

HE

Camellia Review



WILD CAMELLIA JAPONICA

Painting by Yukihiro Yasuda

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, No-
vember to April, inclusive, at the Jefferson School Auditorium, 1500 block, East
Villa Street in Pasadena. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly
precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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

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Secretary: J. M. Hartke, 874 Paige Drive, Pomona	
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Meeting Place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City	
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Date of meeting: 1st Monday of each month	
Camellia Society of Orange County.....	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Community Center, West 8th Street, Santa Ana.	
Secretary: Hafold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange	
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month	

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By LEONARD F. MURNANE

What happens when a plant is "shocked silly" by application of colchicin?

How do X-rays affect camellias?

What can you and should you do about the soil in which your camellias are rooted?

Answers to these and hundreds of other questions of concern to every camellia grower will be found in forthcoming issues of the Review which will feature articles on these timely subjects.

The Review is fortunate in that it now has a record number of commitments for articles on a vast variety of subjects.

More Needed

But more articles still are wanted, whether they be the detailed experiences of a newcomer to the ranks of the camellia growers, or the authoritative findings of an acknowledged expert.

We've heard recently, for instance, of a very successful grower and exhibitor who violates our accepted concepts of how camellias should be watered—and he is winning ribbons in bunches. Another fancier, we are told, has experimented with what we consider drastic fertilizer procedures with surprising results.

We've heard of a nurseryman who performs miracles with espaliers, and of another who specializes in hang-

OUR COVER

The exquisite painting of the Wild Camellia Japonica on our cover was supplied by Ralph Peer who borrowed the plates from Japan. The original painting by Yukihiro Yasuda appeared on the cover of a musical publication there.

ing basket arrangements. Amazing results are being achieved, we are told, with use of the new soil conditioners, such as Krilium.

What's The Answer?

And when it comes to using hormone compounds on camellias!

Well, how's about it, readers? We have been unable thus far to produce any future articles on these related subjects, and we need your help.

Do YOU know of anyone doing any of these things? If you do, then please do a favor not only for the Review, but for camellia growers everywhere, and drop us a postcard telling us where we can contact the individual.

Notes Will Do

Or if you would be good enough to write it yourself, so much the better. If you are a writer, fine. If not, then jot it down just as if you were talking to us over your own back fence. Don't worry about the fancy trimmings. Or you might prefer to send along a series of notes of your findings. We'll be very happy to receive them, and will be glad to help put them together into an article for publication.

If you, and you, and you will help just a little bit, then all of us will enjoy a better, fuller, more comprehensive storehouse of camellia information.

And come to think of it, how about giving us a phone call right now about that swell idea you have for a Review article. Call us anytime collect, of course, at DOuglas 7-7668. We're located in Arcadia, at 283 Foss Avenue, and we'll take your information over the phone and do the writing, if you prefer.

And by the way—your Review editor is fast becoming a full-fledged camellia "addict."

I began attending society meetings, visiting nurseries, chatting with ex-

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YEARS AGO "hep-cats" in Germany hummed the latest song hit, Camellien-Galopp." Original sheet music here illustrated came from F. P. Calhoun, Atlanta, Georgia, who passed it along to music publisher Ralph Peer of Hollywood.

MY FIRST FOUR YEARS

By "CHIC" MASON

Four years ago I discovered that camellia was a flower, and not just a girl's name!

My wife's uncle Steve made us a present of some very lovely camellias when we moved into our new home. They did not make a very favorable impression on me. Having just recently been released from duty with the armed forces, my thoughts about flowers were that they were for weddings, funerals, and corsages to give my pretty wife. Of course, I did not let on to her, and Uncle Steve, who I thought it was more than fair to give anyone camellia plants, such small ones at that! (I had never priced a really good camellia and knew nothing of size, variety, or price.)

This attitude continued until Uncle Steve's *High Hat* bloomed!

If you have ever had the experience of being given a very potent drink and remember your reaction when it hit bottom, you will understand my feelings now. I simply went nuts! Rushing over to Uncle Steve's, I must have driven this busy man nearly to distraction with my questions.

I would like to state here and now, that without his help, unlimited patience, and a bottomless fund of information about camellias, I would not now be enjoying such success as I have.

You may have read the article about him in the January issue of *Sunset* magazine. He is Mr. A. H. Stephens of 9915 Camino Real Drive, in West Arcadia. This very busy man took time out from his nursery to answer all my foolish questions. I am

(Continued on Page 18)

JAPANESE LEGEND

By ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

The following letter is reproduced exactly as received by Elizabeth Councilman of Councilman Camellia Acres, El Monte. The letter from The Acclimitization Garden, Tonosho-kyoku, Kagawa-ken, Japan, will appear in a forthcoming book by Mrs. Councilman, and for that reason she asks that the item bear the notation:

Not to be reproduced without consent of Mrs. Councilman

It is a pleasure to write "something" to be included in your charming book, as a native of the Camellia's home land.

Your "a 21 verse poem" which I have not yet read reminds me of the days when I had visited the northernmost habitat of Camellia Japonica where a legend tells us a beautiful story about the origin of the Camellia groves.

Leaving a train at Kominato, the northernmost station of the main lines at Honshu, I took a bus, full of passengers whose tongues make me feel that I came to a distant land as every work was uncomprehensible, which runs north along the coast of the cape. Five or so minutes later after the bus turned the head of the cape we had reached to Tazawa, a hamlet situated in a little north of lat. 41 degrees N or somewhat same latitude with New York City. Every passenger still chattering uncomprehensive

words to me gathered around me and asked me with the clear Japanese language what for you came to such a barren and cold place. They were Korean fishers immigrated.

When Japanese government move to preserve and preserved, the Camellia groves wear extended to some 5 acres and some 42 acres are preserved as a botanical natural monument. To my astonishment, when I had visited in 1949 the Camellia groves were in very miserable condition, only finding here and there Camellia trees which are continuous sources of fuels to the Korean fishers—a lawless vandalism.

To turn to the pleasanter story, I tell you a legend concerning to the origin of those Camellias which are struggling against the forces of nature, not only streaming dramatically in the severe wind and having the showers of sea sprays, the snow storms are continued and throughout the winter and the snow covers the ground heavily, some feet in height often 5 feet or more, they told me. Why, in such a cold place the Camellia grows? Then the legend. Once upon a time—that's a long time ago to begin with, but the fixed days are unknown—a merchant named Kabe from Echizen, middle-west Japan used to voyaged here and fell in love with a native girl. On his return voyage to Echizen, the girl asked him to bring her the Camellia oil—when he came back, but when he brought her the Camellia oil to beautify her hair she was dead. He overcame with sorrow and in her memory, he had planted 2 or 3 Camellia trees around her tomb; hence the Camellia grove. Another legend tells us that he had broadcasted and sown camellia seed brought back, all over the mountain where her tomb is stand.

Yours sincerely,

Kan Yashiroda

The owner-superintendent

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5¢ per seed

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A NEW SOIL IS BORN

By VINCENT VERNACI, *Temple City*

Most of you have heard about—and many of you use—"Vincent's Camellia Soil Planting Mixture."

My ads state that it is "a proven formula for use in planting camellias and other acid-loving plants."

And here is the story behind the story—the history of the development and refinement of a new potting mixture.

A New Soil

It has been my contention for the past ten years that the general public needed and wanted a fool-proof potting mixture not only for camellias, but for any acid-loving plant. Any nurseryman can tell you that we are asked every day, by our customers, to sell them some of our planting mix. In the San Gabriel Valley we have every type of soil from pure adobe to pure sand. With this in mind I have been experimenting for the last five years. The perfect product would have to hold moisture, but give perfect drainage.

Tried Many Mixes

I must have tried at least a thousand different combinations. Some had merit but most were no good.

I was busy during the day, at my nursery, so most of my experiments were done at night. In this labor of love I had the active support of my children. All three of them. My good wife, Margaret, after six months of nagging me only at supper time, decided that the children should go back to the nursery and help me. That could cause me to quit experimenting at a decent hour.

Children "Helped"

You fathers know how much help my children were. When they weren't playing cops and robbers around the yard, they were into the boxes,

bales, sacks, scales, peat moss or sponge rock. My good wife, Margaret, couldn't understand my complete loss of temper when they removed the labels from about twenty experiments one evening. I had a very hard time explaining to her why I made a sign reading, "For Sale, three children to the lowest bidder."

About two years ago, after all these trials and tribulations, I finally found a mixture that was completely fool proof. I planted blocks of my camellias and other acid-loving plants in the new mixture. Their growth and the deep green color of their foliage was amazing. After a year I compared the root growth of a camellia planted in the mixture I had been using for years. My new brain-child promoted almost twice the number of new roots. Good, healthy, fiber roots.

Water Bill Lower

These past two summers my water bills, at the nursery, have been reduced. The sponge rock and the propagating sand in the mixture holds the moisture so well I don't have to water the plants as often. Yet the drainage is perfect.

Quite a few large growers of acid-loving plants have tried this mixture. They are all having the same excellent results.

I thought you might like to read a behind the scenes report. Plenty of failures are behind me but I just kept trying and finally succeeded.

SANTA ANA DATE SET

The second annual Orange County Camellia Show will take place Sunday, March 1, at Santa Ana Community Club House, 1104 West Eighth Street, Santa Ana.

Show hours will be from 11 to 7.

Harvey F. Short's

"Camellias of Tomorrow"

Ask to see bloom—January & February

"MASTERPIECE"

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1st year grafts—
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"SCENTED TREASURE"

(Perfumed Flower)

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352 EAST GLENARM STREET - PASADENA 5 CALIF

Camellia MAIL BAG

OREGON FAVORITES

I am an amateur, a collector of unusual camellia varieties, and I have nothing to sell, although there is a collection of over 300 kinds in my plantings, including many that are over 18 years old, and many considered rare.

There is a very fine camellia society here at Salem (Oregon) of over 100 members, and I have been president and also program chairman of this group.

I wish to list 10 camellia varieties that include not only my personal selections, but also it should be noted that the first eight have been selected as the "Camellia of the Year" in our society. The others I added myself and here they are—my personal selections:

Kumasaka, Finlandia (all forms), *Ville de Nantes, Grandiflora Rosea, Mikenjaku* (Nagasaki), *Adolphe Audusson, Mathotiana* (all forms and colors), *Donckelari, Chandleri Elegans*, and *Herme*.

Hoping this will be of some benefit to your readers, from your northern friend,

Walter A. Barkus
Salem, Oregon

ZITA MARKS WRITES:

Dear Dr. Shirley of Hollywood—

Man alive, didn't you know when you wrote that letter to the editor that the world is peopled with camellia crazy enthusiasts? You say you want to swap some scions from your beautiful *Pearl Maxwell*? Ye Gods, Doc, don't ever say those words out loud again. The swapping of scions is all done very hush, hush. Under cover stuff, Doc,—beneath the table.

Man—your tallest camellia tree and for heaven's sake, put your *Pearl*

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JUST A SMALL HOBBY

By MILDRED W. McKEAGUE

Growing camellias is my hobby, which I indulge in a very small way. As a hobby it satisfies me and keeps me out of doors in the sunshine, which in turn keeps me from too much housework, which I abominate. And my membership in the Temple City Camellia Society has given me an opportunity to meet a lot of interesting and nice people, many of whom are expert growers. I have found that the really big people in the camellia world are interested and attentive when a neophyte like myself relates some of his experiences. They respond graciously to frequent, and I am afraid oft times foolish questions. Many a seed of wisdom they have dropped has found fertile ground in my mind and I have profited therefrom. I have noticed that people who grow camellias, and particularly amateurs, love to swap experiences, and we do have some amazing ones.

Humble Beginning

My hobby had its beginning in a nursery in San Gabriel. Up to a half dozen years ago I knew nothing at all about camellias except that they were beautiful and, so I believed, required about the same meticulous care one could give a "Premie" baby. One day while wandering through a camellia nursery I stumbled on five

or six cans of sickly and inert looking plants which had apparently been tossed aside. Upon questioning the nurseryman about them he remarked: "Oh, they're no account—sick—can't bother with them so will throw them out."

To make a long story short, I salvaged them, much to the nurseryman's amazement. I asked him how I might possibly save them and, more to get rid of me than anything else I guess, he told me to put them in straight peat and feed them liquid fertilizer—that they couldn't do anything worse than die anyway.

Washed Roots

While I did not follow his instructions to the letter, I did remove the ailing plants from the old cans and carefully washed every bit of dirt from the roots, which I trimmed and straightened out as best I could. I then replanted them in new cans in a mixture of peat, which I laboriously ground up in my household food grinder to a fine consistency, and some oak leaf mold and soil which I had dug up in an oak grove several years before. (May I add here that I am always bringing home soil, sand, leaf mold and what-not from our summer vacation trips and sometimes it does come in handy.)

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ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF OUR
NEW EXQUISITE LIGHT PINK
SPORT OF THE HERME FAMILY

SPRING SONNET

(Winner of Frank Williams Cup, 1951)

McCASKILL GARDENS

25 SOUTH MICHILLINDA AVE.

EAST PASADENA

To The Ladies!

By ADELE ARNOLD CLAIRMONT

Although most camellia enthusiasts that I know look upon *Pink Perfection* as a plant to be used for understock, there must be many people like myself who think the formal pink flower is exquisite, and want to know what to do to make the plant hold its buds and bloom.

For years I worked with *Pink Perfection* and did exactly as I was told, but had no success raising flowers; so decided never to own another. However, a friend brought a small plant to me years ago and I planted it outside a window where much of my morning work is done. Forgetting past experiences, I visualized it covered with flowers and eventually growing up to the second story window to be enjoyed from one of the bedrooms.

Growth Remarkable

After planting my *Pink Perfection* in the ground, and fortunately on the east side of the house, I bought a vine of the grape family, planted it and trained it to shade my camellia. The vine grew out of all bounds, but in seven years my camellia grew to a height of two and a half feet, produced many buds only to have them fall. And the foliage was an olive green. How persistent nature is! A plant will struggle to keep alive for years when every thing we do for it is wrong.

Then I heard Mr. Jonson of the Destruxol Co. give a talk at a meeting of one of the garden clubs, and after he had finished he asked if there were any questions. A woman beside me asked if there was any thing one could do to make *Pink Perfection* hold its buds and bloom. Mr. Jonson said, "Of course there is. Give *Pink*

Perfection plenty of sun, preferably morning sun! three times as much water as any other camellia and fertilize often."

That night when I reached home I put a hose to drip at the base of my plant.

The following day I removed the vine and a few days later I used liquid fertilizer.

For fertilizing the *Pink Perfection* I use "Likwid-Gro"—about two tablespoons to two gallons of water. More than that will burn the tips of the leaves.

Within two weeks the foliage turned a lovely dark green and new growth began to appear. When many flowers bloomed the following January and February I was beside myself with joy.

Treatment Advised

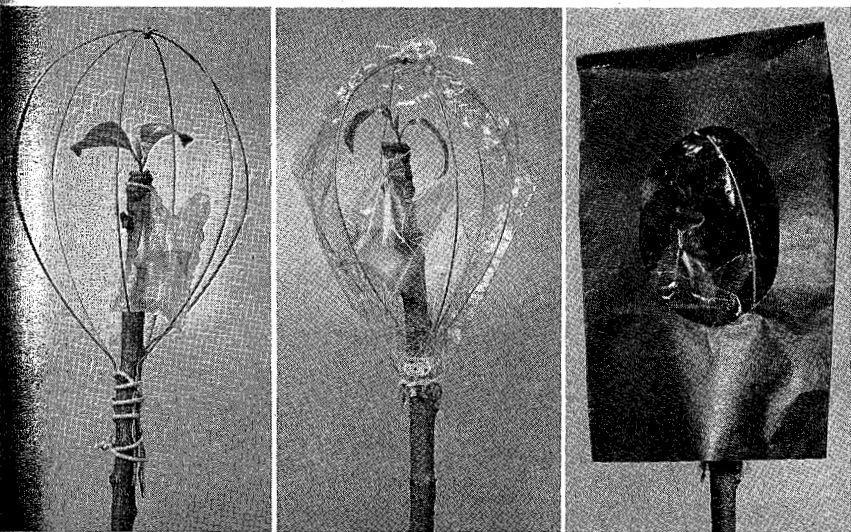
My *Pink Perfection* is now seven feet high and well on its way to the second story. Religiously I fertilize it on the first of each month, and each year when the flowers bloom I proudly display it as if it were the first time it bloomed.

Perhaps *Pink Shell*, which is often mentioned by one of our speakers, needs the same drastic treatment. It is the nature of every tree, plant and shrub to produce abundantly but we must know the proper environment to give it, then perhaps we will get results as I did from *Pink Perfection*.

PACIFIC SHOW SLATED

The annual camellia show of the Pacific Camellia Society will take place February 28 and March 1 at the recreation hall of the YWCA in Glendale, 735 East Lexington Drive.

The show will feature a competition among the society's leading growers, and Lon Story Jr. will serve as chairman.



IN-THE-AIR grafts become simple, economical procedure with help of method perfected by Dr. Ray Young of Arcadia. After graft is made, it is covered by wire cage, over which goes transparent covering. A plastic container of water suspended inside the bag insures adequate moisture until scion starts to grow.

NEW CAMELLIAS FROM OLD ONES

By MARK ANTHONY

Do you have camellia plants in your garden that you would prefer to see changed into other varieties without your having to cut the plant all the way down to the ground?

A new system of grafting perfected during the past two years by Dr. Ray Young of Arcadia will solve your problem simply, neatly, economically and quickly.

Dr. Young's method of grafting, as demonstrated before the January meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society, makes it possible for you to place a variety (if you wish) of high grafts on a single plant without harming the parent plant.

Use Wedge Graft

The procedure for using this type of high graft calls for cutting off any limb $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch or more in diameter and with a wedge graft tying on the union as would normally be done in usual methods of grafting.

Then, to keep the graft moist, Dr. Young's system calls for enclosing the new graft in a light, air-tight transparent bag inside of which is contained a smaller container of water. The transparent bag is held in shape by looped wires (see illustration) and the entire apparatus is so light that supporting stakes are not required.

Because the large transparent bag forms an air-tight container around the graft, water inside the bag maintains a constant humidity helpful to development of the graft.

If the graft is in the shade, no further step is necessary. But where there is a chance that the sun might be too hot for the graft, then Dr. Young's system calls for use of a green waxed weather-proof bag to be slipped over the transparent bag. This green bag has a small transparent "window" which is turned to

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**Southern California
Camellia Society's
ANNUAL**

Camellia Show

one day only

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

JEFFERSON AUDITORIUM

**1700 E. Villa. Corner of Santa Bonita, one block east of Hill,
in Pasadena**

All camellia growers are invited to enter exhibits whether or
not they are members of the society

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chairman Dan Sullivan at RYan 1-8310

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SYcamore 4-3383

THOUGHTS WHILE WALKING IN MY GARDEN

By ROSE MARIE DEKKER

The view from the bay window in our dining room is, to me, "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." It is our camellia garden.

We have a fortunate location. A lovely oak tree-covered hill rises at the end of our property. Over the years we have planted our camellias, azaleas, begonias, ferns and other ground cover under these oaks. After 12 years of growing camellias we are more enthusiastic about them than ever.

I walk out among them and work over them as often as I can. I catch sight of a spot of pink here or a white light there and I must see at once which one is coming into bloom.

As I start my tour at the west end, I pass the soft pink variegated sasanqua, *Shoma-no-Sakae*, still in bloom. It has been flowering profusely since October, and a lovely picture it has from the window.

The next one in bloom is lovely *High Hat*. We have two of these—both grafted at the same time. The one in the ground is grafted onto *Perfection* and is a much better bush than the one in the pot although the flowers themselves are no better.

Coletti Charms

In the same location is a beautiful *Coletti* with its lovely dark green foliage. It is one of the first plants I purchased from McCaskills. It has been a steady bloomer all these years. It has *Debutante*, its next-door neighbor. For several years nurserymen took cuttings from our *Debutante* which kept it nicely trimmed. I trim it each year, to shape it, when it finishes blooming. I also cut it severely, our *Te Deum* and *Archioness of Exeter*. I do not like branches drooping and trailing on the ground.

We really trim all our plants after the blooming period, cutting off the tops of some to encourage new side shoots, or cutting back some of the branches to make the plant bushier. Of course, one must be careful with the small plants.

Old Flower Popular

One of the most satisfactory specimen in our garden is the common old *Fanny Bolis*. In season this is a mass of huge red and white blossoms which strongly resemble *Gigantea* and make a very beautiful spectacle. The *Gigantea* is in bloom right now. Its blooms range from almost pure red to very nearly all white.

Right in the center of the picture is the lovely *Lallarook* in full bloom. And it will keep right on blooming until the end of the season. To me, considering everything, *Lallarook* is No. 1 on my list.

As I look up the hill I can see the radiance of *Red Daikagura* glow from behind the beauty of *Rose Glory* variegated. A little to the right beams a headlight of white—the *White Daikagura*. Below me the *Hermes* (pink and Jordan's Pride) are showing a few flowers.

At the top of the hill *Nobilissima* is a mass of white as is *September*.

(Continued on Page 14)

UNDERSTOCK

Seedlings
Sarah Frost
3-5 years old

ANDRES SURINA

4808 KESTER AVE.
SHERMAN OAKS
ST. 4-3953

SMALL HOBBY */from page 7*

My patients were fed a weak solution of liquid fertilizer now and then, carefully sheltered each night, greeted with a smile in the morning, sunned, coaxed and fussed over generally like sick children.

Three of the original five plants survived the ordeal, although they did not display any great enthusiasm for a year. However they have paid increasing dividends each year since. And while they are not the more exotic varieties sought after today, they are still tops with me: *Pink Perfection*, *Ella Drayton* and *Panache*, once about to give up the ghost but which now bloom profusely. Oh yes! *P.P.* does drop some of its buds annually, but there are always plenty left to make a lovely showing.

Sick Plants Get Care

Of course no grower of any size has the time or inclination to putter

around with sick plants. However, am only a small back-yard amateur with some 50/60 plants in my collection, all good standard varieties, with a few unusual ones I have picked up here and there.

I still have a sickly plant given me now and then and if it's illness is not contagious I do my best to rehabilitate it. I probably will never graduate beyond the back-yard amateur status but I feel I have received a great deal of benefit, both physically and spiritually, from my camellias.

I am happy with my small hobby. It has brought me in contact with a lot of grand people I would not have met otherwise and I have been rewarded with several cherished friendships. I can share my flowers with my friends who do not grow them. And my camellias are happy too, they tell me so with gorgeous blooms. What more can an amateur ask? What hobby could possibly pay greater dividends?

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NEW YEARBOOK ARRIVES

The North Carolina Camellia Society's yearbook arrived recently, and it is a storehouse of interesting, helpful information, sandwiched between mouth-watering color illustrations.

The book is packed with worthwhile and attractively presented material, including a Question and Answer section, an article on "Do's and Don'ts," discussions of camellia diseases, and numerous other articles.

Copies may be obtained for \$5 by writing to J. Allen Easley, 409 College St., Wake Forest, North Carolina.

JAMES CATALOG HELPFUL

The James Rare Plant Nursery catalog arrived this week, and it is a treasure house of helpful information for growers. The catalog is packed with camellia illustrations, including color photos of *C. M. Wilson*, Governor Earl Warren, *Blood of China*, and *Joshua Youtz*.

The James catalog gives tips on the growing of camellias, lists new varieties, and contains a veritable encyclopedia of camellia names and descriptions.

Copies may be obtained by writing to the nursery at 605 South San Jose Los Gatos Road, Campbell, Calif.

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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(please print or type) (Husband and wife combined same rate)

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Sponsor
(signature)

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY LETTER IF PREFERRED

THOUGHTS from page 11

Morn. The *Elegans* (the dark pink and Nuccio's light pink one) adds lovely color to the display. On the left *Bleichroeder* and *Marguerite Gouillon* show up beautifully against the lush green background of moss, ferns and foliage. A little below me is one of the loveliest flowers in existence—*Ruby Glow* as I prefer to call it, rather than *Vedrine*. Ours is a dark red and larger flower than most, probably because it gets very little sun.

I see that *Oleifera* is still giving us magnificent five-inch white blossoms edged with pink, and our small container-grown *White Empress* has outdone itself this year as have *Pink Shell* and the velvet petalled *Pink Ball*.

Ideal Location

These are most of the varieties of camellias in bloom at present on our lovely hillside. We really have an ideal location for camellias and azaleas, too. We have a great many azaleas which, after proper planting, require little care other than watering.

A few years ago we over-fertilized the camellias with rather disastrous results. Since then we let nature do it for us. We do not remove the fallen oak leaves, but allow them to rot and provide what the plants need. We do put a layer of peat over the roots of the azaleas each year after blooming season.

About ten years ago in an effort to expand our crowded oak-shaded garden, we purchased some fine plants from Mark Anthony, Vern McCaskill and Les Marshall, and carefully planted them out beyond the oak trees in a location where they would get summer sun about two-thirds of the day.

Then Came Trouble

We planted them during the winter months, in a good soil mixture and later covered their roots with oak leaves and peat. The summer sun came. We had no leaf burn and the plants grew like weeds—for about three years—then we noticed that a few of them looked sort of battered and, later, as though about to die. We dug them up—a few each winter—and planted them up on the hill. It took about two years for those plants to recover, but now they too contribute to the beauty of the hillside.

Of the original plants put in the sunny location, only *Glen 40*, *General Douglas MacArthur*, and *Ville de Nantes* remain. I think they can take it!

People ask how many varieties we have. A few years ago I started to count them and got well over the 500 mark before I said to myself, "What difference does it make?" To us they all are beautiful. To us it is a continuing joy and pleasure to watch the opening of each new bud, whether it be a well-known familiar friend or a brand new variety.

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EDITOR'S CORNER *from page 2*

experienced growers, and bingo—I became a camellia grower.

With the addition of two newcomers from the spacious grounds of Elizabeth Councilman's Camellia Acres in El Monte, I now have seven beauties and a brand new interest in horticulture.

Next Choice Made

On my "wanted" list is a *White Empress* and I probably shall go on for years hoping that I might produce just one flower as lovely as was the *White Empress* bloom displayed by Dan Sullivan at the last meeting of the Southern California society.

Dan calls the flower "rabbit ears" because of the peculiar profile of the plant which suggests a pair of ears protruding from the bloom itself. To my inexperienced eye it looked like a white orchid—a delicate, intricate, indescribably beautiful thing.

NEW CAMELLIAS *from page 9*

the north to admit plenty of light, but no direct sun.

Color Blends

The green bag blends nicely with the camellia foliage, and so does not distract from the natural beauty of the garden.

Handy, inexpensive kits for performing the high grafts will be available soon at leading nurseries and garden supply stores. The kits will be assembled and packaged under Dr. Young's direction to provide everything needed for a successful graft, including detailed instructions and illustrations showing how to make the graft itself.

An interesting possibility apparent in Dr. Young's system is that it would simplify a multiple graft in which various camellia varieties could be grafted simultaneously onto the same branch or plant.

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NOTES, NOTICES and NEWS

TEMPLE CITY RECORD SEEN

All previous records for Temple City camellia show participation and attendance will fall this year when doors open at 12 noon on Saturday, February 14, for the biggest two-day event in the society's history, according to present indications.

Early interest by exhibitors, suggesting that last year's mark of more than 1000 blooms would be left far behind, sparked preparations for an all-out event. And committee planning made provision for an increase in attendance which last year topped the 3000 mark and this year was expected to go considerably higher.

The show will take place again this year at the Masonic Temple at 5918 Cloverly, just off Las Tunas in downtown Temple City.

Show hours will be from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, February 14, and from 10 to 10 on Sunday, February 15.

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COMPETITION WELCOMED

The sixth annual San Diego Camellia Show will lure hundreds of Southlanders to Recital Hall in beautiful Balboa Park on February 21 and 22.

Extensive camellia plantings in the park are expected to be in bloom during the show.

There will be judging for awards offered by both the Southern California Camellia Society and by the American Camellia Society, and competition will be welcomed from areas outside San Diego.

Miniature camellias have been added to the competitive classes this year.

ANNUAL EVENT IN MARCH

The 29th annual Sacramento Camellia Show will take place March 7 and 8 in Memorial Auditorium, 16th & J Street.

Anyone in California may enter plants, and schedules will be mailed upon request by president Dr. John D. Lawson, 2920 Capitol Ave., Sacramento.

Show visiting hours will be 3 to 10 on March 7 and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, March 8.

OREGON PLANS SHOW

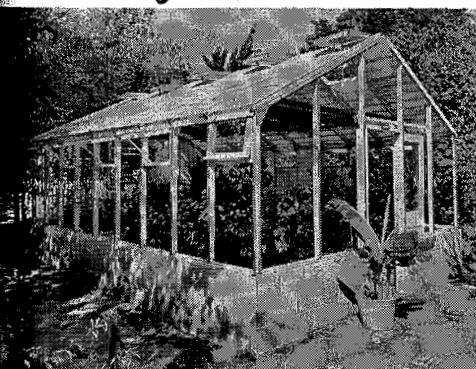
The Oregon Camellia Society will conduct its 1953 show at the Meier & Frank store in Portland, March 27-28. Plans call for streamlining the show to stress quality, rather than quantity.

POMONA VALLEY

The sixth annual Camellia Show of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society is to be held on February 22 and 23, at the First National Bank Building, 2nd and Main Streets, Pomona.

Show hours will be from 2 to 9 on Sunday and from 10 to 9 on Monday.

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MY FIRST FOUR YEARS *from page 3*

most grateful to him. He opened a whole new field of beauty for me.

Scope Very Limited

As is usual with the male novice, unless the camellia blossom was a perfect formal double, I couldn't see any beauty in it. The sole exception being my *High Hat*.

To me, any blossoms showing stamens resembled a rose that had been left on the bush too long. My first look at a *Chandleri Elegans* changed my mind completely. To this day, four years later, my thought is, that the *Chandleri* family is undoubtedly one of the finest camellias.

I also had to be lured away from the idea that a camellia must have color. I felt there was definitely something lacking in a white camellia until

I saw a *White Daik*, or *Joshua Youtz*, at Nuccio's Nursery. It measured six and one-half inches across. I'm sure you will agree with me, that one of the *Daik* family should be in every collection.

Stages Never Vary

It seems that everyone that is smitten with the camellia craze goes through the same stages. It has taken me four years to finally slow down to a brisk canter, instead of going at a full gallop. Having discovered that one would need an estate of a few hundred acres, in order to have one of every variety in their collection, I also found that my 12 x 24 lath house is very inadequate.

I have to thank all my friends too, for their gifts. It should have been embarrassing to me to always be coming home with a plant from my friends' homes. It wasn't though. My desire to have the lovely camellia plants for my own, and to enjoy their blooms, overshadowed any feeling of embarrassment I might have had.

It wasn't until I was greeted by one of my friends, in a joking way of course, with the remark, "Well, what do you want to chisel now?" that it finally soaked in what a pest I had been.

Gratitude is Lasting

I have some of the very finest varieties there are to be had in my garden now, and although the people who gave them to me may not know it, I never look at my camellia plants but what I think of them, and remember their generosity. I know that I can never repay them in kind, so I try to pass on to others some of my plants so that they may enjoy them too.

It wasn't long before I found out



DOROTHY DIGS

in the
garden

Fortunately we don't have much Camellia Petal Blight (causing breakdown of petal structure) in California. But if you have noticed any signs of this disease on your blooms, then add 2 tablespoons of BLIGHTROL A to each gallon of diluted SUPER DESTRUXOL when you spray them.

For mulch I believe in plenty of good barnyard manure and leaf mold or compost . . . to which you can add a little fish meal and cotton seed meal with very excellent results.



Dorothy Johnson
DESTRUXOL CORPORATION, LTD
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that a camellia could become much more than just a plant. The pleasure you get out of taking care of them, and watching them grow and blossom is a great deal more than just gardening.

An elderly gardner made a remark that seems to sum up the camellia plant to a "T." He said, "The camellia is the aristocrat of all plant life."

To me, that is very true. I haven't the room nor the location for the proper landscaping effects, to show my plants off to their best advantage, but anyone who has ever visited the Huntington Camellia Gardens will have to admit that in their proper setting, they are truly regal.

Human Element Involved

It is true that there are as many things wrong in the camellia fancier's world as there are human beings in it. Whenever the human element is involved in anything, there will always be differences of opinion and varied ways of accomplishing the same aims.

But with it all there is nothing that can dim the thrill of going out to your lath house or garden, after a hard day's work, and finding a lovely bloom on your favorite camellia.

At our last meeting there was a lot of talk about the coming camellia show. I remembered an article that was in the *Camellia Review*—"The Ribbon Hungry Amateur." The statements in that article were quite true. I know of some people who are so interested in winning a ribbon that their interest in the flowers, as a thing of beauty, fades into the background.

No Disbudding

For myself, I cannot bring myself to disbud or force blooms, just to enter a show. I want my plants to grow and bloom as the good Lord makes them. I'll do all I can to keep them healthy and happy, but if my

blooms lack half an inch of being big enough to enter in competition, it will still be beautiful to me, and I'll enjoy it just as much as if it had won a blue ribbon.

Shows Are Valuable

I feel the shows are probably the best way to interest the public in camellias, and they are also invaluable to the beginner in helping him to know the different varieties, and what to expect from his own plants.

I feel sure that lots of people who make camellias a hobby fail to get the most out of this hobby. Here is an example. I have two friends, both interested in camellias, and the three of us keep in touch throughout the year. We keep each other informed as to anything new that might come on the market, and exchange ideas about fertilizing, watering, and other general information pertaining to the growing of camellias.

Grafting Made Fun

Last year my friends and I got together one Saturday and did our grafting. Our families put on a pot-luck lunch, and we all spent the day together. We each brought scions of our best plants, and some of our friends gave us scions of some of their plants. By the end of the day, we all had a fine collection of choice grafted plants, and a better feeling of friendship between us.

I was the only one of the three that had ever grafted a plant. I helped them with their first graft, but after that, they were on their own. I'll have to admit that their first graft was not of an expert variety, and it did take them a bit longer than it should have, but they now have some very fine plants coming on that they are responsible for. I know that there is nothing in this world that gives more satisfaction than creating with your own hands something of lasting beauty.

MAILBAG from page 6

Maxwell under lock and key. I am warning you in the spirit of fair play, if you don't lock her up right now there will be nothing left of her but a stem, by tomorrow!

Lasted Half Hour

You and I have enjoyed a very short friendship. In fact Doc, it only lasted a half hour, I may as well confess. My regard for you was a thing of beauty when I read your letter in the *Camellia Mailbag*. Thirty minutes later I ceased being your friend. The reason for the brevity of our friendship was a contraption named the telephone.

The entire membership of the Temple City Camellia Society received their *Camellia Review* three weeks late! (Ed. Note: We now have a new mailing concern.) So we just received our copies via the Panama Canal and sled dog, carrying an *Elegans* in its teeth. Thirty minutes after receiving my copy the entire membership of the Temple City Camellia Society started ringing my phone, wanting me to find out your address from the editor.

I've been promised everything from a *Masterpiece* to an *Undaunted*. They all asked me to use my influence. I told each and everyone in no uncertain terms that I hardly know the man, the editor that is, and that my influence amounted to nothing.

"I Tried, Doc"

I had already tried to get your address from him so I could shush you up. Don't look now Doc, but the little man from the nursery came day before yesterday and repossessed *Pearl Maxwell*.

Such hearsay!

Don't you know that it isn't cricket to swap scions? Shades of all the nurserymen! Not that little old me wanted to trade a scion with you—perish the very thought. But Doc, I have a beautiful choice *Undaunted*

that needs pruning and this is the best time of the year to use my clippers.

What kind of a society do you belong to? Haven't they told you never—but never—to swap a scion?

After you get your money back sit right down in one of your red wood tubs and paddle right out to Temple City. Bring *Pearl Maxwell*.

You don't have to join us—just be our guest at our next meeting. Look in the *Camellia Review* for the time and the place. That is, if you get your copy on time. (Ed. Note: Honest, we try.)

You won't even have to give the high sign. We will recognize you by beautiful *Pearl Maxwell* in your arms. We in the Temple City Camellia Society have plant swaps, grafting bees, jokes, breakfasts, dinners, raffles, cake, coffee and do-nuts and lots and lots of fun.

Beware That Tag

Another thing Doc, don't leave the name tag on *Pearl Maxwell*. Somebody might find out you own one. Remove the tag right now and substitute a number. That is the way it is done in the best camellia circles! Now get on with it Doc and if anybody asks you what the number is tell them you left your little black book of names in the office! You heard me right. Get busy. Man, you just haven't lived!

Well Doc, the telephone has finally stopped ringing and all is peace and quiet in Temple City and all the nurseries of the camellia world.

Now, please, don't you write any more letters to the editor about swapping scions unless you include your address. The cad wouldn't give it to us. Be sure to see our Temple City Camellia Show on February 14th and 15th.

Sincerely

Marjorie Magnificent

(Ed. Note: Somehow, maybe backwards, that ought to spell Zita Marks.)

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