

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California 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

This month's cover is a wood carving of Ben Rayner of New Zealand and the elusive "yellow" camellia. The wood carving was done by Meyer Piet and the detailed story will be found on page 20.

### INTRODUCING IN 1974

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Well we have only edited one issue but we can see the basic problem and it is interesting to note that on reviewing old literature the same problem existed 20 years ago. Listen to this: "In general to get manuscripts that I think will be of value, I have to write letters and these I classify into different types such as cajoling letters ("You know your particular information is so interesting and unusual it would be very acceptable"): begging letters, ("Oh, please do write an article for me"): formal letters to executive type authors and technical experimenters ("The Review would be very honored to publish whatever data you would be able to send"): threatening letters ("You realize it would be greatly to your advantage to submit an article"): and to those long-suffering camellia friends who know my editorial difficulties, an irresistible pal-appeal letter in the nature of an S O S that just can't be turned down." Why write articles for the CAMELLIA REVIEW, hasn't everything about camellias already been written? It's all old stuff?

If Howard Asper had been discouraged when the first crosses between retic and japonica ended in failure, where would we be today, without our many beautiful retic hybrids. The late Dr. Cutter of Berkeley continually worked for 15 or 20 years on hybridizing for a large fragrant show flower, surely his work will eventually lead to successful results. There are many, many examples but to make our point we will continue.

A hobby such as ours has a great deal to offer. In a busy turmoil world, here is a small portion of peace and tranquillity that allows an individual to relax and subsequently cope with tomorrow's problems.

Nothing ever remains stationary. Things continually change. These changes are taking place all of the time. If you recognize this and move forward by working to expand the interest in camellias and our societies we will be successful with new growth and better inter-society relations.

My wood carving society went from 500 people to over 10,000 in less than ten years. The only common ground locally is one yearly meeting and an excellent bi-monthly publication that draws people together. My eldest son belongs to NMRA (National Model Railroad Association). I joined him in their yearly meeting in San Diego and over 3000 people attended. Their common interest in railroading knits them together with their Model Railroading magazine, which is so good that it rivals full time professional publications.

What do we need for the CAMILLIA REVIEW? Your interest and then your action to get some interesting articles to me for publication. It takes several weeks to prepare an issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW for publication, so I need your articles now! I'll take them anytime I can get them, of course, the sooner the better. Don't delay, it makes my job easier and more fun if we can get ahead of the game. Here is what we need.

## Thoughts From The Editor (Cont.)

Club information on your various activities—any summer picnic meetings; special projects that are helpful to the community; helpful to elderly or sick people who are often forgotten but appreciate the kindness of beautiful flowers; and special, unusual planned meetings that are different enough for you to want some publicity; any special renown speaker on a topic that would be interesting enough for many people to want to attend. Here's your chance to get some good free publicity.

From the technical side, does your group do hybridizing? If so what are you trying to accomplish, what you spent your previous time on? Any results good or bad, what directions not to go (and the reasons), can be just as important as suggesting possible future avenues that may produce marked advances in new flowers. Any new culture methods, I know a tremendous amount of research effort went into camellia research about 20 years ago, but I am just as certain that methods have changed or need detail clarification for utilizing in today's camellia culture. What are you doing different, good or bad? Pass it on, other people would like to know.

How about a bit of humor? If we go around straight-faced all the time we are missing out. Lots of good humor abounds us. When Grady Perigan in his "Slide Show" flashed on an ersatz receipt from Nuccio's Nurseries, made out to Sergio Bracci for two dozen 'Elsie Jury' at \$10.00 each, he brought the house down with laughter since everyone knows that Sergio's 'Elsie Jury' is a consistent show winner.

I've been with the group long enough to know that plenty of humorous tricks are being played on friendly camellia buddies. How about

sharing the humor with others? These stories are excellent for our daily morale and healthy well-being, write about them and give others a chance to share the humor with you.

If you are a professional, a plant Pathologist, Scientist, Researcher, Superintendent, a Curator of the Gardens, tell us about your doings, I am certain you would like to communicate with our readers.

What are you doing to encourage new membership? What are you doing to encourage and keep new young members—separate flower contests, clinics on elementary culture such as grafting, seedlings, soil mix, etc.? Any participation in local parades (such as Temple City's annual youth camellia parade), does your society help by furnishing flowers? How about donations of plants to your community parks, arboretums? Why not let people know what you are doing? I for one am proud of our effort and want new people to know and appreciate our flowers and societies. The newly generated Huntington Show is a typical example of a beautiful show put on for the public.

Well if you have read this far you probably are a little hot under the collar by now for what I've just said, but since this is my first real editorial I had to blow off some steam. It needed saying and as Editor I felt it was my responsibility to say it. It's our magazine and it's going to take some work to sustain its present position and more work to make it truly produce the results we need. I'm willing to do my share—HOW ABOUT YOU.

P.S. Thanks to those who have written articles and an advance thank you to those who are going to write—now.

# A HYBRIDIZING REPORT-1974

Barbara Butler  
Modesto, California

If you haven't tried hybridizing camellias before, the coming season is a fine time to begin. You will find that camellia hybridizing is the most interesting part of camellia culture. Most camellia hobbyists have adequate breeding material within their own collection. The bee often seems to do a better job of providing us with new kinds of camellias than do those of us who spend a life time studying the subject. Hybridizing is merely the act of creating new plant off-spring by cross pollination. The transfer of pollen from one camellia flower to the stigma of another camellia flower offers a variety of possibilities. The ease in which the camellia hobbyist can create a better camellia surely suggests that each of us ought to become involved and begin a specialized hybridizing program in our own garden. Just zero in on one area of concentration, define the goal you wish to pursue, and preplan the necessary crosses to reach that objective. With patience, hopefulness, hunches, and luck you ought to become an equal partner with the ever creative bee.

I like to start pre-planning my yearly program during the summer by setting down on paper the number of crosses I can easily pollinate during the coming season. These selected plants are given careful feeding so that the blooms they produce the following spring will be of good size and in prime physical condition. It will be necessary in the colder locations to protect these blooms so that the embryos and pollen are not damaged by frost. A simple redwood frame, with a sheet of plastic thrown over the top to create a ceiling seems to work well. Most of my crosses are made during the last two weeks of February to the middle of March, which is the peak of our Modesto blooming season. All my seedlings have gone through two winters of 16 degree temperature. They have to be cold hardy to take my outdoor conditions. There have been no Japonica losses and less than a dozen hybrid losses to cold. My aim was to produce hardy seedlings that would withstand general landscape planting. When I began hybridizing fourteen year ago; the parentage of my first camellia collection was mostly Japonica camellias. Seedlings from these Japonica camellias first bloomed in 1973. One was a bright red 5-1/2 inch flower from 'Ville de Nantes' parentage that looks fairly promising; the rest were medium sized blooms that looked similar to what has already been introduced and so will be used for grafting stock. This year quite a few buds are set on the reticulata hybrid crosses so I will have to wait and see if a worthy bloom appears among them.

My work with Lutchuensis and other fragrant crosses has not been too encouraging. Crosses from 1973 have produced only thirteen plants. Crosses for 1974 produced twelve seed pods on 'William Hertrich' which have yet to be harvested to see how many of them will contain fertile seed. Other non-fragrant crosses produced thirty-one seeds. The bee of chance produced two hundred and twenty seeds which I have given away.

After the desired crosses are made it is a matter of feeding and watering these plants until harvest time, which generally occurs in late September for Japonicas and October for hybrids. I let the seed pod fully mature and do not remove the pod until it starts to open. The seed pod and the name tag are removed together. The seed is sorted out and allowed to dry for two days. I then crack and hull the seed and place the seed in germination jars containing dam-

pen firbark. The jar is labeled with data of the cross. Each jar top is covered with Saran Wrap and secured with a rubber band. Each jar is numbered beginning with number one, and the numbers are taped on with cellophane to the Saran top. This way one can easily check to see how soon germination takes place. As the first seed planted will be well started by the time the last seed is harvested and planted. I like to cut the tap root, and then replace the seed in the germinating jar until its roots are well branched and the shoot has sprouted. The Saran top can then be cut to let the shoot grow beyond the top of the jar. When the roots and the shoots are balanced in length the young seedlings may be put into four inch pots.

The above process takes place on my enclosed porch, which has a south window for sunlight. The temperature drops to about 65 degrees at night and rises to the low seventies during the day.\* (#1)

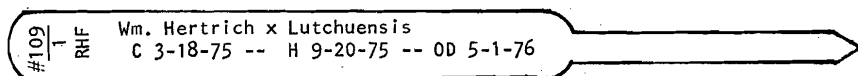
A plastic label is used to record the cross data, and placed in the four inch pot. In a separate box I keep extra labels that go with that particular cross. Thus, if there are five plants from a given cross there will be five labels to go with that cross. As an example: No.  $\frac{109}{1}$  No.  $\frac{109}{2}$  and etc. My other

symbols are:

*J* for Japonica;—*R* for Reticulata;—*HR* for Hybrid Reticulata;—*HNR* for Hybrid Non-Reticulata;—*F* for Fragrance;—*Hi* for Higo.

*The Date of the Cross* becomes—*C.* 3-18-75; Harvest—*H* 9-30-75; Outdoor Planting - *OD* 5-1-76.

The final label would look something like this on the front side:



The back side:



A soft leaded pencil works best to mark the plastic label. These penciled markings will withstand the elements for ten years. This labeling can be done well ahead of time; as can the recording of this data in your record book.

I also keep a planting chart to match the order in which the plants are planted in the outdoor planting box. This chart is most helpful after several years time when a plant loss may have occurred, and there is a blank space in the planting box.

I designed a rough-sawn redwood bottomless box 30 inches wide, by 48 inches long, by 12 inches deep. Quarter inch galvanized heavy screen is stapled to the bottom. The box is set upon red brick, one at each corner and several across the middle of the box to support the bottom and to keep surface roots from entering the box. In April I placed a three inch layer of acorn

*(Continued on next page)*

size bark in the bottom of the box for drainage; the rest of the box is filled with well-aged firbark to which blood meal and iron sulphate has been added. The box is watered thoroughly and allowed to rest for a month. During that time the box is watered as needed to keep the firbark damp. The first of May is my official planting time. I can plant 80 plants to the box, a row of eight plants across the width of the box, and a row of ten plants down the length of the box. Evenly mark the rows using two sticks as planting guides. Now comes the careful time. Using one pot of plants at a time, carefully remove the seedlings from the four inch pot. Plant in marked rows across the box placing the correct label behind each plant. Smooth and level the firbark and then proceed to the next row. When all seedlings are planted, water well to settle the plants and to get rid of any air pockets.

My fertilizer program consists of light monthly feeding of blood meal and iron during the spring and summer, with 0-10-10 from September through March. Now it is just a matter of time and providing yearly care for your seedlings until they reward you with their first blooms.

When your seedlings start to bloom is the time to become very selective about saving any of them. One has to be ruthless and cull out the majority of them for use as grafting stock after observing them for two or three seasons.

There is a great temptation to keep all your original creations. Don't do it unless you expect to carry your crosses beyond the first generation.

The time has come, I think, for all hybridists to formulate some way to reach an agreement on what is worthy to be registered as a new introduction and what should not be registered. We now have so many look-a-likes on our hybrid show tables that without the entry card it would be hard to name one from another. When all these new flowers reach the Nomenclature stage it will have over taken us. And the buying public and camellia society members will be less than happy with their purchase. Selectivity is the key word in any camellia hybridizing program.

\*(#1) \*\*CAMELLIA REVIEW—November 1970 Vol. 32 No. 10 page 7.

## **SCCS "GIB" SHOW**

**Grady L. Perigan**  
Show Chairman

Each new Camellia season in Southern California starts with the Fall Show more commonly known as the "Gib Show." As most of you are aware, the show originated to display the early blooms that are the result of the use of gibberellic acid. However, this does not eliminate the normal early blooming varieties. If you are a "gib" enthusiast, get out the tools and start immediately. If you are not, we have ample room for the natural blooms in the show.

The show will be held inside at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. The weather is not a factor, the placement of blooms is easy and convenient. This is an ideal show for the beginners to become initiated and build confidence.

We welcome everyone with camellias to exhibit, so make your plans for December 14 at the Arboretum and kick off a new season.



# THIRD ANNUAL HUNTINGTON GARDENS SHOW JANUARY 11 & 12, 1975

Milt Schmidt

In January 1975 the Southern California Camellia Society, with the cooperation of Myron Kinnach, Curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens and his staff, will hold its third annual show in the loggia in front of the Art Gallery at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino.

It would not be amiss to say that the good will generated in former years by the work and contributions of the Camellia Test Garden committee of the Southern California Camellia Society was responsible for the endorsement in 1973 of the first camellia show sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society held at the Gardens on January 13 & 14, 1973. The success of that first show so pleased the Huntington Gardens people that it was announced that a show could be held annually in January.

The objectives of this show are primarily educational. Our aim is to familiarize large numbers of people with camellias and their culture. Attendance at the two previous shows have included a heavy percentage of young people, which is the group that the camellia societies hope to attract to camellias.

Your Show Co-chairmen believe that some of the history of the former Camellia Test Garden committee and its activities will be of interest to today's membership, few of whom may be familiar with that very fruitful project. A search of the files of the Society reveal that the Society's interest in and cooperation with the Huntington Botanical Gardens goes back into the early 1940s and the World War II era.

In 1944, at the suggestion of Mrs. Carlo E. Galli, this Society, through

its President, Dr. David W. McLean, proposed to Dr. William Hertrich, then Curator of the Huntington Botanical Garden, that a Camellia Test Garden be established on the grounds of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino. There was embodied in this proposal an offer by our Society to supply scions of rare varieties, to be grafted on large seedlings already growing in the Garden, and also to provide plants to be set out thereon. This offer was accepted by Dr. Hertrich in a letter dated August 4, 1944. A committee was appointed, consisting of Mrs. Carlo E. Galli, Chairman; David W. McLean and Robert Casamajor, Secretary, to represent the Southern California Camellia Society in this project and organize its activities, in cooperation with Dr. Hertrich, who was named Director. The name California Camellia Test Garden as adopted and the committee began its search for the material. Today we are indebted to Mr. Casamajor for what we have learned of the doings and accomplishments of this committee.

Dr. J. Walter Reeves, Chairman of the Camellia Test Garden Committee at the time, wrote a report in the Official Bulletin of February, 1948. He wrote that the purpose or goal of the Society in participating in the establishment and continuance of the Test Garden were compatible with the objects and purposes of the corporation as declared in its articles and its by-law:

A. To stimulate and extend appreciation of camellias.

B. To encourage and promote the science and art of camellia culture.

C. To develop, acquire and disseminate information concerning the

*(Continued on Next Page)*

camellia and its origins, history and culture.

D. To promote uniformity in camellia nomenclature, and clarification and standardization of varietal classification of camellias.

The Huntington Gardens Show's basic objectives are enumerated in items A, B, and C above.

Prior to 1918 Dr. William Hertrich had planted many camellias in the grounds of the Huntington estate. These camellias grew and produced seed which were germinated and the resultant seedlings planted in the canyon at the westerly end of the Huntington properties. In 1918 a shipment of plants came from Japan which were likewise planted. These camellias continued to grow and in 1944 there were seventy-five varieties of *Camellia Japonica*, one *Camellia Reticulata* and five *Camellia Sasanqua* growing in the Gardens before the Test Garden was established. During that year thirty scions were donated by SCCS for grafting onto large seedling

plants. In 1945, fifty-nine scions and seventy-five plants were donated. In 1946, thirty-six plants were purchased by the Society from Test Garden funds. Three plants were donated by non-members, and forty-one plants were purchased by the Huntington Botanical Gardens from their own funds. At that time this made a grand total of 325 varieties in the Garden, including a few duplicates. Chairman Ann Galli's report "From The Huntington Test Garden" in the August, 1947 Official Bulletin states "About 250 grafts were made— We also had several gifts of larger plants, and scions of *Camellia Saluenensis* from England, which is proving to be quite different from the one called *Camellia Saluenensis* locally." She also reported that three members, all Directors, of the Garden Committee of the Friends of the Huntington visited the Test Garden. They were amazed and interested in what they saw and a letter was sent to the Chairman of the Test Garden. The Friends of the Huntington were anxious to cooperate with the Camellia Society in working out



Displays at 2nd Annual Huntington Show



**One of many beautiful settings at the Huntington Show**

continued and extended plantings and expressed their deep appreciation of the help from the Society. A substantial sum of money was immediately given Dr. Hertrich for the purchase of new plants.

Most everyone connected with some camellia society had heard or read the story of the original group of Yunnan Reticulatas which were imported from China in 1950 through the efforts of the late Mr. R. S. Peer. Paragraph 7 of the Minutes of the Directors Meeting March 15, 1950 reads: A letter from Mr. Tourje, Secretary of the Garden Committee, was received advising that the camellia plants from China had arrived and had been installed in the Garden. The letter included a recommendation from Director Peer that Mr. Ralph Dean, Gardens Department, Hong Kong, who was instrumental in getting these plants properly shipped, be made an honorary member of the Society. It was ordered that he be

given a complimentary membership. —The net cost of these plants as of June 12, 1950 was \$296.71.

If there are sufficient blooms available in January 1975, we hope to feature a display of the original Yunnan Reticulatas at the Huntington Gardens Show.

In 1950, also, the Southern California Camellia Society honored William Hertrich and his wife Margarete by creating the William Hertrich Award for the most outstanding, outdoor grown Camellia Japonica mutant, and the Margarete Hertrich Award for the most outstanding, outdoor grown Camellia Japonica seedling. The First Annual Camellia Display at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, in January 1973 featured a display of blooms of all the varieties that have been named winners of the William Hertrich and Margarete Hertrich Awards.

Today there are more than 1,500 camellias in Huntington Gardens, in-

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## "A CAMELLIA GROWER DEPARTS . . . TA TA FOR NOW!"

Howard E. Burnette

8612 Fiesta Way

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

After 28 wonderful years in sunny California, during which we spent 23 years in growing camellias, guess what? We were transferred to Indiana. Cliche' after cliche' passes through the mind as we write this aloft in the truly 'friendly skies of United' remembering that as near as last May that we said, "They could not pay me enough money to move back there!" Being made Chief Engineer of the Fort Wayne plant of International Harvester somehow caused us to reconsider.

We not only left a host of wonderful friends behind and gave up a pretentious collection of cymbidium orchids and camellia plants. To say that we have had a hectic week would be putting it mildly. Howard E., Jr. (Ed) was married on Sunday, August 25 to lovely Merle Murchison of Castro Valley. After a reception of some 350 people, the movers sent in their packers on the 26th, the movers loaded their van on the 27th, we shipped our cars on the 28th and here we are on the 29th winging our way to Chicago and Ft. Wayne. Our son, Brian will return in January to attend UCLA.

What started out to be 12 or 15 plants grew into several cartons as the agriculture inspector made his way through our horticulture selections. The Higo camellias had to go as they are in priceless Japanese pots, as are several bonsai plants including a Washington Palm. Many house plants and cactus species also made the journey. What about camellias? Well we selected one of Frank Pursel's crosses (C. Retic 'Crimson Robe' X C. Lutchuensis) mainly because the Northern California C. S. Research

Committee had run a chromosome count to prove that the cross had been made (57); five or six small C. Retic seedlings were selected; C. Retic 'Arbutus Gum' with a seed pod the size of an apple; a couple of new grafts were packed—C. Retic 'Howard Asper Var.' among them we could not overlook some cymbidiums and selected miniatures which should do well. By the time the movers had packed our many plants, bonsai containers, numerous bags of bark, fertilizer and soil mix, they thought that we were moving half of Castro Valley. We can seriously say that, "I left my Heart in SAN FRANCISCO!"

Considering what our plants must tolerate between Castro Valley, California and Fort Wayne, Indiana, we will be lucky if they all survive. The Fort Wayne residence should be available for occupancy on August 30th, so we can water down our plants and have a place for our dog, 'Buffie' until our furniture and belongings are arranged. If the plants don't survive what excuse shall we use to erect a greenhouse? Protection should be available no later than the first of November. How does one adjust from a 350 day growing season to one of 120 days? Well, you see we were both raised in Ohio, just east of Fort Wayne so the weather will be no surprise; however, the horticulture hobby was developed after we were located in California. The answer to the above question will have to await a period of trial and error. Perhaps some of our camellia friends will supply us with some of the seeds from this year's crop for the trail, while we endeavor to side-step the error!

*(Continued on page 11)*

# A CABIN IN THE MOUNTAINS

Harold E. Dryden

Some of Bill Woodroof's friends wondered as his day of retirement approached what he would do with his newly found idle time. They reasoned: Bill is not the kind of person who can sit in a rocking chair under a tree and watch the world go around. How will he take to retirement?

Then a couple of years or so ago Bill began to talk about a cabin in the mountains, one that he would build to Barbara's desires. "She wants a place where the grandchildren can go," Bill said, "and with this extra time that I will have I can do all the finish work." The latter statement didn't startle anybody because Bill is known to be a master craftsman with tools. So the work on the cabin started. Bill regularly drove up the grade on Fridays and returned Sunday evening. He passed by some camellia shows and other camellia events in his eagerness to finish the job. Neither rain or snow could deter him.

As work progressed, Bill dropped statements to his friends that suggested the cabin would not be of the image that Abraham Lincoln's biographers have made famous. Wife Barbara is an antique fancier, and Bill told how she was insisting that the "cabin" be authentic with respect to the architecture of early days that are associated with quality antique furniture. Some of these desires posed problems, but Bill persisted and according to his running reports he was able to meet Barbara's wishes. Completion of the project was reported at the end of the summer. "I wonder what it is like" said those who had had the privilege of hearing the progress reports during the two years of planning and construction.

Some of them had the opportunity of finding out on Sunday, September

22nd when Bill and Barbara invited the Board of Directors of Pacific Camellia Society and a few strays to spend the day at their Big Bear mountain home, the "cabin" on which Bill had been working all this time. It sure ain't no cabin. One parks his automobile in front of a stately two-story New England style home that is painted in dark brown stain with white trim. On both sides of the colonial front door are carriage lamps (Bill told how much time it took to locate them.) A vaseline glass chandelier hangs in the entrance hall. Inside are 2400 square feet of space with three bed rooms upstairs and two bedrooms and commodious living quarters down stairs. Braided rugs are on the plank floors and on the stairs. The predominant color inside is Barbara's favorite yellow. One could dream a little and imagine that he were back a couple of hundred years as he sees what Bill and Barbara have fashioned. What started out as an idea of a cabin has turned out to be an attractive, roomy, livable home in the mountains, for adults as well as for the Woodroof grandchildren for whom Barbara wanted the house built.

## A camellia grower departs (cont.)

As our plane is now over the great plain states, we will soon be drifting into our Chicago O'Hare holding pattern, and our mind is reflecting on the many years of fond camellia memories we will always treasure. These recollections will give birth to some foresight—perhaps it will be a short time before we meet again—at some ACS function in the deep south, or a business trip to some camellia area! In any event, drop us a card or letter and we'll be glad to hear from you.

# DESCANSO GARDEN'S TRANQUIL BEAUTY

George Lewis

Supt. Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens, nestled between the San Rafael and San Gabriel mountains has always been noted for its beauty and famous Camellia grove. Looking at the crop of flower buds, and knowing that we have had a bountiful supply of water all season, I must say that we are in for another outstanding year of blooms. The first blooms of the season are the Camellia sasanquas. They are a dainty little fairy-like flower, and someone has tabbed them the wild rose Camellias. Their delicate colors of pink, rose, white, maroon and red, offer a wide range of colors to select from. The sasanquas will bloom well into November. When they begin to phase out, the japonicas will come into bloom. The japonicas, by far make up the largest planting at the Gardens. There are several hundred varieties among the Camellia grove. The Camellia reticulatas are the last to bloom; a very impressive flower. Flowers from these plants could measure eight inches across. The gardens have ten different varieties of reticulatas.

Camellias, native to China and Japan and named for the Austrian Monk Kamel, are recognized for their exotic beauty and quality. The myriad of color may be enjoyed while aboard the tram, or just leisurely meandering along a winding foot path. Each year the Camellias reach their peak of bloom late in February or early March. At this time, the Southern California Camellia Council puts on the ever-popular Camellia Show.

Homeowners and Camellia fanciers gather from all over the Southland bringing their entries to be displayed in the Show. The Grove of Camellias at Descanso offers a wonderful backdrop for this great Winter spectacle, unequal in the State.

In addition to the Camellias, there are other points of interest and other flowers to see. Thousands of primroses, daffodils, and Tulips may be found in well cultivated beds throughout the oak grove, along with Azaleas and Rhododendrons. The annual flower beds bordering the lush green, well manicured lawn areas are always a sight to see. The coming season will feature flower beds planted with calendulas, snapdragons, primroses, and iceland poppies.

A lengthy bed of ground covers, includes 3000 plants that will be seen for the first time in bloom at Descanso, just south of the rose garden boundary. The ground covers are Osteospermums, Arctothecas and two species of Gazanias. All are Los Angeles County Arboretum introductions.

The rose garden is very beautiful when in bloom. There are 6000 rose bushes, including species and varieties from all over the world. The rose garden is divided into two sections; the old fashioned and the hybrid teas in the modern rose garden.

The modern rose garden features at least one representative of the All America Rose Selections Award Winners (A.A.R.S.), beginning with the first award in 1940, through 1974. A rose pruning demonstration is sponsored each year by Descanso Gardens.

There are two lakes at Descanso, which are perfect spots for the naturalist and the biologist who often come to study the ecology of the water. A bird observation station is located on the edge of the lake. This is a very unique setting, because an observer is able to watch the land birds and the water fowl from the same setting.



**One of many beautiful spots in Descanso Gardens.**

There are many educational programs in gardening for adults and children at Descanso. Also, there is a gardening class for handicapped children. In cooperation with the school districts of California, conducted tours through the gardens and the nature trails are led by the tour guides. The gardens are also available for other educational and cultural events.

The Hospitality House serves as an art gallery. The Camellia Society and the Bonsai Society have their headquarters at Descanso. The Descanso Guild, Inc. is here to assist in the horticultural development of the gardens. So for beauty, culture, and tranquility, pay a visit to Descanso Gardens.

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### **S.C.C.S. DUES**

The S. C. C. S. Secretary advises that annual dues of \$7.50 are now payable for membership in the Southern California Camellia Society. In addition to membership in the Society, the dues also include six (6) issues of CAMELLIA REVIEW plus a "Camellia Nomenclature" book every second year. Payment should be sent to the address of the Secretary shown on the inside front cover of CAMELLIA REVIEW.

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# PLANTING SEEDS-FOR THE BEGINNER

Rudy Moore  
Huntington Botanical Gardens  
San Marino, California

Our first article dealt with starting a camellia collection. Now, I would like to talk to the beginner about growing seeds. This is a hobby within a hobby. Almost every camellia enthusiast should try their hand at growing seeds some time or other so you may just as well start now instead of later. This way, about four years or so from now, you can be looking forward to seeing your first seedling bloom. Who knows! You may discover the most beautiful variety of all and, even if you don't, you'll have plenty of understock to graft new varieties.

There are several reasons why we grow seedlings. I guess the main reason would be to get new varieties although some hobbyists and growers grow them for understock. *C. sasanqua* seeds would be better for understock because of their more vigorous root system. If your main interest is new varieties, then you should grow plenty of *C. japonica* seeds. For the larger and more exciting type flowers, you could try your hand with *C. reticulata* seeds. These are somewhat harder to grow than the *C. sasanqua* or *C. japonica* seeds and, as a rule, do not make very good grafting stock plus the seeds are hard to come by. Therefore, I wouldn't recommend these for the beginner (maybe the second year after you are an old pro).

Camellia seeds can be purchased from the Southern California Camellia Society at their meetings or can be ordered from the address on the inside front cover of this Review. You can also purchase seeds from the culture demonstrations at the different camellia shows.

Next comes germinating the seeds and the following is a step by step

guide to follow the first year or so. When you select your seeds, you should also get a clean jar or plastic ice cream container (about one dozen seeds for a pint size). Then, get some peat moss and soak it in water until its wet through. Remove the peat, squeezing out all excess water, leaving it damp. You should always do this when using peat moss. Now, mix 50-50 with sponge rox. This helps aerate the peat so it doesn't become soggy and rot the seeds before they can germinate. Next, mix about 6 seeds per handful of mix and put in container until about 2/3 full. Cover, and place in propagation bench in the greenhouse. If you don't have a greenhouse, the next best place would be around your hot water tank or some area where they would stay warm. They should be kept at round 65-75°F.

Check the seeds after about 2 weeks. They should have started germinating by this time as the usual germinating period is 2 to 8 weeks. When the seeds germinate, they will have a small, white tap root. When it becomes about one inch long, take the seed out and pinch 1/8 inch off the very end and then plant. Repeat this process each week until they have all been planted.

To plant, you should get some 4 or 6 inch pots or a wooden flat about 5 inches in depth depending on how many seeds you are planting. Fill the pots or flat to about one inch from top with a light weight mix such as equal parts of peat moss, sandy loam, fir bark or forest humus and sponge rox or coarse sand. This mix will give your seedlings a chance to form a vigorous root system the first year. Dampen all medium before mixing. Do not pack but tamp the mix firmly



into the container you have chosen. Then, using a pencil point or sharp object, make a hole 3/4 inch deep in the mix. Place the tap root (that you have pinched) in the hole and tamp soil around the root. Put no more than 6 seeds in a 4 inch pot or no more than 10 in a 6 inch pot. Water lightly with a spray and return to the greenhouse or a well protected place (away from direct sunlight). In a few days the tap root will callus and start to form small feeder roots. They probably won't need much water until the roots start using it up but keep a check on them and water when soil starts to dry out.

When 4 to 5 leaves appear on the stems, you can give them about 40% filtered sunlight. This would also be a good time to start feeding. Use a Liquid fish 6-4-2 or Liquid nox 10-10-5, 1/2 strength. Feed once a month through September. You should start re-potting your plants into individual pots the first cool weather in October. In the next article, we will go into this subject in more detail and also review the art of grafting camellias.

#### SUMMARY:

1. Start germination process as soon as possible after seed ripens.
2. Place seeds in container of 50% damp peat moss and 50% sponge rox.
3. Place seeds in greenhouse or around hot water heater.
4. If possible, maintain heat at 65-75°F.
5. Examine contents in two weeks.
6. Remove germinated seeds having tap root of one inch and return all remaining seeds and examine each week.
7. Pinch off the tap root at one inch and place in 3/4 inch hole in soil, tamp soil around root, leaving seed above the soil. Water lightly.
8. Return seeds to greenhouse or well protected area.
9. Check your seeds every few days, keeping them damp but never wet.

10. Start feeding when 4 to 5 leaves have formed on the stem.

11. If seeds cannot be used immediately, keep in a cool place.

## THE AUSTRALIANS ARE COMING!

Willard F. (Bill) Geoetz

One of the very delightful events of this season for Southern California camellia folks will happen January 21, 22 and 23, 1975, when we will be visited by forty-five wonderful camellia hobbyists from Australia.

Full details will appear in the January issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW,

#### SCCS Exhibitors

The Southern California Camellia Society have a cut-camellia blossom exhibit at each of their monthly meetings. Each month the exhibitors receive so many points, depending on the quality, etc. of the bloom and at the end of the year a tabulation is made, with the person receiving the most points being presented with an award.

The following is a list of the top ten Exhibitors and the number of points received by each during the 1973-74 year:

<i>Exhibitor</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
Leone & Abe Summerson	95
Sergio Bracci	79
B. M. Pace	41
Grady Perigan	38
Lou & Harold Rowe	35
Mel Gum	32
Al Krueger	22
Frank Reed	20
Lee Gaeta	19
Dr. F. H. Mowrey	17

During the course of the year we had about forty exhibitors, for the coming year we sure would like it if we could get more of you to exhibit your blossoms.

## HOBO JUNGLE JUBILEE

"Rags" (Helen) Augis

They came from all directions the "Kings" of the Camellia Roads and their "Traveling Ladies." Carefree and light of spirit as the winds that drifted over Hobo Haven they gathered exchanging tales of their Camellia travels. "Goodtime Charlie" and "Box car Maggie" (Charles and Marge O'Malley) presided over the festivities.

"Preacher Parker" (our own Alton B.) and "Wandering Woody" Passenetti were among the early arrivals. Hobos like these two you just don't see anymore. They were the "real thing" complete to the dusty old bed roll and I.W.W. "Angler" Bernhardt and his best girl "Handy Dandy" (Emma) arrived with a pail full of goodies from where who knows . . . that's the code of the road, you know.

Seen around the "jungle bums" kit-

chen sniffing the aroma of real Hobo food were "Tony the Tiger" (Pinheiro) and his "Tiger Lil" (Mary Jo), "Hot Rod Willie Lockwood," "Ace" Ashuckian, "Samson" Ehrhart, "Little Harve" (Morton), "Rocky and Stoney" Caputi, (Helen and Armand) and "Travellin' Gal" (Kay Hallstone).

Exchanging stories of the road with Little Jack Mandarich, "The Molar Mauler" (Fred Hietman), "Go-Go Ginny" Rankin and the "Gandy Dancer" (Ken Thompson) were "The Kansas Kid" (Mel Gum), "Smiley" (Winnie Wadsworth), "Tie Jivin' Jude" (Nuccio), and his "Little old Lady from Altadena" (Bonnie). These wayfarers from South of the San Gabriel Mountains came to add to the fun and festivities.



Attending the Hobo Jungle Jubilee are "Wandering Woody" Passenetti, left, and "Preacher (Alton B.) Parker."



Friends and guests as pictured at the Hobo Jungle Jubilee, seated in front, "Rags" (Helen) Augis, back row, left to right, "Big John" Augis; "The Kansas Kid" Mel Gum; "Smiley" Winnie Wadsworth; "Little Old Lady from Altadena" Bonnie Nuccio; and "Tie Jivin' Jude" Julius Nuccio.

Gathered around the Hobo "Lemonade" (?) Stand were the "Salinas Flash" (Bob Jones), "Kool Kat Kellas," "Dude" Holtzman, "Big John" Augis, "Bandido Barry" (Hazelip), and "Easy Rider Ken" (Hallstone).

The "Ladies of the Roads" "Sugar Babe" Haitman, "Kewpie Doll" Holtzman, "Fancy Nancy" Mandarich and "Happy" Ashuckian were deep in conversation as to just what to wear to Massee Lane this fall.

"Rovin' Ron" Kellogg and wife "Raffles" (Bev) were seen enjoying the Camellia Gardens at Hobo Haven, 65 Robles Dr., Woodside. Also checking the buds were "Happy Hooligan" (Cathy Morton) "Scooter Dodo" (Doris Thompson), and "Rollin Stone Betty" (Kellas).

Selected to the Best Dressed List by applause were "Cinders" McGregor (Alice), "Hi-Jinx Ehrhart" (Pat), the

"LOL from Altadena" (Bonnie), "Wandering Woody" Passenetti and "Preacher Parker." By the way, the Preacher arrived in a new White Cadillac with a young lady (Marilyn Batt). Doug was unable to attend due to a "run-down," that is, car versus motorcycle.

As the summer moon ascended the Camellia Hobos filled with the contentment that only good friendship, delicious food and 80 proof can bring again hit the dusty trails. Each to his own private "hangout." There to wait until next July for the gathering again of the Camellia Clan.

Note: Each year the Camellia Clan gathers with a predominating theme. 1972 was a Indian Tribal; 1973 found us at a Luau; this year a Hobo Jubilee; next year . . . who knows what?

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### Southern California Camellia Society

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Arcadia, Ca 91006

## 1974 CROP — CAMELLIA SEEDS

### JAPONICA SEEDS

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

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

### SASANQUA SEEDS

Sasanquas are excellent for grafting understock. They grow faster and have good roots. **\$1.50** per 100 (minimum order)

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### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 717

Arcadia, Ca 91006

## CAMELLIA CLIPPINGS

Bill Donnan

A Show Judge looks at a FIM-BREATA and here are the thoughts that cross his mind: "OH MORTAL WE, WHO GAZE ON THEE SHALL IN THY SUBLIME BEAUTY SEE A LESSON IN TRANQUILLITY."

If you hear someone say "evergreen" you immediately think of a pine tree or a christmas tree—but—a camellia is an evergreen!

Watch out for school children—especially those driving cars.

A man had an acre of camellias, all nice plantings. He had lots of beautiful flowers but he got few, if any seeds. One day, a stray mother cat had kittens in a corner of the camellia patch. After that he found an abundance of seeds, so many, in fact, that he set up a thriving business selling them! Why? The answer is simple! The cats caught the mice which were eating his seeds.

There is an old proverb in Japan that says: Camellias are sweet like daughters; tender like mothers; and gentle like grandmothers.

"Only God can make a tree" . . . But man can save 17 of them with every ton of newsprint salvaged from refuse or recycled. Also, recycled newsprint can be resalvaged over and over again, resulting in even greater conservation.

The trouble with success is that the formula is much the same as the one for a nervous breakdown.

Did you ever get a "Charlie Horse" in the calf of your leg after working all day in your camellia beds? A tablespoon of vinegar swallowed, will stop a Charlie Horse instantly. The same remedy will also stop hiccups. Both afflictions are muscular spasms; the vinegar is reported to be a mild shock to the nervous system.

All North American azaleas are deciduous and all North American rhododendrons are evergreen.

One advantage of being married is that you can't do something stupid without hearing about it.

In 1957 the Temple City Camellia Society introduced a new Division in their Annual Camellia Show held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. "MINIATURES." This small beginning has now spread throughout California and most of the camellia shows have a miniature division. Also there has been an increased interest in the "boutonniere" sized blooms. Today there are upwards of 100 different varieties of miniatures being grown in our gardens.

A smile increases your face value.

Did you know in Japan, camellia leaves are dried and smoked as a substitute for tobacco leaves?

The nickle and the penny aren't much good these days, but the dime makes a good screw driver!

There is an unbroken column of water in every living camellia plant extending from the deepest root to the tip of the leaf on the highest twig.

There have been a great number of field trials and observational tests on various camellia species and varieties trying to find the ones which will bloom successfully in the colder climates. In fact, the American Camellia Yearbook has contained an article each year for the last 10 or more years, listing those varieties which, and I quote—"bloom successfully regardless of how cold, down to 4 degrees. Their bud, tight or swollen, hold back and are usually unhurt. They bloom normally in our severest winters." At the top of the list are, in order of cold-hardyness: 'Bernice Boddy;' 'Shin-Shioko;' 'T. K. Varigated;' 'Willie Hite;' 'Ida Weisner;'

*(Continued on page 22)*

# A HISTORY OF THE CAMELLIA IN JAPAN

Satoru Ogisu  
President  
Inazawa Nurseries

Among ancient Japan's plant resources, the camellia was one of the most precious. Roughly 1200 year ago, entranced by its beauty in its natural setting, people began to transplant the camellia to parks and gardens. While the original interest in it was as a flowering tree, when flower viewing became the fashion the camellia really came into its own and its serious cultivation began.

In the Tokugawa Era (around 1610) the collection of many varieties of ornamental trees, shrubs and flowers became a popular pastime among the samurai and priestly classes. In the Kyoto area—the seat of government at the time—the fad also spread among the upper classes. Later, when Edo (present-day Tokyo) became the center of government, much of this activity moved there also and the cultivation and training of ornamental varieties for the new gardens flourished. As a result, the number of variations increased, cultivation and reproduction techniques were sharpened and camellia displays gained enthusiastic audiences. It was, in a word, a camellia golden age. It goes without saying that devotees of flower arrangement (*Ikebana*) and the tea ceremony were also influenced. The camellia became a raw material for Ikebaana, while varieties such as the *Shiratama* (White Bead) and various miniatures—whose chaste, simple beauty lent themselves to the tea ceremony room - became much sought after. Over the years, gradually these values came to be appreciated and cherished by the people in general.

In the Meiji Era (about 1870) a stringent frugality policy, dictated by a period of recession, banned camellia

development and the importation of western flowering plants. As a result, little by little camellia cultivation and enjoyment became a lost art and the number dedicated to it decreased.

Later, in World War II another disaster struck. Because of war conditions, throughout the country all land devoted to camellias had to be converted to food production. This resulted, of course, in the loss of many variations

Once the war had ended and, recovering from the post-war recession, the people were rebuilding their lives, a new camellia passion suddenly burst forth. Simultaneously, on the international level, camellia cultivation and interest flourished also in many countries. Truly, a second golden age of camellias had dawned.

In 1953 the Japan Camellia Society was founded to promote camellia knowledge with similar cultivation and an interchange of knowledge with similar societies in other lands was zealously pursued. Today, throughout the country, many camellia research societies have been established, foreign seeds and scions have been imported and camellia exhibitions are well received. And the idea that camellias need a 'loving cultivation' has day by day taken root. Now, less than thirty years after the end of World War II, camellia gardens have become a part of life for many people.

## 3rd Annual Huntington (Cont.)

cluding half the known cultivars in the world and the nineteen rare *Camellia Reticulata* imported from the interior of China in 1950.

# A CAMELLIA STORY IN THREE DIMENSIONS

Meyer Piet

I've been told that one of the most photographed camellia flower in New Zealand is the one I have created. Since I (with plenty of help from others) expect to help in many future, sensational introductions I'll tell you the story of my first new introduction.

I first met Ben Rayner (and his lovely wife Wynne) of New Zealand on a planned trip to visit Disneyland in February, 1971. We met at Wilber and Helen Foss' house and the first time I saw Ben, I thought of doing a wood carving of him.

I'll have to tell you that my other hobby is wood carving. I specialize in western character carvings of cowboys and other characters of Connipitton, a fictitious old western town created by Stan Lynde. Stan has been creating the goings on of his Wild West in the Sunday comic pages for many years.

After reading the late Andy Anderson's book on "How to Carve Characters in Wood," I decided to revive a boyhood interest I had developed in carving Boy Scout neckerchief slides, and try my skill at creating character carvings. My first carvings (and I keep them as reminders) were reasonably good (my opinion) but it soon became obvious to me that I did not have the artistic ability to do the necessary preliminary work in preparing the patterns necessary to improve my work. Now mechanical drawing has been my life work, so there was no deficiency in thinking in three planes but I simply did not have any experience or training in human or animal anatomy or the ability to gracefully transmit these thoughts onto paper. Unfortunately a mechanical draftsman too often "squares away everything in sight" and has no artistic flow of lines so necessary in other forms of art.

After my first dozen or so carvings were completed, I realized that my work had reached a plateau that denoted no improvement. I recognized the deficiency and went to my good friend and associate Dean Giles, who is an excellent commercial artist and illustrator. At my urging Dean criticized my work and showed me how to improve it from the artist standpoint. Dean, who does no wood carving himself, then prepared a drawing of a character of the Englishman drinking tea in my "Cannibal" scene. When I did the carving and completed the scene of the Englishman—seated in the boiling pot, calmly drinking his noon tea, while being boiled for dinner by the two hungry cannibals, I realized that if I stuck with Dean's suggestions and worked hard at improving my skill that my finished work would continue to improve.

So Dean and I planned some larger scenes, such as our "Western Gambling" scene (9 figures) and our "Rodeo" scene (5 people, 1 steer), we won group awards and the "Rodeo" scene won "Best of Show" at the International Wood Carvers Conference at the Greater Mississippi Valley Fair.

After my work improved I sent several of my single character carvings to Stan Lynde, the author of the comic strip, and his kind comments and letters are treasured by me. To quote Stan:

"While your choice of my characters—and your fidelity to their detail—is most complimentary to me and my work, I've found new angles to the characters through your carvings that I myself hadn't been aware of, and for this and for your generosity, again, my thanks."

Continuing to use Dean's marvelous drawings, done from Stan Lynde's comic strip, my work improved to the

position where we can plan and do character carvings of actual people.

Now back to our original story, when I saw Ben I immediately thought what a perfect character carving he would make. During the dinner portion of the Annual ACS meeting at the Huntington Hotel, hosted by the Los Angeles Camellia Council, my wife and I sat at the same table with Ben and Wynne, needless to say I learned more of Ben and camellia culture in New Zealand. Ben has been at it for a long time and I had only been in camellia work a few years. The next time I saw Ben he was the principal speaker at the Pacific Camellia Society meeting. His talks were very interesting and informative. Here are a few highlights from it:

“Ben’s main interest now is in growing seedlings. He plants large quantities of seeds and does a considerable amount of hand pollinating. He believes that the camellia of the future will be the results of japonica X reticulata crosses which will combine the foliage of the japonica and the flowers of the reticulata. He is hopeful, also, of obtaining both yellow and blue colors in camellias. He now has a seed pod on ‘Brushfield’s Yellow,’ a flower that has more yellow in it than ‘Gwenneth Morey’ has. The present flower really is not yellow enough to say that it is yellow. Ben hopes, however, that with second and succeeding generations, a more prominent yellow will develop.”

“Ben told of an experience that can happen to dairy farmers when they use some of their land for camellias. To use his words: “I showed to Wilber Foss when he was out our way, a new area of about an acre and a half that I am planting with reticulata seedlings. I started planting the area last April and finished sometime in June. We ran out of retic seedlings and had to finish it off with japonica.

The whole area looked lovely with walks and everything to make it look nice. I went up in July and spent all day mowing the grass. I went back to the house, had tea, and was pleased with myself. The next morning my wife, who always is the first up to get us a cup of tea to get us going, looked outside and called me to come, saying the cows were in the garden. There were 130 cows in the garden. In what had been a beautiful garden the day before, there wasn’t a leaf to be seen anywhere. Camellias that had been three feet high were uprooted and some had completely disappeared. I think we are the only people in the world who have had their camellias pruned, disbudded and fertilized all in one evening. The cows had been there long enough that one had even calved there, she liked the place so much.”

It was then that the idea of a “scene” or “set” started to take shape in my mind. I had taken my camera along and told Ben I would like to do a character carving of him and subsequently took the necessary pictures to aid Dean and I in planning the final carving set. It took about six drawings and they are beautiful works of art in their own rights. Dean and I decided to have Ben holding the elusive Yellow, prize winning camellia behind his back, to surprise you, only to be eaten in turn by one of his prize cows. Yes it’s on the cover and I hope you like it. I asked Wilber Foss for pictures of New Zealand cows, of Ben’s herd, but Wilber did not have any pictures of Ben’s cows but he did have one of New Zealand cows, so I used Wilber’s picture for our patterns. I found out later Ben’s cows are different but one can only try to be accurate.

The original patterns were transferred to blocks of four inch by four

*(Continued on page 22)*

## A Camellia Story (Cont.)



inch bass wood for the figure and a large piece of bass wood for the cow. A home made carving knife is used for 99% of the carving work. No sand paper (heaven forbid) is used. The color is special mix stain consisting of oil color and white gasoline.

The character carving of Ben is done in two pieces, the head is done separately and set into the body at the shirt collar. Ben's outfit is the same as the one he wore on the Disneyland trip—black jacket, blue short pants, blue-grey shirt and those great gardening or walking shoes with one sock that always seemed to sag below the other.

The figure carving took about 40 hours of carving time and the cow and miscellaneous yellow camellia and first prize ribbon, pot, base, etc., took an additional 70 hours. You are probably thinking, gee he spent 110 hours on the set and then gave it away—well that's true but since I only carve for fun and pleasure as a means of relaxing in the evenings I'd be the first to tell you that I have had as much fun in carving and showing the pictures of the "Ben Rayner set" as Ben has had pleasure and appreciation in receiving it.

Well now you know most of the story. If you've enjoyed it great—if you haven't enjoyed it then as my

dear sweet, loving wife says "you better write some camellia articles for the CAMELLIA REVIEW or my kookie husband is apt to turn that magazine into a wood carver's hand book." Thanks for your patience.

## TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING

Rudy Moore

The Temple City Camellia Society would like to invite everyone to our December 20 meeting. We will have a speaker from the Ortho Division of Chevron Chemical Company. He will speak on various kinds of fertilizers which should prove to be helpful for better gardening. So, come and bring all your flowers. You may win a cup for most points for the night or a plant for the best flower. Our meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. See you then ... Bring a friend.

### I'm a New Member

I see you at the meetings, but you  
never say "Hello."  
You're busy all the time you're there  
With those you already know.  
I sit amongst the members, And yet  
I'm a lonesome guy.  
Why can't you nod or say hello,  
Or stop and shake my hand,  
Then go and sit among your friends.  
Now that I understand,  
I'll be at your next meeting;  
Perhaps a nicer one to spend;  
Do you think you could introduce  
yourself,  
I'd like to be your friend.

—Anonymous

### Camellia Clippings (Cont)

'Lady Vansittart;' 'Leucantha;' 'Margaret Ratchiffe;' and 'Dr. Tinsley.'

After writing the above bit of information I will have to quote an old proverb: "An "expert" is a man who approaches every problem with an open mouth!"



# UNWINDING THE BIG SPRING

Bernice Gunn

Former SCCS Secretary

Taking in secretarial duties for a group frantically pursuing a hobby, when you are also a member of that group, can put a different perspective on the whole "ball of wax." You are suddenly turned into a camp follower, feeling like agent 007, as you are covertly handed slips of paper or envelopes at any gathering you happen to attend. An 18 hour girdle is a necessity to keep your back in shape for the many hours spent at the typewriter, toting materials to meetings, shows and the post office. A course in yoga would be mighty helpful in toning up the seldom used muscles that are needed in holding down flaps on boxes of publications until they are taped or tied down for mailing. At times you might dream of being an armadillo, so that you could curl yourself into a ball and hide in your armor when you pull a boo-boo, or somebody is ready to explode because they didn't receive something yesterday you hadn't planned on mailing until tomorrow.

Four years ago when the Board of Directors of Southern California Camellia Society elected me as their new secretary, I was elated. I knew I would need a typewriter and a few odds and ends, but I wasn't prepared for the mountain of equipment and material that was delivered to my home on take over day. As a large filing cabinet, boxes of books and other paraphernalia was unloaded and either placed in the garage or the room I had prepared for my office, I thought I heard a neighbor exclaim, "Well, there goes the neighborhood." It didn't matter that the monstrous gray cabinet didn't fit in with my decorating scheme, or that every niche and cranny was overflowing with

camellia memorabilia, I was ready to go to work. It took a while to get into the swing of things, but eventually I came around.

During my term I ran the gamut from "agony" to "ecstasy"—ecstatic when I was able to obtain new members, make new friendships and balance the books at the end of the year—agonized when I pulled a boo-boo, such as sending out a meeting notice, remembering to put in the mailing address, but forgetting to include the address of our meeting place. I was just ready to go out the door to make the trek to San Marino when my phone rang, and when I answered it, a voice said, "Mrs. Gunn, I am a new member of your society, and I tacked your notice up on the bulletin board at work, and I am afraid you are going to have a lot of people at your home tonight for a camellia meeting." Luckily, when I arrived home from the meeting, I found no notes left at my door saying, "We were here, but where were you?"

It was a privilege to be your secretary, and I can honestly say after serving under three presidents, there were no slush funds, hints of Water-gates or hidden recordings made of any members.

In these days of liberation, I don't believe that all men are male chauvinists, and your new Secretary, Milton Schmidt, is anything but the latter. When he is weary of toting those books, he can always reach for his truss. Hang in there Milt, and good luck!

## YEARNING

Rose are red  
Violets are blue,  
If we had yellow camellias  
Wouldn't that be sumpin'?

# Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: Lemuel Freeman; Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr. 733 Del Mar Drive Bakersfield 93307

Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. (Except 3rd Monday in Nov.) at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Charles Mc F. Reed; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705

Meetings: 3rd Thursday Nov. through Apr. at Great Western Savings & Loan Bldg., 1418 No. Main St., Santa Ana

## CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: James M. Randall; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G St., Sacramento 95816

Meetings: 4th Wednesday Oct. through Apr. in Shepard Garden & Art Center, 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

## \*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Arthur Gonos; Secretary: Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday Nov. through February in All-purpose Room Mayfair School, 3305 E. Home, Fresno, Oct. 12 Kickoff Breakfast 8:30 A.M. at Jack Woo residence, 1327 East Ashlan Ave., Fresno, Mar. 19 Annual Barbeque 6:10 P.M. at Calif. State University at Fresno in the Horticultural Bldg.

## DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Jack Lewis; Secretary: Mrs. James E. Scott, 4285 Inverness Dr., Pittsburg 94565

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday Nov. through March at Sunitomo Bank, Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill

## JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Donald W. Hurst; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240

Meetings: 3rd Wed Oct. through Apr. at 1st Federal Savings & Loan Community Room, Lodi

## LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: James Tuliano; Secretary: Mrs. Haidee Steward, 130 S. Citrus, Los Angeles 90036

Meetings: 1st Tuesday Dec. through Apr. at Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

## MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Ronald Kellogg; Secretary: Mrs. Helen Caputi, 1605 Victoria Dr., Modesto 95351

Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Edward A. Hays; Secretary: Wm. Lockwood, 3226 Primrose Ln., Walnut Creek 94598

Meetings: 1st Mon Nov.—May, Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

## PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Melvin L. Gum; Sec. Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 91208

Meetings: 1st Thurs Nov.—Apr. Tuesday Alt. Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

## PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harlow P. Rother; Secretary: Andrew R. Johnson, Jr., 28 Lloyd Dr., Atherton 94025

Meetings 4th Tuesday Sept. through Apr. in Hospitality Room, West Coast Federal Savings Bldg. 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

## \*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Ronald D. Braid; Secretary: Mrs. Janice Hawes, 12625 Kellogg Ave., Chino 91710

Meetings: 2nd Thursday Nov. through Apr. in Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg. 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

## \*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Benjamin H. Berry; Secretary: Harry Humphrey, 4659 Winona Ave., San Diego 92115

Meetings: 3rd Wed Nov.—Apr Rm 101, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Pk San Diego at 7:30 P.M.

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: John M. Augis; Secretary: Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fair Valley Court, San Jose 95125

Meetings: 2nd Thursday Sept. through April

## SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Alton B. Parker; Secretary: Joy Monteleone 505 Olive St., Santa Rosa 95401

Meetings: 4th Thursday Nov. through Apr. (except Nov. and Dec.) in Multipurpose Room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

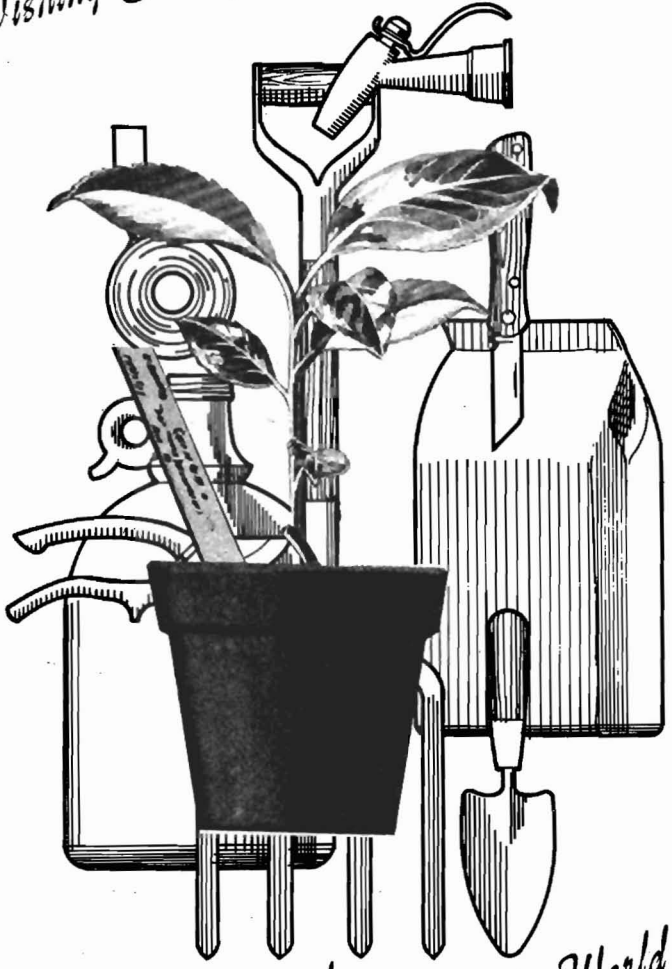
See inside front cover of this issue of Camellia Review

## \*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Franklin R. Moore, Sec: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton Av., San Gabriel 91776

Meetings: Friday Nov. 15, Friday Dec. 20, Thursday Jan. 23, Thursday Feb. 27, Thursday Mar. 27 and Thursday Apr. 24 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum Seminar Room in Arcadia

*Wishing Good Things To Come . . .  
This Holiday Season*



*To All Our Friends  
Throughout The World*

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