

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens*

CAMELLIA

FLOWERED

TUBEROUS

BEGONIA



*Long Live the  
Begonia Queen*



Courtesy  
Antonelli Brothers



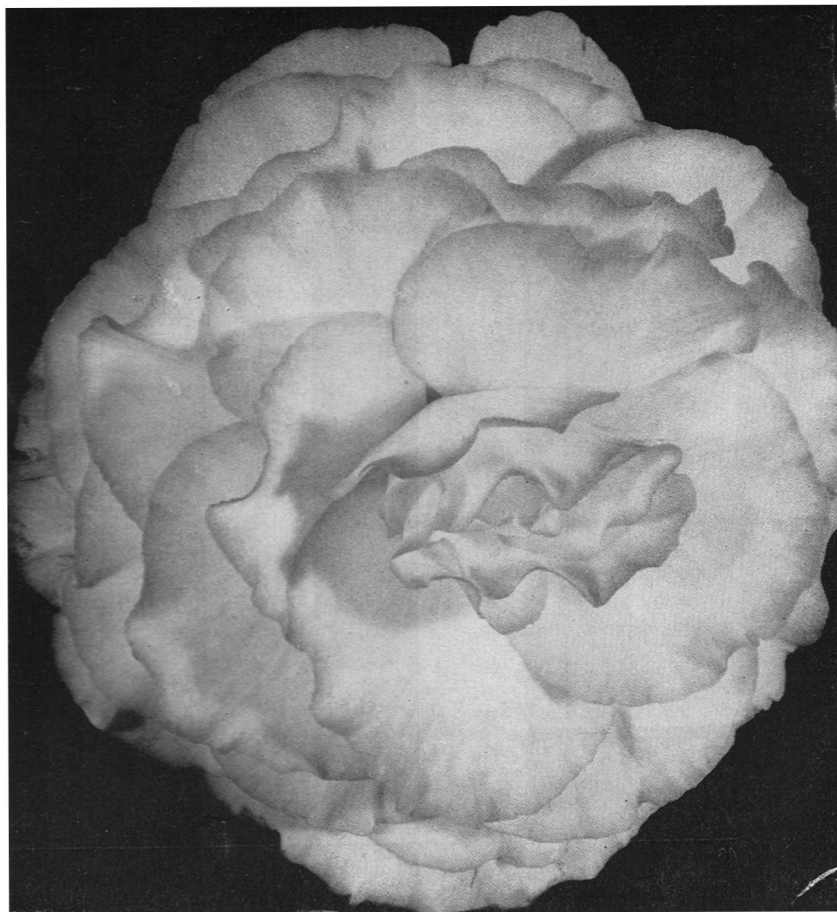
MARCH  
1952

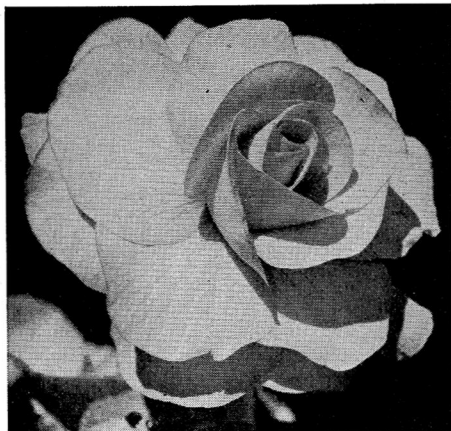


TWENTY-FIVE  
CENTS



VOL. XIX  
No. 3





The one and only Pacific Strain of  
**TUBEROUS BEGONIAS**

Originated by Frank Reinelt

The largest assortment and finest new developments in rose form and ruffled novelties available this year.

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOG

**Vetterle and Reinelt**

Dept. "B", Capitola, California

CALIFORNIA'S  
choicest  
**Gladiolus**

GUARANTEED TO  
BLOOM THIS YEAR

**BARGAIN OFFER!**

Grow the most exquisite Gladiolus you've ever seen! Tall, graceful spikes topped by perfect 6 and 7 inch blooms of gorgeous red, yellow, pink, blue and white flowers. The bulbs are same size Commercial Growers plant for Prize Blooms. Truly a "must" for your flower garden this year.

This special offer good for LIMITED TIME only so order NOW! 25 BULBS—5 each of above colors ONLY \$1 POSTPAID.

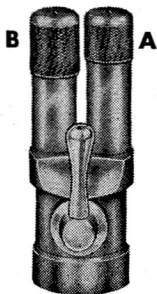
**GERMAIN'S** **\$1** POST PAID  
Horticulturists Since 1871

25 BULBS  
ONLY

DEPT. BE. VAN NUYS NURSERY  
6133 Ethel Ave., Van Nuys, Calif.

Texas State: Last school year pot plants and cut flowers were furnished for the Huguen School for Crippled Children, which meant so much to those little ones not able to live a normal life.

**NEW!**



**THOMPSON**

**DUAL - SPRAY NOZZLE**

**DESIGNED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF GROWERS  
OF SHADE-LOVING PLANTS**

Use the Fogger Nozzle "A" for humidifying the air in shade, houses and conservatories. The Misty Spray Nozzle is used in watering ferns or plants with delicate blooms.

No. 219 FOR 1/2" AND 3/4" HOSE

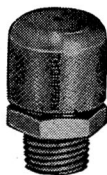
**PRICE \$2.88 (Plus Sales Tax)**

**FOGGER NOZZLE**

To be installed in permanent spraying systems. Pipe is drilled with 1/8" pipe tap.

No. 218 - A - 1/8"

**PRICE \$.48 (Plus Sales Tax)**

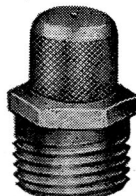


**FOGGER NOZZLE**

For ready installation in permanent spraying systems using pipe and fittings. The adapter is threaded with 1/2" pipe thread.

No. 218 - A - 1/2"

**Price \$.60 (Plus Sales Tax)**



**THOMPSON MANUFACTURING CO.**

SINCE 1907

2251 E. SEVENTH ST.

LOS ANGELES 23, CALIF.

Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society, The American Horticultural Council, and The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum  
General Office: Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California

## OFFICERS

President .....	Calvin E. Trowbridge
4435 3rd Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.	
President-Elect .....	Mrs. Edna Korts
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.	
Past President .....	Frank S. Moore
Treasurer .....	William Haskell
1253 Amherst Ave., Los Angeles 25, Calif.	
Secretary .....	Mrs. A. N. Hartwell
1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia, Calif.	
Membership Secretary .....	Elmer Lorenz
Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, Calif.	
Vice-president, 1 Yr.....	Mrs. John R. Williams
Vice-president, 2 Yr.....	Howard Small
Vice-president, 3 Yr.....	R. H. Terrell

**NOMENCLATURE** Director, H.M. Butterfield  
39 Giannini Hall, U.C., Berkeley, Calif.  
Nomenclature Committee  
Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton, Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, Mrs. Alice M. Clark, Dr. V. T. Stoutmeyer, Frederick J. Bedson FRHS, Herbert P. Dyckman, R. S. French.

The Clayton M. Kelly Research Dept.  
Research & SEED FUND Director, Mrs. E. Carrell, 214 North Yale St., Fullerton, Calif.

Hybridizing Chairman.....Mrs. Mary Choate  
3970 Grandview Blvd., Culver City, Calif.  
A.B.S. Library, 2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

Director of Publicity .....Mrs. Dorothy Powell  
3180 Carlin Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

Slide Library .....R. H. Terrell  
6848 Leland Ave., Riverside, Calif.

Flower Show Chairman.....Frank Rich  
1145 Coronado Terrace, Los Angeles 26

Parliamentarian ..... Mrs. Elinor Slocum

The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1305, 7:30 p.m., March 24, 1952. Use Main St. elevator. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

Historian.....Mrs. Alva Graham  
PUBLIC RELATIONS Director,  
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger  
Cantera Ave., Hope Ranch, Sta. Barbara, Cal.  
Public Relations Committee  
S.A. McClanahan.....Northwestern Chairman  
2643 35th Ave., West, Seattle 99, Wash.  
Mrs. Elsa Fort.....Eastern Chairman  
6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.  
Mrs. Lillian Ashe.....Northern Calif. Chairman  
513 1/2 No. California Ave., Oakdale, Calif.  
Mrs. Sophia Baker.....Round Robin Chairman  
2733 South East 35th Place, Portland, Ore.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Gonda Hartwell Frank Reinelt  
Worth A. Brown Mrs. Alice M. Clark  
Mrs. Myrtle S. Francis Mrs. Christie Geer  
Rudolf Ziesenhenné

## PAST-PRESIDENT LIFE MEMBERS

H. Dyckman '32 '33 '41 Ferdinand P. Neels '42  
Fred Reidman ..... '34 Clarence A. Hall ..... '44  
J. Paul Walker ..... '35 Arthur E. Nelson ..... '45  
Dr. M. B. Dunkle ..... '36 Harold W. Hart ..... '46  
T.H. Smith ..... '37 George Lawrence ..... '47  
J.S. Williams ..... '38 Mrs. M.Drummond ..... '48  
Dr. W.M. Caseley..... '39 Col. Carroll M. Gale ..... '49  
Frank Harrison ..... '40 W.E. Walton ..... '50  
Frank S. Moore ..... '51

## BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor.....Stanley Spaulding  
808 E. Mariposa Ave., El Segundo, Calif.

Co-Editor.....Mrs. Frances W. Spaulding  
808 E. Mariposa Ave., El Segundo, Calif.

**For DUES, ADDRESS CHANGES, MAGAZINES — write to Membership Secretary, Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, Calif.**

- \* Annual Dues—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 Bonita Dr., Los Angeles 41, Calif.

# CONTENTS

## Feature Articles—

A.B.S. SEEDS FIND HOME IN THE PHILIPPINES — JESUS MORAN SISON .....	48
BILL BROOKS' TWO NEW BEGONIAS — DOROTHY S. BEHREND'S .....	51
SLANTED TOWARD THE BEGINNER — THE MIMICS — DOROTHY S. BEHREND'S .....	52
WHAT IS A BEGONIA — MRS. MAY TAFT DREW .....	53
NOW (WORK FOR MARCH) — GLENN MOTSCHMAN, SEAVY H. ROYAL .....	54
BEGONIAS FOR THE AMATEUR — R. ZIESENHENNE .....	55
PER MARIE HASKELL .....	55
SELF-MADE SEED BED — ADA M. ENTZMINGER .....	56

## American Begonia Society—

ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS .....	59
BRANCH MEETING DATES & PLACES .....	66
BRANCH NEWS..... 46, 50, 53, 56, 58, 62, 63, 67 .....	67
CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS .....	65
CONDENSED MINUTES .....	67
CONVENTION NEWS .....	65
HAVE YOU HEARD? .....	58
IN MEMORIAM .....	54
LIBRARY NOTES .....	55

LIFE MEMBERSHIP-R. ZIESENHENNE .....	63
NATIONAL DIRECTORS - 1952 .....	68
QUESTION-ANSWER COLUMN .....	60
ROUND ROBIN NOTES .....	58
SLIDE LIBRARY .....	57
WELCOME, GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH. .....	64
WHO'S WHO AND WHAT .....	62
WORLD CRUISE REPORTER .....	59
YOUR EDITOR .....	65

March—

Seed sown indoors while winds are blowing

Sprout green leaves right for warm days' growing.

## *A. B. S. Seeds Find Home In the Philippines*

By Jesus Moran Sison

*Of the Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture  
University of the Philippines*

IT all began two years ago. One has just about an equal chance of forecasting accurately our Los Baños weather as he has of guessing rightly what will come out next from a magician's bag of tricks. We have one of those weathers full of unexpected turns which at times could really be very disturbing. To avoid my feeling restless and mildly frustrated everytime it rained when I was all set to play tennis, I felt the need of a hobby that I could work on regardless of weather conditions and at the same time provide an enjoyable and constructive pastime. I started browsing over some books to help me out with my choice. Then—call it a stroke of fate—I chanced upon a page of a book about house plants which mentions the American Begonia Society and its role of popularizing the begonia. My wife and I have always been fascinated with the idea of having a collection of the plant, and when I talked to her about adopting begonia-raising as a hobby, she was naturally heart and soul for it. We lost no time in writing the American Begonia Society.

It was not long afterwards that we received several packets of seeds from Mrs. Florence Carrell, who has been very helpful all along. We could hardly believe that each packet contained a different kind of begonia, what with the few we have seen locally. In our eagerness to see how the plants would look, we didn't think for a moment of

the possibility that we might not even be able to germinate them at our first try. We hurriedly constructed a sowing box made of galvanized iron sheet, supported by wooden legs 3 feet high. This could conveniently accommodate 50 small pots, containing sterilized fine sand. We transferred one kind of seed at a time to an index card big enough to allow regulated tappings to insure the uniform distribution of the seeds in the pot. When all the seeds had been sown, the pots were sub-irrigated.

Then followed days of anxious waiting. It became an ordinary sight to see a member of the household, with the help of a hand lens, intently peering at each pot for the tell-tale signs that life could actually come from the dust-like particle that is a begonia seed. It was not until the ninth day that such patience and perseverance were finally rewarded. The news created a flurry of excitement and unbounded joy throughout the household. At once a crowd was gathered around the sowing box. All eyes were strainedly focused at one pot while the discoverer, looking through a hand lens, described, with triumphant glee, the tiny plants hardly discernible with the naked eye. We had germinated our first begonia seed!

When the seedlings began sporting 2 to 3 true leaves and were edging over a centimeter in height, they were ready for individual potting. Imagine a baby, eating alone for the first time, scooping his food with his spoon and balancing

it nervously without spilling any until it reaches his mouth, and you have a good picture of us trying to prick the tiny seedlings and planting them singly in small pots. We used a pair of forceps in transplanting the first ten seedlings; they never had a chance to pull through. In the next transplantings, after this bitter lesson, by devising a safer way with the aid of two wooden labels ( $\frac{3}{4}$  inch x 5 inches), we managed to prevent a greater number of casualties. One label, with a V-cut at its pointed end, big enough to hold the stem of the seedling, was used for lifting the seedling, while the other, with a finer and sharper point, dislodged the root of the seedling from the sand. It took almost a minute to separate and pot a seedling. After potting about 200 seedlings, my wife and I were too dazed to do anything else for the day.

We finally got around to growing to a good size several of those cane and rhizomatous types and hundreds of hybrid rexes. To avoid injuring the leaves with frequent wetting in watering, I gave the boy who was assigned to look after the plants specific instructions that at no instance should he water the plants other than by sub-irrigation. This involved removing the plants individually and placing them in a pan of water. The moment the water had risen to the surface of the soil in the pot, the plant was returned to its former place. It appeared to us as a simple routine task until one morning when we came upon the boy, in the middle of his watering schedule, sitting limply in a chair and staring blankly at the plants. He looked awfully sick! We asked him what had happened. He gave us a glassy stare and weakly pointed to the plants being watered. It didn't take us long to put two and two together. We shifted to surface watering.

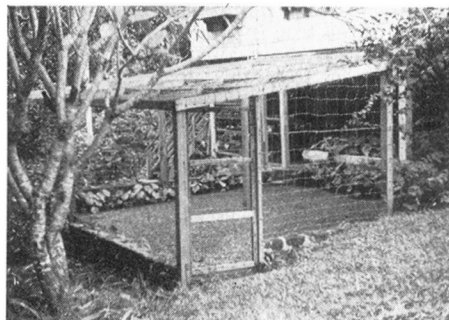
When most of the plants reached their mature size, we had a lean-to constructed on the north side of the

house. We used beach sand for flooring and coconut leaves for roofing. Everything went just right during the not-too-wet months (ordinarily from November to April), but when the longer periods of rain and stronger winds came by May—and most often at nights—it was not seldom that we were forcibly roused from our comfortable beds to cover up the sides of the lean-to in order to check the wind from blowing the plants to death. After a series of colds and fevers which my wife and I contracted whenever we forgot to put on a jacket or raincoat to protect ourselves in our hurry to beat the rain and wind before they could do significant damage, we finally contrived a system, army style (replete with split-second timing and maneuvers), by which we could work efficiently without impairing our health and our love for the plants. Raincoats, flashlights, pliers, boots, curtains and all other things needed for the emergency were placed at predetermined and strategic places to minimize the waste of valuable time in searching for them when the zero hour was at hand. Even the paths of action were mapped out carefully to prevent any collisions and unnecessary movements when the rush was on. We drilled on the plan during dry days to achieve a record-time efficiency and polish off the flaws in the operation. Often times we asked ourselves if the plants were worth all the sacrifice. Finally, we decided to construct a greenhouse with provisions against all the troubles we had experienced with the lean-to.

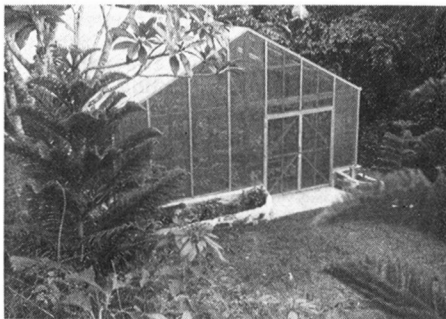
The greenhouse was finished September 11 of last year. This time, as a protection against strong winds from the north, we located it south of the house. In the south and east side, tall trees of *Aleurites moluccana* and *Chrysophyllum cainito* serve as formidable windbreaks. A hill protects the greenhouse from the wind blowing from the

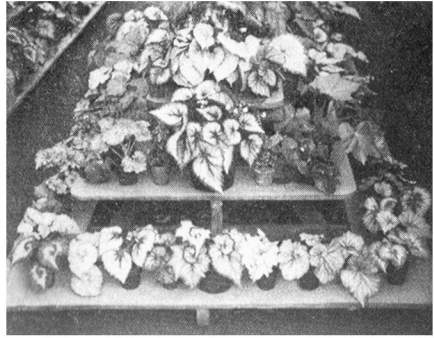
Turn to Next Page

The Lean-to



The Green House





Inside the Greenhouse

west. We roofed the greenhouse with celo-glass as a provision for the rains. The walls are of green wire mesh. For the flooring we used sand. We even had fluorescent lights installed to enable us to work and enjoy watching the plants at nights. Compared to the lean-to, it was really a better sight!

And yet all these could have come to a tragic end. For barely a week before the greenhouse was finished, a great number of plants, still in the lean-to, were stricken with a disease caused principally by the fungi, *Helminthosporium* and *Cercospora*. A friend of ours, a plant pathologist, attributed the infection to the decaying coconut leaves used for roofing and the damp condition of the lean-to. He recommended the immediate transfer of the plants to a drier and sunnier place to check the spread of the disease. We quickly moved the plants to the house, where they could be in a drier but definitely not sunnier condition, until they could be transferred to the greenhouse. Any further wetting of the leaves in the lean-to or a longer stay in the house, where the illumination is poor, could

have damaged the plants considerably and dampened our enthusiasm.

The plants were a sorry sight during the first weeks of their stay in the greenhouse. Often two or three leaves on a plant were scalded because of the abrupt change in location. It was only the knowledge that they were adjusting that kept us from feeling depressed. And sure enough, after 3 or 4 weeks they began to perk up with vigor. We could hardly imagine they were the weak, etiolated plants we had in the lean-to. Their leaves assumed a leathery texture and their stems became amazingly rigid. Even the fungus infection vanished completely!

The begonias are at last feeling at home. And are they here to stay!

(Mr. Sison's saga would indicate that all is not paradise in the tropics either and points up several fine old mottoes for all begonia lovers who find obstacles in the pursuit of their hobby. An accolade to our compañero across the sea!

Common names of *Aleurites molucana* and *Chrysophyllum cainito* are Candlenut and Star-Apple, respectively.  
(Editor)

## JOINT VENTURES

Riverside Branch has been joining with four other Riverside flower clubs to meet together twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. This is another way of spreading the doctrine of the Begonia, as many persons will attend these meetings who have been exclusively interested in other plants and become intrigued for the first time with the possibilities in the Begonia genus.

## WATER'S EFFECT ON SOIL

At a recent meeting, Mr. Cal Wellington, of the Dunford Association, scientifically analyzed the water in the Azusa

area, explaining the necessity for having a slightly acid soil or liquid fertilizer. Most plants prefer a slightly acid soil, as this in turn makes the food available for their consumption. Alkalinity has a tendency to "tie up" the nutrients in the soil, so that the plants cannot make use of them, eventually dying of starvation. He stated in tests conducted by chemical research staffs it has been proved that organic fertilizers are better than chemical. Colored pictures to prove this point were shown—Edwin O. Williams, Foothill Branch.

## HAVE YOU BROUGHT IN A NEW MEMBER YET?

# Bill Brooks Two New Begonias

By Dorothy S. Behrends, Los Angeles, Calif.

A new begonia introduction in the tuberous class is:

## Begonia Lucy Brooks

This begonia was found growing in Mexico on the north sides of steep hills under brush, in localities permitting perfect drainage. And by perfect drainage, Mr. Brooks says the drainage does not occur during a matter of minutes, but *right now*. These begonias were found at approximately 3200 feet elevations with a noticeably cool breeze prevalent at all times.

B. Lucy Brooks has a quality that other tuberous begonias lack, *beautiful foliage*.

The red stems grow to three feet, with petioles to twelve inches, having rounded-reniform leaves.

The surface of the leaves are a velvety-green and the undersides a purple-red.

As the dry season (summer) in this locality in Mexico begins about the middle of November and continues through March, these tuberous begonias will go dormant. When transplanted into our location, it will be best to rest the tuber and wait until growth starts, (as is practiced with other tubers), before planting.

Many begonia growers live in areas not conducive to tuberous begonia culture and growing tuberous begonias that do not hold their buds and blossoms is very disappointing. The foliage on most of the tuberous varieties are judged to be of average beauty.

With this new parent stock, the hybridizers will have a new field of endeavor in which to work, to bring beautiful foliage as well as beautiful blossoms together.

If the new B. Lucy Brooks were never to bloom, it still is well worth growing, because the magnificent foliage is comparable to other foliage type begonias.

The large size it attains in Mexico need not worry the would-be growers. Fortunately or unfortunately (whichever way a grower chooses to view the space to be allotted to this begonia), a begonia seldom reaches the proportions under cultivation that it attains in its native habitat.

William Brooks discovered this begonia on a recent plant hunting expedition into Mexico. He named this beautiful begonia in honor of his wife, who is also an avid plant collector.

Another exceptional begonia discovered by Mr. Brooks in Mexico is:

## Begonia Carlota

In its native habitat it grows to huge proportions and is a rhizomatous begonia. He found rhizomes the size of a woman's fore-arm, growing in rather deep shade in rich leaf mold in the coffee *fincas*. The rhizomes seemed to be loosely lying on top of the leaf-mold, as all he had to do was grasp one end and pull, getting long rhizomes. These begonias are considered a pest by these people and must be eradicated just as weed-pests are removed in our orchards.

The large, heavy petioles grow to four feet, holding leaves that often measure eighteen inches across. The leaf surface is a velvety, olive-green and the underside is a shade darker.

It rains approximately ten months out of the year in this locality, with occasional showers the other two months. This begonia will have a rest period as have all rhizomatous begonias, but will not go completely dormant.

Mrs. Brooks and their two children wore the leaves as hats. As you may guess, the sun gets pretty hot in our neighboring country in November.

The elegance of coloring and the regal bearing of the begonia reminded Mr. Brooks of the beautiful and indefatigable Mexican Empress Carlota, who finally succumbed at the age of 86.

*Begonia Carlota* has stamina and beauty and, again may we say, the hybridizers will have another rich, new field in which to work.

Incidentally, the people of Mexico pronounced the former Belgian Princess Charlotte's name Car-low-tah, accent on "low". As the new begonia is Mexican, let us pronounce it that way.

These two begonia names may prove to be tentative, if it is found in the archives that the begonia has been named and identified previously.

New begonias are often identified by a number for over a period of years and then eventually named.

B. Lucy Brooks and B. Carlota are brought to you bearing names which are easier for the average begonia enthusiast to remember than a number.

In the years to come these begonias will accept and bow to the priority rule, if their names are found to be synonyms.

# Slanted Toward the Beginner--the Mimics

By Dorothy S. Behrends, Los Angeles, Calif.



B.washington street



B.ulmifolia



B.corbeille de feu



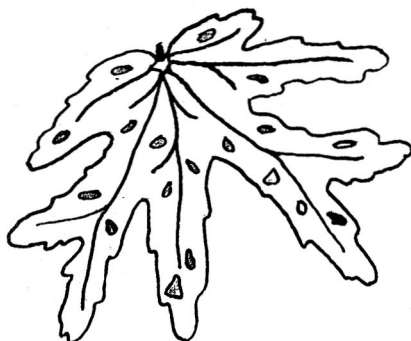
B.dregei



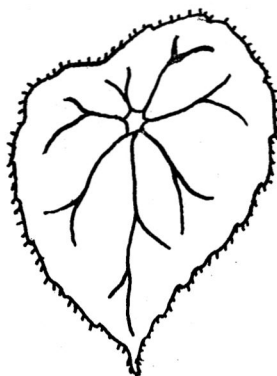
B.Francisii



B.luxurians



B.aconitifolia



B.nelumbiifolia

Begonias are often referred to as 'mocking bird' plants. This means much more than a casual glance would appraise.

The tuberous begonia blossoms resemble or imitate (as non-begonia fans

say) several types of flowers belonging to other families as: carnations, roses, daffodils and camellias.

The flowers on *Begonia Roxburghii* and *M. Manni* are like immature cherries, due to their habit of growth from

D.S.B.

the stalk, not from the color of the blossoms.

Flowers are not the only part of begonias that resemble other plants.

For instance, the leaves are very interesting and a closer scrutiny will find many that are similar to trees and shrubs. A few are listed here, but there are many more.

The illustrations are begonia leaves but without stretching your imagination a great deal, you could readily feel you were studying a leaf from another type plant.

*B. Washington* Street foliage is comparable to a peach leaf. This begonia is also reported to be variable as to its requirements, as some growers grow it out of doors the year around (in mild climates) with excellent results. Others probably kill it with kindness.

*B. ulmifolia* has leaves resembling an elm, numerous veins, bright green and hairy. The stalks or stems are quite large compared to the leaves they carry and the begonia sends up basal shoots, making a full plant; white flowers.

*B. 'Corbeille de Feu'* may appear to be a rose leaflet, at first glance; has glossy-green leaves and produces such an abundance of them that it is often difficult to see the bright, coral-red flowers.

*B. Dregei* is called the grape leaf begonia. That is a little far fetched, compared to California grape leaves, but by imagining a tremendous shrinkage, the shape is comparable. The underside is purple and the veining on the surface is purple. The true *B. Dregei* species is scarce today but there are many *B. Dregei* hybrids on the market being called the species and are giving considerable beauty to the world under

a false name; white flowers.

*B. Francisii* is called the nasturtium of the shade garden. It is a new Ziesenhenné introduction and the slender rhizomes send out new roots whenever a node touches the soil or a moist, sphagnum moss totem pole.

*B. luxurians* has foliage that does not look like a begonia; it resembles a miniature *washingtonia* palm. This is reported to be a touchy begonia, with some growers, but as a novelty it is well worth studying for proper requirements.

*B. aconitifolia* (*B. Faureana*) leaves resemble the monkshood and as the years have not been unkind to this variety, it may still claim to be an excellent background begonia.

*B. nelumbiifolia* is called the water lily begonia because the leaves are similar to a lily pad, peltate. The leaves are light-green, borne on tall stems and grow too large for the average window gardener; white flowers.

*B. 'ricinifolia'* foliage resembles the castor bean so much, it is often called the Castor Bean Begonia. The lobed, bronzy-green leaves grow quite large, to 15 inches easily; pink flowers.

*B. 'weltoniensis'* and *B. olbia* are called the maple-leaf begonia. This is a good example of WHY one should not use common names. *B. 'weltoniensis'* is a semi-tuberous begonia and *B. olbia* is a shrubby fibrous, having a bronze-chatoyant surface, that does not resemble *B. 'weltoniensis'* at all. Both have white flowers.

There are other similarities in our begonia family. It would be an interesting lesson for the separate study groups to add to this list, even send them to the Editor for publication!

## What Is A Begonia?

By Mrs. May Taft Drew, Narberth, Penn.

(Mrs. Drew, as Program Chairman of our Philobegonia Branch, gave the following instructive talk at the January meeting, using Saintpaulia and Begonia blooms to illustrate her remarks.)

In response to the questions, "What is a Begonia? How do you know that your plant is a Begonia?", we can give the following outline to assist you in answering. (Please understand that one of the qualifying words—"commonly, normally, usually"—was inserted at frequent intervals.)

Plants are classified by their reproductive organs. To go hastily through the major divisions of the accepted plant classification: Begonias bear flowers and seeds (spermatophytes);

their seeds are enclosed in ovaries (angiosperms); their germinating seeds show two seed-leaves (dicotyledons). The family is Begoniaceae; the genus is Begonia.

In describing the genus, a variety of Begonias in flower were at hand. To illustrate its vegetative characters, specimens of Iresine and Pelargonium were shown for contrast. Begonias have leaves alternate, two-ranked, one-sided, the buds enclosed in sheaths that remain as stipules.

For contrast in describing flowers and seeds, African violets were used. Though both Begonias and Saintpaulias produce their flower clusters at the

Turn to Next Page

base of the leaves (axillary) and both have flower clusters that are branching, flattish, or somewhat rounded, and that bloom from the middle outward (cymes), they differ in almost every other way. Begonias bear the sex organs in separate flowers in the same cluster. They lack the green calyx, both petals and sepals (for simplicity called segments) being more or less alike in color. These segments are not joined.

Their number varies from two to five (more in double forms). Their stamens are many, each anther is joined at its end to its supporting filament. The pistils (carpels) are most often three, each with two branches, usually twisted, corkscrew fashion. The ovary lies outside the flower segments (inferior) and usually consists of three-winged cells. The ripened ovary splits to release many powder-fine seeds.

## NOW

### TUBEROUS TIPS

*(Commencing a series of timely cultural notes on growing the queenly tuberous begonia in Southern California, by Glenn W. Motschman, who practices what he preaches with marvelous results! —Editor.)*

It is necessary to start dormant tubers properly if we expect to grow specimen plants that will produce many large, beautiful blooms during the coming months.

Most important, of course, is care in securing fine strains of healthy tubers from a reliable source.

Cover the bottom of a shallow tray with a one inch layer of dry German peat moss. Place the dormant tubers, crown or concave side up, on top of the peat moss. Set the tray in a humid warm place, over bottom heat, if possible, or where a temperature of approximately 70° may be maintained. If the tubers are to be started indoors, it will be necessary to slightly dampen the peat moss in order to provide the small amount of moisture required to start the tubers. Remember that the tubers cannot use much water until they have developed a few inches of top growth. Placing dormant tubers in a wet starting mix or watering as though they were already growing plants will only result in loss through rot.

Prepare your rooting trays with a two-inch layer of a mixture composed of two parts well decomposed oak leaf mold and one part German peat moss that has been sifted through a quarter-inch mesh wire screen. When the tubers come to life plant them five inches apart in the prepared trays. The tops of the tubers should then be covered about one-half inch with the same mixture. Water very sparingly, keeping the flats damp but not wet. Gradually increase watering as top growth develops. The well rooted tubers will be ready for planting in pots or beds when there is a top growth of three or four inches.

**Equally good for East or North area growers.—Ed.**

### MY SEED-SPROUTING FORMULA

*Seavy H. Royal*

For a small quantity of seed I use the pound coffee tins. I place a layer of coarse builders' sand, about one to two inches, in the bottom of the can, then a thin layer of vermiculite, then a covering of shredded sphagnum moss about  $\frac{3}{4}$ th inch thick on top. Dampen the mixture; sprinkle seed from a paper on top of the sphagnum moss; cover with a paper and glass plate. There should be a space of about one-half inch from the top of the moss to the top of the can. Set in a warm place till the seeds sprout; then ventilate. After about ten days they may be sprinkled with a *weak* solution of some of the Hy-Grow type of fertilizer —  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon per gallon of water. But be careful not to burn tender plants. Pot when large enough to handle.

Another good mixture is one-third coarse sand, one-third shredded, sifted sphagnum moss, and one-third peat moss, sifted. Mix thoroughly and use to fill can. Put a layer of shredded sphagnum moss on top for seed.

## In Memoriam

It is with deep sorrow we announce the death in December of Mr. Henry H. Buxton, beloved husband of Massachusetts' First Lady of Begonias, Mrs. Bessie Raymond Buxton. The prayers and sympathy of the Society are hers.

Mrs. Marguerite S. Forsyth, loyal member of the Miami, Florida, Branch and expert begonia grower, passed away in New Haven, Connecticut, in February and leaves an irreplaceable vacancy among us. She was an indefatigable collector and also left a large butterfly collection as well as an enormous seashell collection that goes to the University of Miami at Coral Gables. *Mrs. A. E. Sackett.*

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Please double-space your work for editing. Thank you so much.

## Library Notes

The following new books have been added to your library for your reading pleasure:

**THE GREENHOUSE** by F. G. Preston, a complete guide to the construction and management of greenhouses of all kinds from the Cold House to the Tropical house.

Mr. Preston's excellent work, profusely illustrated, includes plans for the construction of glasshouses both for the amateur and for the commercial grower, various methods of propagation and a complete glossary of plants customarily grown under glass. There is even a chapter on diseases and pests, highly enlightening, since many are deluded into the belief that plants grown under glass are never subject to the usual garden evils. You may never aspire to own a greenhouse or grow plants under glass, but I can assure you that if you are at all plant-minded you will find this book delightful reading.

**GREEN FINGERS** by Reginald Arkell has just the right touch of humor to be greatly appreciated by all gardeners. We need to add this bit to our daily life, since a too serious side may prove a bit dull. If you read and enjoyed **OLD HERBACEOUS** by the same author, you will appreciate this small volume of poems designed by the writer as "a present to a good gardener."

**NEW MEMBERS**, please do not be discouraged if the book you order on loan does not arrive in the next mail. It may be out in circulation to another member, but your name will be added to the waiting list, and books will be mailed as soon as returned to the library. It is always a courtesy to other members to return a book as soon as possible, since others may be as anxious to read it as you are. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by all interested members.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

## Begonias for the Amateur

(Notes taken from Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné's lecture to the Santa Monica Bay Branch, by Marie K. Haskell.)

To-night I will tell you about the plants that are most easily grown. Most people baby their plants too much, when some of them grow so easily if neglected a little. Unless you know what a plant wants, you cannot raise it, so study your plants, find out where they like to be best. In the lath-house or glass-house a plant may not do well on one side of the house, but if you move it up or down or across, from one side to the other, it may pick up right away. Most begonias like light from morning until 2:30 P.M.

Some of the finest begonias we have are natives of Mexico, where they grow right along with the orchids and like a cooler atmosphere, out of doors. A great many begonias grow in an area where it is cold and foggy, from 4000 to 9000 ft. high, sometimes blooming in the snow. Begonias do not like dry conditions, and also in Mexico they are often growing in lime-stone. So although we think of begonias as liking acid, they do require some lime.

Most of the begonias we have will grow beautifully outside under the trees, where they will get a natural humidity from the tree itself. Put ordinary steer manure on your soil and work it into a depth of about 6 inches and plant your begonias so that they will have a filtered light and you will see a brighter glister to the leaves. Many plants that bloom only once a

year in the lath-house will bloom all the time under the trees. You will find they will be warmer there than in the lath-house in the winter time and, as the tree itself gives off moisture all the time, you will not have to water so often. The moisture in the garden is much more uniform than it is in a pot and more lasting.

The only way to water begonias under the trees thoroughly is to use a hose or sprinkler and water for three or four hours at a time. In this way the tree roots will go straight down for their water instead of up, to take away the moisture from the plants. If you do find roots in the soil around your plants, chop them up and use them for humus around the plants.

Some of the more sturdy cane types can be put in the sun and underneath, in the shade of their leaves, put the other types, using a little oyster-shell in the soil. If you have no trees in your garden, plant some fuchsias along the wall. Nip them to keep them bushy and plant your begonias under the fuchsias.

In lightening a heavy soil, use steer manure instead of sand, as there is no nourishment to the sand; also, when there is sand in the soil, the roots have a tendency to dry out. Use German or European peat instead of the finer types, as the German peat has

Turn to Next Page

lumps in it and the lumps, filled with water, expand to 8 times their dry size. Begonias need as much air in the soil as they do water; so this lumpy peat will absorb the water and, as it dries out, it automatically sucks in the air and the air benefits the begonias. You need about 40% humus in the soil to grow good begonias. You also need charcoal and, instead of having your charcoal all pounded to the same size, have it un-even in size, some chunks as large as a walnut and graduating down to dust.

The hairy types of begonias will take no more water than the other kinds, and people usually starve and drown them. I think the reason that most rex begonias lose their leaves in the winter is because they have used up all of their nourishment that was given them in the spring and there is nothing more to keep them growing. My wife and I like to transplant our rexes in August and re-feed and water them. In watering a rex begonia be sure it gets the water you give it. The leaves of a rex grow out in such a way as to divert the water away from the roots, if you just sprinkle them; so be sure and get down under the leaves when you water them.

Begonias like a light airy soil that has moisture in it but is not soggy. In planting them do not dig a hole like a bath-tub in heavy soil, where water is apt to collect and sour, but rather build up your soil on top of the ground and ring it with rocks to hold it in place; then, when watering, the water will run off naturally.

In using the 'ricinifolias' for house

plants, you can use glazed pots and you will not have to water so often.

In putting potted plants in the house, have several in one pot in a window box of wood or a glazed pot, and they will give off humidity to each other and in a glazed pot you will find the soil is always damp. Rhizomatous begonias need a larger pot than the plant in order that the rhizome can keep on growing. When you have a choice plant, always make a cutting so in case something happens to it you will still have a little one to carry on for you.

You can root many choice varieties of begonias in a casserole, in sponge-rock. Have your casserole, from one-third to one-half full of the dry material, so that you can put your cuttings in the medium without bruising the stems. Now put in your water; stop before it begins to float the medium; then take a piece of Kleenex, put it down about one-fourth inch into your sponge-rock and let it hang outside the casserole. This will take up the excess moisture from the material. Now put the lid on and do not water again until you take the plants out of the casserole. When the plants have roots about one-half inch long, take them out and pot in potting soil that has been thoroughly soaked to make the fertilizer soluble. Keep under other potted plants to keep them humid.

*Nigricans*, *'Ricinifolia'*, *Feastii* and the 'Calla Lily' begonias all do better out in the garden because in the garden they do not get so much water and can handle it to their advantage. Be careful and do not transplant a plant that is resting.

## Self-Made Seed Bed

My lath house is an "L"-shaped lean-to with a little brick walk through the middle and a bed on each side and shelves on the building side.

One day I noticed two or three of the bricks in the walk looking quite green—but we had so much moisture this summer I didn't give it much thought, supposing it to be some kind of moss.

Imagine my surprise one day to discover it was a mass of baby ferns. Looking to see whence they might have come, I noted that a big fern of the pteris group was placed where the spores could be washed down onto the bricks.

This fall, when I had to bring the flowers inside, I took up two of the bricks with the most plants and placed them in my terrarium on the sun porch with other little ferns and plants. Now some are unfurling tiny fronds. Those on the other brick I removed and planted in woody soil and turned a fish

bowl over them and they seem to be coming along all right too, so I'll have quite a supply of this fern for the lath house another year.

I have had lots of *semperflorens* begonias come from seeds that had lived over winter in the lath house, as well as impatiens, but this was my first experience with self-sown fern spores. —Ada M. Entzminger, Bronson, Kansas

### MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN IDEA

Glendale makes a fine gesture to persons they believe might be interested in the Society. They have had printed neat 3 by 5 cards inked in green with a cut of the A.B.S. pin on the left and headed by gracious brush lettering "The Glendale Branch of the American Begonia Society INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. at the TUESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB-HOUSE, 400 North Central Avenue, Glendale."

# Slide Library

The Slide Library has been revised, recatalogued and brought up-to-date with the addition of many new slides and groups.

We wish to thank the New England Branch for the first complete Branch Group of slides—57 slides of Begonias grown by their members, including all types except tuberous, file case with empty compartments for 27 more slides; so we are expecting more of their beautiful slides to fill the case.

Ira L. Allyn of the San Francisco Branch contributed a set of 64 beautiful slides of tuberous begonias and 10 others. The tuberous were photographed in the houses of Antonelli Brothers and Vetterle & Reinelt in Capitola.

Ten slides of various Begonias, including one of a rare hybrid by Mrs. Robinson, were contributed by Mrs. Calloway, daughter of Eva Kenworthy Gray, for whom the Branch in La Jolla was named.

The latest addition to the Library is a set of 53 slides by the Humboldt County Branch. These slides are of Begonia Species and named varieties grown by the members. They are close-up views which show great detail and should be useful in helping to identify plants. These slides were enclosed in a shipping case capable of holding at least a dozen more which they promise to fill.

I have also added a set of 50 slides from my own private collection. These are of the wonderful displays at the California International Flower Show at Hollywood Park in Inglewood in 1949 and '51.

We are in need of slides of Fibrous, Cane-stemmed, Semperflorens, Hirsute and Rhizomatous varieties in order to fill out the sets of these groups which are now incomplete. If you have good slides of any of these types which you would contribute, or which you could loan us for copying, they would be greatly appreciated, since these sets should be filled to 50 of each group.

Slides of Miscellaneous Shade Plants are also needed. There are hundreds of shade plants which are of interest to Begonians, but we have only a few families represented in our library, mostly azaleas, camellias, epiphyllum and orchids. Are there not others represented in your slide collections which you could share with others?

Use of the Slide Library is one of the privileges included in membership in the American Begonia Society. Slides will be loaned to any Branch for showing to the members, or to any member of the A.B.S. for showing to garden clubs or other groups for the purpose

of promoting interest in the growing and knowledge of begonias, membership in the Society or the formation of a new Branch. The only charge to the Branches or individual members is the cost of postage and insurance. Commercial growers, educational institutions, garden clubs, service clubs and other responsible groups and persons who are not members of the A.B.S. can rent the slides for \$2.00 and mailing costs.

The slides are in sets as listed below. An index and commentary is sent with each set, giving information concerning each slide. Choose the set wanted (or combine incomplete sets to fill box—but not to exceed 64 slides.) Make second and third choice, to be sent in case first choice is out at the time. Order the slides at least 15 days before the date you want to show them, and return them promptly after showing, insuring the package for \$50.00. Remit to the Slide Librarian the amount used in postage and insurance in sending out the slides.

The following list of slides are ready to send out as of February 1, 1952:

Set		
0.1 Rex cultorum	(50)	mostly from Millers' garden in Whittier.
0.2 Rex Cultorum	(50)	various Rex pl'nts and l'v's
1.1 Fibrous	(15)	-
2.1 Cane-stemmed	(32)	-combine any
3.1 Semperflorens	(7)	-these to make
4.1 Hirsute	(21)	-set not to
5.1 Rhizomatous	(29)	-exceed (64).
6.1 Tuberous	(50)	fr. var. sources
6.2 Tuberous	(50)	(Capitola)-by Wiley
6.3 Tuberous	(64)	(Capitola)-by Allyn
7.1 N. England Br.	(57)	Begonias, var.
7.2 Humboldt Co.	(53)	Species & var.
7.9 Shepherd Br.	(20)	Hat Parade Ventura
8.1 Rose Parade	(44)	Pasadena-1951
8.2 Flower Show	(50)	Calif. Intern. '49, '51-by Terrell
9.1 Miscellaneous	(50)	shade plants, orchids, epiph.
Sets as listed will NOT be divided.		Flower. trees

R. H. Terrell Slide Librarian  
6848 Leland Ave., Riverside, Calif.





Begonias with thick or hairy leaves are much sturdier than those with thin leaves, will take more sun and suffer less from cold.

Begonias with thick heavy stems or rhizomes need less water than the more succulent types.

Most begonias, especially rhizomatous and tuberous, go through a rest period and should not be disturbed during that time.

Re-pot begonias only when they are putting on new growth.

Our double semperflorens were developed through selection and many will give double seedlings up to 50 percent.

The new lovely *B. Kenworthyi* is rhizomatous and has thick leaves, will take more sun than most begonias and does well when kept on the dry side. If watered on the leaves, they will lose the delicate powdery bloom and some of their coloring.

To propagate the semperflorens it is best to divide the tuber-like growth below the soil line. Cuttings taken from top growth of flowering stems will give only straggly plants.

When the semi-tuberous lose their leaves, it is their rest period.

There is a variegated *B. 'ricinifolia'* whose leaves are flecked with silver.

### SAVE MONEY

On the purchase of Begonias and other bulbs and plants. Joe's Bulletin tells you where you can buy them at less than standard catalog prices.

Subscription, two years \$1. Sample 10c.

**JOE SMITH**

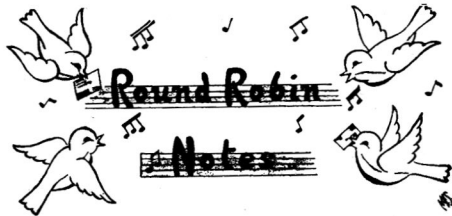
1854 24th North, Seattle, Wash.

*Antonelli Brothers*

## BEGONIA GARDENS

WRITE FOR CATALOG

Capitola Road  
Santa Cruz, California



Hello Robinites:

At last spring is just around the corner, soon be time to get new cuttings started and the old plants pepped up a bit. Why not send in your name and join a new Round Robin and tell others your way of growing both old and new plants?

We have openings for new members in the Saintpaulia and the Oxalis Robins. Can always place you in other Robins and, if not, will be glad to start new Robins flying.

Requests have come in for a new "Fern Culture" Robin. Anyone interested in a Beginners' Robin, where soils, temperature and fern habits will be discussed, should enjoy this group.

If enough interest is shown in an "Organic Gardening" Robin, we will be happy to start one. There are many things to learn about this movement.

Any A. B. S. member interested in the above Robins please send name and address to me, stating in which you wish to be placed.

These or any of our A. B. S. Robins will bring you many hours of pleasure, worlds of information and many new friends.

Good growing to all,

*Sophia Baker, Chairman*

2733 S. E. 35th Pl., Portland, Oregon.

## NEW OFFICERS

*Riverside:* President, Mr. L. W. Bentley; Vice-president, Mrs. Esther May; Secretary, Mrs. Arline Porter; Treasurer, Mrs. Ethel Prior; National Director, Mrs. William S. Allen; Publicity, Mr. R. H. Terrell.

*Sacramento:* President, Mr. J. C. Roberts; Vice-president, Mrs. G. A. Skoogard; Treasurer, Mr. E.K. Schauss; Secretary, Mrs. W. M. Kelso; Directors: Mrs. Faye Krohn, Mrs. L. G. Sutter, Mr. Nelson Elliott.

*El Monte:* President, Ruth Hewitt; Vice-president, Nina Abbott; Recording Secretary, Daisy Morrow; Corresponding Secretary, Jean Cross; Treasurer, Troy A. Hamm; Director, Ozell E. Abbott; Librarian, Marion E. Frosig; National Director, Mrs. Elinor Slocum.

*East Bay:* President, Mr. A. F. Munson; Vice-president, Mr. H.L. Helwig; Secretary, Mr. C. F. Jensen; Treasurer, Mrs. J. J. Hallahan; National Director, Mrs. C. F. Jensen.



## Armchair Explorers

Begonia seed orders are being mailed out as fast as possible. The seeds listed in your January Begonian were all the seeds on hand at that time. In the February issue were additional seeds. Now again this month I will list for you the new seeds that have just arrived. Watch this column each month and keep all back issues, and you can easily keep track of the available seeds. There is no need for a separate seed list.

Our member, Mr. William Brooks of Redondo Beach, California, who went exploring recently in Mexico, brought the Seed Fund 3 kinds of begonia seeds: "#220", which is a tuberous type, elliptic leaf spotted or blotched with white; "White Feather", which is a tuberous form, flowers white; "Cerro Benjo", is a rhizomatous type, white flowers, thick leaves with purple spots. Found growing on rocks with orchids. Mr. Brooks also brought back fern spores which he gathered for us, #1 "Huesteca", very beautiful hardy fern; #2 "Jilitol"—nice hard leaf type; #3 Tree Fern; #4 Silver back fern; #5 attractive large fern; #6 unusual fern, fronds about 20 inches long; #7 Tongue fern, grows like *polypodium*; #8 Gold Back fern. The above fern spores and begonia seeds from Mexico are 25c per packet, or \$2.50 for entire collection.

Many of you are wanting seeds of tropical plants, and I am so happy to tell you about some mighty rare seeds which I was most fortunate in securing for you. *Cydista aequinoctialis*, which is a very lovely vine with huge sprays of orchid colored flowers; *Pleiostachya rubescens*, an aroid, with large green leaves, red underneath, tiny blue flowers coming from ends of "fingers" on spikes. The dried flowers are nice in arrangements. (I added those I received with the seeds to my bouquet of wood roses—very nice effect). These are 50c per packet. Also *Croton (Codiaeum)* seeds at 50c.

The last week in January several shipments of begonia tubers arrived. I did the only thing I could at that time of year; notified members in California to whom I might ship them without danger of freezing. There were large

Turn to Page 61

## WORLD CRUISE REPORT No. 1

Seed Fund Emissary Geo. B. Furniss

My 13 year old grandson and I left New York January 5th on the Cunard's "Caronia", and, after about 36 hours of winter weather, the temperature began to moderate as we headed into the tropical Caribbean Sea. The Coconut Palms, characteristic of the tropics, are picturesquely impressive and bend out over the sea as if extending one a welcome. The fiber incased nut finally falls into the sea and may float for years until ultimately it is cast upon a bleak atoll, takes root, starts making soil, and adds another gem to the seascape.

The Jamaica Botanical Gardens, near Kingston, holds a collection from the vast flora of the island. There we recognize the spectacular Coral Tree (*Erythrinum Crista-galli*) with its sickle-like flowers in brilliant red, — also the Night-blooming Jessamine (*Cestrum nocturnum*), which fills the night air with its delicate fragrance. Both do well in our own sub-tropical areas and may be kept low and compact by heavy pruning. Then the Cotton-Tree (*Ceiba*) is a beautiful shade tree and the pride of the tropics for its great size. Likewise found in California and similar climates, the cottony fluff from its seed pods is Kapok, our familiar mattress stuffing. The Bread-Tree (*Artocarpus incisa*) is another outstanding tree of the tropics, with its large ovate leaves, and is among the most ornamental.

My first experience in the jungles was in the Panama Canal Zone. The highway crosses the old trail used by the pioneers in crossing the isthmus on the way to California. (My mother at the age of six had ridden this trail on my grandma's lap, seated on a donkey.) We stopped at the crossing, and I became inquisitive. The trail was quite well defined, so I entered beneath the dense overhead growth. Ferns and little plants, such as could easily be dug, took my fancy. As I wandered onward, the way became darker from increased growth and the intense stillness became spooky. I thought of the 20 foot boa constrictor which the guide had seen crossing the highway a few days before (I with a penknife!) and made a hasty retreat. Such is a taste of a seed and plant hunter's experience.

Then came the thrill of crossing the equator, where day and night are nearly equal in length, the seasons reverse, and twilight hours disappear. When passing from zone to zone the difference in the flora is distinctive. Yet at home in California we manage to adjust plants from a wide range, so that our collections form a sort of Noah's ark.



## Q+A=Success

by Research Dept.

Rt. 1, 505 Hermes, Encinitas, Calif.

Question: Don't you think we over-stress the tenderness of begonia plants? I have no room in the glass house for plants after they reach 2" or 3" pot size, so from then on they take the weather as it comes. I live about 21½ miles from the ocean and I plant the small plants out in the ground under lath. One bed has 8" of peat and manure, kept rather on the dry side. The other bed has an 8" bed filled with clay and *unwashed* beach sand which formerly was used for carnations. The clay soil is kept wetter. The parent plant of *B. circumlobata* was planted in the first bed. I took a cutting from the parent plant last October, and have it growing in the heavier soil. The cutting-grown plant is now larger than the parent. Neither soil may necessarily be what it likes best, but both plants are quite healthy and growing well. The original plant was outdoors during the cold weather winter before last. I gather from all this the plant will take a good deal of abuse. I certainly would not pose as an expert, but it is my opinion that more people have trouble with begonias from babying them and watering them too much, than any other reason. I have lost thousands of plants from overwatering but never lost a begonia from dryness except some flats of very small seedlings.

Answer: There are very few begonias that I consider hard to grow. These are the ones that definitely have to have heat. The general rules laid down in books are for the first-time grower of begonias and, unfortunately, some people follow the rules to the letter. I have gone into many lath houses that were kept wet all summer and seen some beautiful specimen plants but these people were using a fast draining soil, so while the plants were moist enough, they weren't water-logged. The plants need a certain amount of humidity during the hottest weather, but they don't necessarily have to be watered every time you go out to the lath house. I have had many visitors here who were amazed at how dry I keep my plants. But I have enough humidity here along the coast and the plants are only watered when they become dry. (And that means almost bone-dry.)

This year I became discouraged with the big repotting job ahead of me and the lack of the necessary where-with-

all to get larger and larger pots, so I literally threw some begonias in the ground. If any begonia was mentioned in the books as standing a little sun, that begonia went in the ground regardless. The leaves burned quite badly at first because they were tender from protection. The new leaves coming out were much tougher and only occasionally do I find a leaf that isn't up to par. This is due more to leaving water on the leaves than anything else. Potted plants have always been filled with leaf mold, and my soil is very sandy and light. It is neither acid nor alkaline but, while it retains moisture a long time, it is also fast draining. I just shook the plant out of its container into the hole made for the plant. I packed the plants down solid to avoid air pockets, then when they were all planted in the beds, I spread a layer of steer manure over the ground and covered it with a sack of leaf mold. This fall I repeated the steer manure and leaf mold treatment for the benefit of any winter rains.

At the time I started I didn't care much whether the plants grew too well, as long as they were alive until I could get around to making the "proper" kind of beds. Now that I have seen what the plants will do, I shall throw the rule book out the window! The amount of actual sun, wind and neglect of watering has amazed me. In one bed I planted the 'Superbas' I had, mostly from six-inch pots, with one cane growing well and one or two sprouts showing at the surface. In one year's time, the plants have thrown five and six canes to a plant and have almost attained the height mentioned in the books. 'Dorothy Grant' needs more protection from wind. 'Ingramii' has sun nearly all day and has been so full of bloom that I'm afraid some of the canes will disappear this winter from over-exertion. A plant of *B. 'Rogeri'* has been in full sun nearly all day during this fall and we've had some very warm weather we weren't expecting. It has never looked better; so plants that have the thick leaves of *B. 'Thurstoni'* will stand sun along the coast.

As a concession to the wind that whips across the yard and also because I don't like to mow lawns, my husband put up a half-glass, half-redwood fence across the front of the yard with a lath roof. Twenty-five more plants went out there this fall. They already look a hundred per cent better than those grown in the lath house. The only thing that I have noticed is that the hairy-fibrous seem to be a little slower in starting new canes, but when they do start to grow well, they become very bushy plants. All cane varieties grow stems twice as thick as those grown

in pots. This coming spring I hope to have the rest of the yard enclosed for wind protection; then I shall put all the plants I can in the ground. From my experiences, it would seem that the begonias most people grow need lots of root room. When they are confined in pots, the entire plant only attains about half the normal growth, unless it is fertilized and petted. I just have too many of the fibrous to be petting any of them, so I have to be hard-hearted. And the worst part of it is that they grow in spite of the neglect they suffer at my hands. As soon as I have completed planting everything, I shall try your recipe for growing plants into a 3" pot, then in the ground. I know they will do much better.

Fall is a good time to stop watering potted plants. Unless we have a couple of weeks or a month of very warm weather, my plants won't be watered more than approximately once a month. If rains come along, then it will possibly be two or three months before I'll turn on the sprinkler. It will all depend on the humidity. As my correspondent says, more plants are lost through over-watering than for any other reason. There is a fascination to some people to be always working over their plants, and to pass a water hydrant is more than they can resist. The average hybrid plant can stand more abuse than we give it credit for. I won't say that I would win any prizes at the Convention with my plants, because they won't have the care necessary for show purposes, but they are growing beautifully in my soil. With three types of soil mixtures mentioned, one should be able to see that these plants will stand a variety of treatment. I have even seen a common *coccinea* type plant that grew eight feet tall, planted where there was known to be a layer of adobe not far from the surface. It just spread its roots sideways instead of going down. As an experiment around here, I threw a duplicate of one of the 'Superbas' down in the orchard under an apricot tree, just to see how much neglect plants could stand. The tree receives only the winter rains now and won't be regularly watered until late spring. So far, the stems of the plant are still alive and very green, although it only has one or two leaves at the tip.

For the person growing begonias in the house in the winter-time, I would suggest creating more humidity in the air, rather than watering your plants every day or so. The hybrids coming from this coast, especially, go through a definite dormant period during the fall and winter, and you will have stronger plants if you allow them to dry off, almost to the point of wilt. Watering them whether or not they

actually need it, keeps the plants growing, it's true, but it also creates a soft tissue that will not stand neglect, so you are creating a "touchy" plant. Neglect comes from experience in growing plants. Some of the species plants seem hard to acclimate for a year or two, so we don't expect too much of them until they are used to our growing conditions. But nature isn't always the perfect Mother. She subjects these plants to all kinds of conditions and they harden off enough to survive each year, so why should we not do as she does and harden off our own plants to the point where they cease to be tender things and really start to grow as Nature wanted them to, with all the set-backs, but with a little more care in the critical times.

I cannot stress too much the fact that over-watering is the cause of most of the troubles. Soil conditions vary according to the particular grower. Even fertilization varies with the purpose for which one is growing the plants. But, regardless of how the begonias are grown, do let them dry out between waterings. Create humidity by some means if your area has dry air and grow them in the ground any place you have filtered shade. Space your houseplants far enough apart to create good air circulation and lay off the watering can until your plants just have to have a drink. You'll really be surprised how much neglect they can stand. They aren't as "tender" as they look.

## ARMCHAIR (Cont. from Page 59)

begonia rhizomes, round begonia bulbs and tubers of *Hillebrandia*, the Hawaiian relative to our begonias. Some members getting them have agreed to try to raise seeds to share with the other members.

Also from Mexico came a large shipment of *Achimenes robusta* and *pedunculata*; these I am still offering as long as they last at \$1 per dozen.

I find some credits on my books for a number of you members and wish you would write and tell me what seed you can use. I do like to keep all my debts paid. Please write me: Haydon, Dipp, Venable, Morter, Gebert, Haugen, Law, McFarlin, Zens, Fery, Stickney, Bersano, Weaver, Holley.

Be sure to plant some begonia seeds this spring. If you have never tried it and are afraid of wasting money—then just gamble a stamped envelope and let me send you a sample packet free. Do find out how much fun it is.

Your skipper,  
Florence Carrell  
214 No. Yale St.  
Fullerton, California.

# Who's Who . . . and What

By Mrs. Elsa Fort, Eastern Chairman of Public Relations

Mrs. Frank H. Mather (Phoebe) of Hatboro, Pennsylvania, is a charter member of the Margaret Gruenbaum Branch of the A. B. S. Phoebe, as she is best known to us, is a very successful grower of begonias, both from seed and cuttings. Her delight is in small, hard-to-get-going plants. For her very difficult plants she uses battery boxes of various sizes for terrariums. The bottoms are filled with woods earth or peat moss, and such plants as *foliosa*, *imperialis* and many ferns may be seen wandering naturally in the glass boxes. She has no greenhouse, but every window in her home is a spot of interest and beauty with its many unusual begonias in all sorts of containers. She is a firm believer in water-starting with both leaf and cuttings.

She has a strip of wonderful woods

## FANNING THE FLAME

The Miami Branch of the American Begonia Society was host for the Garden Center Program, October 24th, at beautiful Simpson Park. The members of the Branch furnished specimens for discussion and display. A panel discussion of begonias, saintpaulias and native Florida ferns was presented under the leadership of Mrs. Gene Ennermoser, President, as moderator.

Our three members chosen to present these subjects just fitted their parts. Miss Ann Grimshaw was as dainty as the delicate-shaded saintpaulias whose history, varieties, culture, and stories she related.

Mrs. A. E. Sackett displayed and discussed specimens of native Florida ferns to the solid satisfaction of the listeners. She spoke with such knowledge and interest as to make it all seem so easy and wonderful to gather and grow them as she has done.

Mr. Ray Rosengren, as natural as the begonias he displayed, put a sparkling interest into his instructions on the successful care and culture of these fascinating plants which he grows and knows so well. Incidentally, added spice was derived from the fact that the colorful little begonias growing in gallon jars came from the A.B.S. in California.—Mrs. J. K. Williams.

### CASA EDENA GARDENS AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves Plants

New and old varieties, also introducing our EDENA SERIES. Write for List.

### E. H. THOMAS

461 Bridge Road Walnut Creek, Calif.

back of her house, with a babbling stream, and with the aid of rocks and peat moss she has built many wonderful beds for the begonias in summer. To go to her wood garden is just like being transported into a real fairyland of begonias.

With all of her plant activities she still finds time to be the very able and efficient corresponding secretary of the Margaret Gruenbaum Branch and prepares the most interesting programs when it is her turn, which comes quite often, for the Branch is few in numbers but high in knowledge and enthusiasm for begonias. She has personally put on some very fine and unusual Begonia Shows at the Trevoise Horticultural Society, Trevoise, Pennsylvania, and her show last fall won the very special Gold Award of Merit for the American Begonia Society.

## THE SWANNER GARDENS, DALLAS, TEXAS

The Dallas County Branch held its November meeting at the home of our president and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Swanner.

Their lovely home is set amid a group of very large native pecan trees. The driveway leading from the street to the house is bordered on each side with ferns and lilies. Upon entering this house, we went into the large knotty pine living room with its glowing fire of hickory logs. In every nook and corner and on every table were pots of beautiful begonias. Then, when we went into the greenhouse, it was breath-taking, for they have spent so much time and work in growing their own plants and know each one by name.

Two guest speakers were featured, Miss Stella Glover and Mr. Huddleston, on growing and arranging shade loving plants.

Our historian, Mrs. Hopkins, reported on her trip to San Francisco and she and our Branch jointly thank all those good California begonia growers for the many courtesies shown her.—Ruth Cook.

### SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

ALL NEW (first time) members will receive with membership cards:

THREE cultural bulletins covering Rex, Fibrous and Tuberous Begonias.

A packet of easy-to-grow begonia seed with complete instructions.

AND a subscription for 12 issues of The Begonian. ALL only \$2.50!

MAKE MEMBERS  
OF YOUR FRIENDS TODAY!

## Santa Barbara Branch Presents Life Membership To Rudolf Ziesenhenné



Courtesy Santa Barbara News-Press

**Left to Right: Ethel Arnold, outgoing President; Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Louise Schwerdtfeger; Roy Pierce, incoming President.**

The Santa Barbara Branch celebrated its eleventh Christmas party with a well-attended dinner at which the outgoing officers were presented with corsages and highly praised for their administration. President Ethel Arnold was given a large redwood hanging basket planted with the newly introduced Ziesenhenné hybrid, *Begonia* 'E. O. Orpet'. The following officers were installed by Mrs. Roland Brines: President Roy C. Pierce; Vice-president, Mrs. Barbara Philip; Secretary Mrs. Ada Schaefer; Treasurer Mrs. Elsie Frey; National Director Mrs. Ethel Arnold.

The surprise presentation of the evening was the awarding of a Life-Membership in the American Begonia

Society to our first president, "Rudy" Ziesenhenné, by Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, our 1940-41 secretary, in the name of our Branch. Besides helping to build the foundations for a strong, Begonia-minded Branch, our popular and widely known Begonia specialist is always willing to give generously of his time and knowledge to those seeking advice and information on Begonias. May he enjoy the advantages of his life-membership for many many years!

The dark-leaved rhizomatous begonia (a Ziesenhenné hybrid) shown in the photograph was the door-prize won by Otto Schwerdtfeger. Garden gifts were also exchanged by all beneath the Christmas tree.

### Tuberous Begonia Price List

Now Ready

**RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE**

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Begonias                      Ferns  
Rex, Fibrous and Tuberous

New Begonia Hybrids

LIST FREE

(Closed Sun. & Tues.)

**ZUG'S BEGONIA GARDENS**

Phone LYcoming 7-3554

307 W. Gladstone — San Dimas, Calif.

## Welcome, Grays Harbor Branch



Photograph Courtesy of Dell Mulkey

**Judging Grays Harbor Begonia Show: Mark Warick, Ellis Greenhouse, Aberdeen; Mrs. Ted Butts, Elma Floral Nook, Elma; and Mr. Joe Lewis, Capitol Grounds, Olympia, Wash.**

In April of 1951 the Grays Harbor group of begonia growers organized a local Society to further their interest in begonias. With excellent publicity and good speakers the meetings were well attended. The organization planned a Begonia Show for August. The progress of the group is evident in the report of the Secretary, Miss Hartman: "The September meeting was devoted to discussing the Show and ways for improving next year's show. Mrs. Dorothy Mann showed slides she had taken and moving pictures in color. . . . The results of the first Begonia Show were extremely gratifying and we received an invitation from the Morch Hotel, where the show was held, that we were welcome back and that more space would be available. . . . All in all our first Show was labeled 'SUCCESS'. Mrs. Mann had many words of praise for the cooperation and hard work given by the members staging the exhibit."

Definite steps were taken to become a Branch of the A. B. S., and, when the Grays Harbor group of eighteen charter members submitted their Constitution and By-laws for approval, it was with much enthusiasm the members of the Board of Directors voted acceptance. So, on the evening of November 28th, 1951, this organized group became

Grays Harbor Branch of The American Begonia Society.

Officers of the Branch are: President, Mr. Carl Kniepp, Hoquiam; 3 Vice-Presidents (representing Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Montesano), Mrs. Martha Thompson, Hoquiam; Mrs. Dorothy Mann, Aberdeen; Mr. R. S. Messingale (of Aberdeen), Montesano; Secretary, Miss Alice Hardman, Aberdeen; Treasurer, Mrs. Hazel Stensager, Hoquiam; National Director, Mrs. E. J. Wold, Aberdeen.

Since the date of acceptance the Branch has been expanding and it is with pride that we welcome this already well-organized Branch into our midst. May their interest and enthusiasm continue and their Branch become one of the strongest in the northwest. Greetings from the American Begonia Society to the officers, committeemen and members of the Grays Harbor Branch of the A. B. S.!

Grays Harbor Branch is the second A. B. S. branch society in the state of Washington, and we are looking forward to having northwestern begonia growers organize branches in other localities and enjoy the help and facilities that branch work affords.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Louise Schwerdtfeger*

*A. B. S. Director of Public Relations.*

★   ★   ★   ★

## Calendar of Coming Events

(Visitors are always welcome!)

### March 7th

**Foothill:** 5th Birthday "Jitney" dinner. Come and help celebrate!

### March 13th

**Inglewood:** Fourth Annual Presidents' Dinner. Mr. Phillip Chandler will speak on "Kew Gardens".

### March 22nd - 30th

**California International Flower Show** at Hollywood Park in Inglewood.

### August 30th, 31st

### September 1st

1952 Convention and Show—American Begonia Society—Sponsored by the combined northern California Branches. San Francisco by the Golden Gate!

★   ★   ★   ★

**BRANCH MEMBERS!** — Please pay your dues to the your own Branch Secretary, not to the National Membership Secretary. Thanks!

### OUR PARENT BRANCH

Long Beach Parent Branch celebrated its **TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY** recently and honored Mrs. Mary Congdon, its member of longest standing, by presenting her with an A.B.S. pin engraved for the occasion. All honor to a faithful friend!

## 1952 CONVENTION BULLETIN

Notice the dates! Three wonderful days—Saturday, Sunday, and Labor Day—Monday!

Now you can plan your California vacation in earnest. Soon we will present you a travelogue of suggested points of interest to be included in your tour. Watch for it and take a copy with you.

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** We, of the Northern California Branches, are happy to be hosts to every one of you. San Francisco, a cosmopolitan exciting colorful Convention City, is yearly the mecca for thousands from the world over. This year, we hope members of your Branch will come here for their annual vacation, enjoy its beauty and atmosphere, and be feted at this Convention. In the surrounding area of our host Branches, you will find yourself in the very heart of the Begonia world. You will be thrilled by the scenic beauty of its mountains, streams, valleys, harbors, and the beautiful Golden Gate. The mighty Redwoods will be a delight and a never-forgotten inspiration. Our own Begonia gardens will be "open house" to each of you. We will be ready to make these attractions a reality, when you come to visit us.

## Your Editor

The begonia pictured with Mrs. Susie Zug last month was her Begonia 'Doma'.

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger wishes to credit Mr. Jay Ayersman (Santa Barbara Branch's official photographer) with taking the photographs of her miniature gardens appearing in the December issue. Thank you, Mr. Ayersman.

Dorothy Behrends writes that it is due to the honor system of "royalties", proposed by Mrs. Alice Clark some months ago, which has already been set in motion by individuals here, that the prices on Mrs. Zug's begonia introductions are considerably lower than would be necessary if the grower had to spend the huge sum necessary to obtain plant patents. Good news!

A fascinating letter received from Mr. J. A. Schurman of Djakarta, Indonesia, (which used to be Batavia, Java) states in part:

"The situation here is as follows: At a distance of not more than one hour's driving from Djakarta lies the city of Bogor (formerly Buitenzorg), where the largest botanical Garden in Asia is situated. This garden receives plant species, including Begonias, from all over the archipelago and elsewhere. They are grown on and labeled. If the name is not known, the place of collection is mentioned. Cuttings are made and seed is collected for propagation purposes and the young plants go to the sales department where they are offered at reasonable prices to people interested. Thus we can get a number of species, known or unknown. The Begonias occurring wild in this region seem to include no tuberous species. The Garden also sells some Rex and other hybrids.

"As we have no winter, all Begonias are grown in the open, either in pots or in the ground."

Our Seed Fund is corresponding with the Garden at Bogor.

*About Begonia 'Lillian Sloan':*

A delightful note from Jack Lighthart: "Through inadvertence no credit was given to the part played by one collaborator in the production of this new begonia. I was responsible for introducing to each other two begonia species that had not previously met. But the important job of germinating the seed and rearing the offspring was undertaken by the practiced hand of Marie Turner of Temple City, who has midwifed many fine hybrids, including the 1950 prize-winner, 'Ricky Minter'." Congratulations are due both foster-parents!

Have YOU read the advertisements yet? They are full of good items for your garden **HOPE CHEST**.

## BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

### CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, Mar. 7, Apr. 4  
Lounge, Florida Power Co.  
Winter Park, Fla.  
Mr. Ted Wolf, Secy.-Treas.  
Rt. 19, Box 3700, Orlando, Fla.

### DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mrs. Russell B. White, Secy.-Treas.  
919 N. Clinton St., Dallas 11, Texas

### EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Mar. 13, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,  
Berkeley  
C. F. Jensen, Secy.  
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

### EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Mar. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
Christian Church Fellowship Hall,  
304 E. Valley  
Jean Cross, Cor. Secy.  
1304 Elm, Alhambra, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, 8:00 p.m.  
La Varne, Rec. Hall, La Verne  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland

### FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 2:30 p.m., Mar. 1, Apr. 5  
Homes of Members  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Mar. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Cor. Secy.  
1301 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.

### GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.  
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

### GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, Mar. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
(March through November)  
Hogiam Pub. Library, or Messingale &  
Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Wash.  
Alice Hardman, Secy.  
217 E. Wishkah, Aberdeen, Wash.

### GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following  
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.  
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

### HEART OF AMERICA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mr. George Knoupf, Secy. Treas.  
2912 Delevan, Kansas City, Kans.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Florence F. Flynn, Cor. Secy.  
1319 N. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Roosevelt High School Cafe  
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Sarson, Secy.  
1108 E. Glencoe Ave., Compton 1, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Mar. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Mar. 13, 8:00 p.m.  
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorris Motschman, Secy.  
9601 Haas Ave., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.  
Mrs. G. W. McManus, Secy.  
7313 Princeton Ave., La Mesa, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Colonial Hall, 10th & Locust  
Mrs. W. Cox, Secy.  
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Mar. 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secy.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.  
L. B. Parent, Miami.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Mar. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Amer. Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo,  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Mary Wood, Secy.  
626 W. Charles, Independence, Mo.

### NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

### NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson, Secy.-Treas.  
P.O. Box 818, Denville, N.J.

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach  
Mrs. Beatrice White, Secy.  
1411 Poppy St., Long Beach, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 S. Main St., Orange  
Mrs. Evie Darden, Secy.-Treas.  
6701 S. Fee Ana St., Rt. 3, Anaheim, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Casita del Arroyo, 127 S. Arroyo Blvd.,  
Mrs. Harold Benson, Secy.-Treas.  
3180 No. Crestford Dr., Altadena, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Mar. 21, 8:00 p.m.  
Dania Hall, 19 Main St.  
Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.  
222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Mar. 14, Members Home  
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.  
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N.J.

### PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, Mar. 28, 8:00 p.m.  
Journal Bldg., Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.  
Mrs. George Venner, Secy.  
7604 S. E. Tolman, Portland 6, Oregon

### REDONDO BEACH AREA

4th Friday, Mar. 28, 8:00 p.m.  
2308 Rockefeller  
Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Secy.  
522 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, Cal.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Mar. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Arline Porter, Secy.  
4106 Adams, Riverside, Calif.

### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Friday, Mar. 28, 10:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mr. Charles Cass, Secy.  
2229 Erie St., San Diego 10, Calif.

### SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Mar. 18, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Mrs. W. M. Kelso, Secy.  
1348 Markham Way, Sacramento, Calif.

### SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Mar. 4, Apr. 1  
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem  
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secy.  
3460 N. Lancaster Dr., Salem, Ore.

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Mar. 24  
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & Univsty.  
Mrs. Thomas Hofmann, Secy.  
2327 33rd St., San Diego 4, Calif.

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.  
18635 Calvert St., Reseda, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, 7:30 p.m.  
1641 Taraval St.  
Mrs. Anne Mitchell, Secy.  
2370 15th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.  
Mrs. Ada Schaefer, Secy.  
1103 W. Micheltorena St., Sta Barbara, Cal.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, Mar. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.,  
Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Cynthia Slater, Secy.  
2317 Whitney Dr., Alhambra, Calif.

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, 8:00 p.m.  
V.F.W. Hall, 311 Pacific Ave.  
Miss Hazelle E. Oxley, Secy.  
428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

**SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH**

2nd Friday, Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7th St. Entrance,  
Santa Monica  
Mrs. S. S. Gross, Secy.  
1116 S. Carmelina Ave., Los Angeles 49, Cal.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, Mar. 18, 7:45 p.m.  
Univ. of Washington Arboretum  
Clubhouse, W. of W.  
Mrs. Paul Deiro, Secy.  
4618 18th Ave. South, Seattle 8, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura  
Mr. Bernard Woods, Secy.  
575 Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

**SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, Mar. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Cor. Secy.  
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

**SOUTHGATE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m.  
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern  
Mrs. Juanita Pritchard, Secy.  
11150 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

4th Friday, Mar. 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Fred M. Owens, Secy.-Treas.  
1312 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, Mar. 12, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Walter H. Kirch, Secy.  
Clearview Rd., Glenshaw, Pa.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEV., O.**

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

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Carolyn Spitz, Secy.  
7721 Vanport Ave., Whittier, Calif.

**CONDENSED MINUTES** meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in Los Angeles, Jan. 28th, 1952; C. E. Trowbridge, presiding.

Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society.

Present for the meeting—Messrs. Trowbridge, Moore, Haskell, Spaulding, Small, Terrell.

Mesdames Korts, Spaulding, Nolan, Williams, Hartwell.

Minutes of meeting of Nov. 26th, 1951, read and approved as read.

Reports of Treasurer for Nov. and Dec. read and approved as read.

President Trowbridge stated that Editor Spaulding had taken over the advertising pending the appointment of a Business Manager.

Report of Mr. Spaulding, as Acting Advertising Chairman, and as Editor read and approved as read. Editor explained reasons for Begonian being so late in reaching the membership and assured the body that this matter would be corrected as promptly as possible.

President announced there would be an article in the March issue of Popular Gardening, and called attention to copy of ad which would be run in conjunction with the article.

Mrs. Korts reported she has 5 Begonia pins on hand. Contact her if you are interested.

See elsewhere for report of Librarian. Librarian told of her need for new lists to be printed, of books in the Library. Authorized to have new up-to-date lists printed and ready to send to the membership when they wish them.

Slide Chairman, Mr. Terrell, gave a most interesting report on the Slide Library; see elsewhere.

Mrs. Ruthanne Williams, Vice-President, came down from Sacramento to attend the meeting.

President Trowbridge announced appointment of Mrs. Alva Graham of Pasadena Br. as Historian.

President called attention to drawing to be used to put Educational Exhibit in Flower Shows, etc. On motion, design was accepted and will be ready for use shortly. President announced the discontinuance of the Bell flower Br. of the A.B.S. Foothill Branch, as reported Representative Director, has a new meeting place—LaVerne Recreational Hall, LaVerne.

Supply of Certificates of Award exhausted; President exhibited copy for new design and was instructed to go into matter of costs, and discuss at next meeting. In answer to "What happens to the branch funds should a branch discontinue?" President Trowbridge stated "The funds that have been accumulated by a Branch should be disposed of by the branch membership, by vote, as they wish. The National Board has no authority over the funds of a branch."

Mimeographed Minutes of the National Board meetings are to be sent to Branch Representative Directors, wherever possible, and be handled in manner best suited to branch members. Please let your President know how you feel about the Mimeographed copy.

President displayed model and plan for an exhibit to be placed in the International Flower Show. More about this at February meeting.

President called attention to forthcoming book now being prepared by Dorothy Behrends, with drawings by Sally Bancroft and Dorothy Behrends, which is to be published by the A.B.S. Appointed Mrs. Korts (Chairman) Glenn Motschman, and Jean Kerlin to consider methods for raising funds to publish the book—they to report as promptly as possible. Much appreciative comment on the value of the leaf and plant drawings prepared by Dorothy Behrends and Sally Bancroft and published monthly in the Begonian.

Branch Representatives from Foothill, Glendale, Hollywood, Hub City, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent and North Long Beach, Pasadena, Redondo Beach Area, Sacramento, Riverside, San Gabriel Valley, Santa Monica Bay, Southgate, Ventura, Orange County, Whittier.

Gleanings from reports—Many branches are having short Begonia Lessons at each meeting making personal efforts to build up their membership; asking members to pay their dues direct to the Branch Membership Chairman—she to remit to the National Membership Chairman. This would enable the Branch to have a complete list of their members. Efforts to get the new members to hold office and take a more active part in the Branch administration, send in special-event write ups to the Editor. Save time for attendance for the Annual Meeting and Flower Show, San Francisco, August 30, 31st and Sept. 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

—Gonda Hartwell, Secy.

**MAGAZINE**

Small, interesting — flowers, gardening, bird and nature notes, poems, ads.

\$1.00 per yr., 25c, 3 month, Sample, 10c

**GARDEN GLEANINGS**

2B, Baroda, Michigan

POSTMASTER  
Return Postage Guaranteed  
P. O. Box 2544  
Los Angeles 54, Calif.

## 1952 ROSTER OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS

**CENTRAL FLORIDA:** Mr. William Henningsen, 1025 Montana Ave., Orlando, Fla.  
**EAST BAY:** Mrs. C. J. Jensen, 3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond 2, Calif.  
**EL MONTE:** Mrs. Elinor Slocum, 2521 Gidley Street, El Monte, Calif.  
**FOOTHILL:** Mrs. Mary Gillingswaters, 1083 N. Benson Ave., Upland, Calif.  
**GLENDALE:** Mrs. Jean Kerlin, 3207 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.  
**GRAY'S HARBOR:** Mrs. E. J. Wold, 722 7th St., Aberdeen, Wash.  
**GRUENBAUM, MARGARET:** Mrs. Kay Kilderry, 66 River Dr., Titusville, N.J.  
**HOLLYWOOD:** Mr. Walter J. Butt, 861 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles 5, Calif.  
**HUB CITY:** Mrs. Mildred Ogden, 114 E. Olive St., Compton 3, Calif.  
**INGLEWOOD:** Mr. Glen W. Motschman, 9601 Haas Ave., Los Angeles 47, Calif.  
**LA MESA:** Mrs. Edward Tweed, 9477 La Cuesta Dr., La Mesa, Calif.  
**LONG BEACH PARENT:** Mr. Hugh Hixon, 76 Home Street, Long Beach, Calif.  
**MISSOURI:** Mrs. Leora Calmese, 2312 E. 41st St., Kansas City, Mo.  
**NORTH LONG BEACH:** Mr. Hugh Hixon, 76 Home Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
**ORANGE:** Mr. Chas. Criss, 512 E. Center Street, Anaheim, Calif.

**PASADENA:** Mrs. Alva Graham, 515 El Centro St., So. Pasadena, Calif.

**REDONDO AREA:** Mr. Harry Marshall, 3618 W. 59th St., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

**RIVERSIDE:** Mrs. William S. Allen, 7904 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO:** Mr. Melville Newfield, 3809 'T' St., Sacramento, Calif.

**SALEM, OREGON:** Mrs. G. G. Craig.

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Mr. Carl Meyer, 578 Gates St., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY:** Mr. Clarence Johnston, 10151 E. Rio Hondo Pkwy., El Monte, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA:** Mrs. Ethel Arnold, 931 W. Valerio St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SANTA MONICA BAY:** Mr. Jack MacLanahan, 4080 Tivoli Ave., Venice, Calif.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR:** Mr. Harry Meyer, 111 Leighton Dr., Ventura, Calif.

**SOUTH GATE:** Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, 5932 Seville Ave., South Gate, Calif.

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY:** Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, 26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

**WHITTIER:** Mrs. Haidee Hackler, 6225 S. McNeese, Whittier, Calif.

(NOTE: branches not named here have either not elected a national director or failed to report.)

*Palos Verdes*

### BEGONIA FARM

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Waltheria, Calif.

#### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Complete Selections of  
 BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS  
 Fuchsias — Camellias

Open Every Day

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop  
 1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach, Hi-way 101

### AFRICAN VIOLETS



LEAVES — PLANTS  
 The best of the older varieties  
 and many new ones  
 Write for list

#### ORCHARD NURSERY

4011 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, Calif.

Raise

From Seed

#### SHADE LOVERS

- Rainbow Coleus
- English Primrose
- Tuberous Begonia
- Fuchsia Hybrids
- Impatiens
- Calceolaria

Pkts. 50c each, All 6, \$2.00. Free Catalog  
**CAMPBELL SEED STORE**  
 137 W. Colorado St., Dept. B  
 PASADENA 1 CALIFORNIA

### AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks; 7/32"-A each .08, 7/32"-B ea. 10c  
 ¼" each 12c, ⅜" each 15c. Use 7/32" A or B  
 for 4" pots. Write for NEW bulk prices.

**JOHN P. TOBERMAN**

4313 Jonathan St. Bellaire, Texas

### SPOONIT

FREE SAMPLE

Send Post Card now for trial package of  
 SPOONIT fertilizer. Try it before you buy.

**PLANTSMITH**

Box 818 Palo Alto, Calif.