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# Camellia Review



*C. japonica* 'Onetia Holland'

Courtesy James Holland

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 19

April 1958

Fifty Cents

No. 7

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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

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**PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.**

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Monthly from October through April, and in July.

All manuscript for publication should be sent direct to the Editor. Publication office, 706 S. Fair Oaks, Pasadena 2, California.

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# Camellia Reviewer

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ELIZABETH BEEBE

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## If Only —

Recently day after day the mailman has brought us in fat envelopes that bulged with news of shows in California, Texas, Mississippi — clippings from newspapers — reports from secretaries of our affiliates about their big shows — photographs of winners — We thought how wonderful it would be if we could print every bit of all that.

Suddenly on our desk there *was* a big magazine and inside it pages and pages of all that wonderful news. There were hundreds and hundreds of names of the people — unselfish and camellia minded enthusiasts who had given of their time and themselves to judge, to arrange, to hammer and nail, even to sweep the floor. They *all* had their names printed in that magazine. And there were pages and pages of photographs. There was J. O. Henry grinning over his big 'Frizzle White' that took first at San Diego and Merle Gish and Stanley Miller beaming over their sweepstakes and best retic 'Crimson Robe' respectively at Santa Ana; Reg Ragland in the midst of his own particular camellia forest in his lath house; the prettiest girls of Orange County charmingly adorned with camellias in leis, coronets, wristlets and corsages; the Lovely Lettie (Mrs. Robert Leard) bending over her exquisite arrangement that helped her win her Sweepstakes in the Arrangements Show at Descanso; and finally for a chuckle, Elizabeth Ballin's big cat Sugar happily nuzzling a big 'Mathotiana Supreme'.

It must have been the chuckle that woke us up and brought us back to reality. Back to the real Review on a budget, to the heart-rending blue pencil and heartless pruning down of

words and setting aside of pictures.

Some day — maybe? But in the meanwhile our best thanks to you all for being so cooperative and for Sugar's sake do keep sending us information. Don't forget that the Review would be absolutely nothing — in fact nonexistent without you.

## Suspense Story

Many growers have been experimenting with Gibberellic acid these past two or three years with enough reports of fantastic results that a great interest is evidenced in any use of it. Particularly were we all interested in the report last year from John Sobeck, Propagator at Descanso Gardens, that in his personal collection at his home he had managed to have a Captain Rawes *reticulata* set seed. But alas — we found out recently that although there were luscious big seed pods, they were empty. However, the plant itself approximately doubled its growth — being now about five feet in height. Now it is profusely budded and Mr. Sobeck is holding his breath until the buds unfold. We are keeping tabs on them too and will report results as soon as we hear. The faculty of stretching stems seems to belong to the gibberellins but camellias do grow tall enough anyway. Mr. Sobeck treated some tuberous begonias and they went right up. Now who in the world would want big tuberous begonias three feet high? Bet the begonias were as surprised themselves as Mr. Sobeck.

## Ah — April in France

At the time this Review is read, Mr. Ralph Peer will be in France as he is a United States delegate to the International Congress of Horticulture held in Nice from April 10th to 14th.

## For Camellia Background

Anyone for peacock feathers? One of the well established features of the

(Continued on Page 27)

# THE BIG SHOW WAS JUST THAT

Climaxing the Camellia season for the S C C S was the Big Show held at Descanso Gardens in La Canada in which it had a large part. Covering the period from March 1st when nearly 2500 specimen blooms that included over 500 varieties taxed the Judges' efforts to select the "super" ones, through March 9th when camellias and complementary flowers and accessories were combined in bewildering loveliness, the nearly 19,000 visitors roamed through galaxies of exhibitions and out through the forests of 50,000 camellia plants that are a permanent glory of Descanso.

The week was starred by daily events which included talks by Harold E. Dryden (General Manager of the Show), Dr. E. Clark Hubbs, John Threlkeld and Mark Anthony on "Growing Camellias for Fun," "Outstanding New Varieties," "How to Grow Camellias," and others on general camellia culture. There were educational exhibits of planting, grafting and growing from cuttings. During the Arrangements Show there were demonstrations of arranging.

## Awards

Top awards for the Cut Bloom Show were as follows:

SWEEPSTAKES .....	Dr. E. Clark Hubbs
SWEEPSTAKES RUNNER-UP .....	Merle S. Gish
BEST JAPONICA (Amateur)—"Guest of Honor" .....	Dr. E. Clark Hubbs
BEST JAPONICA RUNNER-UP (Amateur)—"Mrs. D. W. Davis" .....	Edwards H. Metcalf
BEST RETICULATA (Amateur)—"Cornelian" .....	Thomas H. Stull
BEST RETICULATA RUNNER-UP—"Buddha" .....	Masao Nishimoto
BEST MULTIPLE JAPONICA (Amateur) .....	Edwards H. Metcalf & Dr. E. Clark Hubbs
BEST MULTIPLE RETICULATA (Amateur) .....	Masao Nishimoto
BEST SEEDLING OR SPORT—"Seedling #203" .....	McCaskill Gardens
BEST JAPONICA (Professional)—"Kramer's Supreme" .....	Kramer's Nursery
BEST RETICULATA (Professional)—"Moutancha" .....	Nuccio's Nursery

The outstanding Arrangements Show had as its Chairman, Rose Gish who reports it as follows:

It is with great pride of the Los Angeles Camellia Council and the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors with the cooperation of the Descanso Gardens that we can say our show held on March 8th and 9th was a tremendous success.

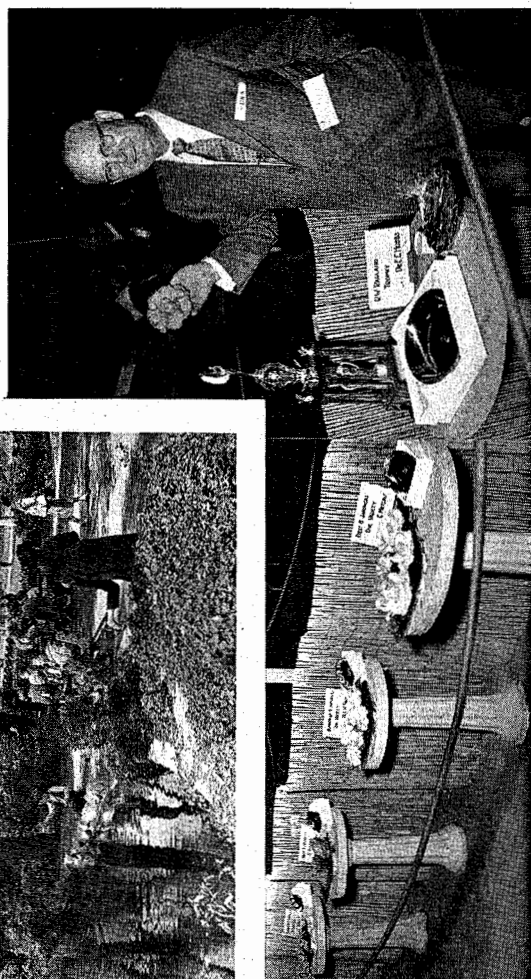
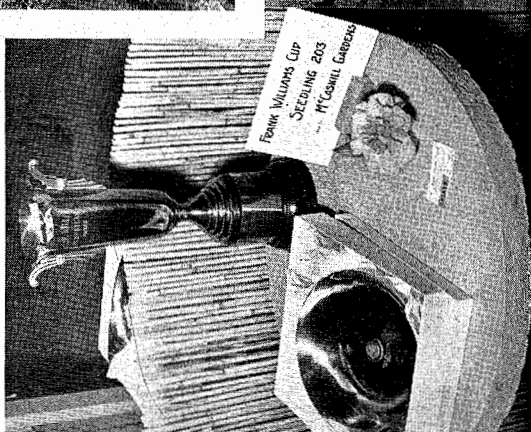
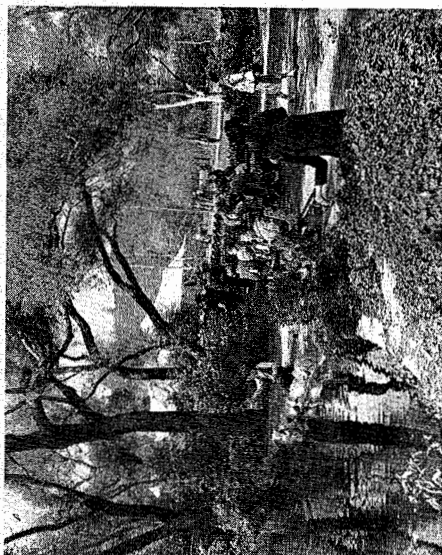
The flower-arrangers came from San Bernardino, Hemet, Riverside, Glendale, Sherman Oaks and of course Los Angeles and La Canada. I could almost say all points East and West, North and South.

Such a showing of arrangements I have never seen before and I honestly feel it was because the Los Angeles Camellia Council offered them a show which was set up especially for them. On Sunday you could readily see how

Opposite Page

(Left) The Frank Williams Cup became the property of the Vern McCaskills, won by the top winning seedling #203. (Top) Long before the rope barrier to the big tent was lowered, Show visitor enthusiasts began to gather in the Descanso Gardens to admire the out-of-doors camellias, azaleas and other spring vegetation, sun themselves on benches or feed the ducks in the clear water of the little stream. (Bottom) A double row of white pedestals divided by bamboo fencing formed an artistic display background for trophy specimens. In the foreground the photograph shows clearly the breath-taking array of 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' blooms which won top award of Best 6 Japonicas for Edwards Metcalf. (Right) Dr. E. C. Hubbs holds up his gorgeous 'Guest of Honor' judged Best Japonica of the Show. A second later he learned that he had taken Sweepstakes.

# *The Third Annual Big Show*





popular arrangements are getting to be when people are willing to stand in line at least a half an hour before they could even get into the tent.

The "Kennels" for Men only was really a howling success. All through each day every once in a while you'd hear a great loud laugh from that end of the tent and right away you knew somebody had gotten the point of one of the arrangements. John Threlkeld's prize winning arrangement "featuring Dried material and wood" was priceless. It was a rotted stump of Camellia wood that had suffered a priceless life from being planted too deep, thus was pulled up from the ground and made into an arragnment with Camellias that too had suffered a horrible life of petal blight. It was designed by "Armidella Toadstool" alias John Threlkeld. The runner-up was Ernie Pieri and his "Fallen Angels" also featuring wood. The fallen angels were his prize Camellias tied by a string to hold them in the air. One I'm still laughing to myself about was Vern McCaskill's Glen 20's (Glen 40's cut in half!!) and Jack McCaskill's arrangement of an "All gone Collector." It was a grave with Camellias all around it. Harvey Short had such a nice display of a Horn of Plenty (plenty of trouble). The horn of plenty had petal blight, snails, birds eating all the Lotus seeds, a rabbit eating his priceless seedlings and best of all his one yellow ribbon (a third) and a white ribbon (a fifth) by his seedlings (which were too large for miniatures and too small to please the Camellia Kings and this was labeled "Ten years of Hard Labor." There were so many more to mention that it would take all the Camellia Review to tell it. But just be there next year with a satire of your own.

The reason we called it the Kennels was because that is where we put all the "dogs." Ah, yes . . . Even arrangers have "dogs" to worry us.

We were especially proud of our winning girl's work. She won over 197 arrangements as hers being judged the best in the show and believe me that is tough competition. I was especially proud of Letty Leard's\* work for she is fairly new at the "game" but you could readily see she is an apt pupil. She really gave them all rough sleddin'. She not only won best in show but won best in Division B and Sweepstakes. So we all take our hats off to you Letty for a job well done. You have made the Camellia people proud.

In closing I want to thank all those that participated in the arrangements show for without them the show could not have been such an overwhelming success.

To those workers, clerks and committees that stood by and did their jobs so well and a very deep down heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Flynn Dixon who for the second year has done an outstanding job as registration chairman, to Ernie Pieri who can type and print and is always willing to tackle anything else you give him to do and to the Society's gem of show staging, Frank Ramsey.

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\* "Letty," who is really Mrs. Robert Leard, comes by her love of and skill with flowers naturally. She is a daughter of the Vern McCaskills — need we say more?



# CAMELLIA SHOWS BLOOM ALL OVER

## 11th ANNUAL SHOW OF THE POMONA SOCIETY

Top honor for the "Best Flower in the Show" in the 11th Annual Camellia Show, held February 22nd and 23rd in Pomona, was won by Max England of Claremont, with a magnificent 'Melody Lane' blossom.

Sweepstakes winner in the flower arrangement division was Elizabeth Whitehead of Pomona with a basket arrangement.



Max England and his daughter Eve called themselves the Blue Ribbon Family as they displayed their winning entries from the Pomona Show. Mr. England's 'Melody Lane' was judged the Best in Show while Eve took top honors in the Junior Arrangement Section.

The award for the largest point score among the many ribbon winners was won by Oliver S. Hein of Upland.

Floyd Bunnelle, show chairman, was more than pleased by the thousands of perfect blossoms that were entered, despite a fear that the recent rains might have lowered the quality of flowers at this time. Bunnelle stated that the glamour of the show was greatly enhanced by the non-competing exhibits of the Mt. San Antonio Junior College, California Polytechnic College, Kramer Bros. Nursery, Holland's Nursery, Thomas Camellias, and the Riverside Drive Garden Center. Background music for the show was furnished by the Hammond Organ Studio of Pomona, Mrs. Virgil Green, Hershel Green, Carl Wolfe and Bruce Meils, organists.

The judges officiating at the show were: Alton Parker of Temple City, President of the Pacific Camellia Society; Al. Schmekel of Kramer's Nursery, Cucamonga; Clark Thomas, of Mt. San Antonio Junior College,

resident of San Dimas. The special judges of flower arrangements were: Mrs. Wiley Carter, Mrs. George Blair and Mrs. A. Stark, all of Riverside.

In the flower arrangement classes ribbon award winners were: Elizabeth Whitehead and Eugene Pearson of Pomona. Mrs. Jean Shattuck and Mrs. B. M. Pace of Upland. Mrs. Harold Rowe of Ontario.

In the "Junior Division" of flower arrangements the ribbon winners were: Eve England of Claremont; Bill Harmsen, Rodney Wheeler, Janice Monroy, and Eugene Pearson of Pomona.

The winner of the "best corsage" was Mr. K. H. Bottoms of Chino.

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## ORANGE COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Sixth Annual Show was held in the Student Union of the Santa Ana College on February 23rd. The one day show was blessed by delightful



weather and nearly 6,000 visitors combined with 3,000 camellias to result in a truly outstanding performance.

The setting was most ideal, with the large dining hall being used for the display of blooms and the more intimate lounge serving as a perfect background for the arrangement classes. Commercial displays and a demonstration of grafting found a congenial location in the open patio.

The main dining room had the great advantage of natural lighting from large windows and French doors, and the long tables of exquisite blossoms had a perfect background in the light green walls. Large container-grown plants from the Ragland gardens had been strategically placed to break the monotony of too long vistas and to point up key exhibits.

The entry hall contained the Table of Honor with its high-lighted blooms, the Trophy Table, backed by a wall of blooming plants, and an information table. As the visitors moved into the arrangement area, their eyes were caught by the spectacular Torii Gate that framed a mannequin wearing a delicately embroidered kimono. This delightful oriental figure was wearing camellias in its hair and carrying a basket of perfect bloom. The Torii Gate, handiwork of Mrs. Fritz Kahen, was formed of polished camellia leaves and studded by Camellia Blossoms. The setting was formed of azaleas and blooming camellia plants.

This area also held the corsage corner with its skilled workers under the direction of Mrs. Robert Powell. The ladies' adroit hands were busy turning out the accessories that soon appeared on the visitors' coats.

The classes of arrangements were far more extensive than they had been in the past, and the increased deftness and subtlety of the entries was marked. Mrs. Charles McF. Reed was in charge of this portion of the show.

Happy winners for the top camellias included:

SWEEPSTAKES	Merle S. Gish
SWEEPSTAKES RUNNER-UP	Dr. E. Clark Hubbs, Sr.
BEST JAPONICA—"Tomorrow"	Merle S. Gish
BEST RETICULATA—"Crimson Robe"	Stanley W. Miller
BEST SEEDLING	Ted Kohl
BEST MINIATURE—"Petite"	John C. Robinson
BEST MULTI-FLOWER DISPLAY—JAPONICAS—"Glen 40"	Tom Zuck
BEST MULTI-FLOWER DISPLAY—RETICULATAS—"Willow Wand"	E. H. Metcalf
BEST CONTAINER-GROWN PLANT—"Glen 40"	Ken Newerf
BEST GRAFTED CAMELLIA—"Guest of Honor"	Byron Lindsley
BEST ARRANGEMENT	Alice Smith
ARRANGEMENT RUNNER-UP	Coral Powell

### CENTRAL CALIF. CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW

Between five and six thousand persons visited this fine Camellia Show at Fresno. The general Show Chairman was Rey Merino with Roy Wheeler for Publicity, Mrs. Maynard Munger as Registrar and Milo Rowell heading the Judges. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier carried off Sweepstakes, also exhibiting the Best Japonica of the Show, a 'Reg Ragland.' Sweepstakes Runner-up was Mrs. Maynard Munger. The Flower Arrangements Section added much interest to the show; was larger than that of last year and plans are being set to enlarge it for next year. At this Show, Mrs. R. W. Richter won in the Advanced Arrangements Class while Mrs. F. H. Irwin took beginners' honors.

### TEMPLE CITY SHOW

With 296 varieties of Japonicas and 17 of the Reticulata varieties exhibited, the T.C.C.S. held one of its most successful camellia shows in February.

There were 58 camellia enthusiasts who wanted to exhibit their blooms and to compete for one of the many trophies that were to be awarded. Caryll Pitkin won Sweepstakes, but only after a close decision over Sweepstakes Runner-up Mae Franklin. I. J. Kriegbaum won individual honors with the most blue ribbon winners. We want to thank all those who exhibited and in any way helped with making this show so successful, and hope that you and your friends are going to participate in the 1959 Show. Put the date down for future reference, February 21st and 22nd, 1959.

### THE SACRAMENTO SHOW

The Sacramento Camellia Festival was highlighted by the 34th Annual Camellia Show of the Sacramento Camellia Society. One of the largest in the United States, a record crowd of 31,500 persons flocked to the Auditorium to view nearly 10,000 Camellia blossoms representing over a thousand varieties. Hundreds of awards, trophies and ribbons were given in a "Judgment Day" of very stiff floral competition. Sweepstakes were carried off by a Sacramento Society member, Dr. Ralph Gladen of Modesto. It is interesting to note that the best *japonica* was one of the same variety that won tops at the New Orleans show — 'Tomorrow.' It was exhibited by Harold F. Clark of Sacramento.

"Each year as I watch the crowds at our annual Camellia Show I have a little feeling of amazement," writes Helen Brown, whose husband R. C. Brown was Chairman of the Judges. "There are young and old and in between, almost reverently viewing the displays, picking their favorites and writing down varieties to be tracked down and purchased."

A newspaper clipping stated that many visitors revealed plans to transplant the fame of Sacramento's official flower to their hometowns.

### NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

#### Central California Camellia Society

Arbor Day was observed in Fresno by our President F. William Paul and Mr. Charles E. Dinon, the Assistant County Administrative Officer, jointly planting the first Camellia plant in a proposed Camellia Garden in the Fresno County Courthouse Park. Our Society has been asked to act in an advisory capacity to the department in planning this garden. We are very happy to have our Civic Offices become so Camellia-minded as we feel that camellias have an important place in landscaping.

#### Temple City Society

The April and last meeting of the 1957-58 Camellia Season for the Temple City Camellia Society will be held April 21st at the Masonic Temple in San Gabriel, located at 264 South Mission Drive. This will be our annual dinner meeting. Make your reservations for the dinner with Mae Franklin, 9151 Woolley in Temple City or At. 7-3326.

Rose and Merle Gish will be our speakers for the evening. They will show slides of their recent trip to New Orleans where they attended the American Camellia Society Convention. We will also have some slides of our own show, taken by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Corwin. New officers and members of the Board of Directors will be introduced. Prexy Ernie Pieri extends an invitation to members of all the Societies to attend the dinner.

We wish that your summer will be a fruitful one, that with proper care and culture your camellias will bring you many blue ribbon winning blooms for the 1958-59 season.

# CAMELLIA PARTS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

By DR. LOUIS WHEELER

Of special interest to the fancier of camellias is their reproduction by seed because most new varieties originate from seed. The minority of varieties result from bud sports and the variegating influence of viral infections.

The following paragraphs summarize the structures and events in sexual reproduction of the Camellia and other flowering plants as well.

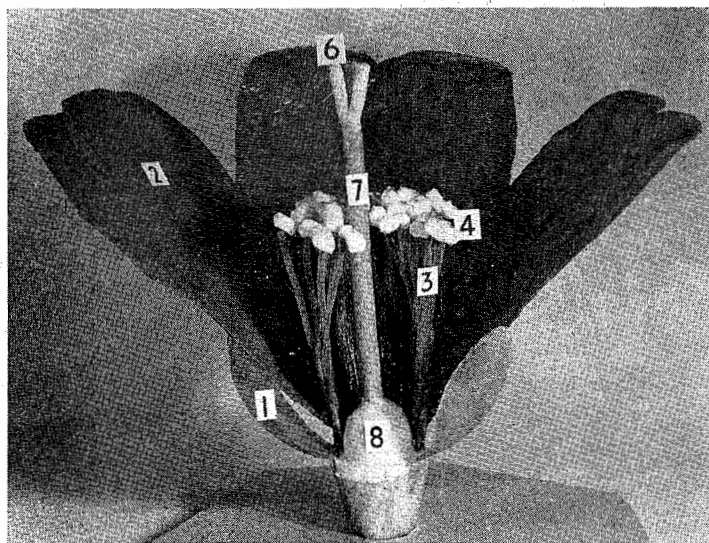
## The Flower

The function of the flower is to make possible the production of seeds which reproduce the plant. The petals attract the pollinator, in the camellia commonly the honeybee. The fragrance of fertile varieties of camellia, though slight, also helps attract the pollinator. The pollen and nectar reward the bee so that she visits flower after flower gathering pollen and nectar which she carries home for food.

**Pollination:** The function of the stamen is production of pollen in its enlarged tip, the anther. The pollen grains are small and yellow. Many pollen grains adhere to the hair on the bee's body as she crawls about the stamens gathering pollen to take home and also drinking nectar from

the bottom of the inside of the flower. By chance the bee may brush against the stigmas and pollen grains may adhere to its sticky surface. Pollen is shed just after the flower opens.

**Fertilization.** The pollen grains adhering to the sticky surface of the stigma germinate and a delicate tube grows from each pollen grain down through the style. During the growth of the pollen tube the microscopic male sex cells (sperms) are formed in the pollen tube. Eventually the pollen tube reaches the cavity of the ovary where it enters an ovule and liberates the two sperms one of which



Cutaway Model of a camellia blossom showing its botanical parts. Legend: 1. Sepal; 2. Petal; 3. Filament; 4. Anther; 5. Stamens are the combination of 3 and 4; 6. Stigma; 7. Style; 8. Ovary; 9. Pistil. This is a combination of 6, 7 and 8.

fuses with the microscopic female sex cell (egg), which event is fertilization, and the cell formed by this fusion is the first cell of the new plant.

**Formation of the fruit.** The processes involved in growth of the pollen tube and finally fertilization start a succession of hormonally controlled processes which result in shedding of petals and stamens and often sepals too, simultaneously with the withering of the style and the gradual enlargement of the ovary to form the fruit containing the seeds. Growth of the fruits commonly starts during the period from November through February. By late August, September or early October the fruit is ripe and gradually breaks open and sheds the seeds.

**Growth of the embryo:** The cell formed by fusion of the egg and sperm divides repeatedly, and gradually, by absorbing food from the soft clear nutritive jelly in which it is embedded, grows into the mature embryo consisting of an embryonic shoot which on germination elongates into the stem and leaves, an embryonic root which elongates into the root system, and two large halves,

the cotyledons or seed leaves containing abundant food which nourishes the young seedling.

**The Seed** consists of the mature embryo surrounded by a hard seed coat. The seed has grown from the ovule and its coat is derived from the integuments of the ovule . . . The number of seeds per fruit varies from one to several. The shape of the seed is diverse and much influenced by the number in the fruit.

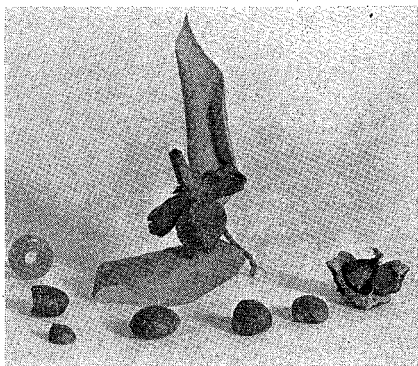
**Germination** of the camellia seed takes from six weeks in an artificially warmed place to several months out-of-doors under natural conditions. During germination the seed absorbs moisture, the embryo swells and breaks the coat, and the slender stem pushes upward into the light, and the young root pushes down deeper into the soil. The cotyledons remain underground attached to the stem and supply food to the developing seedling until its leaves are large enough to manufacture all the food required to support the seedling. It is best to plant the seeds as soon as they are shed from the fruit. If stored until spring most of the seeds will have died.

**The seedling.** During the first season the seedling grows to a height of from a few to several inches.

**The Flowering Seedling.** After three to seven or more years the seedling may bloom. Because most varieties of camellia are heterogeneous in their hereditary characters the offspring are likely to differ from the parent. Consequently there is always a possibility that the seedling may produce distinctively new and beautiful flowers, though most are ordinary and undistinguished. However, the possibility of producing something new and worthwhile lends zest to raising camellias from seed.

Crossing one variety with another

*(Continued on Page 24)*



Camellia seeds from different varieties showing a seed pod. The color of these seeds varied from a lightish brown to a deep mahogany tint. Their approximate size can be judged by comparison with a "Lifesaver."

# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA BLOOMING CALENDAR FOR CAMELLIAS

By RONNIE CARR

Let me acquaint you with the blooming habits of camellias in Central California. It is absurd to believe camellias can only be enjoyed from December thru March. The bees and you can be abuzz eight months out of the year if you play your cards right.

## Early

The Camellia blooming season starts here in Tulare during the later part of September with the opening of *oleifera*. Not a spectacular beginning but at least an early one. During October and November most people are only aware of the adverse weather that keeps them from enjoying their yard. However, during these bleak months most of the better varieties of *sasanquas* are bursting with abundance of bloom. One to be a source of pleasure is 'Hinode-no-umi.' This is an exceptionally showy red that has some purple overtone. Not only does it bloom in great profusion but also makes a dense, bushy grower that develops into a choice specimen plant. 'Hiodoshi' makes a striking show piece with its large crimson flowers splashed and marbled white. This single is to be gratifying primarily in mass of color as are all *sasanquas*. 'Ko-Gyoku', or better known as 'Little Gem', can open flowers that give tremendous pleasure with its rose form double type of delicate shell pink.

## Midseason

Even in December, January and February the *sasanquas* keep right on performing like slaves for their master. During this period some of the newer varieties are at their best. 'Navajo' is one of the nicer of the semi-double type with large flowers of rose red fading to white in the center. 'Splendor' is a beauty with very large flowers of delicate pink with an unusual darker pink towards the edge giving a startling effect. *Sasanquas* adapt easily to all conditions and are ideally suited for espalier as well as sun areas. During the *sasanqua* season it is easy to become absorbed in their mass of color.

In the *hiemalis* group you have the ever attractive 'Showa-no-sakae.' This old standard has one fault in that her flowers shatter quickly, however, I still cherish the moments of satisfaction when gazing upon blossoms of unequalled color and form. Soft pure pink blooms of semi-double to rose form double. You would do well to disbud early and heavy for better quality flowers on this slow bushy grower. 'Showa Supreme' is a fairly recent introduction from Nuccio's Nurseries that makes an excellent hanging basket variety. This seedling of 'Showa-no-sakae' has the same desirable color only is of the peony type and has far superior lasting habits. 'Shishi-Gashira,' now listed as *hiemalis*, is a very worthy addition to this group. It has medium size, semi-double flowers of red with golden stamens. A dense slow bushy grower.

January brings forth a flock of hybrids, *reticulatas* and other species. 'Fraterna' over does herself with clusters of flowers up and down every stem. Nothing inspiring but far larger blossoms than *cuspidata* or 'Cornish Snow.' 'Sukiya' opens with small but lovely single pink flowers with golden stamens. The lavender color and deeper pink veining make this a flower of tender simplicity. Possibly this is a new specie from Japan or closely related to the *saluenensis* family one way or another. *Taliensis* is certainly a novelty with its bell-shaped flowers hanging downward from each stem. A poor grower that you will receive some amusement from and perhaps even grow to like.

Then January brings a show piece of the garden in *vernalis* 'Dawn.' Flowers of medium to large size of the most eye appealing nature are covered from top to bottom on a most attractive foliage plant. With golden stamens in the center of petals that crinkle and sparkle to form a semi-double sometimes star-shaped effect. I have become addicted to the magnificence of 'Dawn' and highly recommend it as a must for every collection. Superb for espalier, 'Dawn' will take a good amount of sunshine. Two *vernalis* clansmen of 'Dawn' are 'Hiryu' and 'Hiryu-Nishiki.' Both these are hardy growers and take the sun in optimistic stride. 'Hiryu' has vivid flowers of scarlet red, rose form double. 'Hiryu-Nishiki,' a sport of 'Hiryu', has flowers of the same brilliance only splashed with white. These two have a long range blooming period and are most desirable.

The first *reticulata* to open is usually 'Pagoda' sometime in February. Flowers are produced in the large category of deep red with each petal bordered silver. The form is formal to rose form double with stamens showing after four or five days. 'Crimson Robe' is still by far the most dependable and showy variety of the *reticulatas*. This one has huge flowers of carmine red fading to rose red. Blossoms open of great depth mostly semi-double with wavy, crinkled, crepe-textured petals. Makes a nice young specimen and is a hardy grower. You can absorb yourself in the beauty of 'Butterfly Wings' to be sure. Not an attractive grower, however, flowers that are of ample splendor to make up for the lack of beauty in this variety as a specimen. Flowers are rose pink in color with semi-double to irregular, broad wavy petals fluting and twisting giving the much desired "rabbit ears" appearance.

Time has arrived to mention my personal favorite. This "gem" has a color that puts it into a class called "unique." To some a member of the *saluenensis* family. To others it is *sasanqua* or hybrid. An opinion I do not share is the listing of it as a *japonica* in the 1958 Nomenclature book. For me it is quite simple to disagree with authority but offer nothing in the way of proof as to what it really is. Actually I don't care what blood it carries. This camellia stands as the "acme" in distinct beauty. My greatest passion, in camellias, the novel 'Kuro-Tsubaki.' The blooms are small to medium of semi-double burgundy. Opening from an ebon bud it develops into a velvet glossy red showing black and red stamens. A strong grower this mystery can adapt to all weather complexities. People seeing 'Kuro-Tsubaki' for the first time are always amazed at its aberrant color. Long after you have forgotten many camellias the vivid memory of 'Kuro-Tsubaki' with her unmatched charm will forever be with you.

In the hybrid class we find 'Big Mo' first to open during October. This cross of *oleifera* x *hiemalis* 'Showa-no-sakae' is of a clear soft pink, medium to large, semi-double to rose form double. You'll find it excellent for hanging baskets or espalier. 'Donation' as well as the variegated sport are both very nice. Medium to large flowers of single to semi-double form with golden stamens. The color is of light orchid with veining of deeper pink in each flower petal. Freshly open flowers are erect, however, after several days the blooms become rather flat and wilt swiftly under any excessive amount of heat.

The *japonica* era is at the highest peak during February and early March. Within this time you will find a multitude of loyal worthwhile performers including 'Mathotiana,' 'Victory White,' 'Aurora Borealis,' 'Orchid Pink,' 'Southern Magnoliaeflora,' 'Anita,' 'Cardinal Richelieu,' 'Southern Donckelarii,' 'Oniji,' and 'Carr's Circus.' I could go on and on when it comes to



mentioning good varieties of the *japonica* family, however, I shall reserve further comment until the end of this article where a detailed list has been made in the form of a calendar showing the blooming schedule of camellias in this area.

### Late

April still finds the "late arrivals" in 'Elena Nobile' and 'Are-Jishi' (sometimes known as 'Aloha'). 'Elena Nobile' is a good flame red of medium size, rose form double. A very slow upright grower it will have very attractive flowers providing the temperature doesn't interfere by becoming unjustly warm. 'Are-Jishi' is perhaps the "odd ball" of the camellia world. It will start blooming in December and most times end up by being last in the season. The flowers are variable so you can expect almost any form including tight peony, loose peony, irregular double with or without stamens. A swift grower that does not make an attractive specimen. The foliage has a dull green to yellowish cast that gives the impression it is in need of immediate care.

I am not a student of "ecology" but it is becoming more evident each season to me that we must start putting more accent on dependability and less emphasis on novelty. The *reticulatas* and some of the newer hybrids are a good example. We are prone to be carried away by our eagerness in offering the public originations of our own and often times not giving forethought as to how well these products will do year after year. Quality is still more important than quantity or the shallow "now and then beauty." As a rule the latter is expensive. (No double entendre intended.)

### 8-Month Calendar

Listed below I have made up a blooming calendar from my own experience with camellias as well as some notes taken from the records of my good friend Howard Hamilton of Tulare. This avid camellia collector recently acquired most of my private collection and has been very helpful and cooperative in letting me use his yard as my experiment station. This list will include as many dependable and worthwhile varieties as space will permit.

(Continued on Page 14)

## THE MOST DISTINCTIVE NEW CAMELLIA OF THIS DECADE **BILLIE McCASKILL**

SEMI-DOUBLE, DEEPLY FIMBRIATED, EXQUISITELY SHADED PINK  
HIGHLY COMMENDED AND MARGARETE HERTRICH AWARDS

**Gallon Grafts: One Year - \$10.00; Two Year - \$12.50**

— DESCRIPTIVE LIST ON REQUEST —

**McCASKILL GARDENS**

25 SOUTH MICHILLINDA AVENUE

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA *from Page 13*

Since we are basically interested in making up a chart in regards to blooming time I have included some rather undependable varieties in this list of which it is hoped none end up in your garden.

### SEPTEMBER

Oleifera  
Big Mo  
Semi-Ramis

### OCTOBER

Choji-Guruma  
Nodami-Ushiro  
Showa-no-sakae  
Floribunda  
Daikagura Red  
Narumi-gata  
Oleifera Wisley

### OCTOBER (continued)

High Hat  
Jean May  
Daikagura Variegated  
Ko-Gyoku  
Pale Moonlight  
Navajo  
Rainbow

### NOVEMBER

Vernalis 'Dawn'  
Vernalis 'Hiryu'  
May's #30  
Joshua Youtz  
Are-Jishi  
Vernalis 'Hiryu-Nishiki'  
Australian Hiryu  
Bill Wylam  
Pink Snow  
Showa Supreme  
Little Gem

### DECEMBER

Tinsie  
Judith  
Debutante  
Fire Falls  
Evening Star  
Hiryu-Nishiki  
Showa Supreme  
Berenice Boddy

### JANUARY

Showa Supreme  
Debutante  
Berenice Boddy  
Mathotiana  
Duchess de Caze  
Anita  
Sukiya  
Cornish Snow  
Williams Lavender  
Lady Bird  
Morning Glow

### FEBRUARY

Anita  
Lady Bird  
R. L. Wheeler  
Morning Glow  
Joshua Youtz  
Princess Lavender  
Ella Drayton  
Mathotiana  
Vedrine  
Aurora Borealis  
Holly Leaf  
Mrs. Charles Cobb  
Emperor of Russia  
Southern Magnoliaeflora  
Prof. Charles Sargent  
Cuspidata  
Guilio Nuccio  
Herme

### FEBRUARY (Continued)

Are-Jishi  
C. F. Coates  
Fred Sanders  
Adolphe Audusson  
Wild Saluenensis  
Senator Duncan Fletcher  
Pitardii x Cuspidata  
Fir Cone  
Lady Kay  
Butterfly Wings  
Destiny  
Lazetta  
Black Prince  
Ella Drayton  
Kaku-Tsuru  
Berenice Boddy  
Fraterna

### FEBRUARY (Continued)

Capt. Rawes x Saluenensis  
Carr's Circus  
Colletti Maculata  
First Flush  
Pagoda  
Kumasaka  
Donation Variegated  
Donation  
J. C. Williams  
Butterfly Wings Reticulata  
Orchid Pink  
Scented Treasure  
Queen Bessie  
Shot Silk Reticulata  
Manana  
Break O' Day  
Sharon Lee  
Kuro-Tsubaki

### MARCH

Pink Perfection  
Lazetta  
Springtide  
C. M. Wilson  
Lotus  
Claudia Phelps  
Kuro-Tsubaki  
Chandleri Elegans  
Duke of Burgundy  
Frances McLanahan  
Yours Truly  
Victory White  
Gigantea  
Butterfly Wings  
Cinderella

### MARCH (Continued)

Lady Kay  
Ville de Nantes  
Tea Garden Donckelarii  
Dr. W. G. Lee  
Southern Donckelarii  
Destiny  
Black Prince  
Helen K  
Drama Girl  
Kumasaka  
Queen Bessie  
Horkan  
Ann Miller

### MARCH (Continued)

Adolphe Audusson Special  
Chiyoda-Nishiki  
Glen 40  
Betty McCaskill  
Crimson Robe  
Spring Sonnet  
McCaskill Pitardii  
Seedling

### APRIL

Elena Nobile  
Are-Jishi  
Crimson Robe  
Betty McCaskill  
Glen 40  
Horkan

# THE WAY TO CAMELLIAS IN NEW YORK LIES THROUGH GLASS

By MRS. AUGUST BELMONT, JR.

My greenhouse was built for me by the Lord and Burnham Company ten years ago and is their standard (not pre-fab) size of 18' x 36'. It is attached to our garage and can be entered through an outside garage door on one side or through the greenhouse door to the outdoors on the other side. In winter this door is blocked by a six foot camellia, the *japonica* 'Elisabeth,' which I really should dispose of as it is too big. But it happens to be a particularly good plant with one large branch, a mutant, solid pink bloomer.

A 9' by 18' space between the garage and the greenhouse proper has been used as work room. Here are my shelves for storage, a sink with cold water and a lower bench with bins underneath for different soils. I make up large batches of four different mixtures each summer and store them. Across from the work bench is a series of garbage cans in which I store charcoal, perlite peat moss, etc. It's a very workable arrangement.

The remaining 27' x 18' is all glassed; two side benches plus one six-foot center bench. If I were doing this again I would construct my center bench low to the ground for more ease in picking camellias. All the camellias are kept in the center bench and stand in redwood tubs on cinders (for humidity - holding purposes). Small plants are in clay pots.

The side benches are kept for stock, sweet peas, carnations and a variety of orchids. Cymbidium orchids hang from iron pipes above the camellias thus giving shade without a loss of ventilation. The house is kept at 50° at night, 60° in daytime with automatic ventilation.

I've had camellias here for ten years. I do all my propagating by cuttings in summer. I've found that to produce good understock by grafting takes up too much of my valuable space. The cuttings root readily in a 70° propagation bench with bottom

heat using a medium of 1½ peat moss, and ½ perlite and Hormodin.

My theory is that when my best cutting of a certain year reaches the correct size to give me plenty of blooms, I will discard the parent. This *almost* works, but sometimes I cannot bring myself to discard an old favorite. The other cuttings I usually sell or give away when they get to blooming size.

All camellias go outdoors in summer.

The *camellia japonica* that are most reliable in my house are: Mathotiana, Joshua E. Youtz, Joseph Pfstingl, Lady Vansittart, K. Sawada, Daikagura and my old friend, Elisabeth. I have several High Hats, Magnoliaefloras., Glen 40, Alba Plena, Empress, Tomorrow, Ernest Pfstingl, but have not had them long enough to be sure how reliable they are. I have a Cinderella which performs beautifully indoors although it tends to be too tall and spindly. I am very fond of the bloom. I also have a Mrs. D. W. Davis which I procured from the originator last fall. It came in bud and produced the most magnificent flowers I've ever seen. However, those buds were not formed in my possession.

I have a Pink Perfection, an Otome and an Alba Superba. All drop their buds and I am about to dispose of them. Whether this is varietal or due to improper handling I do not know.

I find that for container-grown plants under artificial conditions, three fertilizings a year is not enough.

I feed a very light application of liquid cow manure once every two weeks from March to September and it seems to work pretty well.

Once in a while I get a bit of die back or a plant will "bull nose." Flower blight seems non existent but I am very careful to pick up all fallen petals and to spray the cinders and cement walls with Fermate two or three times a season. I do have now and then a plant which just doesn't seem to grow any more. I believe it is called loss of momentum and tends to happen to container-grown camellias. If anyone can give me a cure for this I would be more than happy. It never happens to young plants and seems not to be transmitted through cuttings.

I find that the variety Glen 40 produces the most interesting young-

sters-flower mutants of all colors. I gather this is normal.

I buy only container-grown plants as the shock received by field grown plants on being suddenly potted with a loss of roots sets the plant back for a minimum of a year, usually more. Also container-grown plants suffer no drastic changes to their systems and usually perform reliably the year after they arrive.

I am unable to force my early blooming varieties, i.e. High Hat, Daikagura to bloom as early as they should. They rarely start to bloom until November no matter what I do. I believe that when the blooming season is over that if I raised the temperature of the greenhouse to force earlier new growth, I might get earlier bloom but I hate to do this as it would upset the cycle of other plants.

## UNORTHODOX BUT SUCCESSFUL

By FANNIE TRACY

With a desire to produce some good camellia seedlings and with an unused egg incubator on my ranch I experimented with combining the two and it has proved very successful. The incubator brooded 10,000 seeds beautifully and quickly with no problems.

I believe I have found a new good camellia among my first seedlings that have bloomed.

The incubator I used to sprout my camellia seeds was designed to hatch 2500 chicken eggs at a time. It is fully automatic as to heat, humidity, air and light. A built-in fan supplies a constant stream of fresh warm air in circulation over the eggs at all times. For the seeds I operated the incubator which is outdoors except for a shed roof, the same as for eggs except at the lowest temperature of 75° to 80°. This was only a guess on my part. The trays were kept in

their original form and have hardware wire on the bottom for free circulation of air. The seeds were embedded in damp moss. I kept no exact record of the seeds sprouted but they sprouted so rapidly extending their roots straight down through the wire you could tell exactly which tray to remove daily.

After being removed, the seedlings grew fast and soon caught up with those of the previous year sprouted the old fashioned way.

Right now I am contracting a potting and grafting unit which is not completed yet but I have moved in. I mix my own soil from crops that are grown and composted on the Tracy ranch. The mix is blown up on the top platform which in turn opens into the building. I am growing a lot of seedlings, slips and grafts to keep my Camellia Garden Grove supplied.

## To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

You check your camellia plants but do you ever check your soil?

There is such a thing as having good soil sense. When you commence to treat sick plants, it is far better to go back and check your soil than to apply palliatives indiscriminately. Be sure that your soil is living soil. Take the following score card out into your garden and evaluate your soil from the different angles offered:

1. Sand — Silt
2. Clay
3. Humus
  - a. Compost
  - b. Leaf Mold
4. Air
5. Water
6. Microorganisms
  - a. Bacteria—decay and nitrogen fixing
7. % of Animal Life
  - a. Earthworms
  - b. Sow bugs
  - c. Pests—Ants, Snails, Slugs etc.

Some of the soils we tested recently scored anywhere from 0 to 20 and the poor bewildered gardeners were wondering why their plants were ailing.

In the first place we are living in a semi-arid zone where we are striving often vainly to grow plants which are acid loving. It cannot be too often repeated that plants do best in their native habitat soils and when transplanting from one zone to another you must restore as far as is possible, the natural habitat. Our watered gardens are largely artificial and we are getting in them all sorts of plant material which demands acid soil conditions. First of all we must examine our pH. The plants which you labor most with often require a pH of 5:00 to 5:50. The average pH in this area runs from 7:30 to 8:50 and higher. Have a soil test made of your soil if you are not certain of its pH. Scrape

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off fully six inches and take off a layer at this point. You may be surprised. Ph's are more important than P's and Q's.

In the La Canada district an amateur gardener was struggling valiantly with oxalis in his dichondra lawn. His pH was 8:7. The pesky oxalis which we weed out often on our hands and knees just thrives on alkaline soil conditions and succumbs to acid ones very quickly. The same analysis revealed no nitrogen, no iron and few trace minerals, also no bacteria and no earthworms. The advice he received from the expert was this: Commence this course of treatment. To build up the organic content of the soil spread on a two-inch mulch of compost leaf mold, Blue Whale peat or a combination of them and spade in to the depth of 6 inches. Around your fruit trees, orange, lemon, etc., sow in a 3-foot basin deep-rooting purple vetch which will penetrate deeply and when spaded in will add the nitrifying bacteria and humus. The water which is running through like a mill stream will be stopped. Make your compost with Humisite which will give you the aerobic bacteria which breaks down and renders available the plant foods. Having practically no iron in your soil (and if it were your pH is so high that it would not be available), use Nuccio's Chelated iron according to the directions on the package. Fur-

ther work to build up the nitrogen in your soil would be to divide your garden up in areas of 1,000 square feet and use 25 pounds of cottonseed meal and 5 pounds of blood meal which should be spaded in to the depth of six inches, not hard spading in your light soil. The soil in your area was seriously depleted in the disastrous Montrose flood which took away all the top soil and deposited a layer of rocks, gravel and sand several years ago. Then, too, your difficulties may have been aggravated by the filling in of the lifeless dead soil used in the leveling of building lots.

Much of the trouble which is encountered in older planted gardens is due to the fact that your plants have reached down to that original layer in your gardens which had the high pH and the soil deficiencies which arise from poor aeration, lack of nitrogen due application of composts

which have the wrong sort of bacteria, or too little humus too infrequently applied. Tons of waste material are being hauled off every day which should be returned to the soil. Our long dry seasons burn out the humus and we need to keep a supply going on continually. If you are doing general gardening keep your soil as near neutral as possible and for your acid loving plants decidedly on the acid side.

Earthworm castings are valuable, rich in plant food. Sow bugs help pulverize the soil and only attack injured plants. The pests are with us continually. Practice good housekeeping in your garden. Clean out host plants. Distinguish between ground covers and mulches. Bud blight attacks the gardens of slovenly housekeepers and causes much trouble. It might help if you would take a good course in Bacteriology in some extension course.

## KNOWING ONLY CAMELLIAS IS NOT ENOUGH

Camellias, wonderful as they are, still are but a part of the great horticultural theme and camellia growers can propagate more wisely if they know the larger aspects of plant life in general.

Southern California residents are extremely fortunate to be able to take advantage of the educational program offered by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, where registrations are now being accepted for special Spring classes on five subjects pertaining to botany and horticulture. The classes are free and will meet weekly.

"This is an invitation to learning," said Dr. L. B. Martin, Arboretum Plant Physiologist. "None of the courses are an end in themselves, but are designed to provoke curiosity and stimulate interest in the plants which surround us everywhere."

Requests for registration should be made by mail to "Education", Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, Calif. Choice of class and home address should be given. First assembly of any class will be at the gate house.

The classes now open for registration are:

1. *Home Gardening*, Monday, April 7 through June 2, 7 to 9 P.M., Donald Woolley and James Cauffield, instructors. Course includes fundamentals of planting and maintaining home yard. In administration building lecture room.

2. *Practical Orchid Culture*, Thursday, April 10 through June 5, 7:30-9:30 P.M., Glenn Hiatt, instructor. In administration building lecture room.

3. *Tree Identification*, Monday, (Continued on Page 19)



# GROWING CAMELLIAS IN CONTAINERS

By CARYLL PITKIN

Those who grow camellias in containers usually do so from necessity and not from choice. Unsuitable soil conditions or lack of room suggest one answer — plant them in containers. The soil in a tub or box can be tailored to just the right mixture. As the plants grow the tubs can be moved from place to place in the yard and many more “fitted in” than would be possible if they were planted in the ground.

Mobility has advantages. When choice plants are in bloom they can be moved into places of prominence.

Also it is sometimes possible to move them into protected areas in case of unusually hot weather, or out of the rain or sun if you are trying to keep a bloom for a special occasion.

Planting in containers is no different than planting in the ground. Proper soil mixture depends, of course, on what you have to start with. The soil I have mixed with 50% peat moss seems to give good results. If the soil is heavier as in many other areas one-third peat moss, one-third leaf mold or decayed pine needles and only one-third soil is recommended.

I'll be the first to admit that camellias in containers require more care in watering and fertilizing but beyond that I've found no special problems.

Since container plants dry out faster than those in the ground, they just won't stand neglect especially on some of our extra warm days. Sometimes it is advisable to water them twice in one day when the temperature in Southern California goes high in the nineties and humidity is practically non-existent. I have often heard it said “Don't sprinkle foliage when the sun is on it or it will burn.” Frankly, that hasn't been my experience. I sprinkle anytime and especially when the foliage is hot and I have never had any damage to the leaves from water. Some of the prominent growers in this area report similar results, notably Harvey Short and Vern McCaskill. I am not afraid to cool them off when the sun is on

them; that is when they need it.

Since frequent waterings leech out fertilizer, try to apply small amounts frequently — once a month every month in the year. I use cottonseed meal or a commercial camellia food and work it into the mulch with my fingers, then water thoroughly. Sometimes a plant seems to stop growing when it has been in the same container for several years. This is no doubt due to the exhaustion of the soil or the crowded conditions of the roots and it is time to re-pot. A larger tub is best but if this is impossible simply re-pot in the same container in a new soil mixture.

It is a good plan to place wooden containers on blocks or bricks to keep them from deteriorating and to prevent roots of other trees or shrubs from working up into the tub and robbing the camellia of its water and nourishment.

The only secret involved in growing good container plants is constant attention. Don't let them dry out and fertilize sparingly and frequently.

## **NOT ENOUGH** *from Page 18*

April 7 through May 26, 3:30 to 4:30 P.M., Dr. Louis B. Martin and Dr. Leonid Enari, instructors. This will be an outdoor class.

4. *Beginning Botanical Sketching*, Tuesday, April 1 through June 3, 9 to 11:30 A.M., Gerry Patten, instructor.

5. *Advanced Botanical Sketching*, Thursday, April 3 through June 5, 9 to 11:30 A.M., Gerry Patten, instructor.

## THE MARCH SCCS MEETING EVIDENCES UNABATED ENTHUSIASM

"It's a good thing that camellias have a dormant season," remarked Hal Dryden, who was General Chairman of the recent Big Show at Descanso, "otherwise camellia people couldn't stand the excitement either."

But it did not seem as if any dormancy had yet set in as a large audience gathered for the March SCCS meeting and the tables overflowed with specimen blooms till late exhibitors were moaning, "Where shall I put these?"

No, the camellias for the most part had not yet ceased their efforts and judges for the evening had to search for small discrepancies in order to choose award winners.

President Caryll Pitkin finally got the crowd seated and read the list of directors which had been presented by the Nominating Committee. They were forthwith voted on affirmatively.

Edwards Metcalf, Chairman of the Judges for the Big Show, gave the ACS Gold Certificate to Dr. C. E. Hubbs for his outstanding 'Guest of Honor' and the Silver Runner-up Certificate to Merle Gish. McCaskill Gardens received the ACS Highly Commended Certificate for their Seedling #203.

Ernie Pieri, President of the Temple City Society, presented Caryll and Mildred Pitkin with a silver platter symbolizing their Sweepstakes award and also a second award for Best Three-of-a-Kind at the Temple City Show. Awards also went to Col. Frank Reed for the best *japonica* runner up 'Frosty Morn', the President's trophy to Edwards Metcalf for the best Miniature, 'Johnny's Folly' and to the McCaskills for the best seedling, and also one for best hybrid.

The program for the evening was presented by the SCCS Garden Committee whose Chairman is E. C. Tourje.

Mr. Tourje gave the background and aims of the committee, information to be found in the two past Camellia Reviews. Illustrating the activities outlined were members of the committee on stage—only two of

them lacking, i.e., Reg Ragland and Ralph Peer.

The first of the committee to report was William Cuzner who heads the seed program. The Committee gains its financial support from sale of camellia seeds each year and it has become increasingly important that the viability of the seeds be assured. The seeds are harvested from the Huntington Camellia garden in September and kept under shelter until the hulls can be removed. This is a laborious operation involving on the average around 42,000 seeds which must be kept under the most ideal conditions possible as their sale extends over several months. This past season, all had been sold by the end of January. The proper refrigeration was a Must and finally has been solved so that the seeds are now kept at 41°F with 70% humidity. The new feature tried for the first time this past season of offering seeds from fifteen varieties of camellias known to produce good seedlings already, at nearly twice the price of seeds from hit-and-miss varieties, brought an unexpectedly quick response so that this group sold out first in record time. All seeds were sealed in cellophane when shipped.

The Committee Procurement program is headed by Edwards Metcalf and Mr. Metcalf explained that their aim now was the obtaining of the best top-flight camellias for the Garden. No plants are solicited or accepted which are in any way restricted. Plants for the Garden must be those which have been released to the pub-

## SCCS MEETING EVIDENCES DIABATED ENTHUSIASM

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them lacking, i.e., Reg Ragland and  
Ralph Peer.

The first of the committee to report  
was William Cuzner who heads the  
seed program. The Committee gains  
its financial support from sale of  
camellia seeds each year and it has  
become increasingly important that  
the viability of the seeds be assured.  
The seeds are harvested from the  
Huntington Camellia garden in Sep-  
tember and kept under shelter until  
the hulls can be removed. This is a  
laborious operation involving on the  
average around 42,000 seeds which  
must be kept under the most ideal  
conditions possible as their sale ex-  
tends over several months. This past  
season, all had been sold by the end  
of January. The proper refrigeration  
was a Must and finally has been  
solved so that the seeds are now kept  
at 41°F with 70% humidity. The new  
feature tried for the first time this  
past season of offering seeds from  
fifteen varieties of camellias known to  
produce good seedlings already, at  
nearly twice the price of seeds from  
hit-and-miss varieties, brought an un-  
expectedly quick response so that this  
group sold out first in record time.  
All seeds were sealed in cellophane  
when shipped.

The Committee Procurement pro-  
gram is headed by Edwards Metcalf  
and Mr. Metcalf explained that their  
aim now was the obtaining of the best  
top-flight camellias for the Garden.  
No plants are solicited or accepted  
which are in any way restricted.  
Plants for the Garden must be those  
which have been released to the pub-

lic and have been proved of merit.  
The seedlings produced at Hunting-  
ton and developed there will be re-  
leased to good nurseries. Mr. Metcalf  
read off a list of desired varieties  
which included Dr. Jonas E. Salk,  
Dixie Knight, Onetia Holland, Angel,  
Kramer's Supreme, Betty Robinson,  
Betty Sheffield Blush and Betty Shef-  
field Supreme, Cecile Brunazzi, Clar-  
ice Carlton, Country Doctor, David  
Wirth, Crusselle, Dear Jenny, Doris  
Freeman, Edelweiss, Betty Patricia  
(a large *sasanqua*), Irene Rester,  
Irma Judice, King Size, Laura  
Walker, Lois Novelle, Margaret Rat-  
cliff, Metissa, Mona Freeman, Pensa-  
cola Red, Queen of the South, Rose  
Gish, Sunburst, Athelen and Aaron's  
Ruby.

Experiments with camellia propa-  
gation were outlined by Harold Dry-  
den. He remarked that about a year  
ago after hearing of the gibberellin  
treatments they began some work  
along this line. In first experimenting  
with zinnias—the plants shot up twice  
the height of other untreated plants.  
However, though the gibberellin acid  
was applied both to rooted camellia  
cuttings and to camellia seeds, there  
are no outstanding results to report at  
this time. The real idea behind this  
gibberellin treating is to try to de-  
velop facts that will have a bearing  
on plant breeding of new species;  
will it stimulate growth so there will  
be earlier or increased bud set? The  
proper dosage and number of treat-  
ments must be worked out. For the  
experiments now under way, 'Debu-  
tante' and 'Blood of China' have been  
chosen—tests made between Novem-  
ber 10th and December 10th from  
small cuttings rooted last summer.  
There have been no noticeable effects  
as yet. It is hoped however to gain  
knowledge that will be helpful to  
nurseries in particular as an increase  
in budsetting activity would reduce  
the period of development. Experi-  
ments in Colchicine are also under

way with the purpose to shock the  
plant tissues into the rearranging of  
the chromosomes so that it might be  
possible to develop recessive charac-  
teristics in some plant varieties and  
make them dominant. A point in  
choice would be a variety showing  
some yellow pigment. Can this yellow  
be made more dominant? The same  
question and goal can be applied to  
the fragrance and fimbriation fea-  
tures. Results are not expected to  
show under two or three generations.  
For these experiments Dr. A. E.  
Longley is cooperating with Harvey  
Short. The same two are treating pol-  
len with X Ray and by crossing are  
breeding for cold hardiness. For the  
latter, *rusticana*, the snow camellia is  
being used for a cross. Also for hardi-  
ness, 'Berenice Boddy' is considered a  
fine parent. Breeding aims include  
sun tolerance, distinctive foliage, spe-  
cial types of growth such as prostate  
which is often desirable, color such  
as new tones of coral and into the  
orange, also margination.

The flower blight control program  
has involved not only Dr. Longley  
but Harvey Short as well and is being  
carried on with the assistance of F.  
R. Johnson of the Olin Mathieson  
Chemical Corporation. Mr. Johnson  
whose headquarters are in San Mateo  
gave a report on the present experi-  
ments at Huntington. He described  
the chemical used which he said had  
first been discovered in Germany as a  
fungistat, a substance which inter-  
feres with the growth cycle, prevent-  
ing spore development. He stated that  
the apotheciae could live for years in  
the soil. This chemical is stable and  
does not disappear from the soil and  
after all petals and fallen blooms are  
carefully removed the soil should be  
thoroughly sprayed and the treatment  
continued for high results. This is  
being done on a test area at the  
Huntington Gardens.

After the long report of this Gar-  
(Continued on Page 26)

# SCION OF THE TIMES

By MERLE GISH

## Fiesta

A seedling grown by Mr. Leslie Marshall of Rosemead, California, has caught the eyes of many collectors this past season. The other parent of 'Fiesta' is known to be *japonica* California and from this the flower has inherited the color of one step between 'California' flower and 'Francine', and is listed as light coral red. The bloom is variable from semi-double with a heavy center of stamens, flags and petaloids to a full anemone form. Size of the flowers will be large for one collector reported that he did not have a bloom under five and one-half inches.

This plant sets clusters of buds and therefore needs to be disbudded to produce the large fine quality of flower this new introduction will offer.

## Colonial Dame

Another of the Tick Tock Nursery seedlings grown by Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hayes of Thomasville, Georgia, and one white seedling that Mrs. Hayes has been proud as punch over for when it is right she feels there is not another white in the world that can touch it. In some areas this seedling was accidentally named Gert-rude Murray but it was registered by the originator or grower as Colonial Dame. It first bloomed as Tick Tock #11 and because it sometimes was a little temperamental when it was cold and wet they decided to name it Colonial Dame.

A large white semi-double that will reach six and one-half inches and last as long as ten days on the shrub. Ever now and then one or more of the flowers may be slightly bluish pink but the flower varies only slightly.

Under glass many feel that 'Colonial Dame' was and is the finest

white in the world. The West Coast is only beginning to see this fine Georgia seedling and we hope her new home meets with her approval and makes for a fine debut where it may not be so wet or cold.

---

## New Perfection in Pomona?

News comes from Pomona, California, that there has appeared among the collection of choice camellias of Hubert Reeves, a seedling of unknown parentage whose characteristics set it apart from many other seedlings. The bloom not only resembles 'Pink Perfection' but DOES NOT DROP ITS BUDS.

The Reeves have grown camellias for many years, and have now culled their plants down to just the finest varieties. This particular seedling is of unknown parentage but because of its resemblance in form to 'Pink Perfection' they have watched it bloom with intense interest for three years. The main seedling is seven years old.

In comparing it with 'Pink Perfection' Mr. Reeves observed the following: Plant tending to grow taller, leaves somewhat more slender, bud clusters limited to two or three buds, petal texture a fraction thinner, blooms sometimes larger and (Mrs. Reeves says) the pink tending to lighten down toward the flower center.

But the main distinguishing characteristic is as stated above that the buds, even the total clusters, all develop into flowers. No wonder Mr. Reeves has about decided to name it 'Reeves' Sweetheart'.

## **Camellia MAIL BAG.**

### **From Savannah, Georgia**

Dear Mrs. Beebe:

Enclosed find my check for \$10.80, and I would appreciate your having twelve copies of the 1958 Nomenclature Book sent to me as I wish to give them to some of my friends.

With all of the inclement weather accompanied by more freezes than we are usually accustomed to, we had one of the most outstanding number of blooms on the bushes that we have ever had. The blooms were not large, but the big bushes looked like Christmas trees. All of this was then followed by four days of continuous rain, and then we had on the ground the prettiest colored carpet you ever saw under a camellia bush.

With warmest personal regards,  
Arthur W. Solomon

*Ed. note: We felt we must print the above letter as it contains the happiest combination of the worldly and the inspirational we have ever received. It left us with a general feeling that, in spite of setbacks, "all's right with the (camellia) world."*

### **From Port Arthur, Texas**

H. J. Showalter writes, "I am an engineer employed at the local refinery of the Texas Oil Company. I'm a transplanted Yankee from the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, a graduate of Penn State University. My interest in camellias began some years ago, mainly due to the beauty of the flowers that bloom in the winter time. Besides, they look good on my wife."

*Mr. Showalter was Chairman of the Third Annual Camellia Show which was sponsored by the Men's Garden Club of Port Arthur in January. An idea of his which was a*

*featured attraction of the show was a Judges' Competition. First and Second prizes were given for specimen camellias entered by Show Judges and judged by members of the Show Committee. It is noteworthy that nearly 500 blooms were entered, (the number of Judges not given.) Nearly 3,000 flowers were exhibited and 96 arrangements. Sounds like Texas.*

## **OUR CAMELLIAAUTHORS**

We are always very excited to find a new contact whom we feel will add some worthwhile knowledge to the pages of the Review. This month we proudly introduce **Dr. Louis Wheeler** to our readers. Dr. Wheeler is Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Southern California and we were fortunate enough to learn about him through our admiration of the cutaway model of a camellia displayed at Descanso during the Camellia Shows. (See page 9.)

In conversation with John Trelkeld, Descanso's Superintendent, we learned that this beautifully sculptured botanical model was the creation of Dr. Wheeler. With one thing leading to another we finally conversed with Dr. Wheeler who told us about his search for a proper material to use for such an enlarged reproduction. He at last ran on to Fiber-glas at the Boat Show which proved to be a workable and perfect material for his project.

Dr. Wheeler had chosen the *C. japonica* 'Kimberley' as a model. For one thing it sets seeds easily, is a trim single flower and he is fond of it both as flower and good-growing plant. And as if Fate were at last helping, it turned out that the shade of carmine of the Fiber-glas pigment was almost exactly that of the 'Kimberley' petals. We regret that

our picture cannot be in color so that this could be shown. Anyhow, this graphic picture of a camellia showing its botanical parts so clearly will, we hope serve well those of our readers who may have forgotten some of their schoolday botany. It might be redundant to mention that although this particular model is of a single flower, the botanical notes apply equally well to any type camellia flower.

So here is a real reference when our more erudite camellia writers speak of this or that botanical part and may this Review become "That April '58 issue with Dr. Wheeler's model in it."

The practical greenhouse experiences of **Mrs. August Belmont Jr.** of Syosset, New York, contain quite a number of very helpful suggestions to other camellia enthusiasts who are determined to grow camellias where Nature is uncooperative.

New to these pages but well known to a large area is **Fannie Tracy** with whom even camellias find it hard to keep up. Quite a few years ago on her sheep ranch at Button Willow, California, Mrs. Tracy astounded camellia fanciers by producing beautiful camellias which had grown and flourished planted over a trench in which dead sheep had been buried. Mrs. Tracy needed proper shade for her extended interest in camellias so planted oaks from acorns and—yes—camellias now flourish in oak shade. Her ranch now contains the Camellia Grove Gardens where she sells various camellia accessories and continues her experimenting. Camellias, while she is still as fond of them as ever, represent only one phase of her widely-varied interests. Ending her article she wrote, quote: After the camellia seeds I have sulphured and dried fruit in this set up and will soon try mushroom propagation." Anyone got an old incubator sitting around? You're not a Fannie

Tracy if you are keeping it just for eggs.

The words of **Caryll Pitkin** on container growing for camellias should be well heeded for Mr. Pitkin carries off sweepstakes and blue ribbons regularly. He also serves as President of the SCCS.

*P.S. Just noticed the memo attached to the last page of Mr. Pitkin's article. It reads, "Dear Liz, Just between us girls, requisite number one for a container grown plant is a loving wife. Who else will go out in the sun two or three times a day when the temperature is hovering around 100° and sprinkle the dear things to keep them cool? Burned wives survive but burned plants lose all their leaves—Mildred." Yes—Mildred Pitkin. Ho hum—if blue ribbons come can wives be far behind?*

**Ronnie Carr's** Camellia Blooming Calendar which accounts for eight blooming months out of the year is the first step in what we propose as a blooming calendar which will apply to all camellia areas of the country. Eight months is not enough—we look forward to tabulating a twelve-month calendar in our research. Any reader wishing to contribute to this venture will find a welcome from the Editor. Mr. Carr's area comprises a portion of the north central part of California.

## **FUNCTIONS** *from Page 10*

by hand pollination increases the likelihood of producing new kinds.

The totally sterile completely double-flowered varieties are usually from seed, which, of course, came from flowers with functional stamens and pistils.

*The SCCS holds its last meeting of the 1957-58 season on April 8th.*



## FOR SALE

The Secretary of the Society has the following books for sale:

New! New! Our own book **"Nomenclature,"** 1958 edition. Free to SCCS members. \$1.50 post paid on order or \$.90 each in lots of not less than twelve. Some copies of **"The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature,"** 1954 edition still available. \$1.25 post paid or \$.75 each on lots of not less than twelve.

**"Camellias in the Huntington Gardens,"** by William Hertrich. Vol. I and II, \$10.00 each.

**"Old Camellia Varieties,"** a list with brief descriptions compiled at the request of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of the R.H.S. and the British Museum, by A. I. Ellis. A 374 page, 9x12 book, reprinted by permission by Mr. Ralph Peer. \$5.00.

**"Flower Arrangements of the Ohara School,"** the 1952 edition. Printed in English in Japan in folder form this book has six pages of descriptive matter and twenty-four colored prints in the Japanese manner. \$4.60, from \$10.00 to \$12.00 in bookstores.

**"Camellias, Kinds and Culture,"** by H. Harold Hume. \$6.00.

**"Camellias in America, 1955,"** by H. Harold Hume. \$25.50.

**Rare Species and Hybrids** issue of the Camellia Review. 75¢ postpaid.

**Sasanqua** issue of the Camellia Review, 75c postpaid. 57c in orders of 25 or more.

**"Two Cats and Forty Camellias,"** a 136 page story form about the growing of Camellias mixed up with cats and cooking by our own member, Elizabeth Councilman of Councilman Acres. \$3.00.

**"Camellia Varieties in Japan,"** edited by Eikichi Satomi. 40¢.

**"How to Grow Camellias,"** including a 600-variety Encyclopedia by the editorial staffs of Sunset Books and Magazine. \$1.75.

**"The Mastery of Japanese Flower Arrangement,"** a 307 page book, profusely illustrated. Many prints in color. Printed in Japan. \$8.50.

**"Camellias Illustrated and How to Grow Them."** Revised, enlarged edition by Morrie L. Sharp. \$5.00.

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## *Bamico Says...*

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For the finest in House Plants we suggest a visit through our greenhouses.



**MARCH MEETING** from Page 21  
den Committee President Caryl Pitkin complimented the group saying they have added honor and prestige to the Society.

Award winners for the evening's flower exhibition were as follows: In the Over 4" class, John Robinson won 1st with an 'R. L. Wheeler'; Col. Reed took 2nd with his 'Frosty Morn'; Col. Gale won 3rd with a 'Rosea Superba'; W. F. Goertz took 4th with an 'Ann Miller', and Harold Dryden took 5th with a 'Lotus'.

In the Under 4", Col. Reed won 1st with a 'Spring Sonnet'; Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Taylor took 2nd with their 'C. M. Hovey'; John Lamb got 3rd with his 'Audusson Special'; Arthur Krumm had 4th with an 'Eleanor Hagood', and Mrs. Chesley Osborn took 5th with her 'Mrs. Confer, var.'

Of the *reticulatas*, Mrs. Osborn's 'Crimson Rose' won 1st place. 2nd place went to Frank Stormont for a 'Noble Pearl', and Mrs. Bonner's 'Lion Head' won 3rd.

## OUR COVER FLOWER

The *C. japonica* 'Onetia Holland' began its blue ribbon career in 1955 winning high honors at the Temple City Camellia Show and continues to garner awards. One of its outstanding awards was that of Best *japonica* of the Big Show at Descanso Gardens in 1957.

The dazzling white flower of peony form measures anywhere from five to seven inches across with a depth of three inches. The tiers of outer petals surround high petaloids which are interspersed with golden stamens. It is a mid season bloomer.

James Holland of Upland, California, developed this lovely seedling and named it after his wife. Incidentally, the name "Onetia" is of Indian origin and is pronounced O-nee-tah.

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**REVIEWER** *from Page 2*

Los Angeles Arboretum is the group of peacocks who maintain a lordly possession of the grounds sometimes, it is rumored, also taking possession of private yards adjacent to the Arboretum grounds. It seems that the peacocks do lose feathers at times and rather than throw away the beautiful things, they are collected and offered for sale at the gate house. Although it is probably true that peacocks can do the best job of feather arrangement it seems likely that camellia arrangers might be interested in using some in camellia arrangements. Hence the idea. We wish to note also that the Arboretum Foundation is a non-profit group and donates many feathers to the Veterans Hospital where they are used to make fishing flies.

**Finding and Proper**

We love to think of orchids working for camellias. We had never heard of it before but it sounded right to us. It's true. See line 37 on page 15 in Mrs. Belmont's Greenhouse article.

**It Began With a Name**

Perhaps many persons would not be able to tell just how and when they became real camelliaphiles but

Fred McGee, President of the Florence Camellia Society of South Carolina says with him it all started when Mrs. McGee brought home three plants. "The names, Pink Perfection, Chandleri Elegans and Goshoguruma fascinated me," says Mr. McGee. "I got to wondering how in the world people remembered them. It was this fascination plus the fact that we had a start of three plants and three more Lonnie Leitner of Marion gave us that got us started."

A big oak never grew from an acorn so fast as Mr. McGee's six plants multiplied to 600 with his corresponding interest. The 600 now contain 280 varieties and the McGees are both accredited ACS Judges. Mr. McGee has also developed into a sought-after speaker on camellias. He was instrumental in founding the Florence Camellia Society and understandably proud because at its first show in 1957, 7,221 blooms were entered and the show was the fourth largest in the world.

Mr. McGee is a graduate electrical engineer and holds a position of construction coordinator and line inspector for the Carolina Light and Power Company.

*(Continued on Page 28)*

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## REVIEWER *from Page 27*

Like most camelliaphiles, Mr. McGee feels the human angle too. "Camellias are interesting and so are the people you associate with who love them." This no doubt is what other camelliafolk feel about Mr. McGee also.

(We appreciated receiving a clipping from the Florence Morning News with a feature story on the McGees written by Pat MacEchern from which we took information for the above.)

### Camellia Congratulations

To Charles Puddle upon whom has been conferred the Associateship of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society. This award is given to "Persons of British nationality who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture in the course of their employment." Mr. Puddle, a long time member of SCCS and who honors the Review occasionally with contributions, is Head Gardener to Lord Aberconway and the National Trust at Bodnant, Tal-y-Cafn, North Wales.

### Where Can We Park?

It is sad but true that the world has to intrude in the smooth functioning of camellia shows and no feature of it more predominant than the car parking problem, at least in some areas—this includes that of Southern California which is the background to our story. San Diego to be exact suffered badly and unexpectedly during its Show for at the same time there were two large weddings at an adjacent Chapel, a big reception at a Hospitality House, a graduation of nurses at a nearby Hall, preparations for a large banquet at a neighboring club house and a big dog show. Then of course there were Sunday casual tourists who weren't doing anything but casual sightseeing once their cars were parked. No further comment.

## Thirty Years of Cheer

Enjoying herself thoroughly as she acted as an accredited Judge at the SCCS Big Show was Bess Steere Lewis of Roseville, California. Mrs. Lewis said that her interest in camellias started back in 1928 when she had one camellia plant called 'Cheerful'. Its influence has obviously never dimmed in the years and its nomenclature might well be transferred to Mrs. Lewis right now.

### We Salute You:

We note with pride that two women have been Presidents of the Jackson Camellia Society, and more apt names we could never have thought up—i.e. Mrs. Edwina Flowers and Mrs. J. S. Wise. And we thought Californians were supposed to be so forward in everything.

### L'Envoie

Along with the Camellias, the Review now becomes dormant for a space until its emergence again in July as a matter of fact. But like the camellias it will merely be biding its time and gathering its strength for bigger, brighter and better production. We hope, like the camellias, it has offered blossoms of information this past year which, though perhaps not of the blue ribbon variety, have at least been satisfying enough that you all will watch for it again.

We want to thank all of you who have been our supporters (as of a camellia you believed in), put up with our mistakes (as you condone a flower which should always be fimbriated but sometimes isn't), and will look forward with us to more work but more perfect blooms too.

A man was telling us the other day about a friend who was so very stubborn you couldn't "untalk" him. That's just our case exactly. You'll never be able to untalk us about camellias,

says

Liz

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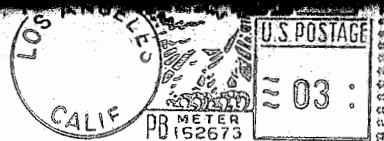
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