

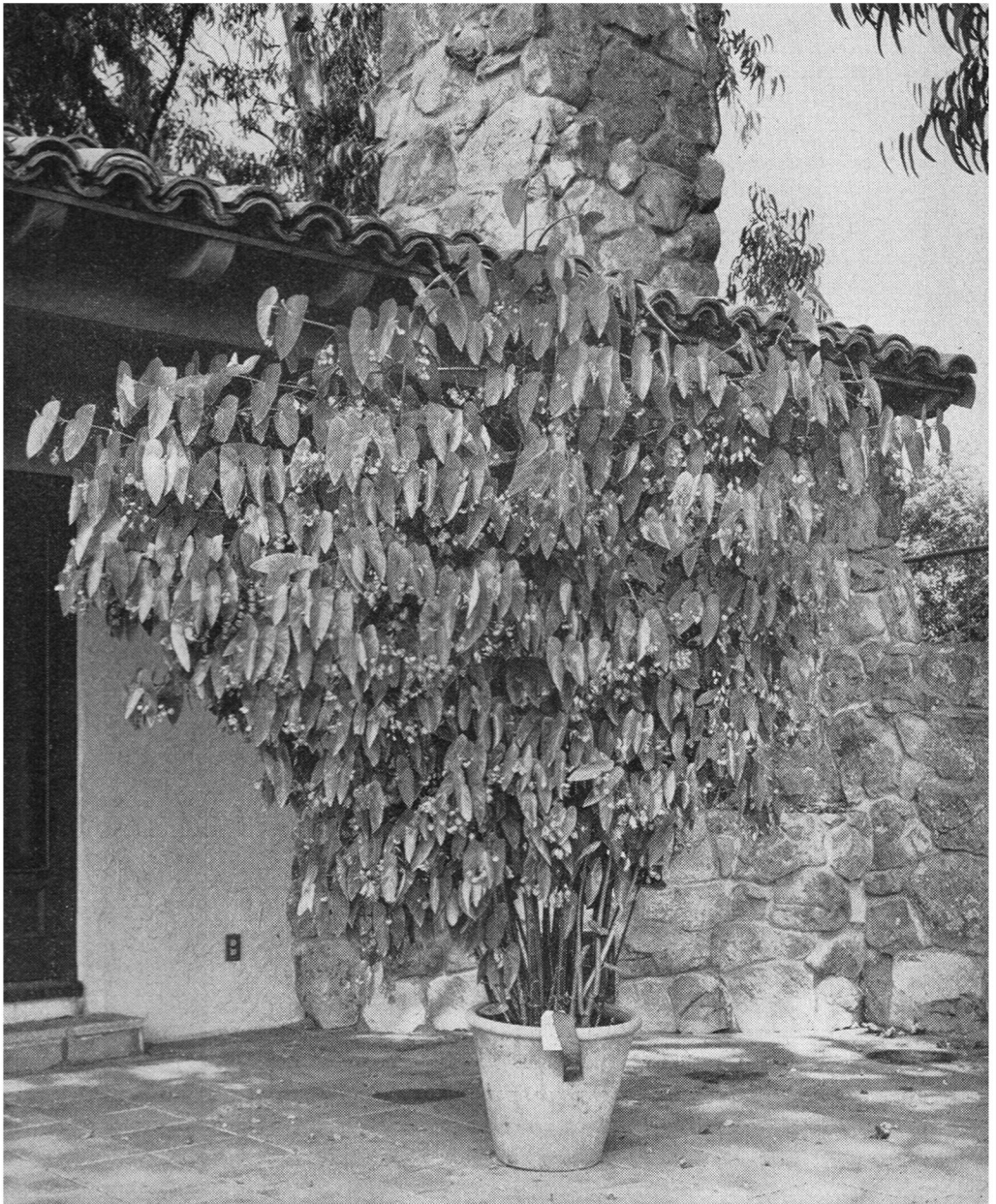
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

MARCH, 1957

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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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Bulbs for the Shade Garden

By J. N. GIRIDLIAN, Arcadia

Pink Agapanthus



I will start with an apology for the common name of this plant because it is misleading. It is neither pink, nor an agapanthus. The color according to Ridgeway's color chart is lilac, and the botanical name of the plant is *Tulbaghia fragrans*. The reason for calling it an agapanthus is that the leaves look very much like it, and is botanically very closely related to it. The botanical name is derived from the district it grows in, a town by the name of Tulbagh; and it is called fragrans because it is very sweetly fragrant, to distinguish it from the other members of the genus which usually have a very strong garlic odor.

The plant itself is very attractive both in foliage and flower, and deserves a place of honor in every garden in the Southern states where the temperature stays above twenty-five degrees. At that temperature the foliage will frost but the plant will recover as soon as the weather becomes warmer. In the colder sections it is a very fine pot plant, and, if grown outdoors and brought indoors for the

winter, it will bloom all winter long and fill the house with its perfume. In fact it blooms throughout the year, but more profusely in winter.

The foliage is about an inch wide and a foot high, of a blue green color and is rather lax in habit. The flower stems grow about six to eight inches above the foliage, and carry a three to four inch umbel of allium-like flowers in compact heads. The keeping quality of the flowers is fabulous and a bouquet may be kept in good condition for weeks. Used as a corsage one can wear it for days.

The root is a true bulb, about one and one half inch in diameter and three inches long, with brittle, fleshy roots emerging from its base. It propagates very rapidly because not only does the bulb split in two as it develops, but a mature bulb will put out dozens of small bulblets at its base which will soon develop into blooming size bulbs and form large clumps. Such a clump in full bloom is a lovely sight. Since the root system is a bulb, it may be completely dried out and stored any time of the year, and for this very reason this plant can be grown successfully outdoors throughout the country, treated the same as cannas and gladiolus. Just dig the clump after the first killing frost, cut off the leaves and put it away in a warm place to dry out. Plant it out again in the spring and it will start to grow and bloom immediately.

Tulbaghia violacea grows best in a warm, sheltered situation in half shade, even though it will do fairly well in full sun. Too much shade will retard blooming. As to soil, it is not very particular as it seems to grow anywhere. It does appreciate a loose soil, rich in humus and well fertilized, but actually it is not necessary unless you want to grow the flowers for the show bench. If well fertilized, the flower heads will double in size and grow much taller, but for everyday use I doubt if the difference is worth the trouble and expense. At any rate, I am very fond of the flowers as they grow under ordinary "lazy man" gardening conditions.

It is often puzzling to me just why it takes so long for a flower of this caliber to become popular. Is it because the average gardener would rather gamble on a horse than a flower?

This Is How I Do It

By HELEN M. JEFFREY

Tuberous Begonias in Cleveland, Ohio

As I sit working at my typewriter and occasionally looking out at the large begonia bed with its mounds of clean sparkling sand, waiting to be made ready for the spring planting, I cannot help but put aside what I am bent on writing and tell, how I work with shade-loving plants.

In the fall of the year in this vicinity, we usually have a hard or killing frost around the sixth or eighth of October, and that is the finish of the begonias. At this time I pull the tuberous begonia stalks out of the rich, porous soil. A firm grasp dislodges them from the soil, and I take infinite care not to break the stalk from the tubers. Mine grow very tall and thick of stem and look more like shrubs. It is hard to believe that they could grow to be so prolific and luxuriant. I lay the plants in a protected place where the air and afternoon sun-rays dry and heal the bulbs. I keep handy a large tarpaulin to throw over them if it should rain and also to keep them protected from the frosty nights. After several weeks the stalks sever easily from the tubers and I clean them of excess soil clinging to them. They are put into latticed fruit baskets, dusted with fermate powder and stored in our attached garage. (I make doubly sure that all particles of stem or flesh are removed from tubers before storing.) They are left in the garage all winter, near the warm wall-side of the house. On especially cold nights I throw over them some discarded rugs or coverings. I keep a pan of water on the floor near them and if that should start to freeze, it is a warning to cover them.

At this same time we re-condition the large bed and adjacent terrace border beds, by adding a yard of well rotted and pulverized cow manure, and enough sand to make the soil nicely friable and instantly drainable. The beds are already filled with fine virgin leaf mold, and with this addition each year of manure and sand, the added supplement is adequate. (At planting time in the open ground, I add one pound of Superphosphate to approximately one bushel of soil for added fertility. Should any of my plants become damaged, broken or scarred, I paint the wound with a paste made from Zerlate powder.)

The beds are elevated so that all excess moisture runs off and doesn't stagnate there in inclement weather—in other words, there is

perfect drainage. After the beds are filled and made ready for next year's crop, I dust the soil with Clordane powder, hoping to discourage slugs, which, seemingly, we have by the millions here in this cool and woody location. At this same time I fill many flats with fresh woody leafmold from our adjoining woods. These are stacked in a protected place ready to receive the tubers when I start them into growth around the middle of March.

In the soil in the flats I add a couple of hands full of organic fish meal. I fill the flats three-fourths full of leafmold with sand added, leaving the remaining fourth to fill with vermiculite. I place the tubers in this, barely covering the top of them, but being sure that the sides of tubers are imbedded in the mixture. The roots form readily in this shallow vermiculite, growing down into the soil and forming a thick network of roots. I keep just moist, using the finger test deep in the bottom soil to see how damp it is. After all flats are filled with tubers, I cover all of them with polyethylene. This eliminates frequent watering and danger of rot. It also saves my hands and heels.

We have several rooms, southern exposure, over the garage, which are not used for the family. I convert this into a begonia nursery. The rooms are warm and with many windows. The floor is spread with oil-cloth and I am free to use a bulb springer to spray the flats and also the air for moisture and humidity. After leaves begin to form, the flats are turned often to insure uniform and shapely contour. When they are of good size and ready to be planted in the open ground, I find it is beneficial to give a supplementary feeding, using tablespoon of fish emulsion to gallon of water.

My large out-door begonia bed is 30' x 17' which is a rather large living room for our plants. We have an overhead sprinkling spraysystem and the flowers are sprayed every day. During the very hot and dry weather they are sprayed several times a day, very lightly, just enough to spray the leaves of the plants and the air, and never sprinkling after three o'clock in the afternoon, as I try to have them go to bed at night with dry foliage and no soggy ground to encourage stem or tuber rot. (My plants are kept on the dry side for several weeks after they are planted in the open ground—or until they are well estab-

lished.) In prolonged hot weather, I wet down the walks and surrounding areas and spray the branches of nearby trees and shrubbery. This provides a moisture laden atmosphere and a slow dripping which keeps the air around them cool and humid. I spray regularly with Fermate mixed with talcum powder to discourage stem rot. (Have never been bothered with mildew.) Suffice to say that every plant is well staked and tied. Most of the time I must tie two or three places along the stem as the season progresses, so vigorous and lush are the plants.

We have three large lights above the bed so that these beauties can be enjoyed at night; also when the nippy September evenings are upon us, the lights are kept burning all night and the light frosts are combatted. Over the entire bed we have a greenhouse netting, cut and sewed to exact scale and fastened to iron poles. This keeps falling limbs and debris from surrounding trees from breaking the plants and damaging the blooms. It breaks our hard rainfalls and certainly helps to keep the plants cool and moist. An adjoining lake helps keep the air moist also.

When we built our home on its present location, the begonia garden was the first thing planned and the huge bolders excavated from the ground were placed to form an enclosure for the large bed. We had achieved a bed for the begonias before we had built a bedroom for ourselves. We had adjacent borders and terrace-borders of tuberous begonias and all of the shade loving plants, coleous, impatiens, lantanas, torenia, browallia and caladium.

It will soon be twenty years since I first saw and bought my first dozen plants of begonias. Each year since then I have increased my stock and at the present time I have about fifteen hundred tubers. I do all of the planting myself and take care of them throughout the season. Any pain or ennui suffered in the work is exchanged for joyous pleasure and enthusiasm. All other work on our grounds is done by hired help, but no one helps me with the begonia planting or care thereof. I adore all the chores that go along with growing them. The systematic care of them, every day and not every other day, the nurturing of them on hot days, the pampering of them on cold nights, the painstaking planting of them in the soft, moist earth, the stooping and backbreak—even the digging and hauling of woody soil from the woods down the hill to the yard is a work of love for me. My husband is every ready and willing to supply the wherewithall to buy

Begonia Memories

By FRANCES L. COOLEY

THE FIRST begonias I remember were those my mother raised in Eagle Rock when I was a school girl. Our house was on a hillside, and was shaded by lovely oak trees. Hanging on the large porch was a beautiful *B. "Weltoniensis,"* a cross of *B. sutherlandi* and *B. dregei*, developed by Major Trevor Clarke of Welton England, in 1868. The light green leaves have purple veins, and the flowers are pink. It is semi-tuberous, not dying back completely.

Then as we went down the steps from the porch, we could see a bed of rex begonias—I do not know which they were. They were on top of walled bank under the porch, a sort of a terrace. They were protected from the weather and were beautiful indeed.

In another place near by was the rhizomatous *Begonia "Ricinifolia"* with its dark bronzy green, roundish, partially lobed leaves, and tall erect panicles of pink flowers. Mother used to speak of "angel wing" begonias, the tall fibrous type whose leaves are shaped like wings. Now of course, we call them by their proper names, but I still hear an echo occasionally of the term "angel wing." I wish I could grow rex begonias as she did.

—B—

On *B. 'Iron Cross'*

John Cole, South Africa, writes that he has self-pollinated *Begonia "Iron Cross"* and finds that it does not come true, indicating it to be a cultivar.

countless equipment, fertilizers and "more tubers" to further and enhance my interest in begonia growing. The innate love, the applying habitually of one's hands and heart as a constant practice to the culture of these exquisite flowers is an undescrivable joy. When I gaze at mine at their best, I think with inward wonderment "They are my hard work, but they are God's handiwork."

I do not suppose that this is the way the well-trained or professional would grow begonias, but for me, an amateur, it has been wonderfully successful, with an unusual production of flowers which are enormous in size.

Begonia Pink Rubra

By CAL TROWBRIDGE

ALONG about now as the warm winter rains leave their rich rewards in our gardens, my thoughts begin to wander on toward spring, yes and beyond that to the many flower shows that dot our calendar. I begin to wonder which plants will be the award winners this year. Which plants will bring the most Ohs and Ahs during the coming flower show season? Will they be among the tall graceful fibrous varieties or the sturdy rhizomatous group, yet they could be one of the glamour lovelies out of your tuberous begonia collection. I am sure the rexes will gain their share of the glory as well as my little friends, the semperflorens.

What I really wanted to tell you about was this magnificent specimen I saw at the Santa Barbara Flower Show last year. This sturdy giant appears on the COVER of this issue. As we wandered about the aisles of this beautiful little show we came upon this giant standing there in all its glory. Its height was over nine feet tall with a spread of over six feet. The huge clusters of reddish pink flowers hung from its branches. It was supported by four steel building rods a half inch in diameter with bamboo canes tied horizontally across making a huge fan. Then tied to this large fan was this plant.

Naturally I became curious about its name, its origin, where it grew and how. After many questions and some letter writing to some of the old timers in our Society I came up with these facts. The original was grown by Theodosia Burr Shepherd some 30 years ago in Ventura. Mrs. Shepherd gave it the name of *Begonia* "Pink Rubra." Mr. Alfred D. Robinson referred to it quite often in his writings as Mrs. Shepherd's tree or cane begonia. Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray also gives mention of it in her early catalogs.

The plant on the COVER of this magazine is owned and was grown by Mrs. John D. Graham of Eucalyptus Hill, Montecito, California. Truly a fine begonia specimen. We also found out it took four men and a moving van to get it to the show. Mrs. Graham, we hope you come up with another one next year.

The picture was made by Thomas E. Arnold of Santa Barbara.

—B—

"Consider the lilies how they grow; they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Luke 12:27.



Cut Courtesy Arboretum Foundation

At the Arboretum in this beautiful tropic setting with the lagoon fed by springs, the GREENHOUSE for begonias will be placed.

Greenhouse for Begonias

Dear Members of the A.B.S.:

We hope you have all read the article in *The Begonian*, written by the editor, concerning the erecting of a Glasshouse by the Begonia Society on the grounds of the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum.

This project has the approval of the National Board and has created much favorable interest among the different branches who have already expressed their opinion.

All buildings on the Arboretum grounds must be built according to regulations. To conform with these regulations we are hoping to erect an 18' x 40' all aluminum structure, complete with heating and cooling, and the cost will be approximately \$4500.00. All future expense of repairs, maintenance and care of the plants will be taken care of by the Arboretum. Later, we will make a collection of plants to be housed in the building. We will try to get as many species and hybrids as possible so that this collection of begonias at the Arboretum will be as complete as possible thus connecting the work of all the departments in our society, nomenclature, research, hybridizing and etc.

This is a large project. A project such as this should give our society a healthy stimulant. We all know that where our money is, our heart is also. We all like to grow begonias. Let us all have an individual part as well as a

At the Arboretum

APPROXIMATELY 275 species and varieties of Acacia trees and shrubs are now beginning their annual color show with their exotic flowers at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Within the grounds, the Acacias are located chiefly in the Australian plant section. A new introduction in this section is *Acacia macradenia*, a fast growing large shrub with grayish bloom on the trunk. This is a new introduction which shows great promise of being a valuable addition to the Southern California landscape. One of the outstanding features of this shrub is the grayish leaves which somewhat resemble sun fish. It is being tested particularly for its resistance to cold.

A favorite of visitors usually is the "Golden Fountains of Bailey's Acacia." A dry weather acacia is *A. cardiophylla*, from Australia, which is another thriving introduction. It is suitable for hedge purposes for homes, and requires but little care after it is established.

Some acacias bloom the year round. The Arboretum's plantings present good color from January into April. It is anticipated the acacias will be in peak bloom on Washington's Birthday this year.

Five species of the "Bird of Paradise," the official flower of the City of Los Angeles, are now being tested in the South African section.

"We think the Arboretum is the only place which has all five species of this oddly shaped flower growing within a few feet of each other," says Don Wooley, chief Arboretum horticulturist. "The only 'Bird of Paradise' in bloom at this time is the *Strelitzia reginae*. In due time, there should be flowers on the other species; *S. parvifolia*, *S. juncifolia*, *S. nicolai*, and the *S. augusta*."

The South African section greets the visitor with a gay colored vista of euryops, dimorphothecas, gazanias, felicias, and ursinias. Also to be enjoyed are flowers from bulbs, ground covers, succulents, shrubs, and trees all native to South Africa. Gardener Cassidy also is proud of the read leaved hibiscus, the big bronze dodonea, the young forest of white-spined acacia, the ericas, calpurnias, and the brilliant orange and yellow aloes. For the next six weeks, this section will provide a mass of South African wildflowers, which have been found to thrive in this climate.

branch part in building this glasshouse where all can view specimen plants, correctly grown and named, and where we can obtain information to help all of us grow better plants ourselves. As has been said 'individual help.' If every member would make a donation large or small, we could, with the \$250.00 already donated by the San Gabriel Branch and some of its members, as a nucleus, immediately start our glasshouse. The ball has started to roll. Get behind it.

A receipt will be sent to every one donating. Donations are tax free. An accurate account will be kept so that in case our objective fails all our money will be returned to the donors. Let us not let this happen. Make checks payable to the Arboretum Begonia Glasshouse Fund and send to Howard A. Small, 3310 E. California St., Pasadena 10, Calif.

Howard A. Small, Chm.
Arboretum Begonia Glasshouse Fund

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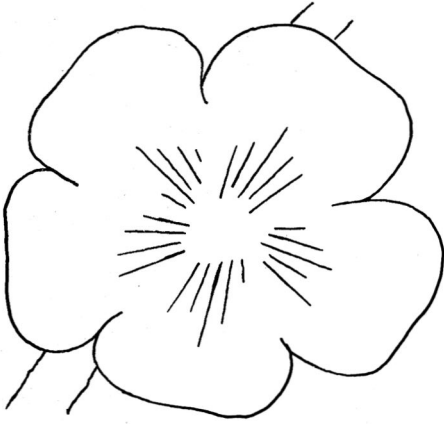
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AN EXPERT

By REBECCA H. OLSON

Little did I know, when a neighbor of mine knocked at my back door to present to me a tiny start of a staghorn fern, that it would seventeen years later, bring a sweepstake award at a flower show.

I didn't even know the nature of the plant, nor did I know how to plant it. Fortunately, I did plant it in a large, wire hanging basket. Lining the basket with sphagnum moss and using a good planting medium, I carefully set the tiny fern in the center. The plant started to mature and the fronds grew upward while the shields flared up around the base. Then the fronds and shields started peering through the sides of the wire basket and finally on the bottom completely concealing the entire basket. Today it is quite spectacular and truly a magnificent specimen, measuring 38" x 66" over-all.

Anyone can be encouraged to raise sweepstake winning material if he has patience and the love for a (pet) plant. You don't have to be an expert. Pick out your choice plant, feed and groom it. When your next flower show comes up, enter it and you may be surprised to find that it was judged to be the best material in the show. Try it as I did!



The Wooden Flowers of El Fortin

By GRACE C. CONSTABLE

EL FORTIN DE LAS FLORES (the fort of the flowers) on the "Jungle Route" between Mexico City and the port of Vera Cruz is renowned for its coffee plantations and its acres of orchids, camellias, azaleas and gardenias which are flown daily to all parts of the world. However, it is not yet well known for the flower of wood which we were told is found no place else in the world.

It was at La Loma Posada that we saw this strange botanical specimen. We had taken refuge at La Posada when the sky darkened and thunder crashed, forecasting one of the sudden tropical downpours, frequent in that area. From the veranda of our tile and stucco bungalow we watched rain beating on the over-size hibiscus and the gardenias that were everywhere—even in the orange orchards! We accepted the beauty of this modern fairyland rather casually. After all, it was just a part of the enchanting atmosphere of Mexico! But we could not accept so casually the wooden flowers which we saw when we entered the central building where the dining room was located.

These flowers of wood were *too* impossible. Such things could not be! Yet there they were on mantel and shelf, seven of them, the mellow gleam of their polished wood reflecting the candle light.

It was a wide open flower about six inches in diameter. The petals were one-half inch thick at the outer edge, becoming thicker and growing together as they neared the center. A system of fine ridges radiating from the heart

of the flower well up into each petal, gave the effect of stamens. There was no calyx, the corolla seemed to have developed out of the swelling of the stem, as with the tulip. And there were no leaves. The smooth stem in each case was about ten inches in length and quite thick, about one inch at the top and two at the base where it had been slashed from the stalk.

Senor Alvarez, our host, did not speak English fluently. His Spanish accent was so strong that he had to repeat some sentences many times and with many gestures before we could get the meaning of his words, but he was very kind and patient with us and eager to tell us what we wanted to know.

The flower grows in the jungle, he told us, but it is scarce and hard to find. It takes a sharp knife and a great deal of time to scrape away the substance with which it is coated when found. It is then polished and waxed (or shellacked) to bring out the gleam of the wood. The slashed end of the stem is secured to a base to hold it upright.

El Senor opened a drawer and brought out one that was not yet "finished." It was covered with a dark mold or fungus and bore little resemblance to the beautiful flowers which we had been admiring.

How many jungle explorers must have stumbled over this uninteresting looking plant before its potentialities were recognized!

For many who travel the splendid road that was once a jungle trail, El Fortin will continue to be a garden paradise. But to us hereafter, it will be more than that, for we shall always remember El Fortin as the home of the wooden flowers.

—B—

Camellia Month

With 10,000 Pink Perfection bushes coming into their peak blooming season, Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens in La Canada has begun observance of Camellia Month, which has been proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors for the period from Feb. 15 to March 15.

Camellia "Pride of Descanso" has a giant white bloom with golden stamens; the "C. M. Hovey" is a large formal red; the "Vice President Richard Nixon" has a large pure white bloom with red stripes; and *C. "Lallaroook"* is a light pink flower mottled with white.

At the Camellia Arrangements Show on March 9 and 10, two special divisions have been established for Camellia arrangements for men and for children.

Rhizomatous Begonias Can Take It!

By MARIE TURNER

WHEN it is hot and dry, as it is frequently in Temple City, my rhizomatous begonias are able to withstand the severity of the climate in holding their beauty and attractiveness far better than any other type. They are not finicky about the soil mixture in which they grow but as all begonias, they insist on good drainage. I have seen handsome rhizomatous specimens growing in heavy, even adobe soil. They will respond beautifully, however, to a soil rich in humus.

They can take it.

Some of the new begonia fans will ask, "What are rhizomatous begonias?"

They are begonias with thickened or heavy root-reservoirs. They may creep on the ground or grow upright, but they keep a supply of moisture and food in reserve for "tough times."

Rhizomatous begonias produce fibrous roots from their rhizomes, but due to this foresight, they are more able to take heat and cold than they would be if they were not blessed with this reserve supply. These rhizomes must be treated kindly, however, as an injury may cause decay to set in. Freezing weather would freeze them solid if they were not sufficiently protected with a heavy mulch or taken indoors.

When I say they can take it, I mean comparatively.

The species rhizomatous begonias are not as beautiful as the hybrids. Some of the imported begonias are presumed to be species and are later discovered to be natural hybrids. These have been hybridized in the wilds by bees or other insects, giving us some lovely variations. The hybrids produced in cultivation, by planned hybridization, have given us some handsome plants. Beauty is not all we are striving for. We hope to produce begonias that are able to withstand a certain amount of neglect, as many gardeners are week-and gardeners only. So it is that we choose begonias noted for their endurance to adverse conditions, and cross them. Either as one or both of the parents may claim sturdiness, we find the offspring often claiming even a sturdier constitution.

For instance, the Mexican *Begonia manicata* and its several variations, has been used as a parent stock many times. The female flowers are used in crossing as the male flowers seldom hold on long enough to prove fertile. *Begonia manicata cristata* is the mother of *B. "Ricky Minter"* (A. D. R. Medal winner), a rugged begonia with a heavily cristated margin (one of my hybrids). *Begonia "Freddie,"* a Ziesenhenné cross, also claims *B. manicata aureo maculata* as a parent. Although the variegated leaves did not show up in "Freddie," Mr. Ziesenhenné suggests self-pollinating it to gain a large, variegated leaf. But "Freddie" does not produce male blossoms, to my knowledge, reverting in this way to the *manicata* strain.

Begonia boweri has been used as a parent plant. It is a so-called difficult begonia, but its offspring are much hardier, due to breeding a stronger strain into the plants. These are smaller rhizomatous begonias than the aforementioned, making fine window garden subjects.

Two introductions of the *Begonia heracleifolia* strain making splendid, bushy rhizomatous plants are *B. "Glendale"* and *B. "Lexington."* These branch freely and create a full plant. Their foliage is extremely decorative and they do not go dormant. *B. "Glendale"* won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal award.

By taking a little time in making our selections, we find the rhizomatous begonias may be kept on the beautiful side of the ledger all year long. It is no wonder I prefer rhizomatous begonias with their beautiful winter and early spring blooms.

Calendar

March 19—Sacramento—"The Flowers of Mexico" by John Paul Edwards of Oakland.

March 21—Foothill Branch—Peggy Sullivan presenting "Africa" in colored slides. Celebrating the 11th birthday with a jitney potluck dinner. All members invited to dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Mar. 27—San Gabriel Valley—"Begonias of Europe," William O. Meyn.

Mar. 27 — Glendale — "Pruning Shade Plants," Merrill Thompson.

—B—

April 11—Inglewood—Ninth Annual President's Dinner, 6:30 P.M. Rudolf Ziesenhenné, speaker.

Griever or Digger?

By SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN

A SOFT, beneficial rain is falling and my thoughts run to what has to be done. The future of our gardens and our plants shape into a visual picture. Our mistakes of the past are a means of learning. Grieving over a plant that has died is wasted energy. Digging and learning why it died is a worthwhile reward for the plant that passed on. Which are you, a griever or a digger?

Visiting with other gardeners, exchanging notes on their successes and failures is one way of learning. Correspondence, perhaps through a Round Robin, is another means of learning. Reading, too, will help. I enjoy my learning, and I have a lot of it to do by all methods. On a pleasant visit to Oro Wilson's, San Diego, Calif., Ora gave me some very good advice on the treatment of *Polypodium subauriculatum* (syn. *Polypodium knightii*), the basket fern with the airy plume-like fronds. After a number of years, the basket becomes a solid mass of roots, the soil deteriorates. How one hates to cut up the plant and start over again, well knowing it will take, with luck, two years before again obtaining a beautiful plant. Ora's fern has been in the same basket, originally planted in, for many years and each year it is the same beautiful eye catcher. In the spring when the little curled heads of the new fronds show they are soon going to grow, Ora gives the following treatment: About four inches in from the sides of the basket a circle is cut, going down three to five inches. Sections are cut in, like pieces of pie. These sections are removed, potted or planted in other baskets. This hollow opening is filled in with fern potting medium and firmed down and sphagnum (green) moss placed over the top. Each year the basket receives new soil and remains in perfect shape. Simple after you learn about it. *Polypodium* (Gr. polys—many, podos—foot) is an interesting fact I learned from reading. In other words *polypodium* is derived from Greek and means "many footed."

Have you ever admired a pool with rocks cleverly used where a little stream trickles down? Nature has a way of knowing just where to place a tiny spore so it will grow (many of us call them volunteer plants). We are planning to construct a pool with a stream. Sometimes it takes nature a long time to decide which crevice or tiny pocket is the ideal place to grow an *adiantum* (maidenhair fern).

One day I remarked that I wished to have *adiantums* growing in this manner for my prospective pool. Fred Kaye heard my remark and gave me the following idea which I shall use.

Adiantums have hard, wiry, rhizome-like runners from which roots develop. Using one part adobe soil and one part steer manure (the mixture moistened to a plaster consistency), plaster these wiry pieces into the crevices or tiny pockets with a little sphagnum tucked in to hold moisture along splash spots which will retain moisture from the stream.

Most gardeners like to do some of their own learning through experimentation. When you hear of a new potting mix, it is wise not to go overboard and immediately repot all of your plants in this mix, which is new to you. Any mix one must learn to use; some will hold moisture for a longer period, while others will dry out more rapidly. Therefore it is wiser to learn with a few plants as to watering requirements, etc. I, after considerable adding and subtracting, have a mix I am using for my ferns and begonias and other allied plants. Due to its retaining moisture for a long period, it is an ideal mix for our hotter, inland areas. Ferns and other plants requiring this moisture have flourished in this mix and more temperamental varieties of ferns have grown at a more rapid pace. One of the important points in the use of this mix with begonias is to under pot rather than over pot. Following are the basic ingredients: 4 gallons Redwood Leaf Mold, 4 cups silt and 2 cups Sponge Rok, 4 tablespoons Hoof and Horn (fine), ½ cup dolomite lime, 3 tablespoons soil sulfur, 3 tablespoons blood meal, 3 tablespoons superphosphate and 3 tablespoons Humisite. Have the Redwood Leaf Mold moist (not soggy) and add the other ingredients and mix well. This mix is best prepared as you need it rather than leaving it sit for several months. Hoof and Horn, and blood meal used too heavily will burn, so be very cautious on your measurements. For ferns (such as *adiantums*) which desire limestone, add ½ cup of oyster shell to a six inch pot of mix.

—B—

My definition of a good gardener is 10% cow manure, 40% enthusiasm, and 50% hard work, and all three are necessary to succeed.

DORIS WEINERT, Wayne, Pa.

Hyacinth Corsages

By MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND, Author
"Styling Corsages With Garden Flowers"

A POT of hyacinths in the kitchen window or a whole row of them out in the garden announce that spring is here again in all her fresh beauty. "The long winter is over," say these bell-like flowers, "and other flowers will bloom gloriously once again after me."

Because of their dewy fragrance and dainty beauty, it is a wonder that hyacinths are not used more often as corsage flowers. In hues, there is the delicate shell pink or deeper rose pink to compliment the fresh young beauty of youth. Soft heavenly blue violet may be just the shade to go with a new spring navy blue suit. The deep blue purple blooms would go wonderfully with white hair. Hyacinths come in sunny yellow, too, to give your snow-bound spirits an exhilarating lift. And what can be more romantic than a spring bride carrying a bouquet of white hyacinths?

Making a hyacinth corsage may take a little more time and patience than corsages made of other flowers, but the result will be well worth it.

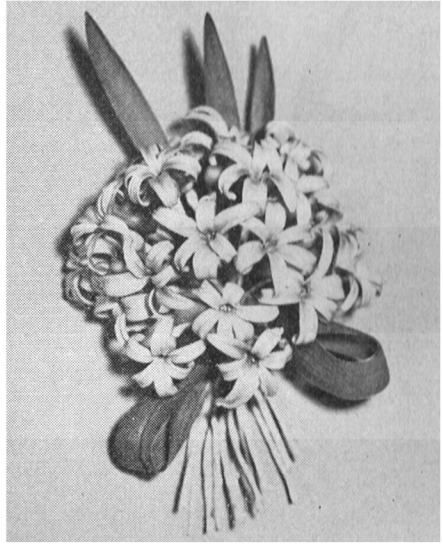
To assure a fresh, long-lasting corsage, cut the flowers in the coolest part of the morning or evening. Place them in cold water at once and let them stand for two or more hours.

Equipment: To make a corsage, you will need fine wire, florists' tape and some ribbons, if you wish. In lieu of ribbon, you can use the strap-like foliage of the iris or similar plant with great success, particularly on a hyacinth corsage you will wear through April showers. Colors on ribbons may run, but foliage "ribbon" will thrive in the rain. Spools of fine wire can be purchased in the local five-and-ten or hardware stores.

Assembling the corsage: Cut the florets (bells) from the main flower stock, leaving the stem on each one (the stem will be about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch). Hold the bell between the thumb and forefinger.

Bend one end of the wire like a hook, then push the straight end of the wire down through the center and bell of the flower so that it comes out parallel to the stem. Make sure that the hook is not visible on the outside of the floret.

Starting close to the base of the flower, twine florists' tape around the wire. This stretchy, adhesive tape is available in white and in many



other shades besides the usual green at some five and ten cent stores.

Assemble the hyacinth bells in a group and bind together tightly with a fine wire. Add the foliage in a pleasing design and wire into place. Wrap tape around the uncovered wire for a smooth, neat finish. See photograph.

If you prefer a ribbon bow on the corsage, choose a color that matches the flower or select a shade which is slightly darker.

Corsages are worn on the left shoulder, except when you are dancing. Then they are worn on the right. Try wearing them at the waist, neckline, pinned on a muff or a cloth handbag for a smart effect.

—B—

Pleasure, a Reward

I have been growing tuberous rooted begonias as a hobby for fourteen years in a small way. Usually having around one hundred to a hundred and twenty plants. They are a definite challenge here in Wisconsin. Requiring lots of care but I do get so very much for my trouble. The pleasure they give to others is a big reward in itself.

Now—last summer for the first time—they developed what looked to me like mildew. We did have an unusually wet summer and that probably caused it. Is there anything or way I can control it? That is, should it reappear again this summer.

MRS. GLENN L. RIEDER
Watertown, Wis.

Rules for the Operation of the Nomenclature Committee, American Begonia Society

THE NOMENCLATURE Committee is delegated the work of registering names of begonia cultivars and cooperating with other existing committees where interests overlap, as in classification of begonias for show purposes, show awards, publication of names, and judging. The following rules for the registration of cultivars are set up so that the minimum requirements will be known to all breeders who wish to register their originations.

REGULATIONS FOR REGISTERING CULTIVARS

Definition of Cultivar.—The term of 'cultivar' is applied to those special forms which have originated or are maintained only in cultivation. It includes all man-made forms not accepted under botanical species and varieties. Botanical species and varieties are required to be described in Latin but Cultivars are described in English. A cultivar may be produced by crossing either known parents, by mutation of a known parent, or may involve chance seedlings but not true species. If a plant form is found growing in the wild and reproduces itself naturally in the wild, then it is *not* a cultivar.

Name.—The name of the cultivar (Man-made variety), if developed since Jan. 1, 1954 must conform to the recognized International Code of Nomenclature.

The rules include; the name must have priority to be recognized. There must be no duplication of names nor use of any similar name that might lead to confusion, as slight differences in spelling. There should be no abbreviation in a name, no use of initials, no use of an article except where language usage requires this, no translation of a given name from another language, and no use of the name of a country without qualifying word. No name of a person should be used without his permission. **Avoid names of politically prominent persons.** Valid publication of a name consists of the sale or distribution of dated printed matter giving the name, description of the plant and all cultivar names must be published in a dated publication of some kind. A price list giving the name with description of the begonia under a date, may be construed to be a valid publication if the description is adequate and the list is well circulated. Registration by an International Registration Authority may be considered valid pub-

lication. The right to name is that of the originator or the person to whom he may assign this right. If the person is dead then his heirs should have the right to name. If a temporary number has been applied to recognize and identify a new seedling, such number should only be applied until a name has been applied and adopted. Any synonym or number that has been applied should be given at the time a name is being considered for registration.

Publication of the Name.—The date when a name has been validly published (if already published) should be furnished at the time application is made for registration, together with a citation as to where the name was published.

Originator and Address.—The name of the originator and his address should be given in the application. If the person is no longer living, then the person or the firm to which the cultivar has been assigned should be named with the address.

Date when developed and Distributed.—The date of origin or development should be given and if already distributed, the date of first distribution.

Derivation or Origin.—The application should state whether the cultivar is a hybrid, a chance seedling with parentage unknown, or a mutation (sport). The term of cultivar as here used may involve a cross between two cultivars, or between a species and a cultivar.

Parentage (if known).—A record of the seed parent and the pollen parent should be made, and such information should be held confidential until time plant is released, which should be at the time of first distribution. The American Begonia Society should set up rules for holding such a record and conditions for release. If the cultivar is a mutant, then the name of the parent should be recorded.

Classification.—The classification of the cultivar, as used by the American Begonia Society in officially sponsored shows, should be given. This may involve such terms as cane, hairy, rhizomatous, rex, semperflorens cultorum, hiemalis, cheimantha, tuberous, or semi-tuberous, together with such qualifying terms as may help in complete identification.

Description.—The cultivar should be described as completely as possible in respect to foliage, flowers, and plant as a whole. Under LEAVES, describe the shape, size, dimensions, margins, texture, veins, petioles, stipules, color, or other important features. Under FLOWERS, give the color, size, shape and form, position on plant and stem, arrangement, length of stem, and season of bloom. The cultivar should

not be registered until such information is available. If the plant as a whole has peculiarities, give these. Two black and white, clear, detailed prints of the cultivar are to be submitted: one for the registration file and one for *The Begonian*.

Propagation and Distribution.—It is best not to register a new cultivar until it is well established and nature well determined. To fully determine the merits of a cultivar, it should be tested for at least a year or until it has flowered and its true worth determined. Competent persons or groups should certify as to the merits of any cultivar proposed for registration and the signature of the person or group should appear on the application card. If a cultivar is under official test every effort should be made to prevent distribution to others than the owner. Penalties for infractions may be set up in such a case.

Naming and Registration for Competition—The A.B.S. requires that in order for a new cultivar to compete for the ROBINSON MEDAL its name must have been registered. In the future all cultivars entered in competition should have their names validly published, and cultivars developed after Jan. 1, 1954, should be registered with the A.B.S. Any cultivar without a validly published name should not be eligible for competition in shows sponsored by the A.B.S. This rule will exclude seedlings as yet unnamed and not in distribution, the purpose being to make competition fair to all.

—B—

Registration

The nomenclature committee headed by Mr. Butterfield, with elected officers and editor, met at the home of Edna Korts to discuss the operation of the Nomenclature Committee and its many problems. The recommendation was made to send two copies of the Buxton *Begonia Glossary*, which has been accepted by the American Begonia Society as the official check list for begonias, to the American Horticultural Council in fulfillment of the first step towards their becoming the International Registration Authority of the *Begoniaceae*. This invitation is indeed a great honor for our organization and it is hoped all qualifications can be met.

Every hybridizer or person interested in plant naming should have a copy of this handbook which may be purchased for one dollar from the American Horticultural Council, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass. Send \$1.00 with order.

Seeds, Seedlings & Hybrids

By DON HORTON

BULBS FROM SEEDS

RAISING bulbs from seeds is both enjoyable and an inexpensive way to acquire and increase stock. Anyone who is interested in hybridization must, of course, raise the hybrids from seed.

Botanically, bulbs are composed of scales as lilies and tulips, but in the usual sense as we use it here we include corms (e.g. freesias, gladiolus), tubers (e.g. dahlias), and rhizomes (e.g. bearded iris).

Raising bulbs from seed is not any more difficult than raising other plants from seed. Each species has its own requirements such as temperature and planting season as do the seeds of different perennials. Bulbs often take two or three years to flower but others, freesias and dahlias to name but two, flower the first season.

The thing to do is decide what bulb or bulbs you would like to raise. Look up its cultural requirements and try it. Most seed companies have cultural directions in their catalogs or send them with the seed.

Amaryllis are not difficult to raise from seed in greenhouse or house conditions. Sow them in a soil containing lots of leaf mold just as you would any other house plant seed. Keep them growing and shifting them to larger pots as they do not go dormant until they bloom which takes about three years. Considering the cost of amaryllis bulbs you can have fine quality bulbs at a fraction of their retail cost. I raised and flowered over 150 giant flowered hybrid American amaryllis from a dollar's worth of seed. It is only fair to point out that amaryllis seed is not that cheap any more—unless you produce your own.

Mrs. Florence Gee, our Seed Fund Administrator, wrote me that she crossed American hybrid amaryllis with Dutch amaryllis and raised the most beautiful amaryllis she had ever had. I have some six month old seedlings of a similar cross and can hardly wait until they reach blooming size.

Another big advantage of raising bulbs from seed is that you have disease free stock. Many lilies are infected with lily mosaic which is a virus that lives in the tissues of the plant weakening it and eventually killing it. According to some experts, every bulb of the tiger lily (*L. tigrinum*) available from the trade is

(Continued on Page 65)

The Basic Principles of Pruning

PRUNING is a natural process that is performed by nature. In nature, plants prune themselves by the means of winds, snow, rain, or just by the decay and falling of unwanted branches. In trying to live in our civilized life with man, plants must be assisted by man. Hospital cleanliness must be observed, as pruning is as much a surgical operation as is ever performed in a hospital.

The operator must observe the natural growth of the plant. The inner weak branches must be removed. An open center, that will permit the penetration of sunshine and fresh air is what the pruner strives for. Prune to a bud. The new branch will grow in the direction that the bud is pointing. In the case of some fruits, the flowering buds are found in groups of three, and the cut may be made above the triple bud. If in doubt, remove about two-thirds of the new growth, making the cut about one-fourth inch above the bud.

Some branches are so large as to require the use of a saw. The specially made pruning saw is best for this purpose. First an undercut must be made. Saw up about one-third of the way through the branch, as near to the main trunk or branch as possible, then finish the cut from above the branch. This removes any possibility of tearing of the bark by the weight of the limb as it falls.

All wounds that are larger than a lead pencil should be treated with a pruning compound.

Bush roses and peach trees bear flowers and fruit on the new growth, so pruning should

be heavy to encourage new growth. Climbing roses and cane berries should be pruned the same, that is, to remove the bearing growth of the previous year, and leave the long green canes that characterize the new growth. These new canes should be trellised, pulling them down as near horizontal as possible. This causes short growths that make more flowers and fruit.

Late January or early February is usually the best time to prune trees. Orchardists usually prune from September to March, but modern science tells us that the best time for the amateur to prune fruit trees is when they first come into bloom. This way one can see where the fruit is to be borne. The espalier is a form of formative pruning that stems from the crowded conditions of Europe. It has taken a place in American landscaping. This form was designed to grow fruit trees against walls or fences, and in such a manner as to take a minimum of room. The most popular form is to train the branches low, and at right angles to the main trunk to stimulate greater side growth, and limit the height.

To make hedges uniform and to force them to have leaves and branches all the way to the ground, prune them to about half their height when planting, then trim every time they make about six inches of growth. Cut them back about half of the new growth. This creates a hedge that is thick and uniform.

After pruning, trees and shrubs should be sprayed with a general cleanup spray. To control blight in peaches, nectarines and apricots,

in rose form and ruffled novelty

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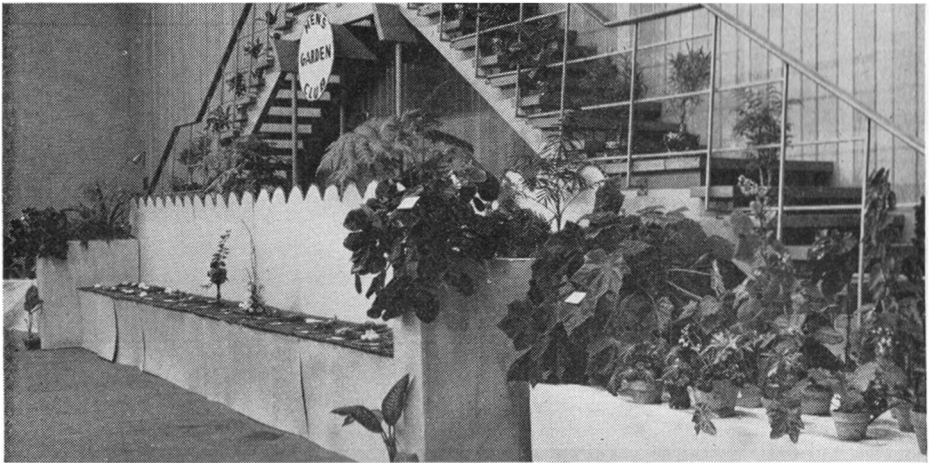
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THE TEXAS STATE BRANCH entered the above pictured exhibit in the Annual Camellia Show of the American Camellia Society, which was presented by the Mens' Garden Club and the Port Arthur News, Port Arthur, Texas. The shade plant section extended across the 75 foot end of the exhibition floor. In the background was a Spanish stairway which was outlined with crotons placed on each step. Begonias ranging in size from small seedlings to rhizome species, which had a five foot spread,

were exhibited. Other plants used in the exhibit were ferns, blooming achmeas, bromelias, and a collection of many named begonias. Staging was made by E. Weaver, Dr. L. R. Byrd, our Branch president, Mrs. W. N. Foster and all Branch members. Our award was a green ribbon of Special Merit.

The show was held for two days, Jan. 26 and 27. More than 2500 blooms were on display to be viewed by the 2000 visitors who attended this wonderful show of the Southwest.

spray with a copper or sulfur fungicide in early November.

A good rule of thumb for pruning flowering shrubs is to prune them after blooming if they bloom in early spring, and before blooming if they bloom during the summer or fall months.

(Presented by Ken Terry to the Redondo Area Branch and reported by Margaret Buell.)

—B—

COPY DEADLINE


All copy for *The Begonian* must be received by the editor not later than the first of the month preceding date of publication.

Pamphlet Available

Our Camellia - Azalea - Rhododendron pamphlet is ready for distribution. Cultural data, submitted to experts throughout the country, is most complete, comprehensive and concise.

This is another in the series of 4-color lithographed, attractive leaflets previously published. All pamphlets cover not only feeding but such cultural data as watering, soils, temperature, planting, location and success hints.

The Camellia - Azalea - Rhododendron pamphlet together with those on African Violets, Begonias, Roses, Mums and Fuchsias are furnished without charge to our dealers, or will be sent free on request to home gardeners by Atlas Fish Emulsion Fertilizer Co., 1 Drumm St., San Francisco 11, Calif.



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Round Robin Notes

With Spring not so far ahead, it is time to think of the many things to be done in the garden. This is such a wonderful season of the year with all the lovely flowers starting new growth, the grass turning green and soon the trees will be in bloom. Each day as we walk in our garden we can find new interest; perhaps it is only a small plant showing new growth, that one we thought we had lost; or some bulbs coming through the ground, the ones we forgot to take up last fall. All these things inspire us to do a little better job each year.

It is now time to plant seeds so that our gardens will be beautiful in the summer and fall, and also to supply us with cut flowers for the house.

Here is a suggestion that may interest you. Why not plant some extra seeds or a few extra cuttings this spring? I am sure there are some of your friends who would like to have some of your extra plants. The cuttings we plant in the spring always make good strong plants and it is surprising how rapidly they grow. Take the cuttings from the new growth for better results.

One Robin member writes me she always starts her African violet leaves in small pots. Fill the pot half full of potting mixture; add one part sand and one part peat mixed together; then place the leaf in center and fill to top with sand and peat. In this way the leaf will start to grow, and when the roots reach the potting mixture, they are strong enough and will keep on growing. This is the time of year she likes to start her plants.

DIRECTORS OF THE ROBINS

If any of the Robins have not returned to the director within a reasonable time, please try to find what has delayed it or write to me with what information you may have and I shall try to help you locate the Robin.

Many things delay the Robins and if a member cannot write, please send it on to the next member and at the same time send a card to the director. The card you send when the Robin is mailed is very essential as it is the only way a Robin can be traced. Please remember to send the Courtesy card and again I wish to ask you to send something in for *The Begonian*. Send it to the Editor. I am sure she will be pleased to hear from you.

Marie Reed, Round Robin Chairman

Here in California we have to keep our plants watered and if there is a frost, they do not freeze so easily. That is the reason mine got nipped last year; they became too dry and I did not have any circulation of air in the green house.

A new plant in my collection is *B. "Funcki."* It is a medium green leaf with stems and leaves covered with fine white hair. It looks very much like Costa Rica species, but I have never seen it bloom. The Chilian and Mexican species are in bloom now with the flowers in great, large bunches; flowers on one is white, the other pink. These are held three feet above the plant.

When you cross plants, it is a good idea to have something definite in mind. Pick up a plant you think would make a good parent and then find one that has good characteristics such as color, shape and texture of leaf. Do not throw away the small weak plants when potting them, for sometimes the weak ones make the finest plants. I learned that from experience.

The *Begonia catbyana* crosses enjoy going dormant very early and I am inclined to let them behave naturally as they are so much stronger and larger the next year.

MARIE REED, San Leandro, Calif.

—B—

This section of New England has been a "fairyland." The trees, shrubs and buildings have been glazed with ice and the ground covered with snow. When it was quiet outside and a gently breeze blew, it sounded like a huge sheet of cellophane being crumpled.

I have a spot in back of the house where I put the "wax begonias" to get cuttings from them and usually by the end of the summer they are better than some in the front "visitors garden."

My plants are in all of the schools in Foxboro. The children are allowed to care for them and they take pride in them when they bloom.

My *Begonia foliosa* grows on and on and I have to twine it up onto the bracket so it won't drag onto the plants below.

You ask how I grow *B. foliosa* to such size. It is grown in the same soil as my other begonias: $\frac{2}{3}$ three-year-old hen manure (pure humus) and $\frac{1}{3}$ garden, sandy loam and bone meal.

B. macrocarpa and *B. "Vedderi"* fell victim to the cold and had to be put back in the rooting medium. Cuttings do not root easily in late winter in New England. Their future is uncertain. I lost my cutting of *B. "Grey Lady"* and will not replace it as it is too nearly like *B. "Fleecealba."*

I water plants when the soil is dry to touch and use liquid fertilizer from February through May when they are put out doors. I use Hy Trons, New Era and Eastern States Starter Solution alternately about every three weeks (if I remember). The plants that do not perform well in the winter, I weed out. Winter is when we want good indoor plants as they are in from September until June.

These are the plants which I grow:

baageana syn. *scharffi*

Indian Maid

It (*socotrana* x *rex*)

Joan Strong

Joe Hayden

Luwalter (*incarnata* x *mazae*)

macrocarpa

leptotricha (manda's woolly bear)

metallica

May Queen (seedling of *albo-picta*)

first name was Queen of May

multiflora

Medora

New Hampshire

nitida

Pied Piper

albo-picta (slender specked leaves)

boweri

Corrollina de Lucerna (syn. *Lucerna*)

Dainty Maid

Decorus x *E* (I'm not keeping this one. It looks like dead sticks all winter.)

Digswelliana (*fuchsioides* x *semp*) 1865 syn. (Sandersoni & Sandersi) may be "Catalina."

Druryi (*cyprea* x *sanguinea*)

Felted Grey Lady

Feasti (*manicata* x *hydrocotylifolia*) syn. *erythrophylla*, Beefsteak and Water Lily.

Fleecealba

foliosa

Fucomaculata (*heracleifolia* x *daedolea*) syn. *rubella* or *rubellina*

hydrocotylifolia syn. pennywort

squamosa

subvillosa

Silver Tip (*coccinea* seedling, Gray)

Stitched Leaf

Perle Lorraine (*polyantha* x *daedalea*) syn.

Bertha von Lothringen

Thurstoni (*metallica* x *sanguinea*)

Vedderi

Venus Bronze Star (*heracleifolia* variety) *Weltoniensis* (*sutherlandi* x *dregei*) tuberous pink

Just think of me when you put your plants out again in California. I'll be in the toughest part of winter and the plants will still be resting; waiting for March to wake up and April to start growing. We don't even think of putting them out until Memorial Day.

LIL LAWTON, Foxboro, Mass.

—B—

Growers! Please Note

A new edition of the "Plant Buyer's Guide," to be published by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society late in 1957, is now being prepared by H. Gleason Mattoon of Arlington, Vermont. The sixth edition of this vital source book will contain the most complete list available of seeds, plants and bulbs which can be purchased by mail from American firms.

In contrast to the 35,000 plants which comprised the available list in the last edition, this new volume is expected to have more than twice as many, including new species, hybrids and varieties.

All nurseries which issue catalogs or plant lists have been asked to cooperate. Although announcements have been sent to more than 5,000 American firms and several hundred foreign ones, some dealers may have been overlooked. Therefore, this announcement is an invitation to any who have not received a letter to send their catalogs or lists to Plant Buyer's Guide, H. Gleason Mattoon, Editor, Box 174, Arlington, Vermont.

—B—

SEEDS, SEEDLINGS, & HYBRIDS

(Continued From Page 61)

infected. All methods of propagation other than that of seed will transmit the virus.

One of the biggest drawbacks of raising bulbs from seed is seed sources. Four sources that I know of to obtain bulb seeds not found in most seed catalogs are the George W. Park Seed Co., Greenwood, S.C., Pearce Seed Company, Moorestown, N. J., O a k h u r s t Gardens, (Jimmy Giridlian's), Arcadia, Calif., and, of course, our own seed fund. There are others and I would appreciate hearing about them.

(I would like to hear your questions and comments on the subject of begonia hybridizing. The address is 683 Congress St., Costa Mesa, Calif.)

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

IN ANSWER to requests from members for information concerning the Clayton M. Kelly seed fund, we have compiled the following facts concerning its operation. As near as can be ascertained this project was created in 1934 by Clayton M. Kelly, deceased, a member of the American Begonia Society, for the purpose of importing seeds of begonias to be distributed among its members. The following paragraph was taken from a bulletin issued by the American Begonia Society in June 1937. These are Mr. Kelly's words: "With a fund of \$33.00 contributed by several inquisitive armchair explorers who are all members of the Society, we started on a world tour—conducted to our destination by the United States and International postal system at from three to five cents per trip and seeking seeds of any of the species of begonias that are not in cultivation in this country. We soon found the undertaking filled with delays and disappointments." Mr. Kelly goes on to relate incidents and results obtained from seeds imported from various countries.

Today the seed fund is still experiencing delays and disappointments in obtaining seed. The work is exacting and time consuming—but rewarding in a way. I personally perform all the physically tasks such as importing seeds where I can find them, packaging, mailing, etc. During the past few months I have had assistance with research on ferns and begonias.

All monies derived from sale of seeds goes back into the American Begonia Society except actual cost of operation.

Again, I would like to thank all the wonderful patrons of the seed fund. You have helped make it a success.

Begonia Seed from India just arrived:

No. 1. B. pleta—no available information on this one. **No. 2. B. gigantea**—Unusual plant with white or pale pink flowers. A few years ago a story appeared in the National Geographic magazine telling of a horseback traveler in Northern India on his way to Kashmir observing this mammoth begonia plant overhanging the trails. These plants were later identified as *B. gigantea*. **No. 3. B. ovatifolia**—small; leaves orbicular - ovate, small. Flowers white or rose-pink on arching peduncles. **No. 4. B. laciniata**—small; rhizomatous, leaves broad-ovate with shallow pointed lobes. Flowers large, pink, petals hairy on outer surface. **No. 5. B. sikkimensis**—stems about a foot high; leaves broad-ovate about four by six inches; flowers, pedicels and bracts bright red. Above 50c per packet or all five for \$2.00. All India begonia seeds listed in January The Begonian are still available at prices quoted.

We have freshly collected seed of **rex begonias** from a large collection of colorful plants. They have been tested and germination was excellent. 50c per packet. Seeds of the ever popular **semperflorens** have just reached us from Germany. **No. 1. B. Semperflorens Organdy**—heterosis strain. Five to six

inches high. Novelty—many varieties of F1 hybrids. **No. 2. B. Semperflorens Sleeping Beauty**. Bright carmine extremely free flowering. Highly recommended by the Royal Horticulture Society in 1955. **No. 3. B. Semperflorens compacta Helen Bofinger reinweiss**—choice. **No. 4. B. Semperflorens gracilis Gomuender Rosa Perle**. Beautiful compact, small plants with many rose colored flowers. **No. 5. B. Semperflorens Winter Romance**. Rich carmine scarlet, winter blooming. **No. 6. B. Semperflorens compacta Feuermeer**. Blaze of fire. Compact fiery dark red, floriferous. **No. 7. B. Semperflorens Blitztrahl**—Lightening. Deep carmine scarlet, buds deep blood red, large flowers. **No. 8. B. Semperflorens Glut**—Choice plant used for bedding or pot culture. The above 25c packet or you may have the entire collection for \$1.75. **B. Semperflorens Frosty**—(formerly listed as *B. Semperflorens Karin*) still available. Only white flowering begonia with dark leaves. Dwarf, uniform, compact growth. The contrast between the white flowers with yellow centers and the rich dark foliage gives a pleasing effect.

Next summer when these plants are shown in florists' shops you will be sorry

you did not grow them yourself. 35c per packet.

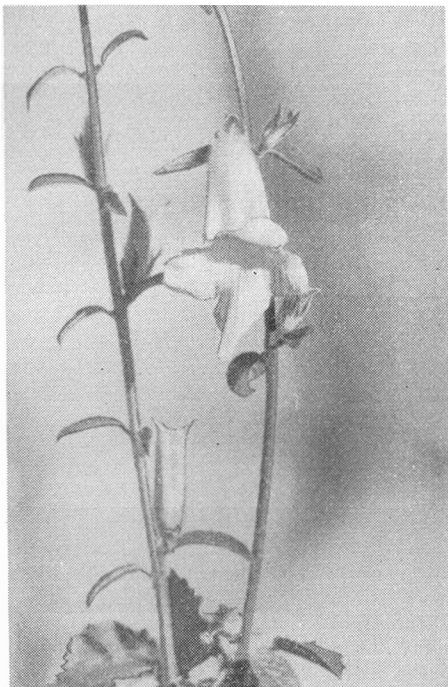
Miscellaneous Begonias. A friend in the Philippine Islands sends the following: **No. 1. B. cane type**—pink flowers. **No. 2. B. mixed.** **No. 3. B. reddish leaves,** pink flowers. **No. 4. B. Cyprea** (B. metallica seedling). Erect, bushy, white, hairy, leaves olive-green with deeper green veins; flowers large white or pale pink, pink bearded without. Above freshly collected. 25c per packet.

At last we can offer you seed of the fascinating bromeliads. They are rare and hard to find, therefore should be carefully sown. Shallow earthen containers should be filled to half of their capacity with peat which has been completely saturated with water. Top the peat with a thick layer of coarse osmunda fiber or coarse material which has been spread evenly. Upon this layer scatter the seed. If possible, seed pans should be placed in a glass container and a bowl of water placed in propagating area to create air-humidity. Air should be saturated with moisture during germination. Seed may be covered with glass. After germination takes place give air by inserting thin wooden sticks under edge of glass. Propagating area should be warm and shaded. Soil for seedlings is light, well drained and porous.

No. 1. Billbergia pyramidalis (Brazil). Arm-shaped plant; brilliant upright clusters of flowers; scarlet petals with blue tinge. Grows outside in mild climates. **No. 2. Aechmea bracteata** (Mexico) Flower stalk brilliant red and green. Can be grown in sunny window and outdoors in such tropical climates. Will take some frost. **No. 3. Dyckia altissima**—Terrestrial. Rosettes of green foliage; tall spikes of bright orange. Useful. **No. 4. Tillandsia stricta**—Tereosopolis—Brazil. These extremely interesting plants will hang without soil or will attach themselves to posts or pots of fiber. They are attractive when mounted on fernwood or redwood bark. Their smallness in size and the little space they occupy is a great advantage where space is limited. Above 25c per small packet.

Other genera. **No. 1. Ceratotheca triloba** (annual African foxglove). Handsome plant for the border. Grows to about four feet and will take partial shade. Flowers are gesneria-like. Lavender with purple markings (picture). Valuable cut flower. Seeds should be started in a warm protected place. This plant does exceptionally well near the seacoast. **No. 2. Nertera depressa**—Tasmania. Six to ten inches high. Leaves small, ovalish and leathery. Flowers greenish, fruits a showy, orange-colored, transparent berry which lasts for

Shade garden and greenhouse plants. **No. 1. Primula malacoides**—Snowstorm. Pure white double flowers. Ideal for pot culture. **No. 2. Viola cornuta papilio.** Pretty hybrid, violet-blue merging white. Can be started indoors and later transferred to outdoors. Good border plant or beds. **No. 3. Gloxinia**—Mixed spotted hybrids. **No. 4. Cobaea scandens,** Mexico. Creeper—cup-and-saucer. Greenhouse plant with violet blue or greenish flowers. 25c per packet.



Ceratotheca triloba

months. Plant seeds in warm protected place and transfer to open ground in summer. Should be grown in shady, damp rich soil. We have received from
(Continued on Following Page)

Leaves

REGIONAL MEET

The regional meeting of the A.B.S. was held February 24 at the Recreation Hall, Westminster, Calif. The Orange County Branch was host for this meeting, providing the meat loaf and scalloped potatoes for this potluck dinner. Those attending donated plants for the plant sale table. All money cleared went into the treasury of A.B.S.

—B—

ELSA FORT

At the home of Mrs. Eleanor Washington, with Mrs. Aninna Paytner as co-hostess, we met for our Christmas party. Officers were elected and a new member was taken in the club. In February the members gathered at Mrs. Charlotte Rhodes', where the branch's program was planned for the first half year. Officers for 1957 are: Pres., Mrs. Elvira Roberts; sec-treas., Miss Lola E. Price; and public relations director, Mrs. Marion Buck.

—B—

PHILOBEGONIA

At the home of Mrs. Helen York, the program chairman gave an interesting study of *Begonia* "Helen Krauss," a hardy, colorful and long lived plant and one worthy of its famous name. A fine specimen of this begonia was shown, which was grown by Mrs. Ralph DeCou from a small slip, the gift of Philadelphia's own Mae Drew. Following the study, Elsa Fort examined us on Lesson No. One of the A.B.S.'s Judges' course, and gave us in a very

(Continued From Preceding Page)

So. Africa seeds of the beautiful protea. These handsome shrubs can be grown outdoors in mild climates but are also grown as prized greenhouse plants elsewhere. **No. 1. Protea mellifera** "the sugar bush." Pale yellow flowers. **No. 2. Protea Nerufolia.** Red flowers with dark beards. **No. 3. Protea Lauceolata.** **No. 4 Protea Susannae.** Proteas 25c per packet.

Mrs Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Avenue
Los Angeles 66, California

concise and easy way Lesson Two. This is for general information only, to the branch as a group, and it is not likely that as individuals more than two or three of us actually will take the examination. Elsa is a registered judge with A.B.S. The Branch Year Books were distributed with a beautiful silk screen cover, made from a copy of the exquisite *Begonia* "Templini" leaf. Copies have been shared with branches here in the East.

—B—

Welcome New Texas Branch! Tarrant County Branch

Our past summer was not altogether conducive to begonia interest here and yet we gained a few members during the summer. We have special programs by outstanding horticulturists in the area as well as members of the Society who prepare very special papers. We also have set up a small bench in the Garden Center entrance whereby the members sell for a small price certain rather common but easily propagated begonias which are offered to the general public. This money is placed in a special "kitty" and we are planning to use this for certain types of research and publications.

We meet at 10:00 A.M. on the second Monday and assemble rather informally in the beautiful Library of the Center here or take over one of the auditoriums in the event one is not being utilized by a garden club. Our group is made up of very enthusiastic begonia growers and they watch with great interest the new varieties and types that we bring into the Garden here.

Any attempts of outdoor growing were certainly a mistake this summer in view of our terrific drouth and heat, and especially the extremely low humidity. In one attempt, near the Garden Center building in the shade of a large liveoak tree, we thought we were off to a good start but due to the terrific drouth, the armadillos normally staying in the wilds hereabouts, were driven into civilization so to speak, and our little begonia garden was a choice spot for their forays. Another year, we will make a second attempt and I believe that with ordinary breaks we can develop a fine outdoor garden here in the Fort Worth area.

Officers of this new branch are: Pres., Mrs. E. C. Powell; vice-pres., Mrs. V. O. Cammel; sec., Mrs. Joe X. Schad; treas., Miss Leoti Black; and nat. rep., Lawrence McLean.

TEXAS STATE

New officers are: Mrs. W. N. Foster, pres.; Mrs. Sam Hunter, vice pres.; Virginia Wilson, sec.; Mrs. McAdams, treas.; and E. Weaver, nat. rep. Mr. Weaver was in charge of the Branch's exhibit at the Camellia show held in the National Guard Armory. Plans are being made for the annual begonia show in April.

—B—

WILLIAM PENN

The Philadelphia Horticultural Rooms were headquarters for a meeting of the William Penn Branch, which was celebrating a Fifth Anniversary, and was hostess to the nearby branches. Ruth Allen, Philobegonia Branch, exhibited over a hundred slides of begonias and their very lovely and colorful blooms.

—B—

Minutes, National, Board Jan. 28

Meeting of National Board of American Begonia Society called to order at 7:35 P.M. in Los Angeles City Hall by President Trowbridge. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and reading of Aims & Purposes of Society.

Secretary and Treasurer's reports read and approved. Balance on hand in General Fund \$57.46.

President-elect Coe announced Regional meeting, Garden Grove, February 24th. Tentative plans made for Convention at Plummer Park, August 31 and September 1st. Moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Browne that we go ahead with plans to hold Convention in Plummer Park. Carried.

Vice President Browne reported sale of Stationery and Pins, \$7.72 remitted to treasurer. Past-president Taylor reported selling, netting and wagon wheel left from Ways-and-Means project last year. \$38.00 remitted.

Membership secretary Walton reported new members 33, renewing members 137. Income \$431.50. Bill for membership cards \$27.46. Moved by Edna Korts, seconded by Fred Browne that we send The Begonian to the Horticultural Council Editor each month. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. Graham, seconded by Mr. Walton that we pay dues of \$10.00 to the American Horticultural Council. Carried.

Research Director Leatherman reported \$19.22 in Research Fund. Read parts of several letters regarding test gardens. Moved by Mrs. Leatherman seconded by Mr. Browne that we send Dr. Matuda of Mexico The Begonian each month in return for material sent the Research Department. Carried. Moved by Sylvia Leatherman, seconded by Joe Taylor that we send Dr. Bernice Shubert and Dr. Lyman Smith The Begonian each month. Carried.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported December income \$95.95, expenses \$10.95, remitted to Treasurer \$85.00. January income \$85.02, expense \$15.02, remitted to Treasurer \$70.00. Balance on hand \$100.00.

Advertising Manager Stoddard reported for December advertising \$55.75, received \$58.75, balance due \$126.91. January advertising \$67.50, received \$29.25, balance due \$165.16.

Public Relations Director Moore reported a new Branch in Fort Worth, Texas, to be called Tarrant County Branch. Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Fred Browne that the bylaws of the Tarrant County Branch be accepted and a Charter granted. Carried.

Edna Korts, chairman of School of Judging, stated that a Judging Class would be held at her home February 8th. She read a letter from the President of Seattle Branch asking for rules on judging tuberous begonias. Board authorized Mrs. Korts to answer.

Chairman of Awards Committee Ar buckle stated she had asked Mrs. Maddox of Riverside to serve on the committee and she accepted.

Librarian Sault reported December books loaned 14, books sold 5, Begonians sold 78. Balance on hand \$94.50. January books sold 3, books loaned 11, Begonians sold 110. Balance on hand \$96.68. The book "Les Begonias" sent to Los Angeles Arboretum as per mention of November 26.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Trowbridge stated that Mr. Moore and Mr. Butterfield had been serving as chairmen pro-tem. Moved by Mr. Coe, seconded by Mrs. Graham that we retain Mr. Moore as Public Relations Director and Mr. Butterfield as Nomenclature Chairman. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion in regard of Buxton Glossary. President Trowbridge stated that a letter received from Bessie Buxton, dated February 21, 1953, made the Glossary the property of the American Begonia Society with authority to use it as they see fit. President Trowbridge gave the letter to the Secretary to place in the Society File.

Moved by Joe Taylor, seconded by Edna Korts, that the Begonia Society accept the Buxton Glossary as the official list of known begonias. Carried.

Branch reports were given.

There being no further business the meeting closed to meet again February 25, 9157.

Arline Stoddard
National Secretary



Pat Antonelli
Salesmanager

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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

4th 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

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Daisy Morrow, Cor. Secy.
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 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
Mrs. Cleo Price, Cor. Sec.
377 Myrtle, Glendale 3, 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. Adolph Belser, Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

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. Antoinnett Dawson, Secy.
6243 Acacia, L.A. 56, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

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

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.
Mrs. Rosa Cox, Sec.
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

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

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

First Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Thos. O. Day, Secy.
4065 Hollywood 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. Charles J. Allen, Sec.
Woodside Lane, Riverton, N.J.

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. Ethel Prior, Sec.
4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Harlie Brown
3233 Tennyson, San Diego 6, 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. E. F. Slavik, Sec.
300 Hacienda Dr., Arcadia, 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,
1338 San Andres St.
Mrs. Maria Sanchez, Secy.
1753 Glen Oaks Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Green Lake Field House
7201 Green Lake Way
Mrs. Carl Starks, Secy.
6116 Greenwood, Seattle 3, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.

1st Thursday, 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.
Mae Bolyard, Cor. Secy.
2425 Thornton Ave., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Dr.,
Fort Worth, Texas
Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Sec.
3766 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, Texas

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. Rebecca Olson
714 N. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Sec.
Box 331, Narberth, Pa.

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