

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

APRIL, 1955

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# From the Editor . . .

Sassy and I cover over 40,000 miles a year, traveling up and down our fair state lecturing and talking good gardening. In our neck of the woods you can go from desert and below sea level to high mountains in a matter of just a few hours. On a trip over one of our 4000 foot passes from Los Angeles to the great valley, we ran into snow—which to us in the Southland where the *BEGONIAN* comes from, is a bit unusual for most. Believe it or not I built my first snow man! Not as good as you folks back East can make—but we thought of you as we did it (Editor paid for this cut in request that folks see what he looks like . . . figures he looks best behind glasses!)

Snow or no snow, I must again say thanks for the material coming in from the Eastern branches and the pictures, too! We owe a lot to Mrs. Elsa Fort, our Eastern Chairman of Public Relations for keeping things alive and the good words on Begonias getting around to folks away from the main headquarters.

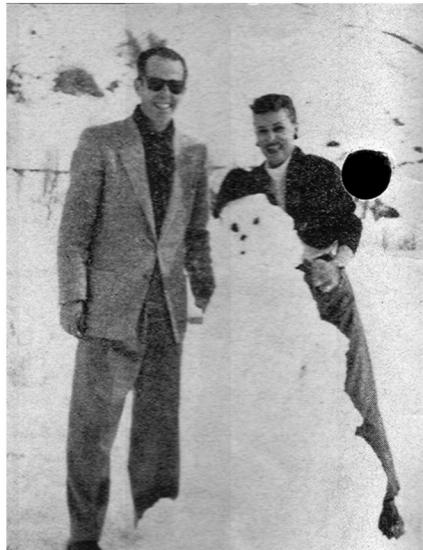
Every magazine makes some mistakes in spelling and we are no exception. If we could go through several proofreadings, no doubt it would come out exact. When copy comes back to us for proofreading it leaves our office correct. Now and again mistakes can crop up after proofreading—so bear along—please! Its easy to criticize if you don't know all the details. . . . Now about magazines being late. I have held up copy to the 20th and even later of each month to get in every new report. This makes us late. From now on I am going to be hard. If copy is not in by the tenth—it stays out! In the six months now we have found out a bit about our magazine and how to best operate it, so now we are going to be tough. OK? I am sure you approve—and please help by getting copy in early—and make it interesting. You read the reports and judge for yourself.

Our San Gabriel Branch in the Pasadena Flower Show walked off with high honors for their lovely outdoor garden . . . so did the Inglewood and Redondo Beach branch in the International Flower Show. Our flower show chairman, Cal Trowbridge, will be reporting on this and other items as how to win and show in your various shows, in the next issue.

What do you say we go out after a big magazine drive to get more subscribers. Maybe there are a lot of folks who would like to take our magazine that can't come to meetings. We need to get back to our 4000 issues—for this means more readers and more readers means more advertisers and results for them! I will list in a roll of honor those members that bring in more than 3 subscribers or members during the months of April and May . . . let's see what can happen!

Sassy and I attended a meeting of the San Diego Branch last month—and was it something! Normally they have a medium attendance, but for this meeting over 80. It was done by two ladies who got on the phone and called all members. It shows what can be done to get interest if we go after it. And to top it all off, the speaker came on first! When a branch can double its meeting attendance I think hats off should be said and a good example is set for other branches too, as to how they did it! Might write them and find out!

Nuff said this month. Thanks for all the good things you have been writing about from your garden—and about the *BEGONIAN*! You're wonderful! Sassy and I wish we could meet you all and maybe we shall one day. Until then a wheelbarrow of good wishes and feelings, as ever, — G.L.



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## The *Begonian*

Founded by  
Herbert P. Dyckman  
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# The Begonian

APRIL, 1955

## The First A. B. H. Hybrid . . .

—DON HORTON, *Publicity Chairman, A.B.H.*

Begonia Otto Albert, the lovely creation of Louise Schwerdtfeger, has the distinction of being named the first hybrid to be approved by the American Begonia Hybridizers. This begonia, with its large light green leaves and liberal sprinkling of brown specks, is destined to become very popular. And under the test growing conditions required by the American Begonia Hybridizers this begonia has proven remarkably hardy.

The American Begonia Hybridizers Branch was organized with two main ideals in mind: first to study and promote the hybridizing of begonias and secondly to screen the new hybrids before they are placed on the market. The introduction of new Begonia hybrids has been reaching the same deplorable state that has characterized the hybrids of many other plants. The purchaser of a new hybrid has had no assurance that the plant is very different or distinct from a plant already in existence. Because of the vast numbers of hybrids being produced the grower and introducer may be entirely innocent in not knowing that their introduction closely parallels, or even duplicates, an already named hybrid.

The American Begonia Hybridizers prom-

ises to eliminate this problem. The ABH being comprised of a number of the foremost authorities in the hybridizing field today judge each hybrid set before them for beauty, distinctiveness, and cultural requirements. In order to bear the coveted seal of ABH approval each Begonia must be handsome, diverse from any other Begonia, and have its cultural requirements tested.

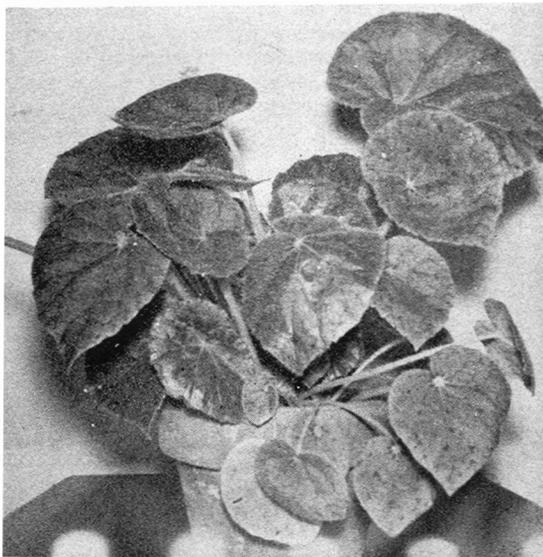
In short, whenever a new hybrid bears the tag of the ABH Approved Hybrid you can buy with confidence. Otto Albert, the only plant selected at the ABH's first quarterly meeting this year promises to be a highlight in a parade of fine new Begonia hybrids. Otto Albert will make a valuable addition to any collection, and watch the BEGONIAN for the announcement of more new ABH hybrids.

. . . Begonia Otto Albert

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### About Our Cover . . .

Our cover is Begonia Brocade grown by Mrs. Elsa Fort of Merchantville, New Jersey. In the near future she is going to tell us more about this lovely Begonia. Ralph Holsizer of the Philadelphia Inquirer took this picture and also the one two months ago of Mrs. Fort's glasshouse.



# How To Plan Your Exhibit . . .

By MARY L. GILLINGWATORS

—As reported by ALICE ROSE, Whittier Branch

Six Rules to remember when you are planning a garden exhibit:

1. Balance
2. Focal Point or Center of Interest
3. Perspective or Distance
4. Rhythm of Line and Color
5. Quality of Plants
6. Good Work or Execution of Plan

1. Balance should be attained by placing plants having the same apparent weight in such a position that the interest is kept within the exhibit and so not allow the eye to be carried out of the picture.
2. The Focal Point is the most interesting plant or object in the exhibit and nothing else should be allowed to detract or overshadow it in interest. Everything else in the exhibit should compliment or lead the eye to the focal point. If the focal point should be a somber plant or object and you want to use color in the setting to brighten it up, the color should be used in such a way that it leads the interest to the focal point, but never used in individual spots that will catch the eye and cause a feeling that the eye is jumping from one object to another instead of leading the eye back to the center of interest.
3. Perspective is created by the use of plains, lines and masses, and graduation of color. Plants with larger, darker leaves should be used in the front, thus giving the effect of closeness and heft that causes a feeling of being a part of the surroundings, then leading back with lighter foliage, using the gray-green and fine foliage as ferns and fine-pointed leaves in the back, giving the feeling of atmospheric gray in the distance. The plains should be lighter while the masses will be heavier and darker, thus keeping the texture change interesting.
4. Rhythm of line is important. All plants should be placed in such a way that they do not have the appearance of straight lines, but are so placed that they give a feeling of an undulating movement of interest. Color should be used in the same way, being careful not to create individual spots of color to

make the setting appear spotty or jumpy, or to appear too busy.

5. Good plants are a must in building a trophy-winning exhibit. Plants which are not good enough to put in competition are not good enough for a garden setting if you aim to be in the top three. Any society which accepts an invitation to enter a show and asks anyone to take the chairmanship is not living up to their part of the responsibility if they do not see to it that there are plenty of good plants with which to work.
6. Last but not least is the Workmanship. Everything must be done just right. Do not run the risk of neglecting one little place, thinking that the judges will overlook just one little slip-up in the work. That one weak spot may be the only bad place in your setting, but it may be that someone else will not have any bad spots in their exhibit.

## IN MEMORIUM

*Alfred Carl Hottes, nationally known garden authority and life member of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Begonia Society.*

*Mr. Hottes was associate editor of Better Homes and Gardens magazine from 1917 to 1941. He previously had been a professor of floriculture at Ohio State University and an instructor at Cornell University.*

*He was born in Ithaca, New York, March 16, 1892 and came to live in La Jolla, Calif. about 1941, devoting much time to the writing of many books and lecturing on floriculture. He specialized in growing succulents and painting pictures of them in water-color of which he had a large collection.*

*Mr. Hottes once said he had intended to become an entomologist but he kept seeing the plant instead of the bug on the plant, so he went in for plants instead of bugs, for which we all have much to be thankful for. His quick wit and spontaneous laughter always captured his audiences and made him very dear to all those who knew him.*

# Cineraria . . .

## Queen of the Shade Garden!

Mention a cool shady garden and thoughts of Cineraria come to mind. According to the Bedding Plant Advisory Board, Cinerarias rank first for shade garden planting. They are such a natural subject for this purpose, it is little wonder that the standard recommendation for the north side of buildings, walls and fences and the problem spots that exist under trees and overhanging masses of shrubbery is to plant a flat of Cinerarias.

Cinerarias are deceptively sturdy. Fragile in appearance, once well established, they are able to overcome freezes that will kill off all top growth, inadvertant chopping that cuts off practically all their root structure, and periods of drouth that will overcome many of their sturdier looking plant cousins. Of course, they do not thrive on such abuse, but rather, will respond generously to good care, which means—a shade location, a soil prepared with  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of good organic humus, a monthly feeding

with an acid liquid fertilizer, little or no cultivation, generous amounts of water, and control of slugs, snails, ants, aphids, white fly, red spider, and leaf miner.

Cinerarias as a garden subject are unknown to many California newcomers who have seen them used only as florist pot plants with a comparatively high price tag. While Cinerarias make excellent pot plants for a cool room, they are even more useful as a garden plant. Single plants will fill out a full square foot of bed space and a single flat will handle most of the shade garden bedding plant requirements for the average home. By selecting a few of the sturdier plants in a flat it is possible to grow potted cinerarias in the open garden. Plants should first be set into 3" pots and plunged into the soil. When rootbound they should be stepped up to 4" pots and later into 5" and even 6" pots. The larger sized pots should only be set part way into the soil and the potting mixture should be at least one half humus to insure a light mixture and good drainage. No special care is required and the results are rewarding.

## Registered Begonia Varieties . . .

REG. FILE NO.	NAME OF VARIETY	CLASS	DATE ORIGIN	PARENTAGE	DATE DIST.	DATE REGISTERED
114	Pequêna	Rex, semi-min.	* 1951	Seedling of Adrian Schmidt	1955	Aug. 9, 1954
115	Charlotte Hoak	Rex, lge. spiral	* 1950	Pink Lady x Fireflush	1955	Aug. 11, 1954
116	Pinefore	cane, low	** 1951	Seedling of Elaine	1954	Aug. 11, 1954
117	Beatrice Haddrell	rhiz., star	*** 1952	Boweri x Sunderbruch	1955	Mar. 16, 1955
118	Dark Beauty	rhiz., star	*** 1952	Boweri x Sunderbruch	1956	Mar. 16, 1955
119	Illsley	rhiz., plain	*** 1952	Boweri x Mazae	1952	Mar. 16, 1955

### ORIGINATORS:

\* Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benson Ave., Upland, Calif. Published in BEGONIAN.

\*\* Ernest E. Martin, Danielson, Conn.

\*\*\* Percy I. Merry, 109 Brookside Road, Needham, Mass.

Plants inspected by N.E. Branch ABS.

—Submitted by DR. H. M. BUTTERFIELD

# Summer Flowering Bulbs . . .

—By LOUISE CRAMER, *San Gabriel Branch President*

“Summer Flowering Bulbs” were discussed and illustrated with colored slides by Mr. Neil Campbell, well known bulb specialist, at the San Gabriel Valley branch of the American Begonia Society in March.

Mr. Campbell grew up in the seed business, his father being in the business since 1907. He attended the University of California at Berkeley, specializing in horticulture. Since completion of school, he has had his own business specializing in flowers, seeds and bulbs.

When we say bulbs, we think of the gorgeous color array of flowers presented first by the December flowering narcissus, through the spring months with tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and Dutch iris. What can make a more beautiful sight, an inspiration of beauty, than the golden King Alfred daffodils and wedgewood blue Dutch iris growing together? These bulbs were planted in the fall and winter flowering plants interspersed as ground cover. These bulbs will continue to multiply and bloom for many seasons without further work except for watering and feeding. Their strap-like foliage must not be cut as it is making bulb food for next season. The unsightly leaves and spread may be controlled by grasping the straps of each bulb in the hand and bending the leaves over and placing a rubber band around the bent over foliage. This controls the spread so other plants may be set in or make space for summer flowering bulbs, yet the foliage of the bulb can still make food. When the bulb is dormant, the tied-back bundle of leaves is easily lifted off.

Did you say summer blooming bulbs to save work? Yes! The beautiful lilies whose native homes has been Japan or China, have been hybridized with our native lily to produce a hardy and sturdy strain. Luther Burbank first worked on lily breeding, then the U. S. Department of Agriculture, followed by the extensive work of Jan de Graf who produced an improved strain of Bellingham Hybrids, the first of American lily hybrids. The finest of the Aurelian hybrid Sunburst Lilies, a cross of Olympic Hybrids and the native tall, nodding orange L. Henryi, have produced a vigorous, hardy and strong stemmed variety growing up to seven feet tall. This variety has narrow, semi-reflexed petals which stand out like a

six-pointed star and run through the colors of vivid orange through mauve to bright yellows which do not fade and have always been rather scarce. The Heart's Desire strain gives huge trumpet shaped flowers with orange throat. Lilies are easy to grow and may be interspersed with begonias, azaleas, and rhododendrons as they like the same well-drained acid soil and filtered sunlight. Though shade may bring out beautiful colors, too much makes a spindly plant. They like plenty of humus in the soil as they are heavy feeders and need natural fertilizers. Lilies are never dormant and the roots should be handled carefully. The bulbs should be planted as soon as possible after being dug. The flowers may be cut to prevent seed setting, but the foliage should be left, as with any bulb, for making food for next year's flowers. The bulb will be damaged in proportion to the amount of foliage cut. Through choice of varieties of lilies, the bloom may be extended from June through September. While it is too late to plant now, a place in the garden may be reserved for them in the fall.

The Easter Lily, Bermuda or L. Harrisii came originally from Luikiu Archipelago, near Japan. For this special season, growth is controlled by cold storage methods and forcing under glass. The lily you receive at Easter when it has finished blooming, may be planted in the ground in filtered sunlight. Next year the fragrant lily will be standing tall at Easter, but it will not bloom until late in May or June—it's natural blooming season. It will multiply rapidly with tiny bulbils forming above the bulb and even on the stem.

The word gladiolus, pronounced glad i o' lus, both singular and plural, is derived from the Latin word “gladius,” meaning sword. The gladiolus used to be called the Sword Lily. It's history dates back to the second century of Greece, but our hybrids came from Cape of Good Hope species in the eighteenth century. In the last twenty-five years “glad” horticulture has been extensive in America, working for huge flowers and heavenly color combinations, but we have lost the fragrance of the specie tristis. In our desire for large flowers, we have overlooked the specie which are unique in

—continued on page 87

# Begonias from Leaves . . .

—MRS. W. J. TEMPLE, Ventura, Calif.

Have fun raising your pet Begonias from leaves.

Put three inches of sponge rock in a wide mouth gallon jar. Pick healthy mature leaves with two to three inch stems or longer if you wish. Dip end in any good rooting powder, shake to remove most of powder and insert in sponge rock leaf section just above material, place about five small leaves or two large ones with backs about one inch from glass—they like to be close. Pour in carefully one and one-fourth to one and one-half cups of water to pack the "rock." Do not make it sloppy—too little water is better than too much. Screw lid on, place jar in lath house where it will get plenty of light and filtered sun, a North or East window is fine also.

You never have to water again until your little plants are lifted and potted, I should say with six or eight leaves is about right. You may add a tiny pinch of Hyponex to first water—I prefer rain water. Also, if I remember on time, I "plant" my leaves in the light of the moon—they seem to grow faster. A large fish bowl or aquarium could be used the same way by placing a pane of glass over opening. Don't forget, the larger the jar the more water you use to

wet them down.

After potting in your favorite mix, put a couple inches of damp peat moss in another clean wide-mouth gallon jar. Put your pots on this, leave lid off. Be sure to keep where you won't drown them out while watering other plants, still giving them plenty of light. Your succulent leaves and stems will root easier and faster than the tougher ones. If in doubt, use two of each kind, putting a little of one leaf into the sponge rock.

Hot house Begonia leaves can be treated the same way without using bottom or any other heat. Your jar serves as a miniature hot house. I have three plants of hispidavilosa on one leaf. I've taken the lid off and the plants are peeping out the top which means "get busy" in plant language.

I have a boweri major that will soon have to go into an eight-inch fern pot for its fourth transplanting since I put the leaf in sponge rock, April 1, 1953.

Watch your pets thrive and grow—it surely is a wonderful feeling—mostly pride with a little gloating on the side. Throw in a little love to keep them warm.

I have often heard my mother say plants were food for the soul.

## From the President . . .

Many of the members have asked if they must be an officer to attend the National Board Meetings held each month in the Los Angeles City Hall. These meetings are open to all members of The American Begonia Society, and I would like to invite any of you who are interested, to attend these meetings.

Although they are business meetings, I believe we all enjoy them, and learn a great deal from them. These meetings are always held on the Fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1305 of the Los Angeles City Hall. Come on down and join us, won't you?

A very important matter is approaching us once again—the election of your National Officers for the coming year. Please give this a lot of thought this year, as it is your duty to see that our Society will continue to develop, and this can only be done by having the right people at the helm. In past years, the amount of interest, as shown by the number of votes cast, has been very small, and yet when things are not going right, the amount of interest as shown by the number of complaints, is tremendous. This year, let us show this tremendous interest by casting our votes and supporting our candidates.

# Begonia Melior . . .

—MRS. ORVAL HALL, *Stuart, Iowa*

Perhaps this article will not qualify in your current contest, but for sometime I have intended to make a report on hybridizing experiences covering a period of about ten years.

When we read about *Begonia Socratiana* and her children—there is a great deal left out concerning her temperamental moods.

It has long been a secret wish of mine to have house plants of beauty and still be of easy culture like the *Semperflorens* family just for an example, or perhaps *Lucerne* with cascading blooms hanging in a revealing beavy of loveliness. Only one *Begonia* seemed to have the desired attributes I wanted transferred to these already old favorites—so I set to work.

For parent stock I have used the New Hampshire double hybrids in double pinks and double red.

The first winter crosses were made almost daily but no seed set. As *Melior* blooms are mostly male blooms until the very end of the blooming season the double *Semperflorens* were the mother plants. Now for some unexplainable reason it seems there is only a few times during the blooming season when *Melior's* pollen is fertile. As near as I've been able to discern this seems to be as the female blossoms on the plant are coming into bloom. These female blooms seem to come in small groups, also at regular intervals as they bloom. By that I mean suddenly there will appear three or four female blooms, then no more for several weeks and then the next time perhaps five or six and so until until it is almost through and then a whole flock of female blossoms. I have had various plants from various sources—local greenhouses, from the East, North East, South East, Wisconsin, and so on to work with. Most are labeled *Melior*—a few have been *Marjorie Gibbs* and *Glove de Loraine*. All are very similar, and all behave much the same.

I tried other crosses to be sure the N. H. doubles were healthy enough to produce seeds, but *Melior* just didn't click. Finally, one day toward spring there were several pods greening up and seed was setting. Of this first cross the seedlings didn't seem to germinate well. All the resulting plants had anemic looking foliage. They never

matured to blooming plants. So the next winter I worked faithfully again and still the same experience. And then one day toward spring I was looking to see if some fern spores I had later planted in the jar from which I had removed the few *Begonia* x's that had grown and there were nice bushy baby *Begonias* in the jar. I looked at the old label—Double pink *Semperflorens* x *Melior*—two years later. So I learned these *Begonias* are also temperamental and retain some of their original habits. The rest of the seedling jars I had cleaned up for later use so the next seeds were gone except the first few weaker ones that did not grow. Then we moved and the *Melior* children were just *Begonias* in the window garden.

But with the advent of winter again, a new sun porch and the urge to return to my hybridizing experiments came again. Two new Christmases ( I shall call these Christmas *Begonias* as they seemed so much alike) were added to the window garden and crossing began again—this time with the few plants left from the first cross. They seemed to be from all appearances like the original N. H. doubles except for the color which was a luscious pink.

Once again almost like a miracle a few blooms set seed and then no more no matter how I tried—and the seed—yes a few plants soon after planting, but dying after struggling along for about six months without blooms. But I did keep the seed jars and after about two years a few more seedlings appeared. These grew and bloomed, but now certain characteristics began to show up. The female blooms would fall as soon as opening. One was a beautiful red with large drooping clusters of bloom, decidedly drooping. The individual blooms are very large on well-grown plants—a very deep lovely shade of red (some blooms as large as a quarter. Four in a cluster, even the stem on the flower branch is red. Also a slight change in the cluster formation. When this plant began to look bad in early summer it was repotted. The original had died back to only a couple of stems. Cuttings were made and the root was left intact for a few more days.

When I came back to finish repotting I

found on cleaning the soil away the roots were very solid, short stubs and looked like they were just resting. I put these roots in a large pot with the cutting and although they stayed firm until the new plants were blooming, I think over-watering for the growing plants made too much moisture for a dormant one.

One pink double from this same group has very pink stems under the soil and when it was repotted there were small pink tubers on the roots about the size of peas. No, these were not nematodes but I would say they look like a strong tendency to tiny tubers on the root stems — none above ground. A third is also a lovely pink very compact type flower. The blooms do not fall as they fade, but hang on and then begin growing again, a new flower emerging from the center of the original. They get very large and on taking two apart it was found one had twelve individual stems and perfect tiny flowers about one-third inch in diameter growing out of the center of the original flower. A smaller flower had seven. All of these plants flourish in the winter, drink enormous amounts of water

and are densely base branching.

Some more, newer babies are just getting their third leaves and showing a much more Melior type leaf than any before. I understand it is very difficult to have much success at first with any cross using the Semperfloren type Begonia and their characteristics are very dominant.

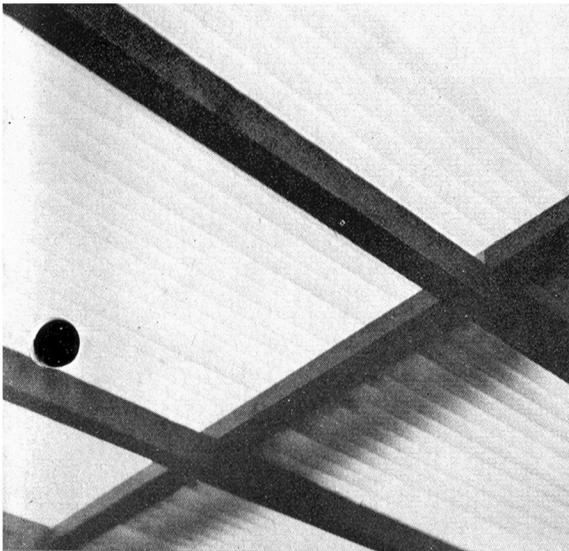
However, I feel I have made much progress even by being handicapped by such a long period of the seed dormancy. Sometimes after a double begonia has bloomed for a long period they will throw a few single blooms and with these I sincerely hope a cross can be made back to the Melior parent.

This is much too long for your contest rules and the story on these crosses are only in their beginning as I plan to do further work along this line in the future. I have also made a few crosses with Lucerne but here again one is working with hybrids and the resulting seedlings have shown variations.

But that is another story, so until that time I can make a more complete report, it will have to wait.

## About Tube Houses . . .

Sitting on the front porch of the Editor's home in Sierra Madre, California is a tube house he bought from the A.B.S. at the Pasadena Flower Show. Its uniqueness is its small size—tube size in width, and in its adaptability to fit any garden. Louise Schwerdtfeger's tube house where she grows many of our famous plants is of course much larger and very unique in operation. Photo on left shows some of the roof detail using the longer tubes. The right photo shows side and corner construction with her plants from seeds and slips below. This shows only part of the very long house she has. Tubes are not dangerous as long as they don't cut, or the dust gets into an open wound. If this happens usual antiseptic precautions are all that is needed. Tubes are very handy in their use for they give fine light without any glare or burn.



# A Letter from Elsa Fort . . .

—A. B. S. Chairman of Eastern Public Relations

(Excerpts taken from a letter to the Editor)

Well I am all over the show I had in the rooms of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society February 16th and 17th. Had 163 different varieties on display, and a long table filled with new Begonias, hybrids not yet on the market and I can assure you they did create much interest among the 250 interested folk who attended the two day show—this was by actual checker count. The Horticultural Society said that it was the best exhibit they had ever staged in the rooms, and I was awarded the Citation of Merit by the Society for my horticulture and the staging of the plants. I was so proud that I was simply flabbergasted and in fact have not yet recovered my real sense. But I do feel so very humble for it awes me to feel that I have been able to create something worth merit in this old wartorn world

of ours when it seems that all man can think of is destruction. Bulldozers are so popular these days. Fortunately the weather was ideal to transport the plants, and there was no wind. The Society gives every little detail of cooperation, with wonderful building service in the way of freight elevators, porters, and nice dollies on rubber wheels with rubber bumper sides so that there is really no jarring of the plants. That does mean so much when displaying. We had two full loads of plants in Henrietta (Station wagon) and a load of display stands. I have a very good picture of the display which if you want you can have, but the background as you will see is book shelves, for it was held in the library of the Society.



# Rhizomatous Begonias . . .

—from a list by *LEATHERMAN'S GARDENS, El Monte, Calif.*

Begonias with a rhizomatous root system, similar to the root system of an Iris plant. The rhizomes on most varieties creep across the top of the soil. There are a few varieties that are upright growers or are more attractive if staked or trained to grow on a totem pole. In this group are the "star begonias," so called because of the shape of the leaf. The popular old favorite "Beefsteak Begonia" also comes under this classification. The majority of the rhizomatous Begonias are of easy culture and adapt themselves readily to house culture. The flowering period of nearly all the varieties is from winter continuing to late spring.

**HERACLEICOTYLE** (also called Mrs. Townsend). Thick, fleshy, green leaves, slightly lobed with seven points, flushed red underneath. The leaves grow to 5 inches wide and 7 inches long. Compact clusters of deep pink flowers on stiff stems are held well above the foliage. Considered one of the most beautiful flowering Begonias.

**SILVER STAR**. Beautiful foliage. The green leaves are overlaid with silver, the silver predominating. The 6 to 9 point leaves develop to about 5 inches wide and 6 inches long. The pale pink to white flowers are in clusters.

**GREEN STAR**. Attractive green leaves, flushed red underneath with from 6 to 9 points. Leaves develop to about 5 inches in diameter and 6 inches long. A full, bushy grower. Flowers are in clusters and are pale pink to white.

**JOE HAYDEN**. The 5 to 8 pointed leaves are of a deep red-black when grown where they do not receive too much strong light, dark red underside. They grow to about 5

inches in diameter and 6 inches long. Clusters of rose-pink flowers on stiff stems, held well above the foliage, are a beautiful contrast with the dark leaves.

**MEXICAN SPECIES C42**. Bronzy-green leaves, 5 to 8 points. Lovely pink flowers held well above the foliage on long, stiff stems. Leaves develop to about 4 inches in diameter and 6 inches long. Full bushy grower.

**NELUMBIIFOLIA**. Large peltate leaves are almost round, on stiff stems, facing out with resemblance of the pond-lily pad. They become larger as plant matures, sometimes attaining a size of 18 inches. White flowers, lightly tinged pink.

**ERYTHROPHYLLA** (also called Feasti). "Beefsteak Begonia" (medium). The round fleshy leaves are an olive-green, glossy red underneath. Pale pink flowers on long drooping stems, in clusters, in profusion.

**BUNCHI** ("Curly Beefsteak"). (Medium) Shining green leaves, red underneath, edges red-tinged. Margin ruffles and crests. Same flowering habit as Erythrophylla.

**ERYTHROPHYLLA - HELIX** ("Spiral Beefsteak") (Medium) Bright shining green leaves, red underneath. The ruffled leaves come to a full, deep spiral. Same flowering characteristics as Erythrophylla.

**MANICATA AUREO-MACULATA** (large). Rounded, bright, shining green leaves, edges are slightly pointed, hairy. With strong light yellow splashes and blotches form on the leaves, occasionally there will be rosey splotches. Collars of stiff red hairs on leaf stem, under leaf. Abundance of soft pink flowers on long drooping stems. Can either be grown upright or in a hanging container.

# Dear Editor . . .

Dear Editor of **BEGONIAN**:

You asked us to tell you if we liked the new style **BEGONIAN**. I do very much, especially the recent issue in which you have published items from so many places in our country. Perhaps you know that here in the dry Southwest we must learn all we can about growing Begonias in order to get them through our dry, hot summers at all. One learns from surprising sources at times. Last summer, after I had lost over half my Begonias due to the extremely hot summer, I went to a well-managed large greenhouse in the nearest city only to learn they had lost all their Begonias due to the heat. A week later I visited my daughter who lives four miles from us. Her son, age 10 loves house plants, keeps a long table of Begonias, Coleus, and other house plants on a screened porch in summer, with canvas on South and East sides. I went out to see how many plants he had lost, only to find every plant growing nicely. I asked him how he'd cared for them. He said "Oh, I just throw a bucketful of water on the cloth behind them once a day to cool the air a little."

In reply to Mr. Ingraham of St. Louis, Mo. who wanted to know what variety of Begonias bloom best in winter. The Double Semperflorens or Rosebud Begonias bloom all winter for me. The Christmas Begonias are dependable singles but very hard to get through our hot summer alive. I have lost all of mine now. Feasti or Beefsteak Begonia grows well for me, but doesn't bloom as it should, is a winter blooming kind when it does. Early spring is a good time to root cuttings of any of the above varieties. I find carrot bags (plastic) pulled over the pots for 2 or 3 weeks help cuttings to root. Do not keep soaking wet or mold may form, just moist. Less watering is needed when rooting stem cuttings by the carrot bag method. Use side branches for cuttings.

Your lessons on building and conditioning soil "Easy Gardening" are especially interesting. I'm glad to see more pictures of Begonias in the February '55 issue. By pictures, we beginners often learn the names of our favorite Begonias. The long technical articles on one variety aren't so interesting to me as the shorter ones sent in perhaps by other amateurs who learn by growing.

Thanks for our improved **BEGONIAN**.

—MRS. R. L. BRIDGEWATER,  
Rt. 2, Box 220, Sasakwa, Okla.

Dear Editor:

The Begonia Society of Greater Kansas City, met February 15 with 21 members present. We had a very full day, round table discussions on planting seed and taking care of them.

Short talk on Rex Begonia by Mrs. Calmese, Mrs. Breshea told how easy the Begonia Zoo bowmen was to grow and how hardy it was.

The two enclosed sheets were given by Mrs. Hattie Taylor and Mary Woods:

"PROPAGATION—By Mrs. Hattie Taylor of Kansas City Begonia Society.

"Propagate—means continue or multiply by successive production of the same kind of plant.

"A number of ways to do propagating—as bench, box glass and house used only for starting cuttings or slips.

"Cutting is a plant, generally has a bud top, for example sempelloren, roots easily in water, then you can take the plant apart if it is too large, or too tall top it, so it will branch, therefore root the top, hence another plant.

"Starting a leaf, select a good healthy leaf. These will root in glass of water, some times better in a medium. A good many or good percent of the rhizomations family will root in water by stem. Now take the very large leaves. One can make wedges of these or lay the entire leaf on the medium and fasten it down by your method.

"Another method of this family of Begonias you can cut the Rhizome in pieces and plant them in the rooting medium and they make a good plant.

"The cane type Begonia may be cut into several pieces, if they have grown very tall and leave two or three nodes together and place them in the medium. I believe they root better this method.

"In this case we assume, you have either bought a plant or raised it from seed, perhaps some friend has given it to you. Doubtless you must have a plant to start with. Crossing two different plants is another topic altogether."

"HYBRIDIZING—Mary Woods of Kansas City Begonia Society.

"Hybrid—The offspring of the union of a male of one race, species genus, etc. with the female of another; a crossed animal or plant.

"Generally, the more closely related the parent forms the more easily hybrids are produced, and the more likely they are to be capable of reproduction. Those between

distinct species are distinguished by some as true hybrids and more formerly considered to be infertile as in the well-known case of a mule, but many such hybrids are known to be fertile either among themselves or with the parent forms.

"Hybrids may show various combinations of the characteristics of two parents, or exhibit new characters or reversion to ancestral ones. Sometimes they resemble one parent but contain in a latent condition characters of the other. Artificial hybrids are obtained among plants of distinct species, by many plant and animal breeders the term hybrid is limited to a cross between different species, crossbred being used for a cross between races or varieties of the same species.

"In genetics however, the term hybrid is applied to chromosome bivol, one of the small bodies ordinarily define in number in the cells of a given species and often more or less characteristic in shape, into which the chromatin of a cell nucleus resolves itself previous to the mitotic division of the cell. In the male and female germ-cells which conjugate in sexual reproduction the number of chromosomes is reduced to half that characteristic of the species, so that the conjugation does not double the number of chromosomes in the fertilized egg.

"Gene — An entity concerns with the transmission and development of determining or determination of hereditary characters, an element of the germ plasm, regarded as a small part of a chromosome, a factor or determiner."

—Mrs. B. E. WISE, *Reporter*  
Kansas City, Mo.

#### OFFICERS OF THE SACRAMENTO BRANCH OF THE A.B.S. — 1955

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#### DALLAS COUNTY CHAPTER DALLAS, TEXAS

February 27, 1955—Our Begonia and shade-loving plant exhibit included a species origin display along with the formal showing of individual potted hybrids. Twenty-six species and most of the commercial hybrids (including Rex-cultorum) were present. Mr. W. A. Swanner, our hybridizing hoblist and seed-growing expert, furnished a flat of Woolly Bear seedlings which were favors for the guests.

The plants were not judged, but we accomplished a lot educationally. I'm sure we won a lot of Begonia fans.

You know, of course, that we Dallasites do not possess a single natural element in favor of our Begonias. We build every step of the way—eagerly and tenaciously and well. Each member of the group enjoys great satisfaction when our plants perform according to "specifications" in spite of it all. Among us we own good examples of just about every shade plant grown in America.

March 3, 1955—Celebrated our birthday at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Lowenthal, one of the charter members.

#### KANSAS CITY BRANCH

American Begonia Society of Greater Kansas City met March 15, 1955. 18 members and 2 guests were present.

A surprise luncheon was given in honor of our President, Mrs. Breshears, it being her birthday.

Club voted on giving ten dollars to the Cerebral Palsy center each year that is given by the Begonia Society.

Mrs. Calmese talked on old types, rhizomatous, large leaf types, Riciniifolia, Sundercrata, Mexican Hybrid, Fishers Semiflora Nelumbiifolia, Popenoei, and Verschaffelti.

Mrs. Breshears talked on the newer types.

Mary Woods, her topic: "Now is the time, to plant seed and make new cuttings from your plants." Her success in raising Picta Begonias using peat moss and sand which has been sterilized. You should see her Picta Begonias. She left one outside all last summer, not even covered up, and it was beautiful. She also quotes she plucked the first blossoms from Tuberous Begonia—claims it makes better blossoms later. In topping her Begonias they will make the Begonias more bunched and not so tall and spindly and will have more blooms.

Mrs. Thoman had charge of round-table discussion on transplanting seedlings and tubers.

## HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

"The Hawkeye State" Branch of the American Begonia Society met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fowler, the evening of February 19th. Although meetings are planned for the 3rd Friday, roads and weather were disagreeable. However, the 19th proved to be little improvement, for we had rain, sleet and snow during the evening. Four members were present: Sadie Hemmingsen, Betty Bolton, Ruth Anderson and our hostess. The usual escorts, husbands—were guests, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Fowler and little Randall James, and Miss Lois Fowler. Our new member, Mrs. Iven Hein, Minden, was unable to be with us, due to the disagreeable driving weather.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A letter from Mrs. B. E. Wise of the Missouri Branch, Kansas City was read—wishing "each of you the very best of luck and happy growing with your Begonias. If there is anything we can do to help you, please let us know. We would like for all of you to visit our club here."

Secretary was authorized to answer this letter. Letters from Mr. Moore were read, as well as the letters answering them. Letter to Betty Bolton from Mrs. Leora Calmese of the Missouri Branch was read and members present received some of the four varieties of Begonia seed sent to the club. It was suggested our Historian begin our record. One plant brought by Ruth Anderson was sold for 35 cents, money to go to the Treasury. Sadie Hemmingsen drew the door prize—a fine plant of Begonia semperflorens Luminosa compacta.

The study of "Glossary of Botanical Terms" was started by Edna Fowler, using a flowering plant of B. s. "Adeline" as a model. We plan to continue with the Glossary each meeting, as well as the reading of the Chapter on "Soils and Fertilizers" in Bessie Buxton's "Begonias and How to Grow Them." Betty Bolton discussed B. Kellermannii with a plant owned by our hostess exhibited. Meeting was adjourned to admire and discuss Edna's Begonias. Refreshments were served.

Since our last meeting, we have sent in dues to the Society for Mrs. Irma Frus,

Cromwell, Iowa. She writes Betty Bolton she plans to attend one of the first meetings as soon as the weather is better for driving that distance. She will be an enthusiastic member of our Branch.

March 4, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fowler invited the Bolton's and Anderson's to go to Villisca. Edna had written Miss Edith Stillinger she would be in Villisca that day to see her Begonias. Miss Stillinger has many Begonias on a glassed-in porch, as well as in the house. It was interesting to see they could be carried over in a cool temperature. We bought cuttings and a few plants. Miss Stillinger is president of the Villisca Federated Garden Club, and is a member of the Kansas City, Missouri Branch. She has a sister in this branch and goes there often.

We came home by way of Shenandoah, stopping at the Henry Field Seed Company. We were given permission to go in the greenhouses and spent most of the time in the Begonia house. The plants were all thrifty and beautiful, and our only difficulty was to decide on the varieties to buy. Clyde Hurd was in charge of the immaculate greenhouses. I asked Pate Simmons of "Letter Basket" radio time, if the company would be interested in joining the American Begonia Society and our branch. He said George Rose would be the one to write, and I will write this week. Our president, Edna B. Fowler gave him information of our new branch, and said he planned to give our branch some publicity, Saturday at 12:30.

Due to power interference, I was unable to get the exact wording, but think this is close enough:

Three ladies, Mrs. Paul Bolton, Mrs. Glenn Fowler and Mrs. W. E. Anderson were here yesterday from Underwood, Iowa. You know there are Gloxinia Societies, Hemerocallis Societies and there are African Violet Societies, and they are starting a Begonia Society. These three ladies enjoyed looking at the Begonias and bought between twenty-five and thirty dollars worth of plants. If anyone wants information about joining "The Hawkeye State Branch of the American Begonia Society, write Mrs. W. E. Anderson, Underwood, Iowa, Secretary-Treasurer."

## SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS . . .

—continued from page 78

color and form. Early plantings begun now and spaced two weeks apart give continued flowering and a lift to a summer garden.

Tigridias are ready for planting now. They are of Mexican origin, but again have been hybridized for a more hardy strain. The three petals of the outer edge form a triangle while the three smaller inner petals are spotted like a tiger. Tigridias show themselves best when planted in drifts. They like a rich soil and shade or half-shade inland.

The Red Hot Poker or Kniphofia shows itself to best advantage against a background of green where in mid-summer it's torch-like flowers of the lily family make a significant accent in the garden. It likes rich soil and sun.

An amaryllid, *Sprekelia formosissima*, is a shining deep red, orchid shaped flower known as the Aztec Lily. It can be planted in April, and while it likes rich, light soil and sun, I have bloomed it in part shade.

The night fragrance of the white, waxy petaled tuberose cannot be surpassed. The Pearl is the large double, while the Mexican Everblooming is the single variety. A succession of bloom and perfume of this native amaryllis of Mexico, can be attained by two week interval plantings beginning in April.

The South African Guernsey Lilies or Nerine, another of the Amaryllis family are planted in early summer for fall bloom. They grow in dainty head clusters or umbels varying in color through shades of pink to apricot and red. They will need frost protection.

Monbretias, which grow either in the sun or shade, resemble the gladiolus in miniature. They make ideal long lasting cut flowers.

Ismene Calatmina or Peruvian Daffodil has a large cluster of white fragrant flowers. It grows well in both sun and shade and multiplies rapidly. It is showy when planted in groups with other flowers.

Gloriosa, the climbing Glory Lily of tropical Africa can yet be put in a pot and grown against a tree or pillar for support. *Rothchildiana* has petals, crimson at the tip and yellowish white near the base, which are twisted and curled back from the center like a tiger lily.

The popular dahlia in its many forms and colors is well known to all. The most fun with it is to grow the tubers from

seeds and see what kind of flower you will get.

Everyone loves the cyclamen so graciously given as a gift. How soon it shows it's dislike for the warm living room! It may be planted with its bulb raised in the shady garden. Soon new colorful butterfly-like flowers will appear. It will go dormant in the summer and come back when the days are cooler. They may be purchased as started bulbs in late spring and be set out for a fall and winter border of the shade garden.

The canna, with large foliage varying in shades of green and bronze, creates an exotic tropical background with flowers of brilliant shades of red, pink, yellow, apricot and orange. The newer varieties have splashes and over tones of other colors. One of the newest is fuchsia colored. The individual florets are like gladiolus. Some dwarf varieties have been developed for the small sun garden.

The Hardy Begonia, *Evansiana*, came from China. It has begonia leaves with red underneath. The flowers are a brilliant pink on a plant two to three feet tall. It propagates from the bulbils formed in the leaf axils. It should be included in every shade garden.

The giant flowers of the tuberous begonia grown in the coastal areas are admired by all at the flower shows. They are a challenge to us inland, but we have to be satisfied with beautiful forms and colors of the blooms in smaller size. Coast growers say they must have high humidity and temperature of not more than 70 degrees. The tubers are being awakened now on damp peat. When they sprout, they are placed in a flat of leaf mold and peat to grow until they are about four inches tall. They can be set out in the ground after it warms up or they may be potted into eight inch pots where they will grow for the season. These bulbs take more work, but the results make the work a pleasure. The basket or Lloydii must not be forgotten because of the prolific blooms cascading down the sides of the pot, make it a sight to behold. Other forms of tuberous begonias are giant single, small flowered multiflora, *cristata*, *crispa*, *camellia*, *marginata* and *rosebud* all in a wide range of colors.

For the "new look" in the garden this summer, try some of these bulbs and next summer enjoy a garden of ease and beauty.

# The Begonian

Editor .....Gordon Baker Lloyd, Box 337, San Gabriel, Calif.

Advertising Manager .....Emri Stoddard, 768 Avenue B, Redondo Beach, California

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## Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society, Inc.

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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# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund . . .

It is not too early to start thinking of our summer shade gardens and patios. When we think of color in terms of Begonias, our thoughts immediately turn to the colorful *semperflorens* types. We are happy to have seeds of this begonia from one of our oldest and most reliable growers of green house plants. These seeds are freshly collected and germination should be good.

We offer this choice selection which may be grown in pots or the open ground. Some of these varieties will stand heat but need protection from hot sun. In California *semperflorens* are rated No. 1 in popularity as bedding plants.

#1. SNOWBANK—Dwarf. Large glistening white flowers. Considered the best white.

#2. SALMON QUEEN—Dwarf. Salmon-shaded rose with dark foliage.

#3. SPARKLER—Large flowers of brilliant orange-salmon. Very beautiful.

#4. PINK PROFUSION—A new hybrid-heterosis strain. Dense grower with many coral pink flowers. Foliage green with red veins. This type will do well in warm half sunny conditions as a bedding plant. In addition to the above mentioned we have received from Germany a mixture of many varieties of the *semperflorens* type. Contained therein are *Heterosis Tausendschon*, *Gracilis Bodeperle*, *Luminosa*, and many others. None of the four above mentioned are included in this combination. We offer you this outstanding collection, 5 packets for \$1.00.

Seeds of other genera for this month consist of other beautiful plants for the shade garden.

COLEUS—This is a rainbow collection of 90 percent bright colors such as: reds, yellows, coppers, and pinks. Ideal for combinations or individual pot plants. Plant in shade to bring out the bright colors.

CYCLAMEN — From Denmark. Dark blood red blooms. Note: Cyclamen seed requires from 20 to 25 days to germinate and should be carefully watched during this period.

STREPTOCARPUS "WEISMOOR"—Germany. Sow in sand and leaf mold. Do not cover seed with soil. Keep warm, shady and moist. As soon as seedlings appear, plant in 3½ to 4½ inch pots. Keep in airy half shady location.

These plants have large blossoms of many colors.

GESNERIA MACRANTHA—Attractive pot plant bearing many tubular brilliant scarlet flowers from leaf axils. Shaded location during summer. This collection, 4 packets for \$1.00.

Want to try something new and different? We have received the following inter-

esting seed from Australia. These are from native plants and should not be pampered as to cultivation and fertilizer. In the eastern and middle western states they may be grown as pot subjects in cool and protected locations in summer and probably green house or similar conditions in winter. They sound well worth trying.

MANGLESSI—Kangaroo paw. Red and green.

BLANDFORDIA FLAMMEA—Christmas bells. Requires half shady moist location. Seedlings are at first like blades of grass.

BARONIA SERRULATA—Native rose. Deep rose. Cupped flowers. Requires cool, well drained soil. Evergreen.

ACTINOTUS HELIANTHII — Flannel flower. Flowers are daisy-like-flannel-textured. Requires shady location and perfect drainage. Germination on this one is slow. From the Phillipine Islands come seeds identified only as CARARIA. A perennial, ever blooming shrub with yellow flowers. Above, 5 packets for \$1.00.

NOTE :Flights and fern spores are still available.

CORRECTION—Due to a misprint in the list of fern spores in the February *BEGONIAN* we wish to make the following corrections:

No. 10 should be *Scolopendrium Crispa*.

No. 3 should be *Polypodium Vulgare*.

No. 22 should be *davallia Canariensis*.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE

*Seed Fund Administrator*

4316 Berryman Ave., Los Angeles 66, Calif.

## Show Publicity . . .

The Seattle Saintpaulia Society announces the dates for their Second Annual African Violet Show to be held on April 30 and May 1, in the Seattle Builder's Hall, 170 Mercer (one block west of the Civic Auditorium). Admission 50c.

African Violets and other members of the Gesneria family including the *Gloxinia*, *Achimenes*, *Isoloma*, *Streptocarpus*, *Episcias* etc., will be featured.

The show is open to anyone interested whether a member of an African Violet club or not. Ribbon and cash awards will be given and National Ribbons from the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be given for the best 3, single crown, named, registered varieties. Exhibitors must be a national member.

Show time—Saturday, April 30, 2 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Williams, chairmen, cordially invite you to exhibit and attend the show. For further information, write them at 825 East 125th St., Seattle 55, Washington.

# Branch Happenings and Highlights . . .

## SACRAMENTO BRANCH

We hope you are one of the many who enjoyed our Birthday Dinner and who heard Mr. Pat Antonelli's talk.

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, who will be our guest speaker at the April meeting, is familiar to most of us and we are hoping for a large attendance. Why not bring a friend or neighbor—perhaps someone who has a new garden or someone who would like to try Begonias. Growing Begonias, especially the tuberous ones, is a real challenge to many of us. It is anticipated that Mrs. Schwerdtfeger will bring some new varieties of various Begonias and they will be for sale.

**CULTURE:** Perchance some of you do not receive the bulletin "Cabbages and things" that is published six times a year by Plantsmith, the manufacturer of Spoon-it. Good tips on general culture are included, and also the culture of many of our shade plants. It is well worth the subscription price of one year for 75c or two years for \$1.00.

Plantsmith, as did Mr. Antonelli, recommends sulphur dust every week until blossom time and copper compounds during blossom time as a preventative of mildew. Plantsmith also states that the new material called "Karathane" cures the mildew. However, Karathane is not available in all parts of the country as yet. If anyone finds it on the market, please pass the word along so that we may all benefit.

Mr. Antonelli gave us a word of encouragement when he stated that mildew appears in cycles of about twenty-five years apart. It began to appear again in all parts of the world about three or four years ago and is now on the wane. He said it would probably disappear within the next two years and not appear again for another twenty-five years. Something to look forward to, surely.

Did you know that dainty wild tuberous begonias form drifts of pink flowers in the coffee plantation zone of Mexico? Both coffee and begonias like moisture, good drainage, and some shade.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

April 2nd, 12:00 noon—Herbarium of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. — Speaker will be Mrs. Elsa Fort, New Jersey, Eastern Representative to the American Begonia Society.

May 21st, 11 a.m.—Hostess, Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, 225 Lee Street, Brookline, Mass. Speaker, Mr. Emil Friedman, Boston

Horticulturist. Visits planned to Brandegee and Isabella Gardner Museum greenhouses.

The New England officers for 1955 are:

President, Mrs. Percy I. Merry

109 Brookside Road, Needham, Mass.

Vice-President, Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury

225 Lee St., Brookline, Mass.

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Lexington Road, Concord, Mass.

## EL MONTE BRANCH NEWS

The El Monte Branch is very happy to announce we have had two new members join us in January, and three in February. Do I hear four for March?—Watch our smoke!

April 21, 1955 Meeting—Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dorothy Behrends will give us a discourse on tropical house plants and bromeliads. Dorothy is well known to all Begonia members, for fine articles that have appeared in the Begonian. Now is your chance to meet Dorothy in person. We promise you an evening well spent.

May 19, 1955. 7:30 p.m.—Joe Littlefield will be our guest speaker. We are looking forward to Joe's remarks, and his most interesting talks. Meet me, Joe.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Riverside Branch of the A.B.S. dedicated two trees on March 10, 1955 at Shamel Park. One was a Brazilian Pepper Tree which was in tribute to the late Mr. and Mrs. Millard Goeckler, who were prominent members of our Begonia Society for years.

The Redwood tree was a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. William S. Allen. It was Bessie Mae Allen who originated the idea of paying tribute to our living members by dedication of trees during Arbor Week. The tree we plant is a living thing of beauty that shows our love and devotion to those we love while they are here with us.

The services were by R. H. Terrill, who read the Scripture and gave some poems of trees. Prayer was offered by Rev. Murray B. Beattie of First Methodist Church. Flag bearer was President Mrs. H. E. Twomley. Those attending the service were Mr. Wm. S. Allen, Ethel Ballangee, Mrs. Harry Abbott, Mr. H. E. Twomley who made colored pictures for us, Mrs. Rowland Maddox, Mrs. Charles Transch, and Jean Symons.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

The March meeting of the San Francisco Branch was featured with a round table discussion of tuberous begonias. This covered all phases of their culture, as well as new methods of growing them.

Leafmold is the most popular medium for starting tubers here, as it alone or mixed with sand will usually develop a good root system, and a good root system is necessary in order to have a good plant. When about four inches high, the plants are ready for planting in beds or pots, and pots should be at least seven inches and preferably eight inches in size. It is essential that all plants of the upright variety are staked, as an unsupported plant is easily broken off at the tuber.

A new potting mixture which has been tried with considerable success, consists of equal portions of redwood shavings and loam, with a liberal addition of cow manure preferably well rotted. The shavings replace the leafmold usually used, and sawdust can be substituted for the loam. The cow manure is necessary in order to supply necessary bacteria.

Anyone having a formula for a potting mixture which has proved successful in the past was advised to use it again for the majority of plants, but if looking for something better, to try the mixture containing shavings or sawdust.

A method used successfully for storing tubers in frost-free areas is to leave the tubers in the pots. The pots are then placed on their sides in a semi-sheltered area and left outdoors. In March the pots are examined and as the tubers come to life, the pots are watered lightly. When the plants are about four inches tall, they are removed from the pots, the excess soil is removed, and they are repotted in the usual manner.

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GLENDAL—Mr. Norris gave invitation to meeting March 23. Dr. Houghton to speak on shade plants and soil conditions.

HUB CITY—Mr. Ogden extended invitation to meeting March 18. Jitney pot-luck dinner to make money for show fund. Mrs. Jensen to speak on tuberous begonias.

INGLEWOOD—Mrs. Olmsted gave invitation to March 10th meeting, Ray Wilson to be the speaker. Annual President's Dinner will be held April 14th.

## SEATTLE BRANCH

The February 15th meeting of the Seattle Branch of A.B.S. was well attended with many members and six guests. Mrs. Paul Deiro, president, welcomed everyone.

Widespread publicity on radio and in the newspapers had attracted the guests who were interested in Mrs. Jack William's talk on "African Violets." Her talk included the history of the Saintpaulia; how to take leaf cuttings; various rooting mediums; some of the reasons why plants don't bloom and ended with her husband, Jack, separating a "multiple crown" plant.

The rooted plants were duly sold as part of the Ways and Means Committee's efforts to help raise money for our forthcoming show Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31, in the Loyal Heights Fieldhouse, 21st N. W. & W. 77th (North Ballard), Seattle, Washington.

This will be Seattle's first Begonia Show and much interest has been shown. Tuberous and Rex Begonias, Fuchsias, Ferns, African Violets and other shade loving plants will be featured.

The show will be starting on the second day of Seattle's Sea Fair activities and when many out-of-town visitors will be in the city. We are all looking forward to the show and hope to see some of you up our way.

This is your advance invitation to attend our show and get acquainted with the Pacific Northwest's active sister branch of the American Begonia Society.

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PASADENA — Mrs. Williams reported that last month's speaker was Charlotte Hoak. They have gathered considerable rummage for the sale.

REDONDO—Mr. Taylor reported that March 25th speaker would be Roy Frost. Plans for Convention going along fine.

RIVERSIDE—Mr. Terrill reported that they are planning a Flower Show. Program for next meeting to be Round Table Discussion by members.

SAN GABRIEL—Mrs. Cramer gave several suggestions for money raising. Neil Campbell to be next speaker.

THEODOSIA SHEPHERD—Mrs. Bauer reported that they were planning a Flower Show. Have two new members this month. Mrs. Behrends to be speaker.

# Board Meeting Report . . .

Meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society, held February 28, 1955, 7:55 p.m., Los Angeles City Hall, President Koebig presiding. Pledge of Allegiance led by Past-president Korts. Aims and Purposes read by President-elect Taylor.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved. Balance in General Fund \$571.31.

Communications: From Vice-President Williams stating her approval of motions proposed by Editor Lloyd with exception of fourth part of second motion. Invitation to 5th annual Garden Clinic at East Los Angeles Junior College each Thursday from March 3rd to March 24th.

President-elect Taylor displayed metal signs bearing words "Member of the American Begonia Society." Signs will be available to branches for 75 cents to sell for \$1.00. He reported that rummage sale will be held at 12th and Pacific Ave., San Pedro April 4th and 5th.

President Koebig reported that Membership Secretary MacLanahan is confined to the Hospital following a serious accident.

Librarian Sault reported books on loan 8, books and BEGONIANS sold \$16.06. Remitted to Treasurer \$13.70. Mrs. Nolan will bind 1953 and 1954 BEGONIANS for \$3.00 per copy. Moved by Librarian Sault, seconded by Mrs. Korts that three copies for each year be bound. Carried.

Slide Librarian absent, report read by Secretary. Cash on hand \$7.57. One set of slides on loan. There is need for slides of Begonias and Flower Shows. Donations would be appreciated.

Flower Show Chairman Trowbridge reported that it was necessary to withdraw National entry from International Show due to his working in official capacity on show. Sent 45 pounds of September BEGONIANS to Elsa Fort Branch at a cost of \$4.65. Moved by Schwerdtfeger, seconded by Korts that we pay this bill of \$4.65. Carried. Trowbridge reported selling three more Camellias, the fourth to be sold at next meeting of Inglewood Branch. He sent information to Seattle Branch in regard to setting up their Flower Show.

Public Relations Director Moore not present, but sent request for action to be taken on issuing a Charter to new Hawkeye State Branch. Moved by Schwerdtfeger, seconded by S. Sault that we approve the Constitution and By-laws of the Hawkeye State Branch and issue them a Charter. Carried.

Mrs. Korts reported on Plant Sale Booth at Pasadena Flower Show. \$50.00 charged

for booth space. This amount already cleared so further sales would be profit. She suggested that the secretarial file be purchased with money from sale of the Camellias. Moved by Schwerdtfeger seconded by Browne that the money from the sale of the four Camellias be used to purchase a file for the secretary. Carried. Treasurer Trowbridge offered to purchase the file.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee absent, report read by secretary. Income \$45.00, expenses \$7.00, \$38.00 remitted to treasurer. Balance \$100.00.

Advertising Manager Stoddard absent, report read by secretary. Balance January 24th, \$164.84. Remitted to Treasurer \$79.45, plus agency commission \$2.05, balance due \$83.34.

Secretary Stoddard reported receiving 17 answers to 800 letters sent in regard to dropped membership.

Parliamentarian Sault, chairman of committee to study motion made by Editor Lloyd at previous meeting, stated he had not been able to contact all committee members, will report next meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Trowbridge stated that some action should be taken in regard to officers and chairmen who do not attend board meetings. After discussion it was decided that an amendment be made to the By-laws stating the action that should be taken if a member of the Board is absent three meetings without a good reason. Mr. Trowbridge to write the amendment and present it at the next meeting.

Mr. Olmsted asked all who wish to meet for dinner before the next Board meeting to contact him for reservations.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 10:00 p.m. to meet March 28, 1955 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
ARLINE STODDARD,  
National Secretary.

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## COPY DEADLINE:

All copy for the Begonian must be in the hands of the Editor by the 10th of month preceding publication.

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# BRANCH MEETING DATES

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings)

## AMERICAN BEGONIA HYBRIDIZER'S BRANCH

Called Meetings Quarterly  
Mrs. Daisy L. Walker, Secy.-Treas.  
2425-A Silver Lake Blvd., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.  
Kent, England

## CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, April 1, May 6, 10:00 a.m.  
Lounge, Florida Power Co.  
Winter Park, Florida  
Mrs. Lou Mankamyer  
20 Pershing Place, Orlando, Florida

## DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, April 7, May 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mrs. W. H. Buntin, Cor. Secy.  
3113 Parker Drive, Dallas, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, April 14, May 12, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley  
Mr. Stuart C. Smith, Secy.  
3147 Standley Blvd., Lafayette, California

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, April 21, May 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Wilmar Women's Clubhouse  
Emerson and Isabel Sts., South San Gabriel  
Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Secy.  
3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, April 21, May 19, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Recreational Building, College Park.  
2nd and D Streets, La Verne, Calif.  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, California

## FORT ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, April 2, May 7, 2:30 p.m.  
Miss Lolc Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, New Jersey

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, April 27, May 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 North Central  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coe, Cor. Secy.  
1420 El Rito, Glendale 8, California

## GRAY EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, April 18, May 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.  
7356 Eads Ave., La Jolla, California

## GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, April 11, May 9, 8:00 p.m.  
Hoquiam Public Library, or Messingale and  
Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Washington  
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.  
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Washington

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, April 26, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30. Program following  
Mrs. W. Ernest Jones, Secy.  
Welsh & Dresher Rds., Willow Grove, Penn.

## HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

Ruth Anderson, Secy.  
Underwood, Iowa

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, April 20, May 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Helen Ehret Murphy, Secy.  
715 Genesee Ave., Hollywood 46, California

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, April 8, May 13, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, Herman Park  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.  
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

## HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, April 20, May 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Room 19, Roosevelt Jr. High School,  
1200 E. Olive St., Compton, California  
Mrs. Kathryn Hodgson, Cor. Secy.  
813 South Pannes, Compton, California

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, April 11, May 9, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, California  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, California

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, April 5, May 3, 7:45 p.m.  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, California  
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Secy.  
726 West 81st St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

## LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, April 11, May 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.  
Mrs. Lena Deem, Secy.  
9022 Grossmont Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, April 12, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave.  
Mrs. Alice Waldow, Secy.  
2175 Cedar Ave., Long Beach 5, California

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, April 27, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Mildred Dunham, Secy.  
914 Howard St., Vanice, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

2nd Thursday, April 14, May 12, 7:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. R. L. Wilkenson, Secy.  
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, April 26, May 24, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennamoser, Secy.  
1295 N. W. 84th St., Miami 42, Florida

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, April 19, May 17, 7:00 p.m.  
American Legion Bldg., Linwood and Paseo  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Mrs. Lucille Taylor, Secy.  
6130 Chestnut, Kansas City, Missouri

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, April 16, Homes of Members.  
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

## OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Monday, April 4, May 2, 12:30 p.m.  
Members Homes  
Mrs. Gertrude Buek, Secy.  
Box 244, Bayville, New Jersey

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, April 12, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Grange Hall  
1 block South Center of Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.  
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, April 13, May 11, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.  
515 E. Centro St., South Pasadena, California

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, April 8, May 13, Members Homes.  
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.  
3311 Fremont St., Camden, New Jersey

## PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, April 29, 8:00 p.m.  
Journal Building Auditorium, Front & Yamhill Sts.  
Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.  
1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

## RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, California  
Mrs. Ella Cunningham, Secy.  
2208 Vanderbilt Lane, Redondo Beach, Calif.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday April 13, May 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.  
Irene Springer, Secy.  
3608 Rossmuir, Riverside, Calif.

# THE BEGONIAN

## ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, April 15, May 20, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members.  
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.  
4802 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

## SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, April 19, May 17, 7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. C. E. Crouch, Secy.  
2207 Murietta Way, Sacramento, California

## SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, April 5, May 3  
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem, Oregon  
Mrs. Loren H. Eiland  
863 Edina Lane, Salem, Oregon

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, April 25  
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University  
Mrs. E. R. Bolie, Secy.  
3145 N. Mountain View, San Diego 16, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, April 6, May 4, 8:00 p.m.  
Forest Lodge, 766 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Mrs. Edward O'Brien, Secy.  
234 Gates St., San Francisco 10, California

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, April 27, May 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, California  
Mrs. Dorothy DeHart, Secy.  
5329 N. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, April 14, May 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.  
Seth C. Langdon, Secy.  
1419 Quinientos, Santa Barbara, California

## SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, April 19, May 17, 7:45 p.m.  
Trinity Parish House, 609 Eighth Avenue, Seattle  
Mrs. Wm. Stankman, Secy.  
4116 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.

## SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, April 5, May 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Wilma Renshaw, Secy.  
560 So. Coronado St., Ventura, California

## SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH

Mrs. Tex E. Fury, Secy.  
425 Putman Avenue, Salina, Kansas

## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, April 21, May 19, 8:00 p.m.  
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Bob Oliver, Corr. Secy.  
333 Redbud Lane, Hayward, California

## SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Jennie Hamilton, Secy.  
2501 Palm Pl., Huntington Park, Calif.

## TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.  
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

## TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Friday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Rose Hill Club  
Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.  
2822 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, April 13, May 11, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Joseph Rock, Corr. Secy.

## WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO

4th Wednesday, April 27, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.  
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

## WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, April 7, May 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 W. Floral Dr.  
Mrs. Alice E. Rose, Secy.  
13926 E. Close St., Whittier, Calif.

## WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.

3rd Tuesday, April 19, May 17, 2:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members, Wallingford, Pa.  
Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend, Jr., Secy.  
Baltimore Pike, Wawa, Pa.

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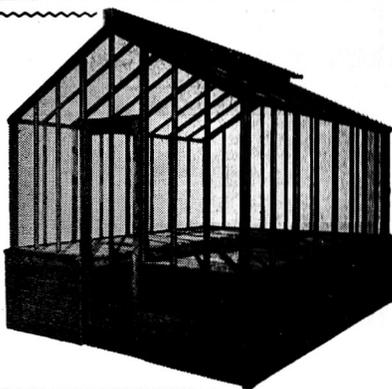
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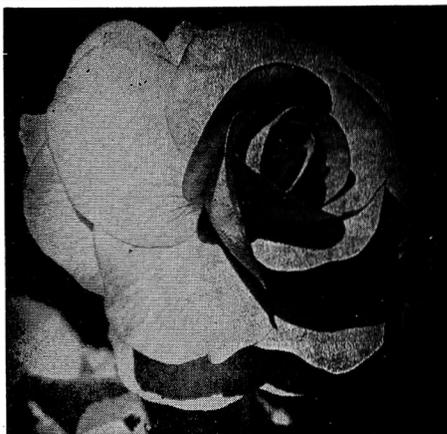
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