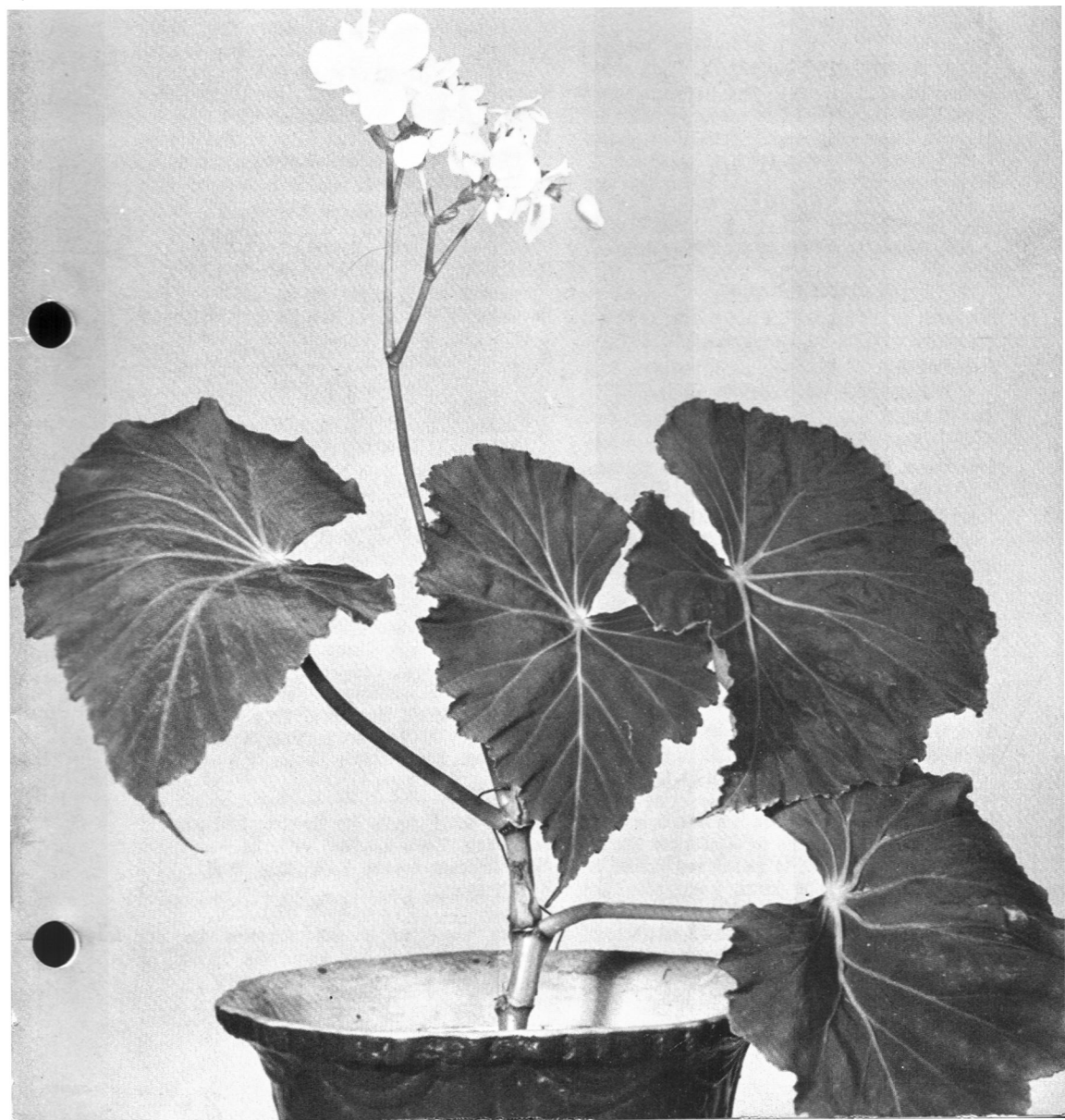


# *The* BEGONIAN

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### AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be to promote  
interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants;  
to encourage the introduction and development of  
new types of these plants to standardize the no-  
menclature of begonias; to gather and publish in-  
formation in regard to kinds, propagation and  
culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue  
a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of  
the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all  
who love and grow begonias.

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★ ★ ★

National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
South Gate City Auditorium  
4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, Calif.

★ ★ ★

Views expressed in this magazine are not  
necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, or  
its officers.



Ralph Corwin, installing officer, is shown handing the gavel to President Everett Wright. Next in line are Walter J. Barnett, treasurer, Mrs. Lucille Williams, secretary, and Charles E. Tagg, president-elect.

—Photo by Paul Keaster

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

When a new president takes office, he is usually expected to outline the many ways in which he will improve the American Begonia Society, promising great accomplishments during his term.

I will not make such promises.

Progress will be made, of course, but not by the president working alone. Progress will be made only as a result of the cooperative efforts of all members. I can only plan, advise, and direct, and assist in smoothing out questions that may arise.

I am confident that I have chosen appointive officers and chairmen who have the Society's welfare at heart. They will do their best, I am sure.

If all of us concentrate on furthering the objectives of the organization, forgetting minor differences, we can look forward to a year of pleasant work and real accomplishments.

My promise is that I will do all I can to help.

Everett Wright,  
*President.*

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## COVER PICTURE

*Begonia valdensium*

—Photo by MERRY GARDENS,  
Camden, Maine.

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*Patronize Our Advertisers*

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## 1966 FLOWER SHOW AND CONVENTION

By MURIEL PERZ  
*Past President, A.B.S.*

The flower show was a spectacular sight of beauty as you walked down the ramp into the room where the specimen plants were placed. Those in pots on tables, the hanging baskets on a long rack, the rack in a zig-zag design down the middle of the room, the tables on each side. The letters received from members in other countries displayed on the left-hand wall, the picture division on the right-hand wall, the slides on display from an automatic movie projector, the pictures of the begonias being two and a half feet in diameter, changing every five seconds.

You really are close to God's beauty when you see a begonia show like this.

The Saturday afternoon Board meeting was well attended. Many Branch representatives and members can attend this meeting only once a year.

The banquet, speaker, and installation took place Saturday evening. Master of Ceremonies Richard Stallings introduced all sitting at the head table. He was very efficient in this capacity. Beautiful corsages had been presented to the ladies and bou-

*(Continued on Page 217)*

# NO SHADED AREA NEED LACK COLOR

By IVA GARD SHEPARD,  
Sacramento, California

No shaded section of the garden need be dull or lack summer color. Begonias are showy companions, along with fuchsias and hydrangeas, where camellias grow on the north and east side of buildings, under lath or in locations where there is shade from high trees.

These plants all need good drainage, constant moisture, and morning sun or mild sunlight to thrive. All should be located where there is shade protection from afternoon sun. All need soil which is loose and porous and slightly on the acid side.

Begonias contribute much outdoor color during summer. They are also popular subjects for the home and greenhouse. This great tropical genus comprises around 400 species. There are hundreds of hybrids, so widely diversified by breeders that they come in multitudes of horticultural forms.

It all began when a French botanist by the name of Plumier discovered a strange flower in the West Indies in 1690. He took a specimen home with him and named it for Santo Domingo's Governor Mechel Begon, who also was a botany patron.

It was not until 1920 when United States growers became interested in Plumier's begonia and began cross breeding on a large scale. California plant breeders are responsible for a large part of the hybridizing, much of which has taken place in the coastal areas around Santa Cruz. Development of most of the exotic tuberous begonias has occurred there.

Begonia is a tropical genus, not hardy outdoors all year in most areas of California. The three main types in commerce, aside from the house plants and greenhouse types, are the tuberous-rooted, fibrous rooted, and rhizomatous. The last, comprising species like the Rex, are heavy with conspicuously ornamental foliage.

The beautiful and exotic tuberous

types are the glamor girls of the begonia family. Tuberous begonias are started indoors in flats of moist peat-moss in late winter and transplanted outdoors in April and May when frost danger is past.

The soil mix for tubers assumes more importance in the warm interior valleys where conditions of temperature and humidity are less ideal than in coastal areas. One satisfactory mix is composed of two parts coarse leaf-mold and one part sandy loam. Another is two parts coarse leafmold, one part soil, and one part coarse sand. Rooted tubers are set on top of the soil mix, in pots or in the ground, and pressed down gently but firmly.

Tubers are lifted after light frost. When leaves yellow and drop, the soil is washed off and the tubers dried and cured in mild sunlight for two weeks or more, taking them indoors at night. They are then stored in open flats of vermiculite in a cool, dry place.

While the tuberous begonias are in the somewhat spoiled "mink coat" class, they are willing workers of the family which grows easily and well without too much fuss and bother. These are the multifloras and fibrous begonias.

The attractive multifloras are busy little plants, covered with smaller flowers than the tuberous, but similar in form. They bloom all summer and they stand more heat and sun than their gorgeous relatives. They are grown from tubers. Fibrous begonias will take full sun but not reflected heat.

Fibrous types, the easiest of all to grow, are hardy and tough. While they are usually treated as annuals, they do not always suffer winter kill. They come tall, medium, and low. Colors are white, pink, rose and red. Some have reddish bronze foliage. They bloom from early summer until

(Continued on Page 219)

# GROWING FERNS FROM SPORES

By SYLVIA LEATHERMAN\*

One of the most rewarding challenges is to be successful in growing ferns from spores. Ferns do not produce flowers. Their reproduction is through minute dust-like particles which are spores. The spores are enclosed in cases which are part of the spore pattern. This pattern consists of several technical parts. Many times it is the chaff of the spore cases that people plant, thinking they have gathered spores.

Picking fruiting fronds (the fertile fronds) requires close observation. In many cases when fronds have turned brown, the spores have already dropped and only the dried particles of the spore pattern remain. In numerous instances fronds must be cut when the spore pattern is still green. Persons desiring to obtain spores should have a very strong lense to be assured of collecting spores.

Considerable work and time are involved, not only in keeping a close check on the fronds desired with spores, but with the follow-up requirements. After the frond is cut, it is washed with a strong pressure of water. Other spores floating around can adhere to the frond and, left intact, can result in undesirables. These are usually the types which germinate faster and which will crowd out the desired ferns.

The frond is laid on a newspaper to dry and should not be left lying too long. Spores start dropping fast after they are cut. After they are dried off, put them in envelopes or bags. In a few days they are cleaned by shaking them out through a fine strainer (like a tea strainer). The spores can be enclosed in small plastic or glass containers. Some growers use orchid tubes. The containers should be kept in a cool place. Fresh

spores, like seeds, germinate faster. Spores are very tiny and can be transported easily through the air and on clothing. Caution must be used when collecting more than one species at a time.

Because of the structure of ferns, they are entirely different from begonia seeds.

Fern spores, at the time of planting, are not fertile. The first stage of growth is a greening layer which some may refer to as resembling a very fine moss or a greening fungus. Following this stage of growth prothallium appears, which are like little rounded disks. Pollinization takes place at this period of growth and moisture is very essential. A fine syringing with water is very beneficial. I use a very weak solution of plant food when syringing. The particular species will determine the length of time before the sporelings appear.

Growing ferns from spores takes a lot longer period of time than obtaining begonias from seeds. It will, as a general rule, require two to four times as long to obtain a fern in a three-inch pot size in comparison to a begonia plant. Patience is a requirement. In most cases the rarer types will take a lot more time to grow than most of the Pteris type ferns.

There are numerous methods used for spore culture. A commercial grower's methods seldom can be successful for a novice. The average grower desires a few plants of several varieties. A retired professor, through correspondence, told me of a method he uses. This is ideal for small amounts of spores.

In the bottom of a plastic shoe box place two inches of Sponge Rok (Perlite) which has been soaked in water for twenty-four hours. Never use dry Sponge Rok for seeds or spores. The squatly three-inch clay pots fit perfect for depth, and six

*(Continued on Page 217)*

Sylvia Leatherman is a grower and lecturer on ferns, and co-author of the book *Ferns We Grow*.

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS

A new A.B.S. year and brand new robins flying—this will be a richer year than ever!

*New Co-directors:* Because the Round Robin program is growing so rapidly, we are dividing robins into three groups this year, adding Co-directors to work with the Director and flight chairmen. Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, has agreed to serve as Co-director of Group 1, and Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas, as Co-director of Group 2. Group 3 will include the specialty flights, which will continue to fly through the Director, for the present. All flights will be routed through one of these officers, who will take notes for the Round Robin News and for the Research Department and keep check on vacancies or changes needed. Requests for robins will continue to be processed by the Director.

*What Are Robins?* A.B.S. has almost forty round robin flights of about eight members each, which exchange ideas and information by mail. More robins are forming all the time. About two-thirds are general begonia culture flights, and about one-third are specialties, discussing specific phases of begonia growing. Specialty subjects already under study include growing in greenhouses, under lights, from seed, from cuttings, hybridizing, and ferns. There is an all-male flight and an international flight. Some other flights are international in membership, also. A number of other subjects have been requested and are in preparation for flight.

Each member adds his letter to the flight when it reaches him, removes his last letter, and mails the packet to the next name on the flight list, within five days. Many friends are made, much knowledge gained, much talk—and often pictures, cuttings, and seed—are shared. Robin ties reach across the nation, around the world.

Anyone wishing to join a flight or

suggest a new specialty is invited to write to the Round Robin Director.

*Sanitation Notes:* Several flights have compared notes on treatment for insect and mildew problems. Grant McGregor of Ottawa, Canada, asked if anyone has tried Cygon 2E, a new systemic, for mites on begonias. He tried Protexall, a systemic containing disulfoton (Syston), but his plants died or just struggled through. Don Stephens of Paekakariki, New Zealand, got rid of caterpillars with Sevin, aphids with Malathion, and was still fighting bacterial leaf mold on cane-stems and mildew on *sutherlandi* and *dregei*.

Zack Monesson of Lakewood, New Jersey, reported that valuable potted plants can be freed of heavy infestation by immersing them fifteen minutes in a pail of water at 110° temperature. He also has found that the systemic Scope completely controls aphids, leaf minor, and mites for six weeks at a time. He advises keeping humidity high, as mites prefer hot, dry conditions. Mildew can be controlled with Karathane (Mildex) or Acti-dione PM; Phaltan, which controls mildew on roses, might also work on begonias. Copper compounds may be sprayed on for leaf spot, most prevalent in poorly ventilated, crowded conditions where foliage is sprayed with water.

Len Harris of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, sometimes uses Pan-o-Drench on mature plants, uses Malathion for mealy bugs and fruit flies, and sprays two or three days in a row with a weak Chlorox solution for mildew, while increasing ventilation and decreasing humidity. He drenches pots with Malathion for slugs when he brings pots indoors from outside.

Arline Peck of Pascoag, Rhode Island, sprayed Karathane on a few plants starting with mildew. New leaves had come back on the plants when she reported, and they looked as though they would make it. John Scott of Niddrie, Australia, waters his seed medium with a fungicide

mixed with insecticide before sowing. He dunks cuttings in the same mix to prevent rot, allowing them to dry before inserting them in the rooting box.

Mac MacIntyre of Liverpool, England, reported that his B. 'Gloire de Lorraine', known to be subject to mildew, has shown no sign of it in the greenhouse where he keeps an electric fan going year around. It was in full bloom in November. He took one cutting and it made a big plant by July; the parent plant was still in full bloom without a sign of stopping on July 1.

*Mediums and Fertilizer:* Rufus Neas of Greenville, South Carolina, said his begonias were responding well to three month's trial of a new medium: two quarts Baccto, two quarts Miracle Earth, one quart vermiculite, one quart perlite, and one quart peat moss. Rufus prefers organic to chemical plant foods; he uses fish emulsion, a seaweed product, and vitamin B1, mixed in one container by directions for each.

Don Stephens uses quarter strength solution, alternately, of a balanced chemical and of Atlas fish fertilizer about every week—"marvelous results."

*Pollination:* Jane Neal of Worthing, England, wonders what pollinates begonias naturally; bees and flies avoid hers, she noticed. Neither anther nor pistil is long enough for the wind to do it, she observed. Her seed pods are usually those she hand-pollinates. Another member noted that she had seen bees busy at begonia blossoms, however—and found viable seed pods. Different bees with different tastes? Or do Jane's begonias have competition from flowers more attractive to bees?

#### THE POTTING SHED

781 Gravel Pike (Rt. 29)  
Graterford, Penn. 19426

BEGONIAS  
EXOTIC HOUSE PLANTS

Mac MacIntyre reported that B. 'Orange Rubra' has worked every time as a pollen plant for him, even though he found no signs of pollen when testing with a fingernail.

MRS. CARRIE KAREGEANNES,  
*Round Robin Director*  
3916 Lake Boulevard  
Annandale, Virginia, 22003

## PLANT EXPLORERS TO SEARCH SOUTH KOREA

America's gardens and parks may be the beneficiaries of a four-month search for South Korean ornamental plants undertaken by a horticulturist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a geneticist of Longwood Gardens.

Dr. Edward G. Corbett of USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Dr. Richard Lighty of Longwood Gardens began the search on July 2.

This is the tenth ornamental plant exploration trip, and the first to South Korea, sponsored cooperatively by the Agricultural Research Service and Longwood Foundation, Inc., Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The purpose of these trips is to find new ornamentals and improved breeding stock for ornamentals now grown in the United States. Much of the beauty of America's gardens and parks can be traced to introduced ornamentals. Gardeners are seeking a broader range of interesting and hardier ornamental plants, particularly with the renewed interest in beautification.

Dr. Corbett, who made a similar trip to the Himalayas in 1965, says that South Korea is good territory for ornamental collections. Many plants growing there are closely related to those in the eastern United States, where climatic conditions are similar.

The scientists plan to explore much of the Korean peninsula south of the 38th parallel, the island of Cheju off the south coast, and the island of Dagelet eighty miles off the coast in the Sea of Japan.

## THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS

By ALYNA SCHLESINGER  
*Show Chairman*

The business of putting on a flower show is a complicated but gratifying experience. The months of preparation and planning, the effort and trepidation toward the intangible quality of something that will be fact only through this effort, all become meaningful on the day of manifestation.

As the room begins taking shape and things are put in their place, there is a mounting sense of excitement and anticipation. Then the entries start to come in and, as they take their place, the cold spaciousness of the preliminary layout begins to fill with color, balance, warmth, and beauty.

The first excitement is in the answers received from the many members in other parts of the world. The enthusiasm and cooperation expressed in their letters are so encouraging, and the experience of corresponding with people of a different environment, with different needs, customs and contributions, is a heart-warming pleasure. As the song goes

There's no people like show people. The co-ordination of an undertaking of such proportion and consequence is impossible without the cooperation of everyone and here is where the measure of success or failure is balanced. Every individual that made an effort to contribute to our show can feel that a portion of the show was his own personal triumph.

I truly believe that I have never seen such beautiful specimen plants, and not in such volume, as I had the opportunity of witnessing at the National Show. The sight that met the eyes of a visitor entering our doors was quite spectacular. More than once I heard exclamations of surprise. The public was encouraged to start in the *Semperflorens* Class and

to follow the tables around, in order to see the plants in their proper grouping and relate them to their variety. The hanging baskets and wall pockets were arranged down the middle of the room, and the display racks that were loaned to us for this purpose were excellent additions to the composition of the show.

There were excellent entries in the snapshot divisions of the show and these were displayed on the wall of the main entry hall. The color slides were on display continually during the show, thanks to an automatic slide projector and this was another highlight of the show. This is where our many friends in other places were able to display their accomplishments.

On the opposite wall were hung the letters and projects of the various Branches.

Those of you who saw the collage work of the Japan Begonia Society will be pleased to learn that we can obtain some pictures for personal use. I have received word that they appreciate our Special Award trophy and the interest we have shown in the pictures. I understand that these pictures would ordinarily sell for \$15.00 each, but that we can obtain them for \$10.00 each. Anyone interested can contact me and I will try to arrange something expedient.

### BEGONIA SHOW TROPHY WINNERS

In the American Begonia Society's Begonia and Shade Plant Show, held September 3, 4, and 5, these awards were earned by exhibitors:

President's Challenge Trophy for the best begonia—by Lillian Steinhilber for B. 'Purple Petticoat'.

Redondo Area Perpetual Trophy for the best *semperflorens* begonia—by Chester Nave.

Effie Chapman Perpetual Trophy for the best hairy fibrous begonia—by Malcolm Rich.

Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for

The Begonian



the best fibrous cane begonia—by Ruby Budd for B. 'Ellen Dee'.

J. R. Williams Perpetual Trophy for the best rhizomatous begonia—by Edwin Hudson for B. 'Crestabru-chi'.

Gonda Hartwell Challenge Cup for the best rex begonia—by Lillian Syeinhaus for B. 'Purple Petticoat'.

Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Challenge Cup for the best tuberous begonia—by Elmer Reid.

Jack Taylor Perpetual Trophy for the best hanging basket—by Ruby Budd for B. 'Ellen Dee'.

Inglewood Branch Perpetual Trophy for the best wall pocket—by Elmer Reid for Multiflora.

San Miguel Challenge Award for the best begonia in cultivation 25 years — by Cecelia Grivich for B. 'Erythrophylla Helix'.

Art Strandberg Perpetual Trophy for the best fern—by Edwin Hudson for Davallia.

Edward L. Korts Perpetual Trophy for the best three begonias—by Malcolm Rich.

Sweepstakes Winner — Cecelia Grivich.

Special Award—by the Japan Begonia Society.

Division Q Trophy — Mrs. D. Wagner (Baton Rouge, La.)

Division Q-A Trophy — F. H. Jones (San Diego, Calif.)

ALYNA SCHLESINGER,  
*Show Chairman*

## JUDGES' CARDS

A method of issuing judge's cards with a point system has been approved by the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society. There will be four types of judges' cards issued. This process will provide a method whereby new and less experienced judges may, through gaining experience, have an opportunity to graduate to the next level and eventually obtain a Senior Judge's Card. Following is the breakdown on the types of cards:

1. SENIOR JUDGE — Qualified when 50 points are attained.

2. JUNIOR JUDGE — Qualified when 25 points are attained.

3. SOPHOMORE JUDGE — Qualified after one year of observation as a Freshman Judge. Also any judge whose experience has not yet earned him 25 points.

4. FRESHMAN JUDGE — A prospective judge. May observe judging when invited by Show Chairman.

Points will be credited as follows:

2 points for each year of judging.

1 point for reach show judged.

3 points for completing a one year judge's course sponsored by the A.B.S.

Upon the issuing of a Senior Judge's Card the judge's name will be placed on the A.B.S. list of permanent Senior Judges.

A list of judges with their qualifications will be issued and obtainable for any Show Chairman requesting it. We suggest that all judges be given an opportunity to judge at shows with at least one Senior Judge per team, thus giving them an opportunity to gain needed experience.

It is our desire to accredit judges in their full capacity. Any person desiring an accredited judge's card please send a self-addressed envelope for the questionnaire to:

Mrs. R. G. Leatherman, 2637 N. Lee Ave., So. El Monte, Calif. 91733.

The current judges' course is available to any one for \$4.00 plus \$1.00 handling charge (\$5.00 total). One year will be allowed on homework assignments. Numerous people, not desiring to judge, have found this course helpful in growing begonias to exhibit at shows and for their personal pleasure. When requesting the course please state if you intend to become a judge.

The course may be obtained by sending a check for \$5.00, made out to the American Begonia Society, to Mrs. Walter Pease, Jr., 8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN  
*Chairman of Judges*

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

## No. 1 — B. *New Guinea* sp. no. 2—

Seed was collected on a creek bank in the rain forest at 6,000 feet elevation. Plant is described as having dark green leaves above, pale beneath. Flowers are glistening white, flushed rose-red with red veins, pedicel red. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 2 — B. *manicata maculata crispata* —

Rhizomes stout and twisting, leaves large and fleshy, waxy light green, and the margins densely crested. Collar of red hairs around the stem. Pink, drooping flowers. Seeds were imported from a grower in Brazil. \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 3 — B. 'Cleopatra' —

(*B. boweri* seedling) Beautiful basket plant that has everything to be desired in a begonia, good growing habits, gorgeous foliage, satiny, star-shaped with sharply marked veins, sprinkled between with gold, chartreuse, and chocolate-brown. Dainty sprays of delicate pink flowers. Germination was 100 per cent. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 4 — B. 'Super Strawberry Parfait' —

New Calla-lily-type semperflorens developed by Peter Rutherford in Australia. It has not only the typical Calla markings and pure white centers, but touches of strawberry pink for good measure. We have information from people who have purchased seed a short time ago that a good percentage will come true. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 5 — B. 'Orangeade' —

Another new semperflorens type with an entirely new color—bright orange-scarlet. Developed by Peter Rutherford. Some will be double. 35 cents per pkt.

Comment: We have offered the two mentioned above several times during the past several months but have always run out of seed before all requests were filled. However, this time we are happy to say that we

have enough for everyone to have two packets if you wish.

## No. 6 — B. *Rex* hybrids —

Choice selections of all the popular colors and shapes. \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 7 — B. *Cane type* mixed —

About a dozen of the best of this type. A good way to have a collection of the beautiful cane type varieties. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 8 — B. 'Corallina de Lucerna'—

(*B. teuscheri* x *coccinea*) Cane type with white-spotted green leaves, constant bunches of coral flowers. One of the angel-wings most frequently grown. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 9 — B. 'Frosty' —

Semperflorens type with snow white flowers and bronze leaves. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 10 — B. 'Lucifer' —

Good semperflorens with almost black foliage and brilliant scarlet flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 11 — B. 'Stuttgart' —

Small, with bright, deep pink flowers and rich bronze foliage. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 12 — B. 'Rhine Pearl' —

Dwarf. Attractive shade of pink with salmon sheen. 25 cents per pkt. From *The Begonian* for September, the following Colombia species are still available:

No. 17 — *Elm Leaf Climbing type*— 50 cents per pkt.

No. 18 and No. 19 — *B. Giant type* — 50 cents per pkt.

## FERN SPORES

The following are from one of the largest fern dealers in Southern California and are the very best and freshest available. In fact, the spores are still on the fronds. Some of them are not generally available but are fairly hardy and easy to grow.

## *Davallia solida* —

Brown hairy rhizomes with broadly massive, stiff-leathery, three-pinnate fronds to two feet high, the leaf-

lets ovate-rhomboid and crenate. Good basket fern. 35 cents per pkt.

**Davallia pentaphylla** —

A distinct dwarf-growing species with light brown creeping rhizomes, bearing wiry fronds of two or three pairs of lateral wavy-toothed, linear, metallic green leaflets and a terminal one. Basket type. 35 cents per pkt.

**Polypodium aureum cv. 'Mayi'** —

Also known as 'Bear's Paw fern'. Good basket fern with large rhizomes. 35 cents per pkt.

**Adiantum hispidulum** —

Handsome species with two or three pinnate fronds, forked at the base, borne on long, wiry, hairy stalks, the leaflets almost stalkless, thin-leathery, arranged along the axis, veins running into teeth. One variety grows rampant in the mountains of Northern California. They usually are found in or near water. They like the spray over the fronds but are seldom seen growing directly in water. 35 cents per pkt.

**Pityrogramma hybrida** —

'Tropical Gold Back fern'. Fronds dark green above and waxy golden-yellow underneath. This one also is found all over Northern California, especially in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. It occurs in damp places in sun or shade, in soil, or in cracks of rocky ledges. This is true of the species; the one offered above is a hybrid. A beautiful fern. 35 cents per pkt.

**Adiantum Raddianum (Cuneatum) cv. 'Fritz Luthi'** —

Introduced into the United States by spore imported from Germany. Tapered, fan-shaped, daintily cut fronds grow to about twelve inches. They do not spread quickly in growth when planted directly in the ground. Also recommended for pot and basket culture. Fruiting fronds develop throughout the year and the old fronds should be removed as they begin to fade. 35 cents per pkt.

**Polypodium aureum** —

'Mexican Tasseled Form'. Blue-

gray frond, tasseled at the end. Basket type. 35 cents per pkt.

**Polypodium squamulosum** —

Imported from Brazil by Sylvia Leatherman. 35 cents per pkt.

**Pteris dentata** —

Low-growing, dark green, hardy. 35 cents per pkt.

**Pteris cretica cv. 'Alexandrea'** —

Crested form with monstrose crests at the tips of the broad, leathery, light green leaves banded white in the centers. This fern has many varied uses and is very worthwhile. 35 cents per pkt.

If you prefer to buy a medium on which to sow spore, eliminating the need of processing, there is a product called N.P.I. Planter Mix, and you may find it at your nursery or garden supply store. The use of coarse Sponge-Rok as a base layer for the planter mix is recommended.

**Platyterium coronarium (biforme)** —

A glorious epiphyte. Grows high in trees in the rain forests of Malaya. The long, fresh, green, pendulous fronds are sometimes fifteen feet long, several times widely forked, and the lobes are twisted gracefully. The thick barren fronds are tall and lobed. Spore is curiously borne on a separate fertile reinform disk. 50 cents per pkt.

**BROMELIAD SEED**

A friend invited us to his greenhouse to collect the seed offered here. He has a choice collection of these fascinating plants. Some he could not identify as they had come from far away places with no identifying tag. Seed has all been tested and germinated in about ten days in a very warm, humid greenhouse. Varieties are as follows:

**Gusmania monostachia** —

Medium size, about twenty-four inches across. The satiny green leaves are narrow and arranged in a dense rosette. The poker-like flower spike is erect, with white flowers and green bracts stenciled with maroon lines. The tip of the inflorescence is

crowned blood-red. A very showy bromeliad. 35 cents per pkt.

**Bromeliad 'Unknown' —**

Probably one of the Tillandsia group. Gray-green leaves, felted and cerated. Blooms are pink and navy blue. Nice plant. 35 cents per pkt.

**Aechmea 'Unknown' —**

Green leaves, blooms red and yellow. 35 cents per pkt.

**Nidularium innocentii var wittmackiana —**

Green leaves, white flowers in winter or early spring. 35 cent sper pkt.

The seedlings we saw in the greenhouse were growing in a plastic shoe box with a tight cover. The growing medium was coarse and contained a generous amount of vermiculite. Seeds should be kept moist during the germinataing period; to let them dry out would be fatal.

**Peperoma maculosa —**

Ornamental, fleshy species, with long, pendant, narrow, lanceolate leaves to seven inches in length, waxy bluish-gray-green, with silvery-green to ivory ribs. Petioles prettily spotted red-purple. Spikes to one foot long. 35 cents per pkt.

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## ELEPHANT'S EAR BEGONIA?

By CARRIE E. KAREGEANNES

Mrs. Bernice Brilmayer's question about the begonia Grandmother called "Elephant's Ear"—in the *Begonian* a few years ago—started quite a search and turned up varied answers.

Another candidate turned up on the Eastern A.B.S. Convention's tour of the Hunt Botanical Library in Pittsburgh. On display was *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, Vol. 71, plate 4172, published in 1845, opened to the first illustration and description of *B. albo-coccinea*, which it called "Scarlet and white-flowered Begonia, or Elephant's Ear." The plants were raised in the Royal Gardens of Kew from seeds sent from India by Mr. Strachan of Surrey, England.

The color plate showed a large roundish leaf which could suggest an elephant's ear, but Bessie Buxton in her *Begonias and How To Grow Them* (1946) said this begonia was difficult to grow and scarce in America. She gives *B. grahamiana* as a synonym, given by a later discoverer.

Mrs. Buxton describes *albo-coccinea* as having "smooth, thick, shining petate leaves on short stems that arise from a creeping rootstalk. The tall coral-red peduncles, brown-tomentose, bear the four-petaled flowers, white above and coral-red beneath, which give the plant its name. Thanks to the American Begonia Society, seeds of these rare Indian begonias have been imported and are now being grown by its members. Most of these varieties are proving difficult to grow and hard to acclimate, because they are often natives of high altitudes. This may account for the scarcity in this country."

Does anyone know this one?

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PEGGY FRATUS

## FLOWER SHOW . . .

(Continued from Page 207)

tonnieres to the men. The tables were decorated beautifully, the dinner was delicious, and the speakers a delight.

Past President Muriel Perz told of the progress the A.B.S. had made during her term of office and thanked all members who made this progress possible.

The next event of the evening was the installation of the new officers for the coming year. Mr. Ralph Corwin, being installing officer, asked the outgoing officers to come forward and thanked them for the work well done. Then asked the new officers to step forward to be installed for the coming year: President, Everett Wright; President-Elect, Charles Tagg; Past-President, Muriel Perz; Secretary, Lucille Williams; Treasurer, Walter Barnett. Vice President for three years, Herb Warrick of Seattle was unable to attend.

Ralph Corwin gave the charges to the incoming officers, handed the gavel to the new President, and President Wright gave his goals for the year and dismissed the 170 members present.

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## GROWING FERNS . . .

(Continued from Page 209)

pots can be used in each box. I fill the pot one third full of wet Sponge Rok and put the medium on top of this. The same medium used for begonia seeds may be used but it should be very moist. On top of the medium sow the fern spores. The pots are sunk into the Sponge Rok, the lid is placed on the shoe box and set under a Grow Lux tube, allowing ten inches between the tube and the top of the box. Keep a little water in the Sponge Rok. This can be added, if needed, with a baster (like the type used for meat).

Growing fern spores can be discouraging at times. It is one of those unpredictable challenges. Even the experienced experts have failures at times. Remember it takes time. This is the challenge the determined person is going to accept, failure as well as success.

### "SO SAY THE EXPERTS"

By Ruth Pease

Illustrated. Information on begonias, ferns, fuchsias, other shade plants, and landscaping.

Also, the author's personal observation and experience on growth habits of many begonias and ferns.

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## **EASTERN CONVENTION A SUPERB FIRST**

*By* MABEL CORWIN

"The members of the Western Pennsylvania Branch sincerely hope that you will fully enjoy each minute of your stay at the first Eastern Regional Convention."

These words greeted each person upon opening the beautifully prepared program booklet the Western Pennsylvania Branch presented to each person who registered. It listed the program of events, tour information, and the detailed convention flower show schedule, giving positive evidence that everything had been carefully planned and a highly successful meeting was assured.

Upon arrival, my spirit and attitude were not the best because of exhausting delays and travel troubles caused by the airline strike, but these were soon forgotten.

The setting of the convention facilities, in the New Kensington Holiday Inn on the bank of the Allegheny River surrounded by the beautiful green hills and woods of the Pittsburgh area, was delightful. But the real pleasure for me began in meeting and visiting with all the wonderful people who had organized this convention, and those in attendance who had been active workers for years in the American Begonia Society. Many acquaintances through correspondence were met face to face. Society representatives registered from many distant states.

As the convention progressed the results of the excellent plans and preparations began to unfold. The Welcome Dinner on Friday evening and the Grand Banquet and Awards Presentation on Saturday evening were enjoyed by a large number of members and guests.

The flower show was beautifully arranged, a delight to visit. The award for the best plant in the show was presented to Mr. M. Carlton L'Hommedieu who exhibited a specimen rex begonia grown to perfection.

An interesting field tour by bus had been arranged to two centers of horticultural interest. The first was the Hunt Botanical Library on the campus of the Carnegie Institute of Technology. It was our privilege to visit the Rare Book Lounge, which displayed some of the 12,500 rare books and collections of botanical prints.

The second part of the tour took us to visit the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. This tremendous installation of steam-heated glass houses holds an outstanding collection of beautiful and rare plants from all over the world.

As the convention came to a close and the show plants were removed, the remarks and comments of all in attendance gave proof of only one conclusion — it was an outstanding success. Careful organization and excellent decisions in planning pointed to the work of the three convention chairmen, Mrs. Edna M. Stewart, Mr. Robert L. Shatzer, and Mr. Gerald A. Sausaman, supported by hard-working members of the Western Pennsylvania Branch. It was a superb "first" and a thrill for me to be a part of it.

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## **EASTERN REGIONAL BEGONIA CONVENTION**

*By* M. CARLETEN L'HOMMEDIU  
*Member—The Knickerbocker Branch*

Having attended the first Eastern Begonia Convention, I would like to congratulate the Western Pennsylvania Branch for the excellent way in which it was conducted. Everything seemed to be well planned and executed with great efficiency. The Convention Chairman, Mrs. Edna Stewart, and the two Co-chairmen, Mr. Robert L. Slatzer and Mr. Gerald Sausaman, were on the job continually, attending to every detail.

The Flower Show Chairman, Mrs. Ruth Perry, and her committee deserve credit for their part in making it a success. As Mrs. Perry commented, "A flower show cannot be pos-

sible unless members bring plants to be shown”.

The fact that Mrs. Perz, President of the American Begonia Society, and several other members from California were there helped to make the meeting a success.

I especially enjoyed the trip to the Hunt Botanical Library, which seemed to be outstanding.

Finally, meeting old friends and making new ones embraces the pleasure of any Convention.

### WELCOME TO NEW BRANCH

The American Begonia Society is delighted to welcome a new Branch into the family—the New London County Nutmeg Branch. Their charter officers are:

*President:* Miss Doris Dawley, Stockhouse Rd., Route 1, Fitchville, Conn. 06334.

*Vice-Pres:* Mrs. Lucinda Russi, 26 Tilton Street, Norwich, Conn. 06360.

*Treasurer:* Mrs. Edna Montague, 24 Railroad Avenue, Plainfield, Conn.

*Secretary:* Mrs. Donald Beck, R.F.D. 1, Mystie, Conn.

*A.B.S. Rep.:* Mrs. Margaret Vare, R. D. 3, Box 24, Norwich, Conn.

### NO SHADED AREA . . .

(Continued from Page 208)

frost. Low-growing types like ‘Carmen’, ‘Flamingo’, ‘Indian Maid’, ‘Manners Glory’, and others are excellent border plants. They are also used for mass color in flower beds.

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Aechmea bracteata.  
Aechmea cylindrata.  
Neoregelia zonata.
- 3—CACTI OR  
SUCCULENTS** ..... Jatropha podagrica (Bottle plant)  
Red flowers, round green leaves.
- 4—FERNS** ..... Nephrolepis exalta cv Whitmanni.  
Cyrtomium falcatum cv Rochfordianum (Holly fern).
- 5—HANGING BASKET  
PLANTS** ..... Impatiens repens—creepy red branches and  
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Ruellia makoyana—foliage green above and purple  
beneath.
- 6—STROBILANTHUS  
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- 7—VINE** ..... Antigonon leptopus (Chain of Love).  
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## REPORT OF A.B.S. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2:40 p.m., on Sept. 3, 1966, in the conference room, by President, Mrs. Muriel Perz.

Secretary, E. Keaster called the roll with 34 officers, chm. and branch representatives present. Reading of the previous minutes followed roll call. Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer, H. Burkett gave a monthly and annual report with a balance of \$1023.-52. Reports filed.

Memb. Sec. Daisy Austin reported 82 new members, 175 renewals, for July 18 to Aug. 28. Begonians mailed 2604. Total membership as of Aug. 28, 1966 is 2222. Several nurseries have been distributing the ABS green sheets and 105 new members secured from this source.

Adv. Mgr. A. Rose reported \$73.00 acct. received and \$65.00 accts. receivable. She also asked about contacting the branches about ordering their Christmas messages in the Begonian.

Motion by M. Lee, seconded by S. Leatherman, to contact branches notifying them it is now time to order Christmas Greetings. Carried.

Public relations Dir. V. Naumann reported one Texas Br. has reorganized and asked to be reactivated.

Motion by S. Leatherman, seconded by G. Winsor to accept them. Carried. Mrs. Naumann also announced the Sacramento Br. has revised its by-laws and she has found them very up to date and in order.

Motion by A. Graham, seconded by H. Burkett to accept their revised form. Carried. Vera also had a letter from a Mrs. Moody that they have misplaced their Const. & By-Laws which will be forwarded to them.

Motion by M. Lee, seconded by W. Barnett, that the branch be issued a new copy of their charter, to be marked duplicate, with charter members unknown. Carried. Mrs. Naumann then introduced Mrs. Hyacinth Smith of San Francisco, who brought greetings from Northern Calif. Mr. Calvin Kramer of Sac. extended greetings from his area. Mr. Gotelli brought a nice report from San Francisco, also extending an invitation for the Conv. & Show to be held in San Francisco next year. Vice-Pres. R. E. Hale and Mrs. Hale were present.

A. Rose Chm. of auditing Com, reported the Treas. books in order.

Judges Course Dir. S. Leatherman, listed the following recommendations from her committee for the qualification of Judges:

1. Senior Judge qualifies when 50 points are attained.

2. Junior Judge qualifies when 25 points are attained.

3. Sophomore Judge qualifies when serving 1 yr. as flower judge. Also any judge not earning 25 points.

4. Freshman Judge, a prospective judge. Points to be credited as follows: 2 points for each year of judging. 1 point for each show judged. 3 points for completing 1 yr. Judges course on begonias. Motion to accept recommendation by Mr. Cocke, seconded by Paul Keaster. Carried.

Awards Com. Chm. M. Lee thanked her Com. and all members who aided them in their selection for the E. K. Gray & A. D. Robinson awards. The Awards were: 1. Eve Kenworthy Gray — May Taft Drew, 2. A. D. Robinson — Sophia Cecile.

Slide Lib. still in need of good slides for programs.

Ballot Count given as follows:

Pres. Elect. Floyd Neff, 53; Pres Elect. Chas. Tagg, 58; Vice-Pres. H. Warrick, 108; Secretary — L. Williams, 102; Treasurer — W. Barnett, 105.

Charles Tagg, H. Warrick, L. Williams, and W. Barnett elected.

Const. & By-Laws Chm. W. Barnett proposed the following changes: Art. 9 to read amendments to this Const. & By-Laws may be approved by a majority vote instead of a two-thirds majority, and may be instituted at any board or called meeting, subject to the approval by a majority of the membership voting.

Motion by M. Lee, seconded by V. Naumann to accept the recommended changes of this Committee, and for this change to be presented to the membership for voting on a printed card. Carried.

Motion by M. Lee, seconded by L. Stallings for this printed card to be inserted in the Oct. Begonian. Carried.

Motion by W. Barnett, seconded by L. Stallings to hold the mailing of the Oct. Begonian and insert ballot stating the above recommended changes and to be mailed within 45 days after the institution of change. Votes to be cast and reach the Secretary not later than 75 days after institution. Carried.

Letter read from May Taft Drew recommending two year terms for major officer. Motion by S. Leatherman, seconded by P. Keaster to table this suggestion for future consideration. Carried.

Letter from Dr. Creighton to Robt. Shatzer was read. She will be on a sabbatical leave and wishes to promote the study and research on the begonia. She will need approximately \$500.00

Motion by M. Lee, seconded by W. Barnett to place an article in the begonian urging members and branches to support a research project. Carried.

Motion by S. Leatherman, seconded by M. Lee, to extend \$200.00 to Dr. Creighton to start her research project. Carried. This advance to be replaced from donations as they come from members and branches. Carried.

Motion by M. Lee, seconded by G. Winsor to award memberships to Dr. Creighton and Dr. Lagerstedt. Carried.

Branches reporting were: Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent. N. Long Beach, Orange Co. Riverside, San Miguel, Santa Barbara, Theo. B. Sheppard, Westchester, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Mr. H. Warrick is willing to mimeograph, at a nominal fee, of the first four years (1934-35-36-37) of the old Begonians which now out of print.

Motion by A. Rose to have 100 copies of each year of these old Begonians made, preferably on 8 x 11 paper. Suggestion was made for a committee to be appointed to look into the different aspects of reproduction and the best size of paper to develop this project with Mr. Warrick. Mr. Tagg was appointed as Chm. and he is to get his own com. to work with him and report back at next meeting.

Olive Westcott reported on trip to Lotus Land on Oct. 2. Each Branch representative to make reservations for his branch. Deadline Sept. 25th. Cost. \$8.00 per per-

son round trip. This includes transportation and dinner at Montecito Hotel.

Hist. R. Pease, gave a very detailed report on the many accomplishments during the past year.

Ventura Branch extended an invitation to all to attend the Ventura Co. Fair Oct. 5 to 9th.

Mrs. Gillingswater was reported very low.

A vote of appreciation to Robt. Shatzer for the wonderful way he has carried on the research work the past year. Sec. to send letter.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned by motion of H. Burkett, seconded by Alva Graham.

EVELYN KEASTER  
Secretary

★ ★ ★

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Everett Wright at 7:30 p.m., September 26, in the South Gate Auditorium, South Gate, California. Roll was called with twelve officers and eleven Branches reporting.

The Secretary read the minutes of the annual meeting. After two corrections, they were approved.

President Everett Wright announced the following appointments:

Seed Fund Administrator, Mrs. Florence Gee; Membership Secretary, Pearl Benell; Advertising Manager, Anne L. Rose; Research Director, Robert L. Shatzer; Round Robin Director, Carrie Karegeannes; Public Relations Director, Vera Naumann; Photographer, Ralph Corwin; Judging Course Director, Sylvia Leatherman; Librarian, Terry Olmsted; Historian, Evelyn Volnogle; Awards Chairman, Margaret Lee; Nomenclature Director, Rudolf Ziesenhenne; Identification Garden Director, Dorothy Behrends; Slide Library, Maynette Hodgins; Business Manager, W. C. Cocke; Parliamentarian, Malcolm Rich; Editor, Tru Peterson.

President-Elect Charles Tagg made a motion that we accept these appointments, which was seconded by G. Winsor, and carried. Appointments left open will be made at another meeting.

Correspondence was read, including a letter from the Western Pennsylvania Branch, with which they sent money to sponsor five foreign memberships. They also sent \$50.00 for the Dr. Creighton fund.

Past President Muriel Perz thanked everyone for their work and cooperation in



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the Eastern Regional Convention and the National Convention.

Mr. Burkett filled in for Mr. Barnett, since the bank had not gotten everything turned over in the name of the new Treasurer. They reported receipts of \$416.62 and disbursements of \$669.39, leaving a balance of \$622.22.

Advertising Manager Anne Rose reported receipts of \$49.00 and receivables of \$106.25.

The Membership Secretary reported that there are 2,222 members and she distributed 2,758 Begonians.

The Public Relations Director, Vera Naumann, reported that she had the constitution and by-laws for the Branch in Texas which is being reinstated. She also received the constitution and by-laws for a new Branch, to be known as the New London County Nutmeg Branch. These have been found to be in order. A motion by Muriel Perz, seconded by Charles Tagg, that we accept the new Branch was passed.

Muriel Perz received some material on the leprosy colony in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She also received their scrapbook, which was complete and attractive.

Last month a committee was appointed to look into the price of reprinting old *Begonians* (1934 to 1937). They came up with a price not as good as had been proposed by Herb Warrick, of Seattle. It would amount to about \$957.00 total.

Charles Tagg made a motion that Herb Warrick reprint the magazines on 8½ x 11" paper. Seconded by Margaret Lee. Walter Barnett made a motion that we advise Mr. Warrick to delay printing these until we can advertise in *The Begonian* and take orders at \$6.00 per four-year set and have a sufficient amount to warrant the printing. This motion was seconded by Gertrude Winsor.

Mr. Hale made a motion that the ballots for the election of officers should be destroyed immediately. Seconded by Walter Barnett. Carried. The Parliamentarian destroyed them.

The ice cream social held Sunday, September 25, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Corwin cleared \$85.00 for the Society.

President Wright reminded that he has pins at \$3.00 and member signs at \$1.00 for sale, with proceeds to go to the American Begonia Society.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, October 24.

—LUCILLE M. WILLIAMS  
Secretary

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Violet Moore, widow of the late Frank S. Moore, passed away from a heart attack on September 11. Frank and Violet were charter members of the Glendale Branch and Violet was a member of the Begonia Study Class. Frank was a Glendale Branch president, and in 1951 was president of the A.B.S.

Always sincere and interested workers, they are mourned by the Branch members and their numerous children and grandchildren.

All members extend their deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

## CALENDAR

NOV. 3 — WESTCHESTER BRANCH: Guest speaker will be Alice Martin.

NOV. 8 — GLENDALE BRANCH: Guest speaker will be Ray Eppley, an officer of the San Gabriel Valley Branch. His subject will be "Begonias and Ferns, How to Care for Them".

NOV. 9 — INGLEWOOD BRANCH: Ken Terry will talk on "Begonias and Winter Care".

NOV. 10 — ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH: Potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be John Van Barneveld.

NOV. 11 — SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH: Edward E. Hartnagel, senior nurseryman at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, will be the speaker. His subject will be "Care of Indoor Tropical Plants".

NOV. 19 — SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH: Installation Banquet. Happy hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Tickets \$5.00, and reservations will be made by Audella Bloom.

NOV. 25 — REDONDO AREA BRANCH: Alice Martin will talk on "Christmas Decorations".

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