

The BEGGONIAN

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(See Page 97)



Ruth Stewart
Allen Photo



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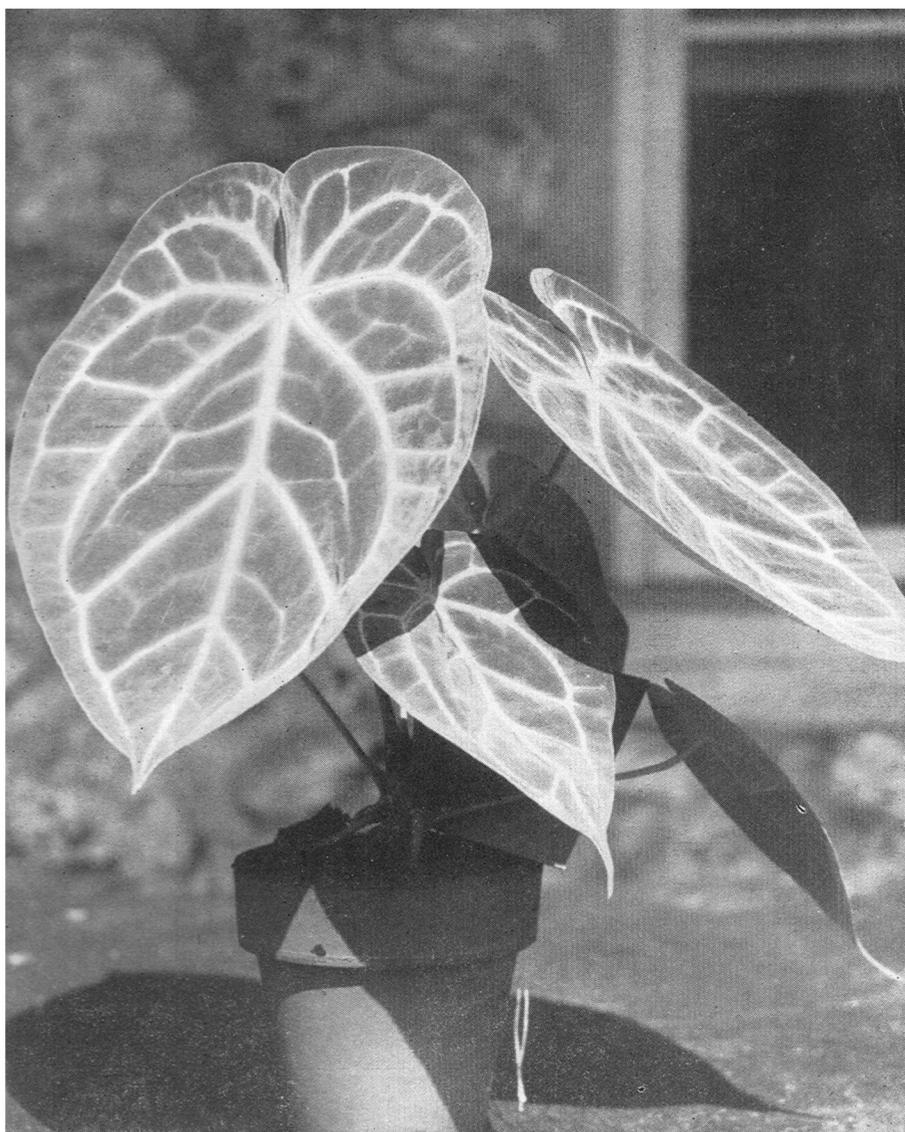
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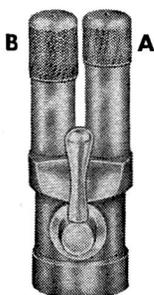
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VOL. XIX
No. 5



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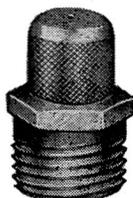


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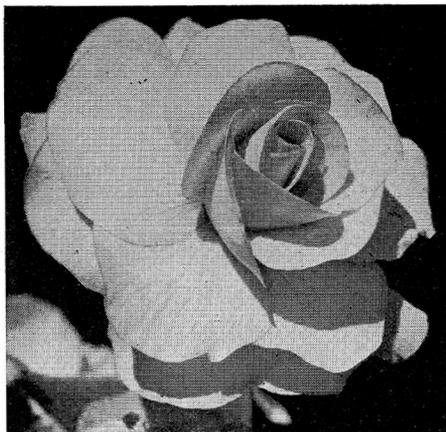


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May—

*Remember—When you put begonia tubers into place,
You hold a crown of jewels within a leather case!*

Operation: Begonia-Miami

By G. E. Ramer, Miami, Florida Branch

Begonias have been my hobby for several years, and I have acquired over 100 varieties. My experiments have been devoted to those varieties that will do well in the open garden. At present my garden is in full bloom, and it is something to look at.

A couple of years ago I became interested in tuberous-rooted begonias, and as they did not seem to do well here in the Summer, I made a trip to California to find out under what conditions they grew there. I visited most of the growers from Los Angeles to Portland. The cool, humid conditions along the west coast seemed to be ideal for the proper growth of these plants.

About the first of February, 1951, I obtained a number of tubers from some of the well known firms propagating them and started these in the prescribed manner, and they were finally planted in 8 and 9 inch pots.

In order to try and duplicate the California conditions, I fitted up a small glass house, 9 x 9 x 9 feet, with factory ribbed wire glass on the roof and sides except the south. Unglazed portions were covered with white insulating board to reflect light. In this house I installed two air conditioners. One took fresh air from the outside, adjacent to a large goldfish and lily pond, to improve humidity conditions. The other was a water-cooled unit that simply circulated the air in the house. The house was also provided with concrete tank used for storing rain-water which, with a screen top, acted as a bench on one side and helped to maintain proper humidity. When the temperature was high in the summer months these air conditioners were hardly able to maintain a temperature of 65 degrees in the day time, and sometimes at night.

Starting in May these plants bloomed all through the summer months. They were fed every two weeks with fish emulsion and watered whenever they showed dryness, chiefly with rain-water but at times with treated water

to bring the pH down to about 6, using the common vinegar purchased in the stores.

In October, when the days began to shorten, I installed filament and fluorescent lamps, using eight 40 watt daylight lamps under the roof and a number of 20 watt white lamps distributed among the plants, as well as six 100 watt filament lamps under the roof. As these lamps gave off quite a lot of heat, vents were provided near the roof so that the excess air provided by the air conditioner carried off most of this heat. These lamps were controlled by an automatic time switch so as to artificially provide light seventeen hours a day, including four hours from ten p. m. to two a. m. During the shorter days here the time from sunrise to sunset was only about ten hours.

In November cuttings were taken and planted in half peat moss and half vermiculite. About 50% of these thrived, so I now have quite a few new plants coming along that ought to start blooming long before tubers planted this time of the year, which is the usual time for such planting, as the growers will not ship earlier.

Most of my plants are still blooming, although they are showing signs of becoming dormant. The new plants from cuttings are coming along nicely and are now 8 to 12 inches high. We have had unusually warm weather this winter and not much rain.

I want to stress two points. Tuberous begonias will grow anywhere under the proper environment. Raising them under the conditions above mentioned is expensive.

(Mr. Ramer enclosed some slides of his plants showing the perfect growth attained in his house. He also has grown many other types and catalogued available information and photographed many varieties for reference. Many members who combat dry heat conditions will find Mr. Ramer's solution helpful, varying it to their own needs. —Editor.)

Tropical Companions

By Mrs. A. E. Sackett, Miami Branch

Down here in Florida we have many tropical plants popular for using as fous and accents to our begonias. Many of these are equally useful in the sheltered gardens or other sub-tropical areas and also as indoor or glasshouse companions in colder climes.

The two pictured by Ruth Stewart Allen, publisher of Tropical Gardening, when taking photographs of our 1950 show, are very fine.

Anthurium crystallinum, with its huge velvet leaves, and *Costus melacaulis*, silky and striped, are lovers of humidity. These and many other anthuriums, along with marantas, calatheas and most ferns, grow well together. We treat them as bog plants, that is, —leafmold or peat moss, some sand, and charcoal in pieces; plenty of water, but not allowed to stand in water.

I have grown thousands of crystallinum seedlings. I start them in about 4/5 peat and 1/5 sand, made rich with either cow or stable manure.

None of these plants seem to grow in the winter time and will not tolerate cold below 50°. If they could be kept at 70° with no variation they

would make specimen plants with little trouble. They have few insect enemies, the worst being snails, slugs and cut worms.

As anthuriums get older they do better if kept pot bound, and at this time they must have more food, oftener. The *melacaulis* and *marantas* seem to do better if the soil is kept very porous; that way you get more offsets. Under the treatment for anthuriums you could put the aloccasias. Of course, I mean the better ones; the common ones grow in my yard behind the pool in the driest part of the yard. They have shorter stems that way, but good color. These plants are like rex begonias; they will tolerate more sun than most people think.

For added humidity on the more delicate sorts, we find that Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*—syn. *Dendropogon u.*) is very good insulation for either heat or cold, and, by spraying it on hot days, it raises the humidity in quick time. Also it controls the amount of shade, especially for rexes. (See Mr. William Henningsen's slat house, pictured in the October, 1951, 'Begonian'.)



Plant of Mrs. Sackett

Photo by Ruth Stewart Allen

Costus melacaulis

Tropical Plants and Plantings

This was the title of a talk given by Mr. Harold Sternberger of Bamico Gardens, Pasadena, to the San Gabriel Branch of the American Begonia Society recently. Notes by Virginia J. Humphrey.

Mr. Sternberger highlighted his talk with a collection of fifteen new and rare philodendrons.

He assembled a small planter with all tropicals, defining a "planter" as being anything without a hole in the bottom. He used a mixture of peat moss, Sponge-rok, and Black Magic. Method—first wash all soil from roots of plants; choose plants that live well together, such as *Aucuba japonica*, *Sansevieria*, *Nepthytis*, *Philodendron*, etc. Watering is most important. Peat moss holds 90% its own weight in water. Water plants after the top is dry half an inch down. Water every two weeks approximately. Fertilize—just to keep them green. Small Vigoro pills are good. They take about six weeks to dissolve. To clean use one application of a leaf polish to get the dust off and then sponge with cotton and water to keep them clean.

Another idea is to raise small plants in terrariums for more humidity. *Anthurium crystallinum*, (pictured in this issue), is useful in terrariums.

Potted plants are more practical than the planters because of the hole in the bottom of the pot. When using a saucer

under the pot, leave no water in the saucer. Water from the top and let drain through, and then empty the saucer. Do not let stand in water.

Potting plant mix: Equal parts, soil, sand, peat and leaf mold with two level teaspoons bloodmeal to a six inch pot. Moisten plants before fertilizing. Plants on plant stands are nice. Never put plants in a closet. Plants do not grow in the dark. They will starve to death.

Pests—spray every ten days for mealy bug. Use Orchid spray for aphids on tropicals.

Additional tropical plants useful for indoor plantings include:

Ficus utilis; *Ficus elastica* (the common Rubber-plant) and its variegated form; and *Ficus lyrata* (syn. *pandurata*), the Fiddle-leaf Fig, are magnificent. Keep watered and well fed.

Dracaena (Dragon's Blood Plant) varieties such as *fragrans* (solid green), *Massangeana* (yellow-stripe in center), and *Godseffiana* (white-spotted).

Dieffenbachia species and varieties—such as the new 'Rudolph Roehrs' with creamy white leaves, darker green veins; and *picta* (white spotted on a dark green background). Pull centers out to stop growth. Cleanse with water and keep on the dry side.

Schefflera (which makes trees in Australia), grown from seed can be grown in groups and used in dish gardens. Larger plants are available potted or canned in nurseries.

Begonia r.c. Ne Plus Ultra

By Mr. J. French, New Addington, England

(In answer to our query for a description of this rex which Mr. French prized so highly, he kindly reports the following after careful checking with Mr. Frederick Bedson.)

'Ne Plus Ultra' is a very erect plant and branching well above soil level, and for this reason requires staking reaching 10 to 12 inches. The foliage is broad, ovate-pointed, having a ground color of silver green with a satin appearance and some leaves have a slight splash of darker green. It has a rather irregular margin of very deep maroon, approximately one-fourth to three-eighths of an inch; from the petiole a further area of maroon of irregular shape spreads out along the veins covering about one-third of the surface, forming an inner and outer zone of maroon. On the reverse side

the leaf is a pale green with corresponding zone as above, but a beautiful garnet red, with the whole network of the veins shown up in clear relief in this color. Given good light and fair humidity the whole plant seems to glow like satin.

The following history I obtained from Mr. Bedson. It was first introduced in this country in the year 1903 by the firm of nurserymen, Messrs. Saunders of St. Albans, England, at the same time as several new hybrids of that year and is referred to by M. Chevalier as a cross of *rex x cathayana*. It is quite distinct from any other rex and I am informed that in spite of the very limited rex culture here it is always added to any good collection.

Begonias In Nebraska

By Mrs. Carl R. Hansen, Chambers, Nebraska

Who could know that the magic in a package of rex begonia seed would start me off on a hobby that is growing to such proportions that I am actually moving out some of the furniture to make room for more and more begonias? (That is, until the winter months taper off and once more all plants can again be moved to my big porch which they occupy about seven months of the year.)

But such is the case, and yet I am looking forward to my spring planting of rex begonia seed sprouting. I hope to get some entirely different from those I now have. Watching the old, old miracle of such beautiful plants developing from "dust fine" seed is an absorbing pastime and one I never tire of.

Have had good success rooting the leaves also — in pots of vermiculite which have no drainage! (This is to insure moisture at all times.) The leaves are first put in a glass of water for two days, then the stem is dipped in Rootone before planting them in the vermiculite. If a leaf seems limp,

snipping off about one-third of it will generally make it straighten up and get busy making roots. I treat African Violet leaves the same way with good results. For growing healthy begonias I find it essential to have rich porous soil, careful watering, indirect light, clean foliage and plenty of fresh air. In my glassed-in porch, which is about 60 x 8 feet, are shelves on the back walls as well as under the windows. And on these back shelves the begonias really out-do themselves. The outside door is always open except on windy days, and a thorough washing with the hose (fine mist) every three weeks or so keeps them in fine condition. Having plenty of space the plants can be arranged to their best advantage without appearing crowded. I realize how fortunate I am to have 'perfect' soil for acid-loving plants (which I discovered in our pine grove) — no measuring of this or that, no fertilizer of any kind do I ever use, and it stays loose and mellow but does require quite a lot of water. When transplant-

Turn to next page.



One tiny corner of Mrs. Hansen's begonias!

ing one does need a light touch to keep the soil from crumbling from the roots!

However, begonias are not my only plants. My ferns practically grow wild moved out in the porch, and they revel in the same soil, as do about fifty African Violets, which is a new sideline fast developing. The orchid cactus, another specialty of California, the slips of which were sent me by a California flower friend, are a new venture for me and so doubly interesting. After seeing a huge plant in bloom over in Iowa last spring, I can truthfully say it was one of the most gorgeous flowers I've ever seen. So, I've been studying the needs of this plant and find it does amazingly well with the same soil and care that the begonia requires.

Gloxinias, too, are a 'must have'. I grew all mine from Buell's hybrid seed and always try to have about 75 on hand for bloom in the porch from June to November. I keep some back on

purpose to prolong the blooming period. Their lush foliage is so rich with its lovely sheen! When I put them on the shelves, I never turn them, and they grow into a solid bank and support each other. Their branches are easily broken if turned a different way. Blooms measure up to 5½ inches across and colors vary from purest white to deep crimson and plum shades with a variation of the formation of their speckles and edges. Because they can be put away in a closet for the winter, I appreciate them more, as that leaves more space for the begonias in winter. Cyclamen too (grown from seed) occupy one big window and are a favorite. Last winter they bloomed from February to June.

Several ivies, philodendrons, rosary vines, etc., put a finishing touch of airy green-ness to my flower-filled rooms, where I not only have my flower-hobby to make the days go by so swiftly, but duties a-plenty which go with a busy cattle ranch.

Library Notes

New material is being added to your library at such a pace that I am unable to keep the membership informed and I would suggest that you add the following to your new library lists. Members who have not obtained the new lists may send in a stamped, self-addressed envelope and they will receive one by return mail.

HOW TO GROW RARE GREEN HOUSE PLANTS by Ernest Chabot, has been added to your library and is a fitting sequel to *GREENHOUSE GARDENING*, including an alphabetical list of the many fine exotics which may be grown under glass (and what an adventure some of them must prove).

YOUR FIRST ORCHIDS and HOW TO GROW THEM, the publication of the Oregon Orchid Society, has been donated to the library by Mrs. R. M. MacKinlay, one of our members in Portland, Oregon, and is a welcome addition to our literature on this plant. We are most grateful to members who so generously share new reference material with other members of the A.B.S.

The following is a list of the books in stock (which it is customary to publish at least twice a year) and any of the following may be purchased thru your library. (California members, kindly add 3% sales tax.)

HOW TO GROW RARE GREEN HOUSE PLANTS, Ernest Chabot, \$4.00
BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES & GARDENS, Helen K. Krauss, \$2.49

BEGONIAS & HOW TO GROW THEM, Bessie R. Buxton.....\$3.00
THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA, Allan G. Langdon.....\$2.00
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS, Worth Brown.....\$2.75
GLOSSARY OF BOTANIC TERMS, U. S. Dept. of Agri..... .25
HOW TO INCREASE PLANTS, Alfred C. Hottes.....\$3.00
CAMELLIAS ILLUSTRATED, Morrie L. Sharp.....\$5.00
GREEN FINGERS, Reginald Arkell, \$1.00
ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS, Montague Free.....\$3.50
HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS, Carolyn Rector.....\$1.35
THE CULTIVATED AROIDS, M. R. Birdsey.....\$4.25

Members wishing complete back files of the *BEGONIAN* may obtain 1949 and 1950 for \$2.00 each and 1951 for \$3.00. Write your Librarian for information on other reference material which you may desire.

—Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian

The Begonian Takes a Bow

"We are all delighted with our copies of "The Begonian". I know that the magazine is a big help in interesting prospective members, for I find everyone who looks over the copies sent us is very impressed with the wealth of knowledge and the benefits otherwise to be received for a mere \$2.50."

—Alice Hardman, Secy.,
 Grays Harbor Branch

California

TIMELY TUBEROUS TIPS

Glenn W. Motschman

Monthly cultural information on growing the Tuberous Begonia in Southern California.

The tubers that were started in March, and placed in rooting trays last month, will have developed the necessary three to four inches of top growth some time this month. They are then ready for planting in beds, planting boxes, or pots.

In beds the tubers should be planted twelve to eighteen inches apart in staggered rows with twelve inches between rows. Place a small handful of fish meal in a hole four inches deep. Mix the fish meal well into the soil and cover it with one inch of soil. Plant your well rooted tuber in the hole with the top of the tuber one half inch below the surface of the bed. Do not pack the soil around the tuber, keep the soil loose and porous.

For planting box and pot culture the procedure is much the same, except for a one inch layer of pea gravel or broken pottery on the bottom of the box or pot to insure good drainage.

In our warm, dry climate overhead watering is very necessary, and here in Los Angeles tuberous begonias will thrive if watered about 8:00 A. M. daily with a fine rain-like spray from your garden hose. The watering should be done each morning at approximately the same time. If the day is unusually hot, then a second watering about 4:00 P. M. will be necessary. When watering, be sure that the water falls like rain on the plants. A forceful spray should never be turned directly on the plants, for it would be most injurious.

With proper care and good warm weather the tuberous begonias should start blooming in June and continue to bloom all during the summer and fall months.

No further feeding will be necessary until the first flower buds begin to form. Then start a regular bi-monthly feeding with one-half strength fish emulsion.

Seedling plants should be planted in the same manner as the tubers and their culture is much the same. However, it will usually be August before seedling plants will bloom.

REX, RHIZOMATOUS, FIBROUS HINTS

Terry Olmsted

Are your rexes growing well now since you've divided and repotted them? Don't forget to keep them growing by feeding regular. I use a calendar and as I feed this month I mark the

date for the next one. That way I'm sure to be fairly regular. There isn't too much else to do to your rex and rhizomatous except watch their water. Don't ever let them dry out to the wilting stage.

Be sure to get seed from the Seed Fund, if you haven't already done so. They are loads of fun. It still isn't too late to start a few more.

Some of the ferns we transplanted out of jars last month are ready for pots now. If you have lots of them, put several to a pot. You'll soon have a nice bushy clump that way. They are growing so fast now—don't forget to feed them a little. Those little fellows surprise you with the speed those new fronds unfurl. If you have a place to keep them warm through the winter, you can still get spores and keep right on planting them all summer. I do.

The fibrous begonia and the fuchsia cuttings you took when you trimmed your plants back should be ready to come out of the flats any time now. Give them rich soil, and they'll well repay you. I grow them on in three inch pots until they are well established with a good root system. Then they can either be moved to larger pots or set out in your garden.



INSPIRATION

This display by Reynolds Gardens, Sebastopol, Calif., at the 1951 Sonoma County Fair should spur your rex ambitions.

North and East

Sidney Sampson, Duluth, Minn.

Do not start your tubers too early. Remember, the first week in June can really kick up some stiff wind and 45 degrees. If your plants are about three inches high by June 1st, that's about right for the second week in June planting.

Plants raised in a warm house and planted out in cool ground need protection. In the June issue I will discuss out-of-doors conditions.

Potting

When potting tuberous begonias, I use about the same mixture—equal parts of cow manure, peat, and sandy loam. I do not like to use a fine mix-

Turn to next page

ture. I like it quite coarse. I do not use any bottom drainage with the type of soil recommended. Too much bottom drainage allows water to pass through too rapidly, carrying out food values and leaching out the soil. Water should pass through slower, allowing total soil absorption; this makes for less watering. I use a seven-inch three-quarter bulb pot—the larger the pot the better. I cannot tell you how to water. You will do less damage on the dry side. Let me put it this way: Whenever you are in doubt about watering, don't do it. You can water your plants if too dry, but when too wet you can-

not wring it out. There is much said about feeding, but I do very little.

Seedlings

Begonia seedlings do much better if early transplanted. At times something will happen to soil in a flat, and seedlings will cease growing. I have known of seedlings remaining only 1 inch high while others of the same age are in bloom. On examination you will find these small one-inch plants have made small tubers. If these plants are removed from the soil and transplanted in fresh soil, they will soon renew normal growth.



Q+A=Success

by Research Dept.

Question: Where can I secure seeds and plants of the "Hiemalis" and "Christmas" begonias. —("New York")

Answer: As far as I know there is no place to secure seeds of this particular group of begonias. They are hybrids and most of the propagating is done with leaves. They are not grown extensively here in the west and, from the sources of information I have, most of the plants are obtained from greenhouses or florists' shops. Occasionally during the winter months here one finds plants in the larger florist shops. Throughout the midwest and east one most likely would find them in greenhouses. Most of the plants do not seem to be named, however. You might try some firm handling British seeds, with the remote possibility they might be able to obtain them for you.

Question: One of my seedling plants looks a good deal like Begonia 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'. One leaf on the plant has an extra little leaf at the sinus, which is one of the characteristics of B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'. However, my plant leaves are not as deeply lobed as the picture shown in the October "Begonian". Do you recall where the seed came from?

Answer: The seed was obtained from Mr. Foster, who brought back a few begonia plants along with his collection of Bromeliads. Unfortunately, this seed was either accidentally pollenized here or the plant Mr. Foster brought back was a natural hybrid. It was the only plant that refused to come true from seed, and, unfortunately for future records, the majority of the plants that were saved look almost like B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'. I have in my collection a small plant which is not cut as deeply as 'Scripps', but only time will tell

whether this coming year's growth will take on this characteristic.

Question: I would like to concentrate on the small or miniature types of begonias such as those listed in the March, 1951, "Begonian". Where can I get them? I have tried ordering plants from Philadelphia but the trip was fatal to the plants. Is it practical to start them from seed? —("Wisconsin")

Answer: The miniature rexes are not as hardy as some of the older, named variety, large leaved types. Shipping has always been a problem. Most of the growers would like to ship fairly new plants or plants that have had a good start in life but are still small. Most of the shipments from the east to me have been 2 and a half inch pots. Being very delicate, the miniatures do not survive the drying out that takes place in shipping. Most of these plants have been grown in glass houses where the heat and humidity are much higher than in the normal home. If the plant is absolutely dead upon arrival there is, of course, nothing that can be done for it, but if the rhizome still looks good one can sometimes get the plant started by keeping it in the warmest part of the house and inverting a jar over it. I naturally assume you've watered the plant thoroughly after potting it. Do not water again until the pot is nearly dry. This method creates the needed humidity and also allows the plant to form new roots in your growing medium. If too much humidity is created, mold will start, so watch for the first signs of trouble. Usually removing the jar part way and dusting with sulphur will check this condition, but sometimes the plants are on the verge of dying and this puts the finishing touches to them. I do not know of any dealer that specializes in this particular group, but you might write to the advertisers in "The Begonian". I know of no sources of miniature seed, but I do believe that if one has the patience and facilities for growing begonias from seed, it pays off in the long run.



Armchair Explorers

Good luck descended upon me this month in the form of seeds, fern spores, two boxes of tropical plants, a box of adiantum ferns, and two redwood wall baskets. I'll share as much of this with you as I can.

From Panama came a little seed of *Begonia Allenii* mixed with another species which was unknown but very showy. From Costa Rica our members Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Manis sent us seeds of a rhizomatous begonia described by Mrs. Manis as follows: "In the book, 'Begonias for Homes and Gardens', by Helen K. Krauss, the description nearest fitting this begonia is found on page 67, *B. Niagara*. It is quite possible that this seed is the same as that of the unidentified Costa Rican species introduced by the ABS about 1936. Described as follows: Rhizome erect with very little branching, may stand 1½ to 2 feet, about an inch in diameter; petioles up to a foot long, covered with long silky golden-brown hairs, especially noticeable when young; leaves obliquely heart-shaped, pointed lobes, entire edge finely serrated and ciliate, light to bright green, upper surface covered with short hairs, lower surface when young covered with long silky golden brown hairs which become less conspicuous as the leaves mature; inflorescences two feet tall, flowers erect, petals only slightly longer than wide, white, pink-tinged, flowers subtended by silky golden-haired bracts. Grown out-of-doors this begonia makes an excellent background plant because of its size and its bright green foliage. It is a prolific bloomer. The open erect racemes of pink flowers are delicate pink and green young seed pods are ideal for cutting and floral arrangements." Mrs. Manis enclosed pressed leaves and flowers, and these I forwarded to Mr. Ziensenhenne for possible further identification.

From Mrs. Bosque, our member in Cuba, we received cuttings and leaves of two very attractive begonias. These were also forwarded to Rudolf Ziensenhenne for identification. He reported that the fibrous begonia is closely related to *B. longipes petiolata*, and the other is of the large leaved rhizomatous type, bright green leaf, pink flowers.

Mrs. Bosque sent us seeds of these begonias.

From Hawaii came more of those rare seeds for you. This time *Schismatoglottis Roebelini* (many of you have been asking for seed of this), *Acanthus montanus*, *Dracaena* and *Clerodendron Thomsonae*. These are 50c per packet.

Also from Hawaii were more rhizomes of *Hillebrandia*, the close relative to our begonia. The rhizomes we received last month were from the island of Kauai, while this last box of rhizomes were gathered from Nualele Valley, Molokai, about 200 miles from Kauai. Only one small rhizome from a clump was gathered. It grows on sunny, often rocky, banks in the rain forest. It is possible that there is some difference in these two *Hillebrandias* found on different islands and a check is being made by growing the two *Hillebrandias* side by side and watching them closely. Those making this check are the New York Botanical Gardens, Rudolf Ziensenhenne, Mrs. Nichols and myself.

Gesneria seed weren't left out; along came seeds of a red hybrid streptocarpus, and of *Streptocarpus rexii*, *S. montanus*, *S. pusillus*, *Klugia zeylanica*, *Alloplectus sanguineus*, *Kohleria Lindenii*. There isn't much of this seed, but you may have it for \$1 per packet as long as it lasts. These are for experienced seed growers only.

Ferns weren't forgotten either. I am delighted to offer the fern fans some 40 different kinds of very outstanding and rare fern spores—each correctly named. I won't attempt to give you the list here as it is so long. Therefore I've had an Armchair Explorer's Club news-sheet mimeographed for you. I'll mail it out to all who send in a stamped envelope.

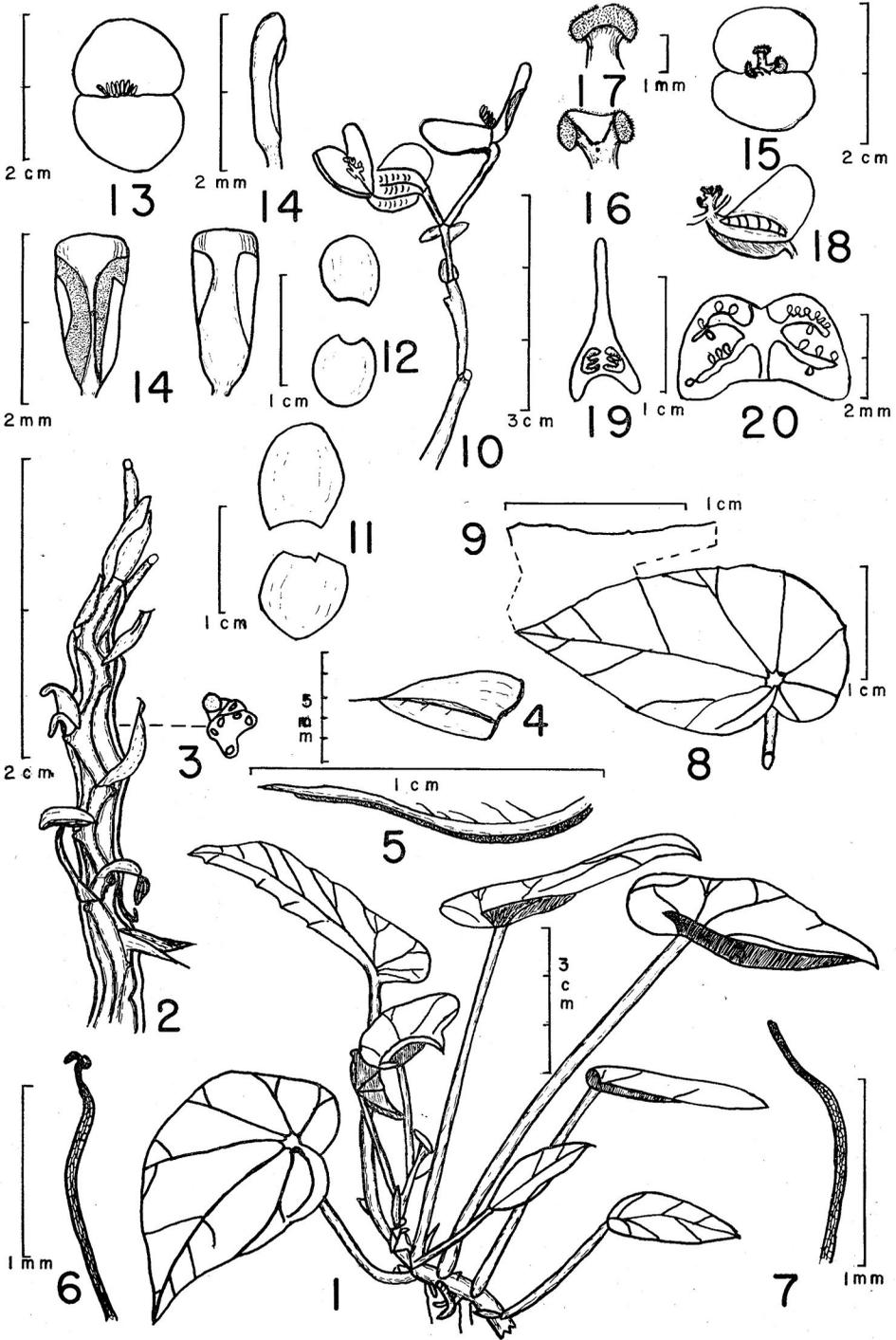
I'm very certain now that hard work is rewarded. I hope that I will have as much good news to report next month.

Your Skipper,
Mrs. Florence Carrell
214 No. Yale St.,
Fullerton, California

In Memoriam

Our Branch was grieved by the death on March 8th of Mrs. E. P. Gordon. We have lost one of our most valued growers. Begonias were new to her, but her garden has been a show place for years, and she was a collector of unusual and rare perennials. We miss her deeply.

Mrs. Russell B. White, Secy.
Dallas County Branch, Texas



Begonia aridicaulis Zies.

Drawing by Rudolf Ziesenhenn

Begonia Aridicaulis, Zies.

A new species described by Rudolf Ziesenhenné

BEGONIA (section **WEILBACHIA** (KLOTZSCH) A D.C.) *aridicaulis* Ziesenhenné, new species, herbaceous perennial (see figure 1): stem (figure 2) back of stem) rather woody and shriveled, zigzagging right to left from one node to the next, creeping, rooting at the nodes, the tip rising from the surface, outline (figure 3) roundish with ridges protruding, 2 inches and longer, 1/8 inch in diameter, not much branched, the entire length covered with foliage; internodes about 1/4 inch long; dull surface, sage green 000861/1 (The number refers to the color in The Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart), grooved and ridged with a very prominent ridge running lengthwise down the back of the stem and zigzagging to right and left at the nodes, lenticles few and minute, round whitish; leaf-stem scar light brown; stipules (figure 4) remaining, drying quickly, like paper, unequal triangular, tip sharp pointed, 7/16 inch long, 1/8 inch wide, inner half, sides parallel, sharp pointed, 3/16 inch long, 1/16 inch wide, outer half triangular, rounded near the base, terminating very gradually to a point, 1/4 inch long, 1/8 inch wide; keeled (figure 5) with the tip running out to a long hair-like point and extending about 1/16 inch beyond the tip of the stipule, several reddish-brown hairs are on the edge of the keel, 1/32 inch long; margin even, turned outwards, spinel red 0023/3, in bud, 0023, surface dull: leaf-stem (figure 8) round, smooth, 1/8 inch in diameter, 1 3/4 - 3 1/8 inches long, pod green 061/1, dull surface, moderately covered with reddish-brown hairs (figures 6 & 7) 1/16 inch long: Leaf (figure 8) firm but not thick nor fleshy, above schein green 806, along veins pod green 061/3, dull surface, bare; below veronese green 660/3, shiny, nerves not prominent, reddish-brown hairs (figures 6 & 7) on the nerves, leaves slanting and unevenly egg-shaped, tip sharp pointed, base deeply cordate, margin (figure 9) even, 2 3/8 inches long, 1 3/16 inch wide, palmately 8-nerved, outside basally 3, laterally 3, inside basally 1, laterally 1: inflorescence (figure 10) a cyme, few-flowered, blooms in February and March, flower-stems come from the leaf axils, round, about 5 3/4 inch long, 1/8 inch in diameter, sage green 000861/1; largest leaflet on the flower-stem (figure 11) turns brown and dries quickly, papery in texture, oval-roundish, tip rounded, 3/8 inch long, 1/4 inch wide, bare, margin even; secondary ones (figure 12) roundish; tip rounded,

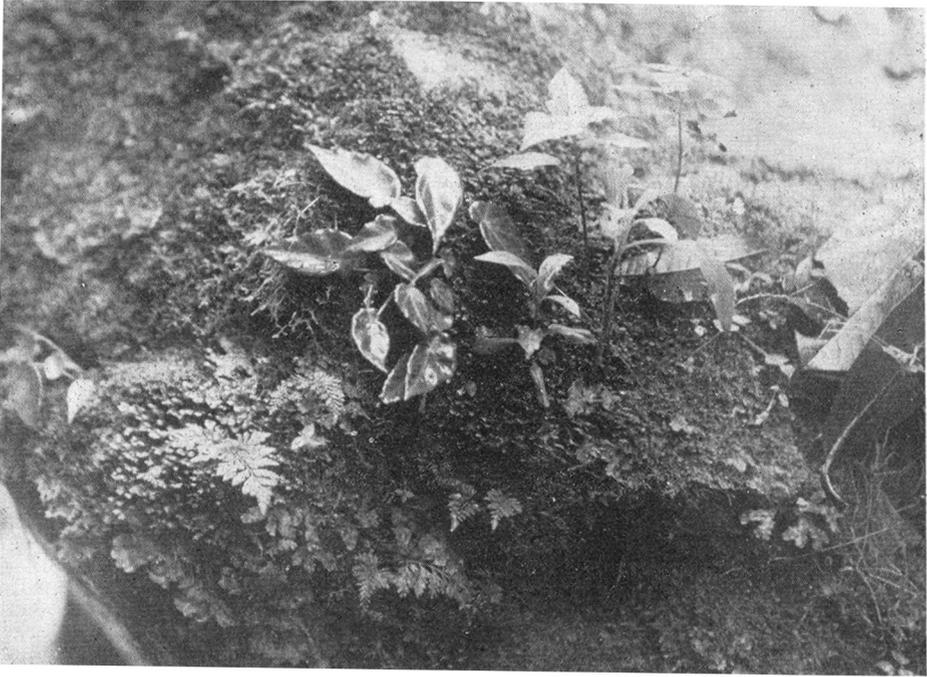
1/4 inch long, 1/4 inch wide; male flower flower-stem 1/2 inch long, 1/32 inch in diameter, covered with reddish-brown hairs (figures 6 & 7): male flowers (figure 13) petals 2, white, thick, half-round, tip rounded, base even, margin even, bare, 3/8 inch long, 5/8 inch wide; stamens 30 (figures 13, 14, 15), filaments free about 1/32 inch long, of various length, anthers oblong, wedged-shaped, tip flat, 1/16 inch long, connective produced: female flower (figure 15) flower-stem 1/4 inch long: female flower petals 2, white, thick half-round, tip rounded, base even, bare, about 3/8 inch long, 9/16 inch wide, margin even; stigmas (figures 15 & 16), base 1/8 inch long, branches 1/32 inch long, crescent-shaped, slightly 2-lobed, 1/8 inch wide, stigma papillae (figure 17) around outer edge: capsule (figure 18) 1/2 inch long, 1/4 inch wide, oval, bare, tip necked, one large wing (figures 18 & 19) 3/8 inch long, 3/8 inch wide at base, ascending, oval, tip rounded, on the other angles fleshy marginal ridges, wing and pod bare: ovary 2-celled, placenta 2-divided and carrying seeds on all sides; seed oblong, blunt top.

Mexico, Oaxaca, district Pochutla, "La Soledad" (a high altitude coffee plantation about 5000 feet) along the banks of stream. Mr. Thomas MacDougall No. 84. January 25, 1950. Also collected in 1948 as "Sra. Conzatti" with no number.

Begonia aridicaulis is easily distinguished from its relatives by the two petals each in the male and female flowers, by the smooth bare upper leaf surface, and by the even leaf margin.

The name *aridicaulis* means "dried stem" as the stem actually appears to be shriveled up. When the cuttings arrived from Mr. MacDougall, I was tempted to throw them out as seemingly lifeless stems. Reconsidering this drastic action, I put the stems into the cutting bed and — behold! This lovely little plant sprang forth. The leaves are light green with lighter, somewhat silvery-appearing, veins. Some plants have leaves with the underside red. In these plants the silver-like veins are more prominent, as the red accentuates the silver.

The growth of the plant is upright, but the stems are weak, and they gradually bend down to the soil where they root. When left undivided, the plants become very bushy. *Aridicaulis* usually grows less than six inches tall, so it is well suited to grow in a terrarium.



Habitat photo, by Mr. Thomas MacDougall

Begonia aridicaulis, sp. nov. Zies., center plant, growing next to a stream on a rock covered with moss, fern, liver-wort and Selaginella. Plant to the right is a *Peperomia* species. Young flowering plants, to the right, not identified.

BEGONIA (section) WEILBACHIA (KLOTZSCH) A. DC.) *aridicaulis* Zies., spec. nov. Herba perennis: caule ligneo, arido, flexuoso, repente, anguloso, 5 cm. longo, .35 mm. crasso, raro ramoso, dense foliato: internodiis 7 mm longis, opacis, viridibus salviinis 000861/1 (Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart); lenticellis albidis, raris; cicatricibus hepaticis, glabris; stipulis persistentibus, papyraceis, obliquis triangularibus, apice acutis, ca. 6 mm. longis, 3.5 mm. latis; dimidio interiore linearibus, apice acutis, 5.5 mm. longis, 1.2 mm. latis; dimidio exteriore triangularibus, basi rotundis, acuminatis, 7 mm. longis, 2.2 mm. latis, carinatis, apice acuminatis, ca. 6 mm. longis, 3.5 mm. latis; dimidio dorso carinatis et sparsum villosis, villis .5 mm. longis; marginibus integris, extrorsis rubris spinellinis 0023/3 in gemmis 0023, opacis; petiolis opacis, teretibus 2 mm. diametro basi metientibus, 4.5-8 cm. longis, viridibus valvaribus 061/1, pilis ferrugineo-hirsutis 1.3 mm. longis sparsim obsitis; foliis papyraceis, viridibus Scheeleanis 860, in nervis viridibus valvaribus 061/1, opacis, glabris; subtus viridibus veronesis 660/3, nitidis, nervis haud prominentibus, ferrugineo-hirsutis, obliquis et asymmetricis, ovatis, basi cordatis; apice acutis, lobis basilaribus latis rotundato-protractis; marginibus integris, 6 cm. longis, 3 cm. latis; palmatinerviis nervi 8, extus basilaribus 3, lateralibus 2, intus basilaribus 1, lateralibus 2: inflorescentia cymosa, pauciflora; pedunculis axillaribus, teretibus ca. 12 cm. longis, 2.2 mm. crassis, viridibus sal-

viinis 000861/1; bracteis primariis deciduis, ferrugineis, papyraceis, elliptico-rotundis, obtusis, marginibus integris, 1 cm. longis, 8 mm. latis, nudis, secundariis rotundis, obtusis, 6.5 mm. longis, 6:5 latis; tepalis masculinis 2, albidis crassis, semiorbicularibus, obtusis, integris, nudis, 1 cm. longis, 1.5 cm. latis; staminibus 30, filamentis liberis, inaequalibus, ca. .5 mm. longis; antheris oblongo-cuneatis, truncatis, 2mm longis, connectivo producto: floribus femineis bracteis, tepalis femineis 2, albidis, crassis, semiorbicularibus, obtusis, nudis, ca. 9 mm. longis, 1.5 cm. latis, integris; stylis 3, basi 2 mm. connatis, parti libera 1 mm. longis, apice lunulato-bilobis, fasciis continuis vix spiralter totis instructis; capsula 1.25 cm. longa, 6 mm. lata, ovali, basi obtusa, apice obtusa, ut alae glabra, inaequaliter trialata; ala maxima ascendenti-oval, obtusa, 9 mm. longa, 8 mm. lata, reliquis angustis carnosis; ovario 2-loculari; placentis bilamellatis, undique ovuliferis; seminibus oblongis, obtusis.

Mexico, Oaxaca, district Pochutla, "La Soledad" (a high altitude coffee plantation about 5000 ft.) along the bank of stream. Mr. Thomas MacDougall No. 84. January 25, 1950. Also collected in 1948 as "Sra. Conzatti" with no number.

I wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the assistance of Dr. Edgar Irmscher of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany, for his help and suggestions with the difficult Latin description.

TAKE NOTICE, Branches, if you have California Spray Chemical Co. programs scheduled this year, the re-

cent fire destroyed their office records, so please write them, advising them of the scheduled date, to avoid disappointment.—Editor.

Joys and Woes With Ten-by-Ten

By Elsa Fort, Merchantville, New Jersey

Eastern Public Relations Chairman

Two years ago a small greenhouse, ten-by-ten, was erected on a fine concrete foundation about twelve feet from the side of my house here in New Jersey, within adoring sight from the kitchen windows. It proved a real help to get the hated housework under control. This little house was filled first of all with dreams and visions, but soon it was comfortably filled with begonias.

Begonias are a special pet of mine. I started with a few of the easy to grow kind, *Semperflorens*. Everyone knows *Semperflorens*, perhaps not by that name, but as Wax-begonias. Then I began collecting the unusual kinds. Some were grown from cuttings given me by members of one of the older Begonia Branches and cherished beyond words. That was the real start of the most interesting hobby imaginable.

WOES? The heating system went out of commission the first coldest night that winter. The circulator which carried the water through the pipes under the benches froze — and so two of us carried all the plants across the open space to the service door of the dwelling, up three winding steps. There were nearly five hundred begonias to be transported. By that time the Ten-by-ten housed many large plants, most of them very intimate with each other, hugging as it were. Many were in full bloom, for it was the middle of February. B. 'Lucerne' was six feet tall with seven or eight pendants of glorious clusters of bloom. B. *maculata* had several very promising flowerbuds almost ready to burst open. B. 'Marjorie Daw', which had been hanging for a long time, had to be set upon the edge of a table, the lovely flowers making a fringe over the edge. Then into the house came B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps' (which seems to bloom most of the time here in the East), B. *scabrida*, B. *alba scandens*, B. *digswelliana*, B. 'Sachsen', 'Decker's Select', a Mexican species, B. *frutescans*, B. 'Paul Bruant', B. *nitida* and B. *dichotoma*. They were all in full bloom and had to be accommodated on tables wherever a space could be found in the house. The small plants were left in the flats and placed on the floor. The next morning the floors were covered with begonia-confetti, so soon the glory had faded. The Ten-by-ten was without its babies for about a week. When the heating system was again in working condition came the "carrying-back".

From that experience I learned the main reason why folks have such disappointments with begonias purchased from the florist, especially in cold weather. They do not keep the plant a little on the cool damp side for a week to get it acclimated to the hot dry heat of the rooms in which most folks live. I found that, if a begonia does lose its leaves and bloom, patience and loving care will bring it back, most times lovelier and better than before.

There are apt to be pests in every greenhouse, no matter how careful the grower may be — aphids, ants, mealybugs, earth and wire worms and slugs, the latter mostly very small. To combat these, I use Cyanogas for fumigation. I close the ventilator, put the Cyanogas on the flagstone walk and a little in two spots on the damp gravel of the benches, close the door very fast and scuttle to the house. I do this at night and by morning all the fumes have dispersed and I open the ventilator and the door, ready to start a day of sheer pleasure and delight in my Ten-by-ten.

Many times I have wished that all greenhouse growers could have a real course of just how to grow plants for the average home, especially the begonias, for they can be very temperamental. Personally I am very careful about the condition of the plants I let go out of my Ten-by-ten. I see that the earth is good and the root system strong and I try to find out under what conditions the plants will have to live the rest of their lives, that I might give hints on their care. The cultures of a B. *goegoensis* and a *semperflorens* begonia are so different. We, members of the Eastern Branches are trying to impart to anyone interested in begonias a knowledge of the different requirements of the various begonias.

I use a mixture of leafmold (Oak or mixed Beech), garden soil and powdered cow manure. At this time I have many bags of chicken manure over five years old that have been under shelter all that time. After I have this potting soil mixed, I add a little 0-12-20 fertilizer, some fish meal and a little Scotch Soot, mix it again and set it aside in covered cans for about two weeks and then bring it to the Ten-by-ten for use in the repotting, which is necessary quite often.

I start begonia seed in a mixture of
Turn to next page

leafmold and sand, usually in an Azalea pan about four inches high, and try to get the large size, for then I make divisions with plant tags until when one looks down on the pan it looks like a wheel with spokes of tags. When the seedlings are large enough they are transplanted in the same mixture, with a wee pinch of manure added, into thumb pots. When the roots come through the small pots the seedlings are then planted in the regular begonia mixture and into larger pots. The rex begonias have pure leafmold for their potting after having been started in sand about two inches deep over two inches of leafmold. I use no starting medium but let Mother

Nature do her own work. Perhaps she may be a little slow at times but she is very thorough and her results are usually very satisfactory.

This winter I have many very rare and unusual begonias in the little Ten-by-ten, and many of the very difficult ones are in bloom right now. I have learned that they all grow much better if loved a lot and not coddled nor moved too much. WOES? Some of course. JOYS? Unlimited, for the field of knowledge of begonias is so vast and the pleasures of the loveliness and breath-taking beauty of the various begonias erase all the woes of the Ten-by-ten.

What's In the Bag

*Excerpts of talk by Mr. John B. Helyar, Jr., of Swift & Co.,
to San Francisco Branch as recorded by Anne Mitchell, Secretary*

Plant food may either be liquid or dry. It should never be given to plants when just starting them. The soil contains enough food for a time. In Nature no plant food is given. But removing blossoms and leaves, and even the whole tops of certain plants as we do in our gardens, forces us to replenish food. All plant life has a preference for soils within a certain acid-alkaline ratio. This we refer to as the "pH" of the soil. The pH scale is similar to a thermometer. The neutral point is 7. Above that point is alkaline (sweet). Below 7 is the acid side. 5.5 to 6.5 is most favorable to growth. However, Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons and Gardenias, as well as all the Begonias, are "acid-loving" plants, preferring a soil with a pH of 4.5 to 5.3.

There are about fifteen elements which plants require. The fertility is going out of the soil everytime plants are taken out. Food must be put in.

The MAJOR elements are:
CARBON — HYDROGEN — OXYGEN (which comes from the air.) NITROGEN — for top growth, lack of which is shown by yellow leaves. PHOSPHOROUS — for seed production.

POTASH — most required by plants because it helps other elements to function and also strengthens stems.

The SECONDARY elements are:
CALCIUM — for strong plants. MAGNESIUM — the secret of chlorophyll. SULPHUR — the greatest supply of which is in nature.

The MINOR or TRACE elements are:
IRON — ZINC — COPPER — MANGANESE — BORON — MOLYBDENUM.

Plants show hunger signs which experts can tell.

The fertility of the soil has a direct bearing on the health of our people.

When you buy a 100 lb. bag of 8-8-8 fertilizer, it contains:

8 lb. nitrogen, 8 lb. phosphoric acid, 8 lb. potash, plus 76 lb. of carrier. These three major elements could not be used without a carrier.

(There's plenty of food for thought in the above article, also, and it is another good example of the kind of information available to branch members. A group can obtain valuable speakers with their great funds of knowledge which an individual must delve for the hard way. —Editor.)

Program Idea?

Pacific Guano Company has a film, "Short Cuts to Gardening" which their representative, Lee Davidson of Berkeley, showed recently to the Petaluma Branch with a talk on soil chemistry and question-answer period.

California Spray Chemical Company's Pat Burke showed the movie "How to Grow Beautiful Camellias and Azaleas" and a new one on the tropical plants of the Hawaiian Islands to Hub

City Branch — a real attendance builder.

Seattle Branch was fortunate to be able to present Miss Lurline Simpson, Ph. D., University of Washington, showing her colored slides of a recent South American trip.

You branches that write you have difficulty getting speakers — be sure to contact the commercial people in your area and the horticultural departments of your nearby schools and colleges.

WORLD CRUISE REPORT NO. 2

By Geo. B. Furniss

Edgar Snow, world journalist, wrote in The Saturday Evening Post that the three most beautiful harbors in the world are Hong Kong; Acapulco, Mexico; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Having seen the first two, and now the third, I agree except for the superlative "most". Why not include Penang, Malaya; Sitka, Alaska; San Francisco; Naples? The season of the year and time of day may be factors in judging. Upon entering Rio we think of Brazil in terms of coffee, a neat berry shrub, and rubber. It was Brazil's native species of rubber, *Hevea brasiliensis*, that was transplanted to Malaya and the East Indies and which gave those countries domination of the world's rubber market. The so called rubber plants and trees commonly grown belong to the Fig Family (*Ficus*) and are often confused with the true rubber.

Hong Kong is a steep mountain peak rising from the sea and about 20 minutes ferry time across the channel from the mainland of Asia. The upper portion of the island is heavily wooded, concealing beautiful homes. Some of the steep slopes are covered with camphor plants (*Cinnamomum camphora*), which are closely sheared from infancy. The perennial shiny green and the autumnal colors make a cheerful effect. Naturally it grows into tree size (such as used along California streets). We have a tub plant 2½ feet high about 25 years old and always good looking; no pests. The camphor of commerce is obtained by boiling leaves and bits of the wood. The camphor gum floats to the surface. You will notice from the family name that cinnamon spice is a relative.

(The author has frequently supplied our Armchair Explorer Skipper, Mrs. Florence Carrell, with horticultural leads which have resulted in obtaining rare and unusual seeds for distribution among our Seed Fund patrons.—Ed.)

Begonias In Print

"Plants and Paint"—Flower Grower, Nov., 1951, p. 16, ill. Also: "Begonia Orange Rubra", page 64.

"Mother Pearl's Plant Room"—The Gloxinian, Nov.-Dec., 1951, p. 8.

"Give Your House Plants a Boost"—Flower Grower, Dec., 1951, p. 22, ill.

"Rex Leaves in arrangement" (ill.)—Gardening Illustrated, Nov., '51, p. 293.

"Begonias To-day", The Gardeners' Chronicle (England)—by F. J. Bedson, Aug. 19, 1950, p. 80.

"Drainage—Rex Begonias", by George B. Furniss, Natl. Horticultural Mag., Oct., 1951, p. 210.



Begonia Dayii, rhizomatous, likes to grow in a basket high on a wall, perhaps because of the higher temperature and because it likes to be kept on the dry side.

The newly introduced *pustulatas*, variety Silver *pustulata* and variety Dark *pustulata*, belong to the *imperialis* group.

The fern-like *Begonia foliosa* demands more moisture than any other begonia and, if given good drainage, will take daily waterings.

B. 'speculata', *B. 'pearli'*, *B. 'Carolimp'*, *B. 'Silver Fleece'* and *B. 'illustrata'* are evidently not rexes but hybrids of *B. imperialis*.

B. Kellermani, a begonia similar to *B. incana*, can be identified by its deeply cupped leaf.

The hybrid *B. 'Lulandi'* will form false bulbils that can be cut from the plant and placed in the propagating bed to sprout. These bulbils will not detach themselves from the plant.

All *B. Dregei* seedlings have beautiful silver spots on their leaves that disappear as the plant develops into maturity.

B. 'Florence Carrell' is a Frey hybrid of '*Limminghei*' (syn. '*glaucophylla*') and makes a showy basket specimen. The branches are inclined to grow long and can be trained around the basket by tying at intervals to form a dense ball from which large clusters of orange-pink flowers will hang on graceful, long, delicate stems.

The hybrid *B. 'Skeezar'* with the red-backed leaf is much hardier than the *B. 'Skeezar'* with the green-backed leaf.

B. 'Silver-tip', a *B. coccinea* derivative of Mrs. Gray's, can be identified by the silver streak at the apex of the heavy silver-spotted leaf.

B. 'phyllomaniaca' (crazy-leaf), syn. *B. 'Jessie'*, is one of our earliest hybrids, having been developed in 1851, a cross of *B. heracleifolia* and *B. incarnata*.

B. 'Templini' is a mutant of *B. 'phyllomaniaca'* and should be vegetatively propagated by using only the most colorful portions of the plant, so as to retain the variegated characteristics of the mutation.

The lovely velvet *imperialis* begonias will thrive in the house if grown under the same conditions as the Saintpaulias.

Two New Branches Welcomed

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

The William Penn Branch of the A. B. S. will be the fourth organized in the State of Pennsylvania and the eighth on the East Coast. The Branch Constitution and By-laws were approved and the Branch was accepted by the Board of Directors at their March meeting in Los Angeles.

To quote from the minutes of the meetings as sent in by the Branch Secretary: "Fired by the contagious joy of Mrs. George De Coursey, Mrs. Ernest Drew and Mrs. Ward Hinkson, this group of eleven members met for the first time at the home of Mrs. Hinkson in Wallingford, Pa., to organize." "The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. George E. DeCoursey; Vice-President, Mrs. Channing Way; Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Ward Hinkson; Treasurer, Mrs. John L. Wetherill; National Director, Mrs. Ernest C. Drew. The group will meet the third Tuesday of each month at two o'clock at the homes of members. A free discussion of the aims and objectives ensued; also, examination and discussion of Mrs. Hinkson's begonias."

"The second meeting was at the home of Mrs. Florence W. Wilson in Philadelphia on February 19th. The Constitution and By-laws were drawn up and approved and Mrs. Drew's proposal of the name 'William Penn' for the Branch was accepted." "Mrs. Drew spoke informatively on 'How to Define and Describe a Begonia', and questions flew and the answers came forth from our knowing members, President DeCoursey, Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Drew. Mrs. Wilson's many handsome specimen begonias were identified, examined and discussed. Mrs. DeCoursey gave a tempting list of named begonias that she is growing and for whose satisfactory performance she is willing to vouch. It was with regret we adjourned at four o'clock."

We are happy to have this group of Eastern begonia growers join our growing family of Branch Societies, and know that they will live up to their aim of educational and scientific study of begonias as they work together.

Congratulations to Mrs. DeCoursey, her staff and to the members of the new Branch.

* * *

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH:

The Houston Texas Branch was organized under the able leadership of Mrs. Pollyanna Cooper, an active member of the A. B. S. for many years. The Constitution and By-laws of the third Branch in the State of Texas, was approved and the Branch accepted by the

Board of Directors of the A.B.S.

At the first meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Pollyanna Cooper; Vice-President, Mr. Franklin Jones; Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. H. Claggett; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. B. A. Russell; National Director, Mrs. Cooper.

Mr. Jones' proposal that as pre-Branch project they exhibit begonias at the March Flower Show, was accepted and plans for the entry made. He also presented their first President with a beautiful hand-made gavel.

On March 21st the group met at the home of Mrs. Cooper, 716 Chelsea Blvd., Houston, and the Constitution and By-laws of the Branch Society were approved. Nineteen members and two associate members will appear on the Branch charter.

For a glimpse of the work accomplished on the exhibit in the "First International Flower Show in Houston" held in the Shamrock Hotel, March 16-19, we quote, "Mr. Jones secured a booth and Mrs. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tarpley rounded up enough begonias to make an eight-foot exhibit. The entry was made in the name of "The American Begonia Society, Houston Texas Branch, Mrs. Pollyanna Cooper, President." Ten thousand, six hundred people passed the first day, and more the second (Saturday), and Sunday we had to leave the booth—the interested people caused such congestion. (Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Tarpley attended the booth and answered questions.) Monday was easier but we were becoming speechless. The 'Philippine Semperflorens' we had potted for the display was one grown out all winter in Houston in a shade garden. It was in fine condition and heavy with bloom. The *B. nelumbifolia* was in a large tub, the leaves reaching two and a half feet with eight spikes of bloom (total circumference at least eight feet)." "Mrs. Tarpley made a small garden about four feet square and planted many varieties of rooted cuttings. We also displayed many rhizomatous and fibrous. As a Pre-Branch effort it was a most satisfactory endeavor."

With such a such a wonderful beginning we can safely prophesy that the Houston Texas Branch will develop into a strong, active Society. Congratulations, Mrs. Cooper, and greetings to your staff and members.

* * *

Officers and members of the Board of Directors extend a warm welcome to these two new Branch Societies and wish to assure you that the A. B. S. will give you full cooperation and support.

Louise Schwerdtfeger,

Director of Public Relations

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE A. B. S.

It doesn't seem possible, but spring is staring us right in the face again. The trees bursting out in their new green finery, the little wax-wings on the wing again, yes, even you and I feel the urge to get out into the open-spaces—but before we get too far away, I have a few items of which I think we should take heed.

One of the most important items to come to my attention was in the suggestion box a month or so ago. That is the problem of membership renewal. There seems to be a lot of confusion caused by the fact that so many of our members who belong to a branch are renewing their memberships directly to the National Membership Secretary instead of going through your local branch membership secretary. This has caused confusion in the past and will continue to do so unless we change our procedure. The branches have absolutely no way of knowing when you renew your membership unless you come to them with your fee at your renewal time. From now on may I suggest that, when your time is up, you present your check to your local branch membership secretary; that will enable the various branches to keep the records straight. There is, of course, an exception, and that is when you are a member at large—then you continue to do as you have in the past.

Something else that has been on my mind for some time is the proper recognition of your National Officers when they attend the branch meetings. I am writing this to all you branch presidents and directors as I feel you are responsible for knowing who the various members of the National Board are. A few weeks ago, one of our vice-

presidents traveled a considerable distance to attend a branch meeting with a message from headquarters. This party was not given the courtesy of an introduction to the assembled group nor could the report from headquarters be delivered. I firmly believe it is the duty of branch presidents to know and recognize the various officers of the National Board. Certainly you national directors should know, if you attend the board meetings as you should. If you have been unable to attend and meet the officers, at least you should introduce yourselves to your guests at each branch meeting and find out who they are, don't you think?

Directors, especially you from distant branches who are unable to attend the National Board meetings because of distance, what has become of your monthly reports? Here at National headquarters we are very desirous of hearing from you. We are anxious to know what is going on at your branch. It is your duty to send in a written report at least once a month as to your local branch activity if you cannot attend the board meeting. Did you know you are actually a member of the National Board? You are the chief liaison officer between the board and your branch. When we do not hear from you, we are at a loss to help you.

From now on let's try and do a better job. If this organization is to continue to function as a strong National Society we must have the complete cooperation of every one of its officers. We here at headquarters are spending hour after hour trying to do the best job we can, but we can only go so far. We need your help as much as you need ours.

Cal Trowbridge.

Petaluma Branch is News-Wise

Clippings sent from the Petaluma Argus-Courier show how well this branch is doing in the promotion of publicity for meetings along the lines suggested by our Publicity Director Dorothy Powell.

The number of committees appointed indicate everyone has a job to do, which makes each meeting of personal interest to all. Increasing numbers of visitors have their names reported in the news item and will no doubt become firmly interested members in short order.

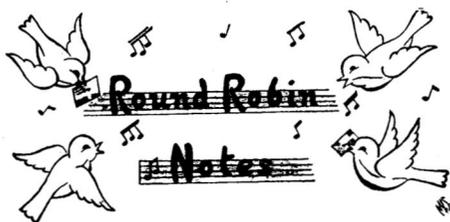
Gifts of appreciation, such as the camp ice box to 1951 president J. Earl Wilson, are frequent occurrences and always command newspaper attention. Refreshments and decorations are stressed, to provide a gracious atmosphere, and always there is the keynote of an interesting program.

Muriel Knudson, Publicity Chairman, is right at the editor's elbow with the news. Many other Branch Publicity Chairmen are doing just as well in their towns, but if YOU aren't getting the publicity your branch needs—write Dorothy Powell.

The "Jitney"

It's sweeping the Southland—that jolly type of dinner where one brings some kind of food and then pays a nickel per serving (big ones, too). Foothill's Fifth Birthday dinner was one. Hub City had a hugely successful one in February with a record of 23 visitors.

If, as some of our members opine, the plant sale return is falling off a bit from over-use and lack of new material in some areas, or, as others state, is annoying the local nurserymen by cutting in on their businesses, why not try this for a change?



Dear Members:

So nice to talk to all of you at the beginning of this lovely month of May. Many times we have heard it said "April showers bring May Flowers." Hope you are enjoying them now as much as I am.

Your Begonias, Ferns, Fuchsias, in fact all your shade plants, should be showing good growth now, so let's share cuttings along with cultural ideas.

In looking over the Round Robin lists, have found many that seem to be lost. So, instead of just waiting, wondering or grumbling where "old Robin Bird" is, send in your name again and I will be glad to place you in a Round Robin that is active. Guess some of these "old Robins" ran into difficulties of some kind, possibly sickness, and have been waylaid. We can start out new Robins and hope they get through as they should.

We have openings in the following Robins: Hybridizing, Ferns for Beginners, African Violets, and many of the Begonia Robins. The Amaryllis Robin for Cold Section would like a few more members; it is a nice interesting group. Requests have come in for Robins on Pelargoniums, Geraniums, Fuchsia, Caladium, Succulents and House-Plants. The "Lone Star House Plant Robin" has been so successful that we have need of another one. It can be started as soon as we get enough members.

Anyone who would like to direct any of the above Robins please write me.

Sophia Baker, Chairman
2733 S. E. 35th Place,
Portland, Oregon

HISTORY

Public Relations Department

Several years before The American Begonia Society was organized there were those growing begonias whose love for their plants led them in search of information. Through correspondence they heard of others equally interested. Letters between these begonia admirers were sometimes forwarded to friends, who in turn mentioned others with the same hobby of growing begonias and shade-plants. It became a habit to enclose all letters containing information when writing to all known

enthusiasts. AND - - - so the first Begonia Round Robin was started. As new friends joined the mailing list and the "forwarded letters" became larger bundles and required unlimited time to return to the first writer, members more or less automatically divided into groups keeping up a correspondence with those whose letters discussed their pet subject.

There was very little literature, written in English, available at that time, so these Round Robins became very popular. Some of these first correspondents are still listed among our A. B. S. R. membership, proving that there is always something new to learn about begonias and their companion shade plants from their fellow members.

Our A. B. S. Round Robins are open to all members of The American Begonia Society without extra charge. All that is required of a member is that he try to live up to the RULES that have been set-up in order to keep the Robins flying smoothly.

To join, one must let her interests be known by writing to our Round Robin Chairman and giving her some information about herself. To state whether one is a beginner, an advanced grower or a collector will greatly aid her in placing the member in a satisfactory group.

To keep the Robins in constant circulation it is necessary for all members to mail the letters within the five day limit. To keep the directors informed as to the whereabouts of each Robin the members are asked to send a courtesy card to their director each time the letters are mailed, stating the date of mailing and to whom.

Letters should be friendly, keeping strictly to the subject of the Robin, remembering that the purpose of the Round Robins is to impart knowledge on the subject under discussion. Purely social letters among the members can always be mailed privately. Sufficient postage should be used so that no member will ever have to pay "postage due". Members are asked to use lightweight paper and strong envelopes to assure a minimum rate of postage and safe delivery. Members can secure the regulation stationery through the Round Robin Chairman. It is lightweight and the letterhead is printed to designate the name of the Robin, the director, date of writing and name and address of the sender — 25 letterheads and 25 plain sheets of paper for 50 cents (enough to last a year for each Robin). The saving in postage will compensate for its cost. The time usually required to complete a round is six weeks.

See next page

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Calendar of Coming Events

(Visitors are always welcome!)

May 15th

Southern Alameda County: Louis Le-Valley instructor of horticulture, will talk on preparation of bedding soils for shade-loving plants and their correct planting.

May 24th

Missouri: A.B.S. Branch display and educational exhibit in conjunction with the Kansas City Garden Club in the American Legion Building, Linwood & Paseo. Plan to visit us.

May 28th

Glendale: Margaret Sullivan, prominent landscape architect, will talk to us on "Hawaiian Gardens", showing her famous color pictures. Business will be kept to a minimum as this meeting is to be our "Flower Festival"—our bazaar. Outstanding plants and gadgets will be sold. Bring your friends. Refreshments, too.

June 8th

El Monte: Mrs. Jensen of Bellflower will speak on Begonias at 1304 Elm Street, Alhambra, at 2:30 p.m. in the garden. There will be a pot luck supper, so bring food, dishes and silver. Everyone is welcome.

August 30th, 31st September 1st

1952 Convention—Show at San Francisco.

October 4th, 5th

Missouri: All Begonia Show! Kansas City, Missouri, in the American Legion Building, Linwood & Paseo Streets. Bigger and better.

NEW OFFICERS

Foothill: President, Mrs. Mary Giltingwaters; Vice-president, Mrs. A. B. Clarke; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Anna K. Anderson; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C. W. Hall; Treasurer, Mrs. R. N. Weaver; Director, Mrs. Susie Zug; National Director, Mrs. Mary Giltingwaters.

Elsa Fort: President, Mrs. Marion Thompson; Vice-president, Mrs. Dorothy Connelly; Secretary, Miss Lola Price.

Glendale: President, Mrs. Gladys E. Beirdneau; Vice-president, Mr. A. R. Joyce; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Laura Steele; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Edna E. Bradley; Treasurer, Mr. Paul Akers; National Director, Mrs. Jean Kerlin.

Inglewood: President, Stuart C. Smith; Vice-president, Fred C. Schultz; Secretary, Dorris Motschman; Treasurer, Mable Walker; National Director, Glenn W. Motschman.

Long Beach Parent: President, Mr. Still; Vice-president, Mrs. Florence Hess; Secretary, Mrs. W. Cox; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Congdon; National Director, Hugh Hixon.

Missouri: President, Mrs. Vera Dilard; Vice-president, Mrs. Iris Randall; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Wood; Treasurer, Mrs. Clara Rodd; National Director, Mrs. Leora Calmese.

North Long Beach: President, Mrs. Alberta Logue; Vice-president, Hugh W. Hixon; Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice White; Treasurer, Harry Swimley; National Director, Hugh Hixon.

Orange: President, Mr. Chas. R. Fox; Vice-president, Mr. Fred R. Berry; Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Evie Darden; National Director, Mr. Chas. Criss.

Philobegonia: President, Mrs. Elsa Fort; Vice-president, Mrs. E. K. Drew; Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Robert York.

A. D. Robinson: President, Mrs. H. K. Sherwood; Vice-president, Miss Alice Greer; Treasurer, Mrs. A. F. Gardner; Secretary, Mr. Charles Cass.

San Gabriel Valley: President, Mr. Fred L. Browne; Secretary, Mrs. Cynthia Slater.

Santa Barbara: President, Roy G. Pierce; Vice-president, Mrs. Barbara R. Philip; Secretary, Mrs. Ada Schaefer; Treasurer, Mrs. Elsie Frey; National Director, Mrs. Ethel Arnold.

Santa Monica Bay: President, Mr. J. E. Harris; Vice-president, Mrs. Martha Martin; Secretary, Mrs. S. S. Gross; Treasurer, Mrs. J. R. Hall; National Director, Jack MacLanahan.

ROUND ROBINS . . . (Continued)

New groups are continually being formed and new Robins are added when requested by members. There are instances when new directors are needed to guide the various groups and our Chairman, Mrs. Baker, would appreciate word from members offering their services as directors.

ACHIMENES

African Violet Family
MANY VARIETIES

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Loomis, Calif.

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.

BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, May 9, June 6
Lounge, Florida Power Co.
Winter Park, Fla.
Mr. Ted Wolf, Secy.-Treas.
Rt. 19, Box 3700, Orlando, Fla.

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, May 1, June 5, 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, May 8, 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, May 15, 8:00 p.m.
Christian Church Fellowship Hall,
304 E. Valley
Jean Cross, Cor. Secy.
1304 Elm, Alhambra, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, May 2, June 6, 8:00 p.m.
Recreation Hall, La Verne
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 2:30 p.m., May 3, June 7
Homes of Members
Miss Lola Price, Secy.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 28, 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, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.
7356 Eads, St., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 12, 8:00 p.m.
(March through November)
Hoquiam Pub. Library, or Messingale &
Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Wash.
Alice Hardman, Secy.
The Flower Studio, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 27, 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, May 9, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Residences
Mr. George Knouff, Secy. Treas.
2912 Delevan, Kansas City, Kans.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Florence F. Flynn, Cor. Secy.
1319 N. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

Mrs. E. H. Claggett, Secy.
4415 Austin, Houston, Texas.

HUB CITY BRANCH

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

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 8, 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, May 12, 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, May 13, 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Hall, 10th & Locust
Mrs. W. Cox, Secy.
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 27, 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, May 20, 1:00 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, May 12, 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, May 1, June 5, 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, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Recreation Dept.
1501 E. Villa St.
Lois F. Williams, Secy.
1674 Monte Vista St., Pasadena 4, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, May 16, 8:00 p.m.
Dania Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.
222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, May 9, Members' Home
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N.J.

PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, May 23, 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, May 23, 8:00 p.m.
2308 Rockefeller
Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Secy.
522 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, Cal.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Arline Porter, Secy.
4106 Adams, Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Friday, May 23, 10:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mr. Charles Cass, Secy.
2229 Erie St., San Diego 10, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. W. M. Kelso, Secy.
1848 Markham Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, May 6, June 3
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secy.
3460 N. Lancaster Dr., Salem, Ore.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, May 26
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & Univsty.
Mrs. Thomas Hofmann, Secy.
2327 33rd St., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.
18635 Calvert St., Reseda, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
1st Wednesday, May 7, June 4, 7:30 p.m.
1641 Taraval St.
Mrs. Anne Mitchell, Secy.
2370 18th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
4th Wednesday, May 28, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.,
Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Cynthia Slater, Secy.
2317 Whitney Dr., Alhambra, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
Mrs. Ada Schaefer, Secy.
1103 W. Micheltorena St., Sta Barbara, Cal.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH
1st Tuesday, May 6, June 3, 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, May 9, 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, May 20, 7:45 p.m.
Univ. of Washington Arboretum
Clubhouse.
Mrs. Paul Deiro, Secy.
4618 13th Ave. South, Seattle 8, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH
1st Tuesday, May 6, June 3, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura
Mr. Bernard Woods, Secy.
575 Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, May 15, 8:00 p.m.
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Cor. Secy.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH
4th Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern
Mrs. Juanita Pritchard, Secy.
11150 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH
4th Friday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. D. W. Briggs, Secy.-Treas.
2349 13th St., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, May 14, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Walter H. Kirch, Secy.
Clearview Rd., Glenshaw, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEV., O.
4th Wednesday, May 28, 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, May 27, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Carolyn Spitz, Secy.
7721 Vanport Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.
3rd Tuesday, May 20, 2:00 p.m.
Homes of members
Mrs. J. H. Ward Hinkson, Secy.
Wallingford, Pa.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., March 24th, 1952, President Trowbridge presiding.

Present for the meeting Messrs. Trowbridge, Moore, Haskell, Spaulding, Small, Lorenz, Mesdames Korts, Schwerdtfeger, Nolan, Powell, Spaulding, Hartwell. Branches represented—Santa Barbara, Pasadena, Santa Monica, Shepherd, Hub City, Redondo Beach Area, Parent Branch, North Long Beach, Southgate, San Gabriel Valley, Glendale, Foothill, El Monte, Hollywood, Inglewood, Southern Alameda County.

Reports of Membership Fees Chairman, Editor and Business Manager, Treasurer, Librarian, Publicity Chairman read.

Publicity Chairman Mrs. Powell asked branches to contact her if they desire to use the prepared begonia text and mats in their local papers.

Editor assured the members he was using every endeavor to get the Begonian out on time and was on the look-out for a new printer.

Public Relations Director announced new Branch—the Wm. Penn Branch, Philadelphia. Presented Constitution and By-laws for acceptance. SO ORDERED. Eleven charter members. Also presented Constitution and By-Laws of the Houston Branch, Texas, for acceptance. SO ORDERED.

Flower Show Chairman Frank Rich reported the Society's Exhibit at the International Flower Show at Inglewood won third award, \$20.00; made \$81.13 on sale of tickets on the Greenhouse; and would realize something on the sale of the exhibit material. Mr. Rich was given a vote of thanks for his work in this connection.

Past President Mr. Moore reported on the needs of the Society in the way of stationery cards, etc., and was told to purchase such supplies as were needed.

President Elect Mrs. Korts reported on her activities in putting in an information desk at the recent Hobby Show; considerable interest shown and some leads to new members for the Society. She also stated the Garden Tour program was being arranged and called for a meeting of the Committee to arrange the schedule.

Treasurer Mr. Haskell reported receipt of \$5.00 check from the Ventura Branch to be applied on advertising account.

Mrs. Korts reported 40 memberships from the ad in Popular Gardening.

President appointed Nominating Committee—Frank Rich (Chairman), Mrs. Dorothy Powell, and C. M. Sloucm—Committee to report at April meeting.

President Trowbridge asked members to watch the Begonian for plans for the Annual Meeting and Flower Show. Also asked members to write Mrs. Lillian Densmore, 2642 22nd St., San Francisco, for information on hotel accommodations and also watch The Begonian for details.

Reports of Branch Representatives followed. Respectfully submitted,

Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

Antonelli Brothers

BEGONIA GARDENS

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