

Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society, Inc.



Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

**GENERAL OFFICES** 

GENERAL OFFICES, dues, address changes, or magazines: Cliff Ebeling, Membership Secretary, 6157 Lime Avenue, Long Beach, California 90805.

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

# EDNA L. KORTS, IN MEMORIAM

The American Begonia Society is saddened at the loss of one of it's most devoted members, Mrs. Edna L. Korts, who passed away October 30, 1970. She had retired from active participation in the affairs of the Society but took part in those of the Glendale Branch. She was a Charter Member and was a constant inspiration for the betterment of the Branch and the National Society. She held many offices in the Glendale Branch, twice serving as President.

Mrs. Korts was a member of the Society for 32 years and served on the National Board for 19 of those vears. She served as National President in 1952-53 and again in 1960-61. She accomplished many improvements for the Society while serving in various offices. Among her most notable were the disigning of the National Society Emblem and ABS pin, the inaugeration of the Alfred D. Robinson Award. The Award was named in honor of an early Begonia hybridist who introduced many of the cane type Begonias still grown in our gardens today. Mrs. Korts' interest centered in the canes and she wrote many articles about them for The Begonian. Also, in her deep concern over the lack of competent judges at Begonia shows, she collaborated in publishing a handbook for judges and instituted the first ABS sponsored *Begonia* judging class. Many of todays ABS Judges attended those classes.

For her service to the Society, she was awarded the Herbert P. Dyckman Award in 1968.

Her untailing service and devotion to the Society will long be remembered by her host of friends and fellow members who unite in mourning her passing.



May your CHRISTMAS be Happy and may the NEW YEAR bring you many

days of enjoyment from your Begonias

> Pearl Benell Your President

## COVER STORY

B. 'Esther Albertine', Belva Kusler cultivar. Last month and this months cover picture were contributed by the Round Robin Director, Mrs. Anita Sickmon. They posed for their picture in 103 degrees temperature in August 1970.

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

The purpose of this Society shall be: TO Stimulate and Promote interest in *Begonias* and other shade-loving plants; TO Encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; TO Standardize the nomenclature of *Begonias* and companion plants; TO Gather and Publish information 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*.

# **BEGONIA** seychellensis

## by Carrie E. Karegeannes, Research Committee

Through the courtesy of the National Arboretum in Washington D.C., a number of A.B.S. members are growing a species of *Begonia* that may be new to cultivation - B. *seychellensis* Hemsley.

Dr. Frederick G. Meyer of the Arboretum said that seed of seychellensis, which was named and described by the English Botanist W. B. Hemsley in 1916, had recently been brought from it's native Seychelle Islands to the Arboretum where it germinated and grew well. Dr. Meyer shared seedlings with members of the American Begonia Society; a number were distributed at the Eastern Begonia Convention in September and others were shipped to growers on the West Coast. How these plants grow in cultivation, under our varied conditions, will be of interest.

Dr. Meyer reported that the species, endemic to the Seychelles (a British group of islands in the Indian Ocean east of Tanganyika, Africa), have a wingless seed capsule that is unusual for a *Begonia* in that it splits open in the middle rather than lengthwise. Some 250 seedlings had grown very well at the Arboretum until the summer, when he thought the heat had been the cause of some leaf drop. The native habitat is cool moist mountains, where the plants grow to three or four feet tall.

In the Journal of Botany, British and Foriegn, Volume 54 (1916), Supplement 2, p. 15, Hemsley described B. seychellensis as a new species closely related to B. aptera Roxburg. It has been listed as a variety of B. aptera by Baker in Flora (p. 129), but Hemsley found

it "uniformly different from typical B. aptera, both from Mauritius and Bourbon", although related. The leaves of B. aptera are a slightly unequal, narrow oval shape, tapering almost to a tail at the tip, and the female flowers "have petals" as well as sepals. B. seychellensis has large leaves wider than long and Hemsley described it's flowers as having two sepals and no petals, on either male or female blossoms. (Horticulturally, we would describe these flowers as two petaled, since the sepals look like petals.)

Bushy, succulent, sometimes reaching as tall as four feet, Begonia seychellensis is glabrous (smooth, not hairy) and has thick, branching stems, according to Hemsley's latin description. The leaf is long-petioled and is unequally roundish-elliptic, occasionally as wide as eleven and 4/5ths inches, but more often on flowering branches four to six inches wide. The leaf has two round lobes (cordate) at the base and otherwise is few-lobed, with wide, shallow lobes and a finely toothed margin. It is green on both sides or sometimes red underneath.

The flower stalk rises from the leaf axil, is two to three forked, shorter than the leaves, and usually peduncles are three flowered. The center flower is usually male, without bracteoles, and the two side flowers female, with bracteoles covering the ovaries. Flowers are white, not numerous, with two sepals, which are circular heart-shaped or oval heart-shaped, about 2/5ths of an inch in diameter.

The seed capsule is berry like, oblong-elliptic, about 4/5ths of an

inch long, flattened and wingless. The many seeds are semi-four sided, scarcely 1/25th of an inch long, crested, and vertically grooved.

B. seychellensis was reported common in the shady moist forest of the islands above 1,200 or 1,500 feet altitude.

The Seychelles produce coconuts, cinnamon, and essential oils, according to <u>Webster's Geographical Dictionary</u>. The chief islands are Mahe' (where Hemsley quotes Gardiner and Neville as reporting our species growing), Praslin and La Digue. Gardiner and Neville also found the species on Silhouette. The Seychelles group was a dependency of Mauritius in 1810 and became a British Crown Colony in 1897 and 1903.

The botanist W. B. Hemsley introduced a number of plants from China and *Begonia hemsleyana* Hooker from China is named after him.

## A.B.S. SLIDE LIBRARY

The Slide Library is indebted to Mrs. Anita Sickmon and to Mr. Jack Golding for the gift of slides donated to the Slide Library.

The Slide Library has programs that can be made up to your order if you will give three weeks notice when ordering slides. A commentary is included with most of the programs. A small fee of \$2.00 plus return postage is charged for each program.

Donation of slides for the library would be appreciated.

Order slides from:

Mrs. Irene Grannell Slide Librarian 1431 Coronado Terr. Los Angeles, Calif. 90026

## WHAT IS A F1 HYBRID

by M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, Research Director

This is the first article to appear in the Question and Answer Project that is to be carried on by members of the Society. The Research Committee will try to keep this project going until the Branches or individual members have worked out their individual question project. Anyone interested that has not heard about this project, kindly contact your Research Director for information.

 $F_1$  hybrid: What does it mean and how are they produced?  $F_1$  hybrid means the first filial generation, Filial, according to Webster, means, in genetics, designating or of any generation following the parental.

Most of us may know what a  $F_1$ hybrid is but few of us know the true significance in producing  $F_1$ hybrid seed. More and more  $F_1$  hybrid seed is being released each year, giving us larger and better flowers and plants. You may wonder why, when you buy seed of a F<sub>1</sub> hybrid that all of the plants from the packet of seed come true. This is because the parents of the F<sub>1</sub> hybrid had their characters fixed. In mixed ancestry, first generation hybrids do not breed true. Seeds will not produce plants resembling the parents, unless the characters are fixed.

To most of our growers, a  $F_1$  hybrid is the result of crossing a hybrid *Begonia* with another hybrid or species *Begonia* and whatever the result, we call it the  $F_1$  hybrid. This is correct but much more is involved with the professional hybridizer producing such wonderful  $F_1$  hybrid plants today. When you buy a packet of  $F_1$  hybrid petunia seed, (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

for instance, it is not just the results of crossing two varieties. The plant breeder selects two varieties or hybrids that have special desired qualities which he wishes to combine. These two hybrids are grown by inbreeding or selfing for four to eight years to perfect them, for being absolutely true and uniform in performance.

This inbreeding or selfing results through self pollination of the hybrid over several generations of plants until the maximum combination of gene characteristics is obtained. It is the process of using the pollen of one hybrid on the stigma of the same variety of hybrid to produce selfed seed. In the case of the *Begonia*, the pollen of the male flower is collected and placed on the style of the female flower of the same plant.

From this selfing, a selection of superior plants can be obtained and then the process of fixing the strain is further selfing of the superior material.

After selection the parents that are known to breed true and have all the desired characteristics, the plant breeder can then start to produce the  $F_1$  hybrid seed which we so gladly look forward to purchasing each year. This is done by selecting one plant to be the female parent and the other to be the male parent. All of the male flowers are removed. before opening, from the female parent and the pollen is collected from the male parent when the pollen is ripe, and stored in deep freeze temperature until the time comes when the stigma of the flower on the female parent is ready to receive the pollen. All of these seedlings of the  $F_1$  hybrid will come true and will be the same. If seed of <u>this</u>  $F_1$  hybrid is collected and planted, the seedlings will revert and be a gonglomeration of color and plant shapes.

No one may be interested in spending the time and patience in producing  $F_1$  seed from two hybrid *Begonias* but I think one should know what is involved when you buy  $F_1$  seed from your seed firm.

To further understand this process of hybridizing, I would suggest that you acquaint yourself with Mendal's law of heridity.

Reference credit:

George J. Ball, Inc., "Grower Talk", June 1970.

"Create New Flowers and Plants" by John James.

## NOTICE!

Due to an error in the spelling of Mrs. Hazel Halter's name at the time of the Annual Show she did not receive her trophy for winning the ABS Trophy for the Best Cane *Begonia* in the Novice Division. It can now be reported that the error has been corrected and Mrs. Halter has received her trophy.

## CORRECTION

Please correct B. schariffiana on page 254, November issue.

ABS SO	MERICAN BEGONIA CIETY BOOKLETS
Point Scoring Sys	stem for Judging
Begonias	\$1.25
00	le to Classification how Purposes \$1.50
<b>ORDER FROM:</b>	Ruth Pease
	8101 Vicksburg Ave.
	Los Angeles, Calif. 90045



Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara News-Press

Three Santa Barbara youngsters admire the large semperflorens, 'Swanson's Pink', exhibited by Mrs. Rudolf Ziesenhenne at the annual show at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on the Labor Day weekend. The plant has been in full sun until late afternoon in the exhibitors garden through the summer in California.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH BEGONIA SHOW

Over three thousand visitors viewed the annual exhibit of the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society on the Labor day weekend, September 5 through 7, 1970, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, according to Museum officials. Plans for next, vears exhibit will include additional space for the showing of tuberous Begonias at the request of some disappointed visitors. The tuberous hybrids are generally at their height of beauty around the first of September, the Santa Barbara members have found.

Among the labeled plants, it was found that over 45 varieties of *Be*gonias had never before been exhibited in the annual show, where nearly 150 *Begonia* types were shown by 12 members of the Branch, with other members acting as host and hostesses during the 3 day show.

The Santa Barbara Branch, under the direction of Show Chairman Mrs. Barbara Rowe Philip and Messrs. Kenneth Taylor and John Tapia, had prepared floor displays in the 19th Agricultural Show at Warren Stadium, Santa Barbara, in July and the National ABS Convention Show at Ventura on August 15th and 16th and the Museum display in early September. They took first place in the Santa Barbara Show and second at Ventura.

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

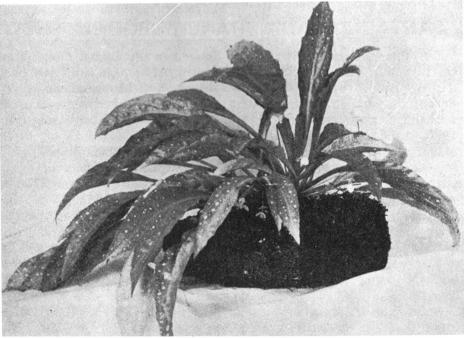
### No. 1 – B. herbacea Vell.

Brazil sp. Epyphitic plant found growing from face of boulders in dense shade near Ubatuba 20 km. northeast of Caraguatatuba. One peculiarity of this Begonia is the epyhitic habit, there are many climbing Begonias and even creeping ones that grow up trees; but this species grows and lives attached to trees, without any contact with earth and can go on living on dead trunks; can be grown admirably on giant tree fern fiber. Another interesting feature is the symetrical and lance form of the leaves and it is evident that we have an uncommon species of Begonia, however, a very interesting one of easy culture. If it has a support of fern wood or a pot containing segments of the same material, maintained constantly damp,

the results of this care will be the growth of many ramifications of the rhizome. Leaves on this species are green but spots have been known to appear when plants are grown in shade and flowers are almost snowy white. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

### No. 2 – B. morelii

Many years ago seed of this *Begonia* was sent to the Seed Fund from Madagascar under the name of B. *thwaitesii*, however, there has never been a *Begonia* by this name found in literature. The name was changed to the one given here and while trying to find a description, we found the following in an English book, "final word in foliage *Begonias*, being somewhat like a rex; the leaves are a rich coppery-purple with red-purple and grayish white



B. berbacea Vell.

blotches; the underside is blood red. Both sides are thickly set with deep purple velvety hairs. Flowers tinged with pink, in an umble." Price \$1.00 per pkt.

A friend in Texas has been growing this Begonia since we first offered seed and has taken the trouble to supply a very few to the Seed Fund. We would like to have this plant more widely grown and this is the only reason the seed are offered when there are so few. We would like for someone to grow plants for the purpose of producing seed and if you are unwilling to do this, please leave the seed for someone who is, as they are not for inexperienced growers and will be wasted. We could send them all to one person and be sure of getting seed back but this would cause dissension, therefore, if you want to pay the price for about six seed per pkt. and want to help out the Seed Fund, this is your opportunity.

### No. 3 – B. rajah Ridley, Malay

Small, low, high-leaf Begonia with creeping rootstock. Petioles thin, red, fleshy, rough-hairy. Leaves asymetric, round, heart-shaped, about 5 x 5 cm. Margins more or less dentate or setiform (bristly). Upper side of leaf bare with green veins and areas on a reddish-brown background, hairy in certain places of the Inflorescence sessile, red, veins. fleshy, hardly surpassing the height of the leaves. Small pink flowers. Price \$1.00 per pkt. The same comment as above applies to seed of B. rajah.

#### No. 4 – B. paulensis – Brazil

Seed came directly from Brazil and described as "wild *Begonia*". Although it was discovered in Brazil many years ago, it is not common in cultivation. It was first grown in this country by Louise Schwerdtfeger from seed brought from Germany.

Leaves are medium green, shiny, peltate; distinctly striking with it's ivory colored sinus or eye from which radiate the main veins. The radial veins are joined by cross veins which form a circle giving an interesting spider web effect. Each spiderweb section is covered with short white hairs, but on the underside of the leaf, the hairs are red, showing up distinctly on an apple-green background. The petiole is light green, covered with pinkish hairs and a small collar of red hairs appears on leaf petiole junctions.

Easily grown from seed, the young plants require protection until they are ready for three inch pots. Keep seedlings in a humid, sheltered location, moist but not wet, with plenty of light. Seed scarce. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

#### No. 5 – B. venosa – Brazil

Growth shrubby, erect, medium height. Stems succulent, round, green with small white lines, surrounded entirely with large, almost transparent, fine venous, light brown vesicular bracts, in such a way that the stems themselves are hardly visible. Petioles are long or slightly longer than the leaves, fleshy, covered with brownish pubescens. Leaves auricular, succulent, margins entire, green background is covered with a dense tomentum of white hairs. Peduncles axillary, very long, succulent, red, covered with soft white hairs. Flowers abundent, medium large, white, spicy-fragrant.

This is an important plant but we do not find it frequently. The white (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE) tomentous cover which comes off easily when the plant is touched, constitutes the ornamental value of the plant. This *Begonia* thrives best in a warm location where it receives a few hours of morning and afternoon sunshine. This condition turns the leaves to a beautiful white. If it is placed permanently in the shade, the leaves remain greenish. In winter months, care must be taken in watering the plants. Blooming time is the latter part of summer to spring. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No.6 — longipes petiolata Dryander.

Stems erect, stout, grooved, succulent; petioles red or red tinged; leaves large, ovate pointed, obscurely lobed, bright green, sparsely bristlyhairy; flowers small, white, in many flowered short clusters. Price 50c per pkt.

## No. 7 – malabarica. Asiatic sp.

Low, bushy, pubescent; leaves small, ovate, green, toothed; inflorescence short; flowers blush pink on short stem clusters. Price 50c per pkt.

## No. 8 – B. glabra

Also called B. *scandens* and B. *scandens cordifolia*. Climber that can grow on trees or totem pole. Good basket plant with green leaves in abundance; white flowers. Price 50c per pkt.

## No. 9 – B. incarnata – Mexico

Frilly, fluffy looking plant with green fluted leaves calloped on the edge; flesh pink flowers in the winter. Price 50c per pkt.

## No. 10 - megaptera

Native to the foothills of the

Himalayas in Nepal. It has a diameter of 26 inches while it's height is 14 inches from soil level. The stems and leaf stalks of this species are green with short white stripes. It's oblique, 5 to 7 inch long leaves have irregular sharp pointed lobes and toothed margins. The leaves are smarged green on top and have red veins underneath. The flowers are apple-blossom pink-white with pink flush and have a diameter of 2 inches. The individual panicles usually do not carry more than 10 flowers each and rise only slightly over the surface of the leaves and their similarity to a large apple blossom is rather striking. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 11 – B. limmingheiana

Pointed shiny green leaves on many stems; coral-red flowers in close clusters in winter. Provide warmth, brightest light, good soil. Easily propagated by seed or layering. Price 50c per pkt.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following information comes from Rudolf Ziesenhenne, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Seed offered Seed Fund as B. taylorii is incorrect. We now have the correct identification which is as follows: B. uniflora Watson -Mexico. Stems thick and fleshy with a small tuberous root, procumbent, a foot long or less, smooth and glabrous of somewhat verrucose; leaves thin and nearly glabrous, round-cordate, palmately seven-nerved, the margins dentately 7-11 lobed and sparsely toothed or denticulate, the teeth and sinus often setulose, 2½ inches broad or less; stipules ovate lanceolate, laciniately toothed; petioles shorter than the blade, bristly at the summit; peduncles axillary, one flowered; bracts ovate;

flowers glabrous, rose colored, the staminate two petalous, the pistalate five-lobed. Found in the Sierra Madre near Monterey, Mexico.

## **Greenhouse Plants**

Manettia bicolor – Brazil. Small climbing plant with many tubular red and yellow flowers. Price 50c per pkt.

Sinningia regina – Purple slipper gloxinia. Price 50c per pkt.

Billbergia distachia – Brazil. Small, flowers blue and green, leaf pinkishbrown, tubular growth, partial light. Price 50c per pkt.

Please send request for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee Seed Fund Adminstrator 234 Birch Street Roseville, California 95678

## A NOTE ON NOTES

A group of us talking at the Eastern Begonia Convention and Flower Show mentioned that if the Branches printed their annual programs the same size as The Begonian, they could be filed in the covers that we file our "Begonians" in. Since many of us like to look up history of the Branch from time to time this would make it easy. It was further suggested that if the Begonia greenhouses printed their catalogs the same size they also could be filed with The Begonian and would be readily available for reference when needed.

> Fred A. Barkley Northeastern University

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We have had requests for information on Begonia Books. Several books are available from the ABS Bookstore (see ad in this issue). Other books, out of print are in the ABS Library. Write to Mrs. Lydia Austin, 15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, Calif. 90260, for a complete list of books in the Library and how to take them out on a loan basis. The Library contains books about *Begonias* and other plant families.

The following books are recommended for your home libraries. (They also make excellent Christmas gifts.)

ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS by Bernice Brilmayer

It was published in 1960 by Doubleday and Co., Garden City, New York, and is exactly that—all about *Begonias*.

BEGONIAS SLANTED TOWARD THE BEGINNER by Dorothy Behrends

Published in 1960, it is valuable to beginners and growers alike.

SO SAY THE EXPERTS by Ruth Pease

Published in 1966, it contains Begonia growing information from experts as well as the writer's personal growing knowledge of plants in her collection. The book also contains chapters on growing ferns and fuchsias.

THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA by Brian Longdon

Published in 1969 in England and it is a beautifully illustrated, informative book on tuberous *Begonias*.

These books have excellent reference material for *Begonia* growers everywhere.

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#### (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 279)

**Question:** from Brooklyn, New York. Why did my *semperfloren* drop all of it's bloom this summer after having bloomed two years straight?

Answer: Your letter indicated a very hot few weeks during the summer. Being indoors and experiencing such a severe change in temperature could easily been the reason your *semperflorens* dropped it's bloom. Your plant is also in need of rest having bloomed two years straight. With the care you have given it in the past, it will most likely put on new growth and bloom again next spring.

**Question:** from Spencer, Wisconsin. What leaflets on how to grow *Be*gonias are available?

Answer: The American Begonia Society has a Cultural Bulletin which gives general growing requirements for the different types of *Begonias*. This is available from the Membership Secretary, Mr. Cliff Ebeling, 6157 Lime Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90805. In several instances catalogs from our advertisers give information about growing *Begonias*. Antonelli's catalog on tuberous *Begonias* is a good example.

Further information on stem rot on tuberous *Begonias* has been received from a grower in Camarillo, California. We suggested the use of soil sulpher. He has had good luck with the use of Captan. First cutting out the stem rot thoroughly and then using a heavy application of the pure powder. Captan is available at agricultural supply firms. Send your questions to:

> Mrs. Ruth Pease Question and Answer Editor 8101 Vicksburg Avenue Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

## **ROUND ROBIN NOTES**

Recent Robins have been laden with information on growing miniature *Begonias* under lights, hybridizing, seed and species. An increased interest is noted in growing *Begonias* in bowls.

### B. rajah:

Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California had finally managed to germinate a single plant from a seed capsule on B. rajab. There was a very little seed and it didn't look mature, but he had tried sowing it. Chuck was not sure which of the many crosses and self pollinations he had tried, had produced this capsule - after many failures to set seed on this terrarium species. Putting clips under the cover to allow some fresh air into the bowl seemed to do the trick, however, the capsules had been full of jelly when the cover was kept on tightly.

#### B. herbacea:

B. *herbacea*, growing strongly in an uncovered bowl, wouldn't bloom for Chuck. Carrie Karegeannes of Annandale, Virginia had not had bloom on her plant carrying this label either, though she had had it (from seed) for several years. Hers seemed to match description of B. *attenuata* best of the group of closely related epiphytic, knifeleaved, Brazil species.

### Cuttings:

Mae Blanton of Mesquite, Texas reported she had rooted cuttings of tuberous *Begonias* successfully and had grown a plant from a leaf of B. 'Richard Robinson' (seedling of semi-tuberous, "Apple-leaf", African species *macbethii*). A leaf broken from a miniature gloxinia fell to the soil in a terrarium and rooted, growing a little tuber while lying upside down. High humidity helps.

## Hybridization:

Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island enclosed a striking color photo of one of 77 seedlings from her B. *kenworthyi* cross. This one was one of a few seedlings that developed heavy cresting and red coloring on crested edges.

Chuck's seedlings from B. micranthera venturii pollinated by B. echinosepala produced skimpy plants and no bloom last year, their first season. This year he planted their tubers – about the size of a garden pea - and they have grown rapidly. They were in six inch pots in July. He had crossed the orange flowered species with the white flowered species to see what color would result. Seedlings were blooming beautiful peach flowers on plant almost identical to the seed parent. He planned to try for the second generation seedlings this year.

### Seed:

Louis Uffelman, Tower Hills, Illinois reported wonderful luck with germination on rex colorvision seed. He reported several plants from socotrana seed. He uses a planting mix of equal parts perlite, vermiculite and ground sphagnum moss. He wets the mix and puts it in a clean plastic pot, sprinkles the seed on top, and covers with a plastic wrap, puts the pot under fluorescent light at 70° F. He fastens the plastic wrap with rubber bands and leaves it on until they grow, he punches holes in the plastic for awhile before removing it altogether.

Dorcas Resleff of Ridgefield, Washington reports good germination on: B. palmaris, B. taylorii, B. Panama rhizomatous, B. subvillosa, B. 'Mary Armstrong', B. odorata rosea and rex.

### Ideas:

Mrs. Joyce Kennedy of Cupertino, California says that she is away from her plants for a month at a time and in order to keep her plants from needing care while she is gone, she puts plastic bags over them. She reports that her plants keep very well for a month this way. When she gets home, she opens the bags and her plants have grown while she was away. Might be a good idea for going on vacation.

Ludy Brown of Homer, Louisiana reported in the summer that she had semps running out of her ears. The year before she had planted semps in a bed on the north side of the house and when fall came, covered the bed with leaves. Then in the winter, they had freezing weather with temperature dropping to eight degrees at one time and ten degrees another time. When spring came they started to grow, poking their heads above the mulch, they had come up from the old roots.

Mae (who lives in a suburb of Dallas, Texas) is conducting a similar experiment, she is leaving *Begonias* planted in a bed, cutting off tops and covering with oak leaves. If they have severe cold she can add more mulch.

Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania writes that after plants have spent the summer outside, the leaves are hard to clean, spraying with water is not enough. She suggests the use of an old nylon stocking to polish the leaves.

If you wish to join a flight, write:

Anita Sickmon *Round Robin Director* R.R. No. 2, Box 99 Cheny, Kansas 67025

# for Beginners

## by Elda Haring, Greenwich, Connecticut

In looking through copies of <u>The</u> <u>Begonian</u> which I have accumulated since we joined the Society and marveling at the amount of valuable and diversified information they contain it seemed to me that possibly beginners do not make full use of this publication.

The magazine fits nicely into inexpensive ring binders so that you may keep them filed and at hand for reference. If the budget is tight you can use shirt cardboards for covers, cut to size and labeled. Just the description in the Seed Fund column alone are worth the price of a years membership in the Society particularly if you live where it is difficult to get to the Public Library and do not have a garden library of your own. If you have kept your copies of The Begonian, go back and read them again. I feel sure you will find some of your questions answered and much information that you overlooked at the first reading. If you have not been in the habit of filing

them for ready reference, make a vow to store them where you can refer to them in the future.

This month I want to talk about some of the problems and joys of growing the *schmidtiana* types. B. *schmidtiana* is included in the B. semperflorens division of Begonia shows. It is a Brazilian species found in 1879 and named for a nurseryman. It grows to one foot tall and is self branching. The leaves are small, slightly ruffled and velvety; olive green on top and red beneath. The sprays of flowers are pinkish. There are many cultivars of B. schmidtiana and it is difficult to distinguish between these and the original species. This Begonia is pretty much everblooming. It is easy to grow but is quite susceptible to over watering. The soil in the pot should be permitted to become very dry, then deeply and thoroughly watered, allowed to drain and not watered again until the soil in the pot feels dry. B. schmidtiana grows well in most any location, warm or cool, humid or fairly dry but it needs strong light to flower. Southeast or west windows are good. It is not fussy as to soils and grows happily on any of the soil mixes. I have even had it grow and bloom in sand. In



B. schmidtiana Photo by Walter J. Haring

The Begonian

the greenhouse and under fluorescent lights B. *schmidtiana* is so profligate with seed that I often find seedlings growing in pots of nearby plants.

Stem cuttings are not difficult. However, they do rot if the rooting medium is too wet. Use a mixture of 1/2 peat and 1/2 sand, or 1/2 vermiculite and ½ perlite (also called Sponge-roc) and keep the medium barely moist. If you cannot find perlite in your garden supply shop, substitute parakeet gravel which you can purchase in small boxes in your supermarket. It is easier for beginners to use rooted divisions for propagating this plant. In the photo you will see a mature plant. By it's side are rooted divisions taken from a plant similar in size to the one pictured. If knocked from it's pot, most of the soil carefully removed, you will readily discern the sections which are easily pulled or cut apart. These rooted sections may be potted to 3 inch pots or placed three to a five inch pot. These quickly recover and will be a mass of bloom in two or three months.

Feeding one-half strength Rapid-Gro, Peters or Hyponex twice a month while they are producing new leaves will keep them in good growing condition. Stems of the old plants will elongate after a time. When this happens, cut them back to within 2 inches of the crown of the plant. You will note new growth beginning at the pot level. Trimming back old stems gives the crown more light and will stimulate new growth. This Begonia, like B. semperflorens, can be used in flower beds and borders out-of-doors, but suffer unless placed in filtered sunlight. It also adapts well to hanging basket culture.

## EASTSIDE BEGONIA SOCIETY USES CIRCUS THEME FOR SHOW

## by Phyllis Wright

The Eastside Branch of the American Begonia Society held their annual show of *Begonias* and shade loving plants in the Ice Pavilion at the Cross Roads Shopping Center, August 14th. 15th and 16th. "Carousel of Color" was the show The large pavilion was a theme. riot of color by the many plants brought in by both members and local commercial people. Most of these members put in individual garden plots. There was a large display put in by the Bellevue Park Board as well as several commercial displays, the newest of these being the Carnation Farms.

The circus theme was further carried out with the large Ferris Wheel filled with beautiful *Begonias* and fuchsias. The area around it was completely landscaped and the large wheel was in motion at all times.

There were balloons, gay crepe paper, water falls, make believe booths, gorgeous plants of every description, above all, gracious people who are dedicated growers and only too willing to share their growing know how with those who are interested.

There was a well manned Education Table, a large plant donation table, the large section for horticulture was also filled.

The large Decorative section also carried out the circus theme in the many flower arrangements that were entered.

One commercial Begonia member constructed a large greenhouse. This (CONTINUED AT BOTTOM OF NEXT PAGE)

## THAT WORM!

That ubiquitous worm that is a threat to the unwary. In many cases diseases of *Begonias* and other shade plants are blamed on any of a half dozen or more other causes unless you examine the roots. If your Begonia has brown spots with water soaked margins or the entire leaf is dark and plants stunted, blame the nematode. Ferns have dark brown to black areas on the fronds and in some species there are narrow dark bands from midrib to border. Begonias sometimes will not show apparent evidence of the disease if planted outdoors in the ground but will appear stunted or the leaves will appear dull and lifeless.

There are fifteen common nematodes that affect various greenhouse and garden plants. THAT WORM is a microscopic worm like animal. They

#### (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 283)

was filled with seedling *Begonias* that were grown by the members as a project.

A 40' booth was covered with small glasses placed on mirrors, these contained alphabetically named Fuchsia blossoms.

So ends another successful *Begonia* Show here in the Pacific Northwest. Each year we hear folks say these shows are too much work for the ones who spend so many hours preparing for it but when it is voted at a meeting whether the club will have a show next year, these are the first ones to vote in favor of it. Lots of work but what a wonderful opportunity to display all the plants we grow and love so dearly.

are not discernable to the naked eye (except the female which is only as large as a small dot). Nematodes have a hollow spear-like organ with which they suck juice from the living cells. In some species, both male and female are wormlike, in others the female is pear-shaped, the male long and narrow. The female, after fertilization, is white, laying 500 or more eggs which hatch in 5 days. The life cycle is 30 days. Irregular swollen galls on roots are the chief sympton. They pass the cold months in the galls, resuming activity in the warmer months. The newly hatched move to another part of the root system, where they set up housekeeping, starting the life cycle over again. They inhabit the upper foot of the soil and are more prevelent in sand or sandy soils. They live in moist soils, water, decaying organic matter and tissue of other living Nematodes can move organisms. through the soil with a threshing motion but rarely travel more than 30 inches a year.

Nurseries engaged in interstate shipping must bear the U.S. Department of Agriculture Certificate of inspection because THAT WORM (and other diseases and bugs) is not confined to one area and is particularly prevelent in one state. At one time shipments from that state were prohibited unless the plants were bare rooted.

Oftentimes one reads of someones potting soil receipe as so much garden soil, so much this and so much that and seemingly having success growing their plants. Others with a small number of plants sterilize their potting mixture by baking it in the oven at so many degrees for so long a time. Others purchase redi-mixed potting soil (available at all garden centers) and other purchase the various sterile ingredients and mix their own. But, by whatever method, be sure, if you do use garden soil, it is free of nematodes! Beware of all recently acquired plants. Isolate them from your own plants for a time, insuring against possible nematode infestion.

If a plant is ailing from an unknown cause, shake the plant out of the container and inspect the roots. If the roots are knotted, take stem or leaf cuttings and discard the plant in the rubbish, not in the compost pile. If the plant was purchased at a nursery, return the plant (or plants) immediately to the nursery informing them of the trouble. No reputable nursery will refuse to refund your money and will take steps to remedy the trouble. Sales are the lifeblood of their business. If the plant was a gift from a friend, only you will know how to deal with that problem.

Ground inhabiting nematodes can be controlled by injecting special fumigants into the soil where their gasses kill the pests. Garden Dowfume, Soilfume 60-40, Bromex, and Bromofume, Nemagone and Vapam are some of the trade-name chemicals sold in nurseries for that purpose. A phosphorous compound, V-C 13 Nemacide is another nemacide said to be harmless to established plants. Some of these must be used in the soil before planting. Be sure to check thoroughly before purchasing. Use with extreme caution and always read the label, twice, to be sure. If you have any doubts, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture in your area for their recommendations. Follow directions exactly and be sure to wash all equipment used with soap and water, prevent contact with the skin and avoid inhaling fumes from any chemical. It can be extremely dangerous!

Reference: The New Garden Encyclopedia; The Gardeners Bug Book by Cynthia Westcott; What's New in Gardening by Dr. P. P. Pirone.

## HOW I RAISE THE REXES

## by J. E. Seal, Singapore

Our climate does not particularly lend itself to rex *Begonia* cultivation because the temperature averages 80 degrees F., with a relative humidity of 87 to 90% with hardly any change throughout the year.

Normal methods of propagation are from leaf cuttings, struck in a medium of broken down cocoanut husks, known locally as "coir dust".

I spent some years during the war, (W.W. II) in the Far East with the R.A.F., and saw rex *Begonias* growing on mountain sides in Assam. Nearly always, they were on limestone cliffs; their rootstalk spreading usually twice the diameter of the plant in moss! In cultivation they are at their best when really potbound. I have one specimen 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet high and 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet in diameter, in a four inch pot.

We grow a plant in Singapore we call the "Iron Cross", that enjoys our very moist, warm climate. The leaves have a mid-green outer zone and a chocolate-brown "cross", with the entire leaf covered with red hairs.

(Reprinted from the September 1954 "Begonian", page 277).

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The Begonian





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## Condensed Minutes of the Board of the American Begonia Society October 26, 1970

Meeting called to order by President Pearl Benell. After opening ceremonies, 15 Officers and 11 Branch Representatives answered roll call. Minutes of September meeting approved.

Treasurer: Balance October 18, \$836.49 Advertising Manager: receipts, \$88.95 outstanding, \$75.00

Editor: Reported reprinting of Kusler Hybrid Chart in its present form in <u>The Begonian</u>, not feasible. Motion carried to investigate cost of printing separately and distributing chart by mail.

Business Manager: Insurance Policy on Officers due and will be paid.

Judging Course Director: Reported on dates and location of Judging Course. Recommended that Cultural Certificates awarded at Begonia Shows follow categories in Show Schedule and Classification Guide.

Librarian: \$150.00 turned over to Treasurer. Suggestion made to bring ad in "Begonian" up to date and a list of books for loan be prepared and a notice of same be inserted in <u>The Begonian</u>.

Membership Secretary: Reported 41 new and total membership 2,204. Funds deposited, \$693.89

Nomenclature Director: Reported on the proposed revision of the Buxton Check List, recommended that it be called "The Begonia Catalog of the American Begonia Society, accepted. Motion by Mr. Ziesenhenne that the ABS undertake the publication, carried. Motion made and carried that it be published in two

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The Begonian

volumes, cultivars and species. Motion made by Mr. Ziesenhenne that a savings fund be established for financing, carried. Mr. Ziesenhenne to appoint committee for aid in the project.

Parlimentarian: Requested location of Articles of Incorporation, Secretary to conduct search in files. If not located to request duplicate from Corporation Commission.

Research Director: Reported a total of \$537.52 in Research Fund.

Show Chairman: turned over \$98.24 profits from Ways and Means table at the Show.

Slide Librarian: reported receipt of slides from Jack Golding and Anita Sickmon.

#### Reports:

Mr. Pease reported Show Treasurers books seemed to be in order but requested more time for rechecking.

Mrs. Pearl Benell reported she had requested Mr. Roy Yewell to investigate Kandid Litho and he had made no recommendations other than the Co. seemed adequate. Editor requested additional information not available.

Following reports by the Branch representatives, meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

> **Respectfully** submitted Irene Grannell, Secy.



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*Rex Begonias As House Plants \$1.00 by Virginia Withee
*All About Begonias \$5.95 by Bernice Brilmayer
*So Say The Experts \$2.00 by Ruth Pease
Classification Guide Compiled by \$1.25 the Westchester Branch, A.B.S.
*Ferns We Grow by Sylvia \$3.85 Leatherman and Dorothy Behrends
*Begonias Slanted Toward the \$3.00 Beginner by Dorothy Behrends
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BRITISH BRANCH F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH 3rd Saturday, Homes of Members Mrs. Herbert Hurley, Secy. 11 Woodland Rd., Lexington, Mass. 02173 CONNECTICUT BRANCH 4th Sunday of each month Nellie Radtke, Secy. 24 Cooper St., Norwich, Conn. 06360 DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH 3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Members' Homes Mrs. George W. Hopkins, Secy. 1619 S. Beckley Ave., Dallas, Texas 75224 EAST BAY BRANCH 2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School Telegraph at Stuart, Berkeley, Calif. Charles Badcock, Secy. 2325 Esmond, Richmond, Calif. 94804 EASTSIDE BRANCH 4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. 590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington Edith Lange, Secy. 9905 Belfair Lane, Bellevue, Washington 98004 EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH 3rd Friday, Members' Homes Mrs. Gladys Mattuket, Secy. 1801 Azalea Drive, Alhambra, Calif. 91801 FOOTHILL BRANCH 3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m. First Methodist Church, Marshall Hall 3205 D Street, La Verne, Calif. Mrs. Madge Borden, Secy. 602 North Angelino, Azusa, Calif. 91740 FORT, ELSA BRANCH 1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Miss Lola Price, Secy. 628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044 GLENDALE BRANCH 2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand Mrs. Frances Perkins, Secy. 3712 Revere Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90039 **GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH** Mrs. Charles H. Smith, Secv. 4177 Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, La. 70814 HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH 2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m. Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive Mrs. B. A. Russell, Secv. 5926 Jackwood, Houston, Texas 77036 INGLEWOOD BRANCH 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Western Federal Savings Building 355 E. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, Calif. Lola Somes, Secv. 4849 W. 130th Street, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250 KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. McAlpin Hotel, New York City Mrs. Philip Sarna, Secy. 37 East 30th Street, New York 10016 LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Glendale Federal Savings & Loan Bldg. 5535 Stearns St. Cor. Bellflower, Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Bernita McClanahan, Secy. 1020 Poppy Ave., Compton, Calif. 90221 LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH 1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center 6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge Mrs. John Blythe, Secy. 1823 Madras Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70815 MESQUITE BRANCH Mrs. Billie Lyles, Secy. 928 Calle Reale, Mesquite, Texas 95149 MIAMI BRANCH 4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Mrs. Marie Evans, Secy. 610 63rd. Drive. Hialea, Florida 33012 MISSOURI BRANCH SOUNT BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m., Members' Homes Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Lynne K. Wood, Secy. 626 W. Charles, Independance, Missouri 64055 NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. American Legion Post No. 560 East 59th and Orange, Long Beach Ruth Hurd, Secy. 2942 Sawyer St., Long Beach, Calif. 90805 **ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH** 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts. Garden Grove, Calif. Mrs. O. L. Simmons, Secy. 2611 Westhaven Drive, Anaheim, Calif. 92804 PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH 2nd Friday, Members' Homes Mrs. Anne Stiles, Secy. East Delaware Trail, R.D. No. 2, Medford, N.J. 08055 PORTLAND BRANCH Mrs. Lavene Jenkins, Secy. 9920 S. W. 53rd Ave., Portland, Oregon 97219 REDONDO AREA BRANCH 4th Friday, 7:30 p.m. R. H. Dana School Cafetorium 135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif. Mrs. Juanita Spunaugle, Secy 4248 Mentone Ave., Culver City, Calif. 90230 **RHODE ISLAND BRANCH** 1st Saturday, Homes of Members Mrs. Robert Northup, Secy. 555 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale, R.I. 02883 **RIVERSIDE BRANCH** 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. **Dales Recreation Center** 3936 Chestnut Street, Riverside, Calif. Mrs. Margaret K. Elmore, Secy. 3935 McKenzie, Riverside, Calif. 92503 ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH 3rd Friday, 12 noon, Homes of Members Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy. 1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego, Calif. 92103 SACRAMENTO BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. Mrs. Dora Hale, Secy. 9770 Carmencito Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95823 SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

4th Monday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members Mrs. Lyle Melvin Sr., Secy. 131 Aspen Road, Salina, Kansas 67401

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#### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH 1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way Mr. Allen Sweet, Secy. 303 La Serena Way, Sonoma, Calif. 95476

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH 2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m. Los Angeles State and County Arboretum 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif. Mrs. Mabel Anderson, Secy. 16609 Cypress St., Covina, Calif. 91722

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH 2nd Wednesday, Porter Hall, 7:30 p.m. University & La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa Mrs. Maynette Hodgins, Secy. 1829 Granit Hills Dr., El Cajon, Calif. 92020

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. - Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Mrs. Helen Yost, Secy. 888 La Milpita Rd., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105

SEATTLE BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., Loyal Heights Field House 21st Ave., N.W. and N.W. 77th Street Virginia Level, Secy. 13770 1st Avenue N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98125

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Y.M.C.A. Bldg., 5200 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, Calif. Mrs. Oakley Murphy, Secy. 119 E. Simpson, Ventura, Calif. 93003

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH 4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Members' Homes Mrs. Henry Flaherty 606 South Third, Salina, Kansas 67401

SOUTH CAROLINA BRANCH Mrs. Leonard Thomas 333 Harrow Dr., Columbia, S.C. 29210

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshier Field House 430 South 156th Burien Sally Harding, Secy. 11632 1st Ave. S., Seattle, Washington 98168

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH 2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Members' Homes Mrs. R. M. Bennison, Secy. Rt. 2, Box 155 Dickinson, Texas 77539

TEXAS STATE BRANCH 4th Thursday, Sabine National Bank Bldg. Port Arthur, Texas Mrs. R. J. Wilson, Secy. 4620 Evergreen St., Port Arthur, Texas 77640

TEXASTAR BRANCH 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center 1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy. 306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

WESTCHESTER BRANCH 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club 8020 Alverstone St., Los Angeles, Calif. Barbara Mack, Secy. 424 Oregon St., El Segundo, Calif. 90245

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH 2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. every other month Pittsburg Garden Ct., 1059 Shady Ave., Pittsburg, Pa. Mrs. Irene Fediaczko, Secy. 125 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

WHITTIER BRANCH Ist Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Palm Park Community Center 5703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier Miss Anne Rose, Secy. 14036 Ramona Drive, Whittier, Calif. 90605

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH 4th Tuesday, Noon Homes of Members Mrs. Murdock Davis, Secy. 256 Broughton Lane, Villanova, Pa. 19085

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# CALENDAR

Redondo Area Branch – Due to the Holiday Season the Redondo Area Branch will not have a meeting in December.

**December 11** – San Gabriel Valley Branch Christmas Party – Pot Luck 6:30 Games – Prizes!

**December 13** – Long Beach Parent Chapter Christmas Party, Installation of Officers.

**December 15** – Seattle Branch, 7:45 p.m., Annual Christmas Party.

January 7 – Westchester Branch, 7:30 p.m. Branch Research Director, Harold Howard, will give cultural information and plants, plus enzymes, for the new experimental project that the <u>Westchester members</u> will start at the January meeting. Growth comparison will be made on a monthly basis.

January 9 – San Gabriel Valley Branch 31st Annual Installation Banquet. Social Hour 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m. Santa Fe Inn, 10478 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte, call 287-5082 for reservations. Reservations close January 5th.

There is no National Board Meeting in December. Next Board Meeting, January 25, 1971, 7:30 p.m.

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