

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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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# Bulbs for the Shade Garden

By J. N. GIRIDLIAN



## *Kaempferia*

THERE are many beautiful members of the ginger family of plants, most of them being very tall-growing and stately. Here we have a genus which is, however, so short that some lie flat on the ground or are only a few inches high. In spite of that fact, or because of it, *Kaempferia* lends itself admirably for use as a house plant and should be included in any collection which is not confined to only one kind of plant such as begonias or African violets. In a mixed collection these add color, charm and contrast.

*Kaempferias* are native to the Orient, mostly India and are deciduous tuberous or rhizomatous plants. Early in the Spring they become active and from then on until Fall they are of daily interest.

The first sign of activity begins when one day in April you will notice a *Colchicum* flower in one of the pots and you are surprised the Fall Crocus should bloom in the Spring. Close look will show that it could be an Orchid because of the large size of the flower and the white and lavender color, until you look at the label and, wonder of wonders, it is *Kaempferia atrovirens* blooming without any foliage. The flower is about three inches across and like all flowers of this group, lasts but a day. However fresh flowers appear

daily for several days in succession. Soon, you will note a tightly twisted purple growth projecting out of the pot. This quickly develops into several fascinating tall, erect leaves held on six inch stems and growing to a height of some 18 inches.

This surprises you because nearly all of the other members of this group you have seen are stemless and hug the ground. The leaves are red-purple on the reverse side and the upper side has an attractive pattern of purple, gray and green and would hold its own for beauty among any collection of foliage plants.

I said that superficially the flower resembles the Fall Crocus. Well, it even acts the same way. If in the winter you will take the roots out of the pot, wash it clean and set it on a table top, it will go right ahead and flower there, and this treatment will in no way hurt the plant provided it is replanted as soon as flowering is finished.

Some of the other members of this Genus also, are beautiful, such as *K. roscoeana*, which is illustrating this article. The two large, well rounded leaves are colored bronze with green markings. In this and all others I will list, the flowers appear with the leaves, and are in colorful contrast with the foliage. In this one the flower is a soft rose with a small white eye. Even though each flower lasts but a day, they will follow each other daily from May to December. This plant would not be out of place in front of a group of rex begonias.

In *Kaempferia galanga*, the bright green, nearly round leaves lie flat on the ground and the flower is crystal white with a purple eye in the center. *K. involucrata* has very light green leaves prominently ribbed, and one half of the leaf is always larger than the other half. The flower is a rosy lavender. *K. gilbertii* has smaller and narrower leaves prominently edged white with white and purple flowers. They are all worthy of a place in your collection and if your planting is suffering from monotony, inclusion of some or all of the above will remedy the situation.

I do not know just how hardy these plants are, but I assume they are fairly hardy since they do become deciduous in Winter. If you wish to grow them outdoors, I would recommend that you sink the pots in the ground and remove them to a protected place as soon as the leaves turn yellow. Or, if you plant

(Continued on Page 203)

# For the Beginner

By CAPTAIN JOE KOSOWSKY  
Founder, Smokey Valley Branch

THERE have appeared numerous articles on propagation of rex and rhizomatous begonias from leaf cuttings in sand and other solid media. I find that the climatological requirements of the above are too fine for the average amateur grower without a greenhouse and with limited space. The usual method advocated has been to place the media in a gallon jar, place the leaf on the media and seal it up. Place the jar in some out of the way place and in a few months either find a well rotted leaf or new plants. With the climate encountered during my travels, if I finally managed to get the leaf growing, after removal of the young plant and potting, the young ones usually went to "Begonia Heaven" because of the drastic change of environment from that of the jar. As a result, I had very little to show for the effort expended.

The method I advocate for the person of limited time and space is to stick the stem of the leaf to be propagated into a small bottle of water. In just about two weeks, roots start forming at the base of the stem and the point on the leaf, where the stem joins it, starts swelling and budding. When the roots are approximately 1/2" long, it is time to pot the leaf so that the stem is about half buried in the usual begonia potting mixture. The plant is then kept in the window above the kitchen sink until it has two young leaves, after which it is moved to the plant room.

The above method means that only one plant develops from a leaf, and most commercial growers would sniff at it. However, the resultant plant is much more vigorous, is acclimatized to the growing conditions of its home, and has a multiple terminal bud rhizome which means that at the end of three months one has a fair sized plant. It is unnecessary to use a perfect or large leaf for propagation, as the fact that the leaf does not come in contact with moisture preserves it and the fast growth of the young plant shows that it is getting nourishment from the whole leaf instead of just a small segment.

Begonias propagated by this method include B. "Vigorosa," B. "Mt. Baldy," B. "Lake-wood," B. "American Beauty," B. "Vir-Bob," and many others whose names I do not know.

## Care for Young Begonias

By JEAN KERLIN

OFTEN we receive small begonia plants from our local Begonia Society or we buy small plants to add to our collection. Then comes the crucial time when they need more than ordinary care. These few pointers may save the life of the new plant or make it a stronger specimen for beauty and pleasure as it grows in your own surroundings.

Before putting the plant close to or with your other begonias, it is wise to examine it carefully for any infestation of mealy bug or wilt. This precaution may save you many plants and work later.

Repot the plant immediately in your own growing mixture that you have success with in your own district. This method assures you of good drainage for the newcomer, gives it fresh soil to work with and a clean pot to live in as it may have outgrown its small home. When this is done, try giving the plant a drink that includes a weak solution of vitamin B-1. You will minimize the shock of its moving and start it off with a bang.

Carefully groom the plant by picking off all the tired leaves and dead stipules. It will give the begonia a clean fresh appearance. Then place the adopted begonia in a select spot in your yard where you can take advantage of the light and also protect it from drafts. After you have had the plant for a longer period and know exactly what care it will take, you may move it to a less desirable location. Never put a small plant or new rooted cutting directly in the ground where you run the risk of losing track of it in the shuffle. It should be at least a four inch plant size specimen before putting it in the ground.

If the begonia is labeled (they should all have a name), be sure that you preserve the label when you repot the plant. By keeping your new begonia where you care for it often, it is an easy matter to memorize the name.

One more step could be taken to insure the new adoption of a begonia. Try and read in the back issues of *The Begonian* where you will find reference to that named begonia and study the type of plant so that it is a simple matter to know just where in your surroundings this begonia will fit the best and give you beauty where you really want it—in your growing garden.



# Scientific Hybridizing

By MERRILL NELSON

## *Part I: Heredity*

THE CHARACTERISTIC of any plant is based upon two factors as well as their interactions, one heredity and the other environment. Heredity is the all-powerful internal influence which is based upon the racial constitution of the individual by the way of its ancestors. Heredity limits or fixes the individual's so-called innate capacities. The environment is those external factors under which the individual must live. In other words, an individual's plasticity of both function and structure is limited to those factors which it has been able to obtain from its ancestors.

The process by which these factors are transmitted from parent to off-spring is due to the direct passing from one generation to the other of a material substance. The possibility then for ancestral characters to persist generation after generation is due to the direct genetic continuity between them.

The foundation for understanding the process of heredity is based upon a comprehension of the process of sexual reproduction. In sexual reproduction, the gametes (the sperm and egg) are the only conveyors of heredity characters and the zygote (the fertilized but undeveloped seed) alone maintains organic continuity between successive generations. In other words, it contains all the potentialities for the development of a new individual.

The phenomenon of heredity transmission is closely associated with the process of cell division. When a cell gives rise to two new cells, they derive from it both their living substance and inheritance. The nuclei of a living plant or zygote contains twice the number of chromosomes as do the gametic nuclei which unite at fertilization, and since chromosome numbers remain constant from generation to generation, the process which reduces the diploid chromosome complement to one-half or the haploid number is known as meiosis. Large numbers of pollen mother cells arise inside the anther and each gives rise to four functional pollen grains. A single embryo or seed sac mother cell is formed within the ovule and of the four cells derived from it only one is functional. When a pollen mother cell or an embryo sac mother cell is about to divide, the chromosomes appear in the same number as in an ordinary diploid cell. The two mem-

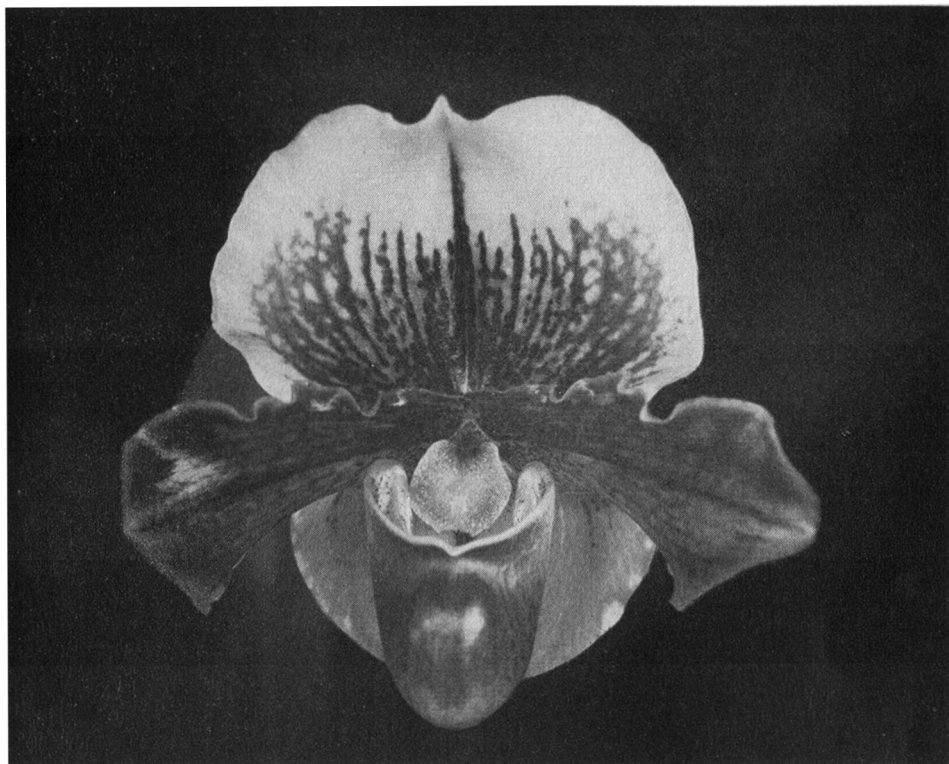
bers of each pair of chromosomes seek each other out and undergo pairing without fusing, the two chromosomes come in contact throughout their entire length, one of the chromosomes having been derived from the paternal parent the other from the maternal parent and both being similar in length, form, and other respects. At first the two chromosomes lie parallel, but soon they twist about each other and later each chromosome splits longitudinally. The two split chromosomes then begin to separate although remaining in contact at certain points at which time an interchange of parts may occur. This is of major significance in connection with heredity since a shuffling of the parental constituents of the chromosomes transpires. The chromosomes, still associated in pairs, become much shorter and thicker, and arranged at the equator, they then separate with a complete complement migrating to extreme ends of the cell.

The cell then becomes divided in two by the formation of a cell wall. Each cell containing one member of every pair of chromosomes present in the mother cell. Each chromosome is split in preparation for a second division. The second division follows at once. The split chromosomes again migrate to the equator and separate then pass to opposite ends of the cell. The daughter cells then become divided. Thus each of the cells has half as many chromosomes as were present in the mother cell. Meiosis has great significance in connection with heredity owing to the fact that it not only brings about a change from the diploid to the haploid level, but results in a segregation of the members of each pair of chromosomes previously brought together in fertilization and formation of the individual.

—B—

## *Leaflets for Plant Growers*

Colorful printed leaflets on African Violets, Chrysanthemums, Roses, Begonias, Azaleas-Camellias-Rhododendrons are offered without charge to home gardeners. These 4-color attractive pamphlets cover not only feeding, but also such cultural data as watering, training for shape of plant and locations for planting and pruning. At nursery or garden supply stores or Atlas Fish Fertilizer Co., Dept. 4, 1 Drumm Street, San Francisco, Calif.



*Cypripedium* "Sheba var. Enchantress" (Decameron x Mem. J. H. Walker) has a very desirable shape and it is used extensively in breeding. The rose mahogany petals and pouch are accentuated by the clear, shapely dorsal which is beautifully marked with rose purple. The rose and reddish tones are becoming increasingly popular.

## *Random Notes on New Trends in Orchids*

### Cypripediums, Cattleyas, Cymbidiums

HORTICULTURIST James F. Fordyce, assistant manager of Fred A. Stewart, Inc., spoke recently to the San Gabriel Valley Branch. He has had wide experience in orchid growing and research, and is head cymbidium grower of this world-wide organization, which like many others, developed from Fred Stewart's hobby sixteen years ago. Incidentally, Mr. Stewart was also a begonia enthusiast and a member of the A.B.S.

Orchid growing, says Fordyce, is a hobby which can be indulged in by everyone. One can put into the hobby as much money as he wishes to get out of it. If you are a gambler and not in a hurry, young unflowered seed-

lings are very fascinating and should be rewarding if you choose those seedlings which have good parents. The mature plant in bud or flower gives one immediate satisfaction without any question of what the flower will be like. By experience, growers have priced orchid plants by the quality of the flower produced.

Cypripediums, nicknamed "Lady Slipper" orchids, are easiest to grow in the home. There are interesting spottings and flushings in the flowers which have a wide range of color variance in shades of yellow, green, burgundy and mahogany. A biscuit tray filled with pea gravel and watered will provide the

necessary humidity. The pot must not sit in the water at any time; just rest on the gravel. Cyps have the advantage of being in flower for one to two months. They, like cymbidiums, make an excellent corsage which may be worn repeatedly.

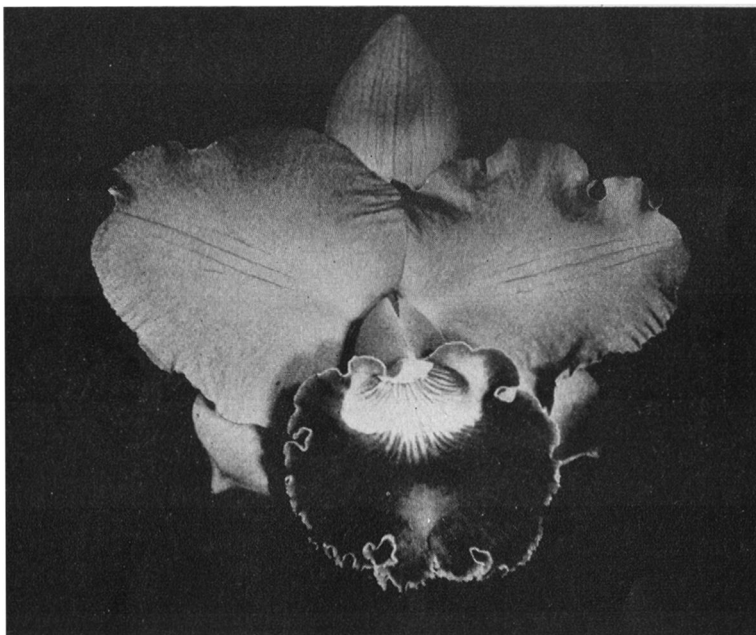
The green leaved cyps which are cool house grown, like fairly dense shade during the summer. They may be grown outdoors during the summer by sinking the pots in which they are growing in the soil under trees or shrubs. Actually the cool nights aid the plants and some growers feel they produce better flowers. In a greenhouse with all glass sides, these "cool" orchids may be grown under the bench. These orchids do well in a mix of fir bark or fir bark with 1/3 clay-free silt obtained from rock crushers or the silt drift from Ontario, states Fordyce. Hoof and horn meal, he says, is a safe fertilizer for these orchids which do not need too much fertilizer as they have no bulbs for food storage.

The favored potting mix used for most orchids is the chopped up bark from fir trees. It is easier to use and provides an economical medium which should last approximately two years. Dampening first makes it easy to handle.

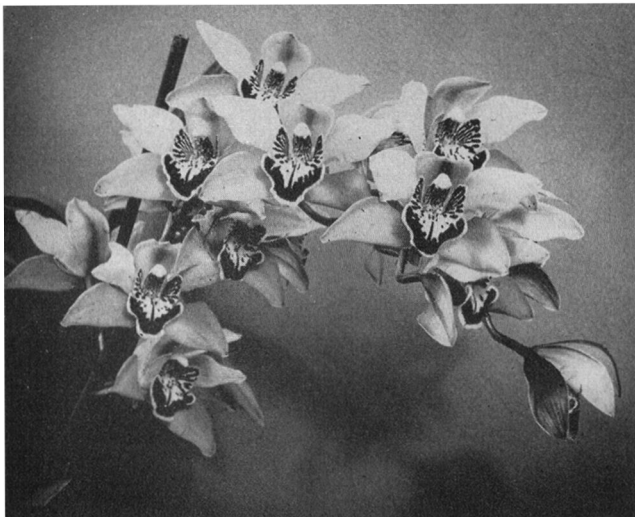
Hoof and horn meal which is slow acting and continual in action, is a good safe dry fertilizer to combine with the fir bark. Many experiments are being carried on with various types of fertilizers to find the combination which will give optimum plant growth.

The Stewart Company uses the fir bark medium for potting their cattleyas and they prefer lath covering of the greenhouse instead of paint for light control. Commercially the flowering of certain strains of cattleya may be controlled by light. If a plant normally flowers in a season of increasing daylight and it is desired earlier for a special occasion or holiday market, lengthening the day by the use of electric lights will bring the plant into flower earlier. *C. labiate* hybrids usually can be controlled for time of bloom.

*C. gigas* hybrids, according to Fordyce, like to be run dry when not in flower. Hang them high in the greenhouse where they will get bright light. Begin to water this hybrid more heavily when it is coming into bud. Water thoroughly then let the plant dry out until the pot feels light when lifted, then thoroughly soak. This problem of watering, he says, causes more trouble and he admonishes



*L. C.* "Gitchie Manito var. San Gabriel" (*L. C.* "Morvyth" x *C.* "Gay Gordon") is used for breeding, giving the desired result of a very round, full, dark purple cattleya. The deep rose-purple of the sepals and petals is complemented by the rich royal velvet lip, which is set off with a tawny gold throat. The flowers have excellent substance.



*Cymbidium* "Claudona 'Tempest'" ("Invicta" x Cremona "Black Prince," F.C.C., R.H.S.) is one of the more exotic bold type which is sought after by orchid enthusiasts. It is a terrific grower which puts out spikes of large, yellowish-green flowers of very fine substance with the most bold, contrasting, blackish-maroon lip one can imagine. The radiating lines of maroon effectively direct one's attention to the white base of the lip. It is one of the desirable, roundish shaped flowers.

the grower "never to water with a 'housewife's teacup of water' or get hose happy."

While florists like the round flowered "cat" in shades from medium to dark purple, and for special occasions the whites and yellows, the commercial growers haven't forgotten the hobbyist. They are breeding cattleyas for the hobbyist who desires smaller types of flowers with new and unusual colors especially in the red and yellow field and dark, deep purples with full round form. The yellows have been more or less temperamental. With the use of the brasso-laelias, the new yellow crosses have resulted in better growers which are more free of deformity. Fordyce advises the repotting of yellow cattleyas only in the spring or fall as this seems to be the safest time. NEVER repot a yellow in winter.

Cattleyas, he says, for best results, should be grown with sufficient light to make the foliage yellow green instead of a verdant dark green.

Just a glance of the newer Stewart hybrids includes the giant *Cattleya* "Royal Vestment" with its deep purple, plate-sized flower with lip of "Royal Velvet"; *Laelia Cattleya* "Golden Ray, Radiance," an unusual orange yellow

suffused with burnt orange; the whites of the *C.* "Henrietta Japhet" type; *C.* "Portia" sized lavenders; and *L.C.* "Marian Andrews," a round, full, medium purple with royal velvet lip.

Do you have problems in flowering your cymbidiums? Fordyce answers this by considering the native home of the cymbidium where it grows getting daily rainfall which drains through the cymbidium quickly. Here one of our chief problems, he says, is running the plants too dry, especially during June, July, August and September. If they have sufficient water, then they may be starving without enough fertilizer and good soil. They should be repotted at least every two years with fresh soil and fertilized once every two weeks from late spring through the fall, then in the winter once a month. Instant Vigoro, 1 tablespoon per gallon, used on the soil is very effective. Cymbidiums in the average greenhouse do not throw flower spikes and if they do, there is usually bud drop because the night temperatures are too high. Protect these orchids from red spider, scale and slugs. Malathion spray, used according

to directions and observing the necessary precaution given on the bottle, is a good general spray.

Leaf mold has been discontinued as part of the cymbidium mix because, states Fordyce, we have found that it breaks down unevenly and we do not know the food content of the mix. By using silt, peat and fir bark we know the basic fertilizer content at all times so a standard fertilizing program may be followed.

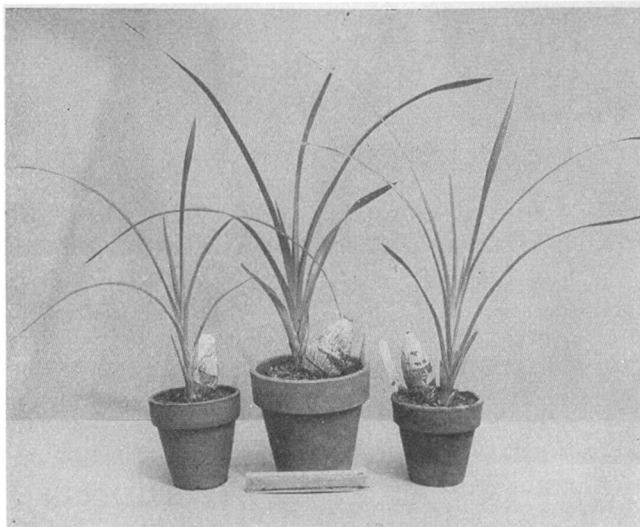
The hybridist is striving to develop large (4" to 5" diameter), clear colored, well formed (round type) cymbidium flowers with heavy substance. He is always looking for pinks and fully shaped, clear green flowers. *Cymbidium Balkis* "Silver Orb" was bloomed

from seed in less than four years, flowering two spikes from a single bulb. Generally speaking, four bulbs are the minimum needed before flowering of either cymbidiums or cattleyas. Flowering can be hastened by using electric lights to give sixteen hours of light.

Miniature cymbidiums to grow in the greenhouse are fast becoming a rage. They grow in small containers and produce a large amount of flowers on a small plant with one to two bulbs. Their culture is the same as for standard cymbidiums. C. "Flirtation" and C. "Bo-Peep" are two new varieties.

*Interview by J. L. C.*

*Pictures courtesy Fred A. Stewart*



*Back Bulb Propagation*—Many hobbyists, when they first start in cymbidium culture ask, when dividing a cymbidium plant, "What do we do with the dormant, leafless back bulbs or pseudo bulbs?" Mr. Fordyce gives this advice. When the back bulb is removed from the growing plant, it should be cleaned up by: cutting off older dead roots; making a clean cut where the bulb was severed from the mother plant; and sealing the cut with Tree Seal. Let the prepared back bulbs sit in an open pot in a shaded area for approximately two weeks so that the Tree Seal sets and the cut heals. The bulb thus treated may then be heeled in to the bottom third in fir bark, saw dust or sand. When new eyes begin to grow and roots begin to form on the new growths, these should then be potted in fir bark in no smaller than a 4" pot. Be sure to keep back bulbs well watered at all times as dryness stunts or slows growth. Back bulbs grown in this manner should flower in 1 to 3 years from the time they were severed from the plant.



# Begonias

## *in the Lisbon Area of Portugal*

By H. B. EDMUNDS, Essex, England

IN THE FALL of last year, I spent a few days in Portugal on business and, as usual when I am traveling, I was also looking out for begonias and other house plants. First of all I spent a very short hour in what one of my Portuguese friends called "Estufa Fria" which, I suppose, can be translated as a hot-cold-house. In effect, it consisted of an enormous rock garden with terraces some 40' to 50' high, with paths leading up and down, streams and bridges, all enclosed in one large lath house. I found there for the first time *Begonia* "Maximum Ed. Andra" with leaves the size of elephants' ears and with large heads of small white flowers. I was interested, too, in *B. evansiana*, which was growing in the soil and had been allowed to propagate itself naturally—a very pretty sight. There, also growing quite naturally were *B. "Alleryi," B. manicata, B. baageana, B. fuchsoides* and, of course, a number of varieties of rex begonias.

In Lisbon, also, there are some Botanical Gardens with a collection of begonias. I do not propose to set out a list of them all, but I was interested in one called *B. "Lesseps,"* which I think must be *B. "Mme. de Lesseps,"* since both its parents were also grown in the Gardens. I was shown one begonia without a name, but fortunately with the aid of Helen Krauss' book I was able to suggest that its name was *B. goegoensis*.

May I give a little advice. When traveling, always take one or two books about begonias. They are helpful. I usually carry the book by Helen Krauss and also a new book recently written by Bedson.

Everyone who goes to Lisbon or Estoril visits Sintra, but I wonder how many people ever visit the gardens to the Royal Palace—Castelo da Pena. This palace is on a rocky mountain or hill some fifteen hundred feet high, with the gardens running down the sides of the hill almost to the village itself. You can drive through the gardens in a car or a two-horsed buggy or carriage. Like everywhere else in Portugal, you will of course see hundreds and hundreds of semperflorens begonias of all kinds, but in addition

in these gardens there are many other kinds of begonias. There is one greenhouse some 60' long with 3' stages on either side in which grow hundreds of rex begonias of every conceivable color and shape. I think that undoubtedly they must pollinate each other and that many of them are natural crosses. I have never seen anything so lovely anywhere else before.

There are other greenhouses, one of which was full of gloxinias in bloom, and some others had a varied collection of plants including, of course, more begonias. One was called *B. "Rajah,"* a name I have seen given to many differing begonias in various countries. What exactly this one was, I am not sure, although it did look something like *B. goegoensis*.

I can assure members of the A.B.S. that if during their travels in Europe they are in Lisbon, they would much enjoy a visit to the gardens at Sintra.

—B—

## Semperflorens

SEMPERFLOREN begonias, according to Cal Trowbridge, who spoke to the Redondo Beach Area Branch, have a wonderful adaptability for use in borders, for landscaping, with their continuous bloom for eight months of the year. They should be planted close together for massed effects with up to six plants in each planting of the same color and species.

Semperflorens should be fed every two or three weeks without fail for best results. He recommended "Milorganite" for these and rex begonias, as it would not burn the leaves or plants.

A new semperfloren, *Begonia* "Goldilocks," from Logee's, is yellow as its name implies, but is still rare.

Mr. Trowbridge illustrated his lectures with his own beautiful specimen semperfloren plants. *Begonia* "Apple Blossom" had great eye appeal.

Reported by MARGARET BUELL

# The Culture of Polyanthus Primroses

## SOWING SEED

Seed of Pacific Strain Polyanthus primroses can be sown at any time of the year. In the East March or April sowings in frames will provide strong seedlings for September bedding. California and mild sections can sow in June, bedding seedlings in October. Sow seed in flats, or open beds which can be shaded and protected from wind. The best soil is one rich in organic material and light in texture. One-half leaf mold and one-half sandy garden soil is satisfactory. Cover seed lightly with leaf mold or other light material. Vermiculite is a good, light cover. Moisten flats or beds thoroughly, and cover with burlap to prevent drying out. Do not allow flats or beds to become dry at any time during germination, or the percentage of seedlings will be disappointing. Seed will germinate within two to three weeks. Maintain moisture, and shade from the sun's rays.

## TRANSPLANTING

Transplant in six to eight weeks in a soil previously enriched with old cow or steer manure, continuing to shade. In the East a light mulch will prevent frost heaving. Additional feeding of complete fertilizers before flowering is required for vigorous plants. When two years old, divide and replant in fresh soil. Pacific Strain Polyanthus primroses

## *Bulbs . . .*

*(Continued From Page 195)*

the roots directly in the ground, lift them up in the Fall and store in a warm, dry place until next Spring. It would be a good idea not to keep them powder dry, or open to air circulation. Treat them like the cannas and gladiolus are handled in cold sections.

Propagation is by division of the roots in the winter, and the best time is just as you are repotting in March. If you grow them, indoors or in a glasshouse, you can just leave them alone not even keeping them dry, but repot in fresh compost in March or early April. Start with a single division in a four-inch pot. Later, some of the larger growing varieties may be shifted into five inch pots as they become large enough or fill the pot with roots.

A good compost would be just what you use for your fibrous begonias; rich in humus with acid reaction, but not so light and porous as

are hardy in every state in the United States.

## INSECT CONTROL

Control insects with Isotox, disease with Destruxol Koppersol, and soil insects with Dieldrin.

As the Polyanthus group is the most hardy and easiest to grow of all the Primrose family, succeeding in practically every climate, we have concentrated our work on improving this particular type. Twenty years of intensive breeding have brought a wider and clearer color range, taller stems, and larger size of individual flowers and flower heads than we dreamed was possible. Over 100,000 seedlings are grown annually for selection, one per cent of which is retained for seed production. In this manner, interbreeding only the very finest of the new seedlings and growing a new generation each year, we have been able to develop a strain that is above any competition today.

The most outstanding new seedlings each year are lifted from field outdoors, potted up and transferred into greenhouses, where they are carefully cross pollinated. While this method is very costly it is the only one that insures the highest quality possible. Naturally the quantity is very limited.

*Courtesy FRANK REINELT, Capitola, Calif.*

*Mr. Reinelt is holder of the Alfred D. Robinson medal for the outstanding tuberous begonia development.—ED.*

you would use for tuberous begonias. I would not recommend fertilizing until after the two leaves have developed. By this time they have formed lots of roots and are well able to take up the food. As to what kind, how often and how strong, I doubt if it makes much difference. Suppose you experiment and let me know the results. You see, I do not fertilize unless I have to and that is very seldom. I don't go on the theory that every plant has a special fertilizer to go with it and that it must be fed every so many days with just the right strength and the proper Ph reaction. I simply plant in a well balanced compost to begin with and then watch the plant, and do not feed until it tells me that it needs feeding, and that is very seldom. By that time the plant is ready to be repotted and a fresh compost will be all it needs. But, that is only my way of doing things. You go ahead and feed weekly if you feel like it. After all, you have to have something to do and the fertilizer manufacturers must make a living. Isn't that a terrible statement to make for a commercial nursery-man?

# Begonia Boweri and Its Offspring

I BECAME interested in the adventures in hybridizing with the miniature Mexican species, *Begonia boweri* as one parent. Marie Reed told me about a cross she made in the A.B.S. Beginner's Round Robin No. 10 (Begonias), and I wanted to learn more. She crossed a *B. boweri* with (Woodruff) *B. "Bicolor"* and got seven lovely plants, two of which are still living. She wrote they were very different—one wants to hang over the pot and the other is very erect; both have rhizomatous growth.

In the Robin I asked the question: "A cross between the fibrous rooted *B. "Stitched Leaf"* and the rhizomatous rooted *B. boweri* would produce what? Both have similar shaped leaves with markings—couldn't *B. boweri*'s distinct eyelashes and darker markings on the bright green leaves be transferred to the more sturdy growing *B. "Stitched Leaf"*?"

*The Begonian* is always my text and reference when I need to study on such a problem. My volumes begin with 1946, but *Begonia boweri* was not introduced until April, 1950—page 76. Detailed drawings and description, location and culture were given by Mr. Ziesenhenné. Mr. MacDougall collected *B. boweri* in Mexico, on streams of water, in March, 1948—pages 77 and 78. In May, 1950, Mr. Z. said that *B. boweri* had already become popular because it is such a good house plant. It grows in a shallow layer of soil and slowly enough to retain its miniature habit for a long time in a small container.

*Begonia boweri* was named by Mr. Ziesenhenné to pay permanent honor to Constance Bower for the begonia beauty she has added to our gardens (Sept. 1950, p. 197).

Dec. 1951, page 270, gives the first mention of a *Begonia boweri* hybrid that I can find, *B. "Zee Bowman"*. It is mentioned again, page 102, May 1955, but I can not locate a description of it.

*Begonia "Maphil,"* pictured on the cover of the October, 1952 issue, is a chance seedling, introduced by Mrs. Mable Walker (p. 222, 1952). It demands no more space than one of its parents, *B. boweri*. *B. "Maphil"* is a very colorful dwarf rhizomatous plant with a lovely bushy habit of growth. The leaves are chartreuse to mustard yellow-green in color, suffused with deep brown markings surrounding the veins and margins; the over-

all leaf texture is velvety, with the long eyelashes on the leaf margin so typical of *B. boweri*.

*Begonia "Spaulding"* (*B. boweri* x *B. hydrocotylifolia*) by Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, April 1953, p. 78, was named for Stanley Spaulding. It is a lovely picture—and described: Small, extremely bushy, rhizomatous, petioles sparsely hairy, red-dashed, leaves somewhat round and shade from grass to dark spinach green velvet, blending into a velvety blackish tone; on the undersides the coloring is ox-blood red. Leaf edges lightly eyelashed with shorter hairs than *B. boweri*—flowers winter to spring, flesh to salmon red.

The Bow trio, Della MacLanahan's three hybrids, appear on page 98, May, 1953. Leaf drawings and descriptions:

*B. "Bow-Arriola"*—*B. boweri* x (dark variation) "C-43," named for comic strip creator Gus Arriola.

*B. "Bow Chancee"*—a chance cross child of *B. boweri*.

*B. "Bow Nigra"*—*B. boweri* x *B. heracleifolia nigricans*.

Mrs. MacLanahan adds a fourth to this group: *B. "Bow-Joe,"* parents *B. "Joe Hayden"* x *B. boweri*, page 226, Sept. 1954.

Seed of *Begonia boweri* and *Begonia boweri major* both were offered for sale for the first time by the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight in July 1953 (page 161).

Mrs. Marie Turner, California hybridizer, produced *Begonia "Chatoyancy,"* miniature type, particular to culture like *B. boweri* (p. 217, Oct., 1953).

Dec. 1953, p. 274, there's an excellent article, "Slanted Toward the Beginner," on *Begonia boweri* and its offspring. Mrs. Behrends is a wonderful writer and knows her subject.

The species *Begonia boweri* is featured in an article March 1956, p. 51.

April, 1956, page 78, has a grand article by Edna Korts on the *Begonia boweri* hybrids describing three by Mabel Walker—*B. "Maphil,"* *B. "Virbob,"* and *B. "Kenann."*

*Begonia "Cool Waters"* by Mary Gillingwaters is pictured on the cover of the June, 1956, issue. Its parents are *B. boweri* and *B. heracleifolia pyramidalis* (p. 132).

*Begonia* registrations (pp. 266, 267, Dec. 1953; pp. 130, 131, June 1954; pp. 208 and

## Oh! Those Crowded Windows

If you would have Begonias  
On every window sill,  
Try raising some from seed,  
And I guarantee you will!  
To plant some new varieties  
Is surely a temptation,  
But I bet you never counted on  
Such thorough germination!  
Seedlings, seedlings, everywhere,  
More than you've ever seen,  
It may be that you're wishing  
Your thumb weren't quite so green!

DORIS WEINERT, Wayne, Pa.

209, Sept. 1954; p. 77, April 1955; and p. 132, June 1956):

B. "Kenann," *B. boweri* seedling, by Mabel Walker.

B. "Virbob," *B. boweri* seedling, by Mabel Walker.

B. "Maphil," *B. boweri* seedling, by Mabel Walker.

B. "Terry-O" (*B. boweri* x *B. mazaе*) by Terry Olmsted.

B. "Edith M." (*B. boweri* x *B. "Reichenheimi"*) by Don Horton.

B. "Bow-Arriola" (*B. boweri* x *C. 42*) by Della MacLanahan.

B. "Bow-Nigra" (*B. boweri* x *B. heracleifolia nigricans*) by Della MacLanahan.

B. "Bow-Chancee," a chance seedling of *B. boweri* by Della MacLanahan.

B. "Bow-Joe" (*B. "Joe Hayden"* x *B. boweri*).

B. "Spaulding" (*B. boweri* x *B. hydrocotylifolia*) by Louise Schwerdtfeger (1951).

B. "Emerald Sheen," 1952, (*B. boweri* x *B. "Joe Hayden"*) by Don Horton.

B. "Dark Sheen," 1952, (*B. boweri* x *B. "Joe Hayden"*) by Don Horton.

B. "Golden Sheen," 1952, (*B. boweri* x *B. "Joe Hayden"*) by Don Horton.

B. "Beatrice Haddrell," star rhiz. by Percy I. Merry, 1952, (*B. boweri* x *B. "Sunderbruchi"*).

B. "Dark Beauty," star rhiz. by Percy I. Merry, 1952, (*B. boweri* x *B. "Sunderbruchi"*).

B. "Illsley," plain rhiz., by Percy I. Merry, 1952, (*B. boweri* x *B. mazaе*).

B. "Cool Waters" by Mary Gillingwaters, (*B. boweri* x *B. heracleifolia pyramidalis*).

I do not pretend this refence is complete but it is as near so as double checking can make it. I have learned a lot about *Begonia boweri* and its children and I am anxious to try my hand—only I do not have *B. boweri*!

ANN HARDING

## Begonia Paul Bruant

ONE OF OUR showiest begonias is *Begonia* "Paul Bruant," a French hybrid of *B. heracleifolia lingipila* and *B. frutescent* (introduced by Bruant in 1888). It is fibrous rooted, although the stem is so large and rough that it suggests a rhizome.

The leafstems are slender and pinkish, with red flecks, sparsely covered with short, white hairs, which form a collar at the sinus. These are subtended by thin, pale green, long-pointed stipules, which soon dry, but persist.

The leaves emerge a delicate pinkish-tan, but become light green in maturity. Their shape is a narrow oval, tapering to a sharp point, with small pointed lobes, sharply toothed, along the edges. The upper surface seems smooth, but close inspection shows scattered white hairs, very short and stiff. The veins are so pale as to be almost white. The lower surface is much the same, except that the veins are more prominent.

The inflorescence is a cyme, spreading almost to a circle, which in full bloom suggests a ruffled hoop skirt of palest pink. The flower stems (peduncles) are long, green with red dots. They divide into many fine stemlets (pedicels), pink, with a collar at each fork and at the junctions with the flowers. Each fork carries a pair of heartshaped bracts, pink at first, but still ornamental when dry. The male flowers, small and pink, drop before opening, so it is hard to be sure of the number of petals, perhaps only two. The female flowers are large and pink. The number of petals varies from two to five, but, from their placement, the number would seem to be five. The pistils are three, each forked, each fork ending in a knob, rather than the more common spiral. The ovary and two of the wings are green, the third wing is pink, larger and more angular than the others.

This plant has the peculiarity of producing tiny plantlets on its stems and, less often, on its leaves. That this trait is shared by *Begonia phyllomaniaca* suggests a relationship not yet confirmed by research. It is said that these plantlets can be induced to develop into mature plants. Many of us have failed in the effort. Propagation by tip cuttings is easier.

*Begonia* "Paul Bruant" is an easy subject for house culture, though it tends to become gaunt with age, a fault that can be overcome by frequent renewal.

MAY TAFT DREW

Written for Bulletin for Eastern Begonia Fans

## Trees to Be Named

PUBLIC participation in the selection of a name for one of the most majestic California Live Oaks in the Descanso Gardens' 25-acre oak forest at La Canada was sought today by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Gardens Superintendent John Threlkeld said suggestions may be submitted by individuals, horticultural clubs, and any other civic or historical group. There are no restrictions as to who may submit names to Mr. Threlkeld at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

"At present, this venerable oak is labeled '*Quercus agrifolia*,' as are other sturdy oaks in the grove," Threlkeld said. "We are desirous of perpetuating the name of some honored person or some historical event with this 300-year-old oak, which is expected to live through many more generations."

Threlkeld said the five most appropriate names will be presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for final selection. Supervisor John Anson Ford, who recently inspected the Descanso Oak Grove, said there are many other grand old trees, formerly a part of Rancho San Rafael, which could bear the names of distinguished persons or significant events. The only oak at Descanso with a name is "Old Verdugo," said to be more than 400 years old.

The oak now under consideration is on the driveway, west of the Iris Garden, and east of the Descanso Lake. It is approximately 50 feet high; has a 70-foot spread; has a main trunk circumference of 12 feet, 3 inches with one of its three branch trunks as large as 7 feet, 9 inches in circumference.

### MINIATURE ROSES

*for Pots, Edging or Low Hedges*

1 RED, 1 PINK, 1 YELLOW, 1 WHITE

4 for \$5.00, Postpaid

### KENNETH TERRY

2314 Harriman Lane, Redondo Beach, Cal.

### SPOONIT

FLOWER FOOD

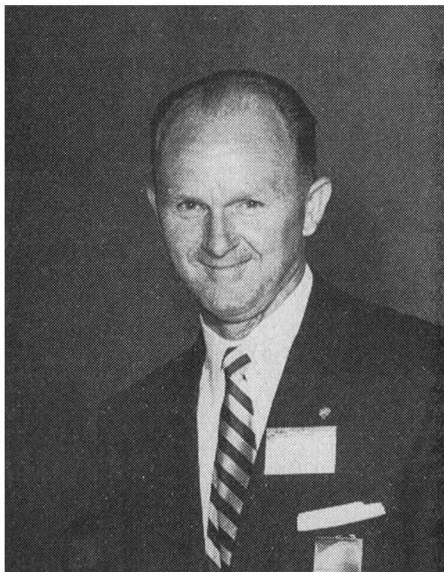
*Send postal card for sample & information.*

### PLANTSMITH

Box 818

Palo Alto 3, Calif.

## President Cal Trowbridge



PRESIDENT "Cal" Trowbridge needs no introduction to the membership of the American Begonia Society, having served as National President in 1952. Since that time he has worked in various capacities for the Society. Cal's interest in the Horticultural World continues with his association at the beautiful California International Flower Show each year as he serves as chairman of the Garden Clubs on Parade Section of that fine show.

More than that, his interest continues in the begonia world. With the full realization there is much to be done, he is calling on every member of this far flung Society for his full support during the coming year. He is a firm believer in the time worn adage, "There is strength in numbers."

He is tremendously interested in the present program of the Research Department which is getting more and more begonias before the general public through the co-operation of the various arboretums throughout the United States and Canada.

With the full co-operation of the executive board of the Society and all members he is hoping for a banner year for the American Begonia Society.

Mr. Trowbridge was installed as National President of the American Begonia Society at the Annual Banquet.



# Fuchsias

FUCHSIAS are one of my hobbies, though I grow many shade plants I am partial to fuchsias, ferns and begonias, which are companion plants and all like practically the same environment.

In this coastal part of California fuchsias do exceptionally well. We have a branch of the California National Fuchsia Society here and we have learned many things about growing them. We are displaying at the County Fair. We fertilize them the day before, also pack peat or sphagnum moss on top of the pots or cans and they stay fresh and nice with very little care while at the fair. By using Malathion liquid spray, I haven't had aphids, mealy bug or white flies. Malathion seems to get all insect life except ants and chlordane or lindane takes care of them if used often enough.

MRS. VERN DIXON  
Santa Maria, Calif.

—B—

## THIS MONTH'S COVER PICTURE

*Begonia* "Baby Bunting," a semperfloren cross by Marie Turner, A.B.S. registered No. 16, is a low growing begonia which makes an ideal mounding and spreading ground cover or hanging basket specimen. While this begonia spreads over the ground, it has the peculiar characteristic of not rooting at every joint which touches the soil. In other words, it is a "blanket cover" as the name suggests. The prolific pink blossoms which cover this plant also make it represent a pink coverlet. The leaves are small and light green.

This begonia is hardy outdoors and likes the sun or semi-shade. It can be kept on the dry side, which is necessary during the winter. Photo by W. Givens.

## CLASSIFIED

AFRICAN VIOLETS, plants, leaves and rooted cuttings. New and old varieties. Rare begonias, episcias and house plants. Free list. Mrs. T. C. Bee, Route No. 3, Box 120, Newnan, Ga.

Two advertising rates are offered by *The Begonian*, that for one insertion, and a lesser for 12 monthly insertions. They follow:

	Once Monthly	
Full Page	\$30.00	\$25.00
Half Page	18.50	15.00
Quarter Page	15.00	13.50
Per Inch	3.00	2.50

# Do You Know?

IN A RECENT lecture I attended, a noted gentleman stated, "Why put it on the leaves? Just feed the roots."

Most (possibly all) soluble nutrients that roots of plants can absorb may also be fed through the leaves. This has been indicated by studies of the Atomic Energy Commission, using radioactive isotopes as tracers. These same tests prove that soluble nutrients move into the sap system of leaves and can be detected in all parts of the plant in a matter of hours. They move forwards at the rate of about an inch every five minutes, coursing through leaves, branches, trunk, roots and even through the fruit and flowers. Even the dormant plant can absorb these nutrients, sprayed on branches and trunks, long before leaves sprout.

We used to think that the stomates (breathing pores), numerous on the undersides of leaves, were the best ports of entry. Now we know that either side of the leaf serves equally well. The cells in the outer surface can absorb liquids and dissolved nutrients and release them to the plant's circulation.

Foliar feeding is a valuable supplement to the general nutrition of plants—but don't bypass the roots.

The results of foliar feeding in my test garden have convinced me of its value.

BERT S., Inglewood

## Calendar

Sept. 13—Orange County—6:30 P.M., pot-luck dinner. Sylvia Leatherman, speaker.  
Sept. 20—Foothill—6:30 P.M., Jitney dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bennett, 1336 W. Dessau St., Ontario.

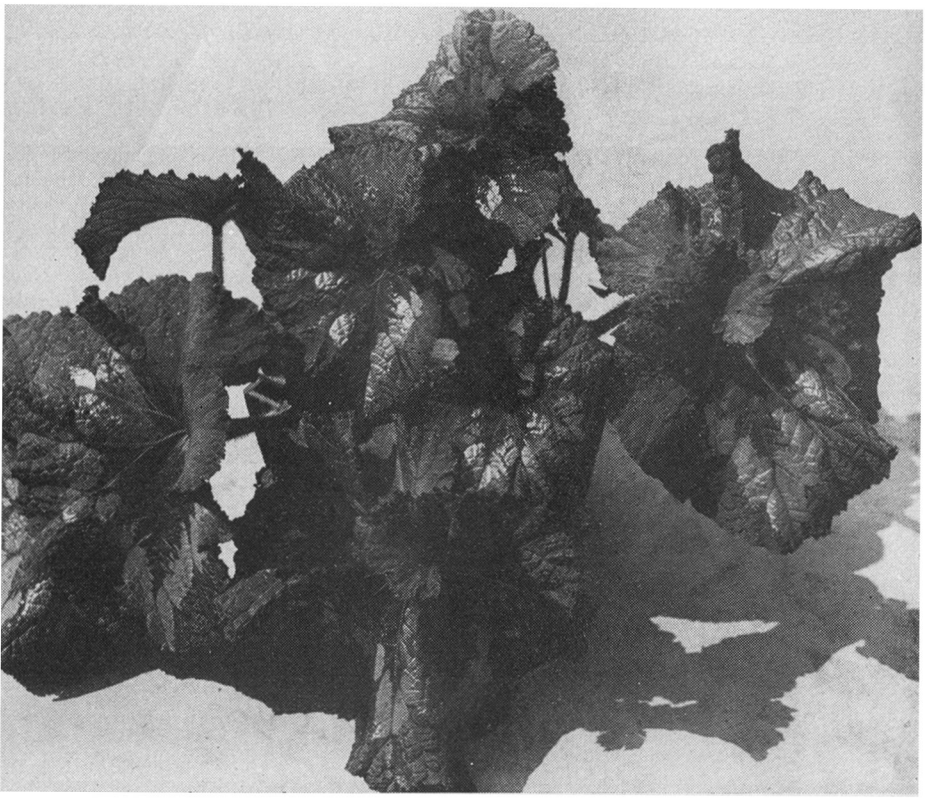
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## Begonia Green Pastures

*Begonia* "Green Pastures," A.B.S. registered No. 127, is a rex hybrid created in 1951 by Mary Gillingwaters by crossing *B.* "Pink Lady" (seed carrier) and *B.* "Curly Fire Flush" (male parent). From this same cross came *B.* "Riverside Benny."

The very full, double spiraled leaf is approximately 12" x 14" held on a 3/4" red stem (petiole) with green markings and heavily set with red hair. On the upperside of the leaf, the center zone is very dark green while the outer zone is a lush grass green with silvery gray-green areas of different shapes and sizes. A dark border, suffused with red, complements the color tones.

Turning the leaf over, one is amazed to find that the red veins, covered with red hair, are almost 1/4" in diameter where they converge at the sinus. The center zone of the leaf back is very red, while the apple green outer zone has a 1/2" red margin.

A mature plant will measure about two and one-half feet across. This new rex cultivar exhibits none of the characteristics of *Begonia* "Curly Fire Flush" except the red hair. It is sturdy and presents none of the care problems of its male parent.

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It may be of interest to readers of *The Begonian* to know they have had the privilege of having nationally and regionally known garden authorities who were honored by Mr. Ken Lewis, editor of *Spring Planting*, as contributors to our magazine. These writers are: Glenn Hiatt, nationally known hybridizer of Orchid Research Co., La Canada; Charlotte M.

Hoak of California Garden Clubs, regular contributor to many national garden magazines and former supervisor of horticulture in all Los Angeles schools; Joe Littlefield, best known of all Southern California garden writers, who conducts his own weekly gardening programs on both radio and television; and your editor and garden columnist.

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## GLENDALE

Bert Slatter gave a very comprehensive discussion on begonia propagation.

Mrs. Mabel Corwin showed her colored slides of her beautiful garden and gave a running commentary and cultural advice on how to grow fuchsias and other shade loving plants.

—B—

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM

Met at the home of Mrs. George Parry of Jenkintown, Pa. Our guest, later in the meeting, became the newest member of our club. Our president, Mrs. Henry Schaffer, talked on "Summer Care of Begonias," referring to the June issue of *The Begonian* quite often. Plans were made and completed for several Flower Shows and exhibitions in the late summer and early fall.

—B—

## MISSOURI

Meetings were held during June, July, and August at the homes of members, for picnic luncheons. June 19 saw the Branch at Mrs. Helen Ware's home in the country. Mrs. Ware

chartered a bus for the trip and a grand time was had by all. Mrs. Mary Wood was our very gracious hostess in Independence, Mo. In August Mrs. Amy Breshears was the hostess and we all enjoyed her wonderful array of begonias and her explanations of growing them.

—B—

## PHIOBEGONIA

Met for luncheon with Mrs. Irma Sensemaa, Strathmore, N.J., "Beside the Sea." Three ventured in for a "dip in the ocean." Plans for the coming flower shows, hostesses and money making plans for the branch were discussed. There was study for members learning the "art of judging." Fellowship with our friends is always something to be remembered.

—B—

## REDONDO BEACH AREA

Had a potluck dinner in patio of Mr. and Mrs. Ollen Eipper, which was followed by a talk by Mr. Homer Greene of the California Spray Chemical Co. He showed two pictures, "How to Grow Beautiful Begonias and Fuchsias" and "How to Grow Beautiful Bulbs."

## Grooming Begonias for a Show

THE TEN Point System for grooming begonias for a show as presented to the Redondo Beach Area Branch by Mrs. Winona Jensen:

1. Change your pots a month ahead. If the plants must be repotted, do it early so that if a branch or leaf is damaged, the show specimen will have time to recover.

2. Never underpot or overpot a show specimen.

3. Use burlap or a cloth dipped in Clorox to clean the pots as they should be perfectly clean. Don't do the cleaning just before you enter the plant in the show; judges can tell the difference. In good grooming, the pot is kept continually clean.

4. The white mildew that the eye can finally see is really the "bloom" of mildew after the plant has already been infected. So don't wait, but play safe and spray with a spray containing captan or copper before the "bloom" appears. Never forget to spray the undersides of the leaf, where mildew usually begins.

5. Water early in the morning to avoid bud drop and mildew.

6. Always give a quarter turn each day to plants that are being groomed for show to give an even, balanced plant.

7. Keep all decayed leaves, or those with holes in them plucked off the plant.

8. A pinch of chlordane dust in the pots will take care of gnats that are usually caused by manure fertilizers.

9. Double semperflorens require less water than single ones. Beware of too much water.

10. Never take a plant into a show that you are ashamed of. Always "shoot" for the Blue Ribbon.

Other begonia tips given by Mrs. Jensen were:

Peat moss tucked around the pots on the ground and kept wet, helps retain moisture. She does not use peat moss in her begonia mixtures. Used firebricks for flooring retain moisture better.

Reported by MARGARET BUELL

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

*Special Seed.* Many of you are aware of the fact that the seed fund has contacts in many parts of the world and seeds offered here are not available through any other source. We have obtained seeds of two rare and unknown begonias for you to try. They come from Colombia and were collected by an explorer and taxonomist who found them while on a trip to Mocoa. They are identified as:

No. 1. B. IDROBO No. 2211—Terrestrial. Found in wet dense forest, also in clearings. Flowers are pink, fruits green tinged with pink. 50c per packet.

No. 2. B. IDROBO No. 2214—An epiphyte with long, climbing adhering stems. Flowers and fruits red-orange. Found in wet dense forest. 50c per packet.

*B. calla lily.* Again we offer fresh seeds of this popular begonia and as we have had so many requests and the supply is very limited please do not ask for more than one packet. We have offered seeds of *B. calla lily* several times during the past two years, but some of the members have not been successful in getting germination while others have had perfect germination. For instance, a member in Canada has more than 100 plants from the seeds he obtained from the seed fund. We do not want anyone to be disappointed so we have compiled a few simple instructions which we have found successful. Sow seeds in a small clay pot (preferably a fern pot). Fill pot to one-third with broken crockery or gravel; fill to the top with well decomposed damp leaf mold. Sow seeds sparingly but do not cover with soil. Pot may be covered with paper and placed in a fairly light and airy location until seeds germinate, when paper may be removed and seedlings given a little more light. If soil becomes dry, place pot in a shallow container of water until moisture appears on surface. This is a beautiful low growing begonia, bushy and branched; slightly blotched with white, more white appears at terminals and terminals are all white suggesting a small calla lily. Flowers are light pink to scarlet and seedlings are at first like any other semperflorens. The white blotches and leaves do not appear until the plants have the second or third set of adult leaves. Water sparingly and keep pinched to make a compact plant. 35c per packet.

*Choice Begonias.* No. 1. B. FUSCOMACULATA—A hybrid. Sometimes erroneously named *B. rubella*. Medium sized plant with creeping rhizomes, leaves are broad-ovate, pointed, dark olive-green, chocolate spotted. Flowers greenish white. No. 2. B. DICHROA HYBRID—Brazil. Beautiful low-growing plant with glossy green sometimes spotted leaves. Flowers are large, orange in dense clusters. Requires warmth. No. 3. B. NELUMBIIFOLIA—Also called lotus leaf begonia. Handsome large leaves, sometimes measuring 18" in diameter. Used as a ground cover in Hawaii. Flowers are white in large clusters on tall stalks. No. 4. B. MAZAE (dark)—Mexico. Creeping or climbing stalks with white streaks. Small, heart-shaped leaves with lustrous velvety texture. Flowers pink and numerous. No. 5. B. MAXIMILIAN—A hybrid by Susie Zug (*manicata* x *MacDougalli*). One of the newer begonias. Rhizomatous with huge leaves and large red hairy stems. Seeds of last two mentioned begonias are in short supply. All of the above are freshly collected and hand pollinated. Price, 25c for each small packet.

Here is something interesting for those who like to experiment with seeds. No. 5. B.

SUTHERLANDI x unnamed seedling. *B. sutherlandi* being the pollen parent. The seedling has red brown tomentum, cupped curly leaves and clusters of white flowers. This foliage combined with yellow flowers would be very desirable. 25c per packet. No. 6. B. CHATELAINE SEMPERFLORENS — Also known as "King of the Reds." It is dwarf with glowing scarlet flowers, foliage green edged with bronze. 25c per packet.

Incidentally, the semperflorens offered in August *The Begonian* are still available. These should be started now for color this winter in your greenhouse or for your windowsill. Other seeds to plant now are: No. 1. CINERARIAS — California super giants. Prize strain. Superb mixture of beautiful colors. Flowers are huge. Cinerarias require a shady location, good drainage and loose soil. 25c per packet. No. 2. PRIMULA OBCONICA—An inexpensive house pot plant that can be grown outdoors as a bedding plant in the shade garden. Few plants furnish color over a long period of time as this primula. Large blooms in shades of red. Sow seeds of the above the same method as begonias. 25c per packet. No. 3. GLOXINIA—Her Majesty. We received these seeds from South Africa

and can give no description on them. 25c per packet. No. 4. STREPTOCARPUS WENDLANDI—South Africa. Cape primrose. Considered one of the finest species in cultivation. Has many violet-blue or white flowers borne in the inflorescence with long tubes. Scapes are forked 2 to 2½ feet high. 25c per packet.

*Other genera.* No. 1. SPATHODEA CAMPANULATA—Flame of the woods. Handsome, quick growing tree with scarlet flowers in large clusters. No. 2. EUGENIA JAMBOS—Tropical Asia. Rose apple. Small growing tree with greenish yellow fruit. No. 3. Beau-

tiful yellow flowered vine from El Salvador. No. 4. VITEX—Small shrubs with gray green hairy leaves. Showy plant for background or herbaceous border. Easily grown from seed. Above 4 packets for \$1.00 or 25c each. We have received fern spores from Mexico identified mainly as epiphytes, that is, they grow mostly on rocks and trees. One variety is described as grown hanging from tree limbs and trunks, and another as being 2 inches high which is of the adiantum group (maiden hair). Others are identified as growing on rocks or logs. You may purchase these spores 4 packets for \$1.00.

*Requests* The seed fund uses many seeds and the sources of supply in this country are limited. Therefore nearly all seeds are imported, which entails much time and expense. So we wondered if anyone has begonia or other genera seeds to spare. Seeds must be correctly identified and fresh. Will buy or exchange. -Contact the seed fund department.

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

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## Round Robin Notes . . . Registered Begonias

NOW THAT vacations will soon be over, the interest in the Robins will be greatly increased and each member will try to contribute some information which will be of benefit to many others.

If you are in doubt what to do for a plant that is not doing as well as you would like it, just tell about it in your Robin and one or more of the members will know the answer. As I have said before, it is such a fine way to learn about the plants you like to grow and how to care for them.

Also if there is any particular Robin you would like to join, just drop a card to me. If there is not a Robin of this nature at the present time we will be very pleased to start a new one if there are enough requests for it.

Have you tried any of the Fern, Advanced Begonia, Beginners' Begonia, Fuchsia, Gesneria, Rex Begonia, Lily, Orchid, Hybridizing, Organic Gardening, African Violet, or Foliage Plants? These are some of the Robins now flying.

Most all the States in the U.S. are represented in the Robins. I would like to hear from Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Rhode Island. The Middle West states, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Texas, have many enthusiastic members who love to grow plants.

I have been asked many times by members of the Robins where they could buy begonias in their state. I do not have this information. It would be very nice if anyone knowing of a place in their home state would send me this

No. 123 Name ELED, cultivar, rhizomatous, Mrs. Elsa Fort, 6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.

No. 124 Name Phoebe Mather, cultivar, rhizomatous, Mrs. Elsa Fort, 6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.

No. 125 Name May Drew, cultivar, rhizomatous, Mrs. Elsa Fort, 6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.

No. 126 Name Cool Waters, cultivar, rhizomatous, Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benson, Upland, Calif.

No. 127 Name Green Pastures, cultivar, rex, Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benson, Upland, Calif.

No. 128 Name Lakewood, cultivar, rex, Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benson, Upland, Calif.

No. 129 Name Joel Gillingwaters, cultivar, rex, Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benson, Upland, Calif.

No. 130 Name Leslie Lynn, cultivar, rhizomatous, Mrs. Dorris Motschman, 11071 Bettes Pl., Anaheim, Calif.

EMMA M. CARLETON  
*Member, Nomenclature Committee*

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information or get an advertisement from the grower. New reduced rates are on page 179 of the August issue of *The Begonian*. This would not only help me but also the Robins and the readers of *The Begonian*.

Does anyone wish to join a Geranium Robin? If interested just drop a card.

MARIE REED, R.R. *Chairman*





WHITTIER BRANCH is very proud of the trophy and blue ribbon won by its exhibit at the Flower Show, sponsored by the Whittier Community Beautiful Organization, which was held June 2-3 in Whittier.

The committee which designed and worked on the exhibit consisted of the following members: Gladys Holms, chairman, Gladys Bruce, Peggy McGrath, Edna Hill, Pearl and Elmo Benell, Barney McGrath, William Spitz, Gertrude Winsor and Anne Rose.

In addition to the trophy-winning exhibit of the Branch as a whole, several members of the Society won trophies and blue ribbons on their individual entries. The sweepstakes trophy and the Fanny Tomlinson Memorial Trophy were both won by Rebecca Olson on her staghorn fern.

## *Down the Flower Show Trail*

THE ORANGE COUNTY Branch Begonia and Shade Plant Show, held in the Garden Grove Grange, July 12. Had many very beautiful plants entered, which were judged by Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, Glenn Motschman, and Mrs. Dorris Motschman.

Trophy cups were presented to Mr. Charles Fox for best Fibrous begonia; Mrs. Beth Bath and her son Jim for the best Rhizomatous begonia; Mrs. Beth Bath and Jim for the best Rex begonia; and Mr. and Mrs. John Dory for the best Tuberous begonia. Sweepstakes were awarded to Mrs. Beth Bath and Jim. This trophy was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lou Scalley.

Mary Gillingwaters presented a trophy cup to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Maddox, from Riverside, for winning the sweepstakes for exhibitors entering plants from other begonia branches.

—B—

The Seattle Branch's first annual begonia

show was judged best show in the state of Washington. Mrs. Orrin Hale, representing the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, pinned the blue ribbon on H. W. Barragar, branch president and show chairman.

—B—

The Sacramento Branch took second place at the Sacramento County Fair. Several individual members who exhibited as such took first, second and third awards.

—B—

INGLEWOOD BRANCH, with stiff local, state, and national competition, won the coveted silver cup for first place in the garden exhibit at the International Flower Show, Hollywood Park, Inglewood, Calif. Redondo Beach Branch won second place.

—B—

At the recent San Diego Flower Show, Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch won first place.

Meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society called to order at 7:35, in Los Angeles City Hall, by President Taylor and opened with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and reading of Aims and Purposes of Society.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports read and approved. Treasurer reported tax refund of \$85.00 received from Printer. Treasurer asked if she should follow bookkeeping procedure and close the books on the 18th with all money turned in to the Treasurer or should she follow the old method. Moved by Cal Trowbridge, seconded by Mr. Terrell that the Treasurer follow bookkeeping procedure and close the books on the 18th with all money to be turned in by that time. Carried. The Treasurer also asked that an old motion be rescinded. Moved by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by MacLanahan that the motion of February 25, 1952 in regard to Life Membership be rescinded. Carried.

Membership Secretary MacLanahan reported 64 renewing members, 56 new members, remitted to Treasurer \$296.30.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported an income of \$94.44, expenses \$14.24. Remitted to Treasurer \$80.20.

Librarian Sault reported books loaned 1, balance on hand, \$57.59.

Business Manager Stoddard reported July advertising \$82.75. Received and paid to Treasurer \$29.75. Balance due \$167.81. Advertising inches 25.

Research Director Leatherman read letters from Test Gardens; has \$23.41 in mailing fund.

Edna Korts, Chairman of Awards Committee, read recommendations from committee that two awards be given this year as no awards were made last year. Recommendations made as follows—1. B. "Glendale," a small leaf star rhizomatous begonia produced from seed of B. "Sunderbruchi" grown by Mrs. Elinor Slocum, was nominated for the Alfred D. Robinson Medal, 1950, and has received a majority of the Committee votes. Mover by Fred Browne, seconded by Jack MacLanahan, that we accept the recommendation. Carried.

2. Begonia "Virbob" is a very beautiful seedling of Begonia boweri grown in 1951 by the late Mrs. Mabel Walker. This is the most outstanding plant produced from Begonia boweri and is recommended by the majority of the Awards Committee for the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal 1951. Moved by Cal Trowbridge, seconded by Mabel Anderson, that we accept the recommendation of the Committee. Carried.

Convention chairman Trowbridge reported on the progress of Convention plans and asked the opinion of the Board on renewing the Insurance carried last year. Moved by Fred Browne, seconded by Pearl Parker that we renew the Insurance. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: President Taylor appointed Vice President Terry and Parliamentarian Sault as a committee to audit the books of the officers. Secretary Stoddard brought up the question as to whether or not ballots were to be counted that were not canceled by the Post Office. It was the decision of the Board that all Ballots were to be counted whether canceled or not. The President appointed Mrs. Arbuckle, Mrs. Wardlow and Mrs. Logue as a committee to count the ballots.

Mr. Coe suggested that we try to make an entry in the Pomona Fair and Show. The President appointed Mary Gillingwater as chairman of the project.

Arline Stoddard, Secretary

Speaking of rare bulbs, I might be accused of something or other for writing about bulbs that are rare and hard to find on the market. However I get no thrill out of growing the things that are found in every garden no matter how lovely it might be, and even less writing about them. If you want to read about them, all you have to do is go to the Sunday supplement of your local newspaper or see any flower magazine. They spend all their resources writing about the same old stuff year in and year out until I should think the readers would go mad. Personally, I don't read them anymore because they are probably similar to the one I read last year, ten years ago and fifty years ago with slight variations in wording and jokes. I like my garden to be individual so that visitors will see new plants and flowers. Since my personal interest lies in the unusual, perhaps you will not only forgive me for writing about them but will catch the "Fever" and try the adventure yourself. Break away from the popular plants that are the rage and popularize some other deserving plant.

JIMMY GIRDLIAN

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# 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. Bedson, Secy.  
Kent, England

### CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

Last Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Leo Spengler, Cor. Secy.  
15 West Preston Ave., Orlando, Fla.

### DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mrs. Ruth Cook  
923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, 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 Thursday  
Lions Clubhouse, 225 W. Garvey Blvd.  
Monterey Park, Calif.  
William Edwards, Cor. Secy.  
1886 San Pasqual, Pasadena, 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 Roseneary 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. Mary Hazel Drummond, Cor. Secy.  
1246 N. Kings Rd., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

### HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, Herman Park  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.  
12601 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 5, 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.  
Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Hattie Bradford, Secy.  
1825 W. 73rd St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

### LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, members' homes  
Mrs. Chester Terry, Secy.  
5511 Richmond Ave., Dallas, Texas

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
2255 Elm Ave.  
Mrs. Alice Waldow, Secy.  
2175 Cedar Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

### LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Glenn Morrow, Secy.  
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

### LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

2nd Friday  
Mrs. H. E. Dorris  
3213 Eaton St., Baton Rouge, La.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. W. C. Gorman, Secy.  
2296 Coral Way, Miami, Fla.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

### 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. Anna Peck, Secy.  
23 So. Gateway, Toms River, N.J.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall  
Century and Taft Streets  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.  
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on call.  
Homes of Members  
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.  
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, 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.  
 Members' Homes  
 Mrs. Helen Parrott, Secy.  
 3955 S.E. Kelly, Portland 2, 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.  
 Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.  
 1304 Poinsettia Ave.  
 Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**  
 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington,  
 Riverside, California  
 Mrs. Olive Thaller, Secy.  
 7195 Orchard St., 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, 8:00 p.m.  
 Mrs. Gordon Long, Secy.  
 5416 Dana Way, Sacramento, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**  
 4th Monday  
 Hard of Hearing Hall,  
 Herbert & University  
 Mrs. Maurice P. Mitchell, Secy.  
 2329 Bancroft St., San Diego 4, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**  
 1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
 Mrs. Louise Allmacher  
 1963 45th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**  
 4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
 Arcadia, California  
 Mrs. Marilyn Jewett, Secy.  
 461 E. Mariposa St., Altadena, 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.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**  
 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Girl Scout Clubhouse,  
 1838 San Andres St.  
 Mrs. Maria Sanchez, Secy.  
 1753 Glen Oaks Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**  
 3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
 Trinity Parish House, 609 Eighth Ave.  
 Mrs. Carl Starks, Secy.  
 6116 Greenwood, Seattle 3, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.**  
 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,  
 Ventura, Calif.  
 Mrs. Don Claypool  
 104 Fobes Lane, Ventura, Calif.

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

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.**  
 3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.  
 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.  
 Theodore Vierra, Cor. Secy.  
 341 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. William Demland, Secy.  
 2400 19th St., Port Arthur, Texas

**TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH**  
 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Homes of Members  
 Miss Isabelle Sievert, Secy.  
 3912 Ave. "S," Galveston, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**  
 2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.  
 Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.  
 1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, 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. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.  
 1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

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