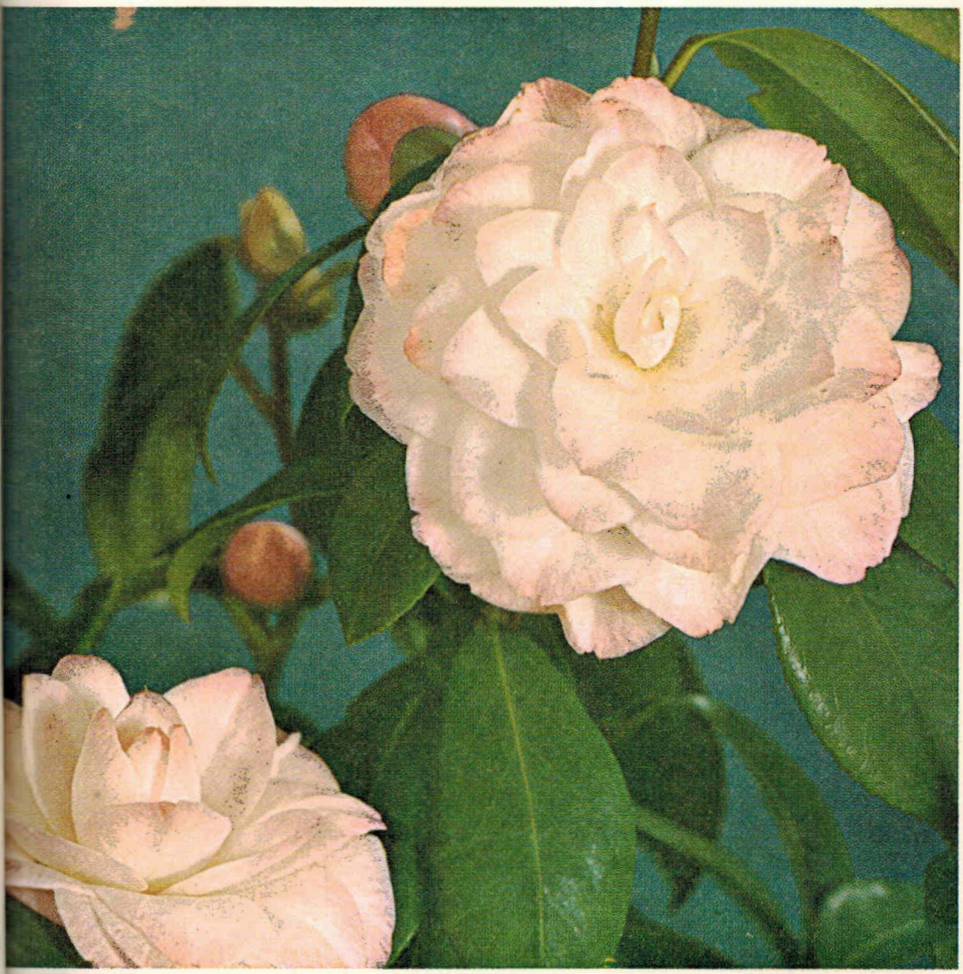
THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Dorothy James'

Vol. 24 October 1962 No. 1

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.

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

Six issues per volume—October, November, January, February, March and May.

All manuscript for publication and correspondence should be sent directly to the Editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the Secretary at once. Magazines are not forwarded by the Post Office.

Printed by Pioneer Printing Co., Inc., Glendale

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. Hybrid 'Dorothy James'

One of the saluenensis hybrids developed by Vernon James of Aptos, California. It is a beautiful formal pink, with the novelty of a flesh white petal that is tipped with deep rose. Mr. James says that this coloring gives the flower a character that will cause it to be prized as a corsage flower as well as a flowering shrub. He will put it on the market in the fall of 1963.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

When I started to lay out the plan for this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW with regard to the treatment of hybrids, I was faced with the alternative of including some rather technical subjects or of writing for the average reader. I recalled how I had sat and listened with awe to some of the discussions of the Camellia Research Advisory Committee about their work toward obtaining new colors, fragrance, cold hardiness, etc. I have been exposed to more such talk than probably many of the readers of CAMELLIA REVIEW have, and when I recalled how, after a meeting of this Committee, I had asked some of the more lay minded members what the experts had been talking about, I decided to publish some articles that I thought would stimulate interest among average camellia fanciers to the extent that they might be induced to take up this fascinating aspect of the camellia hobby.

From talking with people and after reading the articles about hybrids and hybridizing in this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, I come up with the following observations. First, one cannot stay away from hybrids and be up-to-date on camellias. So much spade work has been done — by the authors in this magazine, by David Feathers and others in the San Francisco Bay area, by many people in the South — that we shall hear more about hybrids and see more of them in the next very few years than we have heard and seen to date. For people who want camellias for more than as a plant in the yard, they are the coming thing. That does not mean that the japonica is out. Far from it. But camellia and japonica will not have the same degree of synonymity that they now have.

Second, one can approach hybridizing from just about whatever angle interests him most. For one who is interested in large, pretty flowers, the reticulata offers boundless opportunities. Howard Asper is cautious in expressing his view about his 'Lion Head' X 'Coronation' and 'Naruma-gata' X 'Lion Head' crosses, but those who have seen them thrill at the possibilities they suggest. Vernon James, on the other hand, seeks the beautiful plant with flowers all over it. The pure camellia scientist can experiment with all the species now available to learn just what can be developed. A hobby reaches its fullest potential when it offers the individual the opportunity to follow his own particular inclinations. Camellias, of course, do that on their own. It is particularly true of the hybridizing phase of it.

Let's watch for these second and third generation hybrids that the hybridizers are talking about. Meanwhile, maybe some others will develop some breeder plants of their own, such as L. E. Jury tells about in his article about New Zealand activities.

Harold E. Snyder

PROGRESS REPORT ON CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZING

J. Howard Asper

Superintendent, Huntington Botanical Gardens
San Marino, California

It is interesting to note the results of camellia hybridizing as they become evident from the different people working in the field. Certain patterns are becoming apparent and some outcomes can almost be predicted. A review of this progress can be interesting and valuable. In this short article only certain highlights can be mentioned.

Since modern camellia hybridizing began with Saluenensis we will make a few observations on the results. In the first place Saluenensis sets seed very freely, perhaps more so then any other species. When crossed with Japonica it almost always sets a seed pod. Results are almost as uniformly good when crossed with other species. Seedling plants grown from Saluenensis parentage are always vigorous and busy and so far seem to show a surprising amount of cold tolerance. Flowers from these seedlings usually have an orchid pink color and lack flower substance, altho they are very beautiful. In form they vary from the formal double to simple single flowers.

Saluenensis has been crossed with Reticulata with very satifactory results. Again the orchid pink coloring seems to predominate in the flowers of the seedlings. It is almost certain that the very beautiful Reticulata 'Willow Wand' has Saluenensis as one of its parents. A cross of Saluenensis x Reticulata 'Tali Queen' made at the Huntington Gardens produced a seedling of unusual beauty. The flower is of semi-double form, soft orchid pink in color and about five inches in diameter. The flowers are borne in great profusion and tend to open simultaneously so that the plant is literally covered with flowers. It is quite apparent that the possibilities of using Saluenensis as a seed parent are both promising and unlimited.

The next cross which has been made many times and which should be considered is that of Japonica x Reticulata. This cross would obviously have the greatest possibilties to offer and perhaps it does but we haven't gone far enough to be sure. In the first place, because of the wide difference in chromosome numbers, (the Japonica has 30 and the Reticulata has 90 Chromosomes) the cross does not often result in a seed pod. And the pods when they do form often do not contain seed. Only empty chambers and little shrivelled black specks which tried to develop into seed. However some viable seed does develop and quite a number have been grown to flowering stage.

Of considerable interest and cause for speculation is the fact that these seedlings almost always have Japonica foliage. No matter which species is used for the seed parent the seedlings will resemble Japonica so closely that even experts are fooled. This of course can be a very strong argument in support of the theory that many of our spectacular varieties of Japonica have part Reticulata parentage. It could well be that the Chinese crossed these two species centuries ago.

Judging from the results so far, good flowers are the exception rather than the rule from the Reticulata x Japonica cross. As an example one seedling of 'R. Noble Pearl' x 'J. Lotus' seedling had every indication of developing into an outstanding variety, with its unusual vigor, large leaves and bushy compact growth habit. Yet when it flowered the bloom was sickly pink in color and scarcely two inches in diameter. Whether or

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not a back cross now to either of the parents will give us a large flower remains to be seen.

A Reticulata x Japonica cross which did prove to have every desirable factor imaginable was that of 'R. Lion Head' x 'J. Coronation'. From the moment the first leaf formed on the little seedling in the seed flat there was no doubt that here was something unusual. It quickly outgrew its fellows and by the time it reached twelve inches in height it was showing leaves larger than any 'Masterpiece'. When it bloomed three years later, the flower was over seven inches in diameter, salmon pink in color and of very exceptionable substance. It is a true hybrid in every sense of the word. The origination of this type of flower provides the hybridizer with motivation, even tho it happens only once among hundreds of seedlings.

The species Granthamiana appears to offer a great deal to the hybridizer since its pollen is quite virile and the plant itself sets seed readily. It has been crossed with Saluenensis, Japonica and Reticulata, and with a high percentage of sets. Seedlings are now growing and a considerable number will flower for the first time this fall and winter. It will be extremely interesting to observe and appraise these flowers. Perhaps the Reticulata x Granthamiana crosses will give us a white flower resembling the seed parent. And we could well have an interesting list of spectacular flowers blooming early in the fall. Time will give us the answers.

A number of other interesting crosses have been made and we must await blooming time to see the results. Sasanqua 'Narumi-Gata' x Reticulata 'Lion Head' is one cross which stirs our imagination. Six of the seedlings are now in flower bud and we don't have too long to wait. Other hybrids of equal promise and interest will be blooming this winter.

Interest in Camellia hybridizing is increasing by leaps and bounds. Each year finds more people with brush in hand and a gleam in their eye, ready to go to work. And this is as it should be since no phase of Camellia growing offers so much of interest and pleasure.

Is 'Jack McCaskill' A Hybrid?

Jack Clark of Auckland, N. Z., whom many will remember because of his visit to the United States during the 1961 camellia season, has raised an interesting question in a letter to the Editor. Here it is: "When making reticulata and hybrids 'Phyl Doak', 'Barbara Clark', 'Margaret Waterhouse' scions ready for grafting, I have noticed they give off a strong aromatic aroma. Last week I was grafting a scion of 'Jack McCaskill' and noticed the same aroma. I understand 'Jack McCaskill' is a sport of 'Te Deum', a japonica. I have been propagating japonica camellias for over 30 years and have never noticed them giving off any aromatic aroma. Being curious I remembered that the so-called old variety 'Mathotiana' (New Zealand) was thought at one time to be 'Te Deum'. Making a test scion of 'Mathotiana' (N. Z.), it had the aromatic aroma. This morning I made a test from wood of a 'Mathotiana' I received from Mr. Walter Hazlewood of Sydney, Australia. The result was the same as the others.

I am wondering if it is possible that 'Jack McCaskill', etc. are hybrids. It would be interesting to see if we have more hybrids masquerading under the name of japonica. For what it is worth, I would like to hear from others with a collection of camellia plants larger than mine, that can do with a little pruning to make a few tests. I have not found any of the English hybrids that I have in my collection, with any noticeable aromt."

CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZING IN AUSTRALIA

Walter G. Hazlewood

Epping, New South Wales

Hybridizing is the mating of two distinct species of a genus, or two members of the same Natural Order. This last not happening very often, the usual procedure is confined to varieties of the same genus. As far as Australia is concerned, the main work has been with Camellia saluenensis crossed with Camellia japonica.

Camellia japonica is the most widely known of the genus Camellia. This species comes from Formosa in the south to Korea in the north, with the main concentration in China and Japan.

Camellia saluenensis comes from the Province of Yunnan in China. Sealy, in his "A Review of the Genus Camellia" says its habitat is "scrub and open thickets on dry, often stony or rocky, hillsides, and on cliffs and steepy grassy slopes; also in mixed and pine forests, and in thickets in shady gullies and in open scrub by streams; mostly in the warm temperate zone; according to Handel-Mazetti it is found on sandstone and limestone; flowering period November to April". By this it will be seen that saluenensis grows on a great variety of soils and in very varied conditions. The rocky hillsides and cliffs indicate a well drained soil but those growing near streams point to more moisture.

In both the United States and Australia, Camellia saluenensis and its hybrids are reported as being very liable to dieback and dying out. It is hard to determine the reason for this as Mr. Charles Puddle, of Bodnant Gardens, Tal-y-cafn, Denbighshire, North Wales, says that they have no trouble in England. Some of this trouble might be due to climatic reasons as in its native habitat it grows at elevations of 6000 to 9000 feet. This would mean a much milder condition than the United States and Australian, more like the English climate. Another suggestion is that as it grows naturally on dry, rocky hillsides amongst grass or scrub, rather than under garden conditions, the plants get too much water, especially as many are grown in containers. A third reason could be too acid a soil as it is reported as growing on limestone. This could mean that it will stand a more alkaline condition than Camelia japonica. A deficiency of copper might be another reason for plants dying out. This could well be a matter of research by the new International Camellia Society. I have several plants of saluenensis as well as many Williamsii, which have to depend on rain for water and which do not get any manure. These are quite healthy although some are 15 years old.

The main source of Camellia saluensis hybrids in Australia is from the garden of Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Gordon, New South Wales. He imported a plant of Camellia saluenensis from England in 1938. This was planted in a bed in which were a number of Camellia japonica cultivars. From the beginning it showed a tendency to die back. In 1945 it flowered freely and set a number of seed pods. The plant died in 1946 but a number of seedlings, 22 in number, came up under the plant. The foliage was different to that of saluenensis, showing the influence of the japonica. In 1954, three of the seedlings flowered. These were named 'E. G. Waterhouse', a formal double, light pink, beautifully imbricated; 'Lady Gowrie', a large semi-double, upwards of five inches in diameter, with about 20 petals, colour fuchsine-pink; and

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'Margaret Waterhouse', a semi-double with three rows of petals and a diameter of four inches, colour amaranth-rose. Others of these seedlings have been named, of which the following are the best. 'Bowen Bryant', deep pink and a very strong grower, probably one of the most vigorous of the Williamsii group; 'Charles Colbert', a two-tone pink with incurved edges to the petals; 'Clarrie Fawcett', semi-double, similar to 'Margaret Waterhouse' but with a bit more life in the colour; 'Crinkles', a many-petalled semi-double amaranth-rose with beautifully crinkled petals; 'Ellamine', large single, four inches in diameter, colour fuchsine-pink.

I have a 'Donation' seedling which has narrow leaves about four inches long and 1½ inches wide with a dark, glossy green and a red midrib on the under side of the leaf. Prominent serrations are on the top end of the leaf but the lower half is smooth. It is a most attractive foliage plant. The colour of the bud before fully opening is bright crimson but as the flower opens out it becomes a light red. The bloom is 3½ inches across with five rows of rounded, imbricated petals, with a bunch of stamens intermingled with a few petaloids.

Camellia cuspidata is another species which has been used in England and the United States, but not to any extent in Australia. Cuspidata comes from China and has small, white flowers. The foliage is long and narrow. I found it rather delicate and my plants died after a few years. Amongst a batch of plants procured from England was a plant of 'Cornish Snow'. This is a hybrid between saluenensis x cuspidata and was planted in a bed with a number of japonica cultivars. I planted seed from this plant in 1953 and in 1961 the first of the seedlings flowered. There were 10 in number, most of them showing japonica foliage but one shows the two parents. This first one had a campanulate shaped flower about two inches long and 1½ inches wide. The colour was white with a creamy tint at the base. Another plant flowered in 1962 and this is a loose informal double, with two rows of outer petals. The rest of the bloom is composed of petaloids, large and small; there are no stamens. The leaf is japonica 2¾ inches long and 1½ wide, slightly serrated. The flower is two inches in diameter and is a very dainty miniature. It clearly shows 'Cornish Snow' origin.

Another species I have experimented with is Oleifera variety confusa crossed with sasanqua. Oleifera comes from China, Indo-China, Thailand and Burma. The flower is small, white, and very fleeting, only lasting a couple of days, but its early blooming and distinctive foliage are valuable attributes. With me it blooms the third week in January, which would be July in the Northern Hemisphere. Sasanqua comes from Japan and the Liu Kiu Islands and in most cases the flower does not last more than two or three days, but it has a variety of colours and as a plant makes an ideal garden shrub. Also it will grow and flower in a hotter climate than japonica and will do well in a more alkaline soil.

My seedlings to date have shown the cross in the foliage, seedlings from oleifera often showing sasanqua leaves and those from sasanqua have oleifera. The flowers so far have been single, white with some pink, very beautiful but hardly distinctive enough to create much enthusiasm. I have also Pitardii variety yunnanense, and this appeals more to me as a parent than any other species that I have tried. As its name implies it comes from Yunnan in China, and has a very lovely flower to start with. I understand that many of the Kun-

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CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZATION IN NEW ZEALAND

L. E. Jury

New Plymouth, New Zealand

I am indeed honored with a request from your Editor to give a review of camellia hybrids in this wise: "What New Zealand has done and is doing in camellia hybridization, what species you are using, what are your best varieties, what the future looks like, and whatever else seems pertinent to you." I will answer these questions seriatum.

"*What New Zealand has done.*" To Dr. B. W. Doak goes the honor of being the pioneer of this work in New Zealand. He obtained a cutting of C. saluenensis from Prof. Waterhouse of Australia, and later used this variety as seed parent with reticulata 'Captain Rawes' pollen. He raised and named the following hybrids: 'Phyl Doak', 'Fair Lass', 'Brian', 'Barbara Clark', and 'Dr. Lesley'. These are now in commerce and he has also named another two varieties not yet released: 'Otava Rose' and 'Betty Durrant'. Anyone would be proud to be the raiser of these fine hybrids.

I can fairly claim to be second in the field, for it was seventeen years ago when I decided to enter into camellia hybridization and soon commenced importing plants with this objective in mind. Of course I had to wait some time for these plants to develop, so that it is only eight years ago when I started successful hybridizing. I have raised close to a thousand hybrid camellia plants, most of these being crosses of saluenensis X japonica. The first of my hybrids to qualify for naming is a saluenensis X 'Lotus' hybrid which first flowered at two years, a large semi-double. It has been named 'Kia Ora' (Maori for "good luck") pronounced ke ora, unaccented. Three other doubles have been named, 'Elegant Beauty', 'Grand Jury', 'Anticipation', and two singles, 'Fortunes Smile' (previous suggested name 'Smile of Beauty', said to be too long), and 'Joyful Bells' (previous suggested name 'Tinkle Bells', said to be too similar to 'Tinker Bells'). Several others will be due for naming after the present flowering season. I feel that because hybrids are unstable, particularly during the first few years, they should be flowered for at least three seasons before naming.

"*What New Zealand is doing in camellia hybridization.*" There are a number of enthusiasts started or about to start in this work. I would point out we have a good rainfall in most districts and a fairly equable climate in coastal areas, with the result camellias grow well without much attention. Here where I am situated we seldom get a frost more than 3 or 4 degrees — last winter we had no frosts, Fuchia fulgens blooming all winter outdoors. Our New Zealand Camellia Society distributes seed each season, mostly good japonica varieties; also I have given about 800 self set seeds from my saluenensis forms. Almost all plants from this saluenensis seed are hybrid and it would be surprising if some do not become commercial varieties. New Zealand enthusiasts are thus becoming hybrid conscious. One enterprising lady who has been hand pollinating for several years has some unusual crosses, including sinensis X japonica. She has a fairly large plant of 'Donation' and in the flowering season goes around each morning, any bloom about to open is carefully opened by hand and examined with a magnifying glass, and if it is found to have a perfect pistil it is pollinated with a japonica variety and covered. Last year she

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had nine seedling plants from 'Donation' and probably has more by now. It just shows how the camellia bug can effect ladies.

"What species you are using." The first camellia species I can remember is C. japonica, and I "used" it like Jack's Beanstalk to climb up into the clouds, or so it seemed to four year old me on my first tree climb — that was 56 years ago. My grandfather had planted six C. japonica varieties near the homestead. Apart from the first available species of japonica, I now have sasanqua, oleifera, pitardii, taliensis, hongkongensis, wabisuke, tsaii, granthamiana, drupifera, fraterna, cuspidata, rosaeflora, miyagii, caudata, maliflora, vernalis, saluenensis, fuyajo, reticulata double and wild forms. In the flowering season it takes me 2-3 hours daily with pollinating work. All possible crosses are tried, many unsuccessfully because of the chromosome compex or because of insufficient maturity of the seed parent, and again our soil and climate favour growth and not free seed set. The successful sets are a small portion, possibly only 10%.

"What are your best varieties." Apart from saying 'Elsie Jury' may be my most spectacular hybrid, I would not care to evaluate them to overseas readers yet awhile. It must be remembered that camellias vary with environmental and climatic conditions, also my plants are rather young. They are being tested in the United States and I am awaiting reports on their behavior. Mr. Dave Strother has flowered good sized plants of 'Kia Ora' and 'Anticipation'. His report to me after saying what a show 'Anticipation' made is as follows: "So far, I don't think I have seen a finer hybrid, and many I showed it to think it is the finest hybrid they have ever seen. I also had your 'Kia Ora' to bloom, and it was lovely, but I don't think it is in the same class with your 'Anticipation'."

"What the future looks like". I would say at once and most emphatically that the future looks bright indeed as far as New Zealand hybrids are concerned. A great deal of my success with Williamsii hybrids is due to a stroke of luck when I purchased two small seedlings of saluenensis from England. One proved to be a poor type, the other turned out to be a superior form with large open blooms and extra substance. To differentiate from other saluenensis forms, I call this one Sunnybank variety after the name of our Sunnybank Gardens. I also imported other saluenensis forms: 'Exbury' deep pink, 'Bartley' variety, 'Sylvia May' and Dr. Doak's form. When raising large numbers of hybrids, one must have a scale of merit to evaluate each plant. The order I use is good, very good, excellent, outstanding. Any plants below rating of good are used for understock.

I have not flowered many hybrids from the 'Bartley' and 'Exbury' forms. Those which have come to bloom are small flowered and some lack vigor. These two forms seem to rate below good. Dr. Doak's form I would rate as good and 'Sylvia May' not quite so good. The outstanding form is Sunnybank variety. Not only have I raised some fine double hybrids of commercial value but also some outstanding "breeder" singles from this plant.

I place paramount significance on the quality of breeder plants, since it is obvious that the greater advance made in the first cross, then the greater the possible attainment in the second cross. We are told the second cross usually brings "the great result". This I have found to be true in crossing Lilium speciosum with S. Auratum, the improvement in the second cross being even greater than one would expect. I have been hybridiz-

ing lilies for 20 years and it was with these I found the importance of selecting top forms as breeder plants. If the second cross will bring the great result in camellia hybrids, then my best hybrids are yet to come and I have every reason to be optimistic since I have selected some outstanding breeder plants. Some of these are: 'Miss Clare', saluenensis X 'Lady Clare', very large blooms for a single, exceptional substance, very prolific, blooms over long period; 'Fortune's Smile', saluenensis X 'Hassaku', the objective of this cross being to secure a dwarfer type of breeder plant which would produce hybrids more suited to small gardens, yet have large blooms. I feel fortune smiled on me with this outstanding breeder. From the same cross came another stroke of fortune, a pink shading to white center. Of the hundreds of Williamsii hybrids I have raised, this is the only one to have any white in the bloom. If it results in two-toned hybrids, then it would also rate as an outstanding breeder plant.

The most valued acquisition to the camellia family from the hybridists' point of view must surely be C. saluenensis. It is so easy to cross with some species and produces delightful free flowering hybrids. The "missing link" seems to be a red saluenensis. After giving this problem much thought, I decided to cross saluenensis with juyajo in an endeavor to secure a plant which would in effect take the place of a red saluenensis and thus provide us with a fuller range of colour forms in the Williamsii type. The cross was successful, bringing forth 'Joyful Bells,' a crimson which blooms for five months, the most prolific hybrid I have seen, self grooming therefore always tidy. It must surely rate as an outstanding breeder.

The seed parent in each case of the four outstanding breeder plants mentioned is saluenensis Sunnybank variety. It has also produced other plants which would rate as very good and excellent breeders, making possible a hybridizing program which should result in a great array of variations in colours and forms of super-

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SIMPLE STEPS FOR HAND POLLINATING CAMELLIAS

1. Have an objective

One *can* hand pollinate just for the fun of doing it. It is much better, however, to have an objective because the fun is just as great and the results will be much more satisfying. For example: early or late varieties; particular shades such as, for example, the shadings of 'Ballet Dancer' or the red of 'Flame'; interspecific hybridizing (between different species) such as reticulata X japonica.

2. Select proper seed bearing or female parent

A great deal of time and labor can be wasted if hand pollinations are made on plants that do not produce seeds. A good rule is to use only plants which have in previous seasons been observed to set seed regularly. These will be usually single or semi-double varieties. 'Donckelarii', 'Berenice Boddy', and 'Lady Vansittart' are among the favorites as seed bearing parents. Other varietal forms do set seeds occasionally; for example, 'Elegans' has been a seed parent. For one who wishes to hand pollinate on a limited scale, however, he should seek the highest expectancy of obtaining seeds from his efforts.

3. Select the pollen parent

Pollen can be taken from any variety that ripens the pollen. This will be most varieties, but there are some in which the anthers do not open and pollen is not available. A dusty pollen is wanted, one that will spread easily. Obviously, the pollen parent will possess the qualities that one is seeking in the new seedling.

4. Emasculate the flower on the seed parent that is to be pollinated

Select a bud that is just ready to open. (See Figure 1) If the bud has opened, even just a little bit, a bee may have crawled in and deposited some pollen. Take off the petals down to the calex, using fingers or scissors. Then remove all stamens to the same level. (See Figure 2, keeping in mind that the illustration shows part of the petals remaining only for comparison between the before and after.)

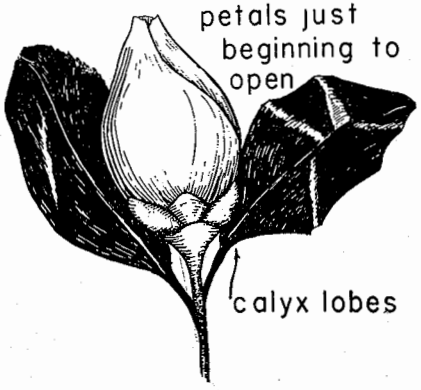


FIGURE 1

Proper stage for emasculation and pollination

5. Place pollen on the emasculated flower

The pollen from the pollen parent is placed on the stigma (the sticky substance that appears on the end of the pistil) of the emasculated flower. (See Figure 2) Pollen may be transferred from one flower to the other with a brush, a match stick, one's finger, or what have you. The important things are that the stigma is thoroughly covered with the pollen and that before pollinating with another variety, the old pollen is completely removed from the instrument used. Alcohol should be used for cleaning a brush. A man can rub a match stick or his finger on the seat of his pants. At least one person who gets excellent results in large numbers uses his fore finger. It should be pointed out that this is written for the person who uses live pollen. The use of stored pollen is another subject.

Steps 4 and 5 should be done during the warm part of a warm day if the work is to be done on outdoor plants; i. e., not in green houses. Temperatures above 65 degrees or even above 70 degrees are necessary for best results. It has been established in actual operation in the Los Angeles area that the per cent takes from December pollinations is very low compared with per cent takes from work done in February and March.

6. Cover the pollinated flower?

There are different views on this. The purpose of covering is to prevent the bees from depositing other pollen. Most successful hybridizers have concluded that the bees do not add foreign pollen to the stigma often enough, if at all, to warrant the time required to cover the flower. Those who do cover the flower use a small manila bag, tied securely around the pollinated flower. A plastic bag should not be used because it is too hot.

7. Keep records of what has been done

Since the purpose of hand pollinating is to achieve results from known varieties, full records should be kept. Attach to the seed parent a plastic interlocking label or any other that cannot be removed. In one case string was used for tying on the label. Birds wanted the string for building their nests and they took the string. The labels were found on the ground. Record on the label the name of the pollen parent. Code numbers can be used to simplify the record work. The label should be left on until the seed is harvested, then, of course, the seeds themselves will be identified both before and after they are planted *(Continued next page)*

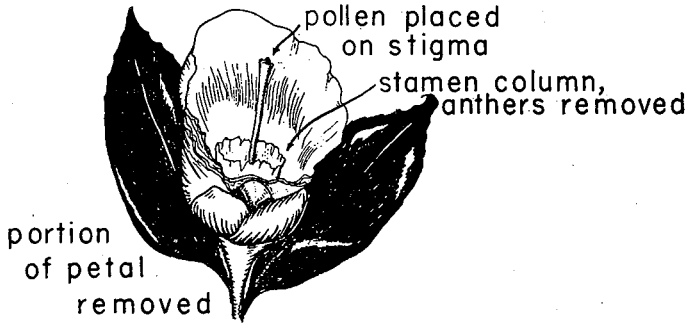


FIGURE 2

Flower after emasculation

8. After care

The seeds will start to form soon after pollinating has taken place. Excessive heat can cause the seed capsules to drop. If the plants are outdoors, they should be given extra shade during hot spells in early summer. Plants that have been pollinated should not be kept in a green house after the beginning of hot weather.

Also, watch out for squirrels, blue jays and whatever else likes tender young seed pods. Paper bags will not keep out such creatures. Use a netting around the seed pod. Seran cloth would be excellent. This also allows one to leave the seed pods on until they are fully ripe, without fear of danger or loss.

Other than such after care, the results are in the laps of the Gods. Then comes seed harvesting and planting time and the beginning of a new chapter.

1963 CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

Date	Society	Show Location	Registration Chrm.
Feb. 2-3	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego	Mrs. Tim Miller 6201 Danbury Way San Diego 20
Feb. 16-17	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	California Bank, 321 E. Holt Ave., Pomona	Bancroft Benner, Jr. 170 N. Monte Vista Ave. San Dimas
Feb. 16-17	Peninsula Camellia Society	New Hillsdale Community Room, Lower Mall of Hillsdale Shopping Center, San Mateo	E. P. Tenney 1903 Oak Knoll Dr. Burlingame
Feb. 23-24	Temple City Camellia Society	Lecture Hall, L. A. County Arboretum, Arcadia	Ernest Pieri 601 E. Elm St. San Gabriel
Mar. 2-3	Los Angeles Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens, La Canada	Wilkins Garner 1444 El Rito Glendale 8
Mar. 2-3	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium, 15th & J Streets, Sacramento	C. A. Harelson 69 Sandburg Dr. Sacramento 19
Mar. 3	Central California Camellia Society	Cafeteria at Fair Grounds, Fresno	Mrs. Patricia Simonsen, 3251 E. Bellaire Way Fresno 3
Mar. 3	Camellia Society of Santa Clara	Civic Auditorium, San Jose	Show is non-competitive
Mar. 9-10	Camellia Society of Kern County	San Joaquin Tractor Bldg., Bakersfield	Charlotte Johnson 1902 Niles St. Bakersfield
Mar. 9-10	Northern California Camellia Society	Diablo Valley College, Concord	Ernie Parmiani 3786 Raap Martinez
Mar. 16-17	Modesto Camellia Society	Modesto Junior College Library, Modesto	Dwight Wait 1029 Mt. Vernon Dr. Modesto

CAMELLIA NEWS OF JAPAN FOR 1962

Eikichi Satomi
Tokyo, Japan

Editor's Note: I asked Mr. Satomi to tell the readers of CAMELLIA REVIEW what is newsworthy on the subject of camellias in Japan. The following outline of the program during the last camellia season, which Mr. Satomi sent in response to my request, is evidence of the resurgence of camellia interest in Japan. As he stated in his letter to me: "Now the seeds of camellia enthusiasm which had been sown by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peer are growing up in this country, interest of people for this plant is revived and increased year by year."

March 13th to 17th

The Fourth Higo Camellia Show was held at Tsuruya Dept. Store in Kumamoto City.

March 17th

Prof. and Mrs. E. G. Waterhouse and Mr. Paul Jones of Australia arrived at Tokyo, for taking camellia trail in Japan. They stayed six weeks in Japan, and had reserch trip for Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Kumamoto, and Niigata.

March 27th to April 1st

The Camellia Show of Japan Camellia Society was held at Mitsukoshi Dept. Store, Tokyo. Princess Chichibu exhibited 'Little Princes' there.

March 24th

International Camellia Carnival was held at Chinzanso Gardens, Tokyo. At the request of Mexico City and also in commemoration of the visit to Japan of the Mexican song and dance ensemble, saplings of Camelli japonica were presented by the Japan Camellia Society to the Camellia Garden in Mexico City. Governor R. Azuma of Tokyo Metropolis read a goodwill message to the Mayor of Mexico City. Young plants of camellia were also presented to the members of the diplomatic corps attending the ceremony, being accepted by the Ambassadors of Canada, Ghana and Peru on behalf of their colleagues. During the ceremony, K. Ishikawa, Pres. of J.C.S., introduced Prof. and Mrs. E. G. Waterhouse and Mr. Paul Jones to the attendance. Prof. Waterhouse and Mr. Ishikawa together planted camellia there, variety named 'Oki no ishi', in commemoration of the occasion.

March

Prof. K. Hagiya and his Assistant Mr. S. Ishizawa published their Study on C. rusticana which described in English and illustrated.

March

Kyoto Garden Club published their camellia magazine entitled Tsubaki (means Camellia) vol. 3, printed in Japanese characters.

April 1st to 2nd

The Camellia Show of Kyoto Garden Club was held at Kangyokan Hall, Kyoto. An excellent new variety named 'Gunrei' was exhibited by a nurseryman Mr. M. Sato of Nagoya.

April 15th

The Camellia and its References Show was held at Kyoto Botanic Gardens, Kyoto.

Temple City Camellia Society Breakfast

The Temple City Camellia Society will kick off the 1962-1963 camellia season with its annual breakfast to be held at the home of camellia nurseryman Clarence Rose, 5923 N. Muscatel Ave., San Gabriel on Sunday morning, October 21st between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. This breakfast is a traditional event with the Society as well as with members of the other camellia societies in the area. The Society extends a cordial invitation to all camellia people to attend the breakfast.

THE KEEPER OF THE GARDEN

E. C. Tourje

Camarillo, California

One of the most interesting acquaintances it has been my pleasure to make was one made back in 1946 or 1947 with a Chinese gentleman whose name was Feng-hwai Chen. I use the past tense because I do not know what became of him. I do not use the word "gentleman" lightly. I have always had a conviction that had I been able to meet Mr. Chen personally, the impression of gentle breeding which I received from his delightful letters would have been abundantly confirmed. He was obviously a person of education and culture, and I assume was conversant with the English language because his letters all came to me in more or less story book English of quaint but very understandable composition.

My first acquaintance with Mr. Chen came through Mr. Douglas Fraser of Fraser and Son, Pasadena seed merchants, who one day showed me a Chinese catalogue printed in excellent English advertising for sale a large number of items of nursery stocks and seeds. Not the least interesting feature of the catalogue was the fact that in almost every instance, if my memory serves me accurately, the items offered were described both by the common English terms and by quite accurate botanical description. It was the catalogue of Lushan Botanical Gardens of Kuling, China. Mr. Fraser knew my interest in camellias and pointed out to me the offering of species of camellias little known in America except as harbarium specimens. Thereupon started a correspondence which I delight to think back on.

Mr. Chen's first letter to me bore his signature above the title "The Keeper of Garden". This immediately won me. That title denoted to me humility but it also carried with it a vast amount of pride and dignity. I have known many persons whom I have wanted to meet personally. Mr. Chen is well up toward the top of the list.

Much of my correspondence has been lost, frequently to stamp collectors who sought avidly the stamps on both letters and packages which arrived subsequent to our first contact. The accompanying letter will illustrate the reason better than words of mine can describe. The denominations of the stamps on these letters tax the imagination. We learned of inflation from Germany, but nothing like this. Little wonder that China was ripe for Communism. Speaking of inflation reminds me to say that one of the packages received from Kuling bore stamps equal in denomination to six hundred forty thousand Chinese dollars, if I recall correctly, but was short fifteen cents in stamps, American.

I think the accompanying letter was the last received from Mr. Chen. You will note that he wrote hopefully of their new catalogue which I do not recall having received. Nor was I informed of the cost of the reticulata seeds, although I had cash on deposit with the Garden. I have often wondered how this gentle individual fared at the hands of the Communists and it grieves me to think of him in front of a bamboo prod in the hands of a brutal peasant. I regret that I do not have the catalogue which was to come off the press before the end of 1948. I am sure it contained seed items for sale not found in their previous catalogue because they had sent to me seeds of a number of camellia

(Continued on page 17)

Lushan Botanical Garden
P.O.Box 4,Kuling,China
Nov.26th,1948

Mr. E.C.Tourje
1303 Descanso Dr.
La Canada, Calif.
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Tourje:

I am glad to hear from you in your kind letter of 17 inst. and am glad to know that our seeds are germinated in good condition.

In connection of C.reticulata seeds so far I hanen't received any newsafrom our collectors in Kunming. About month ago I only got a letter from one of our collectors saying that he has collected some seeds of that species but how much he did not mention. I will send an air letter to him asking to send the seeds directly to you by air mail.

The common Camellia in large scattered petal form is the cultivated form of C.reticulata, the wild form which baars seeds while the former has none.

I have not seen any yellow Camellia so far found in South Yunnan. I will let you know definitely afterwards.

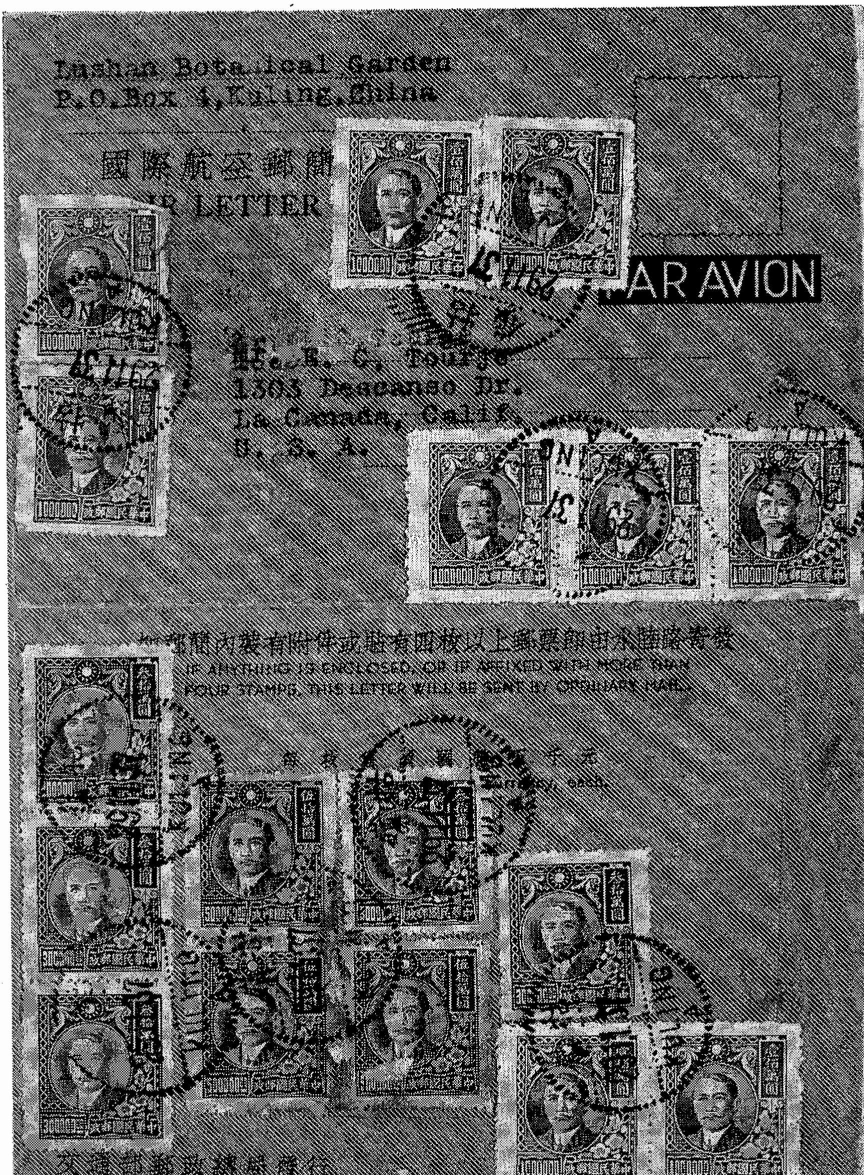
The air shippment is rather expensive here in our country. I will let you know how much we have spent for the seeds.

I am very interesting to have your cataloque which has not yet received by me. Our new cataloque is still in press and will be sent out at the end of the year.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Yours very truly,

Feng-hwai Chen



Lushan Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 4, Kuling, China
國際航空郵簡
R LETTER
PAR AVION
Mr. R. C. Tourje
1303 Descanso Dr.
La Canada, Calif.
U. S. A.
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, OR IF AFFIXED WITH MORE THAN
FOUR STAMPS, THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.
交通部郵政總局發行

species not referred to in an earlier catalogue.

I will not presume to enumerate all the names of camellia species seeds received from Mr. Chen, but the list included sinensis, saluenensis, oleifera, cuspidata, reticulata and pitardii as well as the genus tutcheria spectabalis. I recall at least two packages of seeds marked C. pitardii. One package contained a very small quantity of seeds. The next shipment contained a larger package of pitardii seeds which appeared dissimilar to those of the earlier shipment. I do not recall but it now seems probable that the seeds of the first shipment resulted in the plants having the pointed leaf pitardii, one of which became the seed parent of the hybrid bearing my name which was developed at Huntington Botanical Garden. The shipment containing the larger package of pitardii seeds perhaps — probably because there are more of them — developed into the broad leaved pitardii which produces flowers similar to those of the saluenensis.

I understand that one of the local nurseries then had a plant of the wild form of reticulata of which seeds were obtained by me and it is known that plants of C. saluenensis were in Southern California at the times the above mentioned seeds were obtained. Except for these, however, the seeds of those species obtained by me were the first, so far as I was able to ascertain, to be imported to Southern California, if not, indeed, to America. Many of these seeds went to Huntington Botanical Garden, Descanso Garden, and to the test garden of American Camellia Society at Gainesville, Florida. Many were distributed among personal friends throughout America and I like to think that most of the American plants of the species mentioned are the direct result of my paper acquaintance with "The Keeper of Garden".

Douglas Thompson Is New L.A. Camellia Council President

Douglas Thompson, last year's president of Pacific Camellia Society, has been elected President of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, succeeding Caryll Pitkin. Other officers elected were: Vice-President, Edwards H. Metcalf; Secretary, Ed. Franklin; Treasurer, Dan H. Roberts.

Members of the Los Angeles Camellia Council are the six camellia societies in the Los Angeles area; namely the Los Angeles, Orange County, Pacific, Pomona Valley, Southern California and Temple City Societies. These members designate two of their society members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Council. In addition to these twelve directors, there are six directors at large, of which three are specified in the By-Laws and three are elected by the members. The Show Chairman of the Descanso Show is also ex-officio a member of the Board.

Membership of the Board of Directors for the year 1962-63 is as follows:

Los Angeles Society Representatives:
Judge Bayard Rhone
Robert Jackson

Orange County Society Representatives:
R. W. Ragland
Ken Newerf

Pacific Society Representatives:
Raymond R. Noyes
Douglas Thompson

Pomona Valley Society Representatives:
B. M. Pace
Bancroft Benner

Southern California Society Representatives:
Wilber Foss
Wilkins Garner

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WHERE TO — HYBRIDS?

Vernon R. James

Aptos, California

The door was opened wide, indeed, to the imagination of every person interested in the culture of camellias, through the introduction of the Williamsii hybrids. It is human nature to strive for more, to improve one's lot, to explore the unknown, and to dream of more and better things. In our love of the camellia these traits still hold, as many of us have visions of something even more beautiful, more hardy, more floriferous, more colorful, and dream of new shades, new foliage, and new growth habits.

All things are possible, but it is also human nature to be impatient and to expect too much too fast, to model our thinking after something we particularly like, such as the japonica or reticulata camellias. The present day hybrid camellias *have* come along fast, very fast, and as flowering shrubs many of them are as fine as or even finer than some of the most popular flowering shrubs. But the rut is deep and the ground work is slippery, and we are modeling them more and more after what we know and like. It was pointed out to me that if the present trend continues we will wind up with just more japonicas and reticulatas. This I believe is true, as I have found myself slipping into the ruts by using the japonica too freely and too frequently. Therefore, we must decide just what we wish to *retain* of the present day hybrid camellias, what superior or more desirable characteristics we wish to promote for the future hybrid generations.

In my opinion the present day hybrid camellias have *much* to retain — the "glass beaded" texture of their flowers, the very desirable trait of setting buds at every leaf terminal, the growth habits of some, the hardiness of a few, the new shades which are a start toward new colors, the foliage of many, should be retained. This is a very sizeable list from something so young and new.

Camellia societies are organized to promote a greater interest in their favorite flowering shrub, and to do this it is important to know just what Mr. *average* gardener likes most in a flowering shrub and just why it holds his interest. It is the hybridist's job to see how many of these "likes" he can work into his hybrid. It seems to me the average gardener's preferences should come in this order: (1) without a doubt the top spot goes to mass bloom — the hybrid camellia has much to offer here; (2) easy maintenance — this will be a problem of geography, with the west coast and its lack of summer rains coupled with dry air, any plant other than natives must be looked after regularly as the weather dictates; (3) good looking year around shrub — the hybrid camellia is hard to beat in this category; (4) a long flowering period — every one in the nursery business has had the experience of the pretty young thing coming into his place of business and asking for the shrub that blooms twelve months out of the year. Well, there are some hybrids that almost do it, and if any plant *can* the hybrid camellia will do it. These four qualities, I believe, are what have the greatest appeal to the "John Does" of the garden world, or for that matter to the many persons who unconsciously enjoy a beautiful landscape. Everyone enjoys a beautiful landscape, in nature or in a garden, particularly when it's in bloom; some people are just too busy and haven't found it out yet.

A few varieties exemplify some of

the desirable qualities of the hybrid camellias that should be maintained and, if possible, improved upon. Let's consider the number one spot, mass bloom: any one who has seen the varieties DONATION, ROBBIE, and SPANKED BABY in full bloom, should have no misgivings as to their ability in this respect. As for number 2, easy maintenance, the variety FLIRTATION is a step in the right direction. For a good looking year around shrub (number 3) we have many to choose from, such as BONNIE MARIE with its exceptionally beautiful foliage. For 4th, long flowering period, I know of no better example than the variety EDNA RALEY, which is a show off from November through mid May.

As camellia hobbyists, I am afraid we are not considering these above illustrated qualities except as secondary. We think in terms of Camellia Shows and the *individual bloom*. This is in direct contrast to what the professional hybridist (let me hasten to add I am not in this category) considers when working for improved plants. This is particularly true in the field of food producing plants and trees; disease resistance and productiveness are always uppermost. But whether it's food or flowers these two attributes *should* be the first consideration. The point I am trying to make is that we should look to the hybrid camellia as a *completely new flowering shrub*, highly desired for itself. If we let it, it can contribute a great deal now, and very much more in the future.

With these things in mind, I expect to go back a generation, to the ROBBIES, SPANKED BABYS, DAINTY DALES, JIMMY JAMES, EDNA RALEYS, etc., forget about size of flower, and work more toward other more important qualities. This is how I see the greatest future for the hybrid camellia, and I know many will not agree with me. If I am wrong, well, I have been wrong before, and at my age one more time cannot make much difference anyway. The score is too lopsided to matter.

To date there are many wonderful varieties available in the hybrid camellias. E. G. WATERHOUSE is as beautiful a formal pink as can be found. Our own new formal DOROTHY JAMES, while not as large as the former, has the novelty of a flesh white petal that is tipped with deep rose. It gives this variety character and will be prized as a corsage flower as well as a flowering shrub. For the information of those who are interested (besides, this is a sneaky way to get out of answering some letters) it will be released in the fall of 1963 or soon after. JIMMY JAMES is prized for its subtle pink shading and its exquisite form. The salmon shade of JULIE combined with either of the

(Continued on page 31)

THE WAGON TRAIN STILL ROLLS IN OREGON BUT NOW IT CARRIES CAMELLIA HYBRIDS

Mrs. Mary Johnson
Beaverton, Oregon

Editor's Note: When I asked the author to write an article for this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, she was loathe to do so because her hybrids had not bloomed. I replied that her work in hybridizing would be interesting without results, and I think the readers will agree with me after they have read this article.

Whether it is weather, inexperience, or just a lack of "luck", hybridizing in the Portland section of the Northwest has been a long slow process, filled with anxiety and hopeful anticipation much as that experienced by our forefathers, many of whom came to the West in wagon trains . . . the true pioneers.

It has been said so often by the wise that things worthwhile are worth waiting for . . . and now we shall see. After several years of rather impatient waiting, we shall at last see some of the fruits of our labor, the **first** flowers of our very own hybrid camellia seedlings.

It has seemed that nearly everyone else who has been pioneering in this most fascinating of all aspects of growing camellias has flowered hybrid seedlings for quite some time. It is largely the results that these other pioneers have had, the beauty that they have created, the vast improvement which they have brought to camellias generally, that has retained our hope in the future of our own amateur effort in camellia hybridization.

Our personal experiences all began about 1950, when much of the Northwest suffered below zero temperatures (unofficially 13 degrees below zero at 6:30 A.M., in Beaverton). Following this severe freeze, we lost nearly every camellia of our first collection of over four hundred plants. This chilled our spirits, momentarily, but also gave us the incentive to try to do something about camellias, weatherwise. It just seemed that something should and could be done to bring about greater hardiness in this most lovely of all flowers. At first, with no previous experience in the breeding of camellias, crosses were confined to the hardier varieties then available, and the method used was that of open pollination, with little care being exercised with regard to labels denoting crosses attempted.

The Williamsii hybrids arrived from England in this area about this time and withstood all sorts of cold temperatures . . . so why should we not try to develop similar hardy hybrids? About this same time also, there were a few other camellia species arriving in the United States, gradually coming to this area. Perhaps some of these would provide the answers to our hardiness problems. Many of them had rather small and quite unpretentious flowers, both as to size and form. But, what possibilities might they offer if crossed with the best and most cold resistant camellia varieties then available? These were questions that intrigued us in those days, and have continued to do so, for it takes years of experimentation before results may be completely determined regarding flower form, growth characteristics, hardiness, etc., of just the first generation offspring alone. Then additional years are required to produce and study succeeding generation seedlings. Still more time is needed in which to test these hybrid plants for their resistance to low temperatures.

During the early stages of our personal hybridization experiments, the necessity of painstaking care and

accuracy of all attempted pollinations became an increasingly important factor if one hopes to achieve successful results. After considerable trial and error tactics, the use of the cellophane drinking straw technique proved simple enough for the amateur and at the same time, reasonably accurate. (See THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN, October 1958 and ACS CAMELLIA JOURNAL, April 1960.) The results, though far from conclusive, have been thrilling during each successive development, from the formation of the first seed to the anticipated **first flowerings** this coming blooming season. The foliage, in many instances, has been as exciting as is the promise of the flowers.

The Williamsii hybrid 'Mary Christian', as well as the japonicas 'Gigantea Alba' and 'Bertha A. Harms' have perhaps been the most successful seed parents, the first two being receptive to almost every unusual pollen applied. There have been fewer crosses made using the reticulatas since these did not seem to offer the best possibilities toward greater hardiness. Some, however, were made in the hope of increasing the resistance to cold in this magnificent group.

Most of our hybridizing efforts have been somewhat in *reverse* of the usual procedure. In most instances, the specie plants were *not* used as seed parents, but instead the pollen from them was used on japonica and Williamsii flowers. In part, this was due to the rather small size of the specie plants and secondly, we were interested in determining whether or not the technique employed was actually reliable. This question has been answered to our personal satisfaction many times, for we have many plants which definitely appear to be hybrids. Although the seeds were developed on japonica plants, the off-spring show *no* japonica characteristics in either the foliage or flower bud. Instead, they appear to be almost duplicates of the specie parent.

Among the most interesting rewards for our efforts are the various hybrids of C. fraterna. Those of this parentage that are budded for the first time also maintain the characteristic tiny pendent stems to which the bud is attached, though in this case also the seed were produced on japonica plants. Now, it is our hope that the fraterna fragrance and hardiness will also prove to be as dominant.

The 'Mary Christian' X 'Ville de Nantes' series, on the other hand, shows a rather definite japonica influence. All have attractive, though small, foliage and well branched, compact habit. Our fondest dream is that at least one plant of this group, with its graceful habit, may have lovely florescence as well, plus hardiness, and for blooms we would wish

(Continued on next page)

for miniature 'Ville de Nantes' in spectacular profusion.

A number of 'Gigantea Alba' X 'Mary Christian' have rather large, thick, dull leaves varying from extremely light green to dark green coloring. The buds produced on one of this group are as large at the present time, as any that we have, with the exception of those on granthamiana.

The 'Mary Christian' X c. cuspidata seedlings, approximately 30 in number, are five and six years old, and though we have provided lights, have confined the root systems, and in fact done everything known to hasten the formation of buds, have only this season produced them in any number. The general plant structure in all cases is excellent, though varying greatly as does the foliage. The leaves vary from those closely resembling the pollen parent, cuspidata, to others with dark green, small, twisted foliage similar to that of 'Lady Vansittart'. Still others seem to follow the small dull pattern of the seed parent 'Mary Christian'. A few have the characteristic cuspidata buds.

'Gigantea Alba' X 'Elizabeth Rothschild' seedlings for some reason have a much greater similarity, all having dull, fairly thick foliage, that in each instance cups upward around the edge of each leaf.

Surusumi X 'Buddha' seedlings have fascinating, enormous leaves, "quilted" slightly, reminding one of granthamiana seedlings. The foliage is thick and dull and really quite handsome.

'Mary Christian' X c. granthamiana offspring appear so similar to the pollen parent, one would suspect that they were seedlings of granthamiana alone.

'Kingyo-Tsubaki' X 2nd generation Williamsii seedlings are not budded. The foliage, however, is strikingly attractive, some dull, with just a hint of the fishtail background, while others are large and glossy with definite mermaid characteristics.

'Mary Christian' X 'Kingyo-Tsubaki' hybrids leave little to be desired as to beauty of plant and foliage . . . if only they would just bloom soon.

One group of five 'Gigantea Alba' X c. fraterna are extremely dwarfed, being four years old and none over five inches tall. All give the appearance of being straight fraterna seedlings, nothing more.

Our expectations for the many different crosses produced from wild form rusticana pollen are not as high as they were at the time the seeds were first planted, for studies seem to indicate that perhaps this parent may not be as hardy as was presumed when it first arrived in this country.

When one has been observing several hundred seedlings over a period of time, it seems only natural that a few should become "pets", and it is one of these that seems to justify particular mention. Several years ago, at a time when we had few species with which to work, or scarcely any hybrids, we were presented with a gift of pollen. This pollen was from a flower of a plant that was thought to be a hybrid of 'Lady Vansittart' X 'Crimson Robe'. At the time we were returning to Oregon from Northern California. Even then, in California, the probability of such a cross was thought by some to be most unlikely, if not altogether impossible. This treasured pollen was transported home as quickly as possible and used on every one of our few flowers. The season is so much later here than in many other sections, and we felt fortunate in having even a few with which to work. From this generous pollen gift, our most favorite "pet" developed. It is now nearly five years old and possesses 28 *tiny* buds, for the *first* time. This cross 'Gigantea Alba' X ('Lady Vansittart' X 'Crimson Robe') produced a number of

seed, each differing considerably from the other, but this one is by far the most unusual of all. It is not more than twelve inches in height and is broader than it is tall, with foliage much more like that of a rose than a camellia. The foliage is most attractive, though small. It is rather light green and very dull, giving a gray-green appearance. The leaves are very deeply serrated, particularly near the tips where the new growth foliage is a deep rosy bronze color. The plant, as a whole, suggests to this rank amateur one possible parent somewhere in the background of the reticulata 'Crimson Robe' . . . this is fraterna. Not only does the plant suggest c. fraterna, in its history, but the buds as well. These are almost identical to those of fraterna, even to the short individual stems from which they are borne. After many grafting failures, we were finally able to obtain two small grafts of this hybrid, so, though our friend does not know it, he will at long last be rewarded, in a small manner, with a plant that he had a large part in creating, for we feel beyond any doubt that his original seedling was indeed a true hybrid.

To us, personally, it is difficult to believe that there are a great many people who grow and love camellias and yet have never attempted to grow them from seed. It is really such a relatively simple procedure that there is little reason why everyone who grows camellias should not grow at least a few from seed each year. Hybridization of the different available species just seems naturally to follow as one's interest in camellias increases. Because the hybridization of camellias is still, generally speaking, in the pioneering era, there is still time for the amateur to reserve a space aboard the Camellia Wagon Train.

Temple City Society Has New Meeting Place

The Temple City Camellia Society has changed its meeting place from the Temple City Women's Club, where they have met for many years, to the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. The first meeting of the season will be held on Thursday evening, November 29th. Thereafter, the Society will meet on the fourth Thursday of December, January, February and March. The April meeting will be a dinner meeting at a time and location to be announced later.

S. C. C. S. dues will be due soon. Send them to Secretary at 820 Winston Ave., San Marino, Calif.

CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES — HOWARD ASPER

Harold E. Dryden

One day last summer when Howard Asper and I were talking in his office at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, he said to me: "During the past camellia season, I knew as I left the ranch on Sunday evenings to return home to San Marino that I had left undone camellia crosses that should have been made. I have so many crosses that I want to make and which require that I be around all the time to watch them. I decided that if I am to do all these things I want to do, I must get at it." And this explains why he has resigned his position as Superintendent of the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino to live on his ranch in San Diego County near Escondido, where he can do those things which he wants so much to do.

J. Howard Asper

He came to Southern California from Pennsylvania, his state of birth, in 1926 at the age of 21. The following year he went to work for Armstrong Nurseries in Ontario, California and has been in horticultural work continuously since that time. These 35 years have been spent at only three locations — Armstrong Nurseries from 1927 to 1941, Rancho del Descanso in La Canada from 1941 to 1954, and the Huntington Botanical Gardens from 1954 until the present.

He obtained a thorough grounding in the nursery business at Armstrong's, working in all the phases of the nursery business including selling. Walter Lammerts started to work for Armstrong's in 1935 on their hybridizing program and Howard feels that he was particularly fortunate in having been associated with and learning from Mr. Lammerts during these early years. While the Armstrong business was all-around nursery, Howard took an early interest in camellias. He recalls that Armstrong's early catalogs listed four camellias namely: C. japonica red, C. japonica white, C. japonica pink and C. japonica variegated. 'Jordan's Pride' was introduced to the trade during those years. The Jordan family had a big camellia plant in their yard in the adjoining town of Upland. The nursery took cuttings of this plant, and since camellia nomenclature in those days received little or no attention they named the flower after the man from whom they received the cuttings. The name 'Herme' was properly assigned this variety when work on camellia nomenclature was started but we find it is still called "Jordan's Pride' by many people in Southern California.

In February 1941 Mr. Asper left Armstrong's and started work for Mr

Manchester Boddy at his Rancho del Descanso in La Canada. Mr. Boddy had purchased one of the Japanese nurseries that was forced out of business by World War II and shortly after Howard's arrival at Descanso he was put to work planting the camellias which Mr. Boddy had acquired. This was the beginning of the famous Descanso Gardens, which now contain the largest mass planting of camellias to be seen anywhere. Mr. Asper was appointed Superintendent of Descanso in 1943 and retained that position through Mr. Boddy's ownership of the Rancho and for several months after it was sold to Los Angeles County and made a part of the Los Angeles County system of parks. Camellia history was made at Descanso during the years Howard was Superintendent. Walter Lamberts went to work there in 1945 and immediately started research work in camellias. He read about some "fabulous" camellias in the Yunnan province of China and Mr. Boddy was induced to spend the money to obtain new varieties from this source. On March 18, 1948, 20 very sick reticulata plants arrived at Descanso. Howard personally nursed the sick plants and saved 15 of them. During the same period, Ralph Peer was independently bringing in these same varieties. Between them, they saved 18 varieties. Howard did the grafting which started the business of reticulatas in the United States. 'Buddha' and 'Confucius' were imported in 1950.

His work as Superintendent of the Huntington Gardens' and Library operations has been of the overseer type. He has had Bill Wylam in the camellia gardens and until last August Harvey Short was in charge of the green house. His day to day work has not been concerned largely with the direct working with plants. He has planned for the time when he could have his own place where he

(Continued on next page)

could be his own master in working with camellias and other plants. In 1950 he and his wife Hazel bought land in San Diego County, some 8 miles north of Escondido, for the future. They built a home on the property in 1952 and started a nursery which they called Green Valley Nurseries. Their son operated the business for three years, then in 1955 Howard and Hazel took it over and gave it their week-end attention. Since that time they have raised camellias for the cut flower trade and have done some wholesale business in grafted plants of new camellia varieties. They have about an acre planted in strelitzia (bird of paradise) which they also sell in the cut flower market. Along with these operations for profit, camellia hybridizing has been his hobby.

Howard became interested in hybridizing during his close associations with Walter Lammerts at Armstrong's and again at Descanso. He credits Dr. Lammerts with the knowledge and techniques he learned from him. Howard started hybridizing work with camellias in 1954 at his home in La Canada, working mostly with japonica X reticulata. He moved these operations to the nursery after he and Hazel took over there. He has made about 250 crosses of sasanqua X reticulata, ending up with 12 seedlings. He has made many reticulata X granthamiana crosses and has used saluenensis and pitardii as seed parents for a wide variety of experimental crosses. He has been particularly interested, however, in japonica X reticulata and at the moment feels this cross gives the most promise for what we think of as show flowers.

We in Southern California look to Howard Asper as the expert on reticulatas. He would disclaim this title, because he thinks there is still so much to be learned about reticulatas that he does not rate this credit. Be that as it may, he knows more abou reticulatas than any one else aroun here (and probably anywhere else) and that is enough for us. We ar glad, therefore, that he will be abl to spend the time he wants to devot to camellia hybridizing, his hobby The eight years he has spent in work ing with japonica X reticuata crosse place him in the position where h can now work with his second an third generation hybrids, which w are told is where the payoff occurs We who grow camellias as a hobby will be the beneficiaries. And we hop that Howard in carrying out hi hobby of hybridizing will profit bot in his own satisfaction of accomplish ment and in financial rewards.

★

DOUGLAS THOMPSON *(Cont'd*

Temple City Society Representatives:
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Ernie Pieri

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Past Show Chairman
Caryll Pitkin, Past President
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Editor, CAMELLIA REVIEW

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1963 Show Chairman
Frank L. Storment

★

Send 1963 S. C. C. S. dues t new Secretary at 820 Winsto Ave., San Marino, Calif.

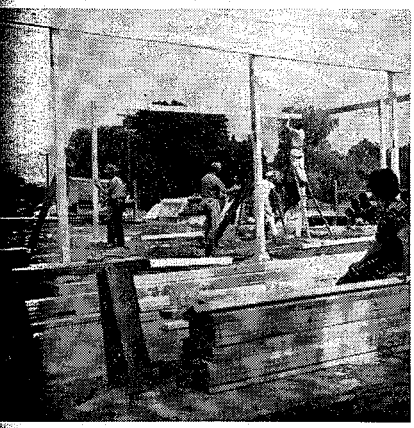
MERLE GISHES LOSE CAMELLIA COLLECTION

There might be better ways but there are no more effective ways to lose a camellia collection than the one experienced last June 28th by Merle and Rose Gish ("Scions of the Times") when all but a few seedlings and some one gallon grafts burned to the ground along with their shade house. Only with stout defensive work by Rose with her hose and the prompt arrival of the fire department was the home saved. Merle thinks that the sun's rays shining through glass started the fire in a building that formed one side of the shade house. The seran covering carried the fire over the entire shade house and doomed the plants underneath.

Merle's biggest regret over the loss is that this year many new grafts of varieties new to Southern California would have bloomed for the first or second time. Now he will be forced to start new and build around the new collection that friends will help him build up. True to the tradition of camellia friendships, friends journied to Colton and built a new shade house for the Gishes. The work party included Bob Dickson, Al Dekker, Wilber Foss, Wilkins Garner, Al Gunn, Clarence Irvine, Berkeley Pace, Alton Parker, Caryll Pitkin and Johnny Pitkin. On September 22nd a group took a pot-luck supper to the Gish home, along with camellia plants to help the Gishes in their start of the new collection.

Picture by Fred Bauman of Riverside Press

Rose's tears and hose saved the succulents



Amateur Carpenters

AUSTRALIA *(Continued)*

ming reticulatas are hybrids of reticulata and pitardii.

Salicifolia with its distinctive foliage should be worth trying and hongkongensis also, although this species would only suit the warmer climates. I feel that the future of the camellia depends more on hybrids than on multiplying more forms of japonica, beautiful as they are. By introducing other species many variations of flower and foliage can be developed.

when? why? how?

R. FLINN DICKSON SR.

Camellia Shows

The first formal showing of camellias that I ever saw was in Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass., during an early snow storm in 1923. All flowers were hothouse grown, of course, and there were many shown. The recollection of this started me on a search to learn, if I could, how long ago camellia shows were being held.

I found in Vol. 6, No. 3 of American Camellia Society Quarterly a report covering the 121st annual show sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, held January 18-19, 1951. As of now, this means their first show was held 132 years ago. The article I have before me states that the Boston show is the oldest in the nation. In 1951 the best camellia shown was one of our real good friends, 'Gigantea'. Another very significant item in this report follows. "In 1829 Marshall P. Wilder, patron of horticulture in Boston, exhibited a collection of nearly 300 varieties. Many of the plants grown by present owners are descendants of original plants imported by Boston families in the 19th century. One grower exhibited blooms this year from a five-foot plant known to be more than 75 years old."

Let me add this thought. If you are ever in Boston during the time of one of their shows (there is another in April, the Spring Flower Show) it will be well worth while to take the time to go. Unless their routine has been changed the camellia show is a part of the large winter show.

Early Blooming Varieties

From what this reporter has ob served at the local camellia societie November meetings, a good many o us do not have many varieties tha are early blooming. Is this, perhaps because we are choosing our plant from what we see at the camelli shows starting in February? This wa how we began and, of course, ha mostly flowers that bloom in mid season.

The way to see the early blooms i to begin visiting your favorite nurser or gardens by mid-October. You wi see many sasanquas, among which ar two new ones that are outstanding 'Dazzler' and 'Sparkling Burgundy' Nuccio's Nurseries are introducin 'Kick-off' which under certain weathe conditions has bloomed in late Sep tember. Here are a few that, if yo do not own, you could look at: 'Mari Bracey', 'Daikagura' and the relate 'Conrad Hilton' and 'High Hat', 'Deb utante', 'Alba Plena', 'Fimbriata' 'Emmett Barnes', 'Lady Clare', 'Onij which is a beautiful variegated for of 'Lady Clare', 'Are-jishi', and 'Mr Goodwin Knight'. There are man early varieties listed in CAMELLI NOMENCLATURE but those men tioned generally do well in Souther California. Ask your nurseryman t suggest varieties for your own l cation.

An Experimental Camellia Hedg

When we purchased our home ther was on the west side of it an old co ventional type hedge. As time wen

by we tired of it and had it removed. This left a space of about eight feet, half in nearly full sun and half shaded by trees and buildings. When the old hedge came out two years ago I placed a row of camellias in cans where it had been. In the exposed part were sasanquas and in the shaded part japonicas. I wanted to test them under the existing exposure. Now that I know how they reacted I have planted the entire space in the following pattern.

Where sun exposure was greatest I put in named sasanquas alternated with five to eight year old sasanqua seedlings. For the shaded section I have put in japonicas that were tested for exposure and between all of them I put in more sasanqua seedlings, most of which had bloomed at least once. The idea here is to have color in the hedge from early to late. My lot slopes gently from north to south, so the planting was done in eight foot terraces in order to eliminate any loss of water or fertilizer. Due to my limited activity the planting took about a month, but I encountered no problem because of the weather for every plant was put directly from the can into the ground and immediately given a good watering. My neighbors think that in two years we shall have "quite a hedge". I hope they are right.

NEW ZEALAND *(Continued)*

ior quality. These breeder plants cannot be purchased. It is only by raising a large number of first crosses that one is able to select special breeders. I have found the percentage of outstanding breeder plants from seed is very low, both in lilies and camellias, but when once obtained, one can proceed to the second cross with confidence.

Considerable work has been done this season on second crosses, but at my age I cannot hope to carry on all the work I would like to do. I have therefore given scions of my best breeder plants to a very promising young man here in New Zealand, Mr. Colin Spicer. He has had a Massey College horticultural training and has a technical grasp of plant breeding. He is absolutely keen, even to the point of dedication to camellia improvement. The work I have started will thus be carried on in capable hands for a number of years and I have every reason to say New Zealand's future looks bright indeed for camellia hybridizing.

"Whatever seems pertinent to you." There is no doubt in my mind that hybrids will be the camellia of the future. Any good thing raised in New Zealand will be distributed as quickly as possible to enthusiasts in other parts of the world. My desire is to see New Zealand climb to the top of the hybrid camellia tree.

Betty's Barbs

By Betty Robinson

When the editor called to remind me that this learned dissertation was due, it came as quite a shock. I have been so engrossed in politics this summer that I could hardly believe that it was Camellia Season again. Did all my work do any good? Well, I can maybe tell you in November. At least I can guarantee one thing, there will be few of you who are not aware of whom I am working for to have elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

There have been a few changes in our family in the last few months. A coyote had a delicious duck dinner so Donald doesn't live here any more. We now have a large black Labrador because our ancient Boxer came to the end of a long and happy life. All of the camellias are well and happy and I guess that is one of the important pluses.

I don't know whether all animals are "characters" or whether we just seem to acquire ones that are. Renni is certainly starting out to fit our pattern. We gave him a lamb leg bone the first night we had him and in just three good crunches it was a pile of debris. The other day he decided to pull some logs around and make sawdust of them. On the other hand, he will beg for a grape and play with it like a kitten for a long time. And believe me, you have never seen anything until you see this "horse" chase his tail and then try to keep it as he gets up off the floor. He delights in stealing things and now nothing is safe. As yet, however, he hasn't tried smoking a pipe as the Parkers' dog has. Maybe he's just waiting until he grows up so he won't stunt his growth. After all, he is only the size of a pony now.

Not all of our friends have been as lucky as we. Merle Gish lost all his plants in a fire and Dan Roberts went on a vacation to Mexico and his neighbor forgot there was a lath house to water. After two summer weeks, he might as well have had a fire. I think it would be a good idea to have a neighborly camellia collection-raising (similar to a barn-raising) for these two. It would accomplish something good for everyone — we could have fewer plants to water and they would have more. Well, really maybe it would be best for the donors. We could certainly use a lower water bill.

Next month maybe I will be more used to camellias and have something interesting to say. This really is like the pieces they run in the weekly papers about the rainfall in Tibet during the month of June in the year 1889 — a space-filler.

Pomona October Meeting at New Location

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society will hold their November 8th meeting in the little auditorium at Palomares Park, Arrow Highway and Orange Grove Ave., Pomona. Other meetings during the year will be held at the regular location, the Ganesha Community Building in Ganesha Park, Pomona.

ERE TO—HYBRIDS *(Cont'd)*

existing yellows, could give us color orange. The present generation holds the key to the future; there are many doors. Which shall we open — or, perhaps, leave closed for-ever?

On the very limited scale that I have been working with hybrid camellias, it should be clear that I have the uppermost thought — more bloom. All the varieties I have introduced have one thing in common, a profuse blooming habit. A number of people have written me to remark how well pleased they were with their hybrid camellias. Most of them were from colder areas, or from an area where they had experienced an exceptionally cold winter. One writer stated that his ROBBIE was in full bloom after going through a minus 8 degrees temperature, and that it was covered with 6 inch flowers. (This I would have to see, but I liked hearing it.) The common note of these letters was that they particularly liked the mass of color displayed at one time. Needless to say, I was very pleased to have my own ideas appreciated by others.

These are only my own thoughts as to the direction in which I would like to see the hybrid camellia move. A few will agree but I am afraid most hobbyists will not. They will agree with me on one thought that keeps creeping into my own mind, and that is that I do not know what I am doing anyway, and that it takes all kinds to make a world of camellia nuts.

As a boy, I took the Model T and a friend, and headed into the Colorado Rockies on a fishing trip. Our destination was a lake at the foot of the Arapahoe Glacier. It was necessary to follow an old logging road and the melting spring snow left the road slippery. We found that by staying up out of the deep wagon rut the going was much better. We also found that it was quite difficult to keep out of the rut and soon the inevitable happened. We slipped back into the rut and came to a jarring halt. We had slipped in right over an old tree stump and the sharp point had punctured the oil pan of the T. We hiked on to our fishing area. The next day we jacked the T off and around, and coasted and pushed our way back. Luckily it was most all down grade. Now there is a moral here for hybridizing as well as for driving bad roads, and I guess it is this: stay out of the rut, but if you must slip in, don't get your pan punctured by a stump.

New Camellia Book By John Threlkeld

Announcement has been rceived of the publication of a new camellia book, "The Camellia Book" by John L. Threlkeld. The book has 208 pages, 9 pages of full color, 18 pages of black and white photographs, 9 how-to-do-it drawings, hand paintings by Mrs. E. C. Tourje. It will be published by D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. and will sell for $7.75.

According to the publisher's announcement, the subject will be covvered "From the first step of choosing a good plant through the details of culture — soil and fertilizers, planting, watering, pruning, disease and pest prevention, to the fine points of grafting and hybridizing." There is a chapter on camellias for corsages and arrangements, also one on camellia care by the calendar which consists of a helpful month-by-month guide. Selected lists of good varieties, lists of species and of important hybrids, names of camellia clubs, and other helpful information complete the book.

John Threlkeld will be remembered by camellia people in Southern California as former Superintendent of Descanso Gardens.

No S. C. C. S. Awards For New Varieties For Season 1961-1962

The Awards Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society did not make any awards for the 1961-1962 season. There are a number of new flowers in contention for awards, but the committee felt that another year of observation was needed before making final decisions. One factor having an important bearing on the decision was the desire to see how the propagations of the plants would perform when grown under conventional lathhouse conditions in Southern California.

All committee members were disappointed that certain new flowers had not been entered by their owners for award consideration. However, under the last revision of the award rules, a variety may be nominated for consideration by a person other than the owner. This means that anyone may nominate or ask the Awards Committee to consider a new variety deemed worthy. Such nominations are open for the following Awards: Margarete Hertrich for best japonica seedling, William Hertrich for best japonica sport, Edwards Metcalf for best hybrid, and William E. Wylam for best miniature.

YELLOW CAMELLIA IS REPORTED

This past season a find of a true yellow C. japonica was reported by Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Witman of Macon, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Witman have for a number of years planted camellia seed each year. In 1961 they were surprised to find a yellow chance C. japonica seedling in one of their seedling beds. They thought possibly the weather might have caused the yellowing, so they told no one of it. They transplanted the seedling into their greenhouse las year and it set at least 25 buds on strong vigorous plant. As each opene it was a true pure yellow, which some one described as the same color as MARECHAL NIEL rose.

The flowers are 3½ to 4 inches i diameter, with the outer petals oper ing rather flat and the others holdin a rosebud center. Some flowers ever tually open and show yellow stamen however the yellow color is in eac petal and not confined to stamens an petaloids. The Witmans plan to hol the plant another year to be absolutel sure that the yellow color holds. The they plan to donate it to the Camelli Research Advisory Committee* to b used for experimentation, hybridizin and assignment of propagation right as the Committee sees fit.

*See February 1962 isue of CAMELLI REVIEW, page 22, for full informatio about the work and objectives of th Committee.

Directory of Affiliated Societies

Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield
President: Lawrence Ellis; Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St., Bakersfield.
Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month, October through April, at Cunningham Memorial Art Gallery, 1930 R St., Bakersfield.

Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana
President: Howard Foust; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa Ana.
Meetings held second Thursday of the month, October through April, in Spurgeon Memorial Room of New Santa Ana Public Library.

Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno
President: Edwin H. Hiber; Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Simonsen, 3251 E. Bellaire, Fresno 3.
Meetings held at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno, on the following dates: November 14th, December 19th, January 23rd, February 27th, March 27th.

Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino
Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.

Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona
President: Bancroft Benner; Secretary: Mrs. Soby Yamamoto, 1081 Weber St., Pomona.
Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, in the Ganesha Community Building in Ganesha Park, Pomona.

San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego
President: Mrs. Althea T. Hebert; Secretary: Mrs. J. O. Henry, P.O. Box 522, Chula Vista.
Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.

Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City
President: Laurence R. Shuey; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Dr., Arcadia.
Meetings held November 29th and thereafter December thru March on 4th Thursday in Lecture Hall of L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

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