THE

Camellia Review



CAMELLIA JAPONICA RUTH ROYER

Courtesy Flowerwood Nursery Mobile, Alabama

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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ORANGEBURG, S. C.

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.....SYcamore 7-2253

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

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Central California Camellia Society				Signatura (ili	Frest	10. C	alif.
Meeting Place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno Secretary: Frances F. Lennox, 2040 Hunter Ave., Fresn Date of Meeting: 3rd Friday of the month	State					.0,	
Camellia Society of Kern County				Bake	rsfie	ld, C	alif.
Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adoble Motel, Union A Secretary: Louise J. Haberfelde, 1800 2nd St., Bakersfie Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru I	eld						
San Diego Camellia Society				.San	Die	go, C	alif
Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Pa Secretary: Mrs. L. B. Goodall, 3036 Suncrest Dr., San I Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m	Diego	16					
Pomona Valley Camellia Society				P	omor	na, C	alif
Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Secretary-Treasurer: J. M. Hartke, 1372 Caswell, Pomo Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of each month	, Clar na	emoi	nt				
Temple City Camellia Society	*******		Γ	`emp	le Ci	ty, C	alif.
Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff a Secretary: June Manson Schroth, 432 N. Alhambra St., Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month, Oct. thru	San	Gabi	an, T riel	emp	le Ci	ity	
Camellia Society of Orange County				San	ta Aı	na, C	alif.
Meeting Place: Community Center, West 8th St., Santa Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange Date of Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month	Ana						
Huntington Camellia Garden				San 1	Marii	no, C	alif.
Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San I							
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Our Resolution

We shall try to begin this 1954 with as clean a slate as possible. This means picking up some loose ends for we confess to the weakness of thinking of things we should have done imediately after an issue has gone to press.

 We should have noted in the December number that Jean May, namesake of our cover flower, is now Mrs. Jack Colbert and the original picture of her included her young son. He accounts for her estatic ex-

pression.

2. Our other girl of December, Marjorie Townsend, is the elder daughter of Ronald Townsend, the Superintendent of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery. Marjorie, we might add, has had a keen interest in the prospective picture of "her flower," and the winsomeness of the Camellia Marjorie Townsend is a happy reflection of her own bright self.

 Still adding to our omissions, we discover that by some chance we placed <u>Mr. Sam Harn</u> in Georgia when of course everyone knows he

lives in Gainesville, Florida.

4 And lastly, as speakers say much to the relief of their audiences, the heading of "New Members" over the roster of members of the S.C.C.S. was misleading as of course, many renewals were included. We have been publishing the names as both new members joined and old members renewed, so that by spring a complete list of members would be easily available.

There! We hope all loose ends are

now gathered together.

No Excuse Now for Ignorance

News and rumors are flying madly about concerning the much-heralded new Nomenclature Book: its good articles on Camellia culture; its checked and re-checked classification of species and varieties of Camellias running into the thousands; the fact (reiterated by our Treasurer) that only paid-up members will receive a copy automatically; its advance orders including one for 300 copies from Mr. Frank Griffin, publisher of the Camellian; its 10,000 copies that are being printed and taking two and one half tons of paper to do the job. Finally, we know that Mr. William Woodroof and Mr. Ronald Townsend will be among those relieved when the publication is finally off the press. It all is a wonderful undertaking and an achievement that the Society should be mighty proud to sponsor.

No More Seeds

Not a Camellia seed remains! Not a single seed from all the hundreds and hundreds that were gathered from the Huntington Camellia Garden and sold through the Society. We do hope that some of the individuals who are experimenting with these seeds will keep records so that a year or two from now they can write us of the results.

How Appropriate!

Did you note that one of our members, David L. Feathers, lives on Camellia Lane in Lafayette, California? Sounds very appropriate and intriguing. How did it happen to receive its name, Mr. Feathers, or did you name it? And how many Camellias grow in Camellia Lane? Could almost make a song of it.

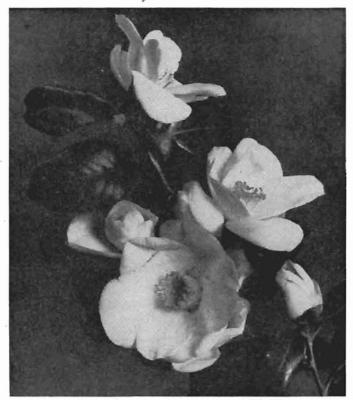
Author in Our Midst

Congratulations and the finest Camellia of the New Year to Elizabeth Councilman who announces that her book "Two Cats and Forty Cam-

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NEW HYBRID CAMELLIA

By RALPH PEER



The C. Williamsii Francis Hanger

Courtesy J. E. Downward

Last spring, the Royal Horticultural Society granted an Award of Merit to the C. Williamsii "Francis Hanger" which resulted from artificial pollination experiments carried on by Mr. Francis Hanger, now the Curator of the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley, Surrey, England. The crossing of the japonica "alba simplex" with the species saluenensis was accomplished at Exbury, the famous gardens belonging to Edmond de Rothschild, located not far from Southampton, England. The seeds developed in the Fall of 1946, and were sown in November of that year. The seedlings were grown under glass, but did not flower until the winter of 1950-51. From this lot, Mr. Hanger obtained one plant bearing excellent white flowers, which was eventually named Francis Hanger.

The Williamsii hybrid camellias (crosses of japonica with saluenensis) developed up to this time have not been large flowered, but the delicate blossoms are most satisfactory. One peculiarity is that when the flower wilts it promptly falls from the plant.

One specimen of *Francis Hanger* is now growing at Park Hill, but has not yet blossomed. In 1955, I hope to be able to distribute scions to any nurseries interested in propagating this new camellia.

Camellia Report from the Nation

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF INFORMATION ON THE GENERAL CAMELLIA SITUATION IN DIFFERENT AREAS

Introduction

Some time ago letters were sent to various men who work with Camellias. These men were asked to follow a questionnaire so that eventually the data could be tabulated and an evaluation of the Camellia situation and future over all of the Camellia-growing areas in the United States could be made. The first results already show marked differences even in popular choice, proving once more that the Camellia revels in being unexpected.

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The Report of K. Sawada

of the Overlook Nurseries, Inc., of Mobile, Alabama

The popularity of Camellia in this area is coming back stronger than ever. We had a severe freeze in November, 1949 and some people were discouraged a little. But since that time we have had fine Camellia flowers for the two seasons and the people in this area today are more enthusiastic about Camellia than before. I strongly believe that the popularity of the Camellia will never go down in this area, because the people realize the value not only of this flower but it is one of the best plants for our Southern landscaping.

We haven't, at present, many outstanding new varieties which have been originated in this area. "Mathotiana Supreme," a sport of Mathotiana by Flowerwood Nursery, Mobile, Alabama, also "Ethel Davis," a seedling of Mobile Ornamental Nursery are thought to be good flowers. K. Sawada, Mrs. K. Sawada, White Empress, Victory White and Frizzle White, which were originated by the writer, are still favorites in this area.

Popularity of flowers here depends upon individual taste. However, it seems that large semi-double or loose peony flowers are getting more favored rather than the full-double imbricated flower. White or very light color flowers seemed to be more favored than dark red color.

In this area we grow more Camellia than any other section of the United States. We propagate 90% of them by cutting. This work is mostly done in greenhouses in August and September. Some varieties, however, do not thrive well by their own roots, so we graft such varieties on strong growing C. japonica or C. sasanqua root. We formerly grew



White Empress
Courtesy Huntington Bot. Gardens

Camellias mostly under lath houses, but today we grow them in open fields. The field-grown plants usually are strong and compact in growth. They are dug in ball and burlap and moved. There is little difficulty with them if properly handled. Recently great number of Camellia also are grown in containers in this section.

Scales such as Tea scale, Camellia scale, also Mite such as Red Spider, are the great menace to Camellia here. Camellia canker, commonly known as Die Back, is the worst disease to Camellia in this section.

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The Report of Andrew F. Sears

of Portland, Oregon

Mr. Sears is Editor of "Camellias as a Hobby," a publication of the Oregon Camellia Society.

For a while after our two severe winters of 1949-50 and 1950-51, interest in Camellias in this area slackened off to the point that the only people interested in Camellias were those who were already rabid Camellia fans. However, the interest is picking up again, and it seems that among the general public there is more real interest in Camellias at this time than I have ever noticed in the past. As an illustration of this revived interest, at our March, 1953 Camellia show, we were impressed by the large number of people who were not raising Camellias but were seeking intelligent information about specific varieties, species, what varieties would make the best shrub for specific locations, etc., whereas in the past they had always been seeking more general knowledge with but very vague ideas as to the difference in the varieties and species or even the possibility that there would be any difference in the suitability of the different varieties for specific conditions or locations.

In spite of the increased interest among the general public, interest among the commercial nurserymen has lagged. There are very few, if any, of the first class nurserymen who are showing more than slight interest in Camellias, and none of the nurserymen who do handle Camellias seem to show any interest in trying to keep up with the new developments, improved varieties and other advancements in Camellia culture. Perhaps part of this can be attributed to the fact that we have a large number of Camellia nurseries that are being operated by people as a side line; by people who are holding down full time jobs elsewhere, or by people who are semiretired and who are not interested in making a full time business of propagating and selling Camellias. In fact, a big percentage of the Camellias raised for sale in this area are being raised by semi-professional nurserymen who are not particularly interested in Camellias, but only in raising plants for sale. Very few of them are interested in newer varieties. In fact, I know of only one Camellia nursery in this area which has obtained any of the new Chinese Reticulatas, and I doubt whether over half a dozen have seen more than two varieties of the Williamsii hybrids or have any of the Williamsii hybrids for sale in their nurseries. In fact, very few nurseries handle more than half a dozen of the many excellent new varieties introduced during the last five years; and a Camellia fancier who wants very many of the latest introductions has to ship them in from California or from southern nurseries.

As for outstanding new varieties developed in this area, they are quite limited but among these that can be called really outstanding are: Bertha A. Harms, a seedling grown by Mr.

(Continued on Page 6)

H. H. Harms; Monte Carlo, a sport developed by Barney Goletto; Sweet Bon Air and Alba Queen, seedlings grown by Barney Goletto.



Sweet Bon Air

Courtesy H. H. Harms

As to the types that are the favorites in this area, I would say that the semi-doubles, such as the Finlandias, Ville de Nantes or the larger, more spectacular Grandiflora, Lotus and Gigantea rate the highest with the informal doubles such as Debutante, and Kumasaka running a close second.

By far, the largest percentage of plants propagated in this area are from cuttings rooted with bottom heat in greenhouse benches, although there is a considerable amount of grafting (cleft method) done on understock approximately 3/8" in diameter, and most of this grafting is done on the greenhouse benches, in the spring of the year. Most rooted cuttings are grown under lath for the first two years and then transplanted into the open. Practically all transplanting of field grown stock is done by hand with the plants loosely balled.

We have practically no menace at all to Camellia in this area. Aside from overcrowding, perhaps the most Camellia plants lost are from Strawberry Root Weevil. However, the

Strawberry Root Weevil is fairly easily controlled, if not completely eliminated, by taking proper precautions, and once eliminated or controlled, it takes several years of neglect before the menace from this source become serious again. We have practically no scale in this area. although there have been indications during the last two years that the amount of scale is increasing slowly. As far as I know, we have no Die Back or fungus troubles except perhaps among a few container-grown plants that are over-watered. Although I have heard rumors of some flower spot in this area, I have vet to see a case of it, and in every case that I have investigated the damage to the flowers was caused by weather damage, particularly rain. If there is any flower spot or blight in this area. it certainly isn't serious. In the winters of 1949-50, and 1950-51, we did have thousands of Camellia plants killed or frozen back by our unusual. almost record-breaking, cold spells. However, these two winters were far colder than normal, and the coldest we had had for a great many years, and it is very seldom that cold causes any damage to the plants in this area.

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The Report of C. Norwood Hastie, Jr.

of Magnolia Gardens and Nurseries Charleston, South Carolina

As regards the general Camellia situation and future for Camellias in this vicinity, I feel a bit pessimistic. It seems that new varieties are no longer being sought after and the public is reluctant to pay for grafted Camellias. Nurseries here are now trying to grow mainly the most popular varieties on their own roots which can be sold at a low price. Nurserymen who have been catering to col-

lectors are having a difficult time moving their plants.

Prices are depressed because there is so much low quality distress merchandise which is being brought in from the Gulf area. It now seems that people want a large plant for their money and are not too particular as to what it is.

There have been so many outstanding varieties which have come from the Charleston area that it would be quite a task to list them. Most of them have come from Magnolia and a few from Middleton Gardens. The American Camellia Society Yearbook will give you a list from these Gardens. In the last few years, the Jessie Katz, Paulette Goddard and *Wildwood have been probably the best.

People still seem to prefer the full double Camellias of the Alba Plena formation. Many seem to think that those showing stamens are not very desirable.

Most Camellias are propagated here in greenhouse benches using a sand and peat mixture or vermiculite. After rooting, they are usually potted and put in cold frames for the first year. About half of the Camellias are grown under lath or tree shade, and the other half out in the open field. Growing in containers is becoming popular.

Our greatest potential menace is the Camellia petal blight which has not yet made its appearance. Nurseries are also threatened with quarantine measures in the event that the White Fringe Beetle is discovered.

In a nutshell, this is the Camellia situation in the Charleston area.

* The beautiful Wildwood it will be remembered was the Cover flower for the October Review.

IV The Report of Lucien C. Atherton of San Deigo, California

The general Camellia situation in San Diego is healthy, as evidenced by the continuing growth in membership of the San Diego Camellia Society. There is an increased interest in the hobby angle, as well as in landscape gardening. Sasanquas are meeting with the approval of the collectors and a little education and promotion will create a demand for them in home beautification. Practically all of the local nurseries handle Camellias, especially varieties suitable for landscaping and incidental plantings.

San Diego County has won widespread acclaim in the Camellia world for the outstanding varieties developed by such growers as Harvey Short, E. W. Miller, A. P. Carlton, Stanley Miller, and others. Probably no single individual has produced as many fine seedlings as Harvey Short did at Ramona.

Our favorites are of the more conservative types, and as usual with the novice, favoring the formals, while the more singular types have less demand. The majority of plants are the good old proven varieties, which are adaptable to landscaping, and produce corsage flowers. The newer unproven varieties and exhibition types are not so popular.

Propagation in this area is handled almost entirely by amateurs. With one exception all of the local commercial stock is imported, most of it from the Los Angeles area. As usual the amateur finds grafting the most satisfying means of propagation, with the curious and hopefuls planting a few seeds. Very little propagation is done by cuttings, in spite of the proven superiority of plants growing on their own roots. All nursery stock is grown and handled under lath. There is no field grown stock from the San Diego area.

The greatest menace to Camellias around here is ignorance of basic cultural principles. Improper planting depth and poor drainage cause

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the greatest loss. The strawberry weevil is present but damage can be kept to a minimum by proper planting depth. Likewise blossom blight is found where good housekeeping is not practiced, but is not a serious threat in clean gardens. Lack of a normal rainfall and the use of Colorado River water requires a readjustment of the watering and fertilization programs. The greatest menace to successful Camellia growing is the large percentage of plants purchased by the public from large chain store outlets. This percentage is greater in San Diego than in most areas, especially among the home gardeners wanting a few plants for landscape purposes. Many of these plants are forced and of weak growth, and consist of many varieties with poor performance records for this area. Glamorous Camellias at bargain prices lure many a home gardener to try one regardless of variety or simple cultural requirements. Thus, the Camellia is falsely labeled as a touchy shrub.

San Diego has proven to be one of the more favored areas for Camellia growing, and we are justly proud of the quality and quantity of our blooms. The Camellia adaptability to local conditions is demonstrated in the Balboa Park Camellia Gardens, and the many fine blooms to be exhibited in 1954. The San Diego Camellia Show will attest to the veracity of this statement.

The Report of Sigmund Katz

You ask me for an opinion on the general Camellia situation and the future for Camellia in my vicinity. The general situation is good, and without too much advice and consequent pampering, the plants are more likely than not to outlive their owners. If I were to name the outstanding varieties that had been de-

veloped in the Gulf area you would be bored for they've been hashed and rehashed! The Clower seedlings from Gulfport, especially Clower White, Simeon, Olive Barrett and Olive Elizabeth; the Filo Turner seedlings East of Pensacola and Julius Kahn's adjoining Turner's; Beauharp and Elizabeth Le Bey from Wilkinson, just north of Pensacola; Thelma Dale, Mrs. Baldwin Wood, Barbara Morgan, and Morning Glow from Bradford at Ocean Springs; C. M. Wilson and the Sawada seedlings, the latter including K. Sawada, Mrs. K. Sawada, White Empress and Blush Hibiscus, just to mention a few; Emmett Pfingstl from our own garden; Virgin's Blush, Mollie Moore Davis and many others from McIlhenny are among the few that are better known.

Some people like one type and some another, but in general I'd say the less formal types are the favorites by far.

People about here propagate by grafting; the nurserymen use both rooting and grafting for propagation, and for first transplanting of rooted cuttings into lath houses and then to the field. They ball and burlap for delivery and sales. They do not use pencil-size understock but select their stock from ½" to 1" in diameter.

Probably the greatest menace to all Camellias in all areas, outside of dieback and canker, is inexpert advice. The next greatest menace is advice of any kind, and after that, people who write on the subject.

The Report of Jerry Olrich

of Sacramento, Californiao (Mr. Olrich is State Gardener)

The future for Camellias in Sacramento is very good. In a community that is growing as fast as Sacramento with so many new homes being

built one cannot but say the future

outlook is good.

Camellias do so wonderfully well in this area that it is no wonder that ten thousand or so plants are sold yearly. The Camellia Society of Sacramento has assisted the nurseries in a Camellia Week sale for the past three years, and the first year over thirteen thousand Camellias were sold in one week, so you can see why Sacramento can claim the title of "The Camellia City."

Sacramento has one of the largest shows in the United States. This show will attract from ten to sixteen thousand people. The show is staged at the Municipal Auditorium and the admission is free. It is marvelous how the citizens pitch in and assist

the show in every way.

There have been many varieties that possibly have gotten their start in Sacramento. This is possibly due to the reason that Camellias were first introduced into Sacramento in 1852. Some of the old varieties are Alba Plena, Uncle Sam, Alba Fimbriata, Belgian Red, Chandleri, Purity, Pink Perfection, Peoniaflora, Rerni de Flores, Wakanura, September Morn, Warratah, and many others.

Some of the varieties that were introduced from this area are Arrabella, Peoniaflora, Capitol City, Miss Sacramento, Uncle Sam, Warratah, Anne Lindberg, Barbara E. Belgian Red, Biho, Biho Pink Monjisu Red, Captain Jack, Captain John Sutter, Carnival, Colletti Maculata, Compte de Gomer, Mrs. Eddinger, Martha Washington, Mary Ann Slater, Mrs. Moores Speckled, Mother of Pearl, Mrs. William Beckman, Pride of Rosebud Farm, and September Morn. I suppose there are many more, but it would take a lot of checking to find them all.

The most successful way of growing Camellias in this area is from cuttings, seeds, and grafting. Most

all of the seedlings are chance seedlings, as I know of no one in this area who does any scientific hybridising. All nurserymen in this area grow cuttings under glass and after the cuttings are rooted, they are transplanted into pots or cans and then grown under lath until sold.

Camellias are very easy to grow in this area, as there are few diseases that attack them. Tea Scale, which will sometimes bother them if they are grown in a too shaded spot, can be easily controlled by a light spray-

ing of volch oil.

I have seen plants growing in



Mrs. Eddinger Courtesy Huntington Bot. Gardens

spots that it is hard to believe that they would grow. Around some of the old homes that have been converted into apartment houses no one seems to take care of the plants planted around them and in the summer very rarely get watered, but they still persist in growing and blooming.

A few years ago a semi-hurricane hit this vicinity and many of the large Elms which had been shading the Camellias were blown down thereby eliminating their protection, but the old Camellias are still growing and blooming and do not show any or very little sunburn.

Ed. Note: More reports from Camelliagrowing areas will appear in future issues.

The Southern California Camellia Garden Opens

Our members, particularly those in the Los Angeles area will be interested to learn that the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery has designated January 9th as the 1954 opening date of its famed Camellia Garden unit of Huntington Botanic Gardens.

After discussions between your Garden Committee and the Huntington Management, it was concluded to advance this season's opening date. The large number of varieties brought to bloom by the unseasonably warm weather seems to more than justify the earlier date.

Mr. Townsend with his staff of assistants has done much to make more attractive the unmatched setting in which this wonderful garden spreads its charms for the pleasure, interest and education of the Camellia-loving public. And to think that it is all there without charge or obligation to the public! Simply call Sycamore 2-6141 or write to the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California and ask for reservations for the day of your choice. The Gardens are open every afternoon except Mondays, from one to four-thirty.

Where other than here will be found a thousand varieties of blooming size? They are here to be seen, admired and studied at your leisure. Moreover they are the finest varieties which your Garden Committee has been able to obtain — in fact the

This year will bring to bloom for the first time in the Garden, such new and difficult to get varieties as Agnes of the Oaks, Anna Bruneau, Betty Theisen, Bride's Bouquet, Clara Brooks, Dr. John D. Bell, Duchess of Sutherland Pink, Elizabeth Le Bey, Frosty Morn, Gigantea Alba, Jessie Katz, Kerleric, Masquerade, Moon Glow, Morning Glow, Mrs. Bertha Harms, Pink Shadows, Princess Lavender, Rosea Mundi, Roy Cowley, S. Peter Nyce, Yvonne Tyson and many other varieties which you will want in your garden after you have seen them at their best.

The Society's Garden Committee recently purchased, using its special fund for that purpose, thirty-nine specimen Camellia plants of excellent varieties. They are contained in eighteen-inch red wood tubs and will be available for display purposes whenever and wherever the management of the Huntington Botanic Gardens may determine.

The opening of the Garden on January 9, 1954 will be the occasion for the formal presentation of these specimen Camellia plants by your Garden Committee to the Huntington Library and Art Gallery.

Visit the fabulous Huntington Library and Art Gallery again this year. Of course you will tour the equally famed Botanic Gardens and your Southern California Camellia Garden.

P.S. Ask to see the sensational new seedling developed by William Hertrich Curator Emeritus and named for the lovely Townsend daughter, the Marjorie Townsend.

Camellia MAIL BAG

From Overseas!

Remember the picture of the Sasanqua Fluted White we published in the November Review? Following is a letter received from Walter G. Hazelwood of Epping, New South Wales. The plant came originally from his garden. He says, quote:

"Back in the late twenties or early thirties, we imported a batch of Camellias sasanqua from Japan and most of these were labelled Mikuniko red, Mikuniko white, Mikuniko pink. We already had the ordinary single

(Continued on Page 20)

LONG RANGE PROBLEMS OF A COLLECTOR

By Roy T. Thompson

From the point of view of a ground-planter on a single residential lot, the most important thing to remember about camellias is that they keep on increasing in size. Relative to the lifetime of the individual who plants them, they keep on getting larger indefinitely, for their life span is several hundred years. The plant is small when you buy it and deceptive in appearance for in twenty-five years it may be looking in your second-story windows and have a breadth of twenty feet. In other words, camellias are trees — there is no other word for them — after twenty to thirty years and it is as trees that they achieve their fullest impressiveness and beauty.

This fact does not concern us at first, in fact it never occurs to us unless and until we live with them over a period of years. Then certain problems become apparent, and if the camellia planter is also a collector, these problems become insistent. For a collector of anything from teacups to stamps, the great virtue of a collection is the largest possible number of kinds or varieties. Also, unless he restricts himself by definite planning, he tends to assemble his collection uncritically. If he chooses camellias, little does he realize that, to use an old pioneer phrase, he has seized a bear by the tail. For he has chosen growing organisms which, in a few years, will threaten to fill up every available space in his garden, in his patio and walks, and even the driveway to his garage, and in grafting season his garage, his attic, and his cellar will be cluttered with grafts. He will, of course, plant out a great many specimens in the ground, but as the new varieties flood in upon him, his space will be used up and he will begin to wonder if he really needs a lawn.

There is only one solution: the camellia collector must form some sort of long-range plan which will enable him to keep on collecting camellias and at the same time maintain order on his premises. In the first place it is essential for him to survey his lot and determine just how many camellias it will take planted in the ground. Suppose he

finds 200 available spaces. Very well, he must rigorously adhere to the plan (Continued on Page 19)

Camellia Lovers Go 'Round the World

Westward

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller of El Cajon, California, left November 1st for a trip westward around the world. Already word has been received from Mr. F. M. Jury, a well known Camellia amateur living near New Plymouth, New Zealand, that the Millers have visited him. They are continuing by air to Europe and will wind up their Camellia adventures in England before returning home.

Eastward

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peer, Park Hill, Los Angeles, are departing on January 10th for a trip around the world, eastward. Ten days will be spent in England, during which there will be a trip to Trewithen and Caerhays Castle, the two famous Camellia gardens in Cornwall. There will be short stops in Ceylon (where Camellias grow in the highlands), Australia and New Zealand before proceeding to French Indo-China. Here it is hoped to obtain plants of the true "yellow Camellia." Hong Kong, the present gateway to China, is on the itinerary, and after that a full month (April) will be spent in Japan exploring both the North and South Islands.

THE VERSATILITY OF THE CAMELLIA

By Elizabeth Councilman CHAPTER IV

THE EVERGREEN FLOWERING SHRUB

Many people grow the Camellia for the flower alone, and this is understandable because it is a flower of rare beauty; yet it also is one of the finest and most handsome evergreen flowering shrubs that it is possible to obtain.

Camellias Offer Everything

Ordinarily, when you think of a shrub or tree for your garden, you think of the type growth of the particular plant in reference to the place where you wish to plant it, or, if you are interested in the blossoms only, you will forego the beauty of the bush, such as the rose or orchid, for the beauty of the flower; but with the Camellia, and only the Camellia to my knowledge, it matters not whether you want a tree, a tall slender shrub, a low spreading bush, a fast grower, a slow grower or a flower-producing plant, you have them all in the different species and varieties of the genus Camellia.

Due to the versatile manner in which the Camellia grows, its extended blooming season, its ability to acclimate itself to different degrees of sun and shade, and its different types of foliage, an entire garden can be landscaped with nothing but Camellias, lawn and trees and be extremely beautiful and different. Violets and different varieties of bulbs would also enhance this type planting.

The Landscaper's Dream

To begin with, if you were contemplating an entire garden of Camellias, much care and thought would be required in its planning. Nothing short of a complete study of the growth habits and sun tolerance of the different varieties would produce the desired effect, but the possibilities

are beyond your wildest dreams in differentness and garden beauty.

If I were considering a garden of this type, I would begin with my trees and lawn. Many varieties of trees, both deciduous and evergreen, are used successfully for shading Camellia gardens with the mighty Oak probably the most highly recommended.

Japonica Background

One section of the garden should be selected and landscaped at a time. Say you want to begin with the southwest corner and a bed along the west side with the summer shade of a deciduous tree. You would begin with your background Camellias; for this you most likely would choose varieties of japonica.

Here you would want plants that would grow rapidly into large spreading bushes and plants that are hardy. Rank growers they are sometimes called. I would get as large plants as possible for this use because they will be the frame of your garden. Marchioness of Exeter, Kingyo-Tsubaki, Debutante, Mathotiana, Arajishi, Enrico Bettoni and Princess Baciocchi, along with Margherita Coleoni and Margherita Coleoni Var, are all good for this purpose, to name but a few.

You now have your large, vigorous growing back-ground plants of japonicas. For the foreground border of this bed I would recommend the specie Sasanqua, variety Tanya, of the Camellia family. This Sasanqua is low growing and is excellent for a border. Just inside this border, I would plant a row of Narcissus which will add scent to your garden.

(Continued on Page 15)

December Meeting of SCCS Is a Colorful Affair

Colors

The December meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society was an enthusiastic and colorful affair. Several long tables were riotous with the lovely pink, red and white early blooming Camellias, many of them blooming too early according to the experts. Sweet pink Debutantes, High Hats and Sasanquas added charming bits of color to the coiffeurs or coat lapels of feminine members of the audience. Even some of the sterner sex sported small boutonnieres, among them William Wylam whose crisp little Sasanqua Ki Ku Tojii he said was classed as a "dinky stinker."

Mr. Harold Dryden, President of the Society, complimented the members on their fine turnout. He made several announcements among them the important information of plans for a Camellia convention to be held in conjunction with the Society's Camellia Show March 6th and 7th. It is hoped that societies affiliated with the S.C.C.S. will be interested in cooperating so that in 1955 a national Camellia Convention may be held here in Pasadena. Full program for the forthcoming Convention and Camellia Show will be published in the February and March issues of the Review.

Mr. Dryden then turned the meeting over to Mr. Dan Sullivan, Program Chairman, who introduced Mr. O. A. Batcheller, speaker of the evening.

The Happy Horticulturists

The training of Horticultural students was the topic of the interesting talk given by O. A. (Jolly) Batcheller at the meeting. Mr. Batcheller, who is the head of the Ornamental Horticultural Department of the California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg-Voorhis unit located near San

Dimas, told of the manner in which his students are trained in the 27 horticultural courses that are given at the college. It is a carefully blended curriculum of skills, and practices, tied in closely with the theoretical, and scientific knowledge, that makes the graduates well adapted to go into the Horticultural Industry immediately upon graduation.

All Projects Have a Meaning

In the terms of the college's President, Julian A. McPhee, it is the "Upside Down" method of instruction, where the students "Learn by Doing". Students are also encouraged to enter growing projects, whereby they can "Earn while they Learn". There is no busy work, stated Mr. Batcheller, who showed that each course inter-related, and worked to a predetermined goal. The students in the design course prepare a design for the improvement of a section of the campus, then the landscape contractors work out plans for the carrying out of this design and then supervise the students in the landscape construction as they actually put in the improvement as a part of their class work. The students in the propagation and growing phase of the courses are continually growing material for use on the two campuses.

To give the members a better understanding of this inter-relation, Mr. Batcheller showed a colored movie of the students in their class work, doing all of the various phases of horticulture, including: propagation, pruning, balling, boxing of trees, surveying, drafting, construction, and contracting. In addition the students, in their co-curricular activities, enter garden shows, and for the last six years have had a major part in the college's entry in the Rose Parade float.

(Continued on Page 14)

DEC. MEETING from Page 13

Cal Poly is an inexpensive college to attend, said Mr. Batcheller. A recent survey shows that 88% of the men earn all or part of their way. Some of the projects they work to a certain point for class work, and then work for wages. "Of course," remarked Mr. Batcheller, "the boys sometimes think they don't reach that point quickly enough." Approximately 400 students attend the college, . which was formerly the Voorhis School for Boys. In 1938, Mr. Voorhis gave the campus to the State, and it then became "Cal Poly" which is a part of the State college system of Higher Education. There are 87 students enrolled in the Ornamental Horticultural Department, taking three years of work at San Dimas, and graduating from the parent campus at San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Camellias Add Glamor

One of the major projects is the Camellia Show Garden which is a joint venture of the college and the Pomona Valley Camellia Society. Mr. Batcheller brought a drawing of the garden as projected. Started two years ago, the garden now has 167 varieties of Camellias with a total of 287 plants. Blooms of Pink Perfection and Daikagura from the garden bordered the drawing.

Eventually the garden will be an outstanding feature of Cal Poly for it is planned around the main entrance to the campus. A wooded hillside slope on one side of the drive makes an ideal spot for display. Live Oak trees make the major shade, with unusual trees being planted as old walnut trees are removed. The students have joined with members of the Pomona Society in holding planting parties and it is the students who are responsible for care of the plants. They are taught how to fertilize, how to disbud, how to graft, and all general culture of the Camellias. Mr.

OUR COVER FLOWER

We are indebted to the Flowerwood Nursery of Mobile, Alabama for our cover flower, the Camellia Japonica Ruth Rover.

That nursery states, "We rate this as the best Camellia grown today." which is certainly high praise. The nursery also describes the flower as a sport of Mathotiana Rubra (Purple Dawn).

It will be noted that there is some disagreement on this point as the Society's Nomenclature book states that Ruth Royer is a sport of the Duchess of Suther-

land.

Whatever its source, the flower keeps its own serene beauty, of pink and white, shading from clear pink to pure white.

Batcheller had taken colored movies and the audience (being human) enjoyed seeing others at work. It was noted that the boys all seemed to be in fine fettle as they boxed a tree, balled a plant or sat at the drawing board.

The Broad Field of Horticulture

A brisk question and answer period was testimony to the interest in Mr. Batcheller's talk. It also brought out the information that he has been given the assignment of visiting a different high school every week to talk to students on the general subject of horticulture and the advantages of going into it as a life work. California, of course, is a fertile field as it has more than 15% now of all horticultural sales in the United States and supports nearly 6,900 nurseries.

The Society greatly appreciated Mr. Batcheller's appearance and also the fact that he brought two fine Philodendron Selloum plants for the plant sale.

VERSATILITY from Page 12

The bed that we now have completely bordered, I would then plant with Reticulatas. This exposure should be just right for them and with your early blooming Sasanquas in the foreground and your mid-season blooming Japonicas in the background, you could not find a nicer setting for the magnificent Reticulatas. I would add Baby Tear Moss and Violets scattered through the bed for added beauty.

Everyone might not care for a bed of Reticulatas and if that be the case with you, you might choose to plant your collection of new and rare varieties of Camellia in such a setting or, perhaps you are interested in related family groups such as the Finlandia family with Finlandia (white), Finlandia Var., Finlandia Red, King Lear and Monte Carlo, or the Daikagura family with Daikagura (Var.), Daikagura Red, High-Hat and Joshua Youtz.

Then again, you may just want a collection of Camellias for your own pleasure. It really doesn't matter what your taste in Camellias is, a section of your land thusly planned and planted would enhance any garden, no matter how large or small it might be.

Ed. Note: Mrs. Councilman continues her discussions in the January Review with Chapter V, The Hedge.

DEC. MEETING from Page 14

During the intermission the members enjoyed a short social period while regaling themselves with coffee, doughnuts and cookies.

Mr. William Wylam was called on to give a run-down of the Camellias on exhibition. He remarked especially on so many blooming out of season, due probably, he thought, to unseasonably warm weather. The many Daikaguras came in this category, Harvey F. Short's

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as did Lallarook. Debutante, he remarked, was the most satisfactory of all the pinks. White Empress, "an early white," he praised as a flower but not as too good a plant. For "My Darling" he had high praise. In connection with the monthly flower show, exhibitors were reminded to be sure and put the name of the flower on one side of the card and the name of the exhibitor on the *other* side of the card.

White Empress Takes Top Honors

The judges named a White Empress exhibited by Mr. L. W. Strohmeyer as the best flower exhibited. Second best was awarded to C. R. and Ruby Lennig for their Debutante. Mr. Edwards Metcalf carried off third award with his H. A. Downing. Of Alba Plena, the flower of the month, first was won by Mrs. Paul Dearborn, second by Charles R. Herr and third by D. W. Moorhusen.

Camelliana

English Version

In the quaint book "Greenhouse & Stove Plants" by Thomas Baines, which was published by John Murray of London in 1885, several pages are given to the Camellia which is rated very highly. In listing the various virtues of the Camellia, Mr. Baines says, quote: "we have an assemblage of properties that place the Camellia in the front rank of flowering subjects."

Even back in 1885 Mr. Baines states that "the more usual and also more satisfactory method of increase is by grafting in some of the ordinary ways on the free-growing single kinds" and in describing young growth he comments, "half the Camellias we meet with are spoilt in the

early stages of their existence for want of sufficient use of the knife."

An interesting and surprisingly detailed exposition of Camellia culture is climaxed by a list of the "best kinds," which include some of today's favorites such as Alba Plena, Chandleri, Donckelaari, C. M. Hovey and Mrs. Hovey, Lady Hume's Blush and Mathotiana. Other which are not commonly found here are Bealii, very deep crimson, flowering late in the spring; Cup of Beauty, white striped with rose, good form and beautifully imbricated; Duchess de Berri, pure white, cupped, beautifully imbricated; Napoleon III, rosey-crimson edged with white; Targione, white striped with cerise, imbricated.

The entire article is well worth reading and is especially interesting from this vantage point of 69 years of Camellia progress. It adds one more bit of proof to our premise that the Camellia is here to stay.

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NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Some facts about the San Diego Camellia Society as published in the December Bulletin:

We are devotees of the most beautiful of all winter flowers, the Camellia. Our members range from those having one prized, potted Camellia to some who are real experts in the Camellia world. Our membership is scattered throughout most of the postal zones in San Diego city and in most of the outlying communities of the county; in fact, our membership seems to be equally and interestingly divided between the foothill district (as far east as Ramona) and the city.

We meet the second Friday of the month during the Camellia season from November to May, the May meeting being a dinner meeting. Our constitution provides that most of the routine business be settled by an elected board of directors in order that the meetings be devoted to the pleasant subject of Camellias. We usually have an outstanding speaker tell us about some interesting phase of the culture or display of this most surprising of plants, the true aristocrat of the flowering plant world. We have so much fun that even the president of the Rose Society is a member of our group; this fact also indicates the broadmindedness of our organization.

Membership in the San Diego Camellia Society also carries with it for the one membership fee of five dollars a membership in the SCCS. In addition to our Bulletin, the members receive a copy of the Society's unique booklet, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," as well as any research publications put out during the year. Our Society also maintains an extensive library of publications related to the Camellia. Once a year we put on a Camellia Show (in February) in which the wide range of Camellia blossoms is displayed to the general public in a truly beautiful setting. In addition, the Society is sponsoring and helping maintain a Camellia garden in Balboa Park, which some day will be one of the prize features of that already famed institution.

GLENDALE

The Pacific Camellia Society will hold its annual Camellia Show February 13th and 14th in the Auditorium of the Glendale YWCA, Lexington Avenue at Glendale Boulevard, in Glendale, California. All Camellia growers are urged to participate. The new classification system—classifying by variety rather than by form will be used. This insures that many flowers which have never been considered "show flowers" will now be entered for competition. We hope every flower will be represented on the show tables.

Many ribbons and cups are to be awarded. There will be ribbons for each variety of Camellia entered as well as the cups awarded for the Best Amateur Flower and the Best Professional Flower. There will be a Sweepstakes Cup, a Trophy for the Best Plant, the Frank Williams Cup for the Best Seedling and if earned, the Gold and Silver Certificates of the American Camellia Society.

There will be classes and ribbons for arrangements and for individual container plants also.

Entries may be made from 10 A.M. to 12 noon Saturday the 13th and there is no entry fee. Schedules may be obtained from Mrs. Sidney Harris, 3871 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. The show hours will be from

(Continued on Page 18)

NEWS, NOTES & NOTICES from Page 17

4 to 10 P.M., the 13th and from 11 A.M. to 10 P.M. the 14th. There will be a 50c admission charge.

POMONA VALLEY

Many interesting speakers took part in the December meeting of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society, which was held in the Claremont Women's Club House.

O. A. (Jolly) Batcheller, head of the Ornamental Horticulture Department of Cal Poly at San Dimas reported on the Camellia Garden which is a joint enterprise of the Pomona Society and the College. Ronald Townsend, Curator of the Huntington Botanic Gardens gave the history of the Camellia Gardens there, which have been sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society, and which will be at the height of their bloom from January to April. Mr. Townsend invited all to come and see them. Harold Dryden, President of the S.C.C.S. brought greetings from Carl Tourje who was unable to attend, and told of plans for a gathering of Camellia Societies which are affiliated with the S.C.C.S., to be held in conjunction with the Flower Show of the Society March 6th and 7th. Mr. Howard Asper of Pasadena talked on the plans of Los Angeles County for the extension and beautification of the Descanso Gardens which they recently purchased.

Great interest attended the announcement by Harold Pearson, Show Committee Chairman of the Pomona Valley Society, of February 20 and 21 as the dates for the Camellia Show of the Society. The show will be held in the

(Continued on Page 25)

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LONG RANGE PROBLEMS

from Page 11

of having only 200 camellias, no matter how many new varieties appear on the market. Suppose he now has 400 varieties, many of them in cans. The next logical step will be to build up evaluation factors which will enable him to sort out the less desirable varieties and eliminate them.

The first step in building up evaluation factors is to get the cooperation of his family — for permanently planted camellias are a family, not an individual affair. Somehow or other the family must decide which camellias afford them the greatest amount of satisfaction. This and this alone should be the determining factor, not what the so-called authorities say, or what the books say, but what the family likes best.

Here the most important single factor will be aesthetic appeal. Each individual has his own aesthetic mechanism, that is, each responds in varying degrees to the infinite combinations of line and color and pattern presented by flowers. Some prefer formals, some singles; some dislike variegation, some collect only whites, etc. etc. The important fact is that the response to flowers is a highly individual matter which no authorities or rules or text-books can alter. Some flowers leave us unmoved, others cause our aesthetic emotions literally to dance with delight, as Wordsworth puts it:

And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils.

The great point is: once you have discovered which flowers give you and yours the greatest joy and pleasure, stick to these accepted patterns regardless of what others say. If the little white and pink Miyako-nishiki causes your heart instantly to dance with joy, add this one to your collection and enjoy it endlessly. The 12-inch ruler is not a safe measure of aesthetic enjoyment; one's response to beauty does not always coincide with the largest diameter in flowers.

If the "pleasure-vield" of a camellia is its most important single criterium for selection in your limited collection, there are other, if minor, considerations. Does the variety being considered do well in your locality? The White Daik (Joshua E. Youtz) for example, has difficulty in opening its flowers at different times and in different localities. A great many other varieties have this same idiosyncrasy. Does the plant itself (without flowers) contribute valuable landscape effect? There is a great variation in compactness and shape among camellia varieties and, since they are going to be looked at twelve months in the year, their physical appearance is important. It doesn't pay to allow chance to determine these matters.

As the long-range collector devel-(Continued on Page 21)

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EAST PASADENA

MAIL BAG from Page 10

white and when the new one flowered we christened it Fluted White to distinguish it from the old one. Later on we stopped growing the ordinary one but the name Fluted White persisted. It must have another name in Japan but the trouble would be to find it. The name of Fluted White started as a nursery designation to distinguish it from the other single white that we had, but we got into the habit of calling it this way and it has persisted. I really think we should try and find the correct one. Is this variety totally new to America or has it been imported under a Japanese name? When we imported this camellia from Japan I had not any personal interest in camellias and they were just plants to me. Since then I have contracted camelliaitis and would have kept more records if the import was of recent times."

Can any of our readers supply more information about the lovely Fluted White?

The Spicy Touch!

An innocent looking envelope

yielded the following, quote:

Why don't you editors and editresses get smart and stop printing all of this rehash about how to transplant, spray, fertilize and generally pamper Camellia plants? Go back over the publications for the past eight years and you'll find these and like subjects as overdone as a bride's first filet mignon.

End quote. Well, first, speaking as a housewife as well as an editor (tress) we like hash and have our own

(Continued on Page 27)

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LONG RANGE PROBLEMS

from Page 19

ops his techniques he will learn also, especially if he is somewhat philosophical, to allow the new "hot" varieties to cool off a little before he procures them, for the heat waves emanating from them may obscure their true value. If they are truly "tops" they will be just as good two years hence, far more plentiful, and much less expensive. Besides, the new variety has not yet been tried out in widely separated areas and may have disappointing weak points in his area.

Another collecting technique which the philosophical long-range collector will eventually adopt—certainly if he lives on a single-residence lot—is the complete avoidance of any attempt to produce "fine new varieties" from seed. If he yields to this temptation, his plans for an orderly yard and garden might as well be scrapped, for to produce one good variety from seed will require many thousand individual seedling plants. Heaven knows that there are planty of new varieties-perhaps too many-being introduced each year. Why crowd yourself out of valuable garden space when you can get an infinite variety of new ones steadily and unfailingly from those who have room to grow them?

The time will eventually come

when the long-range collector will have to decide between the mere size of a plant or tree and the desire to have a newer, better variety in its space. He may decide in favor of mere size, regardless of variety, because size of tree does come to have a distinct value. A huge camellia bush or small tree blooming in front of a house is a thing of distinction, no matter what kind of flowers it bears. Passing cars will slow up to look at it and the house where it stands will be remembered and revisited year after year. If the owner decides to cut down such a large specimen in order to have a "better variety" in its place, he must reconcile himself to years of waiting before the new variety will equal the old in landscape effectiveness. This is an individual choice he must make.

Thus, camellia collecting on a residential lot, if it is to be kept within reasonable bounds, must be regulated, curbed, and controlled by longrange planning. Otherwise the disgusted collector may abandon the whole business, lose his interest in camellias, and go back to tea-cups. stamps, or even tropical fish. If he remains long enough on his lot, he will discover that camellias have many ways of affording garden satisfaction, the most surprising one, perhaps, being their habit of growing into small trees. And for this he must make preparations long in advance.

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NEWS, NOTES & NOTICES from Page 18

new Holt Avenue branch office of the First National Bank.

Bloom displays, a regular feature of the Pomona meetings, were shown by Jolly Batcheller, Clark Thomas, Jack Holland, C. D. Cothran, Mrs. Laura Whitehead, Elizabeth Whitehead and Mrs. Earlda Lane.

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MAIL BAG from Page 20

method of making it that seems very satisfactory to the family. Second, what is hash to a Camellia expert may burst like a new discovery to a Camellia hobbyist. Further, life itself becomes inevitably more or less a rehash of the familiar—it all depends on the kind of rehash you make of it. We like ours sort of spicy and enjoy a dash of pepper—such as, for instance, this letter. The letter's contents, furthermore, were tempered by the addition of the Report, for the letter was signed, Sigmund Katz.

Another Character, Claud!

Dear Editor:

Reading about Claud Chidamian's Camellia Characters in the *Review* amused me no end.

He must have had me in mind when he wrote about Burbank, Jr., except we are tee-totallers at our house so no beer cans. In fact, Mom does our canning so we don't have many cans of any kind, only sauerkraut cans when we have saurkraut and spare ribs, and dog food cans when we buy dog food to feed our tom cats. But these cans are all too little so I have to scavenge the neighbor's rubbish barrels. Like Mr. Tourje says, you shouldn't plant Camellias in cans littler than you can put gallons in, but I do; I use tomato juice cans and 2 pound coffee cans. And it wasn't Kumasaka and the cucumber that I was trying to cross; it was a match between Mina Moto and Broccoli that I was promoting to produce perfumed polyanthus type.

I guess he must have been thinking about some other guy after all.

Elmer Mueller

Ed. note: Only goes to show that Camellias go all out to do their bit even if they may be surprised sometimes at the treatment they receive. Don't they love to confound the experts, tho! It won't even be necessary for Mr. Mueller to ask his neighbors to buy their food in larger cans.

The Show's The Thing!

Don't be forgetting our Camellia Show and have your finest Camellias ready for showing March 6th and 7th. Final plans and details will be announced in the February Review.

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CAMELLIA REVIEWER

From Page 2

ellias" is to be published this spring by the Exposition Press of New York. We had a short view one day at her house of (loosely speaking) a dozen cats and hundreds of Camellias in the hinterland so we shall be waiting eagerly to read how it all came about.

On this same subject we should like to be informed of any more publications by our members. Won't you let us know?

OUR Camellia

One of our biggest thrills of the holiday season is also in connection with Elizabeth Councilman who has named a beautiful Camellia seedling the "Liz Beebe." How can we ever live up to this? The plant is between seven and eight years old and this is its third blooming. The flower is a pure white splashed with crimson and between four and five inches across. May we be worthy of such an honor.

And Jolly He Is

Mr. Batcheller, who was our speaker for the December meeting, is well nicknamed "Jolly," for his effervescent spirits are most infectious. He lives with two kindred spirits (his children) who use stationery headed "The Three Mustgettheirs." Cute, no?

Come On, 1954

- 28 -

And here is wishing everyone who has read this far a wonderful 1954 with life to their liking; and that of course would include healthy Camellias, a wealth of Camellias and the happiness that comes from success with Camellias whether they are raised for fun or money. There would be profit either way

says Liz

T. H. CURLEE

P. O. Box 423

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