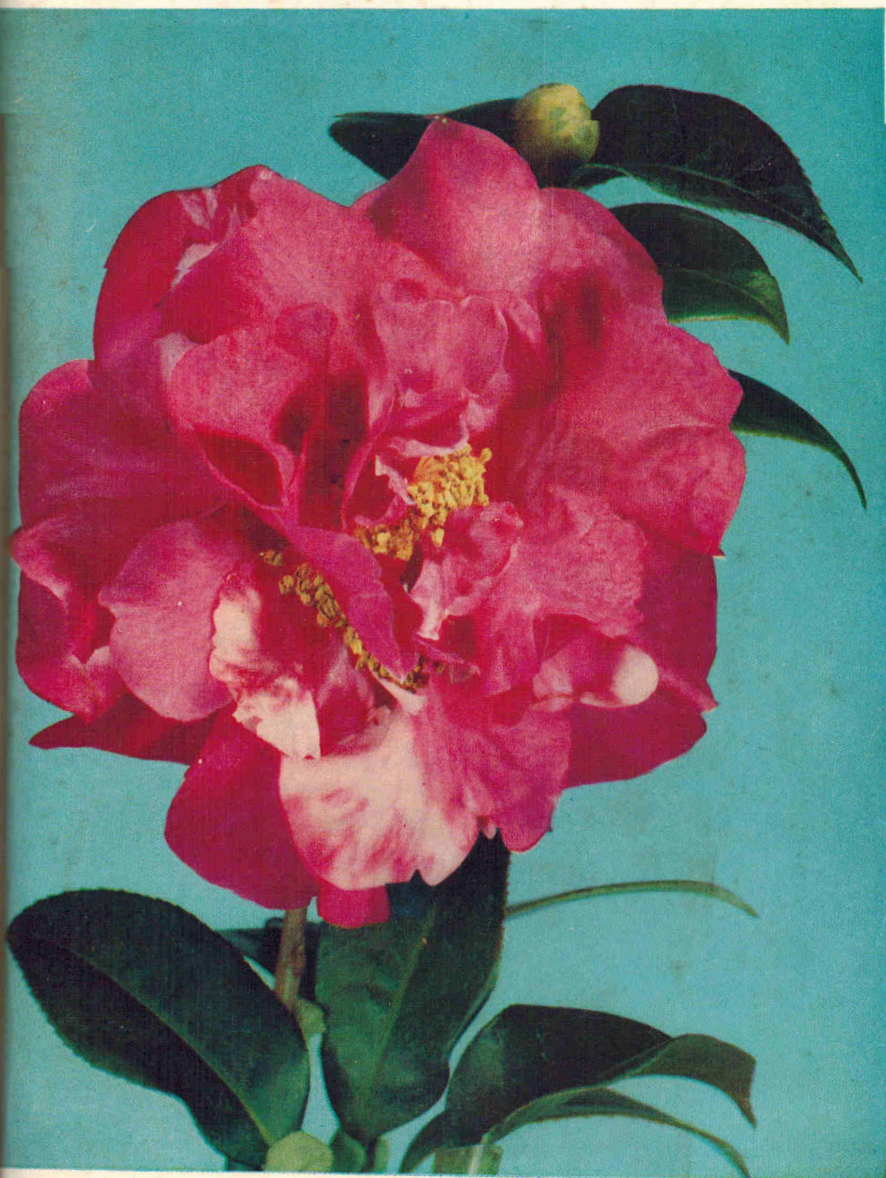


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Camellia Review



RETICULATA CHANG'S TEMPLE

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 13

JULY, 1952

No. 8

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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Republication permitted, if due credit is given this magazine.

All manuscript for publication should be sent direct to the Editor.

Published monthly from October through April, and in July.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, November 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.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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Camellia Society of Kern County.....	Bakersfield, Calif.
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Secretary: Mrs. Tracy Harkness, 1101 Pershing Drive, Bakersfield	
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Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park	
Secretary: Mrs. W. E. Peyton, 3065 C St., San Diego 2	
Date of meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.	
Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....	Pomona, Calif.
Meeting Place: Ebell Club, Pomona	
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Meeting Place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City	
Secretary: Miss Marguerite Merrillees, 517 S. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena 10	
Date of meeting: 1st Monday of each month	
Camellia Society of Orange County.....	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Girl Scout Headquarters, 1004 West 8th St., Santa Ana	
Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange	
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month	

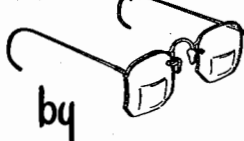
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AS I SEE IT...



Arthur S. Kane

AS I SEE IT . . . July for camellias is about like January for bears—right in the middle of the long sleep. Not being blessed with any very bright ideas about camellias at the moment, and being by nature an essentially lazy guy, I think I'll let a few guest editors write my column for me this month, without their knowledge or consent, by excerpting freely from their recent letters.

"We hope to give you interesting and instructive programs for the remainder of 1952. We look forward to seeing a friendly and closely knit group of members who will work together in complete harmony and cooperation for the benefit of all camellia growers."

That is from a bulletin sent out in May by the South Carolina Camellia Society, and it impresses me because that one paragraph above contains a pathetic sadness about it, somehow. "We aim so high, and we hit so low," as it were. It turns out that the members don't think the programs are so interesting and instructive after all—well, you know, Mr. Palooka was taken suddenly sick and we had to get Mr. Bazooka to substitute for him at the last minute—what else could we do? As I remarked once before—"Pity the poor program chairman!" If you break even, you're considered remarkably lucky. Or, as they say in show business, "They wouldn't like the battle of Gettysburg with the original cast." And then, too, the friendly and close knit group of members turns out to

be as full of petty jealousies as a Pekinese is of wheeze. The harmony and cooperation is just a myth—there's harmony, all right. Everybody agrees that somebody else ought to do the work, not he.

If all the optimism expressed by incoming officers of all kinds of organizations, societies, associations, could be collected into one tank it could be used to illuminate a city the size of Pittsburgh, Pa., for a long, long time.

A sad commentary on the human race.

* * *

One nice thing about a red-hot controversy—it proves that some of the customers actually do take the trouble to read their copies of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*. Sure, I know all about the repercussions from Zita Marks' article, pro and con, but so far I've heard a lot more "pros" than "cons."

In a letter to me, Mrs. Marks herself comments: "So far I've received 146 telephone calls . . . with one exception, they all said 'Congratulations. We've been waiting a long time for someone to say what you've said.'"

Mrs. Marks, being Irish, just loves a good scrap—so I don't think that what few brickbats *were* thrown her way, bothered her too much. I've been needling her to follow up with a counter for Sallie H. Mayes' reply to her, which appears in this issue. Mrs. Marks has agreed, and there'll be some more hot remarks in the next (or maybe next but one) issue of this resplendent mag.

What I always say is: "Stir 'em up—make their blood flow."

* * *

A note to me from Mr. Tourje, received during the blooming season, is worth quoting because of the neat turn of phrase.

"In a letter received from a well-

(Turn to Page 19)

Mystery of the Origin of the Camellia

The "Czar"

By DR. C. M. MERRILLEES

St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia

The *Czar* camellia, the most common variety in Victorian gardens, is almost a household word in Australia. Even after allowing for a natural bias towards our own, we think it is the best garden camellia in the world. There are some maybe, misguided and perverse we call them, who do not care for it because it is too large, too vivid and with too many flowers but even the most rabid of its detractors will admit its preeminence as a garden decoration. Its sturdy bushy shape literally covered with flowers, all looking at you, scarlet and enormous in the afternoon sun, is a breath taking sight.

This wonderful flower, semi-double, something like *Lady Clare* has a regular shaving brush centre which practically never shows any tendency to form petaloids. Its most frequent size is about six inches across (15 c.m.) and sometimes reaches seven inches or more (17-18 c.m.). It has been reported to have reached the 20 c.m. mark but this has not been officially recorded.

Our chief interest at present is in its origin and how to disentangle the few threads of fact from the complete tangle of legend which has gathered around it. Some of these stories are matter of fact, sentimental and romantic some of them, but all equally untrue.

Many of these stories state that the *Czar* was imported into Victoria sometimes under circumstances highly creditable to the author's romantic imagination. On the other hand, there is a very strong argument that it was not imported at all. Firstly there is not the slightest record nor in spite of diligent search has it been found in Britain or in Western Europe. One can feel sure that such a magnificent flower would have been shouted aloud by its owner and sold to the ends of the earth where it would have acquired a dozen names by this time. No one has as yet suggested that it came from America.

Until about 1910 it was quite unknown in Victoria as well and some sort of story must be found to account for its unheralded arrival in this state, where it was known to be growing, quite a large tree, in the garden of one Neil Breslin at Camberwell, a suburb of Melbourne about seven miles out. One of the most circumstantial of these stories is that Breslin arrived in Victoria between 1895 and 1900 with a lot of camellias and azaleas with which he proposed to set up as a gardener in his adopted country. A variant of this is that fleeing from political tyranny he brought with him a single camellia from his Emperor's garden to comfort him in exile. The garden is variously stated to have been in Belgium, Germany or one of the Baltic or Scandinavian countries.

Unfortunately for all this we know that Breslin, a Kilkenny man, was living in Camberwell for years before the supposed time of his arrival, a time coincidentally fixed to square with the apparent age of his camellia.

Some ten years after he came to Victoria he bought in the early 1880's, a property known as Maloney's and in '85 he built his house and laid out his garden close to the old homestead, enclosing a part of the old garden in the new. It was in this garden that the *Czar* appeared and where it is still growing.

Breslin was a "garden architect," not a working gardener. We believe that he was the actual builder as it is known that he employed workmen. His best known work is the Municipal Gardens at Moonee Ponds containing what is said to be the largest glasshouse in Australia. He laid out quite a number of gardens in Toorak, Melbourne's fashionable suburb, two or three miles from where he lived.

This brings us to another popular story, that Breslin got his cuttings from a doctor's house in Toorak or possibly lifted the whole plant. This must be rejected because all the doctors who lived in Toorak in those days are easily traced and none owned a *Czar* until years later. The writer was familiar with many of these gardens and remembers that camellias were not a feature of any of them. What camellias did occur are well known varieties, all in contemporary catalogues and all are formal imbricated or peony. This is only natural considering the contemporary taste.

The writer was in a position to have known of the *Czar* in the late nineties and recently his recollections have been confirmed by Mr. C. F. Cole of the well known Cole's Nursery family. He is an old resident of that district and an ardent horticulturist. He knew Breslin well. Our recollections agree and are quite negative; there is not the slightest recollection whatever of the *Czar* until well into the new century. Further, and strangely enough if it did exist and was highly valued, it has been found impossible to discover any early sales of the *Czar*, say before 1914, and none of the old residents remember it at all.

The writer lived in Upper Hawthorn and was at school almost within a stone's throw of Breslin's. With other small boys he was frequently in Maloney's paddock where mushrooms were plentiful. On several occasions too long a search led to being late for afternoon school, and consequent painful experiences have fixed themselves on his memory.

Later in the season, for camellias follow mushrooms, similar incidents occurred through breaking off from the official hare-and-hounds to linger about the garden, the only garden about there for half a mile or so. Camellias are remembered (yes! we were interested in them even at that age) and Japanese quince and plum and wattles—but no *Czar*.

It has been pointed out however that this non-recollection is not convincing, for even if it had been there it would have been dismissed with a contemptuous 'Single!'.

Familiarity with this district ended in 1905 and was not renewed until 1912 when the writer's attention was called by his wife to a magnificent camellia which we know now to be the *Czar* growing in what we now know to have been Breslin's garden.

Following a request to go and get one, an unsuccessful search was made. It appeared to be quite unknown to the trade, but in 1915 it was run to earth in Mr. Hodgin's nursery at Essendon when a large plant was bought.

(Continued on Page 20)

What Wake Forest Has Learned About Camellias

By J. ALLEN EASLEY.

Wake Forest, North Carolina

(Reprinted from American Camellia Quarterly)

A topic such as this, "What Wake Forest Has Learned About Camellias," pointing as it does to the experience of a community, can be properly treated only as the writer draws upon his fellow citizens for help. Hence I have turned to some of the most camellia-minded of my neighbors—to Mrs. W. E. Speas, who purchased her first camellia plant more than twenty-five years ago, to Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Barnes, whose magnificent specimen of Pink Perfection has been responsible for infecting many a passer-by with camellia-itis and to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Snyder and to Barney Powell, whose all-out enthusiasm for this Queen of Flowers is unsurpassed. But none of these must be charged with any errors which may be detected in this article.

For the benefit of any readers who may not be familiar with Wake Forest, North Carolina, let it be said that it is a small college town, which some of "Peahead" Walker's football teams have helped to put on the map. It is situated on the fall-line that cuts diagonally across North Carolina, between the Piedmont region and the coastal plain. It is about 16 miles north of Raleigh, 45 miles south of the Virginia line, and about 170 miles west of Cape Hatteras.

The temperature during the winter often falls below freezing but very rarely below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. During some winters there is little snow, and again we may have twelve inches at a time. During the past winter (1950-1951), the official temperature as recorded at near-by Raleigh dropped below 20 degrees Fahrenheit on seven days and as low as 14 degrees Fahrenheit on only one day, November 26.

The original oak forests of this region have largely given way to loblolly pine. The soil has a somewhat heavy, clayey texture and needs the addition of some sand for camellias. The pH in untreated soil is prevailingly less than six. The use of acidifiers does not seem imperative, though acid fertilizers are regularly used.

What has Wake Forest learned about camellias? Well, first of all we have learned how hard the camellia bug can bite, to the neglect of one's work, the boredom of one's acquaintances, and the flattening of one's pocket book; but also to the beautification on one's premises, the enlargement of one's circle of friends, and the forgetting for a time of the woes of our troubled world. We have learned that camelliaitis is after all a very pleasant disease indeed, and never seems to prove fatal.

We have learned that one touch of camelliaitis makes strangers kin. We have discovered our neighbors anew, have made many friends throughout North Carolina and the South, and have come to treasure the friendship of fine spirits in far off California. We would recommend growing camellias

as a good way to lessen the tensions of the world!

We have learned that camellias afford year-round pleasure. Every month brings its demands in camellia culture and also its rewards, rewards of realization or of anticipation. Gerbing's¹ discussion of "Growing Camellias Month by Month" details the manifold activities and satisfactions. The schedule as given in Gerbing's discussion must be retarded somewhat in Wake Forest, but we miss none of the activities suggested.

We have learned where to get help in camellia culture. We exchange information and experience among ourselves. (Though sometimes it has been misinformation and inexperience that we exchanged.) The publications of the American Camellia Society, and of the societies in South Carolina and Southern California have been especially helpful. The Camellia Day program in Raleigh each year has been a fruitful source of inspiration and information. We are building up a library of material which affords help on a wide variety of subjects.

We have learned, sometimes by painful experience, the truth of much that we have read in the camellia literature or heard from competent advisers at camellia meetings. We can point to some mute, but convincing testimony of the need of partial shade for most camellia plants, of the damage that too much fertilizer can do, and of the danger of too wet or too poor a soil. We have learned that scions that are not quite dormant when placed in the grafting stock are sure to be disappointing. We have learned that when a nursery catalogue points out that a particular variety is not recommended for the northern part of the camellia-belt, that it is wise to let that variety alone, no matter how beautiful it is, unless one is prepared to give it protection under glass. In short we have found that there is plenty of good, sound advice on camellia growing available, and that it pays to follow it. It is when one tries to cut the corners and trust to luck that he gets into trouble.

We have learned that there is much pleasure and a wealth of beauty to be had from the old standard varieties, and that unless one has unlimited time, space, and money, he had better let others test the newer varieties. Time will prove them.

We have learned how much pleasure there is in "growing your own" from cuttings, or from seed from good camellia gardens, or from grafts. We have had the extreme pleasure of producing seedlings that offer fine promise—for example, a pure white imbricated double with a rosebud center, and a pink that is somewhere between a Rev. John G. Drayton and a Debutante.

We have learned that in our area, even in the severest winters, we can expect a satisfactory return for our efforts. In average seasons the number of excellent blooms is abundant, and in mild winters it is amazing. Furthermore, in our climate the blooms last better on the plant than further south, where the day temperature is much higher. In the winter just passed our plants suffered no such damage as those in the Deep South. The only losses in plants in this area were in small sizes in the open, or with only lath-house protection. Under such conditions plants from six to fifteen inches suffered heavy losses. But where plants were protected by a cold frame, there was no loss at all. And no plant above eighteen inches that I have examined had

¹Gerbing, G. G. *CAMELLIAS*, G. G. Gerbing, Fernandina, Florida, 1943.

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An Amateur Talks Back to An Amateur

By

SALLIE H. MAYES

I am not important, wealthy or young. I don't grow better camellias, do better grafting or have finer seedlings than the experts. I am just one of the countless amateurs who love camellias and grow them for that reason, and share them and my experiences, good or bad. I find this is true not only with amateurs but experts. I never visit a nursery that I don't come away with a box of beautiful blooms and a head full of information and help that will enable me to grow stronger and more beautiful plants.

Perhaps I have been more fortunate than Zita Marks, or maybe California has a different breed of experts. This I seriously doubt. I have met many and had letters from many more, who patiently answered my very foolish questions. Just a few weeks ago, one of California's largest growers of fine camellias sent me, as a gift, his new seedling that has taken many of the highest awards this year, and won't be on the market for a year or more. Not for any gain, but just because he wanted me to have it. I have had many of the experts give me their rare plants just because I love them. (Camellias and experts both)

It is acknowledged by the camellia world that there are more experts and breeders of outstanding camellias in the South than any other one place. I have had the good fortune of meeting most of them and I have never met one who has not gladly, and with the greatest courtesy, given his time and knowledge to help the amateur and been as interested in our camellias and seedlings as we are in his. We have a great number of experts not commercial who have produced some of the most beautiful and sought-after camellias. Mr. T. S. Clower is one of them. He gives away his scions by the hundreds, to say nothing of his time and advice.

It is true and naturally so when a commercial grower spends years of trial and error and disappointment to produce a spectacular and different camellia, the price is high. Mr. J. S. Bradford told me it took seventeen years of hard work pollinating, producing seeds, waiting for the seeds to grow, grafting, waiting for the bloom and doing it all over again, until he was finally rewarded with a perfect and different camellia. Not every one is such a perfectionist, and this was an exception even for him. It is generally five to eight years. After these camellias are grown by many nurseries they are in the price range of most everyone.

I have never been to a flower show or camellia society that the members and officers have not been friendly and gracious. This winter, a friend and I drove about two hundred miles to a camellia show. We arrived about a half an hour before the show opened, and, as it was raining, we were waiting in the entrance, very bedraggled, when a most charming woman came up and introduced herself. She was the Flower Show Chairman. We talked a few minutes, and she said the judges were still in the Horticultural Sec-

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To The Ladies!

By EVELYN W. JOHNSON

A visit in May to the Huntington Gardens to see the very beautiful rhododendron plants in bloom resulted in the unexpected discovery of a row of very large mature plants of *Sasanqua*. I did not know that they were there at all until that day.

These plants border the drive which extends north of the large Oak tree near the entrance to the Library building. I shall certainly make every effort to see these fine old plants in bloom in November.

I speak of them for those who may not know that they are there. I have always taken the path which leads through the original camellia garden. I had overlooked these aged *Sasanqua* treasures entirely.

I am looking forward eagerly to the Camellia Shows of the future. The Camellia Japonica Miniature class will surely become well established. True miniatures of beauty and lasting quality will bring great enjoyment to all.

* * *

Harvey Short displayed a lovely white formal miniature at the San Diego Camellia Show. It has haunted me since. I should like very much to see it again.

An interesting subject for our photographers would be collaboration with a flower arrangement expert and a novice student. It should be most interesting to the ladies to see Kodachrome slides of an arrangement of Camellias by a novice student, then a slide or slides of the "correction" arranged by the expert, using the identical material, vase, accessories, etc.

Early in May our visit to Descanso Gardens brought the realization that the *C. Japonica* variety *Mme. Hahn*

is a very durable Camellia flower. A heavy downpour of rain the day before had ruined many blossoms of other varieties but the *Mme. Hahn* looked beautiful in spite of the effects of the storm.

Fine specimen plants of Camellia Japonica have been set out in the north grounds of the new San Marino Public Library. Camellia Japonica and *C. Sasanqua* have also been planted in the Children's Court of the Library.

The interest and generosity of the members of the San Marino Garden Club under the effective leadership of Mrs. Harold Dryden, an S.C.C.S. member, has made this community beautification possible.

It is a pleasure to report on this project. It is my hope that others who love Camellias and *C. Sasanqua* may become inspired to interest other committees to plant Camellias in suitable locations around schools, churches, libraries and other public buildings.

One of our problems in decorating the stage for the S.C.C.S. Camellia Show was a method by which we could secure in an upright position the large branches of heather which were needed in the background to blot out a painted scene.

Nine Christmas tree holders were used for heather branches and foreground placement on either side of the stage of flowering peach branches.

Mr. Wayne Loel and Mr. Clinton Kelly solved many perplexing details and their work in balancing tall branches of heather stood the test of wiring the various areas for lighting the scene later.

Mr. Walter Scott brought his professional knowledge into play with the final touch of light from the bases of flowering peach, camellias and azaleas. The lighting of the scene in accent areas gave the charming effect of morning light.

A History of Southern California Camellia Society

By DR. DAVID W. McLEAN

ON January 8th, 1940, thirty-two persons gathered at the Constance Hotel in Pasadena for dinner and discussion of the organizing of a camellia society. The meeting was called by R. C. Long, a professional grower in Pasadena. Harry Davis was elected Temporary Chairman; John Lodge, Vice Chairman; Mark Anthony, Secretary and Elvin H. Carter, Treasurer. Paul Shepp, Clarence Hearn and Anne Galli were chosen to draw up By-Laws. Mr. Long headed a membership committee consisting of Messrs. Bordier, Dreyfus and George Hill as local members and Messrs. Schmekel, Swim and Burkart as Ontario members.

At the second meeting, two weeks later, in the Pasadena Public Library Auditorium, By-Laws were adopted, the organization was named the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY and the following permanent officers were elected: Lovel Swisher, President; George Hill, 1st Vice President; John Lodge, 2nd Vice President; Mark Anthony, Secretary; Elvin H. Carter, Treasurer.

The minutes of the third meeting mention the following additional Charter Members: Messrs. J. A. Armstrong, Tormey, Chambers and Vern McCaskill.

E. H. Carter moved that there be an executive committee of five officers and two others. Mr. Lodge proposed that the Corresponding Secretary and the Program Chairman be the additional two. Anne Galli was elected Corresponding Secretary and J. A. Armstrong, Program Chairman. A new membership committee consisted of L. Boyle, Mrs. Vern McCaskill and Mr. Long. It was decided to exhibit in the Spring Flower Show. Committee: Mark Anthony, Mr. Barber, E. H. Carter, Mr. Chambers, Vern McCaskill, Herbert Swim and Mr. Tormey. This meeting adjourned with the future pattern of the society pretty well outlined. There had been flower exhibits; discussion of the possibility of putting on a camellia show, discussion of the flowers, of culture; a question and answer period; all bills were paid and there was money in the treasury!

November opened the second active, or blooming, season of the society. At this meeting the first door prize appears, donated by the Long Nursery and won by a Mrs. Clennin of Pasadena. The announcement for this meeting stated that "the final list of authentic names will be presented." Thus early did the problem of varietal nomenclature appear! Alas that the list was lost and that 1951 finds us still unable to write "finale" to any varietal list or "finale" to the whole problem!

In December 1940, new officers were elected: President J. C. Barber; 1st Vice President Harry Davis; 2nd Vice President, Frank L. Burke; Secretary, Thor Peterson and Treasurer, Robert A. Ward. Mr. Barber remained Presi-

dent until the war temporarily stopped the meetings; Thor Peterson and Bob Ward served for a long period and contributed much to the phenomenal growth of the next few years.

In January 1941, more of the pattern of future service was established. Bill Gilliland, of Upland, spoke on Camellia Classification: Pamphlets on Camellia Culture were distributed to the members. In February, County Quarantine Officer, G. R. Gorton spoke on Camellia Pests and the problem of plant importation from the South. A beautiful gavel, with inscribed silver plate was presented by its maker, Henry Prucha. Alas, this too has been lost. Think hard, Old Timers! That historical gavel perhaps lies, forgotten and unloved, in some dresser drawer or attic box.

The society exhibited in the Spring Flower Show in Brookside Park. A special camellia exhibit; over a thousand blossoms collected by Anne Galli and committee, backed by camellia foliage provided by "Billie" and Vern McCaskill two hundred plants in the ground in the patio, under the direction of Roy Carter.

In February Lloyd Sosper spoke on nutrition, Dr. F. W. Went of Caltech spoke on propagation; the season closed with the meeting of March 17th.

The opening of the third camellia season, Fall of 1941, found President Barber ill; there was no November meeting. The Pearl Harbor tragedy came in December. There was no record of meetings held until November 22nd, 1943, when Secretary Peterson called a meeting, presided in President Barber's absence. Kodachrome slides from Magnolia Garden were shown. It was voted that no further meetings be held or dues collected until further notice.

About March 1st a group headed by Anne Galli petitioned President Barber, still ill, to call a meeting. Secretary Peterson was authorized to call a meeting and to read the President's regretful resignation and good wishes. New officers were elected: President, Dr. David W. McLean; Vice President, Ralph Groves; Secretary, Thor Peterson; Treasurer, Robert Ward. It was voted to resume meetings. The president stressed the fact that the home garden had become a haven in a world gone mad; that the society could become a great morale builder for the members and the community.

Last meeting of the Season, April 13th. Program: "Information Please," by a group of experts and Master of Ceremonies. Flower exhibit and door prize. The season closed with about 150 members and \$39.60 in the treasury.

All efforts to unearth the original By-Laws failed. New ones were drawn and adopted at the opening of the 1943-44 season. The newly created Board of Directors consisted of the officers and Anne Galli, Roy M. Bauer and M. Leslie Marshall as the commercial member.

The organization through these earliest years was casual and informal. There was no overall planning by a Board of Directors. Business sessions were few and far between; perhaps one or two a year. Other meetings were purely horticultural entertainment. Consequently the minutes during the war, the minutes and Roster of Charter Members was lost along with the By-laws.

THE SOCIETY'S MAGAZINE started life as a penny post card announcing meetings. After the first reorganization meeting the President and Secretary got their heads together; the size of the card was doubled, then tripled; expert typographer Peterson pepped up the format; the copy endeavored to inject "box office appeal."

In January 1944 a sheet 51½ x 9 inches was used; at its bottom a roster

(Continued on Page 14)

NOTES, NOTICES and NEWS

SAN DIEGO

Members of the San Diego Camellia Society brought the 1951-52 season to a close with a turkey dinner which was served in the Mission Hill Congregational Church on Wednesday, May 7. Dr. Reuben W. Tellam, retiring president, announced that the "Flame" was named the flower of the year.

The Bloom Display Committee presented the following annual awards: Division I, Mrs. Leo Blottin; Division II, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lindsley; Division III, Mrs. Fred Hebert; Division IV, Mrs. George Wills; Arrangements, Mrs. R. I. Sedar.

The program consisted of colored slides of the prize winning blooms and of Mrs. Hebert's camellias, which were followed by slides and comments by Mr. Harvey F. Short on his new seedlings.

The recently elected officers were introduced by Dr. Tellam. They are: Capt. F. E. Vensel, president; Mr. Lucien C. Atherton, vice-president; Mrs. W. E. Peyton, secretary; Dr. Robert F. Brown, treasurer; Mrs. George Wills, Mr. J. O. Henry, Dr. Reuben W. Tellam, directors.

President Vensel appointed the following 1952-53 committee chairmen: Bloom Display, Mrs. Don V. Scofield; Flower Arrangements, Mrs. L. L. Carringer; Garden Tours, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lindsley; Historian, Mrs. A. P. Carlton; Librarian, Mrs. Harper Kelly; Membership, Mr. J. O. Henry; Other Camellia Shows, Mrs. C. S. Campbell; Other Flower Shows, Miss Alice Greer; Park, Mr. W. E. Peyton; Plant Sale, Mr. Harvey Atherton; Program, Mr. Lucien C. Atherton; Publicity, Mr. Stanley W. Miller; Reception, Mrs. Harvey F. Short; Show, Comm. C. B. Barnes; Editor of the Bulletin, Miss Frances Wills; Master-at-Arms, Messrs. J. Green and H. Bane; Photographer, Mrs. Fred Hebert; Rep. to Floral Association, Mr. J. W. Hershey.

Thanks were extended to Dr. and Mrs. Reuben W. Tellam through whose efforts the society has enjoyed two very successful seasons.

ORANGE COUNTY

Camellia Society of Orange County officers for year 1952-53: President, Mr. Allan Crooks, 612 E. 20th St., Santa Ana; Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Riffle, 1554 W. Washington St., Santa Ana; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Harold Larson, 212 South Orange St., Orange; Directors: Mrs. Duane Berge, 2271 Mesa Drive, Santa Ana; Mrs. W. M. Cory, 415 W. 19th St., Santa Ana; Mrs. A. F. Schroeder, 1120 Memory Lane, Santa Ana; Mr. Robert Powell, 109 Wright St., Santa Ana; Mr. A. M. Blanding, 1473 Orange Ave., Santa Ana; Mr. Fred Forgy, 2428 Oakmont Ave., Santa Ana (ex officio).

The society meeting place for the 1952-53 season will be the Santa Ana Community Center Clubhouse, 1104 W. Eighth St., Santa Ana.

TEMPLE CITY SOCIETY

New Board of Directors: Mr. R. H. Hertenstein, President, 6025 N. Muscatel Ave., Temple City; Lawrence R. Bryant, Vice-President, 409 Coolidge Drive, San Gabriel; A. H. Stevens, 9915 E. Camino Real, Arcadia; Ernest Pieri, 601 E. Elm Ave., San Gabriel; Mrs. Zita Marks, 6355 Del Loma Ave., San Gabriel; C. M. Mason, 8912 E. Elm St., Temple City; June M. Schroth, 432 North Alabama St., San Gabriel.

KERN COUNTY

New officers for 1951-52 season: President, Mr. A. C. Adams, 2827 Sunset; Vice President, Mr. Paul Tayler, 2108 Kentucky; Sec.-Treas., Miss Mildred Foley, 715 Niles St.; new Director replacing Mr. Wickersham is Mr. Harry Putman, 2930 Chester Lane.

"CAMELLIAN" NOW INDEPENDENT

The CAMELLIAN, published by Frank Griffin & Son at Columbia, S. C., will not be affiliated with the South Carolina Camellia Society after 1952. Beginning with the January 1953 issue the CAMELLIAN will be an independent publication issued in the interest of and for members of all camellia societies. It will not be necessary to join any camellia society in order to subscribe to the CAMELLIAN. The subscription rate beginning in January will be \$2.00 to everyone.

OUR COVER FLOWER

Our magazine is especially privileged to bring you this month *Reticulata Chang's Temple*, which graces our cover. It took the splendid cooperation of Royal Horticultural Society, Messrs. Spottiswoode & Ballyntyne, makers of the plates, and Vice-president Ralph Peer, acting as expediter for the magazine, to arrange shipment of the plates from England for our use.

Camellia Collection with Choice Homesite

Over 200 large camellias with lath and flower house, also two large Fuerte acovado trees with other fruit trees are included in 0.44 acre, with fine building site in best part of Sierra Madre, one block East of Hastings Ranch. Owner must sell because of illness. Also whole estate with 12-room house and additional 0.58-acre, including many wonderful trees and garden.

C. H. GERKE

602 Mariposa Ave.

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The Story Behind "Undaunted"

By ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN

In 1939 twelve seeds were produced at Councilman's Camellia Acres. They were planted, grew, were put into gallon containers and when large enough, planted in a row in the west lath house. Today three of those seedlings remain. Jane and John Doe and Undaunted.

Both Jane and John Doe are beautiful large plants, but their blossoms are on the order of *Sarah Frost*, so we have not propagated them, but I have not and do not intend to cut them down for grafting because they are two beautifully matched bushes. We moved them out under the walnut trees this summer so they would have more space to grow in. They both seem real happy in their new location.

Undaunted, the third remaining seedling of those original twelve seeds, is a beautiful irradiant carmine rose pink flower of full peony type, having many petaloids but showing no stamens. In 1945 a large walnut tree fell across the west lath house almost directly over *Undaunted* and the plant was badly damaged. It managed to withstand all of this and grew to bloom for the first time in the Spring of 1948. At that time the plant was known as No. 11. We began propagating it then. Next it was "Rusty" and is in the last Nomenclature as such.

One Sunday afternoon in the Spring of 1950, after hearing Walter Winchell's program, I decided it would be nice to give it to the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund for them to patent, and called it "Damon Runyon." I was also going to give them the original seedling to be sold to the highest bidder. I wrote to Winchell and they were interested, but the correspondence went on for almost two years and we were not able to get together so I decided to change the name to *Undaunted* and bring it out myself.

The plant is a very nice foliage plant with large shiney dark green leaves, and is a healthy type of camellia. The flowers average from 3½" to 4½" in size and have 20 outer or guard petals. It blooms mid-season to late. It is from unknown parentage.

Today we grow about 1500 seedlings a year and we have some very nice ones but I have not found one yet that I think is any nicer than *Undaunted*, the eleventh seedling.

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SOCIETY HISTORY . . . from page 10

of the officers, board and committee chairmen. "Vic" J. Wagoner had become Vice President. John A. Hudlow headed Membership; Mrs. Vern McCaskill, Program; W. P. Huestad, Nomenclature; Roy M. Bauer, Publicity. By November the sheet was 6 x 14½ inches and carried about 5 inches of news.

In January 1945 the first formal "Official Bulletin" appeared; a folded sheet providing four pages 5½ x 8½. It was called "Volume 5—Number 3" since on page 1 it announced the third meeting of the fifth season. Page 2 indicated the vigor of the society. Reports to the Board: membership 185; general fund \$194.00; book fund (for publication of Bulletin and Nomenclature book then in preparation) \$173.75; contributed to the Red Cross in '43, \$95.80; in '44, \$141.15. These last items arose from door prize activities, which also provided a public address system and built up a fund for the "Test Garden" project in the Huntington Botanical Garden which was organized this epochal year, and about which more later. In this issue the Test Garden Committee was approaching the members for donations of plants.

This issue also reports a new activity: Registration of new Varieties. It publishes the Registration and botanical description of a now nationally known white seedling from the Huntington Gardens; the Margarete Hertrich, registered by Curator William Hertrich. This was, to the best of our knowledge, the first camellia registration made by a camellia society in America. The second Nomenclature book was reported in preparation, and the issue ended with "An Up-to-the-minute Editorial" dealing with the rapid increase

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in camellia varieties and the resulting confusion in varietal nomenclature. The editorial was quoted from a publication 105 years old!

Early in 1946 the Bulletin grew from four to eight pages. Through these early years President McLean edited and for the most part wrote the book, Thor Peterson working faithfully at format, proof reading and the many details of publication. On retiring from the presidency in July 1946, Dr. McLean was formally elected Editor, and Roy Bauer, Business Manager. In February 1947 Thor Peterson was elected Assistant Editor and J. C. Johnson, Advertising Manager. The first advertising appeared in the January '47 issue. The February '47 issue containing 16 pages. The largest issue was the SHOW SOUVENIR NUMBER of 32 pages, of which four were halitones.

David Cook became Editor with the issue of August 1947, retiring after that of April 1948, leaving an excellent year's work behind him. In June Claude Chidamian became the first salaried Editor.

The format was changed and the book given a cover. Mr. Chidamian served until December 1949 to be succeeded by J. R. Mayfield serving until July 1950 when the present Editor, Arthur S. Kane took over.

The November 1950 issue appeared under the name THE CAMELLIA REVIEW, in a new jacket carrying, as it has since, a beautiful color print of an outstanding camellia. The magazine, like the society sponsoring it, has become outstanding in its field. It averages 24 pages plus cover.

(to next page)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY,
c/o Secretary, 40 N. San Rafael Ave., Pasadena 2, California**

I hereby make application for membership in your society and enclose \$5.00
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APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY LETTER IF PREFERRED

AFFILIATE SOCIETIES were provided for in the revised By-laws. The first to materialize was the San Diego Camellia Society, whose charter was presented on November 10th, 1945. Since then the number has grown to six, as listed in this publication.

In addition to assistance in organization, this Society provides all affiliate members with all of its publications, extends to them the privilege of attendance at all its meetings, aids in program and when requested in other activities.

At this writing the Affiliate Society memberships total 406; memberships may be either single or dual (man and wife, etc.).

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA GARDEN

One day in the late spring of 1944 Curator William Hertrich was showing Anne Galli through the old Camellia Canyon in the Huntington Botanical Gardens, formerly the estate of Henry E. Huntington. She remarked how wonderful it would be if a varietal test garden could be established there by grafting onto the many hundreds of large seedling camellias present. Mr. Hertrich concurred heartily in the idea. Mrs. Galli presented it to the Board of Directors; Mr. Hertrich appeared at the Board meeting in July. A formal proposal of joint sponsorship of such a garden was presented in a letter from the Camellia's Society's Board to the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery. On August 8th, 1944, Curator Hertrich wrote notifying the Board of Directors that the Huntington institution's Board of Trustees had accepted the proposal of joint sponsorship.

The first committee consisted of Anne Galli, Chairman, Robert Casamajor, Secretary, and Dr. McLean. At that time there were in the Botanical Garden 75 varieties of Japonica, 1 Reticulata and 5 Sasanquas. In 1944-45 59 scions and 75 plants were donated and 41 purchased by the Garden itself. In 1946 the number of varieties had grown to 325.

The Camellia Season of 1944-45 was a period of war shortages. Somewhere, somehow, the "Test Garden" Committee's Secretary, Robert Casamajor, unearthed 60 glass jars to cover the grafts after surgery. Fifty-five scions were donated from the collection of the Committee's Chairman, Anne Galli. The writer was the third member of the committee.

So great was the shortage of manpower that Curator William Hertrich made all fifty-nine grafts with his own hands, on seedling growing on the canyon slope.

Meanwhile, the original concept of the garden as a varietal test laboratory had changed to envision a repository for all of the worthwhile varieties obtainable. Plants have been brought in from far and near. In some cases the original parent plant of the variety has been donated by its originator.

The canyon itself has been greatly improved. New paths have been cut. Presently, the paths are being widened and provided with low walls, following the opening of the first section of the garden to the public. A second section of the long canyon is, meanwhile, being partly cleared, paths cut and plantings made. The number of varieties in the garden at present is 1,000.

On Saturday, February 9th, 1952, a portion of the Camellia Garden was opened to the public. A broad arching concrete rustic stairway, with rails simulating rustic log construction, now rises from the lake to the Japanese Tea House and the Camellia Canyon. Broad gravel paths with concrete foundations, and bamboo railings where necessary, have been built throughout

AMATEUR TALKS . . . from page 7

tion, but would be through in a few minutes and then would have lunch. She invited us to have lunch with them. My, how we hated to admit that we had had lunch! Because that lunch would have allowed us to meet more experts. But we had a long drive home and the weather was terrible. She then had one of the Committee take us through the hall containing the arrangements. Then, as soon as the judges were out of the other section, we were taken through it. We had a special preview of the show, and were able to get home before dark. This is just one example among many.

We all know, or should know, when experts make talks, write articles or give advice to the amateur, they are trying to cover all angles and their latitude is broad. They don't do all the things they recommend, nor do they expect us to use them all. They speak mostly for their own protection. Suppose they didn't say, "Sterilize your tools," and your plant would develop some disease and die. You'd say, "Well, he didn't tell me — so it's all his fault." All the expert expects is for the amateur to use some common sense.

Now as to the Test Gardens. I have yet to hear anyone say it wasn't a good idea. The American Rose Society has had them for years. There have been too many inferior camellias put on the market in the last few years. Anyone who thought they had "a right pretty seedling" or mutation could have it registered and named. The market has been flooded, the catalogs full of raves and we have bought them, bloom unseen, only to find we had just another pink, red or variegated. Now we know, with test gardens in different sections of the camellia belt, attended by experts taking careful notes through the years, that we can be assured we will be safe in buying a camellia grown and approved for our particular section. Five years may seem like a long time to wait, but it is very short in the life of a camellia.

I shudder to think what this world would be without the Expert, with his years of study, research and experience. All progress would cease. I, for one, don't want to depend on amateurs.

the canyon at two levels. The brief opening ceremony was attended by almost two hundred of our society members, present by special invitation.

The preparation of the canyon has entailed a great deal of work by the Huntington staff. Tremendous oak trees growing on the slopes of the canyon were pruned and thinned to permit optimum sunlight for the plants below. The floor of the canyon was cleared of its native jungle-like mat of growth. All of this added to innumerable graftings and plantings, represents a gigantic undertaking. Our society is to be congratulated on the privilege of co-sponsoring this effort to the extent of gathering the material for the garden. To the best of our knowledge it is the first time the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Library Art Gallery and Botanic Gardens have ever conferred such an honor on another organization. Through the intervening years a group of persons designating themselves "Friends of the Huntington" have made material contributions toward the project.

This brief account of the Camellia Garden would be incomplete if we did not pay special tribute to Wm. Hertrich for his valiant efforts as Curator in getting the garden started under adverse war conditions, and to Ronald B. Townsend, the present Superintendent of the Gardens. It is fortunate indeed, that Mr. Townsend should have the background of special camellia knowledge and interest which is so important to the continued success of the project.

ALL CAMELLIA SHOWS

Since the organization meeting in 1940, an all-camellia show had been perennially in the minds of the society's planners. The risks were great; the amount of planning and work, prodigious. With considerable personal experience in flower shows, Dr. John Taylor, during his year as Vice President, studied shows and shows and camellia shows from every angle. Early in his year as president a committee of five made a survey; Dr. Taylor personally contacted commercial growers and other prospective exhibitors, obtained commitments from them. A large organization was worked out, consisting of a committee for each phase of the activity; the chairmen of these committees made up the central committee. The subcommittees met frequently for several months; the general committee met a number of times. When the time came to set up the show, a large team was "set to go." Director Taylor took charge; a large number of members put shoulder to the wheel and in short order the Fanny E. Morrison Horticultural Centre in Brookside Park was transformed into a camellia fairylund. The pictures and fame of this and succeeding shows at this marvelous setting, have spread throughout the land wherever there are camellia lovers.

Two shows were given in successive years, both eminently successful financially as well as horticulturally and artistically. The third year the show site was unobtainable; the show was not held. Two shows have since been held by the Society with the Pacific Camellia Society co-sponsoring.

INCORPORATION OF THE SOCIETY as a non-profit corporation under the laws of California seemed indicated in 1945. The membership had grown very large. The meetings were largely attended. The activities were diversified and extensive. The organization had outgrown its old By-laws, its very casual set up. The President turned to "The Interested Observer," Ebon Carl Tourje, a retired corporation attorney of wide experience and distinguished legal attainments, including admission to the bar in the Supreme Court of California. Incorporation was completed and directors elected at the close of the camellia season in 1946. The Directors for the new corporation met on July 17, new officers including Dr. Taylor as President were elected and all of the legal formalities of incorporation were completed. Elmer Peak was elected Secretary and J. Chalmers Wright, Treasurer. At the close of Mr. Peak's tenure the business of the society had so increased and the secretary's duties become so involved and time consuming that the Board decided the post should be a part time, remunerative one. Col. C. M. Gale was secured for this position, and has served since that time.

RESEARCH has always been an outstanding feature of the society's work. Commercial grower members have contributed generously of plant material; scientist members in various fields have contributed time and effort the society could never have afforded to buy. Outstanding results in camellia nutrition, factors of flowering, influence of extended light, methods of pollination, propagation and pest control have been achieved.

These researches have been reported in the society's magazine and special publications, all of which have gone without charge other than the regular dues, to all the members of both the parent and the affiliate societies. More than five thousand dollars have been spent in research and in publications bringing the results, as a service, to the members. In addition, those conducting the research have written articles on the work for other publications throughout the country.

AS I SEE IT . . . from page 2

known northern grower he says, 'Wish you could see my *Angel's Blush* and my *Paulette Goddard* this morning! They are fit to grace the avenues of Heaven.'

* * *

Thinking I would work myself up a symposium on "If you could have only one camellia, which one would it be?" I asked the question of five of my favorite camellia growers. Being the low-brow type that I am, I think *Pink Perfection* is simple double-George. Well, I asked the question. I got five different answers, and not one of them liked *Pink Perfection*. No symposium. Sorry.

* * *

If you are wanting a copy of *Melody Lane*, "Doc" Miller's Margarete Hertrich award winner—the first one in history—at the last SCCS Show, you had better do something about it. Understand that "Doc" has about 300 plants to be released at the proper time, and that they are pretty well spoken for in advance.

* * *

This has nothing to do with camellias. (But then—lots of stuff I write in this pillar of wisdom has such a tenuous connection with camellias that the allusion is barely perceptible). I want to get in a short plug for my own new, little pocket-size magazine *SENIOR*. It will be on the newsstands July 9th, with a September date. It's called "the magazine for senior American citizens," and that's just exactly to whom it is directed. Watch for it, and buy a copy. I think you'll get a kick out of it. 25c.

* * *

All through the month I make notes for myself on small slips of paper about things I run across which would make interesting read-

(Turn to Page 22)

Bamico Says...

For the very best in Camellias shop at Bamico, your one stop Garden Center.

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Pasadena 8

CZAR CAMELLIA . . . from page 4

for two shillings and planted at Salisbury St Mont Albert where its remains still exist.

Breslin's tree was at this time near ten foot high and although trees are much larger in retrospect than in reality, there is a clear recollection of its reaching to near the window tops and still growing strong after pruning for scions.

A statement made to account for its temporary disappearance is that it was cut down and has grown again. Examination of the tree does not bear this out but, and this is important in our hypothesis, there is a scar low down where a large branch has perished.

What then is the explanation of all these factors which can be recapitulated thus:

A magnificent camellia is discovered just when semi-doubles were beginning to be asked for.

The owner of this camellia was a lay-out gardener but the camellia does not appear in any of his gardens nor in any other gardens of that time.

No one remembers it in its early stages.

It is unlikely that a grower of the old school would plant a semi-double camellia in his own garden.

There is an old lateral scar near the base of the tree.

It has been suggested that it may have been treasured for breeding but there are grounds for belief that Breslin was not a propagator and certainly was not a breeder. In any case it is unlikely that the *Czar* would have been chosen as a parent because in those days Darwinianism held undisputed sway and no knowledgeable gardener would have bred from anything which was a "throw-back to the wild form."

The explanation now offered is that the *Czar* is a seedling which was used as an understock for some more desirable scion and when the latter died or was cut down the understock grew in its full vigour, in other words, a graft understock survival.

Camellias were mostly propagated by grafting and the only use which nurserymen had for such things as singles and semi-doubles, which naturally were seedlings, was to use them as understocks.

That is why quite a lot of attractive camellias are appearing on trees planted in the 80's and 90's some of which like *Beatrice Burns* are real winners.

So much for the mystery. But if this explanation be not accepted, and none of the others are satisfactory, then the *Czar* remains one of those first class camellias which recently are coming to light for the first time. Some are imported unflowered seedlings like *Ardoch*, some are undoubted understock survivals and some are like *Topsy* who simply grew.

NEWS ITEM: The Kunming *reticulata* which the British call SPINEL PINK has been given the Award of Merit by Royal Horticultural Society. It thus becomes the first of the new series to be so honored.

WAKE FOREST . . . from page 6

more than minor leaf damage. The following varieties produced some excellent blooms after the severe freezes: Amabilis, Aunt Jetty, Donckelarii, Flame Kumasaka, Lady Clare, Leucantha, Magnoliaeflora, Orton Pink, Pink Perfection, Rosea Superba, Tricolor, Victor Emmanuel, Ville de Nantes. There were many other varieties that produced satisfactory blooms. Many blooms were smaller than usual and many showed interior damage on close inspection, but many in the above-named varieties were of show quality. Varieties that ordinarily do well here but proved disappointing in the 1950-51 season includes: Akebono, C. M. Hovey, Elegans, Herme, Latifolia, Monarch, Mathotiana, Prince Eugene, Napoleon, Prof. C. S. Sargent, and Sarah Frost.

We have learned that a decided addition to camellia enjoyment can be had with a small, cold greenhouse. It may be quite simple and inexpensive. I have built a 6 x 14-foot lean-to type house with some help from a carpenter. It is situated on the south side of the house in a small offset. It is made largely of second hand material. Its base is composed of switch-ties laid one on top of another; its frame is of 2 x 4-inch material; and its sides and top are secondhand window sash. The sash are hinged in place and can be opened at will. The house is heated by a small electric heater with a circulating fan attached. The temperature is controlled by an electric air switch that can be easily adjusted to the desired temperatures. One advantage of this simple type of structure is that the sash can be easily and quickly removed and replaced by lath panels after the danger of a freeze is passed. It is a great pleasure to see the blooms of Alba Plena, Debutante, Elegans, etc., laughing through the glass at the snow and frost outside, while the temperature inside is standing safely at 45 degrees Fahrenheit. In even so small a greenhouse as this, there is ample room for several large plants, either in tubs or in a bed, many small plants in beds or pots, and a bench for cuttings, seedlings, etc. The money outlay on this structure was less than one hundred dollars.

There is obviously much more for us to learn, but of two things we are sure. (1) Growing camellias is lots of fun, and (2) through them we have gotten to know many fine people.

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in the
garden



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5 gal. own root or graft \$25.00

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AS I SEE IT . . . from page 19

ing for As I See It. And then when I sit down to write the column at the appointed time, I never can find any of the slips. I had a dandy about earthworms in relation to the cultivation of camellia plants—making the flowers twice as big as ever before—that I got from Dr. Tom Barrett. But the note seems to be gone with the breeze.

If there has been one big trouble with the C. R. during the past season, it has been that not enough names have appeared in it. Not enough acknowledgments of favors by nice people to the various societies, thanks for help at Shows, plant donations for raffles at meetings, and other things. And we here and now make most humble apologies to anyone and everyone whom we have neglected in that way. If any feelings have been hurt, we are sincerely sorry for our sins of omission. (As to the sins of commission, that's another story.) Some—repeat, some—publicity chairmen of affiliates have been wonderfully cooperative in keeping your ed. informed, so that credit could be given where due; but there have been some others—but we won't go into that.

Please, you publicists, try to get the stuff to us before it is mildewed in future, will you?

* * *

Well, my little chickadees, this is Kane's last bow. From here on out there'll be a new boy at the helm of Camellia Review. Who he will be, I am not at liberty to say as yet.

It's been fun—real grand fun.

And if "As I See It" has given you a chuckle or two, that's what it was created for, so it will have served its purpose.

So now I'll stow away my jester's costume and say to all of you, Adios, Amigos.

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Volume 13, October, 1951 - July, 1952

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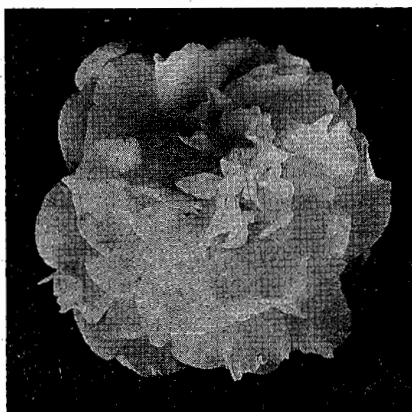
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