

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



C. JAPONICA 'SILVER ANNIVERSARY'  
*Photo by Yvonne Cave, Courtesy New Zealand Camellia Society*

Vol. 40

July - August, 1979

No. 6

One Dollar fifty cents

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

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

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

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues, \$12.00

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

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Six issues per volume—September, November, January, March, May and July.

All manuscript for publication and correspondence should be sent directly to the Editor. Republication permitted, if due credit is given the Camellia Review and the author.

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





# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

Do you readers realize that "this child" has, with this issue, completed four years as Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW? That adds up to 24 issues. That adds up to 24 editorials and something over 375 articles bird-dogged! (No wonder Harold Dryden's hair is getting a little thin. He survived 15 years of this whiteknuckle job!)

I recall that at the end of my first year as Editor, I said to myself: "Well, I'm tapped out! There are no more articles out there to harvest. There are no more bushes to beat!" I'll let you in on a little secret. I feel the same way at the end of each year.

The Editorship of CAMELLIA REVIEW is sort of like a non-profit charity foundation. Each year we come to you—hat in hand—asking for contributions. Each year we get pledges for contributions or promises to contribute. So, now I am asking again for you to dig down for an article for next year. If any one of you reading this editorial has an article in your mind—a yen to write an article—a gleam in your eye that you might try to write an article—DO IT! If any of you have promised that you will write an article but have not, as yet done so—DO IT! If any of you would like to write but are afraid to try, don't be afraid—DO IT!

As I have stated so many times in the past, our magazine—YOUR MAGAZINE—is a journal of, by and for its readers. It will remain near the top in its field as long as YOU continue to make your contributions.

Our September-October issue, Volume 41—No. 1, will be a Special issue featuring our friends in the Gulf Coast. We have a promise of about 8 articles on the people, events, gardens, etc. of the Gulf area. We are also starting a new section on Society News. We hope that all of your Society Secretaries will use this section for news and announcements.

In closing out the year, I want to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the past year. I am confident that with your continued contributions we will have a CAMELLIA REVIEW which will measure up to its past excellence.

*Bill Donnan*

## 1979 CROP — CAMELLIA SEEDS

Japonica Seeds—\$3.75 per 100 (minimum order)

Sasanqua Seeds—\$1.50 per 100 (minimum order)

Reticulata Seeds—15c each

**Southern California Camellia Society**

1104 East Wilshire

Fullerton, California 92631

# HYBRIDIZING FOR YELLOW —THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

By MEYER PIET

© 1979 by Meyer Piet

Let's talk about the Yellow Camellia. I have already anticipated your laughter. In the last few weeks when I mentioned the Yellow Camellia the room rang with laughter—so my parting comment was, I am going to get rid of many of my old varieties of camellias, and those I do not use for hybridizing work, to make way for my Yellow Camellias. This statement also, brought forth laughter — after hearing this response I decided to take the opportunity of this closing meeting banquet to show pictures of our new flowers to date, and also talk about the Yellow Camellia.

In our normal hybridizing program Lee Gaeta and Mel Gum and I make a three-some that's hard to beat. We have been working together for the last six years and have been very successful in producing new flowers. We plan to continue this effort.

## BRIEF PAST HISTORY

The search must have started about 140 years ago (1842) when Mr. Robert Fortune was appointed Botanical Collector by the Horticultural Society of London. Taken from his book, *Wanderings in China*, published in 1847 is the interesting story of how he tried to buy a yellow camellia—instead brought two plants, one light yellow, one deep yellow. These were properly labeled and verified as to the old, old labels being correctly written by a respectable Chinese merchant, nevertheless, Robert Fortune was suspicious so he paid \$5.00 down (one-half of the agreed upon selling price) until he saw the flower buds bloom, his suspicion was confirmed, when both plants flowered there was nothing yellow about them, they were the worthless kind.

Mr. Robert Fortune continued his quest. Later in his travels he found

a yellow camellia in a nursery and it was in bloom, a curious plant although not very handsome flowers are anemone, outer petals are of a French white, and the inner ones are of a primrose yellow. When this camellia reached England it was classified as *C. Sasanqua Anemonaeflora*. It became known in the Continental countries as *C. Jaune*, the French word for yellow.

I have a plant of *C. Jaune* that I obtained as a scion from the Peer gardens. It is indeed a disappointment in both flower and color. There is an excellent color "cover picture" on the *Camellia Review* of July 1955.

The late Ralph Peer in his world travels was continually looking for a clue to the whereabouts of a Yellow Camellia, but the Chinese internal conflict (war) cut him off from further exploration into China or Indo-China.

Ralph Peer's article in the *Camellia Review*, July, 1954, page 3, told the story of being in the Province of Fukien in China and obtaining scions of a yellow 'mutation' of '18 scholars' the original "Sport" had occurred 10 years earlier. The center of the flower within a circle having a circumference of about two and one-half inches is canary yellow (about the size of a U.S. quarter). The remainder of the flower is a concentric ring of white. Four plants were grafted and reported as doing fine. Needless to say 18 scholars may have had many sports but none that bloomed yellow.

The story of Descanso Gardens Tutcheria is interesting.

Reference, Article, October 1958, page 14, and February, 1977, page 13 (*Camellia Review*). "It was Yellow, but—it was the near relative of the Camellia, a species of Tutcheria. Raised from seed imported to Descanso Gardens from Hong Kong in the

mid 1940 by Mr. E. C. Tourje.

The plant blooms every other year and has never produced more than five flowers. The yellow is very distinctive, the petals are thick and leathery, the antlers are large deep yellow.

After obtaining this rare kind of "Tutcheria" an enclosure was built around the plant to protect it, but eventually the plant was lost, (perhaps due to lack of water) before any seed could be set or additional plants rooted or grafted.

The next exploration involves Dr. W. S. Stewart, *The Camellia Review*, March 1966, page 25. Some highlights of our hunt for a yellow-flowering camellia, by William S. Stewart. Hopes that hybridization will lead to a yellow flower color; however, thus far there has been little hope for a yellow camellia from this work. J. G. Sealy in 1958 reported that there are three wild species of camellia, *camellia flava*, *C. Fleuryi*, *C. Tonkinensis*, with yellow petals native to North Viet Nam.

While visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens in Katmandu, Nepal the India Curator said she had a beautiful yellow-flowered *Camellia* the color of brass. She obtained it from the Janak Nursery in Darjeeling.

Dr. Stewart, brought and saw crated 10 plants of the yellow camellia—Mr. Pradhan (owner) said he had obtained the seed in 1957 or 1958 from a Japanese gentleman who had called them "Full Moon."

Three of these plants were growing at the Arboretum and USDA Quarantine station in Glenn Dale, Maryland. We are now confident we do have the "alleged" yellow flowering camellia established in the U.S.A.

Needless to say, when the plants finally bloomed they produced white flowers. At the present time we do have some good yellow caste camellias to work with. Brushfield yellow has quite a bit of yellow in the petaloids. Botanuki (yellow cast *Rusticanna*) has some yellow, KI Karata is a yellow

caste Higo. Several *Granthamiana* crosses with *Japonica* exist that definitely have yellow in the petals and petaloids.

Species *Caudata* appears to have some yellow in it and in any case it produces seedlings that are entirely different than the norm. There are several late released flowers around that contain some yellow. *Elegans Champagne*, *Leonora Novich*, *Gus Menard* and several chance seedlings with yellow caste.

At the present time we have six (6) plants of these crosses that should bloom next year and an additional 12 or so seedlings of these crosses that have just been grafted—we will probably see these in two or three years. We do not expect to do any additional work on these crosses until we see some of the flowers bloom.

During the last few years, and quite by accident, I have been sidetracked on an unusual program of camellia hybridization known only to myself. I take this opportunity to apologize to my two faithful, co-workers, but as major events occurred it eventually became so involved and at times so frustrating that it simply was best for me to continue on my own, especially since I originally seriously thought that the entire effort was doomed to failure.

Browsing through some old *Camellia Reviews* I ran across the correct start for my next subject—reference, October 1968 issue, page 31.

Sometimes the why of a camellia hybridizing program has as much reason behind it as the following anecdote illustrates. A bride served baked ham and her husband asked why she cut the ends off. "Well, that's the way mother did it," she replied. The next time his mother-in-law stopped by, he asked her why she cut off the ends of the ham. She replied. "That's the way my mother did it." and when grandma visited, she too was asked why she sliced the ends off. She said "That's the only way I could get it

into the pan.”

Most people, even learned scholars tend to take the path of least resistance and continually do the same thing over and over again, and at the same time wonder why they are not getting any new results. This same type of thinking tends to discourage others from doing new things since the cry immediately goes up—so and so tried it and it didn't work for them, its a waste of time, they are not compatible, its never been done, your going to do “what?” What about the chromosome count, etc.

I believe I have done the necessary work to present a more positive case for obtaining the yellow camellia than any of those that have preceded me. I plan to tell you the story and let you judge for yourself.

As I start this story I feel I am on the same threshold as Orson Wells in the 1930's when he radio broadcast his invasion of Planet Earth, therefore be forewarned I have never seen a true yellow camellia. This much of this story is absolutely true.

You have to understand a little of my background and a wee bit about my company. I have an instinct as a Rocket Propulsion Engineer or Mechanical Engineer for seeking out new and unique ways to accomplish tasks that either have never been done before or need tremendous improvement and mental thought to do an exact specific task properly.

My company products have been in outer space, the moon, used extensively for controlling re-entry vehicle, steer and orient satellites, they will be primary components (critical) for the new Space Shuttle to change orbit direction and re-enter the earths atmosphere (come back home).

Other company components save lives by inflating life rafts quickly, extends aircraft emergency slides in 8 seconds, quickly “poop” floats on helicopters that loose rotor power over water, etc. Our latest thrusters used in outer space can be plused 100 times

(on-off) per second, they can only be operated by onboard computer. The entire valve thruster weighs 6 oz. and is good for millions of cycles, produces from 2 tenths to two pounds of thrust in outer space. Even though we are a small independent company we sell our products all over the world.

Since we design and build a great deal of specialized equipment that no one else makes, it is not unusual for us to have customers that appreciate our efforts (we have the other kind too) and occasionally offer to do us a favor in return for our effort in producing an end item specifically for them.

Normally just the “thanks” is enough, but it is conceivable in our “Fact or Fantasy” logic that the occasion arose when floral material unique to developing a yellow camellia present itself and I decided to take advantage of a very unusual opportunity.

In the past no one to my knowledge has been able to successfully involve the use of this unique material from thousands of miles away. I realize that scions or cuttings would probably *not* be available or allowed, so I moved in the much more practical direction for quicker and positive action, to devise a better way of obtaining working material. After all a scion or cutting of “unique material” would probably never be released. A much better method does exist and that is, to obtain viable pollen and use it for immediately crossing into various camellia and camellia species.

The pollen can be dried using Silica-Gel and easily shipped with a portion of flower petal to ascertain color. The first such pollen was obtained five (5) years ago, and I immediately crossed it into easy seedling japonicas and japonica hybrids. I had enough pollen for about 100 crosses. The work was done carefully, in the greenhouse, where I usually get a 2 to 5 per cent “take” on hard to cross camellia hybrids. I had absolutely no luck with

the new pollen and no takes. For the next two years no pollen was obtained mainly because I was not certain how to proceed and since I had no takes, or zero success, I felt that the effort was probably a waste of time.

During the last three camellia seasons, 1976, 1977 and 1978 (I call a camellia season the year when I pick the seeds) enough positive action has taken place to compel me to start writing to preserve a reasonable log of how this unusual program is progressing.

I reasoned if I were not having success with the easy seeding japonicas, etc., that I must change my thinking and assume that my "unique pollen" could be non-compatible with japonicas. In hybridizing there are several species that will not easily combine.

I then reasoned that if the easy seeding japonicas would not cross, logic pointed to "using the poorest seed setting species available." This thinking became real intriguing because of its challenge.

If you assume most plant species will reproduce it is logical to assume that in order to be successful I had to move to the other end of the camellia spectrum or family and work with plants that normally are *not* very compatible with other camellias. Fortunately such a camellia species exists. It is Granthamiana, several things are extremely unusual about it.

I made the necessary cross, using the new pollen, approximately 100 tries on the species and its hybrids and then waited anxiously for signs of a take—remember a Granthamiana seed takes about 11 to 12 months to mature. Granth has another "bad habit" that is very frustrating. In most camellia plants when the plant seed or embryo does not take, it almost immediately dries up and drops off. In Granthamiana the embryo remains on even though it has dried up and will not drop off for three or four months. So the end result it, you are hopeful, that you have takes on your crosses

but then are disappointed months later.

I waited for several months watching the various crosses. When I was *certain* the cross did not take I would examine it carefully, and if it were indeed dry and dead I would pick it off. When I did so the dead, brown stem would confirm the lack of proper fertilization.

As time passed, most of the controlled crosses dried up and dropped off with no signs of fertilization taking place. I was overjoyed to see that the Granth mother plant plus species hybrid with retic were holding some pods.

After three months the species hybrids pods about one-half inch in diameter also aborted, but I was delighted to see, when examining sections under a microscope, that viable seed had started to form.

After about four months two healthy seed pods remained on the Granth mother plant and needless to say, I was keeping my fingers crossed that the seed pods would grow and remain healthy.

At this time I must tell you that my "source" had sent me two different kinds of yellow pollen, for simplicity lets refer to them as yellow and yellow-orange. I was delighted to see that the two seed pods remaining on the species mother plant were one each of two colors. Now, for the record, the seeds were pollinated on October 27, 1976 and picked in October 1977—Yes, we have picked the seed of species x yellow pollen and species x yellow-orange pollen. There were two seeds in each pod. The two in the yellow-orange pod were healthy, one of the seed in the species x yellow pod was very healthy, the other very small and weak looking.

At this time, as a Camellia hybridizer I was elated and thankful that I know enough about raising all types of camellia species seedlings to have a reasonable chance of growing the seedlings successfully. I proceeded to grow



the seeds in my normal manner which I have explained in previous articles and I was extremely pleased when I had four seedlings about 3 inches high and growing. The one sick seedling was still sick and not proceeding well but the other three were healthy.

At this time I had to make a major decision, should I graft the seedlings or let them grow another season. If they had poor root systems I could lose them, on the other hand it was conceivable that they would not graft on to *sasanqua* understock and I could lose the grafts. In any case I could lose a year's time and perhaps all of my seemingly successful effort—what to do? A real tough decision to make.

I decided to graft the seedlings and take a chance on saving a years time and the plants. When I cut the scions from the seedlings there was not enough material left to continue growth, so I examined the root structure. I found a reasonably healthy growth but not over abundant, therefore I decided my decision to graft had been a good one.

The grafts were covered and handled in my usual manner and I was delighted to observe new growth *and* new leaves form and grow. The plants were then transferred into my completely enclosed plastic grow box, with protected heat and 24 hours light, the growth continued on the three healthy plants but slowly the weak, sick seedling was lost. Fortunately, however, remember there were two seed pods and two seeds in each pod so we still had three plants growing which should be representative of both yellow and yellow-orange color.

As the three grafted plants continued to grow the first sign of success was the positive fact that no other pollen other than that of species *Granthamiana* existed at the time of hybridizing other than the special yellow and yellow-orange pollen. Remember the hybridizing date was October 27, 1976 which is too early for the other *camellia* species. All work was

done in the greenhouse. It is very seldom in the seven or eight years we have been using the greenhouse, that *any* chance seedlings or selfing occurs.

The second interesting observation was in the new growth. The yellow pollen crosses, new growth, was definitely darker than the new growth of the mother plant and the two yellow-orange pollen plants were even a darker color.

The third important observation was a change in the leaf shape. This was the *one* thing that I felt would be decisive, would the normally identical species leaf shape be maintained. I was extremely pleased when we saw mature leaves on all three plants that had a distinct round shape rather than a pointed leaf tip. I searched the mother plant, and all my various mother plant x *retic* and *japonica* crosses (10 plus plants) and almost 100 percent of the leaf's form is identical with that of the mother plant. As the three new plants continue to grow there appeared to be something entirely different about them, they are very healthy and on showing new growth it appears as they will be extremely bushy. Much bushier than a normal *Granthamiana*. I have decided not to prune the new 3 grafts—but to let them grow as normal as possible.

During all this goings on my new pollen arrived. Therefore the next season (1977) started up. Obviously I was elated at being successful the previous season, so I continued with my work but added a new mother plant, a cross of species *Granthamiana* and species *Sasanqua* to my working material. I was successful again and at this time I am grafting up 10 seedling with *Granthamiana* as a mother plant (still using the 2 different yellow pollens) and an additional seven seedlings using the *Granth* x *Sasanqua* mother plant.

These seedlings are much healthier and I am attempting to save the baby seedlings, by continuing to grow them in the plastic grow box, while the sci-

ous and grafted plants are handled in my normal manner.

At this time (March 1979) we have already set seed for the third straight year, approximately 10 to 15 seed pods with a potential of 20 to 30 seeds. It is too early to tell exactly how many seed pods will stay on and develop. I have added a Granthamiana x Retic to the mother plants, one which seldom sets seed. I have set 20 seed pods on this one plant. But the plant is incapable of nourishing this large number of seeds so it does not surprise me to see some of the seed pods drop off prematurely. I do not know how many will stay on but 2 or 3 are good size and appear to be stable.

Pollen appears to be available for another year although I have *not* received any as yet for next season. It may be that by writing this article I will cut off my "source." But I feel at this "time frame" I have probably obtained all of the material I need and now I must have the patience to see the three original seedlings grow thru their first real growth season and hopefully bloom next year or the year after.

Plant generics is not my thing, but I would like to try to predict the plants and flowers we will hopefully see soon.

1. Very bushy, beautiful plant with exceptional dark green distinctive foliage.

2. Flower light yellow and dark yellow color—flower 5" to 6" in diameter, perhaps larger, probably a semi-double but it is conceivable it could be a single.

3. There should be viable pollen for additional work and future generations.

4. The plants should take full sun, tolerate heat very well and do moderately well in cold weather.

5. It is conceivable that the flowers will bloom throughout the entire year they certainly should be early.

Since I have not seen the flowers I must continue to be patient for one or two more seasons, perhaps longer. But

at this time, counting the new grafts and assuming the hybridizing effort takes at 10 seed pods we should have about 30 to 40 plants growing on this new strain, this time next year.

To the best of my knowledge no one has ever made these crosses and certainly no one has ever obtained 20 or 30 seeds from Granthamiana even over a three year period.

Now remember I have not seen any of these new flowers, also remember the title of this article is hybridizing, fact or fantasy—I will tell you that at least 95 per cent of what I have written is absolutely true, I am convinced that we will see yellow camellia flowers soon, even though it is remotely possible that I have failed. But in any case you and I have something very interesting to look forward to.

Thank you for listening to my story. I will continue with this development at a Southern California Camellia Society meeting in March of next year. Hopefully you will hear a great cry of Hallelujah from my greenhouse in the coming camellia season.

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Foot Note: If there is any truth to the proverb that "seeing is believing" your editor can attest to the fact that he has seen the three growing, changed leaf, Granthamiana (x) yellow pollen crosses. They do look different—and if you stand around and listen to Meyer and Lee long enough—you can almost see the bright yellow blooms. The TV has given us the Bionic Man, the Bionic woman, and the Bionic Dog! Now we are about to see the Bionic Yellow Camellia!!!

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## SHOW RESULTS

### CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FEBRUARY 17 AND 18, 1979

- BEST LARGE TO VERY LARGE JAPONICA—'Mark Alan'—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo  
 Runner-up—'Tomorrow's Dawn'—The Art Gonos Family
- BEST MEDIUM JAPONICA—'Nuccio's Jewel'—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo  
 Runner-up—'Colonial Lady'—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor
- BEST SMALL JAPONICA—'Grace Albritton'—Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lesmeister  
 Runner-up—'Tom Thumb'—Miss Joy Monteleone
- BEST MINIATURE JAPONICA—'Pink Perfection'—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boynton  
 Runner-up—'Firecone, Var.'—Dr. Fred Rankin
- BEST 3 LARGE TO VERY LARGE JAPONICAS—  
 'Tomorrow Park Hill'—Mr. and Mrs. Doug Batt  
 Runner-up—'Grand Prix'—The Art Gonos Family
- BEST 3 MEDIUM JAPONICAS—'Nuccio's Gem'—The Art Gonos Family  
 Runner-up—'Margaret Davis'—Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg
- BEST 3 BOUTONNIERE JAPONICAS—'Kitty'—Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg  
 Runner-up—'Little Slam'—The Art Gonos Family
- BEST 5 JAPONICAS—'Julia France'—The Art Gonos Family  
 Runner-up—'Carter's Sunburst'—The Art Gonos Family
- BEST COLLECTION OF NINE—The Art Gonos Family
- BEST RETIC & RETIC HYBRID—'Jean Pursel'—Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Wang  
 Runner-up—'Miss Tulare'—Mr. and Mrs. John Balzarini
- BEST 3 RETIC & RETIC HYBRIDS—'Valley Knudsen'—Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Wang
- BEST NON-RETIC HYBRID—'Elsie Jury'—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo  
 Runner-up—'Water Lily'—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Roberts
- BEST 3 NON-RETIC HYBRIDS—'Coral Delight'—The Art Gonos Family  
 Runner-up—'Sylvia May Wells'—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Roberts
- BEST YOUTH MEDIUM TO VERY LARGE JAPONICA—'Lady in Red'—Meilin Wang
- BEST YOUTH BOUTONNIERE—'Kitty'—Kelly Pinheiro
- BEST YOUTH RETIC OR NON-RETIC HYBRID—'Dr. Clifford Parks'—Jim Baker
- BEST FAAGRANT BLOOM—'Seedling'—Originated by Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Hallstone
- BEST SEEDLING BLOOM—'Cornelian' x 'J. Pursel' originated by Frank Pursel
- BEST NOVICE BLOOM—'Cheryl Lynn'—Mr. and Mrs. Walt Ragland
- BEST SCCCS MEMBER JAPONICA BLOOM—'Mrs. Tingley'—Jerry Swick
- BEST SCCCS MEMBER RETIC OR NON-RETIC HYBRID BLOOM  
 'Kohinor'—Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bernhardt
- SWEEPSTAKES, 49 BLUE RIBBON BLOOMS—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor
- RUNNER-UP SWEEPSTAKES: 36 BLUE RIBBON BLOOMS—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo

## SHOW RESULTS

### MODESTO CAMELLIA CAVALCADE

MARCH 17 AND 18, 1979

- SWEEPSTAKES WINNER—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor  
 Runner-up—Don Bergamini
- BEST LARGE JAPONICA—'Betty Sheffield Sup.'—Art Gonos Family  
 Runner-up—'Fashionata'—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
- BEST MEDIUM JAPONICA—'Raspberry Ice'—The Helen Smith Family  
 Runner-up—'Dixie Knight Sup.'—Art Gonos Family
- BEST SMALL JAPONICA—'Ave Maria'—Mrs. J. C. Kilsby Jr.  
 Runner-up—'Grace Albritton'—Mr. and Mrs. Pete Grosso
- BEST THREE LARGE JAPONICA—'Elegans Champagne'—Larry and Nancy Pitts
- BEST 3 MED. OR SM JAPONICA—'Ella Ward Parsons'—Mr. & Mrs. John Balzarini
- BEST 5 LARGE JAPONICA—'Elegans Splendor'—Larry and Nancy Pitts
- BEST 5 MED. OR SMALL JAPONICA—'Black Tie Var.'—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ehrhart
- BEST RETICULATA—'Nuccio's Ruby'—Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeister  
 Runner-up—'Lasca Beauty'—Mr. and Mrs. Jim Randall
- BEST 3 RETICULATA—'Kohinor'—Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini
- BEST HYBRID BLOOM—'Dreamboat'—Mrs. Edith Mazzei
- BEST 3 HYBRID BLOOMS—'South Seas'—The Bill Harris Family
- BEST MINIATURE LOOM—'Angel's Blush'—Robert Marcy III  
 Runner-up—'Frances Concil'—Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro
- BEST 3 MINIATURE BLOOMS—'Little Slam'—Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray

BEST 5 MINIATURE BLOOMS—'Bon Bon'—The Art Gonos Family  
 BEST WHITE JAPONICA—'Nuccio's Gem'—Mrs. J. C. Kilsby Jr.  
 EST COLLECTOR'S TRAY OF 12 BLOOMS—Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bruener  
 BEST HIGO BLOOM—'Butan Yuki'—Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray  
 BEST FRAGRANT BLOOM—'Fragrant Seedling'—W. F. Harrison  
 BEST LARGE SEEDLING—Matt P. Talia  
 BEST SMALL SEEDLING—The Art Gonos Family  
 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE—The Art Gonos Family  
 PETER HISCHIER MEMORIAL TROPHY—Mr. and Mrs. Peter Galli

MODESTO SOCIETY MEMBER AWARDS

BEST JAPONICA BLOOM—'Tomorrow Park Hill'—Judy Smith  
 Runner-up—'Touchdown'—Mr. and Mrs. Peter Galli

JUNIOR AWARDS

BEST JAPONICA—'Fashionata'—Emily Breuner  
 BEST RETICULATA—'Lasca Beauty'—K. K. Smith  
 BEST HYBRID—'E. G. Waterhouse'—Demetri Gonos  
 BEST MINIATURE—'Kitty'—Jeff Pinheiro

AWARD TO NON-MEMBERS FROM MODESTO AREA

BEST JAPONICA BLOOM—'Purity'—Carol Christensen  
 Runner-up—'Mathotiana'—Elva Henderson

## SHOW RESULTS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

MARCH 10 AND 11, 1979

SWEEPSTAKES—Mr. and Mrs Robert Ehrhart  
 Runner-up—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Boynton  
 NOVICE SWEEPSTAKES—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 CHALLENGE AWARD—Tim and June Grant  
 BEST LARGE JAPONICA—'White Nun'—Mr. and Mrs. Gary Shanz  
 Runner-up—'Tomorrow Park Hill'—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo  
 BEST MEDIUM JAPONICA—'Nuccio's Jewel'—Mr. and Mrs. James Randall  
 Runner-up—'In the Pink'—Mr. and Mrs. Peter Galli  
 BEST 3 LARGE JAPONICAS—'Elegans Splendor'—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 BEST 3 MEDIUM JAPONICAS—'Ragland Supreme'—Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini  
 BEST 6 JAPONICAS—'Tiffany'—Mr and Mrs. Chas. O'Malley  
 BEST BOUTONNIERE MINIATURE—'Kitty'—Joy Monteleone  
 BEST BOUTONNIERE SMALL—'Alison Leigh Woodroof'—Mr. and Mrs. D. Lesmeister  
 BEST 3 BOUTONNIERES—'Kitty'—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Biggs  
 BEST 6 BOUTONNIERES—'Kitty'—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Biggs  
 BEST HYBRID RETICULATA—'Lasca Beauty'—Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wang  
 Runner-up—Mr and Mrs. Peter Galli  
 BEST 3 HLBRID RETICULATAS—'Cornelian'—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 Runner-up—'Francie L.'—Mr and Mrs. Peter Galli  
 BEST 6 HYBRID RETICULATAS—'Mouchang'—Mr and Mrs. James Scott  
 BEST HYBRID—'Elsie Jury'—Mr. and Mrs. James Randall  
 BEST 3 HYBRID—'E. G. Waterhouse'—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 BEST 6 HYBRID—'E. G. Waterhouse'—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 BEST FRAGRANT SEEDLING—Mr. and Mrs. Woodford Harrison  
 BEST LARGE SEEDLING—Matt Talia  
 BEST MEDIUM SEEDLING—James Smith  
 BEST BOUTONNIERE SEEDLING—Matt Talia  
 BEST 12 DIFFERENT—Larry and Nancy Pitts  
 YOUTH CLASS JAPONICA—'Grace Abritton'—Joellen Bergamini  
 YOUTH CLASS OTHER THAN JAPONICA—'K. O. Hester'—Randy Pitts  
 BEST JEAN PURSEL—Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Wang  
 BEST HAROLD PAIGE—Jack Lewis

Modern painters can be divided into five categories: those who paint what they see; those who think they paint what they see; those who paint what they think they see; those who think they paint what they think they see; and those who think they paint.

# GOOD NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

By ALICE NEELY

The Award of Excellence was given at the final meeting of Pacific Camellia Society at Pike's Verdugo Oaks on April 5th. This award is an accumulation of points from the various Camellia Shows, starting with the Gib Show and including South Coast, San Diego, Temple City, Southern California, Pomona, Bakersfield and Fresno shows. It was an exciting moment when, like Price Waterhouse, the seal was broken and Bob Neely read the winner's name.

And the winner was Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci who garnered one hundred five points.

The following were the top seventeen in order of point awards:

- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo 75
- Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gonos 72
- Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Jaacks 66
- The Harris Family 59
- Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta 54
- Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Moore 52
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Goertz 50
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry Putnam 43
- Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor 39
- Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan 35
- Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace 33
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Donnan 32
- Mr. and Mrs. Roger Treischel 32
- Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Rowe 31
- The Gray Family 28

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray 23  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harmsen 21  
 The points were awarded on the following basis:

- 5 Points—Best of Show
- 4 Points—Best of Division
- 3 Points—Runner-up
- 2 Points—Court of Honor

Records were broken in the estimated number of attendance and the number of blooms entered in almost all of this season's shows:

	Blooms	Attend.
Gib Show	346	925
Huntington Show	600	4300
South Coast	860	600
San Diego	1450	3000
Temple City	1849	5000
So. California	2337	7340
Pomona	1800	300
Bakersfield	1305	1500
Fresno	1300	2000
All Shows Total	11847	24965

The most honored blooms were: (not in order of sequence)

Little Slam, Demi-Tasse, Tinker Bell, Freedm Bell, Harold Paige, Tomorrow Park Hill, Elsie Jury, Ave Maria, Francie L., Margaret Davis, Alison Leigh Woodroof, Angel Wings, Nuccio's Gem, E. G. Waterhouse, Miss Charleston, Var., Elegans Supreme.

It is interesting to note that most

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of the Shows in Southern California had a separate Division of Novice Exhibitors. There were over sixty blooms entered in the Novice Division at the Descanso Show! This activity augers well for the future of our various Society Groups since it seems apparent that many of the Novice Exhibitors might become permanent members in the camellia hobby.

The Award of Excellence, presented for the first time this year, is to become a trophy which will be awarded each year to the winner of the most points in the nine Southern California Shows. A new silver piece, suitably engraved will become next year's trophy and its presentation will, again become a part of the Pacific Camellia Society's Annual Dinner meeting. So, start now in making your plans for winning points in the 1979-80 Camellia Shows.

## CAMELLIAS AS A HOBBY

By MYRA PACE

*Ed. Note: Reprinted from the January-February 1979 issue of Golden Gardens.*

Thirty-six years ago when we came to California I saw beautiful shrubs with dark green foliage that looked as if it had been waxed. Some shrubs had gorgeous pink flowers while others had white blossoms that attracted my attention. Inquiring the name of these shrubs I was told they were Camellias. Plans began so that when we settled into our own place Camellias would be planted there.

Within a year and a half we had moved into our own home and three small one-gallon size Camellias were planted with loving care following the nurseryman's instructions. Of course they were my three favorites then—Pink Perfection, Purity (white) and C. M. Hovey (red). Two of these three—Pink Perfection and Purity—still have the places of honor in front of our house.

By the time these first three cam-

ellias of ours were blooming, I read of Camellia shows and just knew my blossoms had to be winners. Off I went to the Southern California Camellia Society's show being held at Descanso Gardens, carrying a few blossoms in a pie tin like a lot of other little old ladies, thinking each flower was a winner. How ignorant I was! I found out that this was the largest show of the year and was ready to take my blooms and go home when a very nice gentleman came up to me and asked if I didn't want to enter the beautiful blossoms I was holding. That did it! I was certain then that I had some winners, not realizing there were many blossoms in the competition.

After my entries had been made we toured the Garden until judging was completed, and I could hardly wait to see how many ribbons I had won. Then what a thrill it was to find two blooms with ribbons under their containers. No time was wasted returning home to tell my husband our Camellia blooms had won two ribbons.

Needless to say, an investigation was started immediately as to where and when the next Camellia Society meeting would be held. That was just the beginning. Now, many years later, we are still growing and showing Camellia blossoms at shows from southern to northern California. With knowledge gained by attending society meetings, we soon gave up the use of pie tins to transport flowers to shows. Plastic containers with clear plastic lids are now used. These boxes are lined with shredded white paper slightly dampened.

Camellias are easy to grow once a few fundamentals are understood. In their native habitat in the Far East, they are plants of the forest, thriving in the woodlands along the mountainsides where the soil drains well and is enriched by the falling leaves which create an acid condition. As space is limited in our garden, the majority of plants are grown in containers un-

der lath or saran cloth giving about sixty percent shade. The intensity of shade depends on the area where one lives. The potting mix we use is one-third German peat moss, one-third fir bark and one-third garden soil and sand mixed equally. These proportions do well for us.

Soon after our blooming period is over, pruning is done quite heavily to keep the plant size under control. Heavy pruning also tends to produce larger blossoms as the plants have less growth to support. The feeding program also starts immediately after the blooming season. We find cottonseed meal is an excellent fertilizer as well as liquid fish emulsion. We feed one or the other once a month throughout the summer until October. Hi Bloom is then started monthly until blooming period is over. This program is used by us to grow blooms that are show quality.

Camellias must be kept moist at all times but not wet. Good drainage is a must in growing Camellias whether in containers or in the ground. During hot weather, we try to sprinkle the plants each evening to create humidity

and to keep the dust off the foliage. If one keeps the plants washed and clean at all times there will be less trouble with insect problems. Petal blight is one of the worst enemies of Camellias, the fungus causing this disease grows and spreads on spent blooms left to decay on the ground.

Come September the buds are forming and that is when disbudding starts and continues for some time.

Show season begins for us in January and continues through March. We try to arrive at shows early to place the blossoms on the tables in the correct division and position them in containers to show the blooms to their best advantage. Then we hurry to the hospitality room to have coffee or tea with friends and discuss the pros and cons of growing Camellias.

One might think that winning a piece of silver is the reward of a Camellia hobbyist. Not so with me. It is the friendships that have grown out of meeting people who have the same love for Camellias and enjoy the hobby as much as we do. This is where all the labor and toil are repaid by a reward that lasts a lifetime.

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY AWARDS PICNIC**

**By HAROLD E. DRYDEN**

The Southern California Camellia Society held its Annual Awards Picnic on Saturday evening, June 9th. The event was staged on the patio of the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens. Chuck Gerlach, the Awards Picnic Chairman had his committees well organized and the pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by some 70 members and friends. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Society's various camellia awards. Gifts and Bronze plaques were issued to the following winners:

The winner of the most points for camellia blooms exhibited during the year at the monthly Society meetings went to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe.

The runner-up for the most points was Frank Davis.

The winner of the newly established Colonel Frank Reed Award for the most points earned during the year for chemically treated gibbed blooms went to Frank Davis, who received a bronze plaque.

Awards Committees of the Southern California Camellia Society had selected awards winners for 1979 under the different awards categories as noted in the following.

**WILLIAM E. WOODROOF  
CAMELLIA HALL OF FAME  
AWARD**

C. japonica 'Coronation,' originated by McCaskill Gardens of Pasadena,



California and *C. japonica* 'Margaret Davis,' a sport of *C. japonica* 'Aspasia MacArthur' that was originated by A. M. Davis of Australia were chosen as winners for 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Davis were contacted in Honolulu, Hawaii where they now make their home. They intended on flying to Los Angeles to attend the Awards Dinner, but the grounding of the DC-10 prevented their coming. This award was established by the Southern California Camellia Society in 1978 in honor of Bill Woodroof, creator and editor of "Camellia Nomenclature." Camellia varieties to be eligible for this award must have been grown in Southern California and have been in distribution (commercially or otherwise) for a period of ten years or more. Factors to be considered in the choice of a winner are clearness of color, substance and form, size as related to form, manner of setting buds, bloom opening characteristics, lasting quality, non-shatter tendency, plant growth and foliage, consistency and acceptance.

#### MARGARET HERTRICH AWARD

This award goes to the outstanding japonica seedling for the year as judged by the Awards Committee. The 1979 winner is 'Silver Chalice,' originated by Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, California. Tom Nuccio accepted the bronze plaque for this award.

#### WILLIAM HERTRICH AWARD

This award goes to the outstanding mutation (sport) for the year as judged by the Awards Committee. The 1979 winner is 'Jean Clere,' a sport of *C. japonica* 'Aspasia MacArthur,' originated by Richard Clere of New Zealand and named for his wife, Jean.

#### DR. JOHN TAYLOR AWARD

This award goes to the outstanding non-reticulata hybrid for the year as judged by the Awards Committee. The 1979 winner is 'South Seas,' originated by Felix Jury of New Zealand. The bronze plaque will be mailed to Mr. Jury in New Zealand.

#### WILLIAM WYLAM AWARD

This award goes to the outstanding boutonniere for the year as judged by the Awards Committee. The 1979 winner is 'Grace Albritton,' originated by A. L. Albritton of Tallahassee, Fla. The award will be sent to Mrs. Albritton.

#### FRANK STORMENT AWARD

This award goes to the outstanding reticulata or reticulata hybrid for the year as judged by the Awards Committee. The 1979 winner is 'Miss Tulara,' originated by M. W. Abramson of Tulare, California. Mr. and Mrs. Morrie Abramson were present for the Awards Picnic and they were presented with the Storment bronze plaque.

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## NUCCIO DINNER

The Southern California Camellia Society hosted a dinner to honor Joe and Julius Nuccio for their long and faithful service to the Society and to the camellia hobby world-wide. The dinner was held on Friday night, April 27, 1979 at the Brookside Country Club in Pasadena.

Over 160 friends and acquaintances of the Nuccio's attended to dinner and there were representatives from nearly every camellia society in California and from the American Camellia Society. The Nuccio's, including wives Bonnie and Mary; children; grandchildren; and a great-grandmother, were surrounded by loving friends who had come to pay tribute to the many, many contributions which Joe

and Julius and the Nuccio's Nurseries have made over the years.

Mrs. Bernice Gunn, newly elected President of the Southern California Camellia Society, presided over the dinner and called upon Bill Woodroof to act as Master-of-ceremonies. There were short tributes from Bill Goertz, Marge O'Malley, Harold Dryden; and Sergio Bracci. Meyer Piet then made several presentations, including some gag gifts and called upon Mel Gum to make the presentation of bronze plaques to both Joe and Julius, designating them as Honorary Life Members of SCCS.

The dinner, chaired by Bev Piet and Emma Gaeta was one of the most enjoyable and gratifying events of the year. As one of the speakers remarked: "How do you spell Camellias, F-R-I-E-N-D-S-H-I-P ! !

# SEED GERMINATION—PRE-TREATMENT OF SEEDS

By GEORGE LEWIS

*Ed Note: The following is a gist of a talk presented at the March 13 meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society.*

## CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR GERMINATION

The resumption of growth of an embryo after it has been dormant in the seed is called seed germination.

Certain conditions must go on before growth can take place.

The most prominent among these are light, favorable temperature, a supply of oxygen, and a supply of water.

Before growth of the embryo can proceed, water must be absorbed. It is the moisture-absorbing capacity of seeds that sometimes causes them to start to germinate.

The temperature that is required for germination varies with different kinds of seeds. Each has a range of temperatures within which they will germinate. The lowest temperature is called the minimum, the best, the optimum and the highest the maximum. Most seeds will fail to germinate at temperatures of 5°C, or as high as 45°C. The optimum for most seeds are between 25°C and 30°C.

Light is a very important factor in seed germination. Of 964 species studied, it was found that 672 were favored by light, 258 were inhibited, and 35 were indifferent. A large majority of the seeds (70%) were favored by light. Mistletoe, and a few others will not germinate at all in the absence of light. The small grains, such as corn, many legumes will germinate as well in light, as in darkness.

## DORMANCY OF SEEDS

In the majority of species, however, seeds have a distinct rest period during which they fail to germinate. The delayed germination may be caused by the condition of the embryo, by the seed coat, or a combination of

both of these factors. We may refer to the first type as embryo dormancy and the second as seed coat dormancy.

## EMBRYO DORMANCY

Embryo dormancy may be caused by a very rudimentary, or undeveloped embryo, or by failure of the embryo to awaken from its resting condition. Germination takes place only after a series of changes called "after ripening" has taken place in the embryo. To this class belongs many trees, and shrubs. Among the trees would be the Linden, poplar, ash, pines, hemlock, all of the conifers, Dogwood, Viburnums, hawthorn and such fruit trees as the apple, cherry, plum, apricot and flowering plants such as roses, holly, Lily of the Valley, and hundreds of others. It has been found that many seeds of this type can be made to germinate if stratified at low temperatures for periods varying from 42 days to 6 months. By stratification is meant the placing of seeds between layers of moist sand, sawdust, or peat, or other material and keeping them at a temperature of 47° in the home refrigerator. This method of overcoming the dormancy of embryo-dormant seeds is of considerable practical importance to nurserymen in the propagation of species with seeds of this type.

## SEED COAT—DORMANCY

When delayed germination is caused by the nature of the seed coat, it may be brought about by (1) the impermeability of the seed coat to water, or (2) the impermeability of the seed coat to oxygen, or (3) the mechanical resistance of the seed coat to the expansion of the embryo and the seed contents. In all of these cases, germination results when the seed coats are filed, rubbed with sand paper, or soaked in a solution of strong (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) acid sulfuric acid, or cut into with a sharp blade or broken in any other

manner that will not injure the embryo. After the seeds have imbibed water, increased physiological activity develops within them. Through the transfer of the digested foods to the growing point of the radicle and the plumule, these organs begin to grow, but in order to overcome the difficulties of many species to germinate the recommended pre-treatments must take place first.

## **CAMELLIA CLIPPINGS**

By **BERNICE GUNN**

Continuing the saga of  
"PROJECT GEORGIA"

On October 31, we left Williamsburg and made our way to Jamestown, the first English settlement in America, founded May 13, 1607. There again, after getting off of our sleek air-conditioned bus, we enjoyed going back in time seeing how our ancestors lived the simple life.

On our way to Fayetteville, we indoctrinated the Australians into the American ritual of fast foods—"finger-lickin" good chicken, pizza and the favorite of American families, McDonalds. Arriving at our hotel in Fayetteville, we were most pleased to find a welcoming committee of familiar faces, Bill Kemp, and Fred and Louise Mayo. After enjoying a get acquainted cocktail hour with some of the hobbyists in the area, we were transported by private cars to enjoy a sumptuous meal, and an enjoyable evening of "hobby talk." All good things must come to an end, so an early morning call beckoned us on to Charleston.

Traveling towards Charleston, we were looking forward to a mouth-watering typical Southern lunch of She-crab soup, pan-fried plantation chicken, corn fritters and pecan tarts at Middleton Place Gardens. After lunch we had a walking tour of the oldest landscaped gardens in America. The gardens were laid out in 1741, and

have never been deeded out of the Middleton family. It is maintained by the National Historic Society, and the gardens, buildings and stables create plantation life. We especially enjoyed the original Camellia garden. In 1786 Andre Michaux, the French botanist, brought the Middletons a gift of four Camellias, the first planted in an American garden. There was also a part of the garden called Camellia Allees. This classic garden design called for formal allees of trees and shrubs, trimmed to form green walls, now tunnels of Camellias. In the 20th century a new Camellia garden was added, containing many plants that were propagated during the late 1940s. As in Williamsburg, there were many shops where we learned of the plantation's self-sufficiency. Crops were sown and harvested, animals husbanded. Hinges and nails, boards and shingles, soap, candles, yarn and cloth were all made by hand. It was a rewarding visit.

Lo! and behold! greeting us at our hotel upon arriving in Charleston, were two familiar faces from home. Sonia and John Movich. They were a welcome addition to our group, and entered into our many activities in the city. The high point of our visit was having cocktails and dinner at The House of Coburg, hosted by the owners, Sally and Sunny Hanckel. Their many beautiful acres house various members of their family, a city of Hanckels. The entire family entered into the spirit of entertaining. Many hands were busy serving 100 sit-down guests in their home to a freshly-caught fish dinner. The warmth of Camellia friendship permeated the evening.

On the 18th day of our trip, we arrived in Savannah in time to attend the Savannah Camellia Society Show. The Australians were treated to a beautiful display of "gibbed" blooms. I am not sure that they thoroughly approved, as there is no need to gib in their country, but they couldn't

deny the beauty of the blooms on the tables. After the show, we all met at the Pirates House for the Judges lunch and welcome speeches from prominent members of the Savannah Society. The next morning we boarded our bus for a visit to the De Bus and Jones gardens. So many of us Californians grow our Camellias in containers because of our limited space, it was with a little tinge of jealousy that we viewed large plants in the ground blooming profusely. Jack and Lila Jones invited us into their home for the cocktail hour after our tour of the gardens. Their home and setting was a perfect replica of Tara in *Gone With the Wind*. I fully expected Rhet Butler to come storming down the stairs muttering to Scarlet his famous last words, "Frankly my dear, I don't give a —." The next day was spent touring the city, and a little free time for "doing our own thing."

On November 7th we were on our way to Perry to attend all of the convention activities. Arriving at our destination, we were amazed at the great number in attendance. Besides many delegates and hobbyists from the United States, there was a good showing from Taiwan, Japan, France, South Africa, Great Britain, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. The Convention Committee had planned many interesting activities for their visitors—slide shows, culture programs and other programs pertinent to the hobby. A course in foreign languages would have been helpful before attending, as it was hard to communicate with some of the visitors. Never mind—a smile helped bridge the gap.

Our first sight-seeing trip away from the convention center was to Robins Air Force Base. We were all fascinated to see the workings of the newest American fighter plane, the F-15 Eagle. We were shown many facilities on the base, and treated to a gourmet lunch hosted by the Commanding Officer.

Our next visit was to Calloway Gardens. Besides the Arboretum, greenhouses, 7 acre vegetable garden, the azalea area (containing over 600 varieties), there was a recreational area consisting of tennis courts, golf greens, hiking trails and boating. We had our lunch in the gardens, then on to Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs. It was a nostalgic trip, as this modest home was very much in the news during Roosevelt's four terms in the White House.

Massee Lane has always been high on my list of places to visit. We were transported to Fort Valley for a leisurely visit of ACS Headquarters. Hours were spent browsing through the Camellia Library, admiring the fabulous Boehm porcelain collection, touring the grounds and attending their Annual Fall Camellia Show.

While in Perry, we had time for shopping, visiting friends and catching up on some much needed rest.

Upon leaving Perry, we were invited to the home of Mrs. Mamie Muse for breakfast. The in-home entertaining of such a large group was a source of amazement to me. Imagine a bus parking in front of your home disgorging 40 famished travelers, waiting to be fed.

On our way to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, we made a stop in Brookhaven, and enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Becker, II and Tom Perkins. We were all anxious to get into the limelight, as the press was awaiting us with cameras and notebooks as we stepped off the bus. We were invited inside for lunch, so once again we enjoyed a bit of that great Southern cooking. When they say, "Y'all come," they mean it!

Henry and Vi Stone had a surprise awaiting us as we neared Baton Rouge. As we neared the city our own "Starsky & Hutch" were mounted on their motorcycles waiting to escort us into the city. Believe me, we felt like VIPs, as traffic was halted to make way for our bus. The officers made

great flourish of wheeling-and-dealing us through the city, as they knew in the bus we were as excited as a child on its first visit to Disneyland. They were our escorts for the entire day, which included refreshments at the Stone's home, a trip to the top floor of the City National Bank for a view of the city, and reception with welcoming speeches from many dignitaries, including the Mayor. Upon leaving the city, their sirens were turned on as they escorted us to the Freeway and on our way to New Orleans.

I was a little sorry to arrive in New Orleans, because then we were nearing the end of our odyssey. Our two days spent in the city were a little more relaxing. A tour of the city and a visit to Longue Vue Gardens, then a delightful full day tour to Slidell for lunch with Mr. and Mrs. John Geiser. Before lunch we were treated to a boat trip down the bayou.

We enjoyed strolling down the famed Bourbon Street, having dinner at Antoinettes, shopping and visiting some of the hobbyists in the area.

We arrived home November 16th, and had three days to show the Australians a little of Southern California Hospitality. A visit to the famed Nuccio Nursery, lunch and a tour of Huntington Gardens hosted by individual members of SCCS, dinner at a typical Mexican Restaurant, open house at Ruth and Bill Goertzes, a "swinging party" at Sonia and John Moviches, Descanso Gardens, shopping for the ladies and a pre-planned trip to Disneyland.

It was a sad day when our friends took off for Honolulu on their way home. We were a close group for a month, and I often wish I could pick up the phone to any one of them and have a friendly chat.

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## THE AMELIA THOMPSON STORY

By GORDON ADAMS

New Plymouth, New Zealand

*Ed. Note: This is a reprint from vol. 12, No. 2, November 1950, Camellia Review. In honor of the 1979 I.C.S. Convention in New Zealand we thought it would be of interest to note that Camellias arrived there about 1840.*

Many years ago—about 1840—a small vessel named the "Amelia Thompson" set out from England carrying new settlers to New Zealand. After eight months at sea (it was necessary to sail around the Cape of Good Hope and the southern part of Australia) this ship landed at a Maori village where the city of New Plymouth now stands. The Maoris, a Polynesian race which then inhabited New Zealand, were friendly. Among the new settlers who went ashore at this point was a family named Ginger. These intrepid people, when they left England, had brought various plants

from their gardens in pots, but during the eight month's voyage everything died excepting a small camellia (tough, these camellias!) Several acres of land a few miles from the village were cleared away and the Ginger family built a log cabin. The camellia was planted and grew rapidly. (This part of the world has a moist climate and the soil is acid.) The Maoris were a war-like people and battles between the tribes were quite usual long before the white people arrived. It was natural, therefore, that some of them would turn against the white settlers, especially in isolated position. Two years after the Gingers had established their farm a marauding band of Maoris attacked their home and they barely had time to flee to the village on the Coast. When, a few days later, they returned to their log cabin they found it burned

to the ground and all of their crops, sheds, etc., destroyed. The camellia plant was, however, not damaged. They dug it from the ground, left the place in disgust, and found a small ship which took them to the new settlement of Nelson in the South Island of New Zealand where they started all over again. The camellia was replanted in the garden of their new home. For twelve years they lived and prospered in this region, and the camellia grew taller and stronger each year.

The South Island is, however, a cold and dreary place in comparison with New Plymouth. Learning that the trouble with the Maoris had ended, that the region around New Plymouth was quite peaceful, they decided to return once again to that section. A new home was built at a different place called Manuatahi on a main road not far from New Plymouth. The camellia, now their most treasured possession because of its memories, was rather large to be moved, but was severely "cut back" and brought along with their baggage. It thrived again in the salubrious climate—the last remaining link between the Gingers and their homeland. Within three years, however, what are known historically as the "Maori wars" broke out and the British Government found it necessary to send thousands of troops in order to subdue the native warriors. The new settlements all over both North Island and South Island were plundered and burned by Maoris. Once again the home of the Gingers was destroyed by the crazed natives. Escaping massacre, the Gingers fled to New Plymouth and when the Treaty of Waitangi again brought peace to New Zealand this dauntless family built a new house on their old homesite.

The camellia brought from England many years before, although badly damaged, still lived, and now, more than one hundred years after its arrival in New Zealand, is twenty-seven

feet high, dominating the lawn in front of the old homestead—a proof that "endurance pays dividends" as the lovely pink blossoms literally smother the tree year after year.

The name of the variety has been lost, and it does not resemble any camellia now grown or described. I have, therefore, decided to propagate it under the name of the ship which brought it to New Zealand—AMELIA THOMPSON.

The last surviving member of the Ginger family died several years ago, but the plant brought from England under such difficult conditions still grows vigorously. Possibly, after its introduction to the United States, some expert will be able to suggest the original varietal name. Countless visitors to my nursery have said that the blossom is different from any variety with which they are acquainted.

## **YOUR YEAR-ROUND CAMELLIA SOCIETY GARDEN**

First plant four rows of peas:

- One row of Pleasantness
- One row of Promptness
- One row of Politeness
- One row of Perverserance

Then five rows of lettuce:

- Let us be Truthful
- Let us be Kind
- Let us be Friendly
- Let us be Unselfish
- Let us be Helpful

Then three rows of squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash fault finding
- Squash indifference

Finally, no Garden is complete without turnips:

- Turn up for meetings
- Turn up for shows
- Turn up with new ideas
- Turn up with a new member
- Turn up with a helping hand

# ROOT AERATION REQUIREMENTS OF POTTED PLANTS

By MARY MARSHDALE

The most common cause of death in container grown plants is overwatering. This is true not only of houseplants but of outdoor potted plants. For this reason, the potting medium has to be chosen with care, and one needs to know the root aeration requirements of different kinds of plants.

The medium must not only provide anchorage and nutrients but air space for roots. Roots not getting adequate air will grow poorly or die no matter how good the other factors are.

J. W. White from the Penn. Agricultural Exp. Station has done a study

on the approximate root aeration requirements of selected ornamentals.

The following table shows the per cent of airspace after drainage, of the total container volume.

Very High 20% Plus

Azalea, Fern, Epiphytic-Orchid.

High 10-20%

African Violets, Begonia, Foliage Plants, Gardenia, Heather, Terrestrial-Orchid, Rhododendron, Snapdragon.

Intermediate 5-10%

Camellia, Chrysanthemum, Gladiolus, Hydrangea, Lily, Poinsettia.

Low 2-5%

Carnation, Conifer, Geranium, Ivy, Palm, Rose, Stocks.

## INSECTICIDES IN THE GARDEN

By PAMELA KEMP

Gardens Products Advisory Manager at pan britannica industries, gives advice on keeping garden pests under control

*Ed. Note: Reprinted from The Gardener, Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vol 101, No. 5, May 1976.*

Insects are an essential part of a garden. A good gardener's aim should not be to rid his garden of all animal life but to control the pests in order to swing the 'balance of nature' in his favor, to get more benefit from his gardening efforts than the pests do.

Someone with a small garden and plenty of time to walk around it at least once a day, can crush many pest invasions with finger and thumb, or foot, before they really get under way. Many of us do not see the invasion before it is really established, and at this stage it is necessary to use a pesticide to regain the upper hand.

The choice of pesticides used to be comparatively simple. If a pest was biting lumps out of a plant it could be controlled with a stomach poison such as lead arsenate or DDT. If it was

sucking sap, nicotine was needed to bring it under control. Modern insecticides are a vast improvement, especially in terms of safety, but they are more complex. Many of them act in more than one way. The old distinction between contact insecticide and stomach poison is becoming more of academic than practical interest.

There is now not only a vast array of pesticides but also different brands of each. Choosing the right one for a particular purpose is not always easy. Manufacturers produce helpful leaflets about their own products but the discontinued RHS publication *Chemicals for the Gardener* was the only independent guide.

The choice of pesticide depends upon the pest, the plant affected and the harvest interval, if any part of the plant is to be eaten. A pesticide which breaks down quickly after application is ideal for use on vegetables, and for fruit which is nearly ready



to be picked. Not only can these be used close to harvest — cauliflowers sometimes turn into entomological hotels just as they reach perfection—but a time interval of two days is more likely to be remembered accurately than one of 14 days or three weeks. On the other hand, more persistent chemicals are useful for decorative plants as they give a longer period of pest control.

Some of the newer pesticides are systemic. These give a very thorough pest control because they are absorbed into the tissues of the plant. They circulate in the sapstream getting into unfolding buds and parts of the plants that ordinary sprays cannot reach.

Pesticides are available as dusts, aerosols, and sprays. The way they are formulated may affect their pest range, for example, a pyrethrum dust may only be recommended for ant control but a prethrum spray will kill aphids and other pests. For this reason, tables like the one following which list the pests controlled by a particular insecticide can be misleading, and the label of a particular brand must be read to discover whether it is suitable for a particular pupose. Formulation will also affect the range of plants on which a pesticide can be used.

Most insecticides are dangerous to bees and this must be borne in mind. Spray in the late afternoon or early evening when the bees have finished working for the day. Do not spray open blooms, as, apart from danger to the bees, some delicate flowers may be marked. Great care should be taken not to get spray in puddles, ponds or streams. Bees may drink the contaminated water; most insecticides are poisonous to fish.

Pesticides should always be treated with respect. The packages should be stored out of reach of children and pets. Just the same as medicines and household substances, like bleach, should be kept out of their reach. Sprays should be diluted as directed

and should be used on the day that they are mixed. Sprays should not be used on a windy day, care should be taken that those with a long harvest interval do not drift on to vegetables. The sprayer should be washed out thoroughly, using a little detergent, and the gardener should wash exposed skin after spraying.

Under the Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme all reputable manufacturers have undertaken not to market a product containing any new chemical or introduce a new use for an existing product until recommendations for safe use have been agreed with the Government Departments concerned. These recommendations are summarised on the label and include the familiar FOR USE ONLY AS A GARDEN INSECTICIDE. KEEP OFF SKIN. WASH OFF SPLASHES. AVOID BREATHING SPRAY, etc.

If a gardener is to get the full benefit of his labors and expenditure he must keep pests under control. This is not a difficult or unpleasant task but a little knowledge does help. The table given below will help you to choose the most suitable product for a particular purpose.

#### PESTS AND THE PESTICIDES COMMONLY USED TO CONTROL THEM

Ants — diazinon, lindane, pyrethrum, resmethrin, trichlorphon, disodium tetraborate baits.

Aphids (greenfly, blackfly, rose aphid, etc.)—derris, diazinon, dimethoate, fenitrothion, formothion, lindane, malathion, menazon, pirimicarb, pirimiphos methyl, pyrethrum, resmethrin.

Beetles—lindane, diazinon, pirimiphos methyl.

Cabbage root fly—bromophos, diazinon, lindane.

Capsid—fenitrothion, lindane, malathion.

Carrot fly—bromophos, diazinon.

Caterpillars — carbaryl, diazinon, fenitrothion, pirimiphos methyl, tri-

chlorophon.

Chafer grubs—bromophos, diazinon.

Cutworms — bromophos, diazinon, trichlorophon.

Earwigs — diazinon, lindane, trichlorophon.

Flea beetles—carbaryl, derris, diazinon.

Leaf miner — diazinon, lindane, malathion, pirimiphos methyle.

Leatherjackets—carbaryl, diazinon, methiocarb.

Leafhoppers — carbaryl, diazinon, dimethothion, formothion, lindane, pyrethrum, resmethrin.

Pea moth—diazinon, lindane, trichlorophon.

Pea and bean weevil — carbaryl, lindane.

Raspberry beetle—derris.

Red spider — derris, diazinon, dimethoate, formothion, malathion, pirimiphos methyl.

Slugs and Snails — metaldehyde, methiocarb.

Thrips — carbaryl, derris, diazinon, dimethoate, lindane, malathion, pyrethrum, resmethrin.

Weevils—carbaryl, diazinon, pirimiphos methyl.

Whitefly—diazinon, malathion, pyrethrum, remethrin.

Wireworms—bromophos, diazinon.

Woolly aphid—malathion.

Worms (in lawns)—carbaryl, chlor-dane.

## REPORT FROM THE NORTHWEST

By MARY MARSHDALE

“Rain, Sleet, Ice and Snow Camellia Show” was the theme for the Oregon Camellia Society’s 38th annual show held March 31 and April 1st at the Jantzen Beach Center, a large shopping mall in Portland.

A most appropriate theme, considering the northwest had just come through the coldest winter in 100 years. Mother Nature had thrown everything imaginable at us. The temperature had rarely gone over freezing for many days and had fallen to 10 degrees F. at night. This coupled with freezing winds that dried both plants and soil, insufficient rain and an ice storm that broke down huge trees and knocked out power for days in the Portland area, all combined to be a rough year for flower growers. The remarkable thing to me was that the Oregon Camellia Society had the courage to put on the show at all.

While many of the blooms were not as large as usual, there was a good representation of many varieties, considering that there were only 18 exhibitors.

Hundreds of Easter shoppers were attracted to the long tables of camellias and to the sale of plants.

Brigadoon was judged the best bloom in the show. Donation, another hybrid (also grown out of doors) was runner-up. Unprotected Japonica winners were Betty Sheffield Supreme, Mrs. D. W. Davis and a miniature, Sugar Babe.

“Under glass” Japonica winners were Dainty and Te Deum. Protected Reticulatas were Dream Castle and Lion Head.

The two best trays of three were Adolphe Audusson Special and Brigadoon.

Unprotected camellias on the tables that looked good to me were C. M. Wilson, Blood of China, Tiffany, Tomorrow, Veiled Beauty, Prof. Sargeant, Sunset Oaks, Shiro Chan, Margaret Davis, Mrs. Bertha Harms, Owen Henry, Herme, Hawaii, Lady Claire Tricolor Sieboldi and Flame.

One of the bonuses of going to the camellia show was meeting and talking to Andrew Sears, a man who has

grown camellias in the northwest for over thirty years and who is a fountain of information on the subject. He and Ed Lewis, past president of the Oregon Society and an officer in the American Camellia Society, are proving to be a great help in the research I am doing on the cold hardiness of camellias in this area.

When I moved to the northwest about three years ago I had great difficulty getting information on this subject. There were articles about cold hardiness in northeastern, Atlantic and southern states, data from England and Australia, but nothing from the northwest.

The picture that emerges from this study so far, seems to show that genetics are only part of the story. Culture, weather, climate, and location of the plant in the garden are important factors, too. (More of this at a later date.)

The Portland Community College, with the cooperation of the Oregon Camellia Society are starting a Camellia Demonstration Garden. The college is interested in growing varieties that have originated in the Northwest.

Over thirty have been identified so far, some grown here as early as 1892. Mr. Sears is donating most of his large specimen camellias as a start for this garden.

The University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle has the following northwest originated camellias: Alba Queen, Auburn White, Hill, Lily Pons, Monte Carlo, President Lincoln, Willmetta and Sweet Bonair.

Sweet Bonair is described as "deeply fragrant, with a scent as heavy as a daphne" and should interest growers working on fragrance. It was propagated by Barney Golette, an Oregon grower, from a self-pollenized seedling of Christine Lee in 1940. The flower is cream-white medium semi-double with yellow stamens similar to Finlandia, and the plant has a vigorous upright growth and is extremely hardy.

The more I learn about hardy northwest camellias and the fine people that grow them, the more I appreciate and respect them. Their show was a fine example of what can be done for our camellia hobby, in spite of wind, ice, snow and cold.

## INFORMATION FOR NON-JOGGING CAMELLIA HOBBYISTS

By BILL DONNAN

If you are in your 60's like I am, chances are that you are too old to take up the popular sport of jogging. However, that does not prevent me from taking off weight. I am going to let you in on a little secret. I have a sure-fire way of "burning up" the calories. Herewith is a complete, certified list of activities which are "guaranteed" to burn up the calories.

ITEM	CALORIE LOSS
Beating around the bush .....	75
Jumping to conclusions .....	100
Climbing the wall .....	150
Swallowing your pride .....	50
Passing the buck .....	25

Throwing your weight around (depends on weight) .....	50-300
Dragging your heels .....	100
Pushing your luck .....	250
Making mountains out of molehills .....	500
Hitting the nail on the head .....	50

Although women can lose weight from these activities they usually consume less calories than a man. Thus if a husband and wife team are taking these exercises together—the man should consider these added items.

Dodging the issue .....	400
Covering up .....	250
Blowing the whistle .....	150
Spinning wheels .....	200
Batting zero .....	150

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## SOCIETY NEWS

The Southern California Camellia Society elected a new Board of Directors at its regular monthly meeting, held on March 13, 1979. Elected to 1 year terms expiring in the spring of 1980 were: Lee Gaeta and Ted Mitchell. Elected to two year terms expiring in the spring of 1981 were: Mrs. Bernice Gunn, Chuck Gerlach, Laudell Ludwig, George Lewis, Rudy Moore and Caryll Pitkin. The hold-over members whose terms expire in the spring of 1980 are Bill Donnan, Judy Simmons and Meyer Piet.

At a subsequent meeting of the newly elected board, held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, on Thursday, March 29th the following officers were elected: Mrs. Bernice Gunn, President; Lee Gaeta, Vice President; Jack Halpin, Secretary-Treasurer.

Bernice Gunn then made the following assignments:

Plant Sales, Lee Gaeta; Seeds and Gardens, Caryll Pitkin; Plant Procurement, Rudy Moore; Membership and Publicity, George Lewis; Placement of Blooms, Laudell Ludwig; Judging of Blooms, Meyer Piet; Programs, Bill Donnan; Intermission Horticulture, Sergio Bracci; Refreshments, Lorraine and Elizabeth Board; Inter-Society News, Ted Mitchell; Re-

ception and Badges, Judy Simmons; Awards Picnic, Chuck Gerlach; Huntington Show, Chairman, Sergio Bracci and Assistant, Bob Neely.

These individuals are assuming the chairmanship of these committees. They would greatly appreciate it if members would volunteer to assist them in these tasks. If there are new members who would like to volunteer to serve on one of these committees would you please phone the respective chairman and tell him of your interest. This is a wonderful way to become involved in **YOUR HOBBY**.

Other actions taken by the new board were:

(1) Voted to eliminate the preparation and mailing of the monthly Bulletin, in lieu of which, the Monthly Meetings Program will be published in the **CAMELLIA REVIEW**. One calendar type Bulletin will be mailed in October listing all of the programs for the coming year. This will realize a saving of \$300 in costs to the Society.

(2) Confirmed the appointment of a committee to try to resolve the present controversy over the Affiliate Membership policy.

(3) Voted to explore the costs of a new California Directory.

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## Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

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

\*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Marvin Belcher; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: 2nd Monday, October through April, at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield.

\*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Fritz Kahen; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, L. J. Vervalle; Secretary, Mrs. Robert C. Adrian, 7555 Baldwin Dam Rd., Folsom, 95630. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

\*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Kellas; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, November through March, Lafayette Fed. Savings & Loan, 1406 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ernie Pieri; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Pete Grosso; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, David Hagmann; Secretary, Judith Toomajian, 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Neely; Secretary, Alice Neely, 4637 Collis Ave., Los Angeles 90032. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, August Meier; Secretary, Margaret Tupitza, Municipal Service Building, Redwood City 94064. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, Municipal Services Center, 1400 Broadway, Redwood City.

\*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.

\*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Eugene Snooks; Secretary, Palmer Groenewald, 1139 Madison Ave., San Diego 92116. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 349 London Ct., Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Allstate Savings 1304 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Douglas Batt; Secretary, Mrs. Nona Passinetti, 296 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Steele Lane School, Santa Rosa.

\*SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ms. Maize Jeane George; Secretary, Mrs. Martha Ann Walter, 671 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach 90277. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

\*TEMPEE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mrs. Elsie Bracci; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5854 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 17; Fri. Dec. 15; Thurs., Jan. 25; Thur., Feb. 22; Thur., Mar. 22; Thur., April 26. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.



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