

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens*

BEGONIA  
COMPTA

(Leaves of Striped Silk)  
(See page 89)



Photo by  
A. H. Gere



Courtesy of  
Helen K. Krauss



MAY  
1951



TWENTY-FIVE  
CENTS



VOL. XVIII  
No. 5



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**BEGONIA SEEDLINGS**

Mr. Roy K. Smith, at the Portland Oregon Branch meeting, showed a month's growth progress of begonia seedlings and warned members to transplant before they became crowded and meanwhile to give them ample light. He suggested a daytime temperature of 70-75 degrees and 10 degrees cooler at night.—*Rachel Venner, Secy.*

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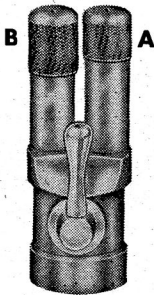
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**CORRECTION:** April issue, page 70, paragraph "PESTS" — for second reference to "mealy bugs" read "web worms.—Ed.

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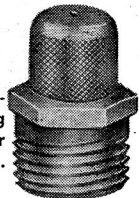


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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia  
Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall,  
Room 1305, 7:30 p. m., May 28th, 1951. Use  
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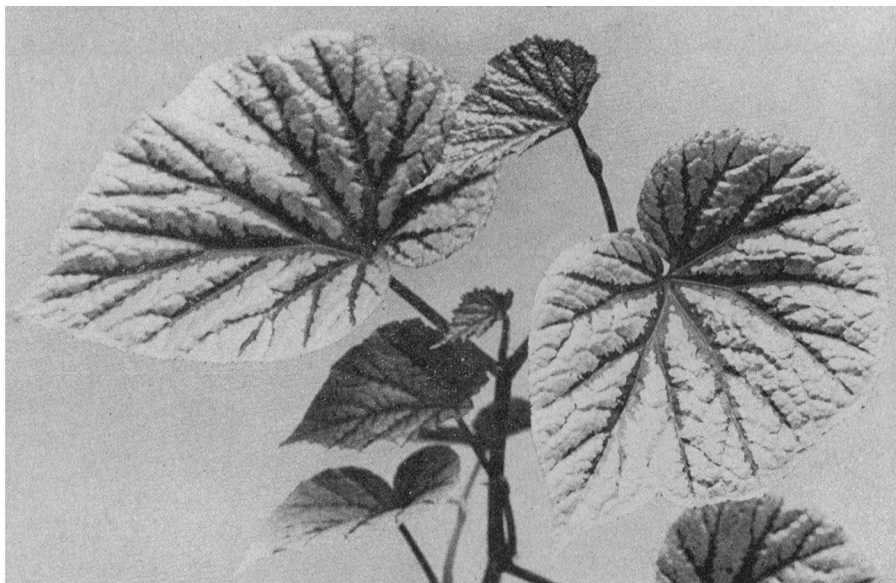
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**BEGONIA ABEL CARRIERE'S CHANGEABLE TAFFETA**

*Courtesy Helen K. Krauss, photo by A. H. Gere*



**BEGONIA VENOSA'S INCREDIBLE FELT**

*Courtesy of Helen K. Krauss, photo by A. H. Gere*

## Texture and Color in Begonia Leaves

--- With Notes on Begonia Culture

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego, Calif. \*

CONSTANT observation and practice in any art increases perception and understanding. A beginner in the study of floriculture sees only pleasing masses of color. With more experience he will recognize the plants that compose a picture, experiment with various combinations he has observed, and learn, after some disappointments, to ask for the material he wants by its specific name. As a gardener becomes familiar with his plants, he awakens to the part shape and size play in the ensemble, noting that large heavy leaves give weight while airiness and depth are conveyed by smaller, more pointed leaves. Soon he realizes that there are other attributes besides form and flower color. Studying the way leaf-textures absorb or reflect light, he finds a new palette composed of shades of green which can be used with the same finesse as a complete spectrum. Always there is progress. One day he scents the delicate fragrance of maidenhair ferns, or becomes aware of the beauty of shifting shadows on a wall. When the student has reached this phase he is ready for the charms of the begonia world.

In the climate of San Diego we can enjoy almost all begonia types in a natural out-door environment, and good specimens can be raised inside the glass walls of many modern homes. The begonia genus is a versatile one and, like any large family, has children that play to the gallery and those who are more rewarding after a period of appreciative attention.

The show-offs are the tuberous begonias. They need no sponsor, so we will leave them to bask in the lath-light, while we inspect their less appreciated relations. Let us look at begonias from the point of view of their finger-teasing texture, and the eye-rewarding colors and patterns of their foliage. To some extent, the one governs the other, so let's consider them together.

It is interesting to think of begonia leaves in terms of fabrics ranging from satin to plush, from silvery brocades to nubby home-spuns. No other plant family can compete with them in this respect. If you favor the gleaming highlights of slipper satin, consider the tall round-leaf variety of *B. nitida*, or the ruffled *B. undulata*, or the handsome basket types, *B. scandens*, *cordifolia* (syn. *Glabra*), *B. Limminghei* and *B. Marjorie Daw*. The rhizomatous *B. erythrophylla*, (syn. *Feasti*), adds a red back to the shining surface, as do the fibrous ones, *B. sanguinea* and *B. Dorothy Grant*, who inherits her glazed top from *B. Thurstoni*. If you sprinkle your satin with silver dots it opens up a world of cane-stemmed hybrids like *B. coccinea* and *B. lucerna* and that tropical beauty, *B. dichroa*.

Silky finishes are common among the fibrous. Examine the thin apple-green tissues of *B. tenuifolia* or the small red-tinged leaf of *B. preussen* or the exceptionally beautiful dark-green sheen on the red-lined leaves of *B. angularis*. *Begonia compta* has a pattern of gray bars on her lustrous surface. Changeable taffeta is typified by the rose and green lights on the foliage of *B. President Carnot* and *B. Abel Carriere*, while the deep-green iridescence of *B. Druryi's* leaves, with their claret-wine backs, is like watered silk.

In variety of texture, color and pattern the rex begonias exceed all the fantasies that have ever been woven in brocade. I marvel that textile workers today have overlooked the rich field of design among these large, picture-leaved begonias. From silver, through the jewel tones of jade, chalcedony, chrysoprase, tourmaline, garnet and ruby; frosted like moonstones; shimmering like opals, or layered like onyx, rexes are treasures whose fabric and color are comparable to museum masterpieces

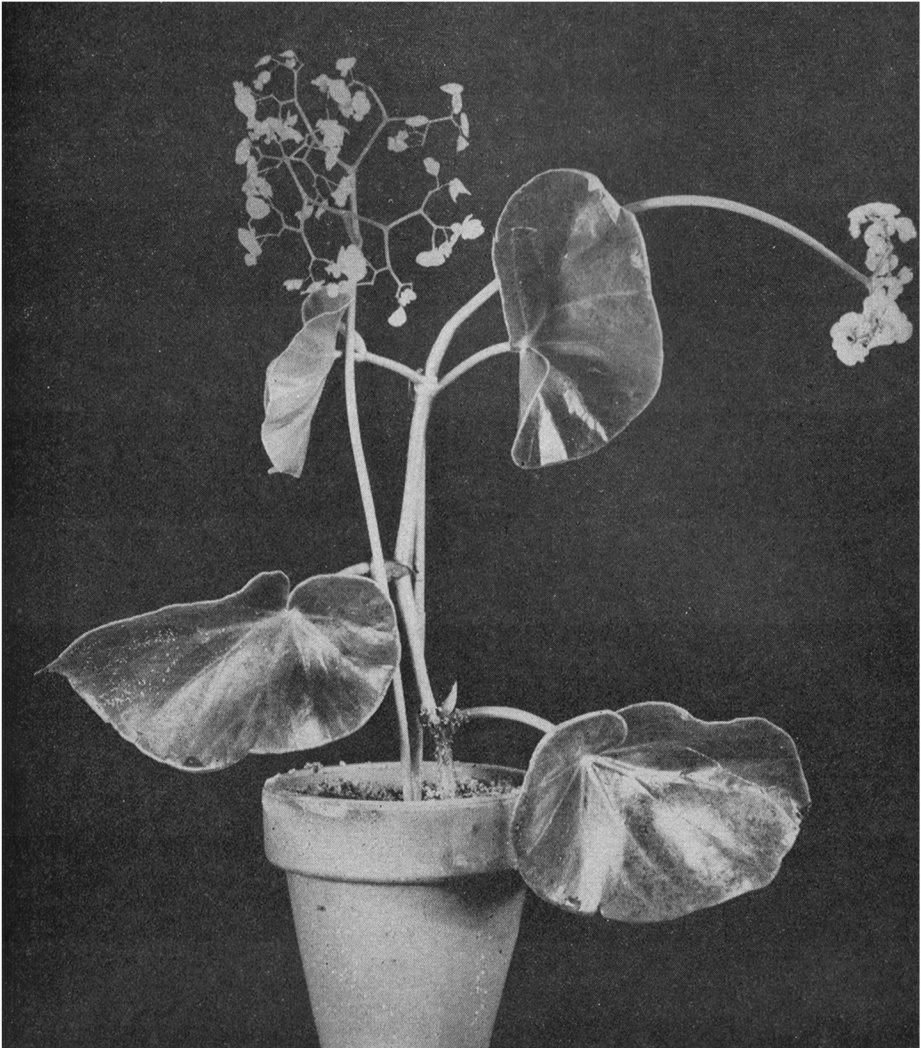
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of silk tapestry. Small wonder that there are groups of gardeners who devote themselves exclusively to the culture of rexes.

The hirsute group of begonias are definitely woolly. The silver dots studding the dark surface of *B. argentea guttata* are so thick they remind you of salt-and-pepper homespun. Weavings of chocolate color on the green of *B. Perle Lorraine* look like tweed, while *B. macrocarpa*, var. *pubescens*, with the texture of camel's hair, brings the same irresistible desire to smooth its silky surface. Fine bristles on the dark ruffled leaves of *B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow* recall the roughness of mohair, while the pleatings of *B. ulmifolia* and *B. malabarica*

are like crepe. Plaid is suggested by the yellow lacings on the green foliage of the tuberous *B. pearcei*. The reversible gray-green and red plush of *B. Scharffiana* seems thick enough for an old-fashioned sofa. The iridescent green and pinky-gold embossed pattern of *B. metallica* could have been the inspiration for my grandfather's silky-haired cap.

The felted surfaces of *B. incana* and *B. venosa* must be seen to be believed. *B. imperialis*, var. *smaragdina* is like cut velvet in tones of brown-green against yellow-green, in contrast to the plain green velour of *B. imperialis*. The webbing on *B. goegoensis* conveys the pattern of leather. Heavy splashes of



**BEGONIA SANGUINEA**  
(Red-backed satin)

Courtesy of Helen K. Krauss

cream, rose and green on *B. manicata aureo-maculata*, coupled with the coarse tufted red scales underneath, are combinations found in unusual modern weavings. These are but a few of the textile comparisons that will come to you as you handle begonias. They certainly furnish enough to dress a garden!

A few words on the culture of begonias at this season may be helpful. Plant small tubers or seedlings in 6" pots, when growth in flats is well under way, accenting good drainage. Some people make the mistake of using dry leafmold that is not sufficiently composted so that the nitrogen they may add at potting time is used to start bacterial action on the undecomposed material, instead of feeding the begonia. Cottonseed meal, fishmeal or well-

rotted dairy manure, plus a little bone-meal to feed the last stage of the tubers is good in the compost. A little garden sulphur will acidify.

Begonia leaves point to the front. Note this when you transplant so they will face forward in a bed with a stake at the back. Set the stake when planting so you avoid injuring the tuber and can start the important business of tying the stalk. Heavy soft string or twistems are good but leave the loops large enough for growth.

Some gardeners prefer a single stalk, with larger flowers on their tubers, others like graceful plants with more foliage and flowers, which will be smaller. Make cuttings of

*Turn to next page*



**BEGONIA METALICA**  
**Iridescent and embossed silks**

*Courtesy of New York Botanic Garden and Helen K. Krauss*

extra sprouts that are two or three inches long. Take a tiny heel of the tuber for a base, dust with rooting powder and start in a cutting box. It will bloom and make a small tuber late in the season and increase some of your favorite stock. A little sulphur or charcoal will heal the cut on the tuber.

Locate begonias in a protected spot. Wind is one thing they cannot take. They bloom better with plenty of light and some morning sun. In the coastal regions, with cool morning fog in summer, begonias will be a mass of color in a bed exposed to sun up to noon. If raised on a porch or any place with a solid roof they will lean towards the light. For best results alternate the porch sitters with others in the garden. Do not expect tuberous begonias to bloom in the average house. Float blooms in a brandy snifter, where they will last in full beauty for a week. Begonias love the moisture of a garden and will lose their buds if there is not a steady supply of humidity. They will stand a warm daytime temperature but they must have cooler nights, which makes them difficult for some parts of the country.

Do not overfeed any begonias. A weak fertilizer solution at two or three week intervals after they are a foot high is quite sufficient. Fish-oil emulsion will not burn. Use only half of most recommended doses and you will be safe. Always water before feeding.

Once in a while young begonias may need to be sprayed for aphids and on rare occasions small worms eat the foliage, especially on rexes. There are new dusting powders that take care of many pests, all in one. Rexes need more shade, good loose leafmold, no fertilizer, much moisture and constant protection from slugs and snails. Fibrous, in the ground or in pots, should have had the old woody canes cut back to the ground in April, but better now than never. This gives more strength to the new growth and keeps the plants young. Repot in new soil or add three to four inches of new compost over the old in the ground. Never cultivate the surface. Tie and stake as inconspicuously as possible but do it often to avoid breaking the brittle stems.

Hairy fibrous like the warm inland regions and will stand more cold in winter. The smooth-leaf type seems to enjoy mild coastal temperatures. There is a begonia for any location, even full sun, if you look for it. Try to add some new beauties of the rex or fibrous types to your lathhouse this summer. Their culture is simple and most rewarding and their lovely leaves and graceful small blooms will enhance and supplement the large tuberous favorites.

\* Reprinted courtesy of California Garden.

## KODA-SLIDE LIBRARY NOTES

About the middle of May there will be a new set of slides available for showing and they will make their first showing at Santa Barbara, May 10th. This set has some choice tuberous, rhizomatous of show quality that were in the International exhibit at Inglewood, and some super rex slides.

We still need named varieties in the library. If you will let me know where the slides are, I will do the rest.

*Special note to those in Santa Barbara area:* I plan to be in Santa Barbara the third weekend of May taking slide pictures. If you have or know where there are plants that should be photographed, drop me a card. I will try to get there. Be sure to put the name of the plant and the address and phone number of the person who has it.

*San Diego Area:* I will be there the second weekend in July. Just drop that card in the mail, so I will know where to find the places where fine plants grow.

I hope to see a lot of Blue Ribbon begonias on these trips.

—Charles Wiley, *Koda-slide Library*  
118 W. 52nd, Long Beach 5, Calif.

### PLANT TABLE

Humboldt County's February plant table read like a cross-section of the Begonia World. Maria Papke gave the names and a short talk on: *Templini*, with its green and yellow leaves and shower of pink bloom; *calla*, the variegated semperflorens with deep pink flowers; *Griffithi*, also in pink bloom; *Sunderbruchi*, the rhizomatous, with its seven-fingered leaves in shades of green; *alto da serra*, the hairy fibrous with olive, red-backed leaves; not to mention a bronze abutilon, climbing fern and variegated philodendron; and, last but not least, a Woodriff introduction of a *Giant Red* fibrous, much like his *101*, except the bloom is larger and the green leaves are brown-shaded on the under side near the stem.

—Violet Wooden

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# Fluorescent Tube Greenhouse

By Ruthanne Williams, Sacramento, Calif.

Many articles have been written on the subject of fluorescent tube lath houses which started my husband and me experimenting with the idea of a complete greenhouse made of these tubes.

We cleared the ground for a 14½ x 10½ foot cement foundation. We were fortunate in being able to find used redwood shiplap siding and 2 x 4's for corner posts and cross beams. We built up the siding to four feet and then used the four foot tubes, set close together in an upright position for the upper walls. The west slope of our roof was made with one row of 4 foot tubes and the east slope with two rows of tubes which makes it 8 feet. The height of the cross beams is 8 feet as we are both tall and we wanted head room when our hanging baskets were in place. We installed a gas circulating heater with a vent to carry off the gas fumes; water pipes; sink; shelves for pots; etc. We have installed stationary foggers at each end of the greenhouse on the cross beams. Our benches are four feet high or even with the bottom of the tubes (again because we are tall) so we built beds for rex begonias under the benches.

Fluorescent tubes are not quite true and, although placed close together, one may see light and sky between; however, there is no leakage as the rain follows down the tubes and runs off. We have found our green house very easy to heat.

Our green house has been in operation for almost two years. We have had wonderful success with our begonias, ferns, etc., having had many of them for a number of years and they bloomed for the first time for us after one winter in the warm green house. Our white hybrid amaryllis, which usually blooms in May, was in full bloom on the 20th of January each year. We are even having success with a limited number of orchids.

We have a dutch door, opening on the east side into the garden, with glass on the upper half to conform with the height of the tubes

and a window on the north and south ends. The fact that we do not have to whitewash anything but the south window is a great asset. The tubes which form the walls are held in place only by a cleat at the top and bottom. We remove every other tube during the warm months, thus giving us a cool lath house in summer and a very adequate green house in the winter.

Because we felt that the west sun was neither needed nor beneficial to begonias, we made the entire west wall of redwood siding and we have built shelves all along this wall to provide more space for our plants. The higher shelves are particularly good for epiphyllums.

We know that many warnings have been published concerning the danger when breaking fluorescent tubes but we did not break one tube while building. They withstood many hard knocks, in fact my husband and son-in-law tossed them back and forth to each other like baseballs. We were quite perturbed during our first windstorm when tubes began flying off the roof in all directions; however, not one of them was broken and they were soon anchored so that none have blown off in any of the hard windstorms that have followed.

Architecturally, we know that our green house is not too good, but as it is in a prominent place in the garden, we have softened some of the harsh lines by our plantings. We landscaped with raised beds of delphinium, phlox, phlox Drummondii, semperflorens begonias and white alyssum. We are also planting clematis Armandi and Henryii at each corner to break the corner lines.

So by using the fluorescent tubes, used redwood, and a great deal of labor on the part of a fine son-in-law, who did most of the construction with my husband as his helper, we have a very adequate green house with very little money expended.

When the lights are turned on at night, our green house makes a very pretty picture in our garden.

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## LET'S GROOM OUR BEGONIAS FOR THE FLOWER SHOW

*By Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, East Bay Branch, Calif.*

Right now is the time to pick out the plants we want to enter in the coming flower shows; whether late Spring, Summer, or early Fall.

### SELECTING

Select the plants which are mature; always remembering that plants which are small for the species or variety do not have equal chance with the larger specimens, all other points being equal. Study the habits of your plants, especially with regard to the blossoming period. Pick out the ones which will normally be in blossom at flower show time.

### TRANSPLANTING

If ready for transplanting, do that now. Add a little crushed charcoal and some crude naphthalene flakes to the soil mixture. Earthworms or other worms in potting soil do

much damage to the tender roots. Use clean pots or other containers which are suitable. (Add some clorox to the water in which you wash the pots. This helps remove moss and dirt quickly).

### TRIMMING & TRAINING

First remove old wood, cutting down to the soil level, or even a little below. Twiggy branches can be cut back to help form a more compact plant. Remove dead leaves and disfigured ones. In removing leaves, cut off about one-half inch from the stem. The stub will dry and drop off naturally, leaving a normal looking scar, with every chance that a new leaf will form. Place the plant in the center of the pot. If the tips of the stems are pinched out, a bushier plant is the result.

Turn the plants a little each week so that

**Above: East Bay Branch Blue Ribbon Exhibit**

**In Berkeley's 6th Annual Flower and Hobby Show, sponsored by the Berkeley Junior Chamber of Commerce in February in cooperation with the City, Alameda County, the Senior Chamber of Commerce and the United Artists Theatre Circuit, Inc.—where the show was held. A good example of Mrs. Carleton's suggestions.**

they will become more symmetrical. Give them good light without direct sun. Be careful in watering that the foliage does not get wet, especially if any sun is shining through glass. Leaves will be burned and sometimes tender tips are burned also. Rhizomatous plants which are turned periodically will tend to keep the rhizome within the confines of the container, instead of hanging over the side.

Use plant stakes and ties which are inconspicuous. Be sure that stakes do not show above the tops of the plants at show time. Gradually train the branches to shape, adding plant ties only when necessary; always aiming to give the plant a most natural appearance. Trailing or scandent types should be trained to fall naturally over side of containers.

#### GROWING

After repotting, water plants well, then let stand a few days before fertilizing. Fertilize only as often as necessary to keep them in a healthy growing condition. Spray or dust with a good powder for those little worms that try to play havoc with some of the choicest plants. Spray with a good nicotine spray before aphids appear.

A little soot added to the potting mixture for rex begonias helps strengthen the color of the leaves. Keep rex growing in semi-shade. Tuberous begonias should be nice sturdy little plants at this time. If they have had a good rich potting mixture with plenty of leafmold, an occasional fertilizing will take care of them. Keep them watered well especially on very warm days.

#### LABELS

Begonias are like people in that they also have names, with the exception of some of the tuberous. Put the correct names on your plants. If in doubt, ask someone who is an authority.

#### FINAL TOUCHES

A few days before show time, segregate your plants, give them a good watering, a thorough spraying, then leave them alone to harden off a little. Wrap the plants with newspaper or other strong paper to avoid injury in transporting. This also protects against hot winds, or cold ones.

When you come home with blue ribbons or prize money, you will say, "Surely it was more than worth all the effort I put forth."

**Begonia pustulata variety Silver Leaf**  
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## Your Editor

Mr. John P. Toberman, the expert with Glaswicks, sent us notice of his new venture with McIlwain's Gardens, Columbia, Louisiana, where he is now engaged in growing exotic plants, among which he is featuring Begonias. Best of luck!

Long Beach African Violet Society sends the Schedule for its show May 10th and 11th at Recreation Hall, Pan American Park, Long Beach. Open to public May 10th from 7 to 10 p. m. and May 11th from 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. They note that African Violets will be sold and also that there will be a snack bar—so you can spend hours there and really study your "Violets." Their schedule covers everything from species to novelty containers.

#### BEGONIA DAY

The A. D. Robinson Branch of San Diego, California, has launched a very interesting movement this year. They are obtaining the backing of their City in having Sunday, August 5th, declared "Begonia Day" and are hoping other Branches will find the idea worthy of participation. Mrs. Alice M. Clark writes, "The thought behind it is primarily that of advertising Begonias. We selected the first Sunday in August as being a good time for the tuberous. Locally, we propose to collect tuberous blooms and deliver them to hospitals on Saturday night, to be placed on trays that carry the Sunday morning breakfast. This entails little work for the hospitals. We have tried it and the nurses really enjoy handling the flowers. Women patients can wear the blooms in their hair to greet their callers and the men enjoy the flowers equally as much in a saucer of water. This project is proposed purely as an outlet for local groups. Towns that do not have hospitals could meet trains with blooms or place plants in shaded store windows and hotels. Our largest department store has featured large groups of potted tuberous indoors as its main decoration for one week. They do not hold up too well but do create much comment. If BEGONIA DAY were accompanied by newspaper advertising that would include the time and place of branch meetings, it should help build bigger branches commanding great respect in their respective communities."

## SPONIT

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## PLANTSMITH

Box 818

Palo Alto, Calif.



# Begonia Joe Hayden

(Illustration opposite page by Ken Garrison Clarke)  
(Plant of Fred Schultz)

By Marie Minter

A couple of years ago Mr. Ziesenhenné introduced one of the more colorful rhizomatous begonias. It was a cross of *B. reichenbeimi* x *B. Mazae*. As was usual with most of the crosses using *B. Mazae* as a parent, this plant took on the reddish-brown sheen of the leaves, and also retained the white sinus of the parent plant.

The upper surface of the leaves can't seem to be classified into any of the colors contained in Ridgway's "Color Standards and Nomenclature," so we will have to settle for the general color of brownish green. They are so satiny they almost glisten. The under side of the leaf is a deep maroon red and the leaves turn in such a way that one gets a two-tone effect on the plant. A beautiful combination.

The rhizome is creeping and is vigorous enough so that many divisions are started each year, which as you know, makes a well balanced plant in a fairly short time. The rhizomes are deep red, very short jointed, and covered with white dashes. The stipules are light green but soon fade to dark brown parch-

ment like stipules clinging to the rhizome for a long period. The plant is usually so full of leaves that one is not aware of the rhizome at all.

The petioles of the leaves are hard to describe. They are so liberally covered with both red and white dashes that one finds it hard to discern the color underneath. It seems to be light reddish. Whatever the color, it certainly adds to the attractiveness of the plant as a whole.

Surprisingly enough, this plant has proved to be one of the better winter plants. It retains its leaves very well under adverse conditions. It would be an excellent border plant where one wanted a low growing, medium sized leaf plant. When it blooms, the flower stalks are held well above the foliage. The buds are a deep red but the flowers open into almost a pure white. The contrast between the buds and open flowers further add to the attractiveness of the plant.

An award of commendation should be given to Mr. Ziesenhenné for giving us *B. Joe Hayden*.

## Library Notes

Time again to list the publications on sale to the membership thru the Library. This saves postage and written inquiry as to what may be obtained at this time. Any of the following books and pamphlets are in stock now:

<i>BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES</i> & <i>GARDENS</i> Helen K. Krauss . . .	\$4.00
<i>BEGONIAS &amp; HOW TO GROW THEM</i> Bessie R. Buxton . . .	\$2.75
<i>THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA</i> Allan G. Langdon . . .	\$2.00
<i>TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIAS</i> Geo. Otten . . .	\$2.00
<i>HOW TO INCREASE PLANTS</i> A. C. Hottes . . .	\$3.00
<i>CAMELLIAS ILLUSTRATED &amp; HOW TO GROW THEM</i> M. L. Sharp . . .	\$5.00
<i>CAMELLIAS AS A HOBBY</i> Oregon Camellia Society . . .	.60
<i>HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS</i> Carolyn K. Rector . . .	\$1.35
<i>WEST AUSTRALIAN WILD FLOWERS</i> — Illustrated in color; again in	

stock for those who were disappointed before the holidays . . . \$3.75  
*CULTURAL BULLETINS* — Fibrous, Rex and Tuberous . . . Each .15  
Complete files of *THE BEGONIAN* for 1949 and 1950 . . . Each \$2.00  
(California members will kindly include 3% sales tax when ordering.)

The charming book, *THE COMING OF THE FLOWERS*, by A. W. Anderson, curator of the Botanical Gardens of Timaru, New Zealand, a history of flowers, how they came to our gardens and the quest for rare and new plants, has been added to your library for your pleasure. This is now being published in this country and should prove of interest to any gardener who likes a little romance and adventure to add spice to his contact with plants he has grown for years. Nothing is commonplace when you know from whence it came and the adventure and intrigue involved in obtaining it for cultivation. All yours for a penny post card request and postage to and from your library.

—Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian

# PROPAGATE AND SHARE YOUR PLANTS

By Paula Hoisington, Dodge City, Kansas

We are all familiar with the proverb: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Emerson put it another way: "Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself." Those who garden, either indoors or out, are aware of this infinite source of pleasure.

I remember so well the first years of my marriage when there was so little to spend on anything except necessities. I recall numerous trips to the greenhouse when I looked longingly at the plants discarded beneath the benches. I thought of all the cuttings which could still have been made. At that time a dream came into being: if ever I had the opportunity I would give freely of any of my plants.

It was eight years before this dream became a reality. It is amazing to see the pleasure even a small plant can give someone. I have numerous friends who have become interested in window gardening after seeing my collection. Their interest was further spurred by cuttings from my plants. These past few years no one has visited my home and gone away empty handed if they evinced even a small desire for plants.

More and more we are becoming aware of the added beauty to our homes which we can achieve through the culture of houseplants. They increase the humidity, thus making a more healthful atmosphere. They add color and life in areas which were once dark and lifeless. The possibilities for beauty in this phase of home decoration are seemingly unending.

There are numerous ways to propagate plants. I will take up two methods which to me, because of my limited space, have proved almost foolproof.

Several years ago I had metal trays made to fit the picture window in our living room. I placed a layer of sand in the trays. In the area near the window I placed cuttings of wax begonias (*semperflorens*), *coleus*, wandering jew, and *pothos* to name just a few. The sand was kept moist at all times, and, after roots formed, a little liquid plant food was added. *Coleus* rooted in less than a week, and the other plants a week to ten days. The *Coleus* received a maximum of sun and were most colorful. The window was a glorious array of color and was thoroughly enjoyed by friends and passers-by in the dark, drab months of winter. Some of the plants were potted as soon as they were well rooted. Others thrived in the sand and were cut back from time to time, as friends came in and asked for cuttings.

I kept the neighborhood supplied with plants all winter. They in turn had plants to share when spring came.

My second method is one with which you may be familiar. Water is the medium and any spare glass or jar—colored if available. If clear glass is used I find the water has to be changed more frequently. The cuttings may be kept upright in the container by using scotch tape, criss-crossed over the top of the jar. If the cuttings show a tendency to droop or wilt, keep out of strong light for a few days. Gradually bring into full light. As soon as sufficient roots appear, plant in small pots, using your favorite soil mixture. My standby for most houseplants is composed of one-third each: sand, garden loam, humus or leaf-mold.

I have found that plants grown too long in water after they have rooted have a tendency to grow very tall and ragged. The leaves become smaller and the colors are often not as bright as they should be. By planting in soil and pinching back occasionally you are assured of a compact, well branched plant.

Gardeners here, there and everywhere: Let's make an extra cutting and plant some extra seeds this spring and pass them along to someone less fortunate than ourselves. Instead of throwing away the plants as we thin the row, let's give them to the new neighbor across the way who, perhaps, has not had time to plant a garden.

## LATH HOUSE CARE

Mr. Ferris of Kathy's Nursery, spoke to the San Diego Branch about lath house care in winter and early spring and their Newsette carried the following important excerpts:

Baskets should have new moss, new dirt and fertilizer.

Castor bean meal is a long-acting fertilizer; cotton seed meal is a little more acid.

To neutralize soil from excess alkali in water, he recommended a pinch of garden sulphur twice a year. For rexes—a pinch every 90 days.

There are two ways to propagate fancy tuberous begonias: First—tubers 2 to 4 inches can be divided; sulphur immediately to avoid rot. Second—Cuttings can be rooted; take sprout with two or three leaves and remove from the bulb, being sure to get a little of the crown on each cutting; dust with sulphur.

In planting tuberous begonias be sure to put fertilizer in bottom half of pot.

—San Diego Branch Newsette

## Beginners' Corner

### SEMPERFLORENS

How often you hear semperflorens disparagingly called, "Just old bedding plants." Alas, even I, after collecting begonias over a twenty-eight year period, might once have uttered those ignorant words! But today, after study of that easy-to-propagate variety, I am more enthusiastic and fully realize their value as well as fascinating interest.

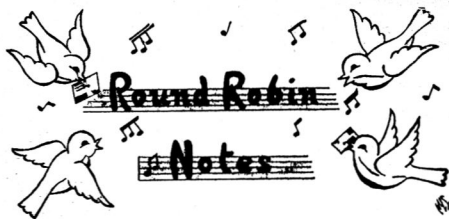
Two authors active in the American Begonia Society are my mentors, guides and constant companions in their adequate books ever at close hand for reference and interesting reading. "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens" by Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, and Mrs. Bessie Buxton's "Begonias and How to Grow Them." Catalogues from greenhouses are a source of interest for new hybrids and from all over the world varied names for the same types fascinate those who travel or glean their thrills vicariously.

Ever searching for variations in kinds of semperflorens, aside from those with green, red, bronze or variegated leaves or those having single as well as double flowers, is an ever entertaining goal. Never pass a greenhouse along the highways or in small towns as you ride along. Pause and take a few leisurely moments to inspect the stock. Often, tucked back on a shelf or among masses of semperflorens, you will discover one very different from any you now possess. It might have hairy leaves, thicker and darker in shade. The blossoms might resemble apple blossoms, shaded pink and white. There are innumerable chances of a find really valuable—to you. This is what creates the boundless enthusiasm of collectors—that alert searching for something new and appealing to you, yourself.

Visiting dealers and greenhouses can be soul-satisfying from which you derive the same pleasure as gazing upon beautiful paintings or some exquisite porcelain.

While you are in greenhouses gazing at the gorgeous displays of colors in leaves and blossoms, study them awhile and then create in your own mind pictures of just where you could use them and think about color schemes accordingly. You might be using pink geraniums in a box or bed. Why not border that bed with alternating pink and white semperflorens? In that box of ivies and coleus, intersperse begonias—the tall "Christmas Cheer" or bronze-leaved varieties. Border your evergreens with red-flowered red-leaved begonias alternated with ageratum or lobelia. Try it.

*Mrs. Dorothy Pierson Barton, Flint, Mich.*



*Mrs. Annie L. Heslop, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada.*—"I have rooted tuberous begonias from slips successfully in the following way. In the Spring when the tubers throw three or more shoots and they are about three inches high or have two leaves, I take a sharp knife and cut the shoot with a tiny piece of the tuber on it and place it in the rooting medium of my electric heated hot bed. They grow, bloom and make tubers the first year."

*Mrs. Leora Calmese, Kansas City, Missouri.*—In caring for begonias as house plants she advises. "If your begonias are growing near a cold window they will enjoy a hot foot-bath. Set them in a pan of almost hot water and at the same time wash their faces with warm water. They breathe through their leaves and if they are dusty they cannot do a good job of it. For humidity—let your tea kettle boil a half hour or so each morning or take a jar or kettle of boiling water and place near your plants. Humidity is a very important thing in the life of a begonia." "If begonias are growing where it is cool they need be kept on the dry side, but if they are in your warm living-room watch your watering carefully. Two plants even though they are the same size may not require the same amount of water. Be careful in watering not to wash the soil from the roots."

*Mrs. Mona Ayres, Kansas City, Missouri.*—"Since most begonias are more or less dormant during the winter and do their best growing during the summer months, cuttings should be taken in the spring when the new growth has started. Cuttings should not be taken from old or unhealthy plants as they will lack vigor and make poor plants."

*Edna Starbuck, Corunna, Michigan.*—Plants her Saintpaulia leaves directly into 2½ inch pots. She writes: "It saves transplanting from water into pots, also saves a lot of grief. Fill the pot with good potting medium, make a hole in the center, insert the leaf and fill around it with sand or vermiculite or a mixture of both. The leaf will start in the mixture and extend its roots into the soil medium. I always have good luck with this method."

**NATIONAL DIRECTORS:** Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 26, will send board meeting notices if she has your addresses.



## Armchair Explorers

May Newsletter

Exciting news for you this month.

After years of trying to get seed of the yellow flowered rex type begonia, *B. xanthina*, I have finally been successful. Xanthinus means yellow color. Here is the description of this begonia as found in "Die Begonien" by Karl Albert Fotsch: "*B. xanthina* grows bushy, densely, has a rootstock thickly covered with hairs, succulent on which the numerous thick, red fleshy petioles grow. Leaves heart-shaped, notched, lobed on one side towards the top with yellow green main veins, bare on both sides. Flowers slightly higher than the leaves, 12 to 20 flowers. Flowers large, yellow to red-orange. Male flowers 4 petals, stamens form a complete round head, female flowers 5 petals, stigmas greenish yellow, broad, ovary greenish yellow."

Seed of another rare and outstanding begonia has also just been received, this one is *B. albo-coccinium*. The description was found by Rudy Ziesenhenné in Volume 71 of Curtis' Botanical Magazine, as follows: "*Albo-coccinium* is known as the scarlet and white begonia or elephant's ear, rhizomatous type. Stems none, or so short that the plant may fairly be called stemless. From a short, thick column spring the stout red colored leaf stalks 2 to 5 or 6 inches long, terete with scattered appressed hairs on the surface, their base sheathed with large, lax, membranaceous stipules. Leaves from 2 to 5 or 6 inches in diameter, in general the length being about equal to that of the petiole, quite glabrous, obliquely ovate, very obtuse. The texture is thick, between fleshy and coriaceous. Scapes a foot to a foot and a half high, twice as long or more than the leaves, terete, red, branched above into a many-flowered, spreading panicle with small bracteas at the setting on of the branches. Male flowers of 4 sepals, 2 outer and larger ones, nearly orbicular, red externally, white within; 2 inner smaller obovate, white sometimes tinged with blush. Female flowers with similar sepals to the male, except that the inner ones are sometimes increased to 3."

I received a very nice letter from our new member in England, Mr. J. French, and he sent us choice tuberous hybrid begonia seed

and spores of *Adiantum scutum*, which is a pink variety of maidenhair fern. Also in the mail were a good many letters from our members saying how pleased and delighted they are with the begonia seeds and what fine success they are having; this pleases me very much—seems to make all my work more worthwhile.

My bed of ferns is more beautiful than ever, especially those holly ferns right now as they are trying hard to crowd each other out. Holly ferns are especially easy to grow from spores, I raised all of mine in no time at all, or so it seems. Now I am wondering if there are among us those who are still failing to grow ferns from spores successfully, and if so I will make another free offer to them. I will send spores off my holly ferns and a cultural leaflet if they will send a stamped addressed envelope. There is still quite a supply of the Concolor lily seed if you want some; they are also free for the mailing envelope.

My glass house has been filled with blooming phalaenopsis these past few months, several pink ones are in full bloom now. I find that the flowers last nearly 2 months on the plants and these are certainly my favorite orchid plant. My birds are performing nobly, too.

For 3 weeks I have been slowed down with the flu and letters have sort of piled up on me, but I am again catching up. If by the time you read this you still have not heard from me, please write again, for your letter may have been misplaced.

Send for a copy of the new seed list just now ready to send out. Stamps are very acceptable in payment for seed and much easier to send than coins. Seed of *B. xanthina* is 50c per packet. *Albo-coccinium* is 50c and the *Adiantum* spores are 25c.

Cheerio, hope to have more good news for you next month.

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell

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**JOE SMITH**

1854 24th North, Seattle, Wash.





## Q + A = *Success*

by *Research Dept.*

**Question:** When is the proper time to prune begonias?

**Answer:** I don't like to lay down hard and fast rules about definite times for cutting back begonias. Your locality and previous winter treatment and weather have much to do with how soon you can safely cut back on some of your plants. In this locality, we start working over the plants generally in March. Our plants have rested during the winter months and are now showing signs of active growth. Those plants which seemed to be affected by the cold weather or show no signs of new growth are left until later in the spring. If your spring comes later in the year in your locality, then you should wait until that time. House plants are a different proposition. Given regular watering and fertilizing during the winter months, plus the fact that the temperatures were kept to the begonias' liking, have kept your plants in active growth during the time when we out here have deliberately forced our begonias into dormancy. So our rules would not apply in your case. Perhaps a good general rule in your particular case would be to cut back as severely as needs be only during the time that cuttings will root for you. This may be as late as June in your locality.

**Question:** Most directions for cutting up rhizomatous plants have merely said to cut two inch sections of the rhizome. Some of these sections will root and others won't. Is there a more definite rule?

**Answer:** Yes there is more to cutting rhizomes than that. One must have an eye on each cutting. A recent demonstration given by Mrs. Fewkes, should give the amateur many hints on the proper treatment of rhizomatous cuttings. The particular plant used had three long and scraggly rhizomes extending over the sides of the pot. First, the plant was shaken out of the pot and all soil removed from the roots. The two side rhizomes were removed from the plant and the roots were cut back severely. All the old rhizome beneath the soil was cut off completely. The rhizome was next cut just above the first good eye. This will be one new plant. In order to determine where the eyes of the stalk are, the stipules were pulled off the plant.

Wherever there is a good eye, one should find a small green growth about a half inch long. This will be tapering and folded much like a very new leaf. It's hard to describe exactly how it looks without an actual demon-

## LOS ANGELES HOBBY SHOW

This show attracted EVERYTHING! Next door to our Begonia seed display was a case of DRAGONS. Collecting dragons, one woman explained, had become a part of her life—trying to find one to use as a pattern—and she finds a whole case at the Hobby Show!

But we would rather collect rare plant seeds and watch plants grow before our eyes. We made many new friends all over the state and some from other states and we encouraged new branches for those places, and our local branches will be getting visitors, as many left their addresses to be notified of meetings.

Our display was set up by our Show Chairman, Calvin Trowbridge, and much credit is due him for an educational exhibit of great instructive value. The background was the World and the origin of many of our seeds was shown. The seed, soil and method of planting were explained and created much interest. Plants of all ages were displayed on our tables, from seedlings ready to transplant to two-year plants.

For you who could not attend the Show, note the new seeds listed in the Armchair Explorers Column and send a stamped self-addressed envelope for the newest rare seed list to Research Department, 214 North Yale St., Fullerton, Calif.

Yours, for Better Planting and more Hobby Shows—

*Maud Nichols*

stration, but if under the stipule you find what appears to be new growth, then that is considered to be a good eye. You should more or less center this eye in your cutting. Cut about an inch on each side. Many sections will have to be discarded due to lack of eyes but I believe that you will have more cuttings than you expected.

If the rhizome is one of the very fleshy types, care should be exercised in not keeping the rooting medium too wet until the ends of the cutting have been healed over. A good general rule would be to have the cutting box moist to begin with, then let it dry out gradually and do not water until the cuttings have healed over. For the more woody types of rhizomes, regulation of moisture is not so strict.

Place the cutting firmly in the rooting medium but do not bury it. Roots will form on the under surface of the rhizome. When potting up, after new growth is well established, you may bury the rhizome cutting below the soil if it is necessary to make a shapely plant. However, most types of rhizomes grow on top of the soil naturally, or are completely upright, so one must judge with which type one is dealing.

# BRANCH BUILD - UPS

Some of our branches have hit upon some very successful methods of building up attendance, membership, and membership enthusiasm. From recent reports we note the following which may be of use to those branches that have found the way difficult:

In the first place, it might be a good idea not to worry about bringing in new members if you do not have a high membership attendance. Concentrate first on making branch activities and meetings interesting enough to your present members to demand a higher attendance rate. It will then be far easier to interest new members.

## No Drones

One of the best methods for arousing interest is to put everybody to work at every meeting. Give each member a job—an important job. Most branches have several committees such as Plant Table, Refreshment, Show Management; some have a Branch Library; Santa Monica has about a dozen; Petaluma has its Publicity, Sunshine, Hospitality and Receptionist Chairmen among others. Each activity could have one or more sub-committee members according to the number of regular members in your group. Each should have a definite duty which is well within his or her capabilities and enjoyment. Most new members are shy about accepting responsibilities, but if every member has a job, it will be easy to persuade them to accept one of the simpler activities—such as being a member of the refreshment committee, etc.—and join right in the fun.

The common courtesies of all organizations—the greeting of old members and cordial introduction and becoming acquainted with visitors, the sending of messages of cheer and visiting of the sick or bereaved, the congratulating of the fortunate, might well become arduous tasks if left on the shoulders of one individual, whereas they would be easy if divided between enough of your members.

Publicity duties can be wearisome if held by one person alone sometimes, particularly if seriously pursued according to suggestions we will make in a later issue. Be sure each committee chairman has enough help to enable him or her to do a good job without feeling over-burdened.

## Meat in the Meetings

In some areas branch programs are difficult to arrange to provide enough variation—particularly if begonias are to be stressed. There may be a few outside sources of information at hand and most programs may have to be produced by the membership itself. While this is not an article on program ideas—that

will come later—we do believe that about two big projects a year will provide a lot of material in their own right.

A summer show of members' plants, summarizing their growth in knowledge and ability for the past year, takes a lot of time to plan and build and can be a lot of fun. Do you remember last year's story about the Missouri Branch's exhibit?

A winter project of an educational nature would fill the other half of the year full to the brim if thoroughly planned and executed. You might even get a school teacher to plan your course of study and pass a kind of plant examination with prizes at the climax. Each branch has one or two or more members with plant knowledge just "busting out at the seams." Then use your Begonia books—the A.B.S. pamphlets, the Krauss and Buxtons, the great books on Tuberous, your own branch library material, and the vast fund of books that your National Library stands ready to loan you, merely for the postage.

## Trumpets and Alarums!

Next, be sure that everybody knows when and where the next meeting will be held and what sort of program and fun you plan to have. Announce it "loudly" and widely. Some branches, like San Gabriel Valley, have had notices of meetings published in each one of the local papers covering the area. A number of branches, such as South Gate, Inglewood, East Bay, etc., send out mimeographed postcards, giving complete information about the meeting. Here's a good note taken from the East Bay postcard: "DISPLAY TABLE: Bring specimen plants for display. Be prepared to tell something about your plants on display, if called on." Don't you think that makes a member study up a little on the plant he has been able to grow so well? And then his knowledge is shared.

The latest item of interest to be received is the "San Diego Begonia Society Newsette"—a legal-size sheet, typed single-spaced, and mimeographed, contains the next meeting notice, all sorts of branch news from the last meeting and personal items and LOTS of excellent horticultural hints. It is refreshingly reminiscent of the first America Begonia Society mimeographed Bulletins which shortly became your "Begonian." On other pages of this issue you will find quotations from these Newsettes.

Next there are the invaluable Year Books. Some branches, such as San Gabriel, take selected advertising to cover the cost of printing a very complete one. Some merely have mimeographed sheets. Whatever the form they

# Ry Begonia Therapy

By Manson E. Hume

My seedlings have become of age and last week they were transplanted to their new home. Most of the seedlings had four or more leaves and had started permanent root systems. I prepared the flats with a leaf-mold and peat mixture put through a quarter-inch screen, using some of the same sieved through a window screen, which in turn I thoroughly mix with the quarter-inch mixture. This is placed in the flats and a 5% chlordane solution sprayed over the soil. The flats are then covered with newspaper and burlap for twenty four (24) hours. Not having sterilizing equipment, I have used this way successfully. It keeps damp-off down and rids the mixture of worms and other insects in the soil.

The seedlings were transplanted with a toothpick, notched, and a pencil. I made small holes with the sharpened end of the pencil and placed the seedlings into them, lifting the plants with the toothpick. The hole around the seedlings was filled with leaf-mold screened through a window screen. The seedlings were planted a little deeper than they were growing in the pans. I use a board across the arms of the wheel chair as a tray on which to slide the seedling flats. I can move them from one place to another in this manner.

I have found that by using a very fine fog spray in watering the seedlings I can better control the moisture in the flats. After transplanting, I cover the flats with newspaper for

two nights to keep the seedlings from becoming chilled and after that they seem to take care of themselves very nicely.

I cannot tell in words the happiness that I enjoy from growing begonias. Why not help some one to become interested in growing begonias? It is so easy to raise the shades of some sick room and let the sunlight in. By passing your copy of *The Begonian* along to someone who is confined because of a disability, you are giving them the 'seed' that is needed to start them thinking of a hobby such as we have. Why not have each Branch of the A.B.S. sponsor a home for the aged or a hospital for the disabled? The joy that could be brought to our fellow man who is down for a while would be tremendous. For the aged it would make their last days full and beautiful. For the disabled it would give them a new dream of hope, doing things for themselves. There is so much that can be done, when handled in the right way, to make their lives happier.

If you have any ideas along these lines I would be very happy to hear from you. My address is: Interlaken Road, Orlando, Florida. So until then I will say.

So long, until we meet again.

*M. E. H.*

*(Editor's Note: Some branches, such as Missouri, are doing wonderful work in this line now. Perhaps this will encourage more such soul-satisfying endeavors by other Branches and by individuals, too, in outlying areas. Write Mr. Hume for help and suggestions for such projects.)*

## BRANCH BUILD-UPS—

are good mediums to use to help knit a stronger organization. Both Glendale and San Gabriel include short histories of the national and branch organization and, with New England Branch, include information designed to acquaint new members with the policies and procedures and help them slip easily into place in the group. Members' names, addresses, phone numbers, are all here handy when organization work is to be done. A properly prepared year book can be the key to a smoother-running branch.

A. D. Robinson and New England Branches include their entire year's programs, which is hard work to plan but very useful.

All these things can help make live, interesting branches with enthusiastic memberships that will find it far easier to attract new members than tired, bored groups. Enjoyment and enthusiasm are infectious.

\* MORE BUILD-UPS NEXT MONTH \*

Al Clark of D-Vista Gardens, Salem, is a member of the Portland Branch nomenclature committee and in February showed the following begonias at the meeting:

*Diadema* — fibrous, from Borneo—slightly temperamental; 8 to 12 inches between nodes; propagate from tip cuttings.

"*I*"—Woodriff cross, close relative of the Christmas; blooms best from December to May; has fine foliage too.

*Sunderbruchi* x *Verschaffelti* — rhizomatous Woodriff cross. *Improved Countess Erdody*—spiral rex. *Odorata alba*—a fine fibrous.

—Mrs. Rachel Venner





## SECOND TEXAS BRANCH

In early March the Dallas County Branch of the American Begonia Society was organized under the leadership of Mr. W. M. Swanner, a begonia grower and collector, of Dallas, Texas. To Mr. Swanner goes the honor of being chosen their first President.

To quote from the report of Mrs. Russel White, Branch Secretary and Treasurer, "On March 7, 1951, at 7 P. M. a group of begonia growers met at the home of Mrs. R. B. White for the purpose of organizing a local Branch Society of the American Begonia Society. Officers were elected and a Constitution and By-laws were drawn up and adopted. The name chosen for the Branch is "The Dallas County Branch" of the American Begonia Society. Meetings will be held the first Thursday night of each month. The officers are as follows:

Mr. W. M. Swanner, President and Branch Representative; Mrs. Frank V. Lowenthal, Vice-President; Mrs. Russel B. White, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. G. W. Hopkins, Historian and Librarian; Mrs. W. Frank Estes, Parliamentarian."

Already the second Branch Society in Texas is planning an extensive study of Begonias and the enthusiasm shown by the members at their first meeting is proof that interest in the growing and collecting of begonias in Texas is rapidly spreading over the State.

We are proud to announce that at the March meeting of the Board of Directors, in Los Angeles, the Dallas County Branch was voted upon and accepted. (Mr. J. S. Human, South Gate Branch Representative, who enthusiastically seconded the acceptance motion, is a former Dallas, Texas, resident.)

Officers and members of the A.B.S. extend their greetings and a warm welcome to the organizer, officers and members of the Dallas County Branch, with every good wish for success in all their Branch activities.

*Louise Schwerdtfeger, Director of Public Rel.*

*Antonelli Brothers*

**Begonia  
Gardens**

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

Capitola Road

Santa Cruz, California

## SEVEN IS A LUCKY NUMBER

Only seven friends, bound by a common interest in the fascinating plant family of Begonias, are all that are needed to start a new branch and commence enjoying the benefits of mutual sharing and encouragement which can only be found in branch work.

It is quite a simple matter to organize such a branch. The desire to learn more about these widely varying plants and to increase the scope of your first-hand knowledge through practicing the methods of growing you learn from your Begonian and to increase your knowledge by having access to the growing volume of material in the National Library and sharing your experiences with your friends at hand is the big incentive for members to form branches. If you have such an incentive, you already have most of the requirements for branch formation.

Discuss the forming of a little branch with your gardening friends, then write our Public Relations Director, Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, 1450 Cantera Avenue, Santa Barbara, Calif. She will be of every possible assistance to you. Set a time and place for your first meeting—a little friendly party at which you can draft a tentative set of by-laws and constitution after the form suggested by Mrs. Schwerdtfeger. Don't let that scare you off—they can be very simple and practical. Following Mrs. Schwerdtfeger's directions, you can then perfect them and forward them through her to the National Board for its approval. Presto! You are no longer one lone person—you are a Branch.

You will be surprised at the cooperation your town, your parks, your schools, your other garden clubs and especially your local nurseries and greenhouses will give you. And ALWAYS all other members in the National organization are standing behind you to guide, sympathize and rejoice with you.

—Public Relations Department

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## Calendar of Coming Events

(Visitors are always welcome!)

### May 3rd

*Orange County Branch:* Mrs. Bethel Darling of Sandy's Nursery, Long Beach, will speak on "Epiphyllums."

### May 10th

*Hollywood Branch:* Mrs. Judith Packard, well known for her success with Epiphyllums, will tell you how to grow these exotic blooms.

*Inglewood Branch:* Ray Wilson of the Hollywood Branch—a fine plantsman—will be our speaker.

### May 22nd

*South Gate Branch:* Mrs. Carolyn Rector, author of the new Sunset book "How to Grow African Violets," is our speaker.

### May 23rd

*Glendale Branch:* Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, National Public Relations Director, will give a very interesting and instructive talk on Begonias and Mrs. Gladys Nolan will conduct a short plant lesson on Begonia Care.

### May 24th to June 2nd

New Jersey Exposition at Camden, N. J.—See the Elsa Fort Branch's Begonia display.

### May 26th

*New England Branch:* 10:00 a. m.—Hunnewell Estate, Washington St., Wellesley. (Sign "Begonia Society.") 12:00 m.—Box Lunch, Mr. and Mrs. P. I. Merry, hosts, 109 Brookside Road, Needham. 2:20 p. m.—Wellesley College Greenhouses.

### June 7th

*Orange County Branch:* 6:30 p. m. Potluck supper, each person bringing a covered dish and own table service. Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel from La Verne will talk about bulbs and show colored slides.

### June 9th & 10th

*San Gabriel Valley Branch Flower Show:* Saturday 2 'til 9 p. m.; Sunday 10:00 a. m. 'til 6 p. m. Mr. Geo. G. Lawrence, Show Chairman. Entries welcome from all members and friends.

### June 13th

*Western Pennsylvania Branch:* Mrs. W. H. Kirch will speak on "Gloxinias" and Mrs. W. H. Phillips on "Seashells." There will be beautiful displays.

### June 14th

*Inglewood Branch:* Help us welcome Miranda—radio favorite.

### June 23rd

*New England Branch:* 11:00 a. m. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Starr, hosts, 418 Hamilton Street, Southbridge. 12 m.—Box lunch. 2:00 p. m.—Speaker, Mr. Percy I. Merry: "Preparing Plants for Show."

### June 27th

*San Gabriel Valley Branch:* Speaker: Mr. Ronald D. Townsend, Huntington Botanical Gardens. Subject: Shade Plants as Grown in the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about these marvelous gardens.

### July 5th

*Orange County Branch:* Mrs. J. W. Jensen of Bellflower will speak on "Rex Begonias and African Violets."



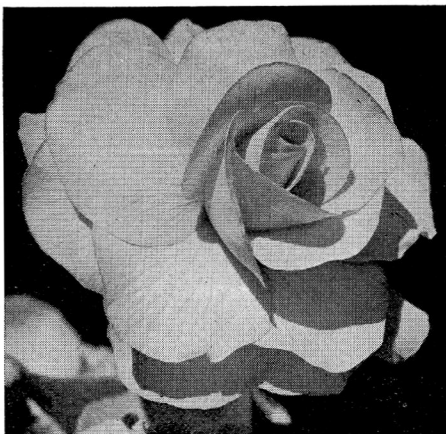
## FUNERAL NOTICES for SNAILS & SLUGS by "SLUG-EM"

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### WEDGIES

Mrs. Lester Pepper demonstrated propagating by wedge cuttings at the February meeting of the Portland Oregon Branch. Using a mature leaf, she placed the wedge an inch down in clean, moist sand with cable temperature of 70 degrees and does not take it out until it shows new growth. She said cuttings take about nine months to make a nice plant.

—Rachel Venner, Secy.



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## Branch Meeting Dates and Places

### BELFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, May 7, June 5, 7:30 p.m.  
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.  
Audrey Adams, Secy.  
6139 Graywood Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

### DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, DALLAS, TEXAS

2nd Thursday, May 3, June 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Russel B. White, Secy.-Treas.  
919 N. Clinton St., Dallas 11, Texas

### EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 10, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Ward St.  
C. F. Jensen, Secy.  
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

### EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, May 17, 8:00 p.m.  
Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 304 E. Valley  
Mrs. Gladys Adams, Cor. Secy.  
11215 E. Elliott Ave., El Monte, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, May 4, June 1, 8:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa  
Gertrude M. Cooper, Cor. Secy.  
340 W. Electric, Glendora, Calif.

### FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, May 5, June 2  
Mrs. Marion R. Thompson, Secy.  
129 White Horse Pike, Magnolia, N. J.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central Ave.  
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Cor. Secy.  
1301 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.

### GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Tillie Center, Cor. Secy.  
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

### GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 22, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following  
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.  
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

### HEART OF AMERICA BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mr. Homer Meek, Secy.-Treas.  
1306 N. 28th, Kansas City, Kans.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Walter J. Butt, Cor. Secy.  
861 S. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.  
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, May 14, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 10, 8:00 p.m.  
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Virginia Smith, Secy.  
1419 W. 104th St. Los Angeles 47, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 14, 8:00 p.m.  
Porter Park  
Mrs. G. W. McManus, Secy.  
Rt. 1, Box 1070, La Mesa, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.  
2255 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. W. Cox, Secy.  
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 22, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secy.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 15, 12:30 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mrs. Mona Ayers, Secy.  
6655 Bellfontaine, Kansas City, Mo.

### NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

### NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

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

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach  
Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy.  
6050 Atlantic, Long Beach 5, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, May 3, June 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 S. Main St., Orange  
Mrs. W. L. Everett, Secy.-Treas.  
Rt. 2, Box 146, Orange, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Casita del Arroyo, 177 S. Arroya Blvd., Pasadena  
Mrs. Harold Benson, Secy.-Treas.  
360 N. Fair Oaks, Pasadena 3, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, May 18, 8:00 p.m.  
McKinley Rec. Center, Washington & Vallejo Sts.  
Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.  
222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

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

### PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, May 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.  
Mrs. George Venner, Secy.  
7604 S. E. Tolman, Portland 6, Oregon

### REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, May 25, 8:00 p.m.  
2308 Rockefeller  
Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Lucy A. Sault, Secy.  
309 E. 220th St., Torrance, Calif.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Secy.  
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Friday, May 25, 10:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. J. J. Howarth, Secy.  
3219 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.

### SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 15, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Mrs. W. J. Holley, Secy.  
2914 V St., Sacramento, Calif.

### SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, May 3, June 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Salem Y.M.C.A.  
Miss Ellen Quail, Secy.  
202 E. Rural Ave., Salem, Ore.

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 22  
Congregational Church, 2700 blk. University  
Mrs. Thomas Hofmann, Secy.  
2327 33rd St., San Diego 4, Calif.

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Center, 11134 Weddington, N. Hollywood  
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.  
7961 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, May 2, June 6, 7:30 p.m.  
1641 Taraval St.  
Mrs. William Meyer, Secy.  
1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia  
Mrs. Hazel Snowden, Secy.  
519 N. Encinita Ave., Temple City, Calif.

*See next page*

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.  
Mrs. A. M. Manly  
P. P. Box 1319, Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, May 15, 8:00 p.m.  
V.F.W. Hall, 311 Pacific Ave.  
Miss Hazelle E. Oxley, Secy.  
428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

**SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, May 2, June 6, 7:30 p.m.  
225 26th St. (upstairs), Santa Monica, Calif.  
Mrs. S. S. Gross, Fin. Secy.  
1116 S. Carmelina, Los Angeles, Calif.

**SANTA PAULA BRANCH**

4th Thursday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.  
Steckel Park  
Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, Secy.  
621 Santa Paula St., Santa Paula, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, May 15  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Thomas Myers, Secy.  
6057-31, N. E., Seattle 5, Washington

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, May 1, June 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. Orville A. Rogers, Secy.  
126 S. Pacific Ave., Ventura, Calif.

**SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, May 17, 8:00 p.m.  
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Esther Krabach, Cor. Secy.  
8438 Fairview Lane, Hayward, Calif.

**SOUTHCATE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.  
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern  
Mrs. Juanita Pritchard, Secy.  
11150 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

4th Friday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Members Homes  
Mrs. Fred M. Owens, Secy.-Treas.  
1312 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, May 9, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. John C. Schmucker, Secy.-Treas.  
Box 233, Brownsville, Pa.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**

4th Wednesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.  
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Mrs. Gretchen Bauchop, Secy.  
9741 S. Santa Fe Springs Rd., Whittier, Calif.

**GROWING FUCHSIAS**

Mrs. Ella M. Fewkes gave the San Diego Branch the benefit of her experience recently on this subject and recommended:

The best potting mixture for growing fuchsias consists of  $\frac{3}{4}$  wheelbarrow load of leaf mold,  $\frac{1}{4}$  rich mountain soil, about 1 lb. coffee can of Milorganite, 3 or 4 cans of sponge rock.

When buying fuchsias, be sure to explain the location and type of ground you have to the nurseryman. Some fuchsias can stand full sun, but be sure to buy ones that are recommended for your location.

Don't fertilize new cuttings until well established. Milorganite is a very fine fertilizer to use on fuchsias as it takes 6 months to decompose. Do not put on the soil. It is best mixed in with the potting mixture. Water thoroughly so the soil is moist and damp, but avoid a swamp condition. Do not cultivate around fuchsias planted in the ground. A regular spray every 10 days is recommended to be sure and keep your plants free of thrip. 'Extrax' is very good.

Plant fuchsias in early spring. They need to be cut back to encourage new sturdy growth on new wood. Cut back to about one-half to one-third of the plant. Prune hanging baskets so that they will send out new shoots. When the shoots are good and husky, they can be pinched back to encourage laterals to come and keep the plant bushy and well shaped. They can be quite severely cut at the end of winter. Cuttings can be taken of soft wood and rooted when the weather warms up.

—From San Diego Branch Newsette

**DISHING IT OUT**

Helen Beacom did just that for the Humboldt County Branch in February by planting a dish garden for us and demonstrating the use of charcoal in the bottom of the dish to keep the water and soil sweet. She told us to keep the garden rather on the dry side and use no fertilizer—or the plants will soon grow out of bounds.—*Violet Wooden.*

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**CONDENSED MINUTES** meeting National Board A.B.S. held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, March 26th, 1951 with President Moore in the Chair. Meeting called to order at 8 p. m. Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society. Present for the meeting Messrs. Moore, Sherer, Spaulding, Lorenz, Trowbridge, Walton, Small; Mesdames Korts, Nolan, MacLanahan, Schwerdtfeger, Hixon, Spaulding, Hartwell; Branches represented Bellflower, Inglewood, Pasadena, Glendale, Santa Monica, San Gabriel Valley, Whittier, Riverside, El Monte, South Gate, Santa Barbara. On motion, duly seconded, reading of minutes of February meeting dispensed with—published in April Begonian.

Reports of Treasurer, Membership Fees, and Business Manager read and accepted as read and made part of the minutes.

President Moore stated that at the Annual Convention in Inglewood last year a Committee was appointed, with Mr. Walton as Chairman, to prepare and submit a Proposed Constitution and By-laws for the A.B.S. He called on the Chairman for a report. Mr. Walton stated the Committee had prepared such a revised Constitution and By-laws and asked each member present to accept the mimeographed copy, "Take the copy home and read it, make any notes deemed advisable and return to the Chairman; ask each one to read this over carefully and we will have another meeting before we put this up for action by the body."

Director Mrs. Korts asked again that branches please send in the name and address of their Representative Director so that she can send the customary card-notice of the National Board meetings. This is quite necessary if you wish to have the notice sent.

Public Relations Director submitted revised Constitution and By-laws of Ventura Branch and Seattle Branch; also Dallas County Branch. Stated she found them in order and moved their acceptance. **SO ORDERED.**

Mrs. Downing reported on American Begonia Society interest in Florida. Mr. Abraham of Buffalo Currier still working in the interest of the A.B.S. Sends out small leaflets and sells Cultural Bulletins.

Librarian reported purchase of 4 copies of "Ca-

**BACK TO EDEN**  
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**BACK TO EDEN**  
Dept. B, DeQueen, Arkansas

mellias Illustrated" and 12 copies "How to Grow African Violets" for re-sale; 25 bundles of "AS IS" excess Begonians sold; 9 complete files of "used copies" sold; various pamphlets and bulletins bound for library use; books sold, 5.

Historian Mrs. Hixon reported the typing of the 1950 history was completed and the volumes ready for binding. Mrs. Hixon stated her daughter, Mrs. Applegate, who typed this history, asked that her earnings be applied toward the binding of one copy. This most gracious gesture was warmly received and Librarian asked to include an appreciative note in the volume retained in the library. Secretary instructed to convey to Mrs. Applegate the appreciation of the A.B.S. for her contribution.

Slide Librarian, unable to be present but sent in report that everything going along fine; 7 sets out for April and 8 ordered for May.

Editor reported "The activities of the Editor are reported in the March Begonian."

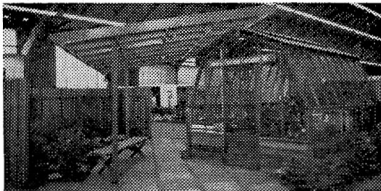
Cal Trowbridge, Flower Show Chairman, reported on the International Flower Show. Thanked everyone who assisted to make this exhibit the success it was and particularly mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Olmsted, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnston, Mrs. Etta Morant, Mr. and Mrs. MacLanahan, Frank Rich, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Small; Marie Turner for the wonderful plants she loaned to make the exhibit. Secretary instructed to write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Turner for her generosity. Won second award \$40.00; \$131.50 through sale of tickets on the Glass House. Balance of monies, after repayment of the \$75.00 advanced and other expenses, to be ear-marked for a Special Show Fund. See report next month for more details.

President reported he had talked with Mr. Meyers of the San Francisco Branch. Asked Representative Directors to talk with their members about a Convention in San Francisco.

Branches reporting gave indication of continued interest and many flower shows to come along during the spring and summer. Lack of space prevents special mention, but please advise your Editor of your plans so that notices of dates will appear in time.

Respectfully submitted,

Gonda Hartwell, Secretary.



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