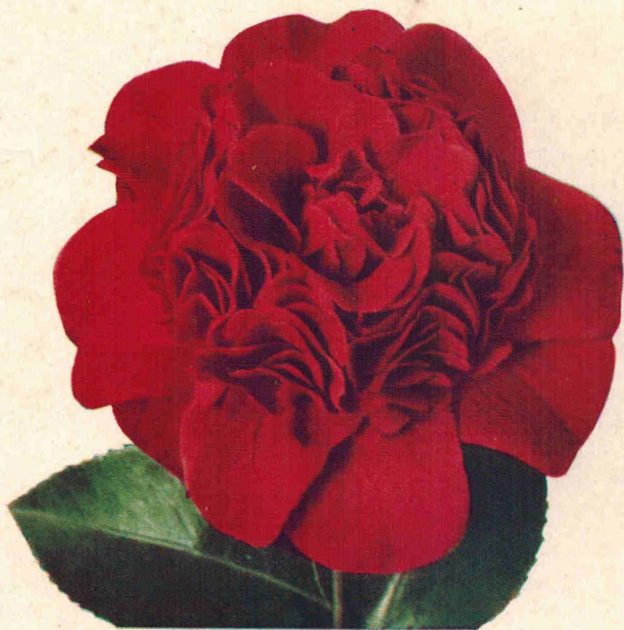


THE

Camellia Review



PROFESSOR CHARLES S. SARGENT

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 14

March, 1953

No. 6

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Published monthly from October through April, and in July.

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 regular-
ly precedes the program which starts 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-Treasurer: Miss Mildred Foley, 715 Niles St., Bakersfield	
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San Diego Camellia Society.....	San Diego, Calif.
Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park	
Secretary: Mrs. Donald V. (Mary) Scofield, 2621 32nd St., San Diego 4	
Date of meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.	
Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....	Pomona, Calif.
Meeting Place: Ebell Club, Pomona	
Secretary: J. M. Hartke, 874 Paige Drive, Pomona	
Date of meeting: 1st Thursday of each month	
Temple City Camellia Society.....	Temple City, Calif.
Meeting Place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City	
Secretary: June Manson Schroth, 432 N. Alabama St., San Gabriel	
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: Harold 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

After watching the Temple City Camellia Show develop and grow to its splendiferous climax, we couldn't help but wonder if the good people of Temple City knew WHY their show achieved its king-size proportions.

We think that camellia lovers of Southern California owe a whopping vote of thanks to the folks who put on this great show, and particularly to the gal who worked tirelessly, steadily, for weeks and weeks to publicize the event—Zita Marks. Zita's job, if handled by a professional ad agency, would have cost the society a sum well into the four-figure bracket. And it would have been worth it.

* * *

ONE OF THE MORE pleasant aspects of being an editor is that it gives one an opportunity to meet people he'd like to know.

Like the McCaskills of East Pasadena.

Recently I dropped in for a visit at the vast McCaskill Nursery which is right next door to the parking lot of famed Eaton's Restaurant on Foothill.

Anyone even remotely interested in camellias owes it to himself to visit the McCaskills, for here he will see camellias at their very best, in surroundings that show them to per-

fection.

From the *Flame*-bordered driveway to the exciting rows of breath-taking seedlings in the lath houses, the tastefully appointed, gorgeously landscaped McCaskill estate is an adventure in beauty, friendliness and warmth.

ANOTHER BIG "PLUS" event of the pleasant side of our editorial ledger came with a chance meeting with the dynamic, effervescent Chic Mason of Temple City. One doesn't simply meet Chic, however: Rather you realize quite suddenly that you are surrounded on all sides by Chic Mason. And it's very pleasant.

Chick took me to his home to show me his lath house and his sizeable carefully selected collection of plants. His boundless enthusiasm rather stunned me and I listened in silent awe as this man, who professes to be a novice camellia grower, expounded his theories regarding the effect of nearby auto exhaust gases on camellias.

* * *

I now have 13 camellias, practically all of them gifts from the good people I have come to know.

MOST RECENT acquisitions include a *Glen 40* from Chic Mason and two beauties from the McCaskills—

(Continued on Page 15)

OUR COVER

Once again Review readers are indebted to Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario and San Marino for a gorgeous color cover photo. Color plates of *Professor Charles S. Sargent* were provided through the courtesy of Mary Watt at Armstrong's Ontario installation.

CAMELLIA SEED

The 1952 crop of camellia seed has been received from the Huntington Botanic Gardens and is ready for sale. Price to members of the society \$2.50 per hundred; to others \$5.00 per hundred. Transportation charges and tax paid when payment is received with order. Otherwise they are included in bill. Receipts from sales of this seed are used by the Garden Committee in procuring new and rare plants for the garden.

MY CHOICE OF 50 PLANTS

By ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN

Recently a camellia friend wrote to me from Wytheville, Virginia, saying his new green house would hold 50 camellia plants and would please send him a list of what I thought would be a good collection of that number. He assured me that he might not agree with me, and with this in mind, I made up a list for him of the 50 camellias I would choose if that were to be the number of plants of my own collection.

First I would choose the *Captain Rawes* variety of *Reticulata*. It is beautiful and should have a place in any camellia collection. Next, two of the new Yunnan *Reticulatas*. They are exquisite, new, rare, and any two that you might choose would be a good selection. I chose a pink and variegated because *Captain Rawes* is a shade of red.

Next I chose three varieties of the specie *Sasanqua*. They bloom earlier than the *Reticulata* or the *Japonica* and are lovely in their own right. Use your own preferences in selecting varieties.

Then we come to *Kuro-tsubaki* (black camellia) which I have chosen because it is unusual and because it is a different species. If you are going to have a collection this size you undoubtedly will want to try your hand at hybridizing and having different species to work with will make your results that much more interesting with the possibility of producing hybrid. *J. C. Williams*, an English hybrid, is my next choice because it is delicate and a lovely shade of pink.

Tinsie, a miniature anemonie form camellia, intrigues me with its red guard petals and white petaloids in the center. I could not leave it out. We now come to the specie *Japonica*, which, in this country, has the great-

est number of varieties and it is most familiar to all of us.

In the group of *Japonica's* I have chosen, I have included at least two of each type camellia listed in the nomenclature. As an example, in singles I chose *Enchantress*, my favorite pink single and *Kimberley*, an unusual red. In the semi-doubles there are a great number of outstanding camellias and among others I chose *Adolphe Audusson Special* (The *Adolphe Audusson* and the *Adolphe Audusson Var.* are equally as good) and *Mme. Hahn*. Or you could choose *Sierra Spring*, the variegated form.

In the anemonie form class I chose *C. M. Wilson* and *Gigantea* among others. In the rose form class we have *Mathotiana* and *Rosea Superba*, and in the formal double class I chose *Pearl Maxwell* and *Eleanor Haygood* to name two.

The remaining varieties I have included in this list because I like them for flower, hardiness, growth habits, foliage or dependability. Probably no one will agree with me entirely on this list but I think it is good basically and could be changed easily to fit anyone's needs and taste.

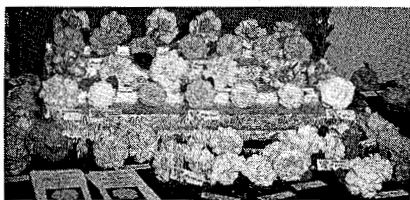
Here's the complete list:

1. *Captain Rawes*; 2. *Butterfly Wings*; 3. *Chang's Temple*; 4. *Oleifera*; 5. *Hana-no-yuki*; 6. *Hiryo* (Red Bird); 7. *Kuro-tsubaki*; 8. *J. C. Williams*; 9. *Tinsie*; 10. *Enchantress*; 11. *Kimberley*; 12. *Mme. Hahn*; 13. *Adolphe Audusson Special*; 14. *Finlandia Red*; 15. *White Empress*.

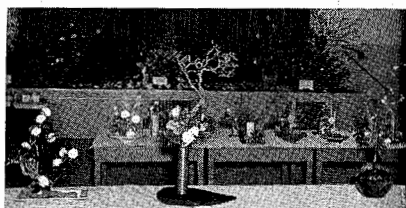
16. *C. M. Wilson*; 17. *Gaity* (*Gigantea Red*); 18. *Gigantea*; 19. *Debattente*; 20. *Peoniaeflora*; 21. *Monarch*; 22. *White Princess*; 23. *Rosea Superba*.

(Continued on Page 20)

CAMERA RECORDS PASADENA SHOW BEAUTY



CAMELLIAS everywhere! Arrangements vied with displays of blooms for interest of more than 5000 show visitors.



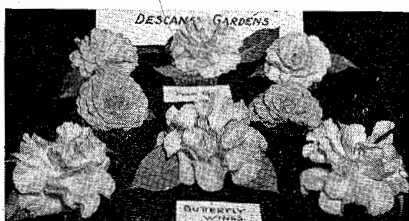
BEAUTY of arrangement prepared by Don and Blanche Miller brought Oh and Ahs from spectators.



ARTISTIC display by Mrs. J. Douglas Simpson of the Little Garden Club of Pasadena featured a bit of driftwood.



GROUP of arrangements drew interest of Miss Nancy Waltner of Glendale.



RARE display of Reticulata Butterfly Wings from Descanso Gardens.



INTERESTED show spectators included small-fry daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend, Jennifer and Marjorie.

YELLOW CAMELLIAS — WHY NOT?

By PAUL DENNISON AND JACK WILSON

This is not a technical report of carefully controlled scientific experiments, but simply a description of the hobby of two amateur camellia fanciers.

The dictionary says that the camellia is a shrub with glossy evergreen leaves and red or white flowers. And, with minor variations, so it is. Despite the fact that there are hundreds of varieties of *Camellia Japonica*, the color and form of its blossoms, its period of blooming, its growth habits, the appearance of its foliage, and its adaptability to soil and climatic conditions vary within rather narrow limits.

But are these restrictions unchangeable? This is a question that has long intrigued the authors of this article.

Story of Change

The history of plant life is a story of change, sometimes rapid, usually slow, but always continuous. Nature seems to be a process of constant evolution, and as man's knowledge of this process has increased, he has succeeded in expediting nature's work. In countless species of plants, the botanists, the chemists, the physicists, the laboratory workers, the growers, have utilized a multiplicity of techniques to develop new strains, better fruit flavors, larger flowers, more vigorous growth, and many other desirable characteristics.

But little is being done—or at least reported—to effect changes in camellias. Efforts to produce new varieties are confined largely to hybridizing and to propagating "sports" developed by unknown natural causes. That this is so is perhaps not surprising because of the time required to grow blooming-size camellia plants. But the opportunity of applying to camellias some of the methods that have been successfully utilized

to obtain unusual and desirable characteristics in other plants was, to us, irresistible.

Seeking Results

We wanted to discover what techniques were effective and what results could be obtained, and probably above all we were attracted by the possibility of creating something new. Like the probable rewards of the prospector of earlier days, our chances of "striking gold" were slim, but they were the loadstone that drew us on.

Mutations are variously defined, but for our purposes we shall consider them to be any new varieties that can be reproduced, and are not the result of hybridizing or of propagating natural "sports." These were what we were seeking. There are many publications on plant genetics, and we do not intend to delve deeply into this subject. Briefly, however, any agent that alters the structure of the chromosomes and their genes, or that increases the number of chromosomes will cause a change in the plant's characteristics. Chromosomes, fiber-like structures in each cell of a plant, may be seen under a powerful microscope. The number of these is a fixed characteristic for each body cell of each variety of plant.¹

Genes In Series

Each chromosome is composed essentially of a series of genes strung together. Each gene determines definite characteristics of the plant: color of leaf, color of flower, size of leaf, size of flower, type of flower, resis-

(Continued on Page 18)

¹See "*Camellia Research*" 1950, page 64. Southern California Camellia Society.

CORSAGES FROM CAMELLIAS

By WINSTON GORMAN

Visitors to the Temple City Camellia Show in February witnessed a demonstration by representatives of feebulous ALEENE'S, the corsage expert who rated a lavish display in a recent issue of LIFE.

And they learned that camellias

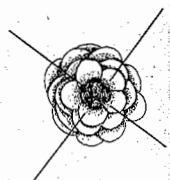
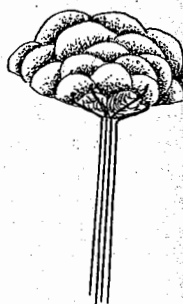


lend themselves readily to beautiful and easily made corsages.

The only items needed for making the corsages may be obtained simply by obtaining the corsage kit offered at any of the Aleene's stores, or ordering from Aleene's, 9613 E. Valley Blvd., Rosemead, California.

Kit Meets Needs

In the kit will be floratape, florist wire, cellophane bags, corsage pins, petal discs, ribbons, and complete instructions for fashioning corsages from camellias or from a number of other flowers.



First step is to staple or sew three leaves to a disc of cardboard which will supply background foliage for your corsage.

Then, using a camellia that just bloomed on the plant, stick heavy wires through the base of the flower as if you were threading a needle with the wire being the needle. Use two wires and criss-cross them as illustrated. These wires are used to anchor the petals so that they will not fall off. Wires must be placed high enough on the flower to catch all the petals, but not so high that wires may be seen from the top of the flower.

Care Necessary

Next bend all wires down, being very careful not to injure the petals. And you now are ready for floratape.

To floratape your camellia use the special tape sold for this purpose and, starting as close to the blossom

(Continued on Page 19)

SWEEPSTAKES TIPS

By EARL S. GORTON, *San Marino*

It takes practice to make perfect, as the old saying goes. Camellia growing in the amateur ranks is a process of trial and error and requires much more than just a green thumb.

As a current sweepstake winner in the Temple City Camellia Show, I might not be qualified, but I feel at least justified in helping the amateur with a few of his or her problems. How to achieve proper growth; how to increase the size of blooms, and to train your plants, are a few of the most common questions asked by the amateur. All of these enter into the proper care of the grower's plants.

Water Needs Vary

Watering is of primary concern. There is no set rule as to how often it must be done. The ground around camellia must always be kept damp but must never get soggy. Over watering will cause root rot and leaf droppage.

Of secondary concern in your plant care are fertilizing and pruning.

Fertilizing can prove to be very dangerous unless one knows how much and what kind to use. For myself I have found three fertilizers which in combination give me very good results.

The use of bloodmeal, as I have found in my past nursery experience, is one of the best and fastest ways of achieving abundant growth. But, like this warning, it is very easy to kill your plants or seriously injure them by over fertilizing.

One can easily over fertilize but can hardly under fertilize. Caution must be taken to follow the package instructions closely.

Camellias should first be fed about the beginning of April using bloodmeal only. The next feeding can be given six weeks later using half

as much bloodmeal and introducing some acid food. Repeat this feeding again in middle July. My last feeding in late August consists of cottonseed meal using slightly smaller proportions than in my first feeding of bloodmeal.

Some might be curious as to why I use this combination. As I have already said bloodmeal is a great growth producer and so naturally I use it to force early rapid growth.

Pruning Beneficial

Now being a commercial grower I am not primarily interested in growth alone. As the season goes on the amount of bloodmeal is lessened, being used as a booster only, thus giving my plants a chance for bud development. The acid food in my case is used for a soil conditioner only. It tends to give the foliage proper coloring. The last of the three fertilizers, cottonseed mash, I use for bud development. I don't know whether it has been proven best for this but many have met with great success using it.

Pruning is very good for camellia
(Continued on Page 20)

TEMPLE CITY

Sweepstakes award at the Temple City Camellia Show on February 14-15 went to Earl Gorton of Pasadena who edged out some of the nation's foremost competitors to win the coveted honor.

Top award for best flower in the show went to Carl Tourje of La Canada for his blossom of *S. Peter Nyce* which was chosen by judges over 1400 other entries.

More than 5000 persons visited the camellia show, an all-time record for the Temple City Society and probably a record for shows devoted exclusively to camellias.



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.

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To The Ladies!

By EVELYN JOHNSON

After our San Marino Boy Scout Scutorama closed, the problem arose concerning disposal of several boxes of pine needles used as a demonstration pine needle bed in a camping exhibit. They are now a thick cover around the bases of several of our camellia plants which are in sun, a protection from too rapid drying out in hot weather.

A pale green Chinese bowl, which had rested too uneasily upon its carved teakwood base, became well adjusted by a simple expedient: a walnut sized lump of Plastite waterproof clay, well worked between the hands, joined bowl and base firmly together.

Sasanqua *Cleopatra* is so well branched and compact it should be planted in the foreground of the camellia border. It will thrive in hot sun or cool shade and the rose pink blossoms are lovely.

Good Foundation

Use Sasanqua *Cleopatra* in foundation plantings as a relief from the frequent use of the prostrate junipers. Prune the top growth and train the plants with wire "hairpins" toward a spreading form. Their use in front of Japonicas or the Reticulata (*Raves*) for covering a naked stalk should be very effective.

Sasanqua *Snow Flake* acquires from Nuccio's this year is a joy to behold. Its blossom is very large, single, pure white of porcelain quality.

Snow Flake unfolds from bud stage rather rapidly to a medium sized blossom. In the course of another day or two, full expansion of

(Continued on Page 14)

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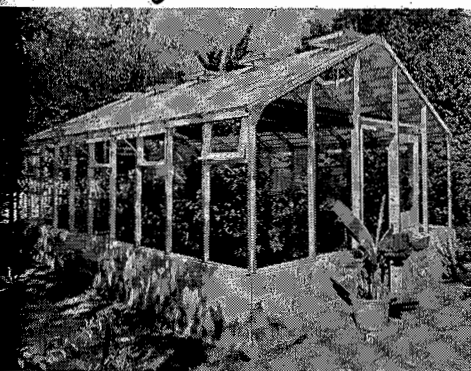
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SACRAMENTO SHOW BIGGEST

Among the galaxy of notables attending the Southern California Camellia Society Show was Dr. John D. Lawson, president of the Camellia Society of Sacramento.

No stranger to camellia displays, Dr. Lawson's society annually sponsors the world's biggest camellia show. Last year's exhibit, a two-day

extravaganza in the municipal auditorium, drew more than 20,000 persons. And the number of blooms on display exceeded 5000.

Met Trains at Depot

During the show, members of Dr. Lawson's group met east-bound trains from San Francisco to present lady passengers with camellias, and also to provide camellias for the tables.

Last year, Dr. Lawson reminded marked the 100th anniversary of the importation of the first camellia into Sacramento and, incidentally, into California. This first plant came around Cape Horn, and was the progenitor of many of the 80- and 90-year old plants which now grace Capital Park in Sacramento.

The twenty-ninth annual show of the Sacramento society took place March 7 and 8 in the municipal auditorium.

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WHY CAMELLIAS HAVE NO FRAGRANCE

By DR. HERBERT SHIRLEY, *Hollywood*

Many centuries ago when Jupiter led the world he married Venus, goddess of love, after she jilted Mars, god of war.

Mars refused to concede final defeat, and one day he and Venus were discovered together by Vulcan, the black god, who promptly told Cupid of the discovery.

Cupid was very much put out over the news, and he upbraided his mother (Venus) for her actions. Venus became angered at her son who dared thus censor her, and she ordered him thrashed with rose thorns.

Now Cupid didn't relish the prospect of having rose thorns scratch his tender flesh, so he persuaded Zephyr, goddess of wind, to fly to a farby country and bring back some fragrant rose branches.

Camellia Gifts Pleased

Zephyr returned with camellia branches which she gave to the three goddesses who were to punish Cupid. The three Graces were so pleased with the camellias that they wore them in their hair, and Cupid's punishment amounted to only a polite rebuke.

When Venus heard of this she was enraged, and took away the fragrance from the camellias and banished the

flowers to the far-away countries of Japan and China where they remained in obscurity for many centuries.

Not until the flowers were rediscovered by Father Kamel, a Jesuit priest, were they returned to Europe for the rest of the world to enjoy again. But the fragrance remained missing.

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FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOLIAGE

By JANE BRADFORD

Recently there were two splendid articles in the *Camellia Review* on the subject of foliage—one by Mirandy and the other by Dorothy Leitz. But several plants that I frequently use were not so lucky as to merit attention from these able authors, and so I shall come to their defense.

If you fashion flower arrangements you know what satisfaction comes from having in one's garden those trees, shrubs and plants which supply foliage that is unusual, adaptable, and long-lasting—with special emphasis upon the long-lasting qualification.

Flowers can easily be changed each day if necessary, but renewing the foliage changes the design of the arrangement and takes time.

Contrast Desired

Foliage that provides a decided contrast to camellia leaves always makes an interesting arrangement. Perhaps you already have some of these plants, and if not would like to know about them.

Muehlenbeckia (pronounced Mull-en-beckia) is exotic and unusual. It is native to the Solomon Islands and thrives in Southern California. However it has been found that semi-shade is the best location for it because our hot, dry summers burn

the new growth. It has long, thin grass-like foliage that is yellow-green. At times small leaves appear at the sides, then fall off and give way to tiny white flowers which, in turn are replaced by berries—white, then red and purple.

The plant grows to a height of 10 feet so should be used for background. Should it freeze, new growth will spring from the roots.

Lasts For Weeks

In warm weather it will last, when cut, for a week in fresh water—sometimes two or more weeks when it is cool. Later, each cutting may be placed in soil where it will root.

(Continued on Page 17)

TEMPLE CITY RECORD

The Temple City Camellia Society tallied results of its recent show and came up with the verdict: A terrific success!

Gate receipts totaled \$1,518. The coffee booth rang up a tidy \$78.09. Book sales and memberships brought in another \$76. And proud sponsors of the show acclaim a record production.

All this by a society that includes only a sparse handful of members.

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PASADENA DRAWS 5000

A record crowd of more than 5000 persons jam-packed the Jefferson Auditorium in Pasadena to witness the 1953 show of the Southern California Camellia Society.

Sweepstakes honors went to Dan Sullivan of Pasadena, and "best flower" distinction was won by Clifford W. Johnson of San Marino with an *Adolphe Audusson* variegated.

Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario and San Marino took the top award for having the best commercial flower in the show. The winner was *Debutante*.

Winner of the sweepstakes ribbon for arrangements was Eda Durand of Burbank.

In the Hertrich Awards competition, Harvey Short of Coolidge Rare Plants Gardens scored another triumph with first showing of his *Pink Clouds*, a five-inch semi-peony flower. This bloom has a double row of guard petals, and varied amounts of stamens and petaloids. In color it is a creamy white which blushes to a delicate pink, with deep rose stripings appearing on the third day. Release date for this plant is not yet announced.

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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Sponsor
(signature)

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY LETTER IF PREFERRED

TO THE LADIES *from page 8*

the flower takes place and it is very outstanding.

By careful measurement a *Hana Jiman* (sasanqua) blossom at the Loels' attained the very impressive $3\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$!

Sasanqua *Shishifukujin* can be cut between the calyx and first leaf bud without shattering. (Use a pair of pointed scissors.) I should like to see these blossoms used floating on water in a large shallow bowl. Place pale pink fluted candles, which have been formed in shallow fluted molds, among the blossoms and their soft light should complete a simple and attractive table centerpiece.

Noted for Buds

Camellia Japonica *Thelma Dale* is beautiful in the bud stage. These charming rosy tipped buds should

determine your choice of planting this variety as a pot specimen for display in the lanai or patio.

Have you considered a pair of *Debutantes*, one on either side of an entrance? Plan ahead for such a display. Two young plants shaped each year by pruning will bring dividends of beauty for years after they have been patiently forced to grow your way.

Mr. Carter of Monterey Park has long advocated the strict pruning of *Debutante*. The plant seems to respond to it well by branching and by more flower production. Long "whips" and open "leggy" growth common to some plants of this variety are thereby under control.

Pink Ball, *Magnoliaflora* (Southern), *Ville de Nantes* and many more are fine container subjects for use in pairs.

AZALEAS CAMELLIAS CYMBIDIUMS GARDENIAS

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EDITOR'S CORNER *from page 2*

High Hat and *Autumn Snow*; and from Sam Keller a stout plant of *Blood of China*.

Though we cherish these gifts very highly—we keep a guest book with the history of each plant—still we would feel a lot better if we could bounce in and out of your homes for a visit and a chat without feeling that you possibly felt that we had dropped in to get a free donation.

So please, good friends. The next time we drop in let us BUY a plant, won't you? After all, I want to build up a really nice camellia garden, and I simply can't do it if you won't sell me plants.

OTHER NIGHT when we knew we were coming down with the flu we stopped in to see our favorite diagnostician, a gentleman named Scotty who keeps regular business hours until 2 am. at a gin mill in Arcadia.

Scotty listened to our symptoms and prescribed a remedy made by somebody named Seagram, and while we subjected ourselves to this treatment we listened to a tale of woe that would bring tears to the eyes of a guy stealing popcorn strings off a poorhouse Christmas tree.

It seems Scotty finds his simple little pleasures in ways other than potting camellias. In fact, Scotty's refinement of this practice calls for potting himself, which he does periodically and well.

Awakening one morning at home after his latest excursion he was a bit taken aback to note a sizeable green-headed mallard duck walking around his bed and eyeing him with obvious distaste.

But then he noticed something that still bothers him. The duck is wearing a carefully contrived splint on one of its legs.

(Continued Next Page)

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EDITOR'S CORNER *from page 15*

IMPACT of Review publicity upon its wide-spread reader audience became apparent again with the last issue. Inquiries from as far away as New York and Virginia sought more information about products mentioned in your magazine.

Vincent Vernaci, who told in the February issue of compounding a new soil for camellia growers, receives mail daily from all corners of the nation as a result of earlier publicity on his product. He proudly demonstrates to visitors the results that he has experienced from use of the compound at his nursery in Temple City.

We were rather amazed at the Temple City show to be introduced to the sweepstakes winner and find ourselves face to face with an intense, handsome, 24-year-old youth, Earl S. Gorton. Somehow we always thought that camellia ribbons went to older folk.

Gorton, who is unmarried, told us that he became interested in camellias when he was only 15 years old. He worked for a time for a wholesale nursery which supplied him with cuttings to serve as the basis of his present extensive collection of 150 varieties.

We invited this modest young man to tell us something of how he went about winning a sweepstakes ribbon, and after considerable prodding he came through with the article under his by-line in this issue.

Incidentally, we have some very interesting thumb-nail descriptions of a number of exciting new seedlings that will appear in a forthcoming issue. We'd be very happy to add yours if you would get them in to us. But better hurry. We're way, way behind schedule due to a number of reasons, and we must hurry to catch up.

NEXT TIME you're in the market for a camellia plant, or maybe some fertilizer or other garden necessity, the nurserymen and suppliers who advertise in your Review will appreciate your patronage.

They help pay the overhead of your Review, and certainly the least we can do is to remember them when we're making our purchases.

And you'll find that meeting them and knowing them is half the fun of "belonging" to the camellia world.

GARDEN RECOMMENDED

Recently I visited the magnificent Clarendon Gardens near Pinehurst North Carolina, and I recommend that every camellia enthusiast do likewise.

The breathtaking beauty of this project, I am told, started to take shape 10 years ago as a cherished hope of Francis W. Howe, a New York businessman.

The epitome of floriculture architecture is achieved in the skillful blending of the rough, unretouched beauty of a natural setting with the tastefully designed accouterments of man-made floral charms.

Many thousands of exquisite blooms—camellias and scores of others—comprise a virtual Paradise on the shores of a lake. And so skillfully is the landscaping of the garden effected that a visitor is hard put to realize that here is the work of man rather than a jewel of nature.

It's worth a long, long, trip to visit this refreshingly different, exotically beautiful creation. I hope that every member of your society may one day enjoy this adventure as I did.

Mrs. Jane Atwood
Los Angeles

you always have plants to pass on to friends.

Portulacaria, a native of South Africa, is another plant which produces cuttings that are outstanding arrangements. Its small, almost round yellow green leaves are attached to short stems that grow on a thick brown stalk which may grow either upright or curve downward. The cuttings root readily and will thrive in sun or shade, but must be kept moist if planted in the sun. Frost will damage it a bit, but in spring new leaves appear and the plant is not injured by the ordeal it has undergone. It grows to a height of five feet.

For lasting quality there is nothing like the Irish Yew. In cool weather its cuttings will last for months and the upright-growing branches give a touch to an arrangement. However, very dark green needs a bright background, and here variegated acuba or variegated fuchsia is indicated. Both are long lasting.

Each Leaf Different

One of the most outstanding plants for foliage is the variegated sport of *Albice Albert* which can be obtained from McCaskill's Gardens. Each leaf is an entirely different shape, dark green edged with ivory, and this variety should be a "must" on your list because, whether or not you make arrangements, it will be a conversation piece in your garden.

And last but not least—do use *Sanqua* foliage. The small leaves create an airy atmosphere and keep the sasanquas well trimmed.

If you have never made an arrangement, do try. Perhaps the first may not be a masterpiece. But eventually you will develop a technique of your own. And if the effect you create pleases you—that is all that is required.

MARSHALLS SCORE HIT

Guaranteed to halt any conversation is the gorgeous color print of a *Gigantea* which appears on the new camellia index mailed recently by Marshall's Camellia Nursery, 6747 Rosemead Blvd. in San Gabriel, California.

Other color prints in the brochure include *C. M. Wilson*, *Adolphe Audusson* variegated, and *Magnolia-flora* (Southern).

One thing particularly noteworthy in the Marshall brochure is the code designation of each flower as early, mid-season or late bloomer. Those trying to plan a garden that will bloom as long as possible will find the Marshall information very, very helpful.

GRAFTING TIPS

Mark Anthony, in a recent address before Southern California Camellia Society, offered these tips on grafting:

1. Do not fertilize understock to be used in grafting for at least four months prior to actual graft.

2. Use only healthy, sturdy understock.

3. Use understock not less than thickness of a pencil.

4. Cutting the end off a leaf on the scion has no effect upon plant, but makes it easier to place bottle.

5. For tying the graft, use grafting rubber or string. Ordinary rubber bands will break. (Grafting rubber bands may be obtained at your favorite nursery.)

6. When you place a bottle over the graft, press it into the dirt around the plant to form a seal.

7. Do not water the graft understock until absolutely necessary to keep it alive. It may not need water for weeks or months—keep checking the soil.

YELLOW CAMELIAS

from page 5

tance to drought, cold tolerance, etc. These chromosomes normally occur in pairs; one member of each pair comes from one parent plant, the other member from the other parent plant.

There are a number of methods that have proved effective in multiplying or rearranging chromosomes. Although some of these methods have different effects upon plant cells, they may all cause mutations, and a combination of two or more greatly increases the number of possible results.

Ionization Induced

Radiation of various types causes ionization in the cells. Chemical reactions take place resulting in alterations of the chromosomes and genes.

Two major effects may result from irradiation with ultraviolet, X and gamma radiation, or bombardment with alpha, beta, and neutron particles. First, radiation can cause the chromosomes to break into several pieces. If these shattered fragments reunite in such a way that they no longer occupy their original positions, the characteristic arrangement of the genes is changed. Small sections of the chromosomes can be lost in the process.

Second, radiation can destroy a section or sections of the chromosomes. In either case, or in a combination of these effects, a gene mutation occurs and some or many characteristics of the plant may be changed or lethally affected. Some of the mutant changes may not become apparent until seed germinates from a cross between a treated plant and an untreated plant or between two treated plants in later generations.

Chromosomes Divide

In normal growth each chromosome of a plant cell divides along its

long axis, and for a time the cell has twice its original number of chromosomes. Subsequently, the cell itself splits in such a way that each of the new cells has the same number of chromosomes—and hence the same number of genes as the parent cell.

Various chemical agents are effective in producing mutations by interrupting this process. By retarding cell division, they make it possible for the already divided chromosomes to divide again before the cell splits. Then as the retardant effect of the chemicals wear off, the cells resume their normal process of dividing.

Under such conditions, however, the new cells contain at least twice as many chromosomes as the parent cells. If the majority of the body cells of a seedling or branch of a plant are thus changed, the mutation can be vegetatively propagated. These changes may manifest themselves in many ways, including an increase in size of leaves or blossoms.

Powerful Drug Used

The best known of the chemicals that are used to secure mutations is colchicine, obtained from the autumn crocus. It is a powerful, water soluble, poisonous alkaloid readily taken into a plant.

Exposing seed to high centrifugal force, e.g., by attaching them to an automobile fan, also disturbs the chromosome structure.

Various plants differ widely in their treatment that will produce mutations and yet not prove fatal. In one series of experiments, the following mutation-inducing methods are being tried: singly and in various combinations, immersion of newly germinated seeds as well as the stems of young seedlings, in a 0.2% solution of colchicine for periods of from eight to ninety-six hours; hypodermic injection of the same solution into newly germinated seed capsules; application of minute quantities of 0.5%

chicine in anhydrous lanolin to the growing tips of seedlings and to the growth tips of mature plants; a shock treatment accomplished by the immersion of germinated seeds, first in water at 110°F for 15 minutes, and then in water at 35°F for 30 minutes (the reverse sequence has also been used); addition of acenaphthene crystals to the soil mix around newly germinated seed; ultraviolet ray treatment of pollen; and finally, X-ray treatments of seeds in varying stages of germination. These treatments ranged from 150 to 15,000r as a measure of quantity of X-ray emanations).

Extra Heat Supplied

In an effort to reduce the time required to ascertain the affects of various techniques of attempting to induce mutations, one of the authors has aided seed germination with heat application and pinched off the ends of the tap roots to encourage good root system growth.

The plants have been started in a small hotbed. Continuous light has been provided by several 25-watt bulbs, and a temperature between 60°F and 70°F has been maintained by the use of a thermostatically controlled electric heat cable imbedded 2 to five inches below the surface of the planting medium. The other author has planted the seed out of doors in ordinary lug boxes.

Maybe New Colors

The outcome of these experiments is anyone's guess. With luck, we may have new colors or forms of blooms, increased blossom size, greater tolerance to the sun's rays, increased adaptability to soil conditions, or decreased moisture requirements. What we hear about, though, is surprising to friends at a meeting of the society some night with a display of show blooms about twice the size of *Gantea*.

It should be pointed out that camellias are subject to spontaneous mutations, and their 3 to 5 year normal period of reproduction from seed allows considerable time for mutations of unknown origin to occur.

Consequently, whatever the results of these experiments, we shall not be able to attribute them definitely to the treatments we have used. Nevertheless, in some future issue we shall report our findings. In the meantime, we hope that others will become interested in this virtually unexplored field and join us in our search for "the perfect camellia."

CORSAGES FROM CAMELLIAS

from page 1

as possible, begin wrapping the tape around.

Both sides of the tape are the same, so it doesn't make any difference which side you start on. The tape will stick to itself after you have gone around about three times.

Stretch Important

When you have taped to the end of the short wire begin twirling the flower with your right hand and guiding and **STRETCHING** the tape with your left. This stretching is very important. Floratape may be stretched like crepe paper to form a narrow green stem. Always keep your right hand near the top of the flower as you are twirling so you won't unwind what you already have done. Tear off at the end.

Camellias may be sprayed with water, if desired, to keep fresh. And a damp piece of cotton placed over camellias helps considerably.

A word of advice from Aleene's as to the proper way to wear a corsage: **ALWAYS** wear a corsage so that flowers are in the same position in which they grow — pointing UPward.

SWEEPSTAKES TIPS *from page 7*

plants. The main object of course is to shape them although it strengthens the plants at the same time. Great care must be taken, for all camellias can't be pruned the same way. Varieties such as *Francine*, *Chandleri Elegans* and *Emperor Fredrich Wilhelm* can never be topped until they reach the desired height wanted. Once topped these varieties will never grow much taller.

As for preparing blooms for a show, there is very little to do. There are a few varieties that have to be disbudded. Two which fall on the list every year are *Alba Plena* and *Laurel Leaf*.

Now the blooming season is here. The amateur looks back upon all the hours he or she has spent caring for the plants and sees the beautiful results. The grower hopes that wind, rain, or cold does not destroy his efforts, and puts the rest in the hands of mother nature.

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Camellia MAIL BAG

Has any survey been taken lately of the popularity of various camellia varieties among camellia growers?

I for one would like to see such a survey made, and would like to know how you readers rate the various flowers.

I can afford to buy a new plant only occasionally, and the opinions of your readers would be helpful to me in determining which plants I should buy.

How about asking Review readers to send in postcards listing their choice of the top 10 camellias, then giving us the results.

I'll start the ball rolling by giving you my list, as follows: *Villa de Nantes*, *Glen 40*, *Alba Plena*, *Gigantea Flame*, *Chandleri Elegans*, *Julia Drayton*, *Adolph Audusson*, *Aspascia*, and *Donkelari*.

Thanks for a swell magazine. Keep it coming.

Mrs. Grace Fallon,
North Hollywood

50 PLANTS *from page 3*

24. *Mathotiana*; 25. *Masterpiece*; 26. *Pearl Maxwell*; 27. *Pope Pius IX*; 28. *Laurel Leaf*; 29. *Il Cygnus (South)*; 30. *Lotus*; 31. *Lady Clare*; 32. *Eleanor Haygood*.

33. *Ville de Nantes*; 34. *Iwanee*; 35. *Lady Kay*; 36. *Pride of Des canso*; 37. *Joshua Youtz*; 38. *Magnolia Queen*; 39. *Undaunted*.

40. *Mrs. Howard Asper*; 41. *Donkelari (Southern)*; 42. *Kumasaka*; 43. *Nagasaka*; 44. *R. L. Wheeler*; 45. *Monjisu*; 46. *Magnoliaflora (Southern)*.

47. *Flame var.*; 48. *Elegans (Chandler) var.*; 49. *Finlandia var.*; 50. *Gov. Earl Warren*.

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