

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Early Péony'

Courtesy Col. T. Durrant, Tirau, New Zealand

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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.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. reticulata 'Early Peony'

This month's cover flower is one of the new reticulata varieties that Colonel Tom Durrant of New Zealand obtained from China in 1964. The story is told in Colonel Durrant's article "Some Comment on Camellia Reticulata" in the January 1968 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. This variety will not be available in the United States for several years, certainly not until stock has been built up for its release in New Zealand.



THOUGHTS

from the editor

After the close of last year's show season I received a letter that has caused me much thought. Here is the substance of the letter: "When we were tearing down our show on Sunday we ran across three flowers on the Court of Honor that we are sure were gibbed. All three had the terminal bud missing and the receptacles were elongated. None was entered in the Gib Division. One flower won a piece of silver. All three flowers came from the same city and were entered by two people. The same thing happened last year with one flower that won a piece of silver, entered from the same city but by a different person."

While there will be mistakes as long as humans participate, I believe that mistakes such as the above should be very, very few, provided that the people who participate in camellia shows are truly amateurs at heart and will take the time and precautions to guard against such occurrences. I am naive enough to believe that a person who takes up a form of horticulture as a hobby will not deliberately cheat in order to win a trophy. At the same time, I believe that a person who does not take the time to identify the buds that he gibs, or have a system that will identify and separate the blooms when he prepares for a show, is at least opening himself to suspicion in cases such as this.

It should not be necessary for a show committee to set up precautionary steps to guard against the improper placement of gibbed camellia blooms. The placement committee has always had the responsibility of looking over the blooms placed and the authority to deny entry to blooms that do not meet the show standards. This responsibility and authority can properly include the proper entry of gibbed blooms, not that the placement people would look beneath every flower but would be alert for flowers that look a little "off". This would make it necessary, of course, that people on the placement committee have the qualifications of judges. Regardless of theory, and whether or not people like it, show committees that have been burned are going to take steps that at least will keep gibbed flowers that have been entered in the non-gibbed division from getting to the Honor Table.

I would hope that experience in shows will demonstrate that such action is not necessary. Gibbing is here to stay. It will increase in scope because people who have experienced the pleasure of early blooms will continue it and others will take it up because of what they have seen and heard. These people must accept the responsibility, however, of doing their part to maintain the integrity of camellia shows. A few people who refuse to accept this responsibility can be as the rotten apple in the barrel, the cause of other people becoming sour. True amateurs will not want this to occur.

Harold E. Oyler

SOME COMMENTS ON CAMELLIA RETICULATA CULTURE AND PROPAGATION

Colonel T. Durrant
Tirau, New Zealand

Editor's note: This is the concluding part of Colonel Durrant's address at the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Camellia Society in August 1967. The preceding part was published in the January 1968 issue.

C. Reticulata grows in the Yunnan Province of China at about Latitude 25 degrees North and at a height of 6,000 feet to 9,000 feet. This high altitude provides a cool climate, even though the latitude is only just outside the tropics. The rainfall is said to be low (18-20 inches) with long dry periods and risk of radiation frosts at night.

We have grown *Camellia reticulata* under the relatively humid, mild weather conditions obtained in Tirau, New Zealand, for up to 15 years. There is a mean annual rainfall of 50 inches and with occasional radiation frosts up to 12 degrees Fahrenheit. The latitude approximates to that of the Mediterranean and the light in both summer and winter can be very intense. During the winter months changes from mild, moist, growing weather, to brilliant clear days with sharp frosts at night, can occur within a few hours and this provides a severe test for *Camellias* and other plants.

All our *reticulatas*, except small, newly imported ones, are grown in the ground, and all but five or six in the open. The culture of *C. reticulata* needs to take into account that these plants are small trees, rather than shrubs, and must be allowed to grow accordingly. They require room enough to develop and they need a great deal of light. Under shade they become very sparse and open and it seems that in order to flourish they need, and can take, more sun than do *japonicas*. This has been dramatically illustrated in our garden where plants of 'Willow Wand' and 'Crimson

Robe' have grown through the roof of a lath house into full sun. In the shade below the roof the plants are open and poorly furnished. Above it they are dense, sturdy and flourishing with an excellent bud set. It has been noticed that, even in Australia, *reticulatas* under 60% or 70% light exclusion do not furnish well and it is reported from California that dramatic improvements occurred when plants were put into full sun. A plant suffering from large amounts of chlorosis on the leaves — i.e. heavily variegated as a result of virus infection — cannot take this amount of light, since leaf burn and defoliation will follow. In our experience these plants are doomed, anyway, and not worth persisting with.



The *reticulatas* growing through the top of the lath house, referred to by Col. Durrant, are shown in the background. In the foreground are Mrs. Darcy O'Toole and Col. Durrant.

The sizes reached by some reticulatas in 12-14 years under Tirau conditions may be of interest.

'Chrysanthemum Petal', a small tree well branched at the top, 12 feet.

'Shot Sik', even stronger growing but the same habit, 16 feet.

'Butterfly Wings', more spreading and vigorous, 11 feet high and 16 feet wide.

'Crimson Robe', upright but furnished to the ground, 14 feet high and 10 feet wide.

'Pagoda', a similar shape but more thickly furnished, 11 feet high and 10 feet wide.

Pruning *Camellia reticulata* is rarely necessary in well grown plants, apart from the usual removal of crossing branches and those which lie on the ground. A badly shaped or spindly plant can be drastically pruned back to a bare framework or a short length of main stem. Two years ago, as a demonstration to a ladies' gardening circle visiting the garden, we reduced a 4 foot high plant of 'Crimson Robe' to a straight stick, removing all twigs, leaves and growth buds and leaving about 28 inches of straight stem above the grafting point. This was done in August at flowering time, just before growth commenced. In spite of the cries of shocked alarm from the ladies, the plant is now nicely furnished on 4 or 5 straight new leads!

There is no doubt that many reticulata plants fail to establish. Some do not grow away, others flourish for a short time only and some fail suddenly after maturity. Assuming that they have been given the basic *Camellia* requirements of well drained, fertile and slightly acid soil, we are left with two probable causes of failure.

Grafting material has been in short supply and many scions have undoubtedly been taken from unthrifty and badly virus-infected plants. The indiscriminate use of virus-infected stocks has probably added to the reticulatas every known and unknown form of

Camellia virus, in addition to the strains they brought with them from China! Good healthy plants cannot be grown from inferior material and the first requirement is a strong scion.

The second cause of failure is the use of poor grafting stocks which cannot provide a strong and secure root system upon which the reticulatas may grow to maturity. The commercial use of seedling and other japonica stock which has been held for lengthy periods in small pots, results in strangled root systems and subsequent failure. This, however, is merely a question of nursery practice and should not occur in plants produced by reputable firms.

The plants in our recent shipment from Kunming were grafted by inarching on what are apparently *C. japonica*, 'Alba Plena' stock. This seems to be standard Chinese practice but it is a clumsy and slow method of reproduction, compared with cleft grafting.

Many japonica stocks fail to develop at the same rate as the reticulata which they support. Almost all of the reticulatas, which have been in our garden for 10 years or more, are now showing a "bottle neck" effect. On a 12 year old plant of 'Pagoda', for example, the circumference $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the grafting point is 8 inches and, at the same distance below it, only 5 inches.

For some time we have been grafting reticulatas onto seedling *C. reticulata* stocks which are rejects in our breeding program. These take very readily and often grow with quite astonishing vigour.

Difficult subjects, such as 'Purple Gown' and 'Moutancha', take very readily on reticulata stock and commercially feasible percentages of success can be obtained. Some work could be done on investigating the use of rooted cuttings of the Wild Form of reticulata, since this apparently roots freely and grows away satisfactorily. We have successfully

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S. C. C. S. AWARDS COMMITTEE IN ACTION

Wilber W. Foss
San Marino, California

The Awards Committee of Southern California Camellia Society has started its 1968 work. This awards program had its origin in 1950 with the establishment of the Margarete Hertrich and William Hertrich awards for the outstanding japonica seedling and sport respectively. The first Margarete Hertrich award was given to E. W. Miller of Solano Beach for the flower 'Melody Lane', and the first William Hertrich award for 'Lady Kay' to Vernon James of Aptos. Since these first awards there have been many other awards made in these same categories.

With the success of these awards there was later established, in 1960, the Edwards Metcalf award for the outstanding hybrid, the William Wylam award in 1962 for the best miniature seedling, and the Frank Storment award in 1963 for the best reticulata seedling.

The awards are important contributing factors to the continuing interest in camellias throughout the camellia world. These 5 awards are offered each year but not necessarily awarded each year. The present is timely for increased interest to be shown toward these awards as the 1968 show season is just beginning and the blooms are more apt to be available for scrutiny by the judges.

The awards committee, who also act as judges, is made up of men from various locations whose job it is to be on the look out for any new introductions that could be worthy of one of the awards.

There are 8 categories to be considered when judging the candidates with stated amounts of points for each category as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. distinctiveness | 25 |
| 2. lasting quality | 20 |
| 3. consistency of bloom | 10 |
| 4. form | 10 |

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 5. color | 10 |
| 6. substance and texture | 10 |
| 7. plant growth characteristics | 10 |
| 8. size | 5 |

It is the thinking of the Committee that there are many camellias that could be placed in competition for one of these awards. The grower or originator should list his entry with the Awards Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society so that it can be brought to the attention of the judges and be entered in competition.

Previous recipients of the 5 awards, from their inception through the 1966 season, are listed in the October 1966 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, Vol. 28, No. 1. In the 1967 season, the sport 'Elegans Supreme' received the William Hertrich award and the hybrid 'Franci L' received the Edwards Metcalf award.

The accepted rules to follow are available from the awards committee for anyone interested in submitting a flower. A bloom to be eligible must have been judged during two blooming seasons, one of which may be the blooming season in which it is listed with the judges. A minimum of three blossoms must be judged during the competing blooming season. They should be judged preferably at a regularly show or meeting, but may be judged elsewhere at the convenience and discretion of the judges. At some time prior to the final judging of the entry, the entrant is requested to supply the Awards Committee one 35 MM color transparency (Kodachrome or equal) of the bloom for the committee's files.

It is hoped that with and through this article that more interest can be gained in these awards, and that any and all new introductions of note will be entered and considered.

LET'S CLEAR THE RECORD C. Reticulata 'MANDALAY QUEEN'

Howard E. Burnette
Castro Valley, California

Perhaps it is because we have been sounding the drum in its favor, but somehow, the story has gotten around southern California that we were the originators of C. Reticulata 'MANDALAY QUEEN'. So then, to allay any such rumors, we would like to see that the proper credit is given to the true originator of this seedling. The record should show that Mr. Steve Bryan, owner of the Shade and Shadow Nursery in Mountain View, California is the originator; our story will relate how this beautiful cultivar put its right foot forward.

Several times, at our Peninsula Camellia Society meetings a few years back, one member kept describing his reticulata plant and its beautiful flowers which he called 'MANDALAY'. Although his vivid description of this flower excited our camellia instincts, we knew that the International Rules on Horticultural Nomenclature did not permit the naming of cultivars of different species of one genus with a common name. We surmised that since the Yunnan reticulatas had only been introduced into this country in 1948, this gentleman must certainly be talking (or bragging?) about C. Japonica 'MANDALAY'. We now know that we couldn't have been farther out of our crock (as the youngsters today say). Our sincere apology to Mr. Harold Silverman of Burlingame, California; had we not been inquisitive enough to follow up on his statements, we would most certainly have missed what we rate as one of the 5 best reticulata cultivars. This is taking into account plant habits as well as flowering instincts.

One year at the Delta Camellia Society's show in Antioch, Calif., we had won the "Best Reticulata" award

with a beautiful 'Lion Head'. We couldn't help but over-hear the remarks of a couple who could not see why their outstanding reticulata bloom had been removed from the competitive tables. This bloom was over 5 inches in diameter by approximately 3 inches high, beautifully colored with good texture. As we explained to them the show rules and their interpretation by the show committee, it was plain to see that we lent no solace to their feelings and the injustice to their fine reticulata cultivar. Obviously it had not been registered or in the nomenclature book (*).

Since we had exhibited many blooms of C. reticulata (with an opinionated air) that had not gotten the recognition which we felt that they deserved, we knew just how these people felt. It was during this discussion with Mr. and Mrs. John Augis of San Jose that we realized that Mr. Silverman knew exactly what he was talking about . . . this was his reticulata 'Mandalay'. Due to this lack of recognition to his bloom, Mr. Augis prevailed upon Mr. Steve Bryan to let him follow up with the proper registration which is now listed in our 1968 nomenclature book. Since

(*) It is noteworthy to mention that it is not necessary for a cultivar to be registered to permit its entry into a competitive show; assuming that it has been commercially distributed, it is advisable to get a ruling from the show committee so that proper action can be taken. Since our nomenclature book is printed every 2 years, many cultivars are in commercial dissemination before they are either registered or in print. Many times the only judgment as to a typical bloom must be based upon pictures of the bloom. Here also, we might mention that this cultivar should not have been entered as a seedling.

the seed parent was 'Tali Queen', it was only natural that the nomenclature impasse be broken by selecting the varietal name, 'Mandalay Queen'.

Our depth of interest in the Yunnan retics was such that we just had to have a plant of 'Mandalay Queen'. A telephone call to Mr. Bryan enlightened us to the fact that he was a wholesale nurseryman and could not sell us a plant. We were further informed that only egg can size plants were available; it was his practice to only graft on the larger stock due to the vigorous growth of the scion which tends to over-grow the grafting stock. Mr. Bryan later released plants to Mr. Toichi Domoto of Hayward who has since built up a stock of these plants. Plants are also being propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena. This was our "means to the end" in termination of our search for a plant of 'Mandalay Queen'.

To regress a bit, we would like to relate an interesting note which could have had an unfortunate ending. The first blooms from our plant were outstanding and since the innate desire of any exhibitor is to show off his blooms, we took the best bloom to the Sacramento show. Not realizing that the plant was in general commerce, we properly entered the bloom in the seedling classification under the rightful originator's name. As we were carefully checking the judging results, we came across another bloom of this cultivar entered in the seedling class

as a seedling of an exhibitor from Southern California. His bloom had been in contention for the best seedling bloom in the show. This was not accidental and, I am sure, helped to speed up the proper registration. By making certain people aware of this act, we feel that we were instrumental in preventing a gross injustice to the rightful originator.

We are now blooming 'Mandalay Queen' for the third season and feel that it is a top performer. The plant has large, heavy foliage and a good, strong branching habit. Like some of the heavier calipered retics it is "stingy with its wood". Our original plant was rift of a lot of scions, but eyes appeared along the trunk as growth started. The blooms will vary from 5½ to 6½ inches in diameter if left to peak properly. A mid-season bloomer, the buds show color for a long time before they unfold in a burst of clear, rich, rose-pink flower, which will vary from a semi-double with fluted petals to a loose peony form. The blooms have good texture and substance which prevail as turgidity sets in and the blooms reach maturity. As with most hybrids and retics which have the lighter colors, there is an occasional mark or blemish on one of the erect petaloids. The strong, sturdy plant growth lends needed support to show off these very large, massive flowers. Anyone who

(Continued on page 19)

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SOME NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CAMELLIA IN CALIFORNIA

Carey S. Bliss*
San Gabriel, California

Editor's note: This article is based on a talk to members of Pacific Camellia Society at the Society's December 1967 meeting.

It is with some trepidation that I venture these remarks on the history of the camellia in California, when several people more qualified than I have been collecting material and writing articles on the subject for some time before I ever knew how to spell the word camellia. But with the enthusiasm of ignorance, plus the resources of the Huntington Library, I have plunged into the field and would like to relate a few things I have discovered, knowing full well that I may be treading very familiar ground for some of you.

Our own California camellia story begins about 1853, but to fill in the picture we must go back to Brighton, Mass. where on August 12, 1805, James Lloyd LaFayette Warren was born. Of good American stock, his parents undoubtedly wished to do honor to the French American Revolutionary War hero who was still alive and dear to the hearts of Americans, many of whom remembered his services in the not so distant war. Therefore, the Warrens proudly added a second middle name to the new baby who carried it throughout his long, and as you will hear, active career. Brighton, the Warren hometown, in 1805 was a small rural community some five miles from Boston. Young Warren served his apprenticeship as a clerk in Boston and by 1826 at the age of 21 was proprietor of a flourishing dry goods business in Boston, so flourishing in fact that the young proprietor was able to establish his own home in the town of his

birth and surround it with extensive nurseries and gardens. A botanical career being more to his liking, he soon established a nursery or "floral saloon" in Boston. An 1844 catalogue from his nurseries in Brighton and his "floral saloon" in Boston contains sixty pages listing fruit trees, vegetable seeds and greenhouse plants. In the section of greenhouse plants is a long list of camellia japonicas, some 75 different varieties. A very few familiar names greet the eye — 'Alba Plena', 'Chandlerii', 'Donckelarii', 'Gigantea' and I'm sure some others that would be immediately recognized by one more familiar with camellia nomenclature than I. In the fateful year 1848 the address of the Warren nursery and "floral saloon" is listed at numbers 1 and 2 Tremont St., Boston. Only a year later in 1849 one looks in vain through Boston directories for the address of this flourishing nursery. It had vanished. The "gold fever" had caught James L. L. F. Warren as it had many other adventurous men of the eastern seaboard and we find our thriving nurseryman on his way to California.

Early in 1849, Warren, now a man of 45 years of age, sailed in the ship "Sweden" as business manager for one of the numerous mining companies formed to exploit the gold fields of California. His party, made up of a fairly well financed group of business men from Boston and New York, landed in San Francisco on August 6, 1849, and shortly thereafter the company was busily engaged in mining near Mormon Island on the north fork of the American River. Warren, for a time, managed the business affairs of the group but, as so often happened with such mining companies, the partnerships so firmly

* Mr. Bliss is Curator of Rare Books at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.—Ed.

formed in the East fell apart under the stresses and strains of the unfamiliar frontier life of the West.

Before the complete dissolution of the company had taken place, Warren had already started a letter delivery service between the mining camps which was later expanded into a general provisioning enterprise selling food and supplies to the mines. Sometime in 1850 Warren established his headquarters in Sacramento. A slim Sacramento business directory for March 1850, does not record the new firm, but by July of that year, when the next Sacramento directory appeared, we find Warren and Company listed with a two inch ad as follows:

WARREN & CO.

Tehama Block Sacramento City.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS in all kind of *Provisions, Clothing, Cutlery, Crockery, and Glass Ware, and Boots, and Shoes.* Also, every kind of Miner's Tools and Implements for Mining, etc., etc. Merchants and Traders at the Mines and up river, will find it for their interest to call at our establishment, as we have made permanent arrangements in the States and elsewhere to receive Goods direct from best sources, and we can supply them on best terms.

Warehouse and Store in Tehama Block, corner of J and Front Sts.

Noting the need for fruit and fresh vegetables, Warren began gradually to specialize in fruit trees, seeds and agricultural implements. Continuing to grow, the firm in 1852 moved its headquarters to San Francisco and James Warren took his son, John Quincy Adams Warren into the business. Warren and Son are listed in the San Francisco directory of 1854 at Meiggs Hall, Bush Street. Their business was described in the directory as "horticultural rooms." The firm had a warehouse on Winter's Row, Battery Street, San Francisco and a branch office or warehouse at No. 15, J. Street, Sacramento.

In 1853 appeared their first California nursery catalogue, a pamphlet of 60 pages bound in pink wrappers.

This catalogue is the cornerstone in the history of camellias in California. On page 35 appears the following notice to customers:

CAMELLIA JAPONICA.—This truly magnificent Plant, unsurpassed in loveliness, will ere long become so acclimated with us as to form our pride as an ornamental tree in our Gardens, and we are now constantly receiving collections from the best establishments in Europe and the States; and our collections will be unequalled.

Arrangements have been made with the best establishments in this country and in Europe, by which we shall receive every new variety as soon as offered.

P.S.—The Proprietors have just received a new and superb collection of rare kinds, from the most celebrated growers in Europe. A separate sheet catalogue will be issued in the autumn of 1854, giving a description of their character, etc., with their prices, etc.

Unfortunately, Warren does not list any of the varieties available and the separate sheet catalogue of camellias which he mentions in the postscript to appear in 1854 has not been located. The Director of the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California, has kindly made a search of the Warren papers on deposit in that institution for me and has not located a copy. The bibliography of California imprints in 1862 by Robert Greenwood also does not record a copy. If sometime in the future a copy of this list of camellias ever does turn up, assuming it was actually issued, the fortunate finder will have a prize specimen of California camellia literature in his possession.

On January 5, 1854, appeared the first number of the *California Farmer, and Journal of Useful Sciences*, a weekly paper which shortly began to dominate the agricultural and botanical field in California for many years. After the ninth issue, Warren and Son are listed in the masthead as editors and proprietors. Warren's preoccupation with this paper and the financial recession of 1855 led to the failure of the Warren Nursery in
(Continued on next page)

1855 and very likely the promises made concerning the importation of rare camellias in the 1853 catalogue never fully materialized.

Undaunted, however, Warren continued to forward the cause of agriculture and botany in California. He was the innovator and principal backer of a "Great Agricultural Fair" held in Sacramento in September in 1852. It was probably the predecessor of our present State Fair held there to this day. Later in the columns of the *California Farmer* he promoted and reported on the yearly exhibitions of the California State Agricultural Society. From the long account of the exhibition reported in the *Farmer* for October 1854, the following floricultural news has been gleaned of interest to camellia fanciers: The United States Nursery, San Francisco, W. J. O'Donnell proprietor exhibited 13 camellias, 14 roses and 13 fuschias; the Golden Gate Nursery, W. C. Walker proprietor, offered 2 double white large camellias, 2 camellia fimbriatas, 2 camellia candissimas, one example each of Caleb Cope, Duchess d'Orleans and an unnamed double red camellia along with many roses; C. V. Gillespie, a private exhibitor of San Francisco, displayed 2 camellias, 24 fuschias and 14 roses. This is not an overwhelming display, certainly by present day standards, but it does indicate that the camellia was a somewhat familiar plant in the San Francisco area just five years after the gold rush.

James Lloyd LaFayette Warren continued to edit and publish the *California Farmer* until 1889 when it was suspended. Warren lived quietly in San Francisco until his death in 1896 at the age of 91. Curiously enough, the San Francisco directories continued to list him as editor and publisher of the *California Farmer* until the year of his death — perhaps this was a tribute to the man who had done so much for California agriculture and floriculture.

I have devoted most of the paper to the career of James Lloyd LaFayette Warren, a pioneer in the field, but mention should be made of other nurseries who apparently imported and sold camellias in these early years. Checking through a San Francisco business directory of 1852, it was interesting to find a full page ad for the Hart and Davis Agricultural Warehouse at the corner of Sansome and Pine Streets in which camellias are offered for sale. It is a casual mention with the name misspelled with one L and with no varieties listed. The firm evidently did not prosper since they do not appear again on the horticultural scene.

Mrs. Gerald D. Kennedy of Stockton, California has kindly sent me a Xerox copy of a nursery catalogue of a James Welsh on Washington Street, San Francisco. The catalogue, although undated, has been dated from its contents, about 1861-65 by Harry M. Butterfield. Mr. Welsh lists 25 camellias all apparently imported from Australia. The varieties are for the most part unfamiliar to us today, but they are listed with the following somewhat contradictory statement: "These are the finest Camelias (sic) ever imported into the country; they are of various colors and are not to be surpassed in any other part of the world; nearly all are of a beautiful pure white." This contradictory statement I merely quote. Its explanation I leave open to the reader.

One of the show places in Sacramento in the mid 1850's was Smith's Pomological Garden on the American River, 2½ miles from the city itself. It was founded by the "elusive" Mr. A. P. Smith as I shall call him because of the difficulty in tracking him down and the fact that no one apparently seemed to know his full name, where he came from nor when he was born or died. Edward James Wickson (1848-1923), former professor of Horticulture, University of California, in an address on California nursery-

men printed in Los Angeles in 1921, states that he was really the first man to start a California nursery, "Even before the gold rush" as Wickson states. He goes on further to say that in 1857 he had 12,000 rose plants of 200 varieties. On the subject of camellias and the elusive Mr. Smith, Wickson is even more specific (quoting again from the 1921 article):

Of the popularity of the camellia with the pioneers one can hardly say more than that it was as highly prized then as it is now neglected. It was splendidly grown in the open air in San Francisco, but the pioneer leader with the camellia was A. P. Smith of Sacramento of whom an official report in 1858 says: "No man has been at greater expense with camellias nor succeeded so well." He was at that time credited with 2000 plants of 200 varieties. When Mr. Smith's establishment was dismantled, early in the sixties probably, his camellias, some of which had reached the height of ten or twelve feet, were transplanted to San Francisco by E. L. Reimer and produced abundant blooms some of which were sold at \$100* each, for their popularity was then still strong. It is probable that some of the large camellias in the Sacramento gardens, from which blooms are now sold at a nickel each for the buttonholes of California legislators, are from the old collection at Smith's Gardens so famous in the fifties among visitors to the State Capital.

As to the statement that Smith was the first man to start a California nursery, the few facts that I found do not bear this out. He first appears in the Sacramento directories in 1855 with merely his name and address. The directory for 1856 lists his name and a long and very flowery description of his gardens.

The later career and demise of the elusive A. P. Smith are not known, except for the statement by Wickson that the garden was "dismantled early in the sixties."

The official reports of the California State Agricultural Society for

these early years give us just a little glimpse of other camellia growers and gardens, at least in the Sacramento-San Francisco area. I might state here that although these reports cover the whole state the only areas where camellias apparently had been introduced in the 1850's are in the aforementioned areas. No mention of camellias in southern California is ever indicated in these reports before 1860.

Quoting from the agricultural report for 1856:

Your Committee commenced their labors by first visiting the Garden of Messrs. Henry A. Sontag & Co., at the Mission Dolores. Messrs. Sontag & Co. are celebrated for their enthusiastic devotion to the cultivation of Roses and choice Shrubbery; and it is doubtful whether a more extensive or finer collection than theirs can be found this side of Europe. They are constantly importing all of the rarest and most choice varieties, to be found in other parts of the world. They have had extensive experience in Floriculture in the Atlantic States, but regard California as far superior, both in soil and climate, for the cultivation of almost every species of flowers and ornamental shrubbery. They have three large houses filled with Roses, Camellias, and other choice plants. One of these houses is 165 feet in length — another 120 feet. Notwithstanding the cold and raw winds which prevail so much at the Mission, Camellias planted in the open ground, and exposed to the cold weather, were seen in full bloom. It would be impossible, in a report like this, to enumerate all which may be seen in this garden.

The report goes on to describe another San Francisco nursery in the following manner:

The next place was the United States Nursery of Mr. O'Donnell. This Garden is cultivated with great care, and gives the most ample evidence of the skill and industry of its owner. This conviction impresses one still more forcibly, when it is considered that these grounds were but a short time since regarded as a sandy waste, and almost entirely unfit for cultivation. Mr. O'Donnell has two houses filled with choice plants, such as Camellias, Roses, Azalias, Myrtle, Rhododendrons, Acacias, etc.

(Continued on page 32)

*This reference must refer to large blooming plants and not individual flowers.

CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES -- TOM DURRANT OF TIRAU, NEW ZEALAND

Harold E. Dryden



Bettie and Tom Durrant in their garden.

I met Tom Durrant at the Auckland, New Zealand airport where he and his wife Bettie met me on my flight from Sydney, Australia. He had written to me that they would be wearing camellias for ease in identification. That was unnecessary. I had seen Tom's picture and Bill Goertz had told me that he is short, military in bearing, with bushy eyebrows. I could not have missed him as he and Bettie, wearing her camellia, watched for me at the exit from New Zealand customs. That was the beginning of nine days of association with them, much of the time on a person-to-person basis, that qualifies me to write more than casually about them.

Tom is a retired professional British army officer who decided at the end of World War II that he could do better for himself and family by migrating to a new land. He fought as an artillery officer with the rank of

General in the 21st British Army in the Normandy battles, having landed on French soil on D day plus 4. Prior to Normandy, he had been engaged in interior Africa fighting. Upon retirement with the rank of Colonel, he, Bettie and their daughter went to New Zealand in 1947, purchased 300 acres of land in the rich central part of North Island and settled down to become dairy farmers. Illustrative of his thoroughness are two incidents in connection with his undertaking of an operation that was entirely foreign to the life he had led in the British army. First, he traveled New Zealand thoroughly before choosing the area in which to farm. Second, having decided to become a dairy farmer he went to school to learn how to do the job. As he stated it to me, the early years were hard work. He now has a herd of 250 cattle and has a farm manager, which gives him time to do what he wants to do.

He is an activist who believes in being a part of the community. While camellias are now his primary interest, he has had other interests. In his early years in New Zealand he was appointed to a Board which set up new schools in the South Auckland area as that area grew. He takes great pride in his contributions to this work, and as we drove over the country he would point out schools where he had participated in the selection of the school site or in the construction of the school buildings. I well remember visiting one of these schools, the one from which his daughter graduated, and how he proudly pointed out to me that his daughter's name was listed as having graduated at the top of her class.

He got into camellias gradually, as is the case with so many camellia hobbyist, then jumped in with both

feet. He started with a couple of *C. reticulata* 'Capt. Rawes' plants. After a while, liking camellias and learning that it took time for them to grow to size, he had an opportunity to purchase a collection and did so. While he likes *C. japonica* and grows those that were in the collection he bought, his chief interest is in *C. reticulata*. He has used wild *reticulata* in his work at camellia hybridizing and has some excellent seedlings that combine the beauty of the *reticulata* bloom with the foliage of the wild *reticulata*. He has the best garden of *reticulatas* that I saw in New Zealand or Australia, in fact the best *reticulata* garden that I have seen other than at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino, California.

Tom and Bettie early became interested in the old camellia trees of New Zealand and set about to learn about and identify them. They have visited most parts of the North Island where the old trees are growing. They maintain a log of these trees, and to the extent that they can, learn the history of the trees such as by whom and when planted. They are recognized among New Zealand camellia people as authorities on the subject of old camellia trees and varieties. Bettie has equal partnership in this project; in fact, I suspected as we drove about that Bettie might have the edge. She maintains the log and the records, which might give her an advantage. They take cuttings of the old varieties and propagate them, having in mind a collection which they can use to identify the blooms of old varieties that are sent to them for identification.

Tom's interest in *C. reticulata* and his curiosity for truth caused him to take steps toward clearing up *reticulata* nomenclature. He was disturbed about the similarity in appearance of varieties that carried different names, particularly the 'Lion Head'-'Chang's Temple'-'Cornelian', 'Noble Pearl'-'Tali Queen', and 'Osmanthus Leaf'-'Takieyeh'-'Willow Wand'

group. He sought and obtained literature that would enlighten him on the subject. He was able in 1963 to set up direct contact with the Botanical Institute at Kunming and in November 1964 received a shipment from Kunming of 28 plants in 14 varieties. Most of the plants have bloomed and from these blooms plus the knowledge he gained in his contact with the Botanical Institute at Kunming and the literature he has obtained, he has reached conclusions which have cleared up much of the confusion that has existed in *reticulata* nomenclature. These conclusions are stated in his address to the New Zealand Camellia Society that was published in the January 1968 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*. In my opinion, Tom Durrant has performed a most thorough study of *C. reticulata* and should have the thanks of camellia people for his work.

He was one of the people in New Zealand who formed the New Zealand Camellia Society and has taken an active part in Society activities continuously since its formation. Officially he is now Vice President and Editor of the Society publication *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*. He served notice at the 1967 Annual Convention at Waitangi that he would resign the Editor job at the end of the year. Whatever his title, or whether or not he has a title in the Society, I suspect that he will be an active participant in Society programs as long as he is in camellias. As I stated earlier, he is an activist. He feels a sort of parenthood status in the founding of the Society. He was trained for his military career to lead, and has done so through the years of the Society's life. Even though some of the people may feel that his leadership has been heavy at times, all attest to his knowledge and his energy to get things done. I believe he will be among the leaders in New Zealand Camellia Society activities for many years, or as long as his interest in camellias continues.

PREPARING CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SHOWS

January Program of Pacific Camellia Society

The January 1968 program was a presentation by three show award winners of the steps that are important toward winning silverware at camellia shows. W. F. (Bill) Goertz of San Marino talked about the things that are important prior to the time of picking the flower. Caryll Pitkin of San Marino covered the picking and packing operation. Dr. Leland E. Chow of Bakersfield told about what he does to groom the flowers and to place them on the show tables so that they will attract the favorable attention of the judges.

W. F. Goertz

We are concerned here strictly with "show flowers" and what should be done to get the best possible camellia blooms to the show tables which will please the judges and hopefully be rewarded by being chosen for the Trophy Table.

If we haven't done our chores properly during the past nine months it is now too late to get prize winning blooms. Proper pruning in late March or early April, at least three applications of acid fertilizer during the summer at two month intervals, spraying several times for grasshoppers and worms, continued watering to keep the plants from drying out, and then removal of surplus flower buds beginning in July, leaving only one bud to each terminal, brings us now to nice big fat buds showing color. Further light pruning at this time will remove small surplus branches and is actually a part of disbudding.

About three weeks before show time we should be looking for candidates. Every day or two, with a pocket full of clothes pins, look over all the plants and those flower buds which will mature by show time should be noted. Carefully pin back the 2 or 3 leaves behind the bud and make sure the bloom can develop without any inter-

ference from the leaves or other close branches. When watering during this time one should be careful not to wet the buds. In the event of a rain storm predicted for the several days before the show, some hobbyists, if they have several real nice prospects on a plant, will erect a temporary shelter by using 3 or 4 poles and a plastic sheet. These light weight plastic sheets are very inexpensively obtainable at a paint store in a 9x12 size.

We have now done about all that can be done up to the point of cutting the bloom.

Caryll W. Pitkin

Flowers aren't very different from humans, and good human common sense can help a lot in presenting a good bloom at a show. How do you feel at night, a little wilted and tired? So does the best blossom you ever grew. A warm day or even one not so warm takes the starch out of it. Give it a night's rest and time to restore the moisture it lost during the daylight hours. In the morning it will be fresh and perky. The ideal time to pick a show flower is early in the morning the day of the show.

Of course, if traveling some distance is involved, or if you have too many to pick in that time, it can be done the day before if care is taken. An appropriate storage place must be provided. They can be stored in a refrigerator or placed directly in the box in which they will be transported to the show. The essential ingredient in either case is moisture.

If you own a moist wall refrigerator, blooms may be placed in some small container (be sure it won't tip) with sufficient water to reach the stem and stored uncovered. Jello molds, ash trays, tops of shaving cream or hair spray cans or cut off paper cups may be used. If your refrigerator is not of the moist wall variety flowers

should be stored in tightly sealed containers in which moisture has been introduced. These same small containers may be used in the boxes or the blooms may lay on some wet material.

There is some advantage in putting the blossoms directly into the carrying case. It eliminates one handling. If they are to be stored for a day or two in the boxes in which they are transported it is desirable to have the flowers actually sitting in water in the small cups. If they are to go to the show the same day you need only have them resting on a damp material.

Any kind of material may be used: trays especially constructed for that purpose, orchid boxes, sweater boxes or just cardboard boxes. But a box not moisture proof should be lined with either plastic sheeting or aluminum foil. Moisture should be introduced into the container and there are several ways of doing that. Some exhibitors place a damp turkish towel in the bottom of the tray, some use cotton batting and some just sprinkle shredded paper with water. Any of the above mentioned materials is adequate but we prefer cotton batting. Paper gets tangled in the petals and the towels are not as springy. With a pencil you can make a small hole in the cotton for the stem and the flower rests securely on the soft cushion without sliding around. Also bats are cheap.

When placing the blooms in the containers be sure they do not touch each other, and will not shift around. They may be sprayed with a fine mist if care is taken not to wet the stamens. Some of the competent growers are experimenting with naphthalene acetic acid used both as a spray and as a solution in which to store the blooms. Details of this method have appeared in articles in CAMELLIA REVIEW written by Col. Frank Reed.

Now back up to the actual picking. Never touch the petals. Handle the bloom by the leaves behind it and use care to prevent its rubbing against leaves or branches while you are taking it from the bush. Pick sufficient stem that it can reach water if you intend to keep it that way. Clean any foreign particles from the bloom with a camel's hair brush.

If you alphabetize your entry cards and also place your flowers in your carrying cases in the same order you will save much time and many steps at the show. Good luck!

Dr. Leland E. Chow

Blooms should be prepared at home for display. A good bloom with specks or dirt, or otherwise unattractive, will not get the judges' favorable attention. I dust or wash all flowers that need it. I do not like the flushing-hose method for washing when the flower must be washed. I use a No. 9 or No. 10 camel
(Continued on page 32)

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AZALEA CULTURE

Harold E. Dryden

Many people tell about their difficulties in growing azaleas in their gardens. The conversation is usually short, to the effect that they must buy some azaleas to replace those they have lost. So I decided to call on Julius Nuccio of Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena and pump him for the knowledge I would need to write an article about azalea culture. They grow about 50,000 azalea plants a year, enough to qualify both Julius and Joe as authorities on the subject. The following is therefore largely Nuccio knowledge, with an occasional remark that is based on my own experience.

Watering

I start with watering because over-watering is the cause of most azalea plant failures. They should be kept damp but not wet. In fact, the objective situation would be to water an azalea plant at the moment it starts to show a need for water by beginning to wilt. It does not hurt an azalea to wilt for a short time, but this should not be allowed to continue too far into the day. One should not be guided by how the top looks. The controlling consideration is, how wet is it down below where the roots are. Nuccios say they have lost more azaleas from over-watering than from any other cause.

Location

Azaleas should not be planted where there is no light. They are referred to as shade-loving plants and this causes some people to plant them where there is little or no light. They will not flower in such locations. They like filtered light and the full morning sun is perfect. So-called sun azaleas can take full sun but they will look better if they are in partial shade. If it is desired to plant them in full sun, plants that have been hardened off in the sun should be purchased.

Selection of Plants

As with camellias, start with healthy plants. Camellia people know that a bargain camellia plant that is root bound is, in fact, a most expensive plant. Sick azaleas look good while they are blooming; they may have more blooms than a healthy plant would have. After the blooming time is over, they revert to their sickly looking condition. Some nurseries buy such plants for selling during the blooming season. It is best to buy azalea plants before they start to bloom so as to see the foliage. Or buy the younger plants and grow them up yourself.

Planting

Most nurseries plant azaleas in peat moss. Julius told me that peat moss is the biggest item in their cost of growing azaleas and they would like to obtain a less expensive replacement for it. They have not found one to their satisfaction. When I told him that I plant my azaleas in straight fir bark, he replied that this is O.K. if I give proper attention to watering. The problem with using peat moss is its water holding property, with resultant tendency toward over-watering. Fir bark has the opposite characteristic, which necessitates close attention to watering. Azaleas show their need for water by wilting, as previously discussed, and loss of the azaleas is avoided if one watches them closely when they are in fir bark. We were losing azaleas regularly when they were in peat moss, which is probably more of a problem when two people have access to the hose than it is with only one person in the garden. Now, with two people watching for wilting, we are not losing azaleas as we did before we changed. Julius suggested that if there is a tendency to over water, as in the case of automatic sprinklers, some fir bark

can be used with the peat moss.

Replanting

Healthy azaleas move easily at any time. They are not limited as camellias are. Plants that are sickly should be moved when they are in bloom — in February, March or April. One need not be concerned if the roots are damaged in the transplanting because they will reproduce lost roots quickly.

Fertilizing

Feed lightly because they burn easily. They can be fed often if fed lightly. They show their need for feeding when the foliage is light colored. Up to three-gallon can size will thrive on one teaspoon of cotton seed meal three times a year. If a liquid fertilizer is used, use one-half the strength indicated on the bottle; also with liquid fertilizer it is well to use cotton seed meal for the last feeding so that it will last longer. I use blood meal, which Julius O.K'd. I apply it at the same time I fertilize camellias, wetting it down but not watering it in after application. Julius said he thinks the chief value of blood meal is not in the 13% nitrogen but in the trace elements, particularly iron. Azaleas planted in fir bark can take more fertilizer because the more frequent watering leaches out some of it.

Pruning

We don't usually think of pruning in connection with azaleas but Julius

attaches importance to it, to obtain good shape and particularly to obtain abundant flowers. Azaleas set flower buds on every tip. They branch out where cut, therefore the more the pinching the more tips for setting buds. Long shoots that go straight up should be cut off. The heavy pruning can be done at blooming time when cutting flowers for the house. Pruning and pinching can be done up to September.

Critical Time

The critical time in growing new azaleas is the first three months or so after they are planted in the ground. People put them in the hole with the roots in the center and the hole filled with peat. The plant and peat should be kept damp but not soggy. The roots will not grow out into soggy peat. Here is a situation in which it might be well to try to anticipate the time when the plant actually needs water.

Container Growing

Azaleas grow well in containers. In fact, there are advantages in growing new one-gallon azalea plants at least through the two-gallon size container. Roots are thus well established under conditions that can be controlled better than in the ground.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW TRAIL

As the owners of thoroughbred horses follow the trail of the horse races at the different racing tracks, so does a hard-core group of Southern California amateur camellia growers follow the trail of camellia shows. Camellia-wise, Southern California comprises an area from San Diego as the southern boundary to Bakersfield on the north, a distance of about 250 miles as the automobile goes. Los Angeles is about midway between the two. Five shows are held in the area on consecutive week-ends, starting with the second week-end of February. Every one of the five shows has its group of local participants, usually but not always members of the camellia society that sponsors the show. The exhibitors who usually "make the show", however, in both quantity of blooms and prize-winning quality, are those who participate in most if not all of the five shows.

The 1968 trail will start in San Diego on the February 10-11 week-end, the show to be held in the usual Balboa Park location. The Bakersfield group at this show will be small on the basis of past shows because their blooming season, except for the gibbed flowers, will just be getting under way. The San Diego show is always a fun show for the exhibitors from outside the San Diego area because for most of them it is an over-night affair. Most of the group stay at the same motel, reservations having been made well ahead of time. Some of the people drive to San Diego on Friday afternoon (it is a drive of only a little over two hours on the non-stop freeway between Los Angeles and San Diego) and enjoy a social evening on Friday. Most of them, however, drive down on Saturday morning. Saturday morning is taken up, of course, with placing the blooms, visiting and waiting for completion of the judging. After lunch, they re-visit the show

and some of them take naps to make up for the early start from home. In the evening the San Diego Camellia Society will have a "no host" cocktail party and dinner which will be attended by both the local people and the visitors. Sunday will be spent in visiting gardens, then the trip home. The traveling group grows a little every year and few drop out.

The next week-end show, on February 17-18, will be at the location of the Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan Association in Pomona and sponsored by the Pomona Valley Camellia Society. Since this show will be so close to home for most of the exhibitors (Pomona is only some 30 miles from Los Angeles), it will be strictly a day-time affair for the exhibitors. While it will lack the social glamor of the San Diego show, the quality of the competition will be just as high. The group that has stayed around until completion of the judging will get together for lunch.

The Temple City Camellia Society will sponsor what they call the "San Gabriel Valley Camellia Show" on the week-end of February 24-25. The show will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, with entries closing at 10 a.m. on Saturday the 24th. Ernest Pieri is Registration Chairman and show rules and regulations can be secured from him. Since this date is in the middle of mid-season blooming time in the Southern California area, the quality of blooms as well as the number of entries has always been high.

The Descanso Gardens show in La Canada will follow the Temple City Society show on the week-end of March 2-3. This show has established itself as the big show of the Southern California camellia show season and attracts both the most exhibitors and

(Continued on page 23)

California Camellia Show Schedule

- Feb. 10-11, 1968
San Diego Camellia Society
at San Diego
- Feb. 17-18, 1968
Peninsula Camellia Society
at Redwood City
Pomona Valley Camellia Society
at Pomona
- Feb. 24-25, 1968
Delta Camellia Society
at Pittsburgh
Temple City Camellia Society
at L. A. County Arboretum,
Arcadia
- Feb. 25, 1968
Camellia Society of Santa Clara
County. In Student Union Building
at San Jose City College. This
will be the Society's first competitive
show
- March 2-3, 1968
L. A. Camellia Council
at Descanso Gardens
Camellia Society of Sacramento
at Sacramento
- March 9-10, 1968
Camellia Society of Kern County
at Bakersfield
Northern California Camellia
Society at Pleasant Hill
- March 10, 1968
Central California Camellia Society
at Fresno
- March 16-17, 1968
Camellia Society of Modesto at
Modesto. New show location will
be Palm Court Yard of recently
completed E. & J. Gallo Office
Building
- March 30-31, 1968
Sonoma County Camellia Society
at Sebastopol

Pen Pals Desired

The Editor has received two requests for assistance in locating "pen pals" who wish to correspond with people in other countries.

Mrs. Marian Roberts, 1 Day Street, Kidman Park, South Australia 5025, Australia has written as follows: "I am a married woman with a grown up family and am employed full time in one of the largest nurseries in Australia. I am an extremely keen gardener with, of course, a preference for camellias which I have growing in my garden, at the last count 85 varieties. I do hope you will find a friend to correspond with, I am interested in all gardening". The climate of South Australia is similar to that of Southern California.

Hans Gnehm, 6648 Minusio, Kanton Tessin, Switzerland CH, would like to correspond with members of camellia societies. Unfortunately, he says, his English would not do for such a correspondence so that he would have to have it translated every time. He asks, therefore, are there any members in our Society with whom he could exchange letters in German, Italian or French? Mr. Gnehm lives across the Alps in the Locarno area of Switzerland that adjoins the northern lake country part of Italy. The climate is that of northern Italy and not that of the Switzerland that most Americans visualize.

A camellia grower who would like to carry on such a correspondence should write directly to his correspondent. Based on the Editor's experience, it would be a rewarding part of the camellia hobby.

LET'S CLEAR (Cont.)

fancies the retics should not miss this one.

As we write finis, our dream world cannot help but encompass the thought of how proud we would be if one of our retic seedlings could approach the likes of 'Mandalay Queen'. More will be heard from this camellia in our competitive shows.

CITRUS FRUIT AND SOIL CONDITIONING

Two "Letters to the Editor" have been received since George F. Priest's article about his experience with the use of citrus fruit with his camellias appeared in the November 1967 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*.

C. P. North of the University of California staff, who has written for *CAMELLIA REVIEW* about iron and manganese deficiency¹, has written the following to the Editor.

In light of George F. Priest's remarks in *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, November 1967², it might be well to remind camellia growers that iron deficiency is very seldom seen in dooryard plants but that manganese deficiency is not uncommon in some nurseries and dooryards. Iron chelates will not cure manganese deficiency and visa versa. See *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, October 1965 pages 6 and 7, for illustrations of these two camellia problems. Citric and other similar organic acids as well as sugar are mild chelating agents and the fruits could certainly do a job of local acidifying so that the combined reactions could very well alleviate the problem for Mr. Priest and others. Plants that are kept too constantly wet often have manganese deficiency but more often the trouble is lime (calcium carbonate) in the soil from sidewalks, curbs, wall plaster, etc. High salts in potting soil from a bad load of peat can produce salt burns on the foliage and by mass chemical reaction might cause manganese and iron deficiencies. Excessive use of nitrate only nitrogen can also cause deficiencies of iron and manganese. So I advise some ammonium nitrogen such as urea or ammonium sulphate to balance the nitrate nitrogen.

¹Planting Mixtures, Fertilizers, and Camellia Culture by C. P. North and A. Wallace, *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, October 1965.

²Citrus Fruit in Soil Conditioning by George F. Priest, *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, November 1967.

George Ayling of Stanmore, Middlesex, England has written the following:

Any discourse by me on the scientific side of camellia growing is likely to be as informative as a lecture on central heating by a polar bear. However, I was very interested in Mr. George Priest's notes on the effects of citrus fruit on his soil, partly as I have roughly the same experience with 'Lady in Red' or perhaps even worse; she just won't grow.

After I had asked Dorothy to reserve the future supply of orange peel for me, I began to wonder why this might be a remedy and quite by chance I came across some details of an investigation into the cause of potatoes of some varieties going black when cooked. At this point the reader will probably think "Another nut! What on earth have potatoes to do with camellias, or oranges for that matter?" But wait: the cause of the misbehaviour of the potatoes has been shown to be an excess of chlorogenic acid in the soil and it appears that the percentage of this rises when citric acid in the soil is low and vice versa. Now citric acid is presumably that found in citrus fruits. It seems to me therefore that while camellias want an acid soil, some cultivars may be choosy about the brand of acid which is present and the chlorogenic type is not their favourite diet. The others may not like it but may tolerate it. After all we know that there are such preferences; for instance, 'Frosty Morn', 'Wildwood' and 'Lady in Red' very obviously do not like my compost which grows most others fairly well, while the leaves of the old 'Elegans' are so dark as to be nearly black. No one knows *all* about any form of horticulture and it seems that Mr. Priest may have found something valuable. Anyway I for one am going to try it in the hope that 'Lady

in Red' will push the roof off in due course.

Mr. Ayling in support of his own views sent a clipping from an English paper that was headed "Why Potatoes Turn Black in the Pot," as follows.

"For years the gardener has scratched his head to learn why potatoes go black when cooked. Various stereotyped answers have been given by gardening experts for decades, for example, "the soil needs dressing with potash," but no-one really knew why. At last scientists have come up with the facts.

"An initial research project was set up at the Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, in 1958 and for the last few years has been under the control of research worker J. L. Evans at the NIAB.

"He has carried out very intensive and extensive testing with different feeding solutions in pot-grown potatoes and more latterly a picture of the response of different soils has also been built up.

"It was discovered that blackening is caused by a greyish chemical called chlorogenic acid, which is what the cook sees. This is present in all potatoes but becomes evident when it rises above a certain level, which happens more easily on some soils than others.

"The extent of its presence varies in different varieties and it is influenced by the type of soil, because different amounts of plant food affects

its degree of buildup.

"Chlorogenic acid is greater when the citric acid content is low. The citric acid content is higher when there is plenty of potash. The latter is drastically reduced when nitrogen is fed as ammonia and it is thus best to specify that the fertiliser you use contains nitrogen in the form of nitrates.

"Citric acid also falls if you use muriate of potash instead of sulphate of potash, so again if you use a compound fertiliser it is best to specify the type of potash ingredient you require."

Temple City Society

The February meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday evening, February 22, 1968, in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will be a workshop devoted to some of the basic and technical rudiments of Camellia culture. Demonstrations will be conducted in grafting, the proper method of mixing soil ingredients, hybridizing by controlled pollination, and a brief discourse on treating camellia blooms with gibberellic acid.

This meeting will prove of interest to the new members and especially guests who wish to further their camellia culture education.

All camellia enthusiasts are invited to attend this meeting.

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STAKING AND PRUNING

I. John Movich
Pomona, California

When I got home from the office, my wife said "Call Ruth right away, she's worried about some of her camellia plants".

Upon calling her, I found out that in her area considerable wind was whipping her newly-planted camellia plants and she didn't know what to do about it. I drove over to her home taking some redwood takes of various sizes and some plastic tie material. Her 'Debutante' was almost ready to bloom and being quite full and heavy with buds, it needed the most attention. This plant had never been pruned nor dis-budded and had long pendulous branches with many short branches growing in all directions. Ruth said to me:

"How are you going to take care of such a plant?"

"First," I said, "I am cutting the lowest branches off the trunk. They will be mud-splashed from watering or from rain and it would be best to get rid of them completely." Next I staked the plant with a one-inch redwood stake a foot higher than the plant. I told Ruth if she ties up any plants to be sure to use flat plastic ties to avoid the tie material cutting into the stem when the plant grows. Most times the plastic material will stretch to the point that it will break as the plant

gets large. I cautioned her to check the ties at least once a year because sometimes the plastic material will become hard and brittle and can do as much damage as wire in cutting into the bark.

The next step, since there were a lot of buds on this 'Debutante', was to shorten the long pendulous branches to a bud closer to the trunk. I told Ruth that if she were not in an area of much wind, she could wait until the flowers bloom and then cut the flowers with long stems thereby having some wonderful material to make flower arrangements. In this case, however, since the flowers would open in a windy period, they would be so banged around they would be bruised and be worthless anyway.

Next thing, I told her, would be to step back away from the plant and just look at it. Imagine a fine stream of water sprayed on the plant. Either now or as soon as the flowers bloom, cut out every branch which would keep the spray from going to the inside of the plant, even directly through the plant. By pruning the heavy growth of short branches, many of them overlapping and crossing each other, you accomplish three things.

(1) You prune out the weak branches which would bear poor blooms, or

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blooms which would not have room to grow, and thus direct growth upward and outward. (2) You automatically allow more growth into the buds so that you get larger blooms. (3) You destroy hiding places for aphids, scale, and other harmful insects.

Another question Ruth had was regarding the 'Ville de Nantes'. She said, "How could I ever straighten it when it is so crooked?" I replied "This plant is young even though it is over three feet high. The main stem and branches are quite pliable. I would stake the trunk, tie it at every protruding point even as much as two or three inches apart and within a year or two you will find that the plant has straightened out considerably. You can then prune the plant to make it almost any desired shape.

"Many varieties should be kept tied to stakes until they are six feet or more tall, or until the trunk grows strong enough to keep the plant upright in wind and rain. Prune camellias as early as possible in the late winter or spring because if you cut after the growth buds open you may also cut off the next years bloom buds."

SOME COMMENTS (Cont.)

rooted a small percentage of cuttings of 'Crimson Robe' but none have grown away afterwards. It is reported that the variety 'Shot Silk' will both root and grow satisfactorily but we have no personal experience of this.

We record one rather curious observation on using *reticulata* stocks. Callous forms very freely at the point of union between scion and stock and eventually covers over the cut areas. With *japonica* and *sasanqua* stock, callous usually forms around the cut edge of the stock itself but we have never observed this to happen when using seedling *reticulatas*.

Many people are now working on breeding programmes with *reticulatas* and some very fine results are being obtained here and in other countries. For us, the ancient Camellias of China will always be invested with a charm and magic of their own.

SOUTHERN CALIF. (Cont.)

the most blooms. Because of its outdoor setting, it has a quality of beauty both because of the flowers on exhibition and the surrounding camellias that are growing and blooming beneath the California oak trees. The Los Angeles Camellia Council will sponsor a "no-host" Saturday night dinner dance to close out a big day.

The fifth and last of the Southern California area shows will be the Bakersfield show on the week-end of March 9-10, sponsored by the Kern County Camellia Society and held in the Bakersfield High School cafeteria. As with the San Diego show that starts the show trail, the one that closes it is also a social affair. Most of the traveling exhibitors spend the night in Bakersfield at the same motel and the late Saturday afternoon is usually spent in room hopping. On Saturday night there will be a no-host dinner, sponsored by the Kern County Camellia Society. Dinners in recent years have been at a Chinese restaurant, with the menu carefully supervised by Dr. Leland Chow and his wife Arlene.

This hard core group of Southern California camellia growers that follows the camellia show trail undertakes to live the maxim that the camellia hobby consists of two things: camellia blooms and camellia people. Since the group grows year by year, it seems to be accomplishing the objective.

I'M STILL FASCINATED

Douglas G. Thompson
Los Angeles, California

(Substance of Talk Before Temple City Camellia Society in November 1967)

Over the years I have been fascinated by camellias as I know you have been too. My interest would not wane even if nothing new or different came along. I'm still fascinated by what we have already. But, somehow something exciting always seems to be just around the corner with this flower of ours, a newness and freshness every season. It seems to have been like that through the ages in other climes and cultures before the East and West were joined.

The Greeks must have been fascinated. Their translation of *Thea*, the tea plant, was literally "divine herb." To the Chinese, *C. sasanqua* was known as "flower of tea." They said . . . "to meditate on the beauty of the camellia flower while sipping the fragrant *S. saluenensis* is to combine the spiritual with the practical and fill the senses with utter harmony." The Japanese were fascinated, too. Their tea cult was known as *Chan-No-Yu*; teaching the cultivation of delicate etiquette with grace, tranquility, urbanity and gentleness of manner. They said . . . "only the devotee of *Chan-No-Yu* knows how to entertain guests—with a twig of the camellia, having one bud half open and a few leaves in a plain small vase.

This ancient fascination has spanned the miles and years. In 1955, a Los Angeles school girl, Mija Takeuchi, was awarded one of fifteen first places in Emperor Hirohito's annual poetry contest, a thousand year old competition open to all who can write the Japanese 31 syllable *Tana*. Her poem, translated, reads:

"I look on the camellia blossoms in my garden in early spring with the wistful feelings of one about to be naturalized."

Without precise English equivalent, the beautiful Japanese expression, "naturalized", means; "made part of or absorbed in all nature", or, "transported out of self into oneness with diety." In Twentieth Century response to that age old fascination, she seemed to be saying, in her own way, "To love a camellia draws me closer to my Creator." In fact, there is a deep inner stillness which we cannot quite communicate, but carry like the ancients, secretly in our hearts . . . an awareness that of all flowers anywhere the camellia is deepest steeped, like its brew, in mysticism, ritual and lore.

There are practical and sometimes amusing uses too. Kimi Yamamoto, when in Japan, found a different fascination when a neighbor lady, coming to visit, plucked in passing a leaf from the camellia tree. This she made pliable by toasting, filled with loose tobacco, rolled and twisted at both ends, and settled down to smoke. Small rural shops provide camellia leaves for this purpose where the makin's were scarce.

There is a dream like quality to camellias, winter flowering, never true from seeds, of endless variety in shape and tint. In our frustrating world we can dream a rain forest in our near desert. We can refashion the lush well drained forest mold and spread the leafy sunlight filter. We can capture and enshrine an Oriental tree prized only for the beauty of its bloom. We can frame our own society to gather friends around a flower.

The plant fascinates me, versatile and effective in espalier, hedge, thicket, bonsai, basket or a stately garden corner. Caring for it is a nice balance requiring just enough attention to divert without tiring. There is mild mental and physical activity the year

round; relaxation with just the right portion of challenge; escape, relief from pressure, an interest at home. I can set up elaborate ways to graft, prune, raise cuttings and seedlings, repot, pollinate, disbud, fertilize and gib, or I can just putter and ponder. Tiring of these fascinating activities, I can neglect all except water and an occasional handful of cottonseed meal and get much the same result with little effort at all.

The flower fascinates me; where it came from; how it got here; how always people everywhere have been charmed. I have followed camellia history through 250 years of westward circumnavigation of the world from East to West and back to East again. I have wiled away absorbing hours painting the blooms and still life arrangements. I have photographed them as they bloomed in my collection. I have listened to the experts and tried to decide for myself the answers to some awesome questions. What about gibbing? Do I care if my flower is bigger than your flower on a certain day once a year? Is quality more important than size? Who sets camellia styles? Have we neglected other values in grim addiction to size? If size is all, is this the bitter end? If a camellia is just a flower after all and there will be another one tomorrow, what is all the fuss about?

I am fascinated because we make this extraordinary flower something more. We make it a basis for deep friendship, a tie that binds, a golden thread to weave camellia lovers together. We share something of value as we write about, give away, display, wear and discuss our flowers. Being such wonderful ornery critters, we quite lose our tempers in wondrous squabbles in which everyone is equally right, which fade as quickly as they rise with no apparent effect at all on friendship. We each react in our own way to a new flower. A nurseryman

wants it to sell. A botanist wants to know the parents. A discoverer wants to name it for his wife. A competitor wants a show-stopper. The nomenclature committee wants an unbiased description. The collector simply wants it. It's fascinating.

What should I ask of a new variety and what should you? Wadsworth wrote:
"And then my heart with rapture fills
And dances with the daffodils."

I suppose it is this rapture, or "pleasure yield" as Milo Rowell once put it, that keeps me fascinated. We each sort out our own personal delight and pursue our own enjoyment. There are many ways to express this pleasure. There have been four seedlings from my own garden never exhibited or propagated. One is Robert Scott. He is nine and calls it "My Bobbie." Another is Nigel Taylor, big and red. It first bloomed ten years ago, the day he was born. Barbara Ann Bowman is fifteen years old, a delicate pink formal. Lisa Machlin is not quite two and one half, all white and fluffy. I gave these seedlings to the children when they were born. Each owns the only plant. To be sure, these flowers will never win Illges Awards. In being beautiful they are also too modest to compete. But they are unique, individual, and precious like the children themselves. I have a slide of each for remembrance and a very special personal interest in their namesakes.

There have been so many ways to be fascinated. I think of the discoverers, introducers, seekers of new qualities, testers and improvers. I think of our shows and the fun of competing; of the collectors who want each new name. Others of you could add many other facets of fascination. Don't you suppose someday, somewhere a hundred years from now there will be people yet unborn who, in their new generation, in their own way will be fascinated too?

CAMELLIA SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

Report of Program Presented by Lawrence R. Shuey and Basil J. Neptune to Southern California Camellia Society

Lawrence R. Shuey and Basil J. Neptune talked to the members of the Southern California Camellia Society at the January 9th meeting about camellia species and hybrids. Mr. Shuey covered the subject of camellia species and the background history of camellia hybridizing. Mr. Neptune talked about the modern era of the camellia hybrid with attention to work being done in California.

Mr. Shuey opened the program by pointing out that *Camellia Nomenclature* lists 89 camellia species, of which less than one-third are growing in the United States. According to an article by Hu-Hsen-Hsu of the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, of Peking, China, in the 1968 American Camellia Society Year Book, 13 additional species have been discovered, making a total of 102 camellia species that have been identified. These 102 species may be only a fraction of those growing in the world today. Further exploration and time will tell.

The great majority of our camellia species are native to China or to Asiatic countries that are under domination of Communist China; therefore, they are unobtainable to the Western world today. Unless conditions change, it is extremely doubtful whether most of us will have the opportunity to see those camellia species that are presently behind the Bamboo Curtain.

The flowers of most of the species that are listed in *Camellia Nomenclature* are white. A few of them are described as having yellow flowers. Until such species can be obtained and bloomed in the camellia growing countries of the Western world, however, we cannot be assured that they are in fact yellow. Several japonica plants that were represented to be yellow-flowered have been imported from for-

eign lands. These importations were carefully nurtured and given the best of care to assure that we would not lose them. Eventually some of them put forth buds and excitement ran high as our horticulturists awaited the first bloom. The hopes were crushed, because all the flowers were of varying shades of white.

Of all the species which we have been able to procure and propagate, only three have much commercial value: namely, japonica, reticulata and sasanqua. Japonica, with its several thousand varieties, is by far the most important to the home owner and to the commercial nurseryman as a source of income. Some camellia collectors, however, are interested in collecting species with the same zeal that a stamp collector collects stamps. A few of the species importations have unusual plant forms, flowers and leaves, much different from those of japonica, reticulata and sasanqua, and are highly prized by their owners. These species include:

Saluenensis, from Southern China
— white to pink to deep rose.

Lutchuensis, from islands south of Japan — white.

Irrawadiensis, from Burma—white.

Salicifolia, from Hong Kong and

Formosa — white with perfume.

Pitardii, from Southern China — rose to white.

Fraterna, from Central China — white to lilac.

Since most of the species have little, if any interest to the average camellia grower, why then do we stimulate interest in them and why do we attempt to procure them from almost impossible sources? The question is answered by the hybridizer because these species constitute the tools with which he works. Every new species made available to him may be the

missing link to his hybridizing objective.

The hybrid camellia was comparatively unknown in the Western world until about 1930. Camellia historians give credit to Mr. J. C. Williams of Cornwall, England for the first worthwhile camellia hybrid, named 'J. C. Williams' (1940). 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 *Camellia Speciosa*. When planted in England, *Speciosa* was found to be a collection of four species; namely, *reticulata*, *pitardii*, *saluenensis* and *taliensis*. It was found even in the unfavorable British climate that *saluenensis* readily united with *japonica* to produce the many new and beautiful hybrid introductions later to become known as *Camellia Williamsii*. Subsequent crosses between *saluenensis* and *japonica* brought forth such varieties as 'Mary Christian', 'St. Ewe', 'November Pink' and 'Charles Michael'. 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.

Probably the most breathtaking and beautiful of the new introductions was the late Colonel Stephenson Clarke's 'Donation'. This very floriferous orchid pink, semi-double flower is also considered to be a *Williamsii* hybrid, the pollen parent having been *japonica* 'Donckelarii'. The introduction of this fine new hybrid to Southern California created great excitement. No flower in the nursery had the vivid orchid-pink coloring of 'Donation'. No collector's list was complete without it. When a Division for hybrids was provided in the camellia show schedules, 'Donation' usually won the silver trophy.

Subsequent to the success of J. C. Williams and his now famous *Williamsii* hybrids, it became the good fortune of Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Australia to further whet the appetites of the hybridizing enthusiasts. In 1938 Professor Waterhouse imported from England a plant of *C. saluenensis*. He planted it in a bed containing a number of *japonica* cultivars. In 1945 it began to flower freely and set a number of seed pods, but died the following year; however, 22 seedlings came up under the plant. The foliage of these seedlings was different from that of the *saluenensis* mother plant. Three of these seedlings flowered in 1954 and were named (1) 'E. G. Waterhouse', a formal double, light pink and beautifully imbricated; (2) 'Lady Gowrie', a large semi-double, fuschia pink in color; (3) 'Margaret Waterhouse', a medium sized semi-double, amaranth rose in color. Others of the 22 seedlings were named. Some of these chance seedlings began to appear in camellia nurseries in the United States. The stylish 'E. G. Waterhouse' won rapid popularity and it quickly relegated 'Donation' to a role of secondary importance on the hybrid tables of camellia shows. It became the sweetheart of formal camellia blooms.

About 1943 Dr. Brian W. Doak, New Zealand's pioneer in camellia hybridizing work, obtained a rooted cutting of *C. saluenensis* from Professor Waterhouse. He used *saluenensis* as the seed parent of successful crosses with *C. reticulata* 'Capt. Rawes' and produced the following seedling hybrids: 'Phyl Doak', 'Fair Lass', 'Brian', 'Barbara Clark' and 'Dr. Lesley'. 'Phyl Doak' and 'Barbara Clark' appear to be the best of these introductions in Southern California.

While to Dr. Doak goes the honor of being the pioneer of his work in New Zealand, honorable mention should be given to L. E. Jury of New Plymouth, New Zealand for his

(Continued on next page)

camellia hybridizing activities. Mr. Jury started in 1945 to import plants for the specific purpose of hybridizing, which work he actually started in 1954. By 1962 he had raised approximately 1000 hybrid camellias, most of which were crosses between saluenensis and japonica. The first of these crosses to qualify for naming was a large semi-double phlox pink flower which he called 'Kia Ora'. Three other semi-doubles were subsequently named, 'Elegant Beauty', 'Grand Jury' and 'Anticipation'. In 1964 he introduced a show quality flower which he named 'Elsie Jury', a large full peony, clear pink with shaded undertones. It is a cross of saluenensis and japonica 'Pukekura', a New Zealand japonica. It first appeared on Southern California show tables about two years ago and seems destined to take its place among the best of the hybrids introduced to date. Mr. Jury places paramount importance on the quality of his breeder plants and it is highly probable that he will come forth with more high quality hybrid camellias.

The work of these and other camellia hybridizers in England, Australia and New Zealand has given impetus to hybridizing activities in the United States and particularly in California. Many camellia people in the United States have stated that most of the Williamsii hybrids do not measure up to the best of the old and new japonica varieties. For the most part, the saluenensis hybrids have been of poor substance, the stamens tend to darken too rapidly, the colors have been of poor saturation and of limited range, and the plants have been of poor bush characteristics which have not endeared them to the landscape gardener. While the camellia hybridizers in California have not abandoned saluenensis, they are giving more attention to the other species in their efforts to produce good flowers and good plant structures.

Howard Asper was one of the first, if not the first, to show the possibilities

of reticulata in hybridizing with his 'Howard Asper', a cross of *C. reticulata* 'Lion Head' ⁽¹⁾ X *C. japonica* 'Coronation'. This flower led the field in hybrid competition in camellia shows just as soon as it appeared and was a factor in the separation of the Hybrid Division in many camellia show schedules into two groups: one for hybrids with reticulata parentage and one for hybrids of other parentage. Mr. Asper has other "reticulata hybrids" in incumation for future introduction, in addition to his seedling 'Fire Chief' which has been introduced but so far has had only limited exposure. 'El Dorado', his pitardii X japonica 'Tiffany' cross is being introduced this year. Another line of his successful crosses has been his sasanqua X reticulata crosses that produce blooms up and down the stem giving the blooming characteristic of sasanqua and the flower size of reticulata.

David L. Feathers of Lafayette, California has been a camellia hybridizer for a good many years, during which he has used all available species. Although he has acquired thousands of hybrid seedlings and has crosses into the third generation, he has been very conservative in introducing his progeny. This year he is introducing 'Innovation', a cross of the hybrid 'Williams Lavendar' and pollen from 'Crimson Robe'. It is described as a wine red overlaid lavender, a large peony flower with twisted petals, a plant with vigorous open growth and a long season of blooms. There should be more introductions by this hybridizer in the years ahead.

Harold Paige of Lafayette, California is another hybridizer who works seriously at his hobby. Anybody who

(1) See Colonel Tom Durrant's article "Some Comment on Camellia Reticulata" in the January 1968 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. Under the corrected reticulata nomenclature, the name 'Lion Head' would be replaced by 'Cornelian'. — Ed.

has seen the fine seedlings of 'Sylvia May' that are growing in his garden knows what is meant by the term "fine shrubs". These are vigorous upright growing shrubs heavily clothed with foliage and very bushy. When they start to flower they are covered with large single and semi-double pale lavender flowers, and it is rather common for Mary Paige to have vases in the house filled with branches with flowers up and down the stem. These are mostly second generation seedlings of the hybrid 'Sylvia May'. Mr. Paige has selected one of the finest of these, named 'Sylvia May Wells', and is introducing it. In every camellia show season, Harold Paige has a hybrid camellia seedling on display and we can expect future introductions from the crosses he has made with 'Sylvia May' and his other breeders.

Nuccio's Nurseries are experimenting with some crosses that involve the species *irrawadiensis* and *granthamiana*. They have a seedling of a *C. reticulata* 'Buddha' X *granthamiana* cross that has a very large single salmon-pink flower and foliage resembling that of *granthamiana*. They plan to back-cross from this single flower with the hope of obtaining a fuller *reticulata*-type flower with the *granthamiana* foliage.

Vern McCaskill has made several successful crosses that have used *japonica* and *Williamsii*, and has named and introduced some of them. Among his successful introductions have been 'Waltz Time', 'Waltz Dream', 'Blue Danube' and 'Creation'.

No attempt has been made to name all who have participated in the camellia hybridizing program that is little more than thirty years old, either in the programs of foreign countries or of California. No mention has been made of people in the United States outside California, largely because knowledge of such work is meager. The objectives of this work in the United States differ from objectives in England, Australia and

New Zealand largely to the extent that camellia preferences in these latter countries go so much to landscape effects whereas the United States preferences go more to the flower itself. (2) It is certain that with all the attention that is being given to the hybrid camellia, we can expect notable results. The problem is that it takes so long with camellias to know the results, in contrast with most other plants where the time from pollination to flowering is shorter, and therefore, generations can be accumulated more quickly. Patience, then, and the desire of camellia hobbyists to bring about changes in camellias will bring forth the improvements that are sought.

Camellia Council Sets 1969 Show Dates

The Los Angeles Camellia Council has set 1969 show dates for the two camellia shows that it sponsors. The Early Show, the so-called Gib Show, has been set for the week-end of January 4-5, 1969. Previous Gib Shows have been held in early December, two of them at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and the December 1967 show in the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens. The Hospitality House is not available for a December 1968 show and the Council was faced with the decision to again use the Los Angeles County Arboretum location or to defer the date for a Hospitality House show. It was decided to follow the latter course.

The 1969 Spring Show in Descanso Gardens will be held on the week-end of March 1-2, 1969. The dates for the 1970 show will be February 28 and March 1.

(2) Illustrative of this, I saw no blooms of 'Elsie Jury' in my August 1967 visit to New Zealand whereas I saw many of Mr. Jury's other hybrids in full bloom in New Zealand gardens. —Ed.

EARLY SHOW



Left to right: Ted Alfter of Bakersfield (partially shown), Douglas Thompson of Los Angeles, John Movich of Pomona, Walter Harmsen of Pomona, Melvin Canfield of Bakersfield, Rose Marie Dekker of Glendale and Caryl Pitkin of San Marino.



Left to right: Douglas Thompson, John Movich (rear view), Wilkins Garner of Glendale, Rose Marie Dekker, Caryl Pitkin and William Pike of Los Angeles.

SNAP SHOTS



Left to Right: Frank Anderson of Bakersfield, Deloris Taylor of La Canada, Julius Nuccio of Altadena, Melvin Gum of Long Beach and Ray Moreno of Fresno.



Left to right: Karl Anderson of Santa Monica, Dr. Leland Chow of Bakersfield, Harvey Short of La Mesa and Alton Parker of Sebastopol.

PREPARING CAMELLIAS (Cont.)

hair brush, starting at the throat and working out to remove the particles. When water is needed, I use cotton-tipped sticks that have been dipped in water, using care to keep the tips clean. I use a rolling-off motion, utilizing all the lateral surfaces of the Q-stick in cleaning the flower. When water on the flower must be removed, I either tap out the water that may be in the Q-stick I have used for washing or use a dry one.

I remove underdeveloped, abnormal and dark stamens, pulling them out with a tweezer or needle-holder (hemostat).

I prefer to have two leaves with the flower. When the leaves are dusty or have water ringlets, I polish them with milk or a light household oil. Gloves lightly saturated are useful for this purpose. If I am in a rush, I use the oil from my thumb and forefinger.

I use a hemostat to remove the flower by the stem or leaf from my container for placement in the display container. If styrofoam is used in the display container, a firm grip on the stem will push it into the styrofoam without damage to the flower.

Display of the flower on the show table is important. Like women, the camellia exhibitor should show off his flower to the best advantage. I like to place the flower in a spot on the table where I think the judges will best see it. My first choice of location is the second or third row. I do not like the first row. I place the flower with the leaves at the top, like the rabbit. I try to give the bloom a $\frac{3}{4}$ look, a tilted look toward all admirers — judges and spectators.

Finally, I give the flower a final touch-up if it needs it, using a dry camel hair brush.

Give yourself enough time and use patience to groom your flowers and to place them on the show tables. It will pay off in the awards you win.

SOME NOTES (Continued)

The United States Nursery was at Fifth and Folsom Streets and as mentioned earlier, they exhibited 13 camellias at the 1854 fair.

Just a block away at the corner of Fourth and Folsom was the large nursery of William C. Walker who came to California in 1849. The 1856 report of the Agricultural Society speaks glowingly of his layout:

Close by the Garden of Mr. O'Donnell, is the Golden Gate Nursery of W. C. Walker, Esq. This establishment contains one of the largest and rarest collections of fine plants to be found in the States, and in fact, it is doubted whether it can be excelled by any similar establishment in any of the Atlantic States. The Conservatory is over 100 feet long, and contains a vast number of the choicest plants. No expense is spared by Mr. Walker in introducing the newest and rarest kinds, and his enterprise deserves a rich reward. It would be difficult in such a report as this to give any adequate description of Mr. Walker's collection of valuable plants. The taste, zeal and enterprise displayed by him are deserving of the highest praise, and it augurs well for the increased attention and cultivated taste of the public, which appreciates and sustains an establishment that requires so much time, labor and expense to support it.

The Golden Gate Nursery also entered a number of camellias at the 1854 show as previously mentioned.

Here, then, are a few notes—somewhat sketchy to be sure—of camellias and camellia growers in California's early days. I have restricted my research and comments almost entirely to the period before 1860, my basic premise being the interest in and development of the camellia plant in the earliest years after the gold rush emigration to our state. The history and development of the camellia after 1860 and its eventual introduction into southern California I leave to others.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY**

President: James Hicks, Jr.; 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 97205
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. Martha Derr, 6454 Oakridge Way, Sacramento 95831
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park,
Sacramento

***CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Robert Kellas; Secretary, Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave., Fresno 93702
Meetings: Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 20 in Mayfair School, Fresno

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: A. M. Patterson; Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Blackard, 2707 Prospect St., Concord 94520
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Services Bldg., 6th & G Sts., Antioch

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Karn Hoertling; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel Willits, 502 W. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95420
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: James Tuliano; 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: Dr. Jake Holtzman; Secretary: Mrs. Hazel Grosso, 1424 Encina Ave., Modesto 95351
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: Albert H. Dekker; 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: Louis J. Giomi; 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: Samuel E. Foster; Secretary: Mrs. Peg White, 5951 Germaine Lane, La Jolla 92037
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral
Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Alton B. Parker; Secretary: Mrs. Inez Tryon, Sebastopol
Meetings: 4th Thursday, November through April

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

***TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Laurence R. Shuey; Secretary: Mrs. Violet Shuey, 5813 N. Golden West Ave.,
Temple City 91780
Meetings: 5th Thursday of November and 4th Thursday of December through March
in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

CAMELLIA

Society, Inc.

820 WINSTON AVENUE
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA



Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Sumner
1370 San Luis Rey Drive
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