent buds to produce the "real" 'Silver Clouds.'

I realize that I have outlined some of the steps which nurseries should and often do take in testing camellia cultivars before releasing them to the public. However, I believe that the hobbyist and the hybridizer should also follow these steps and make these tests before he registers and releases his new seedlings.



**CAMELLIAS ARE FUN  
DO A FRIEND A FAVOR  
INVITE HIM OR HER  
TO THE NEXT MEETING**

## N.C.C.C. 1985 SHOW SCHEDULE

February 2 - 3	NCCC Kickoff	Vintage Faire Modesto
February 9 - 10	Peninsula C.S.	Community Activities Bldg. Redwood City
February 16 - 17	Santa Clara Co. C.S.	Community Center Santa Clara
February 23 - 24	Delta C.S.	Campolindo High School Moraga
March 2 - 3	Northern Cal. C.S.	Willows Shopping Center Concord
March 9 - 10	Sacramento C.S.	Convention Center Sacramento
March 9 - 10	Central Cal C.S.	Fashion Fair Mall Fresno
March 16 - 17	Modesto C.S.	Gallo Adm. Bldg. Modesto
March 23 - 24	Sonoma Co. C.S.	Santa Rosa J.C. Santa Rosa
March 30 - 31	Atwater C.S.	Atwater High School Atwater
April 6	Northern Cal. C.S. Mini Show	Broadway Shopping Center Walnut Creek

### TIPS FROM OREGON By William Ingram, Pres.

President's Message: One of the pleasures of camellia growing lies in the collection of varieties. One of the easiest methods to do this is to get cuttings from friends and root the cuttings. Perhaps summer is the best time to do this. In the summer, they root without bottom heat, but not as fast. In this climate the night temperature will be a little too low for best results. I observe in the sand medium I use, temperatures would be in the fifties on summer mornings. (It should be around 70.) Mr. Feathers suggests that fall cuttings might be the easiest to root because there is less danger of loss of cuttings to various fungus diseases.

We should not overlook the possibility of leaf cuttings. To take a leaf cut-

ting, use a sharp knife and cut a leaf and the bud growing at its base. Also take a little of the wood of the plant.

I took leaf cuttings of Kumasaka in Sept. To my surprise, the leaf cuttings are all heavily calloused and sending out roots, while the 2-3" cuttings have produced very little growth. Also, the dormant axil buds are beginning to grow on the leaf cuttings. This is with bottom heat.

The only source of hardware for amateur growers that I have found in the Portland area is Sturdi Built Greenhouse Mfg. They have heating cables and other greenhouse accessories and such things as thermostats. They are on Boones Ferry road (11304), Portland.

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

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## *Directory of Other California Camellia Societies*

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Mel Canfield; Secretary-Treasurer, Nelson Prinz, 8300 Kern Canyon Rd., #148, Bakersfield 93306. Meetings: To be announced.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Walter Harmsen; 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, Peter van Hoecke; Secretary, Evalena Smith, 601 34th St., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mary Ann Ray; Secretary, Ruth Ann Lewis, 6440 Sequoia Dr., Fresno 93711. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through February in Great American Savings & Loan.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Don Bergamini; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord 94520. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, James Connors; Secretary, Warren Dickson, 2310 Duane St., Los Angeles 90039. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Union Fed. S&L., 2450 Glendale Blvd. Los Angeles 90039.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Harlan Smith; Secretary, Merry Harris, 416 Maple St., Modesto, CA 95351. Meetings: second Tuesday, November through April, 7:30 p.m. Centenary Methodist Church Room 16, Norwegian and McNeairy Aves., Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, James Toland; 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, Al Gamper; Secretary, Marcie Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Descanso Gardens Exhibit Bldg., 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ali Henley; Secretary, Diane Hicks, 1253 Sharon Rd., Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ann Gerken; 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, John Nichols; Secretary, Janet Hatch, 427 Orange Ave., Apt. F, Coronado 92118. 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, James Grant; Secretary, Mary Alice, Merrit, 2563 Tacherah Dr., Santa Rosa 95405. Meetings: 3rd Friday, November through May, Santa Rosa Jr. College, AG Bldg., Santa Rosa.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Dr. Glenn Burroughs; Secretary, Mrs. Pauline Johnson, 1251 10th St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Marion Schmidt; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 16; Thurs., Jan. 24; Wed., Feb. 27; Thur., Mar. 28; Thurs., April 25. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia, except 2/27 & 4/25 Ayres Hall.

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