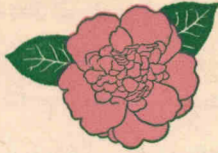


SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



CAMELLIA
SOCIETY

A Non-Profit Corporation

Volume VIII—Number 5

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

January, 1947

The
Southern California Camellia Society

Announces an

All Camellia
SHOW

AT THE

Fanny E. Morrison Buildings

Brookside Park, Pasadena

February 8-9, 1947

FREE PARKING

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Culture of Camellias in Southern California

By Herbert Swim

(Digest of talk before the Southern California Camellia Society, December 12, 1946.)

Several months ago your immediate past president, Dr. McLean, who some of you may not know is also a director of the American Camellia Society, was asked by the editor of the American Society Yearbook to produce an article from the Southern California area on the culture of the camellia in that area. Dr. McLean being a dependable and efficient officer, searched for someone he thought qualified to write such an article. Contacting two or three of the more appropriate gentlemen, he found them adroit in sidestepping his efforts, and came to the conclusion that he would have to look for a chump. He found one—I wrote the article because I was good-natured and susceptible to flattery!

Your program chairman thought it might be of interest to you for me to review some of the high points of this article, with respect to the culture of the camellia in specific areas.

I want to have it fully understood that I do not pose as an expert on camellia culture. My interests have been more diverse than that, and I think I would be getting smug if I were to so pose. I have been fortunate in getting around quite a lot, however, and have noticed some of the successes and failures of friends who grow camellias, and who are perhaps better qualified to speak than I. I might say that when I was first asked to make this talk I was under the impression that it was to be purely on the basis of the article I wrote for the A.C.S. Yearbook; and thinking that, I blithely went on a two weeks' belated vacation. When I returned I found three letters on my desk from Mr. Huff, who obviously was beginning to be concerned about why he hadn't heard from me, and I found he wanted me to extend the article somewhat. I ran into several emergencies, as one will after a vacation, so I have not had much more than time to review the script.

The area commonly referred to as Southern California contains a very diverse range of soils and climatic types. The people who live outside of the State are inclined to think of this particular area as the land of milk and honey. It is—but we know that there are also areas that might more properly be called desert where the temperature ranges so high that it almost

burns a man, and other places where they are inaccessible because of the snow in wintertime. Even you and I think of Southern California as that area which is thickly populated and suited because of the climate to a wide range of agricultural and horticultural tillage. I brought a map of California to show you a rather interesting geographic point and to stress some of the points brought out in the article, because of the background which that might furnish for my topic.

I pointed out in the article that the Southern California area was roughly bounded by a line coinciding with the northern boundaries of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, and extending to the eastern portion of the state, bisecting San Bernardino County. The area in which camellias might be grown is more accurately defined by such a method as this: I took the map—I drew these lines with a black pencil so that you can see more clearly. The black line is the line I just spoke of following the northern boundary of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. I then took a compass, placed one point of it on the southernmost point of Santa Cruz Island. Then I placed the other point on the townsite of Santa Maria, and then drew an arc on the mainland of California, and found that it is about 55 miles wide. Then I moved to San Clemente Island—put one point on the southernmost tip and drew an arc between that and San Bernardino, and that extended the southern boundary of Southern California. My purpose was for the people out of state to get a better picture of just what part of this land of milk and honey we are talking about.

In most of that area camellias can be grown. However, there are some areas that are too mountainous and too cold, and there are some areas in the outer radius of this lower arc that are too hot, too alkaline and too arid. That is, the humidity is too low for easy culture of camellias. Within one mile of the coast conditions of climate are rarely uniform. This strip is subject to mild southwesterly breezes, and as a result, subject to varying amounts of salt spray, decreasing with the distance from the beach. I have noted very well-grown camellias located in this section and growing thriftily as close as 100 yards from the beach. They were protected from the wind,

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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WILLIAM HERTRICH, Curator, Huntington Gardens, San Marino, California
DR. H. HAROLD HUME, Provost, Division of Agriculture, University of Florida

The January Meeting

THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 9, 1947

Odd Fellows' Temple, 175 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena

7:30 P.M.—INFORMAL FLOWER SHOW

Exhibition blooms, labelled with the name of variety and exhibitor.

Fill the tables! Lucky exhibitor takes home Camellia.

8:00 P.M.—NOMENCLATURE PROBLEMS

and a Brief Discussion of Choice New Varieties of Camellias.

WILLIAM WOODRUFF, Horticulturist with the Valley Garden
Supply Company.

8:45 P.M.—PRIZES

donated by MARK ANTHONY NURSERY.

Amateur Exhibitors Prize: Great Eastern (Aspacia).

Members Door Prize: Cleopatra.

Publications Fund Prize: Crimson Sunset.

Test Garden Fund: Anne Galli.

TAPS.

however. Even in this section physical conditions and topography vary with great abruptness. The soil is very sandy as far as $\frac{1}{4}$ mile inland, where it changes. Another part is marked by high bluffs. Back from these bluffs is soil of a fine texture varying from black adobe to red clay to decomposed granite in clay base. A high pH is fairly characteristic of this area, running from approximately 7.5 to about 8.4.

I have the impression that it tends to be moist at the northern extreme of this coastal belt, decreasing as one goes south. The soil types with respect to the physical and chemical contents are no less varied. It is not subject to salt spray, but the problem is of a water supply which carries basic salts in toxic quantities. The soil is sandy in places and ranges to the other extreme. Some sandy soils have a tight sub-soil; others have sub-soil that is heavy; others have adobe top soil and there are all possible combinations of these extremes. The point I am trying to make is that in this strip you can find all the possible trials to camellia growing that one could imagine. For me to attempt to discuss all of those problems which some of you in this room no doubt have, would be impossible. I am sure you people come from a wide enough area to have almost every type possible.

In our own Ontario-Pomona Valley, our soil types run the whole gamut from what we natives call blow-sand to heavy, black adobe. In the northern end of our valley, in a section known as San Antonio Heights, we seem to have done a better job of growing camellias than we have been able to do anywhere else in this section. The San Antonio Heights locality is at about 2000 feet elevation with warmer nights and somewhat cooler days than we experience at lower elevations. The soil is more uniform than one would expect in such a location. It is a decomposed granite with a clay-loam base. The drainage is quite good although of course slower than it would be in a sandy soil, and the pH is lower than that commonly found in the lower valley.

In planting in this soil, we have used various mixtures, depending on our conviction at the time. The first mixture that I remember was composed of about three-quarters soil and one-quarter peat moss. We found that this mixture grew the plants quite well until the roots of the plants grew

through the mixture; then their growth slowed up. We then prepared larger areas, using soil and peat moss in a one-to-one ratio. The plants did no better but seemed to survive over a longer period of time. Except for the winter season, a mulch was kept on the top of the ground around these plants. I do not believe that I remember of ever using the same mulch twice, so it apparently does not matter what is used so long as it is organic material. In planting these in later years we gradually evolved to a planting mixture of two parts soil, one part leaf mold, one part of peat moss. One year we used no peat moss at all, using a mixture composed of two parts soil and one part leaf mold. This mixture, however, apparently left out something because it did not give us as good results as we obtained in the mixtures that contained the peat.

The characteristics of the plants grown in this area were as follows: Relatively slow-growing, bushy, well-foliaged, plants producing a quite satisfactory flower crop. The most noticeable characteristic of these plants was the size and quality of the flowers. This was extraordinarily good—so good in fact, that I have never seen but one area in which I thought they were better. Strangely enough the one exception was in a soil type rather similar to that in which our plants were grown. The area to which I refer is Mr. Harvey Short's place at Ramona, California. No doubt many of you know Mr. Short. Some of you have no doubt visited his place at Ramona, and I am sure that if you attended our last meeting, you must have remembered the superb quality of the flowers he had on display. The soil at Ramona is also a decomposed granite with a clay-loam base, but I believe it is a little more loam and a little less clay than our San Antonio Heights section. I notice too, that his older plants were thriftier than ours, and I suspect that this is due to a less tight soil. I know that a good many planters prefer a sandy-loam soil for growing camellias. Probably for a very careful grower who has ample time to care for the plants, an excellent job can be done in this type of soil. However, I am inclined to believe that a slightly heavier soil—not an adobe by any means—but a good friable clay-loam, may have an advantage in one respect. You all know how a sandy soil can be quickly wet but also quickly dried, and how

it requires more frequent irrigation than a heavy soil. This, of course, means a fluctuation of moisture up and down of greater frequency than that found in the heavier soil. In my experience practically all types of plants to which I have given any special attention much prefer a long cycle between the dry and wet peaks. The deficiency of a sandy soil in this respect can be alleviated to some degree by the use of organic material such as peat moss, leaf mold, etc., but not entirely. It has been my personal experience that an oak-leaf-mold mulch is highly beneficial, probably for the same reason. Fuchsia growers stress this matter of keeping the roots cool and suggest leaf-mold mulches to accomplish this. There is probably no difference in the principle involved.

We have fed with commercial fertilizers and have used a wide variety of material with so far no significant difference in results. We have never used anything except aluminum sulfate, either separately or in combination with a complete fertilizer, as an acidifying agent on camellias. I have always felt that, over a long-time period, one might run into trouble by using this material. As a rule, we find plants have a rather low tolerance for aluminum salts. As a result, if it were necessary to lower the pH rather frequently, there would be danger of an excessive accumulation of these salts. Soil sulphur is said to be even more quickly effective and is, of course, much less toxic to plants. We are experimenting with soil sulphur at this time. It appears to have given quite satisfactory results on Azaleas.

Those of you who have read the Year Book of this Society published in 1945, would do well to read, until you have it firmly fixed in your mind, the article at the front of this pamphlet, written by Mr. William Hertrich, one of our Honorary Members. Mr. Hertrich has had more experience than anyone else I know in our locality in cultivating camellias. In my opinion, he approaches the problem with a common-sense point-of-view and as a consequence, he has made it sound easy. And it is easy. All you have to do is to understand the problem. There is naturally a great field for research here because there are a lot of problems, not critical perhaps, but important, that if answered, would permit greater satisfaction in growing this fine plant.

I have skimmed along here and just

hit some of the high points, but I think you can see from my discussion of soil and climate, that it is apparent that generalization regarding camellia culture in Southern California is difficult. A discussion of the many problems to be met throughout this section would require an enormous amount of research as well as a complete book to tabulate the information. Possibly it is in part due to this challenge that you find the culture of this wonderful shrub fascinating and inviting. Such is the enthusiasm for the camellia that the effort to overcome these difficulties sometimes borders on the prodigious. I have several friends who attempt what seems to me almost an impossibility when I view the conditions under which they are attempting to grow camellias. Each has his own particular problem to meet and solve. Their success is a testimonial to the wonderful adaptability of this fine shrub.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Thirty-six local Camellia enthusiasts assembled in the auditorium of the Southern California Edison Company, together with a delegation from our Society composed of: President and Mrs. Taylor, Harry Wammack, Thor Petersen, Robert Ward, Luther Eakin and Secretary Elmer Peak.

By the time our group arrived at the meeting (somewhat delayed by fog) Mr. C. D. Cothran had been elected President, had taken the chair, and was conducting the nomination of the remaining officers. Tom Johnson was nominated and elected Vice-President; John Mason, Secretary; Paul Hartman, Treasurer. Clark Thomas, Hubert Reaves and Boyd Bell were elected Directors.

President Cothran then turned the meeting over to Elmer Peak, who spoke on the benefits to be derived from association with the Southern California Camellia Society such as, the work being carried on at the California Institute of Technology, under the guiding direction of the Horticultural Research Committee; the project in process of development in the Test Garden; value of the Bulletin and our intention to expand it to include subject matter from affiliate groups. He also outlined this Society's plan to help defray the cost of its publication. The group was told that the cost to affiliate with our Society would be \$1.00 per member for the time being, predicated on present operating cost, and that

should an increase become necessary they would be assured it would be only nominal.

Mention was made of the San Diego Society and its affiliation with our group, and of the Oakland Society which which may affiliate, and our hope a Santa Barbara group might be organized.

A copy of the constitution and by-laws as specially prepared for affiliate groups was then presented to President Cothran, with an invitation for his group to affiliate with our Society.

President Cothran then took over and requested suggestions for a name for their new society. On motion and unanimous approval, the name "Pomona Valley Camellia Society" was adopted.

The visiting group then put on a program. Mr. Harry Wammack read a paper on "The Care of 20,000 Camellia Grafts." After reading the paper, Mr. Wammack gave a demonstration on how to prepare camellia blooms and leaves for shipment and corsages. These presentations were received with intense interest and enthusiasm.

Thor Petersen then set up the projection equipment and exhibited a considerable number of Dr. McLean's collection of Verschaffelt kodachrome slides. They were enjoyed immensely, and a desire was expressed to view the balance of the slides at a later date.

President Taylor of our Society was introduced to the audience. He spoke further regarding the research at California Technology, the Test Garden, the Bulletin, and also covered the subject of the forthcoming Camellia Show to be held at Brookside Park in the spring of next year.

Mr. Cothran took over again. At this time, a Deputante and Ecstasy in gallon cans were raffled, resulting in an

initial fund of \$20.00 for their treasury.
Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

INSECTS INFESTING CAMELLIAS

is the subject of an article by A. E. Morrison, Agricultural Commissioner of Sacramento County, in the July-August-September 1946 issue (Vol. 34 No. 3) of the California State Department of Agriculture Bulletin. Free upon application to A. A. Brock, Director, Department of Agriculture, Sacramento. Mr. Morrison is Pacific Coast Vice-President of the American Camellia Society.

Report of the California Camellia Test Garden

In order that the older members may be reminded and the newer members informed we submit herewith this brief report on the California Camellia Test Garden.

In 1944, at the suggestion of Mrs. Carlo E. Galli, this Society, through its President, Dr. David W. McLean, proposed to Mr. William Hertrich, Curator of the Huntington Botanical Garden, that a Camellia Test Garden be established on the grounds of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino. There was embodied in this proposal an offer by our Society to supply scions of rare varieties, to be grafted on large seedling Camellias already growing in the Garden and also to provide plants to be set out therein.

This offer was accepted by Mr. Hertrich in a letter dated August 4, 1944. A committee was appointed.

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consisting of Mrs. Carlo E. Galli, Chairman; David W. McLean and Robert Casamajor, Secretary, to represent the Southern California Camellia Society in this project and organize its activities, in cooperation with Mr. Hertrich, who was named as Director. The name California Camellia Test Garden was adopted and the committee began its search for the material.

It was never contemplated by either party that our Society should have any proprietary interest in the Test Garden, or assume any of the burden of maintenance, supervision or upkeep. This committee fully understood that the Trustees of the Library and Art Gallery could not, and would not, delegate any of their powers of management to an outside organization. It was our sole intent to be helpful in establishing a Test Garden, where all known varieties of Camellias could be planted and grown so that the generations to come could observe them side by side under the same environment.

The realization of such a project cannot be accomplished in a few years and while the plants are small it is obvious that it would be inadvisable to admit the public to this area, since much work must be done, such as grading, building paths, trimming, shaping, etc.

For this reason the Huntington management decided against the policy of admitting, for the present, any but small conducted groups in the Test Garden area.

This is the principal reason why it has not been possible for all our members, who may wish to do so, to view the progress that has been made to date. It is hoped that in the future, the Test Garden can be opened to the general public during the flowering

season, at a time when the plants are large enough to warrant doing so.

Complete records are being kept, both by the Huntington Botanical Garden and by the Committee, of scions and plants contributed and purchased, as well as the funds subscribed and expended and a brief summary is appended herewith:

In 1944, 75 varieties of Camellia Japonica; 1 Camellia reticulata and 5 Camellia sasanqua were growing in the Huntington Botanical Garden before the Test Garden was established. During that year 30 scions were donated by members of this Society for grafting on large seedling plants.

In 1945, 59 scions and 75 plants were donated by members of this Society and 41 plants were purchased by the Huntington Botanical Garden from their own funds.

In 1946, 36 plants were purchased by this Society with money from the Test Garden Fund at a total cost of \$136.75. Three plants were donated by non-members of this Society.

This makes a grand total of 325 varieties in the Garden including a few duplicates.

In 1945 Mr. Hertrich gave about 6000 seeds, collected from his large plants, to all people who had made contributions.

In 1946 seed was offered by the Committee to anyone who would contribute a plant or plants. In response to this offer about 8000 seeds were distributed to 25 people for 65 plants, most of which were varieties already in the Garden. Ten were new varieties. This list includes a few plants that were promised but not yet collected.

Gifts are not now being solicited unless they are very new and rare as the money raised by the plant raf-

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Respectfully submitted,
Camellia Test Garden Committee,
By Robert Casamajor, Secretary.

Here and There

THE DECEMBER MEETING was marked by the return of many varieties to the exhibition tables. A new plan of exhibition was tried out. Two large library tables were placed in the entrance lounge for the amateur exhibitors; they were well filled. The commercial exhibitors filled several tables placed under the alcove at the sides of the meeting room. All in all, it was a fine array; and it seemed good to see so many old friends back on the table this winter in all their beauty. The new arrangement facilitated inspection of the blooms. Next month should see a grand exhibit. Don't fail to be in it!

The meeting opened with a full house and President L. J. Taylor swinging the gavel. A report of the organization meeting of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society was read by Secretary Elmer Peak; the report appears elsewhere in this issue.

A letter from O. E. Hopper, President of the California Camellia Society in Oakland, was read and enjoyed by the

members.

Robert Casamajor, Secretary of the Test Garden Committee, read a report of that committee, which appears elsewhere in this issue.

The Chairman of the Show Committee reported the organization of subcommittees completed, with those committees whose activities commence early already operating. The Schedule of Classifications for the show was reported on the press, to be ready for mailing within a week. All members were, and still are, urged to study the schedule and plan an entry. Entry blank will be enclosed with the schedule.

BOTTLE CAPS! One member, Brother Werz, responded nobly to the call for bottle caps, brought a carton containing three hundred and fifty! Where are the rest of the bottle caps? Chairman Jack Hudlow of the Properties Committee pleaded for more—and more—bottle caps. Jack has a tough job ahead. Don't let him down! Save those bottle caps and bring them to the next meeting. Caps from 1-lb. coffee jars and mayonnaise jars.

Herbert Swim, one of the southland's outstanding horticulturists, spoke on Camellia culture in Southern California. While Mr. Swim's talk paralleled to some extent his fine article written for the American Camellia Society's Year Book under the title of

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"The Camellia—The Chameleon," he became more specific, with special reference to culture in the Pomona Valley area. In one respect this talk was just like all of Herb Swim's other talks—it was tops, and enjoyed by all. It appears elsewhere in this issue.

The prizes were four beautiful plants donated by the Armstrong Nursery in Ontario. The Amateur Exhibitors Prize, Tokayama, was won by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker of Glendale. The Members Door Prize, a one-gallon Mathotiana, was won by Mr. A. W. Spann of Monrovia. The Publications Fund Prize, a five-gallon Rosea Superba, was won by Mr. R. B. Bleeker of DeLuz. The Test Garden Fund Prize, a beautiful five-gallon Firebrand, was won by Mrs. Mary Stefinski of La Crescenta.

In closing the prize distribution, Reception Committee Chairman John Hudlow (Jack becomes John for this very dignified occasion) paid tribute to the fine plants that have been donated so far this year.

Several copies of Dr. Hume's book, "Camellias in America," were in evidence, the proud owners exhibiting them with a great deal of modesty. Also in evidence, several copies of the American Camellia Society's Year Book which was acclaimed as a very worthwhile volume to own. In that respect, actions spoke more loudly than words; several persons were heard asking how one joined the American Camellia Society; when last seen they were obtaining application blanks from Secretary Peak.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS met on December 18 at the home of Mrs. J. W. Miller in Glendale. The following were elected to membership:

Mrs. Ruth Brockstedt, 926 South Eighth Street, Arcadia, California.

Mr. J. Ray Holland, 3927 Santa Ana Street, Huntington Park, California.

Mrs. Eve Oakley, 111 North San Joaquin Street, Stockton, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl K. Rauch, 2690 Huntington Drive, San Marino, California.

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Winnifred Howland Johnson, 2545
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fornia.

Mr. Febo Bonzi, 2675 East Foothill
Boulevard, Pasadena 8, California.

Historical

On February 17, 1942, Mr. Lloyd
Cosper of Altadena spoke on "Camellia
Nutrition."

On March 4, 1942, Dr. F. W. Went
of California Institute of Technology
spoke on "Camellia Propagation." A
flower show committee was finally put
in motion by President Barber, with
Mrs. Carlo E. Galli as chairman of the
cut-flower exhibit and Roy Carter as
chairman of the outdoor exhibits.

"Our Society put on a very fine
camellia exhibit at the Pasadena Spring
Flower Show March 12, 13, 14 and 15.
There were approximately 1000 blooms
displayed in bowls backed by camellia
branches furnished by Mrs. Verne Mc-
Caskell. There were approximately
200 camellia plants placed in the
ground."

The Society closed the season with a
meeting on March 17, completing the
second year of its history.

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At the February 3 meeting, 1942, the gavel of the Society, "beautifully finished and with silver plate engraved with the Camellia Society's initials on it" was presented to the Society by Henry Prucha. . . . Discussion of participation in the Brookside Park Flower Show to be held in March. . . . Highlights of the question and answer period: Q. Names of camellias as to their favoritism by members. A. White—Alba Plena; Pink—Pink Perfection; Red—Te Deum, Julia Draydon; Variegated—Emperor Wilhelm, Jordan's Pride.

Q. When do we start feeding camellias?

A. As soon as through blooming, usually in April.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

What a splendid Bulletin for December; it was surely enjoyable. Your trip must have been fascinating, indeed. We'll be waiting to hear more about it!

And now a line to acquaint you with

San Diego's progress. I do wish you could have seen the flower display on the 13th, with so many varieties coming into blossom so very early down here, it was most varied and attractive! I do believe our early beginning and long hot, bright summer combined with the marvelously refreshing early rains are paying off now in the matter of a profusion of early flowers. The above opinion is strictly personal, you understand, and not the expression of the San Diego Camellia Society!

We were fortunate in having Mr. E. H. Carter of Carter's Camellia Gardens, Monterey Park, show us his lovely colored slides of today's blossoms. His interesting comments as the display progressed were most entertaining and instructive.

The rather opaque condition existing out doors may have had something to do with members staying on after adjournment, however, we like to think it was because they were enjoying themselves too thoroughly to hurry away!

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CAMELLIA SHOW

The announcement on the cover of this issue of the Bulletin is just one of a great many which have been sent to tell those interested in Camellias and plants in general about our forthcoming show on February 8 and 9.

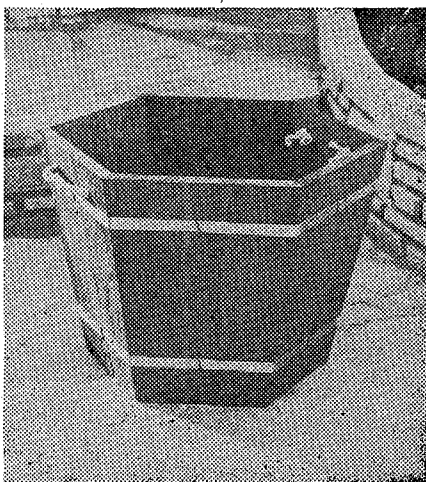
The large number of entries from professional growers, who are constantly on the lookout for new and interesting varieties for their customers, makes it certain that the show will include all of the standard varieties and most of the rarities now holding the interest of Camellia lovers. In addition, a number of exhibits of Camellias in the Gulf Coast and Atlantic areas is expected and will provide an interesting comparison with same or similar varieties grown in the Pacific Coast territory. Gardeners with limited space will thus be enabled to choose the very best available in the Camellia world for their own gardens.

We are enjoying the most complete cooperation from the several hundred garden clubs in this area, the newspapers, the radio stations, the nurseries

and others who have placed our very attractive posters in prominent locations, by magazines and, most important, by word-of-mouth notification by members of the Society and other interested people to their friends. As a result, we expect a record attendance for flower shows in this vicinity and suggest that you buy your tickets early.

WM. F. HUFF, Publicity.

A PLUG, Gentle Reader, could be an ancient and underprivileged horse. In this case, however, it isn't. It is a boost, an advertisement, a tribute, a—, a—, a—, well, a **plug** for our advertisers. They advertise in the Bulletin to help themselves, but in doing so they help our Society. You buy from them to help yourselves, but in so doing you help them. If you will tell them you saw their ad in the Camellia Bulletin, you'll help both the Bulletin and your Society. My, what a helpful lot we can all be—if we try!



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