

# The BEGONIAN

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**JANUARY**

**1950**



**FIFTEEN  
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**VOL. XVII**

**No. 1**



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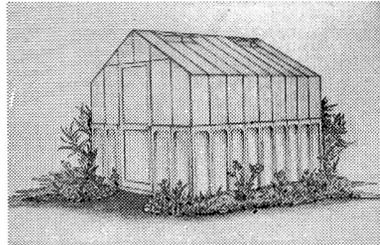
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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., January 23, 1950. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

★ Annual Subscription - One Dollar Fifty Cents.  
★ Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Los Angeles, California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.

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# More About African Violets

by B. Y. Morrison, Editor of the *National Horticultural Magazine*\*

Today, when one feels that almost any home at which he might inquire would produce an African Violet or, at least, a leaf or leaves in process of becoming a plant, it is hard to think that fifty years ago the European journals were recording the furor of its first appearance. Hooker, writing in *Curtis Botanical Magazine* the text to accompany plate 7408 says: "It does not often happen that a plant newly introduced into Europe can claim the honour accorded to the subject of this plate, of being within two years of its flowering figured in five first-class horticultural periodicals."

Quoting Hooker again, one reads the letter quoted by him from the elder St. Paul-Ilaire. "The Saintpaulia was discovered by my son, who lives in East Africa, where he owns plantations of Vanilla and India-rubber trees. It was found in two localities; one about an hour from Tanga, in wooded places, in the fissures of limestone rocks, as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter. This place is not more than fifty to one hundred and fifty feet above the sea level. The second place is in the primeval forest of Usambara, likewise in shady situations, but on granite rocks, two thousand five hundred feet above the sea. It is much more plentiful in the former place. Several varieties have been discovered but all are blue."

Here perhaps began the folly, still continued, of calling the flowers "blue" which they are not.

Through the kindness of Dr. P. J. Greenway, Systematic Botanist, East African Research Institute, Amani, Tanganyika Territory, it is possible to give here his reply to my inquiry as to the native conditions under which the species might still be found, together with replies to other questions. In writing him, there was sent the transcript of the original notation as to the sites where found.

"I believe 'about one hour from Tanga in wooded places in the fissures of limestone rocks' to be the caves near the mouth of the Sigi River in the Amboni District about 5 miles

north of Tanga. The limestone is the crystalline Jurassic limestone and the Saintpaulia is still there and grows in a layer of humus in crevices of the rocks. I doubt if the altitude reaches 100 ft. above sea level."

"As far as I know, there are at least 6-9 species, some have not yet been described, but they are all shades of blue from nearly white to a royal purple and I was told of a red one that they had at Kew but which I have not seen in nature. Some species form a rosette whilst others form mats on the faces of rocks."

Our own journal published a brief but rather complete note in January, 1941, by Mrs. Waters of Cincinnati, who had long been a successful grower of African Violets under house conditions and still grows them. She is much more specific in all her recommendations than many others, but her proposals as to soil, light, and watering—which have been successful for her—are by no means identical with those recommended by other growers. In fact, the modern magazine literature is full of contradictory bits, and also with scraps of information that are incomplete in themselves.

After reading them all, it would seem that anyone can grow African Violets, provided he does not treat them as a true xerophyte or a true aquatic. The degree of wetness appears to be something that each home owner, using a slackening of growth and a yellowing of leaves as the danger signal for either extreme, must decide for himself. The soil mixture must be porous, rich in coarse humus and quick draining. If it is not, there will be the usual difficulties of rot at the crowns. Light can be anything you please, provided you recall that full sunlight will give fine bloom and not so fine foliage, and that weak light will give good foliage and little bloom. Each grower can adjust his plants to the best light he can provide.

In the choice of varieties, the individual must suit his own taste. Varieties range in flower color through deep purples to plum

Turn to next page



**AFRICAN VIOLET, SAPPHIRE**

*Robert L. Taylor*

*courtesy American Horticultural Society*

reds, skip fairly well over the "orchid" tones to pale clear pinks and pale lavenders to tinted and pure whites. This writer has seen but not flowered the variety "bicolor" which is a charming sort with the two upper corolla lobes very dark and the lower three lighter as in our native birds-foot violet in its bicolor

form. He has read of a similar bicolor in red tonalities. Other variations appear in the length and carriage of the petioles, the size, shape and serrations of the leaves, not forgetting those clones which have shown widened vein tissues or ruffled blades! Some leaves are silvery beneath, others reddish; all are



**AFRICAN VIOLET, BICOLOR**

*Robert L. Taylor*

*courtesy American Horticultural Society*

covered with silky hairs but some more so than others. In short, the plant shows all the minute variations that make it a fine collector's item.

\* Reprinted in part, from the *Journal of the American Horticultural Society*. The entire article (including 10 full page pictures of

African Violets) may be had by sending to the American Horticultural Society, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington 4, D. C. for the October, 1948, issue for seventy-five cents or a reprint of the article alone, for sixty-five cents. This is extremely valuable to Saintpaulia Fans.



**AFRICAN VIOLET, RED HEAD**

*Robert L. Taylor*

*courtesy American Horticultural Society*

African Violets are gaining in popularity. Over most of the land it is impossible to have winter color out-of-doors. Here is a little gem to add cheer in a sunny window while the yard is frozen and dreary. Do you belong to a

Round Robin? Don't hide your successes and problems. Share them through a Robin, so that everyone may learn more about the violet for the kitchen or living-room. Write to Mrs. Frances Downing, Rt. 1, Box 11, Calera, Alabama.

## YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED

An announcement of the new magazine *POPULAR GARDENING*, with the former editor of *FLOWER GROWER*, Mr. Paul Frese as its Editor. Congratulations, all new gardening material is of great interest to all of the large groups interested in the Royal Hobby.

A letter from Mrs. A.W.K., Minneapolis, Minn. Please rush my renewal, I do not want to miss a single copy.

A large box of Christmas greens from the Humboldt County Branch.

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Members of the American Begonia Society are entitled to join the American Horticultural Society for three dollars and a half a year. This is a saving of one dollar and a half a year! Members receive a very worth while quarterly. Make checks payable to the American Horticultural Society and send to the A.B.S. Librarian or directly to the American Horticultural Society, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington 4, D. C. Be sure to mention your membership in the American Begonia Society.

## COVER PICTURE

*Begonia carol star*, a cross made by Leslie Woodriff in 1941. This begonia makes a beautiful specimen with its large, fleshy leaves similar to *B. reichenheimi*. The flowers are a warm pink and bloom on tall stems well above the foliage. It has the same soil requirements as other rhizomatous begonia. This plant was grown by Mrs. Grace Spencer.



## OFFICIAL A.B.S. PIN

Order your official American Begonia Society pin from the pin chairman, Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Avenue, Los Angeles 39, California. The pin is the size of the above cut, has gold leaves and a green pot. Non-branch members are finding it an excellent way of recognizing fellow Begonia enthusiasts. Be sure to make the acquaintance of anyone you see, wearing this pin. Begonias are their hobby. The price is still three dollars and thirty two cents.

Please notify the Membership Secretary immediately when you do not receive the *BEGONIAN*, when it is due at your address.

## SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEW

*NATURALIST'S SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION: FIJI.* by Otto Degener. Publ. by the author. 1949. \$5.00.

Traveling with this botanist in and around the fascinating and not too well known islands in the Pacific, is a rare treat, by means of this book. Not too technical as to the many new and renewed finds of tropical plant life, one will enjoy his views on the tumultuous conditions existing in this far flung bit of the British empire. As Mr. Degener is an established resident of Hawaii, of many years standing, his views may differ from those of the reader; however, it is well to know of the existing conditions.

As a reference book for those interested in tropical plants, this is exceedingly valuable. With 303 pages, many illustrations and maps on the end sheets, one will refer to this volume as a historical, botanic and humane reference book.—Frank H. Overton.

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Write to the Librarian for any information pertaining to books and magazines REVIEWED in the *BEGONIAN*.

## LIBRARY NOTES

The excitement of the holidays is behind us and we can now settle down to pleasant, quiet evenings by the fire with a good book—send for your copy of your library list (enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope) and order some of the fine books which have been acquired for your use and enjoyment. These cost you only the postage to and from the library and should bring you many a pleasant hour with your favorite shade plant.

I would like to call the attention of the membership to the fact that I did not list the fine scrap books which Mrs. Hixon made some time back, since these volumes are on the bulky side and the postage rate on them is high but they are well worth your while and I would be delighted to loan them at any time to any one who is interested. There are four volumes on begonias and miscellaneous shade plants.

If you are interested in Tuberous Begonias, I must again call your attention to Mr. Langdon's fine book on this type—\$2.00 thru your library. One well known California grower recently stated that this is the finest book on Tuberous that he has seen.—Get your copy soon.

Mr. Langdon's book has the distinction of having appeared on television—Mr. Gordon Baker Lloyd reviewed it on a recent TV program and displayed his copy for the benefit of the audience.—Gladys C. Noland, *Librarian*.

## For House Plants

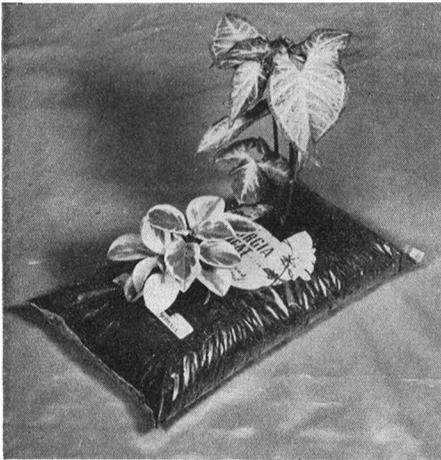
by Mrs. Dorothy S. Bebrens, Los Angeles, Calif.

House plants need not be discarded after a short sojourn in the average home. A little care and attention, periodically, will prolong the life and beauty of these plants over a long period of time, even years.

As most all house plants require a light, well-drained soil, the addition of certain elements make the difference of a spindly, puny plant and a lush, full colored, healthy plant.

House plants are usually grown for the beauty of their foliage, not for their beautiful flowers. For instance, the fancy-leaved *Caladium* is exquisite, but the flowers bloom—unnoticed. The *Philodendron* very seldom blooms, but gives immeasurably in beauty, by having attractive, tropical foliage.

The *Peperomias*, ivies, *Tradescantias*, *Dracaenas*, *Marantas*, *Aspidistras* and many others, have proven to be very suitable house plants. Although one never expects them to bloom, their beautiful leaf structure is sufficient to satisfy the decorative task they are required to do, whether for the ultra modern home, the average home or the home rich in sentimental mementos—antiques.



Variegated *Peperomia* and *Nephthytis Tri-Leaf Wonder*

As our homes are hot and dry at this time of the year, (the opposite of the outdoors) we look to these plants all the more, for the green crispy-look we are unable to see by looking out the window.

The rich, lush foliage found on plants in the gardens of the deep South has been studied

and a very simple answer was found, in answer to this query. They receive nature's compost, composted probably for thousands of years. This compost is called peat and is sold under the trade name of Georgia Peat. It has a content of approximately 3½% nitrogen, which is particularly beneficial in producing beautiful foliage.

The average indoor gardener or 'pot-gardener' has included proportions of 1/3 to 1/2 to potting soil mixtures, but trials made on growing the aforementioned house plants in pure Georgia Peat have been amazing. As illustrated, the *Peperomia* and *Nephthytis* has been growing in this bag of Georgia Peat for only six weeks and the growth has been very satisfactory.

As peat is used for sandy and adobe soils, for different purposes, it is interesting to find that in incorporating this particular medium, one need not give additional feedings, as the organic acid content of the Georgia Peat helps release necessary elements that have been locked-in, often due to the presence of alkali; whether in the soil or in the water, alkali locks-in plant foods.

As this soil supplement is clean, sanitary and odorless, it does not attract flies, which is another reason it may be recommended for indoor plantings.

Now is also a good time to prepare your potting or repotting mixture, for the time is almost here to do the repotting of your *Begonias*. It is always best to allow any potting mixture to stand at least sixty days. This gives it a chance to *mix* and *mellow*. Georgia Peat added to leaf mold for potting *Rex Begonias*, helps to keep the leaf mold from becoming too soggy. *Rex Begonias* like a loose potting mixture, that means air is allowed to circulate and yet the potting soil must always retain moisture, to be kept damp.

The Eastern seaboard has been acquainted with this soil supplement for a long time, but we of the West are just recognizing its tremendous value.

All back numbers of the *Begonian* (except the current year) will hereafter be available thru the library only. Send all requests for single copies or complete files to the Librarian direct.—G.C.N.

# Glancing Back

In '38, Mrs. Harold R. Alford of Kennebunkport, Maine wrote of her Begonias. "Our Eastern Editor asked". How do you grow Begonias in your Maine home?" First, a bit about location; we have a low-growing house with an 8x30 porch on the south side. All living quarter windows face northeast, the windows are very small and not usable for plants. Why so, you wonder? So do I, but the 1607 settlers had very little interest in house plants. Homes were shelters from Indians, animals and storms. So here we are, latitude 43°, not only on the ocean but out in the ocean by a mile or more, on a point of land, so winds from the north, east and south are ocean breezes in fact—when they are not gales. Our outdoor season is accepted as safe for plants from May 30 to September 1, but a killing frost in the second week of June this year took a heavy toll of my cacti and succulents.

Long ago I gave up putting my begonias out doors. The cloth shelter proved a haven for all the chewing, stinging, web spinning pests in the countryside, and without the cloth shelter the plants suffered from winds. Now after five years of experimenting, and until I am wiser in the needs of begonias, I have settled down to the following: potting in equal parts of loam and sand, no fertilizer until a plant shows bud. Then I give a light dressing of fertilizer. I grow all my plants as dry as possible; by so doing, I never have large plants of rich beauty, but smaller, sturdy plants of good color and, in season, generous bloom. I renew stock each spring by taking cuttings, and pass the larger plants along to those who have more room. Several of my Rex graduates are in the club rooms and hospitals. New stock is started in April when it is warm enough to use the large porch with no fear of chilling the plants. In May, the double windows give way to screens so arranged that the windows may be closed during storm or high winds.

Then in October, chilly nights remind us of what's coming. The double windows go on again and before snow falls my plants are all on the southwest end of the porch in a closed off room 8x10, with double floors, windows and ceiling. For heat I use 3 wallbracket type kerosene lamps, with wicks 1½ inches wide. These burn 14 hours on one filling, and are placed on the floor under tin covers which serve as radiators. No lamp is needed on sunny days but when the temperature reads 50° in the plant room, one lamp is lighted. As it gets colder a second lamp is lighted, and

on windy, zero nights the third is set in. My plants stand the winter nicely. I lost but one and that was not the fault of the temperature.

Two nicotine paper fumigations on cloudy days during the winter, nearly dry soil, chemical fertilizer, an indirect supply of fresh air day and night, low temperature and daily examinations, are the keys to happiness of my plant family of begonias, succulents from South Africa, cacti, a group of *Echeveria* (ek-e-veé-ri-ah) euphorbias (eu-faur'-bi-ah), amaryllis, ivies and an exquisite wild maidenhair fern, grown during the winter from spores in wet moss wrappings of a shipment from Florida. These and other experimental bits all do well or keep well in a tight little porch in a region where the temperature flirts with zero any time from December 15 to March 1, and often goes to 20 degrees.

All the Rex family, the procumbents, *B. Paul Bruant*, *vicinifolia*, the star begonias and also the Scharffiana types do best under my care, and are naturally my favorites. The others have done poorly because I do not understand their needs and seasons. I am sure I killed one beauty by repotting it, when all it needed was rest. I hope to add much to my begonia lore in the coming year."

---

## A HEARTY THANK YOU

Since the Convention in Ventura in August Dorothy Behrends has served as editor pro-tem of *The Begonian*. The degree of cooperation shown during a temporary period has been outstanding. Although she will not be associated directly with the board, we know Dorothy will be interested in and working with the Society.

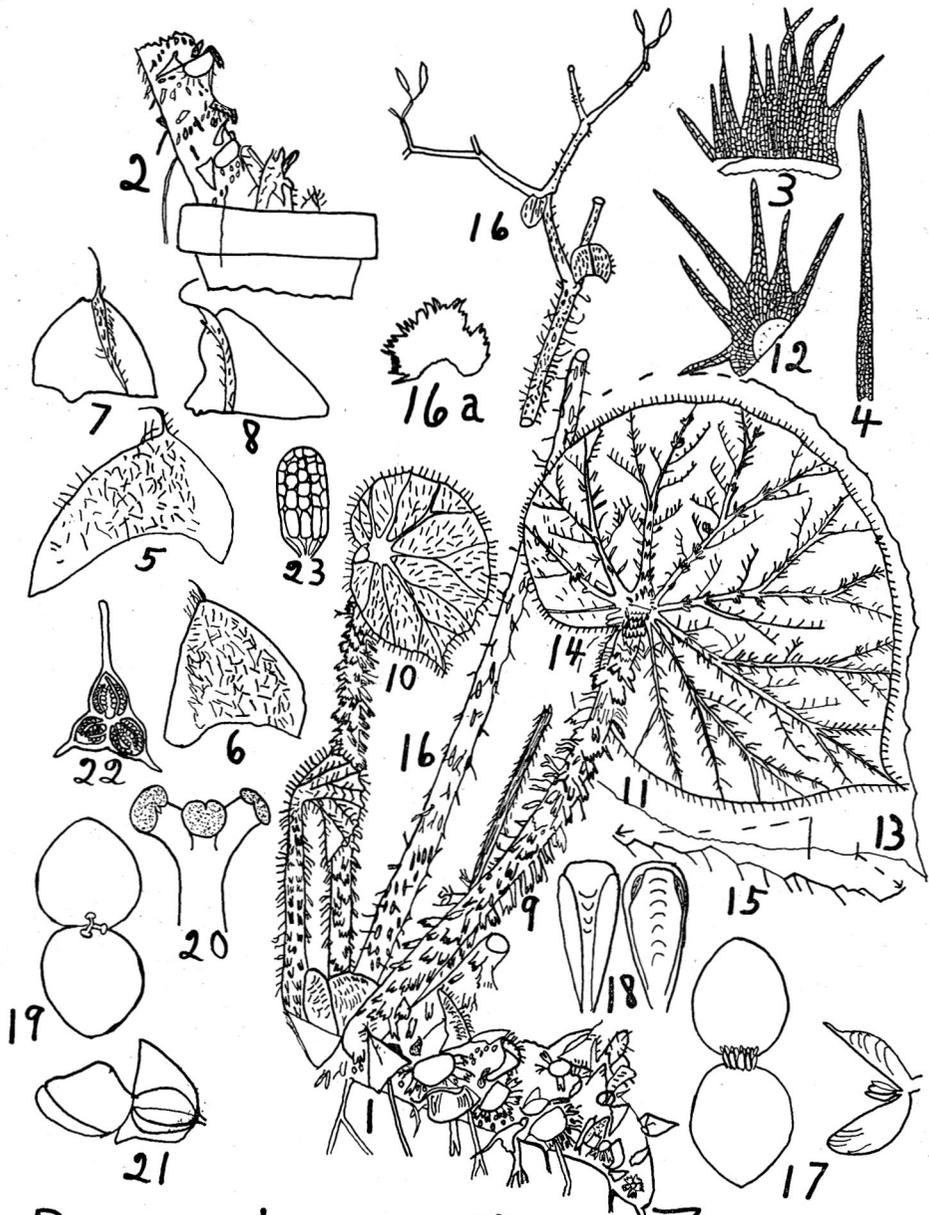
We wish to say—"Thank you for a job well done!"—W. E. (Bill) Walton, *President*

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## OUR NEW EDITOR

The appointment of Stanley Spaulding as editor was approved by the National Board at its regular meeting in November. Mr. Spaulding has been interested in landscape design for the greater part of his life and through this has developed a broad knowledge of plant culture. He also has been interested in the Begonia Society since he, in 1939, influenced the Society to participate in the Inglewood Flower Show.

We are happy and fortunate to have the services of such an energetic and enthusiastic person as editor of the *Begonian*—W. E. (Bill) Walton, *President*.



*Begonia hispidavillosa* Zies. R.C.Z.

*Drawing by Rudolf Ziesenhenn*

# *Begonia Hispidavillosa* Ziesenhenné

by Rudolf Ziesenhenné

(Editor's Note: Our world-famous Santa Barbara authority on the Begonia Family has honored our magazine by selecting it as the publication medium for the official introduction, with complete taxonomy and description in English and Latin, of certain Begonia varieties never before correctly described or classified. These varieties will thus be officially established for posterity and the nomenclature fixed beyond question. The prodigious amount of labor involved in this project, as well as the inestimable value thereof, will certainly be obvious at a glance to our readers. We would be glad to hear from you regarding these articles.)

BEGONIA (section MAGNUSIA (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher, subsection GIROUDIA (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher) hispidavillosa Ziesenhenné, new species, herbaceous perennial: stem a creeping rhizome which roots (see plate figure 1), in cultivation (if pot bound for a very long time) it may grow upright obliquely (figure 2), oval, 6 inches long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter, branching  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches behind the tip; foliage confined to the growing end; internodes  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch the shortest,  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch the longest, dull; lenticels whitish, more abundant below; spinach green 0960/3 (The number refers to the color in the Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart) with current red 821/1 blotches below the node, smooth, pimpled with undeveloped roots; leaf-stem scar light brown, bordered with fimbriated (figure 3) long semi-stiff hairs (figure 4): stipules remaining, like paper; ones on top (figures 5 & 6) of the rhizome uneven triangular,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long, one half, half triangular,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch at the base,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch along the margin, outer half, half heartshaped,  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch along the base,  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch along the margin, the tip rounded, edge even, currant red 821/1 smooth; the outside covered with long semi-stiff hairs (figure 4) which finally become wooly and red, the hairs protruding over the tip; the lateral ones (figures 7 & 8) unequally triangular, the lower half triangular, base  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long, margin  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch long, the upper half triangular, base  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long along the margin, keeled with the tip running out to a long hair-like point and extending about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond the tip of the stipule: leafstem (figure 9) round  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch in diameter at the base and 8 inches long, spinach green 0960/3; lenticels long and narrow greenish white, whitish scale-like hairs about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long which arise with a cur-

rant red 821/ base, hairs narrow to quite wide at the base (figures 3 and 4): leaf firm but not thick or fleshy; above (figure 10) satiny luster, spinach green, moderately covered with long  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (figure 4) semi-stiff hairs; below (figure 11) light spinach green, the veins covered thickly with fimbriated hairs (figure 12) up to  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch long, the smaller veins thinly covered with long semi-stiff hairs up to  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch long (figure 12): leaves slanting and strongly irregular in shape, suddenly ending in a long point (figure 13), heart-shaped (figure 14) at the base they may vary from this to broadly egg-shaped or roundish and short sharp point, the basal lobes (figure 14) large, the margin minutely toothed (figure 15 greatly enlarged);  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches long,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide; palmately 10 veined, outside basally 5, laterally 2, inside basally 2, laterally 1: inflorescence an evenly much divided flower cluster, many flowered, blooms in fall and winter: flower stem comes from the leaf axils, round, 18 inches long,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter, the first internodes about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, the second internodes 9/16 to 13/16 inch long, spinach green 0960/3, currant red 821/1 dots at the base of the fimbriate hairs (figure 3) and of the long simple hairs (figure 4) near the top; some stems have hairs like (figure 16) and others like those of the leaf stems (figure 9); largest leaflet on the flower stem turns brown very early, papery in texture, almost round, tip rounded, margins not broken,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, spinach green 0960/3 with currant red spots 821/1, back side thickly set with semi-stiff hairs (figure 4): male flower (figure 17) petals 2, spinel red, back 0023/2, the front 0023/3,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide, round-egg shaped, very shortly pointed; margin even; stamens 17 (figure 18), filaments united at the base, of different lengths, anthers arranged like a hand of bananas 2 mm. long, oblong, blunt tip, the connective produced: female flower petals 2, spinel red, back 0023/2, front 0023/3, round-eggshaped, tip widely sharp pointed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide, margin even; stigmas 3,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long united  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the length; stigma branches straight; papillae circular on the top and cut slightly on the inside: capsule  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long (figure 21) and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide, oblong with regular rounded ends excluding the wings; wings 3 unequal, one larger  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide at the base  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch long at the stigma end, tri-

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angular, sharp pointed, the other two 7/16 inch wide at the base and about 1/8 inch long at the stigma end where it runs out to a point: ovary (figure 22) 3-celled, placenta divided and carrying seeds on all sides: seed oblong (figure 23).

Mexico, Oaxaca, Sierra Madre, Cerro Aizul (local name for high peaks of the Sierra Madre, North-east of Cerro Altravesado) 5000-6000 ft. altitude. On limestone rocks in shade. Rain forest. Thomas MacDougall. No. C. 64 March 14, 1948.

The description was made from the type collected and about 100 plants which were grown from the seeds obtained from this self-

pollinated plant. This is another lovely and entirely different begonia from those we have been growing. We are indeed indebted to Mr. MacDougall for this lovely, hairy, rhizomatous begonia which makes a beautiful house specimen with its lovely, hairy, green leaves and light red flowers. Since it blooms in the fall and winter, it should be reported in the summer when new leaves are seen to develop. A fern pot (a shallow pot) should be used to accommodate the creeping stem for they do not like to be too wet at the roots. Care should be taken to see that the tip of the rhizome is well back from the edge of the pot so that ample growth may develop before the edge is reached.

**BEGONIA** (section **MAGNUSIA** (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher, subsection **GIREODIA** (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher) hispidavillosa Ziesenbenne, spec. nov., herba, perennis: caule rhizomatico repenti, in cultu nonnumquam obliquo erecto, elliptico, 15 cm. longo, 2cm. crasso, ramosi 6 cm. post apicem, foliato apicem; internodi 10 mm. longes, 7 mm. brevisibus, 15 mm. longibus, opaquibus; lenticellis albidis, plus subrus; viridis spinaciis 0960/3, ruberis ribis 821/1 (Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart), maculatis, subrus nodis; nitidis, papillosis inchoatis radicis; cicatricibus hepaticis, marginibus squamis fimbriatis et hispidis-villosis: stipulis persistibus, papyraceis; super rhizoma obliquis triangularis 10 mm. longis, unis dimidis, triangularis 6 mm. in basis, 18 mm. ad marginibus, exis dimidis, dimidis cordatis, 15 mm. in basis, 23 mm. ad marginibus, apicibus obtusis, integribus ruberis—ribis 821/1 glabribus, exis hispidis-villosis evaderibus haematicis-lanatis, pilis protruderibus ultra apicibus; latis rhizoma obliquis triangularis 10 mm. longis inferne dimidis triangularis in basis 8 mm. longis, marginibus 15 mm. longis, superis dimidis, dimidis triangularis in basis 5 mm. longis, marginibus 10 mm. longis, carinatis apicibus acutis, piliferis protruderibus 7 mm. ultra apicibus stipulis: petiolis tereris 1 cm. diametro ad basis, 22 cm. longis, veridis spinaciis 0960/3; lenticellis longis et angustis viridis-albis, albidis fimbriatis-squamosis 5 mm. longis et 3 mm. angustis, basis ruber ribis 821/1, hispidis-villosis: foliis nitidis viridis spinaciis 0960, modestis hispidis-villosis 4 mm. longis; subrus viridis spinaciis 0960/3; nervis densis fimbriatis-squamosis pilis ad 4 mm. longis, ad venulis raris hispidis-villosis 4 mm. longis; robustis oblique et asymmetricis latis ovatis abruptis acuminatis, ad basis cordatis, aliquando rotundis, acutis, basilaribus lobis prominere, marginibus denticulatis et ciliatis 17 cm. longis et 12 cm. latis; palminervis 10 nervigis, exus basilaribus 5, lateralibus 2, intus

basilaribus 2, lateralibus 1: inflorescentia dichotoma, multifloris, autumnno et tempo; pedunculis axillaribus teretis 45 cm. longis, 10 mm. diametro; internodiis primariis 3-4 cm. longis; internodiis secundariis 1.5-2 cm. longis; viridis spinaciis 0960/3, ruber ribis 821/1 ad basis fimbriatis-squamosis; hispidis-villosis similis picturis aliter fimbriatis-squamosis similis pedunculis: bracteis primariis brunneis, deciduis, papyraceis, fere rotundis, obtusis, marginibus integris 10 mm. longis, 13 mm. latis, viridis spinaciis 0960/3, punctatis ruberis ribis 821/1 extrinis densis hispidis-villosis evaderibus haematicis-lanatis: tepalis masculinis 2; ruberis spinellinis exus 0023/2, intus 0023/3 rotundis-ovatis, obtusis, marginibus integris; staminibus 17, filamentis inaequalis ad basis copulatis, antheris 2 mm. longis, oblongis, obtusis, connectivo producto: floribus femineis ebracteatis, tepalis femineis 2, ruberis spinellinis exus 0023/2, intus 0023/3, rotundis-ovatis, latis acutis 10 mm. latis, 11 mm. longis, marginibus integris; stylis 3, 3 mm. longis, basis conatis, ramis brevibus, apice fere orbiculatis, stigmatibus capitatis: capsula glabro 7 mm. longo, 4 mm. lato, ellipsoideo; inaequaliter trialata, ala maxima triangulari ascendente acuta, 6 mm. longa, ad basi 18 mm. longa ad apicem capsula, reliquis marginiformibus, acutis 6 mm. longis et 4 mm. latis ad apicem capsula; ovario ellipsoideo, 3-loculato; placentis bilamellatis, udiqve ovuliferis; semen oblongis, obtusis, superficie alveolato, alveolo longioribus ad basis.

Mexico, Oaxaca, Sierra Madre, Cerro Aizul (local name for high peaks of Sierra Madre, North-east of Cerro Atravesado) 5000-6000 ft. alt. On limestone rocks in shade. Rain forest. Thomas MacDougall. No. C. 64, March 14, 1948.

Figure 16a pictures an abnormal bract from a damaged inflorescence. Only one primary branch developed and from the seventh bract onward they were all compoundly lobed along the margin.

## PATIO PROJECT

by Stanley Spaulding

This last summer I found some well grown seedling plants in an amateur's lath house. At first glance I took the plants to be from tubers. However, the grower informed me they were from seed planted in January. About 80% of the plants had desirable flowers. Out of the five hundred pots there were close to one hundred very outstanding plants. They actually appeared to be from selected tubers because of the exceptionally large and perfect blossoms.

This back yard begonia enthusiast is Robert Lundblad of Inglewood, California. He works for a bank and is gone from home about ten hours of the five and one-half days he works

each week. There is no one to care for his plants during the day. This means that each morning he has to arise early enough for the chores that ready his seedlings for a day without attention.

Mr. Lundblad had always grown fine dahlias in his yard, so this array of begonias was an amazing contrast. "Why," I asked him, "have you suddenly switched to begonias?" "They are a beautiful decoration here in this lath-covered patio where we spend our summer evenings," he answered.

They were more than a decoration. There was not too much space left as a patio. Five hundred potted tuberous begonias occupy a

fairly large area. He didn't want this many in the first place, but the few tubers he purchased each year were disappointing. The nurseries had good flowering types on display, but the tubers sold by the nurseries did not produce as fine blooms, so he decided to grow some from seed. Perhaps there would be a few of the progeny as nice as those shown by the commercial growers. One of the most noted growers of tuberous begonias sent their best seed on request. This was sown last January.

Although this bank employee has just modest means, he built a nice little greenhouse 10'x18'. In the northwest corner there is 60' of soil heating cable on the bottom of the three-foot bench. This is filled with sand for rooting dahlia cuttings, but now he has two-inch deep seed pans buried in the sand. These pans are of the same porous clay as growers pots and are about twelve inches square. The heating cable is thermostatically controlled at 70° temperature.

The growing medium consists of half-inch pea gravel in the bottom of the pan with one-third sand, one-third leaf mold, and one-third peat mixture about three-fourths of an inch thick. This mixture is rubbed through a quarter-inch mesh screen. A thin top layer of the same ingredients is pushed through a window screen to allow the seed to rest on a fine, smooth surface. The tiny begonia seed is not covered with the compost. A piece of window glass is over the pan to hold moisture. If the weather looks sunny, a newspaper covers the glass to prevent light from building excessive heat over the seed. They sprouted into a thick stand in ten days. He planted each seed pan on a different day. This spread out the transplanting work over a longer period. Each pan could be handled before the seedlings crowded and damped off. Although the leaf mold was not sterilized, he had no trouble with damp-off. At night there was increased humidity in the glass-house, so that the close cover over the seed was not necessary, and of course, as soon as the seed sprouted, he removed the glass from the pans entirely.

The first transplanting spaced the tiny seedlings a half-inch apart. A regular eighteen-inch nursery flat held gravel on the bottom and the same leaf mold, sand, and peat mixture on top. He said he used no more than an inch of this compost over the gravel. This allows the medium to drain and aerate freely.

After these flats of seedlings started to crowd each other, they were transplanted again. Some were spaced sixty-four to a flat. Others were planted forty-nine to a flat. The latter spacing allows larger development in the flat. These were later planted out in the open ground beds to enhance the home landscape.

The compost in the flats on the second transplanting was the same, but he added a four-inch pot of a balanced commercial fertilizer to a wheelbarrow load of the mix. Soon after the seedlings started to grow on the second transplanting, the flats were moved out of the glasshouse into the lath house. By June the plants that were spaced sixty-four to the flat were big enough for potting.

The potting mixture was made of one-half leaf mold, one-quarter sand and one-quarter peat moss. The mold and peat were unscreened to give the roots a well aerated medium. To this was added a four-inch pot of equal portions sulphate of potash and triple-super-phosphate to a wheelbarrow of mix. He felt there was adequate nitrogen in the potting medium without adding more, which could have burned the tender new roots. His theory was that phosphorous and potash would stimulate root development. As the plants were being potted, a pinch of fish meal was stirred into the lower half of the pot. The root growth did not reach the fish meal until the plants were well along. The five-inch pot seemed to be the right size for the plants to grow in until they matured in the fall. The only additional fertilization was given when most of them started flowering in August. This formula was a commercial liquid type—25-10-5. Two teaspoons of the concentrate in one gallon of water was applied by sprinkling can. His seedlings grew large in the pots and required staking.

Mr. Lundblad found that the mid-summer heat checked the growth and flowering of the seedlings in his patio lath house. This happened even when the plants were watered each morning and the ground around them was also watered to cool the air. He feels that the tuberous need all the light possible for free blooming and stocky growth. However, in order to prevent checks by abnormal hot spells, he is covering the lath house with cellophane. He hopes this will diffuse even more the direct sun's rays.

Already the seed is up which was planted in December, 1949. Some more will be sown this month. The seed used for this year's crop is a result of hybridizing the 1949 planting. With the exception of the white flower crosses, all the seed is germinating satisfactorily. The male flowers used for pollen parents were first removed from the plant. They were permitted to lie on the greenhouse bench to dry for one day. The male flower was rubbed onto the female flower, and thus the crosses were made. The process worked, because there was more seed developed than could be used.

Mr. Lundblad's whole objective is to have just a few good plants to decorate the patio rather than five hundred ordinary ones.

# An Enumeration of Begonias of Southwestern China

by Te-Tsun Yu

The enumeration is based on the material mostly collected from Yunnan by Mr. C. W. Wang during the year 1939-40 on his expedition to the south eastern part of Yunnan, by Mr. Y. Liu in 1940 to the south western part of the same province, by Messrs. C. Y. Wu, F. T. Wang and Y. P. Chang during the year 1940-1941 in Kunming and its vicinities, by Messrs. R. C. Ching and K. M. Feng in 1939-41 and the author and his colleagues in 1937-38 from the south western part of Yunnan and the border of Upper Burma and Sikang province. A few of Szechuan elements collected by the Department of Biology of National Szechuan University and the Biological Laboratory of the Science Society of China are also included. Beside the dry specimens, some fresh material raised by seeds or rootstocks collected from the field are cultivated in the garden of Yunnan Botanical Institute. As a whole, there are 27 species and 3 varieties enumerated below, of these 7 species and 1 variety described as new, and 6 species recorded from Yunnan for the first time.

Although *Begonias* are well known pot-plants with numerous forms and hybrids in the occidental and oriental gardens, yet a number of species particularly enumerated in the present paper, the method of their cultivation is quite vague. About the Yunnan elements, the attractive foliage type of *B. cathayana*, *B. Hemsleyana*, *B. asperifolia* and the very floriferous types of *B. Handelii*, *B. yunnanensis*, *B. Labordia*, etc., are highly ornamental and worthy to be introduced into the gardens. Among these species the author wishes to mention two species which are exceptionally beautiful and they hardly can be surpassed even by the well known hortus species such as *B. rex*, *B. semperflorens*, etc. They are *B. cathayana* and *B. Handelii*. The former has variegated leaves similar to *B. rex* but somewhat velvety in texture and bearing showy vermilion flowers. This plan had once been introduced in England and crossed with *B. rex* in St. Albans, by Messrs F. Sander and Son. The latter is perhaps the only Chinese species which possesses an aroma, the fragrance of which resembles that of sandalwood oil. Together with its bright green leaves and rosy pink flowers in clusters, it proves to be excellent for window garden decoration.

The cultivation of *Begonias* in China is rather poorly developed as compared with

western countries. *B. sinensis* is the only Chinese species found in our gardens. No doubt there are many other species that are so beautiful and exquisite for both indoor and outdoor adornment. It is hoped that these plants will appear in our gardens through our effort of plant introduction. Of course, most of the choice Yunnan species are native of subtropical and warm-temperate regions. They are tender plants that can neither stand in severe winter or in hot summer under the burning sun. The climate of Kunming is so mild all the year round, a lathhouse or coolhouse is sufficient for the cultivation of many of them. The fibrous rooted and rhizomatous rooted kinds grow readily from the cuttings of stems and leaves or by division of rootstocks. The tuberous rooted kinds produce their best blooms from the tubers and bulb-lets. All the species can be raised from seeds, but care should be taken under special attention in seed beds. The young seedlings are subject to damping off when they are over-watered.

In connection with the study, the writer is very much indebted to Prof. F. H. Chen of the National Chung-chen University of his valuable help in cultivation and determination.

## Section 1 SPHENANTERA A. DC.

*Begonia aptera*, found in Tsing-tung, Manchuan, altitude 2200 m, under woods near a stream on Jan. 24, 1940. Height from 2 to 3 ft. with pinkish-white flowers. This is a widely spreading species in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia. Its distribution extends south from Java, Siam, Tonkin, Annam and north to Yunnan. The length of the obliquely cordate leaves varies from 8 cm. long and 2.5 cm. broad to 22 cm. long 14 cm. broad. The color of the axillary and solitary flowers varies from pure white to pale rosy pink. It has been raised and blossoms freely in the greenhouse of the Yunnan Botanical Institute of Kunming. Cuttings of the stem and leaves strike easily in sand. *Begonia Handelii*, found in Hokou, Ma-hwang-pu, succulent herb with large pink flowers, March 11, 1939. Rootstocks collected by the writer from Hokou, the Red River Valley, under evergreen broad-leaved forests, April 1940. Cultivated in the greenhouse of the Yunnan Botanical Institute, flowers white with pinkish tinge, very fragrant, blossoming from January to February, 1942. F. T. Wang no. 2526.

Distribution: Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and south to Tonkin.

This species is highly ornamental, due to its large obliquely ovate leaves covered with dense reddish hairs and its numerous large pinkish flowers with a pleasant aroma. It is a dioecious plant, a character rather rare in this genus.

(\* This is the first installment of a reprinting of a bulletin sent by the author to Professor F. Chen and forwarded earlier this year to Mrs. E. Carrell. Since then all contact with Prof. Chen has been broken by the Chinese War. The next installment will appear in an early issue.)

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Dear Robin Members:

Isn't it cozy by the fire? January is a happy month for the gardener, with catalogues and garden books, with happy memories of the past summer in the garden, and with dreams of the beauty we hope to create again in the summer. Certain dust-fine seed is being planted this month. Orders for Tuberos Begonias, Gloxinias, Caladiums, Achimenes, etc., should not be long delayed if we want to be sure of receiving desired varieties of these tubers and bulbs.

Most of our Robins are flying happily. The Photography Robin has been found at last—in Canada. It will fly again with room for new members. The Semperflorens Begonia Robin for North and East members has room for a few additions. The Impatiens Robin needs a new director. Will someone volunteer? We are forming Gloxinia Robin No.2 and it is about ready to fly. The Gloxinia is a beautiful plant and easy to grow once its cultural needs are understood. An African Violet Leaf-Trading Post has been established. If you have a surplus of Saintpaulia leaves send in a list, also a list of your *wants* to Mrs. Margaret Olsen, West Grove, Pa. She will do her best to put you in touch with the person having leaves you desire and who in turn wishes the African Violet leaves you wish to trade. There is no charge for this service but a penny post card sent with your request would be appreciated.

Several years ago I conducted a Begonia Trading Post and many satisfactory trades were made through the Post. Would you like to establish this Begonia Trading Post again? If so, send me a list of your surplus begonia cuttings or plants, together with your *want list*. Remember this is for Begonias only.

Two new Robins have been asked for—Oxalis and Pelargoniums for the West Coast. If you are interested drop me a line.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Frances Downing.

## NOTES FROM OUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

Question: Recently I have seen advertisements of a "Gizzard" begonia. Can you tell me what it is?

Answer: This is not a begonia at all. It is an Iresine and is handled in the same manner as coleus. Two varieties are available, one green leaved and one red.

Question: Why are not more seeds available of plants such as *B. luxurians*, *acida*, *goegoensis*, etc.?

Answer: There are several reasons for this. A good many of our better begonias are late fall or winter bloomers. The plants must take what the weather has to offer at that time of year, and it usually means that we can expect fewer blossoms to work with. Oftentimes the male blossoms will not open at all. *B. luxurians* and *B. acida* have very small blooms, and it takes an awful lot of seed to supply each member of the Seed Fund with a share. Some seed was available last year through our Seed Fund Director. *B. goegoensis* will probably be on the scarce list for some time to come, as it is difficult to grow to perfection, much less to expect many blooms.

Question: I have difficulty in propagating such plants as *B. Johnstoni*.

Answer: I have tried a new method this year, and it seems to be working very well. Instead of planting it as one does other slips, I lay the slip on top of the soil without any covering. If cuttings are planted in the usual manner, they should be kept on the dry side. Of necessity, most of my propagating is done in the late fall or winter, and one cannot expect too much success at that time of year. By letting the cuttings more or less fend for themselves, I have had good luck rooting this particular plant.

Question: I have never heard of the begonia "Twin Leaves", which was shown at the convention two years ago. Do you know the plant?

Answer: This begonia was produced by the twins, Mrs. Hattie Worden and Alice Murphy, in Santa Barbara about 1937 or 1938. It often produces two leaves on one stem, hence the name. It has white flowers and occasionally the flower stem has an extra leaflet, the same as *B. Neely Gaddis*.

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## Armchair Explorers

January Newsletter

Our foreign seed is slow in coming in this year so we shall wait another month before sending out the seed collections. In the February *Begonian* we expect to give you a list of our seeds and the key to the numbers, together with short descriptions of each one. Watch for this, as this will be the only way you will have of knowing what the numbers mean on the small seed packets. The more rare seed goes out to the first members sending in contributions to the Seed Fund and is spread out just as far as it will go. If you have neglected to send in your money and will be wanting seed, you had better hurry!

I have just received a letter from Guatemala together with some begonia seed—these two kinds. *B. Bomba* flowers white, leaves round, 8 inches in diameter, grows at 4,000 feet altitude; *B. Chimbrazo* flowers pink and red, leaves 3 inches in diameter, glossy, altitude 6,000 feet. There will be *Philodendron* seeds again from Guatemala soon and as these should be planted immediately, those wanting the seed should place order now—50c per pkt. We had fine success with the last lot of Guatemala *Philodendron* seed—it came up 100%. *Achimene longiflora* tubers are enroute from Guatemala 10c each.

From Mexico, I have just received 6 kinds of fern spores which include fine adiantum, clover leaf, palmata frond, dwarf creeping sorts and unusual types, also several kinds of fern spores from the Philippines—price 10c per packet. The tubers of *Achimene Robusta* and *Achimene Carmine* have safely arrived from Mexico—they are fine tubers at only 10c each which is an excellent buy. Order immediately for they should be planted soon. Also more of the blue iris seed from Mexico, members have wanted—15c. Also in the package was seed of *B. gracilis var diversifolia* and seed of a new variety of *B. gracilis* this one grows taller and more bushy than the former and flowers are a deeper pink.

There has been such a lot of interest in the wood roses of Hawaii (*Ipomoea tuberosa*) and I hope you will forgive me for mentioning them again. I have just received a clipping

from a Texas newspaper which told of this vine and showed a photograph of the vine covering one full side of the house. It said that the vine was started in the house from a seed during last winter and was now covered with buds which would bloom into yellow rose-like blossoms. It is a member of the morning glory family and is sometimes called Spanish arbor vine because of its dense tropical growth. It grows readily from seeds and cuttings and should be pruned back severely each year. The seed pods, when dry, resemble glossy wooden roses and this gives the plant its name. Our member, Mrs. Gillespie of Hawaii, supplies us with the seed and just sent a new lot of the seed. She says she will mail out 3 flowers nicely packed in a corsage box for \$1. I will forward any orders to her, if you wish them. Seeds are still 3 for 25c.

My tropical garden is now wrongly named, for since a visit from Jack Frost it looks different and I was feeling very discouraged when along came a large box of wild Oregon ferns from our member Mrs. R. M. Mackinlay. What a thrill it is to get a nice box of plants, and ferns are such favorites with me. The whole top layer was branches of holly with those large red berries—what a sight! I may have to give up the idea of a tropical garden and if I do, I know that beds of ferns will be most attractive. Those "unwanted" semperflorens begonias are still in full bloom. They didn't mind the cold weather one bit.

Cheerio until February,

your skipper,

Florence Carrell

The Salem, Oregon, Branch regretfully informs us of the passing of one of their charter members—

MRS. CARL CARLSON

The *BEGONIAN* makes a lovely ALL YEAR birthday gift. Tell the Membership Secretary to enclose your gift, in a gift card.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH: Held a pot luck supper and exchange of inexpensive garden gifts at our regular meeting, December 8th. About thirty were present. The following new officers were installed: Mrs. Jessie Ayersman, president; Mrs. Ethel Arnold, vice-president; Roy G. Pierce, secretary, Richard Broder, treasurer. Mrs. Ayersman and Mrs. Arnold were given corsages of fibrous begonia blossoms, the men, "mum" boutonnières. Mrs. Erika Weber, retiring president, was presented with Krauss' "Begonias for the American Home and Garden."

Roy G. Pierce, Secretary.

**HOLLYWOOD BRANCH:** Takes pleasure in announcing Mr. Pat Antonelli of Santa Cruz, California as their January speaker.

Mr. Antonelli, from one of the largest tuberous begonia growing firms in the United States, will illustrate his talk on the culture of these Begonias, using colored slides starting with the dormant period and then on through their growth to the final perfection of their lovely blossoms, showing the Double Camellia, Picotee, Fimbriata and the hanging basket type. After reading the new 1950 catalog of Antonelli Brothers on "Growing Hints", this talk will be timely, preparing us on the correct methods of sowing seeds and how and when to plant the sprouted tubers.

This will be Mr. Antonelli's first public speaking appearance in Southern California. ALL begonia members and friends are invited to hear this speaker . . . and to help Hollywood Branch celebrate their 9th Birthday, Thursday, January 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Mary Hazel Drummond, *Program Chairman*

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH:** Our regular meeting on December 20th was a Merry Christmas party with decorations and refreshments in keeping with the Yuletide, and a spirit of happiness and good will toward all prevailed. There was an exchange of garden gifts from a glowing Christmas tree, games, and Christmas music by a quartet of young men.

The only business was the election and installation of the new officers as follows: President Mrs. L. M. Flannigan, Vice-President Mr. Melville Newfield, Secretary Mr. J. C. Roberts, Treasurer Mr. Geo. M. Webb, Directors Mrs. Byron Davis (refreshment chairman), Mr. R. A. Gunther (plant sales chairman), and Mrs. John R. Williams (publicity chairman), and National Representative Mr. J. C. Young.

Ruth A. Williams, *Publicity Director*

**SANTA MONICA BRANCH:** The November meeting was well attended at the Bowling Club House, Chelsea & Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. For the first time a talk on miniature begonias was given by Mrs. Mary Choate and enjoyed by all. A plant sale was followed by refreshments. Meeting presided over by Mr. Edmund Sherer, President.

Mrs. R. J. Hall, *Secretary*.

**INGLEWOOD BRANCH:** Our usual order of business for the November meeting was set aside for the great speaker of the evening, Gordon Baker Lloyd, who gave a very interesting and educational talk on preparation of our gardens and plant houses for the coming winter. Mr. Lloyd also pointed out that we could find much help on our various climatic problems in the many garden magazines, with particular reference to reports in recent issues of Sunset Magazine.

Nominations for 1950 officers made at the October meeting were presented and a unanimous ballot was electing the following: President Bert Slatter, Vice-president L. D. McBride, Treasurer Mary Choate, Secretary Dorothea McBride, National Representative Fred Schultz.

To obtain funds to support the coming convention of the national branches in Inglewood in 1950, our branch is holding popular square dances with beginners' lessons in the Inglewood Women's Club, 325 No. Hillcrest Blvd., Inglewood, on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Attendance permitting, we hope to hold admittance and instruction fee to 75c donation to the fund. The success of this program may mean much to the coming convention, so even if you don't dance, come and bring a friend who may want to learn the latest. There will be soft drinks available. **COME AND SWING YOUR PARTNER.**

L. D. McBride, *Secretary*.

Give the *BEGONIAN* to your gardener friend.

**THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH:** Took charge of the Floriculture Division of the Ventura County Fair. It was the first time garden clubs had participated. We won first prize of one hundred and fifty dollars and a large gold trophy! There was a great deal of interest shown in this new division and we feel justly proud. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knecht have just returned from a trip to Switzerland and are to show many of their pictures to the branch soon. The nominating committee have presented the following as their recommendations for officers for the coming year; George Fitch, past president; Harry Meyer, president; Don Claypool, vice-president and program chairman; Mrs. Noble McCollum, secretary; Robert Renshaw, treasurer; Herman Weitz, national representative; Mrs. A. B. Bounds and Mrs. Milton Ramelli, directors. We have had a very successful year.

Mrs. Dora Hodgins, *National Rep.*

GLENDALE BRANCH: At the November meeting the following officers were elected for 1950: Mr. Charles A. Richardson, president; Mrs. Anna E. Marek, vice-president; Mr. O. E. Sellers, recording secretary; Mr. David H. Winans, treasurer; Mrs. D. H. Bradley, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Grace Spencer, national representative; and Mrs. Gladys Beirdneau, membership director.

"Environment of Shade Plants, Geography, Soils, and Climate" was the subject of a lecture by Mr. Merrill Thompson of Alhambra, who was introduced by Mr. Charles R. Richardson, program chairman.

A door prize was awarded and plant sale held. The social hour was enjoyed by all when delicious pumpkin pies and coffee were served by Mrs. Carlisle Slattery and her committee.

Mrs. Isabel J. Mullen, *Press Chairman*

SALEM, OREGON, BRANCH: We held our annual Xmas party on December 1st in the Fire Place Room of the First Christian Church, decorated in the spirit of the season with stockings at the fireplace, in which a cheery fire glowed. A gift exchange featured many gaily wrapped plants.

Our lucky president, Mr. Al Clark, drew the winning number and was presented with an excellent propagating case, neat and well-made, that anyone would be proud to have in the living room. Two feet long, one foot deep and one foot wide, glass enclosed, and thermostatically controlled, it is just the thing to start those few precious seeds or cuttings.

Another highlight of the meeting was the election of the following officers: Mr. E. C. Hamilton, president; Mr. R. Ray Brown, vice-president; Mrs. Dan Scharf, secretary; Mr. Noble Bashor, treasurer; Mr. Geo. Candeaux and Miss Ellen Quail, directors.

Our branch has had a very pleasant and successful year and hopes to have still better times this coming year.

October meeting: Morris Lawrence, Portland, Oregon, editor of Northwest Gardening, and orchid expert, lectured on primroses and brought his wife to add to the floral bouquet with pointers on fuchsias.

November meeting: Colored slides of many British gardens illustrated the talk of John Henry, Past President of the American Rhododendron Society, covering his trip to England last May, including his attendance of a British Horticultural Society meeting.

As of December 1st we report one hundred members.

Miss Ellen Quail, *Secretary* and  
Estill L. Brunk, D.M.D., *National Director*.

FOOTHILL BRANCH: Color—Color—Color!

Speaker for the regular November meeting was 'Chuck' Kline of Chuck's Nursery in Covina: topic—"A Winter Garden in Color". He proceeded to present living proof that many flowers, shrubs and trees can be grown to give the garden that all important "lift" through the winter season. These were supplemented by colored pictures of other available varieties.

The plant sale featured many fine specimens of shade-loving plants and was followed by delicious refreshments, which provided the stimuli for friendly chit-chat at the close of the meeting.

Our election of officers for 1950 was held at the Azusa Woman's Club on December 2nd. Elected and to be installed are: Robt. Weaver, president; Dan White, vice-president; Mrs. Mabel Goheen, secretary; Mrs. Tillie Weaver, treasurer; Mrs. Ina Piper, membership fees chairman; Edwin O. Williams, representative director; Verne Heth, director; and Mrs. Bertha Whisler, junior past president.

An amendment to the constitution proposing to add a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary to the officers was read and will be voted on at our January meeting.

The Memorial Committee reported purchase of a book for the "Memory Shelf" of the Azusa and Glendora Libraries in honor of our late Begonia lover and friend, Bill Heth.

Mr. Don Leaman, representative of Armstrong Nurseries, spoke on "Camellias—the Queen of the Winter Garden," tracing their history and demonstrating proper methods for starting cuttings, grafting and cross-pollinating. This interesting talk was augmented with colored slides of 1950 varieties.

A plant sale followed and the meeting closed with refreshments being served by the Executive Board.—Edwin O. Williams, *Publicity*

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH: Has elected as officers for the ensuing year the following: Mrs. Gladys Adams, president; Mrs. Eleanor Slocum, vice-president; Mr. C. H. Bellona, recording secretary; Mrs. Mary Bradley, corresponding secretary; Mr. Earl Bushey, treasurer; Mr. Floyd Adams, national representative; Mrs. Edith Hickle, librarian; and Mrs. Troy Hamm, director.

Our January 19th meeting will feature expert advice on the grooming of plants for show purposes at the next Convention. All members growing plants for exhibit are invited to bring one for this instructive demonstration.

Mary Anne Bradley, *Corr. Sec.*

SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH: Elected their new officers for the ensuing year as follows: Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, president; Mr. Peter Guerich, vice-president; Mr. Ira O. Call, secretary; Mrs. Margaret Manning, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Susan P. Ramsey, treasurer; Mr. Ray A. Alberts, national representative. Installation of officers will be on December 15th as well as the Christmas party.

A most interesting question and answer period was held among the members. Subject under discussion was methods of storing tubers for the winter. Much valuable information came to light. Suggestions included placement on partially filled flats of terralite, dry peat moss, dry leaf mold, loose in flats or even pastebord boxes in cool dark places.

Susan P. Ramsey, *Publicity Chairman*

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH: Served a pot-luck dinner at our regular Monday evening meeting. Mrs. Marie Clausen and her Ferndale group were in charge and the tables were gay with autumn leaves and red apples on the white cloths. President R. J. Minnie opened the business meeting after dinner. Plans were laid to hold a Christmas dinner party at the Eel River Grange Hall at Ferndale with Mrs. Mildred Grinsell as general chairman. There will be a Christmas tree and gift exchange.

Newly elected officers for the following year are Mrs. Frances Christopher, president; Mrs. Jessie Thomas, vice-president; Miss Margaret Smith, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Mable Minnie, representative director; and Mrs. Louise Goff, director.

After the business meeting Guy Wooden and Ted Nunan entertained the society with lovely colored pictures of the begonias at the Ferndale fair and other gardens. The attendance prize, a Yellow Sweetie tuber, was won by Mrs. Mildred Grinsell.

Violet Wooden, *Historian*.

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CONDENSED MINUTES .meeting National Board, American Begonia Society held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 28th, 1949.

Meeting called to order by President Walton at 7:30.

Salute to the Flag led by Col. Gale, and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the A.B.S.

Officers present for the meeting Messrs. Walton, Lorenz, Moore, Trowbridge, Gale, Bailey; Mesdames

Korts, Nolan, Hartwell; Representative Directors Hollywood, Pasadena, Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, La Mesa, El Monte, Inglewood, Santa Barbara.

Reading of Minutes dispensed with, minutes having been already published in the Begonian. Reports of Treasurer, Business Manager, and Membership Secretary read and approved as read and made part of the minutes.

President reported it would be impossible to change our meeting date at this time, as the room was only available on the 4th Monday of each month, but stated we would give the matter further thought and study.

President reported - I want here and now to say that our new membership Secretary has worked hard to put the membership list in good accurate condition and I am very well pleased; if anyone is not receiving their magazine regularly, please report the matter to Mr. Lorenz giving him as much data as possible so he can check his records and make whatever corrections are necessary.

Report of Librarian Nolan read and accepted. The library is fast becoming a much used department.

Slide Librarian reported Mr. Miller of Whittier had agreed to help obtain good new slides.

President Walton reported "Regarding appointment of Editor for the Begonian. As you remember Mrs. Behrends asked to be relieved of the Editorship but agreed to continue to act until a successor could be appointed. I therefore submit the name of Stanley Spaulding as Editor. This man has very good qualifications and is very enthusiastic about it; he has been very interested in it in the past and will have many good contacts. Motion by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Trowbridge "I move that we accept the appointment of Mr. Spaulding as Editor of the Begonian." SO CARRIED.

President Walton reported ::I want to express my sincere appreciation for the manner in which Dorothy Behrends has carried on during the past and she has done a marvelous job in handling the heavy joy of editorship of the Begonian. The whole matter is now in the hands of Mr. Spaulding and he will make his own appointments subject to the approval of the Board.

Report of Mrs. Buxton on the meeting in New York of the Horticultural Council was discussed but the Board felt it should be referred to Mr. Butterfield for comment before any action is taken. Matter to be reported on at a later date. SO ORDERED.

President reported "There will be no meeting of the National Board in December, 1949 due to the busy Xmas season. Asked Representative Directors to take the message back to their branch.

Following recommendations were made by Mr. Lorenz:

That the 8000 back copies of the Begonian now on hand, be moved to the home of the Librarian; she to sell these copies at 15 ea.-7½¢ for the Society and the other 7½ for the library. SO ORDERED.

That 35 copies of the magazine be set aside each month to make complete sets for use at a later date. SO ORDERED.

That gift cards be prepared to use when the magazine subscription is used as a gift. Too late of course for this year but could be ready and on hand for next season. SO ORDERED.

Branch reports. See Begonian for full reports.

La Mesa—new meeting place; no complaints of non-receipt of magazine.

Santa Barbara—Asked that more divisions be added to the rex and rhizomatous classes. Matter referred to Flower Show Chairman.

San Gabriel Valley—Asked that when the challenge cups are awarded that a short history of the cup be given. Matter referred to Mr. Trowbridge.

Director Korts felt notices should be sent Representative Directors each month and offered to assume responsibility for getting the notices out. SO ORDERED.

President asked Branches to promptly send in notices following their annual election of officers so that a complete file may be in the office.

Flower Show Chairman reported he was working on the schedules, etc., for Branch shows and would soon call the committee to get this in shape and ready for the branches to use.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

## Branch Meeting Dates and Places

### BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular Meetings 1st Mondays in February, May, August and November. Two annual exhibits, May and September, 1:30 p.m., Dessert Mrs. George W. W. Barton, Director 929 East 7th St., Flint 3, Michigan.

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m.  
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.  
Mrs. Mildred Marshall, Secretary  
8733 East Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

### EAST RAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Willard School, Ward Street  
Mrs. H. E. Thorpe, Sec.  
1692 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

### EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 19, 8:00 p.m.  
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 60  
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.  
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Jan. 6, 8:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa  
Mrs. Mabel Goheen, Secretary  
360 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Glendora, Calif.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 8:00 p.m.  
206 West Cypress  
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary  
1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif.

### GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, LaJolla  
Tillie Center, Corres. Secy.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following  
Mrs. Frank H. Mather, Cor. Sec.  
515 Windover Rd., Haboro, Pa.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Bazaar  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Alberta King, Sec.  
939 So. 3rd Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 16  
Roosevelt High School Cafe  
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secy.  
114 East Olive St., Compton 3, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith  
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 12, 8:00 p.m.  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Dorothea McBride, Secretary  
3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m.  
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.  
Mrs. Ida M. Barker, Secy.  
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic  
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas.  
1506 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m.  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Sec.  
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. Dorothy F. Michaelson  
P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach  
F. John Nackbor, Secy.  
6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange  
Sec.-Treas., Ann Peterson, 414 E. Palmyra,  
Orange, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
208 Social Hall, Pasadena  
City College, Colorado Blvd.  
Mrs. Fred E. Distel  
1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Schlener, Sec.  
18 10th Street, Petaluma, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec.  
405 Cotswald Lane, Wynnwood, Pa.

### REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, Jan. 27, 8:00 p.m.  
Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue  
Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Sec.  
522 So. Guadalupe Ave. Redondo Beach, Calif.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m.

Member's Residence  
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec.  
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.  
3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif.  
Mrs. R. K. Whitney, Secretary  
4661 Brighton Avenue, San Diego 7, Calif.

### SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary  
293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.

### SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Salem Y.M.C.A.  
Mrs. Dan Scharf  
1284 Front St., Salem, Oregon

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Jan. 23  
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.  
1225 Madison Ave., San Diego, Calif.

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Encino Park, 17103 Ventura Blvd., Encino, Calif.  
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary  
20047 Arminta, Canoga Park, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.  
Sec., Mrs. Walter L. Morrison  
2075 Tenth Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 25, p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Sec.  
911 No. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, California  
Roy C. Pierce, Secy.

914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

### SANTA MARIA BRANCH

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

### SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Bowling Club House at Douglas Park  
Chelsea and Wilshire, Santa Monica, Calif.  
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary  
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

*See next page*

**SANTA PAULA BRANCH**  
4th Thursday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m.  
Steckel Park  
Mrs. Shirley Friedrich, P. O. Box 888  
Santa Paula, California

**SEATTLE BRANCH**  
3rd Tuesday, Jan. 17  
Member's Homes  
Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.  
4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**  
1st Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass  
Rt. 2, Box 54, Ventura, Calif.

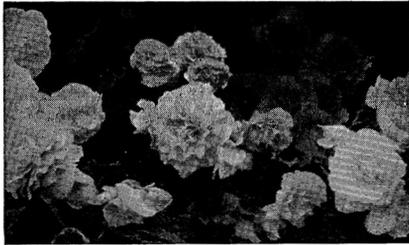
**SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH**  
3rd Thursday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.  
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. R. Clark, Cor. Secy.  
1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

**SOUTHGATE BRANCH**  
4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.  
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park  
Miss Ellen P. Dionne, Secy.-Treas.  
3139½ Illinois Ave., Southgate, Calif.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**  
4th Wednesday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.  
Lakewood, Ohio

**WHITTIER BRANCH**  
4th Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Hovanec, Secy.  
630 Palm Avenue, Whittier, Calif.

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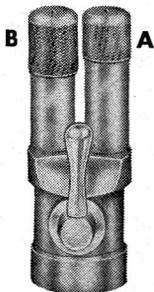
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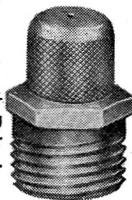


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