

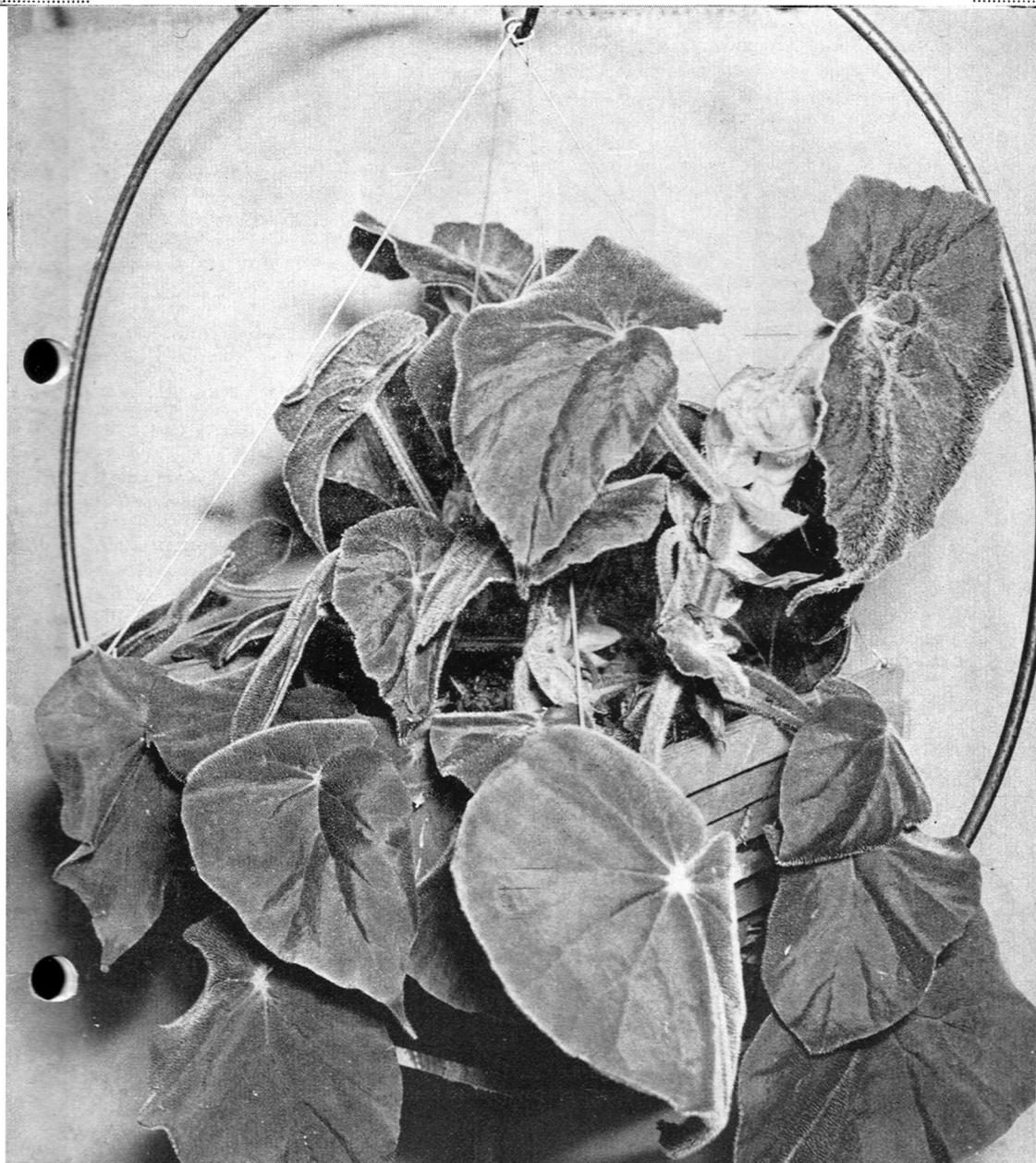
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

MAY, 1955

PRICE 25c

VOLUME XXII — NUMBER 5



From the Editor . . .

Again I must comment on the wonderful mail from all of you Eastern members. It's heart-warming to find that a few hundred miles do not deter plant lovers when it comes to contact with each other, and all working for the same goal of better Begonias. Thanks indeed again!

Those of you who have been writing as to what happened to past pictures sent, etc. All I can do is to try to find them, but the pictures I have forwarded to me are very limited. When pictures are sent in the future, please state whether they should be returned. Normally, pictures sent to a magazine are seldom returned.

Sassy and I have been getting around to local branches—this month into the San Francisco Bay region. We are quietly conducting several surveys on our magazine, keeping up with what is wanted. Begonia people sure are nice folks. I am glad to be a Begonia Society Member.

Maybe we should take time to think that out and realize what a fine Society we have and how big we are, strung out all over the country—51 Branches . . . think of it! Aren't you a bit proud!

There are always a few—and its always very few, that like to keep little "messes" stirred up and knock everything from the president to the editor. They are in every organization like in every barrel of apples. We must take that for granted. That's not our thousands of good members. You always hear gossip and its generally vicious. But that's not from real garden lovers. A gardener can never be vicious if he or she loves plants.

So take heart, reader! We have a wonderful organization. A fine board, great officers in all the Branches—so let's get going and grow some more. I think our magazine can help do this . . . give it a try, huh?

Now there are 51 of you good branch reporters that should be feeding stuff to me—let's have it. Look at our issue this time. Hardly any reports. Some of you have never written anything about what's going on—so try it!

I must commend the fine and short report each month from the San Francisco Branch by William Damerow the Publicity Director. He gives a good report plus some info we can all use.

The hard work, and thankless job of our membership secretary Jack MacLanahan, and his wife should not go by unnoticed. They see that the BEGONIAN is mailed each month and that all names and such are kept up to date. With Jack laid up in bed now for a time, the Mrs. Mac does the work with help from some of our BEGONIAN staff. Hat's off to these good folks who make our magazine possible each month.

Election time will be rolling around shortly. When ballots come out let's have a 100 per cent voting this year. When show time rolls around in the fall, let's have a 100 per cent sending of a plant or something from each of our 51 branches. Let's make this the year for Begonias all over the 48.

As ever, G. L.

P.S.—Welcome Branch 52!—The Hamshire Texas Branch of Hamshire, Texas! Let's hear from you good folks shortly!

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The Begonian

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The Begonian

MAY, 1955

Landscaping with Begonias . . .

—By LOUISE CRAMER

Begonias are not the “touch-me-nots” many people seem to think. They have been hybridized and developed to grow well outdoors in the garden. True, there are certain ones which still need to be pampered with controlled heat and humidity. These belong to the collector.

Naturalize these Begonias in filtered sunlight under tall trees. Imagine a planting area with a rustic path defined with old dead tree limbs of unusual shape and character. (This saves burning or taking a trip to the dump after hubby has done his tree pruning job.) Determine the height of the Begonia needed to complement the associated plants and secure information about the needed Begonias from local Begonia nurseries. Determine the height and size of the mature plant so a large growing plant will not be placed in the foreground to dwarf the normally small border plants. Use the tested, hardy varieties.

When a newcomer to this state, I made many mistakes trying to grow plants as they were grown in the middle west. The precious pot geraniums of that locality grew to giants here and the favorite Memorial Day flower—peony—just wouldn't flower here. So we must learn what flowers

do well here and how to cultivate them in our wide variety of soil and climatic conditions. We would do well to buy our plants from our own local nursery because they are acclimated to the temperature and humidity conditions of our area. An example would be certain fuschias which grow magnificently along the coast but would dwarf and burn in this inland area with its' relatively higher temperature and lower humidity. Therefore, to avoid disappointment, only those plants which have been grown, tested in this area and found to give good results should be purchased. This is also true of the gigantic flowered tuberous begonias grown in the coastal areas. Here, these blooms are much smaller, but are still beautiful and the “darlings” of the begonia world. Many plants grown in the Middle West are bred to take the rigors of a freezing winter. In our mild winter climate, they will not produce flowers because they have not had the necessary resting or dormant period.

Begonias are ideal companion plants for ferns, fuschias, camellias and azaleas. They like the filtered sunlight, a slightly acid soil with a large amount of leaf mold or humus, and a heavy drink of water which will drain through quickly. They are shallow rooted so will not interfere with other surrounding plants.

If there are any natural elevations or depressions in the bed, leave them. Even raise the background level. Height changes are of immeasurable value in lending interest to a special bed. Natural light effects make a changing pattern on the plants during the day. I found that the slanting

OUR COVER . . .

Our cover this month is a *Scharfrana* grown by Mrs. Fort, our Eastern Public Relations Chairman. The picture by Ralph Holtsigner, Staff Photographer of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

sun rays in the late afternoon changed a dark-leaved rex begonia to one of glowing red by penetrating the red pigment on the underneath side of the leaf.

The rex begonias lend a great variety of color and texture to the lower and frontal portions of the planting area. The leaves of these begonias may be smooth, ruffled, crinkled, quilted or soft and velvety, ranging through all shades of green with marking of silver, grey, black or brown with various colors underneath. These plants usually have small insignificant blooms, but make up for this lack, in foliage.

The tuberous begonia gives exotic color for late summer and fall. Both specie and hybrid bulbs may be used. These bulbs may be left in the ground in this area year after year, returning each year to give their summer enchantment. Be sure they are well drained when planted in the ground.

The rhizomatous type begonias (to which the rex belongs) make low spreading foreground plants. The famous "Ricky Minter" begonia has two different dresses. When planted where it gets lots of light and even direct sun, it is light green with amber tints. In the background with more shade, it is dark green.

Wax begonias (fibrous type) have been bred to take the sun. We find them with flowers of white, pink, red or orange on plants with shiny leaves ranging in color from light green, bronze to almost black. They are ideal for border or "spot" plantings.

The begonias left in the ground may frost-down if the winter is severe. They will come back in the spring if the bed is kept from becoming dry in the winter and the rhizomes are mulched with shavings to protect them from freezing. Shavings have been used extensively at the county Arboretum and have been very successful in the test plots where used to protect plants from freezing and to hold moisture around them in summer.

Tall growing fibrous begonias make ideal background planting material. Among these may be suggested the Angel Wing types with the bright green, smooth, white dotted leaf with pendulous deep pink flowers. Scharffi parentage plants have hairy,

olive green leaves on top, the underneath being red. The blooms of these plants are really white, but the red hairs covering them give the appearance of being pink. The "Mrs. Fred Scripps" a light green palmate leafed begonia is also good here. "Metallica" gives a smooth and shiny leaf with distinct veins in a metallic olive green. It is a medium height bushy specimen. "Angularis" and its many hybrids has smooth drooping leaves with distinguished veining. These can be kept to the desired height and bush shape by pinching. Digswelliana is much desired for its formal bushy shape and abundance of blooms continuing almost through the year. There is too large a number of begonias suitable to mention here. Again, I say, visit with a begonia grower and learn about the many varieties suitable for the growing conditions and choose those which are most appealing to you if they fit your own growing problems.

"Dear Old California" . . .

—By TERRY OLMSTED,
Los Angeles

*There's so..ething 'bout the sunshine
An' something 'bout the air,
That makes old California
A land beyond compare.*

*There's something 'bout the valleys
An' something 'bout the hills
That stirs the soul within me,
My heart with rapture thrills*

*There's something 'bout the gentle breeze
That's wafted from the sea
That soothes and comforts every one,
And makes one feel carefree.*

*It's mighty nice to wake up when
the day has just begun
An' see the whole place shining bright
In California's sun.*

*There's something 'bout the sunshine,
The valleys, hills and air
That makes this nature's Paradise
A land beyond compare.*

Begonias in Miniature Gardens . . .

—By LOUISE SCHWERDTFEGER

NOTE: The April issue of the Sacramento Branch's fine "Begonia Leaf" quoted from an article in the December, 1951 issue of *The Begonian*. From this article—as it has for the Sacramento Branch—you may be inspired to grow one of these gardens for yourself or to show.

Few plant arrangements entered in Flower Shows attract the attention of the public as does the miniature garden. The exhibit can easily be made to scale to produce the miniature effect. Careful landscaping and the proper choice of "props" are "musts" if the display is to appear in miniature replica of the usual flower show garden exhibit. The garden should have a theme and follow the rules outlined for larger exhibits in the Show schedule.

The gardens pictured were made up the first week in July and during the middle of the month exhibited in a Flower Show for eight long days. At last they were brought home and set upon boxes at the edge of the lawn, protected by trees, to wait their dismantling. They had suffered no casualties and in a few days were looking happy in their new location. Time went on and at this late date in October they are still intact and, although the paths have grown over and many of the begonias have outgrown their miniature appearance, the plants are sturdy, healthy and happy. We notice each day they are getting more and more direct sunshine and that their foliage and blossoms are taking on better color and texture than when grown in the greenhouse, proving that we need to make a deeper study of the cultural requirements of many of our begonias. Contrary to all cultural advice *B. imperialis* is growing rapidly and blooming in more than four hours of full autumn sunshine.

Our Editor, on viewing the pictures, remarked, "Why can't our begonia growers in the colder climates grow their plants in miniature gardens during the winter

months?" That's an idea well worth following up and so we suggest that those of you who are forced to bring your plants into your home during the cold of winter might plant your small begonias and cuttings in miniature gardens. The gardens could be placed on gravel in water-proof containers. When planted in four inches of growing medium and placed close together, it would be no problem to keep them moist and they should need less attention than if cared for in pots. Begonias are slower growing during the winter months and without feedings they should retain much of their miniature appearances. It would be an interesting way in which to house many of your plants and yet give you a delightful display during the cold weather. Because of the great number of plants that can be planted in the five to ten square feet of garden, it should be well worth trying. One would not only be housing many varieties but would have, instead of many potted begonias, a REAL GARDEN to play with.

Being a begonia addict, the writer used all begonias in two of the miniature gardens pictured and several in the tropical garden. Many of the small or medium leaved begonias were planted for the background trees and shrubs and small seedlings of the larger begonias fitted in nicely. *B. D. MacBethi* was used as a maple tree under which were planted young plants of the miniature rex arranged to bring out their contrasting colorings. A young *B. MacDougalli* made a perfect palm, as did *B. caroliniaefolia*. *B. foliosa* took the place of a fern by the pool. *B. Faureana* was used as a stately tree in the lawn near the entrance of one garden. A large *B. Sutherlandi* was planted near the path, shading a birdbath, and looked like some exotic tree covered with tiny orange flowers.

To give the garden a variation in leaf formation and color, the following begonias were fitted into the background; *B. 'Sachsen'*, with its bronze foliage and tiny red flowers; *B. 'Mendora'*, spotted-silver foliage, bright stipules and pink flowers; *B. Dregei*

in bronze leaves; the silver and the plain *B. rubro-venia*; a maple-like *B. D. MacBethi*; the low branching *B. 'Clemence'*, with silver spotted leaves; a *B. ulmifolia* for a small elm tree; *B. 'perfectiflora'* with its light green foliage and snow white blossoms; the *B. floribunda* with rose-like leaves and pendent clusters of pink flowers; and there was the *B. fuchsioides*, bright with its shiny small leaves and dainty scarlet heart-shaped blossoms; the *B. 'Stich-leaf'*, whose green leaves are blanket-stitched in black; the new *B. quadrelocularis*, with its lance-shaped leaves coarse and pebbly, added a variation in texture. The hybrid *B. 'Rudy's Richard'* (similar to *B. 'Richard Robinson'* but hardier and with pink flowers) contrasted with the redwood fence.

In the sunny areas were *B. Johnstoni* with pink bloom; *B. 'Perle Lorraine'*, leaves marked in chocolate brown; *B. 'Sylvia'*, a seedling of *B. incarnata*; several of the semperflorens group in red, pink and white flowering—both singles and doubles, and a red flowered *B. 'Calla Lily'*; with an edging of the *B. 'Bijou de Jardin'*, a true miniature begonia even to its tiny blossoms of red. For the low-growing shrubs there was a low growing *B. 'Limminghei'* with orange flowers, the new hybrid *B. 'Pauline'* with orange-pink blossoms and a few *B. imperialis*, whose leaves are as soft as green velvet. Beneath the begonia trees and shrubs nestled many of the small rhizomatous: *B. rotundifolia*, *B. hydrocotylifolia*, *B. Dayii* with its brown veins, a silver *B. 'Skeezar'* and the new *B. Boweri* hybrid named *B. 'Zee Bowman'*. There were several plants of little *Boweri* (that baby-sweetheart of all begonias)—so distinct with their eyelashes and dark markings on bright green leaves; a small plant of *B. Mazae*, bronzy and lovely, right next to a *B. imperialis smaragdina* of brightest green velvet; and a small plant of *B. Kellermani*, its white-scurfed peltate leaves giving a soft tone among the brighter green leaves. Then there were many seedlings of un-named hybrids tucked in so that they might make their first public appearance. There were others that we have not mentioned but this will give you an idea of the number of plants and varieties that can be used to complete a begonia miniature garden.

The "tropical garden" was planted with young palms for tree-ferns, several species of the philodendrons, tall-growing fibrous begonias for trees and many types of ferns around the sunken pool. Artillery ferns made excellent weeping-willows, and a lone

B. Kenworthyi with its bluish, ivy-shaped leaves added a touch of color. Much of the tall planting was behind the curved fencing. Again many of the small plants of rhizomatous begonias were tucked around in the shaded areas and here and there a flowering fibrous for color and variety of foliage.

The lawn areas of all the gardens were plantings of helxine moss or baby tears, that had been grown on clay in the open garden to keep it dwarfed and low. However, the moss put on rather rapid growth and had to be trimmed (twice before Show date) with manicure scissors to keep it in bounds.

Yes indeed—miniature gardens are fun to make and a joy to behold.

MAKING THE GARDENS

If intended for Flower Show display, a miniature garden should be made up well in advance of the Show date to give it that "natural growing" appearance and there is considerable preparation necessary before it is ready for the actual planting. One must obtain a suitable container and it is well to choose one that has good drainage. For gardens of three square feet or more, a wooden frame can be made of planed 1" x 4" board with a bottom of shakes reinforced with cross slats. It will be light in weight and yet strong enough for transporting to the Show. A wooden container can readily be stained green or natural. There are many materials suitable for making fences or enclosures. Almost any garden fence can be copied to scale. Tiny stakes whittled from redwood and tacked to cross pieces will make the popular "grape-stake" fencing. Small redwood rails dowed into posts makes the "ranch-type" fence. For the tropical effect, bamboo stakes as used for plant supports can be cut to length and strung on two thin wires. To make the bamboo wind-break so that it can be set in curves, cut every tenth stick three inches longer at the bottom to act as posts in setting the fence up. The straight fences can be nailed to the frame of the container. In making lath shelters, use a thin batting and have it cut to scale for the lath.

Bear in mind that everything used in making a miniature garden must be worked out to scale otherwise the desired effect will be lost.

Various materials can be chosen for making paths and patio areas. A stick of dried wood can be cut into rounds and will make a good imitation of redwood slabs. Fragments of flag-stone or smooth flat stones

if fitted carefully together will be attractive. Sifted gravel, sand or even plain dirt, if bordered with rocks or logs in miniature, will tend to give a natural look. Any number of things can be used for bird-baths and pools. A clay fern-pot with its drainage hole plugged and painted in color or shiny black makes a fine deep pool. Colored pottery, when sunk into the soil and filled with water, is very attractive as a miniature pool or fish pond.

Weeks ahead of planting time one must prepare a goodly supply of plant material. The greater the variety of plants the more interesting the exhibit will be. Choose small-growing plants and newly rooted cuttings or one can use young seedlings. Pot these in very small pots in order to have well established root systems and thus eliminate wilting during the Show period. It is surprising the number of small plants a miniature garden will require, for you can crowd in a great many more than you anticipate.

When the time comes to plant the display, prepare medium for the container. In order to keep the garden easy to handle, place "Sponge-rok" or a similar material in the bottom to about half the depth. Over this add screened leafmold, **WITHOUT** fertilizer, filling to the top, for there will be some settling. It need not be packed down. Sprinkle the medium until it is thoroughly moist and let it stand for a few hours. Outline and shape the garden for the landscaping, marking off the areas and paths. To try out the plan of planting, one can set the plants, still in their pots, around in their approximate positions. As in larger displays, be careful that plants are set in "natural environment"—sun plants in the open and shade-plants under light protection. Now set the plants aside, and, keeping the picture in mind, start the actual planting. Tap the plants from their pots, disturbing the roots as little as possible, and place the potted soil just below ground level. You may have to rearrange some of the plants in order to obtain the desired effect. When you are truly satisfied with the planting add a mulch of fine leafmold to give that "growing" look. Pools can be placed either before or after setting the plants. Now you can place the ground covers in the lawn areas, and, last of all, add stepping stones, paths and patio areas.

Work? Oh no!—Just lots of fun and satisfaction to use begonias in miniature gardens.

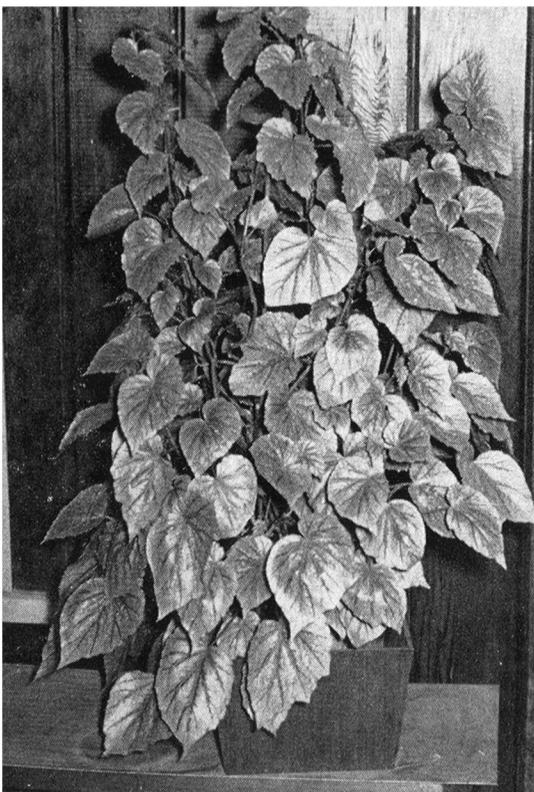
Begonia Abel Carriere

Begonia hybrid Abel Carriere, introduced in France in 1877 by M. Briant, is one of the best known of a group of hybrids called the discolor Rex group. This worthwhile group was developed by M. A. Svahn in 1875 by crossing a Silver Rex with *B. evansiana* (*B. discolor*) as the male parent.

Abel Carriere is very easy to grow, having inherited some of the hardiness of *B. evansiana*. It has the upright branching habit of growth of the male parent, but does not lose its leaves in winter.

The leaves are clear silver above, with the veins broadly outlined in green. Underneath they are green with the veins clear red. The flowers, rose pink in color, are borne in terminal sprays. Contrasted with the silver of the leaves, they make Abel Carriere a begonia that is really a joy to grow.

While this begonia usually grows about 18 inches in height, the plant in the photo used here was 32 inches high and has every leaf slightly flushed with rose, making it a very handsome plant. This resulted from having just the right amount of light which was furnished by filtering the sunlight through the fluorescent tubes laid solid to form the walls and roof of the glass house in which it was grown.



Fluorescent Tube Green House . . .

—By *RUTHANNE WILLIAMS, Sacramento, Calif.*

Many articles have been written on the subject of fluorescent tube lath houses which started my husband and me experimenting with the idea of a complete greenhouse made of these tubes.

We cleared the ground for a 14½ x 10½ foot cement foundation. We were fortunate in being able to find used redwood shiplap siding and 2 x 4's for corner posts and cross beams. We built up the siding to four feet and then used the four-foot tubes, set close together in an upright position for the upper walls. The west slope of our roof was made with one row of 4-foot tubes and the east slope with two rows of tubes which makes it 8 feet. The height of the cross beams is 8 feet, as we are both tall and we wanted head room when our hanging baskets were in place. We installed a gas circulating heater with a vent to carry off the gas fumes; water pipes; sink; shelves for pots; etc. We have installed stationary foggers at each end of the green house on the cross beams. Our benches are four feet high or even with the bottom of the tubes (again because we are tall) so we built beds for rex begonias under the benches.

Fluorescent tubes are not quite true and although placed close together, one may see light and sky between; however, there is no leakage as the rain follows down the tubes and runs off. We have found our green house very easy to heat.

Our green house has been in operation for almost two years. We have had wonderful success with our begonias, ferns, etc., having had many of them for a number of years and they bloomed for the first time for us after one winter in the warm green house. Our white hybrid amaryllis, which usually blooms in May, was in full bloom on the 20th of January each year. We are even having success with a limited number of orchids.

We have a Dutch door opening on the east side into the garden, with glass on the upper half to conform with the height of the tubes and a window on the north and south ends. The fact that we do not have to whitewash anything but the south window is a great asset. The tubes which form the walls are held in place only by a cleat at the top and bottom. We remove

every other tube during the warm months, thus giving us a cool lath house in summer and a very adequate green house in the winter.

Because we felt that the west sun was neither needed nor beneficial to begonias, we made the entire west wall of redwood siding and we have built shelves all along this wall to provide more space for our plants. The higher shelves are particularly good for epiphyllums.

We know that many warnings have been published concerning the danger when breaking fluorescent tubes, but we did not break one tube while building. They withstood many hard knocks—in fact my husband and son-in-law tossed them back and forth to each other like baseballs. We were quite perturbed during our first windstorm when tubes began flying off the roof in all directions; however, not one of them was broken and they were soon anchored so that none have blown off in any of the hard windstorms that have followed.

Architecturally, we know that our green house is not too good, but as it is in a prominent place in the garden, we have softened some of the harsh lines by our plantings. We landscaped with raised beds of delphinium, phlox, phlox Drummondii, semper-florens begonias and white alyssum. We are also planting clematis Armandi and Henryii at each corner to break the corner lines.

So, by using fluorescent tubes, used redwood, and a great deal of labor on the part of a fine son-in-law, who did most of the construction with my husband as his helper, we have a very adequate green house with very little money expended.

When the lights are turned on at night, our green house makes a very pretty picture in our garden.

With so many requests on "info" on tube houses, the Editor felt this article might be of help, with a picture of his tube house. This was the tube house Edna Korts and her Glendale group showed in the Pasadena Flower Show. It was purchased by the Editor and now is part of his front porch. The size is unique in that it is tube size and about 6 feet high with point of roof 2 feet higher.

Begonia Leaf Propagation . . .

—By *AMY BRESHEARS, Missouri Branch*

As I have had success by growing begonias from leaf cuttings, I would like to share my experiences.

First, I select fresh, perfect, well developed leaves as it is a waste of time to use poor material.

Cut with a stem two inches long if possible, or not longer than three inches, as they will not stand upright. Place them temporarily in shallow bowl in water. I use jelly glasses as containers, and fill two-thirds full of water. Just before placing the leaf stems in the glasses, cut them straight across with a sharp knife. No ragged edges.

Place in a warm room on a brightly lighted window sill, or near the edge of a table over which hangs a fluorescent light under which you put seedlings or plants. Good strong light just outside the range of the sun helps them to root quicker, and also helps to keep them from rotting—I seldom lose one.

They usually start putting out roots in six or seven days, and when they are about an inch long (several of them I hope) I sterilize a large clay saucer I keep for that purpose. It is three inches deep, and twelve inches across the top, and in the bottom of this I put one inch of coarse sand, which I have washed well by putting in a bucket

and pouring a kettle of boiling water over it, and letting stand until it is cool. Next I mix one part vermiculite, one part peatmoss (sifted), one half part sand which I then place in the container filling to one-half inch of the top (or edge of the pot).

I then water thoroughly with a rubber hand spray, and let stand until the next day. I cover the edge with aluminum foil, letting it come well down on the outside, and sealing any seams with scotch tape. It is now ready to plant.

In placing the leaves I pull the medium to one side, making a flat pocket one-half inch deep to fit the roots (just as you would plant a miniature tree) being careful not to bruise the tender roots, pull the little pile of medium over them, always holding the leaf upright with one hand while planting with the other, and firming the medium gently over the roots. Prop the leaf upright if necessary with a plant stake.

Place them about 2 inches apart each way. I have the stem just long enough to keep the leaf from touching the soil, causing it to rot.

Sprinkle again just enough to settle the medium on the roots.

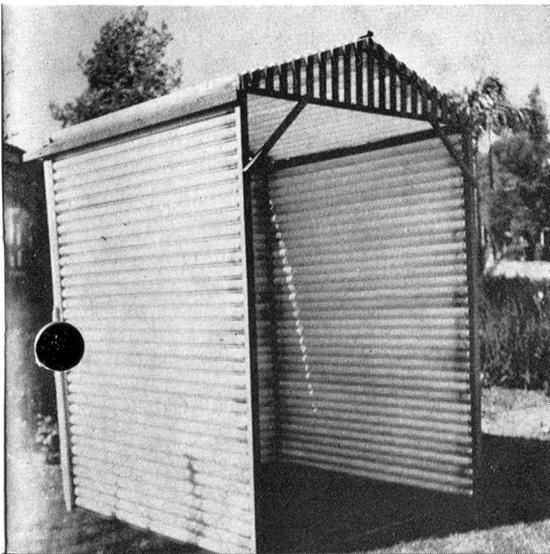
When the new leaves appear, wait until they have a good strong start before planting in pots.

Lift them as they are ready, careful not to disturb the weaker ones. Shake them a little to remove some of the medium, and plant in clean pots according to their size (usually two and one-fourth to three inches) in good potting soil for begonias.

They are very attractive from the beginning grown this way, and after all, beauty is what we are working for, is it not?

— COPY DEADLINE —

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



Dear Editor . . .

Please don't think that this letter should be filed among those criticizing you for mis-spelling of Begonias. Rather it is one of apology, from one who should have known better.

First off PLEASE under "Erratum" let our members know what the species B. FUCSA was mis-spelled by the writer of the article, who without alibi will take the full blame. With the Kewnessis list before me and with my plant labeled B. Fusca, how it appeared on paper as B. fusco will never be known. (See page 32, February BEGONIAN).

Second: The article by our good hybridist and A.B.H. Publicity Chairman speaks of Begonia OTTO ALBERT. Just blame that too on me, for the only excuse is my poor handwriting on the label. The plant was named for hubby and should be B. OTTO ALFRED.

Then (and I shan't take the blame for this) in February issue, page 33, Mrs. L. Zeigler mentions that B. Boweri is a fibrous begonia, and since throughout the letters sent in there is no mention of it's being a miniature rhizomatous, perhaps that should be mentioned.

Another mistake in spelling appears in my begonia list and I believe it could be called a typographical error not made by the BEGONIAN but by my printer, since the name B. *convolvulacea* is correctly spelled in the list of "rare and unusual begonias on the front page.

Do you have the Glossary of begonias by Bessie Buxton? I believe that there are two copies in the library and am sure that

one would be of great help to you in proof-reading.

Believe me I was surely embarrassed to have the B. fucsa article brought to my attention through the alertness of one Bernice G. Schubert (Gray Herbarium of Harvard University).

So please, Gordon, print any or all of my letter so that I can take the blame rather than let the fault of mis-spelling of begonia names all fall on our good editor.

Your BEGONIAN is deserving of every bit of praise it is getting—and I know that you are going a long way in promoting that "good feeling" among our "out-of-State" members. How wonderful to be able to read reports from all over the country. Keep up the good work.

The tube house pictures certainly took well and give considerable detail. Thanks for them and that nice "PLUG" you gave me.

Am back in the harness again trying to catch up.

My regards to you both,

Cordially yours,

LOUISE SCHWERDTFEGER

There has been much favorable comment circulating among the BEGONIAN subscribers of my acquaintance over the improved appearance and quality of content since you all became the editors. I wish to add my praise and vote of appreciation for your effort. Both Elvin McDonald and Mrs. Leora Calmese said, if you like the BEGONIAN so much, why don't you tell them so.

Our section of the south midwest is in the clutches of a prolonged drough. This is the third year. Hot winds we expect in summer, but over this period we have had no moisture in the winter to provide sub-soil moisture. Many gardeners of necessity are driven to indoor gardening with the use of hobby green houses and lath houses. Much interest is being shown in shade plants. After seeing some Rex and rhizomatous begonias in Kansas City last spring, I am persuaded a branch Society might be organized here in Enid. Of course, there will have to be much spade work—so I have written the slide librarian.

I have been thinking out loud, it seems.

My very best wishes for your continued success,

—MRS. SAM PAYNE, Enid, Okla.

The Editor is available to Begonia groups with several special talks on shade gardening for spring and summer of 1955.

They are:

- Shade Plant Propagation
- Stories of our Shade Garden Plants
- New Shade Plants for Shady Gardens
- Terrariums and Indoor Gardens.

Write the editor for further particulars as to how these talks may be obtained in the various branches. They are all surrounded by a complete garden setting suitable for stage or hall. Write or call ATLantic 0-4510.



Flower Show Ideas . . .

With flower shows just around the corner, many ideas can be found for flower show exhibits of begonias and other shade plants. Be sure to write our flower show chairman, Cal Trowbridge for ideas and suggestions. Here is a good exhibit by the Reynold's Garden of Sebastopol, Calif. Note the glade-like effect. In your shows you don't have to fill in every spot with something. Some effects of close materials and then spaces are much more natural as seen here. To take up space and to use less begonias, use a big fallen log or tree stump. Let's this year put Begonias on the map!

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Myrtle Shepherd Francis, life member of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Begonia Society.

She came by ship to Ventura with her parents from Iowa in 1873. Her mother, Theodosia Burr Shepherd started the first flower seed business in California. Through the years Mrs. Francis helped her mother, and at her death carried on the business for a time.

Mrs. Francis herself was the propagator of the double petunia, having at least twelve varieties to her credit.

Begonia Show . . .

The Fourth Annual Begonia Show, under the auspices of the Vancouver Horticultural Society, will be held on July 28th to 30th inclusive, in the auditorium of the Hudson Bay Co's. store.

In addition to classes for all types of begonias, there will be Flower Arrangement Classes, and also classes for other Shade Loving plants, such as fuschias, ferns, gloxinias, and saintpaulias.

Other attractions include a bird aviary, displays from the greenhouses of the world famous Stanley Park, and subjects from private conservatories.

Whether you come as a visitor, or a competitor, there will be much to interest you.

Show schedules will be mailed on request, by writing the show secretary, Mrs. Robert Scott, 2537 West 21st Ave., Vancouver 8, B.C.

"I Saw Them on My Mother's Plant Stand" . . .

—By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

Several years ago my eye was arrested by the color cover of the August "Sunset" for 1951. It represented a plant stand which was almost a replica of the old-fashioned one which stood on the long veranda in the old home at Comptche in Northern California. In those pioneer days the busy housewife's sole outlet was to confine her gardening activities to the choice plants she gathered around her on these plant stands. So clearly does it stand out in my memory, I could make a scale drawing of it and enumerate one by one the plants assembled there.

Both my father and mother were ardent plant lovers, and wherever they went they brought home a new plant to add to their large collection. Seeds came from abroad, and ordered from eastern catalogs were scores of plants which arrived weak and spindling from distant nurseries to be nursed into vigorous adulthood in their new western home.

Begonias loomed large in my mother's collection. The largest and finest specimen we had was *Begonia 'weltoniensis'* or the Maple Leaf Begonia, which in its old age grew so hefty that it was risky to mount it on the plant stand, and it stood in a substantial section of a vinegar keg. I remember I was always particularly charmed by the beauty of its summer foliage and the translucent pink blossoms. For many years this specimen stood in its place of honor on the left hand side of the plant stand.

The first begonia my mother possessed was *B. manicata*, which she purchased in San Francisco on her wedding trip from Windsor, Maine, in 1869, along with her new La France rose and her Alba plena camellia. This begonia had been already in California eleven years. In later years, one of her choicest treasures was the beautifully variegated form of it, *B. manicata aureo-maculata*. Of course, she had the old Trout Begonia, *B. 'argenteoguttata'* with its silver spotted leaves. Her fine specimen stood fully four feet high and was very vigorous and bushy.

Beside the doorway stood a tall specimen,

her cherished angel wing begonia, *B. cocinea*. I remember well its glossy dark green leaves, the tall bamboo canes which often became naked in winter. My mother told me how it got its name and showed me the pictures of the angels in an old medieval painting; but the glory of this begonia was the luminous auxiliary clusters of scarlet flowers in summer.

The sprawling beef-steak begonia occupied its own special corner. The glossy, dark green leaves looked more like pond lily leaves than a raw beef-steak. The deep red color of the under surface probably gave it its popular name. It was taken inside for the winter, and in a special corner, in the warm, steamy kitchen it luxuriated and was covered with long sprays of pale pink flowers in the mid-winter season.

Many Mexican species came our way. We had the lovely *B. fuchsoides* which the Mexicans called 'Corazon de Jesu.' but the choicest of all was the old time favorite, *B. heracleifolia sunderbruchi* which has survived to the present day, one of the handsomest of our Star-begonias.

Begonia metallica with its glossy leaves and fine flowers was given a place of honor.

Many of the early hybrids were found on our plant stand, for pioneer Californians made it a point to get the best from the famous European hybridizers. 'Paul Bruant', a superior French hybrid, raised by M. Bruant in 1881, loved a sunny window, and was one of our best bloomers with its large drooping clusters of rosy-pink flowers set off by the bright green ovaries. Today it is still an exhibition plant. Seeds from the master hybridizer Victor Lemoine came from Nancy, France. This gorgeous 'Corbeille de Feu' ("Basket of Fire") was a constant year-around bloomer. We should be growing it today. American hybridizers were not overlooked. When my father brought home the "Barber-shop" Begonia we learned it was *B. Thurstoni* originated by a Mr. Thurston of Paterson, New Jersey. A fine sturdy plant, it still wins its blue ribbons along with the best of the moderns.

Rex begonias found favor as exhibition

plants. Their names were carefully recorded and we did not indulge in scores of seedlings. 'Abel Carriere', 'Queen Victoria', the 'President', 'Adrian Schmitt', 'Queen of Hanover' and 'Bettina Rothschild' were among the favorites in old days.

There were many companion plants grown with begonias. Fuchsias were prime favorites. I remember distinctly one of my father's favorites, the beautiful 'Sunray' fuchsia, which was grown in a garlanded Greek pot. I still grow it in the nearest duplicate of the Greek pot I could find, and, when the beauty of its foliage is set off by the scarlet fuchsias, I am reminded of the beauty of the gardens of yesterday. 'Storm King' was choice and expensive, and one exhibited with pride—a well-grown specimen.

Another plant which took my fancy was

the pot of *Vallota speciosa*, that choice amaryllid we have somehow lost track of. It was consigned to a special redwood pot carved by one of those itinerant Swiss artists who came to the logging camps of early days. (Alfred D. Robinson had several of these pots.) Once established it was never disturbed. For over thirty years it bloomed luxuriantly, throwing up its showy umbels of brilliant scarlet amaryllis-like flowers. This plant grew on year after year, crowding its container to overflowing with roots and adding a new spike or two each year. Plants have been grown with fifty or more flower trusses to a pot—an accomplishment well worth years of care. This fine bulb should be grown by more bulb lovers.

—Continued next month

Why Not Start a Study Class? . . .

—By MRS. CLYDE SNODGRASS, Ventura

This is the way one group was started in the Ventura Branch. One member decided, after being a member of the Begonia Society for ten years, she still knew very little about the begonias she had in her lath house.

So calling three friends who were members, she asked them to come to her home and start a study class.

They really got down to business, for no refreshments were served, believe it or not.

Taking a begonia, they started the study using the botanical terms that are used in describing plants, such as:

The Axis—root bearing stem. Node—a joint where a leaf is born. Stem—the main axis of a plant. Stem-bearing and flower-bearing, as distinguished from the root bearing axis.

Leaf—which has three parts, namely: Blade—the whole leaf. Petiole—leaf-stalk. Stipule—the basal appendage of a petiole. Peduncle—stem of a flower cluster. Pedicle—stem of one flower in a cluster. Bract—a much reduced leaf, small scale like, which protects the flower when in bud.

Then, taking leaves of several different kinds of begonias, they identified the shapes and types as: Glabrous—smooth like *B. Bunchii*. Hirsute—rough coarse hairs like

B. Mandys Woolly Bear. Tomentose—densely woolly like *B. Venosa*.

Gave botanical terms for flower clusters. Erect cluster as *B. Freddie*, *B. Templini*. Pendulous cluster as *B. lucerna*, *B. Haageana*. Close cluster as *B. Elsie Frey*, *B. Lemminghii*. Cyme as *B. angularis*. Panicle as *B. reichenheime*. Raceme as 'Martiana'.

Kinds of begonias: fibrous, rhizomatous, tuberous, semi-tuberous, bulbous.

This covered several months of study, using as their reference, the *BEGONIAN* and any other books they were able to obtain. Then feeling they knew a little more about their begonias, one member would choose a plant and give all the data she could find, filling out a form as given in the November, 1952 *BEGONIAN*, page 244; about the begonia chosen.

Now they are studying *Begonia* Pronunciations, as outlined in the *BEGONIAN*, beginning September, 1948, page 205.

They feel the *BEGONIAN* is one of the best reference material you can find, so bind your *BEGONIANS* as to years and treasure them. We have derived many hours of pleasure in research, in our companionship and a renewed interest in the "Royal Hobby." We hope this will stimulate a desire for others to form small study groups. In a small group, more can be accomplished.

The American Begonia Society

51 BRANCHES STRONG

The A.B.S. is the "Life Line of
Shade Gardening in Your Community"

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 . . .

To continue our list of worthwhile begonias we offer the following for your selection.

No. 104 B. GIGANTEA — Himalaya. Medium, many stemmed, few branched; leaves obliquely ovate pointed, green toothed; flowers white or pale pink. Unusual.

No. 128 B. FRANCONIS species—Mexico. Small, hairy; leaves ovate pointed, green. Flowers white, pink tinged.

No. 130 B. CUSPIDATA—fibrous.

No. 114 B. LEPTOTRICHA.

No. 133 B. SUBVILLOSA—Brazil. Medium, soft, hairy; few branched, leaves ovate, velvety green. Flowers large, white.

No. 151A B. ULMIFOLIA—Large, leaves rough, hairy, elm like in shape, green; flowers white, numerous.

No. 155 B. INCARNATA SANDERSI — Mexico. Small, bushy; leaves ovate pointed to four inches long, almost half as wide, light green. Flowers large, pink.

No. 156 B. INCANA. Mexico. Leaves fleshy, peltate, white scurfy; flowers numerous, white and of good size. This begonia responds beautifully to good care and fertilizer.

No. 157 B. MIXED RUBRA.

No. 158 B. CHECKERBOARD.

No. 161 B. HERACLEIFOLIA PYRAMIDALIS—Mexico. Large rhizomatous, hairy. Leaves large, deeply lobed; flowers pink.

No. 162 B. CHIVATOA.

No. 164 B. MACROCARPA — African species. Medium bushy. Leaves elliptic pointed, about four inches long by one and one half inches wide, dark green, glossy. Flowers, white tinged with pink. Easy to grow tropical begonia suitable for basket culture.

No. 169 B. DREGEI — So. Africa. Medium, smooth, branched, small leaves, green with purple veins. Flowers white.

No. 185 ARGYROSTIGMA—India.
15 packets for \$2.00. Any 6 for \$1.00.

Need Seed are as follows:

B. CIRCUMLOBATA — Rhizomatous. Pink flowers.

B. POPENOEI—Honduras. Large, rhizomatous, leaves large, pointed, bright green,

slightly hairy; flowers large white. Easily trained on fern wood totem pole.

B. WILD ROSE — Woodriff. Tuberosus variety. Small bushy; leaves broad, ovate; flowers suggest a wild rose. Large soft pink, fragrant.

B. De ESPEJO—Came in from the Philippine Islands.

B. GERMAN REX—New seed from Germany. Many beautiful color combinations. 5 packets for \$1.00.

This month we are offering a group of all begonia seeds "sight unseen." We do not have enough of one variety to offer separately so while they last, you may purchase new seed most of which have not been listed heretofore by name. 7 packets for \$1.00.

Seed of other genera available at present are: From the Phillipine Islands, RAP-HIDOPHORA MERRILLI. Erroneously called a philodendron. Said to be a native of the Phillipine Islands. This plant may be seen growing in the edge of pools and clinging to the trunks of trees, south of Cebu. P. I. The leaves are large, split and palm like in structure. Culture is the same as that of the philodendron family except for more than normal amount of water.

SUCCULENT INDO-CHINA—Interesting plant with beautiful yellow flower.

TELOPEA SPECIOSISSIMA WARATAH—from Australia. Unique and beautiful shrub, bearing large, vivid red, cone-shaped blooms profusely. Flowers of this plant were sent to Queen Elizabeth for some special occasion. Indeed they are lovely enough to grace a royal palace. Seeds should be sowed three quarters of an inch deep in well-drained sandy loam. Under no circumstances should plants be given barnyard fertilizer. Ample supply of water is essential.

ASPLENium NIDUS SPORES—Bird's nest fern. Fresh spores of this handsome easy to grow fern are offered with the above-mentioned. 4 packets for \$1.00.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE,
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Avenue
Los Angeles 66, California

Branch Happenings . . .

New Officers . . .

HAMSHIRE, TEXAS BRANCH

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Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Roland Ruth
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Treasurer—Mrs. T. Hofmann
2327 33rd St., San Diego
Nat. Rep.—Mrs. Blanche Roat
321 W. Lewis St., San Diego

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2906 Boyd Ave., Port Arthur, Texas
Vice-President—Mr. Raymond Shaw
3191 26th St., Port Arthur, Texas
Secretary—Mrs. Leoma Caudle
2822 8th Street, Port Arthur, Texas

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Corr.-Secretary—Mrs. Isabel A. Hall
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Membership Secy.—Mrs. Bruce Clarke

LA MESA BRANCH

President—Mr. Charles Williams
Vice-President—Mr. Albert Henderson
Secretary—Mrs. Ida Barker
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.
Treasurer—Mr. Henry Stokes
National Representative—Mr. Paul Lee.

LA MESA BRANCH

We are now meeting in the V.F.W. Hall at Imperial Avenue and Lincoln in Lemon Grove the second Monday of each month at 7:30.

—MRS. LURA DEEM

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

For our March meeting, the Philobegonia Branch gathered at Ruth Allen's (Mrs. C. J. Allen, Jr.) who lives in a lovely spot in the open country.

As we turned in Ruth's lane and gazed around at the country side, "Spring" was everywhere. Signs of renewed life showed wherever we looked. We will still have some cold days here in the East, but there is no doubt about it—Spring is here.

Although it was lovely out-of-doors in the fresh crisp air, we hurried in, for we knew there was a treat or two awaiting us inside. Ruth has a green house that leads off of her living room, so we hastened to that spot of beauty to gaze in admiration at her collection of begonias. Nearly every plant in her green house is a begonia, and nearly every plant was literally dripping with bloom. What a sight! It was hard to discern which was the loveliest.

Our program for the day—very fitting for this particular month, was propagation. March really gets in your blood—you feel you just have to start growing.

We took the three various steps of raising begonias from start to finish—by seed, by leaves, and by cuttings—and there was not a single step missed, let me tell you.

We crossed the male and female flower, then showed the results of that crossing by gently shaking the tiny, tiny seed on a white paper. What a miracle! Those tiny specks that could so easily be strewn with the slightest breath, to grow into those beautiful, great-leaved plants, some with blooms nearly a foot long, that we saw earlier in the green house.

To show the growth of seeds, one of our members displayed an old-fashioned glass candy jar—the kind our grandfathers found in the candy shops, filled with stick candy. She had turned it on its side and half filled it with potting soil she purchased at a five and ten-cent store. And there, literally covering the black earth were hundreds of tiny green plants.

Our question of how they were to be removed was easily solved, for she plans to use an ordinary old-fashioned pen with a pen point. She will spread the pen point apart, carefully insert the pen point in the soil, and lift each baby plant out between the edges of the pen point—tedious work, but a joyful one.

Then to thumb pots first of all, and later to one-inch, then two-inch and finally four-inch pots, which will take care of most

and Highlights . . .

begonias. They are a bit fussy about too much earth, and the rhizomatous kinds particularly like to be kept well within bounds.

Then we went on to leaf plantings. A touch of Rootone on the stem of the leaf—a good hearty leaf, of course—then to the pots in their graduated sizes. And results from plantings at all different angles. What fun we had! In some instances when the leaf was planted flat, to pry gently underneath and find (although the leaf itself looked quite forlorn) many tiny green leaves just full of life. What a surprise — and yes, another miracle!

And then the final step in propagating the species, and of course the quickest and easiest—cuttings.

We learned that side cuttings from main stems do best, and to stay away from bloom areas. Bloom areas are like scarred tissue, and you just cannot get results.

Elsa Fort, our president, led us through all those steps of propagating, and of course there is no one with more "know-how." Then Ruth had a plant which showed every step of the way.

We went home imbibed with the spirit of growing, and its a surety we will all be starting new begonias in some form.

Yes, it is Spring here in New Jersey, and you know what—it's wonderful!

—AUGUSTA W. PASCHALL
(MRS. H. CURTIS PASCHALL)

HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

The "Hawkeye State" Branch of the American Begonia Society met at the home of Alice Casson, March 18 at 10 a.m. Three members and our hostess had coffee and rolls after admiring and discussing Alice's Begonias. Alice is using fluorescent lights on many of her Begonias and they showed good growth, grooming and beauty. Her Calla Lilly Begonias are especially beautiful using this method.

Alice drove us to Shenandoah for lunch and to visit the greenhouses. We were especially interested in Begonias. All plants were beautiful, a preview of plants used to fill the multitude of mail orders as soon as weather permits.

Although three members had recently made the trip to the Henry Field Seed and Nursery Company greenhouses, we were amazed at the growth of the begonias in two weeks time. Of course, we all bought more begonias. Mr. Coy Heard—a new American Begonia Society member—and

member of our branch—in charge of the house plant department and Mr. William Brown, who has charge of other greenhouse propagation, were helpful with our questions. Mrs. Jones—and the other ladies working with the plants—and how we envy them—were just as kind and helpful. We have been invited to Shenandoah for a summer meeting.

The Shenandoah Floral Company greenhouses were beautiful and floriferous. This company raises greenhouse plants for the Earl E. May Seed Company. Mr. Maurice (or Morris) Thompson had a collection of begonias to use for propagation purposes, the plants to be on the market next spring. The plants were thrifty—really gorgeous, another fine place to visit, and we gathered much growing information.

We arrived at Alice's as the sun was setting. It had been a sunny day—a beautiful day. But it was now chilly—and we were happy to be home with our new plants—and pleasant memories of the day.

—RUTH F. ANDERSON

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

At the meeting of the Port Arthur Chapter of the American Begonia Society March 25, plans were discussed for the fourth annual individual Begonia Show to be held here at the Adams Building April 15, 16 and 17th.

The Begonia Society was well represented at the Garden Councils Spring Flower Show which was held March 30 and 31st. The Begonia Society won special ribbons for their educational display. Mrs. R. J. Wilson won first for the Collection of Potted Plants.

—MRS. SAM W. HUNTER

FOOTHILL BRANCH

The Foothill Branch of the A.B.S. celebrated their ninth birthday anniversary on Saint Patricks Day, March 17th, at our regular meeting place in the LaVerne recreational building. A Saint Patrick's theme was carried out with green and white flowers, green decorations on the birthday cake and candles, and in the sandwiches, etc. Crystal trays and cups were used.

Mrs. A. B. Clarke and Mrs. Isabel A. Hall were the hostesses. Mr. Neil Campbell was our speaker. Mrs. Rodney D. Talcott sang a medley of Irish songs. There was a large turnout.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

May meeting held at the home of Mrs. Ann Stiles, Harvey Ave., Merchantville, New Jersey.

A thorough study of *B. Mazae* was made and notations of same made on our work sheets.

Plans then were finally concluded for our Begonia Show to be held June 3rd and 4th. I am enclosing a notice of the show which we would all appreciate if you could have it printed in the May *BEGONIAN*. We feel quite sure the *BEGONIAN* reaches many homes around us and we would like as many people to know about our show as possible. We hope to make it as successful as last year's if not more so.

—SALLY E. DECOU

FREE FLOWER SHOW

Whittier Community Beautiful will sponsor the 3rd Annual Flower Show on Saturday, May 14th from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, May 15th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Walter Dexter School located at 1425 Floral Drive, Whittier.

This year we hope, with our major plans already formulated, and with the facilities of the Walter Dexter School at our disposal, to surpass the shows of previous years.

GLENDALE BRANCH

We want to remind you of our spring festival coming up in June of this year, and a very fine gentleman loved by everyone will honor us by being our speaker — Mr. Joe Littlefield.

On May 9th, the President of the A.B.S. will install new officers at the La Mesa Branch, which meets at Lemon Grove, Calif. in the V.F.W. Hall at Lincoln and Imperial Avenue.

—MARY G. DENNY

EL MONTE BRANCH

The El Monte Community Branch A.B.S. will celebrate its birthday Sunday, June 26th, 1955 at Jimmy Giridlian's Oakhurst Gardens, 345 West Colorado Blvd., Arcadia. Gather your members and firends together and come help us celebrate the occasion.

Events of the day will be: A pot-luck dinner at 1:30 p.m. Bring your favorite dish of food, place settings. An interesting discourse by Jimmy, a colossal plant table, and door prizes.

We wish to greet our many old friends and meet new ones this year. Come one, come all, for a full day of fun. Please let us know how many will be in our party for

this gala event. Call or write before June 21st to Ruth Hickman, 1731 Lemon, Alhambra, phone AT 4-4344 or Virginia Brandon, 3012 W. Norwood Place, Alhambra, phone AT 4-5788. Please bring a card table and chairs if possible.

See you June 26th, 1955.

—VIRGINIA BRANDON

NEW JERSEY BEGONIA SHOW

The New Jersey Branches of the American Begonia Society—namely the Philobegonia, The Ocean County and the Elsa Fort—are holding a Begonia Show at the "Barn" at the home of Mrs. J. Weer Chew, 112 E. Maple Ave., Merchantville, N. J.

It will be of interest to all Flower Growers and especially interesting to lovers of Begonias and House Plants. Hours are Friday, June 3rd, noon to 9 p.m., and Saturday, June 4th, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. No admission charge. Tea served.

—SALLY E. DECOU

MISSOURI BRANCH

Missouri Branch of National Begonia Society met April 19, 1955 with 17 members and one guest, Mrs. Wilber Smith from Crowheart, Wyoming.

There were a lot of plants on the Ways and Means table and everybody seemed to have the flower buying fever.

Mrs. Tex Fury, Secretary of the Salina, Kansas Begonia Society, called on our President and two other members.

Mrs. Ware invited the Begonia Society to her home in June, which was gladly accepted.

The Raytown Garden Club and the Kansas City Garden Club has asked the Missouri Branch National Begonia Society to display at their shows.

The Kansas City Garden Club is sponsoring a project landscaping the grounds at the General Hospital and asked the Begonia Society if we wanted a space for begonias. It was voted on and carried. Mrs. Ware donated a bale of peat moss, Mrs. Breshears a load of good soil, each one has offered plants.

Mrs. Calnese talked on small leaf begonias, Bo-Go Bon Nigrans, Bon-arvitis, Bo Chance, Vi-bob, Brocobi, Bowerie and Joe Hayden. Mrs. Breshears' talk was on usual and old begonias which are Twin Leaf, Abel Carriers, Edith M. "It" Carolinfolia, Carol Star and Tempelni (upright Rhiz.)

Mrs. Thoman, round table discussion on soil, etc. in getting soil from the woods, be very careful, as you are liable to get different kinds of diseases.

Try dampen your stem of begonias, you will find they will start new growth.

—MRS. B. E. WISE

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

Regular meeting of Louisiana Capital Branch of A.B.S. held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Day on Hollywood Drive March 10. Members and guests enjoyed a lovely covered dish supper prior to the regular meeting.

After the meeting, members toured the lovely grounds of the Day home. The Days have a large lake in which an artesian well constantly flows. This well is also used to heat the large home of the Days, its temperature being 95 degrees.

At almost every meeting members bring small begonias and other shade plants which are auctioned off to members for benefit of club treasury. Our lively auctioneer is Mr. W. J. Ramirey. This is a spirited affair, thoroughly enjoyed by all. We are a live, progressive club. We talk begonias not only at meetings, but visit all during the month. There are several appointed groups in the club, each group working to beautify yards and greenhouses. We help one another with spading, potting, planting, etc. one day each month.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

Mr. Keith Shaffer of The Tropical Gardens, Santa Cruz, will be our guest speaker. He will talk about "Dish Gardens and Planters" and we believe that Mrs. Shaffer will do a demonstration on planting a dish garden. Sounds interesting, doesn't it.

So many have inquired for the "Mildon't," which Mr. Pat Antonelli told us about when he was here for our Birthday dinner and we have just learned that the Capital Nursery now has it and that other nurseries will be having it soon. This is something very new — a preparation for removing mildew.

The Spring Begonia Show will be held June 5th at the Garden Center and those who plan to participate should be thinking about "readying" their plants. The theme is "Miniature Gardens" and will be competitive. The size of the garden should not exceed 18 inches by 24 inches. We hope to have some slides or photos at our April 19th meeting of entries at the 1952 Show as a guide and inspiration for this year's Show.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

A capacity house of members and guests were present at our April meeting to hear Mr. Charles O. Phillips, a leading authority on azaleas. He grows many varieties including many of his own hybrids, and each year his spectacular display of azaleas

at the Oakland Spring Flower Show holds the crowds spell-bound. He not only told us all about azalea culture, but he brought boxes filled with blooms of the various varieties he described. Azaleas do best in a soil mixture containing an abundance of leafmold. Eucalyptus leafmold is excellent and pine needles also make very good leafmold. Many azaleas do poorly because the soil contains too much lime. Usually an application of ferrus sulphate will correct this condition, and a ph of about 4.5 is about right. Azaleas do not resent replanting, and ailing plants can usually be revived by washing all of the old dirt from the roots and then replanting in leaf mold.

Mr. Phillips concluded his program with "Wild Flowers of the Sierras." This consisted of many kodachrome slides of wildflowers and mountain scenes, accompanied by a running commentary recorded on tape. Included among the slides were a number of the azaleas described earlier in the program.

Forest Lodge, our meeting hall, had a real festive Easter look. The plant table was filled with blooming plants of azaleas and cinerarias. The nomenclature table was filled with many interesting specimen plants, including rhizomatous and fibrous begonias in full bloom. Even the cakes for the after program refreshments were decorated for the occasion.

Our May meeting will feature Gordon Baker Lloyd in "My Shade Garden and I" and for July we have scheduled Frank Reinelt for a talk on begonias. Our annual picnic will be in Santa Cruz on July 17, and garden tours of Vetterle & Reinelt, Antonelli Bros. and Schafers are scheduled for the same day.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

The meeting date for the Orange County Branch of the American Begonia Society has NOT been changed from the second Thursday of the month.

The dates are May 12, June 9, etc.

For our May 12th meeting, our speaker will be Mr. Carl Fisher, showing pictures of Epiphyllums and advising us on their culture.

June 9th, we plan a Begonia Show, inviting anyone to enter plants who wish to. A potluck dinner is planned for 6:30 p.m.

July 14, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman will be our guest speaker and talk on ferns.

We would love to have some of you folks from the other branches come to visit us.

Sincerely,

—MRS. MAYBELLE L. WOODS

Board Meeting Report . . .

Meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society, held March 28, 1955, 8:00 p.m., Los Angeles City Hall. President Koebig presiding. Pledge of Allegiance led by Past-president Moore, Aims and Purposes read by President-elect Taylor.

Meetings of the previous meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved. Balance in General Fund \$618.36. Treasurer read bill for Ad in Flower Grower Magazine and asked if ad should be continued. Moved by Browne, seconded by C. Trowbridge that we pay bill and continue ad. Carried.

Communications: From Edna Korts resigning as Research Director due to unforeseen circumstances. She also asked to be relieved of care of pins and stationary. From Daisy Walker resigning as chairman of Standing Rules committee because of ill health. Invitation to May 9th meeting of La Mesa Branch.

Moved by Terry Olmsted, seconded by C. Trowbridge, that we accept the resignation of Edna Korts with regrets and a letter be sent to her thanking her for the many hours work she had done on behalf of the Society. Carried.

Moved by C. Trowbridge, seconded by Secretary Stoddard that the resignation of Daisy Walker be accepted with regrets. Carried.

President Koebig instructed the secretary to write La Mesa Branch thanking them for invitation and that ten members of the Board would attend the meeting.

President-elect Taylor reported on plans for the Rummage Sale and on the Membership Placards.

In absence of Membership Secretary MacLanahan, report read by Mrs. Gee. \$533.60 remitted to Treasurer. New members 87, renewing members 125, members lost 74.

Librarian Sault absent, report read by Secretary. Books loaned 3, Books sold 1, BEGONIANS sold 78. Remitted to Treasurer \$13.31.

In absence of Research Director Korts report read by Jean Kerlin. Mrs. Korts named and thanked everyone who helped in any way at the Sales Booth at the Pasadena Flower Show. \$157.15 taken in at booth. \$50.00 rent paid for space and \$25.00 paid by Mr. Lloyd for tube house.

Slide Librarian Anderson reported \$5.07 cash on hand, 2 sets slides on loan, 7 slides of the National Show of 1955 donated by Mrs. Gillingwators. \$2.50 spent for copies of slides. 10 slides added to Library.

Flower Show Chairman Trowbridge re-

ported two Branch entries in Pasadena Show, one awarded a ribbon. Two Branch entries in International Show, both awarded ribbons.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported income \$70.25, expenses \$24.75, balance \$145.50. Remitted to Treasurer \$45.50, balance on hand \$100.00.

Public Relations Director Moore reported new Branch at Hamshire, Texas. Moved by Moore, seconded by Trowbridge that we approve the Constitution and By-laws and issue them a Charter. Carried.

Advertising Manager Stoddard reported Advertising for February \$77.50. Received and paid to Treasurer \$48.51, plus agency discount 49c. Balance due March 28th, \$111.84.

Chairman of Awards committee Behrends absent, report read by secretary. Chairman suggested establishment of Eva Kenworthy Gray Award.

Moved by Browne, seconded by Mrs. Bauer of Ventura, that we take under advisement the report and recommendation of the Chairman of Award Committee in regard to the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. Carried.

Secretary was instructed to write Mrs. Behrends and ask her to be present at the next meeting to answer questions in regard to the Award.

OLD BUSINESS

S. Sault, chairman of committee to study motion of Loyd in regard to regional meetings, being absent, report made by C. Trowbridge. The motion was carefully studied and the four meetings (quarterly) to be held in different areas will not conflict in any way with the present monthly meetings. Trowbridge also reported on amendment he was to make in regard to absence of Board members at meetings. As there are several other changes to the By-laws to be considered, he will postpone writing the amendment until a committee can report.

President Koebig appointed S. Sault, C. Trowbridge and F. Browne a committee to go through By-laws and bring back recommendation as to changes.

President Koebig appointed the following nominating committee for officers for 1955-1956: Mabel Anderson, Emri Stoddard, Mary Gillingwators.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:00 p.m. to meet again April 25th.

Respectfully submitted,
ARLINE STODDARD,
National Secretary.

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, May 6, June 3, 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, May 5, June 2, 7:00 p.m.
Member's Residences
Mrs. W. H. Buntin, Cor. Secy.
3113 Parker Drive, Dallas, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 12, June 9, 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, May 19, June 16, 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, May 19, June 16, 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, May 7, June 4, 2:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, New Jersey

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 25, June 22, 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, May 16, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.
7356 Eads Ave., La Jolla, California

GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 9, June 13, 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, May 24, 10:30 a.m.
Home of Members
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following
Mrs. W. Ernest Jones, Secy.
Welsh & Drescher Rds., Willow Grove, Penn.

HAMSHIRE, TEXAS BRANCH

Mrs. Roland Ruth, Secy.
Box 130, Hamshire, Texas

HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

3rd Friday, May 20, June 17, Homes of Members
Ruth Anderson, Secy.
Underwood, Iowa

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, May 18, June 15, 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, May 13, June 10, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, May 18, June 15, 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, May 9, June 13, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, California
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, California

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, May 3, June 7, 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, May 9, June 13, 7:30 p.m.
V.F.W. Hall at Imperial & Lincoln, Lemon Grove
Mrs. Ida Barker, Secy.
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, May 10, June 14, 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, May 25, Homes of Members
Mrs. Mildred Dunham, Secy.
914 Howard St., Venice, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 12, June 9, 7:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. R. L. Wilkenson, Secy.
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 24, June 28, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennemoser, Secy.
1295 N. W. 54th St., Miami 42, Florida

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 17, June 21, 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, May 21, Homes of Members
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Monday, May 2, June 6, 12:30 p.m.
Members Homes
Mrs. Gertrude Buek, Secy.
Box 244, Bayville, New Jersey

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 12, June 9, 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, May 11, June 8, 8:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.
515 E. Centro St., South Pasadena, California

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, May 13, June 10, Members Homes.
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, New Jersey

PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, May 27, 8:00 p.m.
Journal Building Auditorium, Front & Yamhill Sts.
Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.
1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 24, 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, May 11, June 8, 7:30 p.m.
 Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.
 Irene Springer, Secy.
 3608 Rossmuir, Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, May 20, June 17, 10:30 a.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.
 4802 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 17, June 21, 7:00 p.m.
 Mrs. C. E. Crouch, Secy.
 2209 Murieta Way, Sacramento, California

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, May 3, June 7
 The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem, Oregon
 Mrs. Loren H. Edlund
 863 Edina Lane, Salem, Oregon

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, May 23
 Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University
 Mrs. Lillian Lausted, Secy.
 1504 Blaine Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, May 4, June 1, 8:00 p.m.
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.
 Mrs. Edward O'Brien, Secy.
 234 Gates St., San Francisco 10, California

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 25, June 22, 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, May 12, June 9, 7:30 p.m.
 Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
 Seth C. Langdon, Secy.
 1419 Quinientos, Santa Barbara, California

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 17, June 21, 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, May 3, June 7, 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, May 19, June 16, 8:00 p.m.
 Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
 Bob Oliver, Corr. Secy.
 333 Redbud Lane, Hayward, California

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 24, 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, May 27, 7:30 p.m.
 Rose Hill Club
 Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.
 2822 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, May 11, June 8, 11:00 a.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Joseph Rock, Corr. Secy.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO

4th Wednesday, May 25, 8:00 p.m.
 Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, Ohio
 Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.
 25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

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GARDEN GLEANINGS**2B, Baroda, Michigan****WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, May 5, June 2, 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, May 17, June 21, 2:00 p.m.
 Homes of Members, Wallingford, Pa.
 Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend, Jr., Secy.
 Baltimore Pike, Wawa, Pa.

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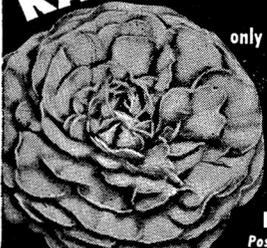
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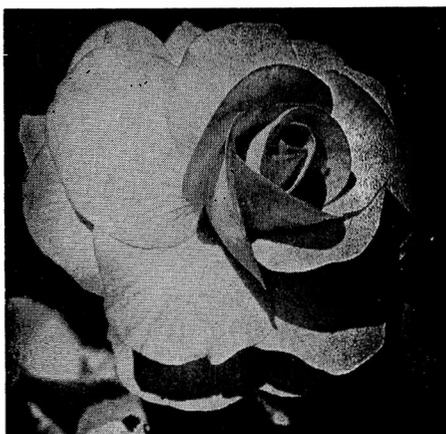
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