

The BEGONIAN

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Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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GENERAL OFFICES

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

ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This message will be brief because this issue of *The Begonian* will be reporting the Show and Convention and promises to be exciting.

Mrs. Mabel Anderson has relinquished the appointment of Editor to pursue personal commitments. The Editorship has been given into the experienced hands of N. Trumond Peterson with Gene Daniels as co-ordinating Editor. The hope is to produce the same high grade publication with an occasional human interest item should the need arise.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. We give thanks to our God for His unfailing love; thanks for our homes, gardens, families, and friends, and for our Country.

Margaret B. Taylor

THE BEGONIA BOAT

This is a new experience for your battle scarred old sailing vessel, *The Begonia Boat*. Some of you knew it as a beacon of light on troubled waters. Some knew it as a raiding troop of pirates trying to snatch the leadership of the A.B.S. away from the elected officers. And sadly, most of you never heard of it at all!

COVER PICTURE

The best begonia in cultivation 25 years or longer, entered at the 1971 show by Hazel Halter and awarded the San Miguel Branch Perpetual Trophy.

Commencing with this issue, whenever the need or the desire indicates, *The Begonia Boat* will now be a part of the official voice of the A.B.S. It is here as a place for local and out-of-town Branch members to speak their minds. But it is here also for good strong members-at-large, people full of ideas like John Yochum of Indiana, to become active members within the Society and to have their influence and ideas heard by the membership and, especially, by the National Board. For the most part, letters and ideas will be rewritten and condensed, but you will be heard and each of you will receive a personal answer.

Again I point out, this column will not be every month. It will appear only when the need exists. President Margaret Taylor will read every word prior to publication. This does not mean she will agree at all times.

And now, as I did in my two-year-old publication, I begin this column with the entry:

OVER THE HORIZON

The 1972 convention has been voted into Glendale, California, with the Glendale Branch of the A.B.S. as host. Many people have asked me what has happened to Dr. Fred Barkley's idea of holding it at the St. Louis, Missouri, Botanical Garden. The Glendale Branch has been

(Continued on page 271)

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*.

THE WORLD OF SHADE PLANTS

By Gene Daniels
Co-ordinating Editor

The 1971 Convention and Show is now history and there is no question that historians will record it as one of the greatest. This year the judges had a full day to discuss and argue their decisions, interrupted only by the delightful luncheon served by their hosts, the lovely ladies of the Whittier Branch.

A conservative count of two thousand eager begonia lovers crowded through the entry of the Pioneer High School in Whittier, California, on Saturday morning. As they entered they were greeted by the most unusual Court of Honor, designed by interior decorator Fritz Steinbach, a member of the Long Beach Parent Chapter. Topping this memorable display was the Best-in-Show winner, B. 'Kentwood & Lenore Olivier', hybridized and grown by Irene Nuss of the Westchester Branch, and the Best New Introduction, B. 'Wanda', hybridized by Leo Porter of the Orange County Branch and grown by Glenda Elin.

This was a show of quality throughout. One member from Ventura, California, upon walking into the show to enter his plants, took one look and said, "I should have stayed in bed!"

It is difficult to single out the outstanding plants and the trophy awards do this better than I can; but the row of B. 'Sophie Cecile' was enough to stop the most casual on-looker. John Ekstrand of the Whittier Branch had B. 'Arabelle' in all its royal glory like few people have ever seen it!

Over at my plant sale table the requests for B. 'Hazel's Front Porch' poured in, an obvious tribute to J. O. Gilden of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, whose tree of this beautiful plant showed a method of growing not often seen. Edith Howard's B. 'Lulandi' in a magnificent hanging basket was another that really brought out the "Ohs and Ahs".

A number of innovations in plant sales proved the tremendous demand that exists for many varieties of begonia. My own sale table consisted of plants purchased and donated by many sources. The most gratifying was a box of beauties air-mailed from Kansas by loyal member Anita Sickmon. This is the second time that Anita has done this and it really put to shame the local members who arrived empty-handed.

The plant in the biggest demand on my table proved to be Paul Lee's cultivar, B. 'Phantom', whose three-to-four-inch blossoms on the lone entry in the show had connoisseurs fighting for it. Another, the bubble plant B. griffithi was in such great demand that the only plants available were raffled and produced \$26.00 for two three-inch plants, the entire amount going to the A.B.S. as the plants were donated.

The Kusler hybrid, B. 'Sophie Cecile', in four-inch to six-inch pots, brought about \$100.00 gross for the two dozen spectacular specimens acquired from three different sources. At one point the crowd was waiting to pounce upon a promised shipment



"It's mine, all mine!" says Everett Wright, Show Chairman, calling attention to the displays, the culmination of one year's work.

of 'Sophies' and the eleven plants in this group disappeared in about three minutes.

Another A.B.S. plant table, consisting entirely of bubble plants with the appropriate glassware, was manned by Orange County Branch members Wanda Elin and Ronnie Nevins. The supply of bubble plants is currently at a bare minimum, but these members managed to round up some of the newer yellow bloomers such as B. 'Staudti' and B. prismatocarpa and had a brisk sale at fancy prices with considerable profit to our Society.

Two huge staghorn ferns, donated by Long Beach Parent Chapter member Malcolm Rich and Santa Barbara Branch member Rudy Ziesenhenné, were torn apart and mounted by the very able J.O. Gilden of Ventura. Again the total profits went to the A.B.S. and visitors learned how to mount the ferns with J.O.'s expert demonstrations.

The Glendale Branch manned a Garden Shop directed by our new vice-president Chuck Richardson and

produced more revenue for the A.B.S. with the sale of all types of supplies for the shade garden.

Topping the sales end of the show were commercial members Leo Porter of Orange County and Sylvia Leatherman of El Monte with a huge assortment of begonias and ferns. The rumor is that Buck Leatherman wore out a set of tires running back and forth to the greenhouse for more plants.

But this was more than a flower show. This was a convention—a chance to learn—a chance to meet people. And we certainly did both.

It is difficult to name our out-of-town members without omitting some, but there is no question that the excitement generated by the non-Southern-Californians revolved around three personalities. One we knew would attend: Kickerbocker Prexy Jack Golding. One we thought might come: Monterey President Leslie Hatfield. One we were surprised to see: one who lived only in our old *Begonians*, none other than hybridizer Leslie Woodruff of B. 'Pink



Show Chairman Everett Wright (center) says "I'll drink to that," with friends at the show preview.



Enjoying the preview are (from left) President Pearl Benell, President-Elect Margaret Taylor, Mrs. Walter Hansen of Ventura, Mrs. John H. Smith of San Francisco, Allen Sweet of San Francisco, and Paul Riviere of San Francisco.



Visiting from out-of-town are Mrs. John H. Smith, Allen Sweet, and Mrs. Hatfield, who organized the new Monterey Bay Area Branch of A.B.S.



Tim O'Reilly, master-of-ceremonies at the Saturday evening banquet, puts his audience in good humor.



Jack Golding, President of Knickerbocker Branch, discusses problems facing the Society.



Dorothy Behrends, installing officer, wields the mallet she is about to present as a gavel to incoming President Margaret Taylor.



President Margaret B. Taylor delivers her acceptance speech immediately after being installed at the annual banquet.

All photos in this issue
by Gene Daniels



Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass, awards chairman, announces winners of awards. To her right is Pearl Benell, Past-President. Applauding is Tim O'Reilly and his wife, Thelma.

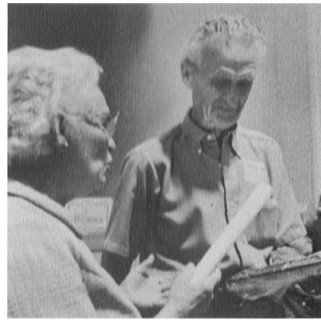
Fairy' and B. 'Lulandi' fame.

Our first preview on Friday evening, with gracious Elsie and Everett Wright as our hosts, was an informal bit of fun that must be repeated next year.

A special award, donated by the show committee and presented by Awards Chairman Hazel Snodgrass, proved to be truly a surprise to "Kissing Show Chairman" Everett Wright, whose year of working nearly full time for the A.B.S. resulted in this highly successful show.

We not only met new people, we made them members. Membership Secretary Cliff Ebeling used a novel approach to encourage new members by giving away plants up to and including a 14-inch basket of fern donated almost entirely by members of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch. Cliff's efforts produced 37 new members, a record for any convention so far!

The opportunity for knowledge began with Lydia Austin's library table and went on to include four major seminars and an educational display by Westchester Branch.



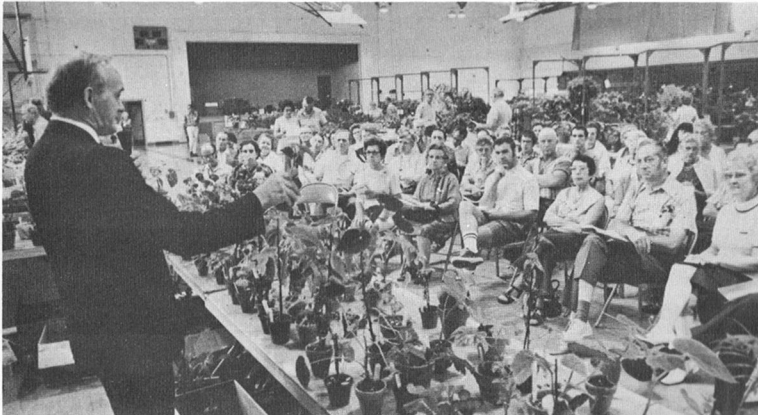
Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass presents a special award from the show committee to Everett Wright.

The seminars were wide-ranging, beginning on Saturday morning with Rudy Ziesenhenné's talking on the floor of the show on the subject, "The Scarce, the Rare, and the Unusual". His talk at my plant table brought the show to a halt as nearly all visitors took advantage of the opportunity to learn about the many plants that were specially propagated so as to be available at the show.

Harold Howard, with his wife, Edith, brought the conventioners into his new world of plant enzymes, a topic that has only been scratched by begonia growers and may be the answer to many of our problems.



Enjoying the plants are (from left) Walter Pease, John Provine, Leslie Woodruff, Ruth Pease, Mrs. Woodruff, Miss Woodruff, Cecelia Grivich, Nettie Daniels.



Rudolf Zieshenne conducts his seminar "The Scarce, the Rare, and the Unusual" at the A.B.S. sales table at the show.



Jack Golding gives a talk on growing plants under lights.

Jack Golding's talk on growing under lights had a large audience totally absorbed in his successful methods. To us in the west, the use of lights has always been only a supplemental method of growing. To see full-sized plants under lights was almost a shock to western growers.

Jean Kerlin of the Glendale Branch gave beginners the instructions necessary for a green thumb, and hers was the seminar for which all the beginners were waiting. With her hypodermic-like wit, she injected the begonia virus into this new crop of beginners and their names, I predict, will appear in the 1975 Court of Honor.

Sunday morning saw a crowd of begonia enthusiasts swarming through the greenhouses, lath-houses, and tree-houses of John Ekstrand. In the other direction, the begonia greenhouse of the Los Angeles County Arboretum overflowed with our members. Visitors to Los Angeles should not miss seeing what has been accomplished at this public garden under the direction of our own John Provine.

The banquet installation of our new President, Margaret Taylor, President Elect John Provine, Past President Pearl Benell, Secretary Irene Granell, Treasurer Walter Barnett, and Vice Presidents Jack Golding, Helen Matsubua, and Charles Richardson was ably done by member Dorothy Behrends.

A new personality, and one that no one attending the banquet will ever forget, emerged from behind the facade of Thelma O'Reilly's husband. From the moment of his first splendid appearance, complete with



Paul Keaster with his prize-winning B. 'Spotted Medora'.

lace cuffs and tux, Mr. Tim O'Reilly and his repartee as M.C. had the audience in tears with his humor. From that moment on, Thelma will forever be known as Tim O'Reilly's wife!

But the crowning accomplishment of the 1971 Convention was to see and hear Jack Golding. As Tim O'Reilly rocked the audience with his clever humor, Jack sat at the head table and practically threw away his prepared speech. Tim was a tough act to follow. But the man who built the Knickerbocker Branch into the largest Branch of the A.B.S. took command and had the "old guard" of the Begonia Society sitting on the edges of their seats as he led them through the viewpoint of the East Coast members. He touched lightly but firmly on existing problems within the A.B.S. and the audience began to realize that this President of the Knickerbocker Branch will be an active Vice President of our A.B.S.

The East and the West met at this convention, and the American Begonia Society will be better because of it.

HOW, WHERE, AND WHY I GROW CANE BEGONIAS

By Irene Nuss

Somehow the canes have always seemed rather special to me. I like plants with showy blooms and find the canes very rewarding with their cascading clusters of flowers ranging in color from greenish white to white, pink, red, and brilliant orange, not to mention the various leaf shapes and coloring, especially in some of the newer hybrids. Oh yes, many have a delightful spicy fragrance about them.

There are many methods of growing begonias. If you have had success with what you have been doing, don't change; if not, then it is always fun to try something different.

Here in Southern California where I live, it has been said we are blessed with ideal weather conditions for growing begonias. My cane begonias are grown in an open type lath house with a filon plastic roof, that is partially enclosed on three sides to keep out the wind. On occasion we do have frost, as we did last year. Most of my canes suffered very little damage, other than losing their leaves, which some do normally during the winter months.

As a general practice I remove all old leaves, forcing new growth. I do this only on large mature plants. I find young plants like to hold their leaves. This is usually done during the months of January and February and at that time I do the necessary pruning for shaping, cutting only mature wood. I try not to cut a new growing stem, but usually let it grow one season and prune the next if needed for propagating. This is also



Irene Nuss and her B. 'Kentwood x Lenore Olivier'.

the time to add a little new mix or mulch to each pot as some mix is always lost during watering.

My plants are grown in various sizes of containers, from 3-inch pots to 16-inch redwood tubs. I never overpot a cane begonia, but shift to the next size larger as needed. In the first place, how many 16-inch tubs can one provide space of in the average garden? Furthermore, canes bloom equally well for me in smaller containers. There is this to keep in mind, smaller pots will require more attention and water more often. This may become a daily ritual for you as it has for me, in any event cane Begonias are very rewarding for the little extra effort.

I have tried many soil mixes, different fertilizers, various types of

pots, both plastic and clay, and find canes are not fussy. I use mostly clay pots till the plants have outgrown the 8-inch size, then shift them into 10-inch redwood tubs which will generally carry the plants through several years or until they become rootbound.

They will grow in most any good Begonia mix. I prefer a mix with good drainage so I need never worry about a soggy condition. My large canes receive some form of plant food every other week. This may be any well balanced formula not too high in nitrogen, never more than one-fourth strength, generally less. It is better to feed less but more often. I like to keep a container filled with water to which I have added a teaspoon of vinegar per gallon and use this for regular watering. I find that this solution greatly reduces the alkaline or pH content in the water in Southern California. In addition, the acidity is beneficial toward producing more and better bloom.

This spring I tried something new. My choice canes were fed enzymes extracted from egg whites. The results were very gratifying. The plants seemed to gain added vigor.

Some of my plants are grown in a patio open to the east, where they receive direct early sunlight till about mid-morning, protected by a filon plastic roof. This light is considerably stronger than many growers in Southern California use for begonias. Checked with photographic exposure meter, the reading averaged 1500 foot-candles during most of the day. I have found that this amount of sun is very important for cane begonias to produce sturdy stems, leaves with good texture, and an abundance of blooms with good color.

It is my hope that I have not confused you; instead, that I may have been of some help, for this is How and Where I grow my cane begonias.

As for Why—well, it's because they are so beautiful.



J. O. Gilden proudly displays B. 'Hazel's Front Porch' grown as a tree, and the trophy it was awarded.

HELP APPRECIATED

I would like to express my thanks to the show committee, especially my co-chairman, Gene Daniels, the judging director, Ruth Pease, and registration chairman, Cecilia Grivich, and all others who worked so hard to make a good show.

Everett Wright
Show Chairman

GROWING A TREE BEGONIA

By Jan Dacayana
Ventura, California

J. O. Gilden, of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the A.B.S., was the winner of the Knickerbocker Branch Award for the most novel-grown begonia at the 1971 National Show. His plant was B. 'Hazel's Front Porch' grown into a tree.

He has been growing begonia trees for several years, after having considerable success using this culture with fuchsias. Recognizing the similarity of growth between canes and fuchsias, he began experimenting and finally came up with a beautiful tree begonia.

His detailed instructions for culture are simple but they must be followed precisely:

You may choose to grow a specific cane into a tree, but you probably already have one that is suitable. Select a tall cane, 30 to 36 inches in height, and remove all side shoots. (Here J.O. stopped and checked his moon book. He puts rigid belief in planting by the moon and now does nothing to his garden without first checking the date.) If you remove at the wrong time of the moon, the cane saps and bleeds. Dusting sulphur will sometimes stop this, but it is better to do it correctly.

Remove the plant from the pot or ground and determine which root belongs to which cane. Cut the side shoots away leaving as many feeder roots on the cane as possible, and plant it in a deeper 8-inch or 10-inch pot or wooden tub.

Get a good flat stake, long enough

to reach from the bottom of the container to the top of your tree. Drill a hole near the top of the stake, so that when a tape is inserted through the hole and around the cane, it will support the weight at the top firmly and will not allow the tree to sag or twist.

Continue tying the cane at about 9-inch intervals. Pinch or cut off the last node at the top of the cane, removing all leaves except the last three, or possibly four if they are growing close to the top of the plant.

As the cane branches out at these last three or four nodes, let them obtain two or three joints and pinch off the ends to induce fullness. Turn the sparser side of the plant toward the sun to achieve a well rounded crown at the top.

If new canes continue to shoot up at the base of the plant, cut them off below soil level.

A tree begonia, like any cane begonia, likes semi-shade, but to induce more blooms set it where it will get direct morning sun. It takes about two years from the time the top is cut off to achieve a nice crown. It must be protected from the wind as a good breeze will snap off the heavy crown.

Feed as you would any cane begonia. Give it a good drink of vitamin B₁ following any surgery. Soil mixture should be light but very rich, composed of sticks, shavings, leaf mold, and lots of organic fertilizer.

1971 SHOW WINNERS

PERPETUAL AWARDS

Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for the Best Cane Begonia—won by Irene Nuss for B. 'Kentwood x Lenore Olivier'.

Helen Bailey Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Best Shrub-like Begonia—won by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keaster for B. 'Spotted Medora'.

Redondo Area Perpetual Trophy for the Best Semperforens Begonia—no award.

Orris Martin Perpetual Memorial Award for the Best Tuberous Begonia in the Novice section—no award.

Inglewood Branch Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Best Species Begonia—won by Paul Lee for B. *odetiiantha*.

San Gabriel Valley Branch Perpetual Trophy for the Best Begonia grown in a contained atmosphere—won by John Provine for B. 'Purple Petticoat'.

A.B.S. Perpetual Trophy for the Best New Begonia Introduction—won by Glenda Elin for B. 'Wanda'.

Herbert P. Dyckman Perpetual Award for the Most Distinctive New Fibrous Begonia—no award.

John Thieben Perpetual Award for the Best New Rhizomatous Begonia Introduction, other than Rex—won by Glenda Elin for B. 'Wanda'.

Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch Perpetual Award for the Best Collection of Five Begonia, each from a different class—won by Harold and Edith Howard.

Arthur Strandberg Perpetual Trophy for the Best Fern in Grower section—won by Hazel Halter for *whitmanii*.

Dr. W. C. Drummond Perpetual Memorial Trophy for the Best Fern in the Novice Grower section—won by J. H. Pauling for Hilli.

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Perpetual Trophy for the Best Begonia by a Novice grower—won by John Provine.

San Miguel Branch Perpetual Trophy for the Best Begonia in cultivation 25 years or longer—won by Hazel Halter.

William L. Taylor Perpetual Trophy for the Best Hanging Container Begonia—won by John and Edith Howard for B. *lulandi*.

Ferd Neels Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Best Wall-pocket Begonia—won by Malcolm Rich for B. 'Ellen Dee'.

CHALLENGE TROPHIES

Effie Chapman Challenge Cup for the Best Fibrous Begonia—won by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keaster for B. 'Spotted Medora'.

John R. William Challenge Cup for the Best Rhizomatous Begonia—won by John and Edith Howard for B. *crestabuchi* (cultivar).

Gonda Hartwell Challenge Trophy for the Best Rex Begonia—won by Dr. William Ireton for B. 'Curly Fireflush'.

Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Challenge Trophy for the Best Tuberous Begonia in Grower section—won by Paul Lee for B. 'Beaad's Favorite'.

President's Challenge Trophy for the Best Begonia (Trowbridge Trophy)—won by Irene Nuss.

Dr. Edgar Irmsher Memorial Challenge Award for the Best Entry in the Show—won by Irene Nuss.

Jack Bailey Memorial Cup for Best Branch Display—won by Westches-

ter Branch.

Ida and William Meyn Trophy for Best Shade Plant other than Begonia or Fern—won by Harold and Edith Howard for Bromeliad.

Margaret Taylor Trophy for Best Fuchsia—won by Robert and Beverly Jones for Fuchsia 'Golden Marinka'.

Knickerbocker Trophy for Novel Grown Begonia—won by J. O. Gilden for B. 'Hazel's Front Porch'.

SWEEPSTAKES TROPHIES

A.B.S. Begonia Division Sweepstakes Trophy for a grower—won by John Ekstrand.

A.B.S. Begonia Division Sweepstakes Trophy for a Novice—no award.

President's Sweepstakes Trophy for most blue ribbons in all entries—won by John Ekstrand.

DIVISION TROPHIES

Division A—Cane-like Begonias
Grower: Irene Nuss for B. 'Kentwood x Lenore Olivier'.

Novice: Robert and Beverly Jones for B. 'Sophie Cecile'.

Division B—Shrub-like Begonias
Grower: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keaster for B. 'Spotted Medora'.

Novice: J. H. Pauling for B. 'Parilis'.

Division C—Thick-stemmed Begonias
No award.

Division D—Begonias with Semperflorens Characteristics
No award.

Division E—Rhizomatous Begonias
Grower: John and Edith Howard for B. *crestabuchi* (cultivar).
Novice: Herbert H. Fairchild for B. *virbob*.

Division F—Rex Cultorum Begonias
Grower: Dr. William Ireton for B. 'Curly Fireflush'.
Novice: No award.

Division G—Semi-tuberous and Tuberous Species Begonias
Grower: John and Edith Howard for B. *lulandi*.
Novice: No entry.

Division H—Tuberous Begonias
Grower: Paul Lee for B. 'Beard's Favorite'.
Novice: No award.

Division I—Species Begonias
Grower: Paul Lee for B. *ode-tiiantha*.

Division J—Begonia Grown in a Contained Atmosphere
Won by John Provine for B. 'Purple Petticoat'.

Division K—New Begonia Introductions
Won by Glenda Elin for B. 'Wanda'.

Division L—Collection of Five Begonias
Grower: Harold and Edith Howard.
Novice: Robert and Beverly Jones.

Division M—Best Entry in Junior Division
Won by Deana Elin.

Division N—Branch Displays
Won by Westchester Branch.

Division O—Photographs of Begonias
No award.

Division P—Photographs of Branch Garden Displays and Educational Exhibits
No award.

Division Q—Planters
Won by Beverly Jones.

Division R—Miniature Gardens
No award.

Division S—Ferns

Grower: Hazel Halter for *whitmanii*.

Novice: J. H. Pauling for Hilli.

Division T—Best Shade Plant other than Begonia or Fern—

won by Harold and Edith Howard for Bromeliad.

Best Fuchsia—won by Robert and Beverly Jones for Fuchsia
"Golden Marinka.

Division U—Best Arrangement—
won by Robert and Beverly Jones.

Best Totem Pole or Trellised Begonia—won by Hazel Halter for B. 'Lady Clare'.

Best Kusler Hybrid—won by Ernie Domas for B. 'Leona Olivier'.



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by Wendy Franks
- *The Tuberus Begonia \$10.80
by Brian Langdon
- The Begonian—Complete reprints . . \$6.00
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Pamphlet — Begonias From Seed —
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No. 1—*B. bettinae* Zies

(*Begonia* section *Giroudia*
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Fairly new species, herbaceous perennial. Stem erect, round, base woody, one foot tall; diameter one-eighth inch near the tip, seldom branched, foliage confined near the tip; internodes three-eighth inch long near tip, covered with dense reddish-brown matted hairs; stipules remaining papery, triangular, tip acute, margin even, seven-sixteenth inch long by five-sixteenth inch wide, keeled with the tip terminating in a long hair, one-eighth inch long, reddish-brown; outside covered with long reddish-brown hairs. Leaf stem round one-sixteenth inch in diameter, two and one-quarter inches long, covered with reddish-brown woolly hairs. Leaf blade papery, spinach-green, dull, five-nerved, sparsely covered with reddish-brown hairs, below dull pod-green. Flowers pink from November through January. Native habitat Mexico, Chaipas, Sierra Madre above Custepec, 5,000 feet. Seed collected by MacDougall. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. Unknown*

Resembles *B. schmidtiana* but with much larger leaves. Leaves are crinkled and are red on the underside from the center to one-fourth inch from the edge, where there is a definite break and the color abruptly turns green. Apple-blossom flowers. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Listed below are seeds offered previously, from beautiful and worthwhile begonias that you should be growing:

No. 3—*B. parvifolia*

A species of the *Begoniastrum* section with deep pink flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. friburgensis*

Fairly new species from Brazil. Rhizomatous, red, thick, leathery leaves, shiny and dark green on top, red underneath. New leaves show only red and are folded like a cockscomb. Tall flower stems bear heads of white and pink flowers. Requires greenhouse care. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5—*B. convalliodora* A. DC.

Formerly offered as *B. Venezuela* species no. 1003 but properly identified as given here. *B. convalliodora* is said to be one of the most beautiful begonias in cultivation. See cover picture on *The Begonian* for July, 1967. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 6—*B. species from Hydrystyles section*

Unidentified and probably undescribed. A vigorous plant with large inflorescence with small flowers which are brick-red on the outside. A very distinct species. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 7—*B. masoniana* syn 'Iron Cross'

From Maylaya, seeds produced in Europe. Plant introduced by Mason in 1952. Leaves are large and puckered, Nile green, marked with contrasting bold pattern of brown-red resembling an iron cross. Stems are white-hairy and reddish. Flowers are waxy, greenish white, with maroon bristles on back. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 8—*B. sc 'Derby'*

New. Six inches. Coral salmon

with lighter center. Unusual. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9—B. sc 'Caravelle Rose'

Very early. Large two-inch flowers on well shaped uniform plants. Green foliage accents the floriferous habit. Price 50 cents per pkt.

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Many members of flights were saddened to learn of the death of Elaine Wilkerson of Slaughter, Louisiana. We lost a wonderful friend and a good grower. Elaine registered B. 'Penny O'Day' (*dayii* x *hydrocotylifolia*) in October of 1969 and had plans to register more of her crosses. Severe headaches which preceded her death prevented her doing so.

B. 'Exotica' syn. *B. breviformosa* is being grown by flight members in the United States. Olive Lever of New Zealand reported in April that one of her plants was enormous and was in bloom. The first two flowers to open were really large female blooms with a large seed ovary and male blooms soon followed.

She had a *B. rubra venia silver* male bloom that had lots of pollen, so she tried it on one of the female blooms. She was hoping to have a good cross.

Olive feels that B. 'Exotica' is well

worth growing. The bright pink blotches on the leaves look truly exotic among all the greens and browns of the other begonias. It has pink flowers. There will be more to report later by other growers on the growing of this begonia.

Alice Nierenberg of Florida writes that she is sure the chromosome number has a lot to do with fertility of a cross. She thinks it would be a good idea for all serious hybridizers to put the chromosome number, when known, on the label with the plant's name. This way, plants having the same chromosome count can be used for crossing. She feels sure there will be many more crosses possible in one's dream which would be impossible in reality, like crossing a canary with a cat to get a singing cat.

As for the problem of sterility on begonias, Alice writes, many times it is caused by a mechanical problem as well as or instead of a genetic problem. For example, when crossing two species which have a variance in the size of the flowers, you should always use the smaller-flowered plant as the seed parent, because the pollen of the small-flowered variety grows only a certain length and if it is placed on the stigma of the large-flowered variety, few, if any, ovules will be fertilized by the pollen. The pollen tubes grown by the pollen will be too short to reach any but perhaps the ovules close to the stigma. Sometimes the pollen tube won't be able to reach any of the ovules, resulting in no seed. She knows it is a temptation to use the larger flowers as the seed bearer but, in all likelihood, it will not work.

Gesneriad Flight: Joanne Yung-hans of Kansas uses a size 14 crochet

hook to remove extra crown on her miniature sinningias, also to remove any dead or decaying leaves. Instead of using her fingers to press the soil around a newly potted plant, she uses the handle of a common dinner teaspoon. If any good leaves are broken off when she is handling these tiny plants, she puts them in rooting medium and they grow new plants.

Ted Debski of Illinois plants his small plants of gesneriads into small peat pots, then sets the peat pots inside larger plastic containers filled with wet unmilled sphagnum moss. In this way the roots receive air and the plants have plenty of humidity.

If you would like to join a flight, tell a little about how you grow begonias and your choice of flights. International flights are being formed. Send your request to:

Anita Sickmon
Round Robin Director
Route 2, Box 99
Cheney, Kansas 67025

BOAT . . .

(Continued from page 255)

thinking about the 1972 convention for over a year. I agree that with their enthusiasm for this it is a great idea.

So, what about having the 1973 convention in St. Louis and making it a "member-at-large" convention. Checking the roster of members, I see names like: Mrs. D. W. Eades, Mrs. Mary Fohl, and Mrs. Clarence Milburn, who reside in Missouri. We're not asking you to do all the work. We're asking you to stand up and be counted among the workers of the A.B.S. and be a local co-ordi-

nating group to assist in the organization of this convention and show.

The St. Louis Botanical Garden has indicated its desire to provide the facilities. Many members of the National Board state that they will attend.

The St. Louis area is only one idea. What about some place in Texas, where we have so many enthusiastic members? Or, if we can't make the center of the country, is San Francisco willing to stand up and be counted as an active Branch, willing and eager to be host to the National convention.

Who among you members-at-large are willing to help? I've heard complaints that in order to be heard within the A.B.S. you must be a member of a Southern California Branch or of a better known Branch.

Under the progressive direction of President Margaret Taylor, the American Begonia Society will become a truly national organization. We have many members-at-large. Here is one way to have a voice and a good time combined. Let's see what will happen in 1973!

Gene Daniels, Skipper
P.O. Box 83
Camarillo, Calif. 93010



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REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held at the Pioneer High School in Whittier, California, on September 4, 1971. The meeting opened at 2:20 p.m. with Mrs Pearl Benell, president, presiding.

There were fifty members present, including fifteen officers and sixteen Branch representatives.

Walter Barnett, treasurer, reported that the balance on hand August 7, 1970, was \$113.84. Total receipts for the year were \$12,547.24; total disbursements were \$11,873.64; leaving a balance of \$787.44 on hand as of August 18, 1971.

Miss Anne Rose, advertising manager, reported receipts of \$941.85 for the year.

Cliff Ebeling, membership secretary, reported 704 new members and 1492 renewals. Total members on August 7, 1970, were 2,151; total members on August 18, 1971, were 2,196. Total funds received during the year were \$9,253.52.

Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass, awards chairman, reported as follows: Revision was made in the number of Cultural Award Certificates to conform to the present schedule of classification. The number of points necessary for eligibility for the Cultural Award was changed from 85 to 90 points. A small booklet was compiled setting forth the rules concerning the Eva Kenworthy Gray, Herbert P. Dyckman, Alfred D. Robinson, and Cultural Awards. These booklets were sent to every Branch secretary as well as other officers of the Society. All these changes were made with the approval of the Board.

Mrs. Snodgrass reported that no awards were made this year because there was not a majority of votes for any one nominee.

The report of Mrs. Mabel Anderson, editor, was read. She expressed appreciation for the excellent support given to her by Mrs. Elda Haring, Professor Fred A. Barkley, Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes, Mrs. Thelma O'Reilly, and all others who shared their love and knowledge of begonias by sending her their contributions for *The Begonian*.

Mrs. Ruth Pease, judging course director, reported that twenty-seven members registered for the combination 1965 and 1971 course; eighteen registered for the brush-up course, and thirty-three registered for the class sessions. In her opinion, there is a need for further training of judges. Another class has been requested, but before this can be done it will be necessary to consolidate the 1965 and 1971 information into one course.

Mrs. Lydia Austin, librarian, reported sales of \$1,152.82 for the year.

Mrs. Margaret Lee, parliamentarian, reported that she had attended all but one meeting during the year and had rendered decisions when called upon.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, nomenclature director, reported that twenty-two new begonias had been registered during the year and we are now up to number 282. He suggested that a complete list be made when we reach 300. The Board has approved the publication of two books, species and cultivars, and he is working on the species book and trying to determine what will be in the books. He has sent questionnaires to many people asking what information they find interesting and most useful. The A.B.S. is trying to maintain its status in the horticultural world and, consequently, great effort is being made to make these books authentic.

The report of *The Begonia Boat* skipper, Gene Daniels, was read. *The Begonia Boat* was published six times since the last convention and had a circulation of 175 copies. The skipper has decided to "dock" the boat because he feels it has served its purpose.

In his report as show committee chairman, Everet Wright expressed his appreciation to his co-chairman, Gene Daniels; judges chairman, Ruth Pease; registration chairman, Cecilia Grivich; and all others who had worked so hard to make this a good show.

Mrs. Martha Rader, public relations director, reported that a new Branch, the Monterey Bay Area Branch, was organized and their charter issued in May, 1971.

The auditing committee reported that the treasurer's books were in good order.

Irene Granell, slide librarian, reported that ten programs had been sent out in the past year.

The ballot counting committee reported the following officers elected: John Provine, president-elect; Walter Barnett, treasurer; Irene Grannell, secretary; Charles Richardson, vice-president one year; and Jack Golding, vice-president three years.

Irene Granell, vice-president of the Glendale Branch, extended an invitation to the Board to have next year's convention and show in Glendale. The invitation was accepted by vote of the Board.

Irene Granell
Secretary

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REPORT OF MONTHLY MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held in South Gate Auditorium on September 27, 1971, with Mrs. Margaret Taylor, president, presiding.

Thirteen officers and eleven Branch representatives answered roll call.

Walter Barnett, treasurer, reported a balance on hand August 18, 1971, of \$787.44; receipts \$1,624.95; disbursements \$1,168.96; balance on hand September 18 \$1,243.43.

Cliff Ebeling, membership secretary, reported 138 new members and 137 renewals for the month, making a total of 2,300 members in good standing. Funds received and deposited were \$1,111.91. As a result of Mr. Ebeling's excellent work at the show in Whittier, 37 new members were obtained.

Miss Anne Rose, advertising manager, reported receipts of \$81.96.

Mrs. Mabel Anderson, editor, reported having received a request from Dr. Fred Barkley for reprints of his articles in the August and September issues of *The Begonian*, "A Glossary of Terms for the Begonist" and "Glossary of Terms for the Begonianist: Plant Anatomy." As the original printing was made on offset lithographed plates already on file at the Double H Press, the editor requested permission to have the reprints made under her control. This request was approved.

Mrs. Anderson also stated that all material assigned to her had been turned over to the new editor, Mr. Trumond Peterson.

Mrs. Ruth Pease, judging course director, reported a net profit of \$464.07 on judges' courses, classification guides, and point scoring books printed and sold since 1965.

Several things were observed during the judging at the show that need to be corrected and many inconsistencies were found in the trophy sheets. At Mrs. Pease's suggestion, a committee was appointed to review the rules, show schedule, awards, and manner in which trophies are to be awarded. Results will be published in *The Begonian* for all to read and understand. The committee appointed by Mrs. Taylor consist of Ruth Pease, Walter Pease, Jean Kerlin, Cecelia Grivich, and Alan Foster, with herself as ex-officio member.

Mrs. Lydia Austin, librarian, reported that she sold \$156.15 worth of literature at the show, sent a check for \$300.00 to the treasurer, and has a balance of \$81.06 in the bank.

Gene Daniels, *Begonia Boat* skipper, reported that the "Boat" will be continued

within *The Begonian* on an occasional basis. Money paid by subscribers will be refunded if desired.

Mrs. Irene Grannell, slide librarian, reported receipts of \$7.80.

President Margaret Taylor presented the names of the appointed officers for the coming year. The Board voted to approve the list.

Gene Daniels was appointed by the president to be chairman of the Ideas Committee, with Burnell Yarick and Jim Lien as members, with others to be appointed by Mr. Daniels. He stated that he plans to run the committee on a round robin basis and use the "*Begonia Boat*" as a sounding board, with any changes subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, nomenclature director, reported that he plans to visit the Horticultural Society and do some research for the A.B.S. species catalog on his way to attending the Eastern Convention.

He also reported the deaths of Mrs. Irmischer, Mrs. Logee, and Ernest Martin.

The Round Robin report for August was read. Seven flights came through, nine requests were received and answered, and thirty-two letters and seven cards were written.

A letter from E. A. McWhorter, president of the South Carolina Branch, announced their intention to disband because of a lack of interested members. It was voted to accept their decision with regrets.

Trumond Peterson, the new editor, asked the Board to make the decision about a printer for *The Begonian*. It was decided to change to the Kandid Litho Co.

James Somes extended an invitation from the Westchester Branch to hold a Regional Board meeting at the Westchester Women's Club on Sunday, November 21. The invitation was accepted.

Irene Grannell
Secretary

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CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month
Mrs. Priscella Beck, Secy.
R D No. 1, Box 121,
Mystic, Conn. 06355

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
Grace Fisher, Secy.
770 Monroe Ave. N.E., Renton, Wash. 98055

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.
Mr. Robert I. Wilson, Secy.
1646 Charlinda St., West Covina, Calif. 91790

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, Secy.
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, Secy.
5926 Jackwood, Houston, Texas 77036

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of N.Y.
128 West 58th St., New York
Mrs. Philip Sarna, Secy.
37 East 30th Street, New York 10016

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Great Western Savings and Loan Bldg.
6300 East Spring St., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Paul E. Powell, Secy.
3031 Shakespear Dr., Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720

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, Hialeah, Florida 33012

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m., Members' Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Lynne K. Wood, Secy.
626 W. Charles, Independence, Missouri 64055

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.
Frederick Bell, Jr., Secy.
P.O. Box 527, Pebble Beach, Calif. 93953

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
525 Ocean Blvd., Long Beach
Barbara Welty, Secy.
4741 Hazelbrook
Long Beach, Calif. 90808

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Club, Walnut St. and Garden Grove Blvd.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. R. L. Nevins, Secy.
1913 Aspen Circle, Fullerton, Calif. 92631

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
Miss Marcella Flynn, Secy.
7 Fairfield Ave., East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

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. Annette M. Winston, Secy.
2519 Aramon Drive, Rancho Cordova, Calif. 95670

SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

4th Monday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Jesse Harper, Secy.
Route 3, Salina, Kansas 67401

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.
Marie McCooey, Secy.
3043 Center Ave., Arcadia, Calif. 91006

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. 93001

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

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

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

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424 Oregon St., El Segundo, Calif. 90245

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125 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

WHITTIER BRANCH

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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

CALENDAR

November 4 — Whittier Branch, 7:30 p.m. Irene Grannell, A.B.S. slide librarian, will show slides and discuss the begonia show.

November 11 — Redondo Area Branch, 7:30 p.m. Note change of date. Installation of officers. No meeting in December.

November 16 — Seattle Branch, 7:00 p.m. Note change of meeting place — Calvary Lutheran Church, 7002 23rd N.W., Seattle. Program on Decorative Arrangements.

November 21 — Regional meeting of A.B.S. Board of Directors at Westchester Women's Club, 8020 Alverstone Street, Los Angeles.

December 2 — Westchester Branch, 7:30 p.m. Christmas party and gift exchange. Bring "His" or "Her" wrapped \$1.00 gift. Special, something new, something old in colored slides. Interesting, different.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

All material for publication — articles, notices, photographs — should be sent to the Editor, preferably five weeks before date of publication. Deadline is the first of the month preceding month of publication.

Advertising copy and inquiries should be sent to the Advertising Manager.

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