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REVIEW

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C. SASANQUA—NAVAJO

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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.

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Tel. 446-5525
Mailing address: P.O. Box 717
Arcadia, 91006

DIRECTORS

MARK ANTHONY
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San Gabriel 91775
Tel. 286-7172

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

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

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

CLARK THOMAS
128 W. Sixth St., San Dimas 91773
Tel. (714) 599-2666

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2073 Australia

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

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. SASANQUA—NAVAJO

Navajo is a *C. sasanqua* seedling which was shipped to the Star Nurseries in Sierra Madre from Japan in the 1930's. Nothing was done with the camellia until after World War II when it was chosen, along with several others, by Nuccio's Nurseries for propagation. It has since become a popular landscape plant. The flower is a large semi-double with 7 to 9 petals. The color is rose red fading to white in the center. The burst of stamens is yellow. The plant has a bushy, compact, upright growth and it blooms in the early season.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

What a strange summer we had in the summer of 1976! If you will recall we had a rather cool, dry winter and early Spring here in Southern California. Then beginning in May, we had our usual July, August, and September weather — only it was three months early! I checked the U.S. Weather Bureau Records and here is what I found.

We usually have one week of fairly hot weather in July; a scorcher week or two in August; and a hot muggy spell in September which often culminates in the first rainfall of the season. Here is what happened this last summer. During a seven day period in the middle of May we had maximum temperatures of 80; 86; 89; 93; 97; 96; 90. Then in June came our August weather. On June 12th it was 90 and it never got below 90 until July 1st! On June 25th the temperature climbed to 100. Then, in succession we had 104 105; 102; and 101. For three of those days it was the hottest on record for that date! On Sunday, June 27th, it was the hottest June day in the history of the Pasadena Weather Bureau. That same day it was 112 in Alhambra; 107 in San Gabriel; and 108 in San Marino. The month of July was not unlike our usual Septembers. The average mean monthly rainfall for July is a trace. The greatest measured rainfall for July is 0.03 inches. Yet we had 4 days of rain in early July with a total volume for the month of 0.89 inches! This summer's August was the coolest on record and, in many ways, resembled our Octobers. When the real September arrived it was very much like a normal November as far as rainfall was concerned. In some places we had over three inches of precipitation!

The reason for all of these statistics is to try to explain why we had ungibbed camellia blooms on the 4th of July! This may explain why I had 7 blooms on 'Kickoff'; 3 on 'Lalla Rook'; and 4 on 'Kramer's Supreme' by August 6th! This might explain why I delivered camellia blooms on my "Route" on September 16th! This might explain why we had seed pods opening in the latter part of August. In fact, Meyer Piet and Mel Gum germinated a seed in July and on August 10th it was 4 inches high! Someone has suggested that, after all, our camellia plants don't have a calendar to refer to! Just because the calendar says June or July does not mean a thing to 'Kick-off'. Our camellias sense that the weather says FALL and they start bloom.

These early blooms have piqued our desire for more ungibbed, early blooming camellias. We would love to have several *C. japonicas* that bloomed without fail in late August or early September. The hybridizers are working on the problem and we may soon have some early bloomers!

Bill Donnan

HYBRIDIZING PROGRESS

By MEYER PIET

The 1976 Camellia season (last year) certainly was a big success. Mel and I saw at least ten very interesting flowers. The basic size of the large flowers were between 4½ and 5½ inches in diameter, color usually varied from light pink to very dark reds, with some very brilliant colors.

The best combinations were:

1. G4 — 'Maitland' x ('Moutancha'/'Elizabeth Johnstone'), 5 to 5½ inches, beautiful wavy pink, all rabbit ears, center full of golden anthers.
2. G5 — 'Crimson Robe' x 'Moutancha'/'Elizabeth Johnstone', full wavy pink, 5½ inches.
3. G7 — 'Crimson Robe' x 'Nuccio's Ruby', big full dark red.
4. G5 — 'Crimson Robe' x 'Nuccio's Ruby', big dark red, may be darker than 7017.
5. G3 — 'Mouchang' x 'Bonzanza', peony 'Mouchang', 5½ inches diameter, 'Mouchang' color, very full.

We grafted six each of the above plants and they are two to three feet tall. They should bloom next season. As I mentioned in my last article I do expect to start a good collection of color slides on any of the various camellia crosses that show some promise of being worthwhile.

Let's go over the seed set for the 1976 season. Mel decided to try for some interesting flowers of the japonica-saluensis crosses. He obtained two plants of 'J. C. Williams' and we did succeed in setting some additional large japonica into it. I continued with several saluensis plants and obtained good crosses. The many, many times we have tried at additional F2 crosses of granthamiana finally paid off and we have at least three seed pods to show for our efforts.

As expected many of our crosses are now accomplished using our new seedlings as either pollen or mother plant. Since we believe we have some outstanding new flowers, we would be foolish if we did not start crossing them to obtain even better results. This is bound to be our general direction when working with the retic-japonica hybrids. I know we will produce excellent results. Plants that exist as seeds picked in 1973 will now have offsprings as seeds picked in 1976, actually we have some excellent crosses of 'Pink Sparkle'/'Nuccio's Ruby' crossed back into 'Nuccio's Ruby'. These were grafted this year (1976) (seeds picked in 1975) and could possibly bloom next season (1977).

One thing that you learn early is DON'T wait. Graft the seedlings, see the flowers and start crossing, over and over again. As noted above between seeds picked in 1973 and picked in 1975, we will actually develop two generations of flowers, that, because of their excellent parents should be well worthwhile. In this particular case we are working with (retic/japonica) x (retic/japonica). What we hope for in the F3 of the above 'Pink Sparkle'/'Nuccio's Ruby' combination (five seeds) is a very dark red with the luminescence of 'Pink Sparkle' ('Maitland', 'Buddha' /japonica).

Now that the seeds are germinating let's talk about the progress by objective groups: Sasanqua-retic-'Flower Girl' vs retic, etc.

We have now added four new plants to our collection, two new 'Flower Girl' x 'Nuccio's Ruby' and 'Flower Girl' x 'Lady in Red'. This is the first time (seeds picked in 1975) that we have introduced some japonica blood into the 'Flower Girl'

line. Our four new grafts will not bloom this season (1977) but should be usable in the 1978 season. This year I disposed of all but two of the original 'Flower Girl' parent plants, I will try to set seed with a good white japonica and hopefully a granthamiana-retic hybrid. Other than this, our main effort will be to use the existing eleven F2 plants. Nine of these plants have 'Flower Girl' as the mother and they are all very bushy with sasanqua characteristics. One of the nine is bushy but has medium size *retic* leaves. This plant will get special attention. It will bloom for the first time this season (1977), the remaining two plants are *retic*, 'Crimson Robe' x 'Flower Girl' crosses with excellent flowers but are not anywhere as bushy as the sasanqua mother's offsprings. I purposely crossed in this direction in order to have some material for back-crossing into the nine plants or to use the pollen to hopefully cross into other sasanquas. Another combination cross that will be helpful was obtained by my good hybridizing friend, Lee Gaeta. He obtained a 'Flower Girl' x granthamiana cross. When pollen is available I will obtain it from Lee and hopefully use it to set seed in my nine other mother plants.

I did have one successful germinating seed (1976) of G3 — 'Flower Girl'/'San Marino' x G7 'Crimson Robe'/'Nuccio's Ruby', this is my only F3, but I hope for additional F3 material from this season (1977) crosses.

If I were to choose one set of plants that I could work with it would be the sasanqua-retic or japonica combination. I am convinced after seeing last year's flowers 4 to 5½ inches in diameter and the changes of both color and form, but the retention of bushyness, that these plants will produce camellias of the future. Every attribute a grower desires should be here:

1. Ability to withstand full sun.
2. Bushy plant.
3. Early bloomer.
4. Good root system.
5. Large, beautiful flowers.
6. Easy seeder.
7. Should root from cuttings easy.
8. Different flower forms, etc.

Just about everything that we seek in improvement could come from these mother plants. It is possible when we cross sasanqua-retic x *retic* with sasanqua-retic x japonica that new interesting color breaks could occur.

Let's go over some of the seed picked in 1976:

1. Sasanqua x *retic*/japonica:
'Flower Girl'/'San Marino' x G7
'Crimson Robe'/'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Crimson King'/'Crimson Robe' x
G2 'Flower Girl'/'San Marino'
2. Saluenensis-japonica or *retic* hybrid:
'J. C. Williams' - 'Pirates Gold'
'J. C. Williams' - 'Sandy Sue'
Saluenensis - 'Coral Pink Lotus'
Saluenensis - 'Arch of Triumph'
Saluenensis - 'Tomorrow Park Hill'
Saluenensis - 'Nuccio's Ruby'
3. *Retic* or *retic* hybrid x japonica:
G1 'Tali Queen'/'Nuccio's Ruby' x
'Nuccio's 7048' (japonica)
'Kohinor' x 'Leonora Novick'
4. *Retic* hybrid x *retic* hybrid:
'Francie L' x G5 'Crimson Robe'/
'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Francie L' x G7 'Crimson Robe'/
'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Francie L' x 'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Firechief' x 'Cornelian'
'Kohinor' x 'Chittagong'
'Kohinor' x 'Lilette Witman'
'Kohinor' x G5 'Crimson Robe'/
'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Kohinor' x G2 'Crimson Robe'/
'Kohinor'
'Buddha' x 'Lilette Witman'
'Mouchang' x G3 'Mouchang'/
'Bonanza'
'Eden Roc' x 'Lilette Witman'

- 'Eden Roc' x 'Melinda Hackett'
 'Eden Roc' x 'Shot Silk'
 G4 'Maitland'/'Elizabeth Johnstone' x G3 'Willow Wand'/'Silver Mist'
 G4 'Maitland'/'Elizabeth Johnstone' x 'Kohinor'
 'Patricia Coull' x 'Shot Silk'
 Wild retic/'Buddha' x 'Kohinor'
 G3 'Willow Wand'/'Silver Mist' x 'Shot Silk'
5. Retic x saluenensis hybrids:
 'Priemer' x 'Elsie Jury'
 6. Japonica x retic hybrids:
 'Midnight' x 'Dr. Cliff Parks'
 'Tinsie' x 'Patricia Coull'
 7. Fragrance:
 'Nioi Fubuki' (Higo) x 'S Smell'
 'Nioi Fubuki' (Higo) x AK1
 'Nioi Fubuki' (Higo) x 'Smellie Nellie'
 8. Granthamiana:
 Granthamiana #5 (F1 hybrid) x 'Crimson Robe'/granthamiana
 Granthamiana #5 (F1 hybrid) x 'Pharaoh'
 G3 'Crimson Robe'/'Nuccio's Ruby' x Dr. Homeyer #26

We finally broke through after trying for three seasons without results and obtained seeds on F1 granthamiana #5/'Crimson Robe' x granthamiana and F1 granthamiana #5 x 'Pharaoh'. Granthamiana #5 (there are about five more plants) are granthamiana hybrids of the Los Angeles Arboretum crosses in which case the identification tag is lost.

I noticed several cases where granthamiana x pink japonica has produced flowers (F1) with a reasonable amount of yellow in the center. It behooves us to continue to try to set additional seed on these plants hopefully with pollen from a plant like Nuccio's 'Elegans Champagne'.

Even though we may try several seasons without success, past experience says that for some unknown reason, maybe next season the plant will set seed. It has happened many times to us already, so we will be patient

and try, try again.

The only fragrance seedlings are those of fragrant 'Nioi Fubuki', three different fragrant japonicas. These are our first crosses using Higos. It was interesting to note that all of the seeds had the appearance of kidney beans, not like normal japonica seeds.

This season we hope to cross many of 'Fragrant Frill' x 'Kramer's Supreme' back into their parents to hopefully improve the fragrance. We do have two fragrant retic x japonica hybrids to also cross into.

I was pleased that we have some additional 'Francie L' seeds, only one seed in a pod again, very unlike the normal retic hybrid seed pod. The season was well along with six seed pods, but no matter what I seem to do, three of the pods dried up. The remaining three pods (and three seeds) are all 'Nuccio's Ruby' or 'Nuccio's Ruby' x 'Crimson Robe' crosses, so we should eventually (two seasons) see some beautiful big dark red 'Francie L' hybrids. This is an excellent chance for that great big dark red flower.

I was pleased when "Big Bill" found the peony form G3 'Mouchang' x 'Bonanza'. Mel was out of town so he has not seen the flower yet. We have used the pollen and back-crossed into 'Mouchang' and 'Cornelian'. We have lots of seed pods on these crosses. On the seed pod on my plant here was only one seed. It reminded me of the 'Francie L' seeds (retic x saluenensis). On Mel's plants we have lots of pods and hopefully many seeds. These should have good potential for even better peony form 'Mouchang' color flowers.

We have some excellent crosses using 'Shot Silk' pollen. Other than the 'Flower Girl' seed pods, 'Shot Silk' (pollen) pods are also warted and usually only one or two seeds to a pod. I often wonder if 'Shot Silk' is a retic-sasanqua hybrid. Since both the seed pod characteristics and the very

brilliant color is similar to those present in the 'Flower Girl' crosses.

If you wonder what the G3, G7, etc., numbers are, I'll straighten that out, we use G (or the letter) to denote a GRAFT plant. All seeds picked in 1973 use a G prefix, all seeds picked in 1974 use a J, all seeds picked in 1975 use a K and all seeds picked in 1976 use an L prefix. The number after the letter denotes how many of the same cross — in the case of G3 'Crimson Robe' x '7017' (Nuccio's Ruby) there were ten seedlings grafted therefore G1, G2, G3, etc., there were more than ten of the same cross, the remaining seeds are growing normally and probably will not flower for four or five more years. Many of these are two or two and one-half feet tall (seeds picked in 1973) whereas those that were grafted are four and five feet tall and producing flowers and offsprings.

What next? Time for a rest or a siesta? No, we still have lots to do. Mel would like more 'J. C. Williams' crosses so we will zap the mother plants again. I would like some big white japonicas ('Sandy Sue') into 'Flower Girl' or any good granthamiana or granthamiana hybrid into 'Flower Girl'.

Any additional 'Francie L' seeds would be welcome. I did have three pods on 'Howard Asper', they set very early in the season, I debudded (minus 120 buds) and cut the new growth back, but nothing seemed to work. This year I'll wait until February or March and if good seed set I'll cut the parent plant to a stump, in the hope of saving the seedlings. Try as you may it's difficult to cut it all back. Must be a soft spot somewhere.

The main thing on the retic hybrids will be to continue to cross them amongst each other. This season several of the "PIC", that big 7-7/8 inch diameter natural flower crossed back into various retics will

bloom. They should be big offsprings and good form, so there will be good pollen to work with.

Yes we will continue to try to cross the various plants with yellow present. Sooner or later (probably much later) there will be positive results if we just stick with it.

Well, that's it for now. I hope to have a second article near the end of the season on what we saw in new flowers. I really expect a great 1977 season.

SOME NOTES ON IRRIGATION

by BURNELL YARICK

As water is added to an open soil it passes through leaving behind an amount of water called the "Field Capacity" or FC, a film of dampness plus the continuous meniscus where the soil particles touch. 'Tis not a surprise that soils are therefore filled to FC *from the top down*. But if the drainage is inadequate, as in the bottom of a pot, then the pore spaces begin to fill, this time *from the bottom up*. The condition of filled pore space is called saturation. The resulting exclusion of air for just a few hours will asphyxiate the roots and they progressively die starting with the root hairs.

As a soil starts to drain from the saturated condition, a bubble first forms in each pore space. Starting at the surface the bubbles slowly enlarge then suddenly coalesce to allow continuous air passageways and hence air circulation. The downward seepage rate gradually decreases and comes to a full stop at FC. But this cannot happen in a container because water does not like to drain into the thin air.

Thus an irrigation by a flood of water acts as a piston pushing ahead of it all the soil air, dissolved nutrients, and salts. A good case for

drip irrigation is the possibility that if water is added slowly enough it may never approach saturation and exclusion of air. Some strawberry growers now "seep" the soil daily with a porous tube and thus have exceeded 37 tons of berries per acre the first year.

Thus, overirrigation is a myth. Underdrainage is the culprit and the exclusion of air leads to anaerobic decomposition of the organic matter and root asphyxiation.

After FC is reached and the downward movement of water ceases, then roots begin to extract water. This requires effort to overcome the adhesive forces of attraction between the water molecules and surface of the soil particles. This force of attraction, or tension, is measurable by an instrument called a soil tensiometer. It measures vacuum. And as the soil dries the film gets thinner and the roots have to work harder. Energy is required to extract the water and carbon dioxide is produced into the soil air. Finally, the tension gets too high and the absorption rate slows to the "Wilting Point", WP. Without addition of water the extraction rate is too slow to support the plant. Incipient wilting will first show in early afternoon and it is called permanent wilting when wilting is evident in the early morning too.

Xerophytic plants have adapted to wilting by various devices such as having small leaves, curling or shedding leaves, closing the stomates, many hairs or water storage. Not so with most of our ornamentals, they are luxuriant users of water.

Plants function best with the water content of the soil operating somewhere between the FC and the WP. Many gadgets are on the market recently that are able to detect the moisture variation between these two constants. Most of the gadgets work on the change of the electrical conductivity. To my knowledge there

is no device yet to measure the relationship between the moisture content and the specific heat. This should be the most accurate method but it is obviously too complicated.

Although it may be nice and safe to think that a drip system will keep a small amount of moisture available at all times, there is much information in agriculture to support the thought that it is better to stress a plant a little before irrigating. The dry cycle discourages both fungi and nematodes. Perhaps the high yields in the strawberry fields are possible with the constant wetness only because the fields are fumigated for disease control each year.

The most important component in any soil is the clay content. These microscopic platelets have a tremendous surface area and they directly determine both the chemical and physical characteristics of a soil. Since they possess a negative charge and are small enough to be colloidal, they remain suspended to muddy the water. When in good tilth the clay particles in a soil are charged with calcium and are flocculated or clumped; the porosity is good and the clods are weak. When in poor tilth, the clay particles of a soil are said to be dispersed. This may result from cultivating when too wet or charging the colloid with sodium ions. The clay particles then coat the larger particles and stick them together like glue. The clods are hard and any wetting creates a slime. Aeration is poor. To cure a sick or deflocculated soil add copious organic matter and lime to displace the sodium; then wait. For potting mixes, most growers avoid soils with any clay content because, although they are the most productive, the drainage is next to impossible and the manipulation disperses the colloid. Some general rules for potting mixes:

Use fine sand or silt with zero clay.
Add 20 to 30% of organic matter

of the peat moss type. It consists mostly of lignins and cutins that break down very slowly. Add NPK and a little lime and dolomite to adjust pH. Keep the water between FC and WP, a neat trick. Keep pots on a pad to prevent rooting-through. Use a pigtail to drain excess water rapidly.

While the plants are growing continue a very light NPK fertilizer program and allow some readily decomposable organic matter on the soil surface at all times. This feeds the beneficial organisms and thus maintains a defense against the pathogens.

CALIFORNIA SHOW WINNERS

By WILLARD F. GOERTZ

Many camellia hobbyists, especially those newer ones who are building a collection, are interested in the "most popular" or "most wanted" cultivars. So often camellia people are asked to name their favorite—or ten most desired camellias—so the following may be of interest to many, although a list showing most popular cultivars desired in the garden would probably look entirely different.

This is a compilation of those japonicas (according to size), reticulata hybrids and non-reticulata hybrids which were voted tops at twelve camellia shows in California from December 1975 through March 1976. Every year there are actually fourteen major shows, but two failed to publicize their results.

Usually the difference in excellence between the winner and the runner-up is so minimal that we are combining the points for first and second best and list the leading varieties as follows:

Large Japonica: A 3-way tie between 'Easter Morn', 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Tomorrow Park Hill'.

We note that 'Elegans Supreme' was *best* in three shows, but the others had more seconds.

Medium Japonica: "Margaret Davis" had the highest total, with 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' and 'Kona' following.

Small Japonica: 'Ave Maria' won by a large margin, with 'Sam Baranca' next.

Miniature Japonica: The winner was 'Little Slam'. 'Petite Miss' was a close second.

Reticulata Hybrid: 'Nuccio's Ruby' led the parade, followed by 'Howard Asper'.

Non-Reticulata Hybrid: 'Elsie Jury', which seems to be on our show trophy tables every year, was in front again. Tied for second were 'Angel Wings' and 'E.G. Waterhouse'.

Among other varieties very much in contention were 'Elegans Splendor', 'Adolph Audusson Special', 'Eleanor Martin Supreme', 'Nuccios Gem', 'Kitty', 'Pink Smoke', 'Pharoah', 'Arch of Triumph', 'Waltz Time Varig', 'Waterlily', and 'Charlean'.

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THINK BEFORE YOU GIB

By DR. WILLIAM Y. BENNETT

Ed. Note: The following, also entitled Gibberellic Acid Is Not Altogether a Miracle Drug, is a resume of a talk given by Dr. William Y. Bennett, a professor of botany, to his fellow members of the Pensacola Men's Camellia Club. This is a reprint from the winter 1975 issue of Gulf Coast Camellias.

Many have asked just what is gibberelic acid and how does it work. A few facts may give an insight as to how best to use "gib" for camellia flower "goosing". Gibberelic acid is one of several natural-occurring compounds found in higher plant life which are referred to as growth regulators. Each of these regulators has its own area of influence and together this influence results in the coordinated biological effect we see as growth.

Plant parts generally grow in precise ways and locations; e.g., stems grow in length only at their tips. Where else do you find new leaves in the spring? It is at the location of cell growth (stem tips) that these growth regulating substances have their greatest influence.

Growth of a stem tip comes from several happenings. First, new cells are added by simple cell division. Next these new cells grow to their maximum size and may be 20 or more times their original length. Then these "grown" cells go through their maturing process to become whatever type they are supposed to be to carry out their special function in the stem.

Normal gibberelic acid in plant tissue influences the second phase of cell growth—in some way it affects the uptake of water when the cell is undergoing its elongation or enlargement. These cells contain 90% or more water; therefore this is a critical time in plant growth. The more water absorbed at this time, the larger the new cell becomes. As all of the cells increase in size, the plant part becomes larger depending upon the natural occurring gib influence upon tissue growth. As indirect evidence of the importance of gibberelic

acid to normal plant growth, several varieties of dwarf plants are known to be deficient in natural gibberelic acid. These dwarfs grow to normal size if gibberelic acid is added.

With the addition of gibberelic acid, there is still another influence upon plant growth. When a greater than normal amount is added, the result is to cause dormant tissue, such as a flower bud, to start growing sooner than it would under normal conditions. With the proper timing and by adding gib, one can then cause camellia buds to open at an earlier date. What is happening is a lot of water absorption and cell enlargement.

Think back over the growing season of the past spring and fall and what you did to provide the optimum amount of water, fertilizer and healthful care. By the time the flower buds have formed, all its parts are there—blooming is just the result of cell enlargement. Earlier growing conditions have determined the shape, number of parts and the general potential of a flower. Gibbing begins the opening process sooner and encourages the cells already present to become a little larger. If you gib a large, well-formed bud, it opens into a beautiful, large flower. Gib a runty bud and you get a runty flower.

Thus we see that spring and summer growing conditions plus adequate watering at blooming time determine the bloom outcome. The effect of gibberelic acid is thought to determine the quantity of water absorption and this uptake of water is a major difference between gibbed and ungibbed blooms.

THE 32nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY AT MODESTO CALIFORNIA MARCH 17-19, 1977

Camellia Show

A lovely interior palm court complete with small pools of water afloat with camellia blossoms is the setting of the Camellia Society of Modesto's annual show in the Gallo Administration Building. Beautiful trophies will reward those bringing outstanding camellia blooms. The Holiday Inn, headquarters for the American Camellia Society Meeting, will furnish cold storage, so bring your camellia flowers. For Show Schedule write to Mrs. Barbara Butler, 1016 Sycamore Ave., Modesto, Ca. 95350.

Field Trips

Several outstanding field trips are being offered in conjunction with the A.C.S. Meeting. A chance to see the operation at the Gallo Plant is being offered. You will have an opportunity to see the wine bottles being poured and molded, as well as other phases of wine production. A barbecue in the setting of a wine vineyard will climax this trip.

You will travel along the famous Highway 49 (named after the forty-niners of the gold prospecting era) to historic Columbia State Park. Columbia was one of hundreds of settlements that sprang up during the exciting years when the cry of "Gold!" brought men from all over the world to seek their fortunes in California. Columbia has retained much of the same appearance as when miners thronged its streets and is now a California State Historic Park. You will tour this village, seeing the famous Fallon House Theater where miners enjoyed performances by actors and actresses like Lola Montez, Edwin Booth and Lotta Crabtree. The firehouse, museum and Wells Fargo Building are a few of the favorite places you may choose to visit during the afternoon.

After you enter your blooms on Saturday morning, a tour of the lovely LaCoste gardens will be the final field trip before the opening preview of the Modesto Camellia Show.

Bus transportation will be provided to all events. March weather in Modesto is mild and pleasant and it seldom rains during this month.

HEADQUARTERS

The Holiday Inn will be the headquarters for the A.C.S. Meeting. It is located at 1612 Dale Road, Modesto, Ca. 95350. **RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOLIDAY INN.** Rates are \$23 single; \$27-30 double.

The convention registration fee is \$50 for three days. Check should be made to Camellia Society of Modesto and sent to Clyde Buchanan, 1113 Half Moon Drive, Modesto, Ca. 95350. Please address all correspondence regarding registration to Mrs. Barbara Butler, 1016 Sycamore Ave., Modesto, Ca. 95350.

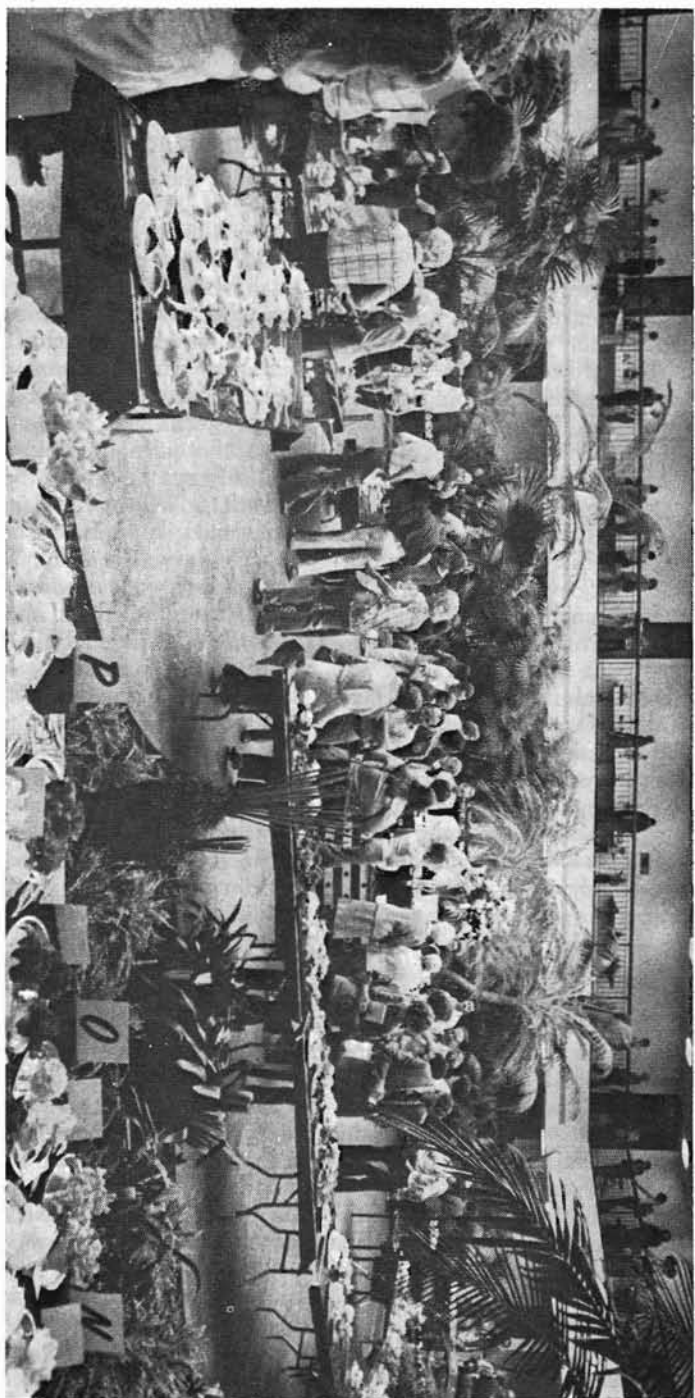
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

P. O. Box 717

Arcadia, Calif. 91006



Gallo Winery Exhibit Building

SEVERE PRUNING OF CAMELLIAS

By DAVID L. FEATHERS

Lafayette, California

There is an aspect of camellia culture that seems to have been somewhat neglected over the years, unjustified because of its importance. I refer to Pruning, Shaping, Shearing or whatever designation one wishes to use in describing the desirable practice of controlling the growth of the plant in the manner most pleasing to the grower. There are any number of reasons for doing so: for appearance, due to space considerations, reducing and improving the flower population, rejuvenating the vigor, etc. All of this may be largely summarized through the observation that the camellia is, basically, an ornamental evergreen of the first class, whose chief function in the garden is to be attractive. While the camellia has the "extra dividend" that it also bears beautiful flowers, the fact remains that, for ten months out of the year, it is simply a superb, broad-leaved evergreen. Anyone who does not take advantage of this fact is losing a great part of the value of the camellia, whether his method be ground planting or in a container.

To support my opening statement of neglect of this subject, I referred to a publication for whose subject matter I was solely responsible over a period of 11 years (*The Camellia Bulletin*, which discontinued in 1965) and found that, in its entire existence of 18 years, there was only one article entirely devoted to this aspect of camellia culture. It was by a close friend and neighbor, Harold L. Paige, and it is still just about the best thing on this subject (see *The Camellia Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 1, October, 1955). Perhaps the excellence of this article and the characteristic thoroughness of its author were such as to preclude a repeat of the subject over the ten years intervening. At

any rate, it is a matter worth repeating now and then so that we do not fall into the error of ignoring it because of over-concentration on the flower alone.

To those who fear to amputate an established camellia let me say that, through personal experience, I know that it is almost impossible to kill a healthy camellia plant in this manner. In fact, I have deliberately tried to do so without success. If it is a plant that is not doing well, severe pruning actually may be the only salvation. When we visited the famous old planting at Camden Park near Sydney, Australia, in 1962, we were shown at least a half-dozen ancient camellias which had badly deteriorated. These had been rejuvenated simply by cutting back all major branches, some several inches in diameter, to a few feet from the main trunk. When we saw them a year or so later, they were magnificent trees so dense it was not possible to see through them (Figs. 1 and 2).

Another good reason for major pruning can be the result of a camellia becoming so large that it screens out the background undesirably. We have two plants in our front garden that had become so large as to interfere with the view. All branches were removed through simply cutting back the camellia to within a foot or so of the ground. The many new shoots which almost immediately developed had the softwood tips removed by our hungry deer. This tended to make the plants even more bushy. Thus, continually topping out the stronger shoots can shape the "new" camellia into any form desired — round, low, tall or slender — almost regardless of the plant's natural habit. Such treatment results in tremendously attractive or-



Figure 1



Figure 2

namental overgreens which have fewer but larger blooms. Although there may be few if any flowers the next year, the fact is that pruning is one of the better and quicker methods of disbudding, which is an extra inducement.

The foregoing applies to large, established camellias primarily. One prunes a small camellia with the basic objective of establishing the most desirable frame, just as with most fruit trees, especially apples. When the plant has become well branched the pruning is done basically to shape and control its growth. Removing interior and weak twigs and cross-over branches lets light penetrate and, by

permitting the flowers to open unhindered, protects and displays them better. Another form of "pruning" established camellias results from cutting the blooms with stems short enough to leave some of the preceding year's growth. This practice thus serves a two-fold purpose.

Of course, if you are interested in growing camellias primarily for competitive exhibit of the flowers, a different technique entirely is indicated. I knew of one very successful exhibitor who admittedly cared nothing for the appearance of his plants, cutting them back each year to just a few branches on which he would leave one or two flower buds. Every few years he would graft new plants, throwing most of the energy of a vigorous understock into development of a handful of flowers, compensating for this by having several grafts of a variety. When the grafts got too large, he would simply discard them. This is, of course, akin to the chrysanthemum fancier who disbuds to one flower to each stalk. Every person to his taste but this seems to me a very narrow usage of a plant that that can be a magnificent garden subject.

It is, of course, much easier to shape a camellia when one stays with the natural tendency of the plant. That is to say, if you want a round, compact specimen, it is best to begin with a bushy grower. If size is important, select either a fast or slow grower, according to your desires. An open or leggy grower is best for espalier training; a spreading grower makes the best ground cover, a bushy grower the most satisfactory hedge, etc. Most camellias will tend to spread or bush up if you help them along by removing the leader or top branches. A camellia that is in too much shade will seek the light; one that is in open sun will throw out lateral branches near the ground in an attempt to shelter the root system;

one that is crowded will reach for the light and thus grow tall; the sunnier the situation the denser the plant, etc. Growing a camellia in a container, in which environment there are physical limitations to the plant's root area, tends to restrict growth and consequently increase flower production in the relative sense but this causes a great premium to be placed upon care, requiring constant attention.

It has been found that an effective cure for weak and debilitated camellias is simply to cut them back materially and/or transplant and (preferably later) fertilize generously. It is also one of the best ways to restore camellias which have died back, either from neglect or disease. If the problem is the disease *glomerella cingulata* (commonly called "dieback") it is necessary to remove

all infected wood clear back to healthy, green growth. If the trouble is due to neglect (usually drying out) cut back to green wood and water copiously, moving the plant from sun to shade if possible. If the plant is getting too large for the container, the simplest method to correct the situation is to prune it severely so as to bring the foliage back into balance with the root capacity. In such case, the roots may also be pruned lightly all around and fresh potting soil put in their place, although that is not absolutely necessary. I would close with the observation that the average person does not prune camellias nearly enough, in both amount and frequency, irrespective of how they are grown — the natural way in the ground or the artificial way in a container.

FIRST ACS OVERSEAS JUDGES ACCREDITED

By HELEN FOSS

Many camellia hobbyists in the United States have met Harold and Phyllis Austin from New Plymouth, New Zealand. However, few of you might know that they are famous for being among the "first" or "onlys"!

According to ACS Records, Harold and Phyllis are the only ACS accredited judges among our many overseas camellia members. Harold is the President of the North Taranaki Branch of the New Zealand Camellia Society, and with the help of Phyllis, they have been most enthusiastic camellia hobbyists in their area for many years. They have been accredited New Zealand judges for many years having first served as associate judges in their local Branch and then after 3 years they were privileged to become accredited in their country.

In the 1975-76 Camellia Season here in the United States they spent

3 weeks in the Southern States taking in the various Camellia Shows. They were invited to judge at various Shows including our own San Diego Show here on the West Coast. Milton Brown, Executive Secretary of the American Camellia Society said, "The Austins more than meet the standard ACS requirements of being novice judges and judging in five shows over a three year period." (Actually, they judged in seven shows in one season!)

As a consequence they were recommended by a panel of regularly accredited ACS judges with whom they judged to be granted accreditations by ACS. It was a real thrill for the Austins to be recognized. The best part of this story is that their competence in the Camellia world is matched by the many friendships they made and renewed while they were with us here in the U.S.A.!

EARLY CAMELLIA GROWERS—

ROBERT J. HALLIDAY

By MARGARET MacDONALD

In 1880, Robert J. Halliday, a florist in Baltimore, Md., wrote a small book entitled "Practical Camellia Culture". He addressed his readers as a man "who has had 20 years experience in the propagation and culture of the camellia Japonica", and adds that the book was written "for those with limited experience, amateur gardeners".

Some changes have happened to the culture of camellias since Mr. Halliday's book was written, as we can see from some of the following excerpts.

He lists the "Four Best Whites" as Alba Plena, Fimbriata, Lady Hume's Blush and Candidissima. (The first two named are still worthy camellias.)

His list of the "18 Best Colored Varieties", however, are rarely seen today at our shows or in our gardens. They are: Rosy Crimson, Sarah Frost, Gilesii, Wm Penn, Lowii, Reine des Fleurs, Sacco, Wilde Rii, Ellen, Cup of Beauty, Jenny Lind, Mary Kurtz, Lizzie Jones, Bonomi-ana, Feast's Perfection, Caleb Cope, Henry La Favre, Fordii. (Their names are as diverse as current ones.)

On the subject of prices in 1820, Mr. Halliday remarks that "A single camellia stock, when in flower, three years old, will rarely bring, at retail price, 25¢ apiece, and in fact there are but few persons who will have it at any price. However, Alba Plena, 3 years old grown from cutting, with 2 to 4 buds would bring 75¢ to \$1. Wholesale prices for Alba Plena without buds, one year old are worth \$10 per hundred." He noted that Alba Plena takes longer to root than the red varieties. He grew all his camellias from cuttings.

Mr. Halliday was a patient man. He warns growers of a variety of Candidissima "that never flowers". He backs this statement up with the fact, "I have grown this kind myself for 20 years and they have never produced bud or flower". (!) He says that the original plant was first propagated near Philadelphia and is now widely scattered. He considered its only use as grafting stock.

For fertilizer, Mr. Halliday says that he never uses guano or any other fertilizer, but recommended "lime water" three times a year to keep the soil sweet and to kill the worms which are working in it. His formula was half a peck of lime put into a flour barrel filled with water. This was allowed to settle overnight and the solution was used without stirring the lime.

He found that camellias were "not particular as regard soil" and he used good fibrous loam, broken up roughly—soil taken from pasture land, avoiding low bottom or clayey soil.

Pests were another matter. And we recognize our current enemies of red spider, mealy bug, scale—but not "black fly" as listed. His remedy for red spider was to wash every leaf with strong resin, coal oil or whale oil soap. For mealy bug he suggested a drop of coal oil on each bug. For scale, he syringed the plant with water heated from 120-130 degrees.

We have modern sprays to replace his "whale oil". We have better soil mixes than his. He would have loved our display of new varieties. Otherwise, camellia culture has come a way, but not really very far, in the last 100 years. Camellia growers reading this at the celebration of our Tri-Centennial will probably agree.

PROJECT O.I.L. — 1976

By WILLIAM B. JOHNSTON

Project O.I.L. (Once in a Lifetime) officially began when eighteen of us met Milton "Brownie" Brown and Ann at the San Francisco International Airport on July 29th in the evening. Included in the group, besides the Browns, were J. C. and Margaret White of Falls Church, Virginia, Dot Urquhart of Courtland, Virginia, Mamie Muse of Perry, Georgia, Ola Dupree of Valdosta, Georgia, Margie Marice of Mobile, Alabama, John and Marge Geiser, and Gladys Menard of Slidell, Louisiana, Ferd Becker and Tom Perkins of Brookhaven, Mississippi, Hank and Vi Stone of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Nita Stahlman of Natchez, Mississippi, Curtis and Ruth Mallory of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Evelyn and I.

(Parenthetically, I had no idea of writing this report until we were nearly home, and Brownie stated he was writing an article for the A.C.S. Journal and suggested that I should write one for the Review. So this article is based largely on the diary Evelyn kept of our trip and my own memory. Therefore, because of the many new names and faces we met, any omission is the result of such a profusion of them and should not be construed to be intentional.)

I think I speak for everyone in the group on our tour when I say that we were each overwhelmed with the hospitality and warmth of friendliness that was extended to us. It went far beyond what we had reason to look forward to or to expect. A great bond of friendliness seemed to exist between those from our country and our old and new found friends in Australia and New Zealand. Everywhere we went, the people seemed to try to outdo the others in their welcome and hospitality.

We left San Francisco Thursday,

July 29th at 8:30 p.m. on Quantas and after a stop for refueling in Honolulu, and another in Fiji for the same purpose and a chance to visit the Duty Free Store, we arrived the next morning at 7:30 a.m. in Sydney, Australia, only it was Saturday, July 31.

By some lucky chance Evelyn and I were the first to clear customs and immigration, and as we proceeded into the arrival terminal, I looked around for Eric Craig whom we had met four years before. In a minute or two, I spotted a man with a large Cornelian pinned on his coat and holding a card advertising the camellia show in Sydney. He turned out to be Harry Churchland, the President of the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society. With him were Eric and Tim Dettman, the President of the A. C. R. S.

After rounding up all our party and all the baggage, we left in the bus for the hotel in King's Cross. On arriving in our room at the hotel, we found a tray of beautiful camellias, a card from the local Society welcoming us, a card telling us with whom we would have dinner in their home on Monday evening, a card telling us who would return us to our hotel on the night of the final banquet, a bottle for each person of excellent red Australian wine, and a bottle of white wine in the refrigerator.

We had time for a chance to shower and clean up and a little lunch before Eric and the others were there to take us first to the home and garden of Professor E. G. Waterhouse. This grand old gentleman, who is still very alert at 95, was as charming and gracious as ever and we all had the pleasure of seeing and visiting with him and a chance to see his delight-



Front Row: Ruth Mallory, Gladys Menard, Mrs. D. O'Reilly of Canberra, Vi Stone, Nita Stahlman, Mamie Muse, Yvonne Young of Sydney, Ann Brown and John Geiser. Second Row: Curtis Mallory, Margaret White, Dot Urquhart, Eric Craig of Sydney, Bill Johnston, Rowena Craig of Sydney, Evelyn Johnston, Ferd Becker, Mr. R. F. Smalley of Canberra, Ola Dupree, Milton Brown and John Alpen of South Yarra. Back Row: Geoff Kynvett of Canberra, John White, D. B. Nichols of Canberra, Hank Stone, Marjie Marice, Marjorie Geiser, Mrs. R. F. Smalley of Canberra and Tom Perkins.

ful garden. From there we went to the garden of George and Helen Green at St. Ives for a visit and then on to the garden of John and Annette Riddle at Pymble. They have a beautiful garden which slopes down behind the home and affords a beautiful view from the top. We were constantly meeting new names and faces but in the garden I particularly remember Tom and Olive Savige who were to be with us a few days before leaving for West Germany. After a cocktail party to get better acquainted, we were served a delicious buffet supper at the Riddles before we were taken back to the hotel for much needed sleep. Some of you may remember meeting Annette Riddle when A. C. S. met in Sacramento a few years ago.

Sunday morning came very soon and we were off by bus in the company of our good Australian friends

and their wives and this day we were joined by Lynn Mealy, a most charming young lady. After driving around for some spectacular views of Sydney harbor, we stopped at Vaucluse House (now a museum), but once home of William Charles Wentworth, an early Australian statesman, with many large old camellias in the garden.

Coming from Summer in the United States, we were all thrilled to see the daffodils, Chinese magnolias, flowering peach and cherries in bloom and also the wattle (acacia, to us) as well as the camellias in bloom. Then on South down the Coast to the E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Garden maintained by the St. George and Sutherland Branch of A. C. R. S. After a tour of the garden, we were the guests of the local branch at a delightful barbecued steak lunch served in the gar-

dens. Before returning to the hotel, we drove further down the Coast for the spectacular view.

Monday morning we were out bright and early and first went to the Sydney Town Hall for a reception and morning tea with the Lady Mayoress, (the wife of the Mayor), Mrs. Leo Port. From there we went to Blaxland Gallery at Farmers Department Store for the annual show of the New South Wales Foundation Branch of the A. C. R. S. This was a non-competitive show and in the center was a table with many of the newer varieties of camellias from the United States in honor of the Bicentennial. This display was a spectacular one, and we were all particularly impressed with the Reticulatas and the Hybrids. At the show it was a pleasure to see Pat Berrie with whom we had spent the day in Sydney in 1972. Professor Waterhouse was there and made a few remarks and the show was officially opened by the Honorable Wm. McMahon, immediate past Prime Minister of Australia, in the absence of the Prime Minister who was in the United States. A competitive show was held on Wednesday but we were unable to get back to it.

Then on to the Kaiser Stuhl wine cellar for a most delicious luncheon hosted by the New South Wales Branch. They have a lovely dining room overlooking a part of Sydney harbor. And back to the hotel, but a stop at the Sydney Botanic Garden on the way.

That evening we were guests in private homes for dinner. Evelyn and I were with Cecil and Beryl Blumenthal. Curtis Mallory was also present and Tom and Olive Savige and Tim and Lea Dettman were also present and we were fortunate to sample several different kinds of wine of which Cecil Blumenthal is quite a connoisseur.

The next morning we were off

bright and early to Lisgar Gardens, Hornsby, where we were welcomed by the Shire President, and Prof. Waterhouse was there once again and gave us a talk on the older Australian camellias. Then to Brisbane National Park for a picnic lunch with many kookaburras around begging for food. Kookaburras are rather large brown birds that are very friendly. On the way home we stopped at Camellia Grove Nursery where we witnessed their astounding method of propagation. All of their grafts are made on *C. Hiemalis* "Kanjiro" cuttings, which root as the graft heals. When the graft has taken, the top of the understock is then cut off. The reason for this is that Kanjiro roots well and is resistant to root rot. Before returning to our hotel, we were guests for cocktails at the home of Former Prime Minister and Mrs. McMahon in their home overlooking beautiful Sydney harbor.

For our last day in Sydney we started out with a visit to Bowen and Prue Bryants where we had morning tea and then to Bill and Chip Farran's garden. Then on to Manley on the North side of Sydney harbor where we had lunch at none other than McDonald's. After a Big Mac, we took the ferry back to Circular Quay where we had a tour of the world famous and most interesting Opera House. Our "Farewell to Sydney" dinner was held at the American National Club, high atop a building in downtown Sydney, with a glorious view of Sydney Harbor, and it was a gala affair. It was such a pleasure to see Jim and Mary Fisher again and also Thelma Bray.

The next morning we were off down the East coast to Canberra. On the way we stopped at a sheep ranch for a barbecued steak lunch put on by Mr. McPherson, and afterwards a demonstration of the dogs working, and of shearing sheep. Eric and Rowena were with us as well as John

Alpen, who signed up everyone in the party who was not already a member of the International Society and A. C. R. S. On our arrival late in the afternoon we went immediately to the Parliament House where Brownie presented a Boehm porcelain koala to the people of Australia on behalf of Mrs. Boehm. The Prime Minister was in the United States and so we were received by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Douglas Anthony. Meeting us at the Parliament House were Wing Commander (retired) Geoff Knyvett, the President of the Australian Capital Territory Branch of A. C. R. S., Group Commander (retired) Tobey Nichols and Jerry Sebastian. On reaching our room we found a bowl of camellias, fruit, and cards of welcome and other pertinent information of our stay at Canberra. After dinner we all gathered in Brownie's room with members of the local Society for a regular old fashioned camellia bull session.

The following morning we toured Canberra in a light rain, and then to the home of Jim McFarlane for a tour of his most interesting garden. Never have I seen so many different plants in one garden and it did not appear to be over crowded. Following a most delightful and delicious tea, which really was lunch, we had time to see the Australian-United States War Memorial and the War Museum. Our next stop was the United States Embassy, a beautiful Colonial home in Williamsburg style. In the absence of the Ambassador, we were warmly welcomed by the Cultural Attache, Mr. Findlay, and the United States Consul and Mrs. Percival, who served a beautiful afternoon tea. That evening we were all picked up by individual members of the local branch and were guests for dinner in private homes in Canberra of members of the local branch for a most pleasant evening.

Saturday morning we were picked up by members of the local Society for a tour of the Botanic Garden. J. C. White, a lawyer, and I were with Group Commander (Retired) Dave Nichols who just took us by to see the Courts Building in Canberra. After lunch we flew to Adelaide by way of Melbourne. In Melbourne we were met and greeted by Len Hobbs, President of the Victoria Branch of A. C. R. S., Marg Hobbs, Keith Butcher and Dr. Bob Withers. Then on to Adelaide where we were met by Bill Nielsen, President of Adelaide Plains Branch, and his wife, Dr. John and Mrs. Pedlar and Bill and Kathy Pearce. Once again on arriving in our hotel rooms we found a card of welcome, fruit and a bowl of lovely camellias. Local members took us in their cars to the welcome dinner at the Festival Arts Theater. There we met Syd Rohrig, President of the Adelaide Hills Branch, and Dr. John Pedlar and many others. And once again we felt the warm hospitality we had met and received every place we had been. The lamb dinner was delicious and once again, good Australian wine.

One loses track of the days of the week, but Sunday morning we were picked up by local members in their cars to visit gardens in the Hills. We first visited the garden of Mrs. Lamshed — a large natural garden. Then morning tea and a tour of the smaller home garden of Mr. and Mrs. May. They also had some lovely fuschias in bloom. Then to Mrs. Gilbert's garden before a bountiful lunch at the home of Mrs. Woodroffe. We broke up into smaller groups again, and we went with Syd Rohrig to Arthur and Pat Knights for tea and a tour of their garden. Then on to Syd and Clair Rohrig's home for a look at his camellias, and then a "Happy Hour" and a delicious buffet supper. Dot Urouhart, Margie Marice and Tom Perkins were also with us. Back to

the hotel for much needed rest and sleep.

Morning brought a light rain but we were off a little later by bus for a tour of the Barossa Valley — the wine growing area. We visited the Yolumba Winery and lunch there was hosted by Adelaide Plains Branch. The countryside was beautiful and green. Once again it was time for a Farewell Dinner and we were guests of the Adelaide Plains Branch at another grand dinner. Brownie showed slides of some of the newer American varieties of camellias. And once again it was time to say goodbye to the many new friends we had met and made.

The next morning we were off early along the South Coast of Australia. But first we went through Murray Bridge and then along the bird sanctuary before coming to Portland for our overnight stop. The following morning was bright and clear as we drove along the beautiful South Australian Coast. We had our chance to see emus on the way from Portland to Melbourne. It was a rainy ride and we arrived at our hotel after 6:00 p.m. Written greetings and camellias awaited us when we reached our rooms. This called for a quick dinner before we were picked up by members of the Victoria Branch to go to their monthly meeting.

There was a good attendance at the meeting and the display of flowers was equal to many of our smaller shows with about 500 blooms on the tables. Probably the outstanding bloom of the evening was a giant "Overture" — approximately 8 inches across and 6 to 6½ inches high — a most outstanding bloom. Once again the reticulatas and retic hybrids were breath taking. Slides of the newer American varieties were shown.

The following morning we had a tour of the Melbourne Botanic Gar-

dens, personally conducted by Alex Jessup, the former Director of the Garden. There are many old large camellia plants in the garden. From there we drove to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ansell in Coldstream. It began to rain on the way and kept up all afternoon, but some were out in the heavy rain viewing the garden, which is a very beautiful, serene one with a view of the mountains. After a delicious buffet lunch it was nice to relax by the fire. Leaving there we went to a shopping center where we were the guests of the local society for dinner.

A visit to Doongala Forest Reserve was the first on the program the next day. From there we went to Camellia Lodge Nursery of Neville and Erica McMinn. After touring the nursery at their home, we were their guests for a delicious lunch served in the home. From there we went to their new modern nursery — a most attractive plant layout. Outstanding blooms there were "Overture", El Greco, Tuckfield's No. 116 and K. O. Hester. He also had a new one of Dave Feather's which I had not seen — "Desire" — a formal double colored much like "Ella Ward Persons" but larger in size. That evening we were on our own and had a chance, at last, to do some shopping.

Our stay in Melbourne was rapidly drawing to a close but the next morning we first went to the Healsville Sanctuary to see many of the native animals. There we were privileged to see the Duck-Billed Platypus. Someone has said that it looks as if it were put together by a committee, with its duck bill, fur coat, webbed feet, tail like a beaver, lays eggs, suckles its young and is a Marsupial. We were surprised to see that it was not very large — I should judge not over 15 or 18 inches long. On to the National Rhododendron Garden where they are preparing to incorporate a Camellia Garden. The work

is being done by the local branch of A. C. R. S. We were served a delightful barbèbue luncheon cooked by the members after which each of us was assigned an American Camellia to be planted in the garden and each wrote an appropriate message to go with each plant. That evening was the Farewell Dinner at our hotel and once again it was time to say goodbye to our new friends.

When we went to the Melbourne airport on Sunday morning, there were Len and Marge Hobbs, Keith and Jan Garling and others to see us off. Our flight to Auckland went through Sydney to change planes, and there to bid us farewell once again were the Eric Craigs, the Tim Dettmans, the Harry Churchlands, and the Kenneth Mealeys — a most welcome touch to our last stop in Australia. The flight to Auckland on an Air New Zealand DC 10 was a most pleasant one and we were met at the Auckland airport by Dave Henderson, Secretary of the New Zealand Society, Neville Haydon and also by Dave and Claire Bull and their son, Travis. We had met Neville at the A. C. S. meeting in Pensacola and the Bulls had met us on our former visit to New Zealand four years ago, so it was a surprise and a pleasure to see them again. In our room written greetings, camellias, camellia note paper and coasters with scenes of Auckland awaited us. After we registered in our motel room it was a surprise and a pleasure to receive a phone call from Jay Bird — Jay Ellis and Doris from Keystone Heights, Florida, who had made the trip independently and were staying with Neville Haydon.

It was raining steadily the following morning when we left Auckland in our bus for New Plymouth. But by the time we reached Hamilton, the rain had stopped and we were able to visit the garden of Dr. and Mrs. William Frazer where we were warm-

ly received and where we had morning tea. After we left Hamilton, the rain started again and continued most of the day to New Plymouth. When we arrived at our motel there, we were met by Harold Austin wearing his red coat that Son Hackney and Marshall Rhymes had sent him, and after time for a short rest we were off to the Austins' home where our hosts for dinner were the members of the North Taranaki Branch of the New Zealand Camellia Society of which Harold is the Convenor. Incidentally, Harold and Phylis are the only overseas accredited judges of the American Camellia Society. Evelyn and I were especially pleased to have a visit with Alf and Ella Gamlin and their daughter, Vivien of Maniaia. They are long time correspondents of ours and we had visited with them in 1972. Phylis gave us a bag of Chinese gooseberries (Kiwi fruit) to enjoy on the bus.

The storm had moved on the following morning and Mt. Egmont stood out in all her glory with her crown of snow. After a stop at the Austins to see their garden and the huge plant of Crimson Robe and Capt. Rawes, we drove down the Eastern side of Mt. Egmont to Stratford to Ben Rayner's garden. There we were greeted by Wynne Rayner and Alf and Ella Gamlin and Vivienne again. Morning tea was served and the table was beautiful with so many good things to eat. I could not get away from the scones covered with raspberry jam and whipped cream. Wynne took special pleasure in showing us the wood carving of Ben and the cow that had been carved by Meyer Piet and that appeared on the cover of the Review a year or so ago. It was much larger than the picture led one to believe. We had only a short time to tour Ben's garden and to see how much it had been improved in four years, before we had to leave. Our next stop

was at Owen and Jocelyn Moores where we were the guests of the Wanganui Branch of the New Zealand Society. Owen is the President of the New Zealand Camellia Society and lives South of Wanganui. The rain stopped long enough for us to tour his garden, and then another bountiful lunch. Too soon it was necessary to leave to drive to Wellington to catch our plane to Christchurch. While waiting at the airport in Wellington, who should appear but Charlie Rayner who was going home to drive her mother to the meeting in Whangarei. Also to meet us at the airport were Mr. and Mrs. Head from Lower Hutt, whom we had met on our visit 4 years before.

When we arrived at Christchurch, we were met by Ron Coker. They had planned a wine and cheese tasting party for us, but since it was eight o'clock and we had not had dinner, they mercifully cancelled the party and gave us an evening of rest. Camellias were in our room on arrival to welcome us.

We had an hour the next morning to shop in Christchurch before we were off on a coach tour of the beach and harbor area and back to the city to lunch at Ron and Mollie Cokers. The lunch was delicious and I was particularly pleased to have them serve the New Zealand delicacy, white-bait fritters, that I had learned to like so much when we were there in 1972. White-bait are very small fish that seem to run very much like grunion and the whole fish is cooked and served. They have a beautiful garden with many rhododendrons as well as camellias, but we were nearly a month ahead of the peak of their season. From there we went to the E. G. Nichols garden, a small but extremely beautiful one. There is a small branch of the Avon River which runs through their garden to add to the charm. The Avon River runs through downtown Christ-

church. Then to the airport for our flight back to Rotorua. At dinner we were entertained by a group of Maori performers who put on a great show. Members of the local branch brought us camellias from Jim and Phemie Millar's garden. Our hotel, the Geysersland, was surrounded by steaming springs and geysers.

We were off early the next morning for a most interesting tour of the thermal area and the Maori center. Afterward, we stopped to see a real Kiwi. They are nocturnal and are shown in a darkened room. They are much larger than we had expected. We arrived in Whangarei for the annual meeting of the New Zealand Camellia Society in time for dinner. Once again, on reaching our rooms, there were camellias and written greetings. At the dinner we were pleased to see Jay and Doris Ellis, Phyl Doak, Dick and Jean Clere, the Bulls, Steve Shayle-George, Dr. Noel and Allison Wilson, Hugh and Doris Taylor, Tom and Betty Durrant, Owen and Jocelyn Moore, Wynne Rayner, the Austins, and Felix and Mimosa Jury all of whom we had met before.

There were about seven coaches to take us on our tour the next morning to the Bay of Islands and a chance to visit a Maori Meeting House. After morning tea we were off to Kaikone where we were served a buffet luncheon. Then to the Wallace Lomax Garden, bursting with color of the many camellias and other spring flowers. Much argument over whether the large plant in full bloom was William Hertrich or Tali Queen.

Back to Whangarei in time for us to see the camellia show for the first time. Despite the fact that it was the end of the second day of the show, the blooms were in remarkably good condition. The reticulatas and hybrids were outstanding as might be expected. Of all the japonicas, the

one variety that stood out all over the hall for its freshness, was Tiffany. It was so noticeable that we all commented on the fact. After a buffet dinner, and while the New Zealand Society was conducting its annual business meeting, Felix Jury was gracious enough to show us his slides on hybridizing and gave us the same talk he had given at the meeting of the International Society last May in England.

Our last day at Whangarei found us with such a downpour that we stayed in the hotel rather than tour any of the local gardens. After our final luncheon with the members of the New Zealand Society it came time for goodbyes and our drive back to Auckland.

Early Sunday morning we were off on our Air New Zealand DC 10 to Fiji for four days of much needed rest, and then back to San Francisco where we parted company, although Tom Perkins and Ferd Becker stayed in New Zealand for ten more days of visiting gardens.

In conclusion, the one thing that stood out over everything else in our memories, was the unbounded friendliness and hospitality we had received everywhere we had been. And we look forward to seeing many of our new friends at the International Meeting at Macon and Ft. Valley in November of 1978.

FRESNO SHOW

The Central California Camellia Society has decided to change the date for their Annual Camellia Show. The new date will be Sunday, March 6th, 1977. The Show will be held at Fresno City College, Fresno, California. The new date is one week earlier than previously scheduled so as not to conflict with this year's Descanso Show. So, mark your calendars, all you avid camellia hobbyists, and bring your best blooms to Fresno on March 6th.

CAMELLIA CLIPPINGS

By BERNICE GUNN

Our pollinating friends, the bees, don't land on a flower hit-or-miss. They can perceive light, which is invisible to humans, and they use ultraviolet designs in flowers as a guide to landing when collecting pollen.

Most of us when we see a camellia we are unfamiliar with are prone to ask "What variety is it?" Ninety-nine chances out of hundred it is not a "variety", but a "cultivar", and has been since September 1952 when at a meeting at the International Horticulture Congress in London it was ruled that the word "cultivar" is henceforth to be reserved for reference to those forms of cultivated plants known to have originated, or to be maintained only under cultivation, while "variety" is to refer to those forms occurring in the wild.

There are probably true "varieties" growing wild in China and Japan, but most of those in Europe and America are the result of selection and propagation.

Today we can be fairly sure of being accurate when we call our camellia "cultivar."

Monotony is the custom of allowing a man to have only one wife.

In the early 1950's the late Ralph Peer made an extended visit to Europe and reported in the American Camellia Yearbook the camellia history of various countries. He noted that the early camellia introductions in England were treated as tropical plants to be grown only in hothouses. During World War I taxation was so high growers could not afford to maintain their collections under glass. The only large, surviving camellias were found along the warm southern coast. He did find some fine camellia collections in Cornwall, St. Ives and of course in North Wales at the famous Bodnant Gardens.

In Germany camellias were used as house plants along with azaleas. Prior to World War I camellias were grown under glass and exported to far off countries. Plants were being imported from Belgium in an effort to rehabilitate the German nurseries.

The famous nursery of the Guichard sisters at Nantes in Northwestern France contained about 100,000 plants four to seventy-five years old growing out-of-doors in spite of the very harsh winters. Ville de Nantes and other varieties were launched from this nursery.

Many camellia plantings were found in Spain. A large garden of seventy-five year old camellia plants were found surrounding a chemical factory. At La Coruna, the north-western tip of Spain there were japonicas growing in public parks and church yards.

Northern Italy had a great camellia "boom" during the 1850's, but World Wars I and II brought ruin

to the countryside and commercial horticulture was destroyed.

Today, twenty-five years later, it would be interesting to visit some of these same countries to see how far they have advanced in the modern day propagation of camellias.

There's no justice. If you make out your income tax correctly, you go to the poorhouse. If you don't you go to jail.

I am glad I can enjoy the camaraderie and beauty of the blooms in the hobby and not have to worry about . . . chromosomes, polyploids, cytology, taxonomy, hexaploids, diploids, or haploids.

Did you know? Section 74, State Housing Act, of California reads: "No horse, cow, calf, swin, sheep, goat, rabbit, mule or other animal, chicken, pigeon, goose, duck or other poultry shall be kept in any apartment house or motel or any part thereof."

CAMELLIA SHOW WITHOUT A HOME

By PHIL SIMS

Normally within garden circles the opposite is true, that is a flower show without a home. As an avid camellia enthusiast, I have pondered the question of "why not a camellia show at South Coast Botanic Garden"? so my hobby has compelled me to write this article.

I would like to preface this article by first describing South Coast Gardens, and with brief description of the facilities. Secondly, as the garden relates to camellias in the present and in the future.

South Coast Botanic Garden is located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif., only a few miles north and east of the Pacific Ocean. The garden now consists of 87 acres of reclaimed land. South Coast is only one of three County Government operated gardens, the

others being Los Angeles State & County Arboretum and Descanso Gardens. The climate according to the University of California Agriculture Extension Service Map is zone #23 & #22, which means little cold weather with some frost.

The historic side of the garden is limited but exciting. Going back 12 million years the garden was under water with multitudes of crustations, and trillions of microscopic marine plants. As the oceans receded this ocean life aged and died forming vast deposits of diatomite . . . This was mined for about fifty years at which time the open pits were closed. The Sanitation Dept. observing the giant hole in the earth purchased the land and in 1956 started filling with rubbish of every type. Around 1960, three and one-half million tons had

been buried. Late in 1959 it was disclosed that the fill was complete and suggestions were being made on the future of the property. Enter one brave lady, Frances Young who at that time was Director of Calif. Garden Clubs & Horticulture Societies. She had a vision of beauty with service to all citizens, and her determination along with club members enabled her dream to develop. She had the awesome job of convincing the County Supervisors to spend thousands of dollars to transform that stinky garbage dump into something of lasting beauty. Francis Young accomplished her mission and we are all indebted to her. On March 1, 1960, South Coast was officially made a garden.

So now, a garden was taking place on paper. Later, tons of top soil and humus mixed were spread to a depth of three feet. Plants were started, pipes were put in place, buildings built, roads paved, and trails for the energetic. By no means were they trouble free, the soil temperature killed many plants because of decomposition, and the ground has sunk in many places. Yes—trouble they have had but, oh what a beautiful young garden. People today visit from all around the world to learn the science of growing something beautiful over something very ugly. Presently, the garden is planted with several thousand different species of plants, many of which come from countries like Australia & New Zealand. Very few of these plants are camellias, and those that are planted are located at the rear of the garden (Rolling Hills Ave.) side. These are nice camellias but too few to spur the interest of the gardener.

Garden Clubs have found a home there and many large shows take place throughout the summer. The people are very friendly, and helpful. They are very interested in having a camellia show at their garden. They

have a modern, new facility second to none. It's air conditioned in summer and has a modern kitchen of good size. If there is any society interested in having a show at South Coast Botanic Garden please contact them.

Now I do expect some controversy. I have put out feelers for some time with overwhelming enthusiasm but one garden manager told me that there just wasn't enough room for two county gardens growing camellias. Of course I scoffed at him and told him he was just trying to monopolize the camellia specie.

I hope by this time someone feels as strongly as I about teaching, sharing and growing the aristocrat of flowers. People everywhere deserve the right to learn. The garden is great and the facilities are available. I want to share my love for camellias and at the same time plant a seed, a seed in faith that others may learn to love camellias as much as I. We need your help, please.

INVITATION FROM DR. JEAN CREZE

Some of your readers may remember the delightful article by Dr. Jean Creze, of Angers, France, telling about his Great Grandfather, Jean Heurtin, who developed the camellia cultivar 'Villa de Nantes'. Dr. Creze has written to us several times. In his latest letter he states that he will be presenting a paper at the International Camellia Congress, to be held in Nantes, France, in May, 1977. He would like to meet any of those of you who may be attending the Congress. He also invites anyone interested to visit Anjou after the Congress to see the wonderful 'Chateaux de la Loire'. Believe me, these castles are well worth a side trip!

DON'T FORGET 1976-77 DUES

SHOW RESULTS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL
12th ANNUAL WINTER SHOW

December 4-5, 1976

Los Angeles County Arboretum

- Best Treated Large Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz—Clark Hubbs
- Runner-up Treated Large Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. I. John Movick—A. Audusson Spec.
- Best Treated Medium Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Schmidt—Pink Pagoda
- Runner-up Treated Medium Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci—Midnight
- Best Treated Small Japonica
R. Jaacks—Alice Leigh Woodroof
- Runner-up Treated Small Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan—Ava Maria
- Best Treated Miniature Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz—Little Slam
- Runner-up Treated Miniature Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe—Fir Cone—Var.
- Best Non-Treated Large Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson—Coronation
- Runner-up Non-Treated Large Japonica
Sunny and Bob Eastman—Elegans Splendor
- Best Non-Treated Medium Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson—Alba Plena
- Runner-up Non-Treated Medium Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Roger P. Treischel—Fimbriata
- Best Non-Treated Small Japonica
Eddie McClung—Ave Maria
- Runner-up Non-Treated Small Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci—Cotton Tail
- Best Non-Treated Miniature Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak—Little Slam Var.
- Runner-up Non-Treated Miniature Japonica
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray—Little Slam
- Best Reticulata Hybrid (open)
Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci—Arch of Triumph
- Runner-up Reticulata Hybrid (open)
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta—Clifford Parks
- Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid (open)
Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci—South Seas
- Runner-up Non-Reticulata Hybrid (open)
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sullivan—E. G. Waterhouse
- Best Sasanqua Hiemalis or Vernalis (open)
Rudy Moore—Miss Ed
- Runner-up Sasanqua Hiemalis or Vernalis (open)
Mr. and Mrs. John Movick—Dazzler
- Best 3 Large Treated Japonicas
Harold E. Dryden—Grand Prix

Runner-up 3 Large Treated Japonicas
 Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz—Guilio Nuccio Var.
 Best 3 Large Non-Treated Japonicas
 R. Jaacks—Coronation
 Runner-up 3 Large Non-Treated Japonicas
 Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan—Berenice Boddy
 Best 3 Boutonniere Japonicas (open)
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta—Ava Maria
 Runner-up 3 Boutonniere Japonicas (open)
 Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harmsen—Little Slam
 Best 3 Reticulata Hybrids (open)
 R. Jaacks—Valentines Day Var.
 Runner-up 3 Reticulata Hybrids (open)
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Peterson—Dr. Clifford Parks
 Best 3 Non-Reticulata Hybrids (open)
 Mel Gum—Sylvia May Wells
 Runner-up 3 Non-Reticulata Hybrids (open)
 H. S. Putnam—Charlean
 Best 3 Sasanquas Hiemalis or Vernalis (open)
 Mr. and Mrs. John Movich—Shishi Gashira
 Best Collector's Tray (open)—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
 Runner-up Collector's Tray (open)—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci
 Best Treated Seedling
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta—Seedling G-1
 Best Non-Treated Seedling
 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray—Seedling
 Award of Merit (Most Trophies)—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
 Best—5 points; Runner-up—3 Points; Court of Honor—1 Point

COURT OF HONOR BLOOMS

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan— Elsie Jury	Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz— Ballet Dancer
Ernest E. Pieri—Kewpie Doll	Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Schmidt— Wildfire
Bill Donnan—Pink Perfection	Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harmsen— Pink Frost
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McNeil— Pearl's Pet	R. Jaacks—Valley Knudsen
A. Wilkins Garner—Interlude	Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz— Lila Noff
Charles J. Gerlach—Tammia	Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak—Pharoah
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta— Miss Charleston Var.	Harold E. Dryden—Spring Sonnet
Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan— Ivory Tower	Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci— Wild Fire
Mel Gum—Elegans Splendor	R. Jaacks—Dixi Knight Var.
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz— Gulio Nuccio Var.	Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz— Mercury Var.
Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan— Miss Charleston	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe— Marie Bracey
Mr. and Mrs. Abramson— Betty Sheffied Blush Sup.	

Number of Blooms 963

Number of Exhibitors 36

Attendance 2000

THE TOP TEN

By BILL DONNAN

The program for the first meeting of the season of the Southern California Camellia Society consisted of a Panel of five top camellia experts in the Los Angeles County Area. On the Panel were Leone Summerson; Bill Goertz; Sergio Bracci; Walt Harmsen; and Bill Woodroof. Mel Gum, the Panel Moderator gave this charge to the Panel: "If you were going to move to a place where you only had room for five camellias, what five would you choose?" The Panel members decided that five cultivars were not enough to save and each one picked their Top Ten in order of preference.

Leone Summerson

1. 'Elsie Jury'
2. 'Coronation'
3. 'Easter Morn'
4. 'Ivory Tower'
5. 'Grand Prix'
6. 'K.O.Hester'
7. Julia Hamiter'
8. 'Gay Time'
9. 'Francie L'
10. 'Alba Plena'

Bill Goertz

1. 'Elegans Supreme'
2. 'Grand Prix'
3. 'Valley Knudsen'
4. 'Francie L'
5. 'Alta Gavin'
6. 'Elsie Jury'
7. 'Elegans Champagne'
8. 'Mathotiana Supreme'
9. 'Nuccio's Ruby'
10. 'Fashionata'

Sergio Bracci

1. 'Adolphe Audusson Sp.'
2. 'Tomorrow Park Hill'
3. 'Pharoah'
4. 'Elsie Jury'
5. 'Valley Knudsen'
6. 'Dr. Clifford Parks'
7. 'Grand Prix'
8. 'Ava Maria'
9. 'Francie L'
10. 'Fire Chief Var.'

Walter Harmsen

1. 'Silver Chalice'
2. 'Reeves Sweetheart'
3. 'Pink Diddy'
4. 'Maroon & Gold'
5. 'Dixie Knight'
6. 'Spring Sonnet'
7. 'Reg. Ragland Var.'
8. 'Jean Clere'
9. 'Elegans Splendor'
10. 'Drama Girl'

Bill Woodroof

1. 'Debutante'
2. 'Grand Prix'
3. 'Nuccio's Gem'
4. 'Reg. Ragland'
5. 'Tiffany'
6. 'Adolphe Audusson'
7. 'Jullio Nuccio'
8. 'Premier'
9. 'R. L. Wheeler'
10. 'Tomorrow Park Hill'

By giving the first place cultivar 10 points; the second place cultivar 9 points; etc. we could come up with the five favorite camellias as chosen by the Panel of experts. The five favorites in order of preference are:

1. 'Grand Prix' — 28 points
2. 'Elsie Jury' — 22 points
3. 'Valley Knudsen' — 14 points
4. 'Tomorrow Park Hill' — 10 points
5. 'Francie L' — 9 points

EDDIE McCLUNG WINS TOP AWARD

We have had word that Eddie McClung, the 14 year old camellia hobbist from LaVerne, California has won the Top Award for 13 year olds in the National Junior Horticulture Society competition. Eddie won top honors in the California competition

with his experiment on "The Effect Of Colchicine On Camellias" and then entered the National competition where he was awarded First Prize! We congratulate Eddie on this achievement and wish him further success in his future experiments. (The November, 1975 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW carried an article on Eddie's experiment.)

NURSE-SEED GRAFTING

By ALICE SPRAGG
Sutherland, N.S.W.

(Editor's Note:) Article taken from the September 1975 issue of *CAMELLIA NEWS*, published by The Australian Camellia Research Society.

You may have heard of NURSE SEED GRAFTING—you may not. It certainly is an interesting experiment and if you have some seeds which have germinated and grown to a height of about 50 mm (2 inches) above the surface of the growing medium, you are equipped with half the necessary ingredients. The other half is a carefully selected scion preferably taken from a young plant as it has been found that cuttings from younger plants root more readily than those from older well-established trees. It is possible there is a substance in the germinating seed which causes the younger wood to root more readily.

Bring the matured wood of the scion and the new seedling together.

To describe the young seedling, it is connected to the cotyledon by prominent petioles, by which it survives until it is able to "grow it alone." In the grafting operation, you cut these petioles near the cotyledon and sever the young growth from the seed case, using a very sharp knife or a razor blade. The detached young plants can be returned to the seed-raising mixture to be grown on for use as understock or as a seedling plant.

Now take a very sharp pointed knife and insert this between the cut petioles, pushing gently into the seed to make an opening for the scion, taking care not to use too much force or the cotyledon may split and ruin the experiment. Prepare the scion in the manner for a cleft graft, with a narrow wedge shape at the end, a little thicker on one side than the other. Exchange the knife in the seed case for the scion, bringing the exposed cambium of the scion into contact with the cambium of the cotyledon petioles through which it will draw food and stimulation.

Plant the completed nurse-seed graft to a depth of 38 mm (1½ inches) in sand and peat mixture, handling it as if it were a cutting. Cover with a glass jar, in order to prevent evaporation and transpiration.

In a short time, the union of the graft should be well calloused and growth of the root system commenced.

It is possible to use a scion from either a dormant or active plant, which means you can practice nurse-seed grafting at any time you have the seed, which may be from Japonica or Sasanqua.

INTRODUCING IN 1976 - 77

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SEEDLINGS. AN EXPERIENCE WORTHY OF AN EXPERIMENT

By BEN BERRY

I don't know why, but every one bitten by the camellia bug seems to want to grow seedlings. I'm no different. I planted my first seeds in the fall of 1973 using the time honored method of damp peat moss in a glass jar on top of the water heater. Maybe 10 percent came through. The others rotted before putting out the tap root or after the tap root was out but before the plumule developed. Those that did survive are healthy plants and each is slightly different from the others. My first seedling bloomed in 1975; a small single white with a cluster of bright yellow stamen. It was my baby and I thought it was beautiful. My wife, in her very gracious manner, agreed that it was a beautiful flower but in our hearts we know it is just another piece of root stock. I am excited since all the other seedlings from 1973 will bloom this year. Their flower buds are growing bigger each day. Like all enthusiasts I wonder if one will be yellow and the other blue. Will I have a real show stopper or just more root stock?

I have carefully read a number of articles on how to germinate camellia seed in one easy lesson. The consensus seems to be placing the seed in a glass jar containing damp peat moss and then placing this jar on top of the water heater for bottom heat. I have read that some of the seed will produce a tap root but not a plumule due to epicotyl dormancy. Like some of you, I didn't know what this means so I consulted Webster. Webster says the epicotyl is "the portion of the axis of a plant embryo or seedling above the cotyledonary node." I must confess that I am not enlightened, just better informed. Anyway, this seems to tell me that we are not to expect to achieve much

success in growing camellia seedlings. This has been the story of my life, that is, until this year.

I had three nice seed from a gibbed Bob Hope and nearly thirty seed from two other plants. I was anxious to get them going in hopes I would have a bit more success in germinating. Particularly was I anxious to have good success with the Bob Hope seed since Julius Nuccio has said we need a good formal red. I searched all my gardening supplies for peat moss but none was to be found. Coronado, where we live, is a small community so without getting out of my soiled gardening clothes I ran down to the garden shop and found they too were out of peat moss. This meant having to clean up, change clothes and cross the toll bridge to San Diego. We had been gone the entire month of August on vacation and our lawn and garden showed it. To further complicate matters our daughter was to be married on October 2nd in our garden. I just couldn't spare the time necessary to secure peat moss. I put the seed in the refrigerator and went about my other chores. I then remembered that Frank Pursel had spoken about his method of germinating seed at the 1975 California Camellia-Rama and I had been quite impressed. He also had written an article about this for the Camellia Review. That evening I dug out my notes from the Camellia-Rama and dug back through the Camellia Reviews until in the May 1975 issue I found his article. Well, he had a greenhouse at his disposal and an automatic misting system to keep the seed from drying out. I had neither. I did have a quart size hand mister and I did have a big bag of sponge rock, the fine kind that I have heard called perlite. I had nothing to lose.

My previous efforts at growing seedlings was not inspiring so why not try this as a rooting medium.

With a professional type tack hammer that has a nice small round head for getting into small places I carefully cracked the shells of the Bob Hope seed and those from one other plant. This can be time consuming and the fungus in our lawn and the weeds in our flower beds were running riot. I put the three Bob Hope seeds in a four inch plastic pot with about three inches of damp perlite. The other seeds each went into glass jars half filled with damp perlite. Each day I would mist these one or more times depending on the humidity and the rate they seemed to be drying. In a week the Bob Hope seed had pushed out of the perlite. Their tap roots were two or more inches long. I pinched each of them and put them back in the same pot. In another week the plumule had popped and in a month they were two to three inches tall, each with two nice leaves. Every day you could see the progress in their growth. It was "time lapse photography" just like Mr. Pursel said.

The seeds in the glass jar took a bit longer to put out their tap roots long enough for pinching. Now, a month and a half later, all have had their tap roots pinched and have been put in perlite in plastic pots except for one and its tap root is now growing. Those of these other batches have popped their plumule and are

growing albeit at different rates. I haven't lost a seed yet due to rot or to epicotyl dormancy. It may be a bit early in the game to predict the final outcome but as of now it appears I will achieve 100 percent success.

Perhaps there is a better way of germinating camellia seeds than the time honored method of damp peat moss. My experience is a one shot deal so I shall continue to experiment in the years to come using perlite and the hand misting method of germination. For those whose seed growing success has been as dismal as mine maybe a trial of perlite wouldn't hurt and it might even help.

Being a neophyte I can't speak with authority on what to expect from a camellia seed. However, I noted that Mr. Pursel reports he lost from a third to a half of his seed from rot or epicotyl dormancy prior to the use of perlite. Now his loss is practically nil and his seed are harder to germinate than those I have been working with. Could it be that epicotyl dormancy is just another name for a fungus rot?

The top of our water heater is full of camellia seeds in various stages of growth but in each of them there IS growth. My wife asked me what in the world I was going to do with all the plants it appears are coming along. Somehow, it slips me just now, I passed it off. But, maybe one will be yellow and another blue! If so I'll let you know.

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THE HUNTINGTON SHOW

Mark your calendars for the dates of Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 16, 1977. These are the dates for the 5th Annual Huntington Show sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society in cooperation with the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. The Show will be staged under the covered foyer of the Art Gallery at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, California. As has been the custom in the previous Huntington Shows, both gibbed and un-gibbed blooms will be in open competition in the various divisions. Caryll Pitkin, this year's show chairman, has been busy lining up his committees for the various tasks of putting on the Show. In addition to the display of blooms there will be a number of educational exhibits and demonstrations for visitors. The Huntington Show annually attracts a host of visitors. Last year's show had over 8,700 people in attendance. And why not? Where else can one see flower arrangements; landscaping, planting, grafting, fertilizing, and gibbing demonstrations; waxing camellia blooms; 500 to 600 elite and prestigious camellia blooms on display; and the Art Collection of the Huntington Gallery—all in one afternoon!

"ODDS AND ENDS"

By JIM McCLUNG

Isn't it about time that we reclassified our camellias for showing? The non-retic hybrids come in all sizes: miniature, small medium, large, and extra large. Why should a miniature have to compete with a very large? And how long will it be before the retics are in the same category? We now have medium, large, and very large retics. Can the miniatures and smalls be far behind?

Did you know that, in spite of the old bromide, iron can cure a plant of virus? Heavy feedings of iron inhibit the virus' growth and allow the plant to recover from the infection. But tell that to my 'Gwenneth Morey'. She prefers the mottled petals. And experts tell us that virus is not seed transmitted. Since a virus works by becoming an integral part of the cell nucleus, how come it can't be transmitted through the germ cells?



If you would like your virus-variegated varieties to have more white all you have to do is to raise the pH. In the South, dolomite lime is used to raise the pH to as high as 7.5 in order to increase variegation. A teaspoonful of hydrated lime per gallon of water will decrease the soil acidity and allow the white variegation to increase. Remember that too much can kill the plant.



Saluenensis hybrids are well known and loved in England because they grow readily in the alkaline, chalky soil that constitutes their camellia belt. Since that is the case they should make excellent companions to many of our shrubs that dislike an acid soil.

On the other hand, Sasanquas can take a far more acid soil than any other camellia. They will thrive with a pH of 4.5. This should make them excellent companions for gardenias, azaleas, and other plants that like a decidedly more acid environment than most camellias.



Does the salty Colorado River water burn your plants? Gypsum is neutral reacting and, when added as a light top-dressing, will tie up the sodium salts into non-soluble compounds. Try it.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: Richard Stiern; 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: W. J. Kraemer; Sec., Mrs. George T. Butler, 1831 Windsor Ln, Santa Ana 92705

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, at Santa Ana Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 1802 No Main St., Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Donald Lesmeister; 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.

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Donald W. Hurst; Secretary, Mrs. Lewis Singer, 409 W. Pine St., Lodi 95240

Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through May, United Methodist Church, Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Ernie Pieri; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. Los Angeles 90069

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 Wednesday October through May, at First Federal Savings, 2711 McHenry Ave., Modesto

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Frank V. Purcel; Secretary, Bill Lockwood, 3226 Primrose Ln., Walnut Creek 94598

Meetings: 1st Monday, November through May, Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Rd., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Judy Simmons; Secretary, Avonne Crawford, 2301 Sylvan Lane, Glendale 91208

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

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Augusts Meier; Secretary, 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: Ben Berry; Secretary, Keith Nelson, 37 Shasta Street, Chula Vista 92010

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: Jack Dodson; Sec., Violette Henderson, 117 Oak Shadow Dr., Santa Rosa 95405

Meetings: Oct. 28, Nov. 24, Dec. through May 1977 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: Marian Schmidt; Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776

Meetings: Friday, Nov. 12; Friday, Dec. 17; Thursday, Jan. 27; Thursday, Feb. 24; Thursday, March 24; and Thursday, April 25 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum Lecture Hall in Arcadia

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