

# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

	Page
HEAR YE! HEAR YE! A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU . . . . .	236
DECEMBER LETTER TO ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS . . . . .	237, 246
CAMELLIA GARDENS TOUR . . . . .	237
SAN GABRIEL BRANCH SHADE GARDEN EXHIBITION AND PHOTOGRAPH . . . . .	238, 239
REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN A.B.S. 1946 . . . . .	240
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS . . . . .	240
NEW BEGONIAS COLLECTED BY ABLE EXPLORER . . . . .	241, 246
THE DIRECTORS ROUND ROBIN NEWS . . . . .	242
GLOXINIAS AND SAINT PAULIAS AND HYBRIDIZING R. R. . . . .	243
BEGONIA X VALETA WITH SKETCH . . . . .	244, 245
NEW OFFICERS EAST BAY BRANCH . . . . .	247
NORTH LONG BEACH SPECIAL PROGRAM . . . . .	246, 247, 250
GENERAL ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR DECEMBER . . . . .	246, 248, 250
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND TUBEROUS BEGONIA STORAGE . . . . .	249, 250
TWENTY-TWO BEGONIAS EXHIBIT . . . . .	250
NEW OFFICERS BELLFLOWER BRANCH . . . . .	250
FUCHSIAS ARE NOW RESTING . . . . .	251, 252
BEGONIA SEEDS ON HAND FOR SEED FUND SPRING 1947 . . . . .	252
CALENDAR AND MEETING PLACES . . . . .	253

# The BEGONIAN

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*Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society*

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## HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

*The time draws near the birth of Christ;  
The moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist.*

—Tennyson

We, Begonians, can reach out through the medium of this magazine and be in touch with every other member, each in his way striving to make the search for happy living and beauty at every turn easier to find by sharing the art with our fellowmen. Whatever we may have achieved this past year is but a beginning to what we may do in a thousand ways.

One great road we should uncover is the road to PEACE. If we could only sit on a

sunny bank on Christmas day in the morning, and spy three ships: Peace, Contentment, and Goodwill for everyone—coming in (with apologies to Washington Irving) then, we could hear "The Christmas bells from hill to hill—Answer each other in the mist."

May your Christmas be cheerful and happy.

Your Editor,

MARIA WILKES

- To know what to do in the garden, to know why we do what we do, and to help you do better the things to be done, is the function of The Begonian.

- Give the Begonian for Xmas.

## DECEMBER LETTER TO THE ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS

By SKIPPER FLORENCE CARRELL

● The Season's Greetings to all you Armchair Explorers! Fred Graves of Southampton, Mass., writes us as follows:

Hi Skipper, how are those begonias growing? Has the seed come up that you've been sowing?

What you will do or where you will put them, I can't surmise

When all those tiny seedlings get to blooming size.

I suppose that from seed sowing you get quite a kick,

When those seedlings peep thru so tiny and thick.

Now for seedlings, I just cannot wait

So I keep starting cuttings from early to late.

We Armchair Explorers do enjoy watching the seedlings grow, last year there were 67 folks who enjoyed our adventures in seed gathering, and now we are 100 strong! So you see many folks do like growing from seed even if Fred Graves doesn't.

New Begonia seeds are being received weekly, many kinds from Costa Rica, Mexico, West Indies and Colombia. Mulford Foster who is collecting in Colombia has sent us several kinds identified by numbers only, and *B. ferruginea* var. *dilatata* (see description by Helen Krauss). Mrs. Elsie Frey and Mrs. Marie Minter have both sent some fine kinds of Begonia seeds for our Seed Fund. To date (Nov. 1st) we have on hand 30 different kinds of Begonia seeds for spring distribution, many very rare ones never before introduced to American horticulture. It has meant a great deal of work for your Skipper locating these seed for you, and her reward will be in your growing these choice seed into strong plants and sharing with your neighbors so others can enjoy these new Begonias.

We have asked Mrs. Krauss, Director of Research, to help us give you more complete descriptions of the Begonia seed secured, the collectors' descriptions have been sent to her and from time to time she will give you as detailed descriptions as possible.

From the Royal Horticultural Society of India we have this reply to our request for help in securing seed. "Dear Mrs. Carrell: I have sent an enquiry to two seed collectors who in the past could help me with seeds from high elevation stations. I do not know what they have done during the last couple of years, for the high prices paid to laborers for working on the Burma Road took all the good men from these districts and, having earned in a month more than they did in five years, most have retired. You may be cer-

## CAMELLIA GARDENS TOUR

Sponsored by the American Begonia Society

● Here is a date to mark on your calendar of important dates, Saturday February 22nd, 1947, George Washington's Birthday. There is to be a very fine garden tour of Camellias and Shade Gardens in Pasadena, California. This will be your opportunity to see and learn about those beautiful and popular flowers the CAMELLIAS. We have a promise that some-one will be in each garden to answer your questions as to the name of your favorite Camellia and their culture. In a later issue of the Begonian we will give you the full details of the gardens you may tour, a place to eat your basket lunch, and the time etc. This will be an all day treat for the entire family, your friends, and all the members from the various branches, so pack your lunch and see all these lovely gardens and have a visit with your fellow begonians.

Watch for further announcements and plan now, that on no account will you miss this event.

MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND

Chairman of Ways and Means

tain I will do my best to assist the American Begonia Society, but am warning you of difficulties I foresee."

From the West Indies we received a sample package of various kinds of tree seeds, iris and morea seeds, etc. This collector has been able to find for us several kinds of Begonia seeds and seems willing to gather tree seeds which he feels would grow well in our warmer sections and suggests the Star apple, Cacaoir (which has a red & black seed), Savonette, Jasmine and many kinds of palms. Anyone interested in growing such seed write your Skipper. A charge must be made on all seeds sent out—for the collectors are always paid for their work in gathering seeds either by money or books and magazine subscriptions, and a great deal of money is spent on airmail postage to these foreign countries.

Those of you interested in growing ferns from sporangia will be glad to know that we have just received three new kinds of spores from Mexico (maidenhair type, 15" clump fern which fronds 6" by 15") from Colombia we also have received fern spores. The above at 25c per packet.

For those growing the Gesnerias so loved by your Skipper, we have some more choice seeds:

*Hypocyrtia mummularia* — A basket plant, flowers wax scarlet-red in form of a shoe.

*Campana grandiflora* — A fine climbing

(Continued on Page 246)

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## SHADE GARDEN EXHIBIT BY SAN GABRIEL BRANCH

By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, Calif.

● The Fannie Morrison Garden Center of Pasadena was an ideal spot for the Four-day show commencing October 31st, 1946.

It was an ambitious exhibit for an initial venture by the San Gabriel Branch and a surprise to learn that the plants came from a small group of members. They are a choice group: Ms. et Mmes. C. W. Johnston, R. L. Stockland, Roscoe Moss, George Stegner, H. M. Washburn, G. L. Johnson; Mesdames A. N. Hartwell, Josephine Hotz, Myrtle Jones, Etta Morant, and Virginia Humphrey with the Lewis Begonia Gardens and J. N. Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens.

They provided a diversified array of interesting and good looking plants which were very well blended and grouped naturally. They created a great deal of interest evidenced by the numerous questions asked by Mr. and Mrs. Public. A majority had no idea there were so many kinds of begonias and other shade plants so easily grown under shrubs and trees, in shady nooks, or open shady places to create beautiful and colorful vistas.

All the plants were labelled by Mrs. A. N. Hartwell and as correctly named as present knowledge extends. We may find our nomenclature in need of revision when Mrs. Krauss' book is off the press, which we hope is not too long hence, but at least we have something definite to go by, which is important.

The exhibit was staged by the following Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. G. L. Johnson, Ms. et Mmes. C. W. Johnston, H. M. Washburn, Mrs. Etta Morant and Mr. George L. Johnson, Pres. of the San Gabriel Branch.

An extensive and competent committee gave of their valuable time to maintain a constantly attentive presence to tell interested visitors about the plant materials used and to distribute printed information. We are sure much benefit was derived on all sides from this feature alone. The Branch owes a debt of gratitude to Capt. Roy Dere for the printing of the leaflets and the careful transportation of the plants. We hope the interest evoked by this non-competitive exhibit will inspire other groups to make lovely settings whenever the opportunity arises.

● American Begonia Society Leaflets Rex, Fibrous and Tuberos. Concrete cultural information 15 cents each, from Roy K. Dere.



inclusive. Some three hundred well chosen plants were arranged naturalistically under the shrubs flanking the winding pergola.

Thirty-five feet of hillside exhibit staged by the San Gabriel Branch of The A.B.S. at the Fannie E. Morrison Fall Flower Show in Pasadena, California October 31st, November 3rd

## Report of the Librarian, A.B.S., 1946

● The library of the American Begonia Society has been most active in the past year, in fact it has never had such wide-spread use.

The appearance of Mrs. Bessie Buxton's new edition of "BEGONIAS AND HOW TO GROW THEM" in January of this year, when it was announced for publication in May of 1945, kept the librarian busy for months mailing out the backlog of orders that had accumulated since the book was first announced for publication. (To complicate matters the price was raised from \$1.75 to \$2.50 which meant billing all who had sent the original price.) Distribution to local branches was handled through the branch representatives. The book has had wide publicity and has been reviewed by garden authorities in many periodicals. The society will benefit from this publicity as Mrs. Buxton is most generous of her space and information about the American Begonia Society. (The discount allowed on quantity orders of this book has been credited to the library operating fund, thus no appropriation for expenses has been necessary this year.)

The circulation of library material has grown greatly this past year. Over one hundred books and pamphlets have been sent out and returned, in addition forty bound volumes of THE BEGONIAN have been circulated to our far flung membership. A doctor in Mexico and a housewife in Hawaii have been sent almost all the information we have in the library.

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## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

*Chairman of Ways and Means*

● In a recent issue of The Begonian mention was made relative to Life Membership in the American Begonia Society. As the Holiday season approaches we cannot miss bringing to your attention again that many people will be making their lists of what to give for Christmas gifts and that amongst those gifts what could be better than a Life Membership Certificate in the American Begonia Society. It is something that will last a life time and must always cause the receiver to think of the donor with gratitude because of the pleasure and benefits derived from such a GIFT.

Further information may be had by writing to your Chairman of Ways and Means, Mary Hazel Drummond, 1246 No. Kings Rd., Hollywood 46, California.

Let us make this truly a banner year, with your co-operation the result is a foregone conclusion. A very Merry Christmas to each and every-one.

MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND

"Studies in the Begoniaceae" by Lyman B. Smith and Bernice G. Schubert appeared in three numbers of THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GRAY HERBARIUM of Harvard University. These are detailed botanic descriptions and illustrations of species found in Guatemala. Copies of the three contributions are now in the library.

Of interest to the amateur begonia and shade plant growers are the two large scrap books added to the library this year. These books were compiled by Mrs. Charlotte Hixon of Long Beach from the accumulated clippings and magazine files of the society representing hours of work which makes available hitherto unused information that is not to be found elsewhere.

(Personal orders for books have not been as satisfactory and prompt this year due to the slowness of deliveries and many 'out of stock' items.)

The promise of two new books on begonias is the next big event on our horizon. A scholarly monograph on begonias by Mrs. Helen Krauss is in the offing, while Mrs. Alice M. Clark is preparing a book "to tempt the interest of everyday gardeners in begonias." Because books are a librarian's stock in trade we are looking forward to these new publications with special interest.

Respectfully submitted,

ELEANORA CROWDER

Librarian, American Begonia Society

# NEW BEGONIAS COLLECTED BY AN ABLE EXPLORER

By HELEN K. KRAUSS, Wynnewood, Pa.

• We are exceedingly grateful to our Seed Fund Administrator, Florence Carrell, for her enthusiastic and successful explorations of foreign countries via mail for begonia seeds for the members of the Seed Fund. The list of more than 50 kinds of begonia seeds so far acquired is an imposing one, and is of special interest to begonia growers and fanciers because many of them are either new to us or very rare. Many kinds of begonia seeds have been distributed, more will be distributed during the coming winter months, and other new begonia seeds will be forthcoming from foreign and domestic sources from time to time.

Among the new begonias acquired are species from Central America, South America and Asia; and we hope that there will be representatives from Africa before very long. Seeds from some of these sources arrived with their names appended, others were simply marked "species" and these must await identification and meanwhile must be referred to by number. One of these unidentified species is of striking appearance, possessing three to three and a half inch, roundish, glossy, very bright green leaves marked with broad, rich chocolate-brown nerves above and beneath that radiate from the sinus to three fourths of the way to the margins. There are also other unidentified species of ornamental value which have grown sufficiently large to catch the eyes of spectators and evoke their admiration.

Welcome also are the seeds of the new double-flowered *B. semperflorens-cultorum* strain which were developed by Prof. W. D. Holley and which are a distinct contribution to this multiple hybrid group.

A particularly interesting phase of Mrs. Carrell's collecting is that we are becoming better acquainted with our neighbors to the south of us through their gardens. In the very near future we should be able to compare our cane-stemmed begonia forms with the "bamboo" begonias grown by Costa Ricans and Dominicans; and we shall see some natural varieties and those of garden origin of species new to us. A few of these varieties possess most intriguing names such as *B. echinosepala* var. *Tapesca*, *B. coccinea* var. *megarama*, *B. udisylvestris* var. *picta*, *B. carpiniifolia* var. *rubra-involucrata* and *B. heracleifolia* var. *Pyramidillo*. Another variety was introduced by the name of *B. glabra* var. *coralipetiolis* (see *BEGONIAN*, page 153, Aug. 1946) which appears to be a more colorful

variety of *B. scandens* var. *cordifolia*. Most of the type species from which these have been derived have, heretofore, either been unknown to us, or not so well known because of their rarity.

Among the type species of which seeds have been distributed (or will be distributed in the near future) these three are the first—of many to follow—due to lack of space.

*B. Cooperi* is a species native in Costa Rica; it was named for the discoverer and was first described by Casimir DeCandolle. The stems are erect—to 3 feet tall, branched, densely reddish-brown hairy; the leaves are long-ovate—to 4 inches long and about half as broad on short, hairy petioles, glossy green with a few scattered hairs on the upper surface, sharply toothed, hairy on the nerves beneath; the inflorescences are short, peduncles and pedicels are hairy, the flowers are numerous and closely bunched.

*B. involucrata* was discovered in Costa Rica by Af. Liebmann and described by him in 1852. It grows to about 2 feet tall, many

(Continued on Page 246)

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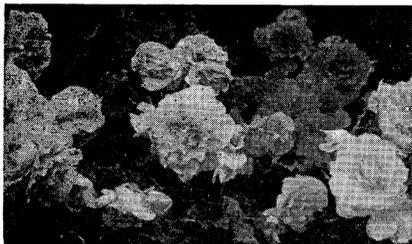


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**The Directors Round Robin**

By BESSIE R. BUXTON, Peabody, Mass.

• The last letter of the Directors Round Robin was devoted largely to the tuberous rooted begonias. A California enthusiast had journeyed many miles to the Reinelt establishment to choose new plants when they were in bloom. She wrote "The specimen plants were wonderful, with huge blossoms, six to ten inches across, not one blossom only on a plant, but four, five, six or more, in every shade of pink, red and yellow. I spent three hours walking up and down the rows of seedlings, picking out those I wanted to add to my collection. They travel well. I planted them as soon as I reached home, a two hours' drive, and they did not drop even the largest blooms, but I picked them off to give more strength to the coming buds. The plants were set in a dark, cool place for a few days until they were well established. Our new Branch held its first annual exhibition recently with more than 250 potted tuberous displayed. I have been growing tuberous for nine years and this has been my best year. I use liquid cow manure, quite strong, for watering, and the size of the blooms has been remarkable. But I wonder what the effect on the tubers will be?" A Florida member plans to grow some of these beauties from seed, in spite of reports that they do not thrive in her state, and that all kinds of begonia seeds lose their viability quickly, because of humid conditions. May her results equal her courage! An Oklahoma enthusiast feeds her plants with cottonseed meal to produce fine specimens. Before potting, she starts the tubers in a mixture of peat moss and sand in a warm, well-lighted place, keeping them barely moist until three or four inches of growth has developed. Then they are planted in a mixture of two-thirds leaf mold and one-third sand, or sandy loam. The fertilizer should be mixed with the soil in the lower half of the pot, so the roots gradually reach into it. She uses a tablespoonful for a six inch pot, or a small handful for an eight inch pot. This will carry the plant through the season. After transplanting, gentle overhead watering is best until plants are well established. Too heavy watering during the young stage will pack the soil, keeping it too wet, and turning it sour. Later, when plants are in full growth they require a steady supply of moisture, as the root system is shallow, and drying out will give a set-back to normal development.

(To Be Continued)

Surely your garden has room for something new? Something old, and something blue? They are all in The Begonian.

## Notes From the Gloxinia and Saint Paulia Violet R.R. No. 2 and Hybridizing No. 1

By ELIZABETH CRANE, Haverhill, Mass.

The Achimenes did not seem to bloom very well this year with one exception. In Maine they bloomed beautifully. They were grown in a covered porch protected by glass cloth which lets the violet rays through but holds the wind and burning rays off.

One member has worked out a fine routine which aids her very materially in getting in interesting subject matter to incorporate into the Robin when it gets to her. She has a scrapbook in the making in which she arranges everything she finds in any publication she can get with any information on the subject she is interested in, books from libraries with leaflets she has to return offer notes which she copies, and things she collects from far and wide she tucks into a large envelope attached to the scrap-book and they are not lost.

In this envelope she also places notes of puzzling questions which she needs to ask her co-members in the Robin. In this manner she always is ready to write a most interesting Robin with valuable aids and suggestions to pass along—while taking less time to mail on the Robin. On one flight she sent several pages of interesting descriptions of the Gesneriaceae.

Another member finds that a three-cornered sink drainer makes a grand seed pan and so easy to water from the bottom. Tobacco tea was found to be fine for mite control. Saintpaulia Viking is said to be slow to bloom but worth waiting for. Blushing Lady, a very faint pink, and Double purple, are two new Saintpaulias. Keep the leaves that lie on the pot edge picked off—as that will force bloom.

The Streptocarpus do not like sun or wet feet. The Gloxinia Streptocarpus make a bulb and bear leaves like the Gloxinia, but so far the flowers have dropped off, which might be caused by overwatering.

Many members send around addresses of sources of plants discussed and write of results on fertilizer tests, spray materials and so forth. We are interested to learn if there are any members and friends in Arizona and New Mexico interested in these plants?

*The Hybridizing Robin No. 1:* The hot weather of August and the following rains slowed up the hybridizing some of the members were working on and reports of later activities will be sent forward later. California has made crosses of *B. rex* with Tuberos

begonia resulting in very pretty foliage. The question is asked from that state whether anyone has ever seen female flowers on *B. glaucophylla*?

Oregon is working on lily crosses, *L. Regale* x *Coral* (*L. Tenuifolium*) and reverse with seed about ripe, now to see what the results will be. Maine seems to be quite successful in crossing Saintpaulias and securing ripe seed though it takes six to nine months for it to ripen. Massachusetts has two seed pods of *B. richardsiana* x *Weltoniensis* almost ready to drop off. We do have fun.

We have our problems, but we have much fun in trying to solve them.



*Saintpaulia Macrantha*

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# B. x VALETA

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, Calif.

● One of the fine hairy-fibrous begonias produced at Montalvo Gardens under the expert hand of Ella Marguerite Fewkes is *B. Valeta*. It is a seedling of *B. scharffiana* and its unusual name is that of a neighboring street. A low grower, it seems to concentrate all its energy on extra bloom to make up for its small size, a fact that endears it to the gardener of limited space. This spring a rooted cutting in my garden put forth a full cluster of flowers, when only five inches high. A larger plant still shows strong buds after six months of continuous bloom.

The *Valeta* of my sketch has only attained a height of fifteen inches. It was unfair to omit two branches, one tipped with flowers and the other with seed-pods, but it did save drawing time. As a result, the painting is somewhat leggy, lacking leaves in the middle section, but you are better able to see its growth structure. It is almost tree-like in form, sending out many branches from the slender but sturdy main stalk. The new growth that you will note at the base will soon reclothe the plant with leaves. When I thought of drawing *Valeta* early this summer, the foliage was so thick that it would have taken considerable effort to paint it all. At that time no seed-pods could be observed. Now I have waited over-long to obtain the fruit and there is an angular appearance that is not characteristic. In fact, a plant in the ground at Montalvo, without any staking, was very bushy and almost recumbent.

The trunk part of the stalk is a dull brown. The branches are green, with wine-red staining at the joints, flecked with white, and with short white bristles over all. The nodes are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches apart. The new bracts are short, colorless and keeled and start turning brown almost before the leaves can escape. They are persistent but not unduly noticeable.

*Valeta's* foliage is upheld on dull red petioles two inches or more in length and white hairy. The leaf—about  $5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches—resembles *B. Duchartrei* and *B. Margueritae* in size and shape. They all have red veinings on a green back. On *Margueritae*,

which has fewer hairs, the veins are clear-cut while they are more blurred on *Duchartrei*, where the down is thick and fine. The surface color of *Valeta* is the dullest green of the three, probably because the red of the veins below seems to show through enough to darken the lines and make a small spot at the axis on top.

The four-inch peduncles, all-over red with white hairs, are about the same length as those of *Margueritae*. They first show a tight bud cluster aglow with a fuzz of cerise-red rather than the true red of *Duchartrei*. The inflorescence is about four inches across, almost the same size and color as *B. metallica*, but the individual male petals are not as round and are much larger. The two main petals are white, with rosy bristles on the outside, obovate, an inch long, and slightly ruffled. Two narrow inside petals twirl their length to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The stamen forms a small tuft of tarnished gold. Thirty to forty of these flowers in a cluster, (not all full-blown at once, of course), make an ambitious bouquet for such a dwarf plant.

A tiny red brush expands into a female flower with four equal, ovate, half-inch petals covered with pink whiskers outside. An extra petal, hairless and tiny, pushes out from one side of the thick twisted yellow stigma. These pistillate blooms do not open up as nicely as those of *Margueritae*. The ovary is a cerise rose color, with a few hairs on the tips of the three wings and thickly tufted over the seed body. The seed pods, one of which is shown, are a reddish brown, three-quarters of an inch across. They seldom mature.

Someone has said that *Valeta* was like a *B. Thurstoni* with hairs on it. The green color is similar but there is no sheen to be seen through the hairs on the leaf, which is much smaller in size and more slender and pointed in shape. To my mind their whole character is different.

The flowering habit of *Valeta* makes you think of a happy child, singing gay little songs to herself. Its compact size, coupled with its floriferousness, should recommend it highly to window gardeners of colder climes as well as those who are able to enjoy raising it outside.

May the begonias in every window usher in a bright holiday season this year. If your Branch exchanges gift plants at their December meeting, take them to convalescents in hospitals and rest homes, and you will not need my good wishes for a Merry Christmas.

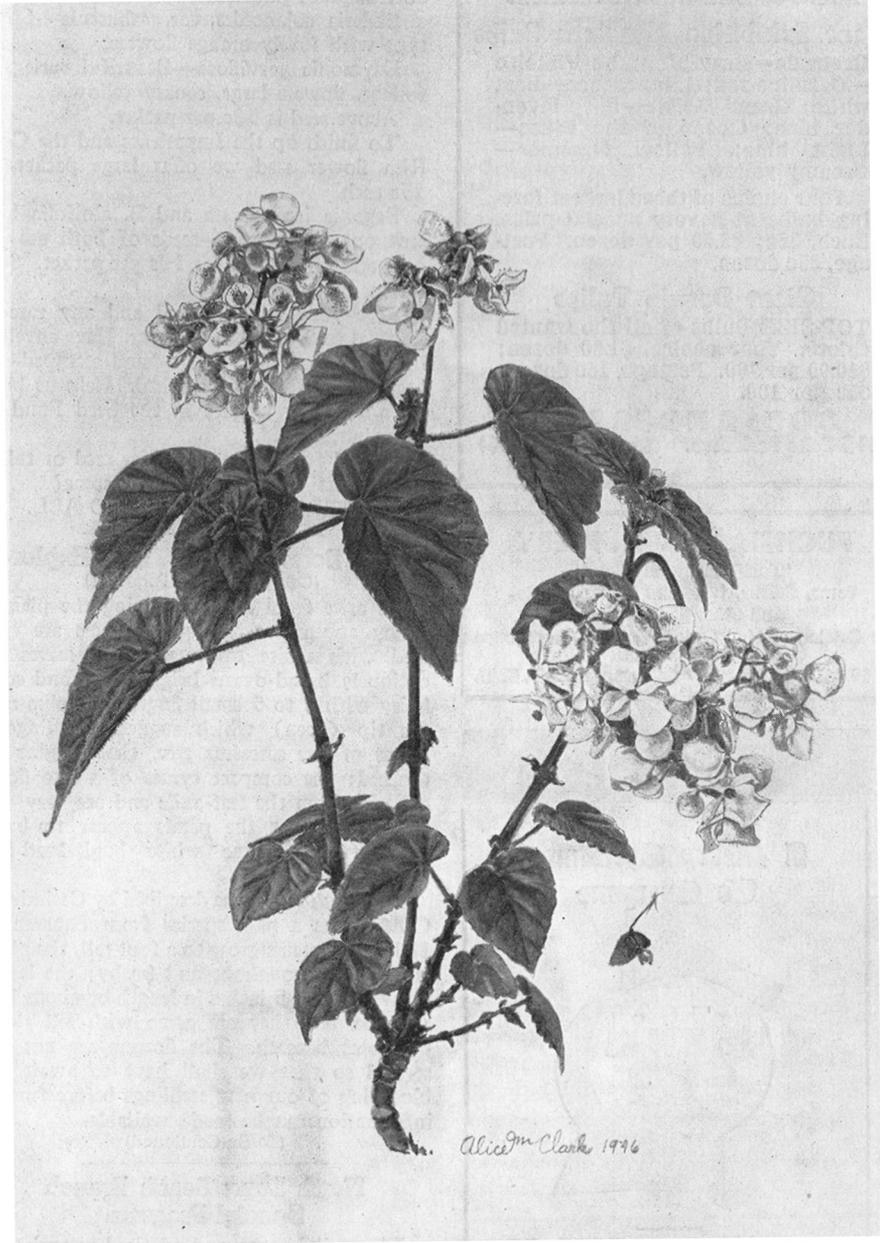
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## ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS

(Continued from Page 237)

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Save your Begonia seed and any rare or unusual seed for your Skipper. Have envelope in which you mail seed—hand stamped—to keep seed from being crushed. Help us build up a working balance in the Seed Fund by contributing seed.

Several folks have asked for seed or tubers of B. martiana, can you spare some?

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

## New Begonias by Able Explorer

(Continued from Page 241)

stems arise from the base giving the plant a bushy appearance, the green stems are covered with white tomentum; the leaves are obliquely broad-ovate, bright green and soft-hairy with 2 to 5 small finger-like lobes near the tip (apex) which suggest the fingered leaves of the sassafras tree, the margins are toothed; the compact cymes of white flowers arise from the leaf-axils and are very distinctive in that the petals appear to burst forth from opaque white bugle-bead-like ovaries.

*B. udisylvestris* was described by Casimir De Candolle as a new species from Panama in 1919. The stems grow to a foot tall, the plant is smooth throughout and bushy; the leaves grow to about 5 inches in length by about half as wide, and they are green with red along the veins beneath. The flowers are not described so that we shall have to await the blooming of our new seedlings before further information can be made available.

(To Be Continued)

## North Long Beach Branch Special Program

The well known and admired begonia authority of the S. Calif. Coast Gladys Bullard recently assured her position in the American Begonia Society by marrying the new Treasurer of her particular home Branch though she attends several meetings in the district. Either as guest or speaker—she is always an

## New Officers for the East Bay Branch

By EMMA M. CARLETON, Berkeley, Calif.

• The East Bay Branch of the American Begonia Society held its regular October meeting in the Council Chambers of the City Hall in Berkeley.

Our Speaker, Mr. Wm. Mott, Jr., Head of the Oakland Park Department gave a most interesting talk on Plans for the Future Development of the Oakland Park System. He gave quite a detailed report of many of the improvements which are to be made, not only in Lakeside Park, but in all of the Oakland Parks, very especially where there is need of better care for flowers.

Mr. Mott assured us that in the event the glasshouse, in which our begonias are housed at present, should be moved, then an entire new modern building will house the entire collection, and more competent help will be available at all times. This made us feel very happy indeed. We will not try to add to the collection at the present time due to the work which is being done at Lakeside Park.

Mrs. Reed gave a very detailed report on the Convention held in San Diego. Mrs. Newcomb reported on the Convention dinner and entertainment. Mrs. Carleton on the garden tours and new begonias, at least new to us.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mr. C. F. Jensen, Richmond, Calif., President; Dr. Fred Davis, Berkeley, Vice President; Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, Berkeley, Sec'y Treas.; Martin Boyd, Berkeley, Librarian; Mrs. Emma C. Carleton, Nat'l Rep.

Mr. Swager brought some begonia plants, all species. These were new to most of the members. He told of the different characteristics and a little of the care and culture of them.

honored visitor. Our sincerest felicitations go forth to Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Schell.

The New Officers will be installed at the  
(See Page 250)

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HARDY ORCHIDS : EXOTIC FOLIAGE PLANTS  
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**ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR  
DECEMBER**

By FRANCES DOWNING, Calera, Ala.

• Several A.B.S. members have written asking that an IRIS Robin be formed. Who will direct this Robin? A Cyclamen Robin is in the making since it has been requested. Perhaps in frost-free places this plant can be grown out of doors. In other parts of the country it is a "window-garden or greenhouse" plant. I have a friend who grows Cyclamen from seed right in her window-garden.

The Scented and Variegated Geranium Robin awaits new members as is the case with the Zonale Geranium Group.

An Ivy-Geranium Robin is being formed.

One member asks for an Amaryllis Robin, who is interested?

A DIRECTOR IS NEEDED for "BULBS FOR SHADE" ROBIN.

We are ready to start EPIPHYLLUM No. 3 and the NEW DIRECTOR'S Robin has completed its first round, returning to me with the promise of much interesting information for the readers of THE BEGONIAN.

The Orchid Group grows slowly. We need a director for this Robin. The Billbergia Robin could take some new members. These plants are little known outside of California (except B. nutans). They are simple to handle with few needs in the matter of culture, they pay unusual dividends for the time spent with them as they produce flowering scapes of rare beauty in remarkable color combinations.

It will soon be time to start readying our FUCHSIAS for next summer's blooming. Because our Eastern members grow fuchsias only as pot plants, would you care to form a Fuchsia Robin for Eastern members?

The CHOICE FERNS Robins are progressing nicely. Several of the members grow ferns from spores. Rare and lovely ferns are included in the large collections of some of the Robins.

We will soon be receiving our BEGONIA SEED for the Seed Fund. Be sure you give these seeds every chance to produce beautiful and healthy plants. The Seed Sowing Robin will be glad to give you every aid in this most exciting of begonia ventures.

The African Violet, Gloxinia and Gesneriaceae Robins grow more enthusiastic with each round. Remember to order your Gloxinias early. This applies to the TUBEROUS BEGONIAS, too. If some of you are not sure which side of the tuber to plant, up or down, ASK THE ROBINS.

Another Impatiens Robin is on its first  
(Continued on Page 250)

## Holiday Decorations and Tuberous Begonia Storage

By LILLIAN ASHE, San Francisco, Calif.

The dormant season and the approaching holidays turned the attention of our members toward flower arrangements. Consequently, the last meeting featured a demonstration and talk by one of our leading members, Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, her subject being: "Holiday Flower Arrangements and Decorations."

Mrs. Ferrero, skillfully combined flower displays with novelty colored candles which she makes herself. She melts tapers with paraffin wax in a large tin can, adding a crayon to obtain the desired color. Next, she places a wick in the center of a mold and slowly pours in the semi-cooled mixture. For molds she uses milk cartons, mayonnaise jars, crinkled paper cup cakes and jello molds, etc. At least eight hours are required for complete solidification before the outside mold may be removed.

She made about a dozen arrangements explaining in detail each step as she went along. Some of them were exceedingly striking for their originality and skillful combination of flowers and fruits of complimentary colors. Others were made entirely from dried materials. One especially attracted everybody's attention. An orange gourd about two feet long placed on a grass mat was used as a receptacle; the top was partially removed, contents scooped out and a pinholder placed inside. Dried corn tassels formed the background while several bananas in an upright position filled the aperture. Two small bunches of Malaga grapes, several lemons, a few oak leaves and nuts with a persimmon and Fulgens Fuchsias for color, made up the display. Two large square orange candles at both ends of the gourd completed the picture.

Mrs. Christle Geer, of the Geer Begonia Gardens, devoted her talk to the proper care of the tubers during the dormant period. When the plants cease blooming the watering should be gradually reduced. This causes the foliage to turn golden. At this time she breaks the stalk off at the lowest junction, leaving the remaining part in the pots until the soil is entirely dry. Next, she very carefully removes the tubers, shakes the soil off and washes them in luke-warm water, cleansing thoroughly.

She then places them in the sun turning them over every few days until they are completely dry. In December, the tubers are placed on Avocado crates, spaced apart so they do not touch. If early sprouting is desired they should be put upside down. During

the winter the crates are kept in a cool, dry, dark basement. The Geers handle thousands of tubers every year and have found the above method most satisfactory.

(Continued Next Page)



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## Twenty-Two Begonias

● At the Pasadena Autumn Flower Show recently, it was again appreciated that one exhibit can do a great deal to further a cause. Col. and Mrs. Gale of Pasadena Branch have a fine collection of potted begonias and at every show in the Fannie Morrison Garden Center, part of this collection is sure to be seen being enjoyed by the passers by.

We are sure that the usual prize ribbon received is not the goal sought by these two enthusiasts, but to make BEGONIAS more well-known to the general public. Seeing this collection of twenty-two potted begonia specimens and then the garden section done in begonias and other shade plants by the San Gabriel Branch, was a very stimulating thing, enhanced by the questions asked by the passing visitors. We hope others will follow these worthy examples.

### North Long Beach Program

(Continued from Page 247)

December Meeting: Pres., Ed. Taylor; Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Vice-President; Mrs. Boyd, Secretary; Mr. W. E. Schell, Treasurer, 2011 E. Broadway, Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Stocklasa is elected National Representative.

The December meeting is a planned Christmas Party with a Play beside the installation of the new officers. Dinner \$1.00.

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## New Officers for Bellflower Branch

By ARDELL RADLE, Bellflower, Calif.

● We had our November meeting in the Washington School Cafeteria and we hope to make it our permanent meeting place. We had our election of new officers and the following people will be installed at our December meeting.

President, Mrs. Nona Jensen; Vice President, Mrs. Marie Hines; Secretary, Mrs. Thelma Rock; Treasurer, Mrs. S. L. Macy; Nat'l Representative, Mrs. Bertie Nicoll.

Our December meeting will be held at the Washington School Cafeteria on December 2nd at 7:30 P.M. and will be our Christmas Party with an exchange of gifts also installation of new officers.

### Round Robin News December

(Continued from Page 248)

flight. We were all pleased to read of the new Impatiens vavrai in THE BEGONIAN.

With the New Year upon us, and Spring not far behind, there will be many Begonians and friends who will have new ideas and need new Robins. Our Directors and I will welcome all constructive criticisms eagerly and I am only too pleased to form new groups when the opportunity arises. Let me hear from you. In the meantime: May your Christmas be a Merry time with lots of flowers and friends, and your New Year a Very Happy twelvemonth.

### Holiday Decorations

(Continued from Page 249)

Mrs. Geer brought a beautiful Golden West basket in full bloom which she donated towards the raffle. Charming Mrs. Watson, member of a San Diego Branch was among our out-of-town visitors.

Thus again, at our November meeting, the principal speakers were two of our own members who shared their experience and skill with the rest of us.

We are adopting a new practice of having the Past President serve as National Representative for the year following his tenure, this will, we are sure, enhance his value to the Branch as well as to the National Board.

Our December meeting with election of officers will be followed by a Christmas party to be held at the same address but on DECEMBER 20th, PLEASE NOTE: There will be no meeting in January, the first meeting in 1947 will be back to the regular 1st Wednesday, February 5th.

● Give the Begonian for Christmas.

## FUSCHSIAS ARE NOW RESTING

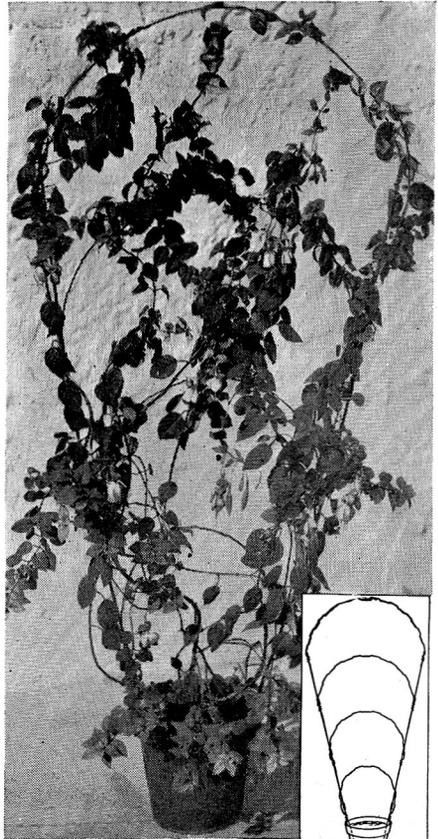
• With all plant life and functions reduced to a minimum, fuchsias are now taking a much needed rest. If the rainy season has not set in with regularity, then we must continue to irrigate lightly. Beds and more particularly pots should not be allowed to become bone dry as the roots are still alive and must have some moisture. However all feeding must be stopped. Winter pruning should still be deferred until late in February and early in March. Only those fuchsias which went dormant early and that will be needed for early flowering, can be pruned at this time. Now is a good time to renew constricting or loosened ties. Stakes and other supports should be firmed and if necessary replaced. Heavy crowns should be given extra support in anticipation of winter storms.

Under no conditions prune any of the young plants started this fall, however it will be wise to keep them growing and protected through the winter. The replacement of favorite varieties, which have become misshapen or that may be damaged by frosts can be anticipated by taking cuttings now and starting them in heated rooting beds. Stored plants should be watered sparsely, preferably in the morning to allow the foliage to dry out during the day. Where there is danger of stored plants freezing, they should be kept on the dry side, to prevent ice forming around the roots. Cover all such pot plants with a heavy mulch.

Those plants which have been heavily pruned and are free from leaves can be stored in a dark, cool place, while those still carrying foliage should be quartered in a light but not too warm location. In those climates, where frosts are light and intermittent, potted plants can be stacked closely in a garage, under a protected porch or even in the protection of overhanging evergreen trees. However, the pots should be heavily mulched and the main stems insulated with coarse Redwood bark as far up as possible. Those outdoor specimens, which can not be lifted, should have their crowns cut back closely and their stems and branches wrapped and covered with the same good insulating material which also protects trunks against rodents.

Next year's fuchsia plantings can be planned now. Thin out where overcrowding has taken place. Undesirable plants can be removed. Many gardeners now force a compact root system by pruning these roots while the ground is damp and easily worked. This is simply accomplished by driving a shovel down

(See Next Page)



Pat. No. 2331397 Pats. Pend.

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**Condensed Minutes Meeting National Board, A.B.S. held Oct. 28th, 1946 in the L. A. Public Library.**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 with President Lawrence presiding.

Board Members present: Messrs. Lawrence, Hart, Walton, Dere, Hixon, Knecht, Heth, Barber, Bailey, Cocke and Taylor; Mesdames Drummond, Wilkes, Hartwell, Bayer, Crawford.

Minutes meeting Sept. read and approved as read.

**REPORTS**

Editor and Membership Fees Chairman read reports of their respective offices which reports were approved and ordered filed.

Mrs. Drummond reported for Speakers Bureau—No requests for Speakers this month. I think it would be a good idea if we could have some slides of begonias and shade plants and exhibits which we could loan to the branches for use in their programs. The branches could doubtless rent a projector and I believe this would be a very nice feature. If you have some 35 mm. slides which you would be willing to loan, please communicate with either Mr. Cocke or myself and we will get this plan in working order.

For Public Relations—two new branches soon to be formed, one in Kansas City and one in The Bronx, N. Y. though details have yet to be worked out.

For Ways and Means—We are working on a garden tour to be held in the Spring and I would like to hear some discussion on the various angles of such an undertaking.

Following a lively discussion, Mrs. Wilkes offered the following motion, which was duly seconded and carried unanimously:

"I move that we have a Garden Tour on the 22nd of Feb. (This being a holiday) 1947, the Director of Public Relations to appoint a Committee to plan the Tour—secure permission to visit gardens; establish the price; the refreshments and the cooperation of the branches and such other items as are pertinent to such an undertaking."

After due consideration, it was decided to have our next meeting at the Hayward Hotel, 6th and Spring; dinner at 6:30 and then at 7:30 the regular Board meeting. It is not necessary to make reservations but those desiring dinner please be on hand at 6:30. We will try this plan and see how it works out.

Treasurer Walton presented a copy of a budget he had prepared and on motion this was accepted as read.

Mr. Hixon, as Chairman of a Committee to outline plans for the permanent housing of the Robinson Memorial, handed in their report which was read in the meeting. Following is a condensed copy:

It was unanimously agreed by the Committee that the Robinson Memorial be located in San Diego—the home of Mr. Robinson—and if possible under the joint supervision of one or more of the San Diego County Branches and jointly sponsored by some city or county department. This group further recommends that the Secretary, A.B.S. write the San Diego branches informing them of the above recommendation and asking for suggestions and an outline of plans.

Letter received from the Santa Barbara Branch expressing their pleasure and willingness to assist the Miami, Fla. branch in every way possible and inviting the Branch to write for such help as they might need to get the Branch in good working order and to talk over their begonia problems.

Treasurer instructed to purchase an adding machine for use of the Membership Fees Chairman.

Representative Directors asked to take the word back to their branches of the change in the meeting place for the November meeting. Secretary to notify such Board members as were not present at the meeting.

**BRANCH REPORTS**

Mr. Barber for Whittier: We had our meeting last Monday night; first meeting of the newly elected officers; Mrs. Wilkes was the speaker and everyone enjoyed her talk very much. I think

**Begonia Seeds On Hand Now For Seed Fund Spring 1947**

1. *B. echinosep'ala* var. *Tape'sca*
2. *B. cocc'i'nea* *megara'ma*
3. *B. udisilves'tris* var. *pic'ta*
4. *B. semperflorens* (rare Costa Rican form)
5. *B. gla'bra*
6. *B. val'eri*
7. *B. vesti'ta*
8. *B. Coo'peri*
9. *B. Ricinifo'lia*
10. *B. Rex*—mixed
11. *B. #1482*, (Colombia)
12. *B. cucull'ata*
13. *B. Sunderbruck'i* var. *ni'gricans*
14. *B. Pink Bamboo* (Dominica)
15. *B. ricinifo'lia* (Dominica)
16. *B. Domin'ica* species
17. *B. red Bamboo* (Dominica)
18. *B. heracleifo'lia* var. *Pyramadi'lio*
19. *B. Evansia'na* *alba*
20. *B. tuberhy'brida* *fimbria'ta* *al'ba*
21. *B. Domin'ican* *Republic* species
22. *B. vitifo'lia*
23. *B. glaucophyl'l'a*
24. *B. red calla*
25. *B. ferrugi'nea* var. *dilata'ta*
26. *B. rotundifo'lia*

**Fuschias Are Now Resting**

(Continued from Page 251)

deeply in a straight line between each shrub. Forehanded gardeners have already started to gather humus with which to build up next year's beds and potting mixtures.

~~the Branch is going to make fine headway under the new officers.~~

Mrs. Crawford for North Long Beach: At our last meeting we had some of the National Officers with us and had a very nice meeting; it was a pot-luck dinner and we really had a grand time.

Mrs. Stocklase, President North Long Beach Branch: "Sorry the rest of the members of the National Board did not get down to attend our meeting but we will be glad to have all of you come down whenever you can."

Mr. Knecht for Ventura Branch: Election of officers at or next meeting; lovely banquet last month and everything is going along alright.

Mr. Taylor invited all the National Officers down to the Parent Branch meeting Tuesday, Nov. 26th.

Mr. Heth for Azusa Foothill Branch: Mr. Weitz from Ventura down as speaker at our last meeting. Had a good crowd and everyone enjoyed his talk. Mr. Hall is to be our speaker this month. We invite all of you to come to hear him.

Mrs. Bayer for Glendale Branch: We had a very good Flower Show and banquet. Most of the National officers were there. American Begonia Society certificates were awarded the winners in the Flower Show. On last Tuesday we had our regular meeting; had a speaker on Trees. We would like to have you all come see us again.

Mr. Cocke for the Hollywood Branch: We had our election at our last meeting. Mr. Flynn elected President. Had visitors from San Gabriel Valley and Glendale Branches. Mrs. Lewis as speaker was greatly enjoyed. GONDA HARTWELL

# Meeting Dates and Places

The December meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be dispensed with.  
The Members of the Board wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Monday, December 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Thelma Rock  
Washington School Cafeteria  
Bellflower, Calif.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

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

Alice Bartlett C. H. 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Harry Meyer, Secretary, 111 Leighton Dr.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, December 5th

Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.  
Mrs. E. K. Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 4, Box 296,  
Anaheim, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

Friday, December 6th, 8 p.m.

Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa.  
Mrs. James M. Reid, Secretary  
643 No. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

## LA MESA BRANCH

Monday, December 9th, 7:30 p.m.

La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. J. Porter Hock  
4495 - 32nd St., San Diego 4

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, December 9th, 6:30 p.m.

57th Street and Dainy, North Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Gladys Bullard Schell, 2011 E. Broadway  
Long Beach, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

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

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

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, December 10th, 8 p.m.

Mrs. Helen Hansen, Sec.-Treas.  
9757 Magnolia, Arlington, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, December 12th, 8 p.m.

325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Mildred Dressel, Secretary  
432 W. Fairview, Inglewood, Calif.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, December 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.,  
Mrs. Roslyn Duval, Secretary  
843 N. Sierra Bonita, Los Angeles, Calif.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Thursday, December 12th, 2-4 p.m.

Neighborhood House, 800 Santa Barbara St.,  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Mrs. Stanley Pateman, Sec.-Treas.  
P. O. Box 17, Goleta, Calif.

## CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

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

Home of Mrs. H. A. Cuyler,  
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Esther L. Randall, Sec., 3638 Cerritos Ave.  
Long Beach 7, Calif.

## SEQUOIA BRANCH

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

Members' Homes.  
Mrs. Albert Lowery, Secretary,  
620 W. Grove St., Visalia, Calif.

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, December 16th

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

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Tuesday, December 17th, 8:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple  
506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary  
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings

May T. Drew, Pres.  
Box 331, Narbeth, Pa.

## SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

Thursday, December 19th, 8 p.m.

Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss  
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Friday December 20th, 7:45 p.m.

American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.  
Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 - 33rd Ave.,  
San Francisco, Calif.

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, December 23rd

Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. J. Porter Hock, Sec.-Treas.,  
4494-32nd Street, San Diego 4, Calif.

## MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

Tuesday, December 24th, 8 p.m.

Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Charles A. Nicholson, Jr.  
9400 N.W. 2nd Ave., Miami, Fla.

## WHITTIER BRANCH

Tuesday, December 24th, 7:30 p.m.

Union High School, Room 19,  
Lindley Ave. entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Madeleine Hall, Secretary,  
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Tuesday, December 24th, 8 p.m.

Council Chambers, Berkeley City Hall  
Mrs. Emma Carlton, Secretary-Treas.,  
1430 Oxford St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

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

## GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, December 30th, 7:30 p.m.

329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary  
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Tuesday, December 24th, 7:30 p.m.

Ebell Clubhouse, 3rd and Cerritos Ave.,  
Long Beach, Calif.  
Mary Hotalling, Sec.-Treas.  
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, December 27th, 7:30 p.m.

Loma Portal School  
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. J. J. Howarth, Secretary,  
4319 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.

## SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau  
Nipomo, Calif.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Norman Hedley,  
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

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