

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

# *Camellia*

**SOCIETY BULLETIN**

**VOL. 11:5**

**MARCH, 1950**

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, No-  
vember to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena  
City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibit  
is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

### THIRD ANNUAL ALL CAMELLIA SHOW

The Camellia proved itself a box office attraction to rival the drawing power of Hollywood and Broadway combined when billed as the top star at the Annual All Camellia Show at Brookside Park, Pasadena, February 18 and 19. Upwards of 6,000 persons viewed the "talented performer" during the two day show, this in spite of inclement weather.

Theme for this year's show, the Camellia in Western Living, provided the perfect motif for exhibitors to "go all out" in creating displays of breath-taking beauty. Nursery displays were among the finest conceived for a flower show of whatever type, and viewers, loath to leave the magnificent displays, lingered until late hours drinking their fill of the tastefully designed exhibits.

Persons to whom the Camellia was a new experience invariably expressed amazement at the number of different forms and colors the bloom assumes.

Had there been a deliberate conspiracy to make of each viewer a confirmed camellia enthusiast, no better floor plan could have been conceived. Spectators walked from the scarcely believable beauty of nursery, cut flower, and flower arrangement rooms into the technical display room where excellently prepared "how to do it" demonstrations challenged the "green thumb" latent in even the most skeptical of viewers.

The overwhelming popularity of the technical exhibits was a fine compliment to the skill and ability of professional and amateur exhibitors of cut flowers and plants. By the time visitors arrived at the technical display they were determined to "do or die." In the finished product of cut blooms, arrangements and plants, as displayed in this year's show was generated the desire that promoted such a stream of "how do you begin" questions. Information officers explaining the technical exhibits had to call for help.

The unprecedented demand for information was a sure sign of success. Your bulletin reporter walked among show patrons during both evenings of the show, and shamefully eavesdropped. Nursery displays drew forth a kind of desperate oh or ah from the spectator. Strongly attracted by what he saw and filled with a desire for something "just like it" in his own garden, many a patron nevertheless succumbed to a feeling of total incompetence when he espied the word "professional" on the exhibit placard.

The hopelessness diminished somewhat in the cut bloom display section where exhibit tags plainly showed the bloom was from the garden of an otherwise ordinary citizen just like himself.

Almost as fascinating as the bloom itself, is the magic by which a camellia pulls an observer to it and holds the viewer oblivious of anything else in the world. Husbands or wives about to suggest that it was getting late and "we'd better go, now," soon learned to stop understandingly in the middle of their sentence while friend spouse indulged in one more examination.

The trip across the patio was the undoing of many a doubting Thomas. There, "by golly," the things actually did grow on bushes.

From the unbelievable perfection of the cut blooms to the undeniable fact of the bushes in the patio, and thence to technical demonstration is a "sure fire formula" for converting a show patron into a camellia enthusiast. Far more

coffee was drunk from a standing position over the cold flat of the seedling display or the five gallon containers of the grafting exhibit (photos of which appeared in the *Sunday Times Magazine*) than was consumed at the restaurant tables or counters.

Not only did the exhibits of how to start restore confidence, but the impact of their concisely stated message provoked a pioneer's optimism in many an initiate. More than one man walked away from the intermittent and continuous light exhibit mumbling facts and figures about conduit from the garage to a proposed lath house and doing quick estimates on the electric bill.

Cal Tech's Ph control exhibit provoked some pretty fast "cramming" from by now enthusiastic husbands anxious to let friend wife in on the mechanics of the thing.

All in all the show with its complete "family cross section" of interest and attraction from Camellia bonnets and flower arrangements to hydrogen ion and photosynthesis control proved to the pleasure of young and old the Camellia is an essential in Western living.

A total of 5808 persons (paid attendance) witnessed the two day spectacle of a nearly million blooms exhibited by professional and amateur growers.

Twenty-three professional exhibits by nurseries, department stores, specialty shops and affiliated Camellia Societies were entered in the show.

Staging a production as large as the Annual Camellia Show is possible only through coordination of the efforts of many specialized interests. President Harold E. Hill of your society and President Winton E. Squires of the Pacific society were jointly responsible for the perfection of this year's show.

Through their capable administration, operational aspects of the show all the way from efficient delivery and handling of plants to the coronation of lovely Ann Miller, Queen of this year's show, went off so smoothly professional producers might well take notice.

Unofficially, the services of more than 125 agencies, businesses, specialists and experts were scheduled and their various proficiencies coordinated in behind-the-scene's conferences that made possible the beautiful show enjoyed by so large an audience.

Representatives of the Junior Red Cross, Pasadena branch, realized \$185.70 from the sale of corsages. This money will go into the National Junior Red Cross fund to be used for the benefit of children the world over who may become victims of accident or disaster.

Staffed by charming co-eds from Pasadena City College, the Red Cross booth proved as popular with patrons as with personnel. Officials of the College unit were delighted with their part in the show, commenting that they could not think of a more enjoyable way of raising much needed emergency aid.

Unlimited parking conveniently close added no small part to the enjoyment. Pasadena police handling traffic made ingress and egress a pleasure rather than a problem.

The stellar performer, the camellia, outdid itself this year, and of course, was the prime reason for success.

Whether climatic conditions are to be congratulated or whether, as seems more reasonable, growers are becoming even more skillful, the blooms at this year's show were unsurpassed for size, coloring, vigor, and form.

When a world acclaimed star of long recognized talent "turns in" one of the finest performances of its career, what else could possibly result but success?

Reviewed by garden and feature editors of the Los Angeles metropolitan press, show notices praised unstintingly the show itself and the unprecedented

# People Behind the Show



**ADMINISTRATION**—President and Mrs. Harold E. Hill of Southern California Camellia Society, photographed in living room of Alhambra home.

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developments in Camellia culture as evidenced by the perfection of the hundreds of thousands of blooms displayed.

The Margarete Hertrich, double formal white, and the Joshua E. Youtz, peony white, seemed to capture the enthusiasm of most reviewers.

Again, the Fountain of Flowers in the cut bloom room drew spectators to it with never diminishing magnetism. Success of the fountain in this and previous shows indicates a tradition that will be hard to violate in future shows.



# The Staff...



**EXECUTIVE**—Assistant director of this year's show, Col. C. M. Gale, secretary of the Southern California Camellia Society, shown here with Mrs. Gale in the study of the Gale's Pasadena home.

(ACROSS THE PAGE)

*People for the Show*—Mrs. Herbert Milliken of Covina poses happily with her mother, also of Covina, and the bloom named "Best in Show", a totus.

... AND A WINNER



- S C C S -

## *Announcement of Awards*

PRESENTED AT THE THIRD ANNUAL ALL CAMELLIA SHOW  
FEBRUARY 18, 19, BROOKSIDE PARK, PASADENA

SWEEPSTAKES, points won on display of blooms  
**MR. AND MRS. STANLEY MILLER OF SAN DIEGO**

TROPHY, best flower by an amateur  
**MRS. HERBERT MILLIKEN OF COVINA**  
flower shown. A lotus

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BEST FLOWER, professional  
**ARMSTRONG NURSERIES**  
flower shown, a Mattlotiana

---

BEST FLOWERING PLANT  
**BERT HUMMELL OF GLENDALE**  
flowering plant shown, a Tea Garden Donkeleri

---

BEST PACIFIC COAST INTRODUCTION  
**ELSWORTH YOUTZ, GROWER**  
introduction, the white daikagura, Joshua E. Youtz

---

BEST ARRANGEMENT, sweepstakes  
**MARION CONROY, OF LOS ANGELES**

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CORSAGE AWARDS  
**MRS. G. H. ESHELMAN OF LOS ANGELES, BEST CORSAGE**  
**MRS. DOROTHY LEITZ, MOST POINTS ON CORSAGES**

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**DOOR PRIZE WINNER**

**SATURDAY**

Vera Fremas, 1214 Polk Street, San Francisco  
Mrs. W. H. Bonner, 472 Royse Street, Altadena

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**SUNDAY**

Mrs. J. R. Scales, 370 Arroyo Terrace, Pasadena  
George O. Hale, 5056 College View, Los Angeles

- 1950 -



## AND ELSEWHERE....

### FRESNO SHOW

More than 10,000 Fresnans and residents of neighboring communities filled the foyer of Fresno Memorial Auditorium February 25 and 26 to view a show sponsored by members of the Central California Camellia Society.

A good 500 specimens were displayed including double and single varieties, light pink, white, variegated blossoms, flame and rose, forming a kaleidoscope of color.

Mrs. Paul Keane received best in the show award for her entry Emperor Wilhelm Gigantea. Other class prize winners included Mrs. Gilbert Jerthberg, singles; Mrs. Milo E. Rowell, semi-double; Mrs. Homer Wilson, red semi-double; Mrs. Keane, double variegated; Mrs. C. B. Hanby, anemone; Mrs. Earl J. Fenston, peony; Mrs. Wilson, rose; Mrs. W. A. Gregory of Dinuba, formal double; Mrs. R. Grant Williams, arrangements; and Mrs. Ruth Petty, potted plants.

Judges were Ronald Carr of Tulare, William Henderson and Milo Rowell. Of interest to the spectators were several varieties shown for the first time in Fresno. These included Gibson Girl, a red and white; Shiyo No Nishiki, a double; and Chastity, a creamy white.

Dr. R. Grant Williams, president of the Fresno Society said of the show, "last year at our first show, we expected several hundred people and received an attendance of 4,000. This year in a much larger site, attendance more than doubled. We feel next year our show should be in the main auditorium.

Exhibitors included growers from Fresno County, Madera, Dinuba, and Tulare.

### KERN SOCIETY SHOW

Mrs. Dan Wheeler, Secretary of the Camellia Society of Kern County, advises that the Kern County Society sold 100 copies of the Nomenclature Booklet at the Society's annual show held March 4 and 5 in Bakersfield.

News items in the Bakersfield and San Joaquin Valley press attest to the popularity and success of the show, one of the largest in the history of the area.

Officers of the Kern County Society include: Mrs. J. W. Salisbury, President, 2123 First Street, Bakersfield; Mrs. James Branss, 2920 La Cresta Drive, Bakersfield, vice-president; Mrs. Don Wheeler, 2416 Terrace Way, Bakersfield, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Kern County Society holds its meetings at the Bakersfield Inn on the second Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the California Room.

At their February meeting, the Society heard Mr. Marshall from Rancho Del Descanso speak on camellia culture.

# SAN DIEGO SHOW

The Recital Hall, Palisades Building, in Balboa Park contained 5000 sq. ft., not including the stage or adjoining rooms. This building was furnished rent free by the Park Department, which also furnished janitorial service twice a day as well as after the show. All tables, chairs, etc., were loaned, delivered, and removed by the Park Department. The giant bamboo and all greenery used in decoration, except the peach blossoms, were furnished by the Park. The show is a cooperative enterprise between the city and our society.

The reception and hospitality ladies wore Chinese jackets and in addition to reception committees, handled the information tables, one of which sold the "Camellia Book" and memberships in the American, Southern California and San Diego Camellia Societies.

The decorations featured the theme "Gift of the Orient" by using giant bamboo, along with several smaller varieties of the same plant. Peach blossoms were used in profusion, especially on the stage, where the center of interest was Chinese Moon Gate made of woven bamboo and peach branches. All tables were covered with a soft powder blue crepe paper, while arrangements were backed by corrugated cardboard of the same color. Chinese and Japanese lanterns were hanging overhead. Spotted throughout the hall were two dozen large specimen camellia plants. With such a background the brilliant and colorful camellia was accented to its best.

We had 28 commercial courtesy exhibits. We limited the nursery exhibits to six, four of which were members of the San Diego Camellia Society. Two very attractive Chinese exhibits flanked the stage. There were two well executed table setting exhibits. The other courtesy exhibits were beautiful arrangements and displays from local florist shops.

Occupying two tables were the attractive courtesy exhibits of the Southern California Camellia Society and of the Pacific Camellia Society.

Members of the Society were asked to name twelve basic varieties of camellias which could be grown most successfully by beginners in the San Diego area.

These were:

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Alba Plena            | 7. Aspasia                   |
| 2. Daikagura Var         | 8. Lallarook (Laurel Leaf)   |
| 3. Purity                | 9. Paeoniaeflora             |
| 4. Chandleri Elegans Var | 10. Pope Pius IX             |
| 5. Debutante             | 11. C. M. Hovey (Col. Firey) |
| 6. Prof. C. S. Sargent   | 12. Emperor of Russia        |

Stardust was a close 13th

Three of the most popular features of our show were the display of the twelve basic varieties suitable for every beginner, the corsage-making demonstration, and the grafting demonstration by both amateur and professional growers. The three methods of propagation were clearly presented in displays.

Free corsages were presented to every 100th admission. Sunday afternoon unused flowers were distributed free to the public outside the entrance. At closing time Sunday over 400 blooms in good condition were boxed and delivered to the Naval Hospital.

There were the customary competitive classes, and in addition there were the three awards of the American Camellia Society.

Gold Certificate—Dr. Reuben Tellam of Ramona

Silver Certificate—Mrs. C. Scott Campbell of La Mesa

Award of Merit for the Best Seedling—Mr. Harvey F. Short of Ramona.

Mr. Short's winning flower, recently named "Masterpiece", was a white full double to formal, high crowned, and measured over 6 inches with large leaves each 4"x7½". Mrs. Campbell's "Best Flower of the Show" was a six-inch Gov. Earl Warren.

Another evidence of widespread community interest was the fact that a large percentage of ribbons went to non-society member entrants.

Total attendance was 3300.

The show was a success due to complete cooperation of all interested parties throughout the community. The whole membership of our Society displayed a civic pride and a willingness to work.



## TEMPLE CITY SHOW

In Temple City, the camellia is "Western Living." On March 10, 11, and 12, Temple City, "The Camellia City", staged its sixth annual Camellia Parade. More than 30,000 Southern California residents thronged the streets of Temple City to witness a parade of floats depicting favorite pages from child story books gorgeously designed and wrought in camellias.

Store windows were decorated with samellia arrangements by high school domestic science and art classes, and like float entries, windows were judged for excellence.

The parade climaxed three days of festivities including a carnival and booths at the Rosemead Las Tunas park site.

Greatest attraction in the three-day festival, however, was the Camellia Show which drew visitors from as far away as New York. Winner of Division One, one bloom, was Southern California Camellia Society's Dr. David W. McLean. Dr. McLean was runner-up in the sweepstakes award, earning 39 points against the winner, L. W. Strohmeyer, 60 points.

Sponsored by the Temple City Chamber of Commerce and supervised by Mrs. Frank L. Maxey, the 1950 Festival fulfilled its promise to outshine the other five. The theme, "Fairy Tales in Flowers," was carried out in the parade in which youth bands played and youth clubs marched, pulling their imaginative floats.

Young King, Jack Paulsen and his fair Queen, Patsy Ann Hisking, Temple City grade school children chosen to reign over the Festival by school children throughout the city, led off the parade of 20 flower-decked floats, all but blazing with brilliant camellias.

Supervisor William A. Smith, Dr. C. C. Carpenter, Mrs. Mary Reid, James K. Ingham, Fred Sparks, and Edward Millett judged float entries.

The Temple City Times, the community's up and coming newspaper, put out a special 16 page edition on green paper, crammed with photographs of the festival and articles galore on the camellia.

# *Cultivating the "Idea"*

... a report from a victim

How does a prosaic, ordinary, routine-conditioned human being become an avid camellia enthusiast? Director Clifton Johnson of the Southern California Camellia Society came into possession of some research on the matter when Frazee Burke, also a director, passed on some entertaining correspondence which is printed below.

Burke, with malicious intent, presented a friend of more than usual resistance to camellias, with a few plants the names of which he "forgot" to mention to his friend.

The results of this "casual presentation," are amply evident. Burke is the insurance man referred to below.

February 14, 1950

Last fall I stayed three or four days with a friend to mine at Walnut Creek. I tried to convince him that he should grow camellias, with no success at all. Being somewhat stubborn, when I got home I sent him two nice plants, a Diakura and an Alba Plena.

They apparently bloomed well, and since then he has been bombarding me with periodic bulletins on the development of his symptoms as a camellia bug. Here's one of his latest works on the subject.

February 28, 1950

Dear Fuzz:

Notwithstanding my strong resistance, the camellia bug has made some progress. Last Sunday morning I called Mr. Stoeckle and he cordially invited me to drive on over with the unnamed camellias which were in bloom. This boy, and his wife, are about as nice a couple as we have had the pleasure of meeting. Grace didn't go with me as she wasn't feeling well at the moment.

Within a matter of two minutes it was Bill and Jud. Later that evening,, after the Stoeckles dropped by our house and had a couple of snorts, it being Bill's birthday, it wound up as Bill, Nelda, Grace and Jud. I am attending a lecture tomorrow night at a local garden club where a Mr. Kenneth White will show colored slides of camellias and discuss their culture. He took all the pictures in Stoeckles back yard. Next Saturday night Grace and I are attending the Northern California Camellia Show where Bill will act as one of the judges. Incidentally, his wife seems to know just as much about camellias as he does.

They both remembered you and Jeff Cravath very favorably, and one of these days when the Stoeckles are down south, they intend to try and drop by your place.

I thought you had a lot of camellias in your back yard. Stoeckle has over 300 varieties.

First, as to the ones you gave me. The pink single, with beautiful pink and yellow stamens, might be a seedling according to the Stoeckles, but they are not sure. They believe it is a Castle City. Do you have any of that strain? It could be a Hibiscus. In any event, they both admired it considerably and urged me to let it grow.

The pink one, which has all the earmarks of the Pink Perfection but slightly deeper in color, might be an Ecstasy. Do you have any of that particular species? It might also be a Mrs. John Lang. Possibly with these leads, your memory as to camellias you propagated a few years ago will help you to identify them.

The white one is not completely open so cannot be identified, but in any event it is not fimbriated. When it is completely open I will have Bill take a look at it. The other two you gave me do not have any blooms yet, so we'll have to wait until next season for identification.

I bought the following one gallon grafts: Debutante, Flame, Margarete Hert-rich, Ville de Nantes, Colettii.

When I was leaving, after having spent two hours with these people, Mrs. Stoeckle mentioned Finlandia and I admired the blooms on several large Finlandias they had there. She informed me they had three Finlandias in 4-inch pots. One had been promised, one she wanted to retain, but she said she would give me the other one if I promised to give it a good home. Thus I acquired 6 more yesterday. My next acquisition will be a Herme, High Hat and Pope Pius.

These plants are very healthy and the Colettii has three good sized buds thereon. Incidentally, do you know the Colettii? It is a beautiful variegated type to which particular colors the Stoeckles lean.

All of those mentioned in your memorandum of January 27th do well in this area and the only word of warning was in connection with the Debutante. It appears they are temperamental about their food and must be fed very lightly.

Yesterday I went to the lumber yard and ordered material and this coming week-end will start work on Operation Camellia. I am moving the grapestake fence back 8 feet, which area will then be lathed over. I have already started dismantling my lath house and will erect a greenhouse. Incidentally, Stoeckle wants to put up a greenhouse and he really drooled when he saw all the plate glass which you will recall was given to me by a local insurance executive when they tore out a private office. It will make me a hot house 9 x 11.

Bill has promised to teach me to graft, (literally) but I think I will wait a while before getting into that. Incidentally, I brought Grace home some specimen blooms of all of those I had purchased. She has a new antique lamp, with a flower design on the glass bowl, and she put a Debutante in a blue Jack-in-the-Pulpit type of vase and a Colettii in a yellow vase the same type. They were placed on a marble-top table with the lamp, and I had to drive to Walnut Creek to buy a roll of colored film and flashlight bulbs so the color combination could be recorded for posterity and her sister Ellen. Is there some way to enjoy camellias without spending money every time you turn around?

Incidentally, as to the unnamed single and the pink double formal, they have a couple more buds and will bloom next week. Send me directions in connection with mailing you a bloom from each plant and see if you can identify them. If you think the single is as pretty as the Stoeckles seem to think, let me know if you want a scion.

In closing, let me say "I hope you're satisfied".

JKK:m

Sincerely,



# A Winner's Way of Feeding

... from a speech by William Stoeckle

For the second time in the history of Southern California Camellia shows, a neighbor has walked away with the honors. In the 1947 show, the William Stoeckles of Northern California won top awards. This show, the Stanley Millers of San Diego nabbed the sweepstakes. In the belief of our Northern and Southern neighbors, success lies in "careful grooming" rather than soil or climate advantages, the Bulletin has decided to print in full methods of both previous winners in raising their champion blooms.

Stoeckles begin "show grooming" the moment they purchase a plant to set out in their garden. In their particular locality, extreme caution over the planting site is not warranted as in the warmer, more arid portions of the State. They select a site that gets morning sun and afternoon shade, generally speaking, although this will vary with the variety being planted.

Once the site is selected, Stoeckles dig a hole 18 inches deep and 18 inches

across. In the bottom of this hole, they dig another, 6 inches deep and 6 inches across. This hole is filled with coarse gravel. Coarse gravel is also poured into the large hole to a depth of 2 inches. The entire hole is then lined with a 3 inch wall of pine needles.

Drainage is assured in this manner of using gravel, and the pine needles in addition to aiding drainage, enrich the soil with highly desirable organic acids upon decomposing. Moreover, pine needles decompose evenly and fairly rapidly working their way into the ball of the plant rather than matting about the ball and hindering drainage. The layer of pine needles is used primarily, of course, to retain in proper quantities moisture about the roots of the plant, preventing drying out, and maintaining even root temperatures.

Once the hole is lined with pine needles, the Stoeckles prepare their "mix" with which they will fill the hole. This is composed of  $\frac{3}{4}$  peat moss,  $\frac{1}{4}$  leaf mold, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  sandy loam. The pine needles and the sandy loam are both taken from the foothills of the Sierras near the Stoeckle's home.

In filling the hole, Stoeckle makes a cone-shaped mound in the center upon which is set the newly purchased plant. The plant is placed with the bud union slightly above ground and a "bit higher than the union was in the container." The rest of the mix is pressed firmly around the plant.

Then comes the fertilizer. Fertilizer for Stoeckle's plants is a mulch of 5 pounds of cotton seed, 2 pounds of super-phosphate, 1 pound of sulphate of potash, and if more acid is needed, an added quantity of soil sulphur. This fertilizer is applied as a mulch 4 times during the year, in March, in May, in July, and again in November. The first three applications are used to develop a good healthy plant. The November feeding is only half the quantity used in the other feedings. Stoeckles cut their November feeding in order to prevent initiation of a new growth cycle. A limited amount of feeding in November, however, assures a large and healthy bud.

In feeding his plants, Stoeckle uses the following procedure: water the plant well one day before feeding. Soak thoroughly immediately after feeding. When applying the mulch, avoid the urge to "throw on an extra inch of mulch

## SHEPP SCORES AGAIN

For the second successive year Shepp's Shade Garden of Pasadena has "stole the show," if you can stand that sort of grammar. Last year at Glendale it was that lovely sport of camellia Olive Lee Shepp that received highest award. Arlene Lee Shepp is very appropriately named for the Shepp baby, rollicking little Arlene. But that was last year.

This year at the Pasadena show the Shepps scored again with their dainty pink seedling which they have named in honor of the Queen of the 1950 Camellia Show, lovely cinema star Ann Miller. The signal distinction accorded the Shepps for this honor found them flatfooted however, because the seedling is so new that they had nothing to sell and little to show of it. They will do their utmost to graft enough of it to make a showing with their customers next season, however, and Paul assured us that the price will be reasonable.

Of course, application has been filed for registration of this dainty new member of the camellia family with Southern California Camellia Society, as all good new camellias should be, and in the next issue of the Bulletin a full description will be given. Meanwhile, for the benefit of you who were not able to attend the show, suffice it to say that it is a "honey", and one you will certainly want.

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to see if you can force that extra inch of plant and bloom." Overfeeding jeopardizes the plant in that excessive use of fertilizer may burn sensitive camellia roots.

The Stoeckles employ overhead watering as much as irrigation. This washes the leaf and frees the tiny goma, or breathing mechanism of the leaf, from clogging dust particles. Overhead watering also checks insects from colonizing and aids in preventing bud drop.

At the time the first buds appear and are large enough to be easily identified as flower buds and not leaf buds, the Stoeckles begin their disbudding of the plant. Disbudding is a distasteful job, Stoeckles admit. Every tender bud pinched off is certainly a "prize winner" thrown away in the mind of the enthusiast. Moreover, there is always the feeling that if you disbud early, some climatic disaster might occur later to rob the plant of all buds entirely.

However they might rationalize themselves out of the task, the Stoeckles have sternly disciplined themselves to take at least half the buds off each plant, if not more.

They leave one bud at the end of each stem and keep all buds 3 to 4 inches away from one another. Buds are left in a position free of interfering leaves and other branches so that resulting blooms are not disfigured by crowding against obstructions. Buds that cannot measure up to these specifications are sternly removed from the plant.

To compensate for the fewer flowers as a result of budding, Stoeckles maintain more plants in their garden.

In the final stages of bud development, a day before the bud opens if possible, Stoeckles cover the "bloom to be" with wax paper to prevent morning and evening moisture condensation from discoloring or injuring the bloom in any way. As close as possible to "show time," the Stoeckles pick their "winner."

# BY PUBLIC DEMAND....

a review of the shows popular exhibit

This is an age of visual aids in education, and the graphic demonstration of camellia growth and culture as displayed at the show might well have been noted by professional educators. No clearer demonstration of seedling growth and development could have been made than the accurate, concise exhibit of your Society prepared largely through the efforts of Ebon C. Tourje. Seedlings were shown germinating in peat moss in a mason jar; germination time and preparation of the jar were clearly noted. A cold flat with seedlings transplanted and instructions on pinching off the tap root systematically followed. In the final stage, seedlings transplanted to gallon containers were displayed. Short, terse notes on preparation of soil for flat and containers accompanied the demonstration.

Pacific Camellia Society's demonstration of grafting was familiar to most goers. The plants had appeared in a photographic series explaining the process in a page of the Home and Garden section of the *Los Angeles Times*.

By the time the observer had learned in this pleasant and enduring manner the fundamentals of camellia culture, he could not help but be interested in the two more advanced displays of camellia growth prepared by Cal Tech and by Dr. Walter E. Lammerts.

Lammert's exhibit was an enactment of a research committee project reported in the January Bulletin concerning effect of intermittent and continuous light on the growth of seedlings and grafts. Plainly lettered and well stated placards made the exhibit instantly understandable.

The Cal Tech exhibit, equally well stated, was a little more complicated to many. But the results it demonstrated were apparent to all. Many a show patron copied the feeding formulas of the plants in the center squares of the triangle, Ph or hydrogen ion content notwithstanding. A nice sense of comfortable well being ensues to learn that Cal Tech and Harold Pearson of Metropolitan Water are actively concerned about ions and the like. But to the majority of camellia owners and enthusiasts, the clear cut result of this concern, as demonstrated in the center plants, is even nicer. Geologist Clifford Johnson of the board of directors of the Southern California Camellia Society, and Dr. James Bonner, chemist, were fortunately on hand to explain to those temporarily stumped by the matter the meaning of the symbols and formulae in the Cal Tech demonstration. The number of questions asked is tribute worthy of the Cal Tech display.

## California Spring Garden Show

Ned S. Rucker, general manager of California Spring Garden Show to be held April 21 through 28 at the Exposition Building in Oakland, has written the society an invitation to attend this year's show. Mr. Rucker has asked that a Greyhound bus representative get in touch with the Southern California Camellia Society to see about possibility of chartering a bus for members to travel to the show as a group.

Begun in 1930 as a small, local event, the California Spring Garden Show now covers nearly four acres with hundreds of exhibits, a main theme building, an outdoor show displaying the newest in garden design by noted landscape architects, and a trade exhibit where newest in garden implements are displayed. The show has achieved international renown as one of the five best Garden shows in the world.

## ... How To Grow 'em



**INFORMATION, PLEASE**—James W. Bonner and Clifton W. Johnson, Directors of Southern California Camellia Society, spent most of their show hours answering questions stimulated by provocative technical displays that showed one need not be an Einstein to raise camellias. Here, our two experts are photographed before seed germination exhibit and seedling cold flats prepared through the efforts of Ebon Tourje, also a Director of Southern California Camellia Society. Behind Director Bonner are specimens from intermittent light experiment conducted by Dr. Walter E. Lammerts of Southern California Camellia Society and being continued by Jerry Ulrich of Sacramento. Grafts shown vary with height and vigor depending upon exposure to various amount of light in varying intensities.

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## BEAUTIFUL BALBOA PARK CAMELLIA GARDEN

### Pride of San Diego Camellia Society

There have been many evidences that the joint efforts of Southern California Camellia Society and Huntington Library and Art Gallery to establish in the Huntington Botanic Gardens the finest camellia garden in America—perhaps the world—have stirred the interest and imagination of many people, and have greatly stimulated public enthusiasm for camellias. This has been manifested in various ways. Perhaps the most encouraging and, shall we say, heartening response to the Society's efforts has been the trend among our friends and affiliates toward similar public spirited enterprises.

Our friends and fellow camellia fanciers in San Diego are foremost among those who recognize the fact that any public or semi-public enterprise which can justify its existence must render public service.

Those among the membership of our affiliate who visited our own Camellia Garden at Huntington Botanic Gardens realized early that they in San Diego had a spot ideally suited from every point of view to the location and establishment of a camellia garden that would well rival any other similar institution anywhere; beautiful Balboa Park—that fourteen hundred acre fairy-land that was created to be the site of the world's exposition of 1935. And so,—but let's permit Mr. Lucien C. Atherton of the San Diego County Camellia Society and Chairman of their Garden Committee tell of their dreams, and efforts, and accomplishments. Says Mr. Atherton:

"We have everything to make this project an outstanding success. We have the setting—a beautiful canyon in Balboa Park; we have the loyal support of our own active and energetic members; we have unlimited material to draw from; we have the appreciative and enthusiastic support and cooperation of an alert and horticulturally minded park director, Mr. W. Allen Perry, supported by an excellent Park Board and city council and, moreover, we have the unsurpassed climatic conditions of San Diego in which to develop our project." Continued Mr. Atherton, "It was only a dream a few years ago. Believe it or not, as late as 1946, only three camellias had been planted in all these vast fourteen hundred acres, but several of us, especially A. P. Carlton of the San Diego Camellia Society realized what a wonderful garden could be developed here. But our dream involved public property, and the City of San Diego could play no favorites. But this is not an account of our efforts, but of our success.

Park Directors gave us our choice of any site in the central developed area of Balboa Park. The site selected was a canyon south of the House of Hospitality, at the southeast corner of the Plaza de Panama. At the head of this canyon is the famous Moro Terrace garden, located between the arms of a "Y" which is the beginning of our Camellia canyon. This canyon site of over thirty acres contains an extensive planting of large trees and is undeveloped, presenting a natural appearance even to a small stream. Several other sites are available when we complete the planting of this original site. All sites are adjacent to or near the central Plaza de Panama. Incidental plantings will be made, to supplement the existing landscape arrangement, principally along El Prado (Laurel Street) and in the adjacent garden alcoves. Several plants will be placed within the Moro Terrace Gardens.

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## TWO MORE HEXAPLOID CAMELLIA SPECIES

In a previous article in this bulletin (March, 1949), the author reported the haploid chromosome number of *C. oleifera* (*sasanqua*), McIlhenny strain, as thirty, which indicates that this strain is tetraploid. At the same time, the Captain Rawes' variety of *C. reticulata* (which in that article was referred to simply as *C. reticulata*, was listed as being triploid.

Recent unpublished findings of Dr. A. E. Longley indicate, however, that these chromosome numbers, while correct for the varieties mentioned, are not characteristic either of *C. oleifera* or of *C. reticulata* as species. On the contrary, both of these species are found to be hexaploid ( $2n=90$ ). In the light of this information it seems probable that the tetraploid McIlhenny strain is a hybrid between hexaploid *C. oleifera* and one of the diploid forms. In view of its extremely aberrant chromosome behaviour, it was suggested in the previous article that Captain Rawes' Camellia might represent a hybrid between a diploid and a distantly related tetraploid species. With the discovery of the hexaploid form of *C. reticulata*, this hypothesis no longer seems likely, but a definite conclusion should be reserved until more strains of *C. reticulata* have been investigated. An alternative interpretation which immediately suggests itself is that Captain Rawes' Camellia may be merely a haploid form of *C. reticulata*... This might be confirmed by doubling the chromosome number and comparing the resultant form with *C. reticulata*.

The author wishes to thank Dr. Longley, of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and the California Institute of Technology, for so generously forwarding this important information on the chromosome numbers of the two species mentioned. In turn, the latter wishes to express his appreciation to Mr. Robert Casamajor for making the necessary arrangements for this study, and to the Armstrong Nurseries for their cooperation and generosity in supplying the material studied.

Earl B. Patterson.

Kerckhoff Laboratories of Biology  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

## DR. JOHN D. BELL

### Beau Harp Sport, to be Registered

Last year the camellia which "took" the south was Beau Harp, and we here are still scrambling to get it. This year the "most talked about camellia in America" is that fabulous variegated sport of Beau Harp, named Dr. John D. Bell.

Mr. G. H. Wilkinson of Pensacola, Florida, in whose garden this camellia gem originated has filed application for registration of his startling new camellia with the Registration Committee of Southern California Camellia Society and named his camellia, which may well be destined to become one of the camellia greats of all time, in honor of his friend and companion of many years, Dr. John D. Bell. What an honor!

The flower has recently been awarded the John B. Smith Trophy for the "Best Flower in the Show" at Augusta, Georgia, and comments from many sources in the east and south term it as being startlingly beautiful and worthy of the title "The most talked about flower of the year."

Line up ladies and gentlemen, there will not be too many available next season. You will want to have yours.

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Our main efforts have been and will be directed along the canyon. The original plantings were made in the gardens and on the terraces at the head of canyon. Plantings have been started in the canyon proper and will follow the downward course. Seedling plantings located along the canyon floor will be interspersed with specimen plants. This one canyon can easily absorb several thousand plants without crowding or having an over-balance of camellias. It is difficult to conceive of a more beautiful and natural setting for camellias.

This will be one of the most beautiful areas in the park. The canyon can be viewed from many vantage points. It will present a superb panoramic view. It was then that we realized how really worthwhile was undertaking. Many parks lack winter bloom, especially flowering shrubs, and this garden will fill such a void. This display of blooms will greatly enhance the winter attractiveness of the park, and will fit in perfectly with the master plan for park development. This garden will be a civic presentation to San Diego and to its visitors, another example of the hospitality of this city. We, the camellia fans, wish to share the beauty of this flower with the public, and this garden offers us an excellent opportunity to do so.

This garden is a cooperative project between our Society and the Park Department. We are given a free hand with no provisos. The Park Department furnishes top soil and peat moss. They offered to provide fertilizer, but for the time being, we will furnish the fertilizer and do the fertilizing. They will furnish labor to dig the holes. They will take care of the watering; which they have done in a most satisfactory manner. We will take care of acidifying and spraying. The Park Department offered to assist us in this with both material and labor. We furnish the plants and do the planting according to our plans. The Park Department and the Society will maintain their own planting charts. The Society retains the sole right of propagation. No wood may be taken without our consent. We in return grant the donor the sole right of propagation. No wood may be taken without the individual donors' consent. We furnish all identification tags.

The interest of the personnel of the park in the garden extends from the Director to the sectional gardeners. The gardeners of our area felt fortunate to have this area selected, and are more than willing to cooperate and assist whenever possible. The park nursery is interested, and with our help and donations, is now engaged in the propagation of camellias for incidental plantings. It is possible that in the near future the nursery may furnish a seedling bed for our use. This appreciation and cooperation encourages us to make as rapid progress as possible.

"Of course, our project has really just been started. However, we have not been idle and will conclude the 1949-50 season with approximately 650 plants of which 450 are named varieties including approximately 200 different varieties. The remainder consists of seedlings. All these camellias have either been planted or are available to us right now. We cannot help but feel that this is a creditable showing—creditable in many ways. Not the least of the credit is due to our donors. In addition to the contributions of our non-commercial members, plant donors include:

—(see page 22)



23 Commercial non-society (San Diego) members of the San Diego area.

11 Commercial non-society (San Diego) members not in the San Diego area.\*

5 Commercial San Diego Society Members

1 Amateur, not a member of San Diego Society.

We are extremely proud of the response which our efforts have aroused among camellia lovers everywhere, and specially among our donors. With this as an inspiration the Committee and the San Diego Camellia Society as a whole, as well as the Park Board, look forward to accelerated effort and greater achievement during the forthcoming season."

\* Many if not all these are members of Southern California Camellia Society.

## INDOCTRINATING ENTHUSIASTS

The Show produced results, and results that spell success for camellia growers, enthusiasts and organizations throughout Southern California. One concrete example, at the home of Clifton W. Johnson the week-end following the show, classes were held in camellia grafting. Amiable "professor" Johnson's classes were made up of show patrons, some of whom learned of camellias for the first time at February's Brookside Park exhibit. Matriculation fee for the classes was a gallon container or two of understock. Johnson furnished scions from the many varieties of excellent "woods" in his own garden. The student had but to name a scion of his choice.

When sufficient practice on "mock up" scions and understock indicated a "real" try might be successful, "students" experienced the pleasure (if at times somewhat worried) of preparing a variety for a "take."

While six weeks will be needed to fully establish the excellence of Cliff's teaching methods, "students" are fully convinced without waiting out the trial period for a take. Your editor's project has not turned black or even slightly brown, and it's been three weeks. For a green thumb that has trouble raising snap dragons this is proof enough.

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Members receive the book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature" revised every two years, and the society's magazine, published eight times yearly.

Open meetings are held on the second Thursday monthly, from November to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the Pasadena City College Library, 1500 block East Colorado Street, Pasadena, Calif. Flower exhibit at 7:30 P.M., program at 8:00.

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Copies of the bound edition of "The Camellia" by G. B. Tirocco, translated by Mr. Chidamian, may be obtained through the Society at \$3.00 each. The four issues of the Bulletin which carried the installments on this book may be obtained for \$1.00.

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