# The Begonnan

NOVEMBER, 1972

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

VOL. 39, NO. 11



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### **BEGONIAN STAFF**

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- Co-Editor.....Mrs. Alva G. Graham 929 Indiana Ave., So. Pasadena 91030
- Contributing Editors......Mrs. Elda Haring, Mrs. Helen Matsubu, Mrs. Hertha Benjamin, Mrs. Phyllis Wright
- Advertising Manager......Miss Anne L. Rose 14036 E. Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif. 90605
- Circulation Manager.....Mrs. Pearl Benell 10331 S. Colima Road, Whittier, Calif. 90604

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The Begonian

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

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# ADVERTISERS' CATALOGS By Wally Wagner

In the 1940's there were 21 advertisers of Begonias in The Begonian. Nearly all these were nurseries where you could walk in and select Begonias in person. To the consternation of the majority of ABS members, 18 of these nurseries were in California, 17 in Southern California, and 11 of the 21 were in the Los Angeles area.

Today there are 10 advertisers in The Begonian but the most important difference is the change in the character of the advertisers. First, they are spread throughout the country. There is not one advertiser in the Los Angeles area! Secondly, most advertisers major in the mail-order business rather than the walk-in trade.

Since the mail order business has become such an important source of

Begonias the members of the American Begonia Society should be made aware of the tremendous variety of Begonias available through this source.

The following is a review of the catalogs and price lists of our advertisers. I wish to thank them for their kind cooperation and to urge you to patronize them. To quote a 1951 Begonian article "If you don't 'Buy-Buy" Begonias more growers are going to say "Bye-Bye' Begonias."

Even if I were not going to purchase plants from Logee's in Connecticut I would gladly pay the 50¢ for their catalog. The descriptions are excellent and the illustrations are many and well photographed. The quantity and quality of varieties offered is also excellent. New this year are some exotic species such as Begonia ficicola, paulensis, handelli, and goegoensis, all with "exotic" prices reflecting their rareness. Incidentally I do purchase plants from Logees as well as our other advertisers. I was impressed with Logee's shipping box design. The plants come cross-country in excellent shape.

Kartuz Greenhouses, Massachusetts, in addition to an excellent selection of gesneriads, saintpaulias, and geraniums has a large Begonia list. New Kartuz hybrids include the outstanding Dresden Gold and (Continued on Page 254)

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;

- 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 MONOPHYLLA PAVON

By Fred A. Barkley and Kalil S. Boghdan Botanical Research Station, Greenhouses and Herbaria Department of Biology Northeastern University Boston and Woburn, Massachusetts

Most persons who are unfortunate (or fortunate ) enough to acquire a strong liking for a particular type of plant, find that a few particular species attract ones interest, and are more intriguing and interesting, than other species. While the writers have yet to find a Begonia that is uninteresting, there are a half dozen species that have intrigued them from the first (surprisingly various and differing for each writer). Outstanding among these and at the top of the list for both writers is Begonia monophylla Pavon of Mexico. To successfully obtain living material for study has necessitated five trips to Mexico.

The plant was originally named by Pavon and published by Alphonse de Candolle in 1859. The same species was published again in 1904 with the idea that the specimen described was a different species. This was the synonymous *Begonia unifolia* Rose *in* Trelese. There is considerable variation between specimens of the species, especially from different locations.

The color of the leaves varies from a light green with glabrate surface to a dark green with long lavender pilosity.

The leaves vary among mature flowering plants from four inches to twenty inches wide. Under varying conditions of light there may be only one leaf and the inflorescence, or there may be three to five leaves and the inflorscence. Where there are

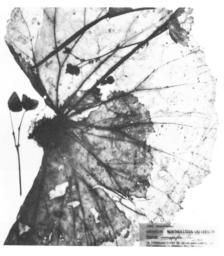


Plate I

several leaves these vary from normal appearing leaves to miniature leaf-like bracts.

The plants usually grow in white limestone rocks, often in cracks on vertical faces of such rocks, and with the leaf hugging the rocky face. The result is much flattened and misshaped tubers, but where grown in loam the tubers tend to be flattened and angular.

In cultivation, the plants seemingly grow better when the soil surface in the flower pot is left at a decidedly slanting angle. So far the writers have been unable to get the tubers (and some of them were quite large) to produce a single leaf more than five inches in diameter.

Begonia monophylla Pavon growing in soil among limestone along roadside between Taxco and Toluca, Mexico, in July. Plate I. Herbarium specimen of *Begonia monophylla* Pavon in A. DC., from the Fred A. Barkley Herbarium. The specimen was collected 28 July 1966 on a limestone cliff 25 miles north of Chilpancingo, Mexico by *Fred A. Barkley & David Carr* 36133. The herbarium sheet on which the specimen is mounted is 16.5 inches long. Note the two

bracts which are leaf-like. The stem between the leaf and the tuber is very short in this specimen.

Plate II. Greenhouse grown *Begonia monophylla* Pavon. Figures A and C. were grown in strong artificial light for twenty hour days, while Figures B and D are of plants grown in greenhouse at usual day length.

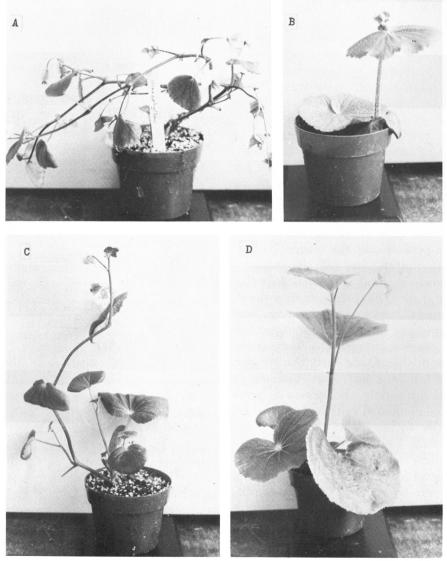


Plate II

# REPORT

By Dr. Harriet B. Creighton

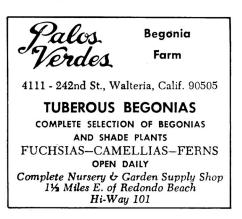
Report to interested ABS members:

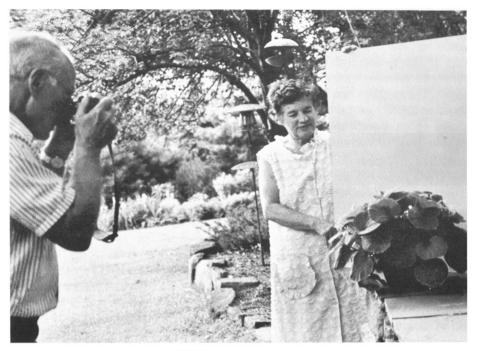
Work continues on trying to control the induction of adventitious growths on leaves, stems and inflorescences of Begonia 'Phyllomaniaca'. This hybrid and its cultivar with variegated leaves, 'Templinii,' only produces outgrowths when it is regenerating its root system after severe damage. As you know, when roots are broken off, new secondary roots form back from the break. These new root tips are centers of production of the growth hormones auxin, gibberellin, cytokinin and maybe others. Not only do these substances influence the growth of the roots but they move up from the stem to the stem tips and the leaves. One visible effect of them occurs in the epidermal cells of young leaves, both the petioles and the blades, but not the stipules, and of the adjacent stems. The leaf epidermal cells that are at the critical stage in their development respond by dividing, and continuing to divide, forming in due course two stipules, the first part of a normal leaf, and then, many times, the rest of a leaf, that is the blade and the petiole. For leaves to grow from epidermal cells on leaves or on stems of an intact plant is most unusual. Leaves ordinarily form only at stem tips and then from the division of cells that are two or three layers underneath the epidermis. Normal leaves develop a conducting system of veins that become attached to the conducting system of the stem. The adventitious leaves develop a conducting system but none of the stipule veins nor those of the blade and petiole ever connect with the conducting system of the parent plant.

What I am trying to do is to apply auxin, or gibberellin or cytokinin or different combinations of these growth hormones to young leaves at their responsive stage to find out just what comes up to them from the new root tips that form after damaging the old root system. So far I do not have consistent results. A few times gibberellin alone seems to induce outgrowths. Rarely auxin alone seems to. I have not stumbled onto an effective combination of the two, but I am still trying. We would all like to know more about the factors that induce cells that would normally not divide to divide. What is learned from the epidermal cells of B. 'Phyllomaniaca's leaves and stems may give insight into the control of cell division in other plants and perhaps even in animals.

(Re-print from the March, 1972 Knickie News)

*Editorial note.* A complete report: "EPIDERMAL OUTGROWTH IN BEGONIA" by Dr. Harriet B. Creighton will appear in January, 1973 Begonian.





ELDA HARING (Awarded the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, September, 1972) By Hertha A. Benjamin Contributing Editor

Elda and Walter Haring live on four acres in the back country of Greenwich, Conn., where they maintain extensive flower borders with no outside help. Gardening has been an all consuming hobby for both of them since 1939. Elda is a member of the Garden Writers Association of America and of several plant societies. She has published two books, "The Complete Book of Growing Plants from Seed" and "Color for Your Yard and Garden", and writes for the garden pages of the New York Times and several garden magazines. Walter, who has recently retired as Vice-President of a large realty and construction company in New York City, is an amateur photographer and takes photos to illustrate Elda's books and articles. A visit to the Logee Greenhouses and the purchase of a small box of Rex Begonias began their intense interest in begonias, which they grow in a 16 x 13 greenhouse, under fluorescent light in the cellar and in the living room windows.

Elda's articles illustrated with Walter's photos have appeared in the Begonian since 1964, when Ruth Merry, who was then Northeastern Editor for the Begonian, suggested that Elda do some work for the Begonian. Elda has been a member of the Buxton Branch for seven years and Walter's membership in the American Begonia Society began in 1961.

# ROUND ROBIN NOTES

The Round Robin program continues to be a vital part of the American Begonia Society, fulfilling the aims and purposes of our organization. Today the emphasis of the world is on communication and the round robin flights are a most enjoyable way to communicate!

Although Anita Sickmon is retiring from her post as Round Robin Director, she has agreed to assist me as one of my co-directors for which I am most grateful. She has done a tremendous job of helping this department grow, with about 62 flights at present.

I am pleased to have five co-directors helping me: Mrs. Mabel Anderson of Covina, California; Mrs. Margaret Benz of Pueblo, Colorado; <u>Mrs. Dora Lee Dorsey</u> of Tampa, Florida; Mrs. Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas; Mrs. Rosetta White of Abilene, Kansas. We are all looking forward to communication with new friends as well as old friends as we share our ideas, successes and failures in the growing of Begonias and companion plants.

If YOU do not belong to a robin, why not start out the new Begonia year by joining one? It's a great way to learn more about Begonias, and the friends you meet will make it so much fun!

What is the advantage of belonging to a round robin? For a newcomer the rewards are obvious. A simple question concerning Begonia culture can bring seven different answers (in a full robin of eight members) or one answer agreed to by all. For the experienced grower, a simple question can open up avenues of research with new ideas to be explored. All around the world robin members become staunch friends, comparing their experiences, sharing cuttings and seeds, visiting each other on occasion, enjoying their mutual Begonia hobby (even tho it might also be one's profession, too.)

To join a robin is easy. Send a note to the Round Robin Director, telling what you like best about growing Begonias, which are your favorite types, how you grow them (windowsill, under lights, greenhouse, in terrariums, etc.). There are flights for other shade-loving plants, too, such as ferns and gesneriads. Whatever type of Begonia you prefer and whatever method you use to grow them, you will find a flight just right for you.

After you have been assigned to a robin flight and the packet of letters arrive, write a letter telling a bit about yourself and your growing conditions. Add this letter to the others and mail as soon as possible to the next one on the list (a green flight sheet listing all the members of that flight accompanies the letters). Prompt answers from all members insures a more speedy journey with fresh and lively news. Write a card to the flight chairman, giving flight name and number, to whom sent, the date sent and your name. Mail this card when you mail the robin. The chairman is then able to keep track of the progress of the flight and knows who to contact if the flight is lost on its rounds. The director or a co-director is in each flight and is responsible for taking notes of interest for the Round Robin Notes in the BEGONIAN and revising the flight list when necessary.

In some of the flights there has been much discussion of various forms of lime and it's effect on Begonias. In one flight, Beth Sackman of California sent a recipe (and included a sample) for preparing a powder of eggshells for use as lime in soil mix. Wash egg shells to forestall odors and collect until you have enough to make the powder. Crush as much as possible, put in blender and powder. Recommended strength of application: 1 level tablespoon per gallon of mix. She says you can also use milk of lime: 2 parts lime to one part of water mixed in a blender and used sparingly as a liquid food. She warned using lime will not cause a great flash of growth, but in the end it will give such sturdy plants you will want to continue using it.

Beth also recommends adding one tablespoon wood ashes to a gallon of soil mix. She sieves ashes before using and keeps them dry so they will mix thoroughly without lumps. She says they add to the health of the plant and give strong stems and nice upright plants.

Joanne Yunghans of Kansas reported germination of two crosses she has made: B. crispula X B. versicolor and B. crispula X B. nurii. They were still too small to note any differences yet.

Some time ago Yvonne Wells of Texas discovered a mutation on her B. *metachroa* that had spotted leaves unlike those on the rest of the plant. She put two of the leaves to root to see if they would produce plants with spotted leaves, which they did.

Anita Sickmon of Kansas put some small B. *martiana* bulbils in a seed pan in wet growing mix, enclosed it in a plastic bag, set it in

her south kitchen window for four or five days where the hot sun could hit it. They came from dormancy right away. It seems to her that heat is needed to bring bulbils or very small tubers from dormancy while larger tubers will recover from dormancy at normal, early-summer greenhouse conditions.

To join a robin, write:

Mae Blanton Round Robin Director Rt. 4, Box 159A Lewisville, Texas 75067

### **IN MEMORIAM**

John R. Williams of the Sacramento Branch passed away September 6. He was the donor of the Challenge Cup for Best Rhizomatous Begonia in the annual ABS show. leaves his wife, Ruthanne, He founder of the Sacramento Branch. and former national vice-president. They are both known for their charm and their dedicated interest in the aims and purposes of our society, and he will be greatly missed by the many members here and in Sacramento, who express their deepest sympathy to Ruthanne.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Mrs. Dorothy Sandstrom Shippam, an early and very active member of the Pasadena Branch of ABS, died in September after a brief illness at her home in Newport Beach. Before they moved to the beach Dorothy and her late husband were also assistants in the Orchid houses at the Arboretum in Arcadia.



# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SWEEPSTAKES TROPHIES?

By Cecelia Grivich Show Chairman

While preparing the listing of the 40th Annual Show Awards, the first list prepared was the Sweepstakes Trophies winners. This was the easiest list to prepare—3 trophies and 3 winners. This list was placed to one side while work began on the Divisional trophies and awards.

That is where the list remained to one side where I had placed it until the calls began coming in. They all had just one question: "What happened to the Sweepstakes Trophies?" I apologize for the unintentional oversight, and list them now.

A.B.S. Perpetual Award for Best Begonia in Show

Won by Glenda and Jim Elin. Dr. Edgar Irmscher Memorial Challenge Award for Best Entry in the Show

Won by the Westchester Branch

President's Sweepstakes Trophy Won by Goldie and Doug Frost



'Madame Queen' American Begonia Society Perpetual Award Best Begonia in Show



John Ekstrand and Best New Begonia Introduction: B. 'Elda'



Photo by Walter Haring

# BEGONIA "TINGLEY MALLET"

By Elda Haring

B. 'Tingley Mallet', a synonym of 'Mme. Lionnet', is a hybrid begonia obtained by crossing Rex 'Eldorado' with B. *subpeltata* the latter being a native of India. The American Begonia Society has classified this begonia under cane-like Mallet type. A beautiful plant, the leaves often measure four to eight inches and are maroon red overlaid with a silvery sheen. Leaf stems are red. The blossoms are large and of a delicate rose shade and the blooms appear nearly all year.

Here in southern Connecticut, B. 'Tingley Mallet' grows vigorously during the summer months. It can take an hour or two of early morning sun in summer and is not damaged by east or west sun in our dark winter months. In my greenhouse it is shielded at all times by a light muslin canopy to protect it from noonday sun and from cold air dropping from the glass at night.

Until this summer I considered this charming begonia to be one of those completely trouble free. In June when we had a protracted spell of chilly days with rain or drizzle, my lovely plant started to mildew and by the time this condition was noticed all the leaves bore the tell tale fuzzy gray spots. There is a relatively new product on the market, Benlate, that has been successfully used for combating mildew and fungus diseases on begonias. Mixing up according to directions I sprayed my plant and to my utter consternation a few hours later every leaf dropped from the stems. I am happy to report, however, that as of this writing new leaves are appearing and the plant seems to be healthy. Now that I know that this begonia is susceptible to mildew under adverse weather conditions, it will be sprayed before the trouble starts with Karathane (Continued on Page 250)

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

### No. 1-B. seychellensis, Hemsley.

Bushy, succulent, sometimes reaching a height of three or four feet. It is glabrous (smooth, not hairy) and has thick, branching stems. The leaf is long petioled and is unequally roundish-elliptic, occasionally as wide as eleven inches or more. The leaf axil, are round or three-forked, at the base and otherwise is fewlobed, with wide, shallow lobes and finely toothed margins. It is green on both sides or sometimes red underneath.

The flower stalks rise from the leaf axil, is round or three-forked, shorter than the leaves, and usually peduncles are three-flowered. Flowers are white, not numerous, with two sepals, which are circular heartshaped or oval heart-shaped.

B. seychellensis is endemic to the Seychelles (A British group of islands in the Indian Ocean east of Tanganyika, Africa) and has a seed capsule that is unusual in that it splits open in the middle rather than lengthwise. The native habitat is cool, moist mountains. Price \$1.00 per pkt. See photo.

### No. 2—B. hispidavillosa Zies. Mexico.

Round, hairy leaves divided into pie-shaped wedges by sunken veins which meet and form a bright eye at the stem end. Flowers, pink. This Begonia is happiest in a moss-lined container. See photo. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—B. luxurians, Brazil.

Leaf like a small-scale palm, fuzzy and limp. Inflorescences are not large and colorful; the beauty of the foliage more than compensates for the modesty of the blooms. Price \$1.00 per pkt.



### No. 4-B. decora. 'Elegant'.

Coveted species with sweet-scented flowers, and plushy brown-green leaves sharply etched with light veins. Grows in terrariums. Seed scarce. See photo—Price \$1.00 per pkt.

### No. 5—B. cathcarti. India.

Large, thick, cordate leaves, bristly hairs on stem when grown cool. Flowers, described as large, white. Plant needs humidity. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

### No. 6-B. 'popenoei'.

Plant that bore seed came from Munich, Germany under name given here, which is erroneous, although it belongs to the same group as the true B. popenoei. Bright green leaves, white flowers. Grows in wet tropical forests; likes to rest in winter. Price 50 cents per pkt.

# No. 7—B. fuchsioides—Colombia; Mexico.

Described by grower as a very nice form with orange-red flowers. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

# No. 8-B. 'lindleyana'.

Plant came from the collection of Dr. Irmscher. The name is wrong, however although this species is no doubt related to the true B. lindleyana. It is rhizomatous with beautiful pink flowers. Price \$1.00 per pkt. No. 9-B. Wollnyi Herzog. Species from Bolivia.

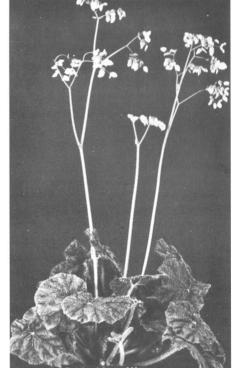
Seed collected from a plant from the Dr. Irmscher collection. Handsome Begonia with palmately lobed leaves. Elegantly spotted with white. Flowers greenish—white with pink petals appearing in winter. Price \$1.00 per pkt.



### No. 10-B. sc 'Scarletta'.

Bright scarlet-red. Best for vivid color and uniform, dwarf compact habit. Many blooms over a long period. Price 50 cents per pkt.

An excellent mixture of soft shades of rose, red, pink and white. Predominately green foliage. About



B. hispida - villosa

twenty per cent of plants are bronze foliage, further enhancing this mixture. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Send requests for seed to; Mrs. Florence Gee Seed Fund Administrator 234 Birch Street Roseville, California 95678

Please contribute Slides of Begonias to the A.B.S. Slide Library.

	EGONIAN	
	Once	Monthly
Full Page	. \$30.00	\$25.00
Half Page	. 18.50	15.00
Quarter Page	. 10.00	8.50
Per Inch	. 3.00	2.50
		Maria ang

### BEGONIA 'TINGLEY MALLET'

(Continued from Page 247) which has never had deleterious effects on any of my begonias. I have been told by others that Benlate sometimes causes blossoms and buds to drop. Therefore, my readers would do well to use this new product with great caution.

Usually cuttings are taken from B. 'Tingley Mallet' in the autumn when my plant must be cut back, for it usually grows rapidly during the winter months. These cuttings root quite readily at that time of year. Although I have heard it said that leaf cuttings will root I have never succeeded in propagating B. 'Tingley Mallet' in this manner. Tip cuttings taken in summer and placed in a propagation box will root readily. The rooting medium should be barely moist and have a fluffy texture. Condensation on the interior of the box will supply sufficient additional moisture for rooting. It has been my experience that this begonia will rot if the medium in the box is saturated with moisture before inserting cuttings.

Under the growing conditions I can give it, the potting mix for 'Tingley Mallet' needs to be kept moist at all times. It is my practice to touch the leaves to see that they are crisp. If they seem to be at all soft I make sure it is watered sufficiently to soak the root ball. One way to test whether the plant is getting enough water, is to lower the pot in a container of water so that water will flow over the top of the pot. If bubbles appear you can be sure the rootball has been allowed to become too dry. Let it remain until bubbles no longer appear and

250

then drain. Should the plant be overwatered at some time it will lose some of its leaves and stems. If this has been your problem, cut the top back by about one-third, remove from pot; rub off half the bottom of the rootball and replace in a lightly moist potting mix. New roots will grow in the drier fresh mix and your plant will soon be showing new growth and producing flowers as before. During the summer when it is growing rapidly, I feed B. 'Tingley Mallet' with a water soluble fertilizer. During the winter months it is kept sufficiently moist but no plant food is given. A good rule of thumb is to feed while it is in active growth and if no new leaves are showing, withhold fertilizer.



The Begonian

# JUDGES COURSE

### By Ruth Pease

There are many ways to enjoy our Begonias. To some, research of species is all-important; to others, hybridizing; and there are those who find great satisfaction in growing and showing their Begonias.

These individuals then become exhibitors at various types of flower and plant shows. They strive to grow their Begonias according to the cultural needs of each, to keep them groomed and attractive at all times. These avid growers as well as those researching and hybridizing continually seek any and all information about Begonias. Some find the ABS Judges Course is another source of reference material, and we welcome them to take the course, just as we welcome those who are interested in learning how to judge Begonias, how to classify them for show purposes and how to point-score them at shows.

The course we have taught for the past two years in class sessions in the Los Angeles area has also been studied by a group in the Seattle area and is currently being studied by a group of members in the Knickerbocker Branch.

The demand for the course, the Classification Guide, and the Point Scoring Book has exceeded the supply and recently the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society authorized the reprinting of these publications. The course is available once again as a correspondence course to all interested. It is actually a 12-month course and includes homework quiz sheets after each lesson. As each lesson is completed, the homework is to be forwarded to the

Director, ABS Judges Course. If there are answers that are not correct or questions asked when the homework is forwarded, the correct answers and information are sent to the individual. Completion of the homework and the course itself will be enough for the individual to earn his Sophomore Judges card; however, all homework is reviewed carefully. Judges cards are not issued haphazardly. We need knowledgeable judges to judge our Begonias.

The course is voluminous and lectures on judging Ferns, Fuchsias, Gesneriads and African Violets are included. Cost is \$6.00.

In answer to inquiries about a husband and wife using the same course to become judges, we feel this will be up to the individuals. However, we require homework from each, and not homework completed through a combined effort. Only in this way can we issue cards to each. As a rule a husband and his wife are not placed on the same judging team. Therefore, we need to know what each has learned about judging Begonias, what each actually knows about growing them, and how to classify and point score Begonias.

The Classification Guide is available for \$1.50 and the Point Scoring Book for \$1.25. These are often ordered at the same time as the ABS Judges Course. All checks should be made payable to the American Begonia Society and forwarded with orders to Mrs. Ruth Pease, Director, ABS Judges Course, 8101 Vicksburg Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90045.

A new list of accredited judges is being prepared at this time. Judges, other than Senior Judges, should write to me for new applications in order to bring their files up to date. You may have enough points to receive a Junior or Senior Judges Card. It is hoped that a list of our accredited judges can be published in a future issue of the Begonian.

The Begonia Shows Question and Answer column will be resumed in a future issue. We welcome your questions.

This past year requests have been received for our ABS Judges Course, the Guide, and the Point Scoring Book from members of Federated Garden Clubs issuing their own show handbooks; from Professor James Smith, Floriculture Department, University of Missouri, who will be using the information to instruct his students; from a member in Australia who is on the committee of the Royal Horticulture Society of Victoria. This group was interested in our method of conducting a correspondence course in judging. The interest is wide-spread. We hope many of you will take advantage of the course this year.

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# **RESEARCH REPORT**

After five years of being Research Director, I have formed several conclusions that are imperative if the Research Department is to continue in its capacity of aiding and encouraging people in research. First, there must be a continuous research fund on hand to use when important research projects are presented. We can not wait and see what the results are going to be on any present project that is being conducted. It may take several years before any results are reached and in the meantime, if any other worthy project is presented it has to be turned down since there are no funds available. It must be remembered that in research the results may be negative and if so it does not mean that our efforts have been in vain. It is the case of searching with no absolute guarantee of finding what we may be looking for. Most other Societies that have a research department always have a working fund on hand even though they are supporting a present project.

I do not think that it is in the best interest of the Society for individual Branches to make direct grants for research. I think that all research except what may be conducted within one's own Branch, should be left to the Research Department to administer in the way that the Director and his committee deem best. If you want a Research Department to continue to function properly, you will have to leave any major researching to that Department. Otherwise, why have a Research Department? Any ideas or suggestions are welcome, but the final decision of selecting projects and making grants should be left to the Research Department.

I would like to give a report concerning the activities of the members of this department. This has been a year both of disappointments and encouragements. The first leads to a better appreciation of the latter. The year started with the resignation of two of our very active committee members: Thelma O'Reilly and Jane Neal, and also the death of our southern representative, Elaine Wilkerson. Our repreesntative in England was replaced by M. L. MacIntyre who has been very active. He has been supplying Kew of England with many begonia species. Elaine Wilkerson's southern territory has been taken over by Mae Blanton. She has been more than busy in moving herself and plants to a new location. Now that she has been relocated, we should look forward to many new contacts with Universities in the south.

I did not replace the California committee member as I had decided not to make any new appointments unless I had a definite project for him or her to do in that particular The Herbarium project area. which Thelma so capably handled went begging for someone to take over. Since the herbarium specimens were being prepared for Dr. Schubert of the Arnold Arboretum, I think that an A.B.S. member on the east coast would be more appropriate. My efforts to locate someone to accept the herbarium project failed. Perhaps I will have better luck next year.

This year's research committee has consisted of four members. The other two that I have not mentioned are Carrie Karegeannes and Grant McGregor. They have been with me since I first began as research director. They have both contributed much to the Department.

Another disappointment this year was the Herb Warrick Question and Answer project. This would have been of help to many members that are not so enlightened in the begonia field. Those that knew the answers should have participated. The purpose of the Society is "To stimulate and promote interest in Begonias." With the large circulation of The Begonian that we have, what better way to contact and help the inexperienced grower to understand many of the fundamental problems involved in growing plants? I received two replies to the Question and Answer project and both of them came from members that do not belong to any Branch. I stopped placing any more questions in The Begonian as there did not seem to be enough interest in the project to continue.

And then there is the Research Fund out which I have written about and will not go into any further detail concerning it. Evidently, many of the Branches are still skeptical as to the outcome of the \$600.00 grant.

All of these disappointments have been overshadowed by the realization of the research project being conducted by Rutgers University from the Research Fund. After working two years trying to find a University that would conduct the type of research that I thought would be of benefit to the A.B.S. members, I finally had requests from two Universities; Rutgers and Cornell, for a grant to work on similar projects, but with a different approach to the problem. Both however, were worthy of support. After making the grant of \$600.00 to Rutgers, a balance of

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\$122.50 was left in the Fund. This was far too small a sum to make a second grant to Cornell.

In the latest report of the research project at Rutgers, Dr. Moser reports that he has been quite successful in getting plants of most of the Kusler hybrids, but has not been so fortunate with the rhizomatous and tuberous species. I have a number of varieties from the original list that he does not have, so will see that he gets them. Also within the next several weeks I will see that he gets the rhizomatous and tuberous ones since I will be going out to Rutgers soon.

The student situation for researching our project, has not materialized as yet. There were two students interested in the project but both of them decided to attend graduate school in the mid-west. Dr. Moser is confident that he will be able to interest one of the students that will be returning to the campus this fall. He will be carrying on the preliminary experiments himself this fall as soon as the semester is under way.

> M. Carleton L'Hommedieu Research Director

### 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.

BEGONIAS HOUSE and GARDEN PLANTS Send for List\_10c MRS. BERT ROUTH Louisburg, Missouri 65685

### ADVERTISER'S CATALOG

(Continued from Page 239) Mumtaz, a gorgeous hybrid of Begonia rajah and goegoensis. Also listed is the rare species, Begonia rajah, the first commercial listing of this beautiful plant that I have seen recently. Kartuz's plants also arrive in excellent shape due to his excellent packing technique.

Mrs. Rosetta White, who last year went through the unenviable task of moving her greenhouse business to Abilene, Kansas, has an excellent list including the new hybrid of Elaine Wilkerson named Penny O'Day. Other notables you should try if you haven't already are itaguasseunse, Kumwa, Raspberry Parfait, and Silver Swastika. She also has a complete stock of Kusler hybrids.

Mrs. Routh's, Missouri, list includes a good selection of Begonias including many old favorites that no one else carries plus a large selection of rexes.

Wilson's Greenhouses, Missouri, has an especially large list this year with prices unbeatable anywhere. Her postage and packing charges are exceptionally low making purchases an even better bargain.

The largest list of Begonias comes from Paul Lowe's, Florida. He also has a large bromiliad list.

A newcomer to the list of advertisers is Mr. E. A. McWhorter, an enthusiastic grower from South Carolina. I haven't had a chance to see his list or order from him. I have seen the list of plants that he has in his collection and it includes some real "goodies".

Out west the "pickins are slimmer" than in the old days. Antonelli (Continued on Page 259)

# ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA GARDEN

The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Begonia Garden was dedicated August 22 by the Alfred D. Robinson Branch of the American Begonia Society. It is situated in the east end of the large lath structure in the Botanical House at Balboa Park in San Diego. It is filled with begonias donated by members and friends of the Branch, with an effort being made to provide plants hybridized in the San Diego area as well as those which Mrs. Alice Clark painted for The Begonian some years ago.

Mrs. Clark gave the talk in dedicating the Begonia Garden and following this a bronze placque at the entrance was unveiled by Mr. Robinson's daughter, Virginia Perkins. As a surprise there was also a bronze placque dedicating the beautiful featherrock bird bath to Alice M. Clark.

A writer in the San Diego paper says that Alice M. is another name in begonias, and that she must know now that she is part of the Robinson Memorial.

Balboa Park is open to the public and all are invited to visit the Robinson Begonia Memorial.

This meeting on the twenty-second day of August, 1972, in the Botanical Building of Balboa Park, marks the happy occasion when members and friends of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch of the American Begonia Society gather to honor, on his birthday and our thirtieth anniversary, the man for whom our group was named.

A native of England, Mr. Robinson arrived here in 1937. Originally a member of the Theosophical Society on Point Loma, he settled in that area. In his day the quickest way to reach home was across the bay by launch, with a team of horses or a Reo car waiting on shore to finish the trip. He loved the climate and the rolling hills and resented the straight streets being cut across their contours.

Amazed at how plants prospered in our warm region Alfred Robinson became an environmental pioneer. He built such a fabulous garden at Rosecroft that it was a mecca for horticulturists the world over. He wanted others to do likewise. To further this idea he helped found the San Diego Floral Association 65 years ago, in 1907. Soon this organization, which included Kate Sessions, William Morley, Alice Rainford, and many others, was putting on two flower shows a year. It is to their enthusiasm, foresight and hard work that we owe much of the beauty of this city today and especially that of Balboa Park.

In 1909 the Floral Association began the monthly publication of California Garden at 10 cents a copy, one dollar a year. ADR was its editor and backbone contributor of garden lore, often enlightened with his droll humor. Its pages became another lectern from which to preach his horticultural gospel. In addition to all this Mr. R. (we never called him Alfred or Robinson) was an expert chicken fancier and billiard player, a photographer when glass slides were used for projections, and the father of five. In between he was

(Continued on Page 257)

### CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 25, 1972 in the South Gate Auditorium. John Provine, President, presided. After the usual opening ceremonies, the minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved. Secretary read the letter from the Riverside Branch containing their check for \$36.29, the amount remaining in their treasury. A motion was made, seconded and carried to put this money in the Catalog Fund. Treasurer reported receipts \$1.478.35: disbursements \$1,297.82: balance on hand as of September 18, 1972 \$1,503.98. Membership Secretary reported new members 119; renewals 128; total members as of September 18th 2,315. Funds received \$1,032.35. Circulation Manager reported Begonians dispersed 2,889; Total mailing expense \$52.13. Advertising Manager reported receipts \$96.00; unpaid accounts \$55.00. Librarian reported \$300.00 given the Treasurer; a balance of \$201.46 on hand. Total sales at the Show \$146.16.

The report of the Research Director to the Eastern Convention was read, in which he expressed the hope that the Research Fund could be a continuing fund. Dr. Moser of Rutgers University has done preliminary experiments on the research project and hopes to interest a student when the new semester begins. Dr. Moser still needs rhizomatous and tuberous begonia plants for the project.

The Show Chairman reported the figures not yet complete, but the show was very successful. A motion was made and passed to keep the Show Account open with \$50.00.

The Representative to South Coast Botanical Garden reported she has been appointed Librarian for the Library they are starting. President Provine reported the death of John R. Williams of Sacramento and expressed the Board's sympathy to Mrs. Williams.

The President read the list of nominations for appointed offices as follows: Begonian Staff: Editor Jack Bergstrom, Co-Editor, Mrs. Alva Graham; Contributing Editors: Mrs. Elda Haring, Mrs. Helen Matsubu, Mrs. Hertha Benjamin, and Mrs. Phyllis Wright. Advertising Manager-Anne Rose; Circulation Manager-Pearl Benell; Awards Chairman-Walter Pease; Business Manager-Virginia Barnett; Historian-Alice Broadhag; Judging Course Director-Ruth Pease; Librarian-Lydia Austin; Membership Secretary-Mildred LeComte; Nomenclature Director-Rudolf Ziesenhenne; Parliamentarian-Lillian Steinhaus; Research Director-Carleton L'Hommedieu; Round Robin Director-Mae Blanton; Seed Fund Administrator-Florence Gee; Show Chairman-Cecelia Grivich; Slide Librarian-Katharine Alberti; Public Relation Director-Peggy McGrath; Northwestern P.R. Chairman-Eleanor Fariss; Northeastern P.R. Chairman-Mrs. Raymond Cronin; Northern Calif. P.R. Chairman-Mrs. John H. Smith; New Zealand P.R. Chairman-Don Stephenson; Australia-Mrs. Phyllis Setford. A motion was made and passed to accept the nominations.

A motion was made and passed to approve the appointment of the following special committee to count the ballots regarding the amendment to the By-Laws: Vera Naumann, Muriel Perz, Peggy Mc-Grath and Irene Grannell. A motion was made and passed to authorize 4 color covers for the Begonian at a cost of \$110.00 each issue, at the earliest possible time, depending upon the Photographer. A motion was made and passed to ask the Advertising Manager to contact advertisers and try to secure one to take the  $\frac{3}{4}$  page back cover to help with the cost of the color cover. A motion was made and passed to purchase a 4 drawer file for 4 x 6 cards for the Circulation Manager.

A motion was made and passed to appoint Mr. Philip Seitner our representative and waive our copyright so that articles could be published in Horticulture Abstracts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M. Respectfully submitted, Irene Grannell, Secretary.

> GRO-LUX LAMPS-BLACK LIGHT All sizes of lamps and fixtures for residence or business. FLUORESCENT TUBE SERVICE 13107 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif. 90061 Phone (213) 321-6900

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Latest information about growing these lovely plants and where supplies are obtainable. Also receive the beautiful G.S.N. (Gesneriad, Saint Paulia News) in color. News of Robin activities, Seed Fund and general culture. Membership Dues \$5.25 a year.

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### MEMORIAL GARDEN

(Continued from Page 255)

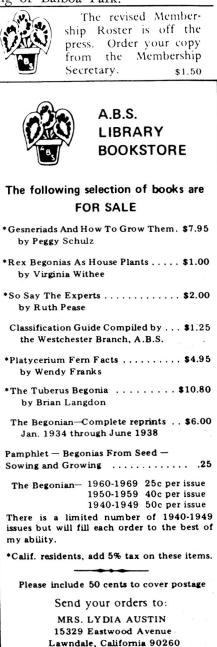
having great success growing, hybridizing and writing about begonias. At that time San Diego was the center of begonia productivity, abetted by six or more prominent local hybridists, some of whose creations can be seen here today.

In 1926, Mr. Robinson, an enthusiastic proponent of lathhouses, predicted that within ten years there would be few homes without a "sitting, living and enjoying space with plants under lath." He maintained that a lathhouse for plant shelter was as necessary as a garage for a car. He went even farther. He envisioned a lathhouse in Balboa Park where visitors from away could marvel at the begonias we grow here. Before the Exposition in 1915 he pushed hard for plant shelter and that is why we have this building today.

The committee in charge of the planning and funding of the exhibit was appointed by the president, Mrs. Chester Lee, with Mrs. Thomas O'Reilly as chairman. She was assisted by Mrs. Peter Lee and Mrs. Donald Birchell. They worked with Mr. George Kempland, Nursery-Landscape Supervisor of Balboa Park, to achieve the beautiful effect obtained.

In California Garden he once wrote, "It is seldom that a creation fills up a man's dream." But here today is the beginning of that fulfillment. With the help of a hardworking committee, with many generous donors of funds and begonia plants, plus the enthusiasm, artistry

and factual know-how of the Balboa Park horticultural experts, our ADR Begonia Branch can now proudly present the Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Garden, in the Botanical building of Balboa Park.



# BRANCH DIRECTORY

### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS BUXTON BRANCH 3rd Saturday, Homes of Members Mrs. F. N. Sinex 34 Thackery Rd., Wellesley, Mass. 02181 **MESQUITE BRANCH** Mrs. Billie Lyles, Secy. 928 Calle Reale, Mesquite, Texas 95149 MIAMI BRANCH CONNECTICUT BRANCH 4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center 4th Sunday of each month Mrs. Priscella Beck, Secy. Mrs. Marie Evans, Secy. 610 63rd Drive, Hialea, Florida 33012 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 MISSOURI BRANCH 3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Member's Homes Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Glenn Lucas, Secy. Kansas City, Mo. 64109 EAST BAY BRANCH 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 2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School Telegraph at Stuart, Berkeley, Calif. Miss Carol E. Orpin, Secy. 428 Norvell Street El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 EASTSIDE BRANCH NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH 4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. 590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 525 Ocean Blvd., Long Beach Grace Fisher, Secy. 770 Monroe Ave. N.E., Renton, Wash. 98055

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH 3rd Friday, Members' Homes Mrs. Gladys Máttuket, Secy. 1801 Azalea Drive, Alhambra, Calif. 91801

FOOTHILL BRANCH 3rd Friday, 8:00 p.m. First Methodist Church, Marshall Hall 3205 D Street, La Verne, Calif. Mr. Robert I. Wilson, Secy. 544 Fountain Drive Mira Loma, Calif. 91752 FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Miss Lola Price, Secy. 628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044 GLENDALE BRANCH

GLENDALE BRANCH 2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand Mrs. Katharine Alberti, Secy. 3322 Troy Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90068 GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH Mrs. John H. McKay, Secy. 5116 Baton Rouge Ave., Baton Rouge, La. 70805

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 Miss Margaret Huger, Secy. 505 East 82nd St. New York, N.Y. 10028

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 LONG ISLAND BRANCH 2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Planting Fields Arboretum Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y. Henry Sweitzer, Secy. 51 Hayrick Lane Commack, L.I., N.Y. 11725

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH Ist Friday, Sear's Garden Center 6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge Mrs. Johnnie L. Tanner, Secy. 1912 Cederdale, Baton Rouge, La. 70808

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 Cicle, 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. Margaret Buell, Secy. 18500 Mansel Street Bederde, Beerb, Celif, 00078 Redondo Beach, Calif. 90278

- RHODE ISLAND BRANCH JDE ISLAND BRANCH Ist Saturday, Homes of Members Miss Marcella Flynn, Secy. 7 Fairfield Ave., East Providence, Rhode Island 02914 **ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**
- 3rd Friday, 12 noon. Homes of Members. Mrs. John Marx 1216 La Jolla Rancho Road La Jolla, Ca. 92037
- RUBIDOUX BRANCH 41h Thursday, 7:00 p.m. West Riverside Memorial Hall 4393 Riverview Drive Rubidoux, Ca. Dorothy Ansevics, Sec./Treas. 4063 Opal St. Riverside, Ca. 92509

SACRAMENTO BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. Mrs. Betty Tillotson, Secy. 3912 Wildrose Way Sacramento, Calif. 95826

- SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS 4th Monday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members Mrs. Wayne Smith, Secy. 1823 Highland, Salina, Kansas 67401
- SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH 1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way Mrs. Louise Eby, Secy. 1137 Hillside Blvd. So. San Francisco, Calif. 94080

The Begonian

- SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH 2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m. Los Angeles State and County Arboretum 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif. Mabel Anderson, Secy. 16609 Cypress St., Covina, Calif. 91722
- SAN MIGUEL BRANCH And Wednesday, Porter Hall, 7:30 p.m. University & La Mesa Bivd., La Mesa Mrs. George Bayse, Sr., Secy. 2347 Langmuir St., San Diego, Calif. 92111

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Miss Gladys M. Grant, Secy. 460 Mountain Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH Ath Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Northern Calif. S & L Assn. 10250 South Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd. Cupertino, Ca.

SEATTLE BRANCH

Yar Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Calvary Lutheran Church 7002 23rd Ave., N.W. Mary Sanderman, Secy. 13045 37th N.E., Seattle, Wn. 98125

- SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH Ist Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Y.M.C.A. Bidg., 5200 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, Calif. Mrs. Bernie Crosby, Secy. 231 Bethel St. Ventura, Calif. 93003
- 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

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 Fediacko, Secy. 125 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

WHITTIER BRANCH 1st 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. Stuart J. Bracken, Secy. 727 Mt. Moro Rd., Villanova, Pa. 19085

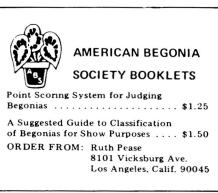
### ADVERTISER'S CATLOG

(Continued from Page 254) Brothers, known world around for their excellent strain of tuberous begonias, produces a colorful catalog including a detailed section on how to grow tuberous begonias, either from tubers or seeds.

Talnadges's Fern Gardens, Chula Vista, California, has an excellent selection of ferns, bromeliads, and Begonias, specializing in Kusler hybrids.

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