

THE *Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Francie L'

*Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries*

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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.

## **OFFICERS**

ALVIN L. GUNN, Pres.  
12022 Gertrude Dr., Lynwood 90263  
Tel. 638-6944

W. F. GOERTZ, Vice Pres.  
1835 Carlisle Dr., San Marino 91108  
Tel. 282-5665

HAROLD E. DRYDEN, Sec'y-Treas.  
820 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108  
Tel. 793-4214

## **DIRECTORS**

MRS. AMELIA BLISS  
533 N. Segovia, San Gabriel 91775  
Tel. 286-9795

WILBER FOSS  
1380 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108  
Tel. 792-0829

CARYLL W. PITKIN  
2465 Sherwood Rd., San Marino 91108  
Tel. 287-5826

MERLE S. GISH  
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Tel. 783-0427 (Area Code 714)

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## **FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES**

PROF. E. G. WATERHOUSE  
17 McIntosh St.  
Gordon, New South Wales, Australia

C. C. EMSLIE  
Box 183  
Putaruru, New Zealand

## **THE CAMELLIA REVIEW**

HAROLD E. DRYDEN, Editor, 820 Winston Ave., San Marino, Phone 793-4214

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## THE COVER FLOWER

Camellia people in Southern California have been patiently awaiting the release by Nuccio's Nurseries of the hybrid seedling 'Francie L' which they purchased three or four years ago from the originator, Ed Marshall of the Huntington Gardens staff. They moved the several large size plants to their nursery when they were in full bloom — full of five inch, rose pink semi-double flowers with irregular upright wavy petals. The flower will reach 6 inches in size. It is a cross of *saluenensis* 'Apple Blossom' X *reticulata* 'Buddha'. It sets buds all along the branch and presents a striking appearance as the buds open in quantity. 'Francie L' can be purchased at Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena or, in Northern California, at Redwood Empire Camellias in Sebastopol.

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David Feathers expressed in the February 1965 issue of THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN, former publication of The Northern California Camellia Society, a thought that has been going through my mind. He did it so well that I am using his words. He wrote:

"This is the 20th year of organization of the Northern California Camellia Society, the Society having been founded on December 9, 1945 . . . It seems to the writer that much the same circumstances which existed when this Society was organized obtain today. The war we were in, with its daily strains and tensions, developed the need for diversion and relaxation. Money was plentiful, times were good, people were seeking things to buy . . . It is true that the restrictions and shortages do not now exist and that camellia plants are abundant and of great diversity today. The physical limitations of war-time have been lifted but there remain the tensions and artificialities of present day living, the constant exposure to the sordid things in life, the unremitting stream of crime, violence and the stupid focusing of the spotlight of public interest on all that is tragic, mean and degrading, rather than upon acts of courage, self-sacrifice and generosity.

"It is to get away from all this — to give the innate good latent in everyone an opportunity for expression — to broaden and develop our immortal souls — that society needs and must have the respite provided by means such as our camellia societies and garden clubs. We are daily exhorted to do this or that to preserve our physical well-being but in this writer's judgment the need today is not so much in this direction — our span of life is constantly being lengthened — as it is to achieve peace and contentment in our state of mind. The world, and the American public particularly, needs more participation in activities such as ours that are literally "down to earth". Perhaps we should take our eyes off outer space for a moment and concentrate a little more on what is under our feet!

"So the need today is much the same as it was 20 years ago when we took root as a Society; to promote interest in things beautiful; to popularize an interesting and healthful diversion; to lead young people in the direction of a natural life; to screen off our homes and lives from the garbage dumps of sensationalism; to foster our natural creative impulses; to meet the kind of people who are trying to do these things.

"We need and welcome all kindred spirits!"

I saw Dave in his garden late in November, helping in moving a ten-foot camellia tree. It was evident to me from his general appearance that his editorial of February 1965 could well have been based on his own life.

*Harold E. Oyler*

# AN AMERICAN IMPRESSION OF THE 1966 AUSTRALIAN CAMELLIA SEASON

Gordon H. Goff  
Lafayette, California

How would you like to enjoy camellia blooms the year around? One way to do this is to travel "Down Under" when your camellias stop blooming in California. Since the seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, you will find that you have a complete new camellia show time to look forward to. Last summer I was fortunate enough to extend my camellia season by three months by this means. A business trip took me to Australia from the middle of July to the middle of October, which covered the main blooming season. I enjoyed the experience thoroughly as I shall relate. However, I must hasten to give credit to my wife who made all of this possible by staying home and taking care of my camellias.

I spent most of my time in Melbourne, which is amazingly similar in winter climate to my home in Northern California. Melbourne's latitude corresponds almost exactly to San Francisco's latitude north of the equator. To make me feel even more at home as a Californian, I also visited Sydney, which corresponds to Los Angeles in climate and in latitude. So when my Australian camellia friends compare the quality of blooms between their two major cities, it has the familiar ring of past Northern vs Southern California controversies.

Since the climatic conditions are so similar to California, it was not surprising to find that camellias which do well for me at home also do as well or better in Melbourne. While there I saw beautiful specimens of most of our favorite camellias, including reticulatas. American camellias are widely imported to Australia so it is only a matter of time before our new varieties are introduced there. In many cases I discovered the Aussies to be

ahead of me; they were growing the latest American varieties that I was still waiting to obtain scions of at home.

Everywhere I went I was besieged with questions about American camellia varieties. Evidently the Australians read our camellia literature and become just as confused as we Americans about the multitude of new varieties introduced each year. Because I was supposedly closer to the scene, they expected me to have all of the answers and to recommend a list of the best ten or twenty American camellias. I managed to evade this question, and suggest that other American camellia fanciers who may travel to Australia in the future be better prepared than I.

Americans also want to know about Australian camellia varieties. There did not seem to be a large number of these varieties, but I saw some good ones which I liked very much. I am already raising 'E. G. Waterhouse', 'Lady Gowrie' and 'Edith Linton'. I plan to add 'Great Eastern', 'Polar Bear', 'Can Can', 'Laurie Bray', 'Margaret Davis', 'Tiptoe', 'Gwenneth Morrey' and the sasanqua 'Hiryu' (Australian) to my collection. It seemed to me that 'Great Eastern', one of the oldest camellias, was the staple Australian camellia that was everywhere and did well. After returning from Australia, I noted an excellent rating of Australian camellias by James K. Fisher in the 1964 American Camellia Yearbook. My personal observations are in accord with his ratings.

The other question most frequently asked of me concerned petal blight. Australia apparently does not have petal blight as we know it in California. However, the camellia people  
(Continued on next page)

there have read enough about it to be fearful. I examined many blooms marred by brown blemishes on the external petals. This looked like weather damage or perhaps a slight case of fungus caused by the damp weather. In no instance did I see a camellia rotten to the core or in an advanced state of petal blight that I could recognize. The subject of petal blight regularly came up at each of the three camellia society meetings that I attended. The first time I tried to expound everything that I knew about petal blight. The second meeting I repeated myself and added a few more thoughts that had come to me in the interim. The third meeting I realized that the Society was suffering from a case of "petal blight nerves" and kept quiet.

Camellia cultural practices generally are similar to ours in California. Up to now the Australians have not had to be as careful in picking up camellia blooms from the ground as we have. For fertilizers they use mostly manure, blood and bone meal and "Aquasol" soluble fertilizer. They wish that they had access to a plentiful supply of cottonseed meal as we do. Container growing is popular as at home. Plastic cans are used commonly, as well as oak and concrete tubs. At first it seemed strange to me when I read the general cultural directions of "place your camellias on the south side of the house."

I am informed that the popularity of camellias is spreading rapidly in Australia. At one time camellias were considered a rarity and too expensive for the average person. Now camellias are grown widely throughout the country where conditions permit. The centers of camellia growing are Sydney and Melbourne, with somewhat lesser activity in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart. Camellia interest has grown to where it can support some excellent nurseries. I visited two outstanding nurseries that specialize in camellias and azaleas exclusively.

These are Camellia Lodge in Melbourne operated by Neville McMinn, and Camellia Grove in Sydney, operated by Jim Fisher.

The Australian Camellia Research Society is the central organization for camellias. It has branches throughout Australia that meet locally and operate like our California societies. The past president of this organization is the "grand old man of Australian camellias," Prof. Waterhouse. The new president is Tom Savige, who contributed an excellent article on the 1966 Australasian Camellia Season in the November issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The word "Research" in the title of the Society is impressive, but I gather it is not indicative of the nature of the society. No actual research was being carried out by their Society as far as I could ascertain. However, this title conveniently reduces any confusion of initials with our American Camellia Society.

Undoubtedly the highlight of my visit was attending the first National Camellia Show in Canberra, the Federal Capital. This was held the middle of August at the height of the camellia season, with participation by all of the branch societies. Up until this time the only camellia show that I had attended was the Australian-American Show in Melbourne. It was a small non-competitive show which whetted my appetite to see a larger competitive show. I heard about the Canberra Show in the press and from friends who made it out to be the finest show that Australia had to offer, as well as a convention of the top Australian camellia experts. Also there was the added tourist attraction of visiting Australia's new, modern capital.

Thus it was with great anticipation that I spent a weekend at the Canberra Show. The top Australian camellia people were indeed at the Show, and it was a great pleasure to meet them. I agree with Mr. Savige's description of the Show that it was an

exercise in logistics to transport it to Canberra. I enjoyed the Show very much, but it turned out not to be the competitive show that I expected. Instead, it was presented as a floral spectacle featuring camellias. It seems that camellias have not yet achieved popularity in Canberra so the object of the Show was to develop interest among Canberra people in growing camellias. From this standpoint the Show was most successful as it attracted 12,000 people, or about 20% of the Canberra population, in the one day that it was open. The people were willing to stand in line for hours to get into the small hall and see the flowers. This indicates the interest that Australians have in flowers.

The Show was magnificently staged by professional designers employed by Farmers, a large Sydney department store. The settings were elaborate with crystal chandeliers, vases, bowls and a central motif of a bride on a dais holding a bouquet of camellias. Camellias on the tables were arranged artistically with color of the flower being an important consideration. The two exhibits of most interest to me were a table covered with a mass of *reticulatas* and a display of 'Herme' and 'Aspasia' with their sports.

While at the Show I struck up an acquaintance with Theo. Ruckert of Adelaide. He obviously was a real camellia enthusiast and wanted my opinion of their shows vs. American shows. Besides the obvious good things about the show, I commented that I had expected a competitive show and was somewhat disappointed because I find competitive shows much more interesting than non-competitive shows. Also I was surprised by the lack of flowers, considering that this was supposedly the main show for all of Australia. There were less than half the number of the flowers that we are accustomed to seeing at one of our typical California shows. Furthermore, I men-

tioned noticing numerous blemishes on blooms that would never be seen in a U.S. competitive show. Mr. Ruckert printed my rather candid remarks in the South Australia *Camellia* newsletter, but in the spirit of constructive criticism which perhaps could help Australia profit from our show experience in America.

I was told to wait for a competitive show to really see Australian camellias at their finest. My opportunity came at the Royal Horticultural Show in Melbourne. This show was interesting in that camellias shared the glory with daffodils and also with general floral arrangements. The quality of the blooms and of the judging were of a high standard and satisfied me. Some of the things that I noted were that there were not really a large number of blooms displayed and that a few growers won a disproportionately large share of awards. Blooms generally are not judged by variety, but rather by classes. This does not lead to as interesting a show in my opinion and makes judging more difficult. Again I was impressed by the attractive staging which is a good feature of Australian shows.

From my experience with these shows and from conversation with friends I gather that Australians generally prefer non-competitive shows. They are reluctant to enter competitive shows except for the large experienced growers. A possible solution might be to hold their shows in two sections, a competitive and a non-competitive section with a choice given to the exhibitor as to how he will enter his blooms. The non-competitive show will swell the volume of blooms and permit artistic display. The competitive show will allow the advanced camellia growers to have the satisfaction of seeing their top quality blooms in competition with others. Further, I hope that many Australians have an opportunity to visit American shows and to gain

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## COMMENTS ON -- OUR EXPERIENCE WITH LIQUID FERTILIZERS

William T. De France\*  
Encinitas, California

Fertilizing camellias is just as controversial as potting mixes and I am sure that many of us camellia nuts have developed a fertilizing program over a period of time that has produced good results. Certainly if you are getting the desired results there is nothing to be gained by changing your program. Like many other camellia hobbyists and growers we have experimented with various types of fertilizers and application at varied intervals in the pursuit of improving the culture of camellias.

The fertilization program we are presently using on *C. japonica* has made a considerable improvement in the appearance of plant foliage and quality of flowers.

We use three different fertilizers in our program in the course of a year: Two liquids and "would you believe, cottonseed meal". We worked with a local fertilizing company in developing these two liquids specifically for camellias. One is a (6-10-8): 6% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 8% potash, plus chelated iron, manganese and zinc, and de-odorized stabilized fish concentrate. We tested this fertilizer on several thousand container grown camellia plants for a period of two years and obtained very good results. The second liquid we have been using for the past year is a (2-10-10): 2% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus, 10% potash, plus chelated iron, manganese, zinc, and de-odorized stabilized fish concentrate. There are no chloride salts used in the preparation of either of these formulas.

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\* Mr. De France is owner of De France's Camellia Nursery in Encinitas, California. He added the following note to the article: "I have noticed that I used the word "we" repeatedly. I really should have inserted "Mrs. De France" in place of the we's because she does most of the fertilizing.—Ed

We are using a fir bark soil mix, which gives us good drainage. There is, of course, very little food value in this type of mix and we do not add any fertilizer in the mix. All of our camellias are grown in containers: plastic, tin cans and redwood boxes. The fast drainage mix increases the leaching action when the plants are watered which decreases plant nutrients quite rapidly. For this reason we are firm believers in fertilizing camellias more than the general practice of three or four times a year.

We start our fertilizing program in March by feeding with the (6-10-8) liquid camellia food, one tablespoon per gallon of water. From four to six weeks later we feed with cottonseed meal, using about one tablespoon per gallon size container. From four to six weeks later we revert to the (6-10-8) liquid and continue at four to six week intervals through August. In September we feed cottonseed meal again. In November we start feeding the (2-10-10) liquid, using one tablespoon per gallon of water and continuing at four to six week intervals until March, when we started the first feeding with (6-10-8).

The purpose of fertilizing twice a year with cottonseed meal is to take advantage of the slow release of organic nutrients, consisting of the major elements: nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. We glaze or cake the cottonseed meal after it is applied to the soil surface by using a fine mist spray of water to moisten the cottonseed meal. The soil should be moist prior to the application of cottonseed meal. This will permit sufficient time for the cottonseed meal to cake before the plants need watering.

As a general rule liquid fertilizers can be applied from four to six weeks after the application of cottonseed



meal. However, we must recognize that cottonseed meal will break-down slower in the fall and winter months due to the lower soil temperature and less frequent watering of the plants. For this reason you may occasionally have to wait a little longer than the four to six week interval after fertilizing with cottonseed meal before you feed with a liquid. We wait until the caked cottonseed meal has completely disappeared or only a trace remains visible on the surface before applying the liquid fertilizer.

The camellia plants will absorb nutrients from the liquid fertilizer within 24 hours after the application. This is the primary reason why we use fertilizers in the liquid form during the growing season. The (6-10-8) liquid produces two good growth cycles and the cottonseed meal maintains good foliage color by a slow release of nutrients over a long period of time.

The (2-10-10) liquid fertilizer is applied to camellia plants during the dormant period to provide the plant with sufficient nutrients to maintain good foliage appearance, and improve color, size and form of the flowers. The 2% nitrogen will not force new growth and yet it is sufficient to maintain the dark green color in the plant foliage.

Liquid fertilizers used on camellias should not contain more than 6% nitrogen and concentration should not exceed the amount recommended by

the manufacturer. As a general rule liquid fertilizer formulas are based on a ratio of 1 to 100, meaning you would use one part fertilizer to 100 parts of water. Our experience with the two liquid fertilizers referred to herein indicates that one tablespoon of the fertilizer to each gallon of water is sufficient and will not burn the foliage. The amount of fertilizer/water mixture required for each plant is dependent upon size of container or type of soil mix if plant is grown in the ground. Use only enough to penetrate through the root zone.

At the present time we do not recommend using the (6-10-8) liquid fertilizer on the *C. reticulata*, especially if the plants have a small amount of foliage. We are presently using cottonseed meal and experimenting with the (2-10-10) liquid. We believe by using a light soil mix (such as three or four parts of fir bark to one part of soil containing a generous amount of silt and sand) that low nitrogen liquid fertilizers can be safely used without causing leaf tip burn.

The foregoing fertilization program on *C. japonica* has given us the best results of any program that we have experimented with in the last 15 years. However, we must recognize that the culture of camellias has been rapidly changing, especially in the past few years and what appears to be the optimum fertilization program today may be obsolete tomorrow.

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## EARLY DAYS AT DESCANSO

*Based on a talk by J. Howard Asper to members of  
Los Angeles Camellia Society.*

The 155 acres now known as Descanso Gardens was part of a 1784 land grant that was presented by the King of Spain to Jose Maria Verdugo, a member of the military force that first entered California from Mexico in the Portola expedition of 1769 and at the time of the grant, a corporal in the military force at Mission San Gabriel. Nothing of significance occurred in connection with the property until 1937 when Manchester Boddy, a Los Angeles newspaper owner and publisher bought the land for his home site and with the idea of planting camellias under the expansive oak trees that covered a large part of the acreage. He called it Rancho del Descanso, the ranch of the restful peace. In 1938 he built the family residence now called Hospitality House, the center for many of the social and educational activities that are held in the Gardens. During the first years Mr. Boddy consulted various landscaping people regarding the planting of the land but took no action toward its development other than around his new home.

The first steps toward what we now think of as Descanso Gardens started early in 1941 with Boddy's employment of Howard Asper, previously an employee of Armstrong Nurseries in Ontario, California. At Armstrong's Asper worked as a florist, a photographer, a salesman and some with propagation. He learned a little bit there about camellias. As he tells it, when he went to Armstrong's in 1927 they listed four camellias in their catalog; namely, *Camellia japonica* red, *Camellia japonica* white, *Camellia japonica* pink and *Camellia japonica* variegated. They were then one of the great nurseries of the world, which emphasizes the leap-forward of camellias in the 39 years since 1927.

During his years with them they

got "new" varieties of camellias from different places. While the story of these "new" varieties has no bearing on the early days of Descanso, their telling by Asper adds to the early history of camellias in Southern California and explains some of the problems that faced the Southern California Camellia Society and Bill Woodroof when the Society undertook the publication of a camellia nomenclature book in 1946. One of the "new" ones was 'Colonel Fiery,' which was named at Armstrong's Nursery. The plant which was the source of the cuttings that Armstrong obtained was growing on North Park, Pomona, California in the garden of a man named Colonel Fiery. Nobody new the name of the camellia so Armstrong's decided to name it in honor of the man who was growing it. The name has been corrected to 'C. M. Hovey'. 'Jordan's Pride' was named at that time because it grew in the Jordan Garden on West 9th Street in Upland, California. It is now 'Herme.' Others introduced during these years by Armstrong's were 'Fanny Bolis' and 'Bella Romana.'

To get back to the Descanso story, early in 1941 a man whom Asper knew in the cut flower business and who had taken the job of manager of Manchester Boddy's property in La Canada called on Asper and offered him a job at Descanso. He gave Asper a glowing account of the ranch and of Boddy's plans to plant 20 acres of camellias. This manager knew very little about camellias and offered Asper the job because of the latter's camellia knowledge. He took the job and reported to Descanso February 1, 1941. At that time Mr. Boddy had riding horses, cattle, and milk cows where the present Lounge is located. The corral was located where the big central lawn now is. There was a rid-

ing pony and there were chickens, turkeys and ducks. To quote Asper, "it was a regular ranch."

Mr. Hernland the manager had already bought about 200 camellia plants in line with Mr. Boddy's desire (synonymous with determination) to plant the twenty acres, which Asper says he then thought was visionary. These camellias were in boxes and were standing there under the trees about where the fishpond is now located at the entry to the Gardens. These comprised a number of common varieties such as 'Purity,' 'Eureka,' 'Pink Perfection' and maybe a few others. On March 18, 1941 Asper planted the first camellia in what is now known as Descanso Gardens, except for the half dozen or so that Boddy had planted around his home, now Hospitality House. This new area of planting was then known as the Woods. They watered these 400 plants through the summer with a garden hose, having no sprinkling system.

The next significant day that Asper remembers is Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941. It had already been decided to propagate camellias from cuttings, by means of which they would obtain new varieties and would plant the entire area. Pearl Harbor changed both the method of obtaining the plants and the timing of the project. Early in 1942 there was talk of and plans for what at that time was called the Japanese Relocation Camps. They heard of a nurseryman in Sierra Madre, California who had tens of thousands of camellias and on February 28th Mr. Boddy, the ranch manager and Asper went over to see them. Mr. Yukiyo Uyematsu the nurseryman was scheduled to enter a relocation camp in a few weeks. Mr. Boddy made a cash offer for all his camellias. To quote Asper, "I shall never forget the man's (Mr. Uyematsu's) look when this offer finally registered. He dropped his jaw, he couldn't believe it. If you have ever heard that Mr.

Boddy bought those camellias at a bargain, don't believe it. He paid the utmost price for them and I have always respected him for it."

After the deal was completed, Boddy turned to Asper and instructed him to move all the plants to Descanso and to plant them there. This was a tremendous job, because they were planted in the ground and many of them were taller than a man. Asper had been trained at Armstrong's Nurseries how to box a large camellia for moving. He did not follow this expensive and time consuming method but dug them up bare root, cut them back and put them in the ground. Generally speaking, they had a great deal of success. Some of the very large plants started to die because of the shock of having been dug up so ruthlessly and having the feeder roots cut off. So that the estate would not look untidy, these were sawed off at the ground with the thought that they were through growing. Some of them started to grow from the roots and they are now better looking and bear larger flowers than do those that lived through the transplanting. There were few varieties in this planting because Mr. Uyematsu was in the nursery business to make money and he planted only varieties that were easy to propagate, such as 'Eureka' and 'Pink Perfection' which explains the large number of the latter in the present Gardens.

The War years were trying years, as with everybody. In February, 1943 Howard Asper was made superintendent of the ranch. Help was hard to get. The Descanso people were trying to go along with the Government's program of growing vegetables, raising poultry, etc. They started a grafting program and a program for selling cut flowers. During Asper's time at Armstrong's Nursery he had worked with a Dr. Walter Lammerts and had been impressed by Dr. Lammerts' ability and personality. Lam-

*(Continued on next page)*

merts had left Armstrong's Nurseries and at that time was on the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles. In view of Mr. Boddy's plans for Descanso involving camellias, Asper recommended that Dr. Lammerts be employed. Mr. Boddy agreed and contractual agreement with Dr. Lammerts was reached early in 1945. He started his new job on July 1, 1945.

These were the years when people were beginning to talk about a fabulous camellia that was then called *Camellia Reticulata* but is now known by its varietal name 'Captain Rawes'. While it was new to most people in Southern California, it had been brought from China to England in 1820 by a Captain Rawes and was named for him. It was brought to the United States early in the twentieth century, about 1905, by a Mr. Cole who had greenhouses on Long Island and grew some large plants of 'Captain Rawes' there. The Superintendent of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco brought nine plants from Mr. Cole's estate to the West Coast about 1918. Only one of these plants is known to be living now, which is in Strawberry Canyon on the University of California campus in Berkeley. By 1944 people had learned that 'Captain Rawes' could be grafted to japonica roots and there was a large public demand for it. Descanso was able to obtain a few of the plants, at a very high price, and started to propagate it. A man who was doing the grafting at Descanso told Asper that he had been offered \$10.00 for a 'Captain Rawes' scion that he would slip out of the ranch in his lunch pail, an indication of the willingness of the public to pay good prices for the "new" variety.

This popularity of 'Captain Rawes' was one of the factors that caused Howard Asper to recommend to Manchester Boddy that he employ Dr. Lammerts. Lammerts had at his command as a member of the UCLA

faculty, through the UCLA library, the libraries of the United States. As Asper tells it, "He called me up one day and asked my wife and me to come over to dinner that evening because he had something extremely exciting to show us. We went over and he showed us the translation of a French botanical book that was written in 1805. This book said it was unfortunate that the varieties of *reticulatas* in existence in China had not been introduced to the West, because the beauty of them is beyond description. Now imagine what this did to us! A man had offered \$10.00 for an eye of 'Captain Rawes' and here was an author writing about varieties of *reticulata* whose beauty we had never even dreamed of."

Letter after letter was sent out, to every lead that Asper and Dr. Lammerts could think of. Finally, a Dr. Hu, who was a Research Fellow at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts answered a letter and said "Yes, the statement is true." He referred Descanso to the Yunnan Botanical Institute in Kunming, China and a letter was sent to them. Time passed, one year wore into another. Finally an answer came from a Dr. Tsai of Kunming Horticultural Institute, and he also said that these varieties were in existence. Arrangements were made with Dr. Tsai for him to ship these varieties to Descanso. In February 1948, over two years after the people at Descanso had started to write their letters seeking confirmation of what Dr. Lammerts had read in the translation of the French book, a letter arrived from Dr. Tsai saying that he was about to ship the plants.

They arrived in San Francisco on March 15, 1948. They had come by Chinese National Airways to Shanghai where they were transferred to Pan American Airways for delivery at San Francisco, the only port of entry at that time on the West Coast for plants. Dr. Lammerts had taken the Descanso panel delivery truck to

San Francisco, to be there when the plants arrived. There he learned the bad news. The plants had been shipped in the original pots with the original soil, which was against all rules for importation of plant materials. Asper believes that if Dr. Lammerts had not gone to the University of California with the man who was in charge of the Federal Importation Bureau for plants in San Francisco, the entire lot would have been destroyed. They finally agreed to remove all the soil and destroy it, then put the plants in a methyl bromide fumigation chamber and fumigate them. The Bureau was asked to put the plants in cans with wet peat moss around the roots before they were placed in the fumigation chamber, which was done. Dr. Lammerts arrived at Descanso with the plants on March 19, 1948.

There were 20 varieties in the shipment and the plants looked surprisingly good. They had been approach grafted, with the two plants involved in the graft tied with raffia. All could not be saved. Some evidently had not had a chance to heal properly and the strain of shipment had loosened the graft a little so that the methyl bromide gas had gotten inside. Incidentally, some of the understock grew even though the tops died and in every such case the understock was 'Alba Plena'. Asper asks himself two questions: Why did they use 'Alba Plena, a slow-growing variety? Was it because they wanted to use a white variety that they thought would not change the color?

Carl Tourje called at the ranch several weeks after the plants arrived and asked whether they knew that Ralph Peer had imported the same group of reticulatas and that they were then growing at Ed Arneson's Valley Nursery in the San Fernando Valley. So Ralph and Monique Peer and the Descanso group — Boddy, Lammerts and Asper — had lunch

together at Descanso and reached this decision: Descanso would give Ralph Peer copies of the varieties they had saved and he had lost and he would give Descanso copies of the varieties he had saved and they had lost. Both ended up with 18 of the 20 varieties that had been shipped. Reshipment of these two was ordered but the plants did not grow. Then scions were requested and they did not grow.

About this time Dr. Tsai wrote and said that a friend of his had done some hybridizing and two of his seedlings were beautiful beyond description. He offered to sell them for \$800 for the two (compared with about \$20 each for the original shipment). The offer was accepted. When word was received that they would be shipped, the Pan American office in Los Angeles was contacted with the request that the shipment be expedited. This was the wrong thing to do. Pan American in their anxiety to hasten the shipment put the plants on the first plane out of Shanghai, which they discovered while the plane was in the air headed for Honolulu had Vancouver, B. C. as its destination. So they put the plants off at Honolulu. Days went by without word of the plants. They were finally located in Honolulu where they were being held because rules stated that plants over 36 inches in height could not be imported. These plants were 48 inches high. After several days' delay, the plants were released. They looked about dead when they arrived, with the leaves looking like autumn leaves; and so that the inspector would not be accused of not following the book he had cut them off exactly 36 inches high and put the tops in the packing. The plants were soaked for eight hours in a mixture of Vitamin B-1 and warm water, then planted in wooden boxes. They were then placed in a "tent" consisting of polyethylene placed over a frame so

*(Continued on Page 29)*

## WHAT TO DO NOW

*Excerpts from Former Issues of CAMELLIA REVIEW*

Most of the camellia show regulations specify that blooms entered must have been from a plant owned by the exhibitor at least thirty days. So early January is the time for you to visit one of the fine camellia nurseries and get the thrill of purchasing and owning a new introduction while it is still new. These camellia nurserymen are grand people with whom to visit. You always will get a new idea or two and, if you are lucky, they will show you some of their new seedlings in bloom for the first time.

While at the nursery, if you don't yet have your own seedlings ready, shop for some good understock so you can be ready for January and February grafting. Be sure to use only good healthy understock. I have learned the hard way that the grafted "bargain" plant may result in a "take" but you will worry along with a sickly runt from now on.

By far the most important phase of grafting is to start with a good root system. I think it is a good policy (and I plan to do this in the future) to prepare understock a year in advance. This winter take them out of the 1-gallon cans, inspect the roots, bare-root if necessary, and replant in

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We instituted in the November 1963 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW* a series of articles on camellia culture that was essentially a "what to do this month", designed primarily for people relatively new in camellia growing but applicable also to people who know but like to be reminded. W. F. Goertz wrote the articles for Volume 25 under the title "What to Do", Alvin L. Gunn for Volume 26 under the title "What's Behind the Green Thumb" and Melvin L. Gum for Volume 27 under the title "Sharing Experiences". Since the duties of camellia culture to be performed year after year are basically the same and to avoid asking someone to accept a responsibility of meeting monthly dead-lines for a new series, I have decided for Volume 28 to rerun excerpts of these articles of corresponding former months under the title "What To Do Now".—Ed.

2-gallon containers. By next winter you will have something worthwhile with which to work. I like to use glass jars in preference to plastic bags on the smaller understock. Be sure to use a sharp knife when trimming the scion, and don't rip the understock stem — make a clean and straight cut through the bark where the scion will line up. Use a root hormone powder to lightly cover all cut portions and you will have no loss from fungus. Keep grafts out of the sun and rain, but don't allow them to dry out too much.

We should get the balance of our transplanting done this month. Plastic 2-gallon containers are now available and these should outlast metal cans. The fact that they are tapered is a big advantage — the plant can be bumped out for root inspection later on, and replaced without damage.

—W. F. GOERTZ

November 1964 *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, "What to Do"

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Getting ready for a show starts months ahead of time. If you did a good job of watering, fertilizing, pruning and disbudding, the main part of the work is done by show time. A few of the minor things which must be done start with the bud starting to open. A few aphids on an opening bud will spoil the flower. Look for leaves which will rub against the flower, and pin them back with a clothespin, or tie a branch out of the way. If possible, pick your blooms in the early morning, or before bed at night. Flowers picked on a warm day will be soft, and won't hold their condition as well. If a flower is at its peak and there is still a day or two before the show, pick it and place it in a plastic bag or box and keep it in the refrigerator. Make out all of the entry cards before picking and alphabetize them within class and

division. Next place an inch or so of shredded paper in your boxes and wet it down. A layer of paper toweling on the shredded paper will make it easier to remove the flowers.

Pick the flowers in the same order as your entry cards. As each flower is cut, examine it under a good light. If there is dust or pollen on the petals, blow it off or brush it off with cuticle scissors. Remember the judges are perfectionists, and fussier than an old maid aunt. Whenever possible take an extra bloom for each entry in case one gets damaged. If you fog spray the entries, don't spray a dusty flower as it will spot. Most tap water will spot a flower so use distilled water. If possible shield the stamens when fogging, particularly a *reticulata*. Punch a hole in the paper toweling for the stem to go through, and place the flower so it is sitting as flat as possible and not brushing against the sides of the box or another bloom.

—ALVIN L. GUNN  
January 1965 CAMELLIA  
REVIEW, "What's Behind  
the Green Thumb"

Most of my plants are tub culture. This is the month that I start transferring them to larger containers, with the exception of those that need their roots cut back. This I wait to do in late February or early March.

Camellias have many phases such as ground cover, espaliering and hang-

ing baskets. As I set these plants up to larger pots, I find some make good espalierings, so I start training the young plant. To those of you who are short of room, this conserves space and permits you to crowd your plants closer together.

I use red wood tubs, the square type with removable bottoms to prevent the tubs from getting water soaked. I paint the inside with "Tree-size". You can purchase this by the gallon and thin it down with water until it is easily applied with a brush. Then apply one coat of Vinal redwood paint to the outside of the tub. After using this tub for months it will have approximately its original weight.

Here is good news for all of us. By the time this is published there will be a plastic container on the market, five gallon size, that will retail for less than one dollar. I have seen these containers and they are real sturdy. In setting up your plants from pot to pot don't increase their size over two inches.

If you have camellias in the ground and you want to move them, they are now dormant and should be moved before the latter part of March. I prefer the month of March because you get most of the blooms before moving. Trim the plant back and do not permit it to dry out. Do not fertilize it.

Continue to keep your garden clean. This helps to control the  
*(Continued on Page 24)*

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Caryll and Mildred Pitkin

San Marino, California

NANCY MANDERICH has been displayed in a few shows by its originator, Jack Mandarich of Menlo Park, California. Each time Nancy has attracted attention and much favorable comment. It is an eye catching, lovely blush pink that really blushes. Semi-double with heavy crinkly upright petals it will easily reach five inches. It has best of show possibilities and won't often miss the honor table.

Want it? Redwood Empire Nursery, Sebastapol, will release it this fall.

MOUCHANG — Surely 'Moutancha' and 'Chang's Temple' are compatible. At least one of their seeds produced a plant that bore the lovely 'Mouchang'. Howard Asper released it a year ago but it hasn't been generally seen. Contrary to the habits of its reticulata parents, it grows like Topsy and new shoots will be almost as big around as a pencil. The flowers are very large, just a medium pink, but the petals which make the semi-double flower are slightly ruffled along the edges. 'Mouchang' might be well worth trying by those who have trouble with reticulatas and all the regular reticulata growers will want it for its name alone. It sounds like a lovely Chinese lady.

Into the Spotlight this month we should like to bring two of Harvey Short's introductions. Although registered in 1965 and 1964 respectively they are just now reaching the market. Merle's Nursery, Colton will be the distributor.

PINNACLE — Blooming mid-season to late on a very sturdy upright bush this brilliant coral red flower is registered as a peony. However, it sometimes appears as a full loose semi-double and is just as attractive. Merle Gish thinks this is one of the best of the Short introductions.

OWEN HENRY — Most everyone knows and admires 'Sunset Glory'. Harvey Short departed from form and his poetically descriptive titles when he named the light pink sport of 'Sunset Glory', 'Owen Henry'. This means it's good. Owen Henry was a much beloved hobbyist in the San Diego area and a long time friend of Harvey's, so it would have to be a good flower for him to choose it to honor his friend.

### CHANGE IN MEETING DATE

For January *only*, SCCS will meet on the *second Monday*, the 9th.

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Elise Ruth Marshall  
Ellie Rubensohn  
Francie L.

Florence Stratton Blush  
Fire Chief  
Faint Whisper  
Gladys Pinkerton Var.  
Guilio Nuccio  
    McVey's Strain  
Georgia Rouse Var.  
Harvest Time  
Island of Fire  
Judge Marvin Mann  
    (peony)  
Julia Wilson

Jerry Wilson Pink Var.  
Julia Marie  
Lila Naff  
Louise Hairston  
Louise Hairston Var.  
Lila Fretwell  
Lamont Glass  
\*Ma-Dot-Cha  
McVey's Guilio Nuccio  
Miss Ozark  
Mexicali Rose  
Mary Avard

Omega  
Pat La-Motte-Jones  
Pagan  
Pat Poyner Var.  
Pink Radiance  
Tiptoe  
Tom Knudsen  
Tiffany Var.  
White Deb  
Velvet Glow  
Regal Splendor  
\*Our New Releases

## GROUP B - - - - \$3.00 EACH

Alyne Brothers Pink  
Annie True  
Anticipation  
Astronaut  
Berenice Beauty  
Berenice Perfection  
B. F. Coker  
Betty Burgess  
Betty Foy Sanders  
Bottoms Up  
Betty Cuthbert  
Chatham  
Cresta Blanca  
Crinkles  
Delta King  
Elise Jury  
Erica McMinn  
Elizabeth Hill  
Edward Marsh  
Freedom Bells

Frank Brownlee  
Fair Lass  
Gay Chieftain  
Gladys Pinkerton  
Guilio Nuccio Supreme  
Gwenneth Morey  
Glenwood  
Grand Jury  
Grand Slam Var.  
Gunsmoke Var.  
Howard Asper & Var.  
Hiawatha  
Irving Corbett  
Ivory Tower  
Jean Smith  
Julia Wilson  
Jerry Wilson  
Jerry Wilson Pink  
King Solomon

Kyo-Kanoko Surprise  
Lillie S. Adams  
Les Marbury  
Leanne's Tomorrow  
Lucille Davis  
Magic City  
Margaret Wells Delight  
Mister Sam  
Miss Lyla  
Mrs. G. G. McLaurin  
Mary Moughon  
Morris Moughon.  
Marjorie Nan  
Mary Paige  
Mildred Vietch  
Mississippi Beauty White  
Mouchang  
Mary Adger  
Owen Henry

Pink Cup of Beauty  
Princess Pat  
Rowena Hooks Var.  
Snowman  
Spring Deb  
Sarah Bellamy  
Silver Ruffles  
Sweet Afton  
Sweet Afton Var.  
Sarah Abbey Gail  
Star Ruby  
Sawada's #14 Var.  
Thomas Cornelius  
Tip Tipton  
Tomorrow's Dawn (peony)  
Woodland Glen  
Will Rehder  
Wedding Bells  
Vernon Mayo

## GROUP C - - - - \$2.00 EACH

Aroma  
Allie Blue  
Alta Gavin  
Betsy Boulware  
Brenda Tuck  
Black Domino  
Brooksie's Rosea  
    Superba Var.  
Betty Sheffield Baby  
Betty Sheffield Blush  
Betty Sheffield Charming  
Betty Sheffield Dream  
Betty Sheffield Silver  
Betty Sheffield Pink Heart  
Betty Sheffield Ruby Red  
Betty Sheffield Supreme  
Betty Sheffield Purple  
Betty Sheffield Coral  
Betty Sheffield Strawberry  
Betty Sheffield Veined  
Betty Sheffield  
    Lavender Blush  
Betty Sheffield Funny Face  
Blush Supreme Betty  
Carl Tourje  
Carter's Sunburst Var.

Cover Girl  
Carry Back  
Carter's Sunburst  
    Pink & Var.  
Charlie Bettes  
Clark Hubbs & Var.  
Coral Queen  
Coe  
Diamond Head  
Dazzle  
Diddy's Pink Organdie  
Drama Girl Dream  
Dr. Burnside S & Var.  
Dr. Paul Sanders  
Erin Farmer  
Eleanor Martin Supreme  
Eleanor K.  
Easter Parade  
Ecclefield  
Elegans Supreme  
First Lady  
Fashionata  
Frances Hicks  
Full House  
Grand Slam  
Guilio Nuccio Var.

Georgia Rouse  
Grandeur  
Guilio Nuccio Fimbriated  
Gunsmoke  
Helen Christian  
House Party  
Haggerty Old Rose  
Jeneli  
June Stewart Supreme  
Judge Thomas Porter  
Judge W. T. Ragland  
Kramer's Supreme Var.  
Kramer's Pink  
Kubul Kain Supreme  
Kathryn Marbury  
Kay Truesdale  
Lady Velma & Var.  
Lady Susan  
Lillah Callison  
Leverton's  
Marguerite Cannon & Var  
Mark Alan, Var. & Supreme  
Mark Culver & Var.  
Mona Monique  
Moonlight Sonata  
Melessia Duggan

Mary Agnes Patin Var.  
Memphis Belle  
Mississippi Beauty Red  
Margaret Pond & Var.  
Muriel Nathan  
Margaret Davis  
One Alone  
Saudade-de-Martins Branco  
Spellbound  
Samarkand Var.  
Sherrie Hollis  
Susann  
Silver Chalice  
Nick's #13  
Tomorrow Var. & Supreme  
Tom Cat & Var.  
Tomorrow Park Hill  
Twilight  
Tri Color Blush  
Pink Magic  
Polaris  
Park Hill Tomorrow  
Rebel Yell Pink & Var.  
Rowena Hooks  
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# CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES -- ALTON B. PARKER

Albert H. Dekker  
Glendale, California

Very few, if any, readers of this publication in the California area are unfamiliar with the individual who is the subject of this "write-up". And I might add that there are few if any camellia enthusiasts in California who are better or more favorably known throughout the South or have attended more of the A. C. S. meetings. I refer to our good friend and fellow camellia fancier Alton B. Parker, better known as "Al". As many of you know, Al made a monumental decision three years ago when he left a comfortable berth in the engineering department of Aetna Casualty and Surety Company to establish himself as a camellia grower and distributor to the camellia retail nurseries in Central and Northern California. Before I tell you more about the development of Al's project let me briefly outline his early background.

Al was born in the small East Texas town of Winfield, about 100 miles east and north of Dallas. His father was an M. D. who spent his lifetime attending the ailing of the surrounding agricultural community. As a youngster Al did every type of work available in an agricultural area, such as picking cotton, working in the fields and cotton mills. At the age of

18, in his senior year in high school, he joined the Navy and was sent to San Diego for basic training. He volunteered for submarine service, where he remained for seven years largely based in Honolulu and China. He returned from China to a home base in 1932. He tells me that it was in 1933 that the best thing that ever happened to him occurred: he met and married Vera. After serving on varied types of naval vessels and shore stations, he retired in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant. Two months



Al and Vera Parker



Apple trees have been replaced by seran covered shade houses.

after retirement he was employed by Aetna as a Safety Engineer.

Al, Vera and her mother Ada lived in Long Beach, California and after establishing themselves there they started collecting and raising roses. They did very well with them and Al started taking roses to the girls in the office. The engineering and auditing departments of Aetna occupied the same office rooms and Wilkins Garner, in Aetna's auditing department and a member of Pacific Camellia Society, noted Al's interest in flowers. He invited Al to attend a camellia society meeting. Al's reply was "What is a camellia?" He attended his first Pacific Camellia Society meeting in February 1950 and, as happens so frequently, won a plant 'Desa Thompson' at this meeting. Al says that as he now looks back at it, he is certain that Wilkins Garner got tired of listening to him talk about his roses and took the proper step to put a stop to that.

Rose-Marie and I have been members of the Pacific Camellia Society since the evening we got together with some friends to organize it, and we can safely say that in the history of the Society we have never seen a new member who has done as much for the spirit, the enthusiasm and the general friendly feeling as have Al and Vera. They were always ready to lend a helping hand in the activities of the Society and it was not long before Al was serving on the Board of Directors, and later as President of the Society for a number of terms. Al was also selected to serve as Vice President for the Pacific Coast of the American Camellia Society for several terms. When he announced he was moving to Northern California to undertake his new venture, we all wished him well but were sad to see him go.

Al and Vera first rented temporarily a home outside Santa Rosa while

searching for a suitable location for their home and nursery. Al was in no great rush inasmuch as he was not wasting any time while seeking a property with suitable soil and climatic conditions; he was also busy contacting his future clientele. After considerable search he purchased a home and apple orchard on the north outskirts of Sebastopol which has proven to be easily adaptable to a camellia nursery. A large portion of the orchard is now under saran shade.

Since moving north Al has made a practice of planting thousands of camellia seeds every year, thus assuring that he will have ample understock for future operations. He has arranged contracts with several individuals for the propagation of cuttings of his selection. He has been fortunate in making arrangements with mass producers of select camellias to sell their choice introductions to the retail nurseries in his marketing area.

During the past year or fifteen months Al and William H. (Bill) Cole, who has spent a lifetime in the nursery business in various capacities, found that every time they met and exchanged ideas they had almost parallel plans and ideals. They decided early in 1966 to join forces and Al, Vera and Mr. Cole formed the corporation known as Redwood Empire Camellias. From what I have seen of their activities and plans, and knowing of both their abilities and enthusiasm, I predict a great future for them.

---

**Pay 1967 SCCS dues of \$6.00  
now and save the Society the  
expense of preparing and mail-  
ing statements.**

# THE HYBRID STORY

L. R. Shuey

Temple City, California

During the past 25 years, the introduction and propagation of new varieties of camellia species japonica and sasanqua have continued at a rapid and accelerated pace, so much so that the majority of the popular varieties of even ten or fifteen years ago are seldom purchased or propagated by the connoisseur of today. The introduction of new camellia blooms has been augmented by a constantly increasing number of hybrids by both amateur and professional growers. In laymen's language what do we mean when we refer to a hybrid camellia? The hybridist defines a hybrid as the successful result of having cross pollinated two different species of camellias.

Historically, our first hybrids probably came into existence centuries ago through the cross pollination by nature of different species of camellias growing in proximity to each other in their native Asiatic habitats. Also, Chinese Buddhist monks experimented with hybridizing techniques on the several species of camellias which they found growing in the province of Yunnan in Southern China and in the adjoining country known in ancient times at Tonkin. Much of this is conjecture, of course, but the known facts give strong credence to these beliefs.

The hybrid camellias was comparatively unknown in the Western world until about the year 1930. From whence then came these new and beautiful introductions to the camellia world? Camellia historians universally give credit to J. C. Williams of Caerhays Castle, Cornwall, England, a fine and practical gardener, who gave to the world its first worthwhile hybrid, now registered and named 'J. C. Williams'. When George Forrest, famous British plant explorer, visited the region around Kunming,

China during the early part of this century, he procured seed from many camellias which he found growing in their natural wild state. These seeds were thrown together and shipped to England under the label *C. Speciosa*. When planted in England, *Speciosa* was found to be a collection of four species; namely: *reticulata*, *pitardii*, *saluenensis* and *taliensis*. Some of this seed was given to his friend, J. C. Williams, who planted it in the Caerhays' castle gardens. Even in the unfavorable British climate, *saluenensis* united readily with *japonica* to produce the many new and beautiful hybrid introductions, later to become known as *C. Williamsii*. Mr. Julian Williams, the grandson of J. C. Williams, believes the first recorded cross of *C. saluenensis* x *japonica* was made in 1923, which resulted in his grandfather's first hybrid 'J. C. Williams', a phlox pink, medium, single flower. Subsequent successful crosses between *saluenensis* and *japonica* resulted in additional hybrids, some of which were named and are now known as 'Mary Christian', 'St. Ewe', 'November Pink', 'Charles Michael' and many others. In all cases, *saluenensis* was used as the seed parent and *japonica* as the pollen parent. Most of these early hybrids were a phlox pink to rose pink in color. Since the death of his grandfather in 1939, Mr. Julian Williams has spent many hours trying to trace the original *saluenensis* parent plant from which his grandfather's many successful crosses were made; however, due to incomplete labeling of the many camellia plants in the garden, this has never been conclusively established. The original plant of 'J. C. Williams' is now in excess of 15 feet in height and its lovely flowers are the pride of the Caerhays gardens collection. It is of interest to note that the *Williamsii*

hybrids have exhibited considerable more frost hardiness than has been found in either of their species parents.

Following the successful hybridization efforts of J. C. Williams, other avid British gardeners and horticulturists made similar crosses between *C. saluenensis* and *japonica*. Probably the most beautiful and breathtaking of the new introductions was the late Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke's 'Donation'. This very floriferous orchid pink, semi-double flower is also considered to be a *Williamsii* hybrid, and, in this case, the pollen parent was *japonica* 'Donckelarii'. The *japonica* pollen parent of the initial 'J. C. Williams' hybrid is unknown.

I well remember when the hybrid 'Donation' was first introduced to the trade in Southern California about seven years ago by the Nuccio Nurseries of Altadena. What excitement it created. No flower in the nursery had the vivid orchid pink coloring of this hybrid. It was a must on everyone's list. No collection was complete without it. When a Division was finally provided for hybrids in the big annual shows, the blue ribbon flowers of this creation usually won the silver trophy.

Following the success by J. C. Williams of his now famous *Williamsii* hybrids, which stimulated the imagination of geneticists as well as amateur and professional growers in all parts of the world, it next became the good fortune of Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Gordon, New South Wales, Australia to further whet the appetites of the hybridizing enthusiasts. In 1938, Professor Waterhouse imported a plant of *camellia saluenensis* from England. This was planted in a bed containing a number of *C. japonica* cultivars. From the beginning it showed a tendency to die back. In 1945 it flowered freely and set a number of seed pods, but died the following year; however, a number of seedlings, 22 in all, came up under

the plant. The foliage of these seedlings was quite different from that of the *saluenensis* mother plant. In 1954, three of these seedlings flowered. These were named 'E. G. Waterhouse', a formal double, light pink and beautifully imbricated; 'Lady Gowrie', a large semi-double, upwards of five inches in diameter with about 20 petals, a fuchine-pink color; and 'Margaret Waterhouse', a semi-double with three rows of petals, a diameter of four inches and amaranth rose in color. Others of these original 22 seedlings were named, some of which are 'Bowen Bryant', a deep pink and a very strong grower, probably one of the most vigorous of the entire *Williamsii* group; 'Charles Colbert', a two-tone pink with incurved edges to the petals; 'Clarrie Fawcett', a semi-double, very similar to 'Margaret Waterhouse' but with better coloring; 'Crinkles', a many petalled, semi-double amaranth-rose with beautifully crinkled petals; and 'Ellamine', a large single, four inches in diameter, with a fuchine-pink color.

Several years ago many of these chance seedlings began to appear in various *camellia* nurseries throughout the United States. Needless to say, some of them were highly acclaimed, particularly the stylish formal 'E. G. Waterhouse'. Its introduction quickly relegated the hybrid 'Donation' to a secondary role of importance on the show tables. It became the sweetheart of the formal double *camellia* blooms. For a time, the demand for this plant exceeded the supply and it was considered the successor of the ever-popular *camellia japonica* 'Pink Perfection'.

About 1943 Dr. Brian W. Doak, New Zealand's pioneer in *Camellia* hybridizing work, obtained a rooted cutting of *C. saluenensis* from Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Australia. In 1949 he utilized *saluenensis* as the seed parent of successful crosses using pollen from *C. reticulata* 'Capt.

*(Continued on next page)*

Rawes'. He raised and named the following hybrids: 'Phyl Doak', 'Fair Lass', 'Brian', 'Barbara Clark', and 'Dr. Lesley'. In so far as the Southern California area is concerned, 'Phyl Doak' and 'Barbara Clark' appear to be the best of Dr. Doak's introductions.

Though the first crosses made were not controlled, there seems little doubt that both of the above species were involved. The fact that none but the hand-pollinated flowers set any seed and that no other camellias were in flower in the vicinity at the time, together with the flower and foliage characteristics of the resultant seedlings, all strongly support the belief that the crosses were successfully made. The cross was repeated two years later and was controlled and the seedlings from the second attempt show similar characteristics to those from the first.

Dr. Doak wrote recently, "In my work with *Camellia saluenensis*, I have run into sterilities which have been rather frustrating. I now rather doubt that the *saluenensis* I used (identical with the one that was the seed parent of Prof. Waterhouse's open pollinated seedlings) is true. This *saluenensis* was from an English source and it seems quite likely that it was a form of *C. Williamsii*. It was a single, but very much more highly colored than any *saluenensis* I have ever seen. This plant (at least when small) was self sterile, but set seeds when pollinated with pollen from *C. reticulata* 'Capt. Rawes'. Whether the seedlings are true hybrids or the result of apomictic development of seed as a consequence of stimulation of the ovule by the foreign pollen, as suggested by Mr. Carl Tourje and Dr. Longley, has not yet been established. If the latter, it is clear that the seed parent must have been a hybrid and not a true *C. saluenensis*. Otherwise, it is difficult to account for the number of seedlings with semi-double flowers. I am convinced that a *Camel-*

*lia japonica* cannot have been the pollen parent, even though the first set of pollinations were not protected, as no flowering *C. japonica* were within considerable distance from my garden. The second set, two years later, were controlled, and pods formed only on the flowers pollinated by hand."

While to Dr. Brian W. Doak goes the honor of being the pioneer of his work in New Zealand, before passing to another part of the world we should mention the work of Mr. L. E. Jury, of New Plymouth. In 1945 Mr. Jury began importing plants for the specific purpose of camellia hybridization, which work actually commenced in 1954. By 1962, he had raised approximately one thousand hybrid camellia plants, most of which were crosses between *C. saluenensis* and *C. japonica*. The first of his hybrids to qualify for naming was a *saluenensis* x 'Lotus' hybrid. This was a large semi-double, phlox pink flower and was named 'Kia Ora', (Maori for "Good Luck"). Three other semi-doubles were subsequently named 'Elegant Beauty', 'Grand Jury', and 'Anticipation', which were followed by 'Fortune's Smile' and 'Joyful Bells', both of these being six-petaled, single flowered hybrids. In 1964, he introduced a show quality flower named 'Elsie Jury', a clear pink with shaded orchid undertone. It is large and full peony in form and is another *saluenensis* x *japonica* cross. This hybrid appeared in Southern California shows last year and seems destined to take its place among the best of the hybrids introduced to date.

Mr. Jury has procured plants of a great many species and, according to him, all possible crosses are tried, many unsuccessfully because of the chromosome complex, or because of insufficient maturity of the seed parent, and also because the soil and climate of New Zealand favor growth rather than freely setting seed.

A great deal of Mr. Jury's success

with Williamsii hybrids was due to a stroke of luck when he purchased two small seedlings of saluenensis from England. One proved to be a poor type, while the other turned out to be a superior form with large open blooms and extra substance. To differentiate from other saluenensis forms, he called this one Sunnybank variety. Mr. Jury places paramount significance on the quality of breeder plants, since it is obvious that the greater advance made in the first cross, then the greater the possible attainment in the second cross. Mr. Jury has, by now, probably bloomed many of his second generation hybrids. We eagerly await the results. His countryman, Dr. Brian W. Doak, stated without reservations that Mr. Jury has done the most systematic hybridizing of camellias in New Zealand, using saluenensis forms, wild reticulata, Kunming reticulatas, and 'Capt. Rawes', as well as C. fraterna and other species. Mr. Jury is apparently far in front of the hybridizing field in New Zealand. His interest in hybridizing, however, did not start with Camellias, but dates back some twenty years when he began work on Lilium Speciosum x Auratum.

Another New Zealand hybridist of considerable promise is Mr. Felix Jury of Tikorangi. He resides in the same province as Mr. Les Jury. Felix Jury believes he has successfully crossed C. sasanqua with some of the

Kunming reticulatas. The progeny are still small, but the foliage has an unusual appearance, though not resembling reticulata. The wood, however, shows characteristics which could conceivably come from C. reticulata. The seedlings from these crosses will, of course, be watched with a great degree of interest.

*Mr. Shuey's "The Hybrid Story" will be concluded in the next issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.*

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## **Temple City Camellia Society**

The January meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday evening, January 26, 1967, in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum at 8:00 P.M. Three of the Society's members, Basil Neptune, Pete Folino, and L. R. Shuey, will discuss various phases of growing camellias based on their practical experiences gained over a number of years. This meeting should prove of interest to all who grow camellias as it will enable members and guests to compare notes on growing and cultural methods. Speakers will not present a panel discussion, but each will talk on separate subjects. All Camellia Society members and their friends are cordially invited.

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# MORE ABOUT REFRIGERATION OF CAMELLIA SHOW FLOWERS

Harold E. Dryden

The November 1966 issue of the A. C. S. CAMELLIA JOURNAL contains an article on the subject "Refrigeration of Camellia Show Flowers," originally written by J. Carroll Reiners of Sacramento, California for a 1963 issue of The Northern California Camellia Society's THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN. The main point of Mr. Reiner's article is stated in the first sentence of the last paragraph, which reads "In staging a camellia show we are trying our best to gain public acceptance and the public comes to see the Best". No one who is really interested in growing camellias as a hobby should disagree with this statement. Mr. Reiners states as a conclusion that the refrigeration of blooms conflicts with the objective of displaying only the best blooms for the duration of the show (I have added the last six words to his quoted sentence). He states "A camellia bloom subjected to more than 24 hours of cold storage becomes softened in substance and when re-entered into natural conditions quickly loses turgidity and the appeal of freshness. The longer the bloom is ice-boxed the quicker it will "go limp". Blooms held for several days will barely hold up long enough for the judging."

Strides have been made in recent years in improving the techniques of refrigerating camellia blooms for display in camellia shows. Frank Reed's article in the November 1966 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW describes his use of naphthalene-acetic acid (NAA) in the refrigerating process. Several exhibitors in Southern California are using this formula. It occurred to me that our Early Show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on December 10 and 11, 1966 would be a good laboratory for getting some

actual results from which we might draw some tentative conclusions. I say "tentative" because I do not believe that final conclusions can be reached on the basis of a single show. I therefore carefully looked over the tables of flowers promptly after the judging was completed on Saturday. I repeated the step on Sunday morning and again late in the afternoon. I made notes of the flowers that were showing signs of deteriorating. Some of the exhibitors were present during my reviews and I asked how long their deteriorating flowers had been in refrigeration. I had written on the entry cards of my own entries the dates that the flowers had been picked, so was able to draw some conclusions there.

While I am not able to support the statement with evidence, I am sure that the kind of weather before and during a show will effect the staying quality of refrigerated blooms during the show. We had several days of rather steady rain up to three days before the show. I picked during the rain, shook off the water and put the blooms in the refrigerator after spraying them with NAA. I made it a point to pick the blooms at what I thought were their peak condition. I picked in the morning when they were fresh. Temperatures during the two show days were perfect. I saw no significant difference in the condition of the blooms between the Sunday morning and afternoon inspections, at 11 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.

I report as follows:

1. Generally speaking, the condition of the flowers at the close of the show should have caused the Show Committee no embarrassment. All but two of the japonicas and reticulatas on the Head Table were in satisfactory condition for the close of a



two-day show. One of the two, a reticulata, would be rated fair. The second, a "Best Seedling", was in poor condition on Sunday morning. A large majority of the Head Table blooms had been refrigerated.

2. Deteriorations of blooms could not be charged entirely to refrigeration because some of these, enough to be significant, were entered by people who have told me they picked the day before or the morning of the show.

3. For some varieties, all the entries were in satisfactory condition at the close of the show. These varieties included but were not limited to 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' (at least two dozen blooms in the treated and non-treated Divisions), 'China Doll', 'Clark Hubbs', 'Debutante', 'Grand Slam', 'Kick Off', 'King Size', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Magnoliaeflora' (the blue ribbon flower had been refrigerated for 10 days and was in good condition), 'Moonlight Sonata', 'Tiffany', 'Tomorrow' and 'E. G. Waterhouse'.

4. For some varieties, all of the entries were in unsatisfactory condition at the close of the show. These varieties included but were not limited to 'Clarise Carleton', 'Elizabeth LeBey', 'Mark Alan' and 'Coral Pink Lotus'. I entered six blooms of 'Mark Alan' in the treated and non-treated Divisions, refrigerated from two to six days. None of the six "flopped"

but neither did any one of them approach freshness at the close of the show.

5. While there was no correlation between length of refrigeration and condition of flowers, the evidence was against the longer refrigeration. The three largest winners at the Head Table were present during my Sunday review of the tables and I asked them about specific blooms. Generally speaking, the poorer looking blooms had the longer refrigeration. On the other hand, Mel Gum's 3's of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Candy Cane' and 'Carter's Sunburst' were put in the refrigerator "days and days ago".

So I conclude, with the understanding that I shall revise these conclusions when further evidence indicates that I should:

1. Refrigeration in itself should not be condemned. This is well for two reasons: (1) We shall have more blooms entered in our shows, thus improving the shows; (2) A flower picked at its peak condition and refrigerated will be a better flower than if it were left on the plant and picked after its peak.

2. Some varieties take refrigeration, some do not. Exhibitors who are sincerely interested in the condition of the flowers at the end of a two-day show will do two things.

(1) They will determine by their own trials which varieties do and  
*(Continued on next page)*

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which do not. There will be plenty of time between now and the next California show at San Diego on February 11th to determine this. The test will be not how long they can be kept in refrigeration but how well and how long they will keep out in the open when taken out of refrigeration.

(2) They will refrain from entering into competition any refrigerated flowers which on the basis of their own tests may not stand up for the two-day show.

The tests should be made during periods of warm weather such as we may encounter at February and March show time.

3. While, as previously stated, there was no definite evidence in the Early Show of correlation between length of refrigeration and condition of bloom at the end of the two-day show, the evidence was sufficient to cause one to avoid long refrigeration. This question should be academic for the shows ahead because they will come at one-week intervals and there should be little excuse for entering a bloom that has been kept in refrigeration for over six days. In fact, with mid-season varieties at their peak of blooming, most of the blooms put in the refrigerator on Sunday, Monday and even Tuesday should be replaced by new blooms that will be picked only two or three days before show time.

Carroll Reiners referred in his article to "ice-boxing of blooms for several days before a show in order to preserve the flower long enough to have it judged . . . The unfortunate result is that the exhibitor may gain a ribbon by fooling the judges, whom the public will then regard as being lax in their ability to judge, because the public views only a miserably wilted flower instead of a fresh one." This situation need not exist if the people who refrigerate their flowers will do their school work and abide by what they learn.

## WHAT TO DO (Continued)

dreaded flower blight. The disease first appears as small brown spots usually in the central or basal parts of the petal, which gradually enlarges until the entire petal turns brown. This fungus can be carried over from year to year if the bloom is permitted to stay on the ground.

To you beginners, don't get unduly concerned when the flower petals brown near the ends, or buds partially open, show color or turn brown on the outside and rot on the plants. Please don't jump at conclusions that you have flower blight. This condition is due mostly to the weather. To help discourage this condition bathe the camellia foliage frequently. Don't worry about soiling the bloom, in most cases it will not. Your first concern is to help blossoms stay fresh and encourage partially opened buds to open unblemished.

To those of you where weather permits, the latter part of January and the first of February is a good time to remove all the old mulch. Throw it completely away, do not reuse any portion of it. By doing this you will help prevent a root disease commonly known as cinnamon rot. I like to add a thin layer of redwood forest humus to replace the old. This gives a completely new mulch at fertilizing time.

—MELVIN L. GUM

January 1965 CAMELLIA  
REVIEW, "Sharing Experiences"

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### CAMELLIA SEEDS

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See November 1966

CAMELLIA REVIEW  
for prices."

# CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

Date	Sponsor	Location
Feb. 11-12, 1967	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 18-19, 1967	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona
Feb. 18-19, 1967	Peninsula Camellia Society	Veterans' Memorial Bldg., Redwood City
Feb. 25-26, 1967	Temple City Camellia Society	L. A. County Arboretum Lecture Hall, Arcadia
Feb. 25-26, 1967	Delta Camellia Society	Cafeteria, Pittsburg High School, Pittsburg
Mar. 4-5, 1967	L. A. Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Mar. 4-5, 1967	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium, 15th & J Sts., Sacramento
Mar. 5, 1967	Central California Camellia Society	McLane High School, 2727 N. Cedar Ave., Fresno
Mar. 11-12, 1967	Camellia Society of Kern County	San Joaquin Tractor Bldg., Bakersfield
Mar. 11-12, 1967	Northern California Camellia Society	Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hills, Concord
Mar. 18-19, 1967	Camellia Society of Modesto	Student Center of Modesto Junior College, Modesto
Mar. 25-26, 1967	Visiting Nursing Service for Sonoma County	Memorial Auditorium, Sebastopol

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## EARLY SHOW

California's camellia season got off to a good start with the Early Show that was held December 10-11 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. This was the second such show to be sponsored by the Los Angeles Camellia Council primarily for the display of treated blooms. The success of the December 1965 and 1966 shows has assured the Early Show a permanent place in the California Show Schedule.

889 blooms were entered by 47 exhibitors, compared with 734 blooms entered by 42 exhibitors in the December 1965 show. 210 japonica varieties were entered, 54 of which were entered in both the Treated and Non-treated Division. Including these duplications, there were 198 varieties in the Treated Division and 119 varieties in the Non-treated Division.

Winners on the Court of Honor were as follows:

### Japonica

Best treated variety —

'Clark Hubbs',

Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood

Best treated variety runner-up —

'Miss Charleston',

M. W. Abramson, Tulare

Best treated 3-bloom entry —

'Tomorrow',

Melvin L. Gum, Long Beach

Best treated 3-bloom entry,

runner-up —

'Betty Sheffield Blush',

Melvin L. Gum, Long Beach

"Outstanding" Treated blooms on Court of Honor —

'Betty Sheffield Supreme',

Caryll Pitkin, San Marino

'Blush Supreme',

Caryll Pitkin, San Marino

'C. M. Wilson',

Frank Reed, Pasadena

'Carter's Sunburst Pink Var',

Melvin Canfield, Bakersfield

'Cover Girl',

Frank Reed, Pasadena

'Guilio Nuccio',

Melvin L. Gum, Long Beach

'Reg Ragland',

Melvin L. Gum, Long Beach

'Tiffany',

Melvin L. Gum, Long Beach

'Tomorrow Park Hill',

Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood

Best non-treated variety —

'R. L. Wheeler',

Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

Best non-treated variety, runner-up —

'White Nun',

Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

Best non-treated 3-bloom entry —

'Guilio Nuccio',

Mrs. Peg White, La Jolla

Best non-treated 3-bloom entry,

runner-up —

'R. L. Wheeler',

Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

"Outstanding" non-treated blooms on Court of Honor —

'Cheryl Lynn'

Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

'Emmet Barnes',

Frank Reed, Pasadena

'Cover Girl',

Mrs. Peg White, La Jolla

Best miniature —

'Dryade Var',

John and Betty Robinson,

La Canada

Best miniature, runner-up —

'Sugar Babe',

Mr. & Mrs. Pat Novak, Van Nuys

### Sasanqua (non-treated)

Best Variety —

'Dazzler',

John & Mary Movich, Pomona

Best Variety, runner-up —

'Chansonette',

Mrs. Peg White, La Jolla

Best 3-bloom entry —

'Yule Tide',

Frank Reed, Pasadena

Best 3-bloom entry, runner-up —

'Dazzler',

Frank Reed, Pasadena

Best Reticulata —

'Osmanthus Leaf', -'

(Continued on Page 31)

# BOUTONNIERE CAMELLIAS, 1962-1966: COMMENTS AND RATINGS

Warren O. Addicott  
Portola Valley, California

Over the past five years boutonniere camellias (varieties classified as miniature and small) have become increasingly popular in California and now form an integral part of all camellia shows throughout the State. As recently as 1962, however, some of the California camellia shows did not even have a separate section for these blooms. Now such specialized sections as boutonniere or miniature sweepstakes, miniature collectors tables, and separate sections for miniature and small camellias are found in several shows.

This surge of interest has brought the "little stinkers" into closer and closer surveillance resulting, over the past few years, in a much needed reclassification from miniature to small of a number of varieties originally introduced as miniatures. Many of the varieties once known as miniatures — 'Cardinal's Cap', 'Florence Daniell', 'Little Bit', and 'Little Man', for example — were moved up into the small category in the 1964 edition of *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE*. Indications are that the classification of miniatures (those varieties that consistently produce blooms under 2½ inches in diameter) is far from being settled.

Meanwhile, show chairmen and classification and placement committeemen have had a few headaches over the handling of "miniatures" such as 'Kitty', 'Tinker Bell', 'Johnny's Folly', 'Wilamina' and others that are actually classified as small. One approach has been to admit any blooms, miniature or small, into the miniature competition provided that they can squeeze under the 2½ inch size limit for miniatures. This practice has been justified by admitting "varieties recognized in the nurs-

ery trade as miniatures" to the miniature competition. Thus varieties classified as small were able to win best miniature of the show awards in three shows last year (Delta and Sacramento — 'Kitty'; Northern California — 'Jingle Bells'). Another means of handling this problem is to run the proverbial tight ship and operate the miniature section by the book. This is not as easy as it might seem as many people, exhibitors and show committeemen alike, are not well informed on the classification of miniature and small camellias. Still another approach is to throw the miniature and small varieties into a combined boutonniere section. This approach, used by some California shows, received the recommendation of a large group of accredited California show judges last April (*CAMELLIA REVIEW*, 1966; v. 28, no. 1, p. 13).

There are, I believe, several points in favor of having a boutonniere section including both miniature and small varieties. First of all, the size classification of miniature varieties needs further evaluation. Many of the varieties, particularly the newer ones, are still incorrectly classified. Secondly, it seems unfair to allow undersize small varieties to compete in the miniature competition, as is the case in some shows, and to thereby penalize normally grown blooms. In these circumstances a normally grown 2¾ inch 'Kitty', for example, may be moved by the placement committee from the japonica singles competition where it rightfully belongs to the miniature table where it is disqualified from competition for being oversize. Other benefits of a boutonniere section or division are the simplifica-

*(Continued on next page)*

tion of show management and, as noted by the group of judges, the avoidance of confusion in bloom placement. It is my personal feeling that keeping the small blooms separated from the larger ones in singles competition makes for a much better looking show.

A tabulation of the award winning boutonniere varieties over the past five years shows that 'Fircone Variegated' has been the outstanding small show flower. Although it is one of the older varieties (the solid red form was introduced in 1950) it continues to be a consistent trophy winner. Four of the trophies won by this variety last year were taken by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro of Modesto who showed consistently outstanding, high-built, heavily variegated blooms in northern California shows. The rest of the top 5 varieties,

'Kitty', 'Pearl's Pet', 'Fircone', and 'Hopkin's Pink', have been about equally successful in shows. Of these 'Kitty' seems to be the hottest variety with most of its awards coming in the last two years. In 1965 and 1966 it took more best-of-show awards (3 each year) than any other variety.

Most of the 23 boutonnieres that have had one or more best-of-show awards are Pacific Coast introductions. Of these leading varieties most are pink or red; relatively few white and variegated varieties seem to have caught the judges' fancy.

Also of interest are the camellia exhibitors who have been most successful in showing boutonniere camellias. Edwards Metcalf of San Marino has taken more miniature or boutonniere sweepstakes (4) than anyone else. His closest competitors in this

(Continued on Page 31)

### BEST BOUTONNIERE CAMELLIAS -- 1962-1966

Place	Variety	Best-of-show	Runner-up	Points
		awards	awards	
1	Fircone Var.	7	5	**76
2	*Kitty	7	1	51
	Pearl's Pet	6	2	
3	Fircone	6	0	49
4	Hopkin's Pink	5	2	44
4	Miss Muffett	3	0	19
	Sugar Babe	3	0	
	*Tinker Bell	3	0	
	Fleurette	2	1	
6	Memento	2	0	17
7	Tinsie	2	0	12
	*Wilamina	1	1	
8	*Little Bit	1	1	11
9	*Johnny's Folly	1	0	10
10	Pink Smoke	1	0	7
11	*Alison Leigh Woodroof	1	0	6
	Baby Sargent	1	0	
	Dryade	1	0	
	*Florence Daniell	1	0	
	*Pink Poppy	1	0	
	Pouf	1	0	
	Red Button	1	0	
	White Boutonniere	1	0	

\* Varieties classified as small in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE (1966).

\*\* Points awarded as follows: best-of-show—6; runner-up—5; best group of 3—3; runner-up group of 3 and court of honor—1.

## **EARLY DAYS** *(Continued)*

as to be in high humidity. Finally one of them put out a tiny sprout, which wilted after a few days. It was decided to graft it and Howard Asper was elected to do the grafting on a five-gallon understock. About the first of September evidence of life showed up and the graft grew into what we now know as 'Buddha'. The other import grew without trouble and was named 'Confucius' by Mr. Boddy.

Again to quote from Mr. Asper's talk, "This is pretty much the story of the importation of the reticulatas as it actually was. I know that there are a great many stories going around and a great many things being said, but I was there and I think I have a fairly good memory as to how it happened."

Descanso went through a number of phases between 1948 and 1953 when it was sold to Los Angeles County to become a part of the County Park System. One year they grafted and sold 30,000 plants. They developed a profitable cut flower business, in which they learned how to tailor camellias, a step that was originated at Descanso. They were the first to sell camellia foliage to the flower market. As told by Asper, they were accustomed to load on a truck the tops they cut off the grafting stock and haul them to the dump to be burned. Mr. Boddy came along one day and said "Why can't we sell this? Please tie some of it in a bunch and take it down to the flower market." That was the beginning of the cut camellia foliage business that has become big business.

About 1949 Asper made a trip to the South to look at camellia gardens. He visited Bellingrath Gardens near Mobile, Alabama and returned with a lot of pictures. After much discussion, Mr. Boddy decided to make Descanso into a show garden. It was also decided to remove the commercial operations to another location, leaving only the show gardens in La

Canada. It developed after the Gardens were opened to the public that special zoning would be required, which Mr. Boddy could not obtain. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors showed interest in obtaining the 155 acres and developing the area as a public garden. This interest led to the completion of negotiations under which the Gardens were sold to Los Angeles County on November 1, 1953, at which date they were placed under the jurisdiction of the County's Department of Parks and Playgrounds. They were transferred to the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens in 1958.

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## **AN AMERICAN IMPRESSION** *(Continued)*

from our show experience.

The most enjoyable part of my trip to Australia was in making many wonderful camellia friends. I found Australians very friendly and hospitable. I enjoyed seeing their gardens and visiting in their homes. In particular, I was impressed with the gardens of Mr. Tuckfield and of Mr. Ansell near Melbourne and of Prof. Waterhouse near Sydney. A description of Mr. Tuckfield's garden has been given in the 1966 American Camellia Yearbook. Mr. Ansell has a very large estate with magnificent gardens. Prof. Waterhouse has lived for over fifty years in his home and I enjoyed seeing his original camellias including the parents of his wonderful hybrids. I want to thank all of the others who did so much to make my trip "Down Under" so enjoyable. Remember you Australians also can have a year-round blooming season by visiting America. We look forward to a greater interchange of flowers and of visitors between our two countries.

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**1967 dues of \$6.00  
are now due.**

## AZALEAS -- HARBINGERS OF SPRING

Harvey F. Short  
La Mesa, California

Reprinted from *CALIFORNIA GARDEN*,  
publication of the San Diego Floral Association

Azaleas, a splendid group of evergreen shrubs belonging to the Rhododendron family are truly unequalled in the many types offered to us. The range of colors, the styling and size of the blossoms, the great variation in foliage from very small to very large leaves, all contribute greatly to the beauty of azaleas as landscape material, whether used as pot plants, mass plantings, tree types, espaliers or hedges. The growth habits extend from low compact forms up to the vigorous open growth of large specimens. A large variety of the popular members of the azalea family are now to be found in most nurseries.

### Belgian Hybrids

This category offers an extended flowering season from October through April and some of the showiest large double or semi-double blooms, suitable for arrangements, in addition to scattered sprays of flowers during the year. Favorites are the gorgeous *Albert and Elizabeth*, whose white petals are edged with deep coral pink, and *Paul Schame*, a double salmon-pink and *Professor Walters*, a large single pink with dark blotches that make it look like a pelargonium; and *Pink Pearl*, with large flowers of delicate light pink coloring which often reblooms all year.

### Southern Indicas

These varieties are also called Sun Azaleas because they have been selected for their vigor and sun tolerance, but their blooms still show off best in partial shade. Long popular in the deep south, they are the ones usually associated with the famous gardens of that area. The large single flowers of *Fielder's White*, the purple of *Phoenicea* and the brilliant red of *Pride of Dorking* are worthy choices in this group.

### Rutherfordiana Hybrids

These types offer distinctive and attractive selections with excellent foliage, vigorous growth and striking colors. Flowers of delicate orchid, white, pink and red to orange-red coloring are usually "hose-in-hose" or double forms.

### Kurume

The Kurume group came out of Japan in the early 1930's. The Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens in Pasadena was one of three places in the United States selected to receive seeds of these plants. From the resulting seedlings came at least a hundred varieties differing in color and size of flowers, that were later introduced to this area for the first time. Often these azaleas were a solid mass of bloom that gave the gardens a flashing array of color glory that probably has never been equalled in Southern California. It became customary for garden enthusiasts to make pilgrimages to the Coolidge Gardens each spring for the annual Azalea Festival. Often the number of visitors in a week would be as high as 10,000.

Many fine specimen Kurumes can still be found in the Pasadena area. Their Oriental styling, profusion of bloom (many scented delightfully) and growth characteristics, whether tuned for rock gardens or planted to reflect their beauty in trickling streams and pools, are well expressed in the popular Descanso Gardens at La Canada. Some of these favorites still available are the pale pink *Sera-phin*, *Santor*, *Laughing Water*, and *Snowbird*. Kurumes are hardy, less subject to temperature changes.

### Satsuki or Macranthas

These varieties are late-flowering and very worthy summer types. With this group one embraces high garden



interest that rounds out almost a year of extended color sequences.

**Culture**

Culture of azaleas is not too difficult. They enjoy various soil mixtures leaning to the acid side. These may be leafmold (redwood, pine and oak) and light loam, but my best success through the years has been with two-thirds peat moss or all peat moss, with special attention to good drainage. Peat should *always* be thoroughly moistened before using.

Transplanting may take place any time except when the new leaves begin to show and until they mature. After that azaleas may be repotted even when in full bloom. In time, peat tends to sink a bit, so keep the base of the plant trunk a little high so that the original soil level will not be covered.

Three to four feedings of cottonseed meal or commercial camellia-azalea food from March to September serve well. Mix it into the top of the peat so it will not cake. One or two applications of Stabilized Iron Chelates to counteract the action of salts and alkalinity on the general water supply of this area is a real necessity.

Watering is most important if good drainage is assured. Keep the plants moist but not stagnant. Never let azaleas dry out especially when planting.

Prune to shape after flowering is over and follow up if necessary until July when the new buds set.

To control any pests, such as aphids and mites, give occasional light sprayings of Malathion at regular intervals during the growing season.

Gift plants of potted azaleas will do well if, as soon as convenient, they are transplanted to the garden or kept on in pots for patio display. If properly cared for, they will probably bloom again the same year. They do not thrive in indoor dryness and heat. Keep moist and outdoors as much as possible.

There are enough azaleas, as well

as camellias, suited to our climate to make the gardens of San Diego rival those of the South. Once established, azaleas are little work to maintain and how they do light up the shade portions of the garden when in bloom. Out of season they provide fine foliage shrubs for the landscape. Planting azaleas is a labor that satisfies, an investment for years of beauty.

**EARLY SHOW** (Continued)

- Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood
- “Outstanding” Reticulata on Court of Honor —
- ‘Chang’s Temple’,
- Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood
- Best Other Species —
- Rosaeiflora,
- Mrs. Peg White, La Jolla
- Best Treated Hybrid —
- ‘Waltz Time’,
- Frank Reed, Pasadena
- Best Treated Hybrid, runner-up —
- ‘E. G. Waterhouse’,
- Frank Reed, Pasadena
- Best Treated Seedling — #561,
- Melvin Canfield, Bakersfield
- Best Treated Seedling, runner-up —
- ‘Rose-N-Bloom’,
- Harvey Short, La Mesa
- Best Non-treated Seedling —
- Mrs. Monique Peer-Morris,
- Los Angeles
- Best Non-treated Seedling,
- runner-up — CNR-2
- Frank Reed, Pasadena

**BOUTONNIERE** (Continued)

exclusive competition have only one apiece. The top five exhibitors in single bloom competition over the past five years, determined by awarding 2 points for best-of-show and 1 point for runner-up, are:

	Bests	Runner-ups	Points
Leland Chow	7	2	16
Edwards Metcalf	4	3	11
John Robinson	5	0	10
D. J. Faustman	4	0	8
Fred Hamilton	4	0	8



The Temple City Society breakfast on October 30, 1966 had the usual combination of good food and good fellowship.

# **Directory of California Camellia Societies**

*Societies with asterisk (\*) are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

## **\*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY**

President: Dr. Leland Chow; Secretary, Melvin Canfield, 2709 Scott Pl., Bakersfield 93306  
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through April in Police Bldg., 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield

## **\*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY**

President: Douglas Nowlin; Secretary, Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane,  
Santa Ana 92705  
Meetings: 1st Thursday October through April in Orange County Farm Bldg., 1916 W. Chapman,  
Orange

## **CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO**

President: Dr. Roy O'Neal; Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Hansen, 4361 Ashton Dr., Sacramento  
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park,  
Sacramento

## **\*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Kenneth E. Thompson; Secretary, Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave.,  
Fresno 93702  
Meetings: Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Mar. 22 in Mayfair School, Fresno

## **DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Frank C. Hopper; Secretary, Dorothy Harper, 1016 Tiffin Dr., Concord 94521  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Services Bldg., 6th & G Sts., Antioch

## **JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Joseph Baker; Secretary: Mrs. Eugene Chesi, 801 S. Pleasant St., Lodi 95240  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

## **LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Karl M. Anderson; Secretary: Mrs. Joe L. Vendracek, 13176 Fenton, Sylmar  
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

## **MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: James Grassmidt; Secretary: Mrs. Barbara Butler, 1016 Sycamore, Modesto 95350  
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

## **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Robert E. Ehrhart; Secretary: Carl W. Schroeder, 41 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda 94563  
Meetings: 1st Monday November through May in Claremont Junior High School, 5750 College  
Ave., Oakland

## **PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Robert J. Briggs; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr.,  
Glendale 91208  
Meetings 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House,  
400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

## **PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Jack L. Mandarich; Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Moore, 80 Wheeler Ave.,  
Redwood City 94061  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in Hospitality Room, First Federal Savings  
Bldg., 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City

## **\*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Nelson R. Gatov; Secretary: Nancy McCormick, 568 E. Francis, Ontario 91728  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,  
399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

## **\*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Ray Greer; Secretary: Lewis Greenleaf, 4389 Copeland Ave., San Diego 92105  
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral  
Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

## **\*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Basil J. Neptune; Secretary: Mrs. Violet Shuey, 5813 N. Golden West Ave.,  
Temple City 91780  
Meetings: 3rd Friday of November and December and 4th Thursday of January through March  
in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

**SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA**

**CAMELLIA**

*Society, Inc.*

**820 WINSTON AVENUE  
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA**



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