

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Don Mac'

Courtesy American Camellia Society

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No. 5

One Dollar

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: \$6.00.

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. japonica 'Don Mac'

This is one of the newer Southern varieties to come to Southern California. It is a large to very large dark red semi-double to peony form, with curled and creped petals surrounding a large mass of stamens. It blooms throughout the season.



THOUGHTS

from the editor

This is written before the Descanso Gardens show but will be read after the show is history. This is a good time, therefore, to write about flower arrangements and camellia shows. There have been competitive flower arrangement shows in connection with all previous camellia shows at Descanso Gardens. One year the arrangement show was held on the week-end following the camellia show, but in the other years it was held in the Hospitality House in conjunction with the camellia show.

There is a strong feeling among some people that flower arrangements do not belong to camellia shows. The public attendance at the flower arrangement section at Descanso Gardens has attested to the fact that the public likes to look at flower arrangements. The attendance in the year that the arrangements show followed the camellia show proved this. We cannot overlook the fact, though, that at the 1962 Descanso Gardens arrangements show the public voted as "best arrangement", one that the judges had overlooked. It had flowers in it.

This writer has sat in many discussions of this subject, and can state with a high degree of confidence that the feeling among camellia people against having flower arrangements at the shows can be traced to the fact that in modern day flower arrangements principles, flowers are not the main feature of the arrangements. As the "rules" have been written and rewritten, the flower seems to have been given less importance. The camellia people say "O. K., have arrangements shows but not as a part of a camellia show where the flower is king".

So the directors of the Los Angeles Camellia Council decided that as a part of the 1963 camellia show at Descanso Gardens, a competitive flower arrangements show would not be held in the Hospitality House. Instead, the rooms would be decorated with arrangements that would feature camellias — that would show how camellias can be used in the home. I have heard flower arrangements teachers say that camellias are not suitable for flower arrangements. Most of the arrangements that have been entered in previous shows suggest that this admonition is followed to a large extent. The directors of the Los Angeles Camellia Council wanted to demonstrate that camellias can be used.

I believe that the people who specialize in flower arrangements should resume the management of the arrangements section of the Descanso Gardens show. But not, however, until they are willing to accept the principle that as a part of a camellia show, the arrangements should demonstrate how camellias can be used for decorating the home.

Harold E. Ditzler

CAMELLIAS OF THE FUTURE

E. C. Tourje

Camarillo, California

If, by any stretch of the imagination, this message could be said to have been inspired, the inspiration lies in a letter to the author from Dr. Robert K. Womack, professionally one of America's leading urologists practicing in Shreveport, Louisiana, and affectionately known throughout the camellia world as "Bob".

He recently wrote as follows: "I am sure you will remember Mr. Truman Pearce of Shreveport, who is also quite interested in hybridizing. He has a one-year graft of *C. japonica* LETITIA SCHRAEDER x *reticulata*, that has an extremely large, interesting leaf. Needless to say, we will be interested in seeing a bloom on this plant in the future."

What is so inspiring about this letter? Permit me to briefly review the camellia hybridizing activities of the past few years. Hybrid crosses such as the one Dr. Womack referred to are not yet commonplace, I agree. They will be, however, within a very short period of time. I can name fifteen or eighteen serious-minded and enlightened (I am personally acquainted with Mr. Pearce, and I can testify that he is all that) hybridizers who are now busily intent on creating new and more interesting, and better camellia hybrids similar in character to the one referred to. Moreover, hundreds of strictly amateur enthusiasts are "trying their hands". The element of inspiration is not, oddly enough, in Dr. Womack's statement nor in the information imparted, but in the fact that ten years ago, it would have been impossible for him to have made the statement.

The plain fact is that the reader could, in 1953, have enumerated America's serious-minded hybridizers

on the fingers of one hand, although a number of dilettantes were and, I might add, still are attempting to create better *Williamsii* than the British had done. Ten years ago, the incomparable Lammerts (Dr. Walter E.) was crossing *C. cuspidata* into the *japonica* species of camellia, and had attempted the crossing of *C. reticulata* into the *japonica* family, but had abandoned both efforts under the belief that it was not being accomplished. Such now-famous but then-unheralded hybridizers as J. Howard Asper and David L. Feathers were awakening to the possibilities of blending the popular species of camellia, and by means of selection obtaining resultant hybrids possessing the better characteristics of both parents.

Now, ten years later, not only have those persons achieved spectacular success in their respective fields, but the numbers of such men have increased manyfold, and include such outstanding personages as Drs. Francis de Vos, Assistant Director, U. S. National Arboretum, and R. W. Lighty, geneticist, Longwood Gardens; Vernon James, Lilette (Mrs. M. J.) Witman, and a dozen others who, with Asper and Feathers, are vigorously and intelligently creating new hybrids to delight the camellia-lover. In addition to these, there are numerous hybridizers in foreign lands, particularly England, New Zealand and Australia, with eyes on the same goals.

What of the future? Space does not permit recitation of the accomplishments of the various plant breeders, but already Asper has produced the spectacular cross between *reticulata* LION HEAD and *japonica* CORO-

(Continued on next page)

NATION; has created the *Camellia X Tourjii* by crossing *C. reticulata* v. CHANG'S TEMPLE into the species *pitardii* v. YUNNANACA;* has breached the breeding barrier which has hitherto surrounded the species *sasanqua*, and passed to the hybrid progeny the multi-blooming and early-flowering characters of this tough species; he has, for the first time in camellia breeding history created an intergeneric hybrid by crossing another genus into the camellia family; and has on numerous occasions used the recently-discovered and beautiful, but fragile, *C. granthamiana* as both seed and pollen parent in conjunction with selected varieties of other camellia species. These are but a few of his many accomplishments. Other breeders have also contributed much to the future of the camellia.

Will the effort end here? No, indeed. New camellias to please the esthetic taste are very worthwhile, but are such camellias merely an end in themselves? To many, yes; to many more, no. The ravages of freezing weather take their annual toll of camellias in many camellia-growing areas. Elsewhere, but, generally speaking above the Washington, D.C. latitude, conditions now forbid camellia culture except under glass, except in insolated spots.

It is probably not too much to say that at this moment there are camellia plants now in existence which will enable the householder of the future to successfully grow camellias in climes not heretofore possible. This has not been the result of accident, but of patient scientific breeding. It is the work of a group of men, primarily scientists, who have dedicated their efforts to the improvement of the camellia without loss of its in-

herent beauty. This serious effort is being made to combine the winter-hardiness of lesser-known camellia sub-species, and even the hardiness of genera kindred to the camellia with the ever-popular camellia species such as *japonica*, *sasanqua* and *reticulata*, to produce hybrids possessing both *hardiness* and *esthetic appeal*.

The group referred to is the Camellia Research Committee,* whose membership includes such illustrious names as those of Lammerts, Asper and Dr. David Armstrong, plant breeders and hybridizers; Dr. James Bonner, Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology; horticulturists Reg W. Ragland, Vice Chairman of this Committee, and Dr. Francis de Vos, Assistant Director, U. S. National Arboretum; botanists Drs. William S. Stewart, Director, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Harlan Lewis, Dean, Division of Life Sciences, University of California, and A. G. Plakidas, Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology, Louisiana State University, retired; and cytogeneticists Dr. Samuel L. Emsweller, Leader, Ornamental Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Albert E. Longley, U.S.D.A., retired.

The Committee's breeding program is being conducted primarily by Mr. Asper and Drs. Longley and Clifford R. Parks, the latter two being salaried and engaged jointly by the Committee and Los Angeles County. They are officed at and utilize the extensive facilities of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia, Calif.

This group, in addition to breeding winter-hardiness into the camellia, is intensively at work breeding fragrance into the popular species so that the camellia of the future may have not only the form, size, color and quality which we so greatly prize,

*Hybrid CARL TOURJE will be available at selected nurseries in the autumn of 1963.—Ed.

*Mr. Tourje, the author, is Chairman of this Committee.—Ed.

but a delightful degree of fragrance, a fragrance surpassing that of any popular camellia presently known.

This group is, moreover, engaged in an active program designed to add shades of yellow to the camellia which, until now, has known only varying shades of red and pink in addition to white. This is neither a new thought nor a new hope. Much has been said and written about the "yellow" camellia of the Orient. Strangely enough, however, no Occidental has ever seen it, at least in modern times, and so far as the author can ascertain, the rumor will always remain something of a will-o'-the-wisp, certainly during the continuing period of Communist occupancy.

Why wait for the yellow camellia of Hanoi? Chromotography (one of the scientists identified with the Committee, Dr. Clifford W. Parks, is a specialist in the science of chromotography) has disclosed that a number of our popular camellias and at least one allied genus possesses yellow pigment in varying quantities. This undoubtedly is a recessive character, which probably accounts for the fact that we have no yellow camellia in commerce.

Does this mean that we will not have yellow camellias? Not at all. In fact, it can be stated that those who have followed the activities of this group of scientists above referred to, as well as the scientists themselves, are quite convinced that the addition of yellow with its myriad shadings and blendings with pink and white is well within our reach.

It should be pointed out that both fragrance and broadening of color range are qualities — characters, to the scientist — which are readily manifested to the senses. Either or both may be found in first-generation hybrids; second-generation hybrids should, of course, multiply the number manifold.

Does that mean that we shall have fragrant and/or yellow camellias available to the public within the next three or four years? No, indeed, I wish it were as simple as that, but it is not. This we appreciate when we realize that the specimens possessing fragrance and color must be blended into the better varieties of our popular species to produce hybrids possessing desirable size, form and texture of flower, together with pleasing growth habits, as well as fragrance and greater color range. This is a time-consuming process, as it has been in all other horticultural fields — roses, for example. However, with the scientific knowledge and techniques available to this group of scientists, hybrid blooms which once took years to produce now take months only.

Winter-hardiness is something else. This quality, unlike fragrance and color, cannot be determined by the senses. It can be determined only by testing, and as most of us know, there are many factors to be weighed and considered in evaluating the property of hardiness. For instance, a quick, dry freeze, which is certain to prove lethal, can oft-times be safely borne by a plant subjected to the same degree of temperature reached in gradual stages under higher humidity. Again, a cold snap sufficient to kill off a container plant with closely-confined root system, may scarcely damage a large well-established plant in the ground.

One would be somewhat less than frank if he were to leave the impression on his readers that availability of camellia plants winter-hardy in Boston, Massachusetts, is just around the turn. Much work remains to be done before that is possible. It is, however, not only quite possible, but is very definitely on its way. These scientists are now think-

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TO FERTILIZE OR NOT TO FERTILIZE?

David L. Feathers

Editor of THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN

Published by Northern California Camellia Society

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the July 1956 issue of THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN, which was an issue devoted to the subject of fertilization. Minor changes have been made by Mr. Feathers in connection with references in the original to other articles in the magazine.

The principle of fertilization is so old that it is idle to argue its case — under certain conditions it is indispensable in the culture of camellias. However, the fact remains that it is generally an artificial, rather than a natural process, and as such entails some risk. I say “generally artificial” because the use of mulches composed of vegetative matter also constitutes feeding, while fertilization, in our terms of reference, means the use of something other than the camellia’s natural food. Using the same expression, “under certain conditions” fertilization is also unnecessary, for the writer has seen hundred-year-old camellias bearing thousands of blooms, many of which would be blue ribbon candidates, which had never been fertilized although annually mulched. Because of this contradiction and two other controlling factors which I shall mention later, the fertilization question has become without doubt the most controversial matter in the entire culture of camellias.

Although much has been written on this subject, a review of the literature is not a solution. For example, consider the bald statement by Halliday: “I never use guano or any other fertilizer for camellias”, in relation to the occasional super-technical advice of the present day that one should make up his own compound of the trace as well as the essential elements and adhere to a strict program of plant feeding — or else! Unquestion-

ably, for the average person, the truth lies somewhere in between these extremes.

It is our guess that this confusion and controversy arises largely by reason of the failure of the person offering advice to qualify it properly, for there are two matters that are absolutely controlling: one’s growing conditions and one’s objectives. Certainly we cannot prescribe the same technique for the person growing camellias in the ground as for him who grows his plants solely in containers, for in one case the environment is natural while in the other it is artificial. Nor can the same case be made for the private individual as for the commercial grower because their objectives are usually quite different and may even be diametrically opposite. A nurseryman’s business being to produce a salable plant as quickly as possible, the emphasis naturally must be upon growth; however, the average person’s usual concern is with florescence and he may actually prefer slow growth to avoid the necessity of frequent repotting or transplanting. (In fact, many regard the camellia’s slow growth as one of its greatest attributes.) Now, if we make the extreme comparison of the professional growing his plants in containers versus the amateur growing camellias in the open ground we get a contradiction of both the objective and the environment. No wonder there are widely different techniques, resulting in bewilderment on the part of the uninitiated! It follows, therefore, that there can be no standard procedure that will fit all conditions. This is certainly an instance where circumstances alter cases and it is up to the individual to determine first, what his objectives are; then to apply

such methods as are generally agreed upon as desirable, *under his particular type of growing conditions.*

The farther away we get from nature, the more necessary it is to employ artifices and substitutes. Thus, in the case of container culture, fertilization becomes absolutely indispensable. Whereas, in the open ground, the camellia has comparative freedom for the roots to seek out nourishment and moisture, when imprisoned between the walls of a container it rapidly consumes all the nutrients in the soil and, in fact, the roots will eventually supplant the soil itself unless repotted. In the case of ground planting, there are also many conditions which necessitate fertilization if optimum performance is to be had. Where the soil is poor or lacking in any essential element, and even in good soil where there are strongly-competing roots from other vegetation, the use of an acid camellia-azalea type fertilizer will be found extremely beneficial. Aside from such ordinary needs of the plant for proper growth, fertilization at or slightly prior to the blooming period has been proven to increase the size and quality of the flowers.

However, in those exceptional cases where virgin soil and ideal environmental conditions generally are present, the camellia, which has the superior form of growth of a tree (which it is) soon acquires such vigor and strength as often to make unnecessary and even unwise the use of supplemental feeding devices. In this regard, we should never lose sight of the fact that, in Nature's wonderful scheme nothing is destroyed, it simply assumes another form. Let me quote the following from an excellent source on the subject of plant foods:* "In nature the decay of accumulated vegetable matter in the surface soil and the disintegration of mineral parts of the

subsoil maintain a balanced supply of these (essential) substances, the elements continually being returned to the soil as plants die and decay where they grew". If, then, we regularly and systematically add humus (compost, leaf mold, etc.) as a surface dressing, a well-grown camellia has everything it needs, *provided* it is growing naturally in good soil to begin with. But the question arises, "Do you know you have such soil?" and, if the answer is "no", you had better fertilize.

Granted that fertilization is indicated, what to use, when and how? Here, again, there certainly is no unanimity of opinion — in fact, there are almost as many pet techniques as there are outstanding growers — and this opens up another battle: the organic vs. the inorganic fertilizer partisans. Boiling it all down, there seem to be at least three important principles that come to the surface: (1) the fertilizer used should have an organic source of nitrogen; (2) normally, feedings should preferably be frequent and light, not heavy feedings widely separated; (3) alternate in the type of fertilizer used, particularly as between the liquid and dry forms, to get the benefits of each. There is sufficient evidence that there is no one and only way to achieve outstanding success in this matter. The principles on which authorities and experienced growers generally do concur should, of course, be given the most careful attention. But above all, the reader should first be sure that his conditions and objectives match those of whichever qualified authority he chooses to follow.

A parting admonition: Fertilizer in the hands of the novice can be a dangerous weapon in the garden, especially the chemical forms and particularly those having a high nitrogen content (over 5%). Being soluble in water, their stimulative effect is in-

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*The New Garden Encyclopedia, Wm. H. Wise & Co., 1941 revised edition.

SHOW RESULTS

SAN DIEGO CAMELIA SOCIETY
San Diego, California — February 2-3, 1963

SUPER SWEEPSTAKES DIVISION

(Open to former Sweepstakes winners of any camellia show)

Sweepstakes — Reg. W. Ragland, Orange
Sweepstakes Runner-up — Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino
Best Japonica — 'Drama Girl', Mr. and Mrs. Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino
Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Tomorrow Var', Reg. W. Ragland, Orange
Best Reticulata — 'Buddha', Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
Best 3 or 5 Japonicas — 'Drama Girl', Mr. and Mrs. Caryll W. Pitkin,
San Marino
Best Miniature — 'Memento', Reg. W. Ragland, Orange

AMATEUR DIVISION

(Non-winners of Sweepstakes Award)

Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino
Sweepstakes Runner-up — Paul McClelland, Orange
Best Japonica — 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Foss, San Marino
Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Guilio Nuccio', Paul McClelland, Orange
Best Reticulata — 'Noble Pearl', Mr. and Mrs. Clive Pillsbury, San Diego
Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Butterfly Wings', William Gibson, San Diego
Best 3 or 5 Japonicas — 'Wildwood', Thomas E. Hughes, La Crescenta
Best 3 or 5 Reticulatas — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Heard,
San Diego
Best Miniature — 'Miss Muffet', Judge and Mrs. Byron Lindsley, San Diego
Best Hybrid or Species — 'Pale Beauty', Mrs. R. F. Dickson Sr., Pasadena

BLOOMS ON COURT OF HONOR (Both Divisions)

'Citation', 'Spring Sonnet', 'Mark Alan', 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Flame Var', 'Thelma Dale', 'Te Deum', 'Lady in Red', 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Betty Sheffield Blush', 'Tomorrow', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Julia France', 'Mary Ann Houser', 'Betty Robinson', 'Laura Walker', 'Wildwood', 'Ada Pieper', 'Shiro Chan'.

BEST NEW INTRODUCTION — SEEDLING OR SPORT

'Judge W. T. Ragland', entered by Reg. W. Ragland, Orange

CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

'Margaret Wells', entered by Lewis Greenleaf, San Diego

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pomona, California — February 16-17, 1963

Sweepstakes — Frank Reed, Pasadena
Sweepstakes Runner-up — George Kalin, La Mesa
Best Japonica — 'Angel', Amos Kleinsasser, Bakersfield

- Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Royal Flush', Dan Roberts, San Fernando
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Angel', Amos Kleinsasser, Bakersfield
 Best 5 Japonicas — 'Purity', W. F. Goertz, San Marino
 Best Reticulata — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Krumm, Altadena
 Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Krumm, Altadena
 Best 'Kramer's Supreme' — Amos Kleinsasser, Bakersfield
 Best 'Guilio Nuccio' — W. F. Goertz, San Marino
 Best 'Hawaii' — Frank Reed, Pasadena
 Best Miniature — 'Red Buttons', Betty and John Robinson, La Canada
 Best 3 Miniatures — 'Johnny's Folly', Betty and John Robinson, La Canada
 Best Seedling — Ashby's #60, Al. and Vera Parker, Temple City
 Best Sport — 'Julia's Favorite' Sport, Frank Reed, Pasadena
 Best Hybrid — 'Santa Cruz', Ernest Pieri
 Best Species Flower — Roseaflora, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
 Best New Introduction of Last 3 Years — 'Julia France', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield
 Best Collector's Table — Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield
 Best Container Grown Plant — 'King's Ransom', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
 Best Commercial Display — Hamilton & Clark Nursery, Upland

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Hillsdale Show — San Mateo, California
February 16-17, 1963

- Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Davi, Pittsburg
 Sweepstakes Runner-up — Thomas J. Sertich, Sacramento
 Sweepstakes for Miniatures — W. O. Addicott, Atherton
 Best Japonica — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Dr. John Lawson, Antioch
 Best Japonica Runner-up — 'C. M. Wilson', Mrs. Jack C. Butler, Lodi
 Japonicas in Court of Honor — 'Faith', 'Flame', 'Adolphe Audusson Special', 'Yosemite', 'Marion Mitchell', 'Jaunita Smith', 'Jack McCaskill', 'Flame Var', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis'
 Best Reticulata — 'Noble Pearl', Dr. F. E. Heitman, Lafayette
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Alba Plena', Dr. J. Holtzman, Crows Landing
 Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Tali Queen', A. S. Eckendorf, San Jose
 Best 7 Japonicas, All Different — Dr. D. J. Faustman, Sacramento
 Best Miniature — 'Tinker Bell', Newton Pratt, Sacraento
 Best Hybrid — 'Fluted Orchid', H. L. Page, Lafayette
 Best Seedling — SM17, D. L. Feathers, Lafayette

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, California
February 23-24, 1963

Sweepstakes

Based on Total Number of Blue Ribbons

Winner — Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

Runner-up — Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

(Continued on next page)

Based on Number of Blue Ribbons in Varieties having 3 or More Entries

Winner — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed

Runner-up — Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

Best Japonica—Large — ‘White Nun’, William Woodroof, Sherman Oaks

Best Japonica—Medium — ‘Francis McLanahan’, Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe, Upland

Best Japonica—Small — ‘Alison Leigh Woodroof’, W. O. Addicott, Atherton

Japonicas in Court of Honor — ‘Prince Eugene Napolian’, ‘General LeClerc’, ‘Conquistador’, ‘Guilio Nuccio Var’, ‘Drama Girl’, ‘Betty Robinson’, ‘Angel’, ‘Reg Ragland Var’, ‘Don Mac’, ‘R. L. Wheeler’, ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’, ‘Pink Diddy’, ‘Winifred Womack’, ‘Billie McCaskill’, ‘Iwane’, ‘Diddy Mealing’, ‘Colonial Lady’, ‘Peter Pan’, ‘Mrs. Tingley’, ‘Extravaganza’

Best 3 Japonicas — ‘R. L. Wheeler’, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

Best ‘Hawaii’ — Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak, West Los Angeles

Best ‘Kramer’s Supreme’ — Martha Derr, Sacramento

Best ‘Tomorrow’ — Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City

Best ‘C. M. Wilson’ — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed, Pasadena

Best Reticulata — ‘Moutancha’, Paul McClelland, Orange

Best 3 Reticulatas — ‘Crimson Robe’, Wilber W. Foss, San Marino

Reticulatas in Court of Honor — ‘Purple Gown’, ‘Crimson Robe’, ‘Confucius’, ‘Tali Queen’

Best Hybrid — ‘Donation Var’, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City

Best Miniature Japonica — ‘Tinsie’, Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

Best Species — Saluenensis, Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

Best Japonica Seedling — ‘Nancy Mandarich’, Harold L. Page, Lafayette

Highly Commended Hybrid Seedling — Harold L. Page, Lafayette

INTRODUCING THE GLAMOROUS

‘MISS UNIVERSE’

(Patent Pending)

A new seedling, ‘Miss Universe’ is a glamorous, free flowering, large white seedling of ‘Purity’. It is rose to peony in form, with 46 silky textured petals. The reflection of the center stamens lends a yellow glow to the center petaloids in a very pleasing effect.

Growth habit is vigorous, dense and erect.

One of the most prolific bloomers on the market today, setting buds on young plants. Midseason to late.

ANOTHER WINNER

by the originator of ‘Kramer’s Supreme’

Plants now available in gallon — 2-gallon — 3-gallon containers,
at reasonable prices through your nurseryman.

KRAMER BROS. NURSERIES

P.O. BOX 158

(Wholesale Only)

UPLAND, CALIFORNIA

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FLOWER RECORD

Marjorie Washburne

Port Arthur, Texas

Soon after becoming interested in growing camellias, it occurred to me that color pictures of camellias are almost as beautiful as actual flowers. Knowing almost nothing about camera designs, I secured books about cameras and photography in general before deciding on the type camera that would best serve my purpose — that of recording the exact appearance of outstanding blooms of my own, those of friends, new seedlings, new varieties, etc. It would be especially gratifying to be able to furnish friends who won trophies with color slides of their winning blossoms.

After acquainting myself with the characteristics of cameras available, I proceeded, on the basis of price, to select the wrong kind. The camera I decided on is a 35mm rangefinder with a good lens and split-image focusing, now retired. For the benefit of those not familiar with cameras, the "split-image" focusing device consists of a small round, square, or other shape design in the center of the viewer within which lines will separate when the lens is out of focus, and will join when the object to be photographed is in focus. This device eliminates the need for measuring or guessing distances between camera and subject. For ordinary amateur photography, my camera would have been a good choice. For taking close-up pictures of flowers, it was almost useless. The reasons might be of interest to others planning to secure equipment for photographing camellias.

In recording the exact appearance of a camellia flower, it is desirable that a large blossom almost fill the frame, and that medium and small flowers fill proportionately less of the frame. My camera focused no closer than 30 inches, so a +2 close-up lens

was needed, with two rings for attaching to the camera, costing about \$7. The split-image focusing device was useless when the close-up lens was used, and as close-up focusing is very critical, it was necessary that the distance from the film to the subject be carefully measured. This eliminated hand-holding the camera, so a tripod was required, costing \$21. When using color film on overcast days, it was found that after processing flowers acquired a blue tone, which must be offset with a skylight filter attached to the camera by another ring, costing \$4 more. When sufficient natural light was unavailable, flash equipment was necessary, involving \$8. With these items, my equipment had cost slightly over \$100, and was thoroughly unsatisfactory. With care and diligence I was able to make a few nice pictures, but it required too much time. In addition to measuring distances, the camera had to be aimed at the subject from top and side because of a characteristic of rangefinder cameras called "parallax". This means that the photographer looks through a corner of a camera while the film looks through the lens. At long or medium range this makes no difference, but at close range, in spite of care, a beautiful camellia may end up without all its petals being in the picture, or the flower may be too high in the frame, too low, or too far to the left or right. When trying to use the camera at camellia shows, the spread-out legs of the tripod were in everyone's way and I was constantly embarrassed and afraid I'd trip someone. The flash attachment used Press No. 5 bulbs with light output designed for distances of 3 feet or over. In order to avoid burning out (overexposing) the flowers, the flash had to

(Continued on next page)

be hand held behind the camera, for which a third hand would have been helpful.

At last I concluded that either another camera must be secured or the project abandoned. I decided to make another study of the cameras being offered and to purchase only that one best suited to my requirements.

The camera finally selected is the Beseler Topcon B. The type is single-lens reflex, and it focuses to 18 inches without attachments. It has two focusing devices, one being the split-image already discussed, and the other known as "ground-glass". With the latter, the subject to be photographed appears to be in a dense fog except when in focus. If the light is poor, the ground-glass is difficult to use, in which case the split-image focusing device may be used with confidence. Within the camera is a "pentaprism", which reverses the image and turns it right-side up, and through this arrangement of mirrors the photographer looks through the viewer and sees the subject through the lens exactly as the film sees it. The result is that the area viewed is the identical area photographed. For taking pictures of large flowers, the camera is focused at 18 inches and moved in until sharp focus is secured, while for very large flowers 21 inches is better. I prefer 18 inches on the smaller flowers as I like for them to retain their relative size. If, however, I should wish to use a close-up lens, the ground-glass focusing device would give correct results without measurements.

For using flash at shows, a little calculating was required. Flash equipment attached in the usual way would have centered the light to one side of the flower and the Press No. 5 bulbs would have burned up the picture. Manufacturers of photographic equipment have designed a small bulb of low light output known as the "AG-1", and there are more than a

dozen flash guns for using this type bulb, ranging in price from \$4 to \$12. Mine is the Tilt-a-Mite, with fan reflector, and is attached to one side of the camera by means of a bracket. The bracket is held slightly ahead of the camera in order that light from the bulb will center on the flower. If the background is light in color, there will be a shadow on one side, but I have been unable to eliminate this slight flaw. On a medium or dark background the shadow is not perceptible. In using the fan reflector with pebble surface, the guide number given by the bulb manufacturer for 2" polished reflector is multiplied by .6. If this means nothing to you, it will if you decide to read the instructions provided with film and flash bulbs.

In using outdoor film indoors with flash, some type of conversion for the difference in light quality is necessary. The simplest is use of blue bulbs, which are only a little more expensive than clear bulbs. With clear bulbs, a blue shield over the flash attachment or a blue filter over the lens may be used for conversion. The filter, however, reduces the light available for focusing. Quite by accident I learned that better and more accurate color results in flash pictures of camellias when a skylight filter is also used, as in close-ups the blue conversion is a little too blue, and the skylight filter, being slightly pink, offsets the blue in exactly the right proportion.

A new low-cost camera is presently available that may be used for close-up photographs of camellias. Its most serious disadvantage is the requirement for measuring distances. Also, the camera has an awkward device protruding from the front to enable the flower to be properly centered.

There are many single-lens reflex cameras available, prices ranging from just under \$100 to just under \$1,000. The single-lens reflex is the

darling of photographers, as it combines many features and is perfect in almost any situation. For photographing camellias, a camera should be selected with a close-up focus of 18 inches or less without attachments, instant return mirror, ground-glass and split-image focusing, and an automatic or semi-automatic lens. Some cameras are equipped with automatic light meters, making it unnecessary to estimate light conditions. The hand-held light meter is preferred by many professional photographers, and certainly the fewer the automatic features the fewer will be breakdowns requiring repairs. Some kind of light meter, even an inexpensive one, is a necessity if it is expected to make photographs under light conditions other than bright sun. Having decided on the type of equipment needed, it is possible to find genuine bargains at special sales or camera discount houses.

In taking pictures of camellias at shows, the photographer should be as unobtrusive as possible and careful not to interfere with the pleasures of others viewing the flowers. If possible, he should visit the show when other visitors are minimum. Without specific permission from the exhibitor or show chairman, ribbons, trophies, and flowers should not be moved. Blue ribbons may add to rather than detract from show pictures, although there are some who will not agree.

With a little practice, a camera may be hand-held with a shutter speed of 60 with no perceptible movement. The lens opening should be determined with the aid of a light meter. When using flash, the speed of the bulb is sufficient to insure that movement of a hand-held camera will not influence the picture. A shutter speed of 30 or slower and lens opening of F22 at a distance of 18 inches will give detail, depth, and sharpness when using Kodachrome II film and

AG-1 bulbs (blue or with blue filter or shield). Because of possible variations in performance of different cameras, it is recommended that experimental pictures be taken, both with flash and natural light, and the results studied. Provide yourself with plenty of flash bulbs and film on the day of the show, and carefully check each detail of camera operation in order to avoid wasting time, film, and bulbs.

In photographing flowers other than at shows, string, clothespins, and sticks are sometimes helpful in placing an uncut flower in good position for photographing. The sky makes the best of all backgrounds. Colors show better saturation when the camera is aimed away from the path of the sun; i.e., north, northeast, or northwest. For cut-flower backgrounds, light blue complements the color of any camellia and an all-black background is absolutely startling! Other backgrounds of an indefinite pattern or character may be used successfully. Reflective surfaces should be avoided.

For photographers and camellia growers alike, every "goof" can be profitable if, instead of becoming discouraged, a firm resolution is made to make each mistake only once. With care, a little study, and the proper type of equipment, camellias may be photographed with ease and confidence in the results. While developing a private slide library, remember that contributions to the S.C.C.S. and A.C.S. libraries will be welcomed, especially of outstanding blooms or new varieties. In mid-summer, when it seems forever before the earliest blossoms will begin to open, a showing of some of your favorite slides will enable you to curb your impatience and to hope that during the next season camellia blossoms will be even lovelier than those given immortality in your flower record.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY OPENS CAMELLIA SHOW SEASON

Harold E. Dryden

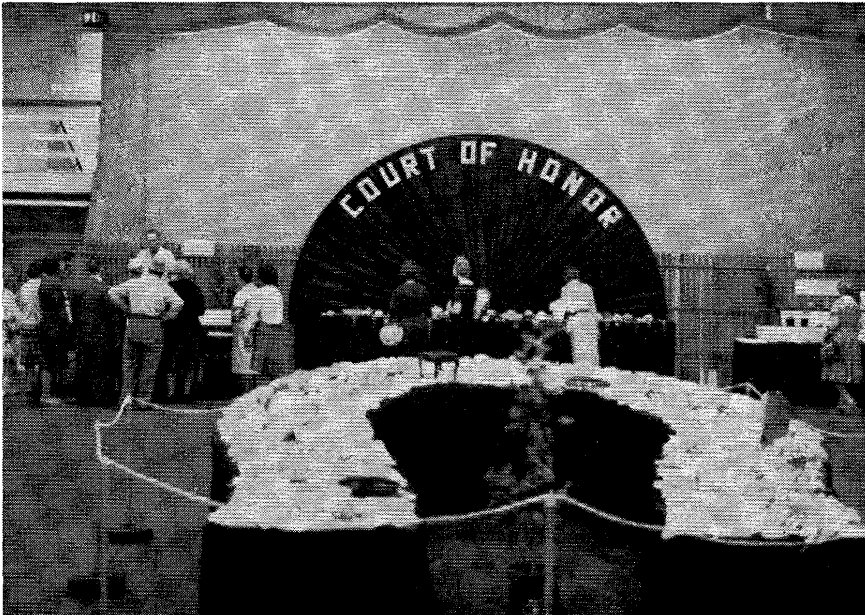
The San Diego Camellia Society again opened the California camellia show season on February 2 and 3 with the usual well organized show in Balboa Park. They had the two divisions of competition that they inaugurated several years ago — one for exhibitors who have won Sweepstakes in any previous camellia show, and one for all others whom they call "Amateurs." According to this writer's judgment, which was supported by opinions of others at the show, the amateurs were in the sweepstakes division according to the quality of blooms exhibited, because quality seemed to be higher and the competition better in the amateur division.

An interesting part of the show were the educational exhibits. At one table, demonstrations of grafting were under way throughout the show. At

another table, women demonstrated corsage making with camellias. A third table illustrated camellia forms, the significance of the terms "miniature", "small", "medium" and "large" in designating size, and demonstrated the methods of propagation such as by seeds, grafting and cuttings.

A large number of people from the "north" exhibited their blooms. The group of camellia enthusiasts who make the circuit of camellia shows in Southern California is getting larger year by year. The trip to San Diego is particularly pleasant because of the graciousness of the San Diego people, who so frequently see the higher awards leave their city. This year the Sweepstakes were won by Reg Ragland of Orange in the Sweepstakes division and W. F. (Bill) Goertz of San Marino in the Amateur division.

(Continued on page 27)

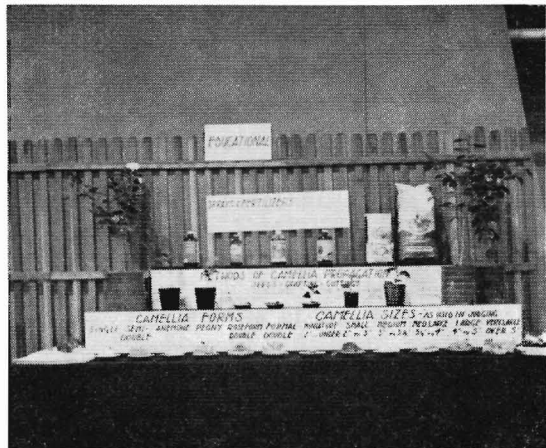


**Grafting
Demonstration**



**Corsage
Making**

**Educational
Exhibit**



FERTILIZERS FOR CAMELLIAS*

R. E. Paul

Camberwell, Victoria, Australia

Plant foods are obtained from inorganic compounds found in the air and the soil, and are essential for healthy growth of the plants. Apart from carbon dioxide and water, the elements nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, iron, magnesium and sulphur are required in moderate quantities and the soil must be replenished by suitable fertilizer applications. In addition there are a number of "trace" elements needed by the plant in minute quantities and these include boron, manganese, zinc, copper and molybdenum.

Nitrogen is required by the plant for the growth of all its parts, particularly shoots and leaves, and is needed in larger amounts than the other elements. A deficiency of nitrogen results in weak spindly growth and small leaves with a yellowish coloration, but too much causes excessive leaf growth at the expense of flower production.

Nitrogen is one of the elements easily leached from the soil, so it should be given to plants only when they are ready to use it, that is, just before they are breaking into new growth. Animal manures such as rotted cow or sheep manure, or dried blood, or hoof and horn are slow-acting and provide nitrogen over a period of several weeks. The fertilizer urea, used as a foliage spray is quick acting, and has been found useful as a supplement to regular soil applications.

Most Australian soils are deficient in phosphorus. It assists in the growth of roots and also plays an important part in seed production. It also tends to increase the leaf area. The usual

fertilizers which supply this element are superphosphate and bone meal. Care must be taken not to use a large excess of soluble phosphate because in acid soils it will convert iron to the insoluble iron phosphate and cause a deficiency which results in chlorosis (yellowing of the foliage).

Potassium assists in the healthy growth of plants, particularly the growing tips of shoots and young leaves. There is some evidence that a higher ratio of potash increases the number and quality of camellia booms. The usual potassium fertilizers are the chloride or the sulphate.

Calcium is necessary for plant growth and is essential in the general structure of the plant but is usually present in sufficient quantity in most soils. Both iron and magnesium are necessary for the production of chlorophyll in leaves and a deficiency of either of these elements results in yellowing of the foliage. Small amounts of magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts) may be mixed with other fertilizers. Iron sulphate or certain chelate compounds are used to provide the necessary iron.

Deficiencies of trace elements are often shown by mottling of the foliage or by dying-back of tips of the young shoots. While individual elements may be added, probably the simplest method is to use one of the commercial "trace element" mixtures such as "Aquasol" or "Gro-plus" which contain the necessary variety of these elements.

*Reprinted from September 1962 issue of CAMELLIA NEWS, the official publication of the Australian Camellia Research Society.

When? Why? How?

Guest Editor — **W. F. Goertz**

San Marino, California

The Editor has requested an article to fill the column formerly written by our late friend, the highly revered and respected Flinn Dickson. This is like asking a Little Leaguer to go in to pitch for Don Drysdale. However, since we are allowed to ramble on numerous subjects, a few personal observations may be of interest to the "non experts".

One of the greatest pleasures in the pursuit of my camellia hobby is the opportunity of visiting with other camellia hobbyists, and having them visit us (particularly the latter!) to compare notes, discuss "what's new?", see blooms on the plant and learn whatever possible to get better results. From my visits I have picked up some very useful ideas which have added to the fun and to the winning of a few extra blue ribbons!

For one thing, I am firmly convinced that moderately heavy pruning is more important than many of us have realized. It is very evident that the camellia people who consistently come up winners with those gorgeous blooms are those who don't mind really using their shears every Spring to thin out and trim back those plants. Following up then with serious disbudding, beginning in July or so, will be wonderfully rewarding at show time. Plants not only produce better quality blooms but look so much neater in the yard.

In spite of the extra room thus pro-

vided for the blooms, there still will be plenty of congestion from leaves. When I first saw some of my friends pinning back leaves, to freely clear a large bud opening up, I thought "this is really going too far"! But I've changed my mind and now always carry a pocket full of wooden clamp type clothespins when checking the plants for prospects. As long as we spend as much time and effort all during the year — why not go all the way and help that bloom be as perfect as possible.

Another big assist for getting more and better blooms to the shows has been the addition in the garden house this year (the best ten bucks I ever spent!) of a good used refrigerator which serves exclusively as a camellia preserver during the winter months (and still comes in mighty handy during the summer barbecue season). Starting about a week before show or meeting time, in the crisp of each morning, the several blooms which may be at their peak are cut and put in an airtight box — after fogging — and kept at 40°. This is a real good way to get good multiples, since it is rarely possible to find five top blooms on a single plant (unless the plant is large and the weather perfect) on the morning of the show.

Since the subject of gibberellic acid treatment is receiving considerable attention at this time, I would

(Continued on page 32)

CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES — ERNEST PIERI

L. R. Shuey

Ernest (Ernie) Pieri is one of Southern California's most ardent camellia enthusiasts. Despite his tireless efforts in the field of sports and education, Ernie somehow has managed to devote sufficient time to his favorite horticultural hobby, the raising, grafting and collecting new varieties of camellias.

Ernie has done much to promote and bring his "Queen of the Flower Kingdom" to the attention of the public through his past and current work in various camellia societies, but probably most of all by his energetic and enthusiastic work with others in promoting successful camellia shows. He was Show Chairman of the Temple City Camellia Society for three years from 1957 through 1959.

Ernie was born in the town of Hollister, in San Benito County, California. When he was two years old, his parents moved to Santa Cruz, where he obtained his elementary and high school education, following which he entered San Jose State College and majored in teaching. In 1937, he moved from Northern California to Los Angeles to enroll in graduate work at the University of Southern California. Upon completion of this work he became a teacher in Jacob Reis High School, in South-

west Los Angeles. He was associated with this school for 23 years, 17 of them as a teacher and the remaining 6 as a counsellor.

His biggest challenge occurred in June, 1961, when he accepted the position of Principal at James Fenimore High School in San Pedro, an experimental school in the harbor area for emotionally disturbed and unstable students. Ernie's objective was to attempt the rehabilitation and adjustment of the mental attitudes of the students to a degree that would enable them to re-enter their former public high schools.

Ernie has always been interested in athletics, and has spent many years officiating in football, basketball, track and all forms of gymnastics. He is currently Chairman of the Gymnastic Committee of the Southern Pacific Amateur Athletic Union.

In 1946, he moved from Los Angeles to South San Gabriel. One day he happened to visit the office of Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman in Hollywood, and while in the waiting room he noticed that many trays of beautiful camellias decorated the office. He learned that Dr. Eshelman was a grower and connoisseur of fine camellias, and was invited to visit the Doctor's home and gardens in Sherman Oaks. Before de-

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parting, he was presented by Dr. Eshelman with his first camellia plant, a 'Gigantea'. By this time, Ernie had become a devoted subject of Her Majesty, "Queen Camellia".

He immediately began to obtain every possible bit of information on the propagation and culture of camellias. He made periodic visits to the Carter Camellia Nursery in Monterey Park, and endeavored to glean every professional secret that could be obtained from the nurseryman. Rooted cuttings were procured from Mr. Carter, to which he later added plants purchased from Woolworth's.

In 1950 Ernie was invited by Sam Keller, a local nurseryman, to attend the Temple City Camellia Society's second annual show held in a tent at the corner of Rosemead and Las Tunas Boulevards. Since that time, he has been exhibiting his blooms in every show that he could possibly attend.

In 1959 he became an accredited judge of the American Camellia Society, and has subsequently participated in judging camellia shows in San Diego, Pomona, Temple City, the Descanso Gardens and in Bakersfield.

By attending camellia shows and acting as a judge for many of the shows, Ernie acquired considerable knowledge of types and varieties of camellias, and soon discovered which varieties were prospective show winners. This, of course, led to the desire to acquire many of these plants for his garden. This was accomplished by grafting a considerable number of scions each year. Ernie, who is now one of our most ardent grafters, claims that his lot will no longer accommodate any further additions to his collection, but we note that he is usually one of the first to arrive at any grafting party.

He is an active member of the Southern California, Pacific, Los Angeles and Temple City Camellia

Societies, and has been a director of the Los Angeles Camellia Council since 1957.

While his primary horticultural interest is camellias, he also has a secondary interest in raising cymbidiums, azaleas, daylilies, cactus and succulents. One can be certain that if a new and different botanical introduction looms on the horizon, it will not be long before it will be found in his garden.

Ernie's charming wife, Dorothy, is also keenly interested in his hobby of growing camellias — so much so that she has reserved herself a small space in the patio where she is growing camellias from seed.

We all hope, Ernie, that you and Dorothy enjoy many more years of raising the flowers which you both love so well.



Temple City Society Invites All to April Dinner Meeting

The Temple City Camellia Society will hold its last meeting of the current season in the banquet room of the Alhambra Y.M.C.A., 605 E. Main Street, Alhambra, on Thursday evening, April 25th. This will be a dinner meeting at which the Society hosts its many friends from other Southern California Camellia Societies and Garden Clubs. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M., followed by a program of interest to all. Awards will be presented to the high point winners who have exhibited blooms on the amateur and sweepstakes tables during the season. The Society extends a cordial invitation to its many friends in the hope that they may meet with us at our final meeting.

JERRY OLRICH, CALIFORNIA STATE GARDENER, TALKS AT S. C. C. S. FEBRUARY MEETING

Camellia growing in California started in and around Sacramento, consequently the area is blessed with numbers of large camellia trees. Fortunately, the city became "camellia conscious" years ago and as the old homes with the old camellias have been torn down, the camellias have been moved to other locations and thus saved. Many of the trees were moved to the grounds of the State Capitol and other state buildings, and these trees now form the nucleus of a very large camellia planting on public grounds. 3000 camellias are now on the grounds of these state buildings. The State Capitol grounds alone have 800 varieties, including many of the old trees. A large part of the moving of these trees and the extensive plantings have been under the supervision of Jerry Olrich, State Gardener and a camellia enthusiast, who used this background of knowledge of camellias in talking to the largest attendance of the year at the S. C. C. S. meeting of February 12th.

He started his talk by saying that many of the old time varieties are just as good as the new ones such as 'Mrs. D. W. Davis'. One of his jobs is to keep flowers in the offices of state officials, and he finds that the older varieties are admired today as they were years ago. He pointed out, for example, that 'Pink Perfection' is still the most popular camellia flower on the market, despite the fact that collectors have largely abandoned it. There is a tall tree of 'Donckelarii' across the street from the Senator Hotel that is a riot of color during the blooming season. Their tree of 'Ville de Nantes' came from Belgium, before camellias were propagated in this country.

The new varieties are of course

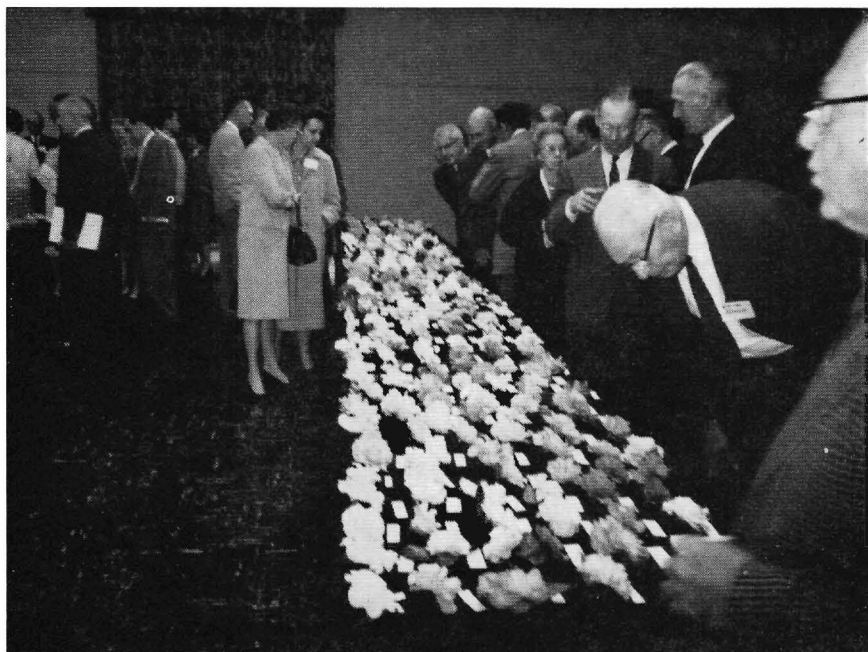
being planted among the older varieties, and Mr. Olrich listed among the plantings of the last 20 years the new varieties that are now found in collectors' lath houses. He cautioned against the introduction of so many "new" varieties. He would not want people to stop growing new varieties, but he thinks that before introducing a new variety the grower should be certain that he has something new to offer.

Mr. Olrich believes that camellia societies should take an active part toward the encouragement of camellia plantings in public parks. He urged the Southern California Society to start a project to contribute excess plants to parks instead of cutting them off and grafting on them.

The blooms on the tables were of the usual high February quality. The results of the judging are shown elsewhere in this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.

TO FERTILIZE (*Continued*)

stantaneous, and easily fatal in a confined area. Animal manures have a relatively low nitrogen content and, like cottonseed meal, must decompose before becoming available to the camellia, thus are slow-acting and relatively safe. The more highly concentrated the fertilizer, the more experienced the user should be. As in the case with the people in this plentiful country, of whom far more die from over-stimulation and over-eating than from starvation, so it is with camellias — far more are killed by over-fertilizing than die from malnutrition.



Upper: Blooms at February S. C. C .S. meeting were of high quality.
Lower: The largest attendance of the year heard Jerry Olrich talk.



Betty's Barbs

By Betty Robinson

The editor received a very fascinating (to me) note the other day. A gentleman in Texas paid his 1963 dues and as an afterthought wrote "by the way, is the camellia plant I have 'Betty Robinson' the same as the child that writes Betty's Barbs?". The first part is easy to answer — yes, the plant was named for me. The second part offers many possibilities. For instance, why does he think I am a child? Is it the content or the style of these articles? Then again, the gentleman writes on Funeral Home stationery. Perhaps anyone under 70 is a child to him. And do you think since I have this on his letterhead it would certify me for child's rates at Forest Lawn?

My daughter is sure it is because of what and how I write. Johnny isn't talking. It does make me feel a little like Jack Benny. My age must be decreasing every year. If this keeps up I may be 30 again one of these years.

Harold Dryden answered the gentleman and told him that the "child" had three children. Now at last reports, I only knew about two, Susan and Eric. Did he count Johnny or the dog as the third? On this point, your editor takes the Fifth Amendment.

There is an idea going the rounds here that I think has merit. Perhaps the Los Angeles Camellia Council will sponsor a fun weekend in this area. Garden Tours would be scheduled for a Saturday and Sunday with a no-

host dinner Saturday night. Most of us enjoy going to the out-of-town shows but we really don't get to see many gardens or even get to know too many members of the host society. This is only to be expected because they are all busy with the show. This could be a good-time and get-to-know-each-other week-end. I, for one, wish this could become a tradition.

The recent shows seem to take all the question out of whether or not to "gib". It has now become simply a question of how to provide a fair competition. I don't see how a judge can reasonably be expected to compare a treated flower with a natural one in shows. There is also the problem of explaining all this to the public. I am afraid many people will buy plants and expect to have results from the flowers that they can't possibly achieve. It would seem that this process should be explained carefully in show programs to prevent people being dissatisfied with camellias. I think also all "gibbed" flowers should be clearly labeled. All this presents a whole new set of problems to show committees, as if they didn't have enough already.*

I hope the Camellia Council does sponsor a tour weekend and that you all will come. I'll even have all my gray hairs colored in honor of the occasion.

*The Descanso Gardens show rules provide a separate division for gib treated blooms, and these blooms are not eligible for regular competition.—Ed.

WINNING BLOOMS AT SOCIETY MEETINGS

Pomona Valley Society Meeting of January 10th

Japonica—Large
‘Clarise Carleton’, ‘Kramer’s
Supreme’, ‘Reg Ragland’,
‘Mathotiana’
Japonica—Medium
‘Alba Plena’, ‘Carolyn Tuttle’,
‘Lallarook’
Miniature
‘Tinker Bell’
Hybrid
J. C. Williams Seedling, ‘Citation’
Specie
‘Dawn’, Fraterna

Temple City Society Meeting of January 24th

AMATEUR TABLE

Japonica—Large and Very Large
‘Ville de Nantes’, ‘Mathotiana’,
‘Reg Ragland’, ‘Elegans (Chand-
ler)’, ‘Drama Girl’
Japonica—Small and Medium
‘Dr. Tinsley’, ‘Miss Hollywood’,
‘Magnoliaflora’, ‘Camille Bradford’,
‘Purity’
Miniature
‘Kiku-Toji Pointed’, ‘Florence
Daniell’, ‘Fircone Var’
Reticulata
‘Purple Gown’, ‘Buddha’, ‘Pagoda’
Hybrids & Other Species
‘Dawn’, ‘Waltz Time’, ‘Santa Cruz’

SWEEPSTAKES TABLE

Japonica—Large and Very Large
‘Guest of Honor’, ‘Guilio Nuccio’,
‘Reg Ragland’
Japonica—Small and Medium
‘Spring Sonnet’, ‘Flamingo’,
‘Emily Wilson’
Miniature
‘Wilamina’, ‘Fircone’,
‘Florence Daniell’
Reticulata
‘Buddha’, ‘Shot Silk’,
‘Butterfly Wings’
Hybrids & Other Species
‘Margaret Waterhouse’, ‘Donation
Var’, ‘Robbie’

Southern California Society Meeting of February 12th

Japonica—Large and Very Large
‘Silver Anniversary’, ‘Jessie Katz’,
‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’, ‘Te Deum’,
‘Tomorrow’
Japonica—Small and Medium
‘Ballet Dancer’, ‘Dr. Tinsley’,
‘Herme’, ‘Spring Sonnet’,
‘Billie McCaskill’
Miniature
‘Wilamina’, ‘Fircone Var’, ‘Tinsie’,
‘Johnny’s Folly’, ‘Poppy Tones’
Reticulata
‘Crimson Robe’, ‘Moutancha’,
‘Buddha’, ‘Purple Gown’,
‘Crimson Robe’
Hybrids
‘Brigadoon’, ‘E. G. Waterhouse’,
‘Donation’

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(AT THE SIGN OF THE CAMELLIA)

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STORE SCIONS IN REFRIGERATOR FOR LATER USE

Grafting time is about over for most people. Many times, however, we have a yen late in March or in April to do some more grafting, right at a time when our plants are full of new growth. The answer to this dilemma is to save the scions that we do not use, or even to obtain some scions to save for later use. The Winter 1961 issue of "Carolina Camellia Bulletin", published for the members of the North & South Carolina and Virginia Camellia Societies, covers the subject so adequately that their article is included here verbatim.

"Money is deposited in banks for its protection and to be used, as needed, at a later date. It is now possible to deposit scions for their protection and for use at later dates, not of course in a regular bank but in an electric refrigerator.

"Frequently we get scions at a time when we are not able to graft them. At other times, we have grafts that do not take and we would like to re-graft, but it is so late in the season that new growth has already started and so no new scions are available. It is a very simple matter to store scions for later use. All that is necessary is a polyethylene bag and an electric refrigerator. Just place the scions in the polyethylene bag and close the top of the bag with a rubber band. Place the bag of scions in the

refrigerator, preferably in the vegetable crisper, although any other place in the refrigerator will be satisfactory as long as it is not near the ice compartment or where it will freeze.

"If the scions have been shipped to you through the mail they will probably be somewhat dried out and it will help refresh them if you will run some cold water over them, being sure to shake off all the excess water before placing them in the bag.

"Scions stored in this manner may then be grafted at a later date as needed or time is available or, if you are "grafting by the moon", when the "sign" is right. Very satisfactory grafts have been made with scions which have been stored as long as three months or more.

"While we do not know the scientific reason, many growers have observed that they have better success grafting with refrigerated scions. The refrigeration seems to condition the scions in some way, perhaps making them completely dormant.

"So, if someone offers you a scion at a time when you are not able to graft it, take it and 'deposit' it in your 'scion bank'. Also cut a few scions of your own favorite varieties and store them for possible use in making re-grafts on those grafts that didn't take."

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DAVID L. FEATHERS TALKS ABOUT HYBRIDS AT PACIFIC SOCIETY

David L. Feathers, Editor of THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN, official publication of the Northern California Camellia Society, and one of the leading amateur camellia hybridizers in the country, talked about hybridizing to the members of Pacific Camellia Society at their February 21st meeting. Following his talk, he showed pictures of some of his hybrids, also pictures which he took during his recent trip to Australia and New Zealand. During his showing of New Zealand pictures he stated that in his opinion the man who is doing the best work in camellia hybridizing is L. E. Jury of New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Mr. Feathers emphasized that there are no fixed rules in hybridizing. It is a matter of trial and error. Once upon a time it was said that you couldn't do this or you couldn't do that. You couldn't cross *reticulata* and *japonica* because the chromosome count was not right. Now this isn't said because *reticulata* and *japonica* have been crossed.

A new hybrid should be bloomed for at least three years before one starts to draw conclusions. In the first year the flower may be good while in the second year it may be inferior. Or *visa versa*, an inferior flower in the first year may be followed by a good one the next year. This may be true also in the foliage. He has a 'Buddha' X *fraterna* cross that in the first year had foliage like that of *granthamiana*. In the second year there was not a leaf like that of *granthamiana* but all looked like 'Buddha'.

He said there is one thing always to remember: Lack of stability is the essential nature of hybrids. A person can therefore expect surprising developments.



David L. Feathers

One cannot make categorical statements that a flower is or is not a hybrid, according to Feathers. He has an idea that some of the present varieties are not what we think they are. We don't know for sure about 'Berenice Boddy', for example. He does not know where to draw the line between hybrids and pure species.

As he showed his pictures he would say occasionally, "this is the first year it has bloomed, I don't know what it will be next year". He summarized his admonitions about being slow to draw conclusions by cautioning "don't go out on a limb by naming a flower for your wife until you are sure that the flower has stabilized." He said he had almost done that but his caution kept him from going ahead with his early intentions. His pictures attested to the certainty that the future will see several Feathers hybrids in camellia collections.

SOUTHERN VARIETIES IN MY GARDEN

Alton B. Parker

Temple City, California

One phase of camellia growing that I enjoy is the exchange of scions with my friends in the Southeast and the Gulf Coast areas. I obtain many new varieties for test and showing. Some prove to be excellent in this area. Others appear not to be up to the standards that I have seen in my visits to the South. Maybe I don't give the plant enough time to mature before passing judgment, I do not know.

My plants are grown under 51% Saran Cloth. The Saran is 10' high and with no side protection. I find my plants do better than when I had them under an 8' lath house. During the hot summer the plants can be sprayed with water any time during the day without sun damage.

The varieties I will list are performing well for me at this time.

In the reds are the following:

ATHELYNE
BERTHA FAYE HOWELL
CAROLINE BROWNE
DIXIE KNIGHT
DOCTOR ROBERT E. SCHWARTZ
DOCTOR McINTOSH
EDNA CAMPBELL
ETHEL RIVERS
FANNIE LOUGHRIDGE
INDIAN CHIEF
IRENE RESTER
LAURA WALKER
LUCKY THIRTEEN
LILLY RAMSEY
MARK ALAN
O. C. COTTON
RED ELEPHANT
RED WINE
TAIT'S BIG RED
TINSLEY SMITH
TOMORROW
VULCAN
WM. H. CUTTER

In the pinks are the following:

ANN SHACKELFORD
BEATRIX HOYT
BESSIE BOWMAN
CAROLINA BEAUTY
CLAIRE RENEE
CLARE O'BRIEN
COOPER POWERS
CORAL MIST
ELIZABETH HOLMES JR.
ETHEL McGEE
EVAN DAVIS
FAITH
FRANCIS M. SOLOMON
JAMES HORNE
JUDGE MARVIN MANN
JULIA FRANCE
KATE THRASH
KING'S RANSOM
LADY MACON
LAURA CAMP
MARIE BRACEY
MARJORIE HUCKABEE
MARLENE
NELLIE McGRATH
PINK EXPLORER
SISSY LACKEY
The Whites are as follows:
COLONIAL DAME
DEAR JENNY
EVELINA
SOUTHERN CHARM
Variegated are:
CINDY ANN
KING SIZE
LIBERTY
MRS. JIMMY DAVIS
MISSISSIPPI BEAUTY
SADIE MANCILL
TICK TOCK

I have several strains of the Sheffield Family and they are consistent in producing good blooms.

I have several of the newer varieties that I am going to watch for another year or two before passing judgment. Some of these show a great deal of promise.

Elizabeth Beebe Makes Ed Ainsworth's Column

Elizabeth Beebe, former Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW, got into print recently in Ed Ainsworth's column in the Los Angeles Times. She is now one of the enthusiastic boosters of California's desert as a place for living. She and Mr. Ainsworth were talking about Mrs. Fannie Tracy of Buttonwillow, in Kern County, and she recited the story about Mrs. Tracy that bears repeating. Here is Mr. Ainsworth's recital of it:

"Elizabeth Beebe of Joshua Tree is an authority on camellias . . .

"Now I don't pretend to know anything about camellias at all except that I like them and they seem to be blooming exceptionally early this year for some reason . . . But Elizabeth Beebe also is a good reporter as well as a flower expert . . . Her official duties have included being editor of the Camellia Review for the Southern California Camellia Society . . . During that experience she met Mrs. Fannie Tracy, 85, of Buttonwillow (about whose recent blossoming as an author I am going to have something to say in a few days) . . .

"It seems that Mrs. Tracy does things in a rather unorthodox way sometimes, but manages to get results . . .

"That's where the camellias come in . . .

"Mrs. Tracy decided to take up camellia raising . . . She had never had any experience with them, but she combined imagination with practicality . . . Some strange malady had just caused the death of some sheep on the Tracy ranch . . .

"Decisively, Mrs. Tracy requested the digging of a deep trench for her camellias. In this, as an improvised grave, she had the sheep placed . . .

"Somehow or other this proved to be just the setting the camellias loved . . . They grew apace and blossomed prodigiously . . . Mrs. Tracy was not at all surprised . . .

"In fact, at a meeting of a local camellia society she listened with some astonishment to a discussion of the best kind of fertilizer . . . She finally broke up the meeting by arising and announcing: 'Everybody knows you plant camellias on dead sheep!' . . ."

SAN DIEGO *(Continued)*

Best Japonica blooms were entered by Mr. and Mrs. Caryl W. Pitkin, with a 'Drama Girl', and Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Foss with a 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', both of San Marino. Best Reticulata blooms were entered by Mrs. Stanley Miller of El Cajon with 'Buddha' and Mr. and Mrs. Clive Pillsbury of San Diego with 'Noble Pearl'.

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NEWS OF SOCIETIES

Los Angeles Society

Edwards H. Metcalf talked about hybrids and hybridizing at the February 11th meeting of the Los Angeles Camellia Society, talking to the subject "Why Hybridize?" He said that he hybridizes because it is a challenge to work toward the development of new or improved characteristics in such things as color, form (style), flowering season, flowering habits (floriferousness), resistance to natural phenomena such as cold hardness and fragrance. With all of these possibilities, one can make a life time work out of one's hobby. In seeking these changes and improvements, we must admit that what we now have is very pleasing; however, progress is never made when one is content to do nothing. He said that to him, the unknown is exciting, which causes him to like to explore and question.

After a brief discussion of some basic principles (do not use what appear to be sterile plants or varieties that are poor seeders), he demonstrated how to hand pollinate a flower.* He then talked about a collection of hybrid blooms that he had arranged on a table, telling about and pointing out improvements in the quality of blooms of successive generations. In this discussion, he pointed to the importance of maintaining full

and accurate records of results, both good and bad. The use of successive generation blooms also served to emphasize that conclusions can not be drawn from a first generation hybrid, because while the bloom may not be good as a whole a particularly good quality, such as color, may be carried into the second generation which produces a flower with good form and substance, plus the color of the first generation.

He closed his talk by saying that if a person gets deep in hybridizing, he may get himself into trouble and be known in nature as a B. F. (Bee Frustrater).

Pacific Society

On February 8th, the Pacific Society held their traditional "ladies night", at which the wives of the officers functioned in their husbands' capacities. Mrs. Florence Noyes was chairman for the evening in place of her husband President Ray. The ticket selling for the plant drawings was less boistrous than usual but was just as effective. Mrs. Gladys Beirneau of Glendale, a former member of the Pacific Society, talked about and demonstrated flower arrangements and corsages that use camellias. At intermission, the members enjoyed refreshments that were served by Tom Hughes and Al Camper, a function usually performed by the wives.

*See pages 10 and 11 of October 1962 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW for concise outline of 8 simple steps for hand pollinating camellias.—Ed.

AIRLAYERING GROWS PLANTS IN A HURRY

As the new growing season approaches, we should not forget air-layering as an effective method of reproducing varieties we like, particularly when we want to acquire another plant of the variety in a short time. An advantage of air-layering is that both large and small branches can be rooted without hindering normal growth of the plant during the rooting process. As a result, good sized plants can be established in one year, and during this same period, the mother plant will have attained the same growth that would have occurred after the normal pruning operations.

Air-layering may be done at any time of the year. The best time, however, is in the early spring when the plants are beginning to grow. The following steps tell how to do it.

1. Select a healthy limb. If a limb needs pruning, select it and thereby accomplish two things in one step. Cut away a ring of bark about 2 times the diameter of the branch to be air-layered. The branch may have new growth but the girdled wood must be hardened off.

2. Eliminate all traces of the cambium layer in the ringed space. This can be done by scraping lightly with a knife or by use of fine sand paper or emery cloth. This step is important because any remaining cambium layer will adversely affect the take.

3. Cover the ringed area with pre-soaked sphagnum moss which has had the excess water squeezed out. Don't try to save the moss but cover more than just the section that has been ringed and scraped. Wrap this ball of sphagnum moss with aluminum foil that is heavy enough to hold the moss and stay together during the rooting period. Twist both ends of the aluminum foil around the branch above and below the moss and tie securely.

4. Wait for the roots to grow. Air-layers started in the spring should have established roots by the fall, maybe earlier. No harm is caused by removing the aluminum foil and inspecting the operation. If roots do not show, the foil may be replaced.

5. When the feeder roots are showing through the moss, cut the limb from the mother plant with sharp clippers. The cut should be made at the bottom edge of the ball of moss.

6. Do not attempt to remove the moss as it will be full of roots. Any effort to remove the moss will damage these new tender roots. Plant the cutting, with the moss still in place, in a container using the soil mix regularly used for your container grown camellias.

7. At the time of planting in the container, prune the new plant. First, do any shaping that is necessary. Second, give the roots plenty of chance to grow by cutting back the top growth. Remember that the objective is to obtain a good sound plant, not to see how tall a plant you can grow in the first year.

You may have flowers the first year. If not, the second year should have for you a good sized plant with blooms.

CAMELLIAS OF THE FUTURE (Continued)

ing in terms of camellia blooms possessing the size and beauty of *reticulata*, in shades of peach, having exquisite fragrance, arranged in close clusters in the manner of the *saluenensis*, on plants possessing the compactness of growth of the *japonica*, and growing in the open, well above the Washington, D.C. latitude.

This will be the camellia of the future, make no mistake about it.

BARE ROOTING CAMELLIA PLANTS

One of the things that more than anything else causes camellia people to pause before acting is the bare rooting of their camellia plants. They will try new soil mixes or new fertilizer programs, or will prune their plants as they never before thought possible. But suggest that they bare root their plants and there is a hesitancy to act, probably because of a natural fear that if they bare root a plant they will kill it. Actually, to bare root a plant when it needs it will lead to a healthier plant rather than a dead one. The \$64 question, of course, is when does a plant need bare rooting?

When a plant does not look healthy, the first thing that should be checked is the root system. Is the root system healthy enough to grow a good plant? The only way to find out is to look at the roots, which means removing the soil so that the roots can be seen. Maybe the roots are so inadequate that they could not possibly grow a good plant. If so, your learning that will save you the time and space that would have been used on a sick plant. Probably, though, the roots are healthy but need to have compacted clay soil removed and a fresh chance at healthful growing. You can't lose when you look at the roots.

When moving a plant to a larger container, be sure that the roots are happy before putting them in the new container. The chances are that the plant has been in the old container for several years. Even if the soil was proper at the time of original planting, it has probably deteriorated by now. The fresh white roots at the edge of the ball may tell you that the root system is happy. Many times, however, the ball is solid and hard and there are no fresh white roots showing. In such cases, it really does

not make sense to put the plant as is in the new container and expect it to be happy only because of the opportunity for the roots to grow into good soil. Bare rooting will give the entire root system a chance to grow.

Some people follow the practice of always bare rooting and replanting their purchases from nurseries. If you have found a particular soil mix to be to your liking, the sooner you get your new plant into this mix, the better. As when repotting a plant, the entire root structure should have the advantage of the good soil. Bare rooting is the only way in which this can be accomplished. There is the further advantage that this will help prevent spread of flower blight by removing soil that has become contaminated.

Bare rooting should be done before the plants start to grow in the spring. Some people prefer the fall months but others prefer not to handle the plants while the buds are growing, for fear of breaking them off. The operation is simple, provided of course that care is used so that the roots are not damaged in the process. Cut the can, or if the plant is in a tub remove it carefully. Place it in a spot where the water will drain away then use a medium spray with a hose nozzle to wash away the soil. This should be a gradual process, using only the force of the spray to wash away the soil. A hard spray will wash some of the small roots with the dirt. If the soil is real dry or of clay type it may take some time for the water to soften the soil to the point where it will wash away easily.

After the soil has all been washed off, inspect the roots. Prune out any dead roots and cut the edges of roots that have been damaged. This provides an opportunity to see if the roots are growing in a way that will

lead to "root strangulation". Under normal conditions the roots of a plant grow away from the main underground stem, branching and spreading fan-wise through the soil. However, if a plant is pot bound or some other obstruction blocks this normal type of root growth, the roots may begin to encircle the central stem. If this happens the root will, as it continues to grow, exert more and more pressure against the stem, retarding movement of moisture and nutrients to the plant until it may actually die. This would be one of the things to look for with a sick plant, but the opportunity to see the roots should be used to look for future root growth of this kind. If the condition is found, the guilty root should be removed.

If the root system is not adequate to support the plant's top growth, the top growth should be cut back to bring it into balance with the root

system. This would be particularly necessary if root strangulation should be encountered.

In replanting the bare rooted plant, care should be taken to make certain that the new soil mix is solid around the root system — that there are no air pockets. Having the soil slightly damp will help. As the soil is gradually placed over the roots, carefully jiggle the plant so that the loose soil will sift down and around the roots. Do not run a strong hose on the plant, but water thoroughly being sure that the soil is completely soaked. Follow up by more watering at a later date to be sure that the soil does not dry out. It should be needless to say that the soil should not be permitted to get dry.

This will take time. It will be time well spent, however, and your plants will show their pleasure in their performance next season.



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The American Camellia Society will welcome you to its program of mutual pleasure and interest.

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More About Identifying Species

Once upon a time, chromosome count was thought to be the only way to identify species. Some people are coming up with hypotheses, however, that if verified can simplify the step. Jack Clark of Auckland, New Zealand has advanced a theory that the aroma of some species will identify them. (See January 1963 CAMELLIA REVIEW, page 23.) Edwards H. Metcalf of San Marino, California has an idea, and only an idea, that seeds will help to identify the species of the plant from which the seeds came. (See February 1963 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, page 23.) Now Metcalf has another idea, and only an idea. He asked the Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW to come over and look at his new seedling flats. Some of the little seedlings were as high as an inch or two. All of the japonica seedlings were a bright green, both stem and leaves. The others all had darker stems, from brownish in the reticulatas to almost black in the oleiferas. So he asked himself, and others, can this be used at least to identify japonicas and non-japonicas? He called Howard Asper in Escondido and asked him to look at his new seedlings. Metcalf thinks that others might like to pursue this. He isn't suggesting anything because it is only an idea, and nothing more at this stage.

WHEN? WHY? HOW? (Con'd.)

like to offer a few observations resulting from my experience which, however, dates back only to last November when my first experimenting began. I used the Frank Reed method of placing a drop of 1% solution at the base of the bud where a leaf bud had been removed, and the results have been very spotty — some beautiful king-size blooms developed but

there have been many instances of buds half-opening and dropping, and also treated buds showing no unusual effect whatsoever.

On the plus side, "gib" treatment will help to get those normally late bloomers — like 'Glen 40', 'Purity', 'Te Deum', and others — to produce during December to February before camellia interest starts to wane. I personally derive little pleasure from March 10 to May 1 bloomers because I start pruning as soon as the shows are over — to beat the new growth. Also, gibberellic treatment will allow early blooming of new seedlings — so it may be determined in advance which ones (if any) are worth saving. Others can be immediately used for early grafting.



Temple City Camellia Society March Meeting

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday evening, March 28, in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. The meeting will commence at 8:00 P.M., however, blooms may be placed on the display tables at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Joe Littlefield will be the guest speaker of the evening and his topic will be "Tinkering on Camellias." Mr. Littlefield is one of Southern California's finest horticultural speakers.

All camellia enthusiasts are urged to be present at this meeting, which should be one of the Society's best of the year.

Directory of Affiliated Societies

- Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield
 President: Lawrence Ellis; Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St.,
 Bakersfield.
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month, October through April, in Police
 Building, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield.
- Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana
 President: Howard Foust; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa Ana.
 Meetings held fourth Tuesday of month, October through April, in Orange County
 Farm Bureau Building, 1916 W. Chapman, Orange.
- Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno
 President: Edwin H. Hiber; Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Simonsen, 3251 E. Bellaire,
 Fresno 3.
 Meetings held at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno, on the following dates:
 November 14th, December 19th, January 23rd, February 27th, March 27th.
- Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino
 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona
 President: Bancroft Benner; Secretary: Mrs. Soby Yamamoto, 1081 Weber St.,
 Pomona.
 Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, in the
 Ganesha Community Building in Ganesha Park, Pomona.
- San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego
 President: Mrs. Althea T. Hebert; Secretary: Mrs. J. O. Henry, P.O. Box 522,
 Chula Vista.
 Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Associ-
 ation Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Southern California Camellia Society.....San Marino
 President: A. Wilkins Garner; Secretary: Harold E. Dryden, 820 Winston Ave.,
 San Marino
 Meetings held Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the
 San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino.
- Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City
 President: Laurence R. Shuey; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Dr.,
 Arcadia.
 Meetings held November 29th and thereafter December thru March on 4th Thurs-
 day in Lecture Hall of L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.
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