

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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The BEGONIAN

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Half a Moment With the Editor

With the formation of a new Branch in the San Diego district of California, we realize again the role played by a garden study group. No matter how busy and over-worked people may be, if they can forget themselves for a while now and then in the fascinating pursuit of horticulture in any one of its forms, there is a "Joie de vivre" and ever-fresh enthusiasm imbued into their daily duties which when lacking would quickly render men and women ineffective.

Garden makers have a way of believing there is no hobby to equal theirs. Now that tuberous begonia time is here, Begonians everywhere will feel there is no hobby like that of the shade-garden-maker. Come and see—on August the 6th, 1945, what they can do. The Elks Club at 6th Street and Parkview, Los Angeles, Calif., at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome "LA MESA" Branch, and good luck to you with the happy times you will be having together. The two-month report in Branch News was sent to us by our Mrs. Nadine Woods, Chm. Nomenclature Rex Division.

FLASH! Mrs. Burton's book to be published later than expected.

(For article by Dr. W. C. Drummond, see next issue, due to lack of space.)

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Fifteenth Anniversary of the New York Botanical Garden

By HELEN K. KRAUSS, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

● In observance of the 50th Anniversary of the New York Botanical Garden, a rededication ceremony on May 13th signalled the opening of "Garden Week" with exhibitions, guided tours, lectures and public ceremonies.

World's Fair sightseeing trains borrowed from the New York Zoological Society enabled visitors to see most of the 230 acres of park-like plantings in a few hours instead of the usual few days. There are extensive outdoor plantings, notably the Thompson Memorial Rock Garden. Among the trees are 12,000 different kinds for observations by the botanist or to be enjoyed by visitors who wish to relax in the quiet shade.

The scientific importance of the New York Botanical Garden may be best illustrated by citing the housed collections and the activities of the men and women comprising the staff.

In the Administration building is a library of 51,000 volumes, an herbarium of 2,200,000 pressed specimens, a museum including 75,000 fossil plants.

There are 15 display greenhouses in addition to a range of propagating houses. The plants grown indoors and out represent those of decorative as well as economic value. Since many plants are ornamental as well as useful, Mr. Average Public is regaled with beauty throughout the year.

Scientists and explorers of the Garden are often called upon by commercial firms, government agencies and institutions to aid in the solution of problems concerning the human race. One of the many problems worked upon at present is to find a substitute for the chicle producing *Anchras Zapote* which is rapidly disappearing because it is killed in the process of harvesting. There is said to be only a 15-year supply left.

One of the important activities is the exchange of seeds with 400 institutions throughout the world. Two requests recently came from Russia for sizeable groups of seeds. Those calling for ornamental trees and shrubs and many plants of economic importance will be forwarded promptly.

Servicemen with botanical or horticultural leanings have kept in contact with the Garden throughout the war and many of them have sent seeds and plants from all parts of the world for testing by the horticulturalists in Bronx Park. Gladiolus and Iris were sent from Iran, their native habitat, by a member of the American Red Cross.

One of several improvements scheduled for after the war is a restaurant between the

museum and conservatories. This is wonderful news for those of us who must leave in the early morning to travel a hundred miles or more for a day of study or observation without a convenient place for a refreshing beverage or something more satisfying to sustain us until our mission has been accomplished.

President Joseph R. Swan said the Garden has a world-wide reputation as a scientific institution. He stressed the importance of knowledge of plants, which "supply the food we eat, the oxygen we breathe, the artificial heat we use, are responsible for many of our diseases and many of our cures, for our clothes and a multitude of our commercial products."

In spite of the many shortages, particularly labor, the high standards of the Botanical Garden have been maintained. May the rededication to another half century of service to mankind be a challenge to ever-increasing knowledge and its dissemination to the people of the world. And may the people not be unmindful of their required support.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Krauss, Director, The Clayton M. Kelly Research and Nomenclature Committees, was appointed to represent the American Begonia Society at the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of the New York Botanical Garden in May, 1945. Apropos of which she says in a letter to the Editor: "I proudly acknowledge the N.Y.B.G. as one of my Alma Maters, and am therefore happy for the opportunity to write about their facilities and functions. I hope the kaleidoscopic view will give the readers an idea of the greatness of this institution."

Mrs. Krauss may not have meant the following news to be divulged just now, nevertheless the Editor is going to share it because so many have been missing her important articles and now it may be told why these have not been forthcoming of late months. There is a new book on *BEGONIAS* in the writing. Mrs. Krauss says that she has reached the half-way mark and does not greatly mind her recent accident which caused a broken bone in a foot, because that will keep her more closely confined to this happy task.

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The Primula . . . A Prize Story

(PART 2 — Continued from June issue)
By GEORGE B. FURNISS, Oakland, Calif.

IN SOME SPECIES of the Primula the methods and mystery of perpetuating life is so curious and unusual that we might pause here to explore the pollinating processes:—

There are two distinct kinds of flowers. The pin-eyed with the stigma *above* the anthers and the thrum-eyed with the stigma *below* the anthers. The two kinds are never found on the same plant. One might think from this that the seed of each form would produce plants only of its kind. Instead of this, the seed produces both kinds and thereby maintains somewhat of a natural balance. The flower structures differ from each other. In the pin-eyed the upper half of the tube is enlarged, urn shaped, whereas the thrum-eyed has a straight tube. The stigmas and pollen grains have a distinct difference in size and/or shape.

BOTH FLOWERS are perfect in that each will set seed with its own pollen. Yet, when the thrum-eyed stigma is crossed with the pollen from the pin-eyed, a slightly greater number of seeds are then produced. Next in seed quantity is the pin-eyed stigma crossed with the thrum-eyed pollen. When pollinated with its own pollen, the seed so produced is the least in amounts; also yields less vigorous plants, and may then all be of the same type as the parent. This is but a brief summary of an interesting but complex phenomenon.

THIS REMARKABLE relationship in reproduction is said by Charles Darwin to be without parallel in the vegetable or animal kingdom, in his book, "The Different Forms of Flowers on Plants of the Same Species." This statement is now subject to modification.

In this group, the cylinder-like calyx is long and the flower withers within this casing. This may be another factor to retard pollination. In contrast, the *Obconica* has a shallow cupped calyx which sheds the withered flower but naturally is rather shy in bearing seed. The *Malacoides* is most prolific in seed production.

THE POLYANTHUS is supposed to be a hybrid derived from two species and let us take note of the limited colors in these parent flowers:—

P. acaulis with a pedicel several inches long, bearing one flower, color yellow.

P. veris, with a scape some eight inches high with a cluster of flowers, color golden yellow, rarely red. Also, there are natural forms of *P. acaulis* which are reddish. Some students think the red of the polyanthus came from this form rather than from *P. veris*.

Mr. Frank Reinelt, the eminent hybridist, stated in THE BEGONIAN that he is majoring for a true blue and a clear pink and although genetically "not possible," he expects some amateur to "get them." This is both an invitation and a challenge to strive for a GRAND PRIZE by obtaining these colors.

GIANT FLOWERS. The writer's first source of seed came from England and Germany and later from American specialists. It was soon found, regardless of catalogue claims, that Primulas were like Pansies. The soil seemingly can not be made too rich with cow or horse manure and subsequent feeding. Rich soil alone does not make large flowers; the strain itself must have "large" characteristics inherently. A Shetland pony can not be fed up to make a dray horse . . . neither "Johnny-jump-ups" into Pansies.

GETTING TO WORK. The Polyanthus does not self-pollinate freely. Some species freely pollinate in their native wilds of Northern Europe but our insects excepting possibly stray thrips, do not appear to be visitors, such as bees, moths; and wild borne pollen may be questionable. The style of the pin-eyed is observed to contract and that of the thrum-eyed to elongate but the tip of the style or stigma of the latter does not seem to reach the anthers or pollen. The pin-eyed may, should the stigma reach the anthers before the pollen loses its potency. So here is another vagary in this most unusual flower.

FOR SEED we resort to hand pollination. Should we work along definite lines, it becomes necessary to dip the brush into alcohol and allow it to evaporate at each change of pollen. This neutralizes any invisible powder that holds over in the brush. Mid-day of a sunny, dry day is considered the most favorable time. A pollinated flower may be marked by a string tied around the pedicel; a tag attached with a number would serve for record purposes. In striving for larger flowers, the *P. acaulis* type is a good pollen source as its flowers run large.

TRANSPLANTING. The Polyanthus, like the Chrysanthemum and Pansy may be safely moved while in full flower. Plants may be shifted to rows or pots according to color for convenience in pollination or for display or bedding purposes. The flowers make a brilliant exhibition and may be transplanted to a conspicuous place for the duration of the blooming period without danger of injury to

(Continued on Page 138)

Pest Trouble With Gloxinias and Begonias

(PART 2 — Continued from June issue)

By WALTER J. KNECHT, Ventura, Calif.

• It seems that after having licked the Nematode trouble, something else happened to my gloxinias, they all started to crinkle up. What now? Photo No. 2—Looking down the center of the plant with a magnifying glass I saw some tiny, round, shiny insects move around, some so small I could hardly see them. All spraying with known insect sprays did not seem to bother them. Cornered some under the mike. Just small, glossy, clear to olive green insects. The horticultural inspector thinks it's one of the mites. He advised me to try the agricultural practice of sulphur dusting. A dustgun was loaded with very fine dusting sulphur plus rotenone garden dust about 3 to 1. I use a small duster with the end turned down and blew the dust right into the heart of the plant, then the underside of the leaves was dusted, by bouncing the dust back from the earth of the pot. This is important, because the underside is a fine hiding place for the mites.

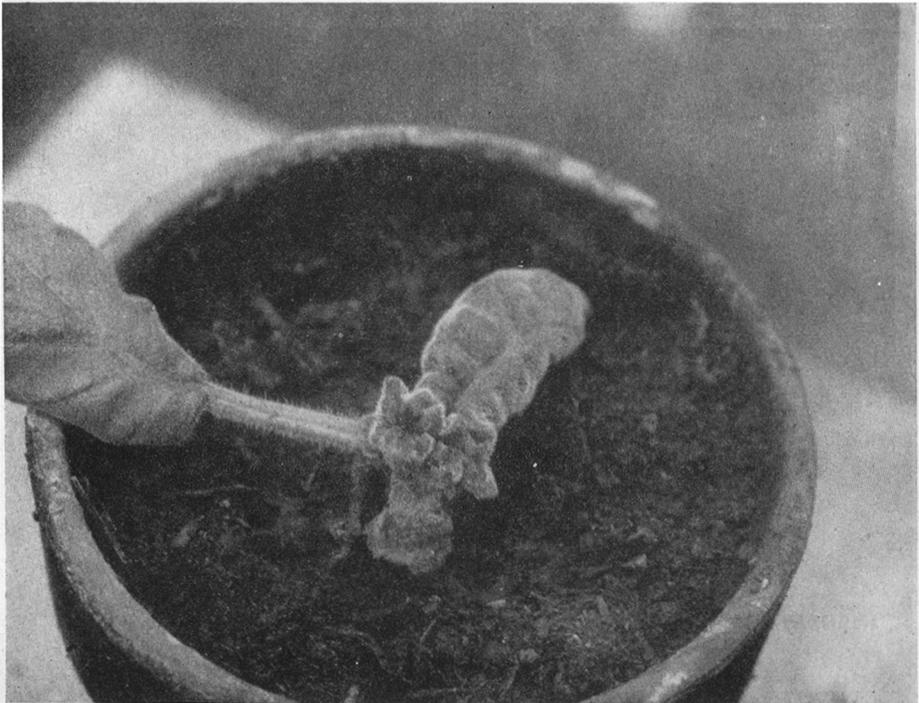
I found one leaf which had so many mites foraging it looked like a herd of buffaloes.

Be sure to wear a handkerchief over your nose for this operation, you probably will after the first time, anyway.

After four weekly dustings the plants were clean and again started healthy growth, but by that time it was getting late for their season and they were slowly dried up and put away.

The same, or a similar mite, may be found on Saint Paulias and on Cyclamen and a similar treatment is suggested.

After these two experiences one wonders what will come next and where do we pick up those pests, apparently they are distributed more than we think and we do not recognize them in many cases. At least I am happy now to know what to do and the big "Why?" is not staring me in the face any more and I hope that these experiences will help others, too.



Gloxinia leaf heavily damaged by mite. Stunted and crinkled young growth.

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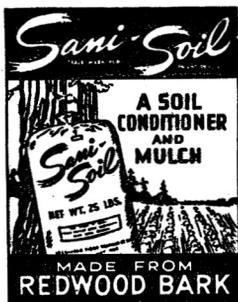
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Branch News . . .

San Diego Branch:

The San Diego Branch had two very interesting speakers at the May meeting, both members of our group, reports Mrs. Clarence E. Moore, Publicity Chairman. Mrs. R. J. McBride brought many huge, heavily blooming SAINT PAULIAS (AFRICAN VIOLETS) and told how she accomplished such beauty. B-1 is a favorite tonic and Plant tabs as fertilizer. These plants are kept in a southeast window, out of drafts and she transplants them when she thinks they need more root space. Have everything ready, and transplant quickly to reduce the shock that makes leaves droop and die. Never let water get in the crowns and wipe off drops of water from the leaves to keep from spotting. She uses distilled water to root leaves and has no luck with city water, but Mrs. R. E. Lee says city water is all she uses and she also has great success in raising these charming plants. About one-half leaf-mold with sand, peat moss and very old fertilizer making the other half. More sand and less fertilizer of course for leaves.

Paul Bloomer demonstrated how to have two TUBEROUS BEGONIAS where only one had been. Take a very sharp knife or razor blade and make short cuts in the tuber at the base of a two inch sprout to be removed. Cut just the smallest section that can be cut and take great care not to bruise the other sprouts on the bulb. Sprinkle powdered charcoal on the tuber where the operation was performed and dip the slip into Rootone or similar rooting compounds and put into a pot with three parts sifted peat moss and one of sand. Insert one inch deep, cover with cheesecloth and place in a cool, dark place for about three weeks, then bring out and plant as usual. It will bloom late in the season and will make a small bulb. Increase your choice tubers this way.

Mrs. M. Watson was appointed pilgrimage chairman.

The San Diego group wishes the new La Mesa Branch the greatest of harmonious success. We know they will have it. Mrs. Woods was our first president, and Russ Eaker followed with two terms as president and at the last national convention won the sweep-stake prize. The latch-string is always out for them.

Orange County Branch:

We are happy to hear from the new officers of this Branch. President: Mrs. Muriel Hylton; Vice-President: Mr. George Barrows, and Mrs. K. D. Burdick as Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Burdick conducted the meeting

(Continued on Page 134)



Begonia Nitida, [Dryander] Variety, Odorata Alba

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, Calif.

With Sketch by ALFRED C. HOTTES

● My subject this month, *B. nitida*, has been sketched for you by one of the nations best-known horticulturists, Alfred C. Hottes, who now lives in La Jolla, California, and belongs to the Eva Kenworthy Branch there. He has written books and lectured on garden

subjects and is also known for his "Pacific Coast" page in "Better Homes and Gardens," with which magazine he has long been associated. He has developed an original technique for drawing plants that is not only accurate

(Continued on Next Page)

and realistic but definitely decorative and I am proud to have this article illustrated with his drawing.

To tell the truth, it took Mr. Hottes's sketch to give me courage to plunge into the controversy that beats about the head of our innocent "odorata alba."

All sources seem agreed that *B. nitida* was the first begonia to be introduced to horticulture. It was sent by William Brown, an English navy doctor, from Jamaica to Kew Gardens in England in 1777. It is mentioned in one of the very earliest publications on begonias by Jonas Dryander in 1791. *B. nitida* was one of the three living specimens the author had seen out of the twenty-one he described.

Because its history goes back so far, *B. nitida* has many synonyms. It has been known as "obliqua, speciosa, minor, purpurea, etc." Just when the name, "odorata alba" came in, we do not know. Some time ago, at least in California, the designation, "nitida" was attached to a much smaller, bushy type while the taller species was called, "odorata alba." So far I have been unable to discover what name covers the small orphan that is now bereft of its good name.

There is no dearth of material on *nitida*. Probably the fine color print and text in Curtis Botanical Magazine, Vol. 16, pl. 4046, 1843, gives us an accurate picture of the plant at that time. It was called "shining-leaf begonia or elephant's ear" and its description fits ours of today in almost exact detail, except that the flowers were rose-colored. Mrs. Krauss quotes Mr. Everett of the N. Y. B. G. in THE BEGONIAN for April, 1944, as follows: "*B. odorata alba* is not related to *nitida* nor to the *odorata alba* of literature. It is not as tall as *nitida*, is bushier and more branching and, most important, its female flower lacks the conspicuous, persistent bracts at the base of the ovary."

Those of us who saw that wonderful hedge of "odorata alba" at Rosecroft, well over five feet tall, would wonder how it could be higher. That was one place where visitors were easily convinced that begonias were fragrant. But, alas, there were no "persistent bracts."

In Les Begonias, Chevalier describes *nitida*, Ait., (not Dry), as slightly shrubby, little branched and three feet or more high. Peduncles and pedicels are long, flowers bright rose, and there is one persistent bract on the ovary. Inasmuch as his book was published in 1938 and he described living material, perhaps he has the true variety *odorata alba* that Mr. Everett mentions, except for the coloring.

Chevalier describes another plant, known to him as *B. sauevolus*, Lodd., as a rare

species, a close neighbor of *nitida*, with more numerous and branching stems, red at the base when young. Leaves are narrower, with shorter petioles, reddish at the point of insertion. They are visibly dentate on the edges and more shiny on the raised nerves underneath, inflorescences are more slender, more numerous and thicker. The flowers are white, smaller and without the persistent ovary bracts. All of these traits follow closely those of the plant Mr. Hottes has drawn.

In Die Begonien, *nitida* is only a little over three feet, shrubby and branched, with petioles as long as the leaf and a few large pink flowers, slightly fragrant, carried in a loose head, blooming summer to fall. Rather different from our plant.

Mrs. Buxton says there is a good colorplate of *B. nitida* in Paxton's Magazine of Botany, Vol. 13, with white flowers, flushed pink. According to her, *nitida*, var. o.a., more frequently grown, has smaller, pure-white flowers, scented with a lily-like odor that is stronger in the morning.

In Bailey's, *B. nitida* has leaves 4 to 6 inches across and pale pink flowers. His description of the var. o.a. tallies with Mrs. Buxton's. The large leaves would make us think that his *nitida* was var. *rosea*.

In the midst of all this confusion it seems best to use the species name, *nitida*, which means shining, and couple it with our old friend, var. *odorata alba*, as the official title for this month's sketch. We shall endeavor to describe it with exactness for comparison with any new discoveries.

In California, *nitida*, var. o.a., grows over five feet high when planted in the ground, with many stalks and branches, requiring good staking. Young stems are red, spotted green at the base, while old ones are a light woody brown. Mostly they are a succulent green. Leaves, 2½ by 4½ inches, are alternate, with petioles about an inch long, which are red both where they leave the stalk and where they join the leaf. The leaf is well described as "elephant's ear" in form, unfolding from two green, reflexed, pointed, keel-shaped, red-tinted stipules. The leaf shines like green patent leather, with lighter-colored veins. It is slightly cupped at first but soon flattens out and even turns back a bit with

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age. The edge is only slightly irregular, with a pointed tip and definitely no hairs. The back is a frosty green, brighter on the raised veins and red-flushed on the edges when young. The stipules remain but are too dried to be conspicuous.

The inflorescence, rising from terminal leaf axils, carries a panicle 10 inches broad and is about equally long. It is quite red with green accents where it branches.

The sketch was made from a plant in Mrs. Calloway's garden in La Jolla. It shows a cluster of male flowers and one of female. Actually, the females are hidden in tight pink deciduous bracts, visible in the sketch of staminate blooms, and come to full maturity when the male blooms have all dropped off. The petals of both types open and even reflex, thus making the sparkle of their golden centers more conspicuous. This is contrary to some eastern experience. The staminate flower has four uneven petals; two narrow opposite ellipses and two rounded and wide, white within, with a pink tint on the back, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across, with an aigrette cluster of yellow stamens. The flowers are pinker when raised in the sun. The female bloom seems whiter because of the large ovary which has a pale pink tint on largest of its three wings. The five petals are equal in size and well extended to show the unusual oppositely-twisted stigmas of yellow velvet, mostly arranged in three pairs.

There have been some interesting hybrids made from *B. nitida* which will be discussed at a later time. The variety, *rosea* also deserves its own sketch. In our part of the country, *nitida*, var. o.a., is almost ever-blooming, if it has warmth in winter. It is happier in more sun than shade. Its full name is so descriptive that we should learn to use it. Those who have seen it grown en masse with wonderful lacy clusters of white, sweet-scented flowers against the gayest of glossy green leaves, will always hold it in high esteem. Some day we will have

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Mrs. Buxton's book is delayed. See next issue.

SHOW CALENDAR

Southern California Fuchsia Society Show
Paul J. Howard's Flowerland
11700 National Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif.
July 8th, 1 to 5 p.m.

The Huntington Beach Country Fair
Huntington Beach, Calif.
August 17, 18, 19 and 20

Joint Meeting:
The Southern California Horticultural Inst.
and The American Begonia Society
Elks Club, Sixth and Parkview
Los Angeles, Calif.
August 6th, 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco Flower Show
Rotunda, The City Hall
August 29th and 30th



This is "Scotty" Hudson at "WORK" admiring his lovely flowers on one of the several tiered benches of his first lathhouse (18'x32'). The ceiling is ten feet high and it is covered with muslin over the war-time substitute for lath, utility fence, which is held together with three rows of wire, it has laths too far apart for the growing of tuberous begonias, but with the muslin it works successfully as there are a fair number of "subdued sunshine" days in summer at Huntington Beach.

Introducing "Scotty" Hudson . . .

Grower of Prize Winning Tuberous Begonias

By HELEN NELSON, Associate Editor of Ghost Town, Calif. News

● "TRIFLES make perfection, but perfection is no trifle"—so said Michelangelo, and somehow that seems to indicate the close relationship between "Scotty" Hudson and the perfection of those exquisite tuberous begonias that bring a gleam of satisfaction to his eyes and a smile of accomplishment to his face. Trifles? Well, maybe; at any rate countless details enter into the process of raising beautiful tuberous begonias. First, quality gets his A-1 plus rating, because only the best seeds, bulbs or seedlings are entitled to his consideration. Soil composition comes next. If it is true that man is an accurate reflection of what he eats, it is doubly true that a plant reacts to the kind of soil in which it is placed to grow. "Scotty" studies soil and its chemical properties and checks carefully against the

needs of his baby tuberous begonias. Soil needs feeding, so fertilization gets a big chunk of his thoughtful concentration. Tuberous begonias are very particular about their full quota of suntinged shade and surroundings, and it takes planning and effort to provide them with the most satisfactory atmospheric conditions. Earth worms want their way, too, and bear watching. Pruning, treatment of cuttings, repotting, humidity, temperature, ventilation, cleanliness of equipment—are only a fraction of the bigger factors required to successfully grow tuberous begonias, but for each of them, hundreds of details absorb the thought and effort of Mr. and Mrs. Begonia Grower.

"Scotty" Hudson considers no effort trifling. Patience builds upon a terrace of the efforts



This is one of the many hanging baskets of the Lloyd group. "Rose-Pink," a beautiful double flowered tuberous begonia that is breathtaking in its loveliness. At its peak last year it carried 135 flowers with a majority measuring 4 inches in diameter.

of patience, until experience can be labelled "correct procedure" and filed in the category of proven rules. He has had his failures, but each has become a stepping stone. He has learned that the "Pacific Strain" is the best strain of tuberous begonias on the market and that Vetterle & Reinelt bulbs and seedlings never disappoint. He has learned that for the small user, 1 bucket of sand, 1 bucket of leaf mold, 1 bucket of peat moss, added to 1 bucket of "cotton seed" steer manure and 2 full cups of bone meal, mixed thoroughly and placed in a hole dug for that purpose, keeping it damp and placing sacks over the top to retain moisture, provides the mixture from which he obtains the best results. It should be mixed ahead of time to accomplish this if you would have your compost ready in good condition for using.

His experience has proved that a seedling should be planted in a 6" pot; a yearling bulb in an 8" pot, and from then on, to use nothing less than a 10" pot. He prefers plenty of crushed rock in the bottom of pots for drainage—2 good handfuls in a 6" pot, increasing it to 5" from the bottom in a 10"

pot. This saves valuable dirt and makes for good drainage. Bulbs, in his category, should be planted between the first of March to the first of April and kept moist. They are rank feeders and need lots of help. Foliage should be watered, too, as they feed as much from their foliage as from their roots, and watering should be done in the evening to avoid scorching from the rays of the sun. About three weeks before planting he treats the soil with carbon-bi-sulphide, thus killing pests that may be in the soil as well as any seeds that might germinate after planting.

After experimenting with different kinds of roofs, Mr. Hudson prefers a lath house 10 feet high with gable lath roof, and laths placed about three-fourths inches apart. He has discovered that his tuberous begonias respond best to 65% shade, which is a good prescription for the elimination of worry. And, he believes that by following the procedure that has proven most satisfactory, more and more people will be growing these beautiful tuberous begonias with greater success.

(Continued on Next Page)

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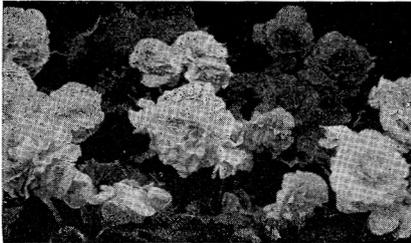
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BEGONIA EXHIBIT

By GEORGE G. LAWRENCE, Alhambra, Calif.

● Clarence A. Hall, of Ventura, Past President of American Begonia Society, will be the principal speaker at the August 6th meeting of the California Horticultural Institute. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, Sixth Street and Parkview Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

The American Begonia Society will have charge of the program and all our members and friends are urged to attend and to exhibit their best plant or plants. Several of the branches are planning exhibits of shade plants in which begonias will predominate. There will be tables for exhibiting flower arrangements, corsages, as well as various types of begonias and other shade plants.

The cooperation of all our members is essential if we are to have a beautiful and worthwhile exhibit. The plants can be brought in between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. and the meeting will be over by 10 p.m. at which time they can be removed.

This is a wonderful opportunity to create additional interest in Begonias among the members of the Southern California Horticultural Institute, and as there probably will not be a National Begonia Show this year it may be our only chance to have an exhibit before 1946.

● Do not forget to send your order for the new BEGONIA BOOK by Mrs. Buxton from our Librarian, Mrs. Crowder. Due to paper needs of the day, the first issue may not be sufficient to give everyone who needs it a copy, if you wait too long, you may have to wait for the second issue.

PRIZE WINNING BEGONIAS

And who is "Scotty" Hudson, winner of all the awards for tuberous begonias at the annual convention? His official name is Reginald G. Hudson, ("Scotty" to all who know him). He is a resident of Huntington Beach, California, which, according to articles written in THE BEGONIAN by Alfred Keller, has the ideal climate for growing this glamorous flower. His better half, Mrs. Hudson, is a close second in the joy of growing tuberous begonias and an artist in flower arrangement, her displays having won unstinted praise wherever shown. She won the sweepstakes ribbon for the most artistic display at the Inglewood show as well as at the annual convention at Plummer Park, Hollywood.

Mr. Hudson is starting his second term as president of the Huntington Beach Garden Club and he is president of the Huntington Beach Country Fair Association. Last year's



This double frilled seedling bore enormous flowers of a translucent white with a delightful lavender edge. The surprises in seedlings are endless and exciting and there is always the chance that it may be some form or combination never seen before.

fair was an outstanding success and plans are now in the making for a bigger, better Country Fair this year on the dates of August 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th, the last two of those days being set aside for begonia growers of every kind, from everywhere, in two distinct classes, amateur and commercial.

It takes deeply rooted love and patience

for the successful development of a hobby. Many of the most important kinds of business in the nation are the outgrowth of hobbies. This is true of "Scotty" Hudson, who never could do anything halfway, and accounts for the fact that the people who know him best in his home town refer to him as "The Begonia King."

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Orange County Branch:

(Continued from Page 126)

held in the Junior College Hall in Santa Ana in June. Mr. Herbert Dyckman was speaker of the evening on "Species Begonias," which everyone enjoyed greatly.

A membership drive is started. The members are divided in two sides. The loser to give the winner a dinner in September. This month is chosen so that the winners of ribbons at the Huntington Beach Country Fair, August 17, 18, 19 and 20th, may be able to display them to advantage.

The July meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. H. D. Meiser, Fullerton. Mr. R. B. Peters of Laguna Beach will speak on "Soil and Aqueduct Water." Since Mr. Peters has made a study of this situation and conditions, this will be a very important meeting.

La Mesa Branch:

The organization meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Victor S. Bailey on Friday, April 20th, 1945. Ten members were present. The officers elected are: President, Mrs. Nadine Woods (our National Rex Nomenclature Chairman); Vice-President, Mrs. Victor S. Bailey, also acting Secretary; National Representative, Mrs. Russell Eaker. Directors: Mrs. Edna Lowry, Mr. Harry Jones and Mrs. John Newton. Historian, Mrs. Lilla Putnam. By-Laws were adopted and the meeting place to be the Porter Park Clubhouse in La Mesa at 8 p.m. of each second Monday of the month.

SECOND MEETING, La Mesa Branch met at the Porter Park Clubhouse on May 14th, with 23 MEMBERS PRESENT. The President, Mrs. Nadine Woods opened the meeting with the reading of the By-Laws, and giving a brief resume of the history of The American Begonia Society. Mr. Lodge, speaker of the evening, from the famous Rockleigh Dahlia Gardens, showed kodachrome slides of some very beautiful dahlias the while giving a very enlightening talk on their successful culture.

Mrs. Lucie Sargent was assisted by Mrs. A. O. Kent in a very fine plant sale for which Mr. Lodge also donated dahlia tubers.

Ten new members were acquired due to the industrious work of Mr. A. O. Kent, Membership Chairman, and other members.

Congratulations and all possible good wishes for a happy continuation of the unusually fine beginning.

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch:

More than 150 members and guests attended the pot-luck dinner so well managed by Mrs. Otto Cochrun at the June meeting. Miss Lina Franze delighted the audience with a talk on gardening, "IN EARLY VEN-

TURA GARDENS." So cleverly interwoven was the talk with interesting historical anecdotes that it was a revelation even to those who have long resided in Ventura. The early gardens were so beautifully described as to be an inspiration to the present gardeners.

Miss Franze, dressed in full Spanish Senorita costume, ended her program with the singing of "Thank God For a Garden." Mr. Clarence Hall explained the "GIVE AND TAKE" between Branches and the National Organization, also acting as Questions and Answers Chairman.

San Gabriel Branch:

Mrs. Vera Corbett reports that the talk given by Maria Wilkes, Editor THE BEGONIAN, was "Composting for Health and Beauty" that she made a strong impression on the audience of the need for such procedure. There was a record crowd for this meeting. The speaker for the June meeting, Mr. John Parker of Hollywood, will be reported later.

The membership drive winners will be rewarded in July, but Mrs. Corbett assures us that the habit of bringing in new members has become so strong that this branch will continue to grow. They find the social hour at the end of the meeting is a big help in cementing friendships. The plant sales of this Branch are notable for their excellence.

San Francisco Branch:

The June 6th meeting was mostly devoted to plans for the forthcoming flower show to be held in the Rotunda of the City Hall on August 29th and 30th.

Many of the members will be exhibiting for the first time, but with the others they will attempt to stage all kinds of first rate begonias, fuchsias, dahlias, roses, etc., in order to make this the outstanding show to date and particularly with an accent on begonias.

Mr. William Moxan donated four flats of begonia seedlings and Mrs. June Resketh donated one flat which made it possible for every member to win three or more little plants.

Due to the 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY, the meeting will be held on July 11th. Mr. Robert E. Saxe, Past President the San Francisco Men's Garden Club will speak on "Fun in Gardening," illustrated with Kodachrome pictures.

California Heights Branch:

Two meetings have been held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Smith, the last being a covered-dish dinner. The main topic of discussion was the RUMMAGE SALE to be held on June 6th, at 423 W. Broadway Street. Everyone is invited.

Mrs. Ann Haller spoke on "CUTTINGS AND PROPAGATION OF PELARGONIUMS," illustrating her talk with live specimens.

On July 13th, the meeting will be held at the home of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. F. I. Penrose.

Glendale Branch:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Johnson was not able to speak for this group in May, therefore he was to speak at the June meeting, to be reported later. Members brought a very interesting program which brought forth many subjects for discussion by all. Garden visitations are in order through this fine weather period, invitations will be gladly considered. Mr. Kay has offered some unusually fine ceramics as prizes for the winner of the membership drive which will end by the August meeting. The Membership Chairman will now be charged with collection of dues from the 135 members.

Bellflower Branch:

The Bellflower Branch had a very enjoyable meeting at the Albert Haller residence in June. After visiting the hostess' beautiful garden, the program chairman gave an interesting group of questions and answers that are helpful at this time of year. She also constructed a lovely Billbergia hanging basket before us. Mrs. Haller thanked the group for their cooperation during the Flower Shows in May. Mrs. Hoxie received the birthday plant. July meeting will be held at Mrs. Thalheimers.

(Continued on Next Page)

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Branch News

East Bay Branch:

Members and friends had a very interesting meeting with Dr. Fred Davis at the home of Mrs. Bonsall, 500 Arlington, Berkeley, where Dr. Davis has very charmingly arranged a hillside garden of choice plants and shrubs. The meeting was conducted by the Vice-President, Mr. H. L. Swager. Mr. Martin L. Boyd talked on the topic of tuberous begonias, which he knows very thoroughly.

A visitor at this meeting was one of the charter members, Mrs. McMillen, who now lives at San Gabriel. She told us of her experience in attempting to raise tuberous begonias there. She reported that she has success, however, with Rexes.

Inglewood Branch:

Mrs. Alexander B. Sim was the speaker at the June meeting of the Inglewood Branch of the American Begonia Society. The subject of her talk was Begonias, and she brought specimens from her nursery to illustrate her lecture. Among the specimens she showed were the double and single Calla Lily Begonia, Manicata Aurea cristata, Odorata Rosea, Corallina de Lucerna seedlings, Dregei, Weltoniensis, Francis Geron, Imperialis, Haageana, metallica, Richard Robinson, Jessie, and many others that many of us had never seen before.

The plants sold at this meeting were all donated by the members and there were over two hundred lovely plants on the plant sale table, which certainly proves that many of us are doers and not sitters.

The plan for the exhibit at the Horticulture Society in August was discussed and a large display is expected from this group.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Schirmer of 8611 Fifth Ave., have invited all of the members to a dinner to be served al fresco at their home on July 12. Not only are they supplying the dinner, but the plants for the plant sale as well. **RESERVATIONS FOR THIS DINNER MUST BE IN THE MAIL BEFORE THE 5TH OF JULY.** Bring own table service. Members and their guests are invited. This will be the regular July meeting.

Riverside Branch:

A family picnic will be held for next meeting on July 10th at Fairmount Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Poole opened their unique home for the June meeting and entertained the members at a pot-luck dinner. Mrs. Poole has about 102 varieties of camellias with many beautiful ferns, azaleas and other shade-loving plants. The attraction of the evening was a lovely coral tree in full bloom in one of the gardens around this fine home, which is a veritable museum of old and interesting things.

Hollywood Branch:

Eighty-seven interested people came to hear Mr. Merrill Thompson and see the pictures he brought through the courtesy of the Destruxol Corporation. Mr. and Mrs. William Jonson, Col. and Mrs. Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Harrell and Mrs. Merrill Thompson came from Pasadena, and many other guests.

Note CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE FOR JULY Picnic: July 14th, FERNDLELL PARK, at end of North Western Ave., Los Angeles, Section Number ONE from 5 to 9 p.m. There will be garden visitations through the afternoon and anyone who is not receiving member cards may call Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, GRanite 9458, for the itinerary to follow from 1 to 4 p.m. same day. Everyone bring: table service, drink and a dish for supper.

Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch:

A very interesting meeting was held in May at the home of Mrs. H. D. Haworth. Colored pictures of flowers and plants grown in San Diego County and vicinity were shown by Mr. Tim Aller of the Department of Agriculture. These pictures prove the success of commercial flower growing in this locality and encourage the home-owner in developing his property.

Mr. Alfred C. Hottes, Garden Editor for "Better Homes and Gardens," told of the great need of plants for the landscaping of Camp Lockett. He requested each member to donate some plants from his garden. This branch is cooperating in every way possible with Mr. Hottes realizing the importance of plant material in rehabilitation camps.

Margaret W. Coates surprised everyone with the presentation of two scrapbooks, one with the branch name engraved on the cover to be used for history and records. On the first page Eva Kenworthy Gray's picture and story tell of the inspiration and origin of the Branch. History, by-laws, special guest entries and members' garden pictures, with provision for tributes In Memoriam of departed members brought up to date with the passing of Oscar Putnam, a member, who died recently. The other scrapbook is for members to take home for one month to paste in clippings and pictures of begonias.

Whittier Branch:

Mr. Barber reported a fine attendance to hear Mr. Dyckman, who gave a very interesting talk. In July this Branch will hold a joint meeting with the Fuchsia Society, with a pot-luck luncheon on the 8th, at 1 p.m. in the Penn Park in Whittier. There will be garden visitations.

North Long Beach Branch:

In May, Mr. "Scotty" Hudson spoke to this group on Begonias, his pet subject. He was greatly appreciated. His talk is very helpful. Maria Wilkes was speaker in June, her subject also important, "Composting for Health and Beauty."

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Alfred D. Robinson Branch:

We congratulate the following officers just elected for this Branch: President, Mrs. R. H. Green; Vice-President, Mrs. John Sweck; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Lawrence Holzman; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor; Treasurer, Mrs. F. J. Rhodes, and Program Chairman, Mrs. John G. Clark. The meeting day is still the fourth Friday, but the time is changed to 10 a.m.

The meetings have been held in homes and gardens of members this summer. The April meeting, a "Pitchin" luncheon, was held in the garden of Mrs. Annibell Barry, whose garden is not only a riot of harmonious color but demonstrates what can be done where one is willing to give necessary and intelligent care as well as protection from wind and sun as demanded here.

The May meeting at the home of Mrs. Paul Wolcott and the canyon garden demonstrated how well landscaped a place may be and the use of lots of shade plants around the house. The waterfall coming from a higher level to the pool in the canyon adds much interest to the rock garden plants found on the hillside terraces. This garden has to take a lot of cold wind from the ocean.

THE SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RED CROSS HAS NEED OF IRIS PLANTS FOR THE CONVALESCENT HOSPITALS, PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY.

CONDENSED MINUTES BOARD MEETING, A.B.S., Held May 28th, 1945 at Retail Merchants Credit Association, 417 S. Hill St., Los Angeles.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 with President Nelson in the Chair. Board Members: Messrs. Nelson, Hart, Dr. Dunkle, Lawrence, Mesdames Poole, Weber, Wilkes, Clark, Hartwell present. Treasurer Hawkins Editor Mrs. Wilkes. Membership Fees Clark submitted reports which were accepted as presented and ordered filed.

Reading of minutes dispensed with.

Introduction of guests.

Bills OK'ed, and ordered paid by auditing committee.

President Nelson named Col. Gale Chairman; Mrs. Bayer and Mrs. Crawford as Nominating Committee, asking that they bring in their report at the July meeting as ballots will be published in the August Begonian.

President announced the June meeting of the Board would be held in the Los Angeles Library in the "Model Library Room" and urged all attending to be there promptly at 7:30 as the library closes at 9.

Public Relations Director, Mr. Lawrence, presented Constitution and ByLaws sent in by the Hollywood Branch, reported he had gone over these, moved that they accepted as submitted. CARRIED. Mr. Lawrence also brought up for discussion plans for the meeting of August 6th at the Horticultural Society. It was the feeling of all present that this meeting should be given whole-hearted support and we should make it a most worthwhile exhibit and that it should include begonias of all kinds and also shade plants and ferns. Also that commercial growers and amateurs should exhibit. There will be ample table space and begonias should be urged to look their best and be ready to be shown at this meeting. Watch your Begonian for details, but in the meantime groom your plants.

Mr. Hart reported nothing special at the Robinson Memorial. Rexes looking good but fibrous

The First American Begonia Society Correspondence Club

By FRANCES DOWNING, Director

305 N. Mason Street, Bowie, Texas

• The first flight of twelve members has begun a correspondence club through which a great deal of amateur-acquired knowledge may be uncovered for the benefit of all other members through publication in THE BEGONIAN in proper time.

There are three clubs open for memberships: Rex Begonias, Fibrous Begonias and Begonia semperflorens. There will be advanced and beginners sections, and there will be other clubs opened to correspondence as demand requires.

Number two flight will soon start and number three is in the making. Please note change of address of the writer: to 305 N. Mason Street, Bowie, Texas. This moving of a home and household with a collection of plants of the brittleness and tenderness of begonias may be understood only by those who have undertaken such a move. I may be able to tell something of it soon.

Note by the Editor: Moving from Duncanville, Alabama, to Bowie, Texas, would be enough to crowd any of us for time and strength. Mrs. Downing is evidently most unselfish in thinking solicitously of the Correspondence Clubs she is directing, and getting experience material for our members at such a time with added work of moving her most precious begonia treasures. We wish her lots of good luck.

The Primula — A Prize Story

(Continued from Page 124)

the root system. Close planting for such display purposes makes a lush growth of foliage and longer stems . . . using rich soil . . . and keeping it wet.

CROSS POLLINATING has many enticing possibilities; and is a fascinating and enjoyable amendment to gardening. Be progressive by procuring seeds from specialists and take advantage of new developments and new strains. You thus add expectancy and interest and thereby broaden the pleasure of a garden.

a little slow. Hopes to have the fibrous looking better soon.

Reports from Branches good; speakers most interesting and instructive. See reports in Begonian each month.

Discussion of plans for the Annual Meeting. It was the feeling that a picnic dinner at the Robinson Memorial would be in order and Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hart to see about reserving tables, etc., and report at the next meeting. The flower show would have to be postponed for lack of housing. This would give members an opportunity to visit the memorial attend the annual meeting and election of officers, and then about 6 o'clock a picnic dinner and talk-fest. Watch the Begonian for plans, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

GONDA HARTWELL, Corres. Sec.

Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

The July American Begonia Society Board Meetings will take place in the Los Angeles Public Library, Model Room, Grand Street Entrance, Monday, July 23rd, at 7:30 p.m.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, July 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

Wm. Thalheimer, 1831 McKenzie St.
North Long Beach, Calif.

Mrs. Ardel Radle, Sec.-Treas.
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, July 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall
North Carolina St., Ventura, Calif.

Mrs. Wm. Smith, Sec.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, July 5th

College Hall, Santa Ana J. C. 917 N. Maine St.
Santa Ana, Calif.

Mrs. K. D. Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 3, Box 355,
Santa Ana, Calif.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Monday, July 8th, 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.

Mrs. G. E. Polentz, Sec.-Treas.
1000 West Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

Monday, July 9th, 8 p.m.

Porter Park Club House
La Mesa, San Diego Co., Calif.,
Mrs. Nadine Woods, President.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, July 10th, 7:30 p.m.

42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.

Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler, Secretary
169 E. Artesia, Bellflower, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, July 10th 6:30 p.m.

Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, July 10th, 7:30 p.m.

Picnic, Fairmount Park
Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, July 11th, 7:45 p.m.

Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church
c/o 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secretary
2183 - 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Speaker: Robert E. Saxe

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, July 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Schirmer,
8611 Fifth Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary
3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, July 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Mrs. F. I. Penrose, 4142 Walnut Ave.
Long Beach 7, Calif.

Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas.
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, July 14th, 5-9 p.m.

Ferndell Park Sec. No. 1
No. Western Ave.

Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secretary
3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, July 15th 2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, July 16th

Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, July 18th, 7:30 p.m.

Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.
Mary Hotaling, Sec.-Treas.
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings

Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treasurer
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, July 23rd, 7:30 p.m.

Hard of Hearing Hall
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Brediford, Sec.-Treas.
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, July 24th

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, July 24th, 8:00 p.m.

329 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, July 27th, 10:00 a.m.

Hall, Point Loma Community Church
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.

Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secretary.
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, July 27th 8:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 S. Fourth Street, Alhambra, Calif.

POSTMASTER

Please Notify Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark
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Fuchsia Show . . . August 18-19

Dahlia Show . . . August 16-17

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