

THE

# Camellia Review



*C. japonica* 'Serenade'  
Courtesy "Camellias Illustrated"

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

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# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

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

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

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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## DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno  
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 meeting on 3rd Monday at Hattie May Hammat Hall, Fresno State College.
- Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield  
 President: Sam Kleinsasser; Secretary: Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St., Bakersfield  
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month, Oct. through April at Cunningham Memo-  
 rial Art Gallery, 1930 R St., Bakersfield
- San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego  
 President: Willis H. Miller; Secretary: William DeFrance, 4315 53rd St., San Diego 15  
 Meetings held 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Floral Association Building,  
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- Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona  
 President: Mack W. Dinwiddie; Secretary: Mrs. George H. Bell, 3829 N. Garey Ave.,  
 La Verne  
 Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April at Claremont  
 Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont
- Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City  
 President: Ernest Pieri; Secretary: Mae Franklin, 9151 E. Woolley St., Temple City  
 Meetings held 4th Monday of each month Nov. through April at Women's Club Au-  
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- Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana  
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 2212 N. Baker Street, Santa Ana.
- Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino  
 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino
- Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley.....Arlington, Virginia  
 President: Edward Carter; Secretary: Mrs. Edward P. Carter, 5505 42nd Ave.,  
 Hyattsville, Md.  
 Meetings held 1st Monday of month, October through April, alternating between  
 Alexandria, Virginia; Washington, D.C., and Chevy Chase, Maryland
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# *Camellia Reviewer*

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ELIZABETH BEEBE

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## **We Can't Help It**

Time is running the wrong way for us this month — the BIG SHOW at Descanso will be going on as you all read this so a report will have to wait for the April Review. And by that time camellias will be thinking that they won't have to worry their little petals so much about blooming. They must thank Fate that they grow in Southern California this year where no blizzards or dropping temperatures with ice and snow interrupt their processes. In fact the blooming season here has been exceptionally early this year. Roy Thompson remarks in the January Camellia Bulletin, quote: "There may be some connection between this early blooming season and the temperature of the Pacific Ocean; at any rate it is worth mentioning. The Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla recently announced that the temperature of the Pacific from Panama to Alaska has been from 2 to 5½ degrees warmer during 1957 and that subtropical fish have been taken for the first time near Seattle. This, the Institute says, may have profound influence on our climate, especially if the trend continues. Hence, the camellias may have been triggered this season into an earlier blooming period by the warmer temperatures."

## **Congratulations to Northwest**

All this and fragrance too in our cover flower this month. It was very gratifying to have a cover of a north-western camellia and we were happy to learn its originators were Mary and Al Johnson, active in the Oregon Camellia Society. In fact the former has been the group's Secretary and the latter a President. Mary we are

told has been actively interested in hybridizing for some years and is just recently beginning to see some of the better results of her labor. She now has several seedlings that show real promise and several species crosses. We hope to be able to report on these more specifically at a later date.

## **On the Light Side**

Although we must admit that Arrangements at flower shows must conform to some types of classification and although we do sincerely admire Oh-an-Ah over Camellia-compote-arrangements or Camellia-with-candle-arrangements we perhaps look too much for the unusually imaginative which most certainly doesn't get any prizes. We were quite intrigued therefore to hear Bill Woodroof's description of the arrangements "From Across the Tracks" which he said as far as he was concerned stole the ACS Show arrangements in New Orleans. Exhibitors were men who "knew nothing about arranging" and the whole was judged by the same standard. Following this, first prize was awarded to a discarded sort of camellia sitting with bare roots on a stump—one small camellia tucked in a crevice of a graft which did not take. He spoke of another "prize winner" which was a camellia stem stuck in a can—bearing a cardboard disk on which several camellia blooms were pinned. All this was pure fun—having nothing to do with the serious arrangements. We were quite amused by an entry at the San Diego Show. Mounted on a piece of blue styrofoam which was set at an angle were big blobs of what seemed to be spun glass or could have been cotton candy. On each rested a pink camellia. The question was—were these hats? Were they clouds (with top knots) or were they abstractions of

*(Continued on Page 24)*

## CAMELLIAS GRACE A COLLEGE CAMPUS

By CLARK THOMAS

On the Mount San Antonio College campus near Pomona, California, the growth of the college has been paralleled by the growing of camellias. There were no camellias on the grounds when the college was founded in 1946, although the site had been in use as a federal facility for several years. The first camellias appeared as part of the first college landscaping plans.

Dr. George Bell, founding president, and Mrs. Bell are camellia enthusiasts and gave a vigorous start to the present collection. Many fine plants were given to the college by Hubert Reeves of Pomona, and C. D. Cothran of San Dimas, who later grafted some choice varieties.

As each new building appeared, so increased the planting of camellias, until there are now over 400 plants in about 150 varieties. 'Finlandias' are a favorite, from white ones and

variegated specimens to several beautiful plants of 'King Lear'.

There are ten large plants of 'Margarete Hertrich' and several mature specimens each of 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Mathotiana', 'Lallarook', 'Debutante', 'High Hat', 'Daikagura' (both red and variegated), 'C. M. Hovey', 'Elegans', 'Professor Charles S. Sargent',

*(Continued on Page 19)*



College, camellias and a beautiful coed belong together in happy fashion as shown by Leonora Doll (it's her real name, too) who is a student at Mt. San Antonio College. Incidentally, the photograph shows also a small part of the fine camellia plantings on the campus which come under the expert jurisdiction of Clark Thomas, now Head Gardener of the College grounds.

Photo courtesy of Jack Kelly of the Public Information Department.

## FLOWERS TAKE OVER THE FEB. SCCS MEETING

It was unfortunate that the out-of-the-camellia world individuals we run into once in a while who ask, "Why all the fuss about camellias?" could not each and every one have attended the February meeting of the SCCS. Positive vocal answers were evident in the enthusiastic camellia talk of members and the many visitors, and mute but most definite answers were the hundreds of specimen blooms on display.

The large tables were crowded together and crowded with flowers. Enormous and 99 99/100 perfect were the huge retics and the judges had a difficult time choosing between the loveliness of the many fine varieties of *japonicas*. 'Drama Girl' was well named. The cluster of 'Magnoliaeflora' blossoms in almost irresistible appeal. And in the commercial display of Don and Blanche Miller the flowers of their 'Coral Pink Lotus' almost too beautiful for everyday existence.

The meeting itself bowed to the influence of the blossoms as President Caryll Pitkin conducted little business. As chairman of the Nominating Committee, Harold Dryden announced the following: For two year tenure, Al Dekker, Wilbur Foss, Eleanor Hayward and Ralph Peer. For one year, Les Marshall, Bill Goertz and Col. Frank Reed and R. F. Dickson.

A short report of the recent ACS meeting in New Orleans was given by William Woodroof. In numbers, he said, this was the largest camellia meeting which had ever been held. There were over 600 at the final wind-up banquet. Ralph Peer remains President and the western officers retain their duties.

Mr. Woodroof spoke of his surprise that there were so many wonderful flowers on exhibit because of the freezing, unfavorable weather which had been prevalent all over the east and south. "Tomorrow" took the show," he said and added that he was awfully pleased to see so many fine examples of western introductions.

Bill Wylan, Harvey Short and John

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Brown gave some suggestions on treatment of blooms to be entered in the shows. Although most of the latter will be over when this is read, it is pertinent to note that Mr. Wylan's central point was that blooms chosen for competition should be truly representative of the variety to which they belong. For instance, a very large flower of a cultivar whose best examples are smaller would rack up points against it even though in its own right it might be quite lovely. Harvey Short spoke of the importance of choosing and protecting the blooms on the bushes before cutting. John Brown exhibited a useful type of shallow boxes that stack together to provide a convenient transportation medium for specimen flowers.

The evening's winners were: In the Over 4" category, an 'Adolphe Audusson' took first for Dolores Taylor. Dr. E. C. Hubbs carried off 2nd with his 'Guilio Nuccio', while A. E. Krumm's 'White Empress' took 3rd. A 'Blood of China' entered by Mrs. C. E. Osborn was judged 4th and Frank Reed's 'Royal Trumpeteer' was 5th.

In the Under 4" class, Harold Dryden's 'Dr. Tinsley' took 1st, Morgan Chapman's 'Col. Firey' was 2nd, Martin Johnson's 'Mrs. Howard Asper' (Hana Fuki) won 3rd and a 'Pink Shell' of Mrs. Tom Logan's was the 4th place winner. Mrs. C. E. Osborn won again with her 'Feasti' in 5th place.

Of the gorgeous *reticulatas*, a huge 'Crimson Robe' of Gertrude Milliken won 1st, a 'Confucius' of Wilbur Foss took 2nd and Frank Storment's 'Noble Pearl' won 3rd.

# NEW PHILOSOPHY FOR DESCANSO GARDENS

By DR. WILLIAM S. STEWART

The Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens was requested on January 28, 1958 by the County Supervisors to operate Descanso Gardens effective July 1, 1958. In making the request the Supervisors accepted a tentative program for the Gardens. The emphasis and philosophy of this program is based on an educational function for Descanso Gardens.

The quest for knowledge is not what leads throngs to a recreational area but it is precisely that which will bring visitors and students alike to the Gardens. The new approach will emphasize an educational program in gardening and horticulture and will be based on mass display gardens in which the various plant societies of Los Angeles County will be given the opportunity to participate. Each month a different plant group will be featured for the general public with the outstanding *Camellia* display continuing to be one of the main features. The schedule for monthly displays is now being prepared. Suggestions have been: April—California Wildflowers and Bulbs; May—Iris; June—(?); July—*Begonias* and *Fuchsias*; August—Ferns; September—Forest plants and Conservation; October—Roses; November—House plants, and December—Christmas greens, berries and *Poinsettias*. On each of the four Saturdays every month the educational activities may be programmed as follows, using the month of October as an example:

October—Rose month

1st Saturday. Horticultural show: Outstanding examples of roses grown by Los Angeles County amateurs.

2nd Saturday. Flower arrangers show: Using roses.

3rd Saturday. Demonstration of culture: Techniques in rose gardening.

4th Saturday. Show of Commercial Growers of Los Angeles County featuring recent award winners.

Months featuring other plants

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would follow a similar pattern for the Saturday programs.

In addition to these general educational activities, classes in gardening and horticulture will be held. Within the next three years it is planned to establish a school for professional gardeners by using the apprentice or trainee system supplemented with classes.

In cooperation with public schools, a gardening and nature study program for children will be initiated to utilize fully the gardens.

The gardens also will be available for other educational and cultural events of the County.

In keeping with the long established policy of governmental educational institutions, there will be no admission charge and the gardens will be of greater use to more people than heretofore.

A group of public spirited private citizens who are particularly interested in the development of Descanso Gardens are now organizing as a supporting unit. It is anticipated they will be affiliated with the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., which sponsors the Arboretum at Arcadia.

This brief outline of the proposed new program is in the early stages of planning. Suggestions and comments will be welcomed at any time. It is expected that about three years of actual experience will be needed to determine fully the role Descanso Gardens can play in our County. It is believed that if the philosophy of this program is successfully presented the results will be valuable and re-

warding to the County as a whole. Certainly there must be just about as many of our people interested in gardening as there are in baseball. After all, home and civic beautification has nothing on the debit side and everything to gain for all of us.

\* \* \*

ED NOTE: Dr. William S. Stewart, the Director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, will assume the superintendency of the Department of Descanso Gardens and the Arboretum on July 1st, 1958. John Threlkeld will remain as Superintendent of Descanso.

The new program will mean a great horticultural extension of interest for Southern Californians and its influence will spread world wide through the educational program un-

der development. Wisely avoiding duplication of effort, the Arboretum will continue to be the site of research and example of trees and woody shrubs while research projects in flowers will be carried on at Descanso. Here the camellia world will be enriched not only through technical study but through the untold thousands of blooms which will continue to delight both the serious camelliaphile and the casual visitor.

And in the busy commercial setting of Southern California it is well worth noting that the only payment required to become a part of the above is the energy expended to get to either the Arboretum in Arcadia or Descanso Gardens in La Canada.

The whole project might well be named "Horticultural Horizons Unlimited."

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## INARCHING IS SIMPLE AND REWARDING

By DR. HERBERT SHIRLEY

Ninety-five percent of camellia grafting is done by the cleft graft method. Inarching grafting is easier, and can be done at any time of the year.

If you want a *reticulata* to appear to have good foliage, inarch one to a *japonica*. Leave one branch for foliage. Thus the *reticulata's* beautiful flowers will have a finer background than the *reticulata* plant itself could furnish.

The method is simple. Take a camellia in a gallon can, bury it as near the trunk of a camellia shrub as possible without disturbing the roots of the plant. Then select a branch of the container plant that will reach the trunk of the shrub.

Cut or scrape the bark of the branch down to the wood for about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " , leaving four to five leaves or more on the branch. Lay the branch where the scraped area is, across or parallel to the trunk; just where the scraped part touches the trunk, cut or scrape the bark there, the same distance as on the branch. Tie the two together tightly with heavy string.

Next, take a small handful of sphagnum moss, wet well with water and place it on top of the graft. Cut an inch-wide strip from a plastic bag

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and wrap around the sphagnum to hold in the moisture.

Leave this for three or four months or until the joining is well healed over. Remove the string. Now cut off the branch below the graft and the trunk above the graft and you have a new camellia plant on an old rootstock.

The growth from the older plant will reproduce its original size in two years and you still have the plant in the gallon can.

I have grafted four *reticulatas* in this manner, leaving a branch for foliage and the rest for bloom. A plant of this type is certainly an improvement on nature though it might confuse the experts.







































