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Picture Courtesy of Mrs. Chas. Edwards

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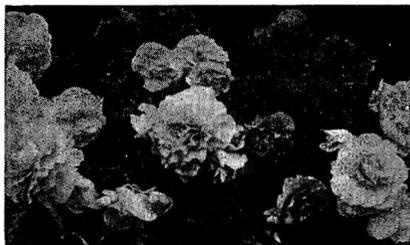
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The next meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., Monday, July 26th, 1948. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main.

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TUBEROUS BEGONIA SPECIES NATIVE TO THE AMERICAS

By Hildegard Schneider

Most of the summer flowering tuberous begonias that are grown today have been derived from seven wild species, all of which are native to the Andes of Bolivia and Peru. Of these seven, five were introduced and distributed by James Veitch & Son of London, England. These five are *Begonia boliviensis*, *B. Pearcei*, *B. Veitchii*, *B. rosaeiflora* and *B. Davisii*. E. G. Henderson, also of London, was responsible for the introduction of *B. Clarkei* and *B. cinnabarina*.

Through hybridization of these early introductions numerous beautiful varieties have been obtained, and these strains are constantly being improved, the modern larger-flowered kinds replacing many of the older forms. For convenience the group name *Begonia tuberhybrida* is applied to these hybrids. Although modern *tuberhybrida* varieties produce flowers more varied in color range and immensely larger than those of the wild species, these latter have an appeal of their own and are of particular interest to the collector.

In addition to the seven mentioned above, many other tuberous-rooted species are worth growing. Those marked with an asterisk in the following alphabetical list of New World species are in cultivation at The New York Botanical Garden. The citations in parentheses indicate where illustrations of these species may be found.

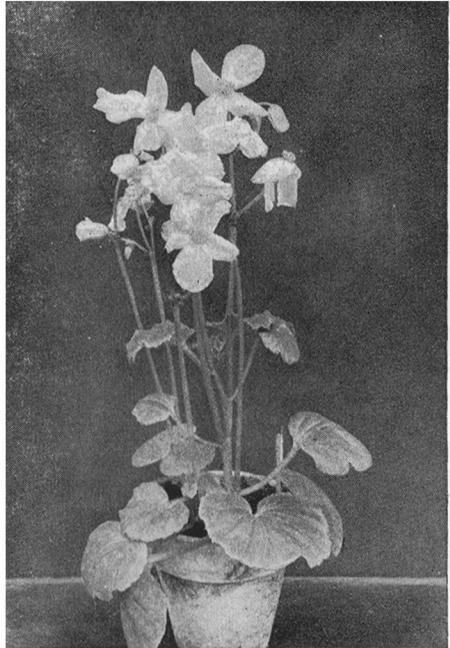
B. Balmisiana (Mexico), discovered by Ruiz in 1795, grows on cool mountainsides at an altitude of about 8,000 feet. Flowers small, pale pink, in terminal racemes. Small bulbils in the leaf axils.

**B. Baumanni* (Bolivia), was named in honor of E. Napoleon Baumann of Germany, who received seed from the discoverer, Dr. Sacc, of Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1886. Grows very abundantly in moist valleys of the Cordilleras. The tops are liked as food by animals. It is short-stemmed; leaves are green and reinform; flowers large, rosy-red. In its native habitat the tubers grow to the size of a small melon. (Bot. Mag. Tab. 7540. 1897) Distributed from France by Lemoine, around 1890.

**B. boliviensis* (Bolivia), with nodding bright scarlet flowers, was originally discovered in 1857 by Weddell and introduced to gardens by Pearce in 1865. First exhibited in 1867 in Paris. The first *tuberhybrida* begonia raised was the result of crossing *B. boliviensis* with an unnamed Andean species and bore the name *Sedeni*. (Bot. Mag. tab. 5657. 1867). The plant at The New York Botanical Garden, which has not bloomed,

(Dec. 1939) came as *B. boliviensis Superba*.

B. bulbifera (Mexico) was brought into cultivation with the soil of an orchid, beside which it was growing. Sent to the Berlin Botanic Garden by Mr. Schiede around 1828. (Link & Otto, Inc., Plant. Rar. tab. 45. 1828-31).



B. Baumanni

B. californica (California), which has pink or purple flowers, grows to about 18 inches in height.

B. cinnabarina (Bolivia) was first raised from seed sent from Bolivia by Mr. Bridges to Henderson in London, who distributed the first plants in 1849. Of erect habit. Flowers large, bright cinnabar-red (Bot. Mag. tab. 4483. 1849).

B. Clarkei (Bolivia and Peru) was named in honor of Major Trevor Clarke, who received this species from Henderson and grew it for several years before flowering it. Introduced to gardens around 1867. Stems branching, flowers deep rose-red. (Bot. Mag. tab. 5675. 1867).

B. crinita (Peru or Bolivia) was first collected by R. Pearce on his travels through the Andes. Introduced by Veitch & Son. 1866. Plants erect and branching. Stems and branches

red, leaves green, obliquely ovate. Flowers rosy pink. (Bot. Mag. tab. 5897. 1871).

**B. Davisii* (Peru) was introduced by Veitch & Son who received it from Walter Davis, collector for that firm. He found it at an elevation of 10,000 feet near Chorpe, Peru. It is a compact plant with broad-ovate, dark green foliage and bright orange-scarlet flowers. First bloomed for Veitch in 1876. Used extensively for hybridizing by John Seden. (Bot. Mag. tab. 6252. 1876.)

B. Froebelii (Ecuador) came into cultivation through B. Roetzl, who discovered it in 1872 in the high plateaus of the Ecuadorian Andes at 8,000 to 10,000 feet elevation. He collected tubers there for Froebel & Co. in southern Switzerland, for whom it bloomed in 1874, bearing bright crimson flowers on short erect stems and green heart-shaped leaves with long petioles. This species was not used to any great extent for hybridization. (Gartenflora. tab. 1. 1876).

**B. fulgens* (Bolivia) was found in the mountains of Bolivia near the Peruvian border, in company with *B. Baumanni*, not far from where *B. Davisii* is native. Introduced to gardens by Lemoine & Son of France in 1893. Plants dwarf, compact, spreading, with brilliant red flowers.

**B. gracilis* (Mexico), which was described in 1825 in Humboldt & Bonpland, Nova Genera et Species Plantarum, is one of the oldest tuberous species known. Stems thin, erect, sparsely branching with small green leaves; flowers pink. Tiny bulbils form in the axils of the leaves. Introduced to cultivation in Edinburgh in 1829.

B. macra (New Granada) is a species with few leaves and flowers. Tubers small. Flowers pink.

**B. Martiana* (Mexico) Tubers of this pink-flowered begonia were sent by Mr. Deppe from Mexico to the Botanic Garden in Berlin around 1828. Similar to *B. gracilis*, with which it is often confused. (Link & Otto, Icones Plantarum Rariorum tab. 25. 1828-31).

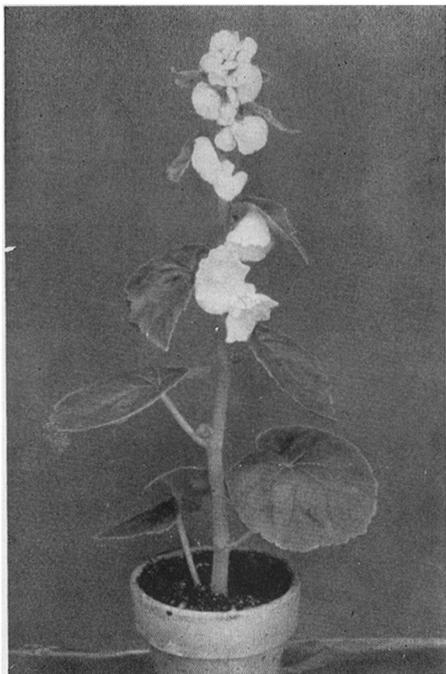
B. Octopetala (Peru) was known in cultivation as far back as 1780. Live plants were brought to the Paris Botanic Garden by Dombey who collected them in the mountains near Lima. First described by L'Heritier in 1784. In 1835 tubers of this plant were sent to the Botanic Garden in Glasgow from Lima, Peru, by John McLean. There they bloomed the following year, bearing large white anemone-like flowers with usually 8 petals. It is a stemless variety, leaves and flowers arising directly from the tuber. Lemoine developed new hybrids from this begonia by crossing it with various other tuberous varieties.

B. Palmeri (Mexico) was among a number

of plants collected by Dr. Edward Palmer in 1885 in southwestern Chihuahua, Mexico. He found it at Hacienda San Miguel a mile from the mining town of Batopilas at an altitude of 2,400 feet.

**B. Pearcei* (Bolivia) was the first yellow-flowered begonia found and was named in honor of Richard Pearce, who discovered it in La Paz. Introduced to gardens in 1866 through Veitch & Son. Largely responsible for the origin of yellow and yellow tones, which had previously been absent from tuberous begonias. (Bot. Mag. tab. 5545. 1865).

B. polypetala (Peru) was introduced by Froebel & Co. of Zurich in 1878. In size and shape the flowers of this plant resemble those of *B. octopetala* but are red instead of white. Some lovely varieties have been obtained by Froebel, who crossed this begonia with improved forms of *B. octopetala*.



B. Martiana

B. rosaeflora (Peru) was procured by Richard Pearce, who collected tubers for Veitch & Son. He came upon this begonia in the Andes at an altitude of 12,000 feet. The plants are stemless; leaves green, reniform, with deeply impressed veins. The flowers vary in shades of rose-red. John Seden made free use of this species, which has probably been one of the most prolific plants in the production of tu-

berous garden hybrids. Introduced to gardens in 1867. By crossing light-colored forms the first white-flowered tuberous hybrid was obtained and distributed under the name *Queen of the Whites*. Some years later a white-flowered form was found in the wild by Walter Davis, which was considered identical with *Queen of the Whites*. (Bot. Mag. tab. 5680. 1867).

B. rubricaulis (Peru?) presents considerable doubt as to its native habitat and its introduction to cultivation. Klotzsch says it bloomed first in 1837 in the Botanic Garden in Glasgow where it had been received from Cameron of Birmingham without description. The plant illustrated in the Bot. Mag. in 1844 (tab. 4131) was received at Kew from the Curator of the Birmingham Botanic Garden, also without information. It is stemless, with leaves and inflorescences appearing directly from the tuber. Leaves green, deeply cut, overlapping at base. Peduncles and pedcels deep red. Flowers large, rose and white.

B. unifolia (Mexico), a most curious begonia, produces only one sessile, rounded leaf with a deeply cut sinus through which a few flowered inflorescence arises. The leaf lies flat on the ground, the basal lobes overlapping. Its native habitat is the mountains of the State of Guerrero in the Iguala canyon where it grows on dry calcareous slopes and ledges and in rock crevices. Dr. William Trelease, then of the Missouri Botanic Garden, found it there in 1904. Herbarium specimens of *B. unifolia* had been collected two years previously in the same locality by C. G. Pringle. (Rep. Missouri Bot. Gard. 1904).

B. Veitchii (Peru) is another of Richard Pearce's discoveries. He found plants near Cuzco at an elevation of 12,000 to 12,500 feet, in 1866. Bloomed the following year for Veitch & Son. Stems short and thick, leaves deep green. Flowers large, vermilion. (Bot. Mag. tab. 5663, 1867).

B. Weddelliana (Bolivia) comes from the province of Jungas at 6,000 feet elevation. A small plant with red flowers.

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PLANTS ARE LIVING THINGS

By Thomas J. Parker, Los Angeles, Calif.

Plants must be considered as living, feeling things just as one considers a canary or pet dog or even a child. The absence of this realization is a fundamental cause of failure in the cultivation of plants.

Any person who can see a plant excessively dry or standing for a long time in deep water, covered with insects or taken from a warm room out of doors into the cold rain and does not realize that it is suffering in its own way just as much as an animal would suffer under like adverse conditions, has not attained the mental attitude that will allow her to take delight in or make a success of the cultivation of flowers.

Many people realize there is something wrong between themselves and their plants because they continuously are asserting that nothing will grow for them.

These people remember how everything Mother touched grew and thrived, but fail to remember the care and attention she bestowed on them in order to attain those results.

Many attribute failure to some occult influence or some peculiar antipathy that the plant has toward their particular personality. This is unfortunate, not only because it is untrue but because it closes the mind to learning.

The essential causes of success or failure are generally so simple and easily explained that no one need waste time searching for them in deep mysterious places.

With few exceptions, the first great requirement of all plants during their growing season, is an abundance of daylight, direct sunlight if possible, but at any rate plenty of daylight. This fact is so important that it cannot be over estimated. Fresh air is as necessary to the well being of plants as it is to animals, the only qualification in its free use being to avoid cold draughts. Correct tempera-

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ture is difficult to determine where many varieties of plants are concerned, but fortunately they are willing to meet on a common ground as long as extremes are avoided.

WATERING

Assuming the pots are of proper size, four or five inches in diameter being amply large for the average window plant, and the soil has been well firmed and proper drainage has been provided, then it is almost impossible to injure the plant by giving too much water.

Growing period refers to the extreme activity of every plant or tree during the long bright days of summer. In the tropics where there is little difference in temperature between seasons things are mostly evergreen. Northern latitudes difference between summer and winter, are extreme. Light, warmth and growth always go together, and for the same reason, we associate darkness, cold and rest.

The above facts disclose an obstacle to perfect success in house gardening in midwinter that is almost insuperable. During the dark days of December, January and February, conditions in the house conflict entirely with nature and instead of temperatures being lowered to correspond with the shortened days, it is kept at summer heat of 75 and 80 degrees day and night. The temperature should be 65 degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night. It is safe to say, if this one condition is granted all others can be so easily provided as to make success assured with very little effort.

It is only in recent years the value of unobstructed daylight in greenhouses has been understood and appreciated by professional gardeners.

Today new greenhouses are a little lighter

than outdoors. Every unnecessary post or bar is eliminated. Any defective pane of glass is eliminated until the sun is made to give up to the utmost, every little flower producing unit that he contains. Hence the beautiful roses and carnations, etc., today—cheaper. Nothing else has changed, watering, heating, feeding and ventilating have continued just the same, but this life giving force of sunlight has been gathered in and used to the fullest.

This will be worth remembering in every phase of gardening experience and will cause one to pull aside the curtains and roll up the shades in the early morning, so the plants in the window may get the first bit of daylight. It will warn against placing window boxes under awnings or flower beds in the dense shade of trees and even the hardy shrubs will be given their share of the blue sky overhead.

Two great sources of supply of nourishment are light and water. (Function of leaves, etc., assimilation and transpiration). Too much importance is placed on the fancied special needs of different varieties of species, when as a matter of fact, no such needs exist.

The endeavor should be made rather, to think of plants as one does of pet animals and place within their reach abundance of fresh water at all times, leaving it to their instinct to drink when thirsty. In the case of the potted plant, little fear of overwatering need be entertained if effective drainage has been provided and not *overpotted*.

On the other hand, to be constantly pouring on water unnecessarily is not only a waste of time, but tends to impoverish the soil by carrying away much valuable plant food. To stand in water for any length of time is cruel and sometimes fatal.

The successful grower relies entirely on his daily observation as to when a plant needs water. The dry aspect and light color of the pot and soil, being his principle guides. When you do water, water enough to saturate the entire ball of earth.

(See PLANTS, page 156)

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EXOTICS FOR YOUR SHADE GARDEN

By Mrs. Dorothy Behrends

If you are interested in adding something unusual or different to your sheltered garden, consider the comparatively little known bromeliads. (pronounced bro-mee'li-eds.) They will lend an exotic touch with their beautiful foliage.

They are mostly epiphytes and gain their sustenance from the air, and therefore are not a parasite (as mistletoe), but in their native habitat live high in the trees. Nature has provided this protection for them by the winds carrying their seeds and lodging them in the crevices of the bark where they germinate. They often grow in full sun in the rain forests from Brazil to the lowland forests of Florida. They are a distinctive family in as much as they are native only in the Americas. One species has been reported in Africa, otherwise these plants are pure Americans. It is presumed the first bromels were introduced into Europe about 1821.

Bromeliads belong to the pineapple family. A variety that is considered common in Florida and is easily grown in the sheltered garden, is the rosette shaped *Tillandsia fasciculata*, a fascinating variety with lovely, slender arching leaves of grey-green with purplish tips and base. The flower bracts are brilliant red with tiny blue flowers. The flowers last only a short time, but the beauty is in the stem and bracts.

Tillandsia usneoides (Spanish Moss) is a familiar sight in the South. It was considered a parasite for many years, but is now accepted as an epiphyte, as it is even found growing on telephone wires. It is used commercially when dried in upholstering automobile seats. This bromeliad is *not* recommended for the home gardener's collection!

Another native of Florida, is the *Tillandsia circinata*, of easy culture. It is a small variety and looks like a miniature *fasciculata*. The flower stem and bracts are a rosy-red and this variety remains colorful a long time.

The Billbergias are an interesting part of this pineapple family. *Billbergia pyramidalis* is rather hardy, a native of Brazil and one that produces offshoots readily. It is a beautiful plant having leaves two and a half inches wide, pale green with indistinct yellow stripes near the base and finely toothed. The flowers, borne on upright stems, are scarlet tipped with blue, with bright red bracts. It blooms in October.

Billbergia nutans, is the most common of this family. Its beauty is not to be overlooked, however. This grows equally well as a terrestrial or epiphyte and multiplies rapidly.

They grow about one foot high and are of several shades of green, depending on the amount of sunlight they get. The flower bracts are a lovely rose, arching nicely, allowing the light green, margined blue, fuchsia shaped flowers, to hang freely. These are often used in cut flower arrangements in Southern California. They bloom freely from December to April.



Lower—*Tillandsia fasciculata*
Upper—*Billbergia Nutans*

Aechmeas (pronounced ek-meeah) are also rosette shaped plants having more beautiful and exotic foliage than the aforementioned bromels. *Aechmea miniata discolor* has stubby toothed, pale green leaves with violet-rose on the underside. Many brilliant coral red, bead shaped flowers, marked with purple on top, are borne on upright stems. They remain in bloom several weeks, then are beautiful for several months as reddish-black berries form in the place of the flowers. This blooms in June.

Aechmea weilbachii is a fine species. There is a beautiful sheen to the thin yellow-green leaves, moderately toothed (on the mature leaves) and tinged with bronze on the underside. The flower stems have red bracts with crimson and purple flowers. It is a fall bloomer.

The plants I have mentioned are only a few that are easily obtainable.

These plants may be grown as pot specimens, provided they are given adequate drainage. They make lovely hanging basket subjects or they may be wired on logs (as hardy orchids) and a few varieties do well in the open ground. Snails and slugs are their ene-

mies and control of them are easier when grown in pots. Occasionally, scale will be found on them, but the use of an orchid spray, obtainable on the market, eliminates this easily.

The descriptions and blooming time of the above plants are based on plants in Southern California. Under different environments the blooming time and colorings may differ slightly.

Mine enjoy living under lath the year around, but the temperature has not gone below 28 degrees F., so I would not recommend too cold a spot for them without adequate protection. A loose soil mixture of sandy loam and leaf mold has been suggested, but I find chopped osunda fibre and leaf mold very satisfactory.

The funnels of these plants should always be kept full of water unless a frost is anticipated. Then the plants should be tipped, so as to drain.

Use caution if you are going to mount them on logs, as wood used must not contain injurious oils, such as pine, eucalyptus or pepper tree. Mounted on logs, (they take a minimum of care) the drainage is always adequate and they are very artistic intermingled with other shade loving plants.

There are many collections in different parts of the United States well worth viewing. The Fosters of Orlando, Florida, have an outstanding collection, most of which have been personally collected in Mexico and Brazil. The Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, for those in the Midwest, would find the time spent viewing these exotics, well worth while. Mr. Charles Cass in San Diego probably has the most complete collection on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Cass has developed many remarkable hybrids.

Although bromeliads are tropical plants, they also make good house plants if care is taken to put moisture in the air by setting one or two pans of water in the room.

When they are grown in our sheltered gardens with begonias, fuchsias and ferns, they like the same atmosphere and thrive with an occasional syringing during the hot days.

Bromeliads are not orchids, although the tourists in the south of Florida often mistake them as such, calling them red orchids when they see them blooming profusely in the lowland forests. If one can visualize the cypress in the swamps, with myriads of these clustered epiphytes hanging from the trees, brilliantly high-lighted with their colorful inflorescences, the desire to spot several of these tropical ornamental foliage plants in our sheltered gardens, will be too much of a temptation to resist.

ANNUAL CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW NOTES

STOP—LOOK—READ!

THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR.

WHAT? The ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY.

WHEN? September 11th and 12th, 1948.

WHERE? Glendale Civic Auditorium, Glendale, California.

Sponsored by the Glendale Branch of the American Begonia Society, with the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department as co-sponsors.

Mark this date on your calendar NOW, and start grooming your very best plants for the show. Bring them, enter them in competition, and take home one of those ribbons or other prize awards for your efforts.

We invite and urge that all branches arrange for a display booth in the show. Presently letters will be mailed to all of the branches, outlining space to be allotted for booths.

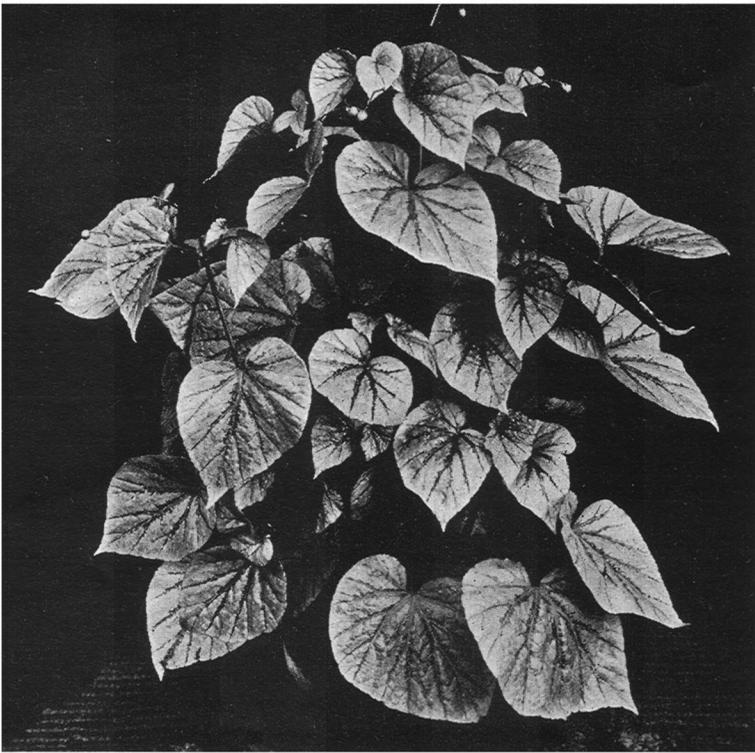
Arrangements will be made to install booths on Friday afternoon of Sept. 10th. The show will open Saturday the 11th, (time to be announced later). The annual meeting and election of the new officers in the afternoon and Saturday night, the Installation of Officers, recognition of retiring officers, a good speaker and entertainment.

Admission to the show will be FREE, with a registration fee of 50 cents which will entitle you to a brochure or souvenir program, convention ribbon or badge. Be convention-minded, register, and let every one know that you are a BEGONIANITE by wearing a convention ribbon. Now for the piece de resistance. That most talked of BARBECUE DINNER. This will be in a grove close to the auditorium and will be a very tasty and complete dinner, cafeteria style, for \$1.35.

Please make your reservations early and mail REQUESTS and REMITTANCES to Mrs. Carlise Slattery, 3201 Perлита Avenue, Los Angeles 26, Calif. Our deadline for reservations will be Sept. 4, 1948, but please make your reservations early as we anticipate a large attendance at this barbecue. There will also be space available for those families who might wish to bring their own basket supper and still join with your group.

Watch for further announcements in the August issue of the BEGONIAN.

Frank S. Moore, President, Glendale Branch, General Chairman Nat. Conv., and Flower Show. 425 N. Ave., 56, Los Angeles 42, Calif. ALbany 2206.



B. ABEL CARRIERE

High Humidity Is a Requisite of B. Abel Carriere

AIR-CONDITIONING YOUR GREENHOUSE

Most people feel the whole function of a greenhouse is to control the winter temperature, the very fact that they are often called a hot house tells us that they are being used mostly to control winter temperatures. But why limit our greenhouse use to winter only when we can control temperature, humidity, light and wind in summer as well as winter. All these factors work as a unit and any one can become a limiting factor of plant growth. In the summer the use of the greenhouse is thought to be limited due to high temperatures. Before we lock up our greenhouse for the summer let us see if it is possible to make it function in summer as well as winter.

The use of the greenhouse in summer will depend on several things, for one thing, what we are expecting to grow in it. Many plants demand high temperatures and high humidity. If we select the tropical arum family, (as the caladium and philodendron) much benefit will be derived from high humidity and high temperature. Some of the tropical begonias as Popenoei and Abel Carriere will grow well with high temperature if only we provide a high humidity with suitable light. On the other hand, there are other plants including some begonias as tuberous, some fibrous and

hybrid rex and certain orchids, which demand a cool temperature. How to keep the humidity high and to lower the temperature, is the question.

Remembering that in any design to lower the temperature, both light and humidity will play an important part. In any plan to regulate temperature, it is necessary to consider the *spread* of the temperature between night and day. The difference should be at last 10 to 15 degrees F. Many plants will die where the temperature is held constant night and day, especially with low light during the day.

If light were not so necessary a factor in plant growth, we might construct a heavy opaque roof, diverting the heat waves. This would necessitate tall greenhouses, the sides of glass, permitting the sun rays to enter both morning and afternoon. Such a modern greenhouse with solid roof and constructed along scientific lines, is the Jewel Box in Forest Park, St. Louis. In the small greenhouse, we can cover our roof with paint and lath so as to affect the temperature therein. Where enough covering is used to materially lower the temperature, it is possible we have reduced the light to the extent of lowering flower production. Then only ferns, aroids, and such plants

will thrive. Where the light is low, begonias, (especially tuberous) may fail to bloom. Plants grown in too high a temperature and in darkness, soon starve to death. Photosynthesis, (the production of sugars) does not take place in the dark.

Sometimes all the doors and windows are opened to reduce the temperature. This should not be done as we soon lose all our humidity and by this method the temperature inside becomes the same as outside.

What shall we do, is the question? The answer is Air conditioning. There are several ways this can be accomplished. First, the very expensive way of using the hot water heating pipes or piping and circulating a refrigerant through them, as in an electric refrigerator. This would require a large compressor, etc. The most reasonable and easy way, the way most any amateur can do this job, is to make use of the evaporation of water by dry air. Water has what the scientist calls a high specific heat, because it takes up large amounts of heat in changing from a liquid to a gaseous state as *water vapor*. Remember the desert water bag, it cools by evaporation. Now, to the cooling of the greenhouse, we can make use of this principle in many ways. First we may try wetting the walks and under the benches, then open the top ventilator and also a small opening near the ground level. The dry air traveling across this wet surface is cooled by the evaporation of the water. This method and the following have limited possibilities as they can only be effectively used in dry climates. Should the outside air be quite moist, (a high relative humidity) we would be unable to evaporate the water. Fortunately when the humidity is high in summer there will be less need for a greenhouse. Those of you living where the humidity is high may open all windows and doors, using their greenhouse as merely a protection against strong sunlight, hail or wind.

A plan of lowering the greenhouse tempera-

ture, (in a dry climate) of easy, efficient and cheap construction, is to use an electric fan and a misty sprayer. Cut a round hole in the foundation wall, a little larger in diameter than the circulating fan blades. Construct a cylinder of galvanized iron, aluminum or plastic. In front of the fan, place a misty sprayer similar to those used on vegetable stands. The idea is to force the dry air into the greenhouse with the aid of the fan. The size of the fan will depend on the size of the greenhouse. The best place to locate the fan, is under a bench at one end of the greenhouse. Be sure to have access to the needle valve as they have a tendency to stop up. This method has been used by many amateurs. I have used it for years. Some of the more scientific minded amateur begonia growers have constructed cooling systems that are thoroughly automatic, as opening ventilators, turning on and off the water, fan, etc.

Another way of cooling, is to open top ventilator and hang a strip of cheese cloth (the width of the door) in the door, leaving the bottom end free or place the end in a vessel of water, or use the drip method to moisten the cloth. The air passing through the cloth is cooled.

One may also use a fan as described, but force the air through a container of loose moist excelsior or several thicknesses of fly screen, over which water drips.

Dr. W. C. Drummond,
Los Angeles, Calif.

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B. X Perl Lorraine Syn. Bertha Von Lothringen

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego, California

No mention is made of the origin of the name, Bertha von Lothringen, in any of the begonia books I have access to, in spite of the fact that it has been the cognomen attached to the plant we are discussing for a long time. Since it is now clear that B. perle lorraine was hybridized by Lemoine in France, in 1902, from B. polyantha x B. *strigillosa*, we should certainly abide by the name he gave it and forget the synonym. Seemingly, B. perle lorraine belongs to a group of bushy plants like B. *incarnata* and B. *phyllomaniaca* that flower freely in winter and spring. They may all be related through B. *incarnata* which, according to Mrs. Krauss, was sometimes known as B. polyantha. In "Les Begonias," the latter plant corresponds closely to that of our sketch in flower size, height and long blooming period. Chevalier describes B. perle lorraine as lower, with smaller flowers and panicles in the spring. The leaves are the same, however. He also notes that it sometimes throws adventitious leaves on stalks or stems.

The begonia I have painted shows the hardness of the type as it has been in more or less full sun all winter, without food or repotting and often insufficient water. I have only drawn three out of several stalks. The tall one (2 feet high), is a leggy sample of old wood that should be pruned to the ground in spring, saving the tips for cuttings. This would give more strength to the dozen or more young plants at the base. I pulled one up to examine its roots and could see no signs of rhizomatous formation, which it might have inherited from its B. *strigillosa* parent, which is responsible for the chocolate nettings on the leaf.

The main stalk of B. perle lorraine is a smooth, bronzy green, with white streaks on it. At first the joints are very close together, slightly swollen, and ragged with dried stipules. These drop off as the length of the internodes increases and new branches form at almost every leaf scar. There is no ring or pronounced color around the joint. The growing tip is encased in a pair of slender, transparent pointed stipules, almost an inch long, with a stippling of red down the center. Usually a leaf and flower stem come from the same axil. There are several instances on my plant of a leaf in the first crotch of the peduncle.

The average petiole is 4 inches long. It is a watery green, covered with red streaks, which are the base for many scraggly reddish hairs. The young leaf is a beautiful cupped shell of

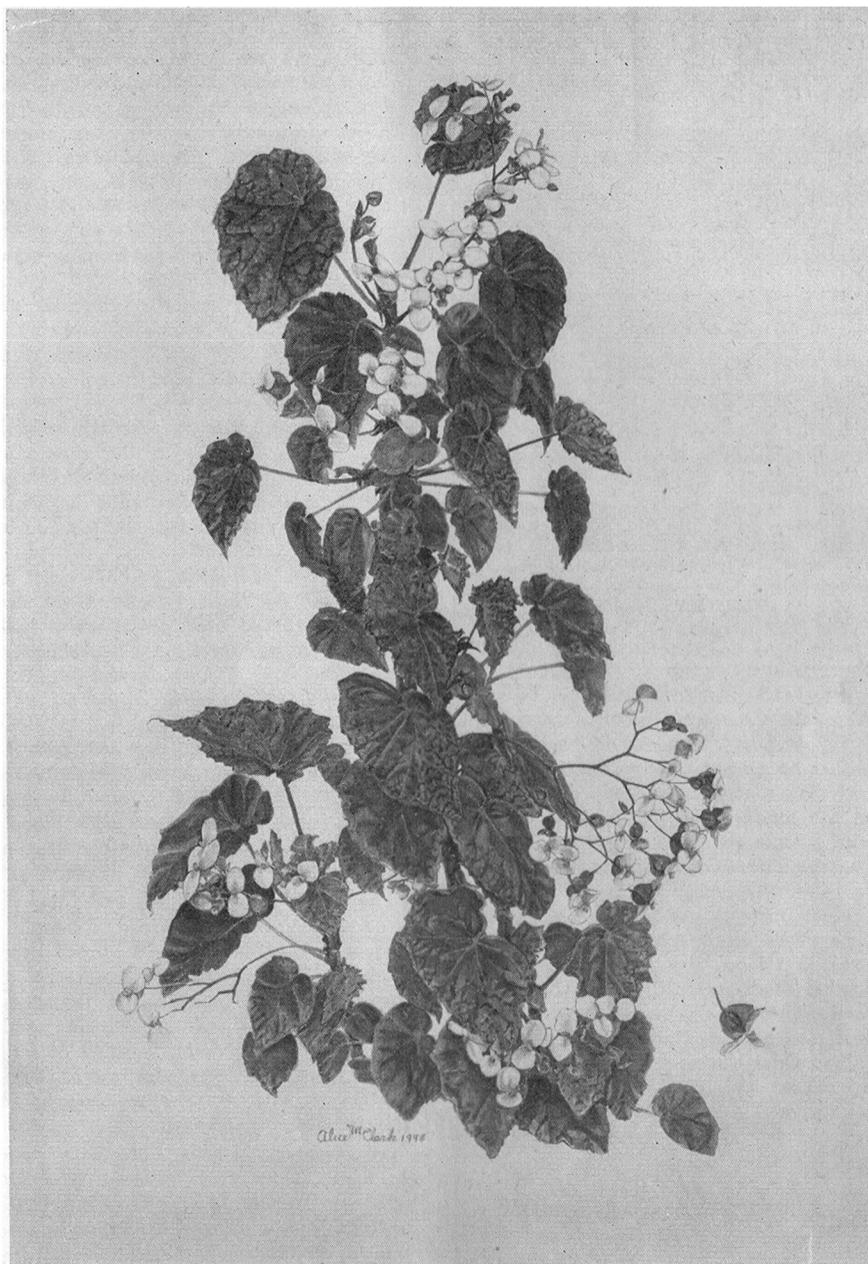
yellow-green, combed with brown markings inside the hairy incised edges. It expands into a one-sided, pointed oval, with scalloped and serrated border. It is fringed with short hairs which are also scattered over the back, with a few that are barely perceptible on the front. The face is a silky dark green, yellowing towards the red margin with thin green veins slightly raised on top, more so underneath. The chocolate splashes are most pronounced where the curves overlap at the axis and at the fork of the nerves, getting thicker near the edges, where they look as if overlaid with brown lace. On the pale green ground below the same pattern is wine-red.

The dull, brownish-red peduncle is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long to the first pair of branches, growing redder as it nears the flowers. It is a surprise to find a few hairs on this stem. One panicle is 7 inches across, with as many as 50 potential blooms. Unlike most begonias, both types unfold together. Although the males do come first, there are always a few that delay and develop along with the female flowers, which extends the beauty of the inflorescence.

The staminate pedicel is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, pale pink, like the two wide, oval petals it supports. These total $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches across and are slightly reflexed, the better to show the yellow comb in the center. One or two stamens fall away from the rosette, an unusual procedure. All of the outside petals are deep rose, as is the ovary, each of whose three wings are half again as large as the other. The female pedicel is a dark red. The flower exercises a woman's privilege of adding two or three petals to the main pair of roundish ones. The center is composed of three pistils with untwisted stigma that look like elfin dumb-bells clothed in golden velvet, if you care to follow my imaginative flights.

B. perle lorraine is usually classed among begonias with distinctive leaves, but it is equally appreciated for its habit of flowering when other plants are resting. It has an exuberance of bloom that gives a lacy appearance to its bushy habit. This is well depicted in the photograph in Mrs. Krauss's book. This begonia is so noticeable that it is more familiar to most beginners in begonia culture, and rightly so, for, like a well-bred lady, it is always dressed for admiring callers. Do give it the privilege of answering to its very fitting title, Pearl of Lorraine.

Give a Membership in the A.B.S. as a birthday or anniversary gift.



B. X PERLE LORRAINE SYN. BERTHA VON LOTHRINGEN

By ALICE M. CLARK



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PLANTS—Cont. from page 149

A certain firmness or compactness of the soil is necessary to good drainage. If the earth has been insufficiently "firmed" down, it is very slow to dry out and will quickly suffer from too much water. The soil in this case is like a loose sponge and remains saturated for a long time and water becomes stagnant.

It is worth remembering that many experienced amateurs use pots much too large for the needs of the plant and always leave the soil in a loose, spongy condition, both of which are conducive to ill health. No amount of drainage will help under these conditions and if, as is often necessary for reasons of cleanliness, the plants stand in saucers. When using saucers and trays, use two sizes larger than the pot.

Antonelli Brothers

**Begonia
Gardens**

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

Route 2, Box 1296
Santa Cruz, California

"SECOND STORY GARDENS"

By Peggy Sullivan, Los Angeles

After a few seasons of growing, the shade gardener frequently is confronted by a shortage of ground. Then the old favorites must give way to the new arrivals—if not, one soon possesses a jungle of crowded plants. Should the collecting urge be incurable then add a "second floor" to the garden in the form of hanging baskets. The smaller the planting area, the greater this need for hanging baskets, aside from the considerable decorative value.

Many fuchsias of naturally pendulous habit, such as "Cascade," "Wisteria," and "Falling Stars" are dependable, attain generous proportions and perennially produce color through the greater part of the year. Should some basket fuchsias produce exaggerated horizontal growth, attach weights to the tips of the branches. To encourage vigorous growths and large blossoms the basket must be at least twelve inches in diameter and contain rich potting soil.

The bell shaped, white or blue violet campanulas are fascinating when grown solidly over the entire top and sides of a wire basket. Several evergreen species are available, *Campanula garganica*, *C. poscharskyana*, *C. muralis*, *C. rotundifolia*, and *C. isophylla*. These dwarf compact plants produce a profusion of color in spring and summer and grow happily even in a five inch pot. The appearance of the plant is improved by carefully removing the faded flower stems after blooming period is completed. Remember also how readily campanulas may be divided!

The exotic bromeliad has a definite place in our "second story" garden although the strongly vertical nature of its growth appears better when tempered by a more prostrate grower—all in the same basket. Innumerable billbergia and aechmea species are suitable. Do not ignore the dramatic value of foliage in your quest for flower color; the foliage you have always, whereas, in Bromeliads the flower is frequently unseasonal.

For a contrast in color and texture of foliage there is no finer material than *Lotus bertholoti*. The soft gray green, fernlike foliage combined with scarlet flowers is a welcome deviation from the customary profusion of green. The gray foliage signifies the need of not more than half shade, preferably full morning sun.

While mentioning full sun, the problem of hanging baskets in such heat must be considered. A reliable plant under such conditions is *Convolvulus mauritanicus*, provided it is not expected to exist under camel's conditions. The clear blue flowers, reminding us of morning glories, appear on the vigorous long

growths and provide color from spring to fall.

For a rare touch in the garden add *Schizocentron elegans*. Although now and then reported to be capricious in culture, its rosy purple flowers make the attempt to grow it definitely worth while.

The evergreen, large leafed Philodendron species bring the final touch to a tropical modern garden. Here proportion must be emphasized — the larger the leaf, the larger the container. Also, the smaller leafed species are in better harmony for the small garden. It is safer to tuck all philodendron (and allied genera) in the garage or glasshouse when temperatures may be expected to fall below freezing.

In considering the choice annuals, species of primulas come first to mind. *Primula obconica* and *P. malacoides* are brilliant when planted along the basket sides as well as on top. It is also an excellent way to deprive the snails of their annual primrose feast.

Impatiens need not be considered an annual but freshly rooted cuttings replanted yearly in baskets will eliminate the woodiness and rank growth of older plants. The newer white impatiens possesses a beautiful bushy shape and is well adapted to basket culture. When combined with the bright blue of lobelia "Sapphire" the effect is amazingly cool.

Forgive the omission of many other fine possibilities for the hanging basket, such as begonias, they deserve an article in themselves. Remember that the soil in the basket dries quickly, the restricted root area requires frequent application of fertilizer, and the baskets should be grouped to avoid spotty effects.

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ORCHIDS IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER

Having just experienced a thrill of having my first orchid plant bloom, I want to share my enthusiasm and thrill with others.

I speak of a Laelia (pronounced lee'li-ah) anceps, an orchid that looks like a miniature Cattleya, (florists preference) about two inches across, of a rosy orchid color with a fuchsia colored lip. A beautiful corsage may be made by using two blossoms.

My plant is wired on an acacia log, on sphagnum moss, and has been hanging out under lath all this past winter. As records will show, Southern California has had a Chinese winter, cold and dry.

Since the anceps blossomed two weeks ago, we have had a day of nice showers, followed by a terrific hot spell with real summer weather for several days, then one night we experienced a cloud burst. The orchid plant, with flowers attached, was out in all of it. The flowers are still perfect, two weeks after blooming!

You see why I am sold on hardy orchids. They *can* take it.

Dorothy Behrends.

Branch secretaries should write to Roy K. Dere for A.B.S. stationery.

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HANGING BASKET BEGONIA

HOW TO GROW TUBEROUS IN HANGING BASKETS

The visitors at the San Mateo Fiesta last Fall were attracted by superb baskets of Tuberosus Begonias of resplendent beauty and abundance of blooms. They were exhibited by Antonelli Bros. Begonia Gardens of Santa Cruz who were justly awarded the first prize. Prompted by the desire to learn how to grow such extraordinary baskets, the San Francisco Branch invited Pat Antonelli to tell his methods at the May meeting.

"There are three important points in successful culture of baskets," said Mr. Antonelli, "quality of tubers, potting mixture and proper watering. Large specimen plants may be obtained only from tubers three or four years old, the fourth year giving the maximum growth."

Thoroughly moistened peat moss is the best media for development of a healthy root system. The peat moss, being almost sterile, causes the roots to spread in search of nourishment. A good root system is a necessary prerequisite for a robust plant.

The tuber should be potted only when the shoots attain the height of four to five inches. The pot should be selected according to the size of the tuber. There should be at least two or three inches between the tuber and the sides of the pot. Mr. Antonelli prefers Redwood baskets as they are unbreakable, attractive in appearance and retain the moisture

better than the porous or glazed clay pots.

For potting he uses a mixture consisting of two parts thoroughly decomposed leaf mold and cow manure and one part sandy porous loam. The soil must be loose but still have sufficient body. After many experiments, Mr. Antonelli found the dry fish meal to be the best fertilizer. In potting, he spreads a handful of fish meal about two inches below the bottom of the tuber, covering the latter with one inch of soil. Care must be taken that the fish meal does not touch the tuber. When using redwood pots it is not necessary to place broken crockery at the bottom.

Immediately after potting, the young plants must be thoroughly watered. They should be well watered at intervals of one to two weeks, depending when the soil becomes dry. This intermittent method permits proper aeration of the soil. Excessive watering might sour the soil and stunt the growth of the young plant. Overhead watering is preferable; a very fine spray should be used to avoid the possibility of injuring the blossoms. When the basket attains full growth it requires copious watering at more frequent intervals depending when the soil shows signs of dryness.

Better varieties develop about twenty shoots, thus not requiring any pinching. If the tuber develops fifteen shoots or less, they should be pinched in order to promote new growth; this

(See Tuberosus—page 162)

ONE MEMBER'S VIEW OF THE A. B. S.

My sheltered garden has taken on a new look since I have been a member of the American Begonia Society. Vistas have been opened and knowledge has been gained, far exceeding any hopes one could imagine.

I had been looking for begonias for some time, as they are not carried by all nurseries. One day I stopped in to see Sylvia Leatherman, hoping to add some new ones to my collection. She was so pleasant and gave so much of her valuable time explaining small things to me, that I almost forgot the real reason of my visit. Then she mentioned the American Begonia Society and gave me one of the *Begonians*. I liked the magazine so much, I looked in the directory to see which Branch would be the closer for me to attend and decided on Hollywood. Mr. Edward Flynn was president at the time and a great inspiration to us all. However, Mr. Flynn passed away. The A.B.S., especially Hollywood Branch, suffered a great loss with his bereaved wife and two daughters. The threads were gradually picked up and the Branch reassembled itself. I found myself in the new pattern.

There was much to be done and plans to be made. It has been a great experience working with these fine people. The fund raising idea of a bazaar and auction, with Gordon Baker Lloyd officiating, was a profitable affair, so we are assured of money for speakers for the coming year. Then the seriousness of really learning our begonias came up. Miss Charlotte Hoak was the logical one to teach us as she is a former Horticulture teacher. We feel we are gaining a great deal of knowledge from her lessons and are very grateful for her leadership. For members living too far away to journey to Hollywood to get her lessons first hand, she has allowed them to be printed in the *Begonian*. To me, the *Begonian* is an outstanding magazine and one we should be justly proud. It will serve as a good reference for years to come. If any members have any back numbers they wish to dispose of, please contact me.

There are other features I enjoy, in being a member of the A.B.S. There are so many Branches one may visit and feel free to drop in on any time. Hollywood Branch welcomes visitors and I have found other Branches are the same with their welcome mats. I live in a central location so I have been able to visit Glendale, where they have an eager, friendly group, San Gabriel where they are famous for their wonderful plant sale tables, San Fernando Valley, where they are just getting underway and have such an enthusiastic group,

have already entered a lovely exhibit in the San Fernando Valley Garden Show and won a blue ribbon. One evening I journeyed to the Ventura Branch with our National President, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond and Dr. Drummond, where they had a grand meeting and plant sale. Their Vice President, Mr. George Fitch, introduced a novel idea of listing member's gardens for future garden visits, not just when they are at their peak, but also when they are dormant. After the meeting we visited Mr. Fitch's enclosed garden patio beautifully lighted and unheated, full of rex begonias in bloom, in February! Southgate was in the process of becoming a new Branch the night I visited them. There again, is a lively, friendly group. Louise Schwerdtfeger came all the way from Santa Barbara that evening to visit the new Branch. Pasadena were hosts to a very large attendance the night I visited their Branch. Rudolph Ziesennehenne was at his best and they also had a 'super' plant sale.

Not to be overlooked, the Round Robins are also a source of information and enjoyment. I belong to the orchid and *billbergia* Robins and find others as eager to learn as they are to pass on their experiences.

I have a lovely selection of begonias this year and have started many small plants from my large ones, which I expect to contribute to the plant sale tables of the Branches I hope to visit. I have had success growing the calla lily begonia and have about two dozen small plants started for this purpose. However, that is not a *rule*. One may visit other branches and be welcome without taking a plant.

For any of you people that do not live near a Branch. Look around you and see if your neighbors and friends are plant enthusiasts. If you can line up seven or more members in your locale, write to our Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, and she will be glad to tell you how to form a Branch. It's great fun and the pleasure derived from such contacts are two fold, horticultural knowledge and sociability.

I grow other shade loving plants with my begonias and so I have a task and a pleasure of the sheltered garden all year long. My next project is to build a moss wall as outlined by Maria Wilkes. Visualizing it from her descriptions makes it a *must* for many of us at the Hollywood Branch.

Again, may I say, I am glad to be a member of the American Begonia Society and be active in the Royal Hobby.

DOROTHY BEHREND, S.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Honoring Gonda Hartwell

The Hollywood Begonia Branch, in appreciation for seven years of faithful service as National Secretary to the American Begonia Society, is proud to present a Life Membership to Gonda Hartwell.

Mrs. Hartwell was chosen by popular vote to be the recipient of the honor.

This has long been in the minds of the members of Hollywood Branch and they are proud of their initiative and hope it will be a forerunner for other Life Memberships honoring worthy Begonia Standard Bearers.

RAYMOND T. WILSON,
President.

AN APPEAL FOR OPINIONS

Your Editor is very anxious to please you. Will you please sit down and write to her, telling her what you like most about The Begonian, what articles you have particularly enjoyed and what kind of articles and pictures you would like to see in future issues? This magazine is the organ of the Royal Hobbyist, the Growers of Begonias and other companion shade plants.

If you have raised a beautiful begonia of either variety, please take a picture of it, with a plain background. Submit it for publication and let your fellow Begonia Members see what you can do. A snapshot will do. Be sure to have it printed on glossy paper.

Editor

FIBROUS BEGONIAS

FOR MONTHS OF BLOOM

- DWARF — King of the Reds; White Pearl; Scandinavian Pink.
- TALL — Christmas Cheer (red) Ile de France (white) Masterpiece (rose).

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ROUND ROBIN NEWS

By Frances Downing

Vacations, visitors and hot weather are slowing the Robin flights. This is to be expected and in some instances, simply cannot be helped. Each member should do her very best to get the Robin letters off as soon as possible, to the next member.

When mailing the Robin letters, be sure to use sufficient postage on the envelope. A Robin member should never be required to pay postage on the letters mailed to her. If in doubt about the amount of postage required, have your letter weighed at the Post Office.

The Herb Robin needs several new members. This small group is making fine progress, but a Robin Club needs at least ten members, to be instructive and interesting.

The Cyclamen Robin has finally gained its tenth member. The Director is quite proud of this, but says she can make room for three or four more members.

It is not too soon to consider ways and means of wintering your begonias. Now is the time to take cuttings to insure small sturdy plants, for bringing into the window garden this winter. The begonia Robin Clubs can help you with these and many other begonia problems. Room for new members exists in all of the Begonia Round Robins.

The Apartment Dweller's Robin needs several members to start flying. This group grows slowly!

The Primrose Robin (hardy primroses) has room for new members.

The House Plant Robins are on the wing again, making the flights in record time. A new House Plant R. is ready to be started. This group includes all kinds of plants grown in the window garden, including cactus and succulents.

New African Violet and Gesneriaceae Robins are being formed.

A.B.S. members wishing information concerning the R. R. Clubs, send your requests to Mrs. Frances Downing, Rte. 1, Box 11, Calera, Alabama.

A TIMELY TIP

If your fibrous rooted begonias did not need repotting or you did not get them repotted, give each pot a top dressing of one half *well rotted* manure and one half oak leaf mold, a layer about one half inch deep. This is also good as a top dressing for your begonias planted in the ground. Often times the soil in pots is either washed out or leached out, through the drainage. This dressing will show marked results in your plants.

Sylvia Leatherman, El Monte.

BOTTLE GARDENS

A small necked, large based bottle can become a very interesting conversation piece, in one's home. Here in Southern California, we use an apple cider bottle, to perfection. After sterilizing it with boiling water (being careful not to crack it), we pour in a layer of washed pea gravel, a thin layer of charcoal, then a good layer of potting medium, (2 parts sandy loam, 1 part sifted leaf mold, 1 part peat moss) slightly damp.

Have your plants all ready to be planted, carefully choosing plants small enough to push through the neck of the bottle with a long handled, long pronged fork.

Do not plant too many plants, as it is to be remembered, these plants grow and will eventually fill the bottle.

Plant two or three small clumps of helxine moss or selaginella as a ground cover, (after you have planted the larger specimens) using the fork and patience to manipulate the plants into position.

The top may be left off the bottle and little watering is necessary as very little humidity escapes. The soil should be kept damp, but *not wet*. A very weak solution of manure water or chemical fertilizer may be used three times a year.

I have used the following plants with good results, although there are many more that may be used: maidenhair and pteris ferns, *philodendron cordatum*, (small leafed) *pothos aurea*, strawberry begonia (*saxifraga*), *iresine*, small *rex* begonias, *crotons*, *acorus gramineus* (ribbon grass), and *pellionia*.

Tradescantia fluminensis variegata (wandering jew) is pretty, but grows too fast to be practical for the bottle terrariums. Once a plant is put in a small necked bottle, it has to stay, so be sure you want the plant to stay before you put it in the bottle.

The idea now, is to keep your eyes open for interesting shaped, clear glass bottles and try your luck. They are lots of fun.

As demonstrated by *Mrs. G. K. Schoenbrom, San Fernando Valley Branch.*

Riverside Branch is holding their July 14th meeting at Forest Home, in the form of a picnic. Mrs. Francis Kaufman is to be the hostess. Native ferns of Southern California will be the subject.

Mrs. William Allen, Secretary.

Southgate Branch recommends Mr. Swisher of Swift and Co., to other branches. He showed colored motion pictures and talked on the Control of Garden Pests, at their May meeting.

—Mrs. R. M. Casey.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

The New England Branch announce their programs for the next four months: July 17th will find Mrs. H. H. Buxton, speaking on "New Species and Varieties of Begonias." Meeting to be held in the home of Mrs. George W. Greenlaw, Concord, Mass. On August 21st, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis J. Brown will host the meeting in Londonderry, N.H. Mrs. Charles H. Haddrell will talk on "Begonias for the Beginner." The Sept. 18th meeting will be held at the Essex Co. Agricultural School in Danvers, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. White will be acting hosts and Mr. White will talk on "Begonia Soils and Potting." The Oct. 16th meeting will be hosted by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Starr, in Southbridge, Mass. Mr. Starr will talk on "Propagation of Begonias." Members and guests are invited and urged to bring a picnic lunch and register by 11 a. m. All small plants and cuttings for the plant sale table will be welcomed.

MRS. H. H. BUXTON,
Secretary.

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch extends an invitation to A.B.S. members, to celebrate Founders Month, honoring Mr. Herbert Dyckman. Ventura Branch is furnishing the coffee, cream and sugar and the hot dishes. The guests will furnish salads and desserts as their pot-luck share. Each member is to bring their own table service. The picnic begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, July 25th. Ventura would like to know how many to expect, please write Miss Caroline Peyton, Sec. 335 A. So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

Whittier Branch News

Members of the Whittier Branch of the A.B.S. and their friends had as their guest speaker at the regular meeting, May 25th, the National President of the American Begonia Society, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond. Mrs. Drummond demonstrated the making of corsages and attractive flower arrangements. She emphasized the use of flowers from one's own garden in making these arrangements and corsages, stressing the natural arrangement of flowers rather than the more artificial, thus lending one's own personality to the occasion.

Mrs. Isamae M. Capell.

DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH

Dorothy Pierson Barton Branch will hold its next meeting August 6th, first Friday of the month, at the home of the President, Mrs. Edwin Crosby, 2110 Lapier Street. Dessert at 7 p.m.

MRS. S. V. CLARK, *Sec.-Treas.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to announce in answer to a demand for a Chairman of Questions and Answers for our Eastern and Mid-west readers, Mr. Phil Meyer, president of the Western Reserve Branch, Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed to this office and now we hope to receive for publication many notes on the culture of Begonias and Shade Plants for our Eastern members. Remember that true gardening is a life-work of research, a really dignified profession, a great proportion of which consists of questions and answers. No person in the world is so wise he need never ask a question or no one should be so humble that he dare not venture an answer. So, we hope you will direct your questions to Mr. Meyer.

We would be remiss indeed, if we did not pay a well deserved tribute and our heartfelt gratitude to Maria Wilkes who has relinquished her post as editor of "The Begonian," to take up another assignment as co-editor and technical advisor of the Pacific Flower Shows, Inc., 6138 Orange Avenue, Long Beach 5, California. We wish her well in her new enterprise and to her successor, Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, we tender a hearty and sincere welcome; Mrs. Behrends, was appointed at the May National Board meeting, to this office and in addition was also appointed as Librarian to succeed Mrs. John W. Crowder, who found other obligations too heavy to permit continuing the work of Librarian. Mrs. Crowder was well fitted for the work and did the job well and to her, also, we say thank you. Mrs. Crowder, is to remain on the board as our Associate Librarian. Our members will miss both Maria Wilkes and Mrs. Crowder, as both have served on the National Board for a number of years.

Mrs. Behrends, whose address is 1633 Golden Gate Avenue, Los Angeles 26, California, will welcome every cooperation and we trust that one and all will assist her.

MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND,
National President.

Eastern Questions and Answers

Having recently been appointed Chairman of Eastern Questions and Answers, I wish to extend to the members of A.B.S. an invitation to ask questions regarding problems encountered. An endeavor will be made to satisfactorily answer all questions promptly. All questions should be addressed to Mr. Phil Meyer, 2153 Lakeland Avenue, Lakewood 7, Ohio. Please make certain the communication contains your complete address.

Phil Meyer.

WHITTIER BRANCH OFFICERS

President, Albert Bliss, 426 N. Greenleaf Ave.
Vice President, Herbert Lough, 2100 Luitweiler Ave.
Treasurer, Mrs. Haidee Hackler, 219 S. McNees Ave.
Secretary, Mrs. Isame M. Capell, 445 N. Comstock Ave.
Membership Chairman, Clyde Irwin, 236 N. Whittier Ave.
National Rep., Mrs. George Coulter, 230 N. Whittier Ave.
Program Chairman, Mrs. Isabel Kirkwood, 1026 Ocean View Ave.
Plant Chairman, George Barber, 503 West Philadelphia St.
Hospital Chairman, Mrs. Lottie Reider, 331½ N. Washington.
Chauffer, M. W. Baldwin, 1829 W. Hadley.
Sunshine Chairman, Mrs. Madeline Hall, 509 S. Friends Ave.
All of Whittier, California.

Give commercial fertilizer *half strength* to your plants, twice as often. *Never* when the plant is dry.

TUBEROUS—(Cont. from page 158)

operation will develop a good heavy basket. "Never pinch the side shoots said Mr. Antonelli, "as it eliminates further growth. Pinch only the crown shoots. This is very important."

He feeds the plants three times with a fish emulsion; the first time when it starts budding and twice during the blooming period. By this method of feeding, a double strength solution than that shown on the label should be used. If fortnightly feedings are preferred, single strength solution may be used. Either way will assure a longer blooming season with better flowers.

To prevent infection by fungus, the baskets must be kept cool and spaced wide apart affording free circulation of air. For the interest of fanciers, Mr. Antonelli stated that the addition of superphosphate to the soil mixture will assist in developing larger tubers.

Antonelli Bros. started their business about thirteen years ago, devoting most of their time to hybridization of basket types. They have been exhibiting mostly in the East; Boston, New York, Chicago. Their first exhibit on the Pacific Coast last Fall was rewarded with the first prize.

To hear Mr. Antonelli, the San Francisco Branch invited as their guests the three other sister branches in the Bay Area: The East Bay, The So. Alameda Co., and The Petaluma. In fact, it was a "Joint Meeting." It was a big success. The hall was filled to overflowing. A prolonged question period followed the talk proving that it aroused everybody's interest. MRS. LILLIAN ASHE, *Secretary*

SEED FUND NEWS FOR JULY

Summer is here and more frequent waterings are now necessary. Do not be afraid of getting water on the foliage of your begonias, it removes the dust and enables the plants to breathe. Water early in the morning or in the evening, avoid watering during the heat of the day for this often burns the leaves. Your young seedlings can use some fertilizer now. Keep them growing fast during this season.

I should like to suggest, those interested in hybridizing, read "New Creations in Plant Life," by W. S. Harwood. He goes into the origin of new species and describes how Luther Burbank made his many crosses. He also recommends the air-tight glass jars for starting seed. We want someone to take charge of a hybridizing department for our Seed Fund. Who would like to do this? We already have a Seed Testing Department and next month hope to have a report ready for you, giving in detail the results of germination of seed sent out by your Seed Fund.

From Mexico comes a letter giving us new hopes of other rare seed to come, in due time. Our collector has found a new dwarf rhizomatous begonia plant, leaves dark green with nearly black veins, under side light green, he does not believe it is a variety of *hydrocotylifolia*.

From Colombia we have just received another lot of begonia seeds, but all the same kinds we have been receiving regularly in small lots, numbers 9 to 11. Also a few small lots of unusual seed, spores from creeping tongue fern.

Our Colombia collector wants seed and bulbs of hybrid Nerines. Where can we get these for him?

Please let us hear from you if you can help us during the convention. We need plants for our display and speakers for our Second Armchair Explorer's Meeting. Please help if you can.

SEED OFFERS FOR JULY

Herbertia caerulea

Tibouchina Lepidota

Colombia wild fuchsia

Tongue fern spores—Colombia

These are twenty-five cents per packet.

Cheerio until next month,

Your Skipper,
FLORENCE CARRELL.

Keep the humidity high in your shade gardens.

Glendale invites you to bring a picnic basket dinner or enjoy the barbecue. *Either way, you are welcome.*

CONDENSED MINUTES of the A.B.S. National Board Meeting held May 24, 1948 in Room 55, City Hall with President Drummond in the chair.

Present at the meeting Mesdames Drummond, McRae, Wilkes, Bayer, Schwerdtfeger, Hoak, Johnson, Hixon, Behrends, Hartwell; Messrs. Lawrence, Dere, Walton, Hart, Bailey, Hixon. Branch Representatives, Hollywood, Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena, Southgate, Inglewood, Parent Branch, North Long Beach, Santa Barbara. Guests Dr. C. H. Lauder, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moore.

Minutes of April 26th, reports of Editor, Advertising Chairman, Membership Fees, Treasurer accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Historian Mrs. Hixon presented manuscript covering the years from Dec. 1931 to and including 1940 and also including Foreword and Biographical Sketch and asked that the President go over this record; if found satisfactory and adequate, Mrs. Hixon would continue along the same lines and bring the document up to the present time. President Drummond stated she would select a committee to act with her and they would read the manuscript over carefully and return it to Mrs. Hixon in due time with their comment.

Grace Bayer read very interesting report of her work on the Slide Library in part as follows: "So far I have 48 slides in the aluminum mounts; 25 with the glass mounts and 111 in paper mounts. Just a few days ago I received 20 slides from the Ventura Branch. This makes a total of 184 Transparencies."

Miss Hoak, Chairman Fibrous Section reported she was tracing the plants back to their natural habitat as by knowing the type of locality, we would know what treatment to give our fibrous.

Branch reports showed there was considerable activity among the branches with good speakers, good plant tables and plans for swelling the treasuries of the branches.

President instructed to place our fire insurance policy on equipment, in the hands of Treasurer Walton, for safe keeping.

Resignation of Maria Wilkes, dated March 21, 1948 again read and on motion duly seconded and carried, "accepted with regrets."

Appointments made by President Drummond and approved by National Board. Mr. Phil Meyer, Chairman of the Eastern Question and Answer Department.

Mrs. Dorothy Behrends as editor, "The Begonian."

Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, Librarian A.B.S. Library, with Mrs. John W. Crowder as Associate Librarian.

Letter from Geo. L. Johnson as follows: dated May 24, 1948, "In order that the best interests of the American Begonia Society may be served, I herewith tender my resignation as President-elect effective immediately."

Col. Gale moved "That a committee be appointed by the President to interview Mr. Johnson and see if he will not withdraw his resignation." Seconded by Robt. Humble. Carried.

President appointed Col. Gale and Mr. Humble as a committee to interview Mr. Johnson and Col. Gale further instructed to assure Mr. Johnson, "that should he be willing to reconsider his resignation, every member of the Board will give full and complete cooperation in the coming administration."

Letter from Pacific Flower Show extending an invitation to enter displays at their coming flower show. Matter placed in the hands of the Flower Show Chairman, Mrs. Etta Finnell for decision.

President Drummond called attention to "Begonia Day" at Plummer Park June 15th and expressed the hope that all branches will bring in exhibits and make this a real "Begonia Show."

Mr. Moore, President Glendale Branch, outlined some of their plans for the Annual Convention and Flower Show. Watch your Begonian for details and information.

Grace Bayer, Slide Library Chairman, granted check in the sum of \$25.00 to purchase aluminum mounts for slides.

Meeting adjourned to meet again same place, same time, June 28, 1948.

Respectfully submitted,

GONDA HARTWELL, Corres-Secy.

Meeting Dates and Places

- ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, July 27, 8 p.m.
Loma Portal School
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.
Louise Gardener, Secretary
3212 James Street, San Diego 6, Calif.
- BELLFLOWER BRANCH**
1st Monday, July 5th, 7:30 p.m.
Washington Street School Cafeteria
Mrs. Margaret Hanson, Sec.
9652 E. Center Street, Bellflower, Calif.
- DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH**
1st Friday, July 2
1016 Frost Street, Flint 4, Mich.
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Rec.-Sec.
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.
- EAST BAY BRANCH**
3rd Thursday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.
Willard School, Ward Street
Mrs. E. Carlson, Sec.-Treas.
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.
- EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH**
3rd Monday, July 19
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.
- FOOTHILL BRANCH**
1st Friday, July 2, 8 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.
- GLENDALE BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, July 27, 8 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Joyce Lorenz, Secretary
5227 El Rio Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.
- HOLLYWOOD BRANCH**
2nd Thursday, July 8, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Edith Pedgrift, Rec.-Sec.
6551 Fountain Ave., Hollywood 28.
- HUB CITY BRANCH**
3rd Monday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.
Roosevelt Hi Sch. Cafe., 1200 E. Olive, Compton
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.
3586 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.
- HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH**
2nd Monday, July 12, 8 p.m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Sec.-Treas., Margaret Smith, Fortuna, Calif.
- INGLEWOOD BRANCH**
2nd Thursday, July 8, 8 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.
- LA MESA BRANCH**
2nd Monday, July 12, 8 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Dr. Constance Holmes
133 Prescott, El Cajon, Calif.
- LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER**
Third Tuesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Rose C. Hixon, Sec.-Treas.
76 W. Home St., Long Beach 5, Calif.
- MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH**
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.
- MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, July 27, 8 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2592 Trapp Ave. Miami 35, Fla.
- MISSOURI BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, July 27, 2 p.m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.
- NEW ENGLAND BRANCH**
Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.
- NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH**
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.
- NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH**
2nd Monday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
Miss Evelyn Peterson
1414 E. 68th St., Long Beach, Calif.
- ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH**
1st Thursday, July 1, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan, 250 N. Center
Orange, Calif.
- PASADENA BRANCH**
1st Tuesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.
2031 E. Villa Street
Mrs. Frank Clark, Sec.-Treas.
2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, Calif.
- PETALUMA BRANCH**
2nd Friday, July 9, 7:30 p.m.
Congr. Church Fireside Room, 5th & B Sts.
Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, Secy.
47 Fifth St., Petaluma, Calif.
- PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH**
Irregular Meetings
May T. Drew, Pres., Box 331, Narbeth, Pa.
- RIVERSIDE BRANCH**
2nd Wednesday, July 14, 8 p.m.
Mrs. Wm. Allen, Sec.-Treas.
7904 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.
- SACRAMENTO BRANCH**
3rd Tuesday, July 20th, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. Ruth Williams, Pres.
2160 Stacia Way, Sacramento, Calif.
- SAN DIEGO BRANCH**
4th Monday, July 26
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. L. J. Elliott, Sec.-Treas.
3794 Grim Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.
- SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH**
2nd Monday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Frank Ecker, Secretary
21003 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, Calif.
- SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**
1st Wednesday, July 7, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 33rd Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.
- SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**
4th Wednesday, July 28, 8 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.
- SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**
2nd Thursday, July 8, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Martha Ayersman, Secretary
1120 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.
- SANTA MARIA BRANCH**
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau
- SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH**
2nd Wednesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.
University High School, Room 232
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Sec.-Treas.
345 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.
- SANTA PAULA BRANCH**
4th Thursday, July 22, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Margaret Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 242A
Santa Paula, California
- SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH**
3rd Thursday, July 15, 8 p.m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr.-Sec.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.
- SOUTHGATE BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, July 27, 8 p.m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,
Tweedy and Orange Blvds.
Mrs. Mary Casey, Sec'y-Treas.
4085 Tweedy Blvd., Southgate, Calif.
- THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH**
1st Tuesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Miss Carolyn Peyton, Secretary
335A So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.
- WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**
4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, July 28, 8 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.
Phil Meyer, Pres., 2153 Lakeland, Lakewood, O.
- WHITTIER BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, July 27, 8 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Isamae M. Capell, Sec.
445 N. Comstock Ave., Whittier, Calif.



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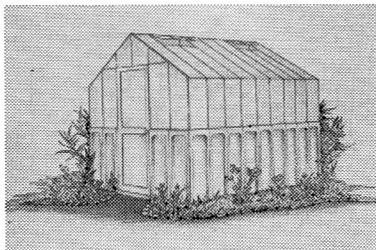
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