The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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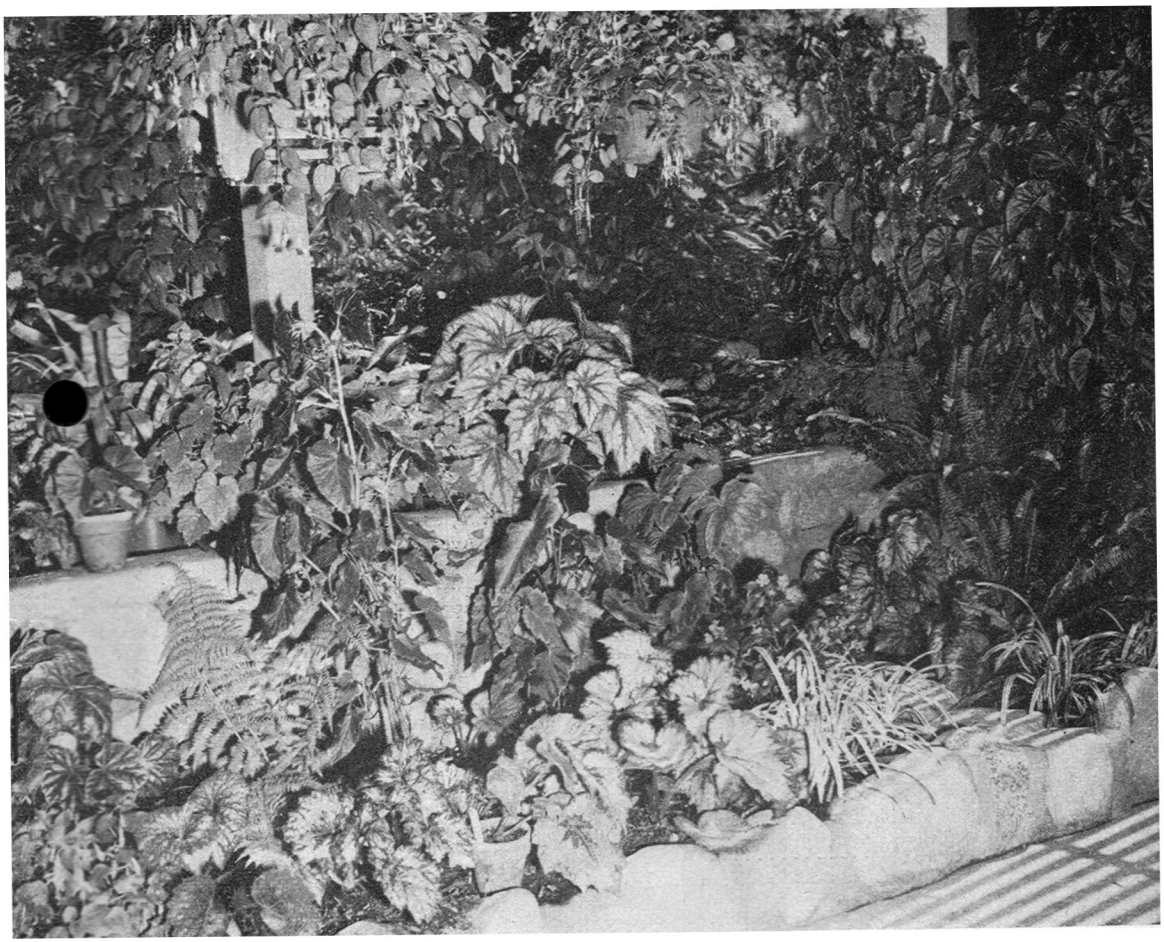

An Inland Garden

See Page 249

Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society, Inc.

The Begonian

Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

This Society shall be conducted on a non-profit basis, and its purpose shall be to stimulate interest in begonias and shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of begonias and related plants; to gather and publish information in regard to the kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and other shade-loving plants, and to issue a bulletin which shall be mailed to all members in good standing.

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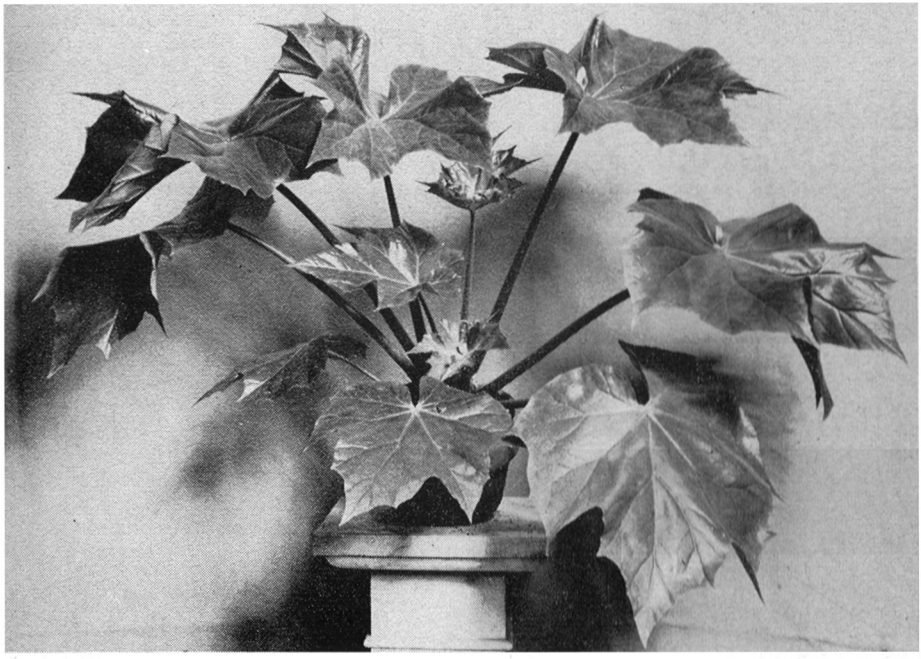


Begonia John R. . . .

A great many words have been written about the value of begonia species collected south of the border. Two of these, *B. Dayi* and *B. MacDougalli,* were used by Louise Schwerdtfeger to create a splendid begonia she named John R. after one of her favorite A.B.S. friends, John R. Williams.

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger grew both *B. Dayi* and *B. MacDougalli* for some time to carefully check their good traits as well as their more undesirable qualities. She hoped their offspring would have the best characteristics of each of its parents. Her work was rewarding in this case, as *B. John R.* is both beautiful and sturdy. It does not lose its leaves in winter as *B. MacDougalli* is prone to do in some areas. The foliage is large, a clear medium green, shaped extremely large in width with shallow lobes and prominent veins. It lacks the brown coloring in the veining that is noticeable in *B. Dayi.*

When the new leaves first unfurl, they are star shaped with a saw-toothed margin slightly wavy. In the secondary stage they broaden out and the six lobes are rounded, but tipped with a sharp point. The underside of the foliage is just a shade lighter green than the surface. The topside shines as though it had been lacquered. The stems (petioles) are long in keeping with the large size of the leaves. They are streaked with yellow-green and are covered with an almost invisible fuzz of tan. This tomentum is inherited from the seed parent, *B. Dayi.*

The blossoms are held high above the foliage on very sturdy stems. The florets show the influence of *B. MacDougalli* as they are chartreuse. The petals are smaller than those of this species and the whole flower is as lacy as those of *B. Dayi.*

B. John R. may be grown outside in mild climates. It doesn't need as much watering as some thinner leaved rhizomatous specimens require. This *B. John R.* has taken ribbons in several shows since it was registered and introduced by our Santa Barbara hybridizer in 1951.

JEAN KERLIN

Photo by Ralph Holtsizer

Soil Structure . . .

In the Beginning there was no soil, but provision had been made for it in The Plan. As the heat dissipated, and the surface of the earth cooled, it probably looked like the grandfather of any volcanic rock you might casually examine today. But when the rains came, and the wind, and Summer's heat, and Winter's frost,, and the other agencies of rock decomposition began their endless task, the earth inexorably became covered with a shallow layer of rock particles. Plants and animals came to live on it, and leave their remains, and the glaciers ground it and stirred it, and then retreated, leaving it to mellow and be claimed as our heritage.

The recognition of the fact that the soil is primarily composed of tiny rock fragments will explain why the analysis of soils will generally run from 90 to 99 per cent mineral content, and only 1 to 10 per cent organic matter. In situations like peat bogs, or muck accumulations, this ratio is reversed, but normally, soils fit the first set of specifications.

Soils are probably classified in as many ways as there are classifiers, but for our frame of reference we shall stick to the three most familiar terms that describe soil character: clay, sand and loam. Clay is the smallest mineral particle of the soil. The individual chunklets are usually not larger than one eight hundred thousandth of an inch. Clay particles tend to be thin, flat, plate-shaped bodies, and the effect of this characteristic particle is that clay soils exhibit a tremendous surface area. Someone calculated that a four-inch pot full of clay contains about 400,000 square feet of surface. This immense surface affords a perfect storage place for the various mineral nutrients utilized by the growing plant. This may constitute part of the answer to the question raised by many visitors who express amazement over plants doing so well in our California adobe. Moreover, it will also serve to partially explain why clay soils are so slow to dry out.

Sand and silt, which are comparatively inert materials of varying particle size and shape, are considered the skeleton of the soil. Mixtures of sand, silt and clay are called loams. The character of the loam will depend upon the relative proportions of the ingredients, and, loams are almost universally prized by gardeners. The value of the loam is derived not only from nutrient content of the clay fraction, but most certainly also from the excellent physical structure.

Perhaps the most important consideration of soil structure is the matter of pore space. Pore space is the name given to the tiny chinks and cracks between soil particles. Normally these spaces are filled either with air or water, a matter depending upon the size of the spaces. There are two types of pore space, namely, capillary (meaning very tiny, and usually filled with water) and non-capillary (meaning larger spaces or fissures that usually contain air). The ratio, in the soil, of capillary and non-capillary pores to total solids is of the greatest importance in normal plant growth. The large or non-capillary pores permit air to enter the soil, and where soil aeration is poor, growth will be poor and limited regardless of how much water or plant food is applied.

Soil serves the plant in two ways: first, as a mechanical support, and second, as a reservoir of water and mineral nutrient. Roots do best in a soil where the water is present either as a thin film around the soil particles, or in the short slim columns of the pore spaces. Together with this water, air must be present. Underground, this air dissolves in the soil water held in the capillary spaces, and the oxygen content is absorbed by the roots of the plant. Plant roots behave in an opposite way from the leaves, in that they take in oxygen (as well as dissolved minerals) and give off carbon dioxide. If this carbon dioxide is allowed to accumulate in the root zone as a result of poor ventilation, the roots become poisoned, and the plant dies. The soil must therefore be open enough to permit some movement of air.

The underground movement of air obviously depends upon the number and size of the pore spaces in a given soil. Soils rich in clay are comprised of tiny particles which pack together tightly, so that the pore spaces are predominantly of the tiny, capillary type. Circulation of air in such a situation is certainly restricted. Sandy soils, because of their loose construction and large proportion of non-capillary spaces, permit a ready circulation of air, and dry out rapidly. Clay soils, like California adobe, have a paucity of non-capillary space, and a preponderance of the capillary (water-holding) space, and they have a unified tendency to dry slowly. Since no force is pushing air into the soil, it enters only as

soil water moves (drains away, is absorbed by the plant, or evaporates) out of non-capillary space. Thus it is a cinch to drown a plant in heavy soil, but the real assassin is not so much the water as it is the resultant lack of air.

The ideal soil has been described as one wherein there is 25 per cent of capillary space, 25 per cent non-capillary space, and 50 per cent solid matter. The loam soil types approach this ratio, and are therefore highly desirable.

Most gardeners are pestered by either too much sand or too much clay, and few indeed are blessed with a perfect loam. With clay soils, some cultivation helps, but more often than not, it serves only to break the soil particles into still smaller particles which then pack more tightly than before. The desideratum in this instance is the opposite effect, one of making bigger chunks out of the little chunks. This process is called granulation. In the recent past, several chemical substances designed to assist this granulation problem were put on the market under fanciful trade names. These polyelectrolytes, when applied in strict accordance with instructions, probably do assist.

Other than these compounds, many bulk materials are helpful in correcting pore space relationships. Inert materials such as sand, gravel, sponge-rok, vermiculite and decomposed granite have been used with varying degrees of success. A number of organic materials may be used, such as manures, leafmold, woodchips, shavings or sawdust, beanstraw, spent tanbark, and composts. Such organic materials are used with equal benefit in both clay and sandy soils. In a sandy situation, the organic materials clog the non-capillary spaces and increase the water-holding capacity. With clay soils, the decomposition products act as cements which bind together the tiny particles into larger granules and increase the air-holding space.

In relation to the use of manures, it should be emphasized that fresh manures, when used in moderate amounts, are of far greater value to the physical improvement of the soil than the more usually recommended old, rotted manures. It is during the active decomposition of fresh manures that the cementing substances so essential to the granulation of soil particles are produced. Old rotted manures are apparently past the stage when these cementing substances are produced. It has been found that the same physical effects are produced in the decomposition of "green" manures. Fret not about the "vacationing" bacteria; when they come to the end of their carbohydrate spree, all the nitrogen they have temporarily "locked up" will be returned into a better soil condition.

The nutritional element calcium is of considerable importance in clay soils and their granulation. Imagine for a moment that the tiny disc-shaped clay particle is like a ship's helm, a wheel with spokes protruding from its edge. At each spoke, the wheel holds a chemical ion, such as an ion of calcium sodium, phosphate, sulfate, nitrate, iron, or ammonium. These may exist in nearly any combination, and they are exchanged off the wheel as a plant rootlet absorbs them, or a solution of a chemical substance comes in contact with the wheel. Solutions, containing sodium salts, would tend to change the population of ions on the wheel to a point where almost all were sodium. This chemical change would result in a remarkable physical change: the soil would take on a sticky, gummy character, and eventually nearly all evidence of granulation would disappear. The granulation could be restored if the sodium were once again replaced with calcium. Thus, the importance of "liming" soils is demonstrated. Lime, as such, is not the happiest choice for replenishing the calcium content of the clay disc. Gypsum, which is a comparatively neutral compound, is a better material, especially where an alkali soil or water condition exists. It may seem somewhat out of character, at first glance, to recommend the mildly alkaline element calcium in connection with soil improvement for acid loving plants like begonias. It will be recollected that Rudy Zeisenhenne incorporated a source of calcium in his exellcent soil mix for begonias. More interestingly, it has been reported that the well-known plant collector, MacDougall, claims that when he runs onto a limestone outcropping, he invariably finds begonias growing nearby. In the light of these observations, "liming" would seem a practical necessity, providing both nutrient for the plant, and improvement of the physical soil structure.

The emphasis in the foregoing has been placed on soil structure for the reason that this facet of gardening practice is frequently overlooked in the rush to provide the garden with a maximum level of plant foods. For optimum results with garden subjects, it must be realized that soil fertility is a combination of effects, and the physical condition of the soil must be given no less attention than the chemical substance. Thus, a good soil architecture will stimulate vigorous root development, and the roots may then obtain the greatest advantage from the available nutrients.

F. C. QUINTANA

Begonias and Their Culture . . .

Where do we find begonias growing in their native haunts? Tropical zone did you say? Oh, no! Begonias in their native haunts are found in the temperate and sub-tropical regions, in elevations chiefly from 2,000 to 4,000 feet, although some tuberous varieties have been found at 7,000 feet. Begonia *Clarkei* was found in the high Andes to have a stem as large as a man's arm and the tuber was not found after digging down three feet.

These plants do not grow efficiently, according to Rudolph Ziesenhenne, above 80 degrees. If the leaf of a begonia feels warm to you, it is not happy, he says. Who is Ziesenhenne to be quoted? He is one of the foremost begonia experts, grower and hybridizer on the West Coast. With emphasis he states that a grower, to secure optimum success in growing any plant not native to his locality, should know the conditions under which the "trans-plant" grows. To secure the conditions of moderate heat and humidity, it is necessary to establish some form of housing to alter our climatic conditions. In a growing house made of burnt-out florescent tubes, we have heat reflection which makes it cooler in summer. In the winter, it is warmer in a "tube house" because there is less heat radiation. Plants do not grow well under green plastics, he says. If the roof constructed of tubes has sufficient slope, there will be negligible drip. If we control the sunlight by the use of lath, spacing them one-third lath apart, we will find at 30" from the floor or bench height, one-half light and one-half shade, but on the floor there is three-fourths sunlight. Plants should be put on the ground on a very cold night because the benches of the lath house do not let the heat come through to the plant. If there is no housing protection, the east side of a building provides good growing conditions, but the best growing conditions are found under trees and shrubs. There we find filtered light. The sun is not a point of light, it has diameter, so there is a spread of light.

All plants must have air in the soil. To aerate the soil, compost, humus, shavings, undecayed leaves or cow manure should be dug in. In adobe soil, some growers have suggested digging down in the flower bed about 2 feet and filling the trench with a suitable growing mix. This method, Ziesenhenne states, only creates a bath tub. The bacteria under these wet conditions form methane, a gas deadly to plants. If you want to find out the soil strata in your locality, check with the Soil and Plant Survey. If you have adobe or hard pan, then you will know how deep to dig postholes to get into soil which will drain. These holes are then filled with gravel to assist nature's plumbing system. Water forces out the old air in the soil and new air is replaced at 15 pounds per square inch into the vacancies as the water runs through. Sand in a mix tends to pack hard when watered, thus shutting out the air. Manure mixed into sandy soil builds and binds its particles together. Manure also has the property of loosening adobe.

Every grower has his own rooting medium, some liking sand, vermiculite, gravel and peat or spagnum. This successful grower likes sponge rock best. Sand, he finds packs in the mix. Creek sand is loaded with nematodes so the usable sand must come from beach areas. Sand does not hold together. When a cutting is removed from a sand propagating medium, the root system bends and breaks with the weight of the sand. If sand must be used, the cuttings should be potted when there is only a one-fourth inch root development.

The clay pot, according to Ziesenhenne, is probably the worst thing to expect a plant to grow in because the water from the soil ball evaporates so quickly. Nurserymen have to use clay pots for convenience. Tin cans which are not beautiful are often used if there are holes punched in the sides for drainage. These retain the moisture much longer.

To use the clay pot successfully, one must remember that when a plant is watered in the ordinary method, it actually gets little benefit from the drink because the pot absorbs the water. Clay pots before using, should be thoroughly soaked in water to replace the air in the pores with water. Then the thirsty pot will not steal its drink from the plant. A plant growing in a clay pot should be thoroughly drenched with water, not just sprinkled. Let the surface of the soil become dry before another drenching.

While on the subject of watering, we find that begonias will grow in *running* water, but not in stagnant water. Water the begonia only when it needs it. Different varieties and sizes of plants use water at varying rates. Flood them, then let them get on the dry side, (*not* so dry that the leaves curl), then flood again. During hot weather a mist spray

foliage bath helps maintain humidity and equalizes leaf expiration.

Tuberous rooted begonias grow best in the ground. When winter comes, water this begonia as long as it has leaves because it is storing starch for next year's plant. Nature will tell it when to go to sleep. Don't force the issue by withholding water. After leaves and stem have dropped, remove the stem stub left on the tuber to prevent decay entering the tuber. Allow the plant to become dry and rest. The tuberous begonias grown in pots should be allowed to remain in the pot placed in a frost-free place. Removing the tuber causes root break, leaving the root open for the attack of bacteria. In February when the tuber tissue has hardened off, the soil ball may be rolled between the hands to remove the old soil mix. Put the ball back into a 5" pot. When the roots have reached the bottom of this sized pot (about six weeks), transfer the tuberous begonia into an 8" pot to continue growing to maturity. Don't clean your tubers, he advises. I buy them all clean, you say. Federal Law requires all shippers of bulbs to have soil removed so that the bulb may be easily inspected for disease and insects.

When soil gets below 60 degrees, the plants rest. You should not use during the winter fertilizers which must be decomposed before food is available. The plant may starve due to the slower decomposition rate brought on by lowered temperature. It is best to use fertilizer solutions instead of emulsions in cold weather.

The rhizomatous begonias rest after bloom. Do not repot these while dormant. The rexes if still in active growth may be repotted now. If a plant looks poorly, take a tip cutting and start over again. The cutting will beat the old plant.

Rooted cuttings of begonias should be put into 6" pots instead of the 2" size normally used for most plants. The begonia is a great feeder which must have food at all times. Each leaf should give a side shoot for bushiness. To do this, each plant must have available plenty of food and moisture found only in a large container. Keep an old plant in a pot for only about 3 or 4 years, then plant it in the garden for rejuvenation. He places great emphasis on the use of the big pots to grow specimen plants. *B. Jessie* and *B. Templini* have a tendency to become a one stem plant. To get these begonias into a desirable bushy shape, a leaf and bud cutting should be made. When this cutting is made, a bushy plant of this one stem variety will result. The leaf of this type cutting must be kept off the growing medium so air may circulate under it to prevent leaf rot. The Spaniards grew *Jessie* at a trailing pot plant.

Begonias are not immune to disease and insects. Malathion sprays kill mealy bug and scale. Spray the ground to get rid of root mealy bugs. Nicotine spray with Dreft as a spreader gets the aphis. He advises one to wear rubber gloves while spraying. Spray every two weeks with a fungicide-insecticide combination. Bugs aren't so dumb. They don't stay on the top side of a leaf to be scorched by the sun or to be gobbled up by a passing bird. These pests are underneath the leaf where they can suck or chew undisturbed unless the spray is applied underneath the leaf as well as on the top.

This talk, given to the Inglewood branch by Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenne, had so much vital material in it that I felt it should be shared by all Begonianites. This meeting was covered by your editor as reporter.

Begonia Spotted Medora . . .

Joe Ogden of the Hub City Branch brought his *B. Spotted Medora* to the 1955 A.B.S. Show. No one had ever seen this plant grown to such size and cultural perfection. It was fully three feet tall and equally as wide. The top and sides of the redwood tub and the branch structure were invisible. All the eye could see was thousands of beautiful silver-dotted leaves and delicate pink blossoms in profusion. From every angle, *B. Spotted Medora* was handsome.

Asked how he grew such a proud beauty, Joe said he provided well composted and well drained soil and let nature take its course. People who know Joe, think his natural love for growing things might have something to do with its performance. No matter what the cause, this small leaved begonia, introduced years ago by Eva Kenworthy Gray, never looked so beautiful. It was the first prize winner in the fibrous division and a near miss for Best Begonia in the Show.

The photograph was taken six weeks after the Show by Daisy I. Walker in the patio of Mrs. Frank Moore to whom Joe gave the plant following the Show.

JEAN KERLIN

THE COVER PICTURE

Mary Gillingwaters, who lives in Upland, Calif., has shown in the picture of her patio (front cover) that begonias will grow under adverse conditions of high summer and low winter temperatures, and dry winds. "Inland" in California means an area which is not affected by ocean breezes, but receives controlled desert conditions.

Begonias . . . in an Inland Garden

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Many begonia members have enjoyed the beauty and enchantment of Mary Gillingwaters' patio, when she hosts Branch Meetings.*

The setting for this planting (front cover illustration) was created by using native stones, both in the wall and planter. The main plants used in this group planting are the lovely and easy-to-grow hirsute (hairy) begonias, with rex begonias and other shade loving plants for contrast.

At the extreme lower left is *B. metallica,* the lovely old species that came to us from Brazil. It was introduced in 1869. It makes a tall and well branched plant, with bright green leaves, having a metallic luster. The white flowers borne on long stems are so thickly set with

bright red hairs, that they resemble balls of deep pink chenille. It is one of the parents of some of our lovliest hirsute begonias.

A few of *B. metallica* children that are my favorites are *B. Margaritae,* introduced in 1882, and *B. Thurstoni,* produced by C. Thurston of Patterson, N.J., in 1887. It will grow to a height of three or four feet and has dark green, glossy leaves that make it an outstanding plant in any garden.

B. Credneri, introduced by Haage and Schmidt in 1890, also has dark green, glossy leaves, but they are somewhat more hairy than *B. Thurstoni.*

Of course there are many fine other begonias in the *B. metallica* family, but my choice for the present, at least, is *B. Alleryi.* It has the lovely metallic leaves of its illustrious mother, but they are so covered with short, white hairs that they appear to be covered with frost. When it is in bloom, its bright pink chenille-like flowers make this a plant that is admired by all who see it.

The second hirsute in the planter is *B. chiala alba.* It grows three or four feet high and as its name implies, has white flowers.

Then comes *B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow,* produced from German seeds by the late W. A. Wallow of Long Beach, Calif., in 1928.

Next is *B. Mrs. Fred Scripps,* thought to be a *B. luxurians* x *B. Scharffiana* cross.

Then *B. r. c. Adrien Schmitt,* against the wall, is one of our hardiest rexes. It was introduced in 1888. It is the parent of some of the lovely new rex hybrids of today.

The large hirsute begonia at the extreme right is *B. scharffi,* sometimes called *B. Haageana.* This is a Brazilian species, introduced in 1888. It is one of our best shrubby begonias. It makes a lovely background plant and does equally well in the ground and as a pot plant.

The large rex on the wall is *B. Joel G.,* a new rex hybrid having *B. r. c. Adrien Schmitt* as its mother parent. This is a very satisfactory begonia as it grows to a large size and holds its leaves well through the winter.

The small rexes at the lower left, in the planter, are also *B. r. c. Adrien Schmitt* seedlings.

By combining rex begonias with the hairy or hirsute begonias, it is possible to produce a satisfactory restful illusion in the shade garden, in areas not recommended for begonias.

MARY GILLINGWATERS

—B—

Be courteous when you drive
So you'll be here to make begonias thrive.

Information Please

Q.—Why won't my *semperflorens* bloom? They grow well, but do not show any flowers.

A.—*Semperflorens* (bedding begonias) require more light than many other types of begonias. Too rich a soil sometimes tends to give good foliage with little or no bloom.

Q.—My *B. manicata* grows upright and does not hug the ground as other rhizomatous. Why?

A.—All of the manicata group—*B. manicata, B. manicata aureo-maculata, B. manicata crispa* and *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa,* are erect rhizomatous and if not staked will eventually bend toward the ground and take root.

Q.—What must I do to get bushy plants when propagating *semperflorens?*

A.—Never use tip-cuttings when propagating *semperflorens.* The best cuttings are made from the new shoots at the base of the plant or by divisions of the swollen nodes just beneath the ground.

Q.—Will seed of *B. Joe Hayden* come true?

A.—Seed from a hybrid will never come true unless set by a great many generations of plants. Seedlings of the second generation will show many more variations than in the first cross. It is possible that some of the seedlings in the second generation will resemble the parent, but even these will not be a true replica of the first hybrid.

Q.—What can I do to get my basket plant of *B. Florence Carrell* to bloom?

A.—*B. Florence Carrell,* like its parent *B. Limminghei,* is a good feeder and so would suggest that you give it regular feedings of mild fertilizer. You could give it a mulch of well decayed manure. This begonia also requires plenty of light to make it bloom.

Q.—Do rex begonia seed come true?

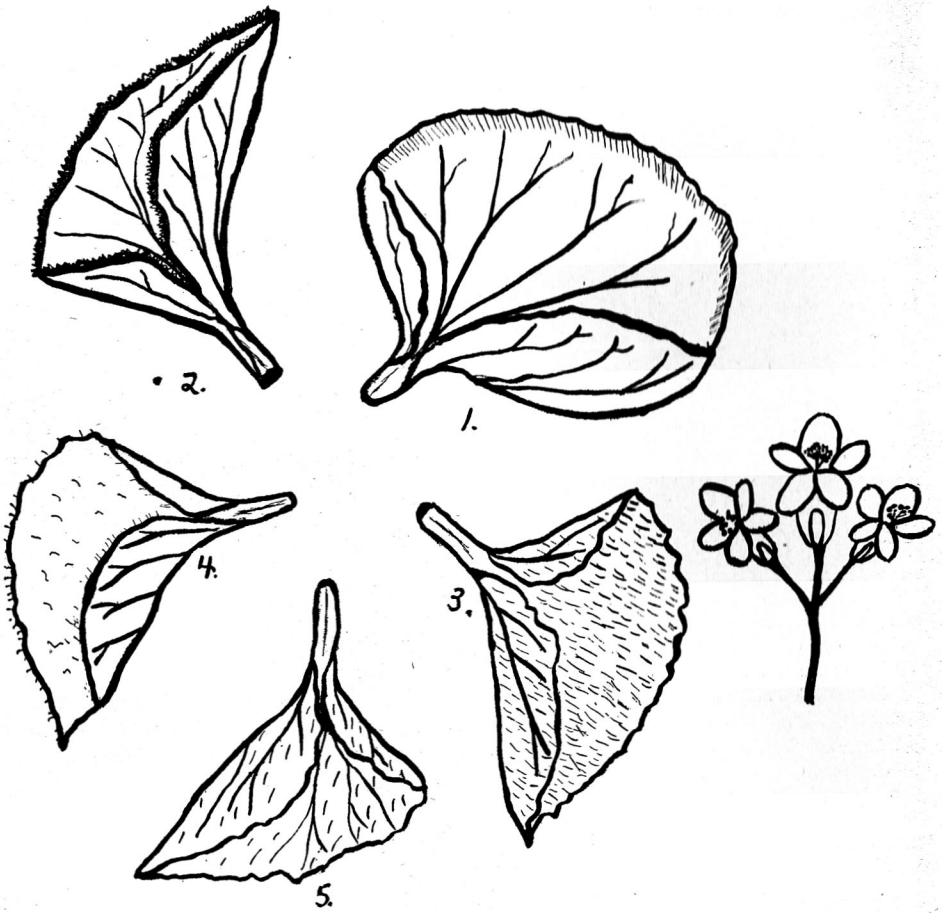
A.—No. Rex begonias are now, due to so much crossing with other types of begonias, a complicated hybrid and seldom do two seedlings bear the same form or colorings.

Q.—When should I repot my rex begonias?

A.—Repot rexes when the roots of the plant reach the bottom of the pot, often as many as three times a year.

Q.—Is it harmful to wet the leaves of rex begonias?

(Continued on Page 254)



New Semperfloren Hybrids . . .

The weather is hot and dry in the San Gabriel Valley of Southern California. It was especially hot this past summer with heat to 115 degrees for ten days straight. Rainfall is nil. Begonia growers are many in this district and the weather is their major problem in growing fine plants. They can do one of two things to help. The first solution is to provide man-made shelter for the plants and to water consistently. The other answer is to select shade plants, especially begonias, that have been bred to withstand the hot sun, the lack of humidity, and which need less moisture.

This reporter visited one of our begonia hybridists just following the heat spell. Marie Turner's Shade Garden nursery is a test station for plants of the Southern Hemisphere. Many shipments from the Islands and South America are sent here regularly. Begonias, bromeliads, philodendrons, fern and other tropicals are shipped in and tested for their suitability to weather conditions here. I was interested mainly in one bed in full sun, wedge shaped and bordered on two sides by a forty-five degree angle of the house. In this one section were tub heliconias, brunfelsia, Duke's jasmine and semperflorens. The heliconias were badly singed. The brunfelsia, over ten years old, stood up well and so did the jasmine. The begonias planted in the ground, grown dry in full sun, were the most striking as they had lost no leaves, were in full bloom and of unusual coloring and leaf texture.

I found that the "semps" were a cross of

Marie's and that they had been placed in this particular spot for testing, while other plants from the same seed pod were placed under shade. There were five in the former group and no two were alike. The shape and size of the leaves, and their coloring were different. The flowers were also various colors. These begonias did not grow tall and rank, but were close and compact about 14" tall. The soil was sandy loam well composted. The bed had been mulched in the early part of the year with shavings and then the natural fall of the adjacent planting had been allowed to stay and decay as in nature. Some of the other begonias in the shelter of lath were burned crisp around the edges and somewhat limp. The seedlings grown in the shade were more rangy and soft in the stalk and foliage, but oh those sun "semps"!

For purposes of description (refer to line drawings), number one had bright green leaves with a pronounced red edge flushing into the leaf. There was only a smattering of hair on it, but the petioles were red to match the rim and the veins were depressed. The entire leaf had a heavy waxed shine. The blossoms of this one are cherry-red.

Number two has a very wide leaf and is also hairy, but the hair is much shorter than number three and there is not as much of it. It has a small red margin on the leaf and the flowers are rose pink with a deep rose throat.

Number three was much different in that it was totally covered with hair both front and back. It is softer green in color and the bloom is very pale pink. This is my favorite, for the heavy hair and the soft green sparked with the pink bloom is so unusual in semperfloren crosses.

Number four has extremely hairy, heavy textured, dark green-red foliage. The florets are deep rose, making a startling contrast to the shining leaves.

The fifth one is perhaps the darkest in foliage and the one most brilliant in leaf color and sheen. Even the blossoms are a deep red and, as in most of this group, the edges of the leaves curl just enough to show both sides and the veining too.

Marie Turner will have seed of these plants ready to market this fall as she feels they have been proved worthy to put in *sunny* locations for the maxim blooming period. In May and June of this year, shipments of small rooted plants in this same cross were made to Nevada and there have been more orders than the dealer can supply, but wait until next year when you can see begonias flourishing outside of the gambling clubs in Nevada.

JEAN KERLIN

The Walls of Ivy

Most shady patios are bordered on one side by a house or garage wall. Whether it be stucco, wood or brick, something can be done to mold such a wall into the landscape design by the use of clever camouflage. The most interesting treatment I have seen was the use of uniform redwood wall pockets, just large enough to hold and hide a clay pot eight to ten inches in diameter.

Plants may be placed directly into the wall pocket but are more versatile if they are grown in pots. Sometimes shavings or peat moss is put in the boxes around the clay pots to retain moisture and to aid in the retention of humidity. These planters should be staggered the width between the building studs and should be placed on three levels. The wall I am describing had a natural finish redwood shrine holding a ceramic figurine of Saint Francis of Assisi centered on the garage wall, slightly above eye level. Six redwood finished wall pockets were spaced on either side; two higher than the statuette, two even with it, and two lower.

The plants in each pocket were various varieties of iy *(Hedera),* from the tiny needlepoint' to the large Algerian species, and from the plain green to the fancy gold and green variegated. The ivy hung in lush garlands from four to six feet in length. This verdant foliage-fall was a perfect complement to the specimen camellias, begonias and ferns surrounding the paved area of the patio.

The culture of the ivies is simple. Plant in a porous, enriched soil; water regularly; spray with chemicals for pests, and feed occasionally. Other than these four principles, only a good barbering two or three times a year is necessary. Hard shelled scale and the seasonal aphis are the common pests ivy sometimes hosts.

This "Wall of Ivy" beauty treatment was initiated by Edna L. Korts, Past President of the A.B.S. In this comfortable patio, many pot-luck suppers have been held for A.B.S. members.

ISABEL MAY

Grow Cymbidium Orchids Too . . .

Cymbidiums were originally discovered growing in India and Burma at altitudes ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 feet and subjected to the normally cool temperatures that are present at this altitude even in the semi-tropics. Also, the plants in that area receive up to 200 inches of rainfall per year. This amounts to an average of about four inches of water per week. The plants were found growing under high trees that permitted a filtered light and in some cases almost full sun. The compost formed from the falling leaves was naturally of a very loose, coarse mixture, and since the ground is very seldom level in the mountains, the drainage kept the compost from becoming too soggy and sour.

Nature long ago decided that some plants should grow and flourish in one kind of environment and others should require just the opposite conditions. Actually, the range between the two extremes is quite gradual and there are many different plants to fit each variation in temperature, humidity, light, food requirements, and care. A dahlia grower may believe that dahlias are the most interesting and beautiful of all flowering plants, even as a begonia grower might think similarly of his begonias. But all plants, like people, enjoy the companionship of other plants of like tastes, but possibly opposite in appearance and temperament. Thus cymbidiums should be and are plants that get along fine with begonias and allied genera.

Cymbidium orchids have been until recently considered a commercial plant grown for cut flowers only, or, in some cases, a hobby for those who wished to invest in expensive plants and spend much time and effort in their care. Such has ceased to be the case. It is now possible in any climate with a minimum temperature, not lower than twenty-six degrees Fahrenheit during winter, to grow cymbidium orchids successfully. In colder climates, any temporary or permanent shelter may suffice if other factors are taken into account. It is impossible to relate any one condition for success with cymbidiums as each of the following suggestions is important in itself, yet completely dependent on every other condition in order to attain the maximum in plant growth and flower production.

TEMPERATURE—Cool nights and, if possible, relatively cool days seem most desirable. A minimum of fifty degrees and a maximum of sixty-five to seventy-five degrees during the entire year is best. However, in most localities, it is impossible to maintain these cool day temperatures during the summer. Thus, with the companion plants such as begonias, aralias, ferns, fuchsias, azaleas, and many others, all usually close to or under cool trees, cymbidiums adjust and thrive even at temperatures approaching one hundred degrees. A light syringing of water on the plants, one or several times per day, will keep the plants cooler and retard evaporation of moisture from the leaves.

WATERING—Cylmbidiums should never be allowed to dry out, as this would retard the new growths which later produce the flower spikes. Neither should the compost be kept in a soggy or saturated condition, as this would cause an early death of roots and subsequent shriveling of bulbs due to inability of plant to take up further moisture and food. Thus, the compost should be allowed to dry out very slightly, then saturate completely, letting the water leach through the pot and run freely out the hole in the bottom. This method has an added advantage of getting rid of any toxic elements left in the compost from previous feedings.

FEEDING—Any well balanced fertilizer in powdered or liquid form that can be diluted or dissolved in water is quite satisfactory. Every third or fourth time the plants need to be watered, the fertilizer in liquid form may be substituted, saturating the compost the same as when watering. During dull weather, it is suggested that the fertilizer be mixed only half strength of the directions on the container.

COMPOST—Soil mixture or compost should be of loose material such as a combination of 10 parts oak leaf mold, two parts German or Canadian peat, one part sponge rok, four parts tan bark, one part fine sand or silt, four parts redwood shavings, one-half part horticultural charcoal, one-half part bone meal, and one-half part hoof and horn meal. Each ingredient in this compost mixture has a definite part in the construction of a well balanced physical and chemical medium for vigorous plant growth. Referring back to the natural conditions under which cymbidiums grow, we are reminded that any loose compost that drains well and yet holds some moisture, that has no toxic materials in its makeup, and has either a slow acting source

Bromeliads . . .
as a Part of California Landscape Design

Although California is the only state bordering the south where bromeliads are not found growing natively, there are probably, with the exception of Florida, more bromeliads to be found under cultivation in the area south of Santa Barbara than in any other section of the United States. This is rather odd when one considers the adverse conditions under which these plants must grow.

The climate of Southern California is similar to that found in the Mediterranean region—long, dry summers and cool, moist winters, just the type of weather which most bromeliads do not like. But such a situation merely presents a challenge to the intrepid California gardener—and come drought or flood, freezing or scorching weather, he is always willing to try his hand in taming the wild or adapting the exotic to his desert-like conditions.

Bromeliads are to be found more and more as a part of the landscape design in Southern California, and strangely enough, they are responding to the many peculiar situations under which they are finding themselves.

Billbergias are the most commonly grown bromeliads in Southern California and are seen everywhere. They are used successfully bordering the shady walk, filling in a dark spot where nothing else will grow, acting as a relief alongside begonias and fuchsias in the sheltered garden, hanging gracefully from hanging baskets, or drooping reflectively over the edge of a pool.

The large Aechmeas, *Ae. caudata variegata, Ae. distichanta,* and *Ae. bracteata* are being grown as accent notes where a tropical effect is desired. Large clumps of *Ae. distichanta* are effective when used to break up expanses of lawn, the leaves giving that often desired perpendicular effect. Instead of New Zealand Flax *(Phormium tenax), Ae. caudata variegata* is found to be equally imposing (and more so when in flower) placed on either side of a doorway. *Ae. bracteata* is often seen growing with aralias, palms, philodendrons, and bamboo in plantings against a modern house.

In the coastal sections where frosts occur but seldom, many of the less hardy aechmeas, such as *Ae. Weilbachii, Ae. fasciata, Ae. pineliana,* and *Ae. miniata* are being planted in the open in rockeries. The author has a rock garden devoted exclusively to bromeliads—Aechmeas, Billbergias, Quesnelias, Nidulariums, and Neoregelias—the odd red, purple, and orange tones of the volcanic rock proving to be a striking foil for the colorful plants. Planted in partial shade, in half leaf mold and half sand, being given excellent drainage, the bromeliads are perfectly happy. The only

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of well balanced food or capable of being fed frequently without decomposing too rapidly, is also quite satisfactory to use whether the plants are grown in pots or in the ground.

LIGHT—Cymbidiums can possibly stand almost full sun or almost complete shade, but to provide the optimum environment for best growth with good strong bulbs and attractive foliage, and the highest production of flowers, a strong filtered light is considered best. Plants can only use the food properly when in the presence of sufficient light and will flower only when this light is at a fairly high intensity. The light which is equivalent to lath spaced one lath apart at least six feet above the plants, or two thicknesses of cheese cloth, or under high trees would meet this requirement.

Cymbidium plants increase in size by "bulbs" which develop each year, and can be divided into one or more divisions, depending on the number of bulbs in the plant. This division process should take place during the early spring when the new growths and roots are the most active. There will probably be one or more back bulbs, or bulbs which have lost leaves, in the center or one side of the plant. These may be taken off separately when dividing and planted in sand or loose compost until sprouted, then carried on as divisions.

There are cymbidiums that flower during every month from December through June, depending on the variety selected. The flowers last on the plant for at least two months, providing the above cultural procedures are followed. With wise selection, one could have flowers from December through June in a color range from white, cream, buff, yellow, chartreuse, green, rose, blush, and red-brown.

GLENN H. HIATT
Orchid Research Co.

problem will be to keep them within bounds.

In plantings under large trees, landscape architects are tending to use more bromeliads grown in among ferns, cymbidiums, camellias, and other semi-shade lovers. And on the trees themselves, along side of laelias, epidendrums, and other hardy orchids, Aechmeas, Tillandsias, and Billbergias are being successfully grown. In the Oakhurst Gardens in Arcadia, where it often hits freezing during the winter months, bromeliads of many varieties are to be seen growing on the limbs of old, gigantic oaks—continuously blooming and increasing in size.

As many Southern Californians are patio dwellers, much attention is being paid to making this living area as attractive as possible. Usually the effect desired is a tropical one, and bromeliads are used to help attain this feeling of lush, jungle growth. In one planting in the patio of a large department store, plants of *Billbergia porteana,* always large and striking, add a definite note of interest in among the palms and philodendrons. In patios, bromeliads grow successfully in open planters, in pots, in hanging baskets, in fernwood containers, or attached to bits of driftwood, a form of decoration currently very popular in this part of the world. Some of the healthiest bromeliads this author has seen are growing in the patio of a friend who resides in one of the driest and warmest parts of the Southland, two thousand feet above the San Fernando valley.

Although Southern Californians are doing their best to make their section of the state a sub-tropical paradise, Southern California remains nevertheless a semi-desert region (the rainfall for 1952-53 being eight inches). Thus more and more gardeners, unable to cope with the excessive alkalinity of the Colorado river water which they must use, are growing those plants which require little moisture—succulents and cacti. One of the most famous gardens of this kind to be found anywhere is located in the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino. Outstanding in this garden is the collection of bromeliads—Puyas, Hectias, Dyckias, and the like—which, when in bloom, attract visitors from near and far. This planting has done much to encourage the growing of terrestrial bromeliads in home gardens. There are many excellent specimens of *Puya alpestris* to be seen in private estates, and this bromeliad has become so popular that it can be purchased in any of the larger nurseries.

So in the open or under shelter, in the sun or in the shade, under trees or clinging to their branches, bromeliads are now to be found in California gardens—a permanent part of their landscape design.

VICTORIA PADILLA

Taken from The Bromeliad Society Bulletin, July-August, 1955, by permission of the author.

Films Available

The Bromeliad Society has sixty kodachrome films with running commentary which give the whole story of bromeliads in a 45 minute showing. Any garden group may secure the loan of these pictures if four weeks' notice is given and one dollar enclosed to pay for postage and insurance. Any group interested should write to the Secretary, Bromeliad Society, 647 South Saltair Ave., Los Angeles 49, California.

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Information Please

(Continued From Page 249)

A.—Not unless the watering is done during the time of day that the sun might burn them or when the moisture remains over night on the leaves. The best time to water rexes is in the morning hours so the leaves may dry off. Never water rexes overhead on a damp, cool, dark day.

Q.—My *B. Schultziana* has bloomed and is starting to lose its leaves. I am afraid that it is dying as former plants have done for me. What can I do to save it?

A.—*B. Schultziana* is a miniature rhizomatous begonia from Haiti. After blooming, it has a rest period when the small green rhizomes will break apart to form new plants. Don't despair. Label your pot before the plant is dormant and in the spring pot up the small rooted rhizomes as they begin to show life.

Q.—What is the origin of *B. fuscomaculata?*

A.—According to Charles Chevalier in his *Les Begonias,* where it is listed, "Origin unknown, very probably a hybrid put on sale by W. Bull (England) 1883," he tells us that it was commonly grown under the name of *B. rubella,* a name already given to an Asiatic species, so M. Alex Langé substituted for it that of *B. fuscomaculata.* It is presumed to be a cross of *B. heracleifolia* x *B. strigillosa.*

From Your President

To All Members:

To continue last month's report of the personnel and departments of the National Board:

Our past president, Jack Koebig, is Chairman of the Finance Committee. He is responsible for preparation of our annual budget. That is, estimating our income for the coming year and allocating so much money to each department for its operation. Any proposed expenditure in excess of $50.00 should be presented to the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board.

The Treasurer, Marie Trowbridge, holds down that job which is a part of any organization. This is a very important job, too, and necessitates detailed records for each department receiving and disbursing Society funds. Marie makes a detailed report each month at the Board meeting and keeps us advised as to whether we are "living within our budget."

A department which is of great interest to the more avid begonia fans is the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund with Florence Gee in charge. Did you know that she has seed of a great variety of plants from all over the world? Her file of correspondence would make a stamp collector drool. Many are the hours she spends packaging the minute seed so as many people as possible can get a few seeds. If you haven't done so, write to Florence and get some seed to grow. It's a real thrill to grow plants from seed. Florence Gee resides at 4316 Berryman Ave., Los Angeles 66, Calif.

Our Library is presided over by Lucy Sault. Last month you saw in *The Begonian* the list of books available for loan to members. Lucy also has many exchange periodicals from other horticultural societies and institutions and keeps them all where they can be found when needed. Please avail yourself of this service and enjoy the many fine books which have been written about so many different plants. Address Lucy Sault, 26938 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.

Mabel Anderson is responsible for our Slide Library and Speakers Bureau. This is another of the services provided by your National Board at minimum expense to you, the user. Mabel has many fine slides of tuberous, fibrous and rhizomatous begonias as well as other shade plants. These slides are available to supplement your programs or to be featured, if you have a member who can comment on the plants as they are shown on the screen. Write to Mabel and ask her to help you design a pictorial program; or if you are running short of speakers, she may be able to help there too, as she has quite a list of available speakers. Write to Mabel Anderson, 1064 Davis Ave., Glendale 1, Calif.

I have attempted to give you a brief outline of some of our departments in an effort to help you avail yourself of the opportunities your Society offers. All the members you read about in this report put in many hours of effort which is not apparent in this briefing. They are repaid for that effort by the amount of use you make of their work The busier you keep them, the happier they are. I shall continue this report next month and hope you are learning a little more about YOUR NATIONAL BOARD and its work.

JOE TAYLOR, *President*

Regional Board Meeting

The next regional National Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be on Sunday, November 20, 1955, at 2 p.m., at the Lions Clubhouse, 225 W. Garvey, Monterey Park. Plans for this important meeting are to be completed in the near future and your branch, if within driving distance, will receive a complete program.

A benefit pot luck dinner will be served, followed by a regular meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society enabling you, the members, to observe the functions of the board.

A Harvest Home and Plant Table will be on the agenda. Members attending are urged to help make this a success. Items on the table may be vegetables, plants, ceramics, white elephants, etc.

Things to remember: FIRST — Bring yourself and family. SECOND—Bring a heaping dish of food. THIRD—Bring table service for all of your family. (This saves a few being stuck with all the dishes.) FOURTH—The date, November 20, 1955, at 2 p.m. We will be looking forward to seeing each one of you.

From Your Editor

Dear Begonianites:

Thank you, everyone, for being so patient until we get this magazine rolling. The contributions which have come in for this issue have been wonderful, but don't forget November 5, the deadline for December, is just around the corner. The issue will be good only if there is material. Snow me in; backlog me with cultural material. Dated material will be handled at once. Check the AIMS AND PURPOSES of this organization and you will see we cover not only begonias, but also other shade or companion plants.

Just because we live here in California is no reason to have material localized. Let's hear from the plains states, and the North, South, East and West. How do begonias and other companion plants grow across our borders and across the great water expanses?

I personally wish to thank Sylvia Leatherman, Jean Kerlin and "Penny" Pennington for the help they extended in producing the October issue.

Let's hear from each and every one of you —material for *The Begonian,* suggestions and constructive criticism. Get advertisements from your growers so readers in other areas may know about plants which grow in your area. They may wish to add new plants to their collections.

Sincerely,
LOUISE CRAMER

P.S.: Don't look for the Constitution and By-Laws in this issue. It was decided to give an interesting magazine to you readers. If you desire a copy, read April 1953 BEGONIAN and add amendments printed in June 1955.

CALENDAR

Nov. 20—REGIONAL BOARD MEETING, Sunday, 2 p.m., Lions Clubhouse, 225 W. Garvey, Monterey Park.
Dec. 8—El Montes Christmas Whoopee Party and Smorgasbord, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25—Norvell Gillespie at the Annual Birthday Dinner—San Gabriel Valley.

Round Robin Notes . . .

It has been my very good fortune for the past two years to be your chairman of RR, and I have enjoyed every minute. I found some new friends and have written many letters. Now I have been asked to take the Chairmanship again and I just could not refuse. For another year, I hope you will help me make this project a success.

The purpose of the Robins is: To share our ideas with others interested in the plants we like; and to write about and tell of our experiences in growing them.

The Robins are a great source of pleasure to many who belong to them. Whether we live in the city or rural districts, we are all looking for the mail, wondering if a Robin will arrive. We are never too busy to stop to read it or at least open it to see who the writer is and the next point of destination. If you have any good ideas or interesting suggestions you think the Robins would enjoy, send them to the editor. You will find her address in *The Begonian.* In this way we can have better "Robin Notes."

Let's keep the Robins flying. If you are not on a Robin flight, please send me your name and the names of your favorite plants.

MARIE REED, *Round Robin Chairman*

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund . . .

Special Offer to Collectors and Experienced Growers. We have had the rare good fortune to obtain a few seeds of *B. goegoensis* and are offering them to you for 1.00 per packet. These seeds are almost impossible to find, therefore the supply is limited. Anyone wishing to place his order should do so immediately. Seeds are fresh and germination should be perfect. This begonia was discovered in Sumatra and is low rhizomatous, small and creeping; leaves are dark olive-green, round and puckered and have a silk tapestry texture. Flowers pink. A beautiful foliage begonia for the collector. Requires heat.

New seeds are available as follows: No. 1. *B. Credneri (B. Scarffi* x *B. metallica)* (1955). Bushy growth; leaves olive-green, soft white-hairy, red beneath; flowers large pink. No. 2. *B. Sutherlandi.* Tuberous species. Stems and branches drooping; leaves lance-shaped, bright green. Flowers yellow to orange. Makes an attractive basket. No. 3. *B. Joe Hayden.* Hybrid. Rhizomatous with black brown, slightly lobed leaves which glisten like satin. Flowers pink. No. 4. *B. Mrs. Townsend.* x *B. Sunderbruchi.* Hybrid. The above are from 1955 crop. 4 packets for $1.00.

Semperflorens collection (1955 crop). No. 1. *B. Himalayan species.* Of the semperflorens cultorum. A beautiful willowy plant with dark foliage and delicate pinkish flowers. Can be used as a basket or grown on a trellis. A good begonia. No. 2. *B. Adeline.* Dwarf pink. Low compact growth, dark foliage, pink flowers. Makes an attractive border or can be grown in pots. No. 3. *B. Masterpiece.* Large ruffled flowers. Delicate pink. Medium growth, free flowering. No. 4. *B. Fire sea.* Intermediate class. Large carmine-red flowers and green foliage. The above 4 packets for $1.00.

Seeds of Other Genera. We are very happy to offer you this collection of rare bromeliads. Fresh seeds from one of the best collections in this area. No. 1. *Dyckia sulphurea.* Terrestrial bromeliad. No. 2. *Dyckia altissima.* Terrestrial bromeliad. These are charming little plants of the bromeliad family with yellow flowers. Culture the same as succulents. No. 3. *Vriesias.* Fine bromeliads. Indoor plants with beautiful painted feather type of flower bracts. Sow seeds on moss or fern bark. Need constant moisture and warmth. Takes from 10 to 30 days to germinate. No. 4. *Caesalpinia.* Tropical shrub of the pea family. A friend who was traveling in El Salvador brought back seeds of this beautiful shrub. Has large yellow flowers. No. 5. *Schizobasosis.* Also known as *Bowiea.* South African bulbous plant of the lily family. Perennial with a thick underground bulb. The center of the bulb sends up each year a long twining, much-branched green stem, with a few scale-like leaves which quickly drop off. Flowers greenish white. Interesting plant for the greenhouse or outdoors in mild climates. One of the most perfectly adapted drought resistant species known. No. 6. *Melianthus major.* Honey bush. Strong scented, handsome, evergreen shrub. Rather popular in California as a landscape subject. Flowers reddish brown. For mild climates. Any 4 for $1.00 or entire collection for $1.25.

Bargain Counter: Begonia seeds "sight unseen," 10 packets for $1.00.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Avenue
Los Angeles 66, California

Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

AMERICAN HYBRIDIZERS

It is agreeable with this branch for anyone to write up the begonias which have been registered with the A.B.S., but recommend that each manuscript be submitted to the Hybridizer concerned for his endorsement prior to printing.

All future A.B.H. endorsed hybrids will be written up under the sponsorship of the A.B.H. Branch.

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EL MONTE

The El Monte Community Branch wishes to extend an invitation to all our friends to attend our annual Christmas Whoopee party on December 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lions Clubhouse, 225 W. Garvey Blvd., Monterey Park.

Joe Taylor will do us the honor of installing our officers for the new year.

We will play "Whoopee." It's fun; come and see. Bring a gift for exchange, also food for the smorgasbord.

See you all December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

——B——

GLENDALE ADOPTS HAWKEYE

Yes, it's legal now. The Glendale Branch thought they could support a baby and decided to take the youngest Begonia Branch under their wing. Personal letters will be exchanged about our mutual interest. Branch problems will be discussed between members, and plant tables will be explained as source of revenue. Help will be offered in securing material from the different sections of the A.B.S. such as library reference and begonia slides. The Hawkeyes can be personally represented through a proxy by a Glendale member attending the Board of Directors meeting.

The first shipment of supplies will be air expressed in October to the Hawkeyes for distribution. All materials such as small rooted begonias, tip cuttings, leaf sections and seed must be properly labeled and suitable for indoor growth in the Iowa area. Even samples of soil mixes used by the local branch may be sent for comparison by the middle state members. The gain and loss of shipped varieties will be the subject of many letters between the individual members. Commercial growers' catalogs will be sent to encourage members to add to their collections and contacts with begonia personalities.

These little services can mean the difference between active members and those staying lukewarm because of lack of material and interest shown by other Branches. Cal Trowbridge promoted this adoption plan at the Board of Directors meeting. Glendale Branch is happy with it and will go all out in an effort to make the Hawkeyes happy in the hope that they will sometime adopt a Junior Branch themselves.

How about some of the other Branches following suit?

Mabel Anderson, president of this branch, showed colored slides of the different types of begonias at the October meeting. These interesting slides are available through the Slide Librarian.

——B——

HAWKEYE STATE

In October, a small but enthusiastic group of begonia lovers met. This branch is out for *Working* members. They report an interesting plant table with active buyers. Two months of drought and high temperatures just "melted" the begonias which were grown in the house. Snow fencing is suggested for constructing a lath house.

——B——

HOLLYWOOD

The members wanted to really know their plants and learn about some new varieties, too. Each meeting finds us studying one specific begonia plus a new hybrid, and then having a spirited open discussion about "must do" tasks for the current month. Recently we have studied begonias *Alleryi, Kumwha, Boṻ-Nigra* and others by charting them on a free study sheet. Then we invited begonia personalities to visit with us so we could become more personally acquainted. President Joe Taylor and his wife, Don Horton and his bride, and Mabel Anderson, the A.B.S. slide librarian, were some of our honored guests. We would love to meet you too. Please join us for a pleasant two hours, any third Wednesday night of the month, at Plummer Park.

——B——

PHILOBEGONIA

The September meeting was held at the summer home of Mrs. Helen Kraus, author of "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens," at Beach Haven, N.J.

After greeting our hostess there was a short time for bathing in the ocean, then a delightful lunch on the porch overlooking the ocean

not more than 100 feet away. In the living room (still overlooking the ocean), we asked Mrs. Kraus to give us a talk on her collection of shells which she has gathered from all over the world and which she has most beautifully arranged and displayed in her seashore home.

We had as our guest Mrs. Jeanette Kingsley from the New England Branch who had been a house guest of Mrs. Elsa Fort.

——B——

RIVERSIDE

Met at the Shamel Recreation Center for the annual flower arrangement contest and display of plants grown by our members. Judges evaluated the arrangements and gave helpful advice so the members could do better next year.

——B——

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Members enjoyed a demonstration of flower arrangements, table decorations for the holiday along with Christmas gift wrap ideas slanted to the manly touch. The harvest festival theme prevaded the whole meeting with the plant table not only having donated plants, but also pies, cakes, jams and other articles. The monthly card party will carry out the Halloween theme. Mr. G. N. Beasley won sweepstakes award at the Rosemead Flower Show. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnston celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary with a reception at their home. Mr. Johnston is past president of this branch.

——B——

SAN MIGUEL

San Miguel Branch, over a period of four months (the former La Mesa Branch), decided to change its name to San Miguel Branch, A.B.S.

Our membership, being as widespread as it is, and San Miguel Mountain being visible from all points from which our membership comes, we decided to give the Branch the name of a less localized point. The name San Miguel has been accepted and approved by the National Board, so will all branches please note the change.

Louise Schwerdtfeger was our speaker for October. She gave a most informative talk on begonias and brought many of her own plants.

——B——

TREASURE ISLAND

On Sept. 30, Mr. and Mrs. E. Weaver from the Texas State Branch, and Mrs. Pollyanne Cooper and Mrs. Francis Carrol from the Houston, Texas, Branch, met with a group of people in Galveston, Texas, for the purpose of organizing an A.B.S. Branch. The meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Cheesborough, 1611 Church Street. The meeting was called to order after which the constitution and by-laws were briefed. Mr. Weaver gave a brief description of the history of the American Begonia Society. Colored slides of members' plants were shown. Mrs. Cooper gave an interesting lecture on how to grow begonias and also a few tips on how to conduct a Branch. The Branch officers elected were: Mrs. F. E. Cheesborough, president; Mr. W. F. Hegmann, Jr., vice-president; Miss Isabella Sievert, secretary; Mrs. A. F. Click, director to National, and Mr. Harold A. Renshaw, treasurer. The Branch was named the "Treasure Island Branch," Galveston, Texas. The Island gets its name from history. This island was once ruled by the pirate Jean Lafitte and his buccaneers. The ruins of the Jean Lafitte mansion can still be seen with its treasure vault of solid concrete. The new members showed great interest in begonias, and I am sure we can look for an active Branch in this city.

E. WEAVER
Chairman, Public Relations,
Southern Division

——B——

WHITTIER

Charming Miss Charlotte Hoak, discussing her favorite subject, "Begonias," illustrated her lecture with various species of begonias and their companion plants from her own garden. These plants were passed through the audience while she was acquainting us with them and was explaining the needs of their culture. The glisten of the leaves, their very greenness, the strength of the stalks, all confirmed the fact that the speaker is well versed in horticulture. The walls of the social room were adorned with her charts of Floral Companions and suggestions as to sites, sun, shade and semi-shade.

——B——

WILLIAM PENN

This branch gave its second biennial Begonia Party at Mrs. George Earl De Coursey's estate in Paoli, Pa., in September.

Some 85 begonia lovers came from six states to see the massed exhibits of fine plants; to buy eagerly both of the home-grown begonias and of the rarer kinds brought from Logee's Greenhouses in Danielson, Conn., and to listen with interest to the speakers. Before lunch, Mrs. Otis Steele, of the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch, demonstrated and described her methods of propagating begonias from seed and from cuttings, with emphasis

on her sincere faith in moon planting, without slighting the importance of the tea kettle's steaming on her coal range. Her dozens of thumbpots containing minute seedlings and healthy cuttings, almost as tiny, were marvels to the less skilled.

The featured speaker was Mrs. Joy Logee Martin, who told of the family business specializing in begonias, begun by her father fifty years ago of his difficulties in collecting and identifying the various kinds; of the work of her brother, Ernest Logee, in the breeding and selection of double *semperflorens;* and of the work of her husband, Ernest Martin, who is following different paths with good results. All this personal history was charmingly woven around specimens of especially desirable begonias; some new kinds, some old, the origin and culture of each indicated briefly and clearly.

In Memoriam

It is with deep felt regret that the Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch announces the passing of one of its devoted members, Miss Tillie Genter. Miss Genter, who died August 19, was a charter member of the branch, and had been active since its inception in 1940. She had served officially as corresponding secretary for many years, and in addition, quietly and efficiently headed up the refreshment committee. Branch members will truly miss her presence, for she faithfully attended every meeting, and was always on hand to act as hostess, and greet members and guests as they entered the meeting place. Miss Genter had uncomplainingly suffered a kidney affliction for several years. It is the fervent wish of all those who knew this kind, patient lady, that she does indeed rest in peace.

——B——

Let's Sit In . . .

Let's sit in the meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society held September 26, Los Angeles City Hall, which was opened in the usual manner by giving the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Aims and Purposes of the Society, with Joe Taylor, president, presiding.

Approval was given to the minutes read. Treasurer reported $395.14 balance in the general fund. Redondo Beach Area Branch returned $300 borrowed from Convention Revoling Fund plus $25. San Gabriel Valley Branch gave $82.63 from their pot-luck dinner, and Inglewood Branch, $152.79 from The Circus Day, to the expense fund.

President Taylor stated that Editor Lloyd had resigned and Mrs. Louise Cramer had been appointed Editor.

Research Director, Sylvia Leatherman, was given authority to contact Botanical Gardens to inquire if they were interested in conducting test gardens.

The report of the Budget Committee read by Finance Chairman Koebig, was accepted.

Koebig, Browne and Cramer were appointed to go over printing bids and decide on a printer.

The new scale of points for Judging recommended by the Garden Clubs, Inc., was accepted to be submitted to handbook publication.

Mrs. Korts was appointed custodian of the American Begonia Society Business License.

These are the condensed minutes.

THE PASADENA FLOWER SHOW SALES BOOTH

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks, for the cooperation and assistance, to all the members who helped with this booth. Everyone was most kind and willing to give his time on this project and I regret we do not have more to show for our efforts. I want to give everyone credit for his work and if any names are left out, it is unintentional. Sometimes one member arranged with another to work the booth.

The tube glass house booth was built and set up by Perry Olmsted, Joe Ogden and John Theiben of the Inglewood Branch. They did a nice job and my thanks go to them for all their work. Mr. Gordon Baker Lloyd bought the tube house. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Norris of Glendale Branch helped my husband and myself move it to Gordon's home. Thank you, Gordon, for your $25.00 for the tube house.

Plants were donated by several growers who were most generous and I wish to express my deepest appreciation for their gifts without which we could not have had a profitable sale.

Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger brought me four boxes full, about 84 beautiful plants.

Mrs. Della MacLanahan gave three flats of begonias to be potted, also some succulents, ferns, etc.

E. L. Busby of San Fernando sent forty plants.

Sylvia Leatherman brought two boxes of begonias and ferns.

Mrs. Osborne of Ventura gave a box of violets.

Mrs. Jensen of Bellflower gave me forty-two small violet plants.

Mrs. Snodgrass of Ventura brought a box of ferns and begonias.

Some of the San Gabriel members brought in plants when they came to the booth. Sorry, but I do not know all the names as I could not always be at the booth. Mrs. Pennington of San Gabriel Branch gave a large box of lovely fern plants she had grown, and they sold readily. Mrs. Helen Fox, also of this branch, gave two large boxes of plants.

Redondo Branch members brought a carload of plants on their day and took complete charge of the booth.

We drove to Anaheim to Carl Fisher's nursery and bought small rex begonias. He also donated some.

Also had to buy a few extra begonia plants.

When the show closed, some plants were left and these were sold (for plant tables) and the bills all taken care of by me. No bills are outstanding. Some plants from the MacLanahans were left over. They were potted and are making nice new growth now. As they are the property of the America Begonia Society, I am sending them to the Board to be sold.

Note: I was told about ten dollars was taken in at the meeting.

A total of $157.15 was taken at the booth, on plants.

Twenty-five was paid for the tube house.

Space for the booth cost fifty dollars, leaving a total of one hundred thirty-two dollars and fifteen cents sent to treasurer.

Many thanks to the following people:

Mrs. Virginia Humphreys
Dr. and Mrs. Drummond
Mr. and Mrs. MacDougall
Col. and Mrs. C. M. Gale

Mrs. Evans	Mrs. Louise Cramer
Mrs. Ann Slavick	Mrs. Ellen Nelson
Mrs. McIntyre	Mrs. Alcord
Mrs. Wiltse	Mrs. Charlotte Gay
Mrs. Williamson	Mrs. Elsie Joyce
Mrs. Stoddard	Mrs. Ann Marek
Mrs. Taylor	Mrs. George Houghton
Mrs. Ogden	Mrs. K. V. Denny
Mrs. Pennington	Mrs. Betty Weir
Mrs. Violet Moore	Mrs. Wilma Blough
Mrs. Wilson	Mrs. Alva Graham

EDNA L. KORTS, *Chairman*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Edna Korts wished this report published (although of back date) so* BEGONIAN *readers could see the cooperation shown by California growers and Branch members in carrying out a project of the National organization.*

Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

AMERICAN BEGONIA HYBRIDIZERS BRANCH
Called Meetings Quarterly
Mrs. Daisy L. Walker, Secy.-Treas.
2425-A Silver Lake Blvd.,
Los Angeles 39, Calif.

BRITISH BRANCH
F. J. Redson, Secy.
Kent, England

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH
1st Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Lounge, Florida Power Co.
Winter Park, Florida
Mrs. Lou Mankamyer
20 Pershing Place, Orlando, Florida

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS
1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Members' Residences
Mrs. Hal M. Mosekey, Cor. Secy.
5544 Hillis Ave., Dallas 6, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH
2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,
Berkeley, California
Mr. Stuart C. Smith, Secy.
3147 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH
2nd Thrsday
Lions Clubhouse, 225 W. Garvey Blvd.
Monterey Park, Calif.
Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Secy.
3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH
3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
LaVerne Recreational Building,
College Park, 2nd and D Streets,
LaVerne, California
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH
1st Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

GLENDALE BRANCH
4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coe, Cor. Secy.
28904 Cliffside Dr., Malibu, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH
3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Mrs. Charles Calloway
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH
2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Hoquiam Public Library, or
Messingale and Rosenear Music Store
Aberdeen, Washington
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH
4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. W. Ernest Jones, Secy.
Welsh & Dresher Rds. Willow Grove, Pa.

HAMSHIRE, TEXAS BRANCH
3rd Tuesday of each month
Mrs. Peter DeYoung, Hamshire, Texas

HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH
3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Ruth Anderson, Secy.
Underwood, Iowa

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Ehret Murphy, Secy.
715 N. Genesee St., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH
2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

HUB CITY BRANCH
3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. L. R. Kellogg, Secy.
1120 E. 71st St., Long Beach, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH
2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH
2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Secy.
726 W. 81st St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH
2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave.
Mrs. Alice Waldow, Secy.
2175 Cedar Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
4th Wednesday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Mildred Dunham, Secy.
914 Howard St., Venice, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH
2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. R. L. Wilkenson, Secy.
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH
4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennemoser, Secy.
1295 N. W. 54th St., Miami 42, Florida

MISSOURI BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Lucille Taylor, Secy.
6130 Chestnut, Kansas City, Missouri

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH
3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH
1st Tuesday, 12:30 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. Selma Braun, Secy.
37 Broad St., Apt. 4-D,
Toms River, New Jersey

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH
2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Grange Hall, 1 block south of center
of Garden Grove, California
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.
515 El Centro St., South Pasadena, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH
2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, New Jersey

PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH
4th Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Journal Building Auditorium,
Front and Yamhill Sts.
Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.
1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH
4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH
4th Friday each month
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ella Cunningham, Secy.
2208 Vanderbilt Lane,
Redondo Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington,
Riverside, California
Irene Springer, Secy.
3608 Rossmuir, Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH
3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.
4285 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. C. E. Crouch, Secy.
2209 Murieta Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH
2nd Monday
V.F.W. Hall at Imperial and Lincoln,
Lemon Grove, Calif.
Ida M. Barker, Secy.
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH
4th Monday
Hard of Hearing Hall,
Herbert & University
Mrs. Lillian Lausted, Secy.
1504 Blaine Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.
Mrs. Edward O'Brien, Secy.
234 Gates St., San Francisco 10, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, California
Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Secy.
911 N. Second Ave., Arcadia, California

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Clubhouse,
1838 San Andres St.
Seth C. Langdon, Secy.
1419 Quinientos, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Trinity Parish House, 609 Eighth Ave.
Mrs. Wm. Stankman, Secy.
4116 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.
1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,
Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Wilma Renshaw, Secy.
560 So. Coronado St., Ventura, Calif.

SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH
3rd Tuesday of each month
Mrs. A. L. Romelser, Secy.
1104 South Ninth St., Salina, Kansas

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.
3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Bob Oliver, Cor. Secy.
333 Redbud Lane, Hayward, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH
Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

TEXAS STATE BRANCH
1st Tuesday night in members' homes
Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.
2822 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH
4th Friday
Miss Isabelle Slevert, Secy.
3912 Ave. "S," Galveston, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Joseph Rock, Cor. Secy.
Maplewood Ave., Wilkinsburg, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH
1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center,
1643 Floral Drive
Mrs. Edna M. Hill, Secy.
8408 S. Madison Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.
Homes of Members, Wallingford, Pa.
Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend, Jr., Secy.
Baltimore Pike, Wawa, Pa.

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