

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens



BEGONIA
INVOLUCRATA

[Page 126]



Ernest E. Martin

Photo



JUNE

1954



TWENTY-FIVE
CENTS



VOL. XXI

No. 6

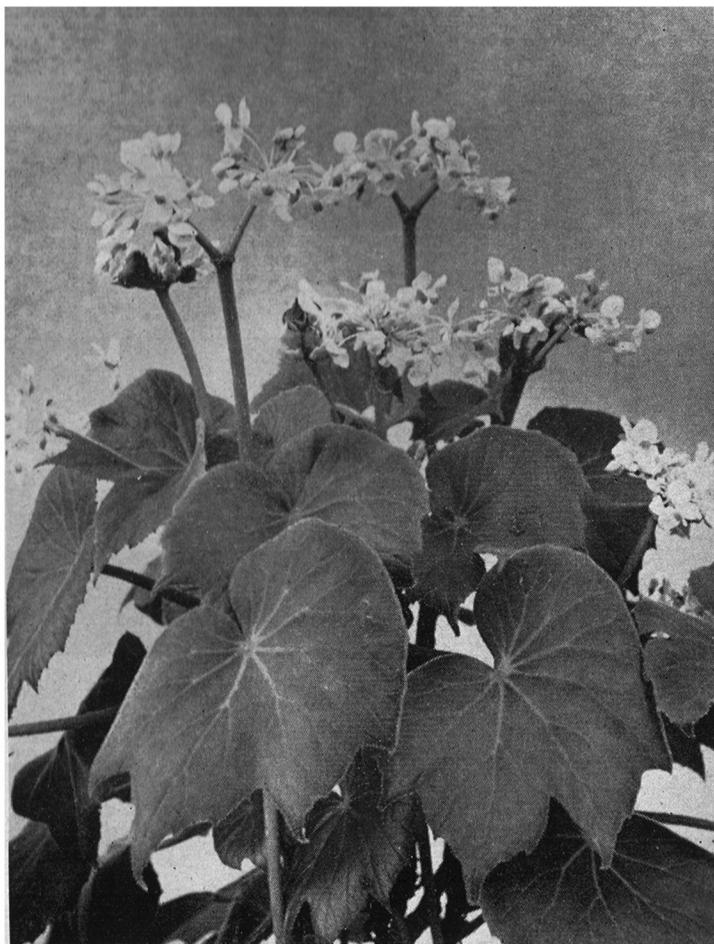


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A. B. S. NEWSLETTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 26th BOARD MEETING

The resignation of Flower Show Chairman Eseline Reynolds, due to ill health, was accepted with regret.

The Redondo Area Branch presented Convention Manager, Jack E. Koebig, with a \$50.00 check, for the Convention Prize Money Fund.

Librarian Arline Stoddard was appointed to head a committee to organize a disposal plan for the large numbers of back copies of the BEGONIAN, in order to alleviate

the problem of storage. Each and every Branch will be given the opportunity to obtain a file of back copies (as complete as possible) of our magazine, for their respective Libraries, merely for the cost of the postage required to send them. A sufficient number of copies of available issues will be preserved for posterity by the Society. Any Branch desiring copies of surplus issues for distribution at their Flower Shows, may secure them by writing, and paying the postage.

Monthly Publication
of The American
Begonia Society, Inc.

The BEGONIAN

Founded by
Herbert P. Dyckman
January, 1932

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Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society
and The American Horticultural Council
General Offices: Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California

AIMS and PURPOSES

This Society shall be conducted on a non-profit basis, and its purpose shall be to stimulate interest in begonias and shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of begonias and related plants; to gather and publish information in regard to the kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and other shade-loving plants; and to issue a bulletin which shall be mailed to all members in good standing.

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**For DUES, ADDRESS CHANGES, OR
MAGAZINES — write to Membership
Secretary, Box 2544, Los Angeles 54,
California. Branch Members pay dues
to Branch.**

The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1305, 7:30 p.m., June 28, 1954. Use Main St. elevator. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

- * Annual Subscription—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—1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

The BEGONIAN

JUNE . . .

The GAY MONTH

*By these and thousand nameless flow'rs beside,
Gardens are now with choice perfumes supply'd;
'Tis the gay month of all the useful years
All nature smiles, refresh'd with purer air.*

—RENE RAPIN.

Minnesota Tuberos Begonias

By Mrs. C. E. Sisler

Grand Rapids, Minn.

Northern Minnesota is a land of beauty, both in summer and in winter, much enjoyed by those of us vigorous enough to endure its rugged winter climate. However, there is one complaint that all who love to garden have in common, that is, our short growing season. The certainty of a heavy frost, as late as the first week in June, and again as early as mid-September, means that our blossoming season is very short, and that we are very limited in the number of flowers worthwhile growing. Perennials and shrubs, including roses, must be extremely hardy, to resist the long freezing period, with temperatures sometimes as low as 45 degrees below zero in January. To us, "mean" temperature means, *mean*, in its lowest sense.

Into this picture, the tuberous rooted Begonia adapts itself beautifully, providing a continuous background of colorful bloom for our perennial plants such as peonies, iris, delphinium, lilies, columbine and annuals. Tubers started in the house, give the home gardener the illusion of spring and summer not yet here, but long hoped for, with their pink tips showing and growing into leaves, while the garden outside is still under several feet of snow, and cold winds are howling.

We have not attempted raising the Begonias from seed, not being of that patient disposition, or having suitable conditions for them. We have bought both the California and the Belgian tubers for as low as .40c, and found them very satisfactory, especially for us as amateurs. We have also purchased some at .75c and at \$1.00, and while these have been excellent, it has been found not necessary to invest so much. We like to have enough plants so we can be generous with them, and yet have enough to supply our display shelves with blossoming plants.

We have our best success in rooting the tubers in vermiculite. Peat is also recommended for this purpose, but we experienced some mildew in its use, so do not use it as a starting medium. We try to restrain ourselves from starting the tubers earlier than March 15th, and believe April 1st is better, unless one has cold frames, a glassed-in porch, with fresh air, proper humidity and an average 65 degree temperature.

The tubers are kept in the moist vermiculite until they have developed a top growth of about two inches, insuring a good root system. They are set on top of the vermiculite, not covered with it. Care must be used that water does not remain in the depres-

sion of the tuber, where it might cause decay. Only light, warmth, and moisture are supplied during this period.

While this rooting process is going on, we clean and repaint the 8 or 10 inch flower pots, and prepare our soil mixture. Our woods hold a generous supply of leaf mold, which we gather in the fall and sift. We also have a compost pit, which is sifted before using. A farmyard is our source of well rotted manure. To each bushel of soil mixture, one cup of hen-sized charcoal is added. These three ingredients are used in equal proportions, or 1 part may be peat, or peat and leaf mold. We do not mix sand with the soil, but place a couple of tablespoons around the top of the tuber, to help avoid stem rot and decay. Broken crockery is placed over the hole in the pot, and about two inches of soil placed in the bottom, to which is added one tbsp. of fish meal, with more soil added on top.

The tuber is lifted from the starting flat, very carefully, retaining all the vermiculite clinging to the roots, and disturbing them as little as possible. We then cover the tuber to about 1½ inches deep, allowing enough room in the top of the pot for watering. We use the soil slightly moist, and during the time the tuber is adjusting itself to its new location, we water lightly, to avoid packing the soil before the roots have made contact with it.

From this point on, we attempt to give the plants as much light as possible. A fluorescent lamp containing two 40-watt bulbs is used, suspended about 18 inches above the plants, for about 10 hours each day. We keep the plants moderately moist, spraying them with warm water three times a week to provide humidity.

We are fortunate in having a glassed-in east porch, where the plants are placed, about May 1st, depending on the season. A temperature of about 65 degrees is maintained in this location, the plants receiving fresh air during the day through open windows. The water spraying process is continued during the middle of the day, so the foliage is dry at night, when the air becomes colder.

Shelves have been built on the east side of our garage, which is attached to the house on the north, providing complete shelter from north and west storms, and heavy winds. Engleman's Ivy clings to the garage walls, and forms a green background for the blossoming plants. This seems to be a perfect location for them, with its shade and shelter. All summer the Begonias provide a splash of bright color in our yard, bringing in a touch of the exotic, and are a delight to us as well as to passers-by. Many tourists ask permission to take pictures of them.



Begonia Shelves — used in winter as feeding stations for the birds.

When the frost season arrives, we remove the plants to the porch again, when they continue blossoming for a few more weeks. Water is gradually withheld from them, and when they are blooming, we place them in a cool room in the basement, with the tops intact, until they die down. Then we cut them off. Here they remain all winter, until March 1st arrives, and we start the cycle all over again. For a couple of weeks before placing them in the vermiculite, we water them in the pots, to plump them up. Many of our tubers have been used for two or three years, seeming to grow larger each year.

Our greatest difficulty has been to avoid legginess. Insufficient light and too high temperatures, we believe are the main causes of this, in addition to starting them too long before they can be placed out of doors. We spray the plants and the area around them with a fine spray periodically, and feed with a weak manure water about once in two weeks. The fish meal in the bottom of the pot provides a reserve for the increased size of the plants.

To us, the raising of tuberous rooted Begonias is the answer for the northern gardner, who can't wait for plants from seeds, who must consider economy of money and of effort, but not of bloom and pleasure, for himself and others. All winter, while other gardeners are wondering what the winter is doing to their expensive rose-bushes, shrubs and other perennials, we are looking forward to spring and summer confidently, knowing that our garden treasures are securely stored in our cool basement, where neither thaws, freezings, too much snow, nor too little snow can damage them. Life for them is not dead, only dormant, waiting for us to supply the warmth, light, soil and moisture they will need to recreate for us another season of joy in their beauty.

BEGONIAS GO MODERN

By Sylvia Leatherman

Do you have Begonias with a rhizome, or rhizomes, growing across the top of the pot, far beyond and below the rim? They do not look very appealing; one must really love Begonias, to keep such a plant setting around.

I found a grand solution for this bad habit of Begonias, at the nursery of my friend, Della MacLanahan. She had used a totem pole to grow and properly display her hybrid, Begonia Bow-Chancee. When I saw this method used so successfully, I became curious, and tried using several of my other varieties in pots with a totem pole for support. The experiment worked wonderfully, as the plants trained easily, and leafed out faster. The once unsightly Begonias were transformed into proud beauties within a short time.

Totem poles may be made of green sphagnum moss, or one may use a Tree Fern trunk slab, available at most nurseries, for the pole. Keep in mind where you are going to locate the potted specimen. If it is to be kept in a corner or on a shelf, one plant to a pot is sufficient. If the pot is to be viewed on all sides, it is wiser to use a larger pot to transplant into, placing two plants of an identical variety, one on each side of the totem pole; they will spread to surround the pole. Use at least a six-inch pot for the two plant method.

Begonias that have outgrown small pots, with the nose of the rhizome extending out of the pot, should be used for a head start. Center the totem pole in a six or eight inch pot, and place the base of the transplant root stalk at the edge of the pot, with the tip of the rhizome pointed toward the pole, or at an angle upward on the pole, so that it may climb easily. This initial training may cause the leaves to appear drooped and out of focus, but don't worry, as they will soon face outward toward the light, and spread around the pole in good form. Pin or tie the stalk to the pole until the Begonia is well established, and continue training as necessary for a full fine specimen. Take a hint, and be sure to water your transplant with a weak solution of Vitamin B for best results and shock recovery.

Eastern A. B. S. members fortunate in purchasing 'B. Bow Chancee' when it was first introduced, now call it the "Totem Pole Begonia". Begonias Bunchi, *erythrophylla helix*, Inglewood, *manicata aureo maculata* and Joe Hayden are just a few of the varieties that respond well to this system.

I think all of us have grown Philodendrons on totem poles; so now try Della MacLanahan's method and give your rhizomatous Begonias a "new look".

Our Cover Picture

The photograph of this handsome specimen of *B. involucrata*, showing the flowers and foliage of this begonia, is from the collection of Ernest E. Martin, of Logee's Greenhouses, in Danielson, Connecticut.

B. involucrata is one of the oldest begonias, although not too well-known or grown by the average hobbyist. It was discovered by Liebmann in 1852, growing at altitudes of 3500 to 6000 feet, in quite dry regions, in Costa Rica.

This begonia makes a very good pot plant, as it tends to branch from the base, its many stalks facing in different directions, so that it looks well from any side. It is a medium grower, quite bushy, and makes a nice, compact plant.

It is a fibrous rooted begonia, with an erect stalk and nodes close together. The stalks are of a woody, green texture, with raised white dots and dried brown stipules, covered with a light brown tomentum.

The leaf is a one-sided oval, the lower

part cut into three to five short lobes, irregularly toothed, the ten or more light greenish-white veins radiate from a round center, of the same color. Both the upper and under leaf surfaces are covered with white downy hairs, the upper being the more heavily-covered. The color of the leaf is a bright green, the upper surface slightly darker than the underneath. The leaves have been likened to those of the sassafras in appearance.

The petioles are from 5 to 8 inches long, dull green with the white flecks and same brown fuzz as the stalks. They are firm and strong, supporting the leaves at oblique angles. The peduncles appear about the same as the petioles, with the exception of the white spots. The flowers are white, axillary, in compact cymes.

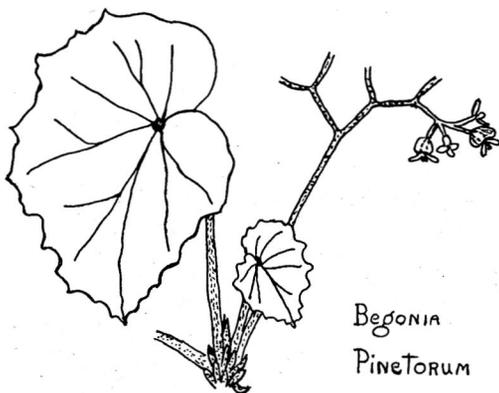
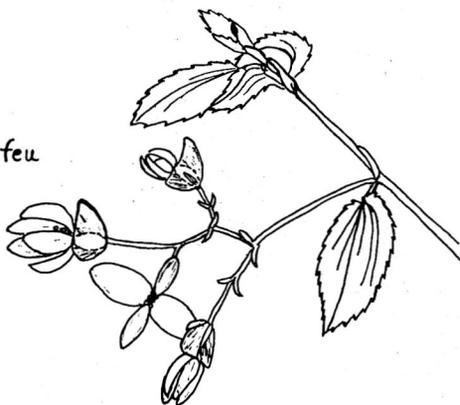
This begonia is definitely one for the collector, with its very unusual bloom arrangement, and the distinctive cut and texture of the foliage. —M. F.

Slanted Toward the Beginner

By Dorothy S. Bebrens

Begonia

Corbeille de feu



Begonia

Pinetorum

CORBEILLE de FEU is a hybrid begonia produced by Lemoine of France, and is the most desirable of the series, in which he used *B. fuchsoides* and *B. semperflorens* as parents.

This begonia may be staked to grow upright, but is handsome when used as a basket subject.

The leaves are somewhat heavy in texture and make an effective picture, because of the blooming habit, which extends over a long period of time. This begonia produces myriads of orange blossoms. The petals are large, comparatively speaking, and the five petals on each female flower are quite distinctive. If it is grown in a glasshouse, it may produce flowers eight months of the year.

The average begonia soil mix, rich in humus and porous, is recommended; keep the soil damp. An application of half-prescribed strength of liquid fertilizer every two weeks, will help fortify the plant and

give added strength to the begonia while it is producing such quantities of flowers.

PINETORUM is a rhizomatous begonia that was found in Mexico years ago; the seed was reintroduced recently, in quantity, by William Brooks (the amateur begonia grower's friend). This begonia is a species, but displays many attributes making it worthy of wider recognition and growing by more hobbyists. The leaves are heavy in texture, with a brown tomentum on the undersides and the petioles, while the surface tomentum is white and more sparse.

The leaves appear to be full, emanating from the center of the leaf in a crisp, frilled effect, remindful of a young girl's skirt. The margins are sharply scalloped and a brown line-edge. The lemon-green coloring contrasts beautifully with the cinnamon-brown and is very effective. The flowers are tiny and pink, borne in abundance in large clusters, high above the foliage during the late winter.

PROPAGATION

Cuttings and Leaves

By Harry L. Swager
Oakland, Calif.



Propagating Bed, January 10, 1954.

There are many ways of propagating. The use of sharp sand, sand and peat moss, pumice, and many others. However, I found a new medium about three years ago which has proven to be the most satisfactory of any I have ever used. It is called "spent catalyst". It is a waste product of the oil industry and is used in the cracking process of making gasoline. In its spent form it is a black sand-like substance, ranging from fine to fairly coarse particles.

My hot bed is 30 inches wide and six feet long and six inches deep. It is made of redwood. On the bottom I place two inches of hard-packed white sand. On top of the sand, I place Gro-Quick cable, then cover with a four inch layer of *catalyst*. I water until it is soaked well, then turn on the electricity and adjust the control until I have the required temperature, which is about 65 degrees at one inch below the surface. I have excellent results this way. Usually it takes about 36 hours to get the bed to hold a constant temperature. After this, you may set your cuttings in, and the *catalyst* will do the rest.

Prepare your hot bed like any other, using about four inches depth for planting your leaves or cuttings. It must be kept damp at all times, as it dries a little faster than regular sand.

In making cuttings, be sure to select good healthy, sturdy parent plants and you will get good plants in return. I do not use hard wood cuttings but prefer the soft tip cuttings. My own experience has shown better and faster growth, and I get a much better and healthier plant. I usually set the cuttings from one inch to an inch and a half deep, pressing in tightly. After setting the cuttings, I soak well — then water when the top shows signs of drying out.

In making my cuttings, I always use a good hormone powder on all soft wood cuttings, as I find it helps to callous the cutting, and speeds up root growth. I have

had roots develop in as short a time as seven days. However, some varieties of Begonias may take much longer. After the roots start in this medium, they grow very rapidly and can be transplanted sooner.

In making Rex leaf cuttings, I prefer the wedge shape, as I get more plants with this method. When the plants are about 2½ inches tall, I take them out and if they are of the large leaf varieties, I place them in a four inch pot, containing two parts of leaf mold and one part light loam. I never feed these young Rex for at least two months. There is sufficient food in the potting soil to carry them that long. Also, if you feed too soon, you will be very apt to burn the young tender roots.

In transplanting, I do not shake very much of the *catalyst* from the roots, as it seems to benefit the soil mixture. This medium is not only good for Begonias, but for all acid-tolerant plants, such as Camellias, Azaleas, Fuchsias and others. In fact, I believe that anything that can be grown from cuttings, will root readily in this *catalyst*. As yet, I don't think I have lost a single cutting, using the above method.

Antonelli Brothers

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GARDENS**

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ANNOUNCING - - -

THE WINNERS

The names of the members submitting prize-winning articles in the recent Contest sponsored by the *BEGONIAN*, which ended March 31st, are as follows:

CLASS I—PROPAGATION (Seed or Leaf)

1st Prize — Kenneth H. Mosher
2640 E. 82nd Street, Seattle 5, Wash.

2nd Prize — Harry L. Swager
3872 - 35th Ave., Oakland 19, Calif.

3rd Prize — Don Horton
131 E. 2nd Street, San Dimas, Calif.

CLASS II — CULTURE

1st Prize — Mrs. C. E. Sisler
703 - 3rd Avenue W., Grand Rapids,
Minnesota

Note: No. 2nd or 3rd prizes were awarded in Class II, because, in the opinion of the Judges, the subject material of the few articles submitted, was not on Contest level.

CLASS III—BEGONIA VARIETY

(One Kind)

1st Prize — Ruth Peirce Merry
109 Brookside Road, Needham 92,
Massachusetts

2nd Prize — Mary L. Gillingwaters
1083 No. Benson Ave., Upland, Calif.

3rd Prize—Edna W. Kirch (Mrs. L. H.)
2007 Clearview Road, Glenshaw,
Pennsylvania

The prize-winners have already been notified, and have probably all received their prizes by this time.

All of the winning articles will be printed in the next issues of the *BEGONIAN*, depending on timeliness and subject content. (See articles on Culture by Mrs. C. E. Sisler, 1st prize-winner and Propagation by Mr. Swager - 2nd prize-winner - in this issue). Most of the articles, even though they did not receive a prize, will be printed in future issues of the magazine.

The Editorial Staff of the *BEGONIAN* wish to express their thanks and appreciation for the interest and response to the Contest, shown by the many articles submitted.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Winners—
to **BETTER BEGONIAS**.

—The Editor.

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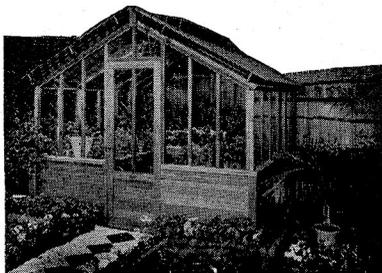
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BEGONIA REGISTRATIONS

By Jean Kerlin

FILE NO.	NAME	PARENTAGE	HYBRIDIZER
1	Ricky Minter	manicata cristata Mazae	Marie Turner
2	Fleecealba	sunderbruchi Manda's Woolly Bear	Florence Knock
3	Maximilian	manicata MacDougalli	Susie Zug
4	Maccata	MacDougalli manicata	
5	Teddy Bear	Indonesian Woolly Bear Manda's Woolly Bear	Marie Turner
6	Tamo	incana Mazae	
7	Ripple Rosea	Superba Mentone Roetzli x M. Woolly Bear	
8	Gypsy Marie	Florida species Mazae	
9	Kenann	Boweri seedling	Mabel Walker
10	Virbob	Boweri seedling	
11	Maphil	Boweri seedling	
12	Brook's Carlota	Collected	William Brooks
13	Chatoyancy	Kenworthyi Boweri	Marie Turner
14	Sir Percy	Frey's Silver Star	Susie Zug
15	Starfolia	Macdougalli Carol Star	
16	Baby Bunting	semperflorens x	Marie Turner
17	Dohay	Macdougalli Joe Hayden	Susie Zug
18	Doma	Macdougalli Mazae	
19	Lucy Brooks	Collected	William Brooks
20	Checkerboard	Collected	
21	Tiny Mite	Rex seedling	Terry Olmsted
22	Terry-O	Boweri Mazae	
23	Glendale	sunderbruchi seedling	Elinor Slocum
24	Lexington	sunderbruchi seedling	
25	Satin Star	sunderbruchi seedling	
26	Edith M.	Boweri Reichenheimi	Don Horton
27	Inzae	involucrata Mazae	Susie Zug
28	Sequoia	speculata Rex	
29	Liebstar	Liebmanni Carol Star	

30	Bow-Arriola	Boweri C. 42	Della MacLanahan
31	Bow-Chancee	Boweri	
32	Bow-Nigra	Boweri H. nigricans	
33	Star Shadow	Joe Hayden Mazae	Marie Turner

NOTE: This completes the list of Begonia Registrations, as a previous list was published in the December, 1953 issue of the BEGONIAN, including the registrations from No. 34 to No. 57. —The Editor.

CONVENTION SITE CHOSEN

By Dorris Motschman

Convention Publicity Chairman

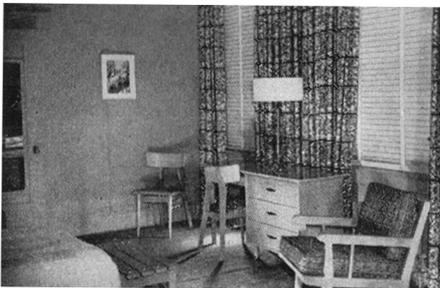
The Convention Manager, Jack Koebig, has announced that a site has now been selected for the 22nd Annual Convention and Flower Show — the Clark Hotel, 426 So. Hill Street, Los Angeles, California. Let's all get started on our plans to attend this convention, and make it the biggest and best ever. The location is perfect - one of California's largest hotels in downtown Los Angeles, convenient to public transportation and plenty of parking space, just a half block away, in Pershing Square Garage.

The Branch exhibits and commercial exhibits will be displayed in the lovely patio on the second floor of the hotel, with the competitive show and Nomenclature Room in adjoining banquet rooms.

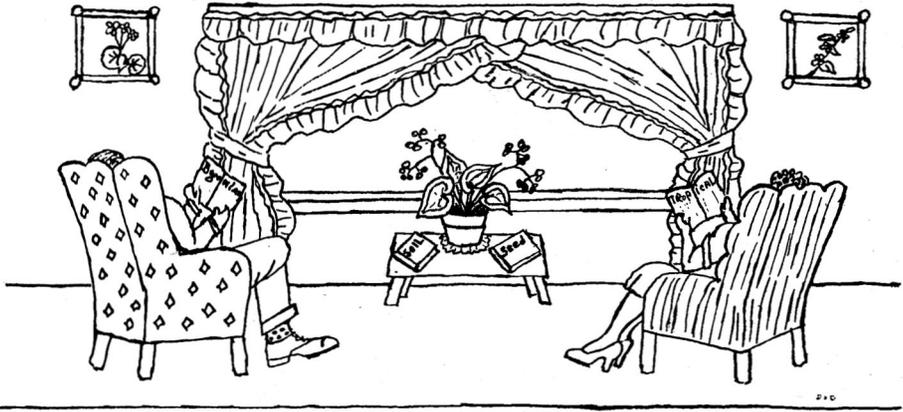
A fine program is being planned — Friday evening will be the Premiere, featuring a Reception in the Nomenclature Room with your International President and Board as hosts; Saturday morning, the Flower Show

opens to the public at 10:00 A.M.; the Annual Banquet (which will be about \$2.85) will be held Saturday evening, with the awarding of trophies and installation of officers. Plans are also being made to feature short lectures, in the Nomenclature Room, on Sunday and Monday.

Our out-of-town members will find everything for their comfort and enjoyment at the hotel, — a fine dining room, cocktail lounge and nice rooms at reasonable prices; single rooms, \$4.00 to \$5.50; double rooms, \$6.00 to \$7.50; with twin beds, \$6.50 to \$8.00. Please make your reservations direct with the hotel. The Hotel manager, Mr. G. Vern Snorgrass, is a grand person and happy to cooperate to the fullest extent, to make your stay a happy and enjoyable one, so make your plans now to spend your vacation in Southern California, and attend the 22nd Annual Convention and Flower Show.



The CLARK HOTEL



Armchair Gardening

ROUND ROBIN NOTES—

Excerpts from our late Elsie Wallis' Director's Notes:

" I cannot start telling you soon enough, how seeds grow in my new propagating case. Most of you are familiar with such a case, but to those not informed, I will explain. It is a glass case in which I place seed trays, seedling trays and small pots containing small begonias. It is practically airtight, and kept at a uniform temperature with an electric light, so the humidity is relatively high; to say the seedlings do exceedingly well, would be putting it mildly. For instance, I had a tray planted with *B. venosa*, which is considered, by many, to be difficult to start. After one month, there were only two spindly seedlings, and I had about decided that was all that would appear. For an experiment, I put the tray in the propagating case, and now, three weeks later, I have fourteen seedlings. The new ones have reached the size of the first two.

As you all know, it is quite a shock to a plant to be taken for the natural environment and shipped (taking from four days to a week), and it is often quite wilted when it arrives. It takes quite a little petting to pull some of them through. I have found that when they are placed in the case, they spring to attention in a surprisingly short time. Take for instance, a *B. catbayana* I purchased from I was not very happy about it on arrival, but the case enabled it to snap out of it at once.

I made this case of some glass doors, which form the sides. It is thirty-two inches long, twenty-four inches wide and about twenty-six inches high. At one time I had between five and six hundred seed-

lings, cuttings and small begonias crowded into this area. That is *too* crowded.

Begonias are not too available in Oklahoma, and you can see we go to great lengths, to produce the many that we read about."

Mrs. Elsie Wallis of Oklahoma City joined the American Begonia Society in 1940, — and this is from her 1946 notes.

LIBRARY NOTES—

In the May issue of the *BEGONIAN*, a review of the new *SUNSET WESTERN GARDEN BOOK* was given by Stanley Spaulding. This is without doubt the finest book published by *SUNSET* on gardening. I know that at this time you are all busy with your spring planting, but it would be well worth your while to take time out to read this splendid book.

Another book that is very good at this time of year, and yet is not circulating, is the book on *INSECTS*. This is a publication of the United States Dept. of Agriculture, and into it have gone the results of many years or research. It is a very interesting book with such chapter headings as: How to Know an Insect; Insects as Helpers; Insects as Destroyers; Applying Insecticides; Warning on Insecticides, etc. As insects are our greatest gardening problem, this book should be in circulation all the time.

Why not send for one of the above books NOW? May I again remind our members that you may borrow a book for a thirty day period, but when you return the book, you must also send *POSTAGE* in the amount necessary to send the book to you.

As I have moved, the new address for the Library is 768 Avenue B, Redondo Beach, Calif.

ARLINE STODDARD, *Librarian.*

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

We offer seeds from Mexico, Costa Rica, Germany, India and exotic Hawaii this month, as follows:

No. 131—*B. Pluma Blanca* — also known as the white feather Begonia (Mexico).

No. 132—*B. pinetorum* — species — from Mexico (see drawing and description on page).

No. 130—*B. cuspidata* — beautiful, climbing fibrous Begonia, very glossy, dark-green on upper surfaces of leaves; lighter green, turning to red when mature, on undersides (Costa Rica).

No. 104—*B. gigantea* — very unusual in it's leaf and flowering formation (India).

No. 108—*B. vitifolia* — medium-tall fibrous, rich pink flowers, makes quite an attractive plant.

No. 107—True German B. Multiflora — little rosebud-like flowers, very colorful leaves of reds, blues and greens.

Any, or all, six of the the above, \$1.00

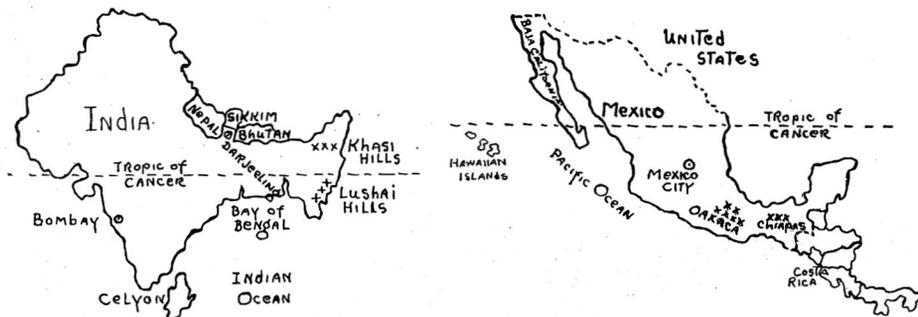
No. 158—*B. Checkerboard* — cute little round-leaved Begonia, with checker-spotted leaves of dark brown, turning to a bronze color under certain light conditions. (Mexico)

No. 163—*B. Barkeri* — the good old-stand-by rhizomatous (Mexico).

No. 187—*B. sikkimensis* — new variety — supposed to be very outstanding and well worth growing, according to the collector (India).

No. 151—*B. Double Rosebud* — mixed colors of pink, white and red.

Any of the above, 3 for \$1.00



Now, we will get very exotic and tropical, with the following seeds from Hawaii:

Alpinia nutans (shell ginger), *alpinia mutica* (orchid ginger), *Phaenomeria-magnifica* (torch ginger), *Cordyline terminalis* (the exotic mixed Ti) and *Cordyline indivisa* (the beautiful Dracaena).

All five for \$1.00

Sanseveria species mixed, various sizes, shapes and colors

Spathiphyllum kochii, sometimes called 'Jack-in-the-pulpit'.

Aglaonema species mixed, of the *Arum* family, lovely houseplant.

Each .50 or all three for \$1.00

THE MacLANAHANS

Seed Fund Administrators,

3734 Overland Avenue, Los Angeles 34, California

NOTE — Due to some misapprehension concerning the Hawaiian species seed, we hasten to explain that this is the name given it by

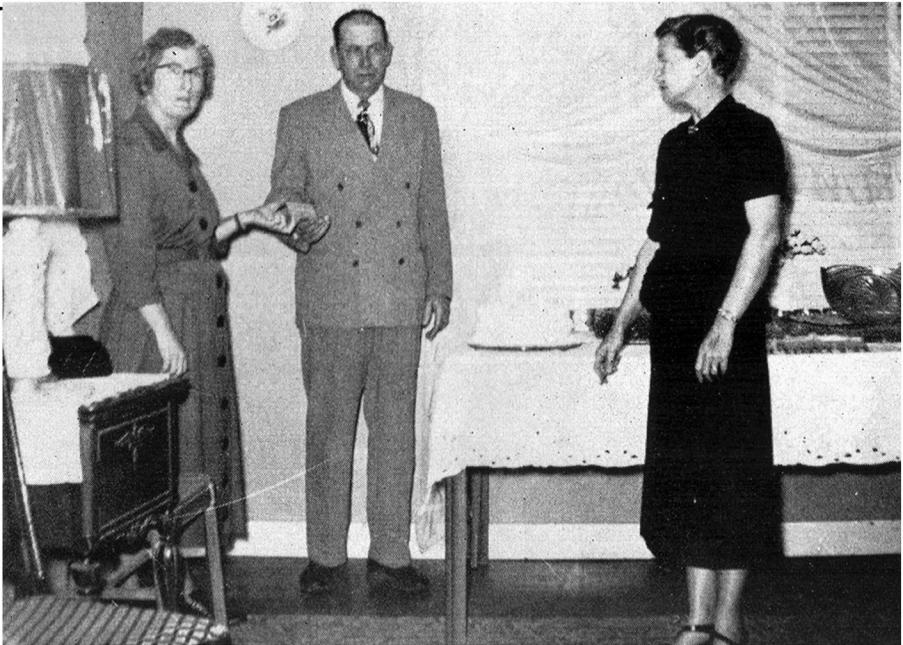
the collector, under which it was received. We will have to grow it under this name, until it can be definitely identified.



The

Begonia

Branches



Mrs. R. J. Wilson, Past President; Mr. E. Weaver, and Mrs. Fred M. Owens, 1954 President.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH PRESENTS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the February meeting, in celebration of the 4th Birthday of the Texas State Branch at Port Arthur, Texas, a Life Membership in the American Begonia Society was presented by Past President Mrs. R. J. Wilson to Mr. E. Weaver, in appreciation and recognition of his endless efforts and contributions to the Branch and Society.

Mr. Weaver was the organizer and first

President of the Texas State Branch, as well as serving in many other capacities. At present, he is the Southern Chairman of Public Relations Committee in the American Begonia Society.

The lovely Birthday cake shown in the picture, was made by Mrs. I. G. Thornton, who was hostess in her home, to the Branch for this happy occasion.



—Glenn W. Motschman Photo

President Glenn W. Motschman (on the left) signing the Charter of the BRITISH

BRANCH, offered by Public Relations Director Frank S. Moore (on the right).

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BRANCH

Mr. Frank S. Moore, Public Relations Director, has announced the formation of our first international Branch — THE BRITISH BRANCH.

Mr. L. Maurice Mason is the first President and Representative Director. Mr. Mason has long been a grower of magnificent begonias; you will recall a picture of his Rex Begonias at the Chelsea Flower Show, in the August, 1952 issue of the *BEGONIAN*.

Mr. Frederick J. Bedson, Secretary-Treas-

urer, was the founder President of the National Begonia Society of England and Wales. It was through his efforts that the British Branch of the American Begonia Society was formed.

Mr. S. C. Langdon of the famous Begonia Gardens of Blackmore and Langdon, is Vice-President.

It is with pride that we welcome the BRITISH BRANCH into the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY.

In Memoriam

Mr. John Wesley Karch, aged 60, 427 Garfield Street, Gary, Indiana, passed away in January, after a lingering illness. He was widely known among Gary garden enthusiasts, specializing in Begonias, which he exhibited at many local shows. Mr. Karch was a member of the American Begonia Society for many years. Mrs. Karch and their son are continuing to grow Begonias in his memory, and invite all A.B.S. members to visit their Begonia garden.

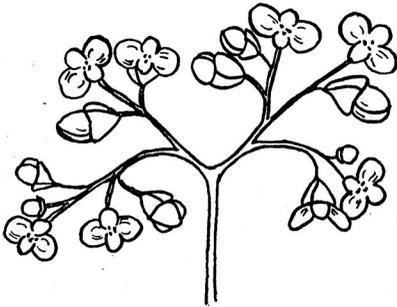
—D. M.



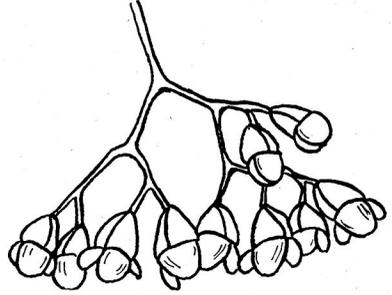
"Join A Branch"

Resolve to Learn More About

Begonias This Year



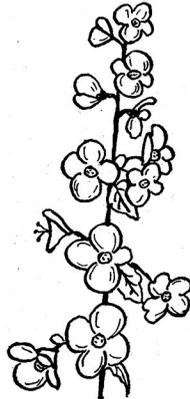
ERECT-CLUSTER



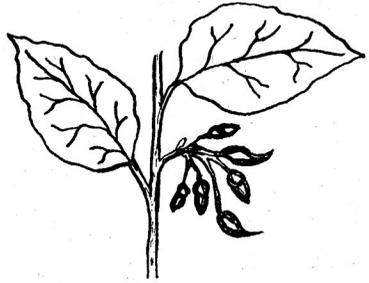
PENDULOUS-CLUSTER



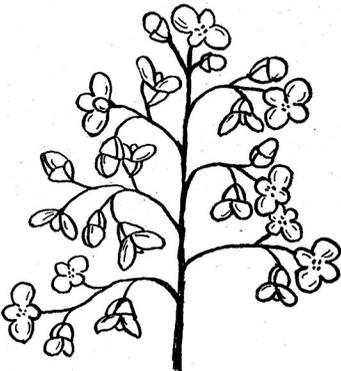
CLOSE-CLUSTER



RACEME



CLOSE STEM-CLUSTER



PANICLE



CYME

D S B

BOTANICAL TERMS ILLUSTRATED

The variety of form found in the blossoms of Begonias, especially the botanical terms used, are often confusing to the average gardener. These flower descriptions for Begonias vary only slightly from those applied to other flowers. These drawings and descriptions of the different forms of Begonia blossoms are herein presented for the benefit of the hobbyist.

CYME: Is more often described as a "terminal cluster" in Begonia literature, and is an inflorescence in which the central flowers bloom earliest. Succeeding flowers must come from axillary buds lower down on the stem. As the original flowers come from the central bud, this terminates development, although the buds lower down, on the stem may continue to arise and flower. *B. angularis* is an example of this type of blossom.

CLUSTER: Is often used in describing begonia flowers. These may be erect-clusters or pendulous (drooping) clusters. An ex-

ample of the erect-cluster type is found in *B. templini*, *B. 'lucerna'* is a good example of the pendulous-cluster type.

CLOSE-CLUSTER: Is similar to the drooping-cluster. It is merely a smaller, pendulous-cluster, often containing only twelve flowers. A good example may be found in *B. 'Limminghei'*.

CLOSE STEM-CLUSTER: Flowers resemble cherries (by stretching the imagination), and jut out from the stem in clusters, like cherries. Good examples are *B. Manni* and *B. Poggei*.

RACEME: A simple (or single-stemmed) flower cluster, the lower flowers blossoming earlier than the upper flowers. A good example is found in *B. Martiana*.

PANICLE: A branched raceme; the lower branches are longer and blossom earlier than the upper branches. The term is sometimes loosely applied to any irregular inflorescence. Two good examples, so described, are *B. 'reichenheimi'* and *B. 'riciniifolia'*.

MISSOURI
'CALLA LILY'
BEGONIA



—A. D. Robinson Photo

A short lecture on the Calla Lily Begonia was given by Mrs. Taylor at the March meeting of the Missouri Branch.

This begonia of the semperflorens group was brought to Canada from England more than 100 years ago. It was introduced to the New England States about 30 years later. The Calla Lily Begonia is still rare and much in demand, because it is so charmingly different.

Many of the leaves are almost wholly white and shaped like the Calla lily flower for which it is named. The blossoms are

bright red and pink. New England housewives seem to have better success with this variety than professional growers, which indicates that the summer coolness, such as that of New England, is a factor in its successful culture. Over-watering is to be avoided. One plant has been known to live 35 years by taking cuttings. This plant was grown in a wash tub in summer months under a shade tree close to the well in a backyard, but brought into the house in winter.

Mrs. B. E. Wise



—Percy Zug Photo

GARDENS OF THE MONTH

In response to a recent suggestion of Mrs. Haidee Hackler of Whittier, the *BEGONIAN* is happy to print the first list of OPEN GARDENS, for visitation during the month of June.

Many growers have small or intimate shade gardens, and large groups would congest the area, — so when an OPEN GARDEN is limited to space, a Time Reservation card must be sent to the host or hostess. This request will be noted *when required* for each separate garden, to avoid damage that might be done by overcrowding.

Our thanks to the following members for opening their gardens on the dates listed. A local map is suggested for those unfamiliar with the area; a telephone number is listed for those who may become "lost".

You are invited to visit on —

JUNE 13th—Open from 11 a.m. The Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Hackler, 6225 So. McNees Ave., Whittier, Calif. OXFord 5-6170.

JUNE 20th—Open from 10 a.m. The Garden of Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 No. Benson Ave., Upland, Calif. YUKon 3-18339.

JUNE 27th—Open from 1 p.m. The Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weaver, 1349 East Sierra Madre, Glendora, Calif. EDgewood 5-1844.

Editor's Note: Members in these and other localities are invited to list their gardens, *in all areas*, so that members and their friends in the vicinity of the gardens, may visit on designated days in June, July and August. If you are proud of your plants and garden, other members and enthusiasts will appreciate them too.

BEGONIA 'LUCY BROOKS'

Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné has identified the Begonia Lucy Brooks, tubers of which were brought from Mexico three years ago, as *Begonia balbisiana*. Hence the name 'Lucy Brooks' will be relegated to a synonym, for this begonia. We only wish Mr. Brooks would bring in more, as the demand is greater than the supply. Thank you, Mr. Ziesenhenné, for the identification.

A. B. S. STATIONERY

(Cost Price to Branches)

	per 100	per 50	per 25
Letter, sm.	\$.80	.40	.20
Letter, lg.	1.10	.55	.30
Envelope, sm. ..	1.25	.65	.35
Envelope, lg. ..	1.55	.80	.40

Write to: Mrs. Edna L. Korts
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

★ Calendar ★

June 10th

Orange County Branch: Flower Show at Grange Hall, Garden Grove, Calif.

Inglewood Branch: Louis Scalley will give a demonstrative lecture on growing Orchids.

June 13th

El Monte Community Branch: Branch Birthday Party to be held at California State Polytechnic College. Barbecue Dinner — \$1.75. Reservations necessary.

June 19th

New England Branch: Buffet luncheon, 1:00 p.m., at home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Wilson Road, Concord, Mass. Reservations necessary. Meeting at Greenlaw Gardens, Lexington Road, Concord, Mass. Mrs. E. W. Hutton will speak on Ferns.

June 23rd

Glendale Branch: Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters will speak on "How to Groom Shade Plants". Her lecture will be illustrated with colored slides.

June 25th, 26th and 27th

Pomona Branch, National Fuchsia Society: 8th Annual Fuchsia and Shade Plant Show, Padua Hills Theater (north of Claremont, Calif.) Hours — June 25th, 1:00 to 10:00 P.M.; June 26th, 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.; June 27th, 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

July 17th and 18th

South Bay Garden Club Flower Show: Mira Costa High School, Manhattan Beach, Calif. No admission charge.

August 6th and 7th

Southern Alameda County Branch: Ninth Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show, at Veteran's Memorial Bldg., Hayward, Calif.

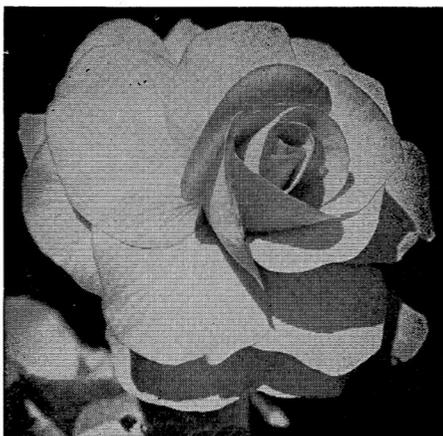
September 4th, 5th and 6th

22nd Annual AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW: Clark Hotel, 426 So. Hill Street, Los Angeles, Calif.

Renew your membership promptly by making all checks payable to the American Begonia Society, and mailing to the Membership Chairman, Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California.

Notice to New Members

The seeds sent to new members, or to those sponsoring new members, are Mixed Fibrous Begonias.



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

Begonia Loma Alta

B. Loma Alta is one of the hairy Begonia group, being a seedling of *B. scharffiana*, developed by Mrs. E. M. Fewkes of San Diego in 1935. It is often referred to as the giant of its group, as it grows to six feet or more tall, especially in California, where it has been known to grow to five feet in one year. A hardy, vigorous grower, it will stand quite a lot of sun. Leaves are large, often a foot long and seven inches wide; dark green above, deep red underneath; rounded at the top and tapering to a point.

The long stiff stems are dark red; the white flowers covered with rose-pink hairs, blooming profusely. Young leaves are crumpled and puckered, smoothing out as they develop. They are covered with stiff white hairs.

This Begonia makes a wonderful specimen in the background of your garden bed, or that half-shade, half-sun corner.

BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings.)

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.
Kent, England

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, June 4, July 2, 8:00 p.m.
Lounge, Florida Power Co.
Winter Park, Fla.
Mrs. James W. Merry, Secy.
1581 Grove Terrace Winter Park, Fla.

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, June 3, July 1, 7:00 p.m.
Member's Residences
Mrs W. H. Buntin, Cor. Secy.
3113 Parker Dr., Dallas, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 10, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward
Berkeley
Mr. Robert May
1140 Evelyn Ave., Albany, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.
Wilmar Woman's Clubhouse
Emerson at Isabel
South San Gabriel
Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Cor. Secy.
3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, June 17, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Recreation Hall
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland

FORT ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, June 5, July 3, 2:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N. J.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, June 23, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. Irma Brown, Cor. Secy.
3633 Revere Ave., L. A. 39, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 14, 8:00 p.m.
Hoquiam Pub. Library, or Messingale &
Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Wash.
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 22, 10:30 a.m.
Home of Members
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Maude A. Cooper, Cor. Secy.
1014 Havenhurst Dr., Hollywood 46, Calif.

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

1st Saturday, June 5, July 3, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Tex.

HUB CITY BRANCH

COMPTON-LYNWOOD

3rd Wednesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.
Cole Home
443 E. 91st St., L.A. 3
Mrs. Kathryn Hodgson, Cor. Sec'y.
120 E. Olive St., Compton

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 14, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 10, 8:00 p.m.
Inglewood Women's Club
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Secy.
726 W. 81st St., L. A. 44, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.
Peggy Owens, Secy.
4275 Nabal Dr., La Mesa, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.
Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave.
Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy.
6050 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. James A. Whitaker, Secy.
1225 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 22, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennemoser, Secy.
1295 N. W. 54th St., Miami 42, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, June 15, 1:00 p.m.
American Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Mary Wood, Secy.
626 W. Charles, Independence, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, June 19
Homes of Members
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

OCEAN COUNTY NEW JERSEY BR.

1st Monday, June 7, July 5, 12:30 p.m.
Members Homes
Mrs. Gertrude Buek, Secy.
Box 244, Bayville, N. J.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
Grange Hall
1 Block South Center of Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Evie Darden, Secy.-Treas.
6701 S. Fee Ana St., Rt. 3, Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
Casitas del Arroyo, 117 S. Arroyo, Pasadena
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.
515 El Centro St., South Pasadena

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, June 11, Members Homes
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N. J.

PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, June 25, 8:00 p.m.
Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.
Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.
1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

RAYTOWN MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.
7708 Sni-A-Bar Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.

REDONDO BEACH AREA

4th Friday, June 25, 8:00 p.m.
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mae Koebig, Secy.
2717 Monterey, Torrance, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Kay Elmore, Secy.
3935 McKenzie St., Arlington, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Friday, June 25, 10:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. L. Carringer, Secy.
825 Harbor View Pl., San Diego 3

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Gladys Pirkner, Secy.
750 48th St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, June 1, July 6
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem
Mrs. Loren H. Edlund
863 Edina Lane, Salem, Ore.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, June 28
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University
Mrs. E. R. Bohe, Secy.
3145 N. Mountain View, San Diego 15, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, June 2, July 7, 8:00 p.m.
1738 - 9th Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. George Leslie Kuthe, Secy.
1095 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, June 23, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Secy.
911 N. Second Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
Mrs. Mary Wegener, Secy.
1611 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, June 15, 7:45 p.m.
Trinity Parish House
609 Eighth Ave.
Mrs. H. G. Bamford, Secy.
810 W. Lee St., Seattle 99, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.

1st Tuesday, June 1, July 6, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura
Mrs. Harry Fox, Secy.
3877 Mound Ave., Ventura, Calif.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, June 17, 8:00 p.m.
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Alice Zedalis, Secy.
Don Coats Nursery, Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern
Mr. Walter Partridge
4849 Beck Ave., Bell, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Friday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.
Rose Hill Club
Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.
2822 - 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, June 9, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. R. L. Simpson, Corr. Secy.
35 Fayette St., Oakdale, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH

CLEVELAND, OHIO
4th Wednesday, June 23, 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 Friday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.
Hinshaw Dept. Store Aud.
Whittier Quad. E. Whittier, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Gladys B. Bruce, Secy.
6102 Milna Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.

3rd Tuesday, June 15, 2:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Wallingford, Pa.
Mrs. J. H. Ward Hinkson, Secy.

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