

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'FIMBRIATA'

Courtesy Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens

Vol. 37

November 1975

No. 2

One Dollar twenty-five cents

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: \$9.00.

OFFICERS — 1975 - 76

GRADY L. PERIGAN, President
11147 Daines Dr., Arcadia 91006
Tel. 448-9795

LEONE M. SUMMERSON, Vice President
1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 91208
Tel. 244-4789

MILTON L. SCHMIDT, Secretary
1523 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia 91006
Tel. 446-5525
Mailing address: P.O. Box 717
Arcadia, 91006

DIRECTORS

MARK ANTHONY
7147 N. Muscatel Ave.
San Gabriel 91775
Tel. 286-7172

WILLIAM W. DONNAN
3521 Yorkshire Rd., Pasadena, 91107
Tel. 795-9427

WILBER FOSS
1380 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108
Tel. 792-0829

MELVIN GUM
5641 N. Willard, San Gabriel 91776
Tel. 287-6765

GEORGE LEWIS
1691 La Cresta, Pasadena 91103
Tel. 681-1479

J. EDMUND KERN
1594 Charlton Rd., San Marino 91108
Tel. 681-8658

HARRY NOVICK
Ostronic Dr., Woodland Hills 91364
Tel. 346-6758

MEYER PIET
757 Anoakia Lane, Arcadia 91006
Tel. 355-6947

WILLIAM E. WOODROOF
4117 Davana Rd.
Sherman Oaks, 91403
Tel. 784-1352

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

DR. JOHN H. CLAIRMONT*
HAROLD E. DRYDEN
COLONEL TOM DURRANT
COL. C. M. GALE*
MRS. ANNE GALLI
MR. WALTER G. HAZELWOOD
DR. WILLIAM HERTRICH*

DR. H. HAROLD HUME*
MR. RALPH S. PEER*
COLONEL FRANK REED
MR. E. C. TOURJE*
PROF. E. G. WATERHOUSE
MR. WILLIAM E. WOODROOF

*Deceased

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

GEORGE ROBB
P.O. Box 313
Putoruru, New Zealand

JOHN G. RIDDLE
17 Church St. Pymble NSW
2073 Australia

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW: William W. Donnan, Editor, 3521 Yorkshire Rd., Pasadena Tel. 795-9427

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

© Copyright 1975

Six issues per volume — October, November, January, February, March and May.

All manuscript for publication and correspondence should be sent directly to the Editor.

Republication permitted, if due credit is given the Camellia Review and the author.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the Secretary at once. Magazines are not forwarded by the Post Office.



Someone, lamenting for “the good old days” is reported to have exclaimed, “Even the future ain’t as good as the past!” Well, this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW is an attempt to hark back to the good old days to see how it all got started. I got the idea for an issue nostalgia when I saw a letter in the files from Carry Bliss to Meyer Piet calling attention to the first color plate of a camellia bloom ever printed in the United States, published in a gardening book in 1832. We have used it on this month’s cover.

This got me to thinking that we might try to get a few articles on the past history of our Society. I asked Harold Dryden to prepare something on our first Camellia Shows and he responded with a nice article. Well, one thing lead to another and before I realized it we had almost a full issue dealing with the past.

The claim has been made that our magazine is a repeat, a rehash, a review of experiences gained in the furtherance of the hobby of camellia propagation. This is correct. We attempt to have articles on culture, grafting, hybridizing, etc. written by different authors to obtain new insights. And, once in a while we need articles on the history of our Society too. Perhaps we can gain new insights into how things were accomplished in the past, as a guide to the future.

We hope it is of interest to some of you to learn that our Society started with a very small group; that Prof. Waterhouse had an interest in Camellias at the age of 4; that we used to charge \$1.00 admission to our shows while, today, they are free of charge; that the Japanese were seeking a yellow camellia over 300 years ago; and that our camellia culture hasn’t changed much since 1835!

Our hobby and our Society have a proud heritage and it behooves all of the membership to strive for “A future even better than our illustrious past.”

So much for nostalgia—now, I’d like to editorialize a little bit about cooperation. This November marks the second time our California Camellia societies will band together for a formal conclave. The meetings will be held in Fresno on Saturday, November 8th. Let’s hope that there will be a large attendance and that the meetings will break further ground toward closer and closer cooperative endeavors where camellias are concerned. After all, aren’t we all interested in the same goals? A more interesting and challenging hobby? A stronger local Society? More active participation by our membership?

There are 17 Camellia Society groups in California. In addition, there is an informal grouping of Northern Societies and Southern Societies. I hope I live to see the day when there is one strong confederation of our 17 local groups within the state.

Bill Donnan

NINETY YEARS OF INTEREST IN CAMELLIAS

Mary Armati

(Editor's note: We thought it would be of interest to our subscribers to learn how Prof. E. G. Waterhouse became a camellia hobbyist. Herewith is the story written by Mrs. Mary Armati, Roseville, New South Wales, Australia.)

For the last 18 months I have had the rare privilege of assisting, in a voluntary capacity, our beloved Great Man of Camellias, Professor E. G. Waterhouse, and he passed on to me a letter which he received recently from the Southern California Camellia Society, asking him to write something of the history of his camellia interest.

He told me once that he first noticed camellias when he visited his maternal grandfather, Ebenezer Vickery, who lived at a house called "Edina" at Waverley, Sydney (this house is now the Waverley War Memorial Hospital). He thinks he was about four years old at the time. At "Edina" were large trees of camellias which he loved, and he remembers picking violets growing under them. He always loved flowers, not only for the scent, but for the beauty and form, and remembers presenting his mother with many small bunches for the house.

In 1914, when planning a garden in regard to the house which he had built, he found great beauty and dignity in camellias, which was remarkable, as camellias were completely out of favour and fashion at this time. He bought 12 advanced camellias in butter boxes and planted six at his new home "Eryldene" Gordon, N.S.W. ('Fimbriata'; two 'Contessa Calini'; two 'La Pace Rubra', and 'Iris') and the other six he gave to his architect friend, Hardy Wilson, which was typical of his generous nature. But although he had camellias in his garden, he was far too busy a man to devote much time to them. He remembers in the early twenties he bought a 20 foot high 'Aspasia' from an old property at St. Ives, N.S.W. The tree was about 40 years

old and cost him the vast sum of 10 shillings. He promptly cut it to within three feet from the ground, and it is a fine, flourishing bush today.

In the 30's nobody in Australia except A. O. Ellison was growing camellias from cuttings. Our largest nurseries, Hazelwood's and Ferguson's, both layered all the camellias sold. There were very few varieties offered by the nurseries in those days, but 'Fimbriata' was one of them.

In the 20's, Sydney University invited Prof. Waterhouse to lay out the Vice-Chancellor's courtyard and The Pleasance. In the New South Wales Royal Horticultural Society year book, Prof. Waterhouse read an article by A. O. Ellison on the propagation of camellias from cuttings, so he wrote to him, and later called on him at his home in Gordon. A. O. Ellison was striking cuttings in pure sandstone obtained from crushing rocks. Prof. Waterhouse tried his hand at it. He put down a lot of 'Loch' in ordinary soil, in pots under glass in a frame, with tremendous success, as 99 percent of them took root. He bought 'Great Eastern', 'Spencer's Pink', 'Angela Cocchi', from Hazelwood's, and took many cuttings. He became interested in, and visited many gardens, containing camellias, and asked permission to take cuttings.

With his wife, Janet, and A. O. Ellison, he arranged the first Camellia Exhibition in Sydney in 1940 at the Macquarie Galleries. He had just started Camellia Grove Nursery at St. Ives, N.S.W. (he later sold this to Mr. R. L. Fisher) and at that first exhibition he got camellias from Mr. Linton at Somersby near Gosford, the Sydney Botanic Gardens, "Vaocluse House" "Northfield", Kurrajong

Heights, and exhibited 62 different varieties. They named those that they knew, and the response of the hobby was most enthusiastic.

In 1929 he had bought 21 acres of land at Kurrajong Heights, and when he sold Camellia Grove in 1946 he planted out at Kurrajong Heights one of every variety from Camellia Grove, and then presented the property to his son, Gordon, for him to use as a camellia nursery.

The second Camellia Exhibition was held at one of Sydney's largest department stores, David Jones Market St. Store, just one year after the first successful one. This exhibition was opened by Lady Gowrie, the wife of the Governor-General at that time, who was a personal friend of Prof. Waterhouse. He and his wife spent a week-end at "Yarralumla" (the Governor-General's residence in Canberra, A.C.T.) and he advised Lady Gowrie on the pruning of her flowering peaches, so obviously he had an eye for other beauties besides camellias!

In 1945, after retiring from his Chair of German at Sydney University, he was able to spend a great deal of time in the garden at "Eryldene", and because of his great mental capacity, he became interested in camellia nomenclature, and general camellia history. Being a linguist, he was able to read books on camellias, written in French, Italian, and German, and commenced correspondence with camellia lovers and growers in those countries as well as United States, United Kingdom and Japan.

Of course everyone knows he has originated many camellias, and it may be of interest for me to list them.

His first camellia seedling, planted in 1948, 'Margaret Waterhouse' (named after the wife of his son, Gordon) was registered in 1954. This was a seedling of the species *C. saluensis*, as were 'Lady Gowrie', 'E. G.

Waterhouse', 'Lady's Maid', 'Crinkles', 'Charles Colbert', 'Sayonara', 'Ellamine', 'Bowen Bryant', 'Clarrie Fawcett', and 'Farfalla', which all appear under the one parent bush. He was amazed at the marvelous work the bees had done without any intervention from him!!!

Other seedlings named by him, 'Janet Waterhouse' (unknown parentage, named after his late wife), 'Campanella', 'Dainty Maiden', 'Betty Cuthbert', 'June Holdship' (seedlings of 'Yoibijin') 'Barbara Mary' (seedling of 'Cho Cho San'), 'Adrian Feint', 'Somersby', 'Beverly Caffin', 'Lilian Pitts' (the last four grown seeds taken from Mr. Linton's garden at Somersby, N.S.W.), 'Paul Jones' (named by Prof. Waterhouse from a seedling growing at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney), and 'Paul Jones Supreme' (a seedling of 'Paul Jones').

Also, 'Carillon' (bell-shaped white with carmine stripes), 'Kurrajong', 'Merrilles', 'Polar Bear', 'Henry Price' (all four seedlings of 'Great Eastern'), 'Andromeda', 'Red Moon' (seedling of 'Andromeda'), 'Flashlight' (Henry Turnbull seedling), 'Corroboree' (tricolor seedling). Some of the sasanquas are: 'Marie Young', 'Weroona', 'Plantation Pink', 'Mignonette' and 'Exquisite'.

Just recently he has added my name to his list of babies, which fills me with humble pride. I am an anemone type seedling of 'Uraka', and rather beautiful!!! Having just accompanied him on his six weeks red carpet visit to the United Kingdom, I felt it was a compliment to his bull-dog, or "guardian angel" as he calls me.

Although some people might think that 90 years unflagging interest in camellias might be sufficient, quite undaunted by the fact that he had his 94th birthday in April, he is talking of a "quick trip to China next year". What an inspiration he is!!!

EARLY CAMELLIA SHOWS

Harold E. Dryden

I saw my first camellia show in February 1947. It was a gorgeous affair. The setting was the exhibition buildings in Brookside Park, Pasadena, the site of the floral shows that were held in Pasadena during that era. The Southern California Camellia Society, then in its seventh year, was daring in pioneering a show of such dimensions. Dr. John Taylor, the Society's President and a practicing dentist in Los Angeles, took a recess from his practice for the days preceding the show so that he could give full time and attention to the show. Elsie and I had a few camellia plants in our garden and we and about 10,000 other people were glad to pay the one dollar each for the privilege of seeing camellia blooms on display—single blooms, in groups, with foliage and in arrangements. Nurseries vied with one another in the attractiveness of their displays. It made such an impression on me that when my friend Clifton Johnson led me to the Southern California Camellia Society membership table I signed up.

It is fortunate that memories tend to build up events of the past, as is the case with some of our childhood exploits. Actually the show was beautifully staged, and present day show committees could improve eye appeal of some of their shows if they would give the same thought and time to attractive layout that they give to the display of the hundreds of varieties of camellias that we see in the shows of the 1970's. There were not hundreds of varieties of camellias then. *Reticulatas* and hybrids had not made their appearance — only 'Captain Rawes' of the fifty-odd *reticulata* hybrids we now see at a Descanso Gardens show was then known. Nor did as many people grow camellias then as now. So we can say realistically

that from the standpoint of number of blooms on the tables the 1947 show was short of a present day Descanso Gardens show.

Varietal names were of less importance then, although it was past the time when people went to a nursery and asked for a red or white camellia. Practically all the flowers were of the *japonica* species, with possibly a few *सान्क्वास*. The display of single blooms of *C. japonica* was divided into Classes according to Form, six of them just as they are classified today—single, semi-double, anemone, peony, rose form, and formal double. CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE was the authority, of course, for a bloom's form. I do not know how the multi-form varieties such as 'Mathotiana' were classified.

These six Classes according to form were then each sub-divided into four groups according to color—pink, red, variegated and white. It would probably be difficult to find the necessary number of single form blooms in a present day Descanso Gardens show that would fill out the singles Class in a re-creation of the 1947 Brookside Park show. Single form flowers rated higher in 1947 than they do in 1975.

There were other sections of display such as the following:

Display of three blossoms of one variety, sub-classified according to form and color.

Largest collection of one of a kind of named varieties.

Display of 6 blossoms of one variety in low container.

Display of 6 blossoms of different varieties.

Display of 12 blossoms of one variety in low container.

Displays of potted plants and grafted plants.

Needless to say, there were awards. I do not have the program for the 1947 show but the 1948 show program lists the following:

Most outstanding flower in each of the six Classes of the single bloom display (i.e., according to form).

Most outstanding flower in the show.

Sweepstakes award to exhibitor having most points on a 3-2-1 basis.

The glamor of the camellia show faded from the high level of attendance at the early shows in Brookside Park. The 1952 show of the Southern California Camellia Society was held in the Odd Fellow's Temple in Pasadena and the 1953 show in Pasadena's Jefferson School. The Society moved to the San Marino Women's Club for its meetings in the Fall of 1953 and the 1954 show was held there. Classification of single bloom entries according to form and color continued through the 1954 show. Placement by varietal names as is now done in all shows started with the 1955 show which was also held in the Women's Club.

It was evident to many people that classification by form and color was not the correct way, particularly in light of the new varieties being introduced and the increasing attention being paid to varietal names. Looking backward, I believe there was another factor that caused us to change in our Southern California Camellia Society shows. We had in our Society one of those people whose happiness in life was in winning sweepstakes awards. He had built his collection around the form-color classification. He was Show Chairman of the 1954 show and made strong objection to any change. I was President of the Society at the time and decided that the easiest way to soften the transition was to appoint myself Show Chairman for the 1955 show. We did not pioneer the change because other

shows were using the varietal method of classification.

Flower arrangements were an important part of the early shows. The schedule of the 1948 show lists twenty Divisions for flower arrangements. We would bring in professional arrangers to supervise this part of the show and it would attract great interest. The arrangement section was continued in the Descanso Gardens show in 1956, in which year the Southern California Camellia Society withdrew from the camellia show field in favor of the Southern California Camellia Council (originally the Los Angeles Camellia Council).

The arrangements section in the early Descanso Gardens shows was under the tents that were erected to house the shows. When the camellia show was moved outdoors, the arrangements show was moved up the hill to the Hospitality House. There never was complete rapport between the ladies who wanted the arrangements section and the men who, in their own opinions at least, produced and exhibited the flowers that were the backbone of the show. Until the move to the Hospitality House, there was always competition for space. Another cause of this lack of rapport, I believe, was that the rules for the flower arrangements were developed by flower arrangements people, not a part of the camellia hierarchy, who looked on the camellia as something that was often secondary to other elements of the arrangement rather than the primary part—a point of view that was antagonistic to the thinking of the male camellia grower. The arrangements section was usually headed by a woman, but I asked a man to head it up the year I was Show Chairman at Descanso Gardens. He told me it was the toughest job that he ever handled. Whatever the reasons, which are multiple, the arrangements section has faded from the camellia show picture in Southern

California except for the San Diego show.

Another thing that has changed is in the participation of the camellia nurseryman, not because there is less interest among the nurserymen but because of a reduction in the number of nurseries that specialize in camellias. In the Los Angeles area, for example, Nuccio's is the only retail camellia nursery that remains of the half dozen that I now think of that were in business twenty-five years ago. In the early shows they were in competition for audience attention and their exhibits were always an important part of the camellia show.

As I suggested at the beginning, my memories of the early Brookside Park shows are probably more glamorous than the shows actually were. To begin with, I had never seen as many camellias in one place before; neither had the others of the 10,000 people who paid one dollar apiece to see the show. Today we take it in stride with seven shows a year within a two hour plus a few minutes drive

from Los Angeles, all having more flowers on exhibit than we saw in a 1947-1950 show. In addition to this, however, my memory tells me that more attention was paid to artistic layout than is characteristic of the shows of the 1970's. Not until I saw the annual show of the Australian Camellia Research Society in Sydney in 1967 did I again see a show that matched my memory of my first camellia show at Brookside Park. The Southern California Camellia Society is seeking and attaining artistic layout in the January shows that it sponsors in the Huntington Botanical Garden.

The camellia shows of the 1975-1976 season will differ in detail from the shows of the 1940's and early 1950's. Essentially, however, there has been no change. Shows are the lifeblood of the camellia hobby, because they provide the opportunity for people who grow camellias to show the fruits of their labors. Whatever the form of the show, the best flowers will end up on the Honor Table.



PRESENTATION OF THE JOHN P. ILLGES MEDAL AT THE S.C.C.S. MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 1959. Here is another picture from the files of the Camellia Review. It shows Reg Ragland, as Vice President for the Pacific Coast, of the American Camellia Society presenting the John P. Illges Medal to Julius and Joe Nuccio for their outstanding new seedling, Guilio Nuccio. From left to right in the picture are: Al Dekker, Pres. S.C.C.S.; Julius Nuccio; Reg Ragland; Joe Nuccio; and Bill Woodruff.

CAMELLIA CLIPPINGS

Bernice Gunn

CAMELLIA ALPHABET (Cont.)

F is for FEEDING

Camellias are slow-growing, acid-loving; can't store food. They need a complete, balanced diet including trace elements, with a slightly acid reaction. Change diets—try alternating dry and liquid fertilizers. Don't over-feed! "Half as strong, twice as often," is a good working maxim. No summer feedings.

G is for GRANTHAMIANA

C. granthamiana is a large, white single with prominent stamens. The only wild plant of this species now known, parent plant of all those now in cultivation, is a small tree near Hong Kong.

H is for HYBRIDS

Under natural conditions, species may be incapable of interbreeding. However, since J. C. Williams, a British amateur, crossed *C. saluenensis* *C. japonica* 34 years ago, hundreds of amateur and professional horticulturalists have succeeded in making "Inter-specific" crosses between camellia species.

I is for INSECTS

Camellias are remarkably free from attacks by insects. A strong spray of ordinary water will discourage aphids, red spider and scale much of the time. If an attack gets out of hand, use a good all-purpose spray. Chlor-dane used to control ants will help

a lot with this problem.

J is for JAPONICA

Of all the species which make up the genus, *C. japonica* includes more different varieties — more properly, cultivars — than all of the other species combined, the CAMELLIA NOM-ENCLATURE lists more than 4000 named cultivars, and more are being added at the rate of 100-200 a year.

The majority of persons interested in camellias prefer the pronunciation ca-mell'-ia, but a few prefer ca-me'-lia. Both are correct.

A gentleman entered a flower shop where a sign on the door read: "Say it with flowers." He ordered a camellia. "Only one?" asked the florist. "Only one," replied the gentleman. "I am a man of few words."

In Japan when persons celebrate their 90th birthday, it is called Chinju (the age of Camellia).

Did you know that gib doesn't refer to our acid trips in the camellia patch? According to Webster's Dictionary, it is used to denote the name of a cat. The word gibber doesn't refer to the man that holds the needle. It is used to describe someone who talks foolishly.

Camellia History: There is a temple in Japan called the Camellia Temple, and it is conserved as a national monument. It was the home

INTRODUCING IN 1975 - 76

PINK FROST

LILETTE WITMAN

SPRING FESTIVAL

LOIS SHINAULT

**NUCCIO'S
NURSERIES**

3555 CHANEY TRAIL
ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA 91002
Phone 794-3383

(Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays)

of Hideyoshi Toyomi, the ruler from 1536-1598. He was fond of camellias, and many of them, now trees, may be seen there at Jizo-in Temple in Kyoto.

Margaret Macdonald sent in this little bit of trivia. The first man recorded growing a camellia plant in a greenhouse was Lord Petre of Thordon Hall, Essex, England (sometime before 1739). Lord Petre was highly esteemed as a botanist and patron of horticulture.

A picture of his daughter-in-law, Lady Petre (Juliana), painted by Thomas Gainsborough can be seen at the Huntington Galleries in San Marino, California. The artist reproduced her beautiful gown so skillfully that it is said to be one of Gainsborough's finest. A camellia in her hand would have made the story complete.

Looking for a copy of *Camellia Culture* by Carl Tourje? The book has been out of print for quite a few years, and there are none available through the society. A new member wished to obtain a copy, and did so by going to a rare book dealer.

Bouquets to: Members who are prompt with their dues, notify the society of a change of address, are active in the society in the sense that they are not only interested in winning trophies, but take on some of the work of running a successful organization.

SCCS membership, besides various states in the United States, has members from foreign countries including: Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Japan, Mexico and Great Britain. We have six affiliated societies and four societies that subscribe to the *CAMELLIA REVIEW*.

In 1954 when the *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE* was published, it contained 96 pages, and twenty years later in 1974 it contained 194 pages—it is growing. Man and Bee have been busy!

CAMELLIA SLIDE SHOWS

Jim McClung

Being considered something of an authority on the remaining 54 old Spanish Missions that stretch from Texas to New Mexico (I am writing a book on them), I have been asked by a number of organizations to lecture and show pictures on them.

I thought that, since these were so well-received, why not use the same method to "gib" our camellia societies. My format is simple. I take a number of blooms not found in most general nurseries to show the group while I give them a general background on camellias and camellia societies in general—mentioning our specialty nurseries, of course. I also take a good show quality plant to be given as a door prize at the end of the meeting. In addition, I show and describe slides of about 75 different camellias that are also available mainly at our specialty nurseries, Nuccio's, McCaskill's, or Vince's.

It is to be hoped that such a method will add to our declining number of members.

Ed. Note: McClung is too modest to write that he also purchases an S.C.C.S. membership for each group to whom he talks.

**DON'T FORGET
THE
CALIFORNIA
CAMELLIA-RAMA
FRESNO
SAT., NOV. 8, 1975**

THE FIRST CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA CONCLAVE

Editor's Note: Title supplied by Milton H. Brown, Executive Secretary, ACS to an article by Harold Paige in American Camellia Society News-Letter, Vol. 3, No. 3, July 1948.

CALIFORNIA NOTES: 1. *Inter-Society Conference.* An informal conference of four California Camellia Societies was held in Oakland, Calif. on April 25, 1948, in the home of Harold L. Paige, President of the Northern California Camellia Society, acting as newly appointed Vice President for the Pacific Coast.

The presence of Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor, President of the Southern California Camellia Society, and his wife as house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paige, furnished an excellent reason for inviting the three societies located in Northern California to meet with Dr. and Mrs. Taylor. Those present at this first meeting were, in addition to the Paiges and Taylors: Mr. Arthur Mohr, President of Sacramento Camellia Society and A. E. Morrison, also of Sacramento Camellia Society; Mr. T. J. Moniz, President of the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County and Mr. C. Breschini, also from Santa Clara County; D. L. Feathers, and Mr. and Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor, respectively, representing the Northern California Camellia Society.

The informal discussion begun in the morning lasted until late in the afternoon, a buffet dinner served by Mrs. Paige hardly interrupting the stimulating talk of nomenclature, varietal classification, registration and organization relationships, both local and national. No formal action was taken on any matter, since all the Presidents attending were expecting to retire and some of their successors for 1948-49 had not yet been elected. However, show dates for 1949 were cleared, in the hope of preventing conflicts in show schedules and it is anticipated that more of these regional get-togethers will be held in the future, to continue the friendly rela-

tionships which have made inter-club contacts so enjoyable in the past.

2. *Elections.* 1948-49 President of the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County will be Mr. Charles J. DeLorenzo, 1200 Blewett Ave., San Jose, Calif., succeeding Mr. T. J. Moniz.

1948-49 President of the Sacramento Camellia Society will be Mr. Carl M. Hoskinson, Supt. and Chief Engineer, Division of Water for the City of Sacramento, Calif., succeeding Mr. Arthur Mohr. Sacramento Society is the oldest in California, and is sponsoring the 1949 Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society.

1948-49 President of the Northern California Camellia Society will be Mr. D. L. Feathers, one of the founders and 1947-48 Vice President, succeeding retiring President, Harold L. Paige.

Dr. J. Walter Reeves succeeds Dr. J. Lloyd Taylor as President of the Southern California Camellia Society. He has been Vice President, Director and Chairman of the Test Garden Committee.

3. *Inter-Society Cooperation on Registration.* All Societies situated in Northern California have agreed to appoint representatives of their respective groups to assist Harold L. Paige on a sub-committee of the Committee on Registration of the American Camellia Society. It was agreed that he can better act for the local societies if they assume part of the responsibility for making decisions on behalf of this region. Also, individual members of local societies will support more willingly a project in which they, as groups, have been represented officially. Each society has been asked to name at least one amateur and one professional grower to serve on this sub-committee.

ALL THE WAY FROM CALIFORNIA

Norma Jost Voth

The mailman's sturdy Model A Ford crunched over the newly-cleared road in front of our Kansas farm. All week we had waited for the snow plow and the mailman.

There had been no Christmas cards; no packages; little to remind us that Christmas was only a few days away.

I pulled back the curtains to scratch a spot on the frosty glass. Yes, the mailman stopped, stuffed a package into the box, and put up the red flag, signaling for us to get our mail. "Mom, hurry. There's a Christmas package out there."

Grandad pulled himself from the rocker by the stove. "It's time we dig out from this blizzard. I'm going to the mailbox to find out what's in that package."

Grandad lumbered into the back porch and brought in his big green mackinaw and five-buckle shoes to warm by the kitchen stove. "Well, I'm on my way to find out what's in that package. It won't be long now." He buttoned his mackinaw and started out the door.

Grandad took huge steps through the deep drifts. His breath froze in the cold air.

When he stomped the snow from his boots and came back into the kitchen, his cheeks were beet red. Little sparkling drops hung from his mustache and beard. "Still plenty cold out there. Not much above zero."

"Let's see what's in the package, Grandad." I could hardly wait.

He dumped a brown box and a pile of letters on the round oak table and went to the stove to warm his stiff fingers.

Mom wiped her hands on her apron and read the label. "Why, it's from Aunt Marie in California. She doesn't usually send us a Christmas present. Whatever could it be?"

I watched Mom rip the wrapping

paper and lift the battered lid. Her eyes widened in disbelief. "Flowers. Real flowers!" She read the card. "The first camellias from my back yard. I hope they arrive in time for Christmas."

Mom shook her head. "Doesn't seem possible with all the snow we have here in Kansas that real flowers are blooming in someone's back yard at Christmas!"

"I'm surprised they didn't freeze in those Santa Fe mail cars," Grandad said. "They've been on the way several days."

"A few have brown edges, but it's not bad." Mom inhaled deeply and then admired the camellias one by one. "Look at the color of this pink one. And goodness, this double one is bigger than my summer roses. These are so beautiful we'll have them in the middle of the table for Christmas dinner."

"May I take one to the teacher at school, Mom? I don't have a present for her yet."

"Say, won't that be a special present! Bet she never had fresh camellias from California at Christmas," Grandad said.

Mom went to the cupboard and took out her best crystal bowl. "We'll put a few in the pantry to keep cool. The rest we'll put in this bowl on the table for everyone to enjoy right now."

For the next few days our camellias were the topic of conversation on the country party line, at church, and at school where a single camellia stood on the teacher's desk. We still had a few for a centerpiece at Christmas.

Every winter when the first pink camellia blooms in my back yard, I am reminded of that moment when a box of Christmas camellias arrived in a Kansas blizzard—all the way from California.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY MARKS ITS 36TH ANNIVERSARY

Editor's Note: It has been 14 years since the CAMELLIA REVIEW has run an article on the history of our Society. This article has been paraphrased, in part, from one written by Bill Goertz and published in January, 1962.

The Southern California Camellia Society was organized by 32 charter members at a meeting held in the Constance Hotel, Pasadena, California, on January 8, 1940. The minutes of that meeting closed with this sentence: "The meeting adjourned with everyone in good humor". Two more meetings were held that winter.

The second season opened with a meeting on December 2, 1940 with 70 people attending. Four more meetings were held that winter and the Society membership continued to grow.

44 varieties of blooms were shown at the December 1940 meeting, including 'Anna Frost', 'Amabilis', 'Anemonae Flora', 'Apple Blossom', 'Alba Plena', 'Arajishi', 'Brooklyanna', 'Christmas Cheer', 'Cheerful', 'Chandleri', 'Crimson Sunset', 'Black Beauty', 'Daikagura', 'Dawn', 'Emperor Wilhelm', 'Grandiflora Rosea', 'Gigantia', 'Jordan's Pride', 'Lorraine', 'Modesty', 'Mary Ann', 'Madalone', 'Mrs. Marie Keating', 'Nagasaki', 'Normandy', 'Nobilissima', 'Oniji', 'Panache', 'Professor Sargent', 'Pink Perfection', 'Pride of Rosebud Farm', 'Pink Dawn', 'Pinkie', 'Rainy Sun', and 'Romany'. Note what work on nomenclature has done to some of the names listed.

The minutes of the January 6, 1942 meeting record the first discussion about producing a booklet on the care and classification of the camellia. A question asked at the meeting was "Is there a camellia called 'My Darling'?" Answer — "Yes, according to a May Company ad." Further meetings were held during the 1942 winter blooming season and in March the Society had a display of 1000 blooms at the Spring Flower Show at Brookside Park, Pasadena. During this season Mark

Anthony personally gathered information on varieties and a small nomenclature book was printed. By the end of the season, there were 101 paid up members, who voted the following varieties as favorites: White, 'Alba Plena'; red, 'Julia Drayton' and 'Te Deum'; pink, 'Pink Perfection'; variegated, 'Jordan's Pride' and 'Emperor Wilhelm'.

The 1943-44 season was really active, with six meetings held. By-laws were adopted and a Board of Directors elected. The first Research and Nomenclature Committee was appointed. Plants donated by the growers were raffled off to provide two funds: for the Red Cross and for a future nomenclature book. Attendance at meetings ranged from 95 to 201.

During the 1944-45 season a special committee on Horticultural Research was appointed. First steps were taken toward the development of the Camellia Garden in the Huntington Botanical Gardens with a project that was originally named "California Camellia Test Garden Sponsored by Henry E. Huntington Botanical Gardens and the Southern California Camellia Society." A report to the November 9, 1944 meeting stated "Mr. Cassamajor and Mrs. Galli inspected the proving grounds and report that Mr. Hertrich grafted 37 scions onto seedling plants this first season and thus far is 100% successful. He reports that 100 scions per year should be grafted." By the end of the season, the Huntington Test Garden was able to report that 90 plants and 60 new scions had been donated during the year. The nomenclature book was now called "The Green Book", with approximately 300 varieties listed.

The 1945-46 season opened with a paid up membership of 271. Meeting

attendance averaged between 250 and 300 with the February 1946 meeting in the Pasadena Odd Fellows Temple drawing 415 people. "150 of whom had no place to sit" according to the minutes. The Red Cross Fund was replaced by a fund to purchase a loud speaker system. An editor of the Society magazine was appointed. Papers of incorporation of the Society under the laws of the State of California were filed. The San Diego Camellia Society was organized and awarded a charter as an affiliate of S. C. C. S.

The 1946-47 season was the year of the first really tremendous camellia show. The show was held at Brookside Park, Pasadena on February 8 and 9, 1947. Admission tickets sold for \$1.00 each and the show realized a net profit of \$11,000. Over 8,000 blooms were on display. The Society was now really flourishing with a membership of 640 and a fine 16 page bulletin.

In the 1947-48 season the Research Committee was very active on studies that led to the publication in 1950 of the 72 page booklet "Camellia Research". The first official Nomenclature Book in its present form, with Bill Woodruff editor, was launched in 1947 with a first printing of 5000 copies. During this season S. C. C. S. took out a membership in the Ameri-

can Camellia Society which had been organized in 1945. The Camellia Society of Kern County, the Central California Camellia Society, and the Pomona Valley Camellia Society were formed and affiliated with S. C. C. S. There were two tours per month, for Society members only, through the Huntington Camellia Gardens which had 183 plants and 162 new scions. The second big Camellia Show at Brookside Park was a success, with nearly 12,000 attending at \$1.00 per person. This and the preceding year's show did much to popularize camellias in Southern California.

The Temple City Camellia Society was organized during the 1948-49 season and affiliated with S. C. C. S. During the 1949-50 season the idea behind the Hertrich Awards blossomed. Meetings were held at the Pasadena City College, with an average attendance of about 250. S. C. C. S. joined Pacific Camellia Society in presenting a show at Brookside Park. A shipment of plants from China was planted in the Huntington Test Garden, and all seeds from the garden were given to the Society for sale with the understanding that the proceeds were to be used for the benefit of the Garden.

Meetings during the 1950-51 season were again held at Pasadena City College. A joint show was again held with the Pacific Camellia Society.

**TRULY ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS
IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

**MT. WOODSON CAMELLIA GARDENS
NURSERY & GIFT SHOP**

**We have literally thousands of camellias
and other plants**

FOR INFORMATION CALL

789-2626

**6 miles west of Ramona on Hwy 67 on Mt. Woodson Rd.
across from the giant RED MAIL BOX**

The Society magazine was named CAMELLIA REVIEW for the first time. S. C. C. S. resumed its own show in the 1951-52 season with a show at the Odd Fellows Temple in Pasadena. It rained hard throughout the two days and the Society lost \$400. Meetings were held at the Jefferson School Auditorium in Pasadena, where a show was held February 21, 1953. Including members in the affiliated societies, S. C. C. S. was working for the benefit of 1072 members.

The Society started to hold meetings at the San Marino Women's Club in November 1953 and this has been "home" continuously since that date. In 1951 the Society introduced the plan of awarding season trophies for blooms exhibited at meetings, according to points accumulated during the season. The last two camellia shows held by the Society were at the Women's Club, in the spring of 1954 and 1955. Since then, S. C. C. S., as a member of Southern California Camellia Council which was formed in the fall of 1955, has devoted most of its show energies toward the Council's Descanso Gardens show activities. In 1955 the concept of a camellia culture book was developed, culminating in the appointment of Carl Tourje as chairman of a committee to develop the project. The nearly 500 page book "Camellia Culture", edited by Carl Tourje and written by 54 collaborating authors of repute among camellia people, was published in 1958 as a result of this project.

In 1973 the Southern California Camellia Society decided to sponsor a January Camellia Show oriented toward the public. This show is sponsored jointly with the Huntington Library Botanical Gardens and is held in the second week of January. The blooms are displayed in the loggia at the entrance to the Art Gallery and exhibits of planting, potting, grafting, and landscaping techniques are featured. This Show has now become a

fixture of the early bloom season.

LAST YEAR'S WINNERS

With the advent of the Camellia Show season upon us it seems appropriate to look backward to last year to see which cultivars were the winners. One of our members who prefers to remain anonymous has compiled the record for the 1974-75 season in California.

Since the degree of perfection between the top 6 or 8 entries in any one division is often negligible (the winner sometimes winning by a single vote) it may be unfair to list only the most frequent winning Best and Runner-up varieties in the 15 California shows—but we do so in the interest of saving time and space. These are the ones being favored more than once:

Japonica (large): Elegans Supreme 7, Tomorrow Park Hill 5, Elegans Splendor 4, Grand Prix 3, Guilio Nuccio Var. 3, Tiffany 3, Tomorrow's Dawn 3, Easter Morn 2, Clark Hubbs 2, Fashionata 2, Grand Slam 2, Kramer's Supreme 2, Mark Alan 2.

Japonica (medium): Margaret Davis 7, Nuccio's Gem 5, Alta Gavin 2, In The Pink 2, Midnight 2, Pink Pagoda 2, Spring Sonnet 2, Tom Knudsen 2.

Japonica (boutonniere): Kitty 7, Alison Leigh Woodruff 3, Ave Maria 3, Fircone Var. 3, Baby Sis Pink 2, Jonnie's Folly 2, Little Man 2, Little Slam 2, Wilamina 2.

Reticulata Hybrids: Aztec 4, Firechief (and varieg.) 4, Francie L 4, Howard Asper 4, Valley Knudsen 4, William Hertrich 3, Arch of Triumph 2, Dr. Clifford Parks 2, K. O. Hester 2, Kohinor 2, Nuccio's Ruby 2.

Non-Reticulata Hybrids: Elsie Jury 10, E. G. Waterhouse 4, Angel Wings 4, Anticipation 3, Waterlily 3, Wilber Foss 3, Gay Time 2.

High heels were invented by a girl who got kissed on the forehead.

CAMELLIA CULTURE — AS PRACTICED IN 1835

Carry Bliss

In looking through the Huntington Library for some historical notes to offer to the CAMELLIA REVIEW I ran across an article in the publication, "The Flower Garden or Monthly Calendar" by William Hickey, New York, 1835. Herewith is the article.

The Camellia, a native of the same climates, has been introduced here, with much trouble and expense incurred, to the number of about fifty varieties and species, mostly of striking beauty of color and symmetry of form, exhibiting every shade in succession, from deep crimson to the purest white, in some imperceptibly blended, in others strikingly contrasted, and set in a foliage of glassy verdure, naturally forming a light, airy, and slender pyramid, in outline an unrivalled object of beauty from October to May. Our gardeners have now succeeded in raising new varieties of the Camellia, from seed independent of the Chinese, and rivalling, in many instances, their most perfect specimens, principally in variegation; this is effected by intermixing the farina of two oppositely colored varieties; but as this operation requires a combination of knowledge and dexterity rather too profound for my fair readers to meddle with, I leave it to learned professors, and will proceed to the more obvious mode of cultivation and increase.

The double Camellia is generally cultivated by grafting on stocks of the single, which are procured by planting cuttings of the young shoots, in pure sand, under cup glasses; on these, when grown to a sufficient size, are inarched the finer kinds; sometimes these latter are also struck by cuttings, but their progress by this manner is generally so feeble, that it is seldom resorted to. To grow healthy Camel-

lias, you must procure a fresh, sandy soil, generally of a redish color, to be mixed with about one-third of sandy peat, or one-fourth peat, and one-fourth of very rotten leaf mould; nothing being more injurious to them than over-potting, they should not be shifted into larger pots, until the projection of the roots outside the pot shows evidently that they are in need of it. When growing, the Camellia requires abundance of water, but when dormant in winter, very little, though it should not be suffered to become dry. Few plants enjoy the shade more in summer, or better bear privation of sunshine, though not of light; and even that in winter, or when their growth is perfected, is not necessary; when growing, a slight bottom heat promotes their vigor in shooting. By drafting them from their winter quarters successively into a warm temperature, they may be forced into bloom for the greatest part of the year.

The Camellia, in mild climates, may be preserved alive in the open ground, but coming into bloom in the rigorous season of the year, its flowers open but imperfectly, and are of little estimation: in such case a shady or eastern aspect is best.

Let every border in and around the flower garden be kept with neatness, and if any remain without having been dug, this operation must not be postponed beyond this month.

**DON'T FORGET
TO
SEND YOUR
1975-76 DUES**

OLD RECORDS OF YELLOW CAMELLIAS IN JAPAN

Yoskaiki Andoh

(Editor's Note: This fascinating article on early reference to Yellow Camellias only goes to prove that even back in the 1600's camellia growers were diligently seeking that elusive yellow camellia.)

At present in Japan there are 'Ki-karako' and 'Ohgon-no-to' among those cultivars called yellow camellias. Besides, there are also similar camellias which originators have claimed to be yellow; but as yet genuine yellow blooms, unanimously agreed to by all, have not been developed in Japan. This includes the above two varieties. Both 'Ki-karko' and 'Ohgon-no-to' are single anemone-form, and the mass of petaloids are certainly yellow, but guard petals are white, the latter having a little tint with a creamy cast. Most of the other so called yellow camellias are in reality only more or less tinged with creamy white at the base of the petals.

One of the exhibits pointing toward the existence of yellow camellias in the past is a pair of six-fold screens, painted with camellias, owned by Mr. Tokuo Hirayama of Matsuyama. Among sixty paintings of camellias with respective names on them, pasted on the screen, there is a 'Yellow Camellia' which attracts our attention. According to Dr. Takeshi Watanabe, it is a creamy white, small to medium, single with tubular stamens. However, it is far different from camellias with clear yellow petals which we imagine.

The name 'Yellow Camellia' first appeared in the "Kokon-Yoran-Ko", Volume 308, 1832, edited by Hirokata Yashiro. This book is known as an encyclopedia, where just the name of 'Yellow Camellia' is mentioned. Therefore, although the comments are omitted, the existence of the name 'Yellow Camellia' is clarified by the following explanation:

"While there are several types of camellias, different names are given to them according to flower form, flower colour and flower size, and they are popular with the public. Therefore, growers compete for

profits, taking care in its breeding, concentrating efforts to get rare varieties and curious blooms, and finally they have succeeded in obtaining unique blooms.

... When they are grouped with flower colour, there are red, white, rarely yellow and innumerable compound colours."

From the above it may be taken that yellow camellias, though they are rare, are a clear line of colour like red or white blooms. But what has been the real fact? The above mentioned 'Yellow Camellia' on the fold screen is taken as a bloom with distinguished pigment in every sense of the word, but the fact is that the flower colour is almost creamy white. As the period of the painting is presumed to be the end of the Edo era, 'Yellow Camellia' in the book "Kokon-Yoran-Ko" also might not have been a clean yellow bloom, but belonged more closely to creamy white even if the petals had a deeper or lighter tint. The name 'Yellow Camellia' does not appear in the "Chinka-Shu" by Koemon Ito in 1879, which was published after the "Kokon-Yoran-Ko", nor does it appear in the four series of the "Chikin-Sho", 1695-1733, published prior to the "Kokon-Yoran-Ko". Thus the name 'Yellow Camellia' seems to have appeared at a certain period of the late Edo era, getting some people's praise, but disappeared soon afterwards.

The above references are the oldest evidence on 'Ki-tsubaki', the yellow camellia. However, a camellia in yellow appears in the "Hyakuchin-Shu" a book of one hundred camellias, dated 1630 by Anrakuan Sakuden. This may well be the oldest description of a 'Yellow Camellia' in Japan! "Hyakuchin-Shu" is a book of commentaries by Sakuden, a celebrated Buddhist with a talent in literature, who selected 100 varieties of his camellia collection attained during 36 years.

Sakuden's collection must have been the best one in Japan presuming from his records, and it is easily assumed that among his collection precious varieties were included. He classified them as follows according to the colour of blooms for the first time:

White—20; Red—25; Variegated—38; Pink—4; Purple—2; Variations—11.

Among the 11 variations, there were 'Black Camellia'; 'Sky Blue Camellia'; 'Reddish Brown Camellia'; and also 'Russet Colour Camellia'; 'Yellow Edged Pink'; and 'Red Petals with Yellow Petaloids'. These last three are out of our imagination. He gave to 'Russet Colour Camellia' another name of 'No. 4 Pitch'. It originates from the term 'Yellow Bell' designated to be the No. 4 of five pitches of the Chinese harp. Sakuden's description of the 'Russet Colour Camellia' is as follows:

"This blooms in the colour of decayed leaves. Thus, it can be named yellow camellia without objection. It is a five petaled, large bloom, 9.5 crosses (about 20 cm. across), petals free from base with roundly notched edges like ginkgo leaves. . . . In recent years, various coloured camellias appeared and surprised people's eyes, but the yellow camellia only stays in the rear guard."

Since Sakuden describes his camellia definitely as russet colour, it is clear that the colour is neither creamy white, sulfur yellow nor orange yellow. If the colour is that of a sport of some certain species, it might be possible to trace the description, but we have some doubt about the colour sense of Sakuden himself. (By the way, diameter of this blooms being 20 cm, it looks like it is too large, also it is the only variety specially mentioned in which the flower size is described. This might be one of those species which subsequently became extinct.)

The remaining two camellias as described in Sakuden's book as having unusual pigment are:

(1) 'Kanya-no-Tami' (Common People in a Cold Night) (yellow edged pink). This is a five petaled camellia. Each petal is yellow from the base up to the middle part and the remaining smaller half is pink. The quality of yellow of this bloom is not clear, but it is supposed to be light coloured, possibly as pinkish creamy white. The name of this bloom comes from the ancient stories about an Emperor who tried to get the same feeling as poor people by discarding his clothes on a cold night. Such a bi-coloured yellowish bloom is not rare at present, but in the old days it must have been sufficiently surprising to be listed by Sakuden.

(2) In the same chapter, Sakuden describes 'Sky Blue' coloured camellias named 'Hara-no-Iro' (Colour of Spring) as follows:

"The sky blue camellia blooms in single. This colour could be called just to be similar to that of Chinese trumpet flower or morning glory. All the people interested in blooms were expecting and wondering why yellow, black or blue ones could not be raised for so long a time while from the ancient times till then, red and white blooms were available.

. . . A 'Blue Sun' rises from the east, the first order of a compass direction, hence blue fits to the spring, the first order of four seasons of a year."

If this account is true, yellow camellias and blue camellias, which world wide breeders are trying hard to raise, must have already been in Japan almost 350 years ago. We can understand Sakuden's 'Yellow Camellia', granted that it is exaggerated, but what kind of camellia could it be that he calls the 'Blue Sky' coloured one? Perhaps Sakuden might have been over sensitive about the colour sense of yellow and blue. If so his eyes could have been abnormal about red-green. On the other hand since he discriminates red, persimmon and purple, he cannot necessarily be called red-green weak-eyed. Our wonder and curiosity increases further, deeper and deeper.

THE OLDEST CAMELLIA IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA?

by Margaret Macdonald

Which was the "first" camellia to be grown in Southern California? It may well be a large specimen of Japonica "California", according to Roy T. Thompson. In an article in "Camellia Notes" published by the Pacific Camellia Society in September 1949, he states: "The parent tree of the California variety is one of the oldest camellia trees in Southern California and one of the most beautiful. In fact, it is quite unlikely that there is a camellia tree in the United States of like age that is more symmetrical, more densely foliaged, and healthier in appearance."

"Its story goes back to 1888 when Webster Cate visited a Japanese tramp steamer at the Redondo Wharf — there was no harbor at San Pedro at that time — and bought a camellia plant for twenty-five cents. There is no definite record to this effect, but it is altogether likely that the plant was wrapped in mud and straw, for that is the way plants were brought in at that time. Cate planted the camellia, which may have been three years old at the time, in the spot where it now stands."

"The plant did not bloom for thirteen years after planting, a fact which is pretty strong evidence that it was a seedling. We have no record as to whether it was shaded or in the open, but its symmetrical growth would tend to indicate that it was not cramped for either space nor light.

"The tree is now 20 ft. in height and 20 ft. in diameter, shaped somewhat like a bee-hive. It has a single stem at the ground about 12 or 13 inches in diameter, and branches begin at about a foot above the crown. The foliage comes down to the ground all the way around in the manner of a pine tree which has not been trimmed. The leaves are dark

green in color, giving the tree a vigorous healthy appearance. A lath structure has been built over it."

It is interesting to note that the "California" variety is especially prized in the South because of its ability to withstand cold weather.

The tree is in the front yard of Mr. and Mrs. George Irving, 4012 Durfee Ave., Pico. There is a small nursery at the site where plants of the "California" are available in all sizes, as well as other varieties of camellias.

Mr. Elvin H. Carter of Monterey Park was the first nurseyman to propagate this variety. He secured cuttings in 1941 and gave the variety the name of "Durfee Road Pink". The name was changed two years later to "California" at the suggestion of Mr. Vern McCaskill. Mr. Carter describes the variety as follows:

"Large spectacular blossom with broad, thick, rose-pink long lasting petals, ranging from almost single to loosely semi-double. Sturdy grower, large leathery foliage. Blooms January to April."

This June 1975 I visited the town of Pico-Rivera, hoping to see this famous camellia. I discovered that many changes had taken place since 1949. The nursery is no longer there — now subdivided for homes.

The house that Mr. Cate built 90 years ago is still standing and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O'Donnell and their eight children (nice ones judging from my conversation with one of them). Many large camellias surround the house — most of them between 40-55 years of age.

There were 150 camellias when the O'Donnells bought the house sixteen years ago. Some have died and others were moved to make room for a pool.

The house itself stands on the original Paseo De Bartolo property, the

land grant signed by Pio Pico, the first Governor of California.

The fertile soil of deep silt was explained by its site as a delta between the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel rivers. (There are high water flood marks on the house—a problem no longer, thanks to flood control in that area.)

Live oak trees nourish the camellias with their acid compost.

The O'Donnells graciously invite anyone interested in camellias to visit their garden. The blooming season starts in October, but is heaviest in December and January.

The "California" camellia that I was looking for is no longer there. It was moved sixteen years ago to

"Park Hill" in Hollywood, the estate of Ralph Peer. Unfortunately, Mr. Peer did not live to see it flower, but I understand that it is growing and blooming well.

Plants taken from this camellia are now growing in the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, and at Descanso Gardens in La Canada, Calif. George Lewis, Supt. of Descanso, states that there are three or four "California" camellias there, and that they bloom well, have beautiful flowers and are one of his favorite camellias.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone in this area who knows of an older camellia. If not, "California" remains the "grand-daddy" of Southern California camellias.

HISTORY OF THE NO-NAME CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Helen Augis

and

Haig Ashuckian

One of the oldest and probably the most unique Camellia "Society" has met weekly for the past 30 years. The common bond, camellia growing, brought together weekly many members of the Northern California Camellia Society who were employed in the San Francisco area. Originally Dr. Fred Heitman and Haig Ashuckian started meeting for lunch at a local restaurant. This was the beginning of the Camellia Lunch Group of San Francisco. Soon to join were other "Camelliaites" Cliff Latin, Everett Tenney, Wallace Brown, Dick Swope, Jack Oseguedo, Dr. Gordon Richmond and Bob Ehrhart.

Many ideas regarding camellias and all phases of their culture were discussed and help besides advice was available just for the asking. This weekly lunch ritual was so strictly observed by all parties that even the Maitre de could call them by their first names.

However, the passing of time has made many changes in the Group and it is slowly phasing out. Dr.

Fred Heitman left for a stint in the Armed Services and on return set up his dental practice in Walnut Creek; Cliff Latin retired and moved to Mississippi where he is still involved in Camellias and ACS; Ev Tenney retired to Los Banos spending his time fishing and hunting; Wallace Brown has passed away; Dick Swope's company transferred him to another area as did Jack Oseguedo's firm but Jack (now retired) lives in the East Bay raising camellias and judging at Shows. Bob Ehrhart works and lives in Walnut Creek. He and his family are much involved with camellias and their activities.

For the past few years Dr. Gordon Richmond and Haig Ashuckian have been maintaining the weekly tradition. Dr. Richmond is now retiring and so Haig will be lunching alone . . . unless some of you "Camelliaites" in the vicinity will give Haig a call and meet as "The Group" did. This Camellia Lunch Group is too fine a tradition to let slip away.

HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

by Woodford F. Harrison

The universe is a heterogeneous affair, but it has mysterious ways of creating beginnings that follow a system of homogeneity in the formation of isolated bodies. It might be said that the formation of the Northern California Camellia Society was the result of mysterious forces that brought together for a single purpose individuals heretofore virtually unknown to each other.

There were a number of people who were prime movers in starting the society, or rather continuing it after once the nucleus had been formed. It is told that the prime movers for this society were probably Harold L. Paige, David L. Feathers, and Otto E. Hopfer, but what brought them together? On that memorable day of beginning, Harold Paige had only recently shown any great interest in camellias, although there were a few in his garden, tended principally by his wife, Mary Paige. In fact, he was then much interested in a "Victory" vegetable garden. Dave Feathers was a camellia grower of reputation. O. E. Hopfer was growing camellias that he had collected from the deep South. It may be that these three people realized a common interest at the time of the first Camellia Show in San Francisco, put on by Alfred Stettler, this followed by camellias of fine quality exhibited in Marin County. Enthusiasm among these three was obviously kindled. There followed discussions about camellias with others, principally members of the Oakland Business Men's Garden Club. Perhaps Hopfer's experience as an advertising specialist added momentum. At any rate, the idea of having a camellia show, and one put on by a working organization, was quickly born.

A few people were invited to meet at O. E. Hopfer's home on Sunday afternoon, December 9, 1945, for the purpose of considering and acting upon the proposal that an organization of persons interested in the cultivation of camellias be formed into a society, with headquarters in Oakland, California. There were fourteen camellia enthusiasts at this founders' meeting:

J. D. Black, Piedmont
E. L. Coleman, Oakland
B. S. Ehrenpfort, Oakland
David L. Feathers, Oakland
Howard H. Gilkey, Oakland
W. M. Griffith, Hayward
Woodford F. Harrison, Berkeley
O. E. Hopfer, Oakland
Charles Jensen, Oakland
Dr. Noble H. Logan, Oakland
Louis J. Macchia, San Carlos
Eugene T. Nebiolo, Oakland
Harold L. Paige, Oakland
Arthur J. Tucker, Oakland

This meeting was accurately reported in the first issue of the Bulletin of the Northern California Camellia Society, October 1947, by the editor, Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead. The following notes are quoted verbatim from that issue:

"Mr. Hopfer opened the meeting with a general statement of its purpose and suggested possible activities of such a society, including the sponsoring of an annual camellia show. At the roundtable discussion which followed, it was found that those present were unanimously in favor of forming such a society. Mr. Paige was then chosen Temporary Chairman to preside over the organizational meeting.

"First, a suitable name was considered. After discussion, a motion was carried to call the society the 'Cali-

fornia Camellia Society.' (Subsequently the name was changed to 'Northern California Camellia Society' in order to eliminate any possible confusion with other California camellia societies.)

"The Society was to be a non-profit organization, founded for the purpose of bringing together, as a group, persons genuinely interested in the dissemination and furtherance of the knowledge of growing camellias.

"There followed an election of officers, resulting as follows:

President, O. E. Hopfer

Vice-President, Harold L. Paige

Secretary, D. L. Feathers

Treasurer, Arthur J. Tucker

. . . E. T. Nebiolo, Oakland attorney, was appointed to draft a set of proposed By-Laws."

The membership from that point grew rapidly, and since this account begins with speculation as to the mysterious forces that draw people together, we might further wonder what force it was that attracted to our camellia society such a high percentage of medical men, among them Drs. H. V. Allington, Robert Cutter, Walker Wells, Myron Grismore, Noble Logan and Gordon Richmond, all of whom contributed heavily of their talents in the early days.

Less than three months elapsed after the founding of the society before the first show was staged, with Harold Paige as Show Manager. We quote again from the first issue of the Bulletin:

"At last the great day arrived! The First Annual Camellia Show was held at the Twentieth Century Club in Berkeley on Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24, 1946, opening at noon on Saturday and closing at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

"Hundreds of visitors attended, oh-ing and ah-ing over the colorful display of specimen blooms grown by amateurs and professionals, and

the exhibit of rare and unusual varieties grown by nurserymen.

"The Show was generally deemed to be outstandingly successful, for which major credit goes to Show Manager Paige and his committee of volunteer workers. Mrs. Herbert V. Mitchell served as Chairman of Registration, and the following members helped in staging the show: Herbert V. Mitchell, Dr. Robert Cutter, D. L. Feathers, Dr. Noble H. Logan, Arthur J. Tucker. Particular credit also goes to Mrs. William J. Roth of San Francisco whose array of camellia arrangements added materially to the artistic tone of the show. Judges of specimen blooms were Frank Burns of San Rafael, B. F. Enos of San Leandro, and Alfred Stettler of San Francisco, under the direction of Prof. H. M. Butterfield of Berkeley. Judges of amateur camellia arrangements were Mrs. Herbert D. Bendheim of Oakland, Mrs. Charles C. Derby of Berkeley, and Miss Nellie Jacobson of Oakland."

It is most gratifying to the few still active founders and early members of the society that each and every year a successful show has been put on, and that although death has taken many of the first members, the activities of the society are being continued by very enthusiastic camellia growers of succeeding generations.

**HAVE YOU SEEN
THE NEW CAMELLIA
BOOK?
80 COLORFUL PLATES
OF
CAMELLIA BLOOMS
ONLY
\$3.95 POST PAID!**

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL

Harold E. Dryden

As with so many things in our lives, the Southern California Camellia Council was an outgrowth of a specific event and not a result of somebody's dream for an improvement in relations among camellia societies and camellia people. The late Ralph Peer was active in the affairs of the American Camellia Society. He obtained a commitment from the Directors of that Society that they would accept an invitation from a responsible group in Southern California to hold their annual meeting in Los Angeles in 1956. They had met previously in Sacramento but this would be their first meeting in the southern part of the State.

I was President of the Southern California Camellia Society at the time and my first reaction was how nice it would be for the Southern California Society to be host to such a meeting. It was obvious, however that this would not be proper when there were four active camellia societies in the immediate Los Angeles area — The Los Angeles, Pacific, Southern California and Temple City Societies. Furthermore, three of these Societies held camellia shows and it would be necessary to fit the show schedule to the requirements of the A.C.S. meeting.

Ralph Peer invited the Presidents of the four Los Angeles area societies to his Park Hill home to review the subject. It was agreed at this and subsequent meetings that the societies in the area would collectively host the meeting in the name of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, and that the Council would sponsor the camellia show that would be held in conjunction with the meeting. The Southern California and Pacific Societies agreed to forego their annual society shows in order that they might con-

centrate their energies on the big show. The Los Angeles Camellia Council, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of California and Ralph Peer was made its first President.

The Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood was chosen as the headquarters for the meeting, because of its central location and the "magic" of Hollywood. The selection of the site for the camellia show was more involved. The first thought for a site was Brookside Park in Pasadena. Problems developed, however, and thoughts turned to Descanso Gardens. The background there for a camellia show was unsurpassed, regular visitors to the Gardens formed the basis for a good attendance, and there were ample parking facilities. There were problems, however. There were no covered facilities for the show, and no means of financing inasmuch as an entrance fee could not be imposed at a public park. The first problem was met by the decision to place tables at the base of the large oak trees and thus hold an outdoor show. The financial problem was solved by obtaining a grant from Los Angeles County, the amount being charged to the County's promotion fund inasmuch as Descanso Gardens had only recently been acquired by Los Angeles County and the visitors would include people from out-of-state.

Thus, a new order of things was under way. There was a going organization whose membership consisted of camellia societies, originally only the societies in the immediate Los Angeles area but since expanded to include all seven of the Southern California societies. Equally important, there was the start of the outdoor camellia shows in Descanso Gardens, the only regularly scheduled outdoor

camellia show in the United States and Southern California's big annual camellia show. The outcome of the first meeting of camellia society presidents at Ralph Peer's home in 1955 to talk about the invitation to A. C. S. to hold an Annual Meeting in Los Angeles could not have been foreseen by those present at the meeting.

The success of the first Descanso Gardens show pointed to the desirability of continuing the Los Angeles Camellia Council as a going concern. The Southern California and Pacific Societies decided not to resume their own shows so that they could continue to give their full attention to the Descanso Gardens show. The Council was in full stride, therefore, to again serve as host to the American Camellia Society for its Annual Meeting in 1961 at Disneyland and in 1971 at Pasadena. The Council put on two camellia shows in 1961, one at Disneyland in conjunction with the A. C. S. meeting and the other at Descanso Gardens so that the continuity of the Descanso Gardens show would not be broken.

The next significant step of the Council in the way of camellia shows was the inauguration of the Early Show in December 1965, designed primarily for gibbed blooms. This show was announced in the May 1965 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The REVIEW article stated in part: "While the use of gibberellic acid to induce early blooming of camellias had its early impetus in Southern California, only a relatively few people in the area have been using it. It is hoped that the early show in December will be an inducement for its broader use in order to produce the early blooms." It was first thought that these early shows would be held in the Hospitality House in Descanso Gardens and the first show was held there. Soon, however, these shows ran into conflict with the Christmas Deco-

rations Show put on by the Descanso Gardens Guild, first scheduled to be in alternate years. The conflicts were avoided by holding the camellia shows at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in the years of the Guild shows. This proved to be undesirable and the early camellia shows are now regularly held at the Arboretum.

It became evident early in the life of the Camellia Council that an organization of camellia societies could be helpful in coordinating camellia affairs in Southern California, without conflicting with the idea of individual autonomy of the seven societies. Training sessions for camellia show judges have been sponsored by the Council. Of greatest significance, probably, have been the steps to coordinate camellia show rules and schedules for the four annual shows in Southern California during the regular show season.

With the membership of the Council including societies as far away from Los Angeles as San Diego, the name Los Angeles Camellia Council obviously was not appropriate. In 1972, therefore, the name was changed to Southern California Camellia Council.

As has been stated, the members of the Council are the seven camellia societies of Southern California; namely, the Los Angeles, Orange County, Pacific, Pomona Valley, San Diego, Southern California and Temple City Societies. All of these member societies designate two of their members to serve on the Board of Directors that administers the affairs of the Council. Additionally on the Board are three at-large Directors who are elected by the "member" Directors, the Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW, and current and immediate past show chairmen of the Descanso Gardens and Arboretum (Early) shows. Each year the new Board elects a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Council solved the financing problem by buying, with the consent of Los Angeles County, the tractors and trams that are used at the Gardens for conveying visitors around the gardens. Collections on the trams, all made gratis by the riders, go to the Council. The Council pays all expenses of maintenance of the equipment, including replacements where necessary. The funds thus collected pay for the two shows sponsored by the Council at Descanso Gardens and the Los Angeles County Arboretum, and in addition make it possible for the Council to pay for items desired by the Superintendent of the Gardens that cannot be bought within the County budget.

The experience since the Council was formed in 1956 points to the advantages of having an organization that seeks to coordinate an activity that is essentially individualistic. All has not been sweetness and roses during these nineteen years. Despite some differences, the Council has worked for the good of the camellia people in the area that it serves, and hopefully, in cooperation with the Northern California Camellia Council can work toward near unity throughout camellia-land in California. After all, in a group where there cannot be full unity on how to fertilize camellias, could we expect that there will be full unity on such matters as rules and regulations for camellia shows?

FORTHCOMING CAMELLIA EVENTS

November promises to be a busy month for all Camellia Hobby people. Here are some "thumbnail" sketches of Events as reported to CAMELLIA REVIEW:

- Thurs. Nov. 3rd — Pacific Camellia Society opens its season at their new location in the Central Bank of Glendale Building. A cut camellia bloom display will precede the formal meeting.
- Sat. Nov. 8th — California Camellia-Rama, Fresno. This Meeting will feature 8 speakers; a camellia bloom show; and a banquet. See the October issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW for all the details.
- Mon. Nov. 10th — Regular Meeting of the Camellia Society of Kern County.
- Tues. Nov. 11th — Mrs. Leone Summerson reports that the Southern California Camellia Society will open its season with a panel discussion on Camellia Culture. The panel will include Rudy Moore, Bill Goertz and Sergio Bracci, with Caryl Pitkin as the Moderator. Everyone should come to the meeting with some good questions to pose to the panel.
- Thurs. Nov. 13th — Pomona Camellia Society holds its first meeting of the season.
- Wed. Nov. 19th — San Diego Camellia Society will hold its first meeting of the season.
- Thurs. Nov. 20th — Orange Camellia Society will hold its first meeting of the season.
- Fri. Nov. 21 — Temple City Camellia Society will hold its first meeting of the season at the Arboretum in Arcadia. The feature speaker of the evening will talk on orchids and show slides of new orchids from Stewart's Nursery.
- Tues. Dec. 2 — Los Angeles Camellia Society will open its 25th season with a talk by Bill Woodruff. It is interesting to note that at the first meeting of the Los Angeles Camellia Society, held in 1950, Bill Woodruff was the feature speaker!
- Dec. 13th & 14th — Southern California Camellia Council "GIB" Show. Art Krumm, Show Chairman, reports that he is getting his committees lined up for the Annual "Gib" Show to be held in the Lecture Hall at The Los Angeles County Arboretum, in Arcadia. The main theme of the show is to display the early blooms resulting from the use of gibberellic acid. However, there will be ample room for the display of natural blooms and amateurs are welcome. The schedule and format will be the same as last year, with awards for both gibbed and non-gibbed flowers and for different species and size groups.

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, October through April (except 3rd Monday in November), at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Robert Eastman; Sec., Mrs. George T. Butler, 1831 Windsor Ln, Santa Ana 92705

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, 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, October through April in Shepard Garden & Art Center, 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Bill Harris; Secretary, Mary Anne Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, in All-purpose Room, Del Mar School, 4122 N. Del Mar, Fresno

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March at various society member's homes, Oct. 25 3rd Annual BBQ Dinner 5:00 p.m. immediately following the Fall Meeting of the Northern California Camellia Council.

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, 1st Fed. Savings & Loan Community Rm., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, 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: Second Tuesday October through May, at Guarantee Savings Bldg., 2929 McHenry Ave., Modesto

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

Meetings: 1st Monday, November through May, Claremont JHS, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Judy Simmons; Secretary, Leone Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glen. 91208

Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale 91203

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Ralph E. Bernhardt; Sec., Andrew R. Johnson, Jr., 28 Lloyd Dr., Atherton 94025

Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, Municipal Services Center. 1400 Broadway, Redwood City.

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, 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., November-April, Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Pk., San Diego, 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: 3rd Tuesday September through April, at Great Western Savings Bldg., 2100 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Marilyn Batt; Secretary, C. O. McCorkle, 340 Belhaven Pl., Santa Rosa 95405

Meetings: Nov. 13, Dec. 11, 1975, January through May 1976 on the 4th Thursday of the month, 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; Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776

Meetings: Friday, Nov. 14; Friday, Dec. 19; Thursday, Jan. 22; Thursday, Feb. 26; Thursday, March 25; and Thursday, April 22 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum Lecture Hall in Arcadia



**SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA**

CAMELLIA

Society, Inc.

P. O. BOX 717
ARCADIA, CA 91006



Return Requested
Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed

Garry M. Serpas
104 Tyvola Dr.
Summerville, SC 29483

U. S. POSTAGE
Bulk Rate
PAID
Permit No. 230
Whittier, Calif.