THE

Camellia Review



C. Japonica 'Mary Wheeler' Courtesy Carl Wheeler, Central Georgia Nurseries

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 20

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No. 8

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. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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SCIONS OF THE TIMES

By MERLE S. GISH

Perhaps a few may have wondered what has happened to this column. To clarify this situation maybe it would be best to have a man to man talk.

In the beginning my main objective was to write and attempt to discuss and evaluate a few of the newer varieties and more recent registrations if I felt they might add to our camellia world, also to pick up any "sleepers" I may have overlooked.

When one is discussing the new, and perhaps rare, of our more recent introductions so few flowers are available to make a report on a potential prize winner one could actually be placing one's head on the chopping block. Usually I made every effort possible to see a flower before making any comment. I realize now more than ever that it takes time and patience plus the eagerness of many to give these new registrations the chance to prove themselves.

There have been times when I truly felt I should be on Mr. Edgar Bergen's other knee and that Charlie McCarthy was a closer kinsman than I ever imagined, especially after finding myself in great error as to my first opinion. This was the case when I first saw a bloom of 'Guest of Honor' and even though privileged to see flowers on a large specimen plant I apparently was not too impressed as I failed to add it to our collection when first released. I have shown many flowers that ended up as bridesmaids where the flower 'Guest of Honor' was Queen, and rightly so, for she has proven herself to be an extra fine camellia that this individual overlooked.

Now and then we run into a slight problem when a camellia will vary in form from the more typical flower of the home area to a form or size one would hardly recognize as the same bloom. Another factor that may someday present a problem is the popularity of sports and as they are highly regarded this could make it rough to evaluate a flower. Both of the above mentioned problems have been more noticable when comparing the same

flowers grown on the West Coast and in the South or Southeast. We are more conscious now that even twentyfive, fifty, or one hundred miles apart the bloom will sometimes vary. Some varieties have a tendency to misbehave and not perform up to their rumored standard by "bullnosing" or "glazing". Many attribute this to the climate of the area where the flower is being grown; others believe that it is just a poor performer. I can still see those huge blooms of the solid red 'Indian Summer' that were so much better in flower than any of our Daikagura family although our area is considered excellent for the Daikagura group. The 'Indian Summer' flowers I saw were unquestionably better all around blooms and definitely larger,

In regards to "bullnosing" or "glazing" tendency of flowers, I hope that someday we will learn whether or not the maturity of shrub, or varience in time and amount of feeding might help overcome this most unfortunate habit.

Realizing we do have positive obstacles with so many new seedlings being registered and introduced and sometimes being so anxious to obtain the 'latest" with the "mostest" we miss and fail to see many of the fine camellias that are before us. In a moment of weakness I have been tempted to write "Lest We Forget", a column on yesterday's camellias. There are many of us who are so anxious to add the latest, hottest and rarest to our collection that we end up shoving many of yesterday's fine camellias into the background.

(Continued on page 24)

REPORT ON CAMELLIA FRIENDS AND ACS MEETING AT NORFOLK*

By President and Mrs. A. H. (AL and Rose-Marie) Dekker

Here we are home again after attending the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society at Norfolk, Virginia.

It was indeed a wonderful meeting, from the first night's dinner, to the last day's Show. At the dinner we had the pleasure of sitting next to Mr. and Mrs. Latimer. He is President of the South Carolina Society and new A.C.S. State Director. We also met Mr. Wannamaker, who was to be the next A.C.S.

President. The room was filled with many old friends, such as the Clowers, the Ashbys, Jessie Katz, the Judices and the Aubrey Harris. The next day we ran into the Frank Spratlins from Atlanta. It was they, together with the Langs, who first introduced us to the South we think so lovely. We saw the Farmers from Macon, at breakfast, and the Cannons. Later we met the Witmeres, the Marburys and the Sewells, and so many other old friends that I can not name them all. Our visit to the Norfolk Municipal Gardens was a highlight of the Convention. President Fred Heutte, of the Virginia Society, has indeed done wonders with this Botanical Garden development, where he is growing many species and hybrids under the pine trees.

The last evening, in the Municipal Auditorium, President Heutte and his helpers put on a presentation of camellia history and culture, including discussion and demonstration and a beautifully landscaped home garden.

The next day was the Show. As I looked for the Show winners, I was startled to see a beautiful pink rose between a perfect Mrs. D. W. Davis and a lovely Lotus. This was the Best Seedling and Best Flowers of the Show— 'Catherine Maryott'. There were many other outstanding blooms entered. We have a picture of Mrs. Wannamaker wearing a 7 inch Drama Girl—(we measured it.)

The David Wirths did not attend the meeting, but we had two interesting evenings with them, one at the banquet of the Mens' Camellia Society and one at their home. They expect to go through here some time this summer.

As I write this, we are getting ready to "take off" again — this time to British Columbia—to fish!!

-Rose-Marie Dekker

Rose-Marie and I counted ourselves as fortunate ones to have had the privilege of attending the Norfolk ACS meeting during March of this year. Camellia folks of Norfolk "rolled out the red carpet" and entertained all their visitors in truly Southern fashion.

Our visits to the beautiful homes and gardens—to the extensive Naval Base and the best organized and most delectable barbecue we have ever attended—will never be forgotten.

When we ask ourselves, why do we enjoy attending these meetings? The answer is—people—the pleasure of meeting again old Camellia friends and making new Camellia friends.

On our return trip, we enjoyed a visit with Bob and Elizabeth Holmes at Mount Olive. A delightful day and evening was spent in Savannah visiting with Judge Solomon and our friends, the Rollinsons. We enjoyed not only the Judge's beautiful Azalea Garden, which we recorded on color slides, but also the Azalea-planted boulevards of Savannah.

Upon arrival at Macon, we were taken in hand by Mike and Lillette Witman and a most enjoyable day (Continued on page 20)

CAMELLIA KINGS AND QUEENS



Mr. Ralph Peer, immediate past President A.C.S. on the left, and Mr. Milo E. Rowell, Jr., immediate past Vice-President for Pacific Coast A.C.S., at the right, are pictured in the company of the Orange County Camellia Society Show Queen and Princesses. The Queen in the center is Kay Carstensen, on her left is Sharon Le Bonte, and on her right is Gail Williams. All three girls are coeds at Santa Ana College. Succeeding Mr. Peer as President of A.C.S. is Mr. L. Caston Wannamaker, of Cheraw, South Carolina. While R. W. (Reg.) Ragland, of Orange, California, was elected the new Vice-President of the Pacific Coast. Both Mr. Peer and Mr. Rowell served two terms in office—men of such service deserved to be surrounded by the lovely beauty of girls and camellias.

"CHANSONETTE" AWARDED THE RALPH PEER SASANQUA CUP

The announcement made in 1955 of the Ralph S. Peer Award for the best camellia sasanqua seedling stimulated interest in sasanqua production all over the country. Mr. Peer, through the American Camellia Society, offered the same incentive to the sasanqua growers as John Illges had made to the growers of japonicas. The 1958 award was made to the camellia sasanqua seedling 'Chansonette', a seedling grown by Miss Marjorie Washburne, of Port Arthur, Texas.

The flowers are described as being formal double, fully imbricated, with 45 to 50 petals, varying in size from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and one inch or more in depth. The rosebud center never opens. The petals become ruffled or fluted, after the flower has been open a day or two. The color is bright, strong pink, something like the seed parent, Shishi-gashira. The flowers last well, usually from 5 to 7 days, as the petals do not shatter easily. Blooming period is normally October through December.

To be eligible for consideration for the Peer Sasanqua Cup, the plant must be a seedling, registered with the American Camellia Society, and must have bloomed for 2 consecutive years. The bloom is eligible for a period of

(Continued on page 21)

AWARD JOHN P. ILLGES MEDAL TO CAMELLIA "GUILLO NUCCIO"

At the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society, held in Norfolk, Virginia, in March, 1959, the coveted Illges Medal was awarded to the Nuccio Bros. Nursery for their *camellia japonica* seedling, "Guilio Nuccio".

This flower is described as a large, irregular, semi-double, 5 to 6 inches in diameter, with 3 to 6 rabbit ears. The height of the blossom is 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It is similar in form to the reticulata blossoms. Color is coral rose, which lightens toward the edge of the petals. Blooming season is from early to mid-season. The plant is vigorous and upright, with large foliage. Leaves are occasionally fishtail shape, and one of the parents of this recent introduction is C. japonica 'Kingyo-Tsubaki' (Fishtail), while the other is not known.

In 1956 this seedling won the Margarete Hertrich Award, and has been

seen on the Best of Show table many times.

To be eligible for consideration for the Illges Medal, a new variety must be a seedling (not a sport or mutation) of camellia *japonica*, the plant must be registered with the American Camellia Society, and the flowers must have won one or more of the A.C.S. Highly Commended Seedling Certificates while being exhibited as a seedling for five years after being introduced into the trade, such seedlings may be eligible for the Illges Award.

'Guilio Nuccio' now joins the other Illges Award flowers 'Beau Harp' (1949), 'Joseph Pfingsth' (1950), 'R. L. Wheeler' (1953), 'Mrs. D. W. Davis'

(1954), and 'Reg Ragland' (1955.)

The Southern California Camellia Society extends its congratulations to Joe and Julius Nuccio on this signal honor.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED DR. JOHN H. CLAIRMONT

In recognition of his long and honorable service in camellia circles over the past fourteen years, Dr. John H. Clairmont was unanimously voted by the Board of Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society, into Honorary Life Membership. He is best known in the last few years for his guidance of the "Camellia Review", having served as its sponsor as Chairman of The Review Committee for thep ast nine years.

His administrative abilities were utilized for two terms as President of the Pacific Camellia Society, beginning in 1946. In 1951 he began a two term presidency of the Southern California Camellia Society. Many innovations were begun during those successful years, and for The Review it can be said that he took it from



the bulletin stage to its present form, with its handsome lay-out with the camellia pictured cover. An honor truly deserved has been bestowed upon John Clairmont and he too joins the illustrious group to which the Society pays homage and great respect in naming him to Life Membership.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED WILLIAM E. WOODROOF

William E. (Bill) Woodroof was made an Honorary Life Member of Southern California Camellia Society by action of the outgoing Board of Directors at its last meeting held April 6, 1959. This is the highest honor the Society can bestow.

Bill has won many other honors in the camellia world. To mention a few, he is a Fellow of the American Camellia Society, one of only six persons so

honored. He has been a Director-at-Large of the American Camellia Society for the past five years. He is an Honorary Life Member of the South Carolina Camellia Society. He is probably known to more people in the camellia world than any other man. How did all of this come about?

In 1936 Barbara Woodroof bought a camellia plant—a Pink Perfection. This was the Woodroof's first camellia and it was planted by the front door of the new home which they had iust built in Sherman Oaks, Barbara and Bill Woodroof are still in this same home, with the addition to the family of three wonderful children. The Pink Perfection is also still there. with the addition to the family of hundreds and hundreds of camellias all over the place. When Barbara's plant bloomed. Bill liked what he saw. Up to that time he had been too busy becoming a good lawyer to pay much attention to flowers. The Pink Perfection convinced him that he had time for a hobby, and he started in buying camellia plants without urging by Barbara. Among the small plants he bought were three which he purchased under the names of Pink Bleichroeder, Casa Blanca and Huntington Pink. When these three plants became old enough to bloom, they produced, much to Bill's dismay and bewilderment, exactly the same flower in form, color and size; but they also produced, in end result, the first nomenclature book of the Southern California Camellia Society.

Bill soon learned that his was a common experience, that nurserymen were just as confused as their customers, and that no one was to blame. Rather, there were many reasons for the confusion in names, but all really resulting from the fact that there was no guide for growers and nurserymen in naming camellias. Such a situation was a challenge to Bill's orderly legal mind, and he embarked upon an intensive and exhaustive research into the field of camellia nomenclature which has continued to this day. Under his leadership and powered by his undiminishing zeal and perseverance and untiring efforts, the Southern California Camellia Society has published camellia nomenclature books in 1947, 1949, 1951, 1954, 1956 and 1958. It is the policy of the Society to present a new edition of the nomenclature book every other year. This book is "the bible" of nomenclature of the American Camellia Society and therefore all local societies throughout the entire country. The Society can well be proud of its "Mr. Nomenclature" and to add him to its distinguished list of Honorary Life Members.



CAMELLIAS IN SOUTH AFRICA

By C. Schofield

We look forward to the Camellia Review each month with keen interest, as it contains such a great deal of information and interesting articles. We are surprised to see that we are the only subscriber in South Africa. Camellias were imported many years ago. Some were planted in the Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens in 1885. Unfortunately they are not the best, some are very poor indeed, perhaps only seedlings. They have grown into very large speci-

mens, over 20 ft. high. We believe it is the Curator's intention to cut out some and replace with good varieties.

There are several old gardens which have very large specimens from what information we gathered most of them were planted about 1902-03. After making further enquiries we were given to understand a boat called in at Durban, the port for Natal, bound for Australia, and owing to some delay disposed of some of its perishable cargo which consisted of Camellias, etc. to several enthusiastics, which meant them coming down from their farms in the district of Pietermaritzburg, Capital of Natal, by oxwagon, a distance of some 80-90

miles. Unfortunately many of the varieties in these private gardens are without names, no records being kept.

Several of these gardens were visited by Mr. C. D. Cothran who wrote an article for the Camellia Review

in January, 1957.

One old firm used to produce some 3-4 thousand plants a year, but has now practically gone out of business. We ourselves have gradually increased our stock from a few thousand a year to 25 thousand which is the number we have tinned up into 2 lb. cans. The last batch of cuttings were put in during January of this year,

(Continued on page 18)



The eucalyptus trees provide needed shade for the young camellia seedlings in these South African gardens.

FROM EDITOR TO EDITOR

Due to pressure of personal work and a desire and need to be free to follow family interests and pursuits, Elizabeth "Liz" Beebe tendered her resignation as Editor of The Camellia Review to the Review Committee Chairman, Dr. John Clairmont. The resignation requested that it become effective after the April issue was published. To those who have followed the development and progress of The Review through the past years, this announcement will come as a reminder of work well done by Elizabeth Beebe and by the Committee which has carried this fine publication forward.

The Board of Directors, in accepting her resignation, expressed its sentiments in a Resolution adopted in its meeting of May 18, 1959, which follows:

Resolution of Appreciation

Whereas The Camellia Review as a publication is dedicated to the advancement of the camellia and to the enjoyment of man thereof, and

Whereas through the past several years Elizabeth Beebe, as Editor of The Review, has contributed, along with its Committee, much to the improvement of this fine publication, and

Whereas The Review has brought information, pleasure, and edu-

cation to its many readers throughout the camellia world, and

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society wishes to recognize, commend, and express appreciation to Elizabeth Beebe for her fine work as Editor of The Review, now therefore

Be is resolved that this act of The Board be sent to Mrs. Beebe and published in The Review.

The Resolution was duly moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

The selection of a new editor was made during the same meeting. President A. H. Dekker appointed Mr. Lynn H. Crawford as Editor, to have full responsibility for publication of The Review. An advisory committee composed of three members was appointed. The Board of Directors approved the appointments. Dr. John H. Clairmont, Mrs. Vern O. "Billie" McCaskill, and the President of the Society, Mr. A. H. Dekker will serve as the Advisory Committee.

The new Editor has a long time interest in camellias and enjoys and appreciates the people who grow and love them. He pledged himself to the purpose of continuing to publish a superior "Camellia Review" which would be dedicated to the purposes for which it was established.

Hail! and good luck, Mrs. Beebe: Hail! and good luck, Mr. Editor.

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CAMELLIA REVIEWER

Elizabeth Beebe

The 1958-59 Season Ends

A spirit of serenity pervaded the last meeting of the SCCS in April. The excitement of the 1958-59 season was over. The struggle of propagation and culture against the unusual climatic conditions of Southern California was past. The Big Show had been the finest ever. The tremendous success of the book "Camellia Culture" sponsored by the Society was a continuing gratification and the membership of the Society had leaped satisfyingly ahead. No

wonder the audience was smugly relaxed in looking back over the highlighted season even while feeling unconsciously secure that another season would be just as successful with probably other thrilling features

as vet unknown.

President Pitkin's remarks as he called the meeting to order were along this same line. Presiding for the last time of his two year tenure of office President Pitkin gave credit to many of those who had worked under him to carry on the Society's activities. Singling out the Board members he spoke of the work accomplished by each and also went on to point to the work of the Secretary (Mildred Pitkin) to the Review Committee, the Garden Committee, etc. After the audience had signified its satisfaction by applauding enthusiastically. Wilber Foss made the comment that he thought the retiring President himself should get a good hand for all the good work he had one and this was carried out with a will.

A pleasant piece of business took place when Billie McCaskill and Bill Woodroof were called to the front and Mrs. McCaskill read a tribute to Mr. Woodroof then stated that the SCCS Board had voted to make Mr. Woodroof an Honorary Member of the Society.

President Pitkin then turned the program over to Frank Reed who had promised to show pictures of "Gardens, Components and Camellias from Sandvic to San Diego." And indeed the pictures did range from camellias alone and beautiful to noted gardens

abroad such as Kew and Wisley, to various ones in Germany, Sweden, and more somber ones involving Russian memorials. Coming back to the United States, Mr. Reed showed views on Long Island where Mariorie Sample and Mrs. Sculley are working to establish a good sized camellia garden outdoors. Flying southward the camera picked up the Norfolk gardens supervised by Frederick Huette and on down to Birmingham showing the wide contrast in growing conditions. Back in Southern California more familiar faces came into focus with quick shots at the Temple City annual breakfast, the array of trophies for the Big Show, gardens of various SCCS members and scenes from Mr. Reed's own camellia collection. Here he pointed out his use of plastic cover, the green colored rubber laid down to alleviate the pavement glare, his predilection for container culture. And as he has won many awards by his methods, his words were carefully noted. The audience was enthralled throughout the whole showing as Mr. Reed's patter was breezy and easy to listen to and the applause he received at the end was very spontaneous.

After the coffee break and Bill Wylam had described the plants to be sold, Bill Goertz announced the evening exhibit award winners as follows: Over 4" the 'Guest of Honor' of Frank Reed won 1st. 2nd was Mr. Reed's 'Te Deum'. 3rd was a 'J. J. Pringle Smith' of Reg Ragland's, while a 'Reg

(Continued on next page)

REVIEWER. from page 9

Ragland' of E. Metcalf took 4th. Mr. Ragland also won 5th with his 'Lotus'.

On the Under 4" Frank Reed won 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively with a 'Morning Glow', 'Herme' and 'Jack McCaskill'. Reg Ragland took 4th and 5th with 'Joseph Pfingstl' and 'Emmett Barnes'.

Of the reticulatas, Frank Storment took 1st with his 'Moutancha', while Reg Ragland took both 2nd and 3rd with a 'Lion Head' a 'Willow Wand'.

Climaxing the evening was the awarding of the silver trophies to the season winners of most points of exhibited camellias at the monthly meetings. It was hardly a surprise that Frank Reed won first place. Mrs. Reg Ragland was thrilled to be called as a second place winner and Frank Storment was certainly more than pleased to receive third place award. The choices were all popular ones and felt to be well deserved.

The evening ended as happily as it had begun. All were already looking forward to the next meeting in November when both camellias, and many thousands of camellia lovers, will be surging again towards blue ribbons, good fellowship, and the beauty that is within everyone's reach.

Gibberellin Research

Chandler P. North, principal laboratory technician at the University of California, Los Angeles, reports that gibberellin injected into the stems and applied externally to the buds of Camellia reticulata has produced early blooms and early shoot growth. The length of the early shoot growth can be controlled by the amount of gibberellin injected or applied externally. In this manner a sparse plant such as 'Captain Rawes' can be made more bushy. Early blossoming may be of advantage to camellia hybridizers (breeders). It was not possible to produce shoot growth or blossoming between May and November, North notes. An article is now in preparation by Mr. North for the Camellia Review on "some effects of gibberellin on camellias" which will be read with interest when it appears.

Camellia Bugs Have A High I.Q.

We had an interesting discussion with Frank Storment one day about bugs — his in particular. Now bugs belong in one of our categories of take or leave alone but in relation to camellias, Mr. Storment's bugs are smart, smarter than we had ever given bugs credit for being, even camellia bugs.

Seems that Mr. Storment has a catholic mixture of camellia plants on his terrace, japonicas rubbing folliage (so to speak) with reticulatas and giving the bugs a wide variety of choice. And what do they choose? The reticulatas of course. The japonicas can hold up their temptingest leaves and blossoms only to be ignored by the aristocratic bugs who definitely prefer reticulata foliage. They even go farther than this. Of reticulata leaves those of 'Noble Pearl' are always first choice. Well, we'll never again call bugs dumb critters. How could they be to choose the very variety that, without consultation, the smartest accredited judges often give awards to? On the other hand, where does that leave the Judges? We hasten to end this right now, giving all credit to 'Noble Pearl'. Perhaps it doesn't pay to be so outstanding.

Au Revoir

But, we hope, not "Adieu" to the many camellia friends we have made during our six years as Editor of this Camellia Riview.

In departing from this part of the camellia picture we ask that you pause a moment to realize that although camellias are the center of and the reason for all the tremendous activities of the big camellia world,

(Continued on Page 20)

GLEANINGS, FAR AND NEAR

Backward Look and Forward March!

The SCCS marches on with pleasant events of the past year fresh in memory, with confidence and enthusiasm and many plans for the year ahead, and with a feeling that it has had a glorious past but even yet a brighter future.

Past President

Caryll Pitkin was an efficient president and always a gentleman. He was pleasant and courteous and made a fine impression on members and visitors alike.

He headed an excellent Board and group of committees.

Of course, he continues as an operating part of the new Board and is a member of several committees. As for flower competition, it is reported he has already a 1960 season flower in full bloom. It is not a winner but a beginner.

New President

President Al Dekker has held two meetings with his Board, has appointed Committees and has plans, not only in the making, but already in action. We have an excellent President, and 1959-60 appears to be a banner year in everyway. The October Review will carry lists of committee appointments, plans and actions.

An Act of Conservation

In early April, 1959, Ralph S. Peer transplanted one of the "world's largest camellia shrubs" from its location since 1887 in Pico Rivera, California, to his garden in Hollywood. The 30 foot plant, weighting 15 tons when

crated, was moved, for the yard where it was located was to be cleared and the "tree" was to be cut down (such is progress and growth in Southern California).

For six months roots of the camellia were cut a few at a time to prevent its dying of shock. When moved to Peer's gardens, it was let down a 200 foot embankment to its new planting location.

Mr. Peer announced that it would be on display for the public with a flagstone walk leading to it. The latest report is that the tree is doing well.

New Camellia Collector

"As a relatively recent camellia convert, I am trying to curb my enthusiasm, but at the same time make sure that I have a complete collection", writes Attorney Bascom D. Talley, Jr., of Bogalusa, La. "I might add the camellia nomenclature is a tremendous help, and membership in the S.C.C.S. is the best investment I have made in a long time." Thank you, Mr. Talley, for your compliments and good hunting for your collection.

Know Your Camellias!

Japonica—An enthusiastic Oriental camellia fancier.

Cultivar—An educated Russian peasant.

Sasanqua—An anaemic Red Indian.

Reticulata—A senior official of the State Electricity Dept.

Sport—A good chap who never says "no" to scion scroungers.

Reprinted from the "New Zealand Camellia Bulletin". Bob Taylor is the clever author.

Take a Tip

In the midst of summer when the spirit is a bit jaded and the blooming season seems so far away, take a trip and visit the people who deal in the plants and products that make camellias grow. You will learn something, see a lot, and sense the feeling of common interest—you will begin to glow again.

Such places are advertised in The Review—give yourself a treat—visit them.

Twenty Members

E. G. Waterhouse, General Honorary Secretary, Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society, wrote: "Some 20 of our members are also members of the Southern California Camellia Society". Fourteen of their members are from America. It would really be worth while in every sense for more of us to belong to this Society. Address: Mr. Waterhouse, at 17 McIntosh Street, Gordon, New South Wales.

"Crimson Robe" in Japan

From Tokyo's leading newspaper, "Asahi Shimbun", of March 25, 1959, the following article is quoted in a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Shiro Matsuzaki, of Atami, Japan:

U.S. Camellia Blossomed as Large as Human Face in Atami

"There once a news of a mammoth U.S. camellia flower produced on a tiny tree this week was announced by the Atami Flower Society is the talk of town. The tree named "Crimson Robe" was sent by Mr. Ralph S. Peer of American Camellia Society to Mr. Shiro Matsuzaki who lives in Atami, seven years ago as token of U.S. Goodwill. It was during February, 1959 that Mr. Peer was a guest at the Atami Kanko Hotel where he made friends with Mr. Matsuzaki who was then Manager of hotel. It is known that Mr. Peer will visit Atami again in autumn this year, Matsuzaki disclosed."

Trusting that foregoing may interest you and again thank you for your hospitality. With best wishes and kindest regards to Mr. and Mrs. Peer.

Your sincerely, Mr. and Mrs. Shiro Matsuzaki

Big Big Blooms!

Camellia growers (most of them) try to get bigger and better blooms. The TV announcers always repeat the theme word for emphasis and does that apply to many of our fellows who having proved themselves producers of the best and biggest are trying ever harder? It is known that they have changed from using fish fertilizers to whale. Show chairmen will have to be alerted to enlarge exhibit tables.

In Transit

This issue of the Camellia Review might well be called an in-transit number. There are always some problems in transferring an ongoing publication from one editor to another. This transfer has been done during a very busy time of the year, and it is hoped that all members and readers will understand what problems might be involved. It is hoped too that you will be considerate as you always have been.

There will be a determined and constant effort always put forth to give you the best that is possible in a Review that you will like and enjoy and from which you can gain new ideas. Some departments, because of the transfer, are not complete—that does not mean they have been abandoned or dropped—it simply means that neither time nor opportunity made it possible to complete all needed arrangements.

This issue is sent to you with enthusiasm and with a forward look to the issues to come.

FURTHER NOTES IN AN ODYSSEY

My camellia experiences during my last trip to Europe did not amount to much. I can summarize them as follows:

- 1. In Barcelona, Spain I found the garden of an old camellia nursery, the trees in which (there were about three hundred of them) were over one hundred years old. Ninety percnt seemd to be ALBA PLENA.
- 2. There are absolutely no camellias growing on the island of Mallorca which has one of the finest climates I know of. The difficulty is that the weather is simply too good—there is not enough variation.
- 3. Mrs. Peer and I spent a week end at Borde Hill an old estate in Sussex, England where the famous interspecific hybrids DONATION and SALUTATION originated. The extensive grounds contain many beautiful old camellia and rhododendron trees. Amongst the lot I found several years ago Camellia rosaeflora—a great rarity. On this trip I also noted the negative fact that all of the trees of C. saluenensis are apparently interspecific byhrids arising from a cross of saluenensis X japonica. This conclusion, of course, still remains to be proved—and the scientists do not know how to accomplish this feat.

-Ralph S. Peer

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CAMELLIA ARBORETUM

A Camellia Arboretum—which it is hoped may some day contain the largest camellia collection in the world—is now under development at Bellingrath Gardens. While this section may now be seen by the public, management of the gardens emphasize that the arboretum is still in the process of being developed.

The camellia planting is ideally located under sheltering pines. The ultimate goal is to have plants of every recognized variety of camellia so that both specialists and laymen can observe the growing and blooming habits of different varieties in one location.

Plants in this section will all be labeled with their name and synonyms therefor.

Mr. Hoyt W. Lee of Mobile adds the following pertinent information to the above:

Bellingrath Gardens have been in existence since about 1932 and have featured camellias throughout the Gardens, however in connection with this particular project, a section adjacent to, and a part of, the Gardens will be properly landscaped and will contain various kinds of camellias to be used particularly for testing purposes to determine how the plants will do under local climatic conditions. The Arboretum was started a year ago and Mr. Greene, landscape engineer of the Gardens, has already grafted about 500 varieties for testing and this will be increased each season. Bellingrath Gardens expect to make this one of their outstanding features of the Gardens.

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JAPONICAS SASANQUAS RETICULATAS HYBRIDS

EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERESTING LETTER

By Marjorie Washburne*

Like many another grower, my first camellia plant was 'Sarah Frost'. It was about 10 inches high and cost 40 cents back in 1941, and at a time when I was only dimly aware that there were different varieties of camellias Next was a 15 inch 'Purple Dawn' (Mathotiana) followed by a variegated 'Mathotiana', known locally-erroneously-as 'C. M. Hovey'. Some time later I learned of a sale at a local nursery and acquired 'Monarch', 'Laurel Leaf' (Lallarook)', 'Pink Perfection', 'Governor Mouton', 'Debutante', and two Sasanguas, a double pink and a double white, later identified as 'Shishi-gashira' and 'Mine-no-Yuki'. I felt that I had acquired the very best of camellia varieties and was content to take care of them and enjoy the blooming season. In 1951 'Shishigashira' and 'Governor Mouton' matured seeds, which were planted in

Three events in 1955 contributed to increasing my fascination with camellias. (1) The Men's Club staged our first local camellia show and I won a blue ribbon! (2) One of my seedlings bloomed ('Interlude'); and (3) Through a gift certificate from a friend, I obtained two new camellia plants. It was then too late to retreat. and each year a few new varieties have been added, some through grafting (some friends taught me the basic technic) and some from the nurseries, until I now have about 70 — a small number compared to some.

clay pots.

Growing camellias in this section (Port Arthur, Texas) presents certain problems. Although we have high humidity conditions, we also have hot, long summers with no natural tall shade. We are planting pines which will eventually replace the castor beans now in general use for summer protection. In a few places, the soil is excellent dark loam; but the soil of our 75 by 130 foot lot can only be described as blue-black, sticky clay. To provide the necessary raised beds for camellias, good soil can be imported by truck a distance of 20 to 60 miles. Our elevation is 3 feet above sea level, and drainage is provided by storm sewers and an extensive system of pumps. Whenever the pumps are out of order, even the raised beds are in danger of being flooded during heavy rainfall. (Our annual average is about 60 inches.) Even the high humidity is not always an advantage, for we sometimes have long periods of around 97 per cent with intervals of rainfall, and the result is the same as poor drainage. *See article in this isue on Ralph S. Peer Award.

Our recent winters have been severe for this section of the Gulf Coast, so that our unprotected plants either bloomed late or had inferior flowers. If these conditions continue, some of us may be putting up glass-houses, whether we can afford them or not! Certainly we have been wishing for this type of protection.

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COMMENTS ON VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS OBSERVED IN THE UNITED STATES

By Paul Jones, 14/4/1958

I arrived in a snowy and bitterly cold New York and after a few days inspecting Museums and Art Galleries, I travelled south by Greyhound bus. All the way south I saw nothing but snow, and as fate would have it, I ran into the worst freeze the Eastern and Southern States had experienced for 50 years. The snow had gone when I reached New Orleans and I saw the first camellias, probably some of the finest and most beautiful I have seen anywhere. I stayed awhile and got down to work, as I just could not bypass some of the marvellous varieties which were at their best. I met many of the leading growers and saw lots of gardens. One of the principal collections belonged to a Mrs. David Wirth, of whom you have probably read. She is in her 80's and seemed to be the leading figure in the camellia world down there, and wins countless prizes at all the big shows. Quite a character and talked camellias like machine gun fire! The most outstanding camellia I saw in the South is the lovely blush pink 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', semi-double and 7" across. It just has to be seen to be believed. Another spectacular variety was 'To-Morrow', if size is all that counts, and it seemed to me that size, the bigger the better, was all they wanted around New Orleans. 'Dr. Tinsley', 'K. Sawada', 'R. G. Wheeler', also outstanding, especially the former. Lovely too was 'Mrs. Bertha

A. Harms' pale crinkly, silky, blush, almost single, gorgeous! I painted it, also 'Dr. Tinsley' and 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' as they were so good and because I was assured that those varieties do not do so well in California. This I later found to be the case. Likewise there are several varieties in California which do not come to much in the South. 'Frank Gibson' for example. I noticed our old favorite 'Prince Eugene Napolean' very much to the fore both in the South and also in California. They call it Pope Pius IX.

After leaving New Orleans I travelled by Greyhound, via Texas and the Grand Canyon. After viewing this marvellous work of nature I reached Pasadena and the Huntington Gardens, where I was welcomed by Mr. Asper and Mr. Hertrich, I arrived late in the season but still there was enough to keep me busy. The reticulatas were at their best. Many very fine varieties fully justifying their fame, some poor. There is a great similarity between them and I maintain that the entire collection could be whittled down to six or eight. 'Buddha' is superb. 'Butterfly Wings' (Hoyehtiechih), 'Chrysanthemum Petal' (Tsueban), a darling deep salmon formal. 'Noble Pearl' (Paochucha), 'Crimson Robe' (Tataohung), 'Purple Gown' (Tzepao) and 'Willow Wand' (Liuyehyinhung) are

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the best. Harvey Short and Bill Wylam both are employed at the Gardens and have been tremendously helpful. There seems to be little interest in old varieties here. They all want new ones, the poeny form being the most popular. Here is what I have painted so far:

'Coronation'. A marvellous, beautifully rounded form, semi-double, white. Gauntlettii seedling and a vast improvement on its parent.

Frosty Morn'. White peony form, crinkled petaloids and sparkling stamens.

'Barbara Woodroof'. A pale, almost white, orchid pink sport of 'Elegans'. Very different from 'C. M. Wilson'.

'Guest of Honor'. Large salmon

rose-pink, semi-double; most unusual stamen formation; one of the leading varieties.

'Fairest Day'. Yukimi-guruma seedling, I think. Very beautifully formed single white.

'Elizabeth le Bey'. Rose pink, full peony form. Very good.

'Buddha', 'Mrs. Bertha A. Harms', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', also 'Reg Ragland' were painted.

I visited Nuccio's nursery which is run by two charming brothers, also McCaskill's and Descanso Gardens. I was shown with great enthusiasm many new grafts of 'Lady Gowrie', 'E. G. Waterhouse' and 'Margaret Waterhouse'. These varieties are talked of a lot and are eagerly awaited.

Reprinted from "Camellia Annual" Australian and New Zealand Research Society.

(Note: Many will remember the pleasant visit of Mr. Jones to the Southern California area.)

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CAMELLIAS IN SOUTH AFRICA. from page 7

and we hope to have about 15-20 thousand. Our idea of producing big stocks is to grow them on and supply the public with a nice sturdy plant. We might mention our firm received an order for 2000 assorted Camellias from one customer.

Up till now we have done very little grafting. We would gladly like to supplement our poor selection with newer varieties but owing to Government restrictions which are severe. We think the only way would be to have scions sent by air.

Perhaps some of your members could help us as we are sure they have had a great deal of experience in this matter.

The following varieties which are grown in and around Pietermaritz-burg are 'Alba Plena', 'Aspascia', 'C. H. Hovey', 'C. M. Hovey', Chandleri Elegans', 'Cup of Beauty', 'Donckelari', 'de Novara', 'Festiva', 'Fimbriata Alba', 'Giovanni Santarelli', 'Ilristori', 'Lady Hume's Blush', 'Matho-

tiana Alba', 'Mathotiana Rubra', 'Mme. A. Verschaffelt', 'Mrs. Abby Wilder', 'Princepessa Baciocchi', 'Proeclara', 'Tricolor', 'Triomphe de Lodi', 'Warratah' and 'Wm. Bull'.

We are enclosing some snaps of our Camellia plants in different positions in our Nursery so you will be able to get some idea as to the extent we are rtying to popularize the Camellia. Our prices for Camellia plants are from 11/- to 13/- each according to size.

Another item of interest is that there are very very few Camellia Sasanquas and Reticulatas in South Africa. We only know of two places that have them growing.

We have imported seed from Japan with no results.

C. Schofield.

*Editor's note: This article was made possible through the courtesy of Mr. E. A. Kerby, Director, Geo. Carter & Co. (Pty) Ltd., Natal, South Africa.

Letter From New Zealand

Though thousands of miles from California, which we in New Zealand regard as the mecca of Camellia lovers, I feel that I must become a member of your Society, if you will have me as one. Then I shall feel I really belong to all that activity and dynamic search for new beauty in the Camellia world which we so often hear and read about.

Here in Wanganui, a town of 35,000, we have very good conditions indeed for the growing of camellias. It seems that once they have reached 3 feet in height, they will continue to thrive and flourish even though unwatered and unmanured. To our knowledge the earliest planting in this district was an "Aspasia", planted in 1852.

Our evenly spread rainfall is about 40 inches a year, and the frost hazard is also in our favor. Seldom do we meet with one much heavier than 4 to 6 degrees in this district, and fortunately as yet we have never experienced bud blight.

The length of flowering period of our camellias left us last season bereft of blooms for ten inconsolable weeks of the year. My last "Mathotiana" fell from the tree on the 29th of December, and here on the 11th of March, I have the first flowers of "J. C. Williams" to cheer me, ahead even of sasanquas, which are in rather heavy shade, but I have friends who have some flowering now. The peak bloming period, however, is September.

I hope your flowering season has been a most successful one, and looking forward to your news.

Yours faithfully,

Roland R. Young Wanganui, New Zealand

Our Cover Flower

The beautiful 'Mary J. Wheeler' which greets you on the front cover, first flowered in 1954, in the Central Georgia Nurseries. Mr. Carl Wheeler states. "I named the flower for my wife and picked it from thousands of seedlings because I thought it had the nicest coloring of any flower I had seen." It is hardy and flowers in January and February on an upright, average in density, and rapidly growing plant. leaves are 4 inches in length, 2¼ inches in width and are serrated. The deep pink flowers average 5 inches in diameter and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth.

Nomenclature Notice

The forthcoming edition of the Nomenclature Book to be issued in 1960 will list ALL known named varieties of camellias. In order to have the list complete, everyone in the camellia world who has a NEW and NAMED variety which was not listed in previous editions of the Nomenclature Book, should send to:

Mr. William E. Woodroof 4117 Davana Road

Sherman Oaks, California the name of the new flower. Additional description should be given. Use the immediate past issue of the book as a guide for such information.

Registered varieties are not needed as they are obtained from the registration list—new unregistered varieties are requested.

Deadline for material is October 1, 1959.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Books from this up-to-date list can be purchased from the Secretary of the Society.

Camellia Nomenclature—1959 edition, \$1.50 postpaid; in lots of not less than 12, 90c; 1950 and 1954 editions containing culture section, 50c.

Camellia Review — Special edition on Sasanquas, 50c; Special edition on Rare Species & Hybrids, 50c.

Camellia Culture — Published by Southern California Camellia Society—Editor, E. C. Tourje, \$11.50.

Camellias in the Huntington Gardens, Volumes I, II, III. each \$10.00; All three volumes, \$25.00.

Camellias, Kinds & Culture—Dr. H. Harold Hume, \$6.00.

How to Grow Camellias — published by Sunset, \$1.75.

A Revision of the Genus Camellia—J. Robert Sealy, published in England, \$10.00.

Camellias Illustrated — Morrie Sharp, \$5.00.

Nomenclature of Sasanqua of Japan, 50c; Camellia Varieties in Japan (both printed in Japan), 50c.

REVIEWER. from page 10

they alone are mute. They cannot say "Thank you" for the awards bestowed upon them. They cannot argue the merits of fertilizers although they could clear up many a puzzle by a few words. They cannot talk back nor sympathize with their growers in times of failure. We claim that this is not only a good thing but may well be the reason that camellias continue to keep such a high place in our lives.

With this as an example we too shall be dumb but, speaking quickly before silence engulfs us we want to wish you all the very best of camellia blossoms and hope that some of them may remind you just a bit of

Your old friend

BREAKFAST NEWS

Members and friends of the Temple City Camellia Society will want to know about the Annual Breakfast which always starts them off on the new season. It will be held on Sunday, October 11, 1959 from 8:30 A.M. to 11:00, at Marshall's Camellia Nursery, 6742 Sultana St., San Gabriel, Calif. Tickets will be available at the breakfast, adults, \$1.25 and **\$**.75. children. Reservations should be made by writing or calling Miss Mae Franklin, AT. 7-3326.

Be sure to flip over to October on your calendar and mark the date right away, then you will be all set when the time arrives.

FRIENDS. from page 3

and evening were spent at Lorraine Farm.

The next morning the Witmans took us to Fort Valley to visit with Dave Strother and Maxwell Murray and a tour of the Strother Garden.

It is most stimulating to we Camellia fanciers to see the intense interest with which a long time collector like Dave Strother continues to pursue this interesting hobby and carry on constructive prospects in connection therewith.

Our good friends, Dr. and Mrs. Hilsman put on a most enjoyable party for us at Albany, Georgia; attended by Mr. and Mrs. Mercer Sherman, Spencer Walden, and Hugh Shackelford.

Our last visit in Georgia was at Thomasville with Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, known so well for her *Tomorrow* and other Tick-Tock nursery originations and with Mr. and Mrs. Broughton Powell, who entertained us at a very nice party at their home.

—Al Dekker

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PEER SASANQUA CUP from page 4

5 years after it has been in commerce, provided that at the time it was first brought up for consideration, it was not then in commerce. (This plant will be in commerce in 1960.)

In order to cover the sasanqua growing territory as thoroughly as possible, the country was divided into 2 sections, with 4 members from each section making up the Committee in Charge. For all area other than the West Coast area, the Committee members were: Mr. Sigmund J. Katy, Mr. Norwood Hastie, Mr. Hoyt Lee, and Mr. C. M. Robertson, and for the West Coast members were Mr. David M. Feathers, Mr. Loichi Homoto, Mr. Roy T. Thompson, and Mr. Vern O. McCaskill.

Judging from the color slides, this lovely bright pink flower, with a poetically beautiful name, 'Chansonette' (from the French meaning "Little Song") will justify the judges' selection and will increase the general interest in sasanquas.

The Southern California Camellia Society, with pride, congratulates Mr. Ralph Peer on his abiding interest in camellias and his zeal in making them a greater contribution to the life of mankind; the American Camellia Society for furthering the interest in camellias in general, and in this particular instance in sasanquas, and Miss Marjorie Washburne, who in her enthusiasm and love of things beautiful, has helped create a bloom of rare beauty. May camellia sasanqua, 'Chasonette', be available for all of us to enjoy personally very soon.

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(Continued on next page)

THIS COCKEYED

By FRANK F. REED

To me, the queerest one yet happened today, June 11:—My midseason California opens up a 3 inch flower from a 1959 bud. I had taken off two other buds several weeks ago from the terminal which has this bloom

There is another terminal on my California that has four new buds. I predict that if I left them alone, one might bloom in July, two in October or November and one after Christmas. I hope that the pictures taken today will show the bloom and the other buds.

The other terminals on California have new buds which should bloom at Christmas or later.

The other bushes which have blooms today are: Glen 40, Purity Fircone and Mathotiana. Break O'Day dropped its last bloom yesterday. All of these and those mentioned below are without a doubt from 1958 buds.

I predict that I will have further blooms from Purity, Glen 40 and Te Deum. While buds remain on Eleanor Hagood and Maid of Honor I predict that none will produce blooms.

Dr. John D. Bell has a modest size bud which has been showing color for two or three weeks. I assume that this is a 1958 bud.

Lallarook had its last bloom on June 1.

I am expecting to have a bloom each month in the calender year 1959. I missed in August, 1957 and July of 1958 but had one or more blooms in each other month in both of these years.

I take the 5th Ammendment on making any definite statement at this time which would involve me and my camellias. I refuse to testify until I have what would seem to be an adequate and legal alibi.

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MEMBERS.from page 22

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SCIONS OF TIMES. from page 2

Unless we set up a schedule for the smaller camellias they are going to have rough sledding. In this group I would include those that flower to the size of 3½" to 4½". They should not be placed in the class of boutonniere or the miniature camellias for the latter have their place whether in the Mrs.' flower arrangement or the Mr.'s lapel.

It is not too uncommon for a West Coast seedling which has been just so so in blooming for us, when given the opportunity to grow in the South or Southeast, it blossomed into an extra fine flower. Perhaps it was the wonderful, warm, fine hospitality of the South that made the difference—and we do recognize this possibility.

I truly believe there is more interest in seedlings now than at any time in the history of the camellia. Certainly this interest is more wide spread in area and varied conditions if not in volume. With the introduction of many species and interest in hybrids, this new volume of love and interest is bound to turn up some new varieties that will be a valuable contribution to the camellia world. Even with the work being done with con-

trolled crosses and hybrids the sky may be the limit and the enthusiasm rich in reward of new friends,

For those more limited as to space and time, my being an artist at heart, I remember the story behind one of the great masters of art, Leonardo Da Vinci, who, though born out of wedlock, was the genius of his day. He was one who had all the faculties man would need or desire, a man gifted with great talent of an artist and painter, an inventor, a scientist, a satistician, and even a politician. Who knows but that you or your good neighbor with only a few seedlings may be blessed with the "Leonardo Da Vinci" of camellias.

(Editor's note: Many requests have been made that Merle Gish resume his very interesting and timely comments on New Camellias. This "talk" is written to establish a basis of common understanding among all concerned and interested in "Scions of the Times" which we trust will be in each future issue of The Review. Since Mr. Gish has so much to offer we are hapy to have him know of the popular demand and to have him respond.)

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SPRING AND SUMMER CARE OF OUTDOOR CAMELLIA PLANTS*

The care that you give to your camellia plants during the spring and summer months may be reflected in the winter-hardiness and flowering of those plants some 6 to 10 months later.

The application of fertilizer in proper amounts is dependent upon the grower's knowledge of the type of soil, amount of organic matter present, soil acidity (pH) and certain other factors. As a general rule one application of fertilizers containing nitrogen may

lead to a flush of growth too late in the fall to have sufficient time to harden-off before freezing weather.

Pruning of camellia bushes infected with "die-back" should be done as soon as dead limbs or twigs are noticed. The cut should always be made at the base of the infected part. If the disease is present in the main stem, as evidenced by discolored wood or lesions, it may be best to remove the entire plant to prevent the spread of the disease to adjacent, healthy bushes. Pruning shears or knife should be disinfected after each cut by dipping in a solution of 10 parts of 40% formaldehyde in 100 parts of water, or other suitable means, to avoid spreading the fungus. All removed wood should be destroyed by burning and all dead leaves on the surface of the mulch should be removed.

Pruning to improve shape for removal of inner branches should be done as soon as flowering is finished. There are two reasons for this: (1) Flower buds for the next year are produced most abundantly on this first flush of growth in the spring, and (2) late or severe pruning can stimulate growth and also prolong it, having about the same effect as late fertilizer.

Disbudding, if necessary to balance the capacity of the terminals to produce matured blossoms, to encourage vegetative growth of very young plants, or for the production of large exhibition blooms should be done by hand as soon as the flower buds can be distinguished from the vegetative buds. This should be possible by late summer or early fall. Disbudding for exhibition blooms should be done to leave only one terminal flower bud on each shoot.

During hot, dry months, plants should never be allowed to wilt from lack of water, as this may result in bud drop or failure of flower buds to open properly the following spring. Water should be applied liberally once a week to thoroughly soak the soil to a depth of several inches. Shallow watering or the maintenance of a wet, soggy soil should be avoided. Camellia plants like to have their foliage sprinkled with water at frequent intervals and this should be done on very hot days when the sun is not directly on the foliage.

It may be necessary to spray your plants for the control of various pests or diseases. Most insects can be controlled with wettable Clordane applied at the rate of 1-1½ oz. of active ingredient per gallon. If scale is present use Malathion 50% emulsifiable at a dilution of one teaspoonful per gallon of water. There are very few diseases of camellias for which spraying is necessary. The spread of "dieback" may be controlled by using Bordeaux mixture 4-4-50, applied every 5 to 7 days.

(*Reprinted from Camellia Society of Potomac Valley "Newsletter".)

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ATTEND the Society meetings monthly November through April if you live in Southern California. If not, read reports of them in the Review.

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