

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

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'Massee Lane' *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. HYBRID 'MASSEE LANE'

'Massee Lane' is a 9 year old seedling of the hybrid 'Phyl Doak,' originated by Milo Rowell of Fresno, California and propagated by Wilkes Nursery and Redwood Empire Camellias. The anemone to rose form bloom is spinel red, has measured 5½ inches in diameter and 3 inches in depth with 28 petals and yellow filaments. It blooms mid-season. The flowers are long lasting, will not shatter but fall in one piece. They have good substance and texture.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

Judge Sherrill Halbert, immediate past president of the American Camellia Society, emphasized the need for more members in camellia societies over the United States when he talked at the January meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society.

I have been wondering whether the societies are approaching this need in a manner that will cause people who are interested in camellias in their gardens to want to join a society. I suspect that the large majority of people who are our potential members are interested in camellias for their own enjoyment, mostly in their gardens, and are not interested in the competitive aspect that seems to be at least undercurrent in some society meetings. They would belong to camellia societies in order to learn more about camellias, to talk with experienced camellia growers and to enjoy the flowers that are displayed at the meetings.

Are the society meetings designed to please this group of people or are they planned to meet the desires of the more sophisticated members who "know it all" or at least a good part of it, and who become tired of the repetition of the basics of camellia culture that these new people would seek in society membership. Julius Nuccio's talk at the Southern California Society's January meeting (see February issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW) is illustrative of what I believe these potential members want. I do not believe that short demonstrations at intermission time are sufficient.

I believe that societies should designate members whose primary responsibility at meetings is to serve as hosts to visitors and new members. This would include accompanying them in their looking at the flowers on display and introducing them to members.

I have written before about garden tours. I believe there is nothing that will attract people to camellias more than to invite them to visit the gardens of people who specialize in growing camellias. To state that the good times for garden tours conflicts with camellia show dates serves to strengthen my belief that undue emphasis is given to the competitive aspect of camellias.

I do not mean to suggest that enjoyment of camellias in gardens is incompatible with the desire to compete in camellia shows. I am suggesting only that the people who are candidates for membership in our camellia societies do not have the competitive urge, otherwise they would seek society membership. If we want to interest these people in membership, the society "management" must subordinate its interest in shows to subjects that are of primary interest to the people whom we are seeking as members. Maybe some of the old timers will stay away from some of the meetings. I doubt it, because the fellowship of camellia society meetings attracts the old timers.

Harold E. Dwyer

CAMELLIA REMINISCENCES V

Carey & Amelia Bliss

With the lath house, the free form shade structure and the young shade trees all functioning and/or growing, we could concentrate more completely on the care and cultivation of our present plants as well as additions to our collection. Repotting container plants is a constant activity with us, although we try to do most of it during the blooming season when the plants are dormant. The plants usually tell us when they need repotting by slower growth or rapid drying of the soil. Sometimes stray roots will come out of the drainage holes in the plastic cans. Transplanting from one, two or five gallon plastic containers is a simple task now, much simpler than with the old metal cans. A little kneading of the black plastic pot, a few thumps on the bottom, and the plant slips right out. We use a thin layer of medium size decorative or walk-on bark in the bottom of the new container. Loosen up the root ball of the plant if the roots are heavily matted and re-pot your plant in the next size larger container using your own or a prepared soil mix. Sooner or later, every serious camellia grower prepares his own soil mix and usually sticks with it. We have a mix which seems to work quite well. We have revised our formula in the past year because we felt the older mix was a little too coarse. For what it is worth, we give both the old and the new:

	Old	New
Redwood fir bark	3/6	2/6
Screened compost	1/6	2/6
Sand	1/6	1/6
Peat	1/6	1/6

Our compost comes from our own compost bin and we screen it through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hardware cloth. We could probably use silt from behind Devil's Gate Dam if we could get it easily enough and we might shift to it if our own compost runs out.

Increasing one's collection by grafting or cuttings is a cheaper and more satisfying method although slower than buying mature plants. We have vastly expanded our own holdings via the grafting method (see *Camellia Review*, November, 1972, page 18) but have yet to try the propagation of cuttings. We plan to set out some cuttings later this year, however.

We have had modest success with our grafting program, usually using our own sasanqua seedlings as understock. For graft protection, we don't take sides for or against the glass jar vs. plastic bag covers since we use both and we think both have their good points. When grafting large understock in the ground, however, we do prefer to use gallon jars as they seem to give more protection from the elements.

A few years ago, we brought some new grafts into the house as an experiment. They all took and callused much more quickly than those that were outside. It gave us the idea of placing all or most of our grafts in a warmer, more controlled location. Expense and space decided us against a full-sized greenhouse, but could we contrive a mini-greenhouse? We have a screened patio with a west and north exposure. In it, we had a redwood picnic table with a 28" x 58" top. In January, 1972, we built a light frame of $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood to set on top of the table, 58" long, 28" wide and 28" high. We covered the frame with clear heavy plastic. Placing another sheet of plastic on top of the table, we wired two movable electric sockets far enough apart to be placed at each end of the table. They were controlled by a switch on the end extending to the electric outlet. Two shallow clay trays of gravel covered with water

(Continued on next page)

were also placed at either end of the table. Sixty watt bulbs were placed in the sockets and a thermometer was hung inside the frame at the top. The grafts were set on the table, the frame was lifted into place, the lights were turned on, and we were in business. The results were quite gratifying. We had quicker callusing and a better percentage of takes. Last year we used sixty watt bulbs. This year, because of the cold, we have increased the wattage to 100. This cold winter, the temperature has not been as constant as a controlled greenhouse but it has been varying between 50 and 70 degrees. The moisture on the plastic testifies to the humidity content of the air. As the weather warms up, the bulbs can be turned off or the wattage reduced. The table will hold 25 to 30 one gallon grafts. At the present writing, we have 1 five gallon graft, 7 two gallon grafts, and 7 one gallon grafts in the mini-greenhouse. There is still room for two or three one gallon grafts on the table.

A very basic problem facing new camellia fanciers is how to grow them. If we had the space and the proper shading, I (Amelia) would prefer to plant *all* of our camellias in the ground. I feel this produces healthier plants and larger, more beautiful blooms. They are, moreover, excellent landscaping material. With proper selection, the blooming period can be spread out over several months, and the dark, glossy foliage is delightful the year around. I feel it is easier to control both watering and fertilizing with camellias in the ground. We like to use overhead watering—this not only gives them the moisture they need, but also washes the leaves at the same time, removing dust and dirt and residues of smog. There is little chance of having the plants become water-logged thus damaging the root system. The same holds true of fertilizing as the ground absorbs it with little risk of burning the plants. There are drawbacks, it is

true. Care must be taken that the soil is sufficiently acid, that it is not too heavy or "clayey," and that there is good drainage. Moreover, as the roots will spread, a large enough hole must be prepared with this in mind. Since in our experience, camellias in the ground are apt to grow very vigorously, great attention must be given to shaping and pruning in order to keep the plants within bounds. A camellia is, after all, a tree—albeit a very slow growing one—and few of us have the acreage to allow camellia plant to grow unchecked.

There are advantages to container culture, too. They take less space, can be easily moved from one location to another, and should the plant turn out to be disappointing, it is easy to cut it off and graft a better variety on the root stock. Watering and fertilizing camellias in pots or tubs requires great care. They must not, of course, be allowed to dry out yet over watering can damage the root system. The frequent watering necessary in warm or dry weather can cause fertilizers to be too rapidly released thus increasing the chance of burning the plants. And, of course, the camellias must be watched carefully to be sure they are not becoming root bound.

At the present time, we have about 2/5 of our camellias in the ground and the remaining 3/5 in containers. Since we continue to add plants to our collection and since our yard is not expandable, the percentage of container grown camellias will continue to increase. But expanding one's own collection by purchase or propagation is one of the greatest pleasures of the camellia hobbyist. Attending camellia shows, society meetings and visiting other camellia collectors will soon give you many ideas for additions to your own garden. Sometimes one certain bloom or plant will catch your eye and you know you must

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THE McCASKILL MUTATIONS

Ernie Pieri

Verne McCaskill of McCaskill Camellia Gardens in Pasadena has been the originator of many fine japonica camellias during his years as a camellia nurseryman and many of them have been registered with the American Camellia Society as well as being listed in the Southern California Camellia Society's "Camellia Nomenclature" book. Some of his more famous introductions include the large white flowers of 'Coronation' and 'White Nun', the beautiful red flower 'Blaze of Glory' and 'Bali Ha'i', originated during the time when the musical comedy "South Pacific" was so popular. He has named some of them for friends, 'Carroll Gale', and some because of their form, 'Cotton-tail' and 'Demi-Tasse'. Few of us know that in addition to his seedlings, he has introduced mutations from some of these seedlings as well as from other varieties of camellia plants.

'Herme' started Verne on the mutation kick when he found and introduced 'Colonial Lady' in 1938. It is a medium, semi-double white with rose stripes or flecks. The next 'Herme' mutation was 'Quaintance', introduced in 1950. It is a soft pink, lightly striped darker pink, medium, semi-double flower. His last, and probably most popular 'Herme' mutation is 'Spring Sonnet' which he introduced in 1951. It also won the Frank Williams Award from the Pacific Camellia Society in 1951. It is a medium, semi-double pale pink with a darker pink margined bloom.

During the 1952-53 camellia season he showed a mutation from 'Te Deum' which he named 'Jack McCaskill' and it was awarded the William Hertrich Award of the Southern California Camellia Society. Much to everyone's surprise and

sorrow it was later found to be identical to 'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto', a sport of 'Grand Sultan' and introduced in 1890 by Mr. De Silva of Portugal. The term 'Jack McCaskill' had to be dropped as a variety and is now used as a synonym of 'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto' in the Nomenclature Book.

'Shepherdess', a rose colored mutation of 'Augusto Pinto' was introduced in 1956. It was so named because Dr. Shepherd was trying to find the correct name for 'Te Deum'. Also, during this time he introduced a mutation of 'Mathotiana' that was named 'Sultana', a large, semi-double to peony form, scarlet colored bloom.

Mutations from his own seedlings were soon to appear in his nursery. As mentioned before, one of his seedling introductions was 'Bali Ha'i'. It was to introduce two very fine mutations which appeared on the market during 1969. They were 'Bali Ha'i Dawn', a medium, semi-double soft pink to light pink to white on edge of petals, and 'Bali Ha'i Pink', a medium, semi-double solid pink bloom.

In addition to the medium and large size flowers he also has introduced mutations from the miniature 'Hopkin's Pink'. In 1966 he introduced 'Hopkin's Rose Pink' and in 1969 he introduced 'Hopkin's Pink Dawn', both very fine additions to the "Hopkin's Family".

In 1971 he not only introduced

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George Santayana, the American philosopher, poet, novelist and literary critic, once defined the word fanaticism saying it "consists in doubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aims."

AN ADVENTURE IN AIR LAYERING

Edward O. Morgan *

Reprinted from January 1961 issue of *Camellia Review*

* The late Edward O. Morgan was an active member of Pacific Camellia Society. —Ed.

Air layering is one of the oldest methods known to man for the propagation of plants, yet one has cause to wonder just what brought it to man's attention. Was it the apparent lack of viable seed, or an accidental covering of a branch which then took root at the covered point? I developed interest in air layering some years ago after becoming sufficiently interested in camellias to recognize a few varieties and realized that some of them have more desirable characteristics than others. Since air layering introduces no new characteristics into the plant, it is a particularly valuable process for the propagation and preservation of any special varieties.

In the rear yard stood five beautiful large camellia bushes about twenty years old, all of the most nondescript nomenclature and parentage.

Being of Scotch instinct, if not ancestry, the thought of cutting down such beautiful plants was indeed depressing. Added to this was the thought that a new graft might not take and the entire plant would be lost.

About this time, an article on air layering appeared in a technical publication, and a solution came to mind. Work the plants over gradually, avoid possible loss of the plant, and at the same time provide a valuable supply of useful understock for future grafting. Did you ever notice how often you wish to graft, or just experiment, and you have no understock available? So the process began.

Grafts of desired varieties were placed on two of the lower branches in positions which appeared to give promise of a well shaped bush as they

would develop. Then to the air layering. The rooting medium was made by mixing 60% peat moss with 40% sphagnum moss by volume. Many prefer pure peat, sphagnum moss, or ordinary potting soil. The fact is that almost any light, moisture retaining material in which plants will root appears to work quite satisfactorily. The mix given is used because the stringy fiber helps hold it together and makes it easier to handle. This feature attains considerable importance when one is working on a large plant in the ground where it is necessary to be somewhat of a contortionist to reach the objective point on the plant, plus the added limitations of only two hands, water running down to the elbows, and water dripping into the face.

The rooting medium should be thoroughly wetted in water to which has been added one-half teaspoon of Hyponex per gallon of water. Hyponex is a concentrated fertilizer which has one peculiar characteristic—its extreme and ready availability to plant life. The air layers made with rooting medium wetted in solution containing a little Hyponex produce a heavier root system and grow better after they are detached from the parent plant, than those performed without the Hyponex.

Using a medium weight of clear or translucent plastic, cut rectangles about ten inches by twelve inches to wrap around the rooting medium. Be sure there is a good lap to retain moisture. Provide cord to tie the plastic at each end of the ball of rooting medium. When the rooting medium and wrapping materials are prepared, it is then time to prepare the branch. It may vary in size from one-

fourth inch to one and one-half inches in diameter. By using large branches, it is possible to attain, in a relatively short period of time, much greater plant size than is possible by any other method. Smaller branches may be used, but they require support as the ball of rooting medium cannot be supported by the branch alone.

At a point on the branch, at least three to four inches below the first limb, make two cuts around the branch through the bark about one inch apart to break the contact with the body of the plant. Remove the band of bark about one inch wide completely around the limb. The cambium layer which is thus exposed should be scuffed to retard the flow of the usual amount of sap before the new roots are formed. If the sap flow is not retarded, the wound has a greater tendency to heal by callusing and this retards, or prevents, the formation of roots. The space of not less than three or four inches below the first branch for the cut is recommended because the roots form on the edge of the bark cut farthest from the main body of the plant and, therefore, the end of the root ball farthest from the plant will be the top of the soil line when the air layer is detached and planted. If the new plant is to be used for understock, room to do grafting work is needed. We have all struggled with grafts when the shape of the understock base has forced cutting the understock too close to the soil surface. On the other hand, this clearance between the root ball and first branches will, in a procedure for preservation of the variety, produce a more shapely plant and avoid the need to remove low branches later.

Dust the entire wounded surface with Hormodin No. 3 to encourage rooting, then place a square of the plastic in one hand and pick up a mass of root medium which will cre-

ate a ball about three inches in diameter. This amount may be varied for very small or large branches, but it is much better to make the ball oversize than undersize. Squeeze the material lightly, just enough to stop the drip of water when no pressure is applied—no more, because it must stay wet for a long time. Place the material on the plastic. Place the root medium completely around the wound, draw the plastic around to hold the medium firmly in place at all points against the wound, then tie the plastic cover at each end. This is where that third and fourth hands mentioned earlier would come in handy. After a period ranging from six weeks to six months a heavy growth of new roots will have penetrated the ball and will show through the plastic. Ordinarily, the water supply in the ball will suffice for the entire process, but occasionally a ball may, for reasons unknown, lose its moisture and become dry and harden before roots form. Clearly, this will inhibit root formation as the process requires some moisture. One end of the plastic may be opened and water added in such cases, but the ball must not be kept too wet as the roots may rot just as they do in an overwatered container.

When a good mass of roots has formed, sever the branch just below the new root ball. Prepare a container of water in which Hyponex, at a rate of one-half teaspoon per gallon, has been added. Remove at least one-half to two-thirds of the top branches of the detached branch, depending on the heaviness of the root system and the size of the top. Treat any large wounds with grafting wax or other sealer, particularly those low on the new plant. Remove any buds, as they draw vitality which is needed for establishment of the new plant. For understock the shape of the upper part of the plant makes little differ-

(Continued on next page)

ence, but where the objective is propagation and preservation of a variety, prune and treat as carefully as you would a rooted cutting or a desirable seedling. Open the lower end of plastic, cut branch stub flush with root ball and soak ball in the container of Hyponex water until thoroughly wet, being careful at all times to avoid breaking or disturbing the ball. The rooting medium may be slow to absorb water, but do not become discouraged. Give it time—this is the key to a vigorous start. Plant in regular camellia mix as you would when transplanting or repotting.

Since the writer operates under the handicap common to city lot growers of camellias, limited space, air layering has been used almost exclusively for production of understock. Nevertheless, the arrival of a desirable seedling or sport might change the objective. Obviously, air layering will not appeal to nursery men or a seed growing addict, but it is a lot of fun for the ordinary camellia fan. Six years of experimenting has resulted in the conclusion that properly aged, air layered understock compares favorably with any other type of understock. Grafts placed on such understock attain the same level of success and vigor of growth as those placed on other types of understock. It would appear quite obvious that air layering would not make a good understock plant out of a slow growing, poor understock variety, but few propagators expect the best results from a weak or slow growing variety, even though its origin may be a seed or rooted cutting.

Some observations—

Although it is possible to air layer at any time of year, the spring, just after the growth has fully started, brings the best results.

When selecting branches for understock, apply the same tests you use in selecting understock from seed or cuttings—the new vigorous growth pro-

vides the best rooting tendency and the best understock for grafting.

At least two full growing seasons should pass before attempting to use the specimen for understock—more for older, heavier branches, as the root system may not be strong enough to carry through the ordeal and produce a strong graft. Some plants may be used after one season of growth, but the proportion of unsatisfactory results is noticeably higher.

If air layer is high on the plant, or in a fairly light area, cover the ball with black cloth. Black plastic may be used to hold the rooting medium in place, but it is more difficult to watch root development as the ball must be opened for inspection and chance of disturbance is greater. Remember, roots grow underground in the dark, not in the sun or bright light.

Should the wound callus, instead of growing roots, remove the ball, cut away the callus and reprocess. Generally it works.

Since the rooting medium used in the ball is generally devoid of nutrients, the Hyponex is a welcome addition, but don't put in too much. It is a fertilizer.

Newly severed air layers should be kept well shaded until they put out sustaining roots. The best evidence of this is the appearance of new growth. From this time on, treat it as you do your other camellias.

Recognizing the problem of entering and judging varieties that are identified in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE as "medium to large" and "small to medium", the Modesto Camellia Society has prepared and distributed a list of such varieties with indications of how they will be considered for the Modesto show on March 17th and 18th.

TO GIB OR NOT TO GIB—THAT IS THE QUESTION

Bill Donnan

Pasadena, California

You all know the old cliché “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread”. Well, this fool is rushing into a controversy with his chin stuck out a mile. He wants to present a case against gibbing! Now before all you Gib Hounds start to bark, hear me out.

When I said that I was leading with my chin, believe me, I’m the world’s worst, champion ignoramus about gibbing; in fact, I have never gibbed a camellia. Consequently I am talking about something from a vast plateau of limited knowledge. However, I have observed the results of gibbing and I don’t like what is happening. To me, it’s like for example, I have never smoked marijuana either, but I am against it and if given an opportunity, I’ll argue with any one about the pros and cons.

You could say I am sort of a purest when it comes to camellias. I’m old fashioned. I’m still in love with Alba Plena and Prof. Sargent. I’m a Model T, capitol T, conservative, throw-back and the very thought of gibbing just goes against my grain. You might counter with the argument that if I’m such a purest, why water? Why fertilize? Why prune? Why dis-bud? If I’m going to pose as a purest why not just put some seed in the ground and let nature take it’s course? Good point! But just a darn minute. You aren’t letting me state my case!

I’m against gibbing and I want to present four factors which I feel bolster my argument. When I say four factors you must admit that there are many more. But it’s a little bit like the story of the man who went into the cafe and ordered a pizza. When the waiter brought it to the table he said, “Shall I cut it into four pieces or eight pieces, Sir?” And the guy answered, “Cut it in four pieces, I

can’t eat eight pieces!” Well, here are my four points.

(1) *In my opinion gibbing ruins the blooms.* Or maybe I should say that gibbing ruins the blooms for a purest. It’s true that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. My question is: What is so beautiful about a freak? A Pink Perfection is all that the name implies, until it is gibbed up to a five-inch monster size. What is more noble than a red, red Mathotiana? What is more hideous than an apoplectic, gibbed Mathotiana? An Alice Wood, when gibbed, turns into an Alice Purple! As I say, I think that gibbing ruins the blooms.

(2) *In my opinion gibbing could turn people away from growing camellias.* As an example, let’s take someone who has never planted a camellia. He attends a camellia show and sees all these gibbed blooms, and he says to himself, “Gee”, I think I’ll buy one of these for my garden.” So he carefully jots down the name of the variety and orders one from his local nursery. He plants it and eagerly awaits the next season’s blooms. Alas! The plant produces ordinary-sized blooms and the guy figures that he is no good at growing camellias. He sticks to his roses and petunias and the camellia hobby has lost another convert.

(3) *In my opinion gibbing poses a danger to the Shows.* I’ll admit that this is a pretty harsh statement but I feel that it is an opinion shared by most of the non-gibbers. Why do I think that gibbing spoils the Shows? Simple because I don’t feel that gibbed camellias should be displayed along-side of non-gibbed camellias. I can remember the first show I ever attended in 1966. The gibbed blooms were a curiosity. They were a display

(Continued on next page)

of freaks. The main show was composed of good old 100%, home-grown, camellias. The next year there were quite a few more gibbed blooms. Then the flood started and in the 1971 - 1972 season the gibs almost took over! All the talk, all the interest, all the attention seems to be focusing on the freaks. When the general public walks past the gib-bloom table, the rest of the show blooms are treated like a bunch of dandylions!

Last year, at the Descanso Show, the gibbed blooms were placed just beyond the Court of Honor. I know that the spectator is "supposed" to take the path along the displays placed in alphabetical listing of Japonicas and past the miniatures and the retics and the hybrids, and then past the gibbed blooms. But as it turned out, most of the public flocked to the gibbed bloom tables and the rest of the show suffered.

Now, this year, we had a new show at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in January, 1973. When I read the article announcing the new show I was really thrilled. However, my enthusiasm vanished when I found out that "both gibbed and non-gibbed blooms will be entered in the same competition." That just about shuts out the ordinary camellia grower unless he falls in line and starts to gib! With the advent of this new show the "camel will have his head in the tent". I predict that in a year or two the camel will be in the tent and all of rock-ribbed, high collar, conservative purests like me will be out in the cold. I predict that within a few years there won't be any ordinary camellias entered in the shows. They will have been supplanted by the gibbed blooms; and in my opinion, that will be a sad day for the camellia hobby.

(4) *In my opinion, gibbing poses a real danger to the camellia hobby.* Anyone reading this last point is going to say "This guy is a real ding-a-ling". First of all, I realize that there are many shades and degrees of the

hobby craze in the land of camellias. There are as many different kinds of hobbyists as there are camellia varieties, and the introduction of the use of gibberellic acid has added a new facet to the hobby. My contention is that for a hobby to thrive, for the Society of camellia hobbyists to thrive and grow, it must have a broad base of "duffers" and amateurs. Now, there is one sure-fire way to turn an ordinary citizen who grows a few camellias into a rabid, enthused, hobbyist and that is for him to enter a few of his blooms in a camellia show and win a second or third place ribbon. From then on he progresses up the ladder of his hobby. He joins the Society, does some grafting, adds to his collection and eventually, alas, he may even turn into a gib-hound! But he got his start showing some ordinary blooms, in competition with other ordinary blooms. I contend that gibbed blooms at a show, especially if they are in competition with non-gibbed blooms, are a deterrent to the "duffer". Nine times out of ten, friend "duffer", has a camellia collection consisting of: Alba Plena, Pink Perfection, Herme, Prof. Sargent, and Debutante. He thinks he will enter some of his blooms in a show but decides to have a look first. He attends a show and sees all these gibbed blooms and decides to forget the whole "enchallada". The hobby and the Society has lost another convert.

Also, did you ever ask yourself why it is that more and more camellia hobbyists are turning to the miniature blooms? Could it be an unconscious reflex against gibbing? Could it be that these individuals are yearning for un-adulterated, pure-as-the-driven-snow, camellia blooms? And the only way to get them and show them is to grow miniatures!

Some people even claim that gibbing poses a danger to the health of the plants. Mr. Payne H. Midyette of

(Continued on page 24)

A FERTILIZER PROGRAM FOR CAMELLIAS

Keith Berrie

Pymble (Sydney), Australia

Reprinted from *Newsletter*, monthly publication of New South Wales,
Branch of Australian Camellia Research Society

Editor's Note: The author is an active and knowledgeable member of the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society. While his reference to brands of fertilizer is of course local to Australia, his treatment of the subject is such that the principles stated can be applied to products that are available elsewhere.

For healthy growth, plants require a balanced diet of major food elements i. e.

Nitrogen (N) — to promote leaf growth

Phosphate (P)—to produce vigorous new shoots

Potash (K)—for the promotion of flowers and fruit; also as an aid in photo-synthesis.

This is the famous N-P-K trio of fertilizer jargon and it has been proved and enshrined in a scientific principle known as LIEBIG'S "Law of the Minimum" that the growth of a plant will be limited by the food element which is in least supply. The practical effect of this law is to suggest we use a balanced fertilizer (i.e. containing each of the elements—N-P-K) unless we have a detailed analysis of the soil and know specifically in which of the elements the soil is deficient.

A number of other chemical elements play important although sometimes mysterious roles in plant growth. These are usually called minor or trace elements, some of which are:

Sulphur (S) — a component of protein

Calcium (Ca) concentrated in root tips

Iron (Fe) — a component of chlorophyl

Others which are found in various parts of the plant tissue or are known to assist the plant to assimilate food are: Manganese (Mn), Boron (B), Zinc (Zn), Chlorine (Cl) Molybdenum (Mo).

These minor elements occur as the products of decomposition of rocks and vegetable matter and are usually found in sufficient quantities in garden soil. However, the occasional application of a fertilizer such as "Thrive", "Zest" or "Aquasol" which contain these elements is probably desirable and can do no harm although they add to the cost of the fertilizer.

The characteristic of camellias which needs special attention when applying fertilizer is that the roots are tender and are concentrated near the soil surface. Thus it is important to use a non-burning type of fertilizer. A typical burning fertilizer is ammonium sulphate and most of us have no doubt had the experience of sprinkling some of this on the lawn, failing to water it in thoroughly and finding a badly burnt lawn the next morning. Because of the risk of burning, fertilizer mixtures for camellias should contain no ammonium sulphate or certainly no more than 10%.

We are, therefore, looking for a fertilizer which will be slow acting and will release the plant food elements over a long period. These desirable characteristics will be provided by a fertilizer mixture of which the main components are blood and bone, hoof and horn, and vegetable meals. The best known commercial mixtures of this type are:

John Innes Base—containing hoof and horn, superphosphate and sulphate of potash, Shirley "Camellia & Azalea"—containing blood and bone,

(Continued on next page)

vegetable meal, sulphate of potash and ammonium nitrate, and "Grow-Plus for Camellias and Azaleas" containing blood and bone, vegetable meal, nitrate of potash and sulphate of ammonia as well as a range of trace elements.

Fertilizer should be applied as soon as growth buds shoot and again in November and January. (Remember this is for the Southern Hemisphere. —Ed.)

A method of application is to remove the old mulch in an area covered by the drip circle of the leaves and water thoroughly.

After about 3 or 4 hours apply the fertilizer at the rate of 2 match boxes full to the square yard and in order to reduce risk of damage to the plant from over-fertilizing, it is worth being fairly particular about the rate of application.

Keep the fertilizer away from the trunk and the dense root masses and work it gently into the soil with a small fork. Water thoroughly and apply suitable mulch and for this purpose, I suggest you try crushed and screened bark which has been ammoniated to avoid nitrogen loss from the soil. Water again two or three times in the following week and then as required by weather conditions.

You will no doubt work out your own methods and develop your own tricks for applying fertilizer effectively, always bearing in mind that healthy plant roots will go hunting for food. Hence fertilizer applied to the surface will feed the roots already there and heavy watering will carry the food down into the soil and encourage deeper rooting.

Another method of encouraging deep rooting is to use a controlled release fertilizer such as K-Mag. Apply this by making a series of holes with a one-inch dowel—spaced about 3 or 4 inches apart and 6 or 8 inches deep around the drip circle of the plant;

make a mixture of one part of K-Mag to 4 parts of sandy loam and run this into the holes to within two inches of the soil surface. Top up with ordinary soil and water well.

For a potting mix, I recommend the addition of 5% of vegetable meal (there is very little difference between cotton, rape, sunflower and linseed meals) PLUS a cup of K-Mag to the 2 gallon bucket of potting mix.

Great care should be exercised in the selection of the components of your potting mixture. In my own experience, a recent load of manure from stall-fed dairy cows had a soluble salt content of 2.1% whereas the maximum level recommended for sensitive plants (including camellias and azaleas) is 0.2%. Unless you can be sure of the salt content of the manure you use, you should limit the quantity to 5% of the mix. Our Camellia friends in California have discovered this problem some years ago and animal and fowl manure is out of favour there. I am now using the following potting mix:

40% Milled Bark

20% Sand

35% Peat Moss (imported)

5% Vegetable meal PLUS K-Mag.

If you have any doubt about the condition of your garden soil or potting mix, it is probably worth submitting a sample to a soil laboratory for checking pH and salt as well as getting a recommendation for suitable fertilizer. We put a lot of spare time and pocket money into our gardening hobby and it is worth the extra few dollars to get the help that science can provide towards maximising the results of our efforts.

Forty-two people attended the Judges Symposium that was sponsored by the Northern California Camellia Council. Dave Feathers was Moderator.

SOIL MIX FOR CAMELIAS

Following are statements by five good camellia growers in Southern California of the components of their soil mix. This is a phase of camellia culture where the grower has an opportunity to be an individual. These statements indicate that these people have done this, always coming up, however, with a mix that is light and airy.

Lee Gaeta El Monte

There are many variables in growing camellias, and certainly one most important to me is the soil mix. Basically camellias grow and thrive in any mix, provided, of course, that the mix is well aerated and drains well. Each soil mix requires different cultural practices in fertilizing, watering, etc. Whatever soil mix you desire to adopt you will have to formulate your own cultural adjustments for your particular soil mix.

Here is the information regarding my cultural practices:

Soil Mix: Same for both japonicas and hybrids.

Mix is:

60% fir bark (Forest Humus)

40% soil (Devils Gate Dam)

Watering: Deep watering all plants in ground once a week or when needed, containers only if dampness has disappeared upon finger scratching soil for 1/2 inch from surface of soil. Reticulatas and hybrids, less water keeping them almost on the dried side, before watering. (They seem to respond better.)

Fertilizing: Japonicas and hybrids all the same.

March 1 — Squires Camellia Gro, liquid.

April 1 — 5 parts cottonseed meal, 1 part Blood meal, 1 part iron.

April 15 — Squires Camellia Gro, liquid.

June — Cottonseed meal.

July — Squires Camellia Gro

August — Cottonseed meal with little iron (light feeding).

October — Hi-Bloom 0-10-10.

Feed once a month through the Shows.

Pruning and repotting: March — I prune heavy and also repot my big plants. I bare root any time of the year. Light pruning all year around. Seedlings and grafts I repot in the fall.

P. S. Don't overwater, this is the greatest nemesis for camellias. It's the easiest way to destroy your plants.

Mel Gum San Gabriel

The soil mix that I use is a sandy loam (Devils Gate Dam). This soil will give a P.H. of .059. I use one part soil and two parts "Forest Humus". The past year I have found that the "Forest Humus" that is on the market now is too fine so I add one part of Orchid bark. This makes a very light weight and loose mix that will drain very well. This soil mix I use for all of my container plants.

As for my seedlings I start them in flats of one part peat moss and one part Con Rock. After about six months in the flats I plant them in my soil mix.

Dr. Fred Mowery San Diego

Most of my camellias are planted in plastic containers with a few in redwood tubs or 18" metal containers. I place a thin layer of medium-sized redwood bark (1" - 1 1/2") in the bottom of the container. The soil mix consists of:

Shredded redwood bark (Big
R Redwood Soil Conditioner) 60%
Sandy loam (Devil's Gate
Dam Silt 35%
Vermiculite 5%

The redwood bark is moistened

(Continued on next page)

before thoroughly mixing the soil and vermiculite. The plant is planted just above the soil level. The container is carefully dropped two or three times to tamp down the soil mixture and watered thoroughly. Do not tamp down the soil with the hand or a stick.

I. John Movich
Pomona

For the last few years the components of my soil mix have been as follows: one part sandy top soil, one part oak leaf mold, one part forest humus, one part German peat moss, with two pounds cottonseed meal and one-half pound chelated minerals to a wheelbarrowful. Using this mixture I water once a week on the average.

When shavings used to be available, I used the shavings instead of the forest humus. Now the shavings are in great demand by the nurseries and I've had to substitute fir bark. I haven't noticed much difference in the plants or flowers using either one.

I have noticed that after about two years, this mixture becomes a little too wet and soggy during the winter-time. Therefore when the show season is over and I have more free time available, I intend to repot all my plants in pots with a mixture as follows: instead of using a full part of oak leaf mold and German peat moss, I will use one-half part of each of these. I believe this will give me better drainage and will help to prevent

the roots being damaged by being too wet. I will probably have to water a little more often but I think that my plants should be improved.

Mrs. Harold L. (Lou) Rowe
Upland

Harold and I use about even proportions of fir bark (medium), blow sand or silt, and regular soil for our mix. Since using this mix we have lost very few plants from root rot. It does take more watering and does wash off the tops of the roots somewhat.

Many years ago a dam, named Devil's Gate Dam, was built across the Arroyo Seco above Pasadena to hold back the flood waters that come down from the mountains during heavy rains. These waters bring with them light sandy soil from the canyons above. As the waters recede because of evaporation or being released, the sandy soil remains in the dry lake bed. This is the sandy loam that has been dubbed "Devil's Gate Dam silt".

Editor's Note: Reference is made in three of the above statements to "Devil's Gate Dam silt". Most camellia growers in Southern California know what this is. For the information of readers of CAMELLIA REVIEW who do not live in Southern California and may not know about Devil's Gate Dam silt, the following information is given.

RELEASED THIS YEAR

DREAM CASTLE
WILBER FOSS

K. O. HESTER
ELSIE DRYDEN

RELEASED LAST YEAR

ELEGANS SPLENDOR
(C. M. WILSON SPLENDOR)

MRS. D. W. DAVIS DESCANSO

NUCCIO'S
NURSERIES

3555 CHANEY TRAIL
ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA 91002
Phone - - - - 794-3383

(Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays)

S. AND S. S. INTERNATIONAL NEEDS YOU

John Herndon
Sacramento

Yes, "Seed and Scion Scouts, International" wants you on their team. The field is wide open, world wide that is, and joining is as simple as A. B. C. It's easy. Just remember:

- A. Always follow the rules.
- B. Be prompt in paying your dues.
- C. Check out every lead.

What are the rewards? Well, to begin with, you will make many new friends. You will greatly increase your collection of *Camellia* species, hybrids and varieties. In addition, you will have a lot of fun and enjoyment.

During the last two years, I have corresponded and exchanged scions and seed with other scouts and friends in Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, India and Okinawa. In addition, I believe that I will have success in the Philippine Islands, Java and perhaps even in Saigon, Viet Nam.

In some ways the rules are very strict. Step number one is to write to the Department of Agriculture, Plant Importation Branch, Plant Quarantine Division, 209 River Street, Hoboken, N.J. 07030, requesting a copy of "*Nursery Stock, Plant, and Seed Quarantin 37*" and the proper forms to complete in applying for an importation permit. There is no charge for the permit but the Department of Agriculture rules must be followed.

When your permit is issued, you will receive a supply of green and yellow permit shipping labels to be used by your friends or correspondents in sending you seed or scions from outside the United States.

Next question is who should you write to and where does he live? The best source, both in the U.S. and abroad is the membership roster in the back of the American *Camellia* Society Year Books. If you belong to the Australian or New Zealand *Camellia* Societies or decide to join one or

the other, their publications contain membership lists with addresses.

If these sources are not available, go to the nearest state, university or large city library. The librarians are well versed in the various reference books containing Universities, Colleges, Museums, Botanical Gardens, etc., both here and in foreign countries, together with the names and titles of the various Directors, Deans and Department heads and their addresses. My best recommendation is "World of Learning" in 2 volumes, by Europa Publications. Another source is the International Telephone Yellow Pages which give the addresses for American Embassies, Consulates, Chamber of Commerce and various trade groups.

Now you are ready for the first of many journies that could take you around the world. Acquisition is the name of the game, so pick out species, hybrids or varieties that you really want. If it is available in the U.S. you will probably know the name and address of the originator from the 'Camellia Nomenclature' published by the Southern Californit *Camellia* Society, Inc., or other publications on *Camellias*.

When you write to an individual requesting a particular scion or seed, you usually receive a prompt affirmative reply. However, do not write to commercial propagators, nurserymen or others who make their livings selling plants or scions, unless you are willing to pay them for their propagating materials.

Now is the time to start paying your dues. I always offer to reciprocate and send them a list of scion materials that I can furnish, including specie, hybrids, and varieties that are new. Quite often I send a scion of something new in our area

(Continued on page 24)

Show Results

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—FEBRUARY 10-11, 1973

- Award of Honor—Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
Best Large Japonica—‘Tomorrow Park Hill’, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Moore
 Runner-up—‘Elegans Splendor’, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Treischel, Glendale
Best Large Japonica—‘Tomorrow Park Hill’, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Moore
 Runner-up—‘Silver Chalice’, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Humphrey, San Diego
Best Small Japonica—‘Maroon and Gold’, Mr. and Mrs. Paul McClelland,
 Orange
 Runner-up—‘Ava Maria’, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harmsen, Claremont
Best Miniature Japonica—‘Little Slam’, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson,
 Glendale
 Runner-up—‘Pink Smoke’, A. Wilkins Garner, Glendale
Best Hybrid with Reticulata Parentage—‘Aztec’, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McNeil,
 San Diego
 Runner-up—‘Crimson Robe’, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
Best Hybrid with Non-Reticulata Parentage—‘El Dorado’, Dr. John Urabec,
 La Canada
 Runner-up—‘Angel Wings’, Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
Best Three Large Japonicas—‘Tomorrow Park Hill’, Caryll Pitkin, San Marino
 Runner-up—‘Premier Var’, Mr. and Mrs. Les Baskerville, San Diego
Best Three Medium, Small or Miniature Japonicas—‘Wildfire’, Mr. and Mrs.
 Grady Perigan, Arcadia
 Runner-up—‘Pink Diddy’, Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin
Best Five Japonicas—‘Mathotiana’, Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace
 Runner-up—‘Kramer’s Supreme’, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomas
Best Three Reticulatas or Hybrids with Reticulata Parentage—‘Tali Queen’,
 Caryll Pitkin
 Runner-up—‘Howard Asper’, Thomas E. Hughes, La Crescenta
Best Three Hybrids with Non-Reticulata Parentage—‘Elsie Jury’, Mr. and
 Mrs. B. M. Pace
 Runner-up—‘Angel Wings’, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McNeil
Best Species Other Than Japonica or Reticulata—‘Sukiya’, (Wabisuke Spe-
 cies), Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
Best Special Culture Bloom—‘Premier Var’, Mr. and Mrs. Les Baskerville
 Runner-up—‘Elegans Supreme’, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
Best New Seedling—‘U-2’, Wilber Foss
Best New Sport—‘Debbie’ (hybrid), Alfter and Freeman, Bakersfield
Best King’s Row—Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA—FEBRUARY 10-11, 1973

- Sweepstakes—Mr. and Mrs. Sal Davi, Pittsburgh
 Runner-up—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Boynton, Lodi
Best Large to Very Large Japonica—‘Fashionata’, Mr. and Mrs. James Scott,
 Pittsburgh
 Runner-up—‘Fashionata Var’, Mr. and Mrs. James Scott

- Best Medium Japonica—'Satellite', Mr. and Mrs. Sal Davi
 Runner-up—'Betty Foy Sanders', Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Lesmeister,
 Carmichael
- Best Boutonniere Japonica—'Kitty', Mr. and Mrs. James D. Grant, Santa Rosa
- Best Tray of 3 Japonicas—'Margaret Ratcliffe', Dr. and Mrs. Fred L. Rankin,
 Modesto
- Best Tray of 5 Japonicas—'Adolphe Audusson Special', Mr. and Mrs. Jack
 Lewis, Pittsburgh
- Best Reticulata—'William Hertrich', Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo, Fresno
- Best Tray of 3 Reticulatas—'Lila Naff', Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Wang, Pleasant
 Hills
- Best Tray of 3 Different Reticulatas—('Howard Asper', 'William Hertrich',
 'Mandalay Queen'), Marc Mandarich, Menlo Park
- Best Hybrid with Reticulata Parentage—'Howard Aspar Var', Mr. and Mrs.
 George A. Stewart, Sacramento
- Best Hybrid with Non-reticulata Parentage—'El Dorado', Mr. and Mrs.
 James D. Grant
- Best Member's Japonica—'Glen 40', Mr. and Mrs. Howard Oliver, Menlo
 Park
- Best Member's Hybrid—'Water Lily', Mr. and Mrs. Howard Burnette, Castro
 Valley
- Best Tray of 7 Different Varieties—Dr. and Mrs. Fred Heitman, Lafayette
- Best Seedling—Retic Hybrid KE64, Kramer's Nursery, Upland

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM—FEBRUARY 17-18, 1973

- Award of Honor—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
- Best Large Japonica—'Elegans Splendor', Mr. and Mrs. Roger Treischel,
 Glendale
- Runner-up—'Elegans Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Shropshire, Cucamonga
- Best Medium Japonica—'Silver Chalice', Harry and Florence Humphrey,
 San Diego
- Runner-up—'Midnight', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
- Best Small Japonica—'Thumblina', John Movich, La Verne
- Runner-up—'Tom Thumb', John Movich
- Best Miniature Japonica—'Pink Smoke', Harry Reich, South Pasadena
- Runner-up—'Baby Blush', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield
- Best 3 Large Japonicas—'R. L. Wheeler', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Runner-up—'Grand Slam', Harry and Florence Hymphrey
- Best 3 Medium Japonicas, 'Sweetheart', F. H. Burris, Claremont
- Runner-up—'Glen 40 Var', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
- Best Reticulata Hybrid—'Craig Clark', Kay Thompson
- Runner-up—'Valentine Day', Fred Hamilton
- Best Non-reticulata Hybrid—'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. Paul McClelland,
 Orange
- Runner-up—'Julia Hamiter', Fred Hamilton
- Best Species Bloom—'Star Above Star', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
- Best 3 Hybrids—'Pharoh', Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak, Van Nuys
- Best Treated Japonica—'Clark Hubbs', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson,
 Glendale
- Runner-up—'Adolphe Audusson', John Movich

- Best Treated Hybrid—'Fire Chief Var', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
 Runner-up—'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
 Best Japonica Seedling—"6-68", Alftr and Freeman, Bakersfield
 Best Reticulata Hybrid Seedling—"#461", Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Shinault,
 Northridge
 Best Non-reticulata Hybrid Seedling—"S. B. N.", Alftr and Freeman

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA—FEBRUARY 17-18, 1973

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS

- Best Large Japonica—'Julia France', Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pinheiro, Modesto
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Julia France', Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pinheiro
 Best Medium Japonica—'Sweetheart', Dr. and Mrs. Fred Rankin, Modesto
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Margharita Coleoni', Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Boynton,
 Best Boutonniere Japonica—'Little Bit', Dr. and Mrs. Fred Heitman, Lafayette
 Best 3 Boutonnieres—'Kitty', Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pinheiro
 Best Reticulata-Reticulata Hybrid—'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. George
 Stewart, Sacramento
 Best 3 Reticulata-Reticulata Hybrids—'Royalty', Mr. and Mrs. Charles
 O'Malley, Woodside
 Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid—'El Dorado', Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Batt, Windsor
 Best Medium Non-Reticulata Hybrid—'Angel Wings', Mr. and Mrs. Tony
 Pinheiro
 Best 3 Hybrids—'E. G. Waterhouse', Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Boynton, Lodi

EXPERT CLASS

- Best Large Japonica—'Easter Morn', Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Wang, Pleasant Hills
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Adolphe Audusson Special', Mr. and Mrs. Jack
 Lewis, Concord
 Best Medium Japonica—'Sunset Oaks', Mrs. Chas. McKee, Sacramento
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Spring Sonnet', Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hays, Walnut
 Creek
 Best Boutonniere Japonica—'Bon Bon Blush', Mrs. J. D. Hanson, Sacramento
 Best 3 Boutonnieres—'Tiny Princess', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rambath,
 Sacramento
 Best 5 Japonicas—'White Nun', Mrs. J. D. Hanson, Santa Clara
 Best Reticulata-Reticulata Hybrid—'Francie L' Mr. and Mrs. Peter Grosso,
 Modesto
 Best Large Non-Reticulata Hybrid—'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. John Augis,
 San Jose

REGULAR CLASS

- Best Large Japonica—'Erin Farmer', Joan Balzarini
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'White Nun', Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Lesmeister,
 Carmichael
 Best Medium Japonica—'Spring Sonnet', Dr. and Mrs. Jake Holtzman, Crow's
 Landing
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Sweetheart', Dr. and Mrs. Jake Holtzman
 Best Boutonniere Japonica—'Domoto's Pride', Mr. and Mrs. Howard Burnette,
 Castro Valley
 Best Reticulata-Reticulata Hybrid—'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Smith,
 Modesto

- Best 3 Reticulata-Reticulata Hybrids—'Cornelian', Mr. and Mrs. William Paschal, Walnut Creek
 Best Large Non-Reticulata Hybrid—'Dream Castle'* , Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Kolak, Menlo Park
 Best Small-Medium Non-Reticulata Hybrid—'Brigadoon', Mrs. V. Van Velzer
 Best 3 Hybrids—'Robbie', Mr. and Mrs. John Herndon, Sacramento
 Best 5 Japonicas—'Guilio Nuccio', C. Slobe, Sacramento

ALL CLASSES

- Best Flower of Show—'Valley Knudsen', Mr. and Mrs. James E. Scott, Pittsburgh
 Best Seedling—'Retic X10', Frank Pursel, Oakland
 *'Dream Castle' is a reticulata hybrid, not a non-reticulata hybrid.—Ed.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

POMONA, CALIFORNIA—FEBRUARY 24-25, 1973

- Best Large Japonica—'Elegans Splendor', Sam Ward, Tarzana
 Runner-up—'Julia France', Richard Stiern, Bakersfield
 2nd Runner-up—'Carter's Sunburst', Marion McClendon, Claremont
 Best Medium Japonica—'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
 Runner-up—'Nuccio's Gem', Dr. and Mrs. Fred Mowrey, San Diego
 2nd Runner-up—'Glen 40 Var', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace
 Best Small Japonica—'Maroon and Gold', Lester F. Dehmel, Pasadena
 Runner-up—'Ave Maria', Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
 Best Miniature Japonica—'Pink Smoke', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
 Runner-up—'Tinsie', Dr. and Mrs. Fred Mowrey
 Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Clark Hubbs', Mr. and Mrs. Carey Bliss, San Gabriel
 Runner-up—'Elegans (Chandler)', Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Schmidt, Arcadia
 Best 3 Medium Japonicas—'Nuccio's Gem', Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harmsen, Claremont
 Runner-up—'Pink Diddy', Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harmsen
 Best 3 Small Japonicas—'Maroon and Gold', Bill and Janet Meyer, Glendora
 Runner-up—'Kerry', Ernie Pieri, San Gabriel
 Best Miniature Japonica—'Pearl's Pet', Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak, Van Nuys
 Runner-up—'Florence Daniell', Norm Krueger, San Gabriel
 Best Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid—'Mandalay Queen', Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Bernhardt, Redwood City
 Runner-up—'Valentine Day', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
 Best 3 Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids—'Buddha', Bill Donnan, Pasadena
 Runner-up—'Lila Naff', Caryll Pitkin, San Marino
 Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid—'Brigadoon', Cory Radford, Claremont
 Runner-up—'E. G. Waterhouse Var', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace
 Best 3 Non-Reticulata Hybrids—'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City
 Runner-up—'Waltz Time', Mel Gum, San Gabriel
 Best Other Species—'Star Above Star', Mel Gum
 Best Treated Flower—'Elegans Splendor', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci
 Runner-up—'Guilio Nuccio', Mr. and Mrs. Jess George, La Mesa
 Best Japonica Seedling—Meyer Piet
 Best Seedling Other Species—Retic Hybrid # 461, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Shinault, Northridge
 Best Sport—Sport of 'Carter's Sunburst', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL

DESCANSO GARDENS, CALIFORNIA—MARCH 3-4, 1973

- Adward of Honor—Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
Best Large Japonica—'Reg Ragland', Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla
Runner-up—'Tomorrow Park Hill', Rose Gish, Colton
Best Medium Japonica—'Ville de Nantes, Wariner Lytle, Glendale
Runner-up—'Wildfire', Art Gomos, Fresno
Best Small Japonica—'Kuro Tsubaki', Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNeil, San Diego
Runner-up—'Demi-Tasse', Wilkins Garner, Glendale
Best Miniature Japonica—'Tinsie', Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace, Upland
Runner-up—'Mini Pink', Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
Best Very Large Reticulata and Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—
'Moutancha', Fred Hamilton
Runner-up—'Francie L', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
Best Large and Medium Reticulata and Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—
'Cornelian', Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harmsen, Claremont
Runner-up—'Valley Knudsen', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
Best Large Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Elsie Jury', Mr.
and Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up—'Anticipation', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale
Best Medium and Small Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—
'Angel Wings', Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNeil, San Diego
Runner-up—'E. G. Waterhouse Var', Elizabeth Board, Glendale
Best 3 Large Japonicas—'Clarise Carleton Var', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield
Runner-up—'Grand Slam', Arthur Russell, Altadena
Best 3 Medium and Small Japonicas—'Fircone Var', Art Gonos, Fresno
Runner-up—'Pink Perfection', Mr. and Mrs. Milton Schmidt, Arcadia
Best 5 Japonicas—'Sunset Oaks', John Movich, La Verne
Runner-up—'Clark Hubbs', Mr. and Mrs. Carey Bliss, San Gabriel
Best 3 Reticulatas and Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Moutancha',
Fred Hamilton
Runner-up—'Purple Gown', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller
Best 5 Reticulatas and Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage—'Moutancha',
Fred Hamilton
Runner-up—'Francie L', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson
Best 3 Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Angel Wings',
Martha Lowe, Fresno
Runner-up—'Charlean', Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
Best Species Other Than Japonica and Reticulata—'Sukiya', Mr. and Mrs.
Harold Rowe, Upland
Best Treated Japonica—'Elegans Splendor', John Movich
Runner-up—'Grand Prix', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
Best Treated Reticulata and Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage—'Valentine
Day', Robert Eastman, Costa Mesa
Runner-up—'Mouchang', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson
Best Treated Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage—'Elsie Jury',
Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan
Runner-up—'Charlean', Mr. and Mrs. Larry Shuey, Temple City
Best New Large Japonica Seedling—73-10, Alfter and Freeman, Bakersfield
Best New Medium Japonica Seedling—Meyer Piet, Arcadia

(Continued on page 23)

CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZING

Meyer Piet

Arcadia, California

It's best to prepare yourself in hybridizing by first reading about what others are doing on have done. There is plenty of literature available. Books on Camellia Culture, The American Camellia Society year books, The Camellia Review, etc. The Camellia Nomenclature book becomes indispensable for tracing past parents and evaluating your potential success by breeding known varieties. Dr. William Ackerman's recent book "Genetic and Cytological Studies with Camellia and Related Genera" is an excellent book which delves into crossing the various species and some of the results that evolved or can be expected.

Because of the time it takes to seed and see a "cross" finally bloom it is very important to set forth a general plan of what your basic aims are even though you do not have to follow the plan as originally conceived. If you do not plan ahead you could have the start of a "good combination" but have to wait three or four years to get the "other" mate.

Howard Asper crossed Sasanqua 'Narumi-Gata' (white shaded pink) with Reticulata 'Cornelian' (turkey red marbled white). The resulting flower is medium size and has multi blooms on a plant that should stand full sun. This plant is really the first step in planning a program for several very important developments uniting the Retics and Sasanqua species. 'Flower Girl' does not have much pollen and further seems to inherit an easy seeding characteristic of the Sasanqua. The chance seeds however do not seem to advance the flower's size or beauty.

Lee Gatea made the identical cross resulting in about the same flower but one with plenty of pollen. This season we are making an effort to cross the pollen from Lee's flower back into

'Cornelian' or other Reticulatas. At the same time we moved my 'Flower Girl' into the greenhouse so we could hand pollinate the flowers using pollen from Mel Gum's gibbed flowers. In this particular case gibbed flowers are the only way to get retic pollen early enough to use with an early blooming Sasanqua. The only other approach would be to store the pollen for a full season.

If we are successful in about two or three years we should see some interesting second generation plants, then, with careful evaluation of the new F₂ characteristics we should be able to select those combinations that would lead to F₃ plants that would give us *all* of the advantages of both original species (Retic & Sasanqua). These would be full sun, bushy plants, large multi flowers and an early bloom season. The other goodies would be easy grower, easy seeder, and this would eventually allow us to cross into the other species if alternate characteristics are deemed desirable.

This program should be worth pursuing. It may take from five to eight years to complete and you would then still be faced with several years to develop necessary nursery stock. That's why planning is important. If you find, as your new plants develop, that a little Sasanqua goes a long way, we may find that one part Sasanqua with three or four parts Retic is the final "optimum" combination.

Since we are amateurs we can be a little reckless and pursue an alternate path. Let's assume the pink-white Sasanqua 'Narumi-Gata' is a poor choice and a more vivid color would be better to work with, we then selected Sasanqua 'Bonanza' (deep red) and started a program of crossing it

(Continued on next page)

into the various Retics for exactly the same reason as previously discussed. Even though this combination would be a plant generation behind, it may be a good bet when it comes to making a later selection combination for brighter colors or better flower form. In the following years hopefully we have seed and small plants, but we cannot sit idly by (not in this hobby). We recross the same or different combinations as there is an excellent possibility that the same cross will produce different predominate flower-plant characteristics (as with the pollen problem), and eventually give us a still better selection for the next generation crosses. If we are lucky it's possible to see results in one additional generation; even so, we should continue to be certain that we are obtaining the optimum plant.

It's conceivable that with a combination of *all* of the good attributes of the Sasanqua and Reticulata that we could develop a series of plants that would allow us to eventually compete with the Rose as a house plant. Once we have the family going we could impart fragrance into some of the offsprings.

Assuming we are correct, we now do have a worthwhile program to pursue. There are a great deal of other things to consider—fragrance is something that people have been working on for about 20 years. Fortunately in this period of time many excellent parents already exist. We have Lutchuensis and Fraterna and five small plants that Dr. Cutter kindly sent scions of, about six months ago. In addition there are about four good Japonicas that have a strong fragrance and will be good working material. These are 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Fragrant Frill', 'Milo's Scented', and 'Smelly Nellie'. There are probably many others. This season we are crossing these various Japonicas with each other and also into selected seedlings and Retics. It

seems sooner or later we must consider ending up with a large flower. Although the small ones are every bit as good they will probably come naturally through their original small flowered parents. When the five plants of Dr. Cutter finally bloom we hope to cross them into various crosses we are now making. There is always the possibility of not getting your crosses to set seed or losing the new seedlings or eventually finding out that you did not get the cross you expected, through contaminated pollen or other causes. More the reason then ever for perservance and patience. In the long run it may be "lot of luck" and not your careful planning that gives the results you have been working for.

One of the greatest difficulties is *not* knowing what other people are working on (communications again). If early crosses had been successfully made, a great deal of time can be saved and end results expedited by obtaining scions or pollen and continuing the basic program. Without even knowing what Dr. Cutter's five plants' flowers will look like we are certain they will be helpful in our program at a later date.

Any means of communication that would keep hybridiers (new and old) abreast of what advance crosses have been made and what wood is available could help speed up the overall program tremendously. Many of us (most certainly myself) are making or planning crosses that must already have been made. The future of new varieties certainly lies in the interspecie varieties crosses. We will have a very poor percentage of success with chance seedlings, even though this has been the greatest

(Continued on page 23)

**Take a guest to the
next meeting of your
Camellia Society**

McCASKILL (Continued)

another of his fine miniature seedlings, 'Confetti', a variegated bloom, but also introduced two mutations from it, 'Confetti Pink', a pink with an occasional pink stripe edged white flower, and a solid red colored flower, 'Confetti Red'.

In addition to his japonica mutations he has also introduced two non-reticulata hybrid sports of one of his own hybrid seedling introductions, 'Creation', a cross between the japonica 'Elegans (Chandler)' and the saluenensis hybrid 'Apple Blossom'. This hybrid seedling produced two mutations which were introduced in 1959; 'Creation Blush', a bright pink flower with each petal bordered white, and 'Creation Variegated', a white flower with an occasional pink spot.

When asked on what part of the camellia bush one is most likely to find a mutation, he stated that the most likely spot would be on the lower branches of the plant, on a small spindly twig that is partially covered by a branch, hardly strong enough to carry the bloom, and barely large enough to graft.

I have been told that this is the area of the plant, just above the ground level of the plant and on the largest part of the exposed trunk, that the genetic growth patterns of the plant tend to break down and produce other variations of blooms. For those who would look for mutations, remember that it will most likely be found down low on the plant and on a spindly twig. Don't cut the lower branches of the plant! Who knows,

REMINISCENCES (Continued)

have it. We fell heavily for the japonica 'Midnight' a few years ago and now have two large plants. This year, the Park Hill introduction 'Granada' became a prized addition. Some collectors specialize in certain species, sizes or forms of camellias. I (Carey) must confess that I once harbored the idea of building a collection of camellias containing all of the known formals. Amelia talked me out of it, but I still think it would be fun.

HYBRIDIZING (Continued)

source of new introductions to date. As time goes on we believe most of the new varieties must come from hand pollinated crosses. This should be the only practical way to develop more acceptable plants and new and better color and form.

Remember you are an amateur, do your work as planned, keep your eyes (not nose) open, change your direction when the opportunity presents itself in evaluating your results, and above all remember your sense of humor. Don't get too serious or you are apt to think you really know what you are doing. Luck will surely play a big part in the final success.

The Northern California Camellia Council is looking into the possibility of holding a camellia show in San Francisco following the regular show season, which ends at Santa Rosa on March 24 and 25. It would be a joint show supported by all the societies in Northern California.

SHOW RESULTS (Continued)

Best New Reticulata Hybrid Seedling—Morris Abramson, Tulare

Best New Non-Reticulata Hybrid Seedling—W.B.N., Alfter and Freeman

Best New Sport—Sport of 'Carter's Sunburst', Dr. Leland Chow

S. & S. S. (Continued)

with my first letter. By this fair 50-50 approach, I find that most doors will open.

On all requests outside the U. S. be sure to enclose a copy of your import permit (yellow and green) tag for use in the return shipment to you. Seed and scions can be sent to you from anywhere in the world, except Ceylon; however, the restrictions on live plants are complicated, so be sure and read the Department of Agriculture rules before trying this method.

One or two scions can usually be placed in a sealed polyethylene bag and enclosed in a regular air mail letter. Larger quantities or rare materials are usually sealed in a polyethylene bag and shipped, airmail, in a small but sturdy cardboard box. Be sure to check the air mail rates to foreign countries so that your shipment will go through promptly.

A second installment of dues is payable upon receipt of a shipment. Be sure to write promptly, thanking your friend and informing him as to the condition of the material received. If damaged, you can ask for another shipment. Also, promptly send anything that he has requested. If you don't have what he wants, try and find it among your friends locally. If it is not available, be sure and let him know and see if there are substitutes that he can use.

Be sure to follow up any leads that you get. Many requests receive a negative answer, usually because the person that you wrote to does not have the plant or seed available. Many times, however, he will give you a name or names that may be able to help you. Also, I usually write again if I don't receive a reply within ninety days. I want to be sure that he has received my request and often the second request is the one that works.

My overseas friends have requested scions of eighteen different species

and many hybrids and newer varieties. Other requests that I have filled were for the "Camellia Nomenclature", Harmodin #3 (rooting hormone), camellia books and literature and propagation advice and suggestions. In return, I have received seed of *Camellia crapnelliana*, *C. hayaoi*, *C. hongkongensis*, *C. granthamiana* and *Tutcheria spectabilis*. I have also received scions of *Camellia japonica*, var. *rusticana*, var. *higo*, *C. hozanensis*, *Tutcheria*, *shinkoensis* and others.

So now that you know your A. B. C.'s, why not get your grafting stock ready and join "Seed and Scion Scouts, International."

The main thing to remember is—
PAY YOUR DUES.

TO GIB (Continued)

Tallahassee, Florida, in an article in the 1972 *Camellia Yearbook*, says that if you gib heavily you run a danger of killing the plant. It is true that the growth-bud will die back at the point where the bloom has been gibbed. However, by carefully pruning off the gibbed stem, back to the next growth-bud, one can prevent die-back on the plant.

Well, what's the answer? You and I both know that gibbing is here to stay. Gibbing does give us early blooms. And let's admit that it is a fascinating part of our hobby. But I contend that gibbing is for the Pros. If we have to have gibbed blooms in the shows let's keep them off to one side. Let's put them in a "separate tent" along with the "two-headed calf", the "bearded lady" and the other freaks. Let's not make the "duffers" have to compete with these exotics. Let's "come home America" to the unspoiled, unexploited, grandeur of the untreated camellia.

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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