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Grown by
Marie Turner

Photo by
Bill Bayer



SEPTEMBER

1949

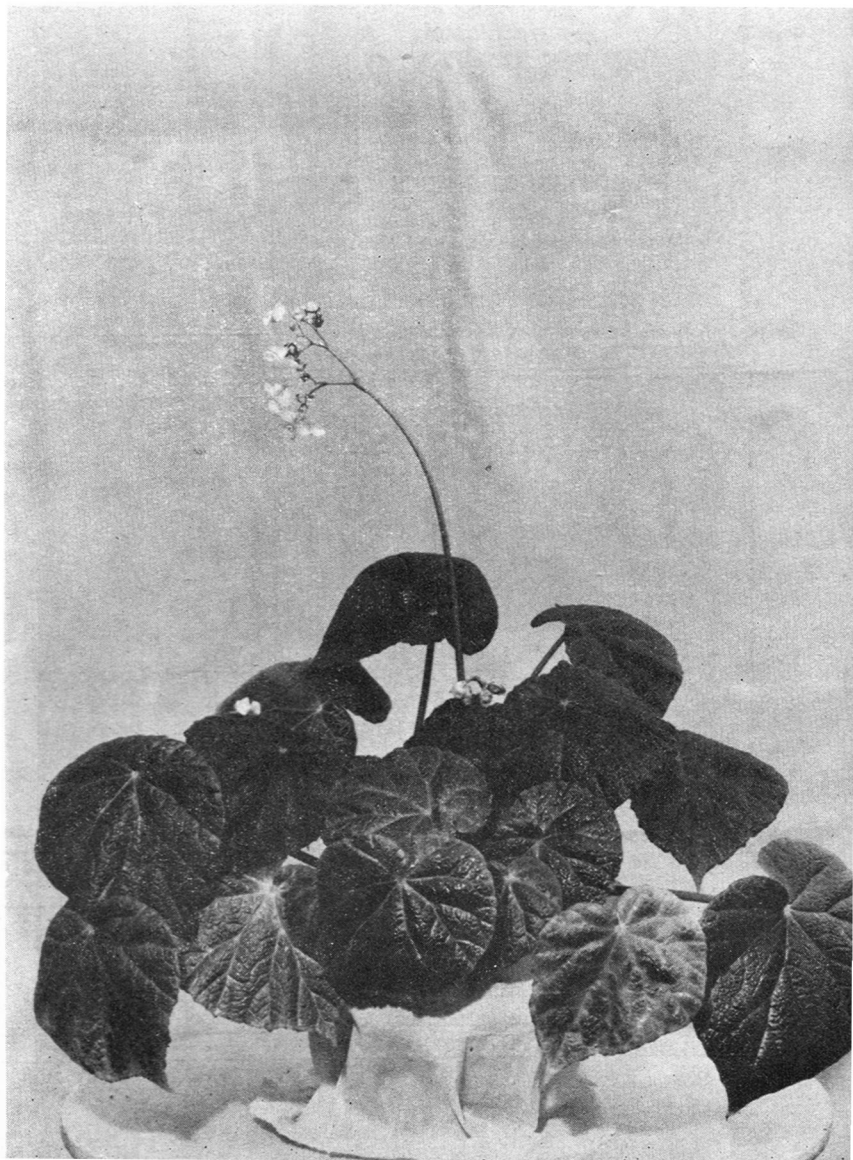


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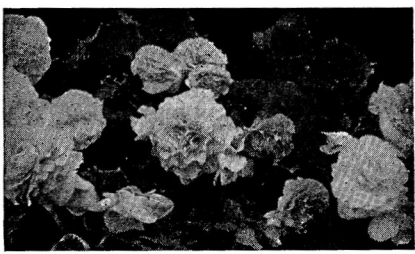
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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., Monday September 26, 1949. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

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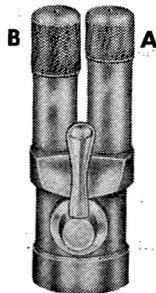
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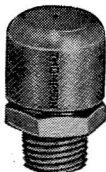
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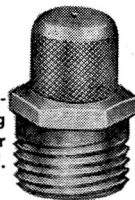


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Begonias In Wick-Fed Pots

by Fiffi W. Kline, Mount Kisco, New York

Do you remember how anxious you felt about your plants, last time you had to leave them to go on that short trip? Maybe a kind neighbor had offered to water the plants in your absence, but in the bottom of your heart while you appreciated their kind spirit, you doubted their ability to judge the right amount of water to give your beloved plants. Ten to one, on your return from the trip, you found your potplants either dried or drowned.

The Wick-Fed Pot would have been an answer to your problem.

There are now on the market a number of flower-growing containers which make use of the wick-feeding principle. Some are better than others, but all have one feature in common, that they are rather costly to acquire in numbers.

This however need not deter you from using this self watering devise, for anyone can make a wick-fed pot themselves, if they understand the principle involved. We desire to give our plants—at least our begonias—an unfailling and even supply of moisture.

A self-watering pot consists of any container with a hole in the center bottom, through which a wick feeds water to the contents of the container from a reservoir of water below it, usually a saucer of some kind. The water contained in the saucer rises through the wick into the soil in the pot above it, and as long as there is water in the saucer the soil will be constantly and evenly supplied, which results in proper watering of your plant. As the soil dries through evaporation or consumption by the root system of the plant, automatically more water rises through the wick to replace what was lost, not more, nor less. FIGURE 1.

But, and this is most important, ONLY the wick must reach down into the reservoir of water, not the bottom of the pot itself. Consequently, one must contrive to keep the pot raised up from the level of the water, either by letting it rest on the rim of the saucer, or if the saucer is larger than the bottom of the pot, let the pot stand on some small upturned flower pots to raise the pot out of the water. FIGURE 2.

The best wick to use is the kind made of glass-fiber, as it will last indefinitely without rotting away. If this is unobtainable, one can make a wick out of a small piece of burlap rolled tightly and cut into about a 3 inch length. The roll should be of a thickness to pass through the bottom hole of your pot, and the portion of it which will be inside the pot, should be frayed out so that it can be

spread out in all directions to lie flat on the bottom of the pot. No bits of crocks are used, and the soil mixture rests directly on the spread-out portion of the wick. The lower part of the wick is left intact and protrudes out of the pot into the saucer and into the water. But when the pot stands on the saucer, there *must* be an air space of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch between the level of the water and the bottom of the pot.



A WIDER SAUCER, EASIER, BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE WATER-LEVEL WITHOUT RAISING POT.



SELF WATERING SEED-FLAT ON PAN OF WATER.

Illustrated by Fiffi W. Kline

To be on the safe side, keep your potting mixture light and porous, by the addition of either sand or one of the mica-products. As you get more acquainted with the use of the selfwatering method, you will get the "feel" of it as you go along, just as you have acquired the know-now with top-watering, and you will get to know how large a wick to use in how large a pot. A wick $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter will supply a pot 4 inches in diameter and even larger. Give your plant a light watering after you set it in the pot, then never water it from the top again, as it will be properly supplied with just the right amount of water by your wick.

You can use the self-watering method for flats as well as for pots, and I have found it especially suitable for growing Begonias from seed. I have raised a number of seedlings by this method, and it entirely did away with

Turn to next page

the difficult stage, namely the watering of the tiny seedlings from overhead. As they are supplied with an even and never-failing supply of water, that anxious stage in their growing is avoided as you may be sure that your flat or pot of seedlings will not dry out. FIGURE 3.

Likewise, I am using this system for the propagation of Rex-leaves as well as for rooting cuttings, all of them successfully and with the least amount of worry and care. As the young plants grow you may add weak cow-manure to the water in the saucer, or any other suitable complete plant food, and it will reach the roots of the plant in solution, ready to be absorbed.

Whenever I have a difficult subject to grow it goes into a wick-fed pot and usually proves less difficult. The well-known Calla lily Begonia, often found temperamental, presents no problem at all in a wick-fed pot, and is laden with white leaves and red flowers. I believe that feeding it from below evenly with solution offsets the loss of chlorophyll by the many white leaves. A *B. Ruby Jewell Calla* has made a beautiful specimen by this method, even blooming indeed with double, ruby flowers. *B. Dichroa*, which was a problem-child before, is now showing its satisfaction by bursting out into its lovely orange blossoms. A quite large specimen of *B. Arthur Mallet* has been raised entirely from a leaf by the self-watering system. *B. Elaine*, another one of doubtful reputation has responded by becoming one of the "easy" ones to raise. *B. Gogonensis*, which I have found one of the most difficult in its mysterious requirements, will now be transferred to a wick-fed pot, and so will the *Cheimanthas*. I tried two of these difficult subjects one with and one without wick-feeding and there is a tremendous difference in both depth of color and vigor of growth in favor of the self-watering system. As these *Cheimanthas* seem to want to be grown on the somewhat dry side with me, I use a smaller wick, which will supply water evenly though less abundantly.

One need not be afraid to transfer a plant from an ordinary pot to a self-watering one. Just prepare your wick-fed pot, then spread a layer of the proper soil mixture on the bottom over the wick, remembering to keep it porous, and then repot as usual. Do not firm the soil too much around your plant, rather settle it by that first moderate watering, then set it above its reservoir of water in the saucer. Do not add any fertilizing agent until your plant is well-established in the self watering pot.

Besides Begonias there are many other plants that respond well to this method of culture. Some of the hairy-leaved types that dislike getting their leaves wet, as young *Gloxinias*, *Achimenes* and other *Gesnerias*, do well in

them. I have heard that *Saintpaulias* respond in these pots equally well although I do not grow them myself. On the other extreme, the fleshy leaved *Ceropegias* have grown rapidly from seed in a wick-fed pot, better in every way than their mother plant in an ordinary one.

As I have to leave my plants quite often, this system has been a real plant life-saver to them. Now I pack my bag, leave instructions to keep the saucers filled with water, which may last as long as a week, and go merrily on my way. I have never lost a wick-fed plant yet, even after an absence of three weeks. Don't you think that is worth trying?

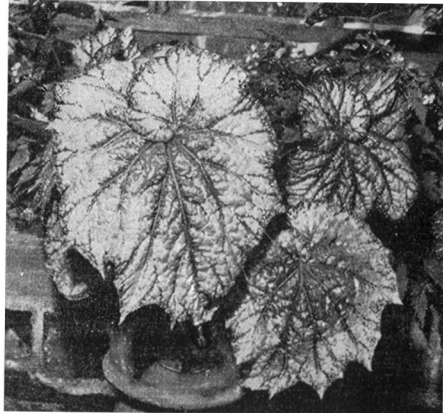


Photo by Chuck Grotzinger
REX DONNA SCOTT

ADVENTURES IN HYBRIDIZING

by Mary B. Choate, Hybridizing Chairman

The Hybridizing Department is very proud to introduce the new and outstanding Begonia seedling pictured above, one of the most beautiful *B. rex cultorum* hybrids that I have seen for some time. Grown by Mrs. Hazel Grigsby of Gardena, California, and named in honor of her mother, *Donna Scott*, this new hybrid is certainly a lovely specimen. Unfortunately, the record of its parentage is incomplete, and we know only that it is an offspring of *B. r.c. Comtesse Louise Erdody*.

This plant is an upright grower, but shows no tendency to branching, with leaf stalks standing erect and measuring over twelve inches in height. The largest leaf on this plant measures thirteen inches across and almost seventeen inches long. The leaves show a lovely chartreuse green with an overlay of silver, and very prominent red veins. The center of the leaves are a darker green, flushed with red, and over the entire surface are long, red hairs. It has a definite spiral at the top and several long points around the edge.

We wish to offer Mrs. Grigsby our congratulations on producing a truly remarkable hybrid.

Wintering Begonias in Kansas

by Lorraine and Edward Wimmer, Manhattan, Kansas

Every year, well before the advent of the first frost, we think of bringing the begonias indoors. Invariably, toward the latter part of September, they always look so much better than they did in August, because of the fall rains and the cooler weather, that we can not bring ourselves to disturb the picture which they present in the lathhouse just outside the kitchen door, and underneath the windows of our porch, where we enjoy them to the fullest extent.

Nearly every year we have left them outside as long as possible, until some day the radio announcer reports a dangerous drop in the temperature for the night. Then, in addition to covering some of the garden plants whose blooming period we wish to prolong, we have had to carry in all of the begonias. Usually some of the plants have not taken kindly to the change of environment. Last year, determined to bring our plants indoors early enough, we started the trek into the interior almost a month earlier than usual.

Our expanding begonia collection necessitated progressively greater facilities for carrying the plants indoor during the winter. At first the plants were kept on the window sills in the living room. However, the sills proved too narrow, and being so near the window, the pots became quite cold during the night, so that they had to be moved away from the window nightly. We found, at this time, that plants which were overwatered, or had poor drainage, were more susceptible to cold than those kept on the dry side.

It wasn't long before additional space had to be provided. This consisted of two double-shelved movable sections made of 1½" stock. Each section was three feet long, and the shelves were ten inches wide. The top shelf was made level with the window sill, while the lower shelf was placed about ten inches from the floor. Painted to match the woodwork, they became an integral part of the room. The two sections were placed at each end of the eight-foot span of the window, and a removable shelf was set on cleats in the intervening space, at about four inches below the level of the sill for purposes of proper balance. The entire arrangement was quite flexible which proved to be very helpful when cleaning. A small table was placed in front of the center shelf, and served as the focal point of the room, for on it could be placed the "plant of the week". The lower shelves have held magazines, jars with germinating

seeds, cuttings, african violets, and other plants more tolerant of lower light intensity.

Plants were arranged on the shelves according to height and light preference. At night the venetian blinds were drawn to cut off heat loss, and to reduce the cold downdraft from the windows. In spite of this we found the pots near the window decidedly cold. We then pulled the shelves several inches away from the window sill edge and noticed an immediate improvement in the temperature conditions around the plants. The cold air moving downward was no longer deflected forward by the top shelf, but could drop down to the floor. Before the winter was over our plants were overflowing into other parts of the house, and we began to make plans for more space for the following year. We decided to install plate glass shelves at a height of about two feet above those at the window sill level. Each shelf was a little longer than the width of the window and about eight inches wide. They were placed on metal brackets which were two inches longer. This two-inch space between the glass shelf and the window edge allowed for raising and lowering of the blinds, and for the downdraft from the window. The middle shelf was placed about two and a half inches lower than the side shelves to correspond with the level of the middle wooden shelf below. Obviously, only the smaller, or the scandent types of begonias were placed on the glass shelves.

We have been wanting to provide trays to fit the lower shelves, so that the pots could be set on a layer of pebbles or "Hadite" (used in orchid culture). This would provide more humidity and at the same time adequate drainage for the plants. We cannot help but stress, what others have mentioned in the *BEGONIAN* before, the beneficial effects of this increased humidity, not only to the plants but to man himself. A recent study explained a fact which has been known for some time. It has been known that a relative humidity of about fifty is most conducive to health. This study showed that at that humidity bacteria and viruses are destroyed, while seemingly they are not affected by other levels of humidity.

Our heating plant is a forced draft, natural gas furnace with thermostatic control, but the humidity supplied by it is not always enough during the winter, and other methods of increasing the humidity have been resorted to.

Turn to next page

One of these was the "glassing in" of the shelf area by means of sheets of cellophane attached hanging down over the front of the plants to the front edge of the glass shelf above and below. In this way the movement of the air over the plants, and thus the loss of water was materially reduced. The cellophane is barely noticeable and forms a miniature greenhouse. It can be removed or lifted as desired. Under it, plants which before were temperamental became quite tractable.

This year we are supplying heat to our north porch, which before could hold begonias only during periods when it was neither too hot nor too cold. A goodly number of begonias have been accommodated on shelves twelve inches wide, placed on orange crates which are stood upright. Since the porch has windows on the three sides the plants get sufficient sunlight. At night the shades are drawn to conserve heat and moisture, since the latter would condense on the cold windows and be lost. We keep the summer bloomers and those that tolerate less light on the porch. The winter bloomers and those demanding more light are kept in the small lean-to greenhouse set against the garage at the back of the lot.

Last year the few rexes we had were kept in a small, glass display case which is two feet on each side. Such a case can often be obtained at a very nominal price and substitutes admirably for a Wardian Case. This year the rexes are larger, and there are more of them, so that they have outgrown the case which is reserved for small starting plants. The rexes have been doing well on the porch where they are placed so as to get the north light. So far, our rexes have not gone dormant.

The question might be raised as to which varieties tolerate or demand certain light intensities and a certain humidity. There are so many factors involved, that it is practically impossible to make any specific statement which might not be found impractical under some other set of conditions. We feel that each individual must find out for himself, what conditions are most favorable for any particular plant, since soil conditions, light and moisture will be such variables. We watch our plants, and when they are growing well we do not move them. If they show a tendency to droop, drop their leaves, stop blooming if in bloom, or show some other symptom of maladjustment, we check up on the temperature and moisture, degree of air movement, and light. We know that a paling of the leaf will indicate either excessive dryness or too much sunlight. If the soil is moist on such a plant, we merely move it out of the sunlight. If it is dry, we give it water and if that is all it needs, we leave it alone. Some of the begonias do better if turned periodically, while others

do best if their growth pattern is not changed.

At intervals, on warm days, the plants from the living room are moved onto the porch and sprayed for pests as a preventative measure. We do not wait until insects have set up house-keeping on a favorite plant. If some plant does become infested with thrips, mites, or aphids, it is at once "quarantined" and not placed with the rest until all signs of infestation are gone. Spray materials include nicotine, sulfur dust, DDT, or chloredane, depending on the infestation. This treatment should be repeated in about two weeks to get any insects which may have been in the egg stage at the time of the previous spraying.

As we have done for many years, excepting those of the war, we were gone for ten days during the Christmas holidays. Our plants survived the lack of care during this time, by being placed in large trays on card tables and set before the window to get the most light. However, the blinds were adjusted so that no strong noonday light would scorch any plant. The trays we used were large ones used in developing photographic prints. Any tray could be used, and if none were available, a satisfactory substitute could be made by nailing a wooden frame together of the appropriate size and setting a large piece of oilcloth, rubber

Turn to page 209

SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS

ALL ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS, by Montague Free, Publ. by Doubleday, \$3.50.

No doubt Begonias are your hobby, but invariably you will be attracted by another type plant and then possibly another, which enables you to have an interesting collection of 'house' plants. These need not necessarily be grown in the 'house' all year 'round, although you may class them as 'house' plants. This book containing 345 pages with 27 color plates and 47 pages of fine pictures, will help you care for any of the plants you would like to grow in your home. The leaf propagation of Begonias is well pictured and I recommend this volume for successful indoor culture of your various plants.

FAVORITE RECIPES, Publ. by the Hollywood Branch of the A. B. S., \$1.00.

You may wonder why a recipe book is reviewed in this column, but on examination you will realize these *Favorite Recipes* fit very well into a sheltered garden pattern. They are all tested recipes and have been shared in this manner, due to the requests voiced at various potluck suppers. This is a 48 page booklet, spiral bound, with a nice gloss-finish cover, containing a well balanced assortment of recipes. Hollywood Branch is to be commended for this fine cook book with its many splendid recipes.—Frank H. Overton.



Courtesy of Scott Haselton

EPIPHYLLUM OXYPETALUM

Epiphyllums and Orchid Cacti

by Mrs. Cactus Pete, Los Angeles, Calif.

Early European botanists, exploring the luxuriant jungles of the New World, in search of unusual botanical specimens, found wondrous plants growing high in the jungle trees with habits of the orchid. They hung pendant with flowers seemingly borne from the ends of the leaves. These plants produced huge white flowers, some with a lily-like fragrance, but mostly blooming at night.

In 1812, the great botanist Haworth described this plan genus as *Epiphyllum* and gave a rather complete description of its first species as *Epiphyllum phyllanthus*. Not much attention was paid to this and in 1831, the botanist Link described the genus as *phyllocactus*, which name was generally accepted throughout the Old World.

Only a few of the wild species had been brought to the United States. These happened to be mostly night-blooming and were soon known as "Night Blooming Cereus" although they were actually far from being a true *Cereus*, as "Queen of the Night" is *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*—a true *Epiphyllum*.

In the meantime, European botanists were intrigued by the size and fragrance of these new flowers. All they lacked was color and soon it was found that these plants could be cross-pollinated with some of the brighter hued cacti and thus, through hybridization, they introduced a new world of color.

In America, we were becoming more botanically minded. We became interested in these

European hybrids, but only to the extent of importing them and thus enjoying their work. Cuttings or plants imported from Europe, arrived here in bad shape. No one seemed to know just how to grow them and much experimentation was necessary. Most of the early collectors were forced to graft their plants on sturdy cacti in order to make them live, for we had not realized that these were true jungle plants.

The American botanists, Britton and Rose, began their research on these plants and in 1923, they re-established Haworth's original name of *Epiphyllum*, which actually held precedence over the name *Phyllocactus*. Thus, in America, we finally gave complete recognition to our own jungle-born cacti for the name *Epiphyllum* is now recognized throughout the entire world.

In California, the climate was most ideal, in fact far superior to that of Europe, where so much had already been accomplished. The hybrid *Epiphyllums* had taken the fancy of two very sincere and earnest gentlemen, Mr. H. M. Wegener of Los Angeles and Dr. R. W. Poindexter of nearby Compton. First they worked with European imports, but were not satisfied for long, and soon they had produced many original hybrids of their own.

Through their work and that of Dr. A. D. Houghton of San Fernando, these hybrids were introduced to a flower hungry public. Soon

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these Orchid Cacti, as the hybrids are generally called, were grown in California on a large commercial scale and shipped to all parts of the world. American grown hybrids are equal to and often surpass those developed in Europe.

Once a worthwhile hybrid had been established, the propagation of that particular one is easy. Like many other cacti, the Orchid Cactus grows easily from a cutting. Flowers of plants thus grown will run true to color in shape and size.

They are unlike most tropical plants, for even though sorely neglected or given the very minimum of care, your Orchid Cactus, will reward you most generously. Their beautiful flowers with hues of the rainbow, will bring you just a bit closer to heaven itself, for they will make you feel that at last, you have found the "Rainbow's End".

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

MICHIGAN . . . Propagate rhizomatous begonias by cutting sections of the rhizome (part way through) and laying the rhizome (cut side down) on the rooting medium, covering only the root end.

MASSACHUSETTS . . . Culture for *B. Marjorie Gibbs* in the east, use tin can for container. Puncture holes in the bottom and along the sides near the bottom. Use medium of 1/3 leaf mold (sifted through 1/2 inch screen), 1/3 washed sand and 1/3 garden soil, a bit of old cow manure and a sprinkle of bone meal. Keep the begonia in a north window and keep *moist* with warm rain-water.

OHIO . . . *B. foliosa* care. Plant in pot having good drainage. Place the pot in a container in which the bottom is filled with broken pottery or pebbles. Keep water in the container, barely to the top of pebbles and place in east window. This method assures the required moisture but does not keep the roots of the plant wet.

MARYLAND . . . Makes her own plant trays from pieces of aluminum purchased from the hardware store. Miter the corners without cutting them. Very reasonable and serves the purpose as well as the expensive ready-made trays.

KANSAS . . . Places the male blossom in a small container and keeps it in the lower section of the refrigerator for a few days to develop pollen in the blossoms that give pollen with difficulty. Pollen may be sent by mail if wrapped in waxed paper or cellophane and should stay viable for sometime, if it is dried-off before mailing.

CALIFORNIA . . . To acclimate a newly acquired begonia, place under a bell glass, removing the glass each day, increasing the time off until the plant has gained strength.

BEGONIA IMPERIALIS x DAYII

by Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

There are six distinct plants from this cross. Some are silver marked green, some silver marked on bronzy green, some have green and some red on the underside of the leaves.



Photo by Bill Bayer

BEGONIA IMPERIALIS x DAYII

As the cross suggests, these plants are rhizomatous. The rhizome is about half the size of Dayii and like both parents, creeps along the ground, rooting at each joint.

The leaves are about four inches across, almost round, but ending in a sharp point. The veins are quite depressed on the upper surface and the smaller veins are quite prominent, giving the leaf a crepey effect. The surface of the leaf is covered with short white hairs but it does not retain the velvety appearance of Imperialis. Neither of the specimens that I have seen have retained the broad brown area around the veins of Dayii.

The flowers are white, extending well above the foliage and it remains in bloom for a long period of time.

This plant should make a good house plant but may require a little more warmth than other begonias. It retains its leaves for a long period of time and one is scarcely conscious of the rhizome as it is always well hidden under a bountiful supply of leaves. As the leaves mature and fall, they are quickly replaced with new growth.

Editor's note: The two distinctive plants grown by Mrs. Marie Turner are from the same cross. See cover picture, also.

It is a slow, gradual process, but very satisfactory in acclimating rex begonias.

A Chat on Philodendrons

by Floyd E. Neff of Shangri-la Nursery, Compton, Calif.

There are two hundred and twenty-two species of Philodendron and about twice that number of hybrids, many of which are not well known. Their habitat is confined to tropical and subtropical America. The plants are all more or less woody climbers, bearing thick leaves either entire or pinnately cut, some with fibrous petioles or leaf-stems. Some species have aerial roots alone, while some have both feeding roots (which penetrate the soil) and clasping aerial roots (which cling to the trees or branches) and some are vines, while others have tall, woody, erect stems.

The flowers of the Philodendron are the most showy part of the plant, but few of us have seen the blossoms because it is difficult to supply the plant's requirements enabling them to bloom. The flowers are borne on erect spikes, called a spadix, with staminate flowers above and pistillate flowers below. The spadix is enclosed by a fleshy leaf or leaves called a spathe, usually longer than the spadix.

It is the spathe which is the most attractive part of the flower and ranges in color from white to yellow and through various shades of red and purple. The fruit of the Philodendron is a berry, borne tightly on the spadix.

However, we who grow Philodendrons, raise them for the fine foliage they make for indoor use. As house plants they seldom get out of hand, although they appreciate ample growing space and give generously of their beauty, with moderate care and attention. They will not survive the indifferent treatment usually accorded *Philodendron cordatum*. This variety persists under the most adverse growing conditions and will bring living green to many dark corners. In addition to this popular vine so often used on totem poles and also in planters, the genus offers other species of greater size and flamboyancy. Although they are little known, they are worthy subjects for the window garden and offer much beauty in return for a reasonable amount of care.

I am often asked why the large leaf types are so expensive. Philodendrons are usually propagated from seed or from stem cuttings, not from the leaf or roots, as many other plants. Thus it requires a large specimen to be used for propagation. The cuttings or seed have to be grown under glass and bottom heat is necessary. The plant has to be kept growing at all times which means often transplanting into larger pots and entails much handling of the plants. With *P. cordatum*, it is unnecessary to move the plant from the pot in which it is rooted and does not need bottom heat. The larger types

are also different in that the first five to eight leaves of a stem cuttings are not true to the parent plant, but resemble a large *P. cordatum* leaf. Before a split leaf or a matured leaf appears they are from six months to a year or more old. When buying a large type Philodendron, we like to see the matured leaves. *P. cordatum* is usually available one or two months after rooting. This should answer the question of comparative prices.

In regards to feeding your Philodendron, use a good balanced liquid fertilizer once every six weeks and repot when necessary.

I like a potting soil consisting of two parts loam, two parts leaf mold, two parts dried cow manure, one half part builder's sand, one eighth part fish meal or cotton seed meal and two parts osmunda or spent green moss, screened. Water copiously and supply ample drainage material. Warmth and moist atmosphere will produce healthier, larger specimens. Supply a support for the plants, as Philodendron is a word taken from the Greek language meaning "tree loving" and is an allusion to their nearly universal habit of climbing trees.

The best way to grow good Philodendrons or any house plant, is to study the variety and consult a grower, and then use good common sense. Do not try every suggestion offered by friends or neighbors as quite often the best ideas offered are only ideas and are usually detrimental to the plant. I refer to ideas such as cleaning the leaves with olive oil, butter, baby oil, vaseline or washing off the plant with warm water and soap, putting the plant out doors to give it a good sunning, moving them from one location to another after it has become accustomed to one place, and equally useless schemes. I have seen all of these tried and have had plants brought to me to try to 'bring back' to good health. I use *sweet milk* to clean the leaves and only on the *top side* of the leaves.

If you will get your dictionary and open it to the page showing 'leaf shapes', we will discuss the various types of Philodendron. I am sure this will help you understand the *why* of the names and better visualize what they look like. We shall take the ones most often seen.

In most cases the name is found by its leaf type, as cordate for *P. cordatum*. This is the small leaf plant one sees so often in planters and on totem poles. It will grow in almost any type of medium such as water, good potting mixtures, peat moss or plain old dirt.

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PHILODENDRON pertusum or *monstera deliciosa* is one of the few split-leaf types seen growing outdoors as entrance subjects in California or Florida. It is a good climber, has large deep green split-leaves, growing two to three feet wide and two feet or more long, when matured. Well established plants will bloom and set seed, the spathe is creamy white, the spadix is coral pink and the seed brown. The plant is a native of Mexico and South America.

P. giganteum is a climber with slip-leaf, like *pertusum*, the leaves often measuring three feet long and two feet wide. It tends to spread rather than vine. The leaves are referred to as broadly cordate-ovate and split, distinguished from *pertusum* by the ridges or horns found at the intersection of the leaf stem or at the leaf axil. The spathes are ten inches long and light green in color, the spadix or tube purplish outside and red within. It comes from the West Indies.

P. grandifolium is a climber with arrow-shaped leaves more or less cordate-acute shaped, growing to two feet long and fourteen inches wide with light silver-green edging around each leaf. The spathe is four inches long, pale greenish-yellow outside and yellowish-white inside. This one comes from Venezuela and Guiana.

P. dubia, *Monstera dubia* or *Marcgravia paradoxa* is the same plant. It is outstanding for its finger or deeply cut-leaf shape. It is a good type for indoor use, with deep dark-green leaves. The leaf blade is oblong to two and one half inches long, pinnatisect, the segm. linear to one and one half inches wide, acute, the spadix to one foot long and two inches thick and very showy. This is found in Mexico and Central America.

P. eurbescens is also a climber and has a leaf ten inches long and five inches wide. The leaf is heart-shaped or ovate-triangular, somewhat like *P. cordatum*, only much larger. A red tinge with high glossy finish prevails throughout the leaf's green color. The trunk or stems are silver white as it ages, giving an unusually rich appearance. The spathes are six inches long and dark purple. This Philodendron is found in Colombia and should find a place in every home.

P. hastatum is a spreading, rather than climbing type. The leaves are hastate-acute, two feet long and fifteen inches wide, more or less arrowhead shaped. This is a good one for specimen use, has light green and silver edged leaves. The spathes grow to five inches long and are brownish-green. It is a native of Puerto Rico and Paraguay.

P. lacerum has leaves with petioles up to fourteen inches long and much dissected blades

up to twelve inches long. The lobes of the leaves are oblong-obtuse or acute. This is a good type to use with the heart shaped types, such as *P. eurbescens*.

The spathe is slender, five inches long, with tube purple, limb yellowish and spadix one and one half inches long. It is a native of Cuba.

P. tripartitum has leaves in three parts up to ten inches long and three inches wide, is yellowish-green in color. It is a climber although the distance between the leaves is too great for beauty. The spathe is four inches long and whitish in color. It is a native of tropical America.

P. verrucosum has leaves that are ovate-cordate up to eight inches long and six inches wide, shining green above with paler lines and sunken nerves, lined with salmon/violet beneath. The petioles are deep red and armed with bristles, the spathe is purplish. It is found in Costa Rica and Colombia.

P. imbe, its leaves are auriculate-acute, somewhat like *P. hastatum*, only more elongated. They are red underneath at the base and deep green, a good climber, used in background plantings. The flower and its origin is unknown, but thought to be from Central America.

P. micans has leaves that are oblong-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, up to three inches long. The base is cordate, variegated red and green, the petiole three inches long and reddish. It is a leggy climber from Central America.

P. Mamei has cordate-ovate leaves to ten inches long and six inches wide, deep green above, irregularly marked with silvery-white and pinkish petioles. It is a native of Ecuador.

P. scandens has leaves that are ten inches long, cordate, with petiole to four inches long, juvenile leaves reddish, matured leaves green, usually with five or six pairs of prominent veins. It is a good climbing vine found in Puerto Rico and Brazil.

The above group will give you some idea of the extent of varieties. The following types are also very good types and should find a place in your collection; *P. auritum*, *P. sagalifolia*, *P. trifoliatum*, *P. nicodome*, *P. belocophellum*, *P. elegantissimum*, *P. argyreus* and *P. laciniatum*.

In closing let me say, "Once you get the *Philo bug* you will always be on the lookout for new and different types, to add to your collection".

If possible, ascertain the natural history of its habitat and you will find growing them in a like manner will repay you in their beauty.

If you have enjoyed this chat, I am happy and shall look forward to meeting you some day and talking more, on my favorite subject.

The Gesneria Family

by Carolyn Rector, San Pedro, Calif.

The *Acanthonema* is a monotypic genus from tropical Africa, which looks very much like a *Streptocarpus*. Although it was grown in greenhouses in Europe before the war it is practically unknown in this country. It is not a very showy plant, but is a rather pretty perennial with small flowers, dark purple and white, in panicles averaging two inches in height, arising from the base of a solitary, prostrate, oblong leaf.

The *Aeschynanthus*, as it was formerly known, is now called *Trichosporum* and is frequently found in private collections, especially in California where it is grown in lath-houses and sheltered gardens as a basket plant. It is a very beautiful trailing vine, with strong stems and shiny leaves. It can be grown in a good *Begonia* soil mixture if plenty of leaf mold is included and must be sheltered in winter, as it is tender to frost. Under favorable conditions it will produce blossoms in the leaf axils. These are, with one exception, very bright and showy.

There are several varieties grown here, *Trichosporum Boschianum* with bright scarlet flowers, *T. Lobbianum* and *T. pulchrum* with yellow-throated scarlet blooms and the rather rare *T. marmoratum* with green flowers spotted with brown.

The genus *Agalmyla* was at one time grown by a few private collectors in England and America, but is almost unknown here, now. It contains only three species, all tender greenhouse climbers from Java and Sumatra. Very little is known about its culture, except that it is always grown as a basket plant. It has simple, alternate leaves, and bunches of rather small flowers in the leaf axils.

Alloplectus also are seldom seen. They are tender tropical plants, with tubular, axillary flowers and opposite leaves. One leaf in each pair is smaller than the other. The under surface of the leaves is red or purplish. *A. repens* is a trailer from the East Indies, flower has a pale green calyx blotched with purple, while the corolla is yellow tinged with red.

Asparsiiflorus is a shrubby plant from Brazil, with red veined leaves, and blossoms having a dark blood-red or purple calyx and a hairy yellow corolla. *A. Schlimii* is also a shrubby plant from South America. The upper side of the leaves are green, under side violet. The flowers are axillary, in pairs, with calyx purple spotted with green, corolla yellow above, scarlet below, shading into violet.

Chiritas, mostly from India, are rather rare here, but are grown to some extent by fanciers.

The genus contains some 100 species, mostly herbs or low undershrubs. They are very handsome plants, somewhat like a *Streptocarpus* or certain types of *Gloxinia*, with trumpet shaped flowers of pink, blue, purple or pale yellow. Culture same as *Gloxinias*, and mostly grown from seeds. A variegated form is known, but is very rare.

Codonanthe is known to have been brought to this country from England, but apparently is not being grown here at present. It is a twining or trailing plant from Asia, with showy bell-shaped flowers of blue, white or a greenish color. It has tuberous rhizomes and is more or less hardy in mild climates. At one time, eighteen to twenty species were grown in England.

Columnneas are very handsome epiphytic trailers, usually grown as basket plants, with very showy flowers. They are ever-green and must be grown in a warm house. Should have plenty of light and humidity, but little or no sun. There are about 100 species, of which six are grown in the greenhouses of Europe. The writer knows of only two species grown here: *C. gloriosa* from Costa Rica, with scarlet and yellow flowers, and *C. Schiedeana* from Mexico, with scarlet flowers sometimes variegated with yellow.

The genus *Conandron* consists of only one species, *ramondiodes*, from the mountains of Japan. As might be expected from their habitat, they are quite hardy. A tuberous rooted herb, with oblong irregularly toothed leaves, almost stemless and scapes of six to twelve white or purple flowers. Treat like *Streptocarpus* and keep in the shade.

Editor's note: Additional material on the Gesneria Family will be found in the August *BEGONIAN*, page 174. Any information on the possible source of the seeds of the Gesnerias, will be welcomed by the Editor.

The January 1949 issue of the official publication of the American Horticultural Society, has 17 full pages of exceptional photographs of Achimenes. See page 187 in the August *BEGONIAN* for particulars regarding membership in this Society.

Occasionally take your plants to the kitchen sink, this winter and give them a bath in *tepid* water.

A common fault in transplanting is to plant in too large a pot. The soil often becomes sour due to more water around the root area, then the plant can absorb.

Begonias By The Dozen

by Lena L. Schlafer, German Valley, Illinois

Begonias, tempters of plant loving humans, are continuous in giving daily of their interesting growth and habits. They arouse the interest of even the most placid individual.

I am another one of those amateurs who became a 'begonia enthusiast' through the love for beautiful flowers and plant structure, yet find it difficult to learn to 'speak their language'. However, they have given me much pleasure and although it involves extra work, they more than compensate for this by their exotic beauty.

It is seldom that we see articles from northern Illinois about begonias. Our climate forces us to use begonias only as house plants, with the exception of some of the semperflorens bedding varieties. I have taken the fact that the average home is too dry, as a challenge, and find that by keeping containers filled with water on our registers, spraying plants and keeping a fairly even temperature, good results are obtained.

My special love is for the Rexes and large leaved varieties. The Rexes are a little difficult but the reward of a nice plant is sufficient.

Last spring, I made my own propagating terrarium (case) and found it successful. I took my large aquarium and stand out of storage in the attic and moved it to a sun porch with a southern exposure, but set it back from the windows where only filtered sunlight would reach it. I put a wired fixture and bulb, in the approximate center, underneath the slate bottom. Then I surrounded the entire metal stand with an old oilcloth, to keep all the heat directly under the aquarium. I used a 40 watt globe and this gave me a nice, even temperature inside the aquarium.

I filled metal, dime store baking pans, first with a layer of coarse gravel, then with a mixture of sharp sand and peat moss. (About 10 parts sand to one of the peat moss.) I did not even punch holes in the pans for drainage, as they never took much water and the thick layer of gravel was sufficient drainage.

In these pans, I inserted leaves of *Begonia carol star*, *B. ricinifolia*, *r.c. silver sweet*, *r.c. black diamond*, *r.c. Helen Lewis* and others. These were single, well developed leaves with about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of stems, left on. The stems should be cut with a sharp knife, so as not to crush them. I inserted these to a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, (or up to where the leaf begins) watered them until all the sand was moist and placed the pans on little wood slats on the base of the aquarium. I used an old window pane to

cover the aquarium, leaving a small space at each end for ventilation. The results were far beyond my expectations, for in about ten weeks I had nice, sturdy plants ready to be potted.

I also used this 'miniature greenhouse' to root cuttings and in a short time had established plants of *B. scarlet geneva*, *B. tea rose*, *B. odorata alba* and even *B. alto de serra*. The bottom heat causes them to develop better root systems and the results are 'better plants'.

From odd boards and a few two by fours, I built a lathhouse last spring, on an old, unused cement floor on the north side of the house. Boarding the sides up about three feet from the floor, and using some old R. V. Lites, (we had used for storm sash) to cover the upper half of the lathhouse, I had both ample light and wind protection for the plants. The top was lathed with old lath set apart about the width of a lath. The finished house measured about six by twelve feet.

I worked over some old chicken feeders, for plant benches, and the entire structure cost only the price of the two by fours and the time it took to build it, which was only one day. It has given me a wealth of enjoyment even if it can only be used during the short summer months.

By giving the rexes the shadiest side of the lathhouse, they grew into beautiful specimens, unknown to our northern climate.

I use a hose to spray the entire building every day, soaking the inside and the top well, which helps keep the air moist throughout the entire day.

Pleasure? There are no words to describe the satisfaction and fulfillment of a driving urge to grow things.

I hope some of you may get an inspiration from my story, that with a little ingenuity and a will, there is always a way, and your efforts are compensated a thousand fold when you behold your results—begonias by the dozen!

There are some exceptional offers in our magazine this month. Our advertisers make our magazine possible, so why not place your order now, for those long-wanted items. Be sure to mention the *BEGONIAN* when writing to these loyal advertisers.

Membership placards may be displayed in your garden or 'show place' of your shade plants, at a small cost. Send twenty five cents to the Editor, for two. These are for members only, as membership in the A.B.S. is something to be proud of, this card is proof.

Personalities Of The Begonia World

Although Rudolf Ziesenhenné has been engaged in the begonia nursery business in Santa Barbara, California, since 1934, his greatest interest is in the scientific study of the genus Begonia.



The begonia Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné is holding is C-62, found in Southern Mexico by Thomas MacDougall in 1948.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, the 38-year old begonia specialist attended Woodrow Wilson High School, Long Beach, and was graduated from Long Beach Junior College in June 1933. Mr. Ziesenhenné and Miss Margaret B. Selover were married in Santa Barbara on July 16, 1933. They have two sons, Henry, aged 11, and Fred, aged 3.

Mr. Ziesenhenné's interest in growing begonias dated from a visit in 1933 to the Miller Begonia Garden, Westminster, California, where he purchased from the saving of his \$4 a week gardening job the Rexes *Lesoulsi* and *Rubena*. He was encouraged in his interest by his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Selover who gave him a start of their magnificent specimen of *B. heracleifolia nigricans*, and by his sister, Miss Edna Ziesenhenné.

Among those whose lovely begonia plants inspired him were Hattie Worden and Alice Murphy, Santa Barbara's begonia "Twins", Montalvo Gardens and Connie Bowers of San Diego, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fleitz of Ojai, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Weitz of Ventura, and Mrs. Elsie M. Frey of Santa Barbara. Through purchases and "swaps" with these begonia lovers, and through arrangements with T. H. Everett of New York Botanical Gardens and Dr.

Thomas H. Goodspeed of the University of California, and others, the Ziesenhenné collection was built up.

Many interesting introductions to begonia lovers have been made possible through Mr. Ziesenhenné's association with Mr. Thomas MacDougall of New York, whose annual trips to the wilds of Mexico have been very fruitful. Among the most outstanding of these are *Mazae*, and *MacDougalli*, which Mr. Ziesenhenné named for the plant explorer.

Mr. Ziesenhenné's scientific interest in the genus Begonia was encouraged by the late Dr. Arthur D. Houghton, who had researched in the genus at the University of California. Dr. Houghton gave many hours to Mr. Ziesenhenné and furnished him with information as to source materials. He also recommended Mr. Ziesenhenné for membership in the Royal Horticultural Society.

Besides maintaining a living "herbarium" of every available species of the genus Begonia, Mr. Ziesenhenné is making a collection of herbarium specimens which will aid in co-operation with scientific institutions. He has collected every known writing on begonias and has photographs of herbarium specimens from the principal begonia herbariums.

Mr. Ziesenhenné has recently been aided in the financing of his research through a donation of a Southern California research organization and a friend who has made available to him a microscope for study of cell structure, etc., of the begonias.

In addition to his work in importing the new species of begonias, Mr. Ziesenhenné is using them in hybridizing to create new begonias. Among his outstanding hybrid introductions are Joe Hayden, Freddie, and Skeezer.

Editor's Note: It is with pleasure, we present Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné, the most outstanding Begonia authority of our day. Those of us enjoying this Royal Hobby are always keenly interested in any and all of Mr. Ziesenhenné's introductions and hybrids. May we continue to enjoy this keen anticipation for years to come.

BEGONIA SPECIES C.64

A rhizomatous grower, the entire plant covered with long hairs \$1.50 each, F.O.B. Santa Barbara.

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.



Photo by Rivera

BEGONIAN STAFF—Top row—Frank S. Moore, Peggy Sullivan, Frank H. Overton, Front row, Mrs. Gladys C. Nolan, Mrs. Dorothy S. Behrends, Dr. W. C. Drummond.

My Pet Peeve

by Paula Hoisington, Muskogee, Oklahoma

"You must have a GREEN THUMB!" This is the exclamation my friends make when they view my lathhouse and its pretty interior of many and varied potted plants.

During three years of Begonia growing, I have learned it takes considerably more than a superstitious *Green Thumb* to raise a plant from seed or leaf cutting. It takes a wealth of patience to keep a matured plant going under adverse conditions.

I started my collection with one *Corallina* which was found in an apartment we had rented. Then months later we moved into our new home. The plants were placed in our large picture window facing east, in aluminum trays size 1" by 12" by 8' long.

Someone suggested to me that my plants should be out of doors during the summer. I tried this and noticed in 2 or 3 days that my *Corallinas* were developing transparent, brown spots. Then gradually the leaves started dropping off, one by one. I managed to obtain a cutting, before all my *Corallinas* went off to Begonia heaven. I decided then and there that it would take more than just a *Green Thumb*. It would take some genuine knowledge on the subject of Begonias. I purchased two of the most popular books on Begonias. I studied them from cover to cover and much to my amazement I discovered there were literally thousands of Begonias. I found they were not dependent on a *green thumb*, but upon a thorough knowledge of their likes and dislikes. For instance, conditions which keep one Begonia happy may kill another. I did find that

I had to learn about temperature, humidity, light, water, the application of plant food, how to mix the soil and other things. Like children, they will not all respond under the same treatment or in the same environment.

It has been proven that the ideal summertime arrangement of Begonias out of doors is in a lathhouse. I have one which is six by eight feet and about seven feet in height. It is full of Begonias and pretty, if I may say so. In all truth now, I really do not have what is known as a *Green Thumb*, it is really the fact that I have studied and studied almost everything I could find about Begonias. I love to spend most of my time just catering to their individual requirements. It is not work, for I enjoy every minute of it. I am amply repaid for all my time and effort many times over when I see the beautiful varied colored leaves. Some are like *Moiré*. So many different kinds of leaves, some tall and majestic, others, particularly *B. Sachen*, reminds me of a cuddly plump child because it grows so compact. When in bloom they are so gay. Then I am truly glad that I have learned a little of their habits and desires instead of just depending on that superstitious non-existing *Green-Thumb*.

JENSEN'S BEGONIAS

ALL TYPES

GROWN FROM BLUE RIBBON STOCK

VISITORS WELCOME

9515 E. Flower St.

Bellflower, Calif.

LIBRARY NOTES

I would like to again call the attention of the members of the A. B. S. to the fine article "Begonias for the Window Garden" by Bessie R. Buxton which appeared in the March and June issues of Organic Gardening. Copies of both issues are available for loan upon request.

The supply of pamphlets on *Tuberous Begonias* by John F. Woolman has arrived from England and will be \$0.40 each. Will be glad to fill your requests as they are received.

The book by Montague Free—*All About House Plants*, reviewed in this issue, has been purchased for the library and should prove of great value to all interested in growing begonias and other plants indoors.

The waiting list for *Orchids are Easy to Grow*, by Logan and Cosper, is growing longer daily and I must ask your indulgence since, at present, only one copy is available for circulation but I hope to remedy this situation at an early date. Please bear with me and I will fill your requests in their turn—Gladys C. Nolan, *Librarian*.

WINTERING, cont. from p. 200

sheeting, or plastic cloth inside so as to form a tray. We used a vermiculite in our trays to supply moisture while we were gone and the space around the pots was filled with sphagnum. Vermiculite is light and holds more water than sand and we use it because of these advantages. Sand, Peat, or any other water retaining material could be used. However, the plants should not stand in water.

We placed a sheet of cellophane over each tray of plants so as to reduce evaporation from the leaf surfaces. The sides were kept open to allow for air circulation. The soil in the pots was well soaked before the plants were placed in the trays, and even though they were fairly well crowded, they did not seem to suffer from this lack of care. The thermostat was set at 65° and we did not worry about the plants while we were gone. The plants in the greenhouse were watered well before we left and several gallon cans of water were placed over the gas burner to provide humidity. While some of the plants were quite dry on our return, none were wilted and none showed any ill effects of this lack of attention. Perhaps a longer period of neglect might have had disastrous effects. We hesitate to experiment to find out how long they would tolerate neglect.

We derive a keen enjoyment and relaxation from our begonias. Visitors sometimes complain that they find begonias messy, that faded flowers and pods drop off and must be picked up. But we find that this is quickly done with the attachments of the vacuum cleaner. Our



Armchair Explorers

September Newsletter

At this time of year I always mix up peat-moss and steer fertilizer and spread quite thickly over flower beds and around potted plants. Again in the spring, I put on fertilizer. Keep up with heavy watering during warm weather. If you are not saving seeds, then carefully cut off dead flowers and seed pods from your plants to conserve their strength. September is a good time to do some greenhouse cleaning.

My tuberous begonias are in full bloom now, seedlings in flats are ready for transplanting to the open beds. My greenhouse is undergoing quite a change for I have had to make it smaller, which seemed impossible. Right now work of building a shaded patio in the back yard is in progress with tile and rock-work. Many of the less tender greenhouse plants will be moved out to this patio where everyone may enjoy them. My idea is to make my yard and garden into something of beauty and to do away with the hospital and nursery type of flower garden I have had. I have long ago stopped trying to grow every kind of begonia known, and have given up the most delicate types for more hardy ones since I have come to the conclusion that a robust, well grown plant is worth many sickly, delicate ones, even if they are rare.

The botanical name of the wood roses is *Ipomoea Tuberosa*, it is of the morning glory family, makes an attractive vine and should be grown where it can be given winter protection. I have seeds at 3 for 25c. Still available are the African seeds listed last month and the only thing new is pink slipper gloxinia seeds 25c.

I hope many of you were able to enjoy the Ventura convention with us, will tell you all about it next month.

Cheerio,

your Skipper,

Florence Carrell

satisfaction is complete, when in the winter we look at a blizzard raging outside, and as we do so we see that we have captured Spring on our window shelves.

IT HAS BEEN SAID

That ferns grown in baskets lined with sphagnum moss, should not be allowed to dry out. Once they become dry, they are difficult to moisten again unless immersed in a container of water.

When ferns are grown in baskets, particularly in greenhouses, watch for mealy bugs. Occasionally use a small but forceful spray of clear water to knock them off.

You may still make cuttings of *Begonia Abel Carrierei*. Simply place a leaf with a long petiol (stem) in sand or a rooting medium. Do not insert too deep, so that the leaf touches this medium.

Before a plant can absorb any plant food, the fertilizer must be in solution. Most commercial fertilizers can be made into liquid form.

The rex begonia leaf cuttings like a cool place of high humidity. They do not need too much light. Use clean, sharp sand, sand and soilite or soilite alone. Keep rooting material moist, not *wet*.

The successful propagation of begonia cuttings is often due to a cutting from a healthy plant.

PETALUMA BRANCH: Were fortunate in having Mr. Arthur Mann of the San Francisco Branch as their speaker in July. He spoke on fuchsias, and brought many specimens to demonstrate his talk. He told of the various chemicals he uses in forcing growth and enriching the color. Refreshments and a lively plant sale climaxed the very interesting evening.
Elizabeth Schlener, *Secretary*

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH: Had a pot-luck supper in Rohner Park in Fortuna, in July. About forty members and guests were present and a huge fire was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Sidney Armer, noted writer and painter was the guest speaker. Mrs. Armer has traveled extensively in Mexico and told of seeing many begonias growing in the wilderness. Mrs. Christine Kemp and her committee were hostesses for the evening.
Mrs. Violet Wooden, *Historian*

GEORGIA PEAT

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SALEM BRANCH: Held their second outdoor meeting of the season on August 4th. The picnic supper was held in the garden of Mrs. E. C. Cazzell, with sixty members and friends in attendance. A Flower Hat Parade preceded the supper, with fines levied against all members not wearing a self-fashioned flower hat. Our president, Al Clark won first prize with a begonia be-decked helmet and Mrs. H. Taylor of Falls City won second place with her begonia and pansy turban. A discussion of growing begonias from seed and a display of the begonias grown from seed distributed at our first meeting, was held after supper. Other interesting information was shared preceding the showing of the slides from the A. B. S. Library.
Miss Ellen Quail, *Secretary*

FOOTHILL BRANCH: Regretfully accepted the resignation of Col. J. Mattison, president and duly appointed Mrs. Betha Whisler to succeed him.
Edwin O. Williams, *Publicity*

IN MEMORIAM WILLIAM C. HETH

It is with sincere regret that we of the Foothill Branch, announce the untimely passing of our beloved friend, William C. Heth, on Monday, August 1, 1949.

"Bill", as he was affectionately known by all, was an ardent lover of begonias and fuchsias, and he was one of those who was instrumental in forming the Foothill Branch, of which he was a charter member. He served as the Branch's first President for two consecutive years, and was Vice President at the time of his death.

Born in Azusa, California, October 7, 1902, he was continually active in various organizations in this and neighboring communities, having served also as Past President of the Rosemead Fuchsia Society. The quick wit and humor, and friendly smile Bill Heth had for everyone will be cherished memories of all those who knew him.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Heth and daughter, Wendy.

Edwin O. Williams

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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH: Had Frank Reinelt as their guest speaker in July, and as he is known wherever Tuberous Begonias are grown, (this means all over the world), we considered it to be a great privilege that Mr. Reinelt consented to take time off during his busy season to come all the way to San Francisco to address our members.

He gave a brief history on the culture of *Tuberhybrida* in the United States as well as a few details of his own accomplishments in this field.

"I can talk about Tuberous Begonias the whole night", said Mr. Reinelt, "even though I have a sore throat. However, I would prefer that you tell me your problems and I shall try to assist you." The membership eagerly took advantage of this offer and bombarded him with questions for over an hour. To each question he gave a detailed answer based on many years of practical experience in raising and hybridizing Tuberous Begonias in our area.

The meeting was widely publicized in the local press and attracted many members from other branches in the Bay area as well as numerous visitors. Ira Allyn presided after an absence of five months because of illness. During his absence the preceding four meetings were very capably conducted by Arthur (Art) Mann, our young and energetic Vice-President and Program Chairman.

Mrs. Lillian Ashe, *Director*

INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL CONGRESS

The American Horticultural Council, Inc., will hold an International Horticultural Congress at the Essex House in New York City, October 30, 31 and November 1. This is of extreme importance to Single Plant Societies. Any A. B. S. member able to attend this conference is urged to write to the president of the American Begonia Society for particulars.

FAVORITE RECIPES

... compiled by members of the Hollywood Branch of the American Begonia Society is now available. Attractive glossy cover, moisture resistant, with Wire-O binding permitting the book to lay flat when open. Price \$1.10 postpaid.

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GLENDALE BRANCH: Were fortunate in having Mr. Alfred W. Roberts of the Roberts Subtropical Gardens in West Los Angeles and teacher in charge of the Horticulture Classes at the University High School as their speaker in July. His subject was Ferns, of which Mr. Roberts is an outstanding authority.

There was an overflow meeting with visitors from many other Branches and every one went home with the satisfaction of learning much from a speaker who knows his subject.

There was the usual plant sale and door prize. During the social hour coffee and cookies were served, when a good time was had by all.

Isabel Mullen, *Press Chairman*

EAST BAY BRANCH: Packed lunches early and motored to Santa Cruz, the 'ideal home of the tuberous begonia', in July.

The Antonelli Bros. were our hosts for the day, (they are one of the world's largest growers of tuberous begonias) where we found tables, decorated with large tuberous begonia blooms and ferns. The setting was in one of California's redwood groves, near Santa Cruz.

Everything had been planned for our pleasure. We were shown thru acres of lathhouses and many glass houses. Many individual blooms were 8 to 9 inches across.

I observed the ventilation in these houses and found that each plant had been given adequate space to grow. I am sure most of us crowd our tuberous begonia plants too close and do not have the proper circulation of air under and around the plants. The boards on their benches were over 4 inches apart.

Their hospitality gave so many of our members a great deal of pleasure and I am sure that this pleasure and happiness will be reflected back upon them. Thanks Antonelli Bros., of Santa Cruz, Calif. Please know that we are very grateful.

Ed Carlson, *Publicity Chairman*

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SACRAMENTO BRANCH: Held an open forum at their June meeting. Mr. Bill Rosenberg gave an instructive demonstration on identifying rhizomatous begonias. A contest for identifying rhizomatous begonias will be held at a later date and a prize will be given to the member able to name the most plants correctly. Outstanding plants on the plant sale tables encouraged a lively plant sale. Mrs. Holly and Mrs. Watson had charge of refreshments. A pot-luck supper held at the home of Mrs. George Sutter was the setting for the July meeting.

Mrs. Arthur Root, *Publicity*

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH: announced the winner of the Emblem Contest to be Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, branch secretary. The prize was over \$50.00 worth of plants, donated by members of the society. The emblem will be used on the stationery, banners and badges of the branch, so that they may be more readily recognized as belonging to San Gabriel Valley. The emblem is a combination of the old mission and a curled begonia leaf. Mr. J. N. Giridlian was promoter of the contest. On August 13th and 14th, the San Gabriel Valley branch held their second annual Flower Show at the Barbour Club house, 27 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia. Sweepstakes over the entire Show was presented to Mrs. Etta Morant, who won the most points. Begonia Sweepstakes Honor from the American Begonia Society was awarded to Mrs. Verna Johnson for the Best Begonia Display, followed by Mr. and Mrs. James Daley and Mrs. Gonda Hartwell, in honors for begonias and according to points acquired.

The many entries and beautiful specimens on display made the second venture by the Branch an outstanding tribute to the ability and cooperation of Mrs. Etta Pinnell, Flower Show Chairman and her committee.

Mrs. C. M. Blough, *Publicity*

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SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH: Held their Fourth Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show which was a great success. Opening on Wednesday evening July 20th and continuing through Sunday, July 24th, an enthusiastic public viewed the gardens and the arrangements. The grounds were well lighted, the fountain with colored lights, making a transformation in the exhibits in the evening.

Among the outside organizations participating in the show were the Eden Branch of The American Fuchsia Society, Hayward Garden Club, San Lorenzo Garden Club, Orchard center of the Farm Bureau, Mrs. Marie Reed and Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Swager of the East Bay Branch of the A. B. S., and the Hayward Art Association. On Saturday and Sunday, the members of the Hayward Art Association featured "Art in Action." An outstanding arrangement of tuberous Begonia blooms from several members of the San Francisco Branch, was arranged by Theresa Ferrero of San Francisco.

Several of the local Florists exhibited arrangements in the Botany Building, among the entries, Dalgety Florist, Mrs. Inez M. Freeland, House of Flowers, Don Lucas and Sons, Hayward Flower Shop. Among the nurseries exhibiting were Nelson, Don Coates, A. & B., Garden Ave., and Burr Christian. (All members of our Branch.)

Antonelli Bros. of Santa Cruz brought a generous number of beautiful seedling blossoms for the arrangement division, and toward the latter part of the show Vetterle and Reinelt, of Capitola, sent numbers of tuberous blooms that were placed around the tree where the specimen plants were exhibited.

In the arrangement division there were 122 entries, consisting of arrangements, corsages and cut blooms. Some of the entries carried out the Centennial theme. Mrs. Juanita Massa exhibited some orchid plants and Mrs. H. L. Bolyard a high Bouvardia plant.

Henry Kiosterud was winner of the Society Trophy for his outdoor display of Rex begonias and other shade plants. The trophy which was awarded Mr. Kiosterud for the best display was presented before a large crowd by Ray A. Alberts, president, on Friday evening.

As one strolled through the grounds, they were greeted by hostesses wearing old fashioned sunbonnets and aprons reminiscent of the 49'ers.

The plant table was well patronized as well as the Canteen and the wishing well.

Earl Williams, Show Chairman, is to be commended for his efforts, along with the members of the Begonia Society who cooperated in placing the many, different displays.

Susan Ramsey, *Publicity*

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board held in Los Angeles, Calif. July 25th, 1949 President Gale presiding.

Present for the meeting Messrs. Gale, Moore, Bozon, Walton, Dere, Hixon, Bailey, Trowbridge; Secretary, Mrs. Hartwell; Representation from San Gabriel Valley Br., Foothill, El Monte, Southgate, Ventura, Sana Barbara, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent, North Long Beach, Glendale, Pasadena, Santa Monica, Bellflower, Riverside.

Secretary instructed to write Mr. George Johnson thanking him for securing the present meeting place for the last year, and through him to thank the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles for the meeting place.

President Gale called attention of the Representative Directors to send in their annual reports and appointed a committee of three to go over these reports and prepare them for publication—Committee Col. Gale (chairman), Jessie Gale and Gonda Hartwell.

Letter read from Round Robin Chairman, Mrs. Downing telling of the interest in the round robins. Treasurer instructed to send Mrs. Downing check to cover her postage, etc., in the amount of \$3 or \$4.00 per month on statement from her.

Business Mgr. Moore read report of his office showing Advertising income for July 1949 \$183.25; income due to cancellation of contracts \$18.25; total advertising income for July \$202.00. See full report placed on President's desk each meeting for members to read.

Capt. Dere reported 6 new members from Johnson's Cactus Gardens at Paramount; Mr. Johnson promised to run a little ad in his magazine for the Begonia Society free of charge.

Col. and Mrs. Gale offered to go to Capt. Dere's and help with getting all the new mailing stencils cut put in order and otherwise assist in getting this record brought up to date and new stencils filed.

President appointed committee (Mr. Walton, Chairman) and Mr. Trowbridge to go into the matter of the trophy received by the Begonia Society at the 1941 annual meeting; and also to accept cup offered by Gordon Baker Lloyd for the best rhizomatous begonia in the Ventura annual show of the A.B.S. This is to be a yearly feature of the A.B.S. annual flower show; Committee to see to it that these awards are taken to Ventura; added Mrs. Gale to the Committee to prepare the Lloyd cup and have it on display at Ventura.

Report of Nominating Committee read and accepted as presented. See August Begonian for report.

Report of Committee (composed of Mesdames Nolan, Behrends, Schwerdtfeger and Capt. Dere) to make recommendations for an exchange of the publication of the A.B.S. with libraries and universities and also a new complimentary list to receive the Begonian. Report received and approved that "This committee be empowered to send out such exchange Begonians as they see fit along the lines suggested in their report; publications to be sent to the Editor for her files; committee to report monthly of their activities.

Mrs. Hodgins and Mr. Hall from the Ventura Branch reported on their plans for the annual meeting; urged good attendance and members to bring as many plants as possible for the flower show; banquet tickets \$1.50; plenty of room and Committees very busy preparing for this meeting.

Branch reports indicated branches very active; good speakers and good attendance. See elsewhere for more Branch reports.

Mrs. Korts reported she had sold 10 begonia pins; 19 left to sell; no report on Mrs. Schwerdtfeger's pins.

Foothill Representative reported Mr. Will Heth's condition very serious.

Mr. Finley of San Gabriel Valley Branch reported Flower Show August 13th and 14th and invited everyone to attend.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Gonda Hartwell, Secretary.

Write to the Librarian for information concerning the purchase of books reviewed in the *BEGONIAN*.

YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED

An invitation to attend the Grand Opening September 11th, of the Jensen Nursery in Bellflower, California. Mrs. Jensen received a B. r.c. bronze queen as a gift 8 years ago and from that time on, has won many ribbons and cash prizes from exhibiting her fine begonias. It is with pleasure, we welcome Mr. and Mrs. Jensen into the Begonia Nursery field.

An announcement of the new Begonia and Shade Plant Nursery in Redondo Beach, Calif. This nursery was opened August first and we congratulate Earl and Emma Wiltse of the Inglewood Branch on their fine offerings to the shade plant hobbyists.

A letter from Mrs. H. C. S. of Thetford Center, Vt. commenting on the reaction of her *B. templini*, to light. ". . . one leaf is nearly all white, red edges on the leaves that are blotched. This plant has overhead light but is not in much direct sunlight, being partially under a shelf. It had beautiful clusters of pink blossoms in the spring. I made an error in putting it on the bench where it received some direct sun. I had kept it in a densely filled plant room, previous to this move, where it was more or less protected from the sun. Many of the blotched leaves burned and fell off, the new leaves replacing these, are not as blotched or as beautiful. I have put the plant back in its place partially under the bench and find the leaves are coming back in all their glory. The experience proved to me, sunlight does not bring out the 'templini blotch'. I propagated a heavily mottled pink, white and green leaf and the tiny plant has produced nothing but *Jessie* leaves. I hope it will have the mottled markings when it becomes more mature.

A warm welcome from Mrs. Bruce Dill and the Missouri Branch, when she attended their outdoor meeting in July, held in the beautiful garden of Mrs. Leora Calomese. A visit through her clothhouse and greenhouse was a revelation, for these Missouri Branch members grow beautiful begonias!

HUB CITY BRANCH: Report the following newly elected officers; Mrs. Martha Foley, President; Mrs. Blanche Watts, Vice President; Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secretary; Mrs. Fred Carnes, Treasurer and Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Representative Director.

Mrs. Eloise Scheller, *past Secretary*

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Branch Meeting Dates and Places

BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular Meetings 1st Fridays in February, May, August and November. Two annual exhibits, May and September.

Mrs. George W. W. Barton, Director
929 East 7th St., Flint 3, Michigan.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Sept. 5, 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, Sept. 15, 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, Sept. 15, 8:00 p.m.
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 160
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m.
Picnic, San Dimas Park, Azusa
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 8:00 p.m.
206 West Cypress
Mrs. F. M. Brown, Sec.
3633 Revere, Los Angeles 26, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Genter, Corres. Secy.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Thursday, Sept. 22, 8:00 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Frank H. Mather, Cor. Sec.
515 Windover Rd., Hatboro, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Miss Marjory Robinson, Sec.
1137 No. Orange Dr., L. A. 46.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Sept. 19
Roosevelt High School Cafe
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.
Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secy.
114 East Olive St., Compton 3, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, 8 p.m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Miss Margaret Smith,
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, 8:00 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Leo McBride, Secretary
3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, 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, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas.
1506 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 8 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m.
Mrs. Buxton's Residence
Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson
P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
F. John Nachbor, Secy.
6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

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

PASADENA BRANCH

2nd Sunday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m.
Pot-luck and Begonia Show
440 Arroyo Dr., So Pasadena
Mrs. Fred E. Distel
1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Elizabeth Schlenker, Sec.
18 10th Street, Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

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

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 14, 8 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec.
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 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, Sept. 20, 8 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Miss Mona Carnahan, Sec.
4416 East E St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Salem Y.M.C.A.
Miss Ellen Quail, Sec.
202 Rural Ave., Salem, Oregon

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Sept. 26
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.
1225 Madison Ave., San Diego, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary.
20047 Arminta, Canoga Park, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Sept. 7, 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, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Sec.
911 N. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Roy G. Pierce, Secy.
914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

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

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Monica Club House
Chelsea and Wilshire, Santa Monica, Calif.
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary.
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Mrs. Shirley Friedrich, P. O. Box 888
Santa Paula, California

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 20
Member's Homes
Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.
4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

See Next Page

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 6, 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, Sept. 15, 8 p.m.
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. R. Clark, Cor. Secy.
1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 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 Tuesday, Sept. 27, 8 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.
Lakewood, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 8 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Secy.
6225 S. McNess St., Whittier, Calif.

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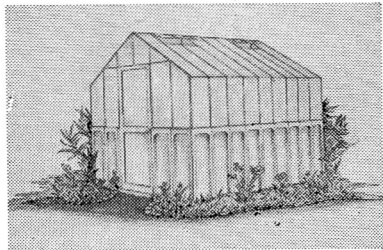
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