



# THE BEGONIAN

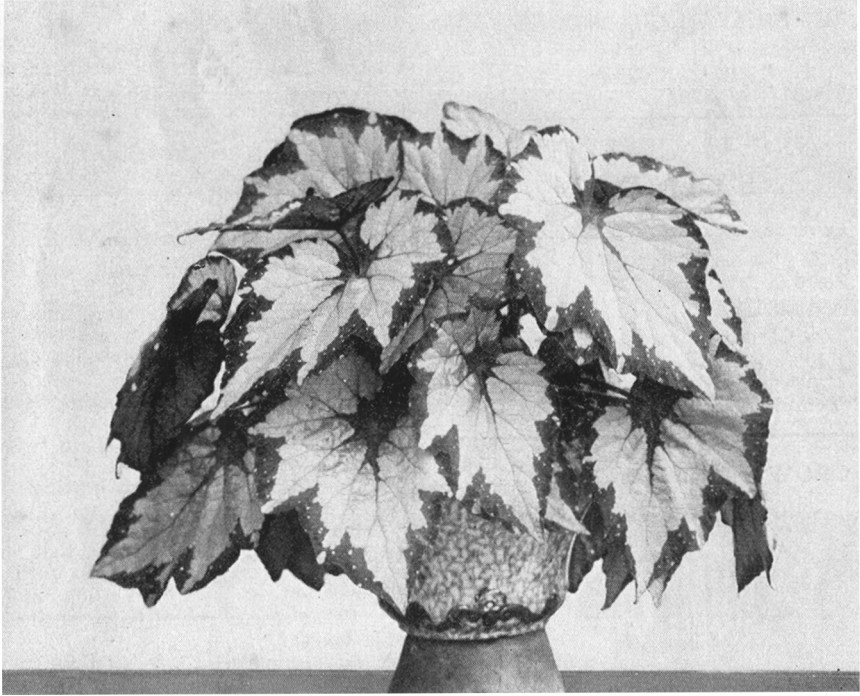


DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN

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Monthly Bulletin of the American Begonia Society

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REX BEGONIA — MRS. E. G. SHEPPARD



MARCH



1939

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### ERIC WEDEMEYER

For illustrated folder write

1300 Factory Pl. Los Angeles, Calif.

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## QUESTION BOX

By Alice Fackelman

**Q.** What kind of paint does one use on a glass house; one that will not wash off in the rains?

**A.** For the woodwork; a good outside white paint, and be sure that all surfaces are clean and free from oil before applying. For the glass use whitewash on the inside. Some people add salt to the whitewash to act as a "binder."

**Q.** How long will Begonia tubers exist in good condition? In other words, how many seasons can one expect bloom to continue from the average quality or size tuber?

**A.** Begonia tubers have been known to thrive for seventeen years. There are reports of them existing for fifty years. The tubers will last as long as one has patience to give them the proper care.

**Q.** What causes Begonia leaves to curl downward? (Like an umbrella.)

**A.** In cold weather they are "huddling" to keep warm. When the weather warms, those leaves will fall and new leaves will come.

**Q.** Should one repot Hanging Basket Fuchsias every year?

**A.** Yes, some even repot them twice a year. They should be repotted now, and again in August. Use a rich potting mixture, with plenty of cow manure. Water and feed as often as needed. Do not think that after the second repotting, that feeding should stop, but continue up until the cold weather.

**Q.** What causes round holes in my Begonia leaves?

**A.** Grasshoppers. Look for them under the leaves and on the woodwork of the lathhouse during the warmer part of the day. Sometimes one may find leaf miners working in the leaves. Remove the leaves and burn.

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### Inglewood Baby Outgrows Swaddling Clothes

Since the birth of the Inglewood branch, October 6, 1938, with 16 members, it has outgrown two meeting places and on February 17 the members voted unanimously to move to the Odd Fellows Hall, 161½ North La Brea Avenue, for future gatherings, as this building will accommodate about 225. At the February meeting, chairs were placed for over a hundred, and about twenty members and guests were forced to stand. Representative groups from Ventura and Long Beach attended and Inglewood is proud to have been host to such enthusiastic visitors.

## MORE OF THE LOST BATTALION

By Alfred D. Robinson

The Editor has asked for more of the Begonias described in CURTIS' Magazine and apparently not now in cultivation, at least under their botanical title. I gladly respond because it is always a pleasant adventure to wander among these records, as I cannot hope to go after specimens in their native haunts. These brief descriptions are an attempt to bring the botanical picture down to the ordinary everyday working language.

**GLANDULIFERA**—From the moist ravines of the Island of Trinidad, introduced to England in 1867. Stemless with stout rootstock, leaves three to six inches long, pointed but broad, dark green above, under paler. Bloom small greenish white, two petals smaller and narrower than other pair, in panicles held well above foliage.

**GLANDULOSA**—Markedly different from the last, 1861 from Veraguas. Stout rhizome scaly, leaves umbrella shaped, four to six inches broad, deep green above, shiny on both sides but most so below, veins painted with broad black or rusty bands, cuticle covered with minute pustules. Flowers numerous but small, pale green or whitish, borne on tall stems of deep red.

**GRIFFITHII**—Evidently an important ancestor of the modern Rex family. From Bhotan 1857. This was introduced under the mistaken name of Picta. It is a typical Rex in shape with regular zoning, center and border. Color dark green, beautifully variegated with pale green zone and margin dark purple. This species is included because it may appear from the seed the Research Department is getting from India.

**HEMSLEYANA**—Here is one very like Carolinaefolia with same divided leaf but much smaller. 1898 from Mengtse in Yunnan at an elevation of four to five thousand feet. Leaves two to three inches long, yellowish green. Blooms pale pink with bright blood red spots on back of petals, drooping habit.

**HERACLEIFOLIA**—1835 from Xalapa, Mexico. Judging by the illustration, here is our old many-named friend, *Sunderbruckii*. Another cut and description under the same name with subtitle: Var. **NIGRICANS** 1857, follows, saying this is assuredly nothing but a variety of **HERACLEIFOLIA** though darker in color.

I cannot refrain from copying from the original this comment, evidently made in travail of spirit. "It is a misfortune when a genus of plants become a favorite, as

is just now the case with that under consideration, with cultivators, for then it becomes an object with horticulturists and nurserymen to multiply the species in all manner of ways, till at length, to name them becomes a hopeless task.

**HERBACEA**—A markedly different Begonia from Brazil 1873. The leaves rising from a prostrate rhizome as thick as the little finger. Leaves come directly from the rhizome and are carried very upright, are narrow and four to six inches long of pale green color. The white male flowers on stems slightly shorter than the leaves, but the female flowers are stemless down in the axil of the leaves.

**HEMANDIACEFOLIA**—1852 from Veraguas. Another stemless species likened to Peltata which it resembles only in shape of leaf, which is peltate but not tomentous, and the leaves dark green above and deep blood red beneath. Stems and flowers are full rose red. The seed pod is also bright red.

**HYDROCOTYLIFOLIA**—1843. Unfortunately, its native habitat is not given. This is another rhizomatous type. Leaves umbrella shaped but not peltate, though the lobes lap. They are small, being some two inches across, very shiny. The flowers are borne well above the leaves on stems eight to twelve inches high and are deep rose colored.

## MARCH ACTIVITIES

This is the busiest month for begonia growers.

Repot your Rex and fibrous begonias.

Start cuttings of fibrous begonias, and start leaf cuttings of Rex begonias.

Mulch with leaf mold all begonias now in the ground.

Prune out the old wood of your fibrous begonias.

Dampen your tubers and as they sprout place in flats of peat.

Seeds for bedding begonias may still be planted.

Prepare your potting soil now for summer planting.

Begin the fertilizing of your begonias.

Put out your snail bait, and begin spraying, as every bug now means lots of them later on.

Cut the old rhizomes of your Rexes into lengths of about an inch and have not only more plants, but better looking ones.

Be sure to wash your pots before repotting.

Mix vaporite or naphthalene with your potting soil and drive out the worms that will otherwise ruin your soil.

Now is the time to read over the cultural bulletins.

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## EASTERN SECTION

Earle A. Sampson, Eastern Editor

To the Members of the American Begonia Society:

I Greet You!

Certainly, it is a most pleasant moment to me to be able to speak to you in this new capacity in which Mr. Dunkle has placed me.

Also, I want at this time to express my thanks to Mrs. Buxton, of Peabody, Mass., for recommending me for the position.

What a reputation I have to live up to in taking over the work that Mrs. Buxton has accomplished so well.

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Saturday evening, February 11, there were fourteen members of the Neighborhood Group at the meeting at the home of Miss Lucy Moulton of Beverly, Mass. Plans for the coming show in Boston were discussed in detail. Also several fertilizers and insecticides were thoroughly gone over.

The next meeting of the Neighborhood Group will be held at the home of Mr. Lloyd E. Marble, 16 Vaile Ave., Lexington, Mass.

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## EASTERN SUCCESS FOR TUBEROUS-ROOTED BEGONIAS

It is interesting to grow tuberous-rooted begonias from seed, as there are a great many varied forms and beautiful colors. The first year I tried, I managed to raise eight plants, but last year I had between 300 and 400 of various kinds. I have found peat moss a fine medium for starting the little seeds.

I filled several eight-inch seed or bulb pans a little more than half full of peat moss, the garden size, although the coarser grade will do. Over this I put a two-inch layer of good loam, mixed with a handful of sifted peat moss. Then I made the final layer, on which the seed was to be sown, of finely sifted peat moss one-eighth of an inch thick. The pans were placed up to their rims in water until they were saturated from bottom to top. They were then taken out and the seed sown as evenly as possible. Begonia seed is very minute and is difficult to sow thinly. A teaspoonful of fine sand can be mixed with each package of seed to facilitate the sowing of the seed, if necessary. Over the top of the pans I put pieces of glass, raised at one end by a small stick—a match will do. Every morning I wiped off any moisture which had collected on

the panes of glass. The pans were set in a dark place and the temperature kept at near 60 degrees Fahrenheit as possible. Begonia seeds germinate in from two to three weeks, depending on the temperature.

Most authorities advise starting the seed in January or February, but I start mine earlier. After the seedlings have obtained one or two true leaves, I transplant them to other pots about one-half inch apart. Some I transplant when just the cotyledons are showing, with a darning needle and magnifying glass, but it takes a steady hand and much patience. The sooner the plants can be transplanted the less likelihood there is of injuring the fine hair-like roots. Two months later the begonias are transplanted again two inches apart. They stay in these pots until set out in the open ground in June. The pots are set in the coldframe about the middle of May to harden the plants. They are shaded from the sun by frames made of laths.

The hanging basket type (*Begonia lloydii*) blooms quickly from seed and makes surprisingly large plants in about six months. These are splendid for window boxes on a shady porch or trailing over the rocks in a rock garden. Seedling plants of the double-flowering varieties are fine for bedding purposes as they do not make such tall, heavy growth the first year as those grown from bulbs. The blossoms make an attractive centerpiece for the table and keep in good condition for several days.

—Kenneth Houghton, Dedham, Mass.  
(Courtesy of HORTICULTURE)

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## BEGONIAS OF COSTA RICA

A friend of the Society has sent to us seeds of four of the species that are native of that Central American country. Packets of this seed will be given to each of the contributors to the Seed Fund. The balance is offered for sale, four packets (one of each species) for \$1.00, as long as the limited supply lasts. This seed has been received so recently that it has not been tested for germination. Under the microscope, it appears well filled out, and we believe it to be fertile. It is sold, however, "as is" and un-named.

Research Department  
American Begonia Society  
285 Park Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

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Many hours have been spent this past month in checking and rechecking our membership list. Notify the Begonian promptly if errors still occur. Also notify us promptly if you change your address.

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## RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

C. M. Kelly

### BEGONIAS FROM INDIA

Recently we received from India, roots or rhizomes of five rare begonia species (two of each) the gift to the Society of G. Ghose and Co., Town-end, Darjeeling, India.

This firm is engaged in the collection of seeds and plants of the Himalayan flora, and lists in its catalogue 12 named species of begonia native of that section of Northern India, seeds of which they offer at very reasonable prices. Here is an opportunity to obtain begonias seldom seen in cultivation in this country.

We express to them our appreciation of their interest in our Society, and thank them for this gift of begonias. These species were collected in a locality which they do not usually cover, and it would be difficult or impossible for us to duplicate these plants. These begonias were new to the collectors and they come to us un-named.

The roots arrived in very good condition, considering their small size and the long journey—they were en route six weeks. We are confident that they will grow, and they are entrusted to Mrs. Fewkes, of San Diego, and Mr. Ziesenhenné, of Santa Barbara to propagate for the Society.

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### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

In Hot, Dry, Central Washington  
By Mrs. Gilbert D. Brown  
Wenatchee, Wash.

Tuberous begonias do quite well here in spite of our hot climate. My tubers are put away in the fall in a cool fruit room in my basement, leaving them in whatever dirt has adhered to the roots. Last spring they had sprouted when I looked them up to plant, so perhaps the room was warmer than it should have been, and as all instructions advise. Anyway, I placed the tubers in dishes of peat moss, "planting" them, as it were, in the moss, and kept them quite damp until the sprouts were several inches high.

I planted them outdoors in the shadiest place I have in front of my shrubbery on both sides of the front entrance to my home. Here the sun shines only very early mornings, though by 9 a.m. in the middle of the summer it is already hot; still the plants do not have the direct rays of the sun after that time of day. The soil used was just ordinary dirt mixed with some sand and some well-rotted

manure, and of course the peat moss in which the roots were imbedded. My ordinary garden ground is heavy, black adobe, but that is usually scraped off, or removed entirely before putting in anything that needs special care, since that soil would make better bricks than flower beds.

I tried hard to keep my plants moist, though having to be absent from home a lot last year, the watering was entrusted to Mr. Brown, who, husband fashion, got several "helpers" on the job, and I am sure that between them all they must have done a good job, for my begonia blooms were beautiful, in spite of the very, very hot weather we had for weeks at a time. Here our thermometer goes to 100 degrees and over, day after day, for a week at a time, and then after perhaps several cooler days, will rise again, and so on all through the summer, and late into September.

I had always understood—guess I hadn't read very intensive studies about tuberous rooted begonias and their culture—that the flowers should not be sprinkled (that water should not be sprayed onto the flowers), so I carried out this idea to the best of my ability, and instructed everyone: "Don't you dare to get any water on my begonias!" (Now I know they should be sprinkled often.) The flowers were lovely and quite abundant during the entire season and with less care than any other variety of garden flower I have in my yard.

I would recommend the tuberous rooted begonias as almost a "foolproof" plant, as anyone can judge from what I did to the poor things—or didn't do! On September 9th and 10th several of us still had some blooms to exhibit at our Wenatchee Garden Club Annual Fall Flower Show, and for me to become enthusiastic about anything I grow, it must be a variety that takes very little "coddling" because I do not have the time to waste on something that "can't take it," and I feel I have found it in this section of the Begonia family.

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Our Begonia Exhibit has now been collected and probably on its way by the time you get this month's Begonian. Tom Smith has handled this big undertaking in very creditable fashion. Actually our plants are not now at their best, but the splendid plants contributed by loyal members promise a worthy show as the weather warms up and the luxuriance of the begonia foliage begins to show the results of the care that has been given these plants.

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Bulletins, Information  
1732 Temple Avenue

All hail to our new San Francisco Chapter! Robert Hoeffler, G. Niederholzer, and Miss Paula Schoenholz are to be commended for their work in getting this organization going. We wish the new branch every success. We hope that the Oakland and Berkeley members can get across to the San Francisco meetings until they get their own branch organized.

What a popular lady is our Miss Begonia! We went over to Inglewood the other day, and what a crowd there was, nearly 150 were present. They started only recently in a private home, moved to a school room, and now have outgrown that and have to hire a hall. And it was a good meeting, fine friendliness, and lots of information about begonias. Mrs. Fewkes, of San Diego, gave a splendid talk. There were no refreshments for the members, but for the begonias, packages of Huminal were distributed.

The growing interest in begonias is overwhelming us. Dozens of letters come in every day about begonia seeds, the total is now over 5000 replies to the little experiment of the Research Department. We thought our branches would be little neighborhood groups, like Mrs. Buxton's, for informal discussion, and here they are drawing hundreds. They are becoming audiences. These large meetings have a very real and valuable function, but perhaps more of the little neighborhood groups are needed. Mr. Dyckman's classes perhaps fill that need for Long Beach. Our correspondence shows the need for dozens of community branches. Begonias are

rapidly becoming the most popular plants in America. Thousands are becoming conscious of the charm of a "Sheltered Garden." Get a branch under way in your community.

## MARCH MEETINGS FOR CALIFORNIA

**March 3, Friday.** Odd Fellows Hall, 161½ No. La Brea Ave., near Regent Inglewood Chapter. H. P. Dyckman will speak on "Cuttings of Fibrous Begonias and their Care."

**March 9, Thursday.** Community Hall, Ninth and Lime. Long Beach Chapter. O. P. Palestine will speak on the propagation of Rex Begonias, and J. Paul Walker will speak on Insecticides and Fertilizers.

**March 14, Tuesday.** Coco-Cola Hall, Thompson Blvd., Ventura. Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, 7:30 sharp. Mrs. E. O. Orpet, of Santa Barbara will speak on "Lilies."

**March 15, Wednesday.** 1060 Francisco Street, San Francisco. The Golden Gate Branch, 8:00 p.m.

**March 23, Thursday.** Business meeting of the National Board of Directors, at 769 Cherry Ave.

A meeting to discuss the organization of a Fullerton Branch, held March 17 in Fullerton.

## THE GOLDEN GATE BRANCH

By G. Niederholzer, San Francisco

The Golden Gate Branch of the American Begonia Society was born on Monday, January 3, at the residence of Miss Paula Schoenholz. Our friend, Robert Hoeffler, started the ball rolling with such determination and force that it still keeps on rolling.

With 15 members enrolled, Begonia Bugs and Fuchsia Fans made a very auspicious start, extremely so for our charming hostess graciously offered the use of her home, with a large social hall basement for our meetings.

A lively and interesting discussion of problems, plans, and information produced a very pleasant evening and the birth of the baby branch was celebrated with—never mind—refreshments offered by our hostess. Election of officers and other business will take place at our next meeting.

And now there is an urgent call to all members living within reach of the Golden Gate to join our monthly meetings, every third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., 1060 Francisco Street, San Francisco.

Each Tuesday the Inglewood Californian puts out a one or two page garden section, devoted to flowers. Here you will find plenty of news about the Inglewood Branch of the American Begonia Society, and much good information about begonias and their culture. I would call this a most worth while undertaking that could well be followed by more community newspapers.

## NEW MEMBERS

Aicey, Mr. Chas., 12322 Idaho Ave., West Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Andrew, Douglas M., 909 Garfield St., Santa Ana, Calif.  
 Bartlett, E. F., 26 Collins St., San Francisco, Calif.  
 Bartlett, J. F., P. O. Box 373, Santa Monica, Calif.  
 Beck, Mr. Wm. R., 168 N. Highland, Akron, Ohio.  
 Bellingall, Mrs. R. R., 348 Palm Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
 Bertholan, Mrs. Geo., 1064 No. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Brown, Mrs. Gilbert D., 608 Hawthorne St., Wenatchee, Wash.  
 Carpenter, Mrs. Irene J., Box 191, San Luis Obispo, Calif.  
 Coen, Georgia, 3429 Orange Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
 Cummings, Curtis H., c/o Post Office, Vallejo, Calif.  
 Dean, Mrs. Carl, 929 E. Kay St., Compton, Calif.  
 de Zeladon, Amparo, Apt. 1332, San Jose, Costa Rica, C. A.  
 Edwards, Charles, 4134 Eagle Rock Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Emery, E. R., 768 - 25th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.  
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 Frizzell, Mrs. John H., 1124 N. E. 9th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
 Goodrich, Lillian, 3865 - 118th Place, Hawthorne, Calif.  
 Harrison, Jas. H., 309 Ohio, Vallejo, Calif.  
 Henry, W. F., 141 West Compton Blvd., Compton, Calif.  
 Jaeger, Mr. Alfred, 350 D. Ave., Coronado, Calif.  
 Kemper, Charles, 2011 P. St., Sacramento, Calif.  
 Klatt, Mrs. O. H., 1430 Josephine St., Berkeley, Calif.  
 Lainsou, F. L., Wholesale Florist, Council Bluffs, Iowa  
 Le Gate, Mrs. Irene, 2426 Cudahy St., Huntington Park, Calif.  
 Lombard, Mrs. Stella L., 219 E. Palm Ave., Bellflower, Calif.  
 Luckett, Mrs. Geo. S., 419 Webster St., Palo Alto, Calif.  
 Marrin, Frank L., 2499 Corinth Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Mason, Malcolm G., 4223 Latona Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Maze, Mrs. Hilary J., 36 So. El Camino Real, San Mateo, Calif.  
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 Washburn, Mrs. L. E., 1367 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, Calif.  
 Roberts, Mr. C. A., 721 So. Orange Ave., West Covina, Calif.  
 Robinson, Chas. P., 2018 W. 42nd St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Sherman, Mrs. Jessie M., 423 W. Islay St., Santa Barbara, Calif.  
 Shippy, Mrs. Leo C., 536 Willow St., Lockport, N. Y.  
 Smith, Kateura J., 922 McDonnell St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Steward, John P., 3206 Santa Ave., South Gate, Calif.  
 Summers, Mrs. C. L., 438 Warick Road, Wynnewood, Penn.  
 Taft, Mrs. Paul L. Sr., 1640 Kalakua Ave., Honolulu, T. H.  
 Tillman, Mrs. Margaret W., Rockville, Md.  
 Trunell, Mrs. Ewin, 25322 Oak St., Lomita, Calif.  
 Warnke, Mrs. Anna H., 190 Brookside Drive, Berkeley, Calif.  
 Williamson, H. D., 3761 Allendale Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
 Wright, Paul S., 1908 W. 79th St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Baake, H. C., 2616 Sawtelle Blvd., West Los Angeles, Calif.  
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 Feraud, Mrs. Frank, 237 S. Chrisman Ave., Ventura, Calif.  
 Grout, Mrs. Perry V., Rt. 1, Box 288, Santa Ana, Calif.  
 Hauswitzer, Bruno, 929 E. Edgeware Road, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Hadley, Frank R., 610 - 5th St., Santa Rosa, Calif.  
 Hamilton, Mrs. Frank S., 38 Washington St., Westfield, Mass.  
 Hanson, Mrs. J. B., 218 Lime Ave., Inglewood, Calif.  
 Heath, A. W., 4319½ S. Harvard St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Hendrick, Mrs. E. Roy, 8 Pine St., Livermore Falls, Maine.  
 Jenkins, S. Lawrence, Monroe, N. Y.  
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 Milton, Charles C., No. 2 Mass. Ave., Worcester, Mass.  
 Martin, Earl, 1513 Newby Ave., Rosemead, Calif.  
 McConville, F. W., 2243 Selby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Peep, Mr. and Mrs. A. E., 307 Mellifont, Santa Barbara, Calif.  
 Pierce, Albert, 621 Iris St., West Palm Beach, Fla.  
 Schatz, Mrs. C. R., 985 So. 9th St., San Jose, Calif.  
 Skinner, Mrs. B. W., 54 Essex St., Lynnfield, Mass.  
 Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Bob, 720 E. Hardy St., Inglewood, Calif.  
 Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth E., Rt. 1, Box 93, Los Gatos, Calif.  
 Starr, Stanley L., 3968 N. Williams St., Portland, Ore.  
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