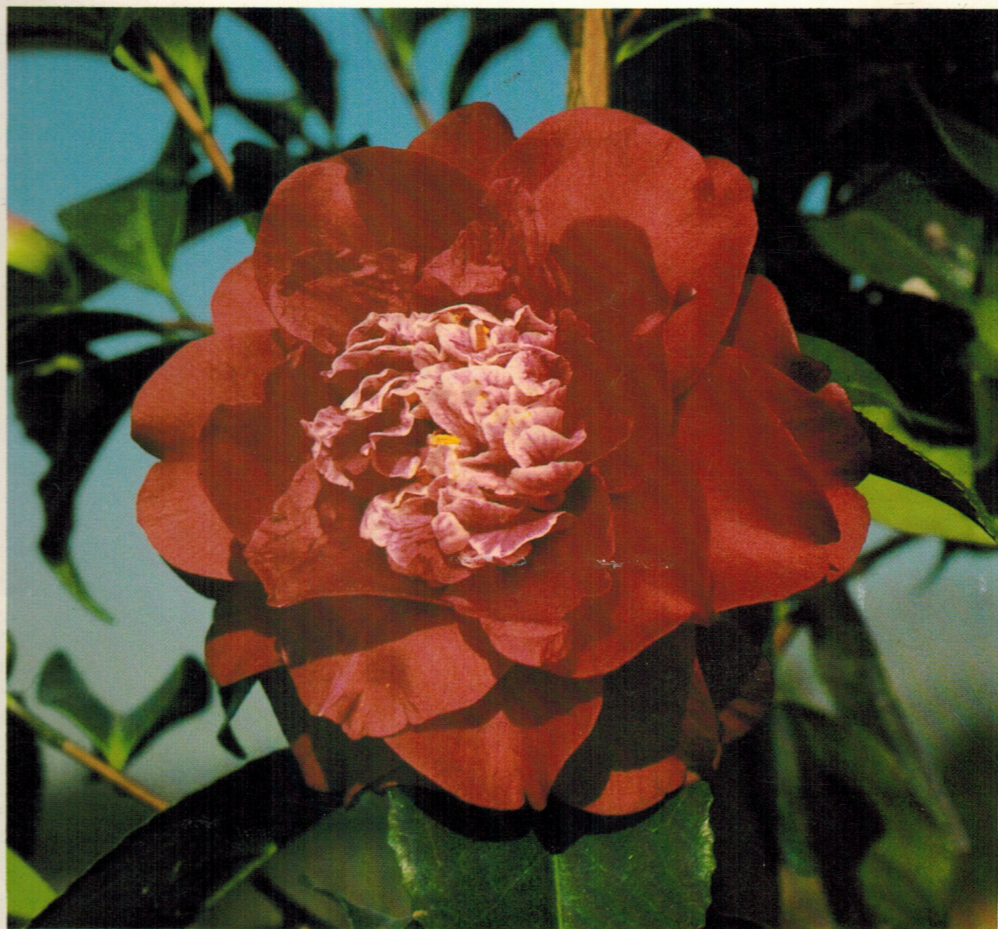


THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Vol. 46

September-October, 1984

No. 1

Two dollars

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

OFFICERS — 1984-85

DAVE WOOD, President
2434 Allanjay Place, Glendale 91208
Tel. (818) 247-1986

WARREN DICKSON,
Secretary-Treasurer
1935 Apex
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Tel. (213) 661-8453

SERGIO BRACCI, Vice-President
5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776
Tel. (818) 286-4338

MILTON SCHMIDT,
Foreign Representative
1523 Highland Oaks Dr.
Arcadia Ca. 91006
Tel. (818) 446-5525

DIRECTORS

JERRY BIEWEND
1370 San Luis Rey, Glendale 91208
Tel. (818) 242-8622

HARRY REICH
427 Garfield Ave., South Pasadena 91030
Tel. (818) 799-7363

CHUCK GERLACH
3721 Cedarbend Dr., La Crescenta 91214
Tel. (818) 248-3838

GRADY PERIGAN
1380 Winston, San Marino 91108
Tel. (818) 492-0829

BERKELEY PACE
638 Pine St., Upland 91786
Tel. (714) 982-2371

JULIUS CHRISTINSON
3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504
Tel. (714) 688-1547

GLENN SMITH
695 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108
Tel. (818) 972-9914

JOHN UTVICH
2975 Somerset Place, San Marino 91108
Tel. (818) 286-5555

WILLIAM W. DONNAN
700 South Lake #120, Pasadena 91106
Tel. (818) 795-9427

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

HAROLD E. DRYDEN
COLONEL TOM DURRANT
WILLARD F. GOERTZ
BERNICE GUNN

JOSEPH NUCCIO
JULIUS NUCCIO
CARYLL PITKIN
WILLIAM E. WOODROOF
A. WILKENS GARNER

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

MAURICE S. POWELL
P.O. Box 234
Waikanae Beach, New Zealand

BARBARA CAMPBELL
3 Horace St., St. Ives, NSW
2075 Australia

The CAMELLIA REVIEW: Glenn Smith, Editor, 695 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108
Tel. 818-792-9914

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY, INC.

Copyright 1984

Four issues per volume—September, December, February, and May.

All manuscript for publication and correspondence should be sent directly to the Editor. Republication permitted, if due credit is given the Camellia Review and the author.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the Secretary at once. Magazines are not forwarded by the Post Office.

Printed by Wood & Jones, Pasadena

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 46

September-October, 1984

No. 1

Camellia Growing Conditions - Part 1, Robert & Sheila McNeil	10
California Camellia-Rama-X, Mary Ann Ray	2
Fall Camellia Culture, Harold Dryden	5
History of Hospitality House, Harriet Gurley	19
Letters to Nuccio's	22
Man Who Saved Camellias from Obscurity, Pat Greutert	16
Nomenclature Fund	24
Nuccio's 50th Anniversary, Bill Donnan	3
Pacific Camellia Society Picnic, Chuck Gerlach	12
Grady Perigan, Pat Greutert	9
S.C.C.S. Awards Dinner	13
Show Results	7
A Sporting Chance, Silvio Torrisi	12
Touchdown for Joe, Grady Perigan	17
Yes, We Had a Mexican Fiesta!, Elsie Bracci	17

The cover flower is named "Cherries Jubilee." It is a burgundy red with red and white petaloids, intermingled with yellow stamens. Developed and released by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1984, it is medium to large semi-double to loose peony form.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member. For your convenience an application blank is printed below.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$15.00

Includes Subscription to Camellia Review — Four issues per year and revised 1984 edition of "Camellia Nomenclature" — 150 pages with descriptions of over 4,000 camellias

Please Make Payment to:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 50525, PASADENA, CA 91105

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

THOUGHTS

from the editor

We will all miss Bill Donnan's thoughtful, humorous and enthusiastic editorial style. But Bill is not gone, for you will see his byline cropping up all through the issues of the Camellia Review.

The sentiments of appreciation expressed at the Southern California Camellia Society Awards Dinner were well deserved and Bill was truly touched when Julius Nuccio announced that a new Fall introduction would be named Donnan's Dream. May it appear often at the head table.

The camellia world will celebrate Nuccio's 50th Anniversary with gusto. How fortunate we are to have this great nursery and this warm family so close to us. This issue of the Camellia Review will attempt to express the appreciation we feel.

Your new editor will encourage letters to the editor and print those that include ideas or information of general interest. Also, please send any articles, suggestions, news of the several societies, horticultural tips and copies of interesting articles you have read.

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR
1984 CROP CAMELLIA SEEDS

Japonica Seeds — \$6.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Sasanqua Seeds — \$4.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Reticulata Seeds — 25¢ each

Southern California Camellia Society

1076 Via La Paz

San Pedro, CA 90732

NUCCIO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

by Bill Donnan

Nuccio's Nurseries, growers of rare camellias and azaleas, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this forthcoming camellia season. We would like to tell you a little bit about the nursery and the people who own it and run it. Nuccio's Nurseries was started by two brothers, Joe and Julius Nuccio. Their father, Giulio Nuccio had come to America from Northern Italy and settled in the Los Angeles Area with his wife Katherine. Later they moved to Alhambra where Joe and Julius grew up. All through high school Julius worked for the Western Nursery in Alhambra. There he learned how to grow nursery stock and developed the fine art of grafting and propagating. When he graduated from high school, in 1934, he decided to open a small nursery on Bushnell Street in Alhambra. His older brother, Joe, had a nightshift job at Tyre Brothers Glass Factory and he got Julius a job there. Together, they worked the night shift and ran the nursery during the daytime.

At the start all kinds of plants were offered for sale but the main push was to get into the camellia and azalea business. In those days there were not too many different varieties available. They had 80 "parent" camellia plants planted in the ground and they made cuttings from them for grafting and propagating. By 1941 they were working full time in the nursery and they had built up a thriving trade. Then came World War II. Joe went into the shipyards and Julius was drafted into the Army and sent to the South Pacific. Before they disbanded the nursery they potted up the 80 "parent" camellia plants into tubs and trucked them to Joe's back yard. They were to be the foundation of a new nursery when the War ended. Early in 1941, the Nuccios had looked at a 40 acre tract of "rocks, rills, and rubbish" north of Alta Loma Drive in Altadena. Part of the tract was a local rubbish dump and they had

planned to re-locate the nursery there. The owner was asking \$6,000 for the tract but when the War came on all plans were put aside. Then, in 1944, near the end of the War, Joe looked at the tract again and the price had jumped to \$13,000! They decided to make an offer and bought it for \$12,500. With the War ended and the ship yards closed down, Joe and Julius started all over again in the nursery business.

They cleared off a couple of acres and erected a small lath house. They hauled in the 80 "parent" camellia plants, in tubs, and they were "off and running." However, instead of concentrating on a few easy to grow "bread and butter" plants, the Nuccios were eager to develop new varieties. In 1950 they came out with their first introduction. It was 'Katherine Nuccio,' a red formal double, named after their mother. The next year they introduced 'Primavera,' a white formal double. Thus began the proud tradition of developing and introducing new varieties. This tradition has propelled them into becoming one of the most noteworthy breeders of rare and new camellias and azaleas in the world. Since 1950 they have originated and named over 100 excellent new camellias and have propagated and released another 25 or 30 cultivars brought to them for introduction. Camellia cultivars which have been developed by Nuccio's Nurseries have won 33 major awards from the American Camellia Society and the Southern California Camellia Society. Their 1983-84 catalogue lists 255 Japonicas, 40 Sasanquas, 74 hybrids, 20 Reticulatas, 19 Higos, 12 Rusticanas, and 9 foliage plants. They offer 28 different species of plants for sale and stock about 25 other species for hybridizing. They will be releasing *C. chrysantha* in the Fall of 1984 as one of the new species for sale. The nursery now has 10 acres un-

der shade with 25 total acres developed. There is a possibility of developing the other 15 acres — as needed.

With regard to azaleas, Nuccio's Nurseries has, perhaps, the finest collection of sun and shade azaleas on the West Coast. They offer Krumes, Pericats, Southern Indicas, Rutherfordianas, Belgian Indicas, and miscellaneous hybrids. Among their hybrids are 64 new azaleas which the nursery has developed especially for their floribundance. After a trip to Japan, the nursery imported over 150 varieties of Satsuki azaleas, perhaps the greatest collection of this type of azalea in the United States. They have them for sale along with 8 varieties of a type of rhododendron which grows well here in Southern California. One of their new rhododendron introductions named 'Angeles Crest' bids fair to sweep the market here in the Los Angeles area.

But getting back to the Nursery — in 1960, young Julius Nuccio, the son of Joe Nuccio, joined the firm. Then, 1970, Tom Nuccio, the oldest son of

Julius, joined; and last but not least, in 1979, Jim Nuccio, the youngest son of Julius, joined. Today, with the two "old Guys," Joe and Julius, in their 70's, the younger generation has taken over. This is not to say that Joe and Julius don't show up every morning at 6:30 AM and act like they are the bosses! Joe handles all of the shipping and Julius, Sr. still keeps hunting for that perfect camellia bloom in the seedling house. Speaking of shipping — the nursery has shipped plants to nearly every state in the Union plus to England, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Costa Rica, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, China, and South Africa. As Joe and Julius have said: "The best thing about this business is the friends we have made throughout the camellia world. We want to thank them for the friendship they have extended to us."

And now to cap off 50 years in the nursery business, the Nuccio's have struck gold! After planting some 500,000 to 700,000 camellia seeds and bringing them to bloom; and after making some 3,000 interspecific hy-

Nuccio's Nurseries
Ph. 818-794-3383

355 Chaney Trail
P.O. Box H
Altadena, CA 91001

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Our new catalog will be available the latter part of September for the 1985 season. Incredible as it may seem, this will be our 50th year in business — our "Golden Anniversary"! Fifty of the most wonderful years with the most wonderful people in the world — camellia people! For those great years, from all the Nuccios,

THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

brid crosses in an effort to develop new camellia cultivars, the Nuccios have developed a yellow camellia! Yes, in April, 1984 they have developed a new *C. japonica* cultivar. The bloom is a 3 to 3½ inch formal double, yellow with swirled petals. This is not a *C. chrysantha*, nor was it developed using *C. chrysantha* pollen. The seed was picked in 1981 from a "lost label" hybrid cross of *C. japonica* parents. After the seedling grew, two scions were cut and grafted on 2-gallon understock. This spring, one of the grafted plants has produced two buds. Both yellow blooms are true formal doubles with no stamens apparent. Inasmuch as this cultivar was developed to blooming stage during the 50th year of the advent of the nursery it has been named 'Nuccio's Golden Anniversary.'

TOUCHDOWN FOR JOE

From Grady Perigan:

At Alhambra High School in Southern California, was my first recollection of the name of Nuccio. The 1931 football team was the one to be remembered. There was a Nuccio on that team that played outside-halfback in the now defunct single-wing formation.

My memory of this sport is seeing this athlete outrun the opposition on a reverse to score a touchdown. This was a common occurrence for a guy named Joe, as he was the best runner of the 100 yard dash on the track team, in the early 30's.

Then in the late 40's, after the war, while working for the Telephone Co. in upper Altadena, the name of Nuccio was hanging on a fence on Chaney Trail . . . Memories of high school and a guy named Joe Nuccio flashed in my mind, so I stopped to see if this could be the same person. It was, and a pleasant old friendship was renewed by a chance visit into what was the beginning of Nuccio's Nursery.

In 1949 with a new home and the

need for some landscaping, I went up to Nuccio's and bought 6 camellias; Debutante, Governor Mouton, Ville de Nantes, Francine (Elegans) Iwane and Joshua Youtz.

As these camellias grew and were so satisfactory in landscaping and the flowers were so beautiful, I went back to get some more. Joe asked me why I didn't try grafting. He showed me how, gave me some scions, sold me some understock and this was the beginning of a new hobby and most fortunately, the deepening of a wonderful friendship with both Joe and Julius.

Over these many years I have been in touch and watched the nursery grow from its early beginnings to a nursery with world wide acclaim. This is due to the hard work, long hours, total dedication of the whole family to the love of camellias. This dedication has been most instrumental in furthering the fellowship within the camellia societies and the pleasure of the hobbyist. I feel very fortunate to be living near the nursery which enables me to visit with the Nuccios often throughout the year.

FALL CAMELLIA CULTURE

by Harold Dryden

Four items of culture require your attention during the fall months of the year; in order of importance, watering, disbudding, pruning and fertilizing.

Attention to watering is all-important, particularly since the weather is cooling off and there may be a tendency to forget the plants at times. This is the time when the buds are coming to maturity and it is very important that none of the plants dry out and impede the bud development. The roots have been growing during the spring and summer, and some of the container plants may be at or nearing the time when they need transplanting. I follow the practice of looking

over the plants between regular waterings and giving an interim watering to those that are getting a little dry. Actually, we develop in this way a mental list of those that require this interim watering and it provides a list of plants that will need repotting when we get around to that project.

Disbudding is necessary if we want quality flowers. I am not thinking of show flowers when I advocate disbudding, but rather the quality flowers that a camellia hobbyist should want in his or her garden. If one wants show flowers he will disbud (and prune) heavily. If he is interested only in quality flowers that are pleasing to the eye, and do justice to the variety, he will at least see that there is only one bud per terminal. He might also go so far as to pinch off buds where the flower will not have an opportunity to open fully.

I go over all my plants in July or early August and prune away some of the new growth that has come during the growing period, particularly the inside growth and terminal growth where the flower will encounter trouble in opening up. I do this for two reasons. First, the plant looks trimmer. Second, and probably more important, it eliminates need for much disbudding. This can be done after August if it has not already been done.

The fertilizer that you applied early in the year was primarily to stimulate plant growth. The nitrogen did that. Some people apply a fertilizer in the fall months, designed to bring better flowers. This fertilizer is without or low in nitrogen and is known in the trade as 0-10-10 or 2-10-10. The first numeral is nitrogen, which stimulates green growth by developing new plant cells. The second numeral is phosphorus, which stimulates early root formation, hastens maturity and promotes seed growth. The third numeral is potash, which maintains overall plant health, helps to protect plants against disease and increases size and quality of flowers. The last thing listed is what causes most people to use the fertilizer.

To my knowledge, most of the camellia growers who win the show prizes follow this schedule of fall fertilizing. In my own case, I have fertilized in the fall and have detected no difference in the flowers from that obtained in the years of no fall fertilizing. Take your pick, but I advise that you do not snub the show winners.

Gibbing is not a part of camellia culture, but it is so much in the camellia growing picture that I venture to mention it in this "camellia culture" article. I gib because it extends my camellia blooming period by about two months. I know that early blooming varieties bloom during these added months but these early blooming varieties generally are not in my collection. So I gib to obtain early those flowers that I like well enough to grow. I start to gib about the middle of September and the blooms start around the middle of October. I stop gibbing around the middle of November because buds gibbed after date are competing with natural blooms. The percentage of good flowers in the very early gibbing (I gib weekly) is not high but the few good flowers make it worthwhile to me. I have followed this schedule for many years, in fact, since gibbing started, and can detect no adverse effect on the plants. One caution: when you prune after blooming is over, be sure that the gibbed tips are cut off; otherwise you might get little or no growth in that terminal next season. I used to identify the gibbed terminals so that I would be sure to prune them, but did not do so this past year and can detect few cases where I missed them in the spring 1984 pruning.

PLANT SALE

The Southern California Camellia Council will be holding a Camellia and Azalea Plant Sale on October 13th & 14th at Descanso Gardens. Proceeds will go to help fund Council Shows. Donations of plants are solicited. Call Al Gamper (248-3541) or Chuck Gerlach (248-3838) for pick up.

MODESTO CAMELLIA CAVALCADE

March 17-18, 1984

Best Flower of Show Sweepstakes	<i>Harold Paige</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner Up Sweepstakes		Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Japonica "Large or Very Large"	<i>Grand Prix</i>	Robert E. Ehrhart
Runner Up Japonica "Large or Very Large"	<i>"In the Pink"</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Japonica "Medium"	<i>"Nuccio's Jewel"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Runner Up Japonica "Medium"	<i>"Margaret Davis"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. James Randall
Best Small Bloom	<i>"Tom Thumb"</i>	The Harlan Smith Family
Runner Up Small Bloom	<i>"Pink Perfection"</i>	The Lockwoods
Best Three Japonicas "Large or Very Large"	<i>"Grand Prix"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Don Lesmeister
Best Three Japonicas "Medium"	<i>"Nuccio's Jewel"</i>	E.F. Achterberg
Best Three Small Blooms	<i>"Black Tie"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Five Japonicas "Large or Very Large"	<i>"Grand Prix"</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Five Japonicas "Medium"	<i>"Margaret Davis"</i>	Jack Lewis
Best Small Blooms	<i>"Maroon & Gold"</i>	Frank & Winnie Serpa
Best Retic or Retic Hybrid	<i>"Grand Prix"</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner Up Retic or Retic Hybrid	<i>"Royalty"</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Three Retics or Retic Hybrids	<i>"Dr. Clifford Parks"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. James Randall
Best Hybrid (Non Retic)	<i>"Pink Dahlia"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
Runner Up Hybrid (Non Retic)	<i>"Charlean"</i>	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Three Hybrids (Non Retic)	<i>"Elsie Jury"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. James Randall
Best Miniature	<i>"Spring Festival"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner Up Miniature	<i>"Johnny's Folly"</i>	R.E. Ehrhart
Best Three Miniatures	<i>"Man Size"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Five Miniatures	<i>"Man Size"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Seedling "Large or Medium"		Matt Talia
Best Seedling "Small or Miniature"		Kramer Bros.
Best Japonica (Youth)	<i>"Ragland Supreme"</i>	Jason Yonan
Best Retic (Youth)	<i>"Miss Tulare Var."</i>	Justin Bergamini
Best Hybrid (Youth)	<i>"E.G. Waterhouse"</i>	Joellen Bergamini
Best Miniature (Youth)	<i>"Little Slam"</i>	Kelly Pinheiro
Best Fragrant Bloom		Wilbur & Mary Ann Ray
Best Higo Bloom	<i>"Kumagai"</i>	Wilbur & Mary Ann Ray
Best White Japonica (Section W Only)	<i>"Charlie Bettes"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. James Randall
Best Collection of 12 Different Blooms		Mrs. William R. Breuner
Best Japonica Modesto Members	<i>"Ella Ward Parsons"</i>	Virginia Rankin
Runner Up Japonica Modesto Members	<i>"Spring Sonnet"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Grosso
Best Yellow Bloom	<i>"Chrysantha"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Award of Excellence		Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Mutant of Sport	<i>"Betty Sheffield Supreme Sport"</i>	Robert E. Ehrhart
Best Other Species	<i>"C. Chrysantha"</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Show Results — March 10, 1984

Sweepstakes	Bob Ehrhart
Sweepstakes	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bergamini
Runner-up	
Novice Sweepstakes	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Lewis
Award of Excellence	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister

Challenge Awards		Mrs. William Breuner
Best Large Japonica	"Grand Slam"	Mrs. William Breuner
Runner-up	"Tomorrow Park Hill"	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Best Medium Japonica	"Nuccio's Jewell"	Mr. Steve Campbell
Runner-up	"Feathery Touch"	Mr. Steve Campbell
Best 3 Large Japonica	"Tomorrow Park Hill"	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Best 3 Medium Japonica	"Evelyn Poe-Pink"	Mr. Bob Ehrhart
Best Japonica	"Nuccio's Gem"	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Briggs
Best Boutonniere Miniature	"Albritton"	Miss Joellen Bergamini
Best Boutonniere, Small	"Kitty"	Mr. Raymond Hertel
Best 3 Boutonnieres	"Pink Perfection"	Mr. Geore Cunningham
Best 5 Boutonnieres	"Baby Face"	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bergamini
Best Collection of 9 Boutonnieres		Dr. & Mrs. Fred Heitmann
Runner-up		Mr. Bob Ehrhart
Best Retic Hybrid	"Nuccio's Ruby"	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Pitts
Best Retic Hybrid	"Lilette Whitman"	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lockwood
Runner-up		
Best 3 Retic Hybrid	"Lilette Whitman"	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lockwood
Best 3 Retic Hybrid	"Lilette Whitman"	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lockwood
Runner-up	"Dr. Clifford Parks"	Earlene Cevasco
Best 5 Retic Hybrid	"Cornelian"	Mr. William Stewart
Best Hybrid	"Pink Dahlia"	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Best 3 Hybrids	"Debbie"	Mr. Steve Campbell
Best 5 Hybrids	"South Seas"	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Best Fragrant Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hallstone
Best Large Seedling		Mr. Dave Feathers
Best Medium Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. Matt Talia
Best Boutonniere Seedling		Mr. Dave Feathers
Best 12 Different		Mrs. William Breuner
Youth Class Japonica	"Grace Albritton"	Miss Joellen Bergamini
Youth Class Other Than Japonica	"Fire Chief-Varigated"	Audrey Schumer
Best White	"Charlie Bettes"	Mrs. William Breuner

SHOW SCHEDULE 1984 - 1985 California Camellia Societies

	1984	1985
California Camellia Rama	11/3	11/2
Southern California Camellia Council	12/8-12/9	12/7-12/8
	"Winter Show"	
Southern California Camellia Society	1/14-1/15	1/12-1/13
Pacific Camellia Society	1/21-1/22	1/19-1/20
South Coast Camellia Society	1/28-1/29	1/26-1/27
No. Calif. Camellia Council "Kick-Off"	1/28-1/29	1/26-1/27
Peninsula Camellia Society	2/4-2/5	2/2-2/3
San Diego Camellia Society	2/4-2/5	2/2-2/3
Temple City Camellia Society	2/11-2/12	2/9-2/10
Pomona Valley Camellia Society	2/18-2/19	2/16-2/17
Santa Clara Camellia Society	2/18-2/19	2/16-2/17
Southern Calif. Camellia Council	2/25-2/26	2/23-2/24
	"Spring Show"	
Delta Camellia Society	2/25-2/26	2/23-2/24
Sacramento Camellia Society	3/3-3/4	3/2-3/3
Camellia Society of Kern County	3/3-3/4	3/2-3/3
Central California Camellia Society	3/10-3/11	3/9-3/10
Northern California Camellia Society	3/10-3/11	3/9-3/10
Modesto Camellia Society	3/17-3/18	3/16-3/17
Sonoma County Society	3/24-3/25	3/23-3/24

GRADY PERIGAN

by Pat Greutert

The next time Grady Perigan demonstrates grafting at one of the local camellia shows, watch his hands cutting, slitting and banding. They tell much about Grady and how he has enriched Southern California camellia societies.

Years ago, those big supple hands tossed a football with Joe Nuccio at Alhambra High. Later they held a huge collection of wires as he put in and repaired telephone lines. Now that Grady has retired they make themselves useful at all kinds of tasks benefiting a lovely flower and the people who share his interest in that flower.

After finishing school, Grady and Joe went their separate ways — Grady to work for the phone company, and Joe and younger brother Julius to eventually open a little camellia nursery stuck up in a corner of Altadena.

Grady drove telephone trucks all over the San Gabriel Valley. One day he chanced upon Nuccio's Nursery where he renewed acquaintance with old friends Joe and Julius. Their interest in camellias rubbed off on young Grady.

Joe gave him some cuttings, taught him how to graft and inspired a hobby which has lasted all Grady's life.

"They might have called us sissies if they'd known how we'd end up," chuckles Joe as he remembers those days when they terrorized opponents on the football field.

Grady's deep voice has called many a meeting to order as president of Southern California and Temple City Camellia Societies. His friendly personality has won friends not only here, but in camellia societies he has visited in Australia and New Zealand.

Standing tall, hair clipped short as in high school days, brown eyes shining behind rimless glasses, Grady patiently fields questions from camellia lovers at meetings and shows, thus encouraging better flower culture and increased membership for the societies.

His hobby also brought Grady a wife, Helen Foss, whose first husband, along with Grady's first wife, had participated in camellia society activities. Three years ago, after their two spouses had died, Helen and Grady married to form a lively partnership.

A visit to Grady and Helen's neatly kept home illustrates the word "lively." One wall houses bookcases and cupboards filled with photographic equipment. Grady takes slides of the prizewinning show camellias that often grace the cover of "Camellia Review" and of the trips to various countries which he shows at society meetings.

On a nearby counter, stacks of cardboard signs neatly lettered by Grady await transport to the next flower show to designate flower divisions and prize winners.

A large workshop attached to the garage holds the lathes Grady employs to fashion the gavels presented to society presidents and the candlesticks used as show prizes. From Huntington Gardens, where Grady enjoys helping camellia superintendent Rudy Moore, Rudy has supplied him with huge old camellia trunks from plants removed to make way for new buildings at the Gardens. The wood gives the gavels special meaning for sentimental camellia fanciers.

A converted bedroom at the Perigan home serves as Helen's china painting studio. Here she paints plates to give as prizes to lucky growers of winning blossoms. Some of the plates sit waiting for Grady's application of numbers and clock mechanisms, also to be used for prizes.

Other hobbies occupy the two. Clocks housed in cabinets carefully crafted by Grady, look down from walls papered by Helen. A closet holds Helen's handmade quilts, another, a beautiful train set Grady has made by hand.

When Grady and Helen married,

the inevitable question popped up — “your house or mine?” They decided to live in Helen’s because many of Grady’s plants, being potted, were easy to move, while Helen’s were in the ground. Grady built a lath house and used his clippers judiciously to squeeze and cajole his camellias into the limited space. “It was a shock to them to be moved and pruned so heavily,” admits Grady, “but they’ll come back and produce some more win-

ners.”

At the next society meeting, if you buy five dollars worth of raffle tickets for those neat plants grafted by Grady and his friend Sergio Bracci and find you have to leave the meting early, hand the stubs to Grady to watch for you. Cool and imperturbable, he can examine two fistsful of spiraling raffle tickets, rotate the ticket drum and plug in the coffee maker without a pause. It’s those big hands of his.

CAMELLIA GROWING CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS — PART 1

by Robert and Shala McNeil

Ernie Pieri has asked Shala and me to give you some of our ideas and experiences in Camellia growing conditions in areas around San Diego and some areas near Los Angeles. We are going to talk about what we do to try to grow better blooms and how we prepare flowers for shows. What plants bloom best for us in our present location, what plants did best where we used to live, and some ideas about companion planting. That’s a lot for one evening.

First, let’s define some terms: A hillside planting means just that, but implies taking advantage of the cooling effect of rising air currents, the heating and ventilating effect of falling air currents, including what the late Harvey Short taught me and several others about air drainage to combat frost damage to Camellia plants. A Mesa planting means a relatively raised and flat area, but cut with canyons; a Valley Floor planting would be quite enclosed by hills, and having poor air drainage.

Considering growing conditions around San Diego we consider first the Coastal areas. Ben Berry, John Nichols, and Bill Weber are on Coronado Island; Gene Snooks is in La Jolla; and Mildred Murray is in Encinitas, where she grows beautiful camellias in the ground under Avocado trees. In Coastal areas the ocean keeps the hu-

midity higher than most of us enjoy, and the ocean is also a vast heat pump, holding the temperature a bit lower in the summer and a bit higher in the winter. The humidity and the tempering of climatic extremes help these people to open good specimens of blooms that bullnose for many of the rest of us.

Mesa plantings include the Garden of Les and Edna Baskerville in San Diego City and Shala’s and my former location on Kearny Mesa. The elevation is about 350 feet. Both gardens are in rather closely built residential neighborhoods, where home heating of so many houses helps fight the frost in winter, and both lots border on canyon sides, providing some air drainage.

Some hillside plantings include the gardens of Stanley and Alice Miller above the OVEN of El Cajon Valley, and that of Jess and Sis George on the side of mount Helix in the La Mesa area. It was near there that Harvey Short had a very good Camellia garden. Conditions vary among the three plantings, but the advantages of good air drainage and freedom from air pollution are common to all. In the hills above Ramona, Gladys and David Crouse have a Camellia Garden and Nursery on the site of the old Owen Henry Estate. This is very much a hillside location, parts of it very steep,

with many large plants in the ground under oaks and pines as well as many, many others in pots in lath houses. It is a retail nursery. Gladys' tender, loving care and David's hard work produce blooms that are mistaken for "gibbed" blooms, and one of their advantages is their own well. Their water is free of the calcium carbonate hardness of the Colorado River water. Our own place is only a half-mile away and down hill. It is also a hillside, but a shallow slope, and our lath house is unfortunately on a valley floor and has poor air drainage. The elevations are about 1,600 and 1,400 feet.

A valley floor planting is typified by the garden of Doctor Fred and Mrs. Mowery in the Rancho Bernardo annex to San Diego. The Mowerys have an architect-designed lath house for some of their plants but others are somewhat exposed, and, being on a valley floor they have a frost problem, though it is a residential area and neighborhood house heating must help a little bit. The Mowerys have grown and shown some outstanding blooms of both *reticulatas* and large *japonicas*.

About growing conditions in the L.A. area I am less than positive, but in Altadena is Nuccio's Nursery; it is a hillside planting, having good air drainage and above most of the smog. They use "industrial" water, and it must be good, from the way their plants grow and bloom. All of our collections include plants from there.

In La Canada are the plantings of Tom Hughes and probably others whose names I do not know. There seem to be generally hillside and canyon environments with good air drainage. I have no knowledge of any smog or frost problems. Not having seen the plants in Descanso Gardens for two or three years, I don't know how they are doing.

The relatively flat area including San Gabriel, San Marino, Arcadia, Temple City, and Alhambra holds the gardens of the Pieris, the Braccis, the Perigans, and Bill and Mrs. Goertz that I know of. There are probably

many others. The gardens I have seen there are all surrounded by residential areas, so must have some frost protection from residential heating. Two gardens border on large storm drains, so have some air drainage. I am told also that many have their water from municipal water districts using well water rather than Metropolitan Water District water.

Growing for better blooms:

Nearly all of our plants are in containers, standing on eighteen inch high benches in a two section lath house. Eight 12-foot square divisions are covered by 3½" wooden slats, and four divisions are covered with milk-white *Alsynite*. The *Alsynite* covered parts are nearly full of epiphyllums and in winter the rest of the roofed space is crowded with cymbidiums, leaving very little rooms for a few selected *Camellias* with promising blooms to be kept out of storms for a few days before a show. (We haven't needed it much this year). The eight open spaces stay open until the late winter, when I wrap the south and west sides with 6 mil *Visqueen*, because nearly all our storms come from the south and west. Until this year, we did not have Santa Anas later than November, so our north side is not wrapped. An open side and an open top give plenty of ventilation.

For the last six or seven years our award-winning blooms have decreased considerably. We moved from a warm city at 350 feet to a cold and hot hillside at about 1,400 feet. The change from one micro-climate to another would have been shock enough to the plants; but during the first winter we had three nights of temperatures of fourteen and sixteen degrees and the first and second years we lost track of our regular feeding schedule. It wasn't until 1980 that we got all our *Camellias* into one uniform mix. For the reasons of moving, random planting mixes, poor feeding, and the one very cold winter we lost between fifty and one hundred mature plants and still more of our new grafts. There haven't been temperatures below 24 degrees since 1980. We

now have all the plants in a uniform mix that is largely organic, with a bit less earth than the standard Harvey Short mix, which was simple one-third topsoil, one-third peat moss, and one-third redwood compost. We find that we can control the effect of feeding a bit better if we don't have the random factor of topsoil, which may differ from one shovelful to another in what beneficial and what toxic material is in it.

The planting medium is quite important, but may not be quite as critical as we may have believed in the past. We feel that uniformity is more important than content. In a program he gave before the San Diego Society, Bill Donnan said his plants were all in a commercial bagged planter mix and his plants are healthy and happy. One of our recent problems has been the washing out of mix through the large drain holes. I now place a patch of window screening over each hole while filling the pot and it works. Keeps the slugs off the roots, too. We have been told a lot about Subdue for root rot. We are using its commercial twin, called Rid-o-mil, and are waiting a year before we are sure it really works. As for feeding, we use Grow Power for the growing season feedings, and any one of several brands of 0-10-10 granular plant food in blooming season. No secret formulas or special treatments.

This is the first part of the program, the second part will be submitted for later publication.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY PICNIC

by Chuck Gerlach

"Gee, Grandma, this was the best 'est picnic." A quote from one of the youngsters attending our annual July get-together under the oaks at Descanso Gardens.

Some 61 very nice Camellia people, including out-of-towners Bob and Shala McNeil from Ramona, gathered for an afternoon of fun and socializing.

A hard working group of Pacific Board members prepared and served all the excellent food. You name it — hamburgers, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, cole slaw, ice cream, soft drinks, wine, etc.

The Alltizer brothers, Dean and Wayne, barbequed delicious hamburgers, while chef Boris Koneff cooked his special formula of "out of this world" baked beans. "The best beans I've ever had, ever" stated one of our first-time guests.

A drawing was held for cash door prizes and the younger guests each received a gift. Jerry Biewend conducted the raffle of a large array of donated camellias and other assorted plants. Alice and Bob Jaacks won a large half barrel container courtesy of the Neelys.

A good time was had by all, we are sure.

A SPORTING CHANCE

by Silvio Torrisi

Sidney, Australia

Back in 1978 when I was filming camellias at people's houses for material for the movie films I made, I came across a house in Haberfield — a Sidney suburb. There, in the front yard I saw a very nicely grown, reasonably large camellia tree, full of lovely flowers. They were mostly white but some had pink flecks which were interspersed with red and some were totally red. I thought — Oh! Terrific! These are sports and they will be good in the film. So I stopped and asked permission to take some shots of the tree. While filming the tree from all angles, the lady of the house (about 70 years old) said: "I don't know why you would want to film that old thing! It is diseased!" I thought that a strange thing to say. I had gone around the tree several times and it was beautiful with what looked like a very healthy growth. "This is a splendid camellia bush," I said. "What makes you think it is diseased?" She answered: "For over 30 years that tree has grown so nicely and given me so many nice white flowers.

Then suddenly, it began to have pink and red spots on the blooms and now some of them are changing to red flowers. It is diseased and my son is coming over with his axe this weekend to cut it down!" And to my amazement she continued: "We have tried many times to prune off all of those spotted and red blooms but it hasn't worked so it has got to go!"

I thought to myself — I wonder how many good camellia plants have gone that way! Happy ending — for the next hour I stayed and told that old lady about camellia sports. (She thought that the word sport was a funny name to give to her diseased camellia). It took me that long to convince her that her camellia tree was in good health and that the sporting tendency was nothing to be alarmed about. The tree still stands in that same front yard — with a lot of multicolored flowers gracing its branches.

S.C.C.S.

AWARDS DINNER

The Awards Dinner of the Southern California Camellia Society was held on the night of June 25, 1984 on the patio of the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens. There were 82 camellia hobbyists in attendance and the "happy hour" witnessed the sampling of some 20 different California wines. After a bountiful pot-luck dinner the various awards were handed out under the direction of President Dave Wood. Rosemond Gerlach, substituting for her husband, Chuck, gave out the Bloom Display Awards. First prize, for the most points earned during the year at the monthly cut bloom display went to Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt, with Mr. Jerry Biewend as the runner-up. The most points for the Colonel Frank Reed Award for gibbed flowers went to Mr. & Mrs. Willard F. Goertz.

There were two cultivars chosen for the 1984 William E. Woodroof Camellia Hall of Fame. They were 'Grand Slam' developed by Nuccio's Nurseries and 'Pink Perfection,' a cultivar

which came to the United States of America in 1885 as 'Usu Otome' from Japan. The William Hertrich Award for the best Japonica mutant went to 'Chow's Han Ling', a sport of 'Carter's Sunburst' which was developed by Dr. Leland Chow. The William Wylam Award for the best miniature cultivar went to 'Fircone' developed by Rhodella Nursery. The Frank Storment Award for the best retic hybrid went to 'Al Gunn' which was developed by W. F. Goertz and released by Nuccio's Nurseries.

The Southern California Camellia Society made a special award to A. Wilkins Garner conferring upon him the Honorary Life Membership. Then, to top everything off, President Dave Wood announced that they had decided to hold a "ROAST" for Bill Donnan on the occasion of his past 9 years as the Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW. Some disparaging remarks were made about his origin (a small midwestern town of 500 people in Iowa); his spelling; his love for formal double camellias; and his abhorrence of gibbing. In fact, they gave him a T-shirt emblazoned with the words I LOVE TO GIB. The Society presented him with a framed Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his service to the Society. At this point, Julius Nuccio came forward and announced that Nuccio's Nurseries had decided to name one of their new Fall introductions 'Donnan's Dream.' This cultivar was caught in 1977 and is now ready for release. It is a medium formal double japonica with white petals shading to pink on the outer edges. The cultivar blooms from November through March.

Statements of Mind:

Conscience: faults alarm
Worry: stewing without doing
Enthusiasm: get-up-and-glow
Comeuppance: crowing pains
Apathy: never mind over don't matter

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA X - 1984 HAPPY BIRTHDAY - "KID'S FAVORITES" WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY and YOU'RE INVITED!!

Here's our Special Camellia-Rama Birthday Cake Recipe:

Ingredients: 1 Paradisiacal Autumn Saturday (Nov. 3rd). Toss in some Friday PM and Sunday AM to taste

1 Newly decorated Smuggler's Inn (3737 N. Blackstone, Fresno)

1 Very Congenial CCCS Hospitality Room

1 Very enlightening Symposium

1 Succulent Traditional Prime Rib Dinner preceded by 1 Happy Champagne Hour

1 Super Raffle ala Frank Serpa and crew

1 Well-known Woo's Breakfast in Woo's enchanted garden

Abundant SPICES* (See below)

Add 1 Camellia Show and 7 Trophies

200 or more prizes

1 Special Drawing (D & MA Quilt with 2 pillows, 2 Finely Finished Barrel Halves, a Pozdol Camellia Clock and more)

1 Delectable Buffet Luncheon

1 Costume Parade with 7 Awards

Mix well, pour into layers of Fun and top with assorted decorations. Bake in warmest Camellia Camaraderie for the duration.

Note: The fascinating flavor will linger on!

*SPICES: (Imported and Home-grown)

Walter Harmsen (Claremont) - "How To Take Camellia Photos." (Walter will also give a pre-symposium "dissolving-slide show." Come in early Saturday so you won't miss this spectacular.

Julius Nuccio (Altadena) - Trip to China. (Julius was greeted with a real yellow camellia bloom when he arrived.)

Sergio Bracci (San Gabriel) - Trip to

Japan. (Sergio cut the ribbon to open the big Japanese show in February. The attendance was 65 thousand people!)

(Report is that the slides of these two trips are nothing short of breathtaking.)

Bob and Ruth Marcy - "Show Winners AND 10 Years of Camellia-Rama Memories." (Those terrific slides and whimsical commentary.)

Dr. John Weiler, California State University, Fresno - "Tissue Culture and Its Exciting Possibilities." (Dr. Weiler will have a most interesting display of laboratory samples on display.)

Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray (Fresno) - "Impressions of Facts and Trivia on the 'Little Ones'." (Guess who does the Trivia.)

Jerry Coe (Berkeley) - "Touring China." THIS IS NOT THE AVERAGE TOUR! Jerry is a professional mountain climber, Tour Guide and World Traveler. He is many more interesting "things" too numerous to mention here; but, among them are (1) a former member of rescue teams — including Yosemite, and (2) former student of Art Gonos.

Question and Answer Panel - (There will be no "speeches" as such! . . . Just questions by you and answers by them.)

Panelists: Jim Randall (Sacramento), Don Bergamini (Martinez), Tony Pinheiro (Modesto), Jack Woo and Al Taylor (Fresno), Julius Nuccio, Sergio Bracci and Jack Mandarich (Menlo Park) as Moderator. (If you have camellia questions please send some in with your reservations.)

From 5:30 to 6:30 PM Saturday it'll be "Time to Turn the Clock Back" - time for all to become a "Favorite Kid's Character

CAMELLIA-RAMA X NOV. 3, 1984

PLEASE DETACH AT DOTTED LINE AND SEND ENTIRE FORMS I AND II TO:
CHRIS GONOS, 5643 N. College, Fresno, CA 93704
Phone (209) 439-2228

FORM I CAMELLIA-RAMA REGISTRATION FORM

WE (I) would like the following reservations:

(A) Registration, lunch & dinner No. () at \$25.00 @ = \$ _____

OR _____

(B) Registration No. () at \$ 3.50 @ = \$ _____

Lunch No. () at \$ 6.50 @ = \$ _____

Dinner No. () at \$15.00 @ = \$ _____

CHECK enclosed for Total \$ _____

Name: _____ Society: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

FORM II ROOM RESERVATIONS — SMUGGLER'S INN

Please reserve the following accommodations:

No. of Rooms () Bed: Single ()

No. of Persons () Double ()

Arrival Date () Twin ()

Departure Date () Other ()

Special Instructions: _____

Name: _____ Society: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Cost: Single OR Double — \$50.00 per night

Additional persons — \$3.00 each

PLEASE PAY MOTEL CHARGES DIRECTLY TO SMUGGLER'S INN. They may be paid in advance or at check-out time. Your reservations will be held without deposit.

Please make checks payable to "CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA" for registration, lunch and dinner reservations only.

(Early reservations greatly facilitate lunch and dinner arrangements. THANK YOU.)

"WINNER-NEED-NOT-BE-PRESENT" Special Drawing with a D & MA Quilt with pillows, a pair of finely finished barrel halves (WV) and a Pozdol Camellia Clock. . . . Plus more. As a convenience for those who would like to have tickets early and for those who are unable to attend Camellia-Rama but would like tickets anyway — the enclosed tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. They will also be sold at Camellia-Rama. (No obligation is intended.)

HE'S THE MAN WHO SAVED CAMELLIAS FROM OBSCURITY

by Pat Greutert

[Editor's Note: Reprinted from Fall Garden Section of the Star News, October, 1983.]

The great depression didn't keep Vern McCaskill from opening "McCaskill Camellias" in 1932, and subdividers haven't induced him to give up in 1983. Maintaining the nursery all by himself, 81-year-old Vern holds on tenaciously to the valuable property at 25 Michillinda just south of Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena.

A leaning sign identifies the nursery, and a little gate at the sidewalk stands open during business hours, usually 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Inside, azaleas, camellias and pots of irises crowd every available spot. In years past giant winds have blown shading laths into disarray. Efforts to prop them up have been defeated by huge camellias thrusting skyward.

Deep in his nursery a little bell hangs on a post directing "Ring three long rings if you want help." After a while three rings summon tall, lean Vern McCaskill, who approaches from the house next door at an unhurried pace. A boyish half-grin lights his face. A shock of white hair, one errant lock flipped across his forehead, contributes to his youthful appearance. His quiet manner and soft speech belie his staunch spirit.

Listening carefully to a customer's requirements, he deftly matches people and plants. Sometimes he moves one camellia after another, then steps back beaming to reveal that "just right" plant.

A look through the camellia nomenclature book shows nearly a hundred hybrids propagated and introduced by Vern. His "Papoose," an Indian red miniature, was introduced in 1981. Camellias in his nursery don't need tags. Vern knows them by their foliage as well as their blossoms.

In 1920 Vern and his bride Billie honeymooned in California. Feeling that California life moved too slowly because of the large numbers of retired people, they took the train back to Missouri. Three cold winters changed their minds. In 1924 Vern and Billie returned in their new \$640 Chevrolet coupe.

Landing a job at "Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens" in Altadena, Vern began learning the plant business from Douglas Coolidge. Inventory at the rare plant gardens found Vern counting thousands of plants. One day he came upon the garden's only camellia. A blooming "Pink Perfection," its deep green leaves shining, stole his heart. "It was the most beautiful flower I'd ever seen," says Vern.

Interest in camellias, popular during the late 1800s, had waned for lack of variety. There were only formal doubles in white, pink or red.

Since camellias had become nearly impossible to find in nurseries, Vern decided to remedy the situation. On Sundays Vern and Billie drove up and down Pasadena streets looking for camellias growing in private yards. "When we spotted one, we'd go and ask the owner if we could buy seeds or cuttings. They almost always gave them to us." Thus they began growing and hybridizing camellias.

Coolidge encouraged him to open "McCaskill Camellias." Vern did and the business prospered.

Vern and Billie raised three children along with the camellias — Jack, who works at the Arcadia Arboretum plant recorder's office; June, who heads the UC Davis herbarium; and a daughter, Betty, whose Arcadia apartment proves a green thumb can flourish in a restricted space.

A camellia bears each family member's name but Vern's. "Only the per-

fect camellia will bear my name," he jokes.

Tacked to the wall in his checkout booth, an aging article from *Sunset* magazine tells about Vern's propagation of native California irises. These springtime beauties attract selective admirers looking for the unusual. Even more unusual, deciduous Siberian irises rise in slender perfection along a walkway.

Vern surprises sharp-eyed searchers with other treats such as a rare Chinese grape (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), its variegated leaves lacing nonchalantly from behind two camellias.

Nurturing and developing plants, always looking for tomorrow's special blossom, has kept this gentle octogenarian young. His 51-year-old nursery awaits discovery — when the little gate at the sidewalk stands open.

YES, WE HAD A MEXICAN FIESTA!

by Elsie Bracci

Very successful at that. Thanks to all the participants and most of all the workers.

This all started one night about three months ago. There was a Southern California Camellia Society Board meeting at our house and money was very much on everyone's mind. So a date was set for a money-raising event with no theme yet in mind. One bright day a Mexican Fiesta was thought of and we were off and running.

Bill Donnan had received a Royal Doulton camellia from Mr. David Davies of England, secretary of the International Camellia Society. This was to be used on a money-making project for the Southern California publications. He brought this camellia over himself and presented it to Bill at the dinner at Little Joe's. We thank you, Mr. Davies. Sergio came up with the idea of a cement fountain for the garden and a decorative indoor statue. These were to be on a raffle. What a raffle!

We made a list and Warren Dickson sent tickets and dinner reservations to one and all. One slight oversight. Modesto was having their annual picnic on that date. When this was discovered, it was too late to change. Tickets printed, bulletins out! We were all upset but nothing could be done.

Everyone was excited. This sounds like a fun afternoon. We'll be there! — or sorry we cannot be there but here is a donation.

Warren and Rosario Dickson, Sergio and I got together several times to

compare notes. Nice people to work with.

In the meantime things were moving along. Helen Perigan made large, multi-color tissue paper flowers for decorations. Four pinatas were made in red, green and white. Alice Jaacks printed signs on her computer saying, Mexican Fiesta, Ole! These were painted in multi-color. She made two signs about twelve feet long and they were used in the front of our house to mark the location.

Friday, August 24th was the first real working day for a lot of us. Sergio, Grady Perigan, Bill Donnan, Chuck Gerlach and Warren Dickson, put tables all around the garden. Sergio was also the best go-for you ever saw. In the kitchen (most important place) was my great crew, Emma Gaeta, Alice Jaacks, Helen Perigan and yours truly. Food having been purchased, we were ready. These ladies made 340 enchiladas. Lee Gaeta donated all the cheese for the enchiladas. Thanks Lee! Helen was up to her elbows in enchilada sauce. Emma and I created a meat dish. A little of this, a little of that and wow! We had steak picado. Alice was everywhere. She helped us all. We worked but we also had fun. Thank you, nice ladies.

Saturday, the Big Day. First must come yard sales, then we work. About 11:00 A.M. the day got started. Alice and Bob Jaacks, John Utvich, Sergio and I set up chairs, umbrellas, put cushions out and washed same. About

3:00 P.M. things really began to pick up. Rosamond Gerlach and her crew, Chuck, Marcie and Dean Altizer, Leta and Wayne Altizer came to decorate the garden. The garden was very colorful with red table cloths, multi-colored flowers in white vases, candles in red jars and green napkins. The Fiesta signs were hung out in front. We looked like a Mexican Fiesta! At the same time Beulah was in the kitchen cooking. Who's Beulah?

At about 4:30 more workers came. Our two sons and their wives, Dan and Sandy and Steve and Maryanne set up the bar and tended it all night. (They aren't even into camellias). They made the best-ever Margueritas. Oh! Steve and Maryanne donated the wine.

Bill Donnan and Warren Dickson shared the entry gate. Bill also sold bar script. So many lovely ladies brought hors d'oeuvres. Jerry Donnan was helping with this. Thank you, each of you.

6:00 o'clock — the kitchen was really busy. Rosario Dickson ran a smooth kitchen! She had great help. Her dear friend, Bharti Sleth (not in camellias), Kay Novak and her sister Mary Arnerich (not in Camellias) worked with my two helpers, Rosa and Cindy. These ladies put out a tremendous effort. I can't say enough about them. They were great. At this time our daughter Sandi and her husband Ted arrived. They had been catering all day. They both helped in the kitchen. Thanks, kids.

Dinner was served! Everyone seemed to be having a good time. Sergio and I had a very good time. We enjoyed all of you. Jude Nuccio came at this time only to bring Sergio a Mexican shirt. He also brought some wine. Thanks, Jude. You're okay!

Raffle time finally came. The large tiger donated by Sergio was won by Dave and Alma Wood. Dave is President of the Southern California Camellia Society. The Royal Doulton camellia was won by Barney and Eileen Keller of Temple City Camellia Society, and the fountain donated by Ronald and Donald Bracci of Al's Garden Art in El Monte was won by Nellie Munio of Los Angeles. Lucky people. Thanks and congratulations to all of you.

The evening ended on a happy note. A good time was had by all.

Sunday morning the clean-up crew was to come at 10:00. Sergio now knows why we clean for the cleaning lady. The patio had to be cleared and washed down before the furniture was put back. The clean-up crew included Sergio (he's the greatest), Warren and Rosario, Helen and Grady, Bob and Alice and Milt Schmidt. Beulah was in the kitchen. Who's Beulah?

Statistics: 132 people at the gate for the dinner and we made \$1600 clear. Nice, huh?

The Southern California Camellia Society thanks you. But most of all Sergio and I want to thank all of you for working on this project.

For Sale
18th REVISED EDITION
OF
1984 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE
Individual copies \$10.00 postage paid
10 Copies or More \$7.50 postage paid
Southern California Camellia Society
P.O. Box 50525, Pasadena, CA 91105

A HISTORY OF HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Descanso Gardens

La Canada Flintridge, California

by Harriet Gurley

Standing on the north slope of the San Rafael Hills, with a vista toward the San Gabriel Mountains, is a white structure, known as Hospitality House.

Hospitality House is a vital part of Descanso Gardens. It is the center of activity of Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc., but at one time it was the home of E. Manchester Boddy, publisher of the *Losh Angeles Daily News*.

This House is located on an historic site of Southern California. The first owner of record of this land was the King of Spain, following the exploration of Gaspar de Portola and Franciscan Missionaries. A corporal in the King's Army, Jose Maria Verdugo, on detached service to the Mission San Gabriel, petitioned, and was granted in 1784, 36,403 acres by the King of Spain through the Governor, Pedro Fages.

Below Hospitality House, near the entrance to Descanso Gardens is an Historic Marker, on the site of the old Verdugo Oak, near which, legend tells us, Corporal Verdugo received his land grant. The land was a vast triangular tract, the tip of which pointed to the three year old Pueblo de Los Angeles. This tip was the meeting place of the Arroyo Seco (then called the Arroyo Hondo) and the Rio de Los Angeles.

Verdugo did not immediately give up his corporalship. He stayed with the army and sent his brother to build a house. The first one was of "sticks." He planted a garden and a vineyard and looked after the cattle and horses.

In 1798, Verdugo was given consent to retire from the Army and moved his large family to the then-named Rancho San Rafael.

The Ranch prospered, and by 1817, the ex-corporal could make a good report to the governor upon the number

of cattle and horses on the Rancho: large cattle, 1800; small cattle, 100; wild horses, 600; gent's horses, 70; gentle mules, 20; wild mules, 50.

Years of cattle ranching and agriculture followed until 1831, when Jose Verdugo died, leaving his Rancho San Rafael to his son and daughter, Julio and Catalina Verdugo.

As years passed, the flags of Mexico, the Republic of California and finally that of the United States were raised over the area, and in 1851, the Verdugo Land Grant was validated by a U.S. Board of Land Commissioners.

In 1855, the site of the Verdugo Oak was recorded as a surveyor's mark for the area.

Life moved leisurely on and the Verdugo Fiestas and Rodeos are legendary. Bears infested the canyons in what is now the Glendale and Montrose areas. It is said that visitors, therefore, were met by vaqueros to give them a safe journey along Verdugo Road. The firing of guns and the waving of serapes kept away the wild bears.

The day after New Year's in 1861, Julio Verdugo signed a document which was the beginning of the end of the Verdugos' ownership of Rancho San Rafael. It was a mortgage, and high interest rates that were customary, but ruinous, that led to the loss of the property in 1869.

After the loss by the Verdugo family, the property had many owners in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but the Descanso Gardens area remained in undeveloped serenity until 165 acres were purchased by Mr. Boddy in 1937, with an added 460 acres of mountain-stream watershed lying to the north.

Manchester Boddy, a young man with a vision and courage, cleared the poison oak from his land, raised cattle, dairy cows, produce, fruit and poultry and completed his dream home. He named his property Rancho del Descanso. "Descanso" in Spanish means rest or repose.

Meanwhile, Mr. Boddy had become interested in camellias and their land-

scaping under the oaks. He obtained all he could locally and placed them along the driveway to their home.

The camellia arrived in the United States via Europe. Tea drinking had come to England by 1700 with such an impact that it was hoped that domestic tea culture might prosper. However, the wily, monopoly-conscious Chinese substituted *Camellia sasanquas* for the *Camellia sinensis* (the tea plant) and the sea captains, no botanists, unwittingly introduced the ornamental species in Europe.

Popularity of the camellia spread to the United States with vast plantings in the Southern States. The Civil War ravaged much of the prized beauty and the camellia declined in popularity.

Meantime, following the gold rush, the camellia came to California by boat, having crossed the Isthmus through the yellow fever jungle to Panama, and by packhorse and paddleboat to Sacramento.

As in the South, camellia culture had lapsed and few varieties were available at the time Mr. Boddy made his plantings. He purchased his first plants from a nurseryman in San Gabriel named Mark Anthony who later became superintendent of Descanso Gardens.

Mr. Boddy became so interested in camellias that he literally lived with one foot in Rancho del Descanso and the other in the office of the *Los Angeles Daily News* and much of the newspaper work was conducted from his home.

The real beginning of the growth of the camellia gardens began in 1941, when Mr. J. Howard Asper was asked to become curator of Rancho del Descanso. At the beginning of World War II, Mr. Boddy purchased large quantities of nursery stock and in succeeding years Mr. Asper managed the procurement of a *Camellia japonica* collection second to none in the world.

Dr. Walter Lammerts joined the Descanso staff in 1945, and it was through his efforts that many new camellias and roses were developed.

While the horticultural development of Rancho del Descanso progressed, the Boddy home became a beehive of activity. The Boddy family were generous hosts, and guests were frequent, including those from overseas, such as Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Instead of escorting ladies on horseback for fiestas, modern autos brought guests through the camellia forest and a camellia corsage was pinned on each lady as she arrived for a party.

The reception hall, solarium, large drawing room, library, and dining room were filled with flowers where noted horticulturists mixed and exchanged knowledge with camellia lovers and friends. Daytime guests enjoyed the view of the developing Crescenta-Canada Valley nestled at the foot of the mountains as the fame of Rancho del Descanso grew.

In 1953, Mr. Boddy retired from the newspaper business. The County of Los Angeles purchased the property and named it Descanso Gardens. It was under the direction of the Department of Parks and Recreation and was not a success. In 1957, the Board of Supervisors contemplated sale of the property for subdivision.

It was at this time that a group of interested citizens organized what was to become Descanso Gardens Guild, later incorporated into the supportive group which saved these lovely gardens from destruction. In 1958, the Guild was successful in convincing the Board of Supervisors that the Gardens should be preserved, and it was placed under the management of the Los Angeles County Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

The Gardens have flourished since then and Guild activities have increased in the beautiful Boddy home known as Hospitality House.

In 1959, the first Christmas Decorations Show was held, at first alternating every other year with the Festival of Garden Lights in summer. However, the popularity of this holiday

event soon made it an annual occasion now known as the Nine Days of Christmas.

With the Christmas Show, the Red Carpet Tea became a gala occasion with Guild members and friends viewing the exhibits a day before the opening to the public. In the past two years an additional day for the handicapped is held the day after the public closing which brings joy to many people and a warm, rewarding feeling to the volunteers who help the guests.

In the late 1960's, the Guild received a memorial gift from the family of Paul J. Howard, a former Los Angeles nurseryman, in the form of antique Chinese tiles with sufficient funds for creating a Meditation Garden adjoining the House, and its dedication was one of many Guild-sponsored receptions which again made this gracious home a happy, active place.

In 1970, Guild activities had grown to the point where an office was opened in the Master Bedroom Suite of the House. This large area, opening onto a balcony with a view of the Valley, has a mirrored dressing room and wardrobe that gave the Guild members great delight in looking back on what had been a gracious way of life and made them more determined to preserve this lovely home and the surrounding gardens.

In 1972, the Guild determined that the outdated and inadequate kitchen of the House needed refurbishing. What started out to be the purchase of a new stove and refrigerator grew to a complete remodeling of the wing of the building. A butler's pantry, kitchen, service and storage areas were ripped out and a model Garden Kitchen with a flower-arranging room were installed. Again Descanso Gardens was recognized as publicity appeared in nationally-known magazines.

This new kitchen inspired the formation of a Gourmet Luncheon Group which planned and served Theme Luncheons to Guild members

and their friends. Recipes were later printed and sold at the Christmas Show.

One idea led to another, and a day at Descanso was originated. Participating groups are given a tram tour of the Gardens, with a luncheon and illustrated lecture in the afternoon. This has made many more friends for the Gardens with new Guild memberships and donations being received.

A perpetually rotating Art Show with artists demonstrating their skills on weekends gives the public a never-ending viewer's delight with excellent revenue for the Guild which received a percentage of the sales.

The House is the site of the monthly awards and retirement luncheons for the employees of Los Angeles County.

Classes are given in horticulture, flower arranging, cooking and arts and crafts.

The Guild Flower Arranging Committee decorates the House weekly as well as creating lovely bouquets for every occasion as needed.

The Mary Wills Flower Show has become an annual event at the time of the Camellia Show.

As the days of the Verdugos and the Boddys are happy memories, Descanso Guild members continue to greet guests in the manner of the gracious hospitality for which this lovely structure has always been known.



Have you heard about the new video game coming out in which horrible gremlins chase you and gobble up everything you own? It's called Tax Man. (Alex Thien).

Don't you just hate the way joggers talk? At lunch the other day, I heard Harold say, "So far this year I've run five hundred miles." Bill replied, "Big deal. So far I've run a thousand miles." Bennett just smiled and said, "I won't even say how many miles I've run — but yesterday I had to have my feet aligned."

Camellia Society of Orange County

Nuccio's Nurseries
3555 Chaney Trail
Altadena, CA 91001

Dear Friends,

The members of the Orange County Camellia Society send their warmest congratulations on the occasion of your fiftieth anniversary. (Surely, the years haven't flown by that fast.) You can be justly proud of the introductions you have brought to the camellia and azalea worlds.

Your thoughtful services and generosity to camellia societies, large and small, should be another source of pride. Your friendliness and the considerate manner in which you deal with everyone is to be complimented. In every way, Nuccio's Nurseries are proof positive of our cherished idea, "Camellias are a family affair."

Please accept our best wishes for continued success and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,
The Orange County Camellia Society
Frances L. Butler, Secretary

Central California Camellia Society

Mr. Joe Nuccio
Mr. Julius Nuccio
Nuccio's Nurseries

Dear Joe and Julius:

We of the Central California Camellia Society wish to add our congratulations to those of the entire camellia world to Nuccio's Nurseries on the occasion of their 50th anniversary celebration. The Nuccio's sincere interest and help to all of us camellia lovers throughout the years has played a great part in our continued love of the hobby of growing and showing camellias.

To borrow a phrase from the recently completed Olympic Games, the Nuccios are "world class" in every way.

Sincerely,
Ruth Ann Lewis,
Corresponding Secretary

Pomona Valley Camellia Society

As we recognize the 50th anniversary of Nuccio's Nurseries, we cannot help but question where our hobby would be were it not for these many years of dedication and accomplishment. How many of us camellia hobbyists found our interest undeniably, irrevocably soaring with our first visit to Nuccio's? What better way to encourage new growers than to expose them to the plants and personalities that are at Nuccio's? Indeed, Nuccio's is very much an integral part of all that we enjoy in our camellia hobby. The *Camellia Nomenclature* reveals just how many varieties originated at Nuccio's, and we know that every new introduction has been reviewed against their exacting standards.

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society has initiated the Clark Thomas Award for newer varieties that perform well in our inland area. Not surprising, three of the five awards presented thus far have gone to Nuccio's introductions — Grand Prix, Nuccio's Gem, and Nuccio's Jewel.

In addition to camellias, Nuccio's has delighted most of us with an incredible selection of azaleas, many of them the results of their own hybridizing program. This facet of the nursery is of particular interest to Pomona Valley, because, for many years, we have been involved in the preparation of garden exhibits. These exhibits emphasize what is superior, new, and unusual. Nuccio's, the undisputed leader in azalea varieties, consistently has provided us with the latest in azalea hybrids and, more recently, a host of satsuki varieties from Japan. Regardless of the plant materials used, public response is always the greatest over these new and lovely azalea blooms.

But, aside from the plants and the latest introductions, all who know the Nuccio personalities readily agree that much of the fascination that is with Nuccio's Nurseries comes from just knowing the pleasure of their company. Joe, Julius, Jude, Tom and Jim — we love you all!

Temple City Camellia Society

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary in the Camellia Nursery business.

We, of the Temple City Camellia Society, wish to thank you for all the cooperation and support you have provided for us over the many years at both our annual shows and our monthly meetings.

Temple City Camellia Society.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Tax deductible contributions to the CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND for the period December 31, 1983 to August 15, 1984 are as follows:

Wilkins Garner

Ted & Evelyn Mitchell - Contribution in memory of Dorothy Pieri & Mrs. Alfred Krueger

Mrs. Ken Thompson - Contribution in memory of Dorothy Pieri

Elsie & Sergio Bracci - Contribution in memory of Dorothy Pieri

Southern California Camellia Society - Contribution in memory of Dorothy Pieri

Paul Dennison (Australia) - Contribution for Crysanthus scion

The 1984 Edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE has been paid for in full and the balance in the Fund as of March 15, 1984 is \$4,620.25
Important Notices:

- (1) The NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND needs your continued support. Sales of the book and an allocation of the membership dues will continue to be added to the Fund on a quarterly basis. However, we still need the support of all interested hobbyists.
- (2) It should be stated that all of the 118 C. chrysanthus plants which were donated to generate support for the Fund were grafts from the seedling shown on the cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The bloom is not pink as had been erroneously reported.

Have You Paid Your 1984-85 Dues?

Membership Dues \$15 — Magazine Subscription \$10

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

Unbound volumes Camellia Review 1954-1980 6.00

Contact: William W. Donnan

700 South Lake Ave #120, Pasadena, CA 91106

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, California 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: 3rd Wednesday each month, October through April except Nov./Dec. 3rd Wed., 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: 3rd Thursday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.

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, 1935 Apex, 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, Carolyn McKenney, 1014 Enslin Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, 800 E. Morris Ave., 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 Altizer, 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 Geerken; 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 Merritt, 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.

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CAMELLIA
Society, Inc.

POST BOX 50525
PASADENA, CA 91105

MR & MRS A. L. SUMMERSON
1700 HILLFAIR DR
GLENDALE CA 91208

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 740
Pasadena, CA

Return Postage Guaranteed