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950 A.B.S. Show



Photo by
Ken Garrison Clarke



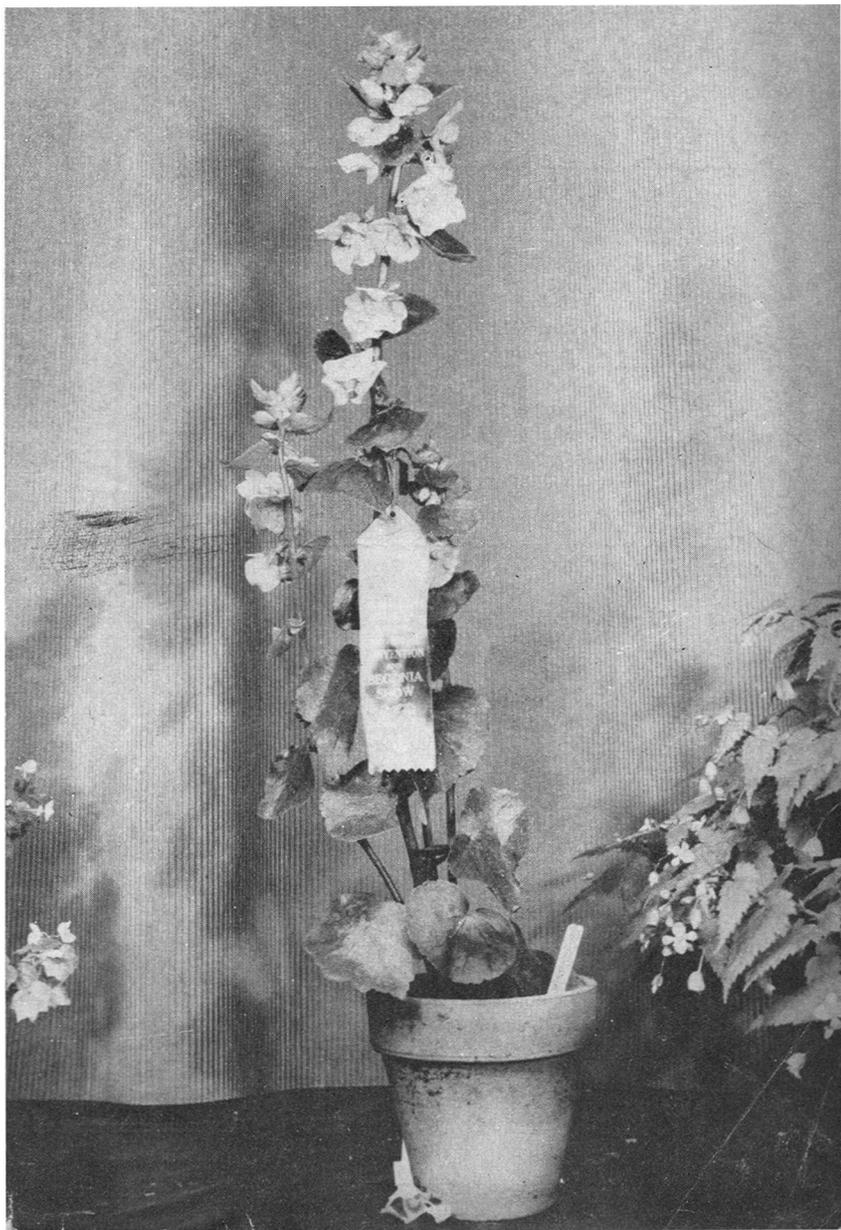
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VOL. XVII
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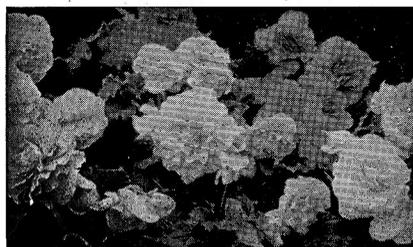
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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1305, 7:30 p. m., November 27, 1950. Use Main St. elevator. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

- ★ Annual Subscription - One Dollar Fifty Cents.
January 1, 1951 - Two Dollars 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.

CONTENTS

Feature Articles—

FOR YOUR "HALL OF IVY", - BY JESSIE THOMAS	235
GOOD NEWS FOR AFRICAN VIOLET FANCIERS - BY EVAN ROBERTS	233
REXES THRIVE IN NEBRASKA - BY MRS. DORTHEA HANSEN	237
TWENTY YEARS OF BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS - BY FRANK REINELT	240
WHITE MENACE - BY DOROTHY JONSON	234

Departments—

A.B.S. BULLETIN	243	COVER PICTURE - B. MARTIANA	239
ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS	244	GLANCING BACK - SEED FUND	239
BEGINNERS' CORNER	238	LIBRARY NOTES	234
BRANCH MEETING DATES, PLACES	246	QUESTION-ANSWER COLUMN	244
BRANCH NEWS	232	ROUND ROBIN NOTES & NEWS	236
CONDENSED MINUTES	247	YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED—	237

BRANCH NEWS

FOOTHILL—was entertained by J. J. Littlefield, representative of the Downey Fertilizer Company, processors of Red Star products, in a talk spiced with wit and humor. He displayed actual plants fed by following a definite fertilizing program, and suggested many plants for shade and partial shade, giving their requirements. It was the highlight of a sparkling meeting.—*Edwin O. Williams.*

GRAY, EVA K.—Rudolf Zieshenne was guest speaker at the September meeting, being introduced by Alfred Hottes. Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray, our Grand Lady of Begonias, and mother of Mrs. Charles Calloway of this branch, was presented with an orchid corsage by Robert O'Hara; he had grown the orchid and he made the corsage during the meeting. Mr. Zieshenne introduced the *B. Kenworthyi*, named for Mrs. Gray. Notables present included Mrs. Alice M. Clark, author and artist; Mrs. E. M. Fewkes, begonia introducer; Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hoyt, landscape architect; Mrs. Marie Minter, of our Research Department; Mrs. Catheryn Hunter and Jerome Hunter, of Rosecroft Gardens; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lowry and M. D. Gresham; as well as Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, former editor of *The Begonian*, and Mulford B. Foster, who paid their respects to Mrs. Gray at the Calloway home following the meeting.

The La Jolla Flower Show sponsored by this branch and the La Jolla Social Service League was highly successful. Proceeds are to be used for the League project, a home for senior citizens, and the branch's Christmas gift fund—gifts for shut-ins and county welfare organizational homes. A show highlight was the art gallery where Mrs. Alice M. Clark and Alfred Hottes displayed their work.

—*Mrs. Harriet G. Stanford*

GRUENBAUM: Our meetings are devoted entirely to the study of Begonias and have been very well attended. Although we have but thirteen members, we have entertained many interested guests. Our programs are always pertaining to Begonias—plants, leaves, flowers, and propagation methods. We have held many plant and cutting sales and all our members now have a gratifying display of begonias, showing they have benefited by our instructive program.

Several members have made colored slides of their plants and the showing of these will be the main feature of our Christmas meeting.

We have tried to spread an interest in begonias by donating a choice begonia plant to be used as a prize at our local flower shows, as well as exhibiting as often as possible.

This year we subscribed to the Seed Fund, and the seedlings are now about ready for dis-

tribution and will add materially to our collection.

We have also purchased the various plant mediums and fertilizers advertised in *The Begonian* and are keeping careful records of results.

We are also following the advice given in the Convention Number and are purchasing a number of entirely "new blood" plants.

—*Katharine Kilderry*

MIAMI—We have been busy planning an exhibit of Begonias to be held on the day and evening of our regular meeting date. All Garden Clubs have always had exhibits each year and this is our first try, so we are planning to have a very good one. Visit if you can—

Nov. 24th—Simpson Garden Center, Miami, Fla.

—*Mrs. A. E. Sackett*

MISSOURI: A record crowd attended the August meeting in Mrs. Calmese's yard. Two members came over 100 miles! Lucille Taylor, 2nd vice-president, conducted it, as president Polly Cooper was visiting in Texas.

We were proud to have *ricinifolia* (leaves 18 inches) and her sisters, *immense*, *Fisher's ricinifolia*, *Marion* and *Fisher's dwarf*, on display—the first three being particularly magnificent specimens. Marie Minter wrote about these in the August *Begonian*. The propagation and care of other rhizomatous plants was discussed and they were displayed.

Mary Wood gave a very good talk on preparation for winter. Prizes and a fine plant sale stimulated interest. Small plants of *Schmidtiana* x *Manda's woolly bear* were given to all visitors and new members. The 9 x 18 lath house was beautiful, with the begonias at their best.

In memory of our beloved first president, Matilda Kovochoff, who left us three years ago—if she could have been present, I think she would have said our work was good.

In October at the Armour Home we were guests of the Window Box Club which has 16 members all over 80 years of age. Mrs. Breshears made and presented to the oldest member a lovely tuberous begonia corsage. A blooming violet was given to the second eldest. Mrs. Hester gave the club a year's subscription to *The Begonian* and a display card.

Returned from an extensive trip, Mrs. Randall reported seeing a *Calla Begonia* that filled a gallon milk crock. Several members brought fine specimen plants for discussion. Three members came from over 125 miles away and we had nearly 100 present including the Armour Home guests.—*Leora Calmese.*

Turn to page 243

GOOD NEWS FOR AFRICAN VIOLET FANCIERS

By *Evan Roberts, Research Editor,*
The African Violet Magazine

An African Violet that creeps, hangs or climbs has recently been introduced to the United States from Africa. Most people who are continually looking for new varieties object to the similarity among them. Here is a new distinctive kind of an African Violet which has a stem. It is so different from the ordinary African Violets that a novice can see the difference at a glance.

What are the characteristics of this plant that draw attention to it? Certainly the brown creeping stem is one. Another is its long leaf stems with their beautiful medium-green pocketed-blades. Its blue-violet flowers form a lovely contrast with the green of the round dentate leaves. This is distinct from other forms and is readily noted in the accompanying photograph.

It is a vigorous growing plant which can be used as a climbing plant on the same order as a philodendron or ivy vine. A great deal of interest is being shown in climbing African Violets because these plants are rated as the most satisfactory indoor blooming house plants. To get an ideal popular house plant that will climb, and especially flower, is really something to be excited about.

One of the best ways to train this climbing or creeping African Violet is to let it grow upward on a wire type pole frame such as those used for growing philodendron. The wire pole assists the plant to grow upright while at the same time the side branches grow out between the cross wires and will hang down slightly. The *Grotei* African Violet may

Turn to next page



Photograph Courtesy of Mr. Harvey Cox

Saintpaulia Grotei

be grown as a hanging basket type of plant just as a cascade type of chrysanthemum or fuchsia may be grown.

Saintpaulia Grotei, Eng., the creeping African Violet was first described by Professor A. Engler of Berlin in 1921, 28 years after the first African Violet plants were imported from Africa. The description of this species of *Saintpaulia* was taken from plants found in the vicinity of Amani, Tanganyika Territory, East Africa. There they may be found today growing at an altitude of 3000 feet in dense shade.

(Saintpaulia Grotei was imported from East Africa by Mr. Roberts, of East Lansing, Mich. The plant pictured was grown by Mr. Harvey Cox, of Long Beach, California, and has stems as long as two feet which are tied around the edge of the basket-type container.—Editor.)

Library Notes--

Two new acquisitions to your library this month may be added to your library list for good winter reading, i. e.—PLANT LIFE, Vol. VI, 1950, containing *Herbertia*; Hybrid *Amaryllis* edition and the *Caladium* edition; and 10,000 GARDEN QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY 15 EXPERTS, published by the American Garden Guild.

The following books may be purchased thru your library for holiday gifts and it is not too soon to order if you desire these mailed in time to reach their destination before the rush:

BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES & GARDENS, Krauss—\$4.00; BEGONIAS & HOW TO GROW THEM, Buxton—\$2.75; THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA, Langdon—\$2.00; TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIAS, Otten—\$2.00; HOW TO INCREASE PLANTS, A. C. Hottes—\$3.00; THE CAMELLIA, So. Calif. Camellia Society—\$1.25; CAMELLIAS AS A HOBBY, Oregon Camellia Society—.60; WEST AUSTRALIAN WILD FLOWERS (only a few copies—completely illustrated in color with botanical descriptions by C. A. Gardner, Govt. botanist)—\$3.75. This last is a collector's item.

California members will kindly include the 3% sales tax.—*Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.*

Send for your complete Library List of publications you may borrow.

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JOE SMITH

3241 28th Ave. West Seattle 99, Washington

THE WHITE MENACE

By Dorothy Jonson, Pasadena, California

(Dorothy Jonson is Secretary of Destruxol Corporation, Ltd., which many of our readers know by their fine pest control materials designed to meet our special garden problems.)

Begonias seem to belong in California. I often wonder if the old Missions, with their colorful history, didn't have a few Begonias nestling in the shady corners of the high walls. I love Begonias and I'm always conscious of the fact that they have a vicious enemy and that they're tender and need help in conquering this unsightly foe. I refer to MEALY BUG. You've seen the white, cottony formations that form in the delicate crevices of Begonias. Maybe you know that those cottony formations represent scores of eggs protected by their thick fibrous covering.

Begonias aren't the only plants susceptible to this infestation. It's merely because they're so frail that we feel an especial yearning to help them against such a repulsive enemy. But Mealy Bug actually attacks almost anything and is especially vicious on *Pyracantha* all through the fall. To eliminate it you must spray with pressure, hard enough to break that fibrous protective covering so that your spray material seeps inside and breaks down the fertility of the egg masses. For Begonias I recommend ORCHID SPRAY since Begonias are tender and ORCHID SPRAY is mild. Another way of saying it is that Begonias cannot stand an oil spray and ORCHID SPRAY contains no oils. It is just a beautiful nicotine emulsion, kind to the tenderest plants. On *Pyracantha* you can of course use something a little stronger—in fact, on most of your plants and shrubs, you can use SUPER DESTRUXOL for Mealy Bug with excellent results. But always remember to spray with pressure. And it's a very good idea to add a couple of teaspoonfuls of Destruxol PYRENONE to each gallon of diluted spray. This kills the chewers that are so rampant.

GROUND MEALY is the name we give the Mealy Bug in the soil. And to get rid of it: Water well so that the soil is evenly moist and the plants growing in the area are well satisfied with water; then mix LAWN-AGEN in the proportions of 1 tablespoonful to a gallon of water; put it in your sprinkling can or sprayer or in just a pitcher; and pour it over the soil all around the plants. Thus you really accomplish a victory in your fight against Mealy Bug.

I told you there's always a soft spot in my heart for Begonias and I give them a little special petting. If they're watered well when

Turn to page 236

For Your "Hall of Ivy"

By Jessie Thomas, Eureka, California

(Your Editor takes the liberty of dedicating this article to his favorite actor and actress, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Colman (Dr. & Mrs. Todhunter Hall), and their "Halls of Ivy" radio program which is broadcast Wednesday evenings over Station KFI at 6:30 p. m. P. S. T.—in the Los Angeles area. "Consult your local paper for your local broadcast time and station" as they say on the radio.

This dedication is made because the eminent "Dr Hall" several weeks ago made mention in his scrib of a Begonia Society, in a discussion of the worth of such world-shaping organizations as the United Nations.

We in turn wish to call attention to the strong bond of world-fellowship in such groups of people as our Society—people bound not by blood, race, creed, or artificial boundaries but by common interest in the fascinating nature of the world in which we all reside. From India to Australia to Hawaii to North and South America; thence to England, Europe, Africa, and behind the Iron Curtain in China—all over the globe—the pursuit of, and pleasure in, the Begonia Family have given our members contacts of mutual good-will which wars will never extinguish. Their glow will smoulder and break into the light of day in every period of peace. And we are only one of such plant societies! Separately we may be small but counted all together we are a mighty group! Thus, though our meetings may often be concerned with comparatively trivial matters, please, radio friends, do not dismiss us too lightly, in view of the priceless gem of international fellowship of which we are one facet, and also let us bear in mind that our very trivialities are one of the first fruits of peace, security and freedom from fear—one of the things that make life worth living.

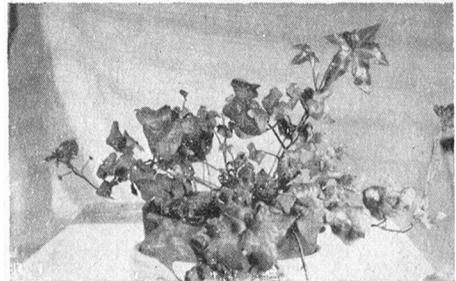
Noting also that our friends are concerned with the redecoration of the venerable "Halls of Ivy College," perhaps they will be interested in the fascinating ivy facts related by Mrs. Thomas, who answered our request for information on companion plants to our Begonias with the following observations from her personal experience with the Ivy family.—Stanley Spaulding, Editor.)

Collecting ivies is an excellent hobby for the gardener whose time is limited or uncertain. They will withstand a great deal of neglect, heat and cold, drought and dampness, and will respond gratefully when their caretaker returns to the job. I do not say "miniature ivies," because, once your interest is aroused, the variety in shape and coloring of

the larger types make them irresistible. Because of this variety an ivy collection need not be monotonous, for coloring ranges from dark green to nearly white and those with cream and yellow markings can be made spots of brilliance.

Nomenclature is poorly defined, due to the fact that the new varieties are developed from sports of existing clons, rather than by hybridization. In fact it is not uncommon to find one variety under several different names. The real ivies are the *Hedera*s, and these do not include Kennilworth, Cod, Grape or Boston ivy. There are five species, coming from five distinct geographical locations: *Hedera rhombica* from Japan; *H. nepalensis* (arrowleaf ivy) from India; *H. colchica* from the Black Sea region; *H. canariensis* (the landscaping ivy—including its variegated form) from the Canary Islands and northern Africa; and *H. helix*, the English ivy, from which most of our miniatures have been developed.

In form the ivies are climbing, scandent and bush-type, although the scandens may be trained into almost any shape. Two of the more unusual forms are *H. helix erecta* and *H. b. conglomerata*. The former, having tiny sharp-pointed leaves on stiff stems, grows erect about 18 inches and may be used for a minia-



Photos by Mrs. Jessie Thomas

Above—Needlepoint Ivy
Below—Covina Ruffled Ivy

Turn to next page

ture hedge. *Conglomerata* has thick round leaves, heavily undulated, and after growing erect for 10 or 12 inches, droops into a mound. Ruffled forms are being rapidly developed, one of the newest being Ripples, which has a nearly round leaf. Covina Ruffled is a freer growing type and California ivy, fast growing, is one of the loveliest.

In variegated forms the most common miniature is Iceberg or Glacier. An improved, more bushy form is Jubilee, and a similar appearing one, Tricolor, turns a bright red margin in cold weather. Elephant Ears, larger, turns entirely red in winter. *Cavendishii* is one of the more spectacular variegated scandens, medium sized, and Russell's Improved has a larger leaf showing a great deal of white. A beginning collection should always include Merion Beauty, a graceful branching miniature; Bird's Foot, or *pedata*, with slim deep-cut leaves; and Golddust, which is spattered with yellow.

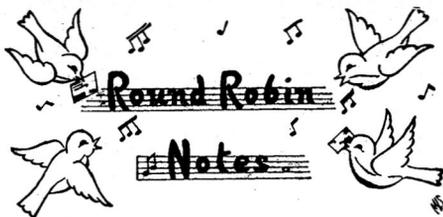
Ivy culture is simple. Shade and moisture they love, but those with the yellow markings seem to need sun to bring out their coloring. Sandy loam with good drainage is satisfactory and fertilizer, if any, should be used sparingly. A "shot" of fertilizer on a miniature ivy will cause it to throw a bunch of larger leaves and spoil the appearance of the plant. Miniatures should be kept root-bound to keep them small—if planted in the ground they will develop much larger foliage. Incidentally, the fruit-bearing branches are not "female" as is commonly supposed, but "male" as distinguished from the rest of the plant, which is called "juvenile." All ivies develop smooth-edged leaves at this stage.

Cuttings start easily in either sand or water and, when set into thumb pots, should be set on a bed of sand or peatmoss to keep the roots damp and cool.

WHITE MENACE, cont. from page 234

you use LAWN-A-GEN I don't believe the LAWN-A-GEN at full strength would do them the slightest injury but I always go to just a little extra trouble, where they are concerned, and use LAWN-A-GEN at half strength—and then in a couple of weeks I do the same thing all over again. Thus they get a full treatment with LAWN-A-GEN but they get it in two treatments instead of one.

By the way, when you're potting your Begonias, try using a little SULFOTONE in your potting soil. Not very much—say a five or six-inch flower pot filled with SULFOTONE to mix with a good sized wheelbarrow of potting soil. This will do wonders in checking some of the fungus diseases that attack Begonias and also will offset the effects of our highly chlorinated water which we have to use for watering our plants.



MRS. CLYDE FALCONER, Canyonville, Oregon—Finds "A safe way to prepare African Violet or choice begonia leaves for mailing is to take two pieces of cellophane larger than the leaf to be sent—cut a fresh leaf from your plant and place between the cellophane and iron around the edges, being careful that the heat does not touch the leaf. This will completely seal the leaf and it will stay fresh almost indefinitely."

MRS. CHRISTINE ROBERTS, Zolfo Springs, Florida—Roots her leaves—"Put one teaspoon of water and one leaf into a pint mayonnaise jar, screw on the lid and place in a window where the direct sun will not strike. This method works nicely especially in March and April."

MRS. LEORA CALMESE, Kansas City, Missouri—Finds "The hairy type begonias do not need as large a pot as the cane types and can get along in more shade, use less water and stand more cold and are freer from pests." — "In wet weather I believe that slips will start better in water, but be sure and pot the cuttings when the roots are small." — "If possible, persuade your florist to let you have a Christmas Begonia now, before he turns on the greenhouse heat. The plant will do much better in the home, but remember—plenty of humidity."

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Hello Robin Members:

Have you found room in your window gardens for all those "small cuttings that grew big" during the summer? It takes some maneuvering to fit them all in—but how bare our windows are without them.

New A. B. S. members joining our Robin Clubs are finding them friendly and helpful. One delighted member writes, "Who started Robin Clubs anyway? They are new to me, but the nicest things to come my way in a long, long time."

The present A. B. S. Clubs were formed about six years ago but Begoniates were corresponding Round Robin style as early as 1930.

Our Pelargonium Robin for the West Coast members has completed its first flight. The Director writes "Azaleas are not lovelier than

Turn to page 245

REXES THRIVE IN NEBRASKA

By Mrs. Dortha Hansen, Chambers, Nebraska

Growing unusual seeds has long been a hobby of mine. So last year I decided to try my luck with *rex* begonias. But when the packet of seed arrived from Louise Schwerdtfeger, I was not so confident of the outcome. They were so very tiny! However without delay I prepared a flat and sowed them carefully on top of the soil—covering with glass. Later I was to realize our early spring was still too cool, for it took three long weeks to germinate in my enclosed porch. But from then on their growth was rapid and I've never grown any flowers whose development was more interesting than these begonias. I transplanted them into a fernery where I wintered them, then into 4 inch pots, which they now have outgrown. I have some really beautiful specimens and I daresay there is not a collection like them in this part of the ranch country.



The Proof
Courtesy of Mrs. Hansen

Although I am accused of having a "green thumb," I don't take all the credit, for I do have perfect soil for acid-loving plants. It is rich and porous, taken from under an old pine grove where cattle have wintered for many, many years. This soil is like old mellowed peat litter blended with our sandy soil.

I have been amazed at the growth of these *rex* begonias. The rich colors of the foliage and now the surprising blooms—have been a source of real satisfaction to me. No two alike! How can one describe the beautiful color combinations?

This spring I received another package of seed from Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, of other species and varieties excepting the *rexes*. This time I managed to wait until middle June before I sowed them and I was amply rewarded. In seven days, the first tiny leaves appeared and I have literally hundreds which I have been transplanting into ferneries. I use tiny tweezers to lift them and set them on the soil in the fernery. For several days I water very carefully, letting the water drip gently from my finger tips. Every plant is growing! They will be an absorbing interest through the long winter months when the snow lies deep on

our prairies.

Hybrid gloxinias, cyclamen and calceolaria, all of which I've grown from seed, make a veritable green house of the large enclosed porch that surrounds two sides of the ranch-house.

Gloxinias and ferns grow to an enormous size in this same rich soil with no other plant food other than plenty of water when needed. I never water them until the top soil feels dry to the touch. Before blooming time I wash all plants thoroughly and regularly with a fine spray on the hose, always doing it toward evening, so they have the night to dry off in. The begonias are arranged on shelves at the back of the porch and the gloxinia shelves are fifteen inches below the window sills. Sunlight is filtered by vines and shrubbery.

And so I have had the satisfaction of knowing that lovely BEGONIAS can grow in the Sand Hills of Nebraska—given a chance!

YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED—

A note written by Mrs. A. B. Harrison of Jacksonville, Fla., to Mr. Elmer Lorenz, membership secretary, from which we quote, "I go to the Woolworth 5 & 10c store each year and get a 3-ring notebook cover that bears this printing on the inside — UNIVERSITY F. W. Woolworth Co., No. F-2569, Size 9½ x 6. This cover holds 12 issues of *The Begonian*, and I have found it so exactly suited to this purpose I thought others would like to know of it."—Thanks very much, Mrs. Harrison.

CORRECTION

Mr. Wm. Kirkwood of Land's End, Mass., writes emphatically that he did plant tuberosus this year. We are glad to hear he has carried on with this class of plants in which he has had much signal success. Mrs. Buxton was unable to locate his planting on her visit and we erroneously deduced he had changed his type of plantings this year.

Note from Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger that she still has Round Robin letterheads for sale. 100 sheets for \$1.00—50 letterheads and 50 blank sheets—or 25 of each for 50c. Write Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, Cantera Ave., Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara, Calif., enclosing your money. Don't you think some of your Robin friends would enjoy some for Christmas?

The Bromeliad Society's invitation to all enthusiasts in the pineapple family to become members in a new organization. Dues are \$3.50 per year. Privileges include a bi-monthly bulletin. Contact Miss Victoria Padilla, 647 S. Saltair Ave., L. A. 49, Calif.

What can you buy for \$2.50 that will give a gardening friend more pleasure than a year in the Begonia Society? Christmas is coming.

Beginner's Corner



Photo by Karl Obert, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dress Parade — *Begonia ricinifolia* in Santa Barbara Garden of Mrs. Arthur E. Hutchinson

RHIZOMATOUS—

By Stanley Spaulding

B. ricinifolia, sturdy and rugged as the Castorbean plant for which it is named, yet blooming with a soul-satisfying grace lacking in so many exotic foliage plants, is a true B. B. (Beginner's Begonia).

Above you see the striking effect obtained by mass planting of large foliages to unify a series of windows. Mrs. Arthur E. H. Hutchinson of Santa Barbara could have used the common *Fatsia japonica* (rice-paper genus) which has become a habit with many landscape designers. Instead she cleverly developed a dramatic design with *Begonia ricinifolia*—which is never seen as a landscape material. This is a unique way to blend the size of the window panes into a similar size of foliages beneath and carry the eye onward into the distance, creating an impression of additional length and repeating the roof-line to bind the house gracefully to its foundations. Framing the windows and relieving the monotony of the straight line, she has planted the loquats (fruit trees with large

deep green leaves), in perfect harmony with the *Begonia* foliage.

The windows are not obstructed by shrubby masses to shut out light and air and view. What a thrill to look out-of-doors through the dainty masses of pink flowers set against the majestic foliage of *Begonia ricinifolia*!

TUBEROUS HYBRIDS—

By John R. Bauman, *Walteria*

During this month your beautiful *tuberhybrid*s are folding up their leafy tents and withering away — Remember to reduce your watering program accordingly.

Tubers planted in the ground should be dug when the stems are completely dried. Store them in flats after carefully brushing off excess dirt—don't scrub them clean. Put flats in a reasonably dry, cool location with plenty of air circulation for the winter.

Potted tubers may be left in the pots which should be turned on their sides and stored in a similar location as above.

Properly cared for tubers will last for years and your plants will increase in beauty.

GENERAL REMINDERS—

By Florence Carrell

The season is now over for tuberous varieties so hold back water and let the bulbs dry out, store in a cool dry place. This year I have especially enjoyed the small flowering tuberous types such as *Evansiana*, *Martiana* and *Sutherlandi*, which have naturalized themselves among my plants. Go over your fibrous begonia plants at this time, cutting back straggling branches, being careful to cut back to just ahead of a node so as to have nice new growth and not a dead end sticking up from the crown of your plant. The rhizomatous types, of which many are winterbloomers, may have some fertilizer, but it should not be given to other types until spring. Don't keep plants too wet at this time of the year, for many kinds prefer to rest on the slightly dry side. Repot those which need it and top dressing should be added to keep pots filled so as to leave less room for holding water during the winter months.

GLANCING BACK—cont. from Sept.

(C. C. Kelly's story of the Seed Fund)

"In exchange for seeds of some of the native plants of California and those of some of our cultivated varieties of begonias, we received from the Botanical Gardens of Buitenzorg, Java, packets of seed of the following begonias: *globra*, *isoptera*, *robusta*, *heracleifolia* and a very few seeds of *goegoensis*. Most of the seeds of this lot were well filled and fertile; and several persons have sturdy seedlings growing from them. They are not all Java species.

"Then there came from Nepal, India, seven packets replacing a larger order lost in transit. These included: *xanthina*, *picta*, *Cathcartii*, *sikkimensis*, *laciniata*, a tuberous kind un-named, and a packet marked 'double flowered species.' It was a severe disappointment that these seeds failed to germinate, for in the lot were species of especial interest. *Xanthina*, *laciniata*, and *picta*—if it is the one referred to in old records as *pictifolia*—are all progenitors of our modern *rex* varieties. *Sikkimensis* grew well enough, but was so like 'a common bedder' that it seemed worthless. Descriptions of it say it differs from the *semperflorens* in that it has a thickened rootstalk.

"A member who lived in Mexico City had offered to collect for us the seeds of the native species of begonias that he came across while on frequent journeys through the mountain districts; and in April '36 forwarded several pods gathered in Northern Puebla. These

Turn to page 245

OUR COVER PICTURE—

BEGONIA MARTIANA

Mrs. Florence Carrell's remarks on her tuberous species and the question in the Research Column led us to print this new photograph of an old but little-used begonia.

Mr. Harpester of Morro Bay, who again won top honors in the tuberous class at the 1950 National Show in Inglewood, grew his lovely plant from seed. It proved an "eye-stopper" at the show partly because of the innate beauty of the plant with its delicate pink blossoms and partly because the habit of growth of this species was such a contrast to all the other types on exhibit.

In October, 1940, Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné wrote an interesting and detailed study of the species from which we quote the following noteworthy points for beginners who may be interested in trying a new sort of tuberous:

"*Martiana grandiflora* is a tuberous begonia and is considered to be one of the loveliest of this group. It is a tall-growing plant and will attain a height of five to eight feet. For this reason it should be planted at the back of a bed against a wall where it will be protected from the wind. It is a good idea to place a stake in the pot or soil when the tuber is planted so the stem may be tied from time to time as it grows. The plant grows erect and begins to produce branchlets from the leaf axils which have not produced flowers. These later stems should be tied to the stake supporting the main stem in such a manner that the tips do not droop or they will bend over so the flowers will not be visible.

"Plants may be grown from seeds or divisions of the tuber but they are most easily propagated by saving the multitude of bulbils which are produced in the leaf axils. The bulbils may be saved by placing a paper or cloth under the branches of the plant in the Fall when the mature bulbils drop from the plants. These bulbils may then be mixed with soil or dry sand to prevent them from drying out excessively. The following Spring they may be planted and cared for in the same manner as seeds." . . . (bulbils show in the cover picture in the axil of the left hand stem opposite a spot half-way down the ribbon).

(See also Question-Answer Column.)

"It is a wise practice to lift the tubers in the Fall if they are planted in the ground for they have not proven hardy. The extremely thin layer of skin on the white tubers is easily penetrated by the various soil pests and rot often follows."

Don't overlook the products sold by our advertisers when preparing your Christmas lists.

Twenty Years of Breeding Tuberous Begonias

By Frank Reimelt

(For our readers who were unable to attend the National Convention we are honored to present Mr. Frank Reimelt's complete text of his address delivered at the Convention Banquet.)



Photo by Ken Garrison Clarke

Inglewood's Courtesy Exhibit—1950 Show Galaxy of Tuberous Under Roy Frost's Fern

My first acquaintance with tuberous begonias dates back to 1910, when I used to stop on my way to school to admire a bed of begonias planted in the small garden of a government official, the only person in our town who grew them. The flowers were quite small, very much like the multifloras of today. To me they were wonderful.

In 1914, I began my apprenticeship in a regular nursery adjoining a cemetery, where we grew a considerable amount of tuberous begonias for bedding and for decorating the graves. The tubers were imported from Germany and Belgium as not many nurseries at that time grew the begonias from seed. The color range was limited, flowers comparatively small, singles and semi-doubles with little of the form that we know now.

After I came to California in 1926 and became a gardener on a private estate in Los Altos, I was amazed at the advance in the quality of the English strain of Blackmore & Langdon, which was then grown exclusively on all the estates. My employer was an enthusiastic gardener and did not spare any money in buying seeds and bulbs that I wanted. We imported seeds of all the strains from Blackmore and Langdon, and soon the place was crowded with thousands of begonia seedlings. I also bought seeds of various strains from Germany, but the quality was not as good, the

plants lacking the good form of the English strain. My attempts at hybridizing were pretty crude, but I kept crossing the plants, and as I was not able to grow all of the seedlings myself, I distributed them among my fellow gardeners on other estates, just to be able to see them bloom. The results were funny looking forms, but to me they were very nice, since they were my own children.

All of the seed of tuberous begonias was then imported from Europe, and after surveying the advantages in climatic conditions here I decided that this was the business for me to enter. I did not know anything about the wholesale growers here, until I saw Hyde's exhibit in the San Leandro Flower Show, either in 1928 or 1929, and immediately went to visit their nursery. They grew thousands of seedlings in raised beds in the open sun, of the Blackmore and Langdon strain, and I was able to pick out some beautiful flowers among them for my personal collection. On the way back I stopped at the new lath-house which the Vetterle Brothers had then built in the Rob Roy section. Here were two acres of Blackmore and Langdon seedlings grown under perfect conditions. Instead of importing the named varieties from Europe at very high prices, I could secure beautiful seedlings here for twenty-five cents. I combed their lath-houses from then on until I had a fine collection of seedlings from which I began breeding. The results were better right away than those I had with the old material. As I was unable to grow the quantity of seedlings, I gave my seed to Vetterle Brothers, who grew them on with the understanding that I would have the first choice of selecting from them. They planted a whole acre from the seed I gave to them, and I kept stewing as to what would happen if the flowers from the batch would not look good. To my own astonishment the seedlings, on the average, turned out better than the general planting the Vetterles had had from the Blackmore and Langdon seed, and they immediately offered me a partnership, to come to the coast and grow the seed for them.

I knew little about the begonia industry here, which was comparatively young. After the embargo was placed on importations from Europe in 1915, attempts were made to grow them commercially by Cottage Gardens in Eureka and also in southern California, but the Brown

Bulb Ranch in Capitola was the first to raise them successfully commercially. The firm of Hyde in Watsonville and Vetterle Brothers in Capitola soon entered into production, and by the time I came were producing upwards of a million tubers a year.

In Santa Cruz, I became acquainted with Commodore B. O. Wills, who without any garden training, but with the efficiency of the navy, grew begonias in his garden to a perfection that I had never seen before. When I walked into his greenhouse, I was simply speechless, never believing that begonias could look like that. In my professional status as an experienced gardener both in Europe and here, I felt very small. Here was an amateur that had the professionals licked off the map completely. Right then and there I saw the potentiality of a tuberous begonia display on a commercial scale which I duplicated when joining the Vetterle Brothers in forming the firm of Vetterle & Reinelt in 1934. Others too, seeing our displays, have been duplicating them on a smaller or larger scale ever since as begonias have become more and more popular. Affiliating with the Vetterle Brothers was an enormous advantage for me, as I was interested chiefly in breeding. Here I had the opportunity to breed on a really large scale and to select from over a million seedlings which they grew then annually.

The double camellia was already the most popular type in the doubles and had a range of about six colors. Seed from Blackmore and Langdon came fairly true to color, often giving fine seedlings. The seed from Belgium and Germany came very true to color but the percentage of doubles was small and the form was quite poor. *Fimbriata plena* was grown in mixture only, the flowers small and clumsy, looking more like hollyhocks than begonias. Rosebud type which came from Belgium, was of tall growth with small flowers which looked attractive in bud, but when fully opened lost their form. Although we improved them considerably over a period of years, we eventually discontinued them, as the flowers were too small and the plants formed very little bulbs which from a commercial point of view is a bad defect. Of the four single types, namely single, frilled, crested, and narcissiflora, the frilled were always the most popular. These had the defect of dropping the male flowers during the early part of the season, which no amount of breeding was able to correct. The narcissiflora type was introduced by Benary in Germany and was interesting for a collection where good specimens were grown. The percentage of seedlings with good form was always small, and they never became very popular.

Hanging baskets were of the starry form like *boliviensis* from which they were originally developed. They formed a fine show early in the season, but did not continue the profusion of bloom as the new types do today. Color range was limited mostly to rose-pink and red shades. Commodore Wills crossed some hanging baskets with the double camellia type and got some attractive seedlings with large flowers and fair hanging habit. He also raised the finest hanging variety of that time which he named *Lucy Lee*, and which we introduced into commerce years later. This had hairy foliage with a wonderful hanging habit and when interbred with large flowered camellia types with particularly weak stems gave beautiful baskets of camellia form which continued to produce flowers all through the season in great profusion. In fact the majority of the fine baskets that have been developed since by us and others go back to *Lucy Lee*, which has been superseded but not forgotten. I remember the day that Mr. Kelly and Mr. Williams came from Long Beach telling me of the Begonia Society. They were amazed at the variety of color we had already in basket begonias. Some of the earlier ones were comparatively stiff, but gradually the hanging habit of *Lucy Lee* was combined with the beauty of the rose and camellia forms that are in existence today.

I had a large collection of various tuberous species and began making all kinds of wild crosses with interesting results from a collector's point of view, but of little commercial value otherwise. The marmorata type was then the only representative of the picotee class with small flowers and poor form. By crossing it with *Begonia martiana*, I got several seedlings similar to *martiana* with double flowers which really looked like miniature hollyhocks. Unfortunately, the bulbs, after drying off, never came to life again, and I have not attempted to do the cross over. Most of the crosses with *Begonia martiana* were of little value with the exception of one which resulted by crossing it with a large apricot camellia that had weak stems. This gave a series of large flowering baskets in apricot tones, something then entirely non-existent. These were the progenitors of all the apricot shades, and *Golden West* which we introduced last year is the latest advance made in this class.

In 1936, I imported a collection of winter flowering tuberous begonias from Clibran's in England. These winter flowering begonias resulted from crossing *Begonia socotrana* onto various tuberous types. They came in both single and double forms. Some were attractive, but as the season of flowering came in November and early December, when we still

Turn to next page

had the tail end of other tuberous begonias in bloom, they never proved of any commercial value. They are primarily a pot plant, and of great value in the house, but they belong in a cooler climate where tuberous begonias finish early in October and where November and December flowering is a distinct advantage. Since we had at that time much better tuberous begonias than Clibran's had when they made the original crosses, I immediately made fresh crosses on *socotrana* and our best camellia forms and got a number of superior seedlings with double camellia form, the flowers being about three inches across. I passed the stock of these on to gardener friends on private estates, as I felt that commercially these hybrids at best had little future.

We imported all the listed varieties of multiflora from Tubergen in Holland, propagating them by cuttings. The cost of propagation was high, and the demand small, so after several years of costly production, we discontinued it completely. In the meantime, seeds of multiflora came from Germany. These were fairly true to color, but there was only an occasional seedling among them resembling the named varieties. I interbred the seedlings with the named varieties and got a number of good seedlings which I was going to propagate, but as the cost of propagation was above the demand, this was also discarded.

During the first few years of breeding, I was concentrating chiefly on widening the color range, enlarging the size of the flowers, and on getting stiff stems to carry them. The cut flower idea, as far as begonias were concerned was non-existent, until we took some blooms to Podesta & Baldocchi in 1934. This flower shop, in San Francisco, is perhaps one of the most outstanding in the United States, and is always looking for an opportunity to do unusual things. They took our begonias exclusively for window displays. The other florists kept telling us that tuberous begonias could not be used as cut flowers. The crowds standing in front of Podesta & Baldocchi's windows told a different story, and today only fifteen years later, around San Francisco alone, more than half a million begonias are grown entirely for cut flower purposes. As the cut flower business increased, I saw that I would have to have an entirely different flower with heavier substance and better keeping qualities than the camellia type, which at that time was rather floppy. I thought that by interbreeding the *fimbriata plena* with the camellia we could get a good form of camellia with the strength and stiffness of the *fimbriata*. The result was the ruffled forms which we introduced into commerce a few years later.

One can sell almost anything and any type of begonia from a catalog with good pictures and descriptions. I have watched what the visitors bought when they came to our place. Invariably it was the large camellia type or the hanging baskets, with much less *fimbriata*. Hardly anyone bought the rosebud, and occasionally someone took a single type plant. As it was too costly to produce all of these forms separately and produce seed from each, we discontinued all of the single types and concentrated on developing the two new forms, rose and ruffled, in double types with all the variations of color, and hanging basket type. Among the camellias which we had been improving, we gradually arrived at flowers with more petals and depth so they began to resemble a rose rather than a camellia, and we introduced them as our rose form novelty. This form is not new, as for that matter are any other forms new, but they are highly improved over anything that has previously been in commerce. The ruffled forms, the result of generations of interbreeding the camellia and *fimbriata plena*, are far more rugged, due to hybrid vigor, and are very spectacular for show and cut flower purposes. However, they will never challenge the classical perfection of the rose form at its best. Among the present ruffled forms, which are still in the intermediary stage, is a great deal of variation. Some are like large ruffled camellias. In others the frilling is so intense that it defies description, and they are certainly a long way from the old *fimbriata*.

The picotees, which we class separately, are mostly of camellia and rose form, and the advance in the last few years has been so spectacular that they rival the best camellias in popularity. It took years of breeding and the raising of thousands and thousands of seedlings before we were able to transpose the little *marmorata* into the large rose-like flowers with distinctly colored edges. Begonias have no rivals in the versatility with which they respond to breeding. Looking back over the last fifteen years when I started breeding with the little *marmorata* and comparing it with the large rose-like flowers of today, I can see no parallel in any other plant that developed so much in so short a time.

Each year we select about five thousand plants for test out of over a million seedlings, which are potted and grown under glass for observation. Twenty percent of the bulbs, before potting, are eliminated because of smallness of size which is inheritable, and since we grow begonias for bulb production is very important. Of the four thousand we pot up, fifty percent are eliminated on the first run when they begin flowering. The rest are

observed all season until we can determine which two or three in each color are the very finest, and these are used as future seed parents. It seems like each season one or two plants are responsible for all the advances. If an exceptional plant like that appears, we interbreed it with various colors and types in order to transmit quality as widely as possible. Seedlings from such crosses are often variable, but on an average are far superior to those that are bred within color, and where close relations are interbred. It is very simple to raise begonias true to color, but one does not advance much in quality or size which is mainly to be considered. The most uniform colors I have seen came from Belgium, where the colors were absolutely true but the quality was very low.

(Mr. Reinelt's history of tuberous in the U. S. will be concluded next month.)

A.B.S. BULLETIN

At the October 23rd open meeting of the American Begonia Society the proposed amendment to the Constitution changing the dues rate was passed by a large majority.

Effective January 1, 1951, dues will be \$2.50 per year, payable in advance.

This should enable your Society to function smoothly with still greater benefits to all in the face of rising costs. Don't forget—that extra dollar will be coming back to you—in the form of a better magazine and other advantages that can be managed if you support your Society as loyally in 1951 as you have in the past.

And don't forget to show those new members that for less than 21c a month they can receive The Begonian, borrow from the Library, subscribe to the Seed Fund, join a Branch, and enjoy association with a growing group of plant enthusiasts with mutual interests.

21c a month! A bargain!

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BRANCH NEWS, cont. from page 232

ORANGE: After a month's vacation we began the Fall season with a September pot-luck supper. Members of the official family were hostesses, which incidentally was a good way to become acquainted while serving.

Mrs. Perry Grout reported on our entries at the flower shows. At the Orange County Fair an old-fashioned well with bucket was surrounded by many beautiful begonias and their companions, receiving a blue ribbon. Water was supposed to cascade from the bucket back into the well, but after the first day the well went dry, just like some of the wells in our county have been doing. Great credit is due Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Hylton and their committees for planning and building our exhibits.

As feature attraction Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Miller of Whittier showed their colored slides, entitled "Welcome to My Garden," amid many oh's and ah's. In answer to questions he told us his laths were put the edge of a lath apart; that they had a 50' x 140' lot; used straight leaf mold for planting mixture; and were using the concentrate put out by the Basic Concentrate Co. of Compton for mealybug. A number of pictures of Mrs. Miller's 1945 seedlings were shown, some being named. (They don't name them until they are at least four years old, as leaves sometimes change after two or three years.)

We were privileged to see the fine slides taken by Mr. and Mrs. William Payne, members, during a trip to Florida and Cuba early this summer. Especially interesting were the beautiful gardens with their tropical trees and flowers. Visitors were introduced from Whittier, Compton, Vallejo and Stockton. Mrs. Grout reported on the exhibit at the Orange County Fair and Secy. Everett displayed a check for \$50.00—first place award money.

—Helen Meyer

PETALUMA—Mrs. Martha Phillips gave a very interesting account of her trip to the Inglewood National Convention and Mrs. J. Earl Wilson reported on the local flower show given by the Petaluma Branch—a huge success.

Wayne Roderick introduced as guest, Herman Layer, exchange nursery student from Germany, whom we hope to have as speaker soon. Pres. Schlener then introduced George Donders, who showed some very interesting movies on a trip to the Hawaiian Islands which included shots of the harvesting and processing of the sugar cane and pineapples. The poinsettias showed up in all their glory in both red and white and there were many other beautiful flowers in the film.

—Mrs. William Kram

Turn to page 247



Armchair Explorers

November Newsletter

In last month's issue you found the lists of the Begonia seeds we now have ready for you. This seed will be mailed out as orders are received and we do suggest that you order what you want promptly, for, as you know, there is never enough seed to go to all who want it. Those who have credits please do write and tell what seed you wish to settle the accounts.

This week I visited the greenhouses of Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, who advertises in The Begonian. Mrs. Fisher has grown *rex* begonias for years and now that her children are grown she finds much more time to devote to her hobby. She is a marvelous gardener and I was so surprised to see what changes had been made since I visited her a year ago. She has now three greenhouses filled with *rex* begonias; many are her own crosses and there are some very fine ones among them, beautifully colored miniatures as well as larger types with superb markings that make them really outstanding. I suggest you go see her garden when in that locality. She has over a dozen beautiful baskets of maidenhair ferns of all kinds; the ruffled and fishtailed ones were lovely. She gave me spores of all of them for our Seed Fund. Of course I rushed home to plant some of the spores myself.

New Begonia seeds come in all the time, and now I am listing some at 25c per packet. They are: *Panama species*, *Sutherlandii*, *Sylvan Star*, *bhotan sp.*, *sikkimensis*, *acutangula*, No. 2379, and *foliosa*.

From New Zealand Mr. Rolston sends us the following seed and spores: mixed hybrid tuberous begonia seed from his very choice named varieties, and spores from the black tree fern (*Mamaku*) and the soft tree fern (*Dicksonia*) and from a small dainty native fern. Mr. Rolston puts on a flower show of his own every summer, inviting the whole town to visit his greenhouse. He writes that there are quite a number of begonia enthusiasts in New Zealand now and they are trying their hands at begonia growing.

From India I have just received these fern spores: *Dryopteris Felix-mas var. Schimperii*

See page 245



Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Question: How can I keep the bulblets of *B. Sutherlandii*, *B. Evansiana* and *B. Martiana* over winter. Some of the bulbs on *B. Sutherlandii* have started to put out tiny leaves. Will these bulblets continue to grow?

Answer: I have had my best success wintering the very small bulblets of this class of begonias in vermiculite. One can tell when the bulbs are ready for harvesting either by shaking the plant slightly or brushing the bulbs off with the fingers. I moisten some vermiculite with water, put both the bulblets and vermiculite in a small jar with a screw type lid. This jar is then set away until spring. Another method that is recommended is to store the bulblets in dry sand or peat moss. I would advise trying both methods to see which works the best in your locality. Conditions vary so much within even a hundred miles, that one has to work out some of these problems to suit their location. The jars should be set someplace where the temperature does not drop too low, nor should they be set in an exceedingly warm place. Try the kitchen cupboard.

As to the second part of your question. *B. Sutherlandii* in its native habitat would be classed as a winter bloomer. If one has the facilities for growing these plants over winter in a warm place, one might succeed in having this plant grow and bloom during our winter season. Personally I have never tried it, so if you do, and have success, I'd like to hear about it. It has been recorded that cuttings rooted in September have continued to grow and bloom during the winter months, which proves that the plant will revert to its natural growing time. So perhaps bulblets will revert also.

Question: I have one plant raised from Seed Fund seed that greatly resembles *B. Mrs. Fred Scripps*. Unfortunately only this one plant survived and I have no way of judging whether this is typical or not. Does it have a name or number?

Answer: I believe you must be referring to the only seeds from Mr. Foster that did not come true. This particular batch of seeds had many variations, no two of which were alike, so his plant must have either been accidentally crossed with something else or he brought back a hybrid. At the present writing I am carrying this group of plants under the name of "Fosters—2366." Some plants had cut leaves such as you describe and others were more lobed and still others retained almost a round appearance.

Question: I seem to have some "strangers" appearing in a planting of *B. Scharffi* seed. As this is the first time I have been able to set seed on my plant, I'm wondering if I have the true species or whether I have one of the many hybrid forms being sold under the *B. Scharffi* label.

Answer: You have brought up a question that has been puzzling me a good deal lately. I have talked this over with several people and I'm wondering whether or not we have the true species plant of *B. Scharffi* in this country. It seems as if this is one plant that has to have its own ideal conditions before seed can be set on it, and those conditions have never been met in my own garden. When one is able to set seed, if this were a species plant, then all the resulting seedlings would run true. However, Mrs. Fewkes (formerly of Montalvo Gardens) tells me that the plants of *B. Chiala* (pronounced shay-la) and *B. Chiala, rosea*, were both raised from seed of *B. Scharffi* (*B. Haageana*). Just how they came in this particular planting of seed is anyone's guess.

I recently had the opportunity of seeing quite an extensive planting of *B. Scharffiana* seed in one of our better known nurseries here. Three quarters of the flats were typical *B. Scharffianas* but the other quarter of the plants resemble *B. Mrs. Wallow*. An accidental cross? Who can tell. All we know is that this is the first time it has occurred, so perhaps that is the answer. We need to do some checking on both the species and the hybrids to determine possible parentage, but that would be a full time job for any one person and so far no one has seemed to have the necessary time and space to conduct these experiments.

ARMCHAIR EXPLORER, cont. from page 244

ana, Onychium auratum, Aspidium auriculatum. From the Philippines I have 6 new kinds of unnamed fern spores.

All above mentioned seed is 25c per packet and fern spores are 15c. Next month I will list and describe some of the very rare new kinds of begonia seeds which just came in; right now I am looking up the descriptions for you. Cheerio until next month,

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell

ROUND ROBIN, cont. from page 236

Pelargoniums." There is room for a few more members in this group.

A new Begonia Robin for members living in the Southern States is making its first flight. We hope that many of you will take advantage of these groups.

The Oxalis Robin is on its way—with room for more members.

If you are having troubles and woes with

your begonias or shade plants, DO give the Robin Clubs a chance to help you. Members in these groups are eager to share their knowledge and begonia experiences. Here is an opportunity to meet, through correspondence, interesting and congenial people whose hobbies are much the same as yours. Many are eager to share or trade their surplus begonia cuttings for kinds they do not have. Join the Round Robins today.

A happy Thanksgiving to all.

Frances Downing, Round Robin Chairman

(Any member of the A. B. S. is entitled to become a member of the Round Robins. Drop a card, telling what types of begonia or shade plants interest you, to Mrs. Frances Downing, Chairman, Box 45, Calera, Alabama.)

GLANCING BACK, cont. from page 239

seeds were infertile, possibly gathered too green, and did not germinate.

"From Dr. T. H. Goodspeed of the University of California, who in 1936 headed a botanical expedition to the West Coast countries of South America, we received seed of five species of fibrous types collected in Peru and Argentina. The plants from which some of this seed was taken were found growing among the rocks and debris of the ruins of ancient Inca city of Macchu Picchu high in the Andes. None of these packets were marked with the names of the species, only with the collectors' numbers, . . ."

Mr. Kelly relates many similar tales in his reports, and through all the disappointments, at intervals came surprising successes—new species or varieties discovered, species formerly known only in botany texts brought into American gardens—encouraging him and his co-workers to continue the Seed Fund until it has become one of the most popular departments of the Society.

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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.
- BELFLOWER BRANCH**
1st Monday, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, 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, Nov. 9, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Ward Street
C. F. Jensen, Sec.
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.
- EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH**
3rd Thursday, Nov. 16, 8:00 p.m.
Christian Ch. Fellowship Hall, 304 E. Valley
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.
- FOOTHILL BRANCH**
1st Friday, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Mrs. Mabel Goheen, Secretary
360 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Glendora, Calif.
- FORT, ELSA BRANCH**
1st Saturday, Nov. 4, Dec. 2
Mrs. Marion R. Thompson, Secretary
129 White Horse Pike, Magnolia, N. J.
- GLENDALE BRANCH**
4th Wednesday, Nov. 22, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central Ave.
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary
1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif.
- GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH**
3rd Monday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Center, Corres. Secy.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.
- GRUNBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, Nov. 28, 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, Nov. 9, 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, Nov. 20, 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, Nov. 13, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.
- INGLEWOOD BRANCH**
2nd Thursday, Nov. 9, 8:00 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Minna Slatter, Secy.
4600 6th Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
- LA MESA BRANCH**
2nd Monday, Nov. 13, 8:00 p.m.
Porter Park
Mrs. G. W. McManus
Rt. 1, Box 1070, La Mesa, Calif.
- LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER**
3rd Tuesday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.
2255 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas.
1500 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
- MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, Nov. 28, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.
- MISSOURI BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, Nov. 28, 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, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
F. John Nachbor, Secy.
6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.
- ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH**
1st Thursday, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 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, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Casita del Arroyo, 177 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasa.
J. F. Thompson, Sec.-Treas.
739 No. Wilson, Pasadena 6, Calif.
- PETALUMA BRANCH**
3rd Friday, Nov. 17, 8:00 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, Nov. 24, 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, Nov. 8, 8:00 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec.
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.
- ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, Nov. 28, 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, Nov. 21, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary
293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.
- SALEM, OREGON BRANCH**
1st Thursday, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Salem Y.M.C.A.
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secretary
2750 Lancaster Dr., Salem, Oregon
- SAN DIEGO BRANCH**
4th Tuesday, Nov. 28
Lions' Club, 3927 Utah St.
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.
1059 Meade Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.
- SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH**
2nd Monday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Center, 11134 Weddington, No. Hllywd.
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary
7961 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.
- SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**
1st Wednesday, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
603 Taraval St.
Sec., Mrs. Wm. Meyer
1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.
- SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**
4th Wednesday, Nov. 22, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Av., Arcadia
Mrs. Dorothy deHart, Sec.
509 So. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.
- SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**
2nd Thursday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Roy G. Pierce, Secy.
914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
- SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH**
1st Wednesday, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
225 - 26th St. (upstairs), Santa Monica, Calif.
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

See next page

SANTA PAULA BRANCH
4th Thursday, Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, 621 Santa Paula St.
Santa Paula, California

SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Nov. 21
Member's Homes
Mrs. Thomas Myers, Secy.
6057-31, N. E., Seattle 5, Washington

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mr. Robert Renshaw, Secy.
560 So. Coronado, Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Nov. 16, 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, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate Municipal Auditorium
Mr. Ray Venable, Secy.
8624 Garden View Ave., Southgate, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH
4th Friday, Nov. 24
Mr. E. Weaver, Pres.
1825 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
2nd Tuesday, Nov. 14, 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, Nov. 22, 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, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Hovanec, Secy.
630 Palm Avenue, Whittier, Calif.

BRANCH NEWS, cont. from page 243

SACRAMENTO — regrets to report the death of member John Logan Ryan, October 1, 1950, husband of our organizer, Zaida Ryan.

John was a native of Iowa but had lived long in Sacramento, holding an active place in community life. His cheery smile and friendliness made him beloved by all who knew him. He was always generous and helpful in all Branch projects.

Mr. Ryan leaves a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Benbow, four brothers and a sister, all of Sacramento. His devotion to his wife, family and home was apparent to all and we join with them in mourning the loss of a good friend. His soft spoken word of greeting Gave to each casual meeting A glowing warmth to our hearts. He set us a pattern of friendliness, He showed us the worth of kindness And earned a special place in our hearts.
—Mrs. John R. Williams

SANTA MONICA: National Representative Marie Haskell's garden suffered by fire which

burned the tool, lath, and glass house; Mr. Haskell cheerfully put up a little sign "Temporarily out of Service." The very cooperative Santa Monica Branch came to their rescue with a substantial cash gift and cheery card to start them on their way again.—Neighborly, that! (Editor).

P. S.—A rex begonia which survived the blast of fiery air which swept the glasshouse was displayed by Mrs. Haskell at the September National Board meeting because it made such a fine example of the powerful impulse of living things to reproduce their kind before death. Many of the still firm leaves had produced young plantlets from the vein surfaces viviparously and presented a similar appearance to Mrs. Gonda Hartwell's r. c. Emerald Isle pictured in the August, 1945, issue.—Ed.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, A. B. S. held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 25th, 1950. President Moore in the Chair.

Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society led by Past President Walton.

Present: Messrs. Moore, Walton, Trowbridge, Sherer, Lorenz, Spaulding, Small; Mesdames Korts, Nolan, Spaulding, MacLanahan, Schwerdtfeger, Choate, Hartwell. Branches represented—South Gate, Inglewood, Glendale, Santa Monica, Riverside, Redondo Beach Area, San Gabriel Valley, Parent Chapter, Pasadena.

Reports

Reports of Editor, Business Mgr., Librarian, Membership Fees read and approved as read.

Librarian Nolan needs copies of the Begonian for Sept., Oct., and Nov., 1949, to complete files. If you have numbers you do not need, please hand them to your Representative Director to be delivered to Mrs. Nolan at the next Board meeting. Mr. Trowbridge will continue as Flower Show Chairman for the ensuing year but will have a very able assistant in the person of Frank Rich, member of the Pasadena Branch. Next year Mr. Rich will take over the duties of Flower Show Chairman.

Mr. Trowbridge extended a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone for their cooperation and help in putting on the Annual Meeting and Flower Show in Inglewood.

Mary Choate, Chairman, Committee on Nomenclature of Berry Miniatures, reported eleven had been identified with eight still in question. Further reports will be forthcoming as work progresses. Report accepted.

President called attention to the meeting of the Horticultural Council Oct. 25-26-27, East Lansing, Mich. Stated he had asked Mrs. Barton to represent our Society but had not heard from her as yet.

President Moore announced his appointments for the coming year—see Begonian masthead for list. Due to resignation of Frank Clark a new Chairman for the Slide Library and Programs will be made at a later date. Appointments approved as presented. **SO ORDERED.**

President called attention to the Resolution raising the dues in the Society to \$2.50 per year—published in the October Begonian. This will come up for a vote at the October meeting of the National Board. Urged good attendance at this meeting. Mr. Walton read the budget as set up for current year. After discussion and explanation of estimated expenditures and receipts, the budget, on motion, was accepted as read. **SO ORDERED.**

BRANCH REPORTS were lively and indicated increased enthusiasm.

On motion By-laws suspended to allow Mr. Small and Mr. Sherer to complete their term of office in their respective branches. **SO ORDERED.**

Mrs. Korts instructed to continue sending meeting date cards to Representative Directors. Please send Mrs. Korts name and address of Representative Director promptly after branch election.

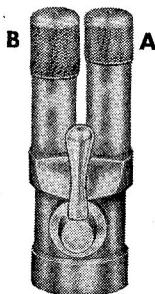
Respectfully submitted,
Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

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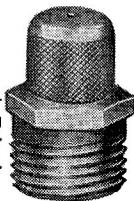


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