THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

'William Jackson' *Courtesy American Camellia Society*

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Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

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

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: $7.50.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. JAPONICA 'WILLIAM JACKSON'

'William Jackson' is an eight year old 'Tiffany' seedling that first bloomed in 1968. It was originated and propagated by William B. Jackson, Jackson's Nursery and Floral of Tyler, Texas. Flowers are very large, red with fuchsia overlay, loose to full peony predominating with occasional anemone and semi-double forms. Blooms are early to late.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

I wandered around the tables at the Huntington Gardens show after the judging had been completed. I had just participated in the selection of the Best flowers of the show. We had had a good group of blooms from which to choose the Best. When we are judging varieties for blue ribbon, etc., it is customary for the teams of judges to nominate flowers they have judged for consideration for further judging. There was no judging by varieties at the Huntington Gardens show, however, and the judges who did the final judging were assigned to scan the tables and select blooms for the final judging.

If a person needed to be convinced that the personal factor is all-important in the judging of camellias at camellia shows, what I did at the Huntington Gardens was a good way to be convinced. Now don't misunderstand me. The flowers that were selected for final judging were good—just as good as any other group would have been. But if I had been assigned to select fifteen flowers, say, from which the judges would select the Best Very Large and Large japonica, they would not have been the same fifteen that faced the judges. And the same would be true for all the other judges.

I would have selected some smaller flowers, not gibbed, that were near perfect but not as large as the gibbed flowers that were selected. I would have selected some of the delicate pinks, also not gibbed, rather than some of the larger flowers that gib had blown from normal medium to large size. These flowers probably would not have been chosen in the final judging, because the final selections merited the honor. I make these statements only to illustrate that the mix from which the final selections in judging are made is a factor of the personal likes of the individual judges and not of a set of rules.

I don't know how it could be otherwise when we are choosing from a group of dissimilar flowers for the "Best Flower". We can observe rules pretty well when we are selecting the best of a variety. We can compare the size, the color, the condition and the other categories that we are supposed to consider. But we can't do this when we are judging a 'Clark Hubbs' against a 'Tomorrow Park Hill' when both are near perfect. In most cases we must rely on our inner preferences. I have a hard time voting against a variegated 'Guilio Nuccio' that is perfect in size, form, color and condition. I have heard a friend say that when he thinks of a norm for Best japonica, he thinks of a perfect 'Elegans Supreme'.

It will be thus until some master mind develops a scheme for running the choices through a computer. Meanwhile, when my wife asks me, as she does sometimes, "why was this chosen over that?", I shall continue to answer that as long as we select the judges from among the humans, we must expect that the choices will reflect the preponderence of the way the judges individually feel about it.

Harold E. Dryden

HUNTINGTON GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW

The First Annual Camellia Show at the Huntington Botanical Gardens was held on January 13 and 14 under ideal weather conditions. The temperature went up during the days preceding the show and the blooms were excellent and in good quantity. It was an open show with treated and non-treated blooms in the same competition. Contrary to expectations when the show was scheduled, the natural blooms exceeded the treated blooms. The treated blooms were in the majority, however, among the award winners; in fact, all the Best Flower winners excepting the Boutonniere winner were gibbed flowers.

The flowers were displayed in the loggia in front of the Art Gallery. The day was perfectly clear, in the 70's without a cloud in the sky, and the displays presented a beautiful picture with the mountains providing

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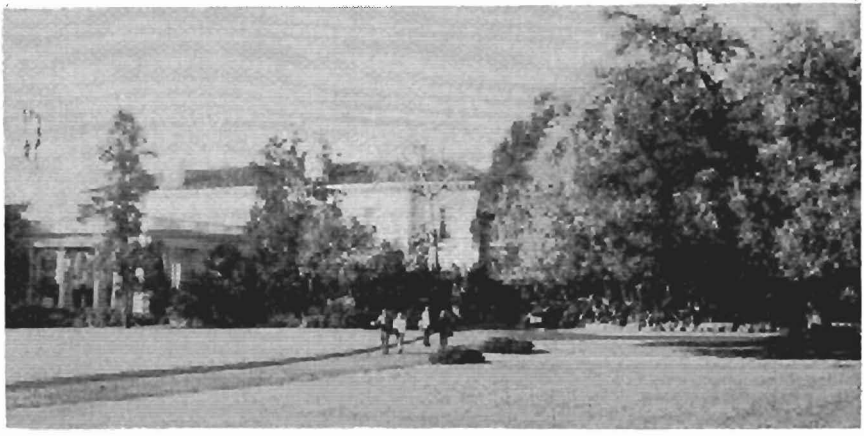

The camellia show was held in the loggia at the entrance to the Huntington Art Gallery

a back drop. The flowers were arranged in four groups, each alphabetically by variety with the gibbed and natural blooms inter-mixed as follows: Very Large, Large and Medium japonicas; Reticulatas and Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage; Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata

There was room on the show tables for about 900 blooms and the tables were filled.

The Court of Honor was on the marble table in the center of the loggia

Parentage; and Boutonniere Japonicas. There was no judging by varieties and the Awards consisted only of Best, Runner-up and Honor flowers for the four groups. Judges were assigned to select from the tables, candidates for final judging for the

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The visitors were met at the entrance where they were greeted and received a program.

The educational tables were on the terrace at the south side of the Art Gallery

Awards.

As a tribute to the late William Hertrich, former Curator of the Huntington Botannical Gardens, and his wife Margarete, there were on display flowers of all the varieties which have been named winners of the William Hertrick and Margarete Hertrich Awards which were established by the Southern California Camellia Society in 1950. This was made possible largely through the cooperation of Nuccio's Nurseries and McCaskill Camellia Gardens because few of the amateur growers have the older varieties.

Myron Kimnach, present Curator of the Huntington Gardens, asked that the Show Committee have educational tables along with the flower displays, pointing out that the visitors would include a large number of people not familiar with camellias and their culture. Such tables were located on the terrace at the south side of the art gallery, where members of the Southern California Society explained such things as soil mix, grafting, gibbing, seedling propagation and hybridizing. These people were busy continuously

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Show Results

Best Large and Very Large Japonica—'Tomorrow Park Hill', Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino

Runner-up—'Clark Hubbs', Mr. and Mrs. Carey Bliss, San Gabriel

Best Medium Japonica—'Dixie Knight Variegated', Harvey Short, La Mesa

Runner-up—'Nuccio's Gem', Dr. and Mrs. Fred Mowrey, San Diego

Court of Honor for Large and Medium Japonicas:

'Adolphe Audusson', John Movich; 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. Mel Schmidt; 'Dixie Knight', Mr. and Mrs. Harry Humphrey; 'Emmett Pfingstl', Jess George; 'Elegans Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci; 'Miss Charleston', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson; 'Tiffany', Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eastman

Best Boutonniere Japonica—'Demi Tasse', Harry Reich, South Pasadena

Runner-up—'Tom Thumb', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland

Court of Honor for Boutonnieres:

'Allison Leigh Woodroof', Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey; 'Thumbelina', John Movich

Best Reticulata and Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'John Taylor', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland

Runner-up—'Valentine Day', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel

Court of Honor for Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids:

'K. O. Hester', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci; 'Francie L', Caryll Pitkin

Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Gaytime', Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City

Runner-up—'South Seas', Ernest Pieri, San Gabriel

Court of Honor for Non-reticulata Hybrids:

'Angel Wings', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe; 'E. G. Waterhouse', John Movich

Visitors were asked to vote their choices of the varieties on the Court of Honor. They voted for 'Tomorrow Park Hill' first, and 'Clark Hubbs' second, the selections that were made by the official judges for Best and Runner-up in the Very Large and Large japonicas group.

CAMELLIA CULTURE AT NUCCIO'S

Notes from talk by Julius Nuccio at January 1973 Meeting of Southern California Camellia Society

I am going to tell you how we grow camellias at our nursery. Whenever we talk about culture we inevitably end up talking about soil mix. People come to the nursery and the first thing they will ask is "what kind of soil mix do you use"? Even though we know that soil mix is one of the most important parts of camellia culture, we sometimes forget that the mix is only as good as you treat it after you put it in the can with the plant in it. Mix should be designed to fit your management. Do you want to water once a week or three times a week? How do you want to fertilize the plants? You can grow a camellia in pure peat moss and sand if you are willing to fertlize every time you water. It is how you treat your mixture that is importan.

Some of the biggest nurseries plant in pure peat moss and they have a reason for that. They truck thousands of gallon cans and it is more economical for them to stay away from soil mixes that will weigh as much as three pounds a can more than the pure peat.

We don't truck big volumes of plants and 70% of our plants are purchased by people with gardens. So we use a mix that is more compatible with the garden. We use a mix of 50% silt, 25% fir bark or pine shavings and 25% peat moss. This is just about the same mix that we have used since 1945 except that we have split the peat moss in half and added the bark.

(In answer to question). We use coarse Canadian peat moss. German peat moss is too expensive. We find the Canadian peat moss is satisfactory.

We stick to 50% soil because 50% of the people who buy plants from us plant into the garden. If we had a real light total mixture, we feel there would be too much a chance in planting them from the container into the garden. In addition to this, we ship a lot of plants bare root, and we have found that a pure peat moss or fir bark mixture falls apart real easily and the stem of the plant will just flop around and there won't be any firm areas around the roots. The whole system is much firmer out of the base of the plant in our mixture. Camellias like to be a aerated and peat moss didn't give us quite that. They like an acid condition and well drained. The bark keeps them a little looser than peat moss. This fits our program.

We use the same mix for reticulatas that we do for japonicas and sasanquas.

Generally we hand water. We undertake to water only when the plants need it. Because of our uniform soil mix and most of our plants are young and therefore have not accumulated full roots, we do not have a problem of some of our plants drying out before others. This is not always the case in a private garden, and you are able to know your plants and give more individual attention to watering the plants that need it more frequently than others do. We watch the reticulatas carefully to avoid overwatering them.

We have had people take plants from our nursery and plant them into an entirely different mixture from ours, and their watering program is different. No matter where you obtain a new plant, you should replant it into your own soil mix.

Your soil mix is also related to your fertilizing program. Some mixtures will leach out much more rapidly than others. With our mix, we use cotton seed meal plus 10% iron, both

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applied together. We use the iron that comes under the brand name "Nuccio's iron". We try to feed in April, July and mid-October, finishing in November if necessary. We used to feed in September, and we managed to burn just about every September when we have that "go back to school" heat. This year we had the heat wave in July just after we had fed and we fried camellias. Remember it was two weeks of 100°. Fertilizer goes into the soil mix and you can burn any time of the year, so you will have to know your own plants and your own location and soil. We start to feed in April not necessarily because we think this is the best time but rather because we are busy until then with azaleas and can't get to the camellia fertilizing.

We use a level teaspoon of the fertilizer on gallon plants, a heavy teaspoon full on 2-gallons, a light tablespoon full on new egg-can size and a heavy tablespoon full on older egg-can size. We never use more than a heaping handful of fertilizer no matter how large the plant.

We get trace elements in the soil we use, which we would not get if we did not use soil in the mixture.

(The following statements were made in answer to questions.)

We find that mixing the iron with the cotton seed meal works the best for us. We would give the fertilizer and the iron at the same time even if we did them separately.

We use silt from behind Devil's Gate dam in Altadena. The man who hauls for us mixes 10% sand with the silt.

The Fall feeding doesn't hurt the blooms as it is cooler then and the fertilizer doesn't go into the mix so quickly.

We discontinued using blood meal because it is too expensive. We believe it needs good water and warm weather. If you use it, don't do so late in the year.

Many of our customers ask about pest control. Camellias are about the easiest plants in the world to take care of in regard to pest control. We have a 2-spray program, in the Spring after the new growth starts and in the Fall before the blooms open. The chewers are the big thing and you with gardens probably have more of a problem than we do in the nursery because you have so many other kinds of plants, trees and other materials. We use the same material in both sprays. We believe both Malathion and Spectracide are good.

You might like to know about our commercial propagation. Where possible we grow the plants on their own roots. We root in the summer—mid-June or the first part of July. We grow them in 2¼" pots for one year in the rooting mix, then repot them to gallons in our regular mix where they grow for two years. They are then ready for the market. We top the one-year gallons at the end of March so that they will be ready to take off when the new growth starts. Don't be afraid to cut your camellias. You will have better plants when you do.

(In answer to question). We have not found that topping plants of the 'Elegans' family interferes with their proper growth, even though we have been told that it might cause too much spreading of the plant.)

(In answer to a question regarding how Muccio's goes about deciding whether to propagate a new seedling for distribution). A plant is usually about five years old before it produces a flower from which we can judge that it should have further consideration. We take as many grafts as possible when we think it has possibilities, usually up to 12. We use understock at least ¾ inches in diameter so that we shall have plenty of wood for the next year. We make more grafts the next year and will have 100

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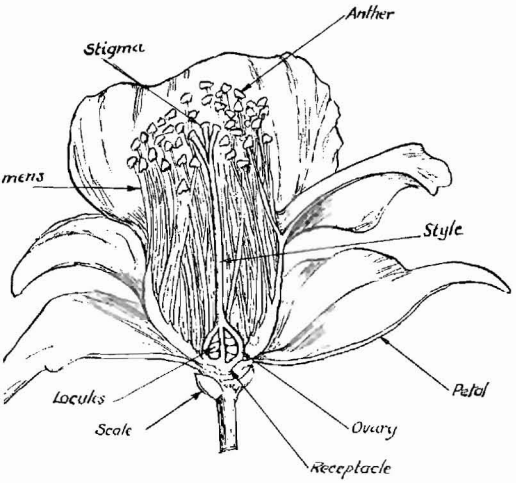
CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZING FOR AMATEURS

Alfter and Freeman
Bakersfield, California

This article is written to encourage camellia hobbyists who have not done so to try their hand at hybridizing camellias. If something has been scaring you off such as keeping records or having lofty ideals about improving the species, don't let that deny you the pleasure and satisfaction to be derived from hybridizing. First learn how and then decide how deeply you wish to become involved. All that is really needed to get started is to have in your possession a camellia plant that is a good seed setter.

The first step is to find the pollen that you wish to use. If you do not have a suitable pollen parent, most anyone that grows camellias would be happy to let you collect pollen from their plants. Anthers should be cut from a flower before it has opened to avoid the possibility of outside contamination. Place them in a shallow container in a warm draft-free place until they split to release the pollen. Transfer this to a round plastic pill bottle and shake. Pollen will stick to the sides and bottom of the bottle. Now run your index finger around the inside walls of the bottle and the pollen will stick to your finger. The pollen can now be scraped off your finger into a double O capsule for storage. Wrap a small strip of magic cellophane tape around the capsule and put an identifying mark on it.



Pollen collected in this manner can be stored in the refrigerator (not freezer section) for long periods of time. Place the capsules in an airtight container with some cotton and a desiccator or two to keep them dry. (Some types of pills come with a desiccator in the bottle.) Pollen from early blooming plants can be saved to use on late bloomers and pollen from the late bloomers can be saved for use on the next season's early flowers.

Now you are ready to hybridize. Choose a bud on your seed bearing plant that is showing color but has not opened. You will notice from the illustration that the stigma, style, and ovary (the female parts), are in the center of the blossom. With a small pair of sharp pointed scissors, cut through the petals far enough down to cut off all the anthers, leaving as much of the petals as possible. Snip out any of the anthers that might have been missed in the first cutting. There are two principle reasons for cutting the bud open before it has opened on its own. First so that outside pollen will not have been deposited on the stigma. Second the anthers on the inside usually do not break to free their pollen until the outside air has dried them out a bit, so the flower has not had a chance to be self pollenated.

The easiest way to apply pollen to the stigma is with the torn off end of a paper match. Dip the match into your capsule and apply it to the stigma during the warm part of the day. Use a match only once and throw it away. This can be repeated a couple of

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CARE OF CAMELLIA GRAFTS

A. Wilkins Garner

Glendale, California

In this article we shall be concerned with the care of new grafts after the mechanics of making the graft have been performed, which of necessity means that certain standard practices have been followed. Healthy understock was used—no graft can be better than the understock used. Scions with healthy growth buds, but before growth starts, were used. The cambium layers in both scion and understock were matched, the grafts were tied with grafting bands, labeled and covered with glass jars or plastic bags, plastic now being used extensively with success. Purpose of the covers is to maintain a sufficiently high humid condition to keep the scion alive until the all important life giving union of the scion and understock takes place; this being evidenced by callus forming on both scion and understock.

It is well to remind ourselves of the types of grafts and the time of making each. The CLEFT GRAFT and the BARK GRAFT are the usual types of grafts made. The cleft is the type where the understock is split or cut down the side, depending on the size of the understock, and the scion is inserted into the understock, matching the cambium layer on at least one side. This graft is made during the dormant season; that is, before growth starts. If one has a greenhouse or area where heat can be maintained at a minimum of 65 degrees. grafts can be started from November well into Spring. By November we mean early Fall after the understock has become dormant. I have seen a garage work bench, located in front of a window for light, converted into a propagating bench with an electric heating cable maintaining the necessary heat, and the results have been very good. Results can be had by placing grafts in the house in front of a window for adequate light, or you might try placing the grafts in the living room behind the divan in front of a bay window. (Let me know if you get by with this.) If grafts are to be kept outside it is best not to graft until 20 to 30 days before start of the growing season, which in Southern California is February 1st to 15th. Grafts kept in a greenhouse, with a minimum of 65 degrees, will show action in two to three weeks. Outside grafts will take a few weeks longer depending on the nearness to the growing season.

The BARK GRAFT is made after the understock has started growing, at which time the understock bark slips easily. The scions are the same type used in cleft grafting. The understock is cut and trimmed as in the cleft graft except you do not split the understock. You take the point of a knife and cut through the bark starting one inch below the top of the understock, cutting upward to the top of the understock. Trim the scion to aid in inserting. Again with the tip of the knife, loosen the bark at the top of the understock. Insert the scion and force it lightly down the side of the understock. The sharpened scion will make its own way. Leave a small trimmed portion of the scion at the top of the understock and tie with regular grafting band.

Bark grafts made before June 15th will grow the same season and you will have saved scion wood which otherwise would have been lost. Do not use dormant eyes. The best place for a dormant eye scion is on the plant until it does become active. At the time of cleft grafting your plants will have some dormant eyes which

or after July 1st will not grow until the following Spring, however bark grafts made the first of May will show action within two weeks. It is felt we have overlooked the advantages offered by use of the BARK GRAFT.

Grafts that are to be kept on the outside or grafts made on understock growing in the ground must be protected from direct sun and from damage by animals. This can be done by building a sufficiently strong framework around the graft so that coverings can not be knocked off by animals and by placing a burlap bag over the graft with opening to the North for light. It is best to protect the grafts from rain if possible.

Now that grafts are made and placed where we expect to keep them until growth starts, we have only to wait and watch their progress. Understock should be on the dryer side. If wet understock had to be used, the excess moisture should be removed at once. This can be done by filling the container with dry sand. The sand becomes saturated quickly. The wet sand should be removed and replaced with dry sand, the process being repeated until the excess moisture has been eliminated. A wet graft is a fertile field for start of fungus, which is the greatest enemy of any graft.

Some understock will bleed, depending on nearness to the growing season, especially japonica understock. Sasanqua understock is less likely to bleed. Bleeding understock creates a condition that is right for the start of fungus. Moisture from bleeding should be removed by blotting with cleaning tissue, repeating daily until the condition has been eliminated. If fungus starts, especially during early stages of the graft, there is little that can be done to save the graft. However, some success may be had by again removing any moisture thoroughly, removing the fungus with a camel hair brush and dusting with a fungicide such as Captain. Leave the covering off for thirty minutes. The additional airing is an enemy to fungus. Some use a light solution of vinegar water applied to the top of the understock. These cases should be given daily attention.

While we try to maintain the graft on the dryer side, it cannot be allowed to dry out entirely. When the soil seems dry to touch and moisture in the jar or plastic covering is very slight, a small amount of water should be added. Often a graft will go through the union forming period and start growing before needing water.

Now we are approaching the growth of the graft. If callus has formed on both scion and understock by the time the scion starts growth, we have only the process of hardening off the graft. Some prefer to remove the covering just before the growth bud starts to unfurl and if the callus is well formed the actual growth will start a little later with no problem of hardening the new growth, since the growing started under normal atmospheric conditions. I often allow the graft to develop two or three leaves, then raise the covering over a period of several days, removing it entirely on a cooler day. Growth starts a little faster this way. Some growers have jars with screw tops with the bottoms removed, then the hardening process is merely removing the top and allowing the plant to grow through the opening into normal atmosphere. The same is true if plastic bags are used by merely making opening in the top of the bag. This is ideal for hardening reticulata grafts. I have used the plastic bag system extensively when removing plants from the greenhouse in Spring. the plastic bag giving extra protection until the plant becomes adapted to the lower humidity conditions on the outside. Plants should of course be watered thoroughly when

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RETICULATA CARE COMPARED WITH JAPONICA CARE

The Southern California Camellia Society received a letter some weeks ago asking how the care of reticulatas compares with or differs from the care of japonicas. This suggested that the subject might be of interest to other camellia growers, particularly those who are new at growing reticulas. The Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW decided that the best way to answer this question would be to obtain statements from camellia growers in California who have been particularly successful in winning awards with their reticulatas and reticulata hybrids at California camellia shows. Five such statements follow.

LEONE SUMMERSON, Glendale
(with an assist from husband Ab)

First, let me say we do not grow "pure" reticulata too successfully. A few of our reticulatas are beginning to establish themselves, but our extremes in weather do not seem conducive to good blooms.

We usually have freezing weather for from one to ten days during December and January. During these months and sometimes in March as well, we get dry, below the canyon winds. When we get this kind of weather 'Cornelian' and 'Crimson Robe' drop buds, 'Buddha' does better, 'Mouchang' withstands this kind of weather quite well.

We try to give our hybrids as much sun as possible, and many of them do handsomely in full sun, setting buds generously. Some japonicas do well in full sun, but most of them need some shade. We have the redeeming feature of cool nights with fairly heavy dew during the summer months which helps plants tolerate the daytime heat well.

Many of our camellias, both hybrid and japonicas, are grown on terraces, subject to wind and cold; they tolerate these conditions pretty well. We have tried to select cold hardy varieties of japonicas however.

The soil on the terraces is primarily decomposed granite, most of which isn't too decomposed! Brawn is definitely a prerequisite! It takes considerable time for a plant to establish itself in this kind of soil, but once established, both hybrids and japonicas do equally well.

Our labor of love is a partnership thing, so Ab supplies the following information.

Soil Mix: Same for both japonicas and hybrids. Mix is: 50% fix bark. 50% garden soil.

Watering: Deep water all plants in the ground once a week, cans more often. Try to keep plants slightly moist. (It is my thinking that reticulatas and hybrids could use less water, since they are less heavily foliated, but this is only theory, since I'm not allowed to water.)

Fertilizing: Program same for japonicas as well as hybrids, and is as follows when time permits:

April—5 parts cottonseed meal, 1 part bloodmeal, 1 part iron.
June—Cottonseed meal.
September—Cottonseed meal. Iron added if plant looks pale.
October—Fish (5-2-2)
November—Fish or Hi-Bloom.

Pruning: I must add that I am a heavy pruner, and when I finish pruning my husband would prefer not to come home and view the carnage. I am equally brutal with japonicas and hybrids.

FRED HAMILTON, Santa Maria

Here are a few ideas from my experience in growing reticulatas.

Try as many retics as you wish, then select the ones that you find bloom best in your particular location.

Never overpot. Give plenty of sunshine. Feed and water less than japonicas.

If you have plenty of room, plant them in the ground. If a container plant is doing poorly, plant in the ground if possible.

If container grown, don't expect your best bloom until about the fourth year. The next few years should be good if potted properly. If you intend to keep them in containers, graft new stock every year or so to replace the old ones. The old plants will be good for some time if they are planted in the ground.

Although the retics need more sun, at blooming time they should be protected.

MARJORIE O'MALLEY, Woodside

Our much traveled Retics have had 5 homes; 3 in Southern California and 2 in Northern California during the past 18 years, and are presently living adjacent to the San Andreas Fault under oak trees in "wunnerful" Woodside (El. 502′), which, according to a frend in Menlo Park, is supposed to be THE perfect climate. They are very worldly and have much "couth"; i.e., they are recipients of good conversation (yes, I talk to them), leftover wine (red and white) and symphonic music (preferably Beethoven, Hayden and Mozart)!

BUT it's HOT—HOT here in summer, usually from 90° to 115°, and COLD in December and January, 19° with wind, snow, frost, hail and falling oak limbs.

I water and fertilize same as japonicas after having soil analyzed by Perry Laboratory and proceed according to the results of soil tests. Also, before the Big Freeze in December I mulched with coffee grounds—that's really "grounds" for further discussion SO . . . .

After all this facetiousness, "my friends the Retics" really prefer to be in the ground; they eventually will be trees planted in ½″ wire mesh baskets—(to frustrate gophers, moles, etc.).

In the garden they are watered on automatic time clock (sprinklers and bubblers), and are cared for by me, the frustrated chemist and botanist who spreads cottonseed meal, etc. upwind! Of course it helps to wear unique "Camellia Suit" (Penny's Special Coveralls) and blond wig!!!

One of my Mandalay Queens (a cutting, the catch-all for fertilizer leftovers from greenhouse) is growing in a tub under 1″ lath, is 14′ tall and is reaching for the stars!

My "BOOTLEG BUDDHA" tree is my "mama" tree—15′ tall—so flower picking, seed harvesting is really a job for tall man from Menlo Park with 10′ stepladder! Buddha seeds are harvested in October, planted and grown under 20 hour florescent lights, repotted and/or grafted—then *OUT* to lathhouse hopefully to bloom after 2 or 3 years.

FLASH ! ! LATE BULLETIN ! !

Must go out and check on my half-frozen, furry wolly-worms to see what the winter has in store before the February-March Camellia Shows!

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One of the great mysteries of life is how that idiot who married your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchildren in the world.

HARVEY L. MORTON, Lafayette

We have been growing our reticulatas with exactly the same culture as our japonicas. This briefly is: All plants in containers; very light woody soil (70% wood bark, 30% compost); fertilizing 4 times a year with 3 parts cottonseed, 1 part hoof and horn; heavy watering.

We have pruned some retics heavily although most do not put on thick enough growth to require as much pruning as japonicas. We keep the retics in the part of the yard with the most sun, but this still is not what would be defined as full sun.

After looking at many color slides, doing considerable reading, and listening to several talks about New Zealand reticulatas, we now plan to plant what we consider the best varieties directly in the ground. Since we are located on a steep hillside with retaining walls, we can supply good drainage and the watering system can simulate the rainfall.

GEORGE STEWART, Sacramento

I have segregated my statements concerning culture of reticulata camellias into three categories; selection of understock, potting mix, and miscellaneous culture.

SELECTION OF UNDERSTOCK

I prefer to use sasanqua understock, however reticulata hybrid seedlings have performed well as understock. I like to use an understock with a diameter aprpoximating that of a twenty-five cent piece. It is my belief the larger the understock the faster the scion growth is pushed.

I have not had as good results when using japonica understock. I believe, when using japonica understock, the scion wood has a tendency to develope and grow faster than the root stock. The result is a reticulata that has a large diameter trunk supported by a much smaller diameter root trunk. After a period of time the bell shaped union can become weak and result in death of the plant.

POTTING MIX

I use a very light potting mix for all species of camellias. The mix consists of ground fir bark, leaf mold, sand, and light soil. When repotting two year old grafts into larger containers I always place a layer of charcoal in the bottom of the container. The charcoal is broken into pieces between one and one and a half inches in diameter. The purpose is to keep the soil mix sweet as I water often throughout the year.

MISCELLANEOUS CULTURE

I do not make any differention in my watering or fertilization of ja-

(Continued on page 24)

WORKINGS OF THE CAMELLIA WORLD

Judge Sherill Halbert

Sacramento, California

Resume of talk at Southern California Camellia Society Meeting of December 12, 1972

It was snowing in Sacramento at noon on December 12 when Judge Sherill Halbert left his home to fly to Los Angeles for that evening's meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society. Temperatures had been at levels of 21 and 22 on the four previous days. His own camellias showed the effects of the low temperatures. Flowers on display at the meeting were short in both quantity and quality because the Early Show on the preceeding weekend had taken the flowers from the refrigerators and the cold weather had delayed the opening of the flowers that with normal weather would have opened for the meeting.

Judge Halbert opened his talk by saying that there are problems today in the camellia world, and that these problems can be solved by people such as those who were listening to his talk. There has been a mmbership loss in the American Camellia Society for the last five years. He has the impression from his travels among societies over the United States that most of the local societies are having the same problem. He knows that his own Sacramento Society has a membership problem. He believes this is not due to lack of interest among camellia people, thinks that we have reached a plateau in camellia interest which is causing new people not to be interested in camellia society activities.

He believes there must be a breakthrough somewhere to stimulate new interest in camellias which will help to maintain the societies such as the American Camellia Society, the Southern California Camellia Society and the other local societies. He reviewed the factors in the camellia flower and bush and pointed out wherein a breakthrough might occur. We have all the colors we could want except yellow, and the breakthrough might be here if conditions in the Far East will clear up so that people can go into the areas where it is thought there might be yellow camellias. We have all the sizes that can be imagined; likewise every form of flower. The blooming period of the early, mid-season and late varieties covers seven months and sometimes more. What more can we want there? We have a few fragrant varieties but here something might be done in adding fragrant varieties to attract people to whom fragrance in a flower is a factor in causing them to choose that flower.

He believes that the camellia plant offers the biggest opportunity for expanding interest in camellias. The camellia plant is the finest foilage a person can have in the garden. It is always green and attractive. It never "looks like a plucked hen". Some varieties do not do well in full sun on hot days. There might be improvements here, as sun azaleas have been developed to broaden the use of azaleas. Much needs to be done with respect to cold hardiness. Just imagine, he said, how the camellia area would be increased if we could have camellias that would stand the cold weather of the East and the Mid-west. Work is being done toward development of cold-hardy camellias and this might be the breakthrough that will stimulate interest everywhere.

He believes there is not sufficient liaison between the American Camellia Society and the local societies. He does not place blame for this

but believes that all camellia societies must work together to kindle a spark that will stimulate interest in camellias and camellia societies. One of his last actions as President of the American Camellia Society was to appoint a National-Local Relations Committee to study the question and to come up with some recommendations for action.

While he does not have a solution to the problem, he expressed some ideas which he feels can contribute to a solution. We must interest young people in camellias, because no organization can exist without young people coming along to replace the natural attrition because of age.

Money is not the answer. He first was interested in camellias in the 1930's when money was in short supply. Camellias are inexpensive in relation to other plants for the garden, provided, of course, that sights are not set on all the newer varieties. Many of the older varieties are just as interesting and beautiful as the newer varieties are and these will whet the interest of people who are garden minded. You can't get more for the dollar, he said, than camellias.

He closed his talk by again saying that a breakthrough of some kind in camellias would help to solve the problem. He told about how use of gibberellic acid in the South has increased the enjoyment of camellias there, in fact, has saved camellias there. The only sure way of having camellias before gibberellic acid was in greenhouse growing. Everybody cannot afford a greenhouse and many people were losing their flowers in the cold weather, Gibberellic acid now brings the flowers to bloom before start of the cold weather. Development of cold hardy varieties will likewise serve as a stimulus, not only in the South but also in areas where camellias are not now generally grown.

JANUARY ISSUE OF REVIEW WAS LATE

People did not receive their copies of the January issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW until mid-January. The Editor received his on January 15th and he is in the Post Office area in which mailing was made. It was a sad story. The copies were delivered by the printer to the mailing service on December 29th. The mailing service did not get them out to the Post Office until late Friday, January 5th. The Division of the Post Office that handles "bulk" mail (3rd Class) released them to the people who deliver the mail on Tuesday, January 9th. The Post Office people say they are scheduled to deliver bulk mail from three to five days after they receive it from the bulk division, Saturdays and Sundays not counting as days. We can seek another mailing service. We can do nothing about the Post Office.

HYBRIDIZING (Continued)

times on successive days if you wish. Most hybridizers agree that it is not necessary to cover the exposed bud with anything. Merely protect it from the extremes of cold and hot weather. Tag each cross made so that you will know what you have done. What you do with this information later on is entirely up to you. If the results are spectacular you may want to brag a bit. If on the other hand the product of your efforts is just average you may want to blame it all on the bees.

When your successful crosses have resulted in seed capsules forming, it might be a good idea to check with experienced society members for instructions for germinating your seed.

Lots of luck!

Ambition is fine, but just think: if everybody became somebody, there wouldn't be anybody left to be nobody.

CAMELLIA REMINISCENCES IV

Carey and Amelia Bliss

In this issue of *Camellia Review* we return to our own story once more. In the November issue we concluded with the removal of the large California white alder and its awesome root structure which had spread through much of our rear yard. Now we had a problem of protecting many camellias in pots and in the ground which had been shaded by the tree. A lath covering of some sort seemed the answer and our son, Tony, designed a free-form, three level structure which we felt would blend into the yard and give us the needed shade. With his help, we built it. The tallest section nearest the house is nine feet high and consists of eight 4″ x 4″ redwood posts, four of them mounted on cement pylons with the four center posts sunk two feet in the ground, creosoted and protected by cement which surrounds the posts three inches above soil level for extra termite protection. The cross braces are 2 x 4's snugly bolted to the redwood posts with seven inch bolts, washers, and nuts. A half inch bit in an electric drill made short work of the bolting problem. The next section, as was the third, dropped one foot in height and was constructed as before with four of the posts sunk in the ground. Thus, the eight center posts of the structure are extra stabilizers for the outer posts mounted on pylons. Three inch by one quarter inch redwood strips were nailed running north and south across the top, two and one-half inches apart to provide the necessary partial sun and shade. Next time, we would use thicker redwood since the quarter inch strips twist, buckle and curl as a result of humidity changes. Usually, they return to normal position but in some cases they have split or loosened and have had to be renailed. All wood used was painted with a good redwood stain *before* being bolted or nailed in place. It saved time and was easier to paint. The southern border of the structure is bounded by an existing six foot redwood fence which blends in well and gives added protection from the hot sun. The accompanying photograph gives one a general view of the whole structure.

We now had a partial shade area of some 320 square feet suitable for camellias. By taking advantage of every square foot of area and yet leaving enough space for walkways, we managed to find room for 35 plants which will necessitate careful pruning in the coming years to keep them within bounds. We are allowing about nine square feet of space per plant.

Preparing the soil in this area proved a problem since it was not in the best condition for any plants, let alone camellias. For years it had been packed hard and drained of nutrients by the voracious roots of the white alder. We added generous amounts of redwood fir bark and composted soil to each planting hole. After planting, each camellia was thoroughly soaked with vitamin B-1 solution to lessen shock and stimulate root growth. When fertilizing time came around, all plants got a generous amount of cottonseed meal.

It would be nice to report that all this care and preparation brought immediate results in the form of vigorous growth and prizewinning blooms—but it wouldn't be true. The years 1970 and 1971 were periods of stabilization. 1971-72 showed considerable improvement with enough new growth to require heavy pruning on most plants in the area. Blooms were more numerous and of better form and size. At this present writing, the beginning of the 1972-73 season, we

(Continued on next page)

are looking forward with anticipation to a successful year. All plants in the area appear strong and healthy and they have set many buds. As the blooming season begins, we are extremely pleased with the early flowers these plants are producing.

Meanwhile, in the area somewhat north and east of the section dominated by the white alder, we experienced some other sun problems. This area contained a number of well established camellias which, although not endangered so much by the roots of the tree, nevertheless depended on it for filtered shade during the hot months. Especially hard hit was a large 'Silver Anniversary' which lost many leaves and buds due to sunburn. Other plants in this section were affected to a lesser degree. Even two large reticulatas, 'Crimson Robe' and 'Cornelian', showed some damage. The exposed west side of the 'Crimson Robe' was quite badly burned. Something must be done and quickly. Bamboo shades attached to the eaves of the house and supported by poles at the other end served for a time but they couldn't take the elements after one year. We finally built a temporary but stronger shade structure consisting of two by two redwood stakes connected by one inch pipe and covered with heavy saran wired to the pipe.

Meanwhile, long term remedies were under way. Shade trees and large plants that were sympathetic to camellias seem to be the best solution to our problems. Large, slow-growing trees such as oaks, although ideal, were out of the question. The yard was too small and protection was needed within months, not years. Consultations with camellia experts and nurserymen were not too rewarding but, for what it is worth, we did come up with the following suggestions—both do's and don'ts. Don't plant shallow-rooted, fast-growing trees such as *our* villain, the California white alder. Eucalyptus and sycamore trees should never be used. Southern magnolias and cypress trees would overwhelm the area and sap the soil. Some pines might be suitable although slow

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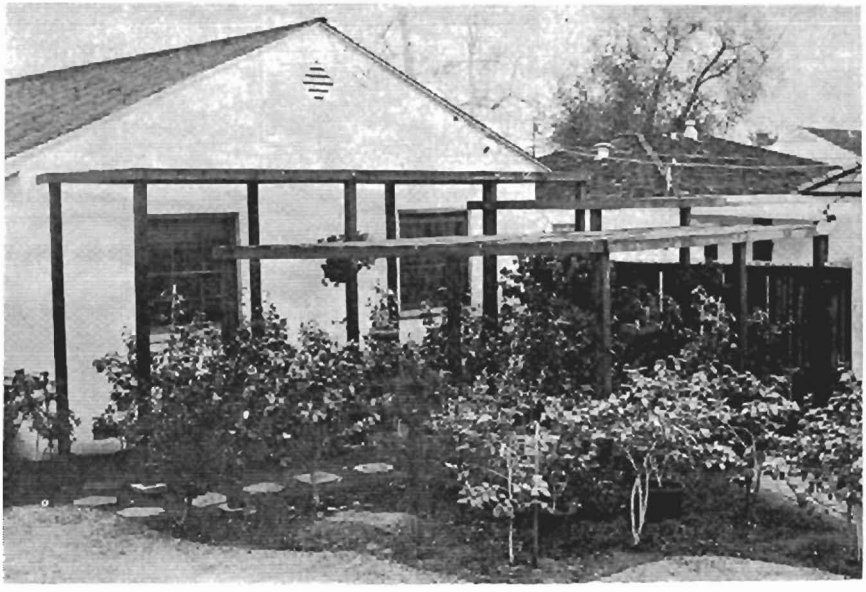

growing. Carob trees are bad because of their heavy root system. Chinese elms are fast, vigorous growers but if lightly surface watered, will have shallow roots that will invade your camellias. In fact, any tree should be deep watered to keep the roots down.

We finally came up with the following trees that we feel will solve our problems permanently. The Australian silk tree, or Albizzia, grows fast, not over 20 feet in height, and has a pleasing umbrella shape. It is deciduous, deep-rooted, and very decorative. Many of the Chinese magnolias are excellent—fast growing, not too large, and good shade protection in the summer. One of each of these two trees, plus an ornamental flowering plum, have been planted in strategic locations and, although none of them has been in the ground more than two and one-half years, they are beginning to give us the protection we need. The Catalina cherry, which we did not get, was also highly recommended.

For supplementary protection, as sun and wind screens, we have used sasanqua seedlings. If you are fortunate enough to have any good-sized sasanquas, by all means use them since they are hardy, fast growing, can be easily shaped, and can stand sun.

These, then, have been the solutions to our problems. We think they are decorative—they are working well now, and we feel they will continue to do so in the future.

CARE OF GRAFTS (Continued)

growth starts. This is a critical time for the graft, which should be watched daily until you are sure there is no wilting. If such occurs, replace the covering and start hardening after the plant has regained vigor, usually after two or three days.

At this stage, after plants are well under way, I usually retrim the rough portions of the understock as well as excess wood on scions, being very careful not to damage the graft. Then I cover the newly trimmed area with tree seal to protect the graft until new bark growth covers the newly trimmed area.

The usual practice is not to fertilize new grafts during the first year. However, it is being done successfully but in a very light manner. For the last several years I have used a light application of fish emulsion, one tsp. to a gallon container, making the first application after the second growth starts. I apply monthly with the last application not later than September 1st so that the plants will have adequate time to harden off before cold weather starts. I seem to get better growth and stronger plans.

Even though I have been grafting for many years, I never cease to enjoy every phase of grafting, as well as watching their progress during the first two or three years to see how the particular variety does in my garden. Every year I hope to grow a few seedlings for understock and make an equal number of grafts, and continue to look forward to the time when they too will bloom.

HUNTINGTON (Continued)

answering questions.

Attendance on the two half-days, between one and four-thirty in the afternoons which are the hours during which the Garden is open to the public, was about 7,000. The visitors included a heavy percentage of young people, which is the group that the camellia societies are hoping to attract to camellias. The Huntington Gardens people were pleased with the show and it can be announced now that the Second Annual Camellia Show in the Huntington Gardens will be held in January, 1974.

THE RETICULATA STORY

Harold E. Dryden

I have something over 50 varieties of what we now call in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE "Reticulatas and Hybrids with Reticulata Parentage". Many of them are blooming now, some for the first time in my collection. My mind goes back some twenty-five years to the day when a friend told me with pride as I was visiting his home, "I have a plant of reticulata". It was indeed a plant of the only reticulata that we in America knew, the one we now know so well as 'Captain Rawes'. So much has happened to reticulates in these twenty-five years, a story that many who have grown camellias actively during this period pretty well know. We have lived the full period of a camellia revolution, because as surely as salt will kill camellia plants, the reticulata hybrids will become increasingly the favorite flowers as the years roll by. I thought it might be interesting to review this story in capsule form for people who have not participated in this revolution.

The story of 'Captain Rawes' is generally known, that it was brought from China to England around 1820 by a Captain Rawes who was captain of an English trading ship. It continued to be *the* reticulata of the western world for about 130 years, although the one we know as 'Pagoda' was taken from China to England in the 1850's.

It is certain that the reticulatas of China would have been discovered sooner or later, despite the black-out that was placed over China by the Communist regime. This does not diminish the credit that we must give to the two men who were responsible for the first breakthrough in 1948. Walter Lammerts, in the employ of Manchester Boddy of La Canada, California who owned a "ranch" that he called "Descanso", was a horticultral student and authority. His studies of old Chinese horticultural literature caused him to believe that beautiful camellias were growing in China that were unknown to the Western world. He wrote to China, his beliefs were confirmed, and he encouraged Mr. Boddy to purchase plants for importation. During this same time Ralph Peer of Hollywood was taking similar steps. Mr. Peer did not claim to be a horticultural student or authority. He possessed an insatiable appetite for knowledge of camellias and an opportunity of world-wide travel on behalf of his music publishing business. He established contacts in China and ordered reticulata plants through these contacts for importation to the United States. The two orders arrived at about the same time in 1948. Fumigation of the imported plants killed many of them and when things settled down, Descanso and Peer found that they had eighteen varities between them. Both took complete sets of the eighteen varieties and proceeded to propagate them.

Mr. Peer propagated only for his own enjoyment, which included spreading them to other parts of the world. He gave a set, among others that he gave, to the royal collection of camellias in England. He also sent sets to Australia and New Zealand so that they would be available there. Descanso propagated for commercial distribution in the United States under the watchful and experimenced eyes of Howard Aspar. Their first offering was a package deal of the eighteen varieties for $1,000. Individual sales followed.

The next man to break the curtain into China with respect to reticulatas was Colonel Tom Durrant of New

Zealand. He was one of the recipients of the gifts made by Ralph Peer of the original eighteen varieties. As he grew them and saw them bloom, he felt that errors had been made in nomenclature, either in the original tagging in China or in mix-ups during propogation. He, as with Ralph Peer, has an insatiable appetite for knowledge and proceeded to study reticulatas. Conditions in China were clearing up and New Zealand and China were on good diplomatic terms. He read Chinese camellia literature and corresponded with Chinese authorities on reticulatas. He sent pictures of camellias to his Chinese correspondents and asked them to identify the camellias by their Chinese names. I have talked with Tom Durrant at his home in New Zealand about what he did and believe that he has gone further than anybody else in studying the reticulata and in clarifying its nomenclature. He concluded, for example, that what we had called 'Cornelian', 'Lion Head' and 'Chang's Temple' were in fact all 'Cornelian' and that the other two names were of varieties that are different from the variegated flower that we call 'Cornelian'. He determined that what we had called 'Tali Queen' and 'Noble Pearl' are both 'Tali Queen' and that 'Noble Pearl' had not been among the 1948 importations to the United States. He imported from China some of the varieties that had not been in the two original shipments to the United States and these varieties have been propagated in New Zealand and Australia for distribution there. They will be available soon for commercial distribution in the United States. The true 'Chang's Temple' is among them. This closes the chapters of obtaining reticulatas from China.

It has been mentioned that the reticulatas were propagated at Descanso under the supervision of Howard Aspar. As the flowers developed on the rather unattractive plants, Asper visualized what we would have if we could develop a camellia variety with a reticulata-like flower and a japonica-like plant. He proceeded to hybridize with this objective. He also crossed reticulatas with other reticulatas, hoping for a different or improved flower. He was the first of the camellia hybridizers to demonstrate what could be done in hybridizing with the reticulata, and ushered in a new period in the story of the reticulata. His most successful cross of reticulata X reticulata was 'Mouchang', a cross of 'Mountancha' and 'Cornelian'. (Actually, the 'Cornelian' was tagged 'Chang's Temple', hence the name "Mou-chang".) His best known crosses were between reticulata and japonica and produced such well-known hybrids as 'Howard Aspar' ('Cornelian' X 'Coronation') and 'Valentine Day' ('Crimson Robe' X 'Tiffany'). He also crossed reticulata with saluenensis and came forth with such as 'Valley Knudsen'. His cross of reticulata with sasanqua produced what we call "The Girls", not spectacular in themselves but, according to camellia hybridists, potentially good for future crosses.

Asper was also in the forefront of what I think of as the fourth and present period in the story of the reticulata, which is the proliferation of chance seedlings with known reticulata female parentage and unknown male parentage. 'William Hertrich', one of his first introductions, was a seedling of 'Lion Head', probably 'Cornelian' under one present nomenclature. The bees had done the job of pollinating. The bees were busy also in other collections and before we knew it we were seeing reticulata seedlings by the score where

(Continued on page 23)

WHY BUILD A GREENHOUSE IN SO. CALIF.

Meyer Piet
Arcadia, California

The reason for building a greenhouse in the Southern California area for camellia culture depends on how you wish to pursue the camellia hobby. There are many phases of the camellia hobby that must be planned ahead and a reasonable amount of time must be expended to gather together the necessary tools to not only do the work properly but derive the greatest amount of pleasure from this extremely interesting past time.

This area's basic deficiency in growing is humidity. There are many varieties of hybrids, especially those with saluenensis parentage, that should do infinitely better in a higher humidity environment.

Ben Rayner of New Zealand in his recent article noted: "Large hybrid seedlings that set hugh buds but failed to open", should be a clear indication of better results in a controlled atmosphere. These saluenensis hybrids could be used as seed parents for new hybridizing. The multi flower, bushy plant characteristics of the saluenensis could possibly be obtained in three or four generation crosses with our japonicas or retics to make them more adaptable to our normal dry climate.

My 'Wilber Foss' (which is a beautiful flower), gibbed, bloomed approximately five inches in diameter and at least four inches high in the greenhouse. It will be interesting to see how a similar flower does in the open.

If you are interested in hybridizing, the greenhouse offers excellent protection from the bees and subsequently no contamination should occur when crossing two known plants.

There also may be special plants that do not seed readily in our normal atmosphere that will seed under controlled conditions. On the other hand there are probably some species (perhaps fraterna) that may seed better outside than in a greenhouse. Dr. Ackerman of Maryland in his recent report noted that fraterna did not seed well for him yet it readily seeds outside of the greenhouse in the Southern California area.

At the present time it seems a waste of greenhouse space to grow the reticulata indoors. These plants need sunshine and hopefully when they get to a decent size should be planted in the ground. Reticulata and other species that are not doing well seem to regain their health and vigor easier in the greenhouse, but once the foliage appears to be healthy they should be moved outdoors to continue the growing cycle.

Grafting is a big plus or bonus in the greenhouse. Instead of starting in March or April, grafting should commence early in January. This last season our greenhouse was completed approximately in April and I immediately grafted about 150 plants on one and two gallon root stock. The growth was phenomenal, it was not unusual to get new growth four to five feet tall, whereas normally I would expect approximately two feet. Since the greenhouse was new I experimented with the various controls and although I did several things that were detrimental to the good growth, the plants did exceptionally well. If you correspond and receive scions from friends abroad, their season is approximately six months off of ours and subsequently scions do not usually do well when grafted because of a dormant grow period. In the greenhouse you should experience at least 90% take and good growth immediately.

Seedlings are the main reason I built the greenhous. I have a special zoned off area under the main bench where the seedlings ar being grown similar to conditions described by Dr. Lammert and Dr. Bonner in papers they released approximately in 1950.

This season is the first opportunity I will have to prove out the idea of bottom heat (90° F), grow lights (20 hours on, 4 hours off), automatic watering, and fertilizing injection (30 seconds per day) and in a confined zone that is very high in humidity.

The basic idea of all of this is to start the seedlings growing and keep them growing, that is—do not let them go dormant. In Dr. Bonner's report he noted it was a possibility to obtain five times the normal growth if ideal conditions were maintained. This should cut two years off the first blooming time.

The size and construction of greenhouse depends on the individual. I am personally very fortunate in having received the advice of several of my friends and subsequtntly building my greenhouse large. It is 18 by 34 feet long, which allows me to have many flowering plants indoors. A small greenhouse for the serious amateur would reap all the advantages and be less costly to maintain. (You should have seen my wife's face when she got our first king size electric bill before I corrected the heater cable zone heat problem, or I hope I've corrected it).

The basic construction can be many materials. The ideal construction would be block or brick lower section with an aluminum upper frame section. My greenhouse is constructed in this manner and sold by Alumix Company of Los Angeles, who also make many small greenhouses, utilizing the same structure. You can obtain greenhouses in redwood but the moisture and possible termite problems should be weighed before going in this direction. Even though greenhouse construction technique is old and you can read many books on it I have found that sooner or later you are on your own in order to have your various systems operate correctly—cooling, heating, humidity, lights, roof vent, etc. You must work out what you want for your own particular needs.

I expect to do a great deal of hybridizing for new varieties and raise seedlings and feel that the greenhouse is a necessity for me. Your needs are probably different and as such should be evaluated before you take the final steps.

Down South because of the adverse early cold weather much of the culture is done in the greenhous. If you are a serious hybridizer sooner or later you should evaluate your new flowers under greenhouse conditions in order to be certain your new "Aunt Mathilda" is good enough to introduce.

RETIC STORY (Continued)

all we knew was the female parentage. People such as Frank Maitland of Sylmar, California, Jack Clark of New Zealand, and Jimmie Tuliano of Monique Peer's Park Hill in Hollywood planted reticulata seeds in quantity and their results were commensurate with the quantity of seeds planted. Others who could obtain reticulata seeds were doing the same thing on a smaller scale. We are seeing new reticulata seedlings at the meetings of Southern California camellia societies, many of which are worthy of high rating. I believe that this fourth period of the reticulata story is just getting well under way and that the story of new reticulata seedlings in the years ahead will be comparable in many respects with what we saw in japonica seedlings during the 1950's and 1960's.

The first impact of these reticulata seedlings was "what shall we call them?" In the beginning, we called a

RETIC STORY (Continued)

seedling a hybrid when we knew both parents. When we knew only one parent, however, we called it reticulata. I had what I thought was a good seedling with 'Confucius' parentage (Most people think their seedlings are good) and entered it at the Descanso Gardens show as a reticulata, where it won Best Reticulata Seedling. I subsequently decided it should be called a hybrid, entered it the next year in another show as a reticulata hybrid seedling and won Best Hybrid Seedling. This illustrates the situation we faced. CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE solved the problem by discontinuing the Divisions of "Reticulatas" and "Hybrids" and established two new Divisions. One is "Reticulatas and Hybrids with Reticulata Parentage". The other is "Hybrids with Other than Reticulata Parentage". This is consistent with a view that Dr. Clifford Parks expressed while he was associated with the Los Angeles County Arboretum; namely, that there probably is not a pure reticulata species and the ones we have been calling reticulatas are probably the results of cross-pollination over the many years they have been growing in their native state in China.

So we are now in a period of reticulata history in which most of our new "reticulatas" are chance seedlings, where we know only the seed parent and not always that. We shall live in this period for years. The proud possessor of a new seedling will see something different in his flower and will name it, mindless or not knowing that it resembles a flower that has already been named. This will be the forerunner of what we can call the fifth period in the reticulata story, which will be the period when we shall evaluate what we have been growing. It has been said that most reticulata seedling flowers are pretty. We can't grow them all and we must decide which ones we want to grow.

NUCCIO'S (Continued)

or so plants with flowers that will tell us whether to go on or stop. We have had cases where we made a third set of grafts, then changed our minds after we saw the large block of plants in bloom.

(In answer to question). We like sasanqua stock best for grafting. We have used it heavily for about twelve years. The roots hold up better and it does not bleed so much. We have more root failures with japonica stock. We have not used reticulata stock much. We shall try some understock of Asper's "Girls" this year to see if this hybric stock is good. Sasanqua stock suckers heavily and you have to watch out that the suckers don't take control of the plant.

I want to close as I started. Any soil mix or fertilizing plan is only as good as we treat the plant. I get the impression sometimes that some people have a view that they are in if they have an approved soil mix or if they use a certain fertilizing plan. This isn't so. We used to have a nurseryman in our area named Horace Campbell. He grew some of the best camellia plants around here. He used no peat moss or fir bark in his soil mix, just light soil. He fertilized with blood meal. He never over or under watered. He lived with his camellias.

RETIC CARE (Continued)

ponica or reticulata hybrid camellias. All first year reticulata grafts are topped when they reach a height of fifteen to eighteen inches. I prune reticulatas heavily which produces plants that are full and compact. Heavy prunning does not produce early blooms, but yields low growing and attractive plants. Reticulata hybrid plants must be disbudded heavier than japonica plants to produce show quality blooms.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY
President: Bob Krause; Secretary: Lemuel Freeman, 209 S. Garnsey Ave., Bakersfield 93309
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY
President: Thomas Scanlin; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 97205
Meetings: 1st Thursday Oct. through April at Great Western S/L cor. 15th St. and N. Main, Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO
President: Herbert Martin; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, Oct. through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Donald Martin; Secretary: Mrs. Jack Evans, P.O. Box 108, Ivanhoe 93235
Meetings: Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 21 at Mayfair School, Mar. 21 at Fresno State College

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Donald R. Bergamini; Secretary: Mary A. Bergamini, 451 Dale Rd., Martinez 94553
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, Nov. through March at Sumitomo Bank, 620 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Charles Boynton; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday October through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Thomas Hughes; Secretary, Mrs. Haidee Steward, 130 S. Citrus, L.A. 90036
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea. Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Harlan Smith; Secretary: Dale Nagel, 3005 Deanna Way, Modesto 95350
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Edward A. Hays; Secretary: Ralph E. Bernhardt, 1112 Blandford Blvd., Redwood City 94062
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dr. John Urabec; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr.,
Meetings: 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley; Secretary: Mrs. Rex W. Peterson, 27 Walnut Ave., Atherton 94025
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: Frank Burris; Secretary: Walter Harmsen, 3016 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont 91711
Meetings: 2nd Thursday November through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Harry Humphrey; Secretary: Mrs. Mabel Higgins, 2152 Clematis St., San Diego 92105
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 :John M. Augis; Secretary: Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fairvalley Court, San Jose 95215
Meetings: 2nd Thursday Sept. through April.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Mrs. Alton B. Parker; Secretary: Mrs. Marylin Batt, 10047 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor 95492
Meetings: 4th Thurs. Nov. through April, except Nov. and Dec. in Multipurpose room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Sergio Bracci; Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton, San Gabriel 91776
Meetings: Nov. 14 (Fri.), Dec. 17 (Fri.), Jan. through Apr. is 4th Thurs. in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum

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