

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Carnival Queen'  
Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

Vol. 31

October 1969

No. 1

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

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

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

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: \$6.00.

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## THE COVER FLOWER

### C. Japonica 'Carnival Queen'

This month's cover flower, a chance seedling, is a 1969 introduction of Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, California. It is a large irregular semi-double to full peony white flower with bold stripes of rose red and pale pink, that blooms mid-season. Growth is strong and upright.

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

With this issue we are starting our tenth and last year as Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW. Little did I think back in 1960 when Al Dekker asked me to do the job that I would be at it this long, although I did not look on it as a temporary assignment when I took it. In theory at least, the job of Editor of a "fun society" publication should consist largely of leadership of an editorial group in the planning, procurement and editing of the material to be printed. This has not proved to be the case in the years of my editorship, and to my knowledge in the years preceding me. I am paid to do the job (I receive \$900 per year) and the responsibility has been placed accordingly, and properly so.

I have enjoyed the work and the responsibility. There comes a time, however, when the pleasures of and therefore the personal compensation from a job start to decline. I have written on occasion that the subjects for a camellia publication are limited and a large part of an editor's job is to cover the same subjects year after year in words that the reader will not recognize. Somehow, the material does not seem to be as fresh to me as it was a few years ago. I do not put this issue to press with as much zest as I did that of a year ago. This will not lessen my intent to make the issues of the coming camellia season as worth-while as I can possibly make them.

I believe that it is wrong in principle for a "fun society" to hire a person to perform one of the activities for which the society functions, assuming, of course, that the responsibility is spread among members. I believe that the Southern California Camellia Society should head in this direction with regard to the publication of CAMELLIA REVIEW. I have therefore offered to serve for a time without compensation and as a member of the Society as Chairman of an Editorial Committee which collectively will be responsible for CAMELLIA REVIEW. This Committee would serve in an advisory capacity with me during the camellia season ahead, then at the start of next season would take full charge with me temporarily acting as Chairman. The Board of Directors has accepted this offer and the members who are listed on the inside front cover as members of the Editorial Board have been asked by the Directors to serve in that capacity.

California should have a camellia publication. It is unfortunate that the Northern California Camellia Society did not see its way clear to continue publication of its *The Camellia Bulletin* after David Feathers took the step that I am now taking. I am hopeful that the members of The Southern California Camellia Society and its affiliated societies, much larger in number than the membership of The Northern California Camellia Society, will not permit this to happen to CAMELLIA REVIEW.

*Harold E. Dwyer*

## CALIFORNIA INTRODUCTIONS IN 1969

Four California nurserymen have announced that they will release 23 new camellia varieties in Fall 1969. The four nurseries are McCaskill Gardens of Pasadena, Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, Hamilton and Clark of Upland, and Redwood Empire Camellias of Sebastopol. The new varieties are as follows in alphabetical order.

**Bali Ha'i Dawn**, a sport of 'Bali Ha'i', soft pink to light pink shading to a white edge. 'Bali Ha'i', introduced by McCaskill in 1961, is medium, semi-double with intermingled petaloids and stamens in the center. The sport has the parent's growth characteristics. McCaskill.

**Bali Ha'i Pink**, also a sport of 'Bali Ha'i', with growth characteristics of the parent. McCaskill.

**Blueblood**, a hybrid that comes from 'Phillipa Forword' times japonica. It is a medium sized peony form, rose pink with blue overtones. McCaskill.

**Camilla Ingram**, a two-inch red formal double variegated white. The plant is vigorous with upright bushy growth. A mid-season bloomer. McCaskill.

**Carnival Queen**, a large irregular semi-double to full peony white japonica with bold stripes of rose red and pale pink. Blooms mid-season. Growth is strong and upright. Nuccio.

**Clarence Hearn**, named for its originator Clarence Hearn of Arcadia, California. A large anemone form japonica, deep rose red in color, that blooms from October to May. Takes full sun. McCaskill.

**Fandango**, a large peony form japonica, white and pink with bright red stripes. Plant grows upright and bushy. McCaskill.

**Fortyniner**, a Howard Asper hybrid, reticulata 'Butterfly Wings' times japonica 'Indian Summer'. Brilliant red, large, peony form. It is said that variegation is particularly attractive because of the striking contrast between

the white and the brilliant red. Growth is vigorous and full spreading, with dark green leaves. Nuccio and Kramer.

**Frances Kryger**, originated by Louis Kryger of Pasadena, a formal double japonica. Rose pink in color. Blooms early to mid-season. Plant grows upright and bushy. McCaskill.

**Granada**, a 'Reg Ragland' seedling (other parentage unknown), developed by Mrs. Monique Peer of Park Hill in Hollywood, California. A large, dark red, full peony flower that blooms mid-season to late. Nuccio.

**Highlight**, a hybrid from reticulata 'Purple Gown' times Saluenensis. Originated by Mr. Les Jury of New Plymouth, New Zealand, who originated the hybrid 'Elsie Jury'. The flower is a large to very large full semi-double to loose peony, rose-red in color, that blooms mid-season to late. The plant has open reticulata type growth with small leaves. Nuccio.

**Hopkins Pink Dawn**, a sport of the miniature 'Hopkins Pink'. Color is soft pink to light pink, shading to white edges. McCaskill.

**Hopkins Rose Pink**, another sport of 'Hopkins Pink', solid rose pink in color. McCaskill.

**Kona**, a sport of 'Hawaii'. A greenish white to pure white fimbriated peony. Large to very large. Blooms mid-season on a plant more vigorous than its parent. Hamilton and Clark, Upland. The sport was discovered in 1962.

**Little Slam**, a small (2½ to 3") rich red full peony that blooms early to mid-season. The plant, which grows upright and compact, has very narrow leaves. Nuccio.

**Lulu Belle**, a chance japonica seedling originated by Harold Dryden of San Marino, California. Early (November-February), large white, semi-

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## MORE COMMENT ON CAMELLIA RETICULATA

Col. Tom Durrant  
Tirau, New Zealand

To complete the study of the identities of the cultivars of *Camellia reticulata*, which we published in 1967 in the form of the Ralph Peer Memorial Address under the title, "Some Comment on *C. Reticulata*," two things remained to be done.\* The first, to go to Kunming and study the original plants on the spot. The second, to go to California and check over the principal and original collections of *C. reticulata* which are in the Huntington Gardens and the Descanso Gardens, both in the Los Angeles area.

Since travelling to Kunming did not seem possible in the present state of international relationships (though we hope one day to be able to do so), my wife and I decided to accept the very kind invitation we had from friends in California and to arrange our journey so that we could see the *reticulatas* in flower and then fly on to Britain and Italy in time to see them in bloom there.

On the last day of February, 1969, we flew from Auckland to Los Angeles where we commenced an intensive programme of 14 days' concentrated camellia activity, very kindly arranged and organised for us by our friends, Harold Dryden and Bill Goertz, both overseas members of the New Zealand Camellia Society and both well known in New Zealand. We visited many gardens, judged at three large camellia shows, and met numerous camellia personalities, from all of whom we received much kindness and assistance. It is intended to record here a summary of observations of *Camellia reticulata* as we saw it in California and in Europe.

Judging the *reticulata* classes at the Descanso Show and at Bakersfield and Fresno, provided an overall impres-

sion of flowers grown under Californian conditions. There were some very beautiful individual flowers everywhere, but the general quality, size and colour seemed to improve as we travelled northwards. In the Los Angeles area the colour of Purple Gown, Crimson Robe, Tali Queen and Pagoda had lost some of the depth which in New Zealand is characteristic of these varieties. We had the general impression that *C. reticulata* does not particularly like container cultivation and, where suitable conditions can be found or created, plants growing in the ground do much better and produce higher quality flowers.

Descanso Gardens has an extensive planting of mature *reticulatas* grown under live oaks in comparatively heavy shade. Most of the plants were flowering well, but growth was generally open and straggly and the blooms smaller than usual. New planting in full light had suffered somewhat from a flash flood which had scoured through the area and removed some topsoil and all the mulches. Till they are large enough to shade their own roots, good mulches are essential to keep down soil temperatures. The dry, macerated fir bark, which is commonly used in the States, seems an ideal material and its use on the open light planting at Descanso would greatly improve the conditions for the *reticulatas* there. Mark Anthony, the Superintendent of Descanso Gardens, needed some courage to attempt an open light planting under the fierce Californian sunlight. The plants are already bushing up well and we have no doubt that the attempt will be successful.

At Huntington there are numerous *reticulatas* at various places in the gardens, but the principal planting, which is also the largest and most mature, is in fairly dense shade, again

\*See January 1968 issue of the *CAMELLIA REVIEW*.

under live oaks and various other trees. These plants are the first propagations from the original shipments and many are very large though they have extremely open growth habit. They were a very beautiful sight in full flower in spring sunshine and well worth the long journey to see them.

Bill Wylam, who must be one of the world's leading camellia experts, gave us a great deal of assistance and it was possible to make a careful plant-by-plant check of this very important collection. It was interesting to see that a start had been made to thin out the overhead cover, an operation requiring great skill and care if the reticulatas were to survive undamaged.

One or two items of considerable interest were noted in this famous garden, which has a camellia collection that must be unequalled in the world for number and degree of maturity. There are some fine plants of Captain Rawes, one of them 20ft high, 15ft across with many weeping branches and hundreds of fine flowers. We saw a sizable plant of this variety, which was ten years old and growing on its own roots. There were two plants said to be actual seedlings of Captain Rawes, one raised in 1958 and the other in 1961. Both were small and not very thrifty-looking, in spite of their ages being eleven and eight years, respectively. Both have flowered but the blooms are small and not nearly as good as the parent. The plant on its own roots and the seedlings are very considerable horticultural rarities, since Captain Rawes is normally sterile and cuttings which root and grow away are almost unheard of. The large reticulata plants here were not suffering from the "bottleneck" effect, the result of inadequate japonica stocks, which we saw almost everywhere else. Large stocks in the open ground had apparently been used for these plants.

In the Sunset Garden at Menlo

Park, near San Francisco, home of the famous Sunset gardening books, there are some plants of *C. reticulata* which, growing almost in the open, are well furnished, pyramidal in habit and flowering nicely. These are Shot Silk, Buddha and Confucius, probably the most flourishing that we saw in California. It was interesting to note that Cornelian and Crimson Robe, growing only a few yards away but in the shade, were not doing nearly so well.

Plants of *C. reticulata* growing in Dave Feather's garden, on the other side of San Francisco, were also flourishing and it seems likely that they may prefer the cooler and moister climate of Northern California.

When we flew on a transpolar flight from San Francisco to London we found England enduring the latest and coldest spring for about 30 years and, after New Zealand high summer and California sunshine, the dark, cold and overcast weather had an even more depressing effect on us than it seemed to be having on the local camellias!

In Britain we had a very crowded programme of family and business engagements and it was not possible to visit many places we wanted to see. The continued cold weather had held back growth and flowering of even the earliest spring plants, and almost the only camellias we saw in flower were at the R.H.S. Spring Show or in glasshouses.

Leonardslee is a famous garden in Sussex, about which we hope to write a great deal more later. Sir Giles and Lady Loder very kindly entertained us and gave a lot of time to show us the very extensive plantings they have of camellias and countless other species. The most exciting feature of their reticulata collection is a plant of *Sungtzelin* (syn., Robert Fortune, Pagoda) which is a survival of the introduction made by Robert Fortune

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*C. Reticulata* 'Captain Rawes' in full sun on Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore



in 1850. It is growing in the open on the sunny side of a stone wall where it was planted, apparently, at the beginning of this century. It now consists of about 8 or 10ft of thin vertical trunk, at the top of which is a small head of branches showing the characteristic foliage, buds and habit of the variety. How this magnificent variety of *C. reticulata*, which was greeted with such enthusiasm when introduced in the mid-19th Century, came almost to the point where it disappeared completely, is a horticultural mystery very hard to explain. Another remarkable plant growing against and trained upon a wall, was a Captain Rawes which was all of 40ft across. Being in the open, neither of these *reticulatas* was yet in flower. In a glasshouse were good flowering plants of Cornelian, Crimson Robe, and Willow Wand and though glasshouse culture produces very open growth, the weather protection results in beautiful, undamaged flowers. The glasshouses are unheated and fans are used to keep the air moving. The glass is shaded in hot weather by spraying it with a mixture of ordinary white cooking flour and water—very simple, very easy to apply and to remove.

The Royal collection of *C. reticulata* in the Savill Gardens at Windsor is grown in a large cool glasshouse and, when we arrived there on March 20, the plants were in full flower. Sir Eric Savill had kindly invited us to see them and discuss the identities of some of the plants which, since they originated in the U.S.A. from the Peer-Lammerts shipments, could be expected to display similar confusion.

Unfortunately, it was a dull, dark day when we arrived at Windsor, as it had been at Leonardslee, and it was not possible to take any photographs in colour or black and white at either place. Glasshouse cultivation has again resulted in extremely open growth and some loss of intensity of colour but all these great plants, simultaneously in full display, were quite breathtak-

ing. My wife and I are, of course, prejudiced in favour of *C. reticulata*, but we thought this was the most exciting and beautiful experience in all our long journey through camellia gardens in many countries.

A very nice identity problem was posed by the first plant we met inside the glasshouse. On the authority of Dr. Yu (Yunnan Shan-cha, Peking 1958) Cornelian is a variegated form of Lion Head and almost all of the plants of this variety in the Western world carry very heavy variegation, the blooms frequently showing 50 per cent or more of white. Here, at Windsor, was a plant showing both variegated and solid coloured flowers simultaneously. It was also interesting to note that the degree of variegation was much less than normal. There seems to be no doubt that the usual variegation in Cornelian is virus induced and the strain of virus concerned affects the flowers in a very marked manner. In Huntington Gardens we saw a plant similar to the one at Windsor — it also showing many solid flowers and some with limited variegations. It is pure speculation on our part but it seems likely that both these plants originate from a Lion Head from Kunming and that their limited degrees of variegation may result from another strain of virus, picked up from infected grafting stock, either in China or in the U.S.A.

Obviously, giving variegated forms of a cultivar totally different names leads to considerable confusion, particularly when the degree of virus-induced variegation can vary greatly from plant to plant and may even disappear altogether. It seems reasonable that the two plants we are discussing should retain their Lion Head labels, but that only solid red flowers should be exhibited under that name.

Another striking plant, a 15ft high Willow Wand, was making a great display with many soft pink flowers. This fine variety is involved in con-

*(Continued on next page)*

fusion with two others, Osmanthus Leaf and Takieyeh, and in Great Britain has been given an Award of Merit as Osmanthus Leaf. The true Osmanthus Leaf (Hsiaokueyeh) does not appear to have reached Great Britain. It is a quite different, distinct variety and, when seen together, there is no possibility of confusion between it and Willow Wand.

Shot Silk was showing its characteristic, vertical habit and will soon reach the roof. It, too, was making a brilliant display.

Crimson Robe (which had been here confused with Noble Pearl), Butterfly Wings, Pagoda and Professor Tsai were all contributing to the great display of colour. Buddha, about 12ft high, was suffering from the defoliation which seems to affect this variety unless conditions are exactly as it likes them. The "bottleneck" effect, caused by inadequate japonica understock, which we have in our own garden on similar plants and which we noticed in many places in the U.S.A., was also showing on some of the fine plants in the Windsor glass-house.

The camellia species, Tsaii, rosae-flora, maliflora and drupifera, were flourishing here and a most notable feature was a tall columnar plant of the hybrid Inspiration, reaching right to the roof and a mass of clear pink colour.

No amount of verbal description can convey an adequate impression of the beauty of this display or of the skill and patient care which have produced it.

We are deeply grateful to Sir Eric Savill who made the visit possible and entertained us most kindly. Also, to Mr T. Findlay and Mr J. Cole, who not only gave us every assistance but are obviously greatly devoted to the work they are doing at Windsor.

As we left London Airport on March 28 for Italy, the sun was shining for the first time since we had been in England.

At Milan Airport we were met by Dr. Antonio Sevesi, who is president of the Italian Camellia Society, and with whom we have carried on correspondence about camellias for many years. He was our most generous and charming host during our stay which he organised in every detail. We saw many exciting things in Italy which we hope to record later, but this article is concerned with *C. reticulata*, which is not yet grown extensively in that country.

In the famous garden of Isola Bella, belonging to the Borromeo family, there is an exceptionally fine plant of *C. reticulata*, Captain Rawes. This has a circumference of 36in at 10in above ground, has a tall, straight trunk and a fine head of well-furnished branches. It is in full light and grafted on *C. japonica* but shows no signs of the "bottleneck" effect. *C. reticulata* is recorded in the 1906 edition of the plant catalogue of this garden and the entry could well refer to the plant in question. If so, it is already 63 years old.

In Signor Piero Hillebrand's very efficient nursery at Pallanza there are several series of fine seedling *reticulatas*, raised from seed sent by us

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## **S. C. C. S. Dues Increase To \$6.50 for 1970**

Southern California Camellia Societies dues will be increased from \$6.00 to \$6.50 per year starting with dues for the year 1970, according to action taken by the Society's Board of Directors. The last increase in dues was in 1960 when they went from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per year. The 1970 increase is necessary, according to President Wilber Foss, because expenses are increasing, particularly printing costs of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, and membership dues have been constant.

## CAMELLIA CULTURE

*Articles about camellia culture are a must for a camellia publication and we have tried through the years to meet this obligation. Generally, the articles have covered a single phase of the culture job, such as fertilizing, soil mix, etc. We shall have some such articles this season. To cover the subject broadly, however, we shall use stories of how some of our California growers care for their camellias. These people will not be so-called experts (are there such?) but rather run-of-the-mill amateur growers who have produced good enough blooms at show time that their names have appeared with sufficient frequency in show results to attract my attention. I have asked several such people to write out what they do. We shall start with stories from Pittsburg in Northern California and Modesto in the Central Valley. The number of these stories in future issues will depend on the willingness of the people to whom I have written to comply with my request. —EDITOR.*

**S. B. Davi, Pittsburg**

You know and I know that camellias are trees. Since I have 250 named varieties, most of which are in containers, and limited space, something has to be done. First, I top prune very heavily, in late July and August when I am sure where my buds are. Second, when changing from one container to another after seven or eight years, I root prune two sides of the plant about two inches and thus avoid having to put it into a larger container.

My planting medium in the last few years has been fairly light al-

though our summers are very hot. I've been watering once a week for years so my medium can't be too light, but I want good drainage. This has been my mixture: 20 to 25% damp peat, 15 to 20% sharp sand, 10 to 15% well rotted manure, approximately 10% good top soil. The rest I fill in with large pieces of bark and branches and leaves from the compost. For the last few years this has been a good mixture for me. For some grower on the coast or in cooler areas a lighter mixture may be O.K., but not here. I think mixture is important to the longevity of the plant. Some people bare root before they plant in their own containers, but I skip it if a plant looks good and healthy.

For fertilizer I use a liquid 12-6-4 organic fish base that I buy from a chain store for \$1.19 a gallon. A couple of gallons has been enough for a season. I put 2 or 3 ounces in a 3-gallon watering can. I'll increase it to 3 or 4 ounces for my older plants, but only for them. You don't have to be an expert to recognize a plant performing well. Don't fertilize a young graft for at least 2 years, and sometimes if it is on a healthy understock, I'd wait even longer. I try to make my first fertilizing program

*(Continued on next page)*

### **REDWOOD EMPIRE CAMELLIAS, INC.**

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start about the latter part of February or in early March. I fertilize again in the latter part of May and early in June with the same dosage as in the spring program.

When a plant is not a nice green color, that means it is not taking advantage of the 12% nitrogen in the fertilizer I use. Maybe a little liquid iron chelate will do wonders for it. I know for a fact that it can't hurt it.

Disbudding is my love. If there is anything I love, it is to go to a nice plant in July or August, grab my shears and start to cut all the inside growth. I then start to disbud to one and two buds to a branch or terminal. When I get through with them they have been scalped. Since most of my plants are exposed to the elements — wind, rain, black dust (coke) soot, industrial smoke, etc. — I sometimes prefer the bud that faces down. That is the bud that is almost immaculate at show time, the one that brings the blue ribbon.

Show blooms come from months of hard work. After all this process of grooming plants, of watering, pruning and disbudding, when the bloom begins to show color, clothes pins go to work to hold the bloom stationary so that it will not touch anything.

I am a firm believer in strains and I think different varieties can be improved by grafting. In 'Ville de Nantes', for example, every now and then a bloom will produce more white and when this occurs the scion should be grafted. I have improved my 'Donckelarii' by using scions of blooms producing more white. I have a 'Guilio Nuccio' that is darker than the original, that resulted from my grafting the scion of a bloom that was darker.

On the subject of watering, I am not a believer in overhead sprinkling. I think this method brings the roots too close to the surface. In my part of the country there's always the chance of surface roots drying out. I like to fill my container right up to

the top and watch the drainage as I do it. The plant in a container that drains better is without question a better performing plant.

Mulch is good, but you have to keep building it up every year so you can cover up the roots you have developed from the year before. I prefer pine needles and loose compost from old leaves for mulch. When a plant that has been mulched in this manner is bare rooted, a pleasant surprise awaits you because as a rule you'll find two sets of roots, some growing up and some growing down.

A good motto for camellia growers: "Love them or leave them alone".

#### **Mrs. Virginia Rankin, Modesto**

My husband and I have the happy blending of hobbies. He likes to construct things such as lath houses, sprinkling systems and redwood tubs. What goes in the tubs and how they are cared for is my hobby. So, I will take this opportunity to tell some of my methods.

With all due credit to the nurserymen and an attempt to keep petal blight out of my garden, my first step in "Good Culture" is one of two things, depending on the season. If it is possible I completely bare root the new plant and re-pot it in a mixture of half sandy soil and half forest humus. If this is not possible, I use a strong stream of water and wash out the top two inches of soil. Then I replace it with the above mentioned mix. I follow this with one or two applications of Vigoro Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> with Alpha-Naphthalene Acetic Acid. I have found this very effective in keeping down transplant shock and stimulating the formation of roots. (This product is also very useful when used on germinating seeds — really gets the small feeder roots started.)

Most of my newer and smaller plants are kept in a large lath house. They are watered from an overhead sprinkling system daily and soaked from below once a week.

Before putting any plants in our new lath house, we put down plastic and then covered it with wood shavings to control the weeds. (Rich soil also grows vigorous weeds as well as camellias.) This has been very effective in controlling the weeds. Also we have gotten secondary results in that the shavings soak up the extra moisture from the overhead sprinklers and as a result help to keep the humidity high. Needless to say, this is of great benefit during our hot, dry summers in the Central Valley.

My feeding program is a simple one. I use two products, "Green Rocket Growilizer" which is high in nitrogen and "Green Rocket Winterilizer" which is high in potassium. The Growilizer I use once a month, April through September. I set the first Sunday of the month aside as feeding day. In this way I remind myself to feed them. Since both products are water soluble, I have found the fastest way to do the job is by using a proportioner with a saturated solution. Then I simply water the product in. I switch to the winter-ilizer in October. I use it once a month until "Northern California Show Time". Then I use the winter-ilizer once a week using the same method of application.

My insect problems are almost nil as we live in the country and the spraying and dusting of the nearby peaches and our own walnuts seems to keep the "varmint" under control.

My one real concern is the prevention of petal blight. So far I have been very fortunate in not having any. I mentioned my method of not bringing it on new plants, but I feel that good house keeping is the best way of prevention. I have two large plants in the yard which shatter badly. I have found that placing a sheet of plastic under them makes a place for the petals to fall. Also it is easier to pick up the petals. I usually secure the edges of the plastic with

rocks to keep it from blowing away. At watering time I simply slip the hose under the plastic and let the water run down.

I try to keep the flowers picked up as much as possible. To finish each season I vacuum under each bush with an outdoor vacuum. In this way my petal blight does not get started.

In the past, I have had friends suggest other feeding products but have found that Green Rocket is most effective for my plants. My 'Mouchang' has had three growing spurts this year. In total it grew three feet nine inches. So from these and other results I will stick with my Green Rocket.

**Thomas E. Hughes, La Crescenta**

The only thing I do is what Dr. Clark Hubbs used to say — L T C (Loving Tender Care). Plenty of pruning and *lots* of disbudding. I try to keep the humidity up by keeping jars of water in the lath house.

I do believe that plants in the ground do a better job for me than in containers. I would like to have all my plants in the ground except a few new ones. As a plant fails to produce show flowers or flowers Elsie (my wife) likes, out it goes, root and all. I figure it must have a good root system or else. As I have pulled plants out, I notice the poor producers usually have poor root systems, from having been too long in the can when it was grafted, etc. I find that big plants will put out good flowers if they are cut back and kept in bounds.

I keep a good layer of fir bark on the ground and replace it as it disappears and rain washes some of it away.

As for fertilizing, I have gone a whole season without fertilizing them because of lack of time and plants in the ground seem not to have known the difference.

## CAMELIAS -- STRAINS

W. F. Wilson, Jr.  
Hammond, Louisiana

There has been for a long time the practice by camellia growers, and particularly among the collectors and exhibitors, of obtaining scions from a selected plant and in many instances the scion wood from a particular blossom of the selected plant in order to get a better strain of the variety for their purposes with a given cultivar.

In reality this practice can be properly classified as a selection of strains of a cultivar. However, there are several interesting features of this very desirable practice which, when examined carefully, will divide strain selection into categories which are entirely different in the basic elements in selection of the desirable strains.

Without any doubt, the most widely used criteria is the variegation of the colored blossoms of the various varieties. It is most desirable to obtain plants of a variety which produces colored flowers normally of the variegated type with a large portion of white and a desirable pattern of the combination of the white and the color of the individual bloom.

It is fairly well known now that most of the variegated flowers are the result of the plant being infected with a virus which causes the color break in the blossom. There is such a wide

variation in the patterns and degree of this color breaking that selection of the desired strains has become the practice of the good grower. Dr. Plakidas showed that by grafting, you could transmit the virus from one plant to the other, and that there were strains of the virus. It has also been reported that you could not predict the performance in so far as color breaking was concerned by any given strain of the virus on a given variety without actual testing. For this reason, the selection of a desired variegated flower from a particular plant is a proven method of getting the right strain of virus for that particular colored variety. Actually without identifying this method, the selection of a good strain of the virus for a particular cultivar, we have tended to say that we have a good strain of a variety; for example, 'Tomorrow Variegated' or 'Guillio Nuccio Variegated'. In fact we have had a number of variegated varieties designated by a name and sold as such when it was merely a selection of a good strain of virus, not a separate cultivar; and this particular strain of virus could be used to duplicate the variety designated by name with any solid colored plant of the cultivar. Actually it has been very awkward for the system

### RELEASING

'Carnival Queen' (Japonica)

'Rose Parade' ('Donation' X Japonica)

'Silver Waves' (Japonica)

'Highlight' ('Purple Gown' X Saluenensis)

'Valentine Day' ('Crimson Robe' X 'Tiffany')

'Forty Niner' ('Butterfly Wings' X 'Indian Summer')

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of nomenclature of varieties to have so many varieties separated by the addition of the word "Special" or "Supreme" when they are only the variegated form of the variety which happens to be infected with an excellent strain of virus for degree and/or pattern of color breaking.

However, be that as it may, the selection of the strains that produce the desired effects for variegation is a very desirable practice. In reality a great many growers and exhibitors have the problem of eliminating certain plants of our better varieties, as in most cases we are crowded for space and the necessary time to devote to the individual plants. An example to illustrate this point would be a grower with a fine plant of the variety 'Tomorrow' or 'Guilio Nuccio' which produced fine flowers, but with one or more spots of white due to the virus. These good blooms could not compete in the classes of solid flowers of these varieties nor could they ever win in any competition with a class of well variegated specimen blooms. It is very difficult to discard these nice plants, yet it would in several ways help the grower to maintain the highly desired collection, as elimination would provide both space and time for the plants of the selected better strains.

Selection of strains for performance, plant growth, flower form, and color can also be of much help in establishing a collection of top strains of certain cultivars. Selection on the basis of the characters mentioned would be hard to define in simple terms but can best be presented by the use of two or three cultivars which have, due to their variability, offered many opportunities for strain selection.

Selection along these lines can be very well set forth by the use of several actual examples from well-known families of camellias which are known to have numerous variations.

'Ville De Nantes', a much revered and valued old variety, offers from my own collection the following group of plants from which a choice or choices could be made by the good grower. First, a rather strong grower of fairly heavy or large wood; some thickness of leaves when compared with other strains; flowering rather sparsely when compared with the second plant. The variegation of the flower from this plant is not too good. Second, a fairly vigorous grower, but with wood that is very thin and almost willowy; excellent variegation with excellent flowers in large numbers; flower size and conformation seemingly better than the first plant. This second plant has very narrow, thin leaves when compared with the other plants listed of 'Ville De Nantes'. Third, a plant of the so-called heavy Ville type. This is a selection made several years ago among the plants of a local nurseryman. This strain has larger leaves, in fact being broader than the usual foliage for the variety 'Ville De Nantes'. The blooms have a larger number of petals, do not rabbit-ear as well as the good strains, have size and texture. The shape of the buds are an identifying characteristic for the strain, as they are very thick and much more rounded than the norm for this variety.

In the Mathotiana family, there have been a number of selections which have been given names, yet did not consistently perform as they were supposed to or were very similar to a previously named variant of the cultivar. A nice example of strain selection is supplied by one of these which I acquired some years ago under the name of 'Mima Mae'. Nomenclature now regards this as 'Mathotiana Supreme'. My graft of this variety when first disseminated bloomed formals similar to the regular 'Mathotiana' with the exception of being

*(Continued on page 22)*

## **Camellia Personalities . . .**

### **COLONEL FRANK REED**

Ernie Pieri

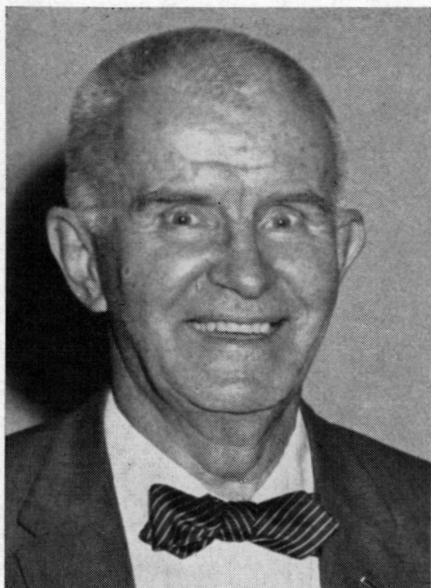
San Gabriel, California

How often have you looked at the camellia display tables at the monthly meetings of the Southern California Camellia Society and seen those large, beautifully formed camellia blooms, in both the treated and non-treated competition, and wished yours could look so good? Well it is possible if you want to put in the time and effort to work with your camellia plants to get good blooms. Of course you will need a note book. Why a note book? Well, to put down all the pertinent information about what you have done to try to improve the quality of your camellia blooms. You should indicate in this little book the name of the plant, if it is in the ground or in a tub, how often it is watered and fertilized, including the kind of fertilizer used, and keeping track of the number of blooms, those that are the kind that you want to take to a show, and those that do not come up to

your expectation. Oh, that doesn't take long to do, but if you want those showy blooms you will have to keep an accurate account of what you do. At least our personality this month does all of those things. In addition, for his treated blooms he marks the date each time a bud of a variety has been treated, and indicates when he expects it to bloom, also when he should treat the buds so that he can have camellia blooms for nearly every month of the year from his plants.

Colonel Frank Reed was born at Mt. Vernon, Missouri, in 1894. He was the fourth child among three boys and four girls. At an early age, his parents moved to Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. He graduated from Pauls Valley High School in 1910 and then entered Oklahoma City University and later Oklahoma University. While attending college he worked in the Post Office to take care of his school expenses. In 1914 he received his appointment to West Point Military Academy, graduated in August 1917.

Important events during Frank's 40 years' military service include: In 1918 he was assigned to heavy artillery in the European Theatre of Operations in World War I. In 1920 while on duty in Koblenz, Germany he met his charming wife Kathleen at an Officer's Club party. In 1923, after return from Europe, he was assigned to the Army Ordnance Department. In connection with his work in this department he attended M. I. T. for four semesters, earning a degree in Chemical Engineering. He also spent some time at the Watertown Arsenal in trades relating to the making of steel and non-ferrous materials, the fabrication of guns, as well as being trained in shop planning and laboratory techniques.



Frank Reed



He married Kathleen in Hawaii in 1924. Kathleen's parents were army people. They have one son, Andrew.

Frank returned to West Point Military Academy in 1928 as instructor of Ordnance and Gunnery, and Natural Experimental Philosophy. In 1932 he was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds as Proof Officer in charge of pyrotechnics. In 1935 he was assigned to Materials Division, Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, representing the Chief of Ordnance on guns, bombs and pyrotechnics. He worked on experimental combat planes. In 1939 he was Ordnance Officer of the 2nd wing of the 1st Air Force, concerning himself with the management of Aviation Ordnance as well as testing and making recommendations for new and improved weapons.

He had a dual assignment in 1941 — Assistant Military Attache (Ordnance) in London and Chief, Technical Division, European Theatre Ordnance Office. He was sent over prior to U. S. A. involvement in World War II as a technical advisor to the British armed forces in the use of American made armaments. One unexpected assignment: just after the Allied forces had landed and obtained a beachhead on the French coast he acted as a watch dog for the English Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who had made an unannounced and unofficial flight to the area.

He returned to the United States in 1947 to be placed in charge of a project conducted by the University of Chicago. In 1950 he was assigned as Army Ordnance representative to the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, California, working with the development of rockets and guided missiles. The Reed family did not want to live at China Lake, found a home in Pasadena, and Frank commuted between Pasadena and China Lake.

He was retired in 1953 after 40

years in the military service, having progressed through the various grades to the rank of temporary Colonel in 1942. He received his appointment to the permanent grade of Colonel in 1948. He has not let his retirement keep him from being of service to the military forces. Since retirement he has been a consultant for Northrup Aircraft, Inc., Thiokol Chemical Corporation, M. I. T. Lincoln Laboratory, the Los Angeles Ordnance District, and the Air Force Space System Division. He is still, though less actively, a consultant to the Army Weapons Command in Southern California.

He has been awarded military honors from both the United States and the United Kingdom. He has received from the United States the Legion of Merit and the Commendation Ribbon, plus numerous other ribbons. From the United Kingdom he has the British Empire.

When asked about his outside interests and activities he said they are squash and camellias. He remarked that he is still playing a bit of squash at 75, although he has now discontinued playing it in competition. I have it from reliable authority that both he and Kathleen have done pretty well at tennis, having won a mixed doubles tennis tournament sponsored by the Armed Forces.

Further questioning regarding the camellia hobby, I received the same answer that has been given me by several other camellia enthusiasts, "a friend gave me a plant, in this case a Christmas present, in 1955." Soon after this Frank attended a meeting of a Begonia Society in Pasadena. The speaker for the evening was none other than our own Bill Wylam, who spoke on (of all things) Camellias. He brought a plant as part of his presentation. Frank then began his tour of the local camellia nurseries in the Los Angeles area. After visiting

*(Continued on next page)*

the 1956 Southern California Camellia Show, he was hooked.

Frank was one of the first to use Gibberellen for early blooms. On a return flight from Sweden in 1956, he heard an announcement over Radio WLW, in Cincinnati, that they had developed a new hormone, gibberel, to help plants improve plant growth. It aroused his interest and he bought some of the stuff to play around with on his camellias. Application was by a wick, saturated with the stuff, diluted to 1000 parts to 1,000,000 parts forming an aqueous solution. He practically had to tie the wick to the plants to get the stuff to the bud. Result, instead of those big lush blooms, the plant did well, but the big blooms became medium sized flowers. He got to talking with Chandler North of the UCLA faculty about this hormone or gib. North felt that he was not using it strong enough, suggested that he increase it to 10,000 parts per million, also that he pinch out the growth bud and insert the gib in the cup of the bud. He took this advice and in 1960 started knocking off growth buds and inserting a drop of gib in the remaining cup. This was just what was needed to make the difference in bloom size and blooming date. Some results were reported in the November 1960 *Camellia Journal*. He wrote technical instructions (they are in use today) in his article "Early Blooms and Gibberellic Acid" in the February 1961 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*. Frank points out that the first gib editorial also appeared in this issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*.

If gib is good for camellias and has added to the pleasures of camellia hobbyists, then to Frank Reed must go the credit for having pioneered its use. If, on the other hand, it is not good for the camellia hobby, as a few people still contend, Frank must take the blame. He has worked diligently to improve his own flowers through

its use. He has worked just as diligently, however, to teach and train other people in its use. There can be no instance of a man working harder to improve his own flowers for his own pleasure and that he may win in competition, and simultaneously impart his knowledge to his competitors. Frank has been a true amateur in his quest for knowledge in the use of gibberellic acid with camellias.

Frank has also been one of the early advocates of the use of Naphthalene Acetic Acid for preserving the blooms over a period of days, and in keeping the blooms in a refrigerator for several days prior to the date of a meeting or show. He cuts the blooms at near peak, treats them with a weak acid solution and stores them in a refrigerator to maintain high humidity, at about 40 degrees or above. He is an avid reader on anything that has to do with care, preparation and cutting of camellia blooms, starting with the *Camellia Research Bulletin*, sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society and printed in 1950.\* In it are several articles regarding camellia nutrition and life of cut flowers written by James Bonner and Shegura Honda, members of the faculty of the California Institute of Technology. He is now writing his own articles, after some experimentation, for increasing the life of the camellia bloom.

His efforts to improve the quality of his camellia blooms have won him top honors for the Annual Monthly Bloom competition at the Southern California Camellia Society meetings. He has been winner eleven times and runner-up twice. He has won the Sweepstakes Awards for the Pomona Valley Camellia Society's Annual Camellia Show. In addition he has lectured at the various local camellia societies regarding his experimentation with Gib and Naphthalene Acetic

\*This Bulletin is out of print and is not available. —Ed.

Acid. He has written many articles that have been published in CAMELLIA REVIEW and the American Camellia Society's publications, *The Camellia Journal* and the *Year Book*. He started his writing in the CAMELLIA REVIEW in 1957 and has been writing articles ever since. To prove his point that blooms can be kept for a period of time, his latest article, printed in the April 1968 *The Camellia Journal*, "The Pony Express Rides Again" gives a realistic account of what can be done to prolong the life of a camellia bloom by using Naphthalene Acetic Acid and Benzyl Adenene (a Kinin). He has been invited to exhibit some of his blooms at the Royal Horticultural Society Show to be held in London in March 1970. He plans to use the same technique for holding blooms and shipping them to a show as he has done for four Potomac Valley Camellia Shows, where his blooms have won several top awards.

To help the beginner grow camellia flowers most of the year round, Frank recommends.

1. Pick several late blooming camellia varieties for your collection, and when disbudding, leave a number of the smallest buds.
2. When the new growth appears in April, cut back some of the growth, leaving two leaves on the new branch.
3. With the use of Gib you can bring blooms on practically all varieties, when you want them to bloom. This takes some experimentation on your part.
4. Fertilizer can bring in early blooms:
  - a. Use Morelyfe (10-5-3) in April.
  - b. Camellia Grow (4-8-4) or other commercial camellia fertilizer in May, six weeks later.
  - c. Use Liquid Hi-Bloom, as recommended, once a month, July through October. He has had 35% of his varieties bloom before December 10th, including

several late bloomers. Don't feed too much.)

Since 1956, there have only been five months that he has not had blooms in his garden. Methods for year round blooms are outlined in the CAMELLIA REVIEW for January 1960. In the Spring of 1968, 57% of his camellia varieties bloomed after May 1st, and over 70% were in bloom after April 20, 1967.

One of the greatest awards that Frank has received was neither academic or military. This past Spring, the Southern California Camellia Society awarded to Frank an Honorary Life Membership for the work he has done toward furthering interest in camellias. It couldn't have happened to a more worthy person. Congratulations Frank, and may you keep the camellia fans on their toes for a long time to come.

## **New Nomenclature Book in December 1969**

The new 1970 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE will be ready for mailing early in December, with hopes of beating the Christmas mail rush. It will go to press early in October and will thus contain the listings of the new 1969 varieties where the information has been sent to Editor Bill Woodroof. This has been done for all varieties that have been registered with the American Camellia Society.

As has been customary for many years, the book will be sent to Southern California Camellia Society members when and as these members have paid their Society dues for the year 1970. Payment of 1969 dues will not bring the book. It should be noted here, as it has been elsewhere, that the 1970 dues will be \$6.50. This amount should be sent to the Society Secretary before December 1st if members wish to receive the new edition promptly after the printer releases copies.

## CAMELLIA SEEDS -- AN INTERESTING PART OF THE CAMELLIA HOBBY

Harold E. Dryden

This is a tale of one man's experience in growing camellias from seeds as a part of his camellia hobby. I started to plant seeds back in the early 1950's, using seeds that I obtained from the Southern California Camellia Society. Now I collect enough seeds from my own plants to carry on my modest program. I have used what we call the "Tourje method"; i.e., I germinate the seeds in a jar or jars of damp peat moss, pinch off the tip of the tap root when it reaches an inch or so in length and plant it in a flat that contains equal parts of sand and peat moss. My wife dreads the approach of seed time, because I place the jars on a shelf above the kitchen sink that has full exposure to the southern sun. The jars compete for attention with her African Violets.

I started to grow camellias from seeds largely because it was another thing to do with camellias, and I like to grow things. I used to grow my chrysanthemum plants from cuttings and my own gladiolus bulbs when I had room for such things, before neighbors ungraciously built on both sides of and behind me. The first time that I became excited about the results of seedlings was in 1961 when one of them came forth with a good looking white flower. I made some grafts of it in 1965, some more in 1967. It blooms early, starting last season in early November. On the strength of last season's blooming I named it 'Lulu Belle', for my mother, and gave some of the grafted plants to my friends Vern McCaskill and the Nuccio brothers. I don't expect that it will knock 'White Nun' off the list of best white camellias, but I have had enough fun in growing 'Lulu Belle' and watching it bloom over the years since 1961 to compensate me

for all the time that I have devoted to camellia seedling culture.

Then in 1963 I received my second dividend, from two seed pods from my 'Confucius'. While taking a last look before taking my entries to the Descanso Gardens show, I saw a beautiful five inch flower on a seedling that was blooming for the first time, actually the only bud on the plant. I took it to the show, and to my surprise and pleasure it won "Best" in the Reticulata Seedlings division. (I now call the seedlings hybrids because the seed parent was 'Confucius', which was located in the midst of japonicas.) It is not important that this seedling plant nor grafts that I made that year have not produced another flower worthy of keeping. Later that season, however, another seedling plant in the same group produced a flower that I thought was better than the one I had entered at Descanso. This one, my #53, has won "Best" awards for me in the Hybrid Seedling division at the Temple City and Descanso shows. I have named it 'Elsie Dryden', for my wife, on the strength of its blooming experience last season. I hope that 1970 blooms will at least equal those of 1969 and that 'Elsie Dryden' will not follow the trail of some seedlings where exuberant growers have named them for their wives. I continue to plant camellia seeds with the hope that I might have another similar experience.

I have another reason for growing camellia seedlings. I like to graft and there is no better source of stock for grafting than one's discarded seedlings. It also saves me the price of buying understock, which can be a factor of importance. I shall plant the japonica and reticulata seeds that I shall pick in my own collection with

the hope that there will be one good bloom among them but mindful that all that come through will have good roots for grafting. I am grateful for the reticulata seed pods that I shall have because reticulata seeds are hard to get hold of. I shall plant sasanqua seeds solely for use in grafting, knowing that the seedlings can be used earlier than I can use japonica seedlings and that the roots are probably better regardless of the age. I expect that there will be camellia seedlings to dispose of when the good Lord decides that my time for growing camellias has passed.

I well remember a statement that was made in a letter I received from a correspondent in Mississippi, an S. C. C. S. member who also planted camellia seeds. He stated, "may you not live to see the bloom of the last camellia seedling that you grow". One is looking forward, not backward, when he grows camellia seedlings. That is the third reason for which I plant camellia seeds. This is an important reason, I think, for a man's hobby.

#### **MORE COMMENT** (Cont.)

from New Zealand, A few of the Kuning varieties have been recently imported, and when the appropriate grafting techniques have been mastered, their eventual wide distribution in Italy should be assured. If Captain Rawes flourishes there is no reason why the other varieties should not be successful.

In the United States, New Zealand and Australia, *C. reticulata* is now being extensively used in the breeding of many new hybrids with *C. japonica*, *C. saluenensis* and other species. A number of outstanding forms have already been produced and there is no doubt that *C. reticulata* will be an important component in the inheritance of many garden camellias of the future.

## **CAMELLIA SEEDS**

**1969**

### **JAPONICA SEEDS**

Mixed seeds, including a small percentage of seeds from seedling trees in the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

**\$3.75 per 100 (minimum order)**

**Note:** There will be a limited quantity of seeds of 'Snow Bell', a white camellia. These will be supplied on request as long as they last.

### **SASANQUA SEEDS**

Sasanquas are excellent for grafting understock. They grow faster and have good roots.

**\$1.50 per 100 (minimum order)**

### **RETICULATA, OTHER SPECIES & HYBRID SEEDS**

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## S. C. C. S. AWARDS DINNER AT DESCANSO

Over one hundred members and friends of the Southern California Camellia Society enjoyed a successful annual Awards Dinner at Hospitality House in Descanso Gardens July 28, 1969. The weatherman cooperated by providing a perfect day. The pot-luck dinner was provided under the chairmanship of Ernie Pieri.

The high light of the day was the presentation of the Society's Awards for outstanding camellias of the 1968-1969 camellia season. The Margarete Hertrich Award for outstanding japonica seedling was presented to Julius Nuccio of Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, California for their seedling 'Grand Prix'. The William Hertrich Award for outstanding japonica mutant was made to Mr. A. M. Davis of Australia for his 'Margaret Davis'. Mr. Davis was not present and S. C. C. S. President Foss announced that he would present the Award to Mr. Davis personally in the course of a visit that Mr. and Mrs. Foss would make to Australia this year.

The Frank L. Storment Award for outstanding reticulata seedling was presented to Mrs. Ferol Zerkowsky of Tammia Nursery in Slidell, Louisiana for the reticulata seedling 'Lila Naff'. Mrs. Zerkowsky came from Slidell to receive the Award in person. The Edwards Metcalf Award for outstanding hybrid went to Howard Asper for his 'Fire Chief'. McCaskill's Nursery of Pasadena received the William Wylam Award for outstanding miniature for their seedling 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

Colonel Frank Reed was presented the highest honor that the Society gives when he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Society by action of the Society's Board of Directors. President Foss stated in making the presentation that the Award was in recognition of Colonel Reed's consistent and superior research and service, having in mind

his pioneer work in the use of gibberellic acid with camellias and his open-minded dissemination of the knowledge thus acquired for the benefit of all camellia people.

Colonel Reed also received the trophy for having attained the highest point total in the camellia bloom competition at the 1968-1969 Society meetings. The runner-up trophy was presented to W. F. Goertz. Reed attained 125 points and Goertz 116 points, both scoring points in all six of the Society's meetings. The other three exhibitors among the top five were, in order, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence R. Shuey, the Albert Summerasons, and Melvin Gum.

### Where Do You Stand?

Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you sit at home  
And only criticize and knock?  
Now, do you take an active part  
To help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be  
One of the crowd who "just belong"?  
Do you pitch in to help,  
So your Society will tick,  
Or leave the work to just a few,  
Then talk about "the clique"?  
So come to all the meetings  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be a passive member,  
But take an active part.  
For the Law of Life is Action,  
As we know from verse and song,  
So be an active member,  
And never "just belong".

—Adapted

## CAL-POLY VOORHIS CAMPUS DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Mrs. William E. Meyer (Janet)  
Glendora, California

As a child you may have read the wonderful story by Frances Hodgson Burnette "The Secret Garden". If you did, it was undoubtedly the cause of that first spark which started your interest in gardening. We have such a garden in the east end of Southern California's San Gabriel Valley.

One Sunday afternoon, my husband and I took our children for a ride and found to our delight, a "Secret Garden". Only three miles from our own home we discovered the Cal-Poly Voorhis College campus. It is now almost deserted and used for only an occasional seminar. As we drove along the winding road into the campus we discovered a beautiful planting of camellias that looked almost wild. At the next Pomona Valley Camellia Society meeting we asked about this area, and found that our society had helped plan and execute

this lovely, almost forgotten, garden.

One of our least publicized Camellia Demonstration Gardens is showing its quiet beauty to the few visitors to this college. During the latest blooming season we went to enjoy the garden and found that the more than generous rains had threatened the camellias. Some 450 plants of over 250 varieties were in danger of being crushed, along with the five acres of giant old oak trees they are planted under. The California State Department of Highways surveyed the area and undertook restoration of the road and hill above the camellias. If this had not been done the hill, undermined by rain, would have slipped into the garden area.

This garden was developed with the help of the Southern California and Pomona Valley Camellia Societies  
*(Continued on next page)*



early in February of 1951. This 18 year old garden is open to the public at all times and watchful ground keepers keep vandalism at a minimum.

As the show garden committee predicted, this has proven to be an ideal location for Camellias. Large donations by nurseries and small donations by individuals have kept the garden flourishing. There is also a complete sprinkler system in the garden for our often long hot summers. With this wonderful natural location this garden is now one of the finest, most little known Camellia Gardens in the west.

It is located on the entrance road to the campus. Follow Valley Center Ave. south one mile, cross the bridge, pass the peach orchard and you are there.

### **CAMELLIAS—STRAINS** (Cont.)

very large flowers in comparison with flowers of my plants of this variety. I maintained this as 'Mathotiana' but felt that I had a strain that offered superior average size of flowers. As you would surmise, there are many other selections of strains by other growers which have added to the excellence of a particular variety. At the present time, there are many growers that are trying to take advantage of the color variation of the variety 'Tomorrow Park Hill'. Certainly there is considerable doubt in my mind as to whether we will be able to perpetuate the qualities of some of the outstanding specimen blooms, unless they were actually mutants of the cultivar; but it is interesting, and even if it fails to come true to the type selected, one cannot lose as they will have another 'Tomorrow Park Hill' and you can always use another plant of such a fine flower.

It should be worthwhile to mention one or two areas of selection of strains that have been widely practiced with a great deal of disappointment. For

years we have looked for and tried to propagate a 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' and a 'Julia France' that had more of the pink color, with little success. It is true that many times under certain conditions a very nicely colored flower of these varieties will appear, but cannot be successfully propagated as the unusual color was the result of growing conditions.

Even to a greater extent has the selection of peony form of a cultivar been attempted. Many varieties at times, influenced by seasonal conditions, will produce the peony form. It has been my observation that location, that is geographically, influences the occurrence of this form to a great degree.

I have experienced with more than a single variety never having the peony form produced in my planting from plants which were propagated from a plant which regularly produced the peony form in another area.

Certainly continually observing in the shows and the gardens visited, we can locate and acquire superior strains for the purposes of improving the camellias in our own collections.

### **S. C. C. S. Dues Increase To \$6.50 for 1970**

Southern California Camellia Societies dues will be increased from \$6.00 to \$6.50 per year starting with dues for the year 1970, according to action taken by the Society's Board of Directors. The last increase in dues was in 1960 when they went from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per year. The 1970 increase is necessary according to President Wilber Foss, because expenses are increasing, particularly printing costs of CAMELLIA REVIEW, and membership dues have been constant.



## Therapeutic Value of Sawdust

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, North Carolina

(Reprinted from Winter 1969 issue of CAROLINA CAMELLIAS)

Everyone will agree that sawdust is a useful item to have around the house, or rather the garden. Some of us use it as an ingredient in potting soil, some use it for greenhouse floors, garden walks, insulating pots in the winter, mulch, and perhaps other uses.

I have become aware of one use which may be unknown to many camellia growers. At least, I have never seen anything in print about it, and I have searched the yearbooks back to 1947. That is, to cure sick camellias.

One of our well known growers has stated that he has never yet seen a sick camellia recover. I would say that it depends on what the ailment is. I cannot afford to throw away a camellia just because it looks "peaked", and I wouldn't if I could. When one of mine gets sick, I nurse it and pet it like a sick baby. I remember one Donc that took 4 years to die. Maybe it's a good thing they don't have doctors for camellias, many of us would spend too much money on doctor's bills.

The therapeutic value of sawdust was first brought to my attention by Dr. Newton Smith. He pointed to a group of 6 or 8 camellias growing out of a small pile of sawdust and said, "See those healthy looking plants, if you had seen them when I put them in that sawdust, you wouldn't have given ten cents for the lot."

They did look healthy — glossy medium green leaves, plenty of new growth, even a respectable display of buds. He went on to tell me that they were a group of sick plants that he had planted in sawdust, more as a last resort than anything else. They certainly were not sickly looking when I saw them.

I did not have an opportunity to

try this until this past winter. In an out-of-state nursery I found 4 large plants, none less than 6 feet tall, growing in 1 gallon cans. They did not look very healthy, but I bought them anyway, believing that repotting them would work miracles.

Well, I repotted them, but the miracles were not forthcoming. They started dropping leaves one by one and the limbs started dying from the top down. I kept cutting back and cutting back. When they got down to about half their original size, I had become desperate. I remembered the camellias in the sawdust pile. I got some 60 year old sawdust, and repotted my dying friends, barerooted.

It didn't take long for them to respond. The leaves stopped falling and took on a healthier sheen. New growth started at many terminals. Latent buds on the trunks came to life. I now have 4 very healthy plants ready to set into my regular potting soil when they become dormant.

I know what the roots look like too. I found out by accident. I transplanted a smaller 'Betty Sheffield' into sawdust shortly after these 4 mentioned above. After about 4 months in the sawdust, the container got knocked off a table and sawdust went everywhere. The roots of the 'Betty' were the very picture of health—long white roots in a veritable mass.

I do not claim that sawdust will cure all maladies with which camellias are afflicted, but I do believe it will cure most ailments stemming from root trouble. It wouldn't help in the case of dieback though.

One word of caution—sawdust does not have much, if any, food value. A constant source of nutrients must be provided. This is easy: a once-a-

*(Continued on next page)*

month application of any good camellia fertilizer mixed with an equal amount of cottonseed meal, applied sparingly, should suffice.

Try transplanting into pure sawdust the next time you find one of your plants suffering from you know not what. Maybe you'll become as sold on sawdust as I am.

## INTRODUCTIONS (Cont.)

double to loose peony flower with prominent yellow stamens.  
McCaskill and Nuccio.

**Marc Eleven**, a 'Bertha Harms' seedling originated by Jack Mandarich of Menlo Park, California, with the same growth habits as its parent. The color is cherry red and the semi-double form has rabbit ear petals to add to its attractiveness. The variegated form will also be available, with as much as 60% white. Size is large to very large. The flower does not shatter. Redwood Empire Camellias.

**Pinkie**, an anemone form miniature that was originated by Mr. Dave Strothers of Fort Valley, Georgia. Color is soft pink that shades to deeper pink edges. Growth habits are upright, vigorous and bushy. Blooming season is mid-season to late.  
McCaskill.

**Red Red Rose**, a medium to large bright red formal double japonica, with a rose-like high center. Blooms mid-season to late. It has upright, compact growth habits. McCaskill.

**Rose Parade**, a 'Donation' times japonica hybrid, a rose pink formal double with a long blooming season—early to late. Growth is upright and compact. Nuccio.

**Silver Waves**, a chance japonica seedling with a large, irregular semi-double white flower that blooms mid-season. The plant is upright and vigorous. Nuccio.

**Song of Paris**, a clear, warm pink rose form double japonica with inner

petals that are cupped and pointed. Blooms mid-season to late.  
McCaskill.

**Valentine Day**, a Howard Asper hybrid, a cross of reticulata 'Crimson Robe' times japonica 'Tiffany'. The flower is a very large salmon pink formal double with a rosebud center. The plant grows upright and vigorous. Nuccio and Kramer.

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"Better to hunt in fields for health  
unbought  
Than for the doctor for a nauseous  
draught."

—John Dryden

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## The Camellia Journey

Would you like to hear a bit of lore?

Of China and of tea.

And how the beautiful Camellia,

In our country, came to be.

The merchant fleets of Europe,

In the early 18th century,

Along with pearls and spices,

Brought back a rare new drink,  
called tea.

The drink became so popular

Back went the fleet for tea,

But not for just the leaves this time,

But, to ask China for the tree.

The very smart Chinese, it seems,

Knowing what their loss would be,

Instead of giving tea plants,

Gave Camellia plants for tea.

Camellias sailed to Europe

And so it came to be,

Europe had Camellias

In this odd way, by trickery.

From Europe to America

Came the ornamental tree

On sailing ships, and around the horn,

For all to have and see.

And so our beautiful Camellia

May not a beverage be.

But to me it's sure far prettier

Than any tree called "Tea".

—MRS. ERIC FLUNKER

# Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: John J. Fortenberry; Secretary: Lemuel Freeman, 209 S. Garnsey Ave., Bakersfield 93309  
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at College Hts. School, 2551 Sunny Lane, Bakersfield

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Ronald Cowan; 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: Fred E. Carnie, Jr.; Secretary, Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816  
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through May in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park,  
Sacramento

## \*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Richard Pozdol; Secretary: Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave., Fresno 93702  
Meetings: Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18

## DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Wm. H. Hayes; Secretary: Mrs. Juanita Luther, 3408 Camby Rd., Antioch 94509  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Adm. Bldg., 510 G St., Antioch

## JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Joseph H. Baker; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 W. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

## LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: James Tulliano; Secretary: Mrs. Joe L. Vendracek, 13176 Fenton, Sylmar 91342  
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

## MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Anthony F. Pinheiro; 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: Harvey L. Morton; Secretary: Robert C. McConnell  
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: Cullen Coates; Secretary: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley, 65 Robles Drive, Woodside 94062  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,  
700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

## \*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Walter Harmsen; Secretary: Mrs. Janet Meyers, 744 E. Dover, Glendora  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,  
399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

## \*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Charles B. Persing; Secretary: Mrs. William Schmitt, 101 Minot St., Chula Vista  
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral  
Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Abe D'Innocenti; Secretary: Miss Pat McIntyre, 1810 Olive Ave., Apt. 4, San Jose 95128  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday at Willow Glen Branch, American S/L, San Jose

## SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: C. O. McCorkle; Secretary: Miss Joy Monteleone, 505 Olive St., Santa Rosa 95401  
Meetings: 4th Thursday, except Nov. (3rd Thursday) and Dec. (to be decided) in Redwood  
Empire S/L Assn., 1201 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

## \*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Grady L. Perigan; Secretary: Mrs. Marie Perigan, 1147 Daines Dr., Arcadia 91006  
Meetings: 3rd Friday Nov. and Dec. and 4th Thursday Jan. through April in Lecture Hall of  
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia



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