

The BEGONIAN

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JUNE
1950

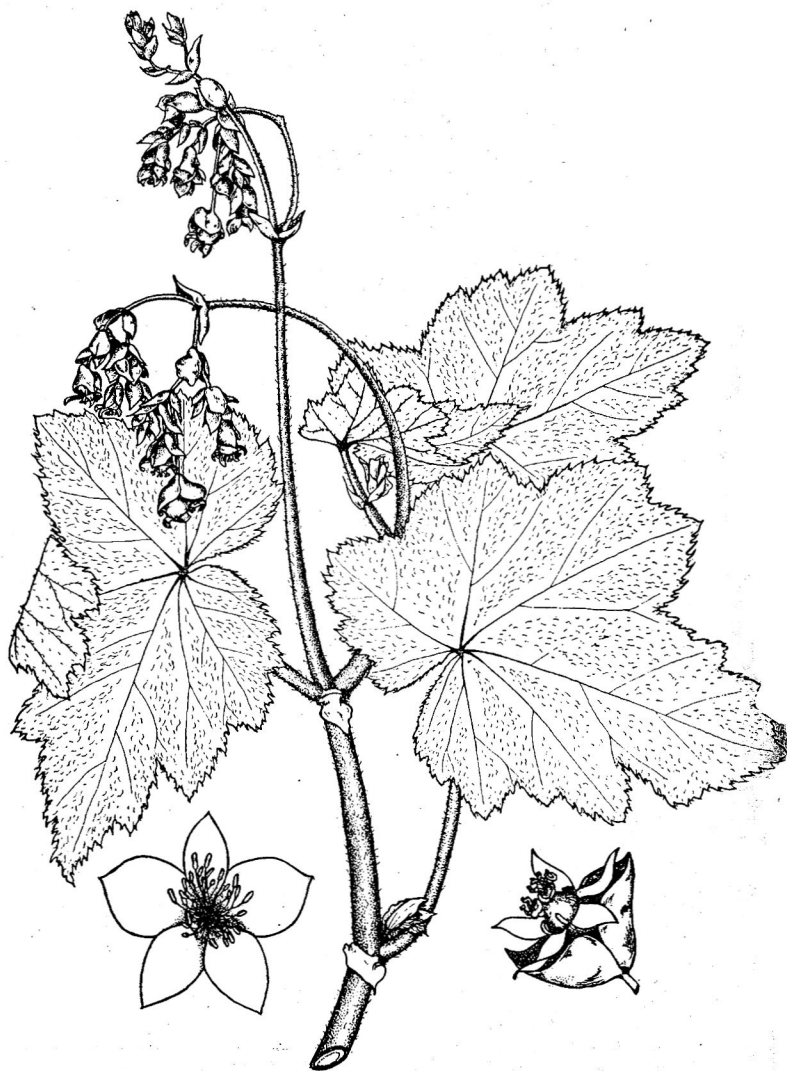


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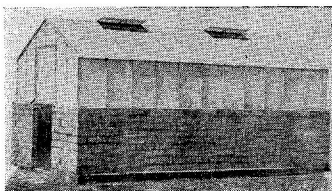
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Co-Editor.....	Mrs. Frances W. Spaulding
808 E. Mariposa Ave., El Segundo, Calif.	
Business Manager.....	Mrs. Della MacLanahan
4080 Tivoli Ave., Venice, Calif.	

- ★ 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.
- ★ Business Office — 5110 Monte Bonito Drive, Los Angeles 41, Calif.

INDEX

A.B.S. ATTENTION.....	129	LIBRARY NOTES.....	120
AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW.....	119	ORCHIDS IN BRAZIL.....	129
ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS.....	128	PRAETORIUS BEGONIAS.....	119
BEGONIAS OF SW CHINA (Finis).....	120	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.....	128
BRANCH MEETING DATES & PLACES.....	134	ROUND ROBIN NOTES AND NEWS.....	122
BRANCH NEWS.....	130	SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS.....	119
CONDENSED MINUTES.....	133	SPEAKING OF FLOWER SHOWS.....	117
ERNEST KIMBALL LOGEE INTRODUCT.....	121	TUBEROUS FANS—WEST. CANADA RPTS.....	127
GREEN PAINT FOR THE GARDENER.....	124	VIOLET RAYS.....	127
HILLEBRANDIA SANDWICENSIS.....	123	WINDOW GARDENING IS FUN.....	125
		YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED.....	133



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Speaking of Flower Shows . . .

In Walter Knecht's Words

By the Public Relations Department

In view of the annual A.B.S. Begonia Show in conjunction with our Convention in September, when many of our Branches will be making Branch Displays, we feel we must share with you the wealth of practical advice that Mr. Walter Knecht of Ventura, Calif., gave on "Flower Shows" when speaking at the April meeting of the Santa Barbara Branch.

At this time of year one could attend a Flower Show almost every week and witness the beauty of hundreds of plants on exhibition, each having been well grown, tenderly cared for, and well groomed by some proud gardener. Many of our Branches make begonia exhibits in their local Flower Shows and no group should pass up the opportunity to do so. If you have ever worked in helping make a Flower Show a success, then at each Show you attend you will feel the urge to put on your old clothes and "dig in," but if you have never been fortunate enough to have been on the flower show committee and have missed the fun and satisfaction of helping to put on a prize-winning display, then here's hoping, after reading the following, written from notes taken at Mr. Knecht's lecture, that you will volunteer to aid in making your Branch Display the "best ever."



"Santa Barbara Branch Members "Dig In"

Photo courtesy of Thelma P. Sommerfield

"Whether a Flower Show will be interesting or dull will depend directly upon the exhibitors. Your display must live up to the theme of the Show, be it natural, informal, or formal. The display itself must carry a message. It should be pleasing, educational,

and practical. See that the feature plants predominate in the material used. Never overdo on the accessories that may be used.

"A display must be designed according to the location allotted in the Show. A center spot in the Show is a difficult problem, for the display must then be pleasing from all angles. A corner spot may be considered best, as it can be built up from both walls with a perspective. A straight wall can be effectively worked out if a moss-wall is added or plantings arranged for the background.

"Shade plants can best be displayed in a natural setting. A natural exhibit, to be pleasing, should never be flat. Have a point of interest, be it a bench, fountain, pool, a waterfall, or a tree. Emphasize by having walks or stream to lead the eye to your point of interest. Make your slopes gradual, leading down to a low front. To build up the back of the slope use lug-boxes, orange crates—any strong material—and inverted clay pots. Largest material for height then the smaller boxes and the pots as the slope extends forward. All the material used in building up must be covered from sight. Green moss, leafmold with helxine-moss (baby tears) can be used to cover your foundations. The blank wall can be solved by the use of painted scenery, shrubbery, lath or lattice fence, or rock-walls. Avoid all artificial effects by using natural materials. The paths may be of anything practical, such as stepping stones, gravel, or plain dirt. The path can be bordered by rocks, stepping stones, or red-wood battens. To add perspective, have the path wider toward the front, narrowing as it nears your point of interest.

"Your foreground, being low, can be bordered by ferns, dwarf flowering begonias, or a low hedge. The border of the display should be the same as used in making the path, adding a natural border to each with plants. The green is always pleasing and gives a softness to the display.

"Again never use artificial material in a natural display, rather make use of weathered logs or stumps, and if rocks are added see that they are set deep and in a natural position. Potted plants must never have their pots showing; to avoid this sink the clay pots or containers to ground level or cover well with moss.

Turn to next page

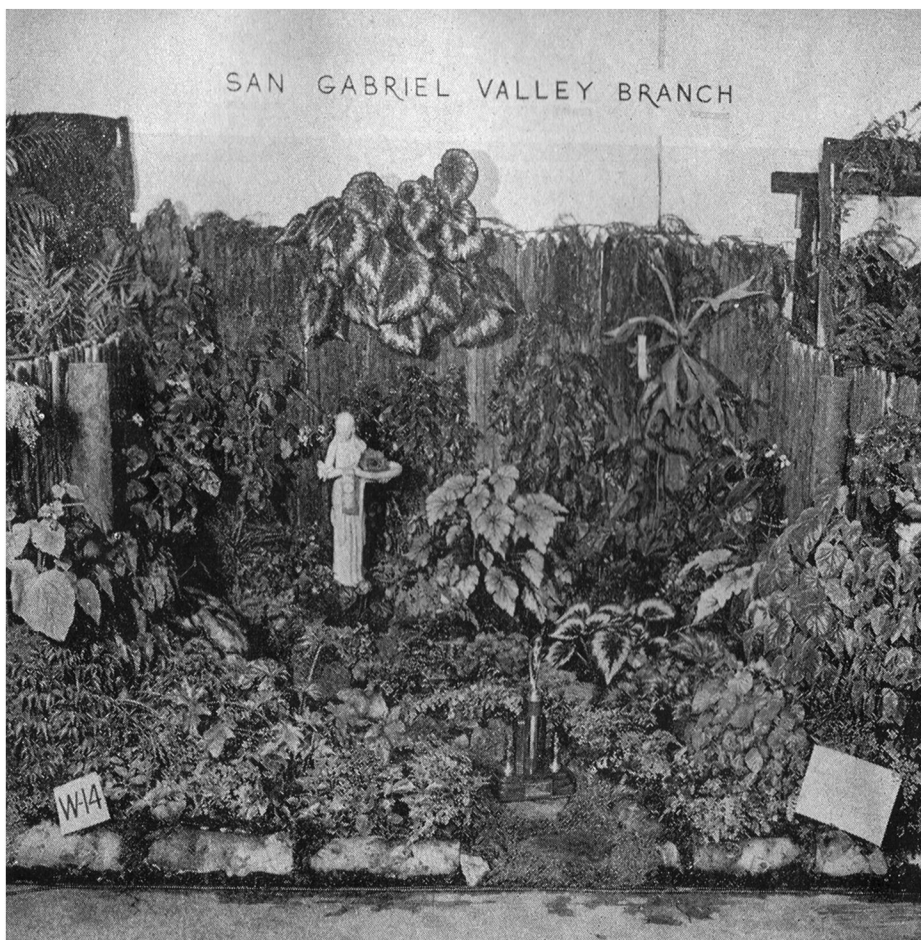


Photo by Lee Green, Courtesy Public Relations Dept.

The San Gabriel Valley Branch's trophy winning display at the Long Beach Convention, 1947, exemplifies Mr. Knecht's remarks.

"The plants selected for your display should be well groomed according to type. If tall they should be graceful and not straggly. Bush types should be well trimmed, full, and with a pleasing shape. Over-potted plants should be avoided as they take up valuable space. All plant material should be well grown and healthy. Right growing conditions, proper care, and feedings will assure healthy plants.

"Flower Show displays call for massed effects but never use "blobs" of color or plants. Rather arrange your plants so that they blend in harmony when grouped together. Accents in the display will call for your heavier plant material.

"Carefully carry out the theme of the Show as called for in the schedule drawn up by the show management. A Shade Garden means just that and no sun plants must ever

be used, and vice-versa when it calls for an annual or perennial garden. An informal garden calls for a natural setting and by all means should be practical, whereas a formal garden should be lined up in squares, ovals or circles with formal props such as a formal fountain or pool and glazed pots instead of the clay, and all hedges trimmed and shaped.

"Have all your props made well in advance of the Show date, at least gather all your materials together: stones, rocks, gravel, lath, moss or other cover-up material, foundations. In fact it is well to have a surplus of all this on hand rather than to run short when making up your ground work for the display.

"In making preparations for your set-up, have all your plant material selected and

Turn to page 120

The Praetorius Begonias

Dear Mrs. Carrell:

It is very interesting working for the Research Department. One of the most satisfying features of it is the fact that oftentimes one finds the answer to some question that has long been bothersome.

For some time now I have been hearing of this and that Begonia that did not originate on this coast but had been in circulation for some years. Repeatedly, names of these particular begonias showed up in Mid-Western collections but apparently they were all acquired via the "trade" method, so I started sending out letters to anyone who had any of these plants, trying to get some sort of lead on the original hybridizer. From a clue here and a clue there, I finally found a party in Florida who was able to direct me to Mrs. Praetorius. And may I express my thanks for the cooperation that I received from everyone in my quest for more information.

I only have a mental picture of Mrs. Praetorius' garden of begonias but it must have been beautiful. Can you see a large collection growing out in the garden under trees? The cane varieties reached into the lower limbs of the trees and were allowed to grow as nature intended them, in huge clumps.

Mrs. Praetorius must have started hybridizing before 1930 but the first record I have of one she named was *B. amabilis* in that year. The flowers on this plant are unusual as the male flowers are white and the female flowers pink.

Some of the other begonias that should be credited to her are as follows: *B. Adoration*, *B. Aurora*, *B. Barbara Wetzel*, *B. Dusk*, *B. Faureana Grandis*, *B. Faureana Pearl Cascade*, *B. Formosus*, *B. Frolic*, *B. Galaxy*, *B. Greetings*, *B. Jewels*, *B. May Day*, *B. Mid-nite Melody*, *B. Moonlight*, *B. Picturatus*, *B. Romance*, *B. Spectabilis*, *B. Spring Song*, *B. Sylvan Delight*, *B. Sylvan Beauty*, *B. Sylvan Grandeur*, *B. Sylvan Joy*, *B. Sylvan Star*, *B. Sylvan Triumph*, *B. Twilight*, *B. White Mountain*, *B. Winning Way*, *B. Bridesmaid*, *B. La France*, *B. Pink Shower*, *B. Rubra-folius*.

There are probably others that I don't know of as yet. I know that Mrs. Praetorius had many seedlings which had not been named and introduced many plants which she no longer had.

This is just a thumb-nail sketch of one of our little known hybridizers and a lot of credit should be given her for her very beautiful and often unusual begonias that she has produced and released.

Sincerely,

Marie Minter.

Sheltered Garden Book Reviews . . .

HOW TO INCREASE PLANTS, by Alfred C. Hottes. First Edition, 288 pages, 128 Illus., Published by A. T. De La Mare Co., Inc., N. Y. C. \$3.00

Most of you are acquainted with the fine contribution to horticulture that Mr. Hottes has written so well in the past years. This one is a thoroughly revised, enlarged, and reset edition of "Plant Propagation." It will be one of the most used and helpful additions to your garden library. Used by commercial growers and needed by the amateur. Tells how to multiply desirable plants by various methods of propagation from seeds, cuttings, divisions, and other methods we usually leave for the more experienced. With each step clearly illustrated and carefully described, it is easily understood by everyone. The book doubles its value to the 'Royal Hobby' because it shows and tells how to increase such plants as begonias, gesnerias (including naegelia, gloxinia achimenes), tuberous plants, bulbs, ferns, and orchids, but it will also be invaluable to the outdoor gardener covering such subjects as perennials, annuals, conifers, fruit trees, roses, shrubs, and climbers. There is an index to plant names and a general index.

SOILS AND FERTILIZERS FOR GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN, by Alex Laurie and D. C. Kiplinger. 128 pages, 22 Illus., Second Edition. Published by A. T. De La Mare Co., Inc., N. Y. C. \$2.50

A little on the technical side for the beginner but greenhouse operators, commercial growers, and advanced amateurs will find this book indispensable. As your interest in growing increases, so must your knowledge, and the first requisite for healthy plants begins with the soil. Nature of the soil, soil aeration, water, and nutrient supply, sterilization, cover crops and composts, fertilizers for greenhouse and outdoor crops, nutrient deficiencies are all thoroughly covered. Included are special recommendations for certain crops, tables on amounts of fertilizer to use, contents and availability of various inorganic and organic fertilizers, and nutrient levels, as well as soil formulae.

—Reviewed by Dorothy F. Michaelson.

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

Tuesday, June 6, 1950, 1 to 5 p.m., at 3990 Menlo Ave., Los Angeles, ADMISSION FREE, sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapter of the African Violet Society of America.

One of our most popular Companion Plants goes on display here in all its glory. A fine afternoon's entertainment to see all the latest introductions and the perfection of the old favorites.

Library Notes

A fine pamphlet entitled *PLANTS FOR GARDENS IN THE SHADE* has been received by the library for circulation to the membership. Published by the Mackwood Gardens in Illinois this covers descriptive material of various plants suited to shade gardens and should prove of great value to begonia and other shade plant devotees.

Bound copies of the recent pamphlet, *GROWING BEGONIAS IN CALIFORNIA*, by H. M. Butterfield, are ready for loan.—California members may obtain their own copies by writing to the California Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley, and requesting Circular 162, which was issued in January, 1950. All members of the A.B.S. will find this circular valuable since many illustrations are included in the descriptive material which covers all types of begonias.

May I request at this time that all members return books on loan to them in the same boards in which they are shipped since books not properly packed are so badly damaged in transit that they must be taken out of circulation for rebinding and repair. Your co-operation in this matter will make it possible for more members to enjoy their library material.

—Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

An Enumeration of Begonias of Southwestern China (Concluded)

By Dr. Te-Tsun Yu

BEGONIA NYMPHAEAFOLIA sp. nov. (Latin description omitted—Editor.)

Se. Yunnan: Foo-nong, Lung-mai, alt. 1000 m., under dense woods, foot of precipitous rocks, fl. bud red, April 24, 1940, C. W. Wang no. 88815. Ma-li-po, Hwang-jin-in, alt. 1250 m., rocky hill, fl. pink, May 23, 1940, C. W. Wang no. 83135.

This new species is closely related to *B. Cavaleriei* Levl. and *B. Wangii* Yu, differing from the former in its many flowered cymes and its ovate outer tepals, and differing from the latter in its orbicular leaves, its showy bracts and its tepals of male flowers always being 4 in number and of female flowers always 3 in number.

BEGONIA DUCLOUXII Gagn. in Bull. Mus. Nat. D'Hist. Natur. 25:198 (1910). W. Szechuan: Opien Hsien, Aug. 23, 1939, S. L. Sun no. 1029.

BEGONIA WILSONI Gagn. in Bull. Mus. Nat. D'Hist. Natur. 25:281 (1910). W.

Szechuan: Omei, C. Y. Yao no. 2677. *BEGONIA HENRYI* Hemsl. in Journ. Linn. Soc. (Bot.) 23:322. (1877); Hand.-Mazz., Symb. Sin. 72:384. (1931).

C. Yunnan: Kunming, Hsi-shan, San-tsing-

kou, fl. pink, Sept. 15, 1941, C. Y. Wu no. 76. Lu-chuan, Tien-we, alt. 2600 m., under dense woods, near stream, fruit reddish green, Oct. 25, 1940, Y. P. Chang no. 353.

W. Yunnan: Chu siung, Hsiao-chian-ho (Li-tu River), bank of river, on rock surface, herb 3-5 in. high, fl. pink frequent, Sept. 16, 1939, Y. Liu no. 11. Tali, Wa-so to Chi-shan, succulent stoloniferous herb, fl. pink, Sept. 7, 1938, C. Y. Wu no. 11912. Tali, near Chang-kou, along stream, Sept. 1938, C. Y. Wu no. 10607. Teng-chuan, Ta-ping-tze, 1800 m., upon rocks, herb 3-5 in. high, fl. pink, Sept. 19, 1940, R. C. Ching no. 24730.

Distribution: Type comes from Ichang and Nanto of Hupeh province. It is very common in central and west part of Yunnan.

BEGONIA TALIENSIS Gagn. in Bull. Mus. Nat. D'Hist. Natur. 25:279 (1919); Hand.-Mazz. Symb. Sin. 7(2):388 (1931).

W. Yunnan: Tali, San-tar-tse waste place fl. pink, ovary often with prickles, Sept. 5, 1938, C. Y. Wu no. 11838. Same locality fr. green, young, Sept. 19, 1938, C. Y. Wu no. 12457. Teng-chuan. Hwang-chia-ping, 2000 m., under mixed forest, 1-1.8 ft. high, fl. pink Sept. 17, 1940, R. C. Ching no. 24680. Yang-pi Southeast of the town, under thickets, herb 1 ft. high, capsule pale brown, Oct. 25, 1940, R. C. Ching no. 25223.

NW. Yunnan: Ho-chin, Pai-ai, under mixed forest, herb 1.8-2 ft. high, fl. pink, Sept. 7, 1940, R. C. Ching no. 24423. Likiang, Mukwaza on Yang-tze, by stream in mixed forest, fl. rose lavender, Sept. 1, 1939, R. C. Ching no. 21410. S. Chungtien, Chiao-tou on Yangtze bank alt. 1900 m., on rock in mixed forest, plant 1 ft. in fruit, Oct. 25, 1939, R. C. Ching no. 3065.

FLOWER SHOWS, cont. from page 118

marked with the owner's name or identification mark. Have too many plants available rather than too few.

"Be sure you have the necessary working materials at hand. Take along hammer, nails, plant stakes, plant ties, a shovel, rake, boxes, empty pots, a water can, sprinkler, plenty of wire, a pair of wire cutters, and perhaps a saw will come in handy. All this will save time in setting up the display.

"An important feature in Flower Shows that should never be overlooked is the universal ruling that 'the decision of the judges is final.'"

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Ernest Kimball Logee Introductions

Prologue



Photo by Jim Kenefick

Ernest Kimball Logee shows his Begonia "Baller"

The Editor is proud to announce that in the June issue we will commence publication of a series of descriptions and pictures of the finest of the semperflorens cultorum varieties introduced by Ernest Kimball Logee before his tragic death recently. The first of the series, appearing next month, was written by Mr. Logee just prior to the acci-

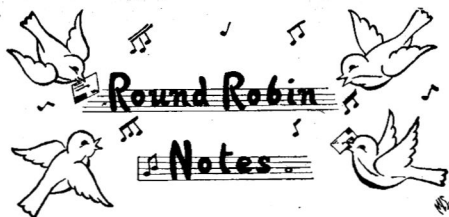
dent. Miss Joy Logee, sister and Mr. Logee's "right hand" co-worker, will continue the series. She and their youngest brother, Roger B. Logee, also trained by Ernest, are shouldering the task of carrying on their splendid business, founded by their father, William D. Logee, almost 52 years ago.

Turn to page 124



Photo by P. E. Genereux, East Lynn

Ernest Kimball Logee Gold Medal Exhibit, Massachusetts Horticultural Society Autumn Show



Mrs. P. Heinrich, Galveston, Tex.—who is noted for her lovely collection of Ferns and Saintpaulias—uses “For African Violets each time in watering, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful Calumet Baking Powder to each quart of warm rain water. Improves the foliage and increases the bloom.”

Ann Harding, Tex.—“Most ferns like bogs, so I made wee bog-gardens in wide-mouthed jars and scattered the fern spores in them. Moss has grown but tiny ferns have formed. My past failures were due to lack of moisture in the seed bed—now my recipe for awakening fern spores is: a sterile medium and plenty of moisture.”

Mrs. G. Sheller, Jamestown, Pa.—“To root African Violet leaves I prepare pots of soil and make a hole in each pot, then fill it up with vermiculite, insert the leaf, and place a jar over it. Keep it warm and moist.”

Mrs. J. Humphries, Tyler, Tex.—“To prune a tall begonia—first give the fibrous begonia a top dressing of leafmold containing Vigoro or other stimulating food, then cut back two or three inches each week until the plant is well shaped. New growth will start and the plant will be well formed.”

Pearl Arnold, Nashville, Tenn.—“I am well pleased with my fluorescent light experiment—all plants under it look green and healthy. Very little difference in the light bill and it gives an even temperature of about 60 degrees. I find the air keeps moist. I keep the light on for 14 hours each day.”

Mona Ayers, Kansas City, Missouri.—where climate conditions make rex growing a problem, writes, “For the beginner—start rexes from seed, they will grow nicely for two years before going dormant. Old rexes that have shed their leaves should be placed on the dark end of the shelf and keep them on the dry side. Remember, dry, windy heat will ruin your seedlings and over-potting will kill them. Use two-inch pots with plenty of drainage, use coarse oak leaf mold and plant the seedling low in the pot, water every day. If you find it is getting too hot for the seedlings, make a Wardian case around them with four panes of glass. If the glass does not give them sufficient protection cover the top with plastic, making numerous holes for ventilation. Sometimes even this is too hot for the seedlings; then add cheesecloth to the frame and sprinkle twice

daily over the cloth. Remove all covering at night.”

Mrs. C. Falconer, Canyonville, Oregon, using the freezing method even for begonia and African Violet seed, writes—A hint for all who find seed hard-to-start, and the method has been used successfully with dozens of varieties of plants,—“Take a six-inch square cake pan, add $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of medium, vermiculite or whatever you are used to, place the seed where you want them, moisten well and place in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator and leave over-night. If very tender plants such as begonias or African Violets, *leave only four hours*. Place the container in a cool room for two or three days before removing to a warm location. Geraniums, petunias (especially the double), primroses, delphiniums, gerberas, etc., will sprout 100 per cent. When transplanting I use ‘Hormex’ powder or place ‘Semesan’ in the soil to prevent damping-off.”

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Dear Round Robin members, Directors, and A.B.S. members:

We are happy to have so many of our new A.B.S. members joining our R.R. groups and will do everything possible to make you at home among our R.R. members. We will miss those members that have found it necessary to drop out of our Robins for various reasons and hope that they will soon find conditions changed and join us again.

What a satisfaction to know that so many of you are approving of our “Round Robin Notes.” We will try to give each contributor full credit for the valuable information that we pass on through the column. The idea of adding your name and address is new so until our directors have all become acquainted with the change forgive us if we print “notes” without giving you full credit.

Since our Robins are sponsored by the A.B.S., we feel that it is unnecessary to contact each member to obtain special permission to print the information sent out in the Robin letters. So be “on your toes” and tell all your successful experiences,—that they may be shared by all those who read our “Begonian.”

We realize that adverse weather conditions have been hard on our begonias, but don’t give up. Cold and drought in the East; rains and floods in the North and Midwest; late spring in the South and drought and bad begonia weather in the West, added problems for every begonia grower. Let’s carry on—bright days will surely come our way again.

There are many things that you could contribute to our “Begonian”—do you have a picture in black and white on glossy paper

Turn to page 126

Hillebrandia Sandwichensis

(Our cover picture)

The plant illustrated and described herein is a challenge to members of the American Begonia Society who are interested in growing new species and also an opportunity to obtain new material, since this is the only member of the begonia family native to the Hawaiian Islands and should be grown in this country as a collector's item as well as to further the propagation of new species for study and hybridization. I quote from a recent letter from Mr. Degener, collaborator in Hawaiian Botany for the New York Botanical Garden:

"Our *Hillebrandia* grows on most of our islands above 3000 or more feet elevation. The islands are rather efficiently isolated and I doubt that the seeds, even though minute, could be readily scattered from island to island. If some begonia specialist of the A.B.S. would only grow our *Hillebrandias* from the various islands, and even from different mountain ranges on the same island, under uniform test conditions, I vouch he would discover varietal differences. In my description I state that *Hillebrandia* has a rhizome. Don't you think I should have said "corm"? The structure is often orbicular in outline. Last Christmas I visited one of the *Hillebrandia* areas on the Island of Kauai at Kokee. The elevation is about 3500 to 4000 feet. None of the plants had flowers or seeds. It seemed to me as though

they must have died down to their corms some months ago and were beginning to sprout again. The *Hillebrandia* plants like steep banks of streams, the banks often being partly shaded and of decaying lava rock."

I would suggest you contact your Seed Fund chairman if interested in this species since she is striving to obtain new material for the membership and would welcome requests from those interested.

Further description of this plant may be found in an article by Mrs. Krauss in the April, 1947 *BEGONIAN*.

May I also call your attention to Mr. Degener's fine books—*TROPICAL PLANTS THE WORLD AROUND—PARTS 1 and 2*, \$0.25 each, reprinted from the New York Botanical Garden Journal; *NEW ILLUSTRATED FLORA AND PLANTS OF HAWAII NATIONAL PARK*, from which the cut and description of *Hillebrandia sandwichensis* was so generously loaned by the author; *NATURALISTS SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION—FIJI—(\$5.00)*, which was reviewed in the January, 1950, *Begonian*; and *PLANTS OF HAWAII NATIONAL PARK—Illustrative of Plants and Customs of the South Seas (\$2.50)*. Any of these books may be obtained by contacting the Librarian of your Society.

—Gladys C. Nolan.

(The following material is reprinted from "New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands" by Mr. Otto Degener with his kind permission.)

HILLEBRANDIA

Oliver in Trans. Linn. Soc. 25:361. 1866

A remarkable, archaic, monospecific genus peculiar to the Hawaiian Islands. Characters of the species.

*Named in honor of William Hillebrand (1821-1887), physician and famed Hawaiian botanist.

Type Species: *Hillebrandia sandwichensis* Oliver.

HAWAIIAN BEGONIA, HILLEBRANDIA, PUAMAKANUI, AKA AKA AWA

Only the following species exists:

Erect 5-15 dm. high perennial Begonia-like herb glabrate to sparsely pubescent with hair about 2 mm. long, with shallow yellowish tuberous rhizome and with fleshy stems branching dichotomously toward their ends. Leaves on 10-22 cm. long petioles; blades slightly asymmetrical, obliquely deeply cordate, suborbicular in outline, 10-25 cm. in diameter, irregularly 5- to 9-lobed with triangular acute to obtuse closely but irregularly serrate lobes, hispidulous with short white papillose hair between the nerves throughout the upper surface and chiefly along the veins on lower surface, devoid of cystoliths; stipules persistent, ovate-cordate, 12-30 mm. long. Peduncles arising from axils of upper leaves, 10-30 cm. long and soon repeatedly and laxly forking to a cymose many-flowered corymb bibracteate at each node with persistent cordate to ovate 8-15 mm. or more long bracts which are bright pink at base and lighter to pure white toward apex and ex-

tend beyond base of perianth of pistillate flowers; pistillate flowers usually first formed in inflorescence while later both kinds are formed with the pistillate usually median and on longer pedicels. Perianth bright pink at base and lighter to pure white toward apex. Staminate flowers: sepals 5 or rarely 4, free, about 1 mm. long, spatulate, alternate with sepals; stamens many, nearly as long as sepals, yellow; filaments free, filiform; anthers erect, elongate, obtuse, dehiscent by 2 lateral slits; ovary entirely wanting. Pistillate flowers on pedicels 8-12 mm. long which are bibracteolate at or above the middle; calyx tube adnate to ovary; lobes 5, as long as tube or longer, 6-8 mm. long, ovate-lanceolate, persistent; petals 5, free, spatulate, 1 mm. long, alternating with sepals; ovary partly inferior with only upper part free, wingless, spherical, above 1-celled and below imperfectly 5-celled with each lateral partition bearing projecting forked recurving parietal placentas; small stalked glands possibly representing staminodia surrounding ovary near petals; styles 5, persistent, opposite sepals, free, fleshy, bifid with the branches bearing spiral papillose stigmatic band. Capsule 8-12 mm. in diameter, free in upper third or half, globose, membranous, wingless, 1-celled at least in upper portion, finally dehiscent at apex between styles. Seeds minute, ovoid, exendospermous, with punctate-undulate brittle testa surrounding oblong embryo with short cotyledons.

*"Mann's specimens (of *Hillebrandia*) came from Wailuku valley. It also occurs in Waihee valley. Mann's were found first. The roots are tuberous." Hillebrand in lit. Sept. '67.

Turn to page 124

GREEN PAINT FOR THE GARDENER—ARTIST

When is an artist not an artist? This is a suggested answer: When he plays with the paint and brush for his own amusement and ends up without a picture.

There are gardeners who grow plants and end up without a garden. They have grown the plants for fun. Watching a plant grow and guiding its progress into a good specimen is a worthwhile achievement. But if these efforts are lined up in rows like a field of corn, it is not a garden. A beautiful picture using living plants just as the artist uses his varicolored paints is truly a garden.

The same basic principles of art in painting apply in gardening. The use of textures to create contrast and variety is an interesting artistic expression for gardeners to apply. The rex and tuberous groups, for example, have quite large leaves and therefore as landscape subjects reflect a coarse texture. To contrast and accentuate the beauty of these plants, mingle them in groups among the fine textured ferns. These are subtle, delicate, and let the begonias predominate. This combination of cultural companions is an artistic rendition pleasing to the eye of everyone.

Here are eight different species of ferns which are easy to grow. Although not too common, these are usually obtainable commercially.

Pteris cretica in several varietal forms grows to eighteen inches in shaded locations withstanding both heat and cold.

Pteris tremula from Australia and New Zealand tolerates some sunshine and cold weather as well. It grows in most any soil type to two and a half feet high.

Pteris longifolium, from tropical regions all around the world, is extremely tough. This fern attains a three-foot size in California out in the open with any kind of soil.

Polystichum angulare from Europe grows about twelve inches in half shade. In England it is very popular and maintains itself well through the winter.

Polystichum setosum enjoys shade and is also small and dainty, growing to only one foot.

Onychium japonicum is the Carrot Fern from Japan, enjoying both shade and cold weather. It only grows about one foot high.

Scolopendrium vulgare from eastern United States is called the Tongue Fern and grows about twelve inches in the shade.

Cyrtomium falcatum is the Holly Fern from the Orient. It is hardy and naturalizes in deep shade, such as beneath residences in California, where it is so dark as to exclude most vegetation. This fern, being of coarse texture, is unique in design placement. It is a foliage

complement for the fine textured begonias like *Digswelliana*, *fuchsoides*, *semperflorens*, and similar types.

Start using these ferns this summer among the tuberous begonia plantings in ground beds. With feeling and good taste this treatment will create a natural rather than an artificial look in your begonia garden—enriching—softening.

LOGEE INTRODUCTIONS, cont. from page 121

Miss Joy Logee kindly forwarded the pictures printed herein and notes that the exhibit at the Autumn Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society won the gold medal and has never been duplicated in Eastern Shows.

Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton, Secretary of the New England Branch, should be credited with the authorship of the beautifully worded memorial tribute to Mr. Ernest Kimball Logee published last month. She and the New England Branch rejoice with us that the Logee family is carrying on in the gallant tradition.

HILLEBRANDIA, cont. from page 123

Type Locality:

"Collected in the island of Maui, Sandwich Islands, by Dr. Hillebrand"

Local Range:

A very beautiful plant peculiar to open, wet ravines in the rain forest above 3,000 feet on the larger islands excepting Hawaii. On Kauai it may be seen with least difficulty about Kokee; on Molokai, between the head of Waikolu Valley and Puu Alii; and on Maui, in the gulches traversed by the Olinda pipe-line trail. A single plant was known to Hillebrand from a gulch on the west slope of Kaala, Oahu. It is said that Rock also found it on Oahu. If it is still growing there, it is exceedingly rare. Isabel Anderson's reference in her book on "The Spell of the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines" (1916) to a rare pink begonia having grown in the forest surrounding Green Lake in the Puna District of Hawaii obviously does not apply to our plant.

Extra Range:

A famous plant not known elsewhere. It is worthy of cultivation for its beauty. I sent rhizomes in 1930 to the New York Botanical Garden where they grew and flowered successfully under glass.

BEGINNERS: You will find many helpful suggestions each month in the Branch News items and the Round Robin Notes column. Be sure to read them. If you have questions about begonia names, write Research Dept., Box 512 Route 1, Encinitas, Calif.

Window Gardening Is Fun!

By Paula Hoisington, Hays, Kansas

For several years I struggled along trying to keep green things growing during the long, cold winter months. My project seemed hopeless, for, even though I made countless trips to the greenhouse, in a few days the various blooms faded, the leaves dropped off, and too often the plants died completely.

After reading several books about the house plants, I found that they were much like children. I discovered that all plants will not survive under the same care and conditions. Some plants thrive on neglect, others die under the best of care. For all have their own particular needs as to humidity, light, water, and soil.

Until three years ago I tried to have a little of everything. *Coleus*, *cyclamen*, African Violets, pelargoniums, and begonias, to name just a few. Since my space was so limited, I decided to confine my interest to begonias and philodendrons.

There are so many different species and hybrids in the begonia flower family! They are colorful when not in bloom and their requirements are about the same. I had two aluminum trays made to fit across the eight foot picture window in our living room. They are eight feet long, 12 inches wide, and one inch deep. A depth of two inches would be better. The exposure is east. A southern exposure is ideal for window gardening, and be-

gonias and various plants do well in a west window. Some prefer a north exposure. I have found that many of the dark green leaved begonias, *B. Feasti* (beef steak) *B. argentea-guttata* (trout begonia) and *Thurstoni* have a richer color in a north window. *Ulmifolia* (elm leaf) also thrives in a north exposure. A maximum amount of sun is necessary for profuse blooming.

The metal trays are set on pine boards which are supported by bricks. This is really an inexpensive as well as versatile means of support, as the space under the trays can be used for magazines and books.

The question I am asked most often is "when to water?" For some reason people are prone to over water begonias as well as most house plants. My tried and true rule is to water when the top soil is dry. I like to submerge the pot in water up to the rim. (Use tepid, never cold water.) In this way you are more certain to soak the roots well and after all that is where the water is most necessary.

We must not forget humidity. Begonias are especially dependent on moisture in the air. Their natural habitat is in tropical surroundings as in Brazil and Mexico. I have an inexpensive humidguide which registers both the humidity and the temperature. This is centrally located in the trays which are filled with limestone gravel. Sand or sphagnum moss may be used to support the pots above the water level. I have found gravel to be best for this purpose as the pots do not have a tendency to shift around when water is added to the trays. In order to further increase the humidity, I spray the leaves several times a week. I keep the temperature around 65 to 70 degrees and the humidity 40 to 60.

After spraying the leaves keep plants out of strong sunlight until the leaves are dry or brown spots will mar their perfection. Once or twice a month I carry the plants to the bathtub and spray the complete plant well to remove all the dust which collects on the leaves.

Fresh air is another requirement. Never a draft, but for a short period each day open the window from the top, or in another room, and let the fresh air circulate. We must remember that a dry, stuffy atmosphere is not conducive to good health even for human beings. We all know that house plants do add much to the beauty and enjoyment of our homes and they can be grown successfully if we follow the basic requirements.

Turn to next page



Photo courtesy of Paula Hoisington

It has been my experience that begonias like a loose, porous soil. When the top soil packs down tight, loosen it with a fork to a depth of about half an inch. To dig deeper might injure the roots as they grow quite close to the surface.

Yes, begonias are much like children. They have their likes and dislikes. To many, begonias on casual observance look alike and grow alike. This is especially true of the *lucernas*, sometimes called "angel wing." I have three which at first glance are alike, but closer observance shows that they are really different. One has very thick leaves, medium spotted, slightly red beneath. This plant is very tall, sturdy, and quite bushy in growth. No. 2 is also tall and bushy, but the leaves look like moiré ribbon, only slightly spotted, and deep red beneath. The margin of the leaf is also red. No. 3 promises to be a tall plant. The leaves are much thinner in texture, and very heavily spotted. *Lucernas* never seem to know when to stop blooming, once they get started. Two years ago one cluster lasted five months and was so large I could not get both hands around it.

Another one of my favorite begonias is the *B. Sachsen*. This is one of the small leaved group . . . bronze leaves . . . slightly spotted. It blooms profusely and almost continually. It is such a compact, bushy grower, it reminds me of a fat, cuddly child. *Albo-picta rosea* is a beauty. Light green, silver spotted leaves. It grows in every direction and is one of the most graceful in my collection. I am reminded of a ballet dancer when I look at my plant. When it blooms almost from every joint it looks like a fairy tree—all pink and green and silver.

Every winter I have a center of interest around which I arrange my collection. Two years I had *B. Reichenheimi*, one of the star begonias, of the rhizomatous group. This plant, though the leaves were few, was indeed a beauty. One leaf was 43 inches in circumference. Last winter my center of interest was *albo-picta rosea*. This winter the regal *corallina de lucerna* had the center of the stage and was an interesting exhibition.

If one has plenty of space, every collection of begonias should include *B. Feasti* (*B. erythrophylla*, per Krauss). This is a plant we are all familiar with. It has dark green leaves which look as though they were waxed. Please under no circumstances use wax or vegetable oil on the leaves of your house plants. If you are careful to choose the right plant for the right spot, use a good soil mixture, and keep your plants clean and free of dust, you will have glossy, green leaves. If a plant blooms, give it a sunny location. If you want plants for dark corners or tables which get light but not

sunlight, choose *philodendrons* (of which there are more than 200 kinds), *pothos* or *nephtytis*.

The potting mixture I have successfully used is composed of a one-third portion of well rotted cow manure, one-third sand, and one-third loam. This mixture may be varied by using leaf mold. Oak leaf mold is especially good for begonias. I now have 40 species and hybrids of *begonias* and numerous containers of *philodendrons*, *pothos*, and *nephtytis* for the dark corners. "It's fun to window garden!"

ROUND ROBIN, cont. from page 122

of some very special begonia? Write a little story about it and send it in to our Editor. Who knows what interest may create for another begonia grower. If you have a colored slide of your garden or some specimen begonia and would like to share it—our A.B.S. Slide Library is in need of all you might be able to donate.

Directors—Thanks for sending in so much valuable material in the way of R.R. "Notes" for our column—Remember we would like to have the full name and address of the contributor so that each may receive credit due for all information used.

So until July, when I will be back with more news,

Frances Downing,
Round Robin Chairman.

(Editor's Note: Our staff and Robin members wish to extend our sympathy to the "Flower Grower" Robin friends at the passing of their Robin Director, Miss Thomas.)

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TUBEROUS FANS . . . WESTERN CANADA REPORTS:

By E. C. Hambrook, Calgary, Alta., Canada

My method of growing tuberous begonias from the tubers here in Western Canada commences in February or early March. I take my tubers out of winter storage then and place them in boxes or flats on a layer of peatmoss, covering the box with a sheet of paper for darkness, in a temperature of around 70 degrees. When "pinkies" or buds have formed, I place them in moist peat with the bud always showing, the flats still being shaded. They are left here until good leaf growth takes place, when they are potted up in five or six inch pots with first a layer of charcoal and then a half-pot being placed on this and the rest of the pot being filled with a mixture of leafmould and loam in which to plant the tuber, just lightly pressed down. They are kept watered from above, leaves being sprinkled too.

When the weather is warm enough and they are in fair bloom, about May 15th, they are moved to the outside bed and planted right in beds, in the pots, which are buried to about an inch above the rim—which allows for fertilizing them from the top—the water flowing into the pots quickly reaching the roots, which are around the edge of the pots.

As this is a dry belt or district, I created a waterfall at the side of the bed in the garden. This caused a mist to drift across the plants, which they seem to love, as they bloom very well. Blooms of eight inches for camellia-flowered types are common. The bed is situated in nearly full shade on the north side of the house where no other plant could be found to produce such a grand display all season long. The plants are watered from above three times per day in very hot weather. I never use the irrigation method of watering, as I believe it causes bud-drop. For fertilizer they get the fishmeal tea from below, and when they tire of this, I give them a little barnyard champagne for a tonic. They bloom here at top capacity right up to frost—which is about September first.

The pots are lifted then and taken into the basement for a few days until they dry out a bit, when the tops are broken off and burned. Tubers are lifted carefully out of the pots and sundried for a day in the greenhouse. When dry they are stored in a cool place in dry peatmoss, temperature being about fifty degrees, and they are not moved until the following February. I have a very fine collection of about seven or eight hun-

Turn to page 129

Violet Rays

By Carolyn Rector

We have been prowling around flower shows lately, on a hunt for exhibitions of African Violets. We found an especially good one at the Violet Show of the San Gabriel Valley African Violet Society held in Alhambra. You really should have seen this, and to prove it we are going to tell you about some of the things you missed.

Over 500 plants were cleverly arranged on the tables in a manner which brought out the different tints of the flowers. Some were in special arrangements in unusual containers, and others were posed singly to bring out the full beauty of the individual plant.

One young fan, little Miss Banks, was so fascinated by a table of special arrangements that she could hardly be coaxed away for even a minute.

Many new varieties were shown, and tables full of new seedlings in full bloom showed what is being done by our California hybridizers.

The educational exhibit displayed all the steps in growing plants from leaf cuttings, and also a complete series showing how to raise violets from seed. This was quite the most complete exhibit of its kind that has ever been shown in California.

One very interesting feature was a display of plants not in bloom, which were arranged to show the fascinating leaf patterns which are so different in the many varieties of our favorite plant, but which are apt not to be properly noticed when the plant is covered with blooms.

The largest plant in the show, grown by Mrs. Walter Lattin, was without doubt the largest single crown plant we have ever seen, simply enormous in size, with lovely foliage.

In addition to the display of plants, a very interesting program of music and addresses was presented during the evening.

The San Pedro Flower Show was held recently for the first time since the war. There were many and beautiful exhibits of all the flowers which are in bloom at this season, and a great number of lovely and artistic special arrangements. A feature which attracted a great deal of attention was an exhibit which had been sent by air from the Hawaiian Islands.

But of course what we especially went to see was the table of African Violets. Most of the plants were very large, and the greater number were multiple crowns. Some of them were in the lighter shades, but the dark blues and purples predominated. Altogether it was a very fine show, and we hope it will become an annual affair.



Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Question: Which is the correct spelling: "B. *Silvadore*" or "B. *Silverado*"?

Answer: These are two plants instead of one. Mrs. Fewkes introduced B. *Silvadore* and Mr. Robinson listed B. *Silverado* in 1937. The latter plant was a seedling of *Ludwigii*—large maple leaf of grey with ribs and edge irregularly and narrowly outlined in cress green, bloom in upright panicles of small white flowers; heavy stem and deciduous. B. *Silvadore* has a lobed leaf heavily overlaid with silver on the surface, a reddish back, and flowers are large and pink.

Question: A seedling plant of *scandens cordifolia* is different from the older variety that one gets from nurseries. Are there more varieties than those listed?

Answer: Apparently the answer is yes. I haven't had the opportunity of going into detail in this matter but the information I have on this subject is that some plants belonging to the begonia family are not localized but rather may be found in several countries throughout the world. The plants themselves vary from a greater to lesser degree from those which have been introduced many years ago. At the present time research is going on in an endeavor to give these varieties a definite classification, but this takes time.

Question: I have a few very different plants raised from seed that apparently belong to the *heracleifolia* group but do not fit any descriptions I can find.

Answer: I strongly suspect that some of the seeds came originally from either a naturally hybridized plant or from a variety of *heracleifolia* which does not come true from seed. I know there has been a good deal of variation among my own plants but only further research will tell whether or not these particular plants have been given a varietal name. I would advise you just calling them *heracleifolia* varieties for the present time.

Question: What is B. *Ludwigii*?

Answer: This is the correct name for a plant that we have been growing here as B. *rigida*. There are a half dozen or more different plants belonging to this group that vary in slight detail from others in the same group. At the present time I do not know if any have been given varietal names. My plant has green leaves, silver tipped. Mrs. Calloway's plant differs from mine in having a very red sinus. When the plant was first introduced it was known as B. *ecuadorensis*.



Armchair Explorers

June Newsletter

I am taking it easy this month and only watering my plants, feeding the canaries and doing some sewing for a change. It is fun to be lazy once in awhile. Everything is growing fast now and that heavy layer of fertilizer is paying for itself with lots of nice flowers in the garden. My canaries' songs make my back yard so cheerful. Our puppy, Ginger, seldom gets into the flower beds. Found out that Rudy Ziesenhenné's dachshund is an uncle to our dog; so now we don't mind hearing of those champion ancestors of Rudy's dog. Lots of hobbies are necessary for our happiness, it seems. I hear from so many of you who say that you receive great pleasure in growing begonias from seed and that you are happy for the opportunity to secure unusual seed. I shall continue to find the seed for you just as long as I can.

Three batches of seed in the mail this past week—from Mexico more seed of B. *hydrocotylifolia*, also seed of a new begonia considered an excellent hybrid of the rhizomatous type and having large clusters of deep pink flowers on dark red stems, the leaves are described as dark brownish red with light green veins and plum colored underneath with dark green veins, cut leaves, red stems and red speckled. The seeds came from the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and we expect to have this in the Seed Fund in the spring. Also more of the round frond maidenhair fern spores. From India these seeds: *Begonia* from Sureil, possibly a garden escape but different from any we now have from India; more *Aeschynanthus* seeds and a new *Gesneria-Chirita Kurzii*; spores of these ferns—*Onychium*, *Polypodium*, *Davallia*, and *Adiantum* species. Then from the Philippines we have more native begonia seed, fern spores mixed, and seed of interesting shrubs. No word yet from Guatemala.

I am holding back all new *Begonia* seeds for the Seed Fund distribution in early spring, but I will package and send out all other seeds as they come in. Can make up mixed packets of seeds of the new shrubs and various kinds of other plants for 25c; all fern spores are also 25c per packet.

A new house plant I have which I am enjoying is the live Redwood Burl. I have it growing in a dish of water; it is covered with lovely green fronds and is very attractive. I thought some of you might like to have one in your home so I found a source of supply for them, as I want to have some at our booth this year. Would you like a live Redwood Burl and 2 packages of seeds for \$1.00? (Begonias, fern spores, and mixed seed from other countries that will bring surprises?) If so, let me know, and I will send for the burls as soon as I get enough orders together.

September will soon be here, so get busy and groom those plants for our Flower Show and win some prizes. Don't let the same people get them year after year. Give them some competition this year. How about a table of begonias grown from Seed Fund seeds? Cheerio until next month.

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell.

TUBEROUS, cont. from page 127

dred of all the varieties. I cannot say that I favor any variety, particularly, except possibly a slight preference for the camellia-flowered. They are all very beautiful, and I feel they repay me more than any other flower in the garden, as they are in full and lush bloom from June to frost and I'm sure they would continue blooming if our seasons were longer.

A GOOD IDEA

By publishing notices of their meetings in 23 local papers in the area, San Gabriel Valley Branch happily found itself the host to a very large number of highly enthusiastic new faces at its last meetings.

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ORCHIDS IN BRAZIL

Mrs. Helen K. Krauss

Wynnewood, Pa.

May 5, 1950

Dear Editor:

We have just returned from a long journey to South Africa and Western Europe which was packed full of human and botanical interest.

Our most precious observation anywhere was the common courtesy and gracious living both within homes and in public. We were foreigners in strange lands and we couldn't grasp all the outstretched helping hands. We have come to know and deeply feel the meaning of "I was a stranger and they took me in." Restrictions, shortages, and language were no barriers to genuine hospitality.

Enroute to Cape Town we stopped at Rio de Janeiro for a very short visit and had a pleasurable experience. At the flower market I proffered our last eighteen cents worth of Brazilian cruceiros for whatever I could get. Imagine my surprise when, with a grand gesture, I was given a corsage of twelve Laelia-type orchids amply fringed with maidenhair fern.

When I have caught up with my correspondence, I will write you about Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

Adios, till then,

(Signed) Helen K. Krauss

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **A. B. S. ATTENTION !**

The officers of the Inglewood Branch have asked me to write this special invitation as a reminder that we at Inglewood are planning a show which we believe will be very interesting.

When you see it, you will be glad that you brought your plants in to help make it a success. It is to be different and unique. Our hope is that you will bring *your* plants to be shown, for, after all, it is not the planning or design that makes a show but the plants. Everyone is requested to make at least one entry. Don't be the person who looks at the blue ribbon plants and says, "I have one at home much better than that!" Have the pleasure of winning the ribbon and having people admire *your* plants.

For the Branches there is special news: The 'booth' displays are to be of the 'island' type, on the floor, and this change in booth type, we believe, affords many new and better opportunities to build a lovely display.

So again, let's make this show one to be remembered by having every branch that can enter a branch display.—W. E. Walton.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

News of Our Branches

BARTON: Met May 1st for a 1:30 p. m. dessert at the home of Mrs. Walter Malmquist, Flint, Michigan. A large double pink *semperflorens* begonia surrounded by small double white begonias composed the centerpiece.

Using an impressive installation ritual, the new officers listed last month were installed.

Plans were made for the Spring Exhibit being held at the Y. W. C. A. May 25th.

Mrs. Barton gave a paper on nomenclature, botanical terms, and plant structure, followed by an article on *semperflorens* begonias, urging members to raise the different varieties for use in yard plantings, beds, borders, or window boxes. She gave as reference, the bronze-leaved *Mrs. Harm* used in Chicago parks and the Chrysler beds on display at the Detroit Horticultural Show in March where three thousand pink *semperflorens* surrounded by two thousand white *semperflorens* drew great acclaim.—*Dorothy Pierson Barton, Dir.*

EL MONTE: Held a wonderful pot-luck dinner May 20th and Mary Hazel Drummond, A. B. S. past president, gave a fascinating talk on making corsages.

Our June 15th meeting will have for speaker, Mr. Calvin Trowbridge, to tell us about the National Convention and Show. We have voted to enter the show as a group for the first time this year and are anxious to have all our members hear Mr. Trowbridge's helpful suggestions. *All other interested branches:* Please feel free to visit us—June 15th!—*Mary Bradley, C. Sec.*

FOOTHILL: Our last two meetings—April 7th and May 5th—have been closely related, with Dr. Simpson speaking on the worm's eye and the bird's eye view of the soil, and Mr. N. J. DeBoef speaking on soil life and soil health. Both of these men emphasized the importance of light, air, water, organic food nutrients, and soil bacteria for good plant growth.

At the May meeting it was a surprise and a pleasure to have so many of the National Board members present. The president of the Inglewood Branch, Mr. Slater, explained the plans for the National Convention over the Labor Day weekend, September 2nd and 3rd. His invitation to participate in the competitive showing was well received and appreciated. In the fall Foothill Branch hopes to put on a flower show and exhibit.

Due to the resignation of Mr. Rufus Ogilvie as vice-president, Mrs. Crystal Reed of Glendora was appointed to fill that vacancy.

A number of new members have been re-

ceived into the fold as begonia lovers. Welcome to all of you!

At the board meeting it was voted to donate the book "Begonias for the American Home & Gardens" by Krauss, to the annual shade loving show sponsored by the American Fuchsia Society, Pomona Branch, at Padua Hills this June, to be awarded to the grower of the best begonia in the show!

—*Edwin O. Williams, Rep. Dir.*

GLENDAL: Enjoyed immensely their April 25th meeting with Mr. Fred Schultz of Inglewood speaking on Begonias.

—*Natl. Board Meet. excerpt*

GRAY: Election of the following officers was held April 17th: President, Mrs. R. J. Hulsizer; Vice-president, Mrs. C. T. Hogewoning; Recording Secretary, Mrs. W. M. Harris; Corresponding Secretary, Tillie Genter; Treasurer, Mr. R. J. Hulsizer; National Representative, Mrs. Chas. Calloway—all of La Jolla except Mrs. Hogewoning of Miramar.

HUMBOLDT: At our April meeting, Mr. Ray Minnie took the chairmanship of the Begonia Society's shade garden exhibit in the Humboldt County Fair. He is going to ask members not usually taking part in this work to help him—as he says that anyone working on these projects quickly becomes acquainted with the other club members and learns a lot about the plants, how to place them and under what conditions they will grow. One becomes familiar with new plants and new names.

One of the members brought her beautiful *glaucophylla scandens* (*Limminghei*) to the meeting. This begonia is not well known here. It is a hanging fibrous and holds its green leaves all year. The flowers are single, opening a few at a time and are brick red in color. This plant had a length of two feet and was in full bloom.

Our question box brought out several pointers about Gloxinias: Now is the time to start them. Do not overwater or the foliage will wilt. Gloxinias do not care for much fertilizer. They do best in sand and leaf mold. Thrip often prove a pest hard to get rid of. Try soaking bulbs in water with Lysol in it. A solution of one tablespoon of Lysol to a gallon of water is good.—*Violet Wooden, Hist.* MIAMI: Participated in the National Orchid Show, at which we won Third Prize and \$30.00, and the Dade County Fair, at which we won Second Prize, \$120.00 and a Trophy. Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Sackett set up the exhibits. The picture herewith is the exhibit at the Dade County Fair—we only missed First Prize by one or two points and each of the



MIAMI'S TROPHY WINNER

Photo by Jack Levy

judges commended us on the unusual and rare plants in our exhibit. *(Next time we are sure you'll take First Prize!—Editor.)*

Our April meeting was called to order after a fine potluck supper of southern fried chicken—no less. Plants were distributed among members to be grown for the show next year; they had been bought by our branch and were given to encourage members to grow better plants.

Slides from the A. B. S. Slide Library were shown by Mrs. Carrier—being *rexes* they were enjoyed very much.—Mrs. A. E. Sackett.

ORANGE: First may we call your attention to the fact that our April speaker, Mr. Morris Molho was formerly manager of Macres Florist in Santa Ana and now owns "Flowers by Morri" in Balboa. *(Our apologies for not catching the omission of a line of our type-script—Editor.)*

Our May meeting was bountiful in many ways—food, decorations by Mrs. Bernice Moore's committee—program: We were fortunate in having Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, of El Monte, speak to us on ferns and begonias. She brought many begonia leaves and showed us how to make cuttings for the different varieties. She also brought potted plants of some newer ones. Mrs. Leatherman gave us very good advice on pest control, how to ready plants for flower shows and enter them. On ferns she gave the names of those that could stand cold as well as some tender types and showed specimens of some unusual varieties. Soil mixtures were covered too. Many Many notebooks were in evidence.

Visitors: From out of the County we met Mr. J. B. Bailey of Altadena, Mr. R. H. Bennett of Riverside, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Miller of Whittier and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Heffner from Pomona. Mrs. H. Cardoza Sloan of Corona Del Mar, who has long been identified with begonias, was present. Riverside Branch

invited us to meet with them June 14th to hear Mr. Ziesenhenné. Mr. Miller of Whittier invited us to meet with that branch on June 27th to hear Mr. Ziesenhenné if we could not make it to Riverside. We were also invited to El Monte. "Scotty" Hudson of Huntington Beach announced that city's flower show.

Mrs. E. K. Burdick, Librarian, announced the purchase of a good Camellia booklet for loan with other books in our library.

In June we will have a hobby show: Each member is to bring something he has made to be used as part of the plant sale.

Attendance—a record 55, scrambled eagerly for Mr. George Barrows' collection of begonias. **ALTOGETHER, A BOUNTIFUL MEETING!**

—Helen Meyer

RIVERSIDE: April 12th was our 100th meeting and was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Twomley; our host, being an orchid grower, displayed many exquisite blooming plants. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Porter, local members, gave a helpful cultural talk on Azaleas. He particularly stressed "A hillside location is desirable, thus furnishing the needed drainage. Plant the roots in a mound of well soaked peat moss, pushing the mound two inches above the soil surface so as to keep the soil from washing over the roots of the plant. Place pea gravel under the bottom of the plant for drainage. Spread the roots out close to the surface of the ground or pot. If you have a plant in the pot that is uncovered showing roots, **DO NOT COVER THE ROOT AND SMOTHER IT WITH MORE SOIL.**"

Mrs. Porter stated that "the inside of your house is not a suitable place for Azaleas; they are happiest in a humid, airy, shady location. The blooms lend much to suitable flower arrangement material."

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Trowbridge were present. Mr. Trowbridge, our National Flower Show Chairman, gave a begonia grooming demonstration in preparation for the September show.

At our May meeting held at the Wm. S. Allen home our guest speakers were Mrs. H. Cardoza Sloan and Mr. Jack Lighthart of Cardoza Gardens in Corona del Mar.

On June 14th our branch **EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO OTHER MEMBERS** to join us at the T. E. Topham Shade Garden, 2980 Locust St., to hear Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenné as our guest speaker. We are having an old fashioned box social. We ask the ladies to bring a well-filled dinner basket to be auctioned off to the men. The money will go towards the National Convention Fund.

Turn to next page

COME, LADIES, LET'S GET THE BIDDING HIGH.—*Ruth L. Gall, Publ.*

SACRAMENTO: A WONDERFUL MEETING! April found us listening to Mr. Pat Antonelli talking about the culture of tuberous begonias and with 115 members and guests firing questions after listening and watching his pictures showing the tuberous begonias from the time of planting through the blooming period—well, we learned a lot. So after sifting through our notes we would like to pass on to the membership at large some of these things:

He does not advise the use of peat in any form *except* as a rooting medium. He recommends Fish Meal when planting and Fish Emulsion once a week when plants have reached the bud stage and all through the flowering period; the use of Isotox as a spray to avoid many ills; that we irrigate less and spray the foliage more with fogger sprays during the warm part of the day. He says that more trouble comes from too much water than too little!

We are looking forward with anticipation to having Mr. Harry Swager of Oakland as our speaker for our May 16th meeting. His subject will be "Rex and Fibrous Begonias."

The begonias we are receiving from Louise Schwerdtfeger for our plant sales are tops. Hope you all try them too.

—*Mrs. John R. Williams, Publ.*

SAN FRANCISCO: We feel we have ventured on a very interesting and helpful adventure in our branch. We have a specimen table on display at every meeting under the guidance of our very capable chairman, Mrs. Hyacinth Smith. Our very appropriate name given to this display is "NOMENCLATURE TABLE FOR SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH." The urge for correctly named plants, a better knowledge of just how to grow them, their likes and dislikes, was the force behind the creation of this project—not only for begonias but for all plants. Members at each meeting are asked if they have anything special they would like to show the group the following month and, if so, they are asked to write the name and history, etc., on a card to place before the plant when they bring it in. In this way we hope to acquire names and habits of many plants which otherwise would take a back seat.

We are very fortunate to have some professional flower arrangers in our group and were delighted at our last meeting with some of the beautiful arrangements made by Mrs. Theresa Ferrero.

Next we will have the pleasure of a lecture on Azaleas by Mr. Kelley of Martin, Overlach and Kelley Nursery.—*Paulyne A. Meyer.*

SAN GABRIEL: Has been favored with a very interesting season so far which promises to continue throughout the year:

At our April meeting Dr. C. H. Lauder and Mr. Caro Krebs presented the Branch with a beautiful American flag. We are very happy with such an inspiring gift from these donors. Our lectures have been outstanding. The talk on roses by Mr. John Van Barneveld was exceptionally fine. Although roses are not shade-loving plants, we all want to know more about them.

We are looking forward to our May meeting with much enthusiasm. Our speaker will be Past National President Ferd Neels; his subject, "Cymbidiums and Begonias." May is our "Dr. Lauder Month" honoring our past president Dr. C. H. Lauder, and we are presenting him with a plaque making him a life-member of our branch. A steak dinner will precede the meeting.

Dr. Samuel Ayres will speak to us at our June meeting on "Flowering Trees" and show his magnificent pictures of his recent trip to Australia. Remember visitors are always welcome!

Save August 12th and 13th to visit our Third Annual Flower Show to be held in the Barbour Building, 27 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia.—*Verna R. Johnson, Publ.*

SANTA BARBARA: Our April speaker was Mr. W. J. Knecht of Ventura, whose talk on flower shows is reported at length on another page, but these points bear special emphasis: Work to a plan, whether formal or informal; have plenty of material on hand; make the exhibit both pleasing and educational. Individual exhibitors: Study schedules and adhere to them; enter every class you can; grow plants weeks ahead of time under proper light and moisture conditions; have them well groomed and true to type.

Plans are being made for a large begonia exhibit at the Horticultural and Home Show on July 11th and for a small exhibit at the Annual meeting here of the California Garden Clubs, May 31-June 2, at Cabrillo Pavilion. We hope you will visit us then. —*Roy G. Pierce, Sec.*
SEATTLE: Our new 1950 officers are: Mrs. Eloise Chestnut, President; Mrs. Thomas Myers, Secretary. Greetings to all for the coming season. —*Clara Myers, Sec.*

WHITTIER: Invites all who can attend our June 27 meeting at the Miller home, 422 So. Newlin Ave., Whittier, to hear Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenné speak about his new begonias. —*Dorothy Hovanec, Sec.*

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HAVE YOU SENT FOR YOUR ABS PIN?

Your Editor Received

—A copy of our New England Branch's 1950 Year Book. A beautiful little booklet, besides containing the members' names and addresses, it has a page for suggestions to members to help them get the most from the meetings and a program schedule for each meeting including the October 13th Show and Annual meeting in Horticultural Hall, Boston. Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton, author of "Begonias and How to Grow Them," as Secretary of the New England Branch, 114 Central Street, Peabody, Mass., would like each A.B.S. member in the New England States who has not received a copy to write her so she can mail them to everyone.

—A letter from Mrs. Ella Loosli, Detroit, Michigan, congratulating Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, our former editor, for the reprinting of "Heat for a Small Greenhouse" in the November, 1949, issue of *The Begonian*, and telling us:

"Living in Michigan presents even a greater heating problem than it does in Southern California. Last summer I bought an 8 by 10 hobby greenhouse and at the time I figured I would worry about the heating problem when the time came. Worry I did, because it seemed no one in Detroit could devise a means that would cost less than \$750.00 for installation alone. I tried an electric heater, but it was very costly to operate and not nearly warm enough.

"As the article was printed in November—I had barely enough time to get it set up and operating. My husband did all the work and, except for a couple of minor changes, it worked like a charm. 54° at night is the lowest it ever got despite the zero weather outside.

"The only change that was made was to use a 10 gallon instead of a 5 gallon expansion tank with a cover on it and a valve to allow steam to escape without letting the tank boil over.

"I am sure that a lot of people in this territory would like to know about this type of heater, as it is economical to install as well as to operate."

Thank you, Mrs. Loosli, for letting us know of your experience. We welcome all the detailed information we can get on proper small greenhouse construction and heating for the colder climates, as they are necessarily somewhat different from the light protection needed here in the southwest. If any of our cold climate readers would care to write us about their solutions to the home greenhouse problems we would be very interested indeed.

—A veritable shower of fine pictures of begonia shows which you will see in this issue.

Notice that in the May issue the fine pictures furnished by the Eastside Begonia Club illustrate what can be done with "island" exhibits and the Santa Barbara picture on another page herein shows an "island" type exhibit in process of building.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in room 1305 City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., Apr. 24, 1950.

Meeting called to order at 7:55, President Walton presiding.

Salute to the Flag led by Col. Gale; statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society by the President.

Due to an accident—not serious but quite painful—the Secretary was unable to be present.

Reports of Business Manager, Treasurer, Editor, and Membership Secretary read and, on motion by Gladys Nolan, seconded by Edna Korts, reports accepted as read.

Librarian Nolan read report of her department listing some very important additions to the files—Bulletin of the Missouri Botanical Garden; Fun with Flowers, by Julia Clements; Greenhouse Gardening, by Ernest Chabot, etc.

Mr. Trowbridge, as Flower Show Chairman, reported Committee had completed the master show schedule and it was being mailed to Mr. Butterfield for approval. He stated he would soon have it ready for publication thus making it available to all branches.

Secretary instructed to prepare Life Membership card for Mrs. Christie Geer in accordance with request from the San Francisco Branch. Mrs. Geer has been a valued member of the S. F. Branch for many years. A lovely gesture to an honored member.

University of California, Berkeley, Bulletin No. 162 on Begonias, was discussed and California branches advised to obtain this for their members.

Mrs. Korts reported she had received a new order of the Begonia Pins and anyone desiring them should contact her.

President read letter from Mr. Butterfield regarding Nomenclature files and how best to gather records for definite information on Begonia names and methods for recording new hybrids.

Branches present all reported fine meetings and increased attendance and extend invitations to all to visit. See detailed reports under Branch News.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Edna Korts, Sec. Pro Tem.

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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, June 5, July 3, 7:30 p.m. I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts. Mrs. Mildred Marshall, Secretary 8733 East Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 8, 7:45 p.m. Willard School, Ward Street C. F. Jensen, Sec. 3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, June 15, 8:00 p.m. Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 60 Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec. 701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, June 2, 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, June 27, 8:00 p.m. 206 West Cypress Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary 1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. Community House, La Jolla Tillie Genter, Corres. Secy. 7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 27, 10:30 a.m. Home of Members Box Lunch 12:30, Program following Mrs. Ernest Jones, Sec. R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 8, 7:00 p.m. Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Walter J. Butt, Cor. Secy. 861 So. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. 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, June 12, 8:00 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. Miss Margaret Smith P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 8, 8:00 p.m. 325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Minna Slatter, Secy. 4600 6th Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 12, 8:00 p.m. La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif. Mrs. Jane Cook, Secy. 439 Carlos, San Diego 2, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, June 20, 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, June 27, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec. 2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 27, 8:00 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Ruth Edwards, Sec. 2539 Holmes, 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, June 12, 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, June 1, 7:30 p.m. Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange Sec.-Treas., Mrs. W. L. Everett, R. 2, Box 146 Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. 208 Social Hall, Pasadena City College, Colorado Blvd. J. F. Thompson, Sec.-Treas. 739 No. Wilson, Pasadena 6, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. McKinley Rec. Center, Washington & Vallejo Sts. J. Earl Wilson, Secretary 111 Hill Blvd., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

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

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, June 23, 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, June 14, 8:00 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Zena L. Twonley, Sec. 7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 27, 8:00 p.m. 3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif. Mrs. Edyth Sherwood, c/o Mrs. Leta Wescott 1767 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego 7, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, June 20, 8:00 p.m. Garden Center, McKinley Park Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary 293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m. Salem Y.M.C.A. Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secretary 2750 Lancaster Dr., Salem, Oregon

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 27, Lions' Club, 3927 Utah St. Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec. 1059 Meade Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m. Garden Center, 11134 Weddington, No. Hillywd. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary 20047 Arminia, Canoga Park, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, June 7, July 5, 7:30 p.m. American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St. Sec., Mrs. Wm. Meyer 1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, June 28, 8:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave. Mrs. Dorothy deHart, Sec. 509 So. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 8, 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 MONICA BAY BRANCH

1st Wednesday, June 7, July 5, 7:30 p.m. 225 - 26th St. (upstairs), Santa Monica, Calif. Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary 933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. Steckel Park Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, 621 Santa Paula St. Santa Paula, California

See next page

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, June 20,
Member's House
Mrs. Thomas Myers, Secy.
6057-31, N. E., Seattle 5, Washington

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mr. Robert Rendshaw, Secy.
560 So. Coronado, Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, June 15, 8:00 p.m.
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Harvey Manning, Cor. Secy.
21455 E. 14th St., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 27, 8:00 p.m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park
Mr. Ray Venable, Secy.
8624 Garden View Ave., Southgate, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Friday, June 23,
Mr. E. Weaver, Pres.
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, June 13, 11:00 a.m.
Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park,
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mrs. John C. Schmucker, Sec.-Treas.
Box 233, Brownsville, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.

4th Wednesday, July 26, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Sec.
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 27, 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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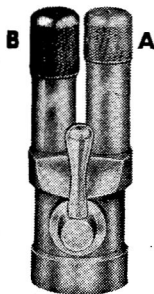
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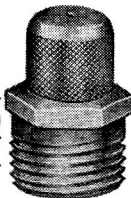
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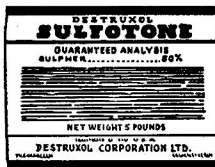
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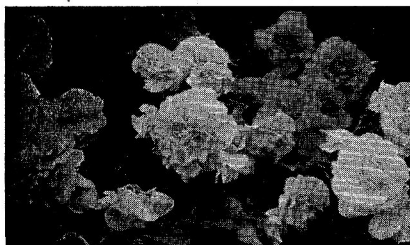
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