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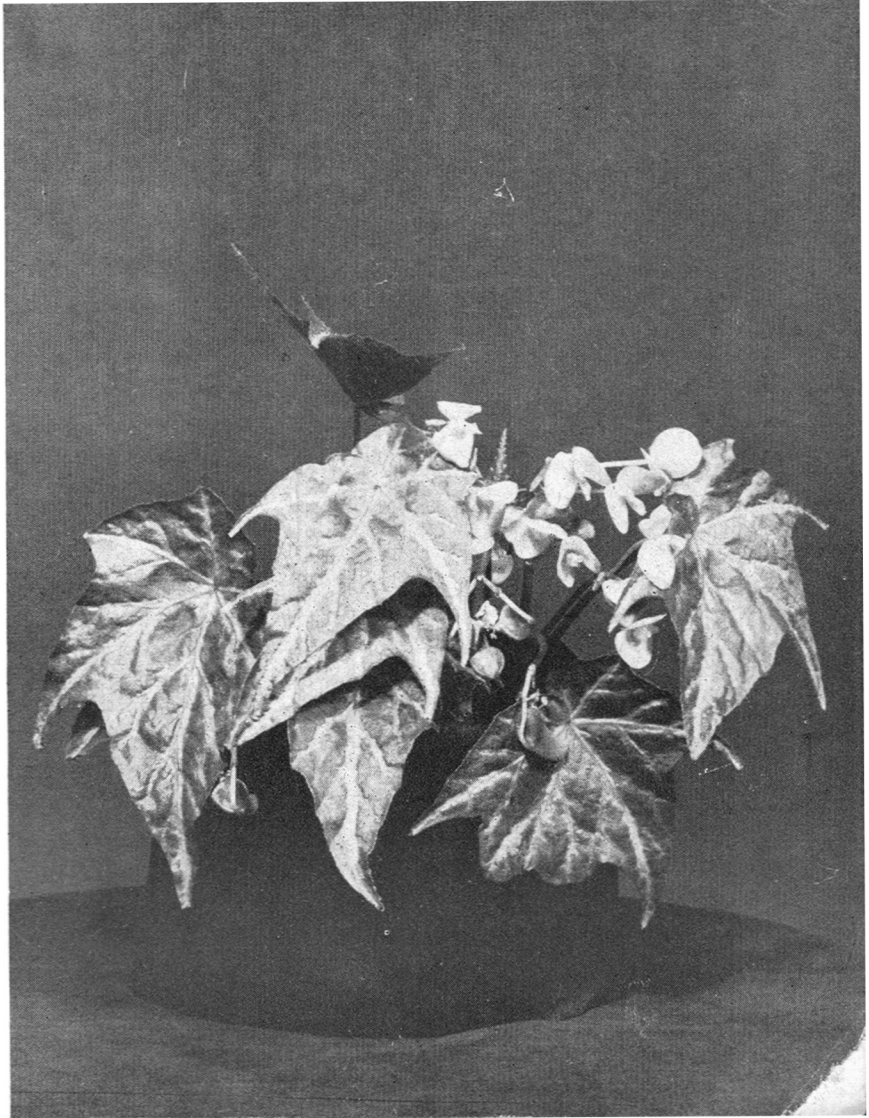
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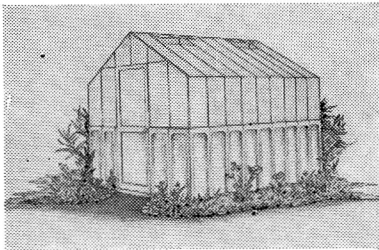
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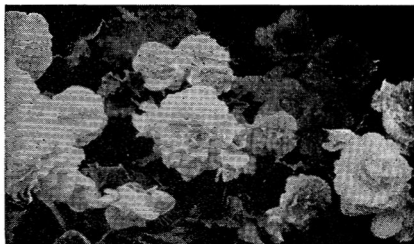


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Photo by Bill Bayer

A portion of the A. B. S. Exhibit showing many Rex and Rhizomatous Begonias in bloom

## CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW

Gladys C. Nolan

It is my understanding that the recent California International Flower Show held at Hollywood Park, in Inglewood, California, sponsored by the So. California Horticultural Institute, Inc. and the So. Calif. Floral Association, was an experiment to sense the response of the public to the need for such a Show and I am sure the sponsors were overwhelmed by the crowds who were eager to see and welcome such an asset to the community.

I ran out of superlatives within a very few minutes after entering the Show and can only try to tell you, in a few feeble words, some of the highlights.

Entering the building, you were greeted with such a display of Orchids, including cymbidiums, cypridiums, cattleyas, oncidiums and many other varieties, that you immediately felt you were in the tropics and merely dreaming all the beauty before you. This splendor had been entered by E. W. McLellan Co. of San Francisco and the observer was struck with the incredible fact that such plants could all be grown in this country with the proper knowledge and care.

Leaving this seemed impossible but, reluctantly, we went on to view rhododendrons in full bloom, an azalea garden that breathed of the Old South, (azaleas, entered by Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens) that were so cleverly arranged they appeared to have grown in the setting. A spring garden, by Germain's, of Dutch bulbs in full bloom, tulips like rainbows, hyacinths, huge and fragrant, dutch iris, narcissus, daffodils, and scilla to mention a few; primroses with enormous blooms in lovely

colors. (These latter being hybrids from Mr. Reinelt, at Capitola, California, and a "must have" when he releases them to the market.)

Roses from Switzerland; (I had hoped they would exhibit some of their rare alpine plants) gladiolus from Australia and Saudi-Arabia; black anthurium from Costa Rica; rare cattleyas from Mexico; delicate shaded carnations from Engleman of Essex, England; truly International, in fact as well as spirit. Then on to more and more loveliness in displays of Cypridiums and Cymbidiums; foliage plants for house and conservatory; lovely flowering shrubs and trees; delicate and exquisite shaded cymbidiums from El Rancho Rinconada that seemed too lovely to be true. By this time, one felt they must be in a dream world and had no desire to awaken.

Cut flower displays from many florists included roses, dutch iris, strelitzia, carnations, anthurium, daffodils, daisies, stock and snapdragons, to mention a few. All incredible in size and beauty. There were many fine exhibits of foliage plants, one of which I found of particular interest and I am sure it would appeal to any lover of shade or house plants, I refer to an exhibit entered by Hughes Greenhouse of Gardena, California of *Philodendrons*. I counted over thirty named varieties, some as large as the well-known *bipinnatifidum* and on down to dainty, fine foliated varieties as delicate as a fern, all labeled carefully, truly educational and of interest to any plant collector. Also, among fine foliage plants from Boddy's of Monrovia was a new *Nephtytis*,

Turn to next page

with delicately white-veined leaves—a new development in this plant. Lovely crotons made warm, glowing places among all this green world of tropical and conservatory plants.

Are you bewildered by now? You have only begun! Various commercial and educational exhibits are ahead but you are overcome by a spring garden of azaleas, rhododendrons, primroses and bedding begonias (Illusion and Pink Pearl), all in lovely shades of rose and pink, surrounding a huge rose-pink aviary of white fantailed pigeons, entered by Paul J. Howard's Flowerland. You pause to rest and enjoy this before moving on to a rainbow of cut flowers and potted plants from the Southern California Flower Market, arranged in the order of colors in the spectrum with touches of white throughout and with potted specimen ferns, azaleas, rhododendrons, primroses, pansies, easter lilies, calceolarias, and varicolored caladiums. Was it real? Yes, it *was* real.

You pause before a small glass house and rub your eyes. It is completely filled with an exquisite Rex begonia of incredible shade of red, just coming into bloom. It is very appropriately named "American Beauty" and was exhibited by Mrs. Helen Lewis. The entry bore a sign, "Patent applied for". Watch for it.

It is impossible in the space allotted to describe all the entries and credit the many exhibitors and I can only hasten on. Mention must be made of some of the very lovely garden club exhibits and wonderful arrangements. Not only by individuals but also by the commercial florists, with appropriate and imaginative settings for every holiday or occasion for entertainment. Wedding settings, with the attendant floral display, from the simple to the exotic. There were table settings with fitting decorations; shower, from baby to bon-voyage, were included and corsages for any and every occasion.

The American Begonia Society had a fine entry of a shade garden with cane-type begonias in the background and many lovely rex and rhizomatous varieties in bloom. Bedding begonias, interspersed with primroses, bordered a path around a small bed, in the foreground, which was massed with cyclamen and more bedding begonias. Truly an outstanding accomplishment, considering the fact that most of our plants took such a fearful drubbing this past winter. We were proud of the splendid job done by our Flower Show Chairman, Mr. Calvin Trowbridge, with the co-operation of members who loaned precious plants to make the exhibit possible.

The Bulb Society entered an exquisite small garden of bulbs, including gorgeous amaryllis

hybrids, *tulip kaufmanniana*, with its peppermint stripes, dutch iris, grape hyacinths, daffodils, clivia, *Scilla campanulata* and *peruviana*, *allium cernuum*, delicate bleeding heart and ferns and that loveliest of the species gladiolus, *tristis*, to name just a few.

Another club exhibit of interest was that of the Herb Society with its miniature English garden, complete with bee-hives under their thatched roof, and including almost forty varieties of herbs, with an appropriate chart in evidence for their identification.

Space forbids further detail but I do want to mention the L. A. Garden Club entry, a sloping hillside garden of cactus and succulents, ocotilla in bloom in the background and a most restrained and delicate grouping among rocks, of sempervivums, echeverrias with their jewellike colorings, crassulas and sedums, small aloes and puyas. I found this quite as interesting and exquisite as the exotic orchids and tropical plants.

Educational exhibits were plentiful with native trees and shrubs in bloom, tiny "belly" plants from our desert which made a magnifying glass essential to appreciate the dainty blossoms they displayed.

Beautiful floral paintings and prints were in evidence and seemed almost an anti-climax after all the splendor of the living material but were appreciated and made all realize how necessary it is to perpetuate such beauty with brush and camera for those who enjoy it.

How impossible it is for one person to describe or report such a vast display with any degree of accuracy or give credit to all who made it possible since what appeals to one person may not have any appeal to another. I am sure all who attended this Show sincerely hope the sponsors feel it was well worth their efforts and it will be an annual event in Southern California.

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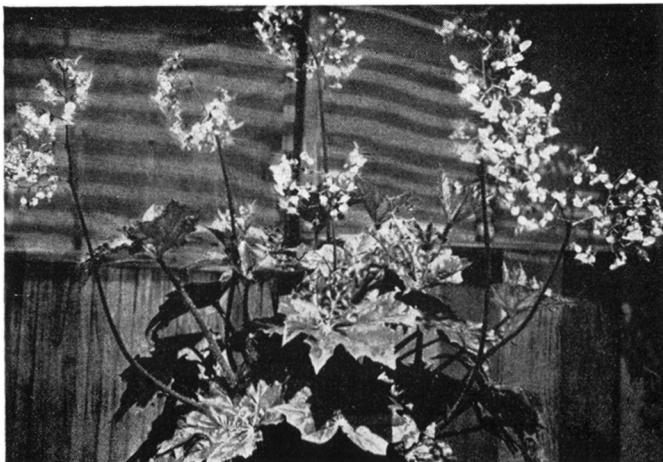
### THE BEGONIAN ON TELEVISION

The *BEGONIAN* made its debut on television on Thursday, April first. Gordon Baker Lloyd introduced our magazine on his program "Gordon's Garden", over KFL-TV, in Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Lloyd is a member of the Hollywood Branch and has just been elected Vice President of that branch. The Editor and the Officers congratulate Mr. Lloyd on his fine television program.

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### KODACHROME SLIDE LIBRARY

Mrs. Grace Bayer, Chairman, reports the sixth group of slides completed. Thanks go to Mrs. J. Jensen of Bellflower and Mrs. Maud Nichols of Burbank, for their donation of slides.



## BIG BOY ON PARADE

by Mary Choate, Culver City, Calif.

*Begonia ricinifolia* is a form of *B. heracleifolia*, developed in the early part of the Nineteenth century, it has been used extensively in the hybridizing of begonias for many years. *B. ricinifolia* shows such purity of type and dominance of growth factors that, when self-pollinated, it consistently reproduces in its own likeness. The cultivation of *B. ricinifolia* is very simple, as it is one of the healthiest and hardiest of all the begonias, liking any good soil and adaptable to almost any environment, taking some sun, shade or cold with great fortitude. The specimen plant in the illustra-

tion was a little over a year old, raised to its gigantic size from a small plant with two tiny leaves, in this time. It has won one Award of Merit from the American Begonia Society, two First ribbons and two Second ribbons. At the time this photograph was taken, this plant was over five feet in diameter, with bloom spikes four feet high, covered with sprays of delicate pink flowers with female blossoms predominating. The larger leaves measured about fourteen inches across.

Our specimen of *B. ricinifolia* is referred to as Big Boy by my family, but in my estimation *B. ricinifolia* is King of the Rhizomatous group.

## THE SOCIAL LIFE OF A PLANT

by Winifred A. Harding, East Derry, N. H.

How seldom we consider the social life of the plants we keep indoors. Or perhaps you didn't know that a plant has a social life. Oh! but they do. Definitely so. Now by social life, I don't mean belonging to the "400" and enjoying a continuous round of gaiety, but rather the definition offered in Webster's—"pertaining to the living together in society—growing in groups or masses—living in communities".

Scientists study these habits in the plant world under the heading of Ecology, which covers such phases as the effects of environment upon growth and development, the physical changes adopted by the plants to suit an unnatural environment, etc.

Fundamentally in the higher brackets of the plant world they are endowed with the means of manufacturing food, absorbing water, and transpiring or storing excesses of both. But where they live, what their sources of food,

light and water are will determine in a large part what they will become. Everyone knows the necessity for adequate heat, light and water. These are the barest of essentials to be provided from above the ground and in the case of house plants by some human agency. This same human agency demands to suit its own desires, that plants never even remotely associated in their natural state, should live in closest harmony side by side.

How these widely disassociated plants change their habits of growth and often their actual structure in order to live peaceably with each other, provides an interesting sidelight in the study of horticulture. The simplest example is shown in the elongation of stems. Graduations in the stem forms is found all the way from fractions of an inch, to hundreds of feet in length. Most of this is inherent, how-

Turn to next page

ever variations appear markedly in the same species when light and moisture are contributing factors. The absence of light causing the most distinct elongations. Some overemphasis has been placed on light as the chief factor in elongation. Water plays a far more important part in this factor than is given credit. Seed plants absorb water through the roots and transpire through the stems and leaves. In general a balance is maintained and the height to which it can transport water rapidly enough to counter-balance the loss by transpiration, will determine the height of the plant. The same is also true in the dwarfing of plants. No plant grows any taller than it is able to maintain a supply of water for.

The chief function of leaves is the manufacture of food and the transpiration of water. The construction of leaves is such that these ends are accomplished with the minimum of effort on the part of the plant, under ideal conditions. Since few plants grown indoors ever enjoy ideal conditions, nature endows leaves with the ability to reconstruct the plan of the leaf to suit the location. In fact leaves on the same plant may have different constructions. These are known as sun and shade leaves. The sun leaves develop thickened cell walls to protect the chloroplasts from intense light rays which would cause destruction of the food manufacturing agency. The shade-leaves by the opposite will thin down these cell walls to trap as much of the sun's rays as possible. A leaf exposed to direct sun rays will have a majority of it's chloroplasts arranged perpendicular to the surface where they receive a measure of protection. A leaf from the same species grown in a diffused light usually shows it's chloroplasts arranged in parallel lines to the surface, where they trap a maximum amount of incidental light.

Leaf forms, generally speaking are a matter of heredity, rather than environment. It is true though that plants grown with adequate water, most often have thin broad leaves, and the same species grown with a deficiency of water will have smaller thicker leaves to control the loss of what moisture it has. Experiments show that plants grown in opposite environments will change to conform.

Now we come to the actual living together of different species. This may be of two kinds; those that actually live upon others, and those that live because of others. In the first class we find epiphytes, orchids. While these plants are not parasites they nevertheless use other plants very often as hosts. The bark of trees, mosses, etc., serve as a lodging place for the seed and act as a protecting host for the growing plants. You may say these belong to the second class but they would survive without a living host, while those in the second

class actually could not exist without the other. In the second group we find those plants whose living depends upon the shade cast by others, or live upon the tiny organisms created by others. The forest is the best example of this type of symbiosis. The trees provide shade for the herbaceous plants and fungi while the herbaceous plants provide living soil cover which prohibits water losses. Fungi live and prosper because of the others being present and prevent the accumulation of excessive dead bodies. You may find it hard to apply these facts to your house plants but stop and think of the manner in which you place the pots in the window. Some in the front to get the full sun they demand, others in diffused light, and still others in the full shade of the plants grown above them.

It does not take a true house plant lover long to ascertain the definite likes and dislikes of his playmates, and the next time you shake your head over some unhappy specimen and move it to a different place, you are actually catering to the social life of your plants.

This is by no means the complete story of the adaptation in the plant world, just an offering of the most common, applicable to the plants indoors. There are endless factors effecting them, a few of which include gravity, nutrition, heat, atmospheric pressure, soil reaction, humidity, wind, soil, and so on. Anyone interested in further study will enjoy the textbook "Plant Ecology" by W. B. McDougal.

#### IT HAS BEEN SAID

The first step in disease prevention calls for careful inspection *before* planting. Look for nematodes, mealy bug, scale and plant lice.

Poor drainage associated with over-watering is the surest way to kill any potted plant.

When plants do not flower well, try giving them more light and a light feeding of super phosphate and potash (as potassium sulphate). One level tablespoon of each to one gallon of water.

Begonia cuttings may be made now. Use sterile sand, vermiculite or soilite. Use tip cuttings, removing most of the leaves. Set in a cool place with some shade, out of a draft. Keep damp but *not* wet. Spray with Sulph-ex to prevent damping off.

Cotton seed meal is an ideal fertilizer for camellias at this time of the year. Feed lightly after new growth begins. This should be worked into the top soil *not* deeper than one half inch.

Bone meal is tri-calcium phosphate. It is often added to potting mixtures, to supply phosphorus and calcium. It is a long lasting fertilizer.

# PRIMROSES

by Anne R. Heald, Grand Rapids, Michigan

"In the woods where you and I

Upon faint primroses were wont to lie" said Shakespeare in his *Midsummer Night's Dream*. For centuries, English children have looked forward to the early blossoming of the first yellow primrose. In the 16th century, English botanists introduced two varieties of primroses and several Alpine species, but it was not until the latter half of the 19th century that these plants became enfranchised citizens of the horticultural world and nurseries specialized in their distribution and sale.

Two thrilling adventures in mountain climbing and plant research are to be found in Reginald Farrar's books, "*Eaves of the World*" and "*Rainbow Bridge*." He was an English naturalist and horticulturist who went to China in the early 1900s and brought back to England hundreds of plants from the Himalayas, near Tibet, which he propagated and distributed to the world. I wonder if you realize how much we are indebted to China for many plants which we now accept as our own but which originated in China?

The *Primulas* and their second cousins, the polyanthus, are found throughout the cooler parts of Europe, Asia, and Japan, the mountains of Abyssinia and Java, and a few are native to America. They are an herbaceous perennial with a permanent stock from which are emitted tufts of leaves and flower stems that die down in winter. The new growth formed in autumn remains in a bud-like condition ready to develop in spring. The primrose comes in all shades of yellow and orange, rose, lavender and scarlet and they are a delightful addition to any garden whether you use the small alpine in the rock garden or the large variety in the border.

Primroses like a cool, shady, rather damp soil and can be grown by root division and successfully from seed, but care must be taken to obtain fresh seed. Contrary to popular belief, primroses are not poisonous, with one exception, *Primula obconica*, which sometimes will irritate the skin. Seed of the polyanthus primrose may be sown at any time of year, but spring or early summer is preferable in order that the seedling will reach flowering size the next spring. Sow seed in any light mixture of soil; a good mixture is one-half leaf mold and one half garden soil. Peat and garden soil, with the addition of sand or any other combination which is light and rich in humus may be used. Cover seed lightly, moisten thoroughly, cover the flats with burlap to prevent drying out and place in heavy shade. Germina-

tion should take place in about two weeks at which time give the seedlings more light but protect from direct sunlight, and keep the soil moist. In six to eight weeks the young plants may be transplanted into flats again or, if of sufficient size, directly into the open ground, in which case they must be protected from direct sun. The soil in the bed should be enriched with old manure, if sandy, or with leaf-mold, peat and sand, if heavy. Additional feeding, with any quick-acting fertilizer, may be given in early spring when growth begins, preferably an organic fertilizer. After two years plants become too large and should be divided and replanted in fresh soil.

I am told that Vetterle and Reinelt, at Capitola, California (near Santa Cruz) are hybridizing primroses. A friend of mine has seen them in bloom there in the early spring and told me they are unbelievably beautiful.

Wordsworth says: "A primrose by the river's brim

A lovely primrose 'tis to him and nothing more."

Which to me, shows a great lack of imagination, for the primrose is a lovely flower, a true harbinger of spring and I am sure you will find them very appealing in their lovely, soft coloring and spring-like beauty. They give charm to any garden, large or small and I always look forward to their blooming as did the English children of long ago. I do hope my little article will interest you in growing them and since there are many new varieties, you may take your choice of color and form.

Editor's note; Mrs. Anne R. Heald is the mother of Eleanor Heald, Assistant Director of the Los Angeles Garden Center.

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## CLIMBING FERN

by Mrs. Urie Caress, Los Angeles, Calif.

*Lygodium palmatum*, the Climbing Fern, is the only one of its kind native to the United States. It is a greenhouse of half-hardy fern and is so named due to its flexible, twining habit (*lygodes*) of growth and *palmatum* (hand-shaped) fronds.

The fronds are palmate, divided into five finger-like parts, and are comparatively dwarf for this genus. This is a dainty, slender climbing fern which makes a lovely pot specimen, producing many creeping roots allowing an abundance of new growth, that may be trained on a pot trellis.



## BEGONIA FREDDIE

by Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

When Rudolf Ziesenhenné introduced B. *Freddie* in March 1947, I little dreamed that here was a begonia which would make a huge specimen plant in the minimum of time. The picture does little justice to the present size of the plant but it shows the remarkable growth it has made in less than one year.

B. *Freddie* is a cross between *Manicata Aureo* and the giant leaved B. *Barkeri* and was named after Mr. Ziesenhenné's son. However *Freddie* has not retained the coloring of either of the parents, being more of a bronzy green with a red back.

The plant is now two years old and has attained a spread of fifty-two inches and gives one the impression that it is a continuous bloomer. There are often six and eight flower stalks towering three feet above the plant with myriads of small pink flowers hovering in the air.

The leaves have retained the shape of B. *Barkeri* and very soon attain the size of fifteen inches. The rhizome creeps along the soil but the leaf stems are close together which tends to make the plant fairly compact.

It is a good plant where one needs a specimen in a short growing time and with our recent "unusual" winter, there will probably be vacant spaces in the patios and lath houses that could use such a quick growing plant. It seems to be very hardy as well as being strong growing. Much credit is due Mr. Ziesenhenné for introducing such a lovely plant.

## WANTED — BACK ISSUES

Anyone having back issues of the *BEGONIAN* and willing to dispose of them, are urged to write to Mrs. Gladys Nolan, Librarian, 2840 Herkimer Street, Los Angeles 26, Calif., and state which volumes or copies they would willingly part with and what remuneration they would desire. There has been several requests for back issues and it is hoped any one wishing to relinquish them will write to Mrs. Nolan.

## SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS

*My Garden In Florida* by Dr. Henry Nehrling,, Compiled and Edited by A. H. Andrews, Vol. 1 - 1944, Vol. 2 - 1946. \$3.75 each.

These volumes are compiled from articles written by the late Dr. Nehrling of Estero, Florida. As Dr. Nehrling was a plant specialist and botanist, he treated each subject with minute attention enabling the reader to visualize the topic clearly, although the books do not contain illustrations.

The subjects of special interest to shade garden enthusiasts are bromeliads, ferns, orchids and palms. He describes many exotics that are grown in greenhouses or 'bay windows' in climates more severe than is prevalent in southern Florida.

This Reviewer believes these volumes are a valuable addition to the horticulturist's library. Dr. Nehrling loved plants—all plants—and you will, after reading these fascinating volumes.

Frank H. Overton

## BEGONIA LIEBMANNI

by Grace Bayer, Burbank, Calif.

Begonia Liebmanni (cover picture) was first discovered in Mexico by F. M. Liebmann in 1864 and collected by Thomas Mac Dougall for the New York Botanical Garden in 1938. It is a low growing plant with green leaves splashed with silver and has a light purple shading on the undersides. The flowers are white on very short stems and grows well in a sheltered position.

## NOTA BENE

A resolution was passed at the January Board meeting, permitting the President to appoint, for his term of office, not more than ten Honorary Vice Presidents. Mrs. Krauss and Mrs. Buxton have already been so appointed for this year. Nominations for the remaining eight vacancies will be asked for from the floor at the meetings of April and May. Reasons for these nominations will be submitted in writing, signed. The President will present the list of those nominated to the Past-Presidents of the Society and will appoint those receiving the greatest number of votes of these Past-Presidents.

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO AMATEURS

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## SEED FUN IN WISCONSIN

by Mrs. Helen M. Stewart, Richland Center,  
Wisconsin

I have always grown house plants. They are particularly lovely and appreciated in our climate, where the winters are very long, even severe. One derives a great deal of pleasure from their green, growing plants, when all the world outside is bleak and brown or snowy white.

Having only a few semperflorens and a *B. riciniifolia* in my collection, I was not particularly interested in begonias. About three years ago I bought a dozen named cuttings from a lady in Minnesota. Most of the cuttings rooted and grew very well. It was through her I learned of the A. B. S. and became a member. The *BEGONIAN* gave me information and inspiration. Then I purchased Mrs. Buxtons book "*Begonias and How to Grow Them*" and later, *Begonias For The American Homes And Gardens*, by Helen K. Krauss. By this time I learned of the Seed Fund and I really had the Begonia Fever!

I had grown gloxinias from seed and felt I could grow begonias, so my contribution to the Seed Fund was soon on its way.

On the south east corner of my kitchen, I have a bay window, where most of my plants are grown. They are easy to care for here as they are close to water and there is no danger of forgetting to water them regularly. A year ago Christmas, I received the package of seeds from our President, Mrs. Drummond, and in January the seeds from the Seed Fund: I planted these in February and as I did not have a propagating case, most of them were planted in glass jars or covered glass dishes. For drainage material in the bottom of the jars, I used well leached coal ashes, that had the very fine and the very coarse material screened out. I put the growing medium on top of this which was a mixture of loam, sand and Wisconsin sphagnum moss. The seed was mixed with a little dry sand and sprinkled over the moist soil and pressed gently, but *not* covered with soil. I covered the containers with the glass lids or cellophane paper. They needed very little watering, but if they appeared dry, I spooned a little tepid water around the edge of the jar or dish where it ran down into the drainage material.

These jars were kept on the warming shelf of my kitchen range until they germinated and then they were moved to a shelf around the upper sash of the bay window. They had to be moved back to the range, on cold nights.

When the begonias were large enough to handle, they were transplanted. I used some small flats and a number of shallow (tuna

fish) cans. Holes were punched through the bottom and after transplanting these tiny plants, they were covered with wide mouthed pint size glass jars. This makes a miniature glass house that can be watered from the bottom by setting the tins in a pan of water. The flats may be watered by this method also or a light overhead sprinkling may be used.

I believe it is important to transplant them as soon as they can be handled and keep moving them to larger flats with deeper soil, as they require, until they are ready to pot singly or plant out in beds.

When warm weather arrived, the flats were set on the ground on the south side of the house, where they were partially protected from wind by a stone wall and shaded by two large trees. They were watered with a sprinkling can.

Last year I was able to grow begonias that flowered, from seed, tuberous, *B. dominica minute*, *B. wooly bear*, *B. McBethii* and some bedding varieties. Also several shades of *B. calla lily*. These are lovely strong sturdy plants, much easier to grow from seed than from cuttings. The one I like best is a pale or shell pink. I find *B. wooly bear* is very easy to grow. The blossoms are milk white with yellow centers. The stems and leaves are covered with a brown fuzz (tomentum). They are well named.

I have many kinds of semperflorens. The one with white flowers with pink edges, is exceptionally pretty. Some have pointed leaves and bright red stems, others have creeping stems or stolons. They range in size from the six inch bedding varieties with small flowers, to about two and a half feet tall with five inch leaves and large blossoms.

I have some small plants, not large enough to bloom, of *B. heracleifolia*, *B. pink rubra*, (*coccinea*) and others. I have had fun growing my begonias from seed and hope to do even better when my 1949 seeds are planted.

I shall not plant them so early again, but will wait for warmer weather. Even when they germinate well, I do not have the proper place for so many, after a few transplantings. I lost many of the begonias by damping off because I did not get them transplanted soon enough. By waiting until warmer weather I can move them out to an enclosed porch, when they are ready for their second transplanting. This later planting will enable and encourage me to prick the seedlings out of the jars sooner, knowing I will have a place to keep them growing rapidly.

# BEGONIAS FROM INDIA

by Florence Carrell

The drawings on the opposite page were sent to us by G. Ghose & Co. of Town-end Darjeeling, India and were originally life size sketches made directly from the plants growing in India. The drawings were resketched and put into shape for our magazine by Dorothy Shoop, art student at Mark Keppel High School, Alhambra, California. She is a member of our A.B.S. Lester Bonar also of Alhambra, assisted. Ghose & Co. had tried for sometime to get photographs of their plants but were unable to procure the film and finally had these sketches made for us. They have sent us a fresh supply of begonia seeds and you will find these listed in this issue of your *Begonian*, page 110.

Descriptions of the Begonias are as follows.

No. 1. *B. pedatifida* Levl. This is native to South China. The plant has a rhizome and goes dormant during the winter and drops its leaves. The leaves are deeply lobed. It has a short creeping rhizome from the leaves and flowers arise about one foot above the soil. The leaves are bronzy-green and are deeply five-lobed and toothed. The few white flowers are usually held below the leaves. This plant is interesting because of its beautifully cut leaves, but as it sheds its leaves during the winter months and rests (as do the tuberous begonias) it should be grown in the same manner as tuberous.

No. 2 *Aborensis-rex*. This plant is rex-like in appearance and very closely related to the rex species and it maybe a variety. It is not *B. aborensis* Dunn, for that plant has a wingless 4-cell berry-like seed pod.

No. 3. *Josephii* var. *macrocarpa*. A tuberous rooted species with rather deeply lobed leaves the seed pod is hairy. Leaves pale green, underside whitish green. The plant *Josephii* var. *typica* differs only in that it has a smooth seed pod.

No. 4. *B. rubro-venia*. This is one of the numerous parents of the *B. rex-culturum* group. It is a low growing handsome plant with slender silvery-green on the upper surface.

No. 5. *B. Andersoni*. A tuberous species. Leaves white underneath, with gold and red hairs on the upper side of the leaf.

No. 6. *B. roxburghi*. This is a distinctive species as it is one of the rare four-winged seed pod begonias. Most seed vessels of begonias have three wings. It grows erect to about two feet tall, is sparsely hairy, sends up numerous stems from the base of the plant and sends out branches. The stems are green and thick at the base. The large leaves to six inches or more are broad-oval, pointed in outline, glossy bright green above and paler beneath. The margins are toothed and ciliate. Another dis-

tinctive character of this begonia is that the large white and fragrant flowers jut out from and are closely attached to the stem much in the same manner as in the Mayapple. Habitat Himalayas, Assam and Burma at the base of hills rising up to 4000 feet.

No. 7. *Bhotan species*. (This is not *B. deliciosa*) A tuberous type. I shall describe this fully next month.

No. 8. *B. laciniata flava*. This is a small growth-rhizomatous species, root stock long and creeping. The short stalked leaves are four to 6 inches in size, green above with brown along the center and edge, the underside of the leaf is greenish or green with mouve reddish edge and center, petiole mauve red with pale brown tomentose. The leaves are broad-ovate in outline and are shallowly lobed. The flowers are large full yellow and hairy on the outer side of the petals. The entire plant is clothed with a soft pubescence, is evergreen and grown like the rex hybrids.

No. 9. *Nepal Species*. Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné has been growing this plant as "India Species" since 1938 when it was first imported from India. He has self pollinated the plant but it does not come true from seed so this plant must be a hybrid form.

NOTE—The above descriptions were given by both Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, author of *Begonias In American Homes and Gardens*" and by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, the Begonia Specialist of Santa Barbara, California.

The name given by Ghose & Co. on drawing No. 1 was *sikkimensis*, but was identified by Rudolf Ziesenhenné as *B. pedatifida*. Ghose & Co. sent us seed marked *B. sikkimensis gigantea* which may prove to be the one in the drawing. We shall report on this later when we grow some plants from this seed.

Many new begonias are being introduced into our gardens via our Seed Fund (ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS) and as soon as possible will be identified for you with names, pictures and description published in our *BEGONIAN*.

## A PROPOSED REVISION

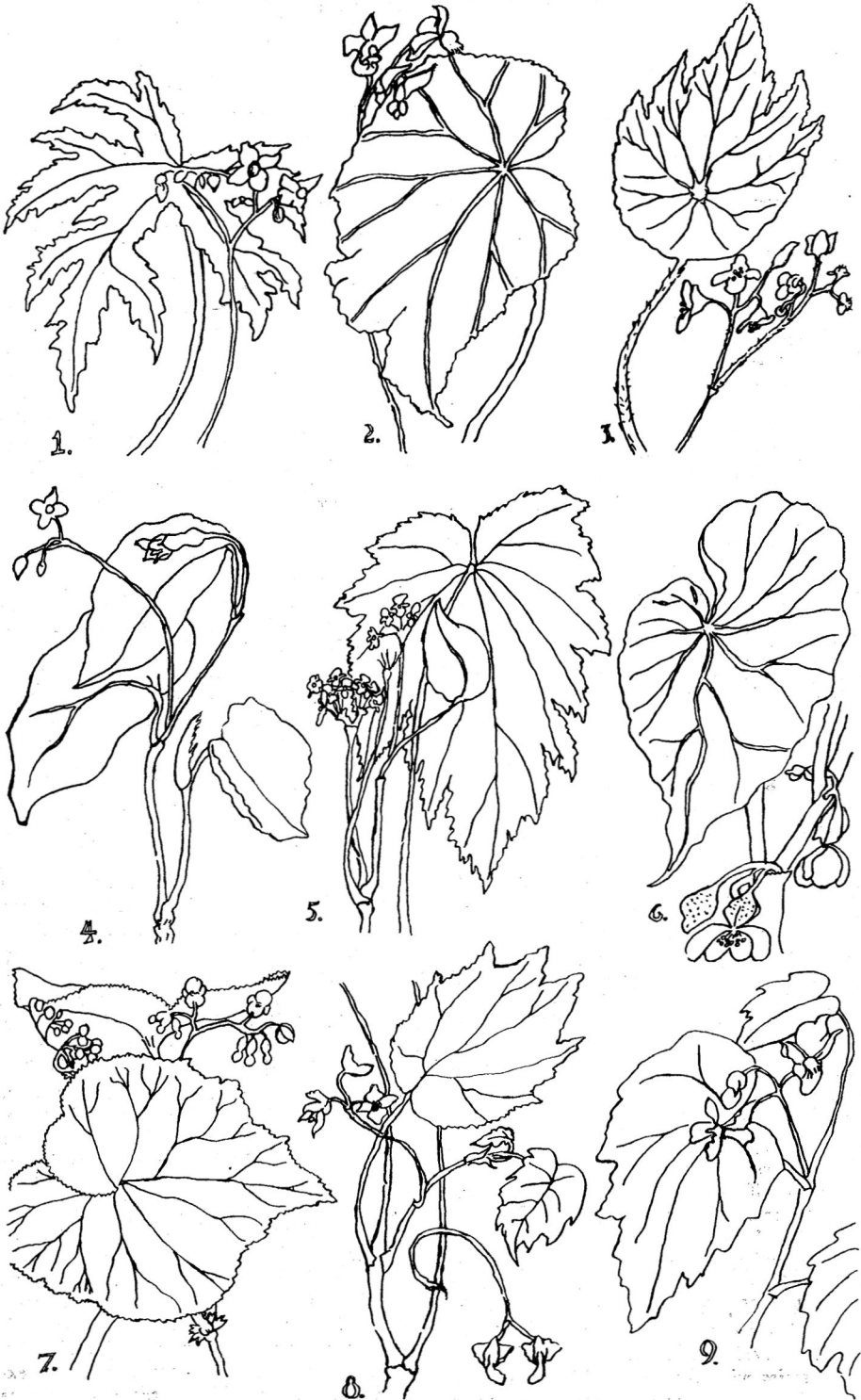
A proposal for a revision of the Constitution, Article IV, beginning the fourth line to read . . . Public Relations Director, three (3) Directors-at-large, (the change is a correction of the word there) and all Chairmen of all standing committees,

I also recommend that Chairmen of all standing committees be included in Article 1 of the By-Laws, Duties of Officers, and that the added duties of the Secretary or the Public Relations Director be to place in the hands of each elected or appointed officer, a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Grace Bayer

## NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE

The next Board Meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 150, 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 23, 1949. Park Lower Garage south entrance on Main Street.



*Drawings made from Ghose & Co. sketches, by Dorothy Shoop and Lester Bonar*

## CHATTER AND A BIT OF PHILOSOPHIZING

*from your Eastern Research Chairman*

The nicest part about our Research Department is the opportunity it presents, to reach beyond our plant problems, into the very souls of the people who present them. Some people grow plants as an outlet for an inner-artistic emotion they could not portray with color or brush, others find it brings tranquility to troubled minds and yet others . . . just grow plants. Whatever the reasons, it is reflected in your letters to me and spurs me on to ever be of service to you so far as my ability permits.

Shut-ins eagerly grasp the opportunity the Research Department offers as the only means of help in their problems, for many are handicapped to the extent that they cannot or will not leave their homes. It provides a contact for them with other hobbyists, someone with whom they can share their joys and sorrows, such as we all experience in growing plants. Try sending a cutting, a plant or a pinch of seeds to some shut-in you know. Their gratitude leaves you humble in the face of their determination to find happiness in spite of their handicap.

Problems encountered are varied, we all have had them at one time or another and solved them by the help of some one who had the same experience or by time and trial. One that might prove interesting, was a cross a member had made of two semperfloren begonias. The cross was successful but the resulting plant was evidently sterile, failed as both a seed and pollen parent.

The fact was well expressed by Lindley a half century ago in the phrase, "Hybridizing is a game of chance played between man and plant". The character of hybrids may be different from the characters of the parents, differing in size and vigor and in their sexual powers, they are often weak, especially when young, so that it is difficult to raise them. They are often sterile, produce a less amount of pollen and fewer seeds than their parents and very often produce none.

Darwin states that it is an extraordinary fact that with many species, flowers fertilized with their own pollen are absolutely or in some degree sterile; if fertilized with pollen, from another flower on the same plant, they are sometimes, though rarely, a little more fertile; if fertilized with pollen from another individual variety of the same species, they are fully fertile; but if with pollen from a distinct species, they are sterile in all possible degrees, until utter sterility is reached. We thus have a long series with absolute sterility at the two ends. At one end due to the sexual elements not having been sufficiently differentiated and

at the other end to their having been differentiated in too great a degree or in some peculiar manner. There are very few instances where hybrids become so-fixed to produce true. The genera in which hybrids are most common are those in which bud-propagation is the rule. Seed production is the legitimate function of flowers, yet pronounced inter-crossing obliterates the very organs upon which it depends.

We often hear people say, 'why doesn't my plant flower', well there are many reasons and one must know the particular conditions under which that particular plant is growing or its' cultural care, to try to give a plausible reason. All plants have their season of flowering, growth and repose. These seasons do not take place in all plants at the same time as we all know. The treatment during each of these periods is widely different, their being associates under the same glass or in the same quarters, can never be made reconcilable with good culture.

No plant can long exist without light. There are some however that require less of it than others. One plant is organized to suit the atmosphere of a dense woodland and therefore a diffused light is sufficient. Others are planted by nature in situations which the rays of a shadeless sun are shining daily, hence the light necessary to the one would be fatal to the other. The organic difference in such cases as these, is believed to consist in the epidermis, a part of the structure of plants which regulate their powers of transpiration. Hence it is to be inferred that it is not the greatest amount of light that can be obtained, but the greatest quality that they will bear without injury. Plants therefore should be regarded as plants of sun and plants of shade, hence the great necessity of arranging them in situations according to the amount of light each specifically requires. Plants like Pelargoniums for example, their natural habitat in open sun-exposed situations, should be placed nearest the glass and in the most open airy sun-exposed part of the house. Those that become deciduous or others known to grow naturally in deep woods or shady places will be better placed farther from the glass and even under the shade of the former.

Plants indigenous to damp and shady places have very thin leaves, the epidermis pierced by numerous invisible pores called stomata, through which the plant breathes and transpires and through which it is enabled at all times to procure abundance of liquid food. On the other hand, plants growing on dry, exposed places, have thick hard leaves, nature

*See next page*

thus adapting them to the circumstances under which they will grow. Attention to these points will enable the cultivator, even if unacquainted with the circumstances, to place plants in situations favorable. It is well too, to bear in mind that plants require 'sleep' at night just as you and I and they cannot do this if stimulated by greater temperature than during the day. There is no country in the world where night temperatures exceed day temperatures.

Watering should be done, preferably with tepid water in the early morning. Most plants derive much benefit from their tops being supplied as well as their roots, but done with care, that those in bloom are not injured thereby.

Assuming your plants have had proper winter care, less watering and lower temperature, it is now time to stimulate their growth. Such plants as require it should be re-potted and cut back and you can start propagating from the more healthy of these cuttings. Most of them will strike roots readily if given mild bottom heat and kept near the glass in a north window.

Dorothy F. Michaelson,  
Regional Chairman

## PERSONALITIES OF THE BEGONIA WORLD

Our Grandy-Lady of Begonias, now living in San Diego with her fond memories of early day begonia raising, has kindly given us a peek into the past so that we may share her memories. "Prior to 1920, I was given two cuttings, *Begonia Margarite* and *B. odorata alba*. They were so satisfactory, I started collecting begonias in earnest. The only printed matter obtainable was L. H. Bailey's *Cyclopedia*. Several growers helped me with my collection and they also helped with the nomenclature. This was all very interesting to a novice and by 1923 I decided to grow begonias by seed and by making a few crosses, was able to introduce a few new begonias. Unable to identify them I had to give them names. I did this by giving them the names of whatever the begonia reminded me of, of some one that was dear to me. For instance, the little *B. Neely Gaddis* with its pure white flowers and leaves that remind me of an angel's wing. This made me think of my little twin cousin that was taken away when she was six years old.

When *B. Nelly Bly* bloomed with its bright red flowers, it made me think of my sister Nelly who loved red and used to sing the old song "Nelly Bly shuts her eye when she goes to sleep . . . ." She was only four years old and could not talk very well, but loved to sing, in her way.

A few years later I published a *Flower*

*Journal*, the main theme was begonias and there were letters from many flower lovers who wrote of their gardens and flowers. I finally gave it up and then wrote and published *The Begonia Book*, taking the descriptions of the plants from my own lathhouse. That was in 1931. We are still growing most of those listed but the years have seen many new and fine begonias added to our collections.



EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AT ROSECROFT

This picture was taken of me standing beside a *B. odorata alba*, in the late Alfred D. Robinson's lathhouse.

As I am unable to care for many begonias, I have accumulated quite a collection of stamps. I find these very interesting and many of the foreign stamps bring thoughts of the far away lands that are native habitats of our beloved begonias. So now in the sere and yellow-leaf state, I can only sit and dream of the glorious past and of the joy I have found in living with my plants of the Royal Hobby.

With an affectionate greeting to all, I remain".

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) *Eva Kenworthy Gray*

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting to be held in Ventura August 27th. This is your Society and an active Member is an interested Member. The Begonia Exhibits will be outstanding and the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch is planning an outstanding Convention.

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR MAY

Spring is with us again and our Round Robin Clubs are as gay and chipper as that Robin Red-Breast on the lawn. It is true—many A. B. S. members are asking for Robin membership—and the regular members are asking for new Clubs to be established. All our members seem possessed of a new eagerness and the urge to achieve greater gardening success than ever before. Our best wishes attend your every effort.

A new type of Rex Robin is flying with fifteen members. Since they agree that "Any-one outside of California trying to grow Rex Begonias belonged in the nut-house", their Director has given the Robin the odd name of "Nut House Rex Robin". When Mrs. Lois Tanner of Louisiana, after many years of experimenting with growing rex begonias found that her rexes still did not respond to the care to which other types of begonias flourished, she began searching for other begonia growers that had suffered the same defeat. Thus a new kind of Rex Robin was formed, each member signing up with a glint in her eye and determination in her heart. Notes from this Robin should prove interesting. If you are one having had difficulty growing rex begonias and wish to join a similar Robin, write me.

The "Swap Robin" is flying with seven members and has room for more. It would be well for all members of this Robin to acquaint themselves with the laws of your State concerning the shipping of plants, bulbs and seed. Many states allow "inspection free" passage of unrooted cuttings and seed.

The "Research Robin" is new and is under the capable leadership of Miss C. Zirbel, of New York. There is room for a few more members.

Round Robin Clubs having room for additional members are: Fuchsia; Pelargonium; Ivy; Soils, Fibrous Begonia Advanced No. 2; Semperfloren Begonia; Small-leaf Begonia R. R. No. 1; House Plant Robin (for Northeast and Midwest members); General Begonia for Beginners No. 7; Semperfloren Begonia (for members in the Northeast); Apartment Dwellers Robin; Research Robin; The Collector's R. R.; and Begonias for Apartment Dwellers.

Most of the Robin Clubs are making fine progress. Those members that joined the Beginners' group several years ago are advanced robinites now. Many of them have green houses and lath houses and several are offering plants and cuttings for sale or trade. Thus our begonias are being scattered far and wide by the Round Robin members.

And now . . . until June, "The Gardener's month of delight"

Frances Downing.

## HYDRANGEA COLOR CHANGE

by Peggy Sullivan, Los Angeles, Calif.

It is always fascinating for a gardener to note the possible color range in Hydrangea flowers. This year blue—next year pink. The cause of this is the presence (blue) or absence (pink) of soluble aluminum. In Southern California soils, the natural color of the Hydrangea is pink, red, or white since watering with ordinary water will tend to keep the pH above 6.3 or alkaline. Should this very effective blue color be desired merely: first select a variety, such as Ami Pasqhaar, Blue Prince, Goliath, Hortensis, Kuhnert, Trophy, and Variegated, all of which will produce blue flowers, and second add aluminum sulphate at the rate of one ounce per gallon of water, using enough to take the place of a light watering. A pH of 5.0 to 5.5, which is acid will be attained provided a total of three to four waterings at two weeks intervals are applied. Do not feed with a phosphate fertilizer or one high in organic matter (leaf mold, animal manure) because both will cause the desired aluminum to become insoluble and thereby unavailable to the plant. If a fertilizer seems necessary, use ammonium sulphate at the rate of one ounce to four gallons. The ammonium sulphate also tends to promote an acid soil condition.

Normally white varieties do not become blue by this treatment. Oddly enough, it is impossible to change a blue color back to pink once the flowers have become blue for that season. But such a beautiful blue is scarce in part shade shrubs so this year enjoy a change, to blue Hydrangeas. You won't regret it.

### YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED

A letter from England, "One of the most interesting features in our English gardening periodicals is the *Letters to the Editor* section, particularly where a controversial subject arises and replies for and against, appear in the following issue.

With the idea of stimulating interest, may

### RARE AND MUCH SOUGHT REX BEGONIAS

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VISITORS WELCOME—CLOSED WEDNESDAYS

### LEATHERMAN'S GARDENS

1 blk. W. of Rosemead Blvd, 1½ blks. S. of  
Garvey Road  
925 Lee Ave. El Monte, California



I "stick my neck out" and comment on the system of priority naming of plants.

We all know that according to the present rules of nomenclature, the first name used in a published description takes priority, but surely many of us must regret having to use a new name for a plant we have known perhaps all our lives by another.

I yield to no one in my admiration for those earnest research workers who delve into the old records and add to our store of information, as I am not entirely guiltless of doing a little of this myself, but fail to submit without protest, to the flow of renaming of old friends just because some botanist has found an earlier name in some dusty old long forgotten tome.

I agree of course that most of us use the new name, but in many cases because otherwise we should be thought to be ignorant of it and for the benefit of those used to the old name, often quote it as a synonym. I am confident however, that many wish that the new name (although the first given) could be shown as a synonym after the existing name which we are all used to, rather than the reverse.

I am not alone in this view, for Lord Aberconway, the President of the Royal Horticultural Society, made similar comments in a recent speech, quoting *Magnolia Denudata*, which at various times has also borne the names *Conspicua* and *Yulan*, and is now to be renamed *Heptapeta*.

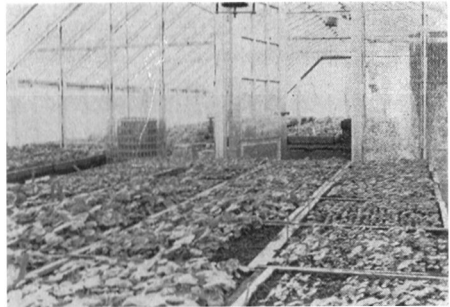
There are many examples in the begonia family, two of the most outstanding being perhaps *baageana-Scharffi* and *glaucophylla-Limninghei*. Perhaps retribution will fall on my head and I shall discover a prior naming during my own researches into European begonia literature. If so, I can only say that I shall follow the existing rules (as I do now) and announce it, but shall nevertheless regret the necessity to rechristen an old friend.

To certain American friends who I know will criticise me, I say that a discussion on two viewpoints is a good thing provided it is good humoured!"

Signed, Fred J. Bedson,  
Forest Gate, Crowborough, Sx.

Also a letter "... which I think might well be called One Man's Philosophy or Man's Humanity to Man. It was written in reply to my letter to him, entirely unsolicited, in which I expressed my gratitude as well as that of other growers, for the excellent quality of his plants and packing. So many begonias are purchased at great sacrifice on the part of the buyer and no disappointment is any keener than to receive the long-awaited box only to find the contents worthless because the packing was poor or the plants too small to stand the long dis-

tance shipping. It seems to me that space might well be given to printing at least part of Mr. Ziesenhenné's letter, for it conveys the feeling not only of the highest business ethics but a depth of understanding not often found commercially.



A portion of Mr. Ziesenhenné's new glasshouse

Dear Mrs. Piper:

I am a depression child and was married in 1933 and managed to start this business when I was earning four dollars a week. I do know the true value of the price of a plant for I too had to do without food in order to spend twenty five cents for a plant and it took a lot of courage to make the decision. It is for this reason that I intend to give good value and plants, to persons purchasing them.

I intend to keep a fair price and plan to continue to import the many fine plants which all the begonia lovers have yet to see. I take into consideration that occasionally plants do not stand the trip and I have always sent these at my expense. This is costly but it tends to stable myself in sending only plants which will definitely grow when they reach their destination.

It is also my policy to grow the plants a little on the rough side or shall I say not under ideal conditions, for plants given just what they desire can be shocked so easily, when they are put into the home.

I am relying on kind persons like you to help me do what I wish, to make more and better begonias available to all their fanciers. I lost eighteen hundred plants in the freeze in January and I probably lost some of my parent stock, so will not have too much to offer until July.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Rudolf Ziesenhenné

The letter is indeed heartwarming and heightens the respect of all growers for the integrity of the man whose philosophy it expresses.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Mrs. Winnifred Piper."



## Armchair Explorers

May News Letter

"Far away places with strange sounding names . . . ." Who has not dreamed of visiting far off lands, searching for new plants, gathering wild orchids from trees, following winding streams and hoping to come across a new species of begonia?

One of our Seed Fund members, Lester Bonar of Arcadia, California, is an artist and has traveled through the orient. He traveled aboard a slow boat and stopped at many ports among the islands of the Far East. Mr. Bonar made two fine drawings for your Skipper. The above is to be our regular heading and I hope to show you the other soon. Many thanks to you, Mr. Bonar!

Traveling in unknown lands is not all pleasure. Far from it. Danger lurks at almost every turn when one starts through the wilds in search of plants and seeds. Snakes, ants and mosquitos are the minor pests one would encounter. I am afraid most of us would miss our 'comforts of home' to which we are so accustomed. Those of us contenting ourselves with our armchairs at home and the *BEGONIAN*, should try to gain all possible knowledge of the newest methods of propagating, so as to be well equipped to grow the new seeds when the opportunity comes our way.

Have you read the new propagating book "Secrets of Successful Propagation" by A. A. Longmire, a member of the A. B. S. and of our Seed Fund? If not, don't fail to get a copy as it is a fine book.

Are your begonia seeds sprouting? Mine are. I have heard from many others and they are having splendid germination this year. They attribute this to the fact that they are finally learning how to plant and care for these very small seeds. It takes experience to grow these rare seeds, for many are difficult, but it is a challenge and if we really want the plants enough, we soon learn the proper technique.

I am very sorry to have to report that the Achimene bulbs we were expecting from Mexico have been lost. I am trying now, to get others from Guatemala. Should this fail, then your money will all be returned.

You are all invited to join in a poem contest. Poems to be about growing plants from

seeds or about your favorite begonia. Send all poems directly to me and for each one published, the writer will be rewarded with a collection of choice begonia seeds. (Poems must be original).

New seeds just received from India; *Begonia laciniata lutea*, rex types mixed, *Josephii typica*, *Andersoni*, *Bhotanensis*, *rubro-venia Ameana*, *ovatifolia* var. *createcea*, *sikkimensis gigantea*, *Cathcartii*, *picta*, *Roxburghii* and *gigantea*. Special price on these India seeds are six packets for \$1.00.

Begonia seeds from Guatemala 25c, begonia seeds from the Philippines 25c, these are both unnamed. Orchids seeds from Colombia and Singapore orchid seeds at 25c per packet. Colombia fuchsia, bromeliad seeds and fern spores at 25c. Philippine Island fern spores 25c. *Spathiphyllum floribundum* 50c per packet. Those wanting aroid seed had better place standing orders so that it can be mailed as soon as received. We can still offer twenty packets of choice begonia seeds at \$2.00 per collection, but this will be the last month for this offer. Next month all remaining begonia seed will be mixed. Good begonia growing to all of you,

Your Skipper,  
Florence Carrell

### NOTES FROM THE A B S LIBRARY

Your librarian would like to call your attention to the recent fine article on "Begonias for the Window Garden" by Bessie Raymond Buxton in the March issue of Organic Gardening magazine—the conclusion to be published in a later issue. Copies of the magazine will be available for loan to members thru the library at an early date, if you missed seeing this, and I would suggest you send in your request as soon as convenient.

Read the list of books and pamphlets available on Tuberous Begonias in the April Begonia—extra copies are still on hand for your use and I am sure you will find much of value in any of them.

May I call your attention to the pamphlets on ferns—

Willard N. Clute—Our Ferns in Their Haunts.

E. J. Geske—Marvels of Fern Life

C. H. Woodward—Hardy Ferns and Their Culture.

Any member is welcome to the loan of these pamphlets for one month, upon request, by paying the postage.

I would greatly welcome suggestions on books and pamphlets relative to Begonias and Shade plants that would be of value to the membership for reference.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

## GARDENERS LOVE TO TALK

Are there seven A. B. S. members or probable members in your community? Why not get together and organize a Branch. You will enjoy that close contact a Branch affords, so get together and *talk it over*, then write to Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Cantera Avenue, Hope Ranch Park, Santa Barbara, Calif. She will be happy to give you the particulars.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH:** Had sixty members and guests present at their March meeting to hear George Gunn, of the Hicok Nursery, talk on English Primroses (Pacific hybrids). Mr. Gunn said the primrose is an Alpine plant and ideal for the Lake Tahoe area; they enjoy the same growing conditions as begonias, but are heavy feeders and prefer an organic fertilizer; divide in July. To illustrate his talk, he had about two dozen plants from the Reinelt nursery in Capitola. Show Chairman, Mrs. Young, urged us all to have several begonias ready for display at the State Fair. She recommended an easy way to make fertilizer. Use a five gallon can and fill one-third full of manure and two-thirds full of water. Let stand several days and then dip out some in a container and dilute until the shade of weak tea. She recommends feeding the plants once a week with this. The business meeting was followed by refreshments and a social hour.

Lynn Cross, *Publicity*

**MIAMI BRANCH:** Heard Mrs. Kendrick talk on cane type begonias in March. Members brought in specimen plants which were a good representation of what the members are growing. Jack Reark continued his talks on the structure of the begonia. The Show committee reported a ninety dollar prize and trophy won at the Lake County Fair. The President of the Missouri Branch, Mrs. Bruce Dill, was a guest of Mrs. Sackett. New members and a successful plant sale climaxed the evening.

Mrs. A. E. Sackett, *Nat'l Director.*

## GEORGIA PEAT

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**HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH:** Had a good turn out for their March meeting. Vice president Jessie Thomas presided in the absence of Ray Minnie. One of the good Bogoniaites that always sat in the back row and made comments, for a few to hear during the meetings, was called on as 'the speaker of the evening'. None other than Guy Wooden was on the spot. He came through with colors flying, as he gave an interesting talk on Garden Pests. The first mentioned were the begonia and fuchsia pests. He believes the best spray for sucking insects is a nicotine contact spray made with laundry soap suds and whale oil as a spreader; for chewing insects, a dust containing lead arsenite, is best; where wireworms prevail, use a soil fumigant; thrip and red spider are always bad when the weather is dry, so keep the soil and plants moist, to discourage them; a good bait for sow bugs is two and a half parts of calcium arsenite to one part of flour, use as a dust; (remember arsenite is poison) make a ring around your plant, of this bait, to kill cutworms; a four per cent solution of clorax and water will prevent damping off of new seedlings, sprinkling on the new plants without harm; leaf and stem rot is often caused by not enough ventilation and from flower petals or old leaves falling on newer leaves or against the stems and being allowed to stay, causing a mold to form that spreads rapidly. A question and answer period followed, Mr. Wooden answering the questions. Mrs. R. Damon demonstrated three new spray guns she had purchased. One worked from a fruit jar, another from a pail and another fastened on the hose, with the water running through a cartridge containing the ingredients for the spray. Fortuna were hosts and used the St. Patrick's Day theme on the refreshments.

Violet Wooden, *Historian*

**FOOTHILL BRANCH:** She'll be comin'! Who'll be comin'? Why, none other than "Her Rural Highness, Mirandy" of radio and garden fame.

Yes, Mirandy will be the entertainer at the Foothill Branch, Friday evening, May 6, 1949, at 8 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this well known comedienne. The meeting place is the Azusa Woman's Club-house, 10th and Azusa Avenue, Azusa. We'll be looking for you!

Hal Roberts will demonstrate carnation and chrysanthemum culture on June 3rd, same place, same time. He will also show colored slides. You are all welcome.

Edwin O. Williams, *Publicity*

**ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH:** Started the New Year by reviewing the history of begonias and then planted seeds under the watchful eyes of the experienced. The story of the rex begonia was related in February and the seedlings were inspected. Cuttings of rex begonias were made and planted in several different mediums. A digest of the history of the tuberous begonias was read at the March meeting and a demonstration of the transplanting of seedlings was made. Each member took home a portion of the seedlings, to try for themselves! A demonstration of starting tubers was also held. The rex cuttings had started to root but the transplanting will begin at the April meeting. The semi-tuberous begonias, the cutting back and re-potting of fibrous begonias and rex cuttings will be discussed at this meeting.

Alice M. Clark, *Program Chairman*

**GLENDALE BRANCH:** Were happy to have had Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara, as their April speaker. Hearing of Mr. Ziesenhenné's introductions first-hand is always of great interest. The May meeting will be a Bazaar. There will be the traditional apron and pot holder booth, the dish garden table, ceramics and a table of choice plants for sale. Brave men are to be chosen to be the judges in the cake contest and there will be short talks on shade garden subjects. All members and friends in So. California are invited to attend!

Mrs. F. M. Brown, *Corresponding Secy.*

**SEATTLE BRANCH:** Had twenty two members in attendance at their meeting in March in the beautiful Thomas E. Myers' home, decorated with orchids grown by the Myers. Mrs. James Buzard gave a resume of her recent trip to California where she and Mr. Buzard had attended Camellia Shows and visited the A. B. S. National Board meeting. Her report was very enthusiastic. After refreshments and a chat-fest, a tour of the Myers' greenhouse climaxed the evening. The April meeting was held at the James B. Buzard's home in Bellevue, Wash., with Dr. Hillery as speaker on the subject of Primroses.

Mrs. Helen Walker, *Secy.*

#### IN MEMORIAM

George A. Barber, the second president of the Whittier Branch, passed away April 10th, in Whittier, Calif. Mr. Barber was an ardent lover of begonias and fuchsias and his many friends have shared his delight and enthusiasm in his garden. The A. B. S. extend their sympathies to his bereaved wife, Mrs. Ruth Barber.

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH:** At the January meeting R. A. Alberts, president, greeted the new members and friends, and informed the members no small group can be successful without the full cooperation of each and every member in the organization, after which he announced the appointments of the different committees for the ensuing year of '49.

As Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss resigned, Mrs. R. Clark, 1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif., was elected corresponding secretary.

A round table discussion was held on the planting of seeds and the care of tubers at that time of the year.

February meeting being our third anniversary of the branch, L. F. Gottburg, a charter member was guest speaker of the evening. He spoke of getting his tubers warmed up and watching for "pinkies," meanwhile he sterilized his leaf mold and soil, by pouring boiling water over the whole mixture and letting it drain for a week or more before he is ready to plant. An introduction of all charter members present and reading of the first minutes followed.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ashe and Mrs. Hyacinth Smith journeyed across the bay from San Francisco to visit with us. They both gave us a few words of praise on the meeting and Mrs. Ashe spoke of all working toward a convention in Northern California in the not too distant future.

St. Patrick ushered in our March 17th meeting. Mr. Geo. Wolters of James Nursery of Oakland was guest speaker. He gave a brief history of the Begonias, and the care and culture of the tuber-hybrida.

A round table introduction of members, each in turn told of his or her particular hobby in shade plants. We found ferns, African Violets, Gloxinia, fuchsias, Tuberous, Fibrous and Rex Begonias holding forth in all their glory.

Susan Ramsey, *Publicity Chairman*

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Proposed Amendments and Revisions to the By-Laws of the A.B.S. to be voted on at the National Board meeting on May 23rd.

Article VI Branch Societies (Additions to paragraph 3)

The Representative Director of each Branch shall file an annual written report of their Branch activities with the Board of Directors of this Society, at the regular monthly meeting of the Board, one month prior to the annual meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** (if the above is adopted)

That the annual reports be edited by a committee appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the A. B. S., then put in mimeograph form to be distributed to Representatives of each Branch at the annual meeting thereby eliminating the necessity of the reading of these reports at the annual meeting. As these reports are very helpful, especially to new Branches this procedure would give us the opportunity to read these reports at our leisure and benefit by other Branch ideas and activities. It is also recommended that these reports be mailed to any Branch not represented at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
National Representative Sacramento Branch  
(signed) (Mrs.) Ruth A. Williams

I move the following resolution:

Whereas; members be given a free rein in becoming affiliated with more than one branch without subscribing more than once to the *BEGONIAN*, thereby creating a feeling of good fellowship and a sense of 'belonging' rather than 'visiting' the nearby branches,

Whereas; immediate members of the family of a member of a branch often wishing to actively participate in branch activities, such as officers, chairmen, etc., may become an associate member without each branch individually having to go through the formality of enacting separate by-laws;

That Article VI of the By-Laws, paragraph 1, beginning line 5, (26th word) be changed to read "branch in good standing may become an Affiliate Member in another branch, having voting privileges but ineligible to hold office in the affiliated branch. A wife and/or husband and/or immediate member of the family may become an Associate Member and be eligible to hold a branch office. The amount of dues for the above memberships to be stipulated by a Branch Committee and these dues are to be retained by the branches; cards to be uniform and procured from the National Membership Chairman".

Beginning the ninth line (48th word) in the eight paragraph of Article I (By-laws) be changed to read "A Librarian to be appointed to assemble a library for the use of Members of the Society; and shall preserve three copies of each issue of the official publication and all other publications of the Society".

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy S. Behrends

*Editor's note: Your attention is called to a Resolution on page 86 of the April BEGONIAN.*

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**CONDENSED MINUTES** meeting National Board, American Begonia Society held in Los Angeles March 28th, 1949, with President Gale in the Chair.

Present for the meeting Col. Gale, Treasurer Bozon, Business Mgr. Moore, Membership Fees Dere, Messrs. Hixon, Bailey, Editor Behrends, Gonda Hartwell, Louise Schwerdtfeger, Representative Directors Inglewood, Southgate, Bellflower, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, Riverside, El Monte, North Long Beach, Glendale.

Reports of Business Mgr., Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Editor and Secretary read and on motion accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the Minutes.

Business Mgr. Moore stated he had been unable to locate a used typewriter for cutting stencils but could get delivery on a new machine within sixty days. Motion made, seconded by Editor Behrends "That Mr. Moore be authorized to go ahead and purchase the typewriter and that the purchase price of \$218.36 be allowed; delivery within sixty days; this price including the taxes." **CARRIED.**

Discussion of insurance on the equipment and supplies at the El Monte plant resulted in the following motion: "That Mr. Moore be authorized to take care of the necessary coverage on this equipment and supplies in the amount he deemed proper." Seconded by Bozon. **CARRIED.**

Motion; "That Mr. Moore be authorized to place insurance on the Library contents in the amount he and the Librarian deemed adequate. **CARRIED.**

Public Relations Director—No new branches to report but expect soon to have one in the mid-west.

Kodachrome Slide; The slides are in use for programs constantly and seem to be very satisfactory; am adding slides all the time and through the cooperation of Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Nichols have added 5 more to our sixth group.

Mrs. Jenks, Publicity; "I was able to get a story in the papers about the California International Flower Show."

Flower Show Chairman Trowbridge reported on the California International Flower Show and was given a generous applause for his work in putting in the American Begonia Society exhibit.

Letter from Secretary LaMesa Branch read and on motion was referred to the Director Public Relations; Secretary instructed to write Mrs. Barker at LaMesa of this action.

Letters from Sacramento Branch enclosing Resolution and Amendments to be voted on at the May meeting read; discussed briefly—see elsewhere in the *Begonian* for copy.

Mrs. Hodgins, Representative Director from Ventura Branch, was present; outlined some of the plans for the Annual Convention and moved "That the date of Saturday the 27th of August be set as the date for the Annual meeting at Ventura." Second Bozon; **CARRIED.** Watch your *Begonian* for news of the Annual meeting and Flower Show. Members urged to bring plants as the show will be competitive and apart from other exhibits shown at the same time.

Mrs. Korts, of the Committee on Begonia pins, urged Representative Directors to take up with their branch the matter of these pins, designs of which she passed around—Sterling Silver pin \$2.35, gold plated \$2.35; gold filled \$2.70 must have an order for at least 50 pins; also consider the Recommendation of the Sacramento Branch for a name badge. Please be prepared to report at next meeting but vote on same will be at May meeting of National Board.

Branch reports indicated activity in planning branch shows; Easter Bonnet Parade; pot-luck dinners; bazaar at Glendale Branch and cake-baking contest with the men as judges; good programs; good attendance.

See elsewhere in *Begonian* copy for Resolution presented and read by Editor Behrends, accepted and seconded, to be acted on at the May 23rd meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

Our Advertisers are our friends. We must remember our friends when we make our 'garden needs' purchase. Please tell them you saw their ad in the *BEGONIAN*.

## Branch Meeting Dates and Places

### **BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH**

Regular meetings, Quarterly, 1st Fridays  
Flint, Michigan, May 6.  
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Sec.,  
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

### **BELLFLOWER BRANCH**

1st Monday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.  
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.  
P. Knapp, Secretary  
6144 Blackthorne Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

### **EAST BAY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Willard School, Ward Street  
Mrs. H. E. Thorpe, Sec.  
1692 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

### **EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, May 19, 8:00 p.m.  
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 160  
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.  
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

### **FOOTHILL BRANCH**

1st Friday, May 6, 8:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa.  
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary  
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

### **GLENDALE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 24, 8:00 p.m.  
206 West Cypress  
Mrs. F. M. Brown, Sec.  
3633 Revere, Los Angeles 26, Calif.

### **GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH**

3rd Monday, May 16  
Community House, LaJolla  
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### **GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 24  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Frank H. Mather, Corr. Sec.  
515 Windover Rd., Hatboro, Pa.

### **HOLLYWOOD BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, May 12, 8 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Miss Marjory Robinson, Sec.  
1137 No. Orange Dr., L. A. 46.

### **HUB CITY BRANCH**

3rd Monday, May 16  
Roosevelt High School Cafe  
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.  
3556 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

### **HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, May 9, 8 p.m.  
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church  
Miss Margaret Smith,  
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### **INGLEWOOD BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, May 12, 8 p.m.  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Leo McBride, Secretary  
3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

### **LA MESA BRANCH**

2nd Monday, May 9, 8 p.m.  
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.  
Mrs. Edna F. Barker  
89 Central, Lemon Grove, Calif.

### **LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER**

3rd Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic  
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Roy Ohlson, Sec'y.  
1925 Marine Avenue, Long Beach 6, Calif.

### **MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

### **MISSOURI BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 24, 2 p.m.  
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary  
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

### **NEW ENGLAND BRANCH**

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.  
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

### **NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH**

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson  
P. O. Box 718, Denville, N. J.

### **NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH**

2nd Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach  
Mrs. Merle Penrose, Sec.  
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

### **ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH**

1st Thursday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.  
Sec.-Treas., Ann Peterson, 414 E. Palmyra,  
Orange, Calif.

### **PASADENA BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Longfellow Hi School, E. Washington St.  
Mrs. Fred E. Distel  
1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

### **PETALUMA BRANCH**

3rd Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Schlener, Sec.  
18 10th Street, Petaluma, Calif.

### **PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH**

Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec., 405 Cotswald Lane  
Wynwood, Pa.

### **RIVERSIDE BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, May 11, 8 p.m.  
Mrs. Wm. Allen, Sec.-Treas.  
7904 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### **ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m.  
3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif.  
Mrs. R. K. Whitney, Secretary  
4661 Brighton Avenue, San Diego 7, Calif.

### **SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, May 17, 8 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Mrs. A. Boyd Collier, Secy.  
2777 Harkness Way, Sacramento, Calif.

### **SALEM, OREGON BRANCH**

1st Thursday, May 5  
Salem Y.M.C.A.  
Miss Ellen Quail, Sec.  
202 Rural Ave., Salem, Oregon

### **SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday, May 23  
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. Donald Green, Sec.  
1626 Emerald St., San Diego, Calif.

### **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.  
Canoga Park. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary.  
20047 Arminata, Canoga Park, Calif.

### **SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.  
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.  
Sec.: Mrs. Walter L. Morrison  
2075 Tenth Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

### **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, May 25, 8 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Sec.  
911 No. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

### **SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, California  
Roy C. Pierce, Secy.  
914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

### **SANTA MARIA BRANCH**

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau  
Nipomo, Calif.

### **SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.  
University High School, Room 232  
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles  
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary.  
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

### **SANTA PAULA BRANCH**

4th Thursday, May 26, 6:30 p.m.  
Steckel Park  
Mrs. Shirley Friedrich, P. O. Box 888  
Santa Paula, California

### **SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, May 17  
Member's Homes  
Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.  
4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

*See Next Page*



**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**  
 1st Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.  
 Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
 Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass  
 Rt. 2, Box 54, Ventura, Calif.

**SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH**  
 3rd Thursday, May 19, 8 p.m.  
 Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
 Mrs. R. Clark, Cor. Secy.  
 1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

**SOUTHGATE BRANCH**  
 4th Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m.  
 Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,  
 Miss Ellen P. Dionne, Secy-Treas.  
 3139 1/2 Illinois Ave., Southgate, Calif.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**  
 4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, May 25, 8 p.m.  
 Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.  
 Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.  
 Lakewood, Ohio

**WHITTIER BRANCH**  
 4th Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m.  
 Union High School, Room 19  
 Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
 Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Secy.  
 219 S. McNess St., Whittier, Calif.

OL. 0154 HOURS 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.  
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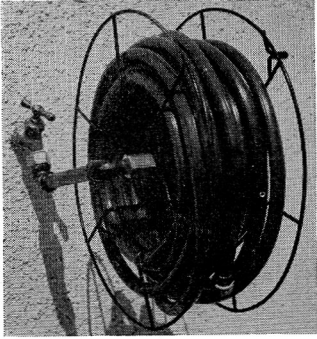
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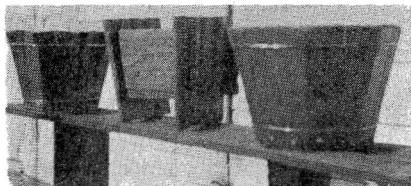
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