

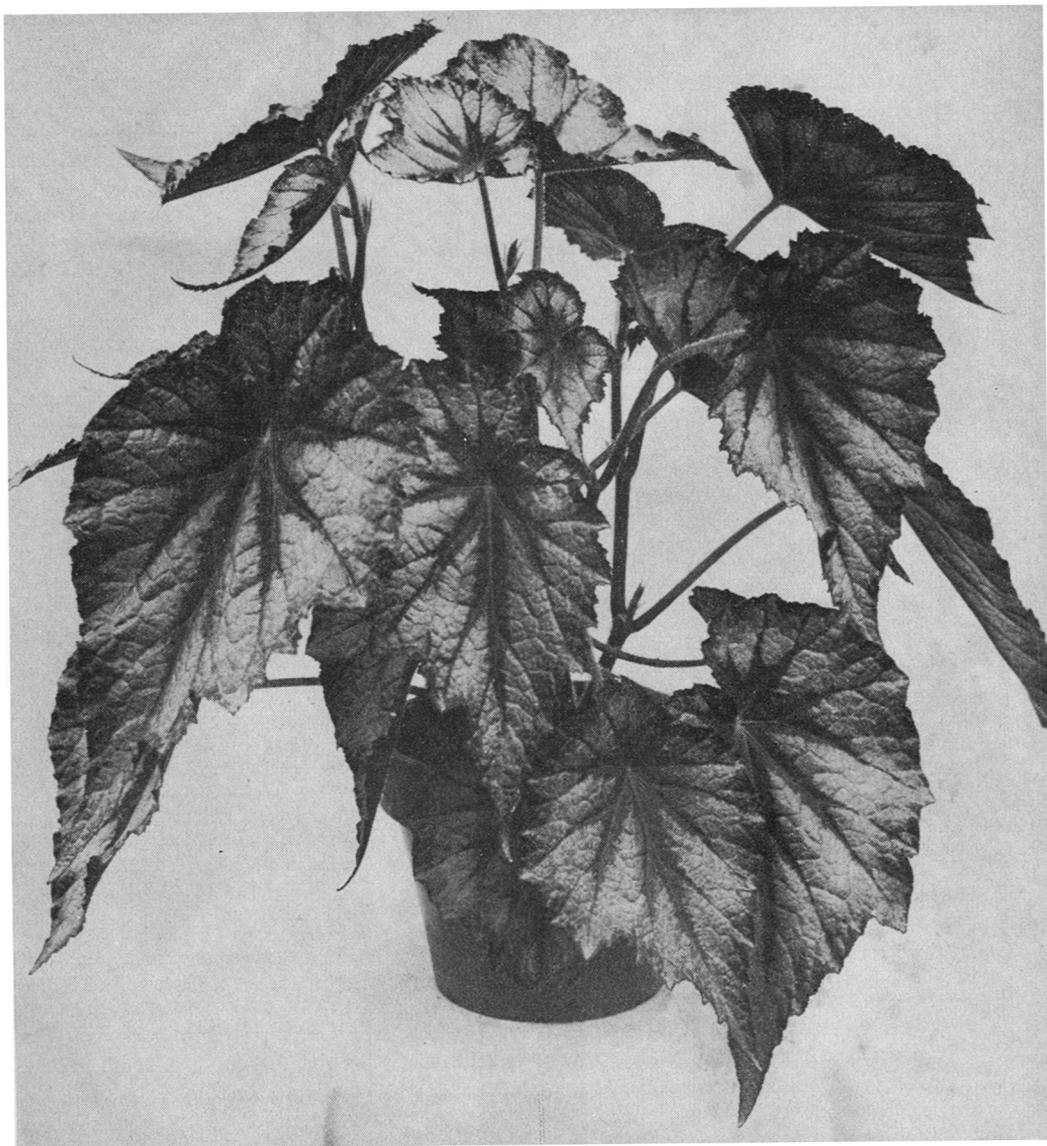
# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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**AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.**

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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# SUMMER CARE OF TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

By HOWARD SIEBOLD (*Rye, New York*)

Recommended practices in caring for tuberous begonias during the summer growing season can be listed in two groups. The first group is practically mandatory; the second group might be called discretionary.

The first group involves the important requirements of moisture, temperature, ventilation, and drainage. These are all related, and one out of balance will affect the other three. For example, tuberous begonias do not like temperatures much in excess of eighty degrees. In areas where eighty-five to ninety-five degree temperatures occur, they can be lowered considerably by one or two extra light waterings with a fine spray during the heat of the day. However, if drainage is poor or the bedding mixture is heavy, the result could be a soggy condition. In that case rot may occur.

Plants should be spaced far enough apart to give good ventilation. Eighteen-inch spacing should be about right except where especially lush growth is obtained. Where ventilation is impaired by large or drooping lower leaves, remove the leaves after the blossoms have fallen or have been picked. Use care in removing leaves or flowers. A skinned area on the stem is a focal point for future trouble.

Where bedding material is light and well drained, a light watering morning and afternoon is usually adequate, except during hot weather. Premature dropping of the male blossoms generally indicates lack of moisture.

A mulch should be applied a week or two after the plants are established, or at any time thereafter. Dried cow manure, alone or mixed with peat moss, is an excellent mulch. Keep the mulching material away from stems. Water carefully to prevent splashing on stems or into leaf crotches. If heavy rains splash the soil or mulch on the stems, wash it off with a fine spray at the next watering.

Drainage was determined at the time the bed was prepared, so at this point about all that can be done is to regulate watering to suit. If the bed stays moist or damp with one light watering daily, then all other applications should be fine sprays, mostly on the foliage. Decide now, though, just what needs to be done for better drainage.

The second group of recommended practices includes requirements which will vary to suit conditions.

In many areas adequate staking is necessary. Hurricanes or the winds that accompany summer thunder storms are too much for the brittle stems unless they are supported. Start staking and tying when plants are about a foot high, and add additional ties every two or three weeks. Keep stakes far enough away to avoid damage to the tuber.

Tuberous begonias are tolerant of wide variations in fertilizing practice. They will give a good show with nothing more than a rich bedding mixture. If you wish to save the tubers for next year, then some feeding is recommended. Dried cow manure is excellent, applied as a mulch or soaked in water to make a liquid fertilizer (one pound per five gallons of water). The liquid fish fertilizers are good.

When using soluble complete chemical fertilizers, bear in mind what you are trying to accomplish. During the first month use a high fertilizer high in nitrogen, such as an 8-8-4, to promote growth of plants. Thereafter, use a fertilizer low in nitrogen, 2-8-8 or 2-10-10, to harden the plant and build up the tuber for next year. Frequent applications of weak fertilizer, about once each week, are better than occasional strong applications.

*(Continued on Page 129)*

## Cover Picture

Begonia 'Lavender Glow' (rex)

—Photo by BERNICE BRILMAYER,  
*Eastern Editor*

# ERNST BENARY —

## *The Thuringian Farmer Boy*

By MARGOT BENARY  
(Santa Barbara, California)

Mrs. Margot Benary, widow of John Benary, Ernst Benary's grandson, is a renowned German author, some of whose books have been translated into English. This article was submitted by Mrs. Kem Weber, past president of the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society, who has known Mrs. Benary since she came to Santa Barbara several years ago. Mrs. Weber is one of many begonia enthusiasts whose patronage of the world-famous seed firm of Ernst Benary, in Erfurt, Germany, dated back many years. She has traveled extensively in Germany since World War II and introduced *Begonia paulensis* into the United States from seed she obtained at the botanical garden in Hamburg.

Ernst Benary, the founder of the Erfurt, Germany, seedgrowing firm, was born in Erfurt, Thuringia, on November 10, 1819, in a family of nine children. He was the youngest boy. His parents, formerly from Kassel, where his maternal grandfather and his father had been court bankers to the prince-electors of Hesse, had lost their fortune through the compulsory loan to King Jerome, Napoleon's brother. My father-in-law still remembered having seen in his grandfather's house the iron-plated strong box with all the worthless bonds.

Young Ernst grew up under the shadow of his two older brothers, Ferdinand and Albert Agathon, who were twelve and fourteen years respectively his senior and had gained early fame as scholars. Both became professors of the Berlin University and active members of the circle of the philosopher Hegel with its strong democratic tendencies. Ernst was always more interested in outdoor activities, his family calling him the Thuringian farmer boy, considering him the least gifted of the brothers and sisters. So it seemed quite appropriate for him to choose a more practical profession. Much as they loved him and respected his quiet, reliable way, no one of his family would have guessed that little Ernst would one day become known all over the world as one of the

leading men in the field of seed-growing and hybridizing.

On April 1, 1835, he became an apprentice in the oldest gardening firm of Erfurt, F. A. Haage, where he hoped he would get (and eventually did get) the best training available. When in 1838 he had finished his fundamental training, he left Haage with the best of recommendations and went first to Frankfurt, then to Metz and Paris for further education in his own field, and to learn the languages.

After Paris he worked for one year with the English gardening firm, Huyk Low, to get acquainted with the high standard of British gardening craft. Later he told his sons and grandchildren how much he learned in England and in the famous botanical gardens of Kew and Cheswick. Since then it has been a tradition in the family for the sons to get part of their training in firms in foreign countries—often the big firms of the world exchanged their sons for some years.

When Ernst Benary came back to his home town in 1843, he started his own business. He rented a garden in Martinsgasse, married in 1845, and in 1847 was able to buy a house and garden on the western border of the town. The name of the old house was HAUS ZUR KROTE (House of the Toad) a good omen for a gardener, as in old German mythology the toad is looked upon as the guardian of all people who work with the soil. The House of the Toad appears in my book *Blue Mystery*, a family and gardening story.

As long as the firm was small, apprentices and employees shared the family meals, and Mrs. Benary, who brought up six children, had her hands full. The children, too, had to help with all kinds of small chores in their free time. Everything in the business was done under the direction and with the cooperation of the boss, who must have seemed more a kind

father for everyone who worked for him than a boss. After the hard work of the day (and there were no eight-hours days and five-day weeks at that time!) when the children and employees had gone to bed, Ernst and Bella sat at the big table in the living room and did the bookkeeping or worked at making little paper bags for seeds.

Right from the start young Ernst knew exactly what his idea of a seed-growing firm was, that trust meant everything. People had to know that when they bought Benary seeds they could rely on them. Ernst Benary aimed at the highest quality, regardless of losses. Whatever was not absolutely reliable was rejected. The atmosphere of goodwill established in the first decades has been characteristic of the firm for 120 years.

Ernst Benary knew that it was not enough to be an honest man and an expert craftsman—it needed a truly creative mind to achieve success. His kind of business was not simply to sell merchandise, but to produce new and true values. New breeds had to be developed; they needed to be planned and built up many years before presentation to the public. At that time, the laws of heredity were still mostly guesswork and a matter of trial and error. I have been told that the famous Mendel did some of his experiments with the firm Benary, to the great advantage of both partners. But still it happened (and it will always happen) that the work of many years proved a disappointment, and the result had to be destroyed. His family supported him in the early days of trials and disappointments, by practicing great economy and modest living, permitting him to accomplish his unflinching visions.

Begonias always belonged to the favorite breeds of Ernst Benary and he developed a long line of excellent varieties, from the semperflorens, as well as from the tuberous begonias. I well remember, when I came as a young bride to Erfurt, being deeply impressed with the begonia houses and their almost unbelievable beauty. My father-in-law, John Benary, told me that one of his head gardeners, Mr. Besoke, was one of the outstanding be-

gonia growers of the world, perhaps at the time of the first World War, the most outstanding. Then he took me to the office building where the most precious seeds were kept in a big safe. The latest varieties of begonias, of which only tiny quantities were as yet available, were indeed much more valuable than gold. In the first year after they had been put into the catalogue, only the most favored customers would get a few kernels of the diminutive seeds. I think it was a begonia, not a gloxinia as in my book, *Blue Mystery*, which caused an English Lord in the early 1900's to travel to Erfurt with his head gardener, his valet, and his secretary to look at one of the new Benary Breeds. He looked, ordered, and left without even having visited our famous cathedral and the St. Augustin convent in which Martin Luther had been a monk.

Besides begonias there were of course many other plants, flowering ones as well as vegetables, that were developed at Benary's and received worldwide acclaim and innumerable first prizes in garden shows. Benary was the first European breeder to raise African violets. John Benary told me that one day, when he was still a young man, a traveler brought a small bag of seeds from East Africa and asked him to see what he could do with them. By now, everybody knows what he did.

But this was later. Twenty years after the foundation of the firm, Ernst Benary had 1500 forcing frames in and around Erfurt, and thirteen hot-houses. The area of his own land was now about twenty hectares. When old Ernst died, the area was fifty hectares, the firm had 6,000 hot beds, some miles of open stands and twenty hot-houses. The flower fields outside Erfurt were a sight people came to look at from far away. At this time there were already in many foreign countries and even in other continents great areas cultivated for Ernst Benary. In Germany fourteen gardening firms worked exclusively for him, and 100 multipliers were occupied for him all over Europe, wherever the climate was favorable for a certain kind of plant. What all this meant

(Continued on Page 135)

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

## No. 1—*B. kuhlmanni* Brade—

Brazil. Resembles *B. quadrelocularis* with thick stems, long, narrow, heart-shaped leaves with nerves sunken. The leaf stem has seven ridges running lengthwise. The plant is bushy and hairy; flowers in clusters white to pink. An unusual and worthwhile begonia that is different from most begonias that we are accustomed to seeing. The nerve pattern in the leaves makes this an outstanding plant. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 2—*B. inciso-serrata*, A.DC—

Brazil. Tall growing with a compound leaf like *B. luxurians*. However, the leaves are very similar in shape to those of *B. carolineaefolia* and have deeply saw-toothed edges. Flowers in large clusters. Choice begonia. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 3—*B. undulata*, Schott—

Brazil. Syn. *B. 'Alba perfecta'*. Stems cane-like and stout; branches spreading; leaves ovate-oblong, pointed, light green, margins undulate. Flowers numerous, white, in short, compact, pendulous clusters. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 4—*B. mollicaulis* Irmischer—

Formerly known as *B. subvillosa*. We have information from Dr. Irmischer (Germany) that hereafter this begonia will be identified by name given here. Medium, to a foot or more; soft hairy. Stems light green, paler beneath, irregularly toothed. Inflorescences few-flowered and somewhat pendulous. Flowers large, white. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 5—*B. popenoei*, Standley—

Honduras. Rhizomes thick, ascending. Leaves large, orbicular, pointed, bright green, sparsely hairy, margins irregularly toothed, red-tinged, ciliate. Flowers large, white, in tall, erect panicles. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 6—*B. heracleifolia nigricans*—

Mexico. Medium, rhizomes procumbent, thick. Leaves long petioled, to a foot across, handsomely variegated with bright black and green, seven to nine finger-like lobes, taffeta-like in appearance. White

flowers in tall panicles. Handsome foliage begonia favored for its flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 7—*B. echinosepala*—

Brazil. Tall, much branched, and distinguished by the comparatively small, finely toothed leaves, 2 to 2¾ inches long and 1⅝ to 1 inch wide. The flowers are medium large and the white petals of the males have rather large hairs in the middle of the outer side for which the species is named. Recently sent from Brazil. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 8—*B. vitifolia*—

Brazil. Strong stalks, erect. Leaves ovate, palmate, lobed, felted. Flowers white. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 9—*B. 'Mme. Fanny Giron'*—

(*B. tuberosus* x *B. incarnata*) Fibrous-rooted, evergreen; branches drooping; leaves ovate, long pointed, toothed, green. Flowers bright crimson. An ornamental begonia suitable for hanging baskets. A hybrid. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 10—*B. deliciosa*—

Syn. Bhotan species. Medium, bushy, smooth. Branches frequently angle off from thickened red joints and if near the soil, will send out roots. Leaves deeply palmately lobed, dark olive-green, heavily silver-spotted, red beneath. Flowers large, soft pink, usually in two flowered inflorescences. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 11—*B. mazae*—

Dark leaf variety. Mexico. Climbing or creeping stalks, red flecked and white streaked. Roundish satiny leaves and pink flowers. A friend in Pennsylvania produced seed for the seed fund. 35 cents per pkt.

## No. 12—*B. 'Maphil'*—

A *boweri* seedling introduced by Mabel Walker in 1952. Colorful, dwarf rhizomatous plant with a bushy habit of growth. The leaves are chartreuse to mustard yellow-green in color, suffused with deep brown markings surrounding the veins and margins. The veins are light green on the surface, flushing with red on the

underside of the leaf. The sinus is light green. The obliquely shaped leaves are shallow-lobed and average two to three inches across in size. The over-all leaf texture is velvety. The interesting feature of this begonia is the long eye lashes on the leaf margins so typical of *B. boweri*. The petioles are green with red flecks at intervals, each fleck surrounding one hair. *B. 'Maphil'* has been tested under various growing conditions, and it has been found that the ideal condition is a moist, humid atmosphere under filtered light. Protection from cold is essential. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 13—*B. 'Lucifer'*—**

Het. semperflorens. Foliage dark bronzy-black; flowers large, almost two inches across, bright salmon. 25 cents per pkt.

**GREENHOUSE PLANTS**

**Slipper gloxinia—**

Large, violet. Self crosses, leaves large, heavy bloomers over a long period. 25 cents per pkt.

Large type, light pink with white throat speckled with pink dots. 25 cents per pkt.

Large, four to five inches across. White. Self crosses with a large wine-purple, violacea and others. 25 cents per pkt.

Large, blue-purple, orchid-like. 25 cents per pkt.

**Gloxinia mixture—**

Crosses using many colors. All large. Benary, Gierth, Buell, slipper, and improved Dutch hybrids. 25 cents per pkt.

***Chirita lavandulacea*—**

Gesneriaceae. Erect, branching, rather succulent plant with large ovate, soft hairy, opposite leaves with toothed margins; and whorls of axillary flowers with white pouch-like corolla tube and spreading limb of pale lavender-blue, marked yellow in throat. 25 cents per pkt.

***Alloplectus vittatus*—**

Gesneriaceae. Beautiful, erect, fleshy plant with showy ovate, quilted, crenate leaves, bronzy moss-green with silver-white feathering along midrib, and covered with white hair; glowing red-purple beneath. Yellow flowers in a cluster, orange-red calyx, and red bracts. 25 cents per pkt.

***Allophyton mexicanum*—**

'Mexican fox-glove'. Small plant with short stem, long obovate, dark green, leathery, flexible leaves, glaucous beneath; angled purplish stalks with clusters of pretty, little, nodding, trumpet-shaped flowers, orchid colored with large, lobed, whitish lips and purple-violet throats, blooming from summer on. 25 cents per pkt.

***Pteris argyrea*—**

Fern. One of the few really effective variegated ferns, highly esteemed on this account. Does not like direct sunlight but requires good light to maintain its distinct variegation. 25 cents per pkt.

***Dryopteris felix-mas*—**

Schott. Choice and rare greenhouse fern. 25 cents per pkt.

**OTHER GENERA**

***Anigonzanthus manglessii*—**

Australia. 'Kangaroo Paw'. Two-inch flowers in a dense one-sided raceme or spike which grows to a height of three feet. The flowers are covered with woolly hair of various colors, depending on the species. Plants do not form bulbs but make iris-like clumps with stout rhizomes. The evergreen foliage is about a foot tall. The plants are hardy where they do not receive more than six to eight degrees of frost; otherwise they should be treated as greenhouse plants. Easy to grow from seed and will bloom the second season.

The variety offered here is considered the most desirable species; the flowers are larger, being about three inches in length, and the color is reddish-crimson at the base, with the remainder of the inflorescence deep green. Everyone likes to grow something different in the garden. More often than not, raising plants from seed is the way to obtain something different and unique. A good plant to add to your garden. 25 cents per pkt.

***Callistemon coccineus*—**

Australia. 'Bottle brush shrub'. Popular shrub grown in great profusion outdoors in California. Leaves are sharp pointed, about one and one-half inches long; stamens red tipped with yellow anther. 25 cents per pkt.

**Chorizema cordatum**—

Australia. 'Flame Pea' or 'Dancing with Joy'. One of the best small Australian shrubs. Red or flame flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

**Solanum aculeasissimum**—

'Love Apple'. Colorful plant widely used for floral arrangements when dried. 25 cents per pkt.

**Capiscum persicum**—

Ornamental pepper of compact, bushy growth, with colorful fruits of various colors. 25 cents per pkt.

**Ricinus sanguineus**—

Euphorbiaceae. Entire plant reddish-purple. Effective when used with tropicals. Fast growing. 25 cents per pkt.

**FREE SEED**

From Brazil we have received a great many seeds of B. 'Lucerna'. This is the collector's identification. Seeds we have offered previously under this name have produced some beautiful plants but in a wide variety of leaf patterns. Also there are several varieties of *semperflorens* that we would like to clear from the files. The above seeds are offered without charge, but please send postage if other seeds are not requested.

Comment: The frustrations and worries connected with the seed fund are

many and varied. Sometimes when things look a little hopeless, something nice and encouraging comes our way and we are inspired to go on. We are grateful for all the help and encouragement we have received over the years. We wish especially to thank Rudolf Ziesenhenné, of Santa Barbara, California, for all the help he has given the seed fund. He is never too busy to do research on the little known begonia species offered in THE BEGONIAN through the seed fund, or to translate a letter that comes to us in another language. Without his able assistance we could never have made it.

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

**GLOXINIA AND MUM  
FLOWER SHOW**

The fifth annual Spring Flower Show, sponsored by the Kansas Gloxinia and Mum Society, will be held in Kansas City, Kansas, on June 5, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Location will be Welborn School, 5200 Leavenworth Road. Proceeds of the show will be for the benefit of retarded children. Donation 50 cents.

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## SUMMER CARE

(Continued from Page 123)

Plants with a single stem may grow so high that it is difficult to protect them against breakage. Cut off the tips of such stems to promote branching. This is not an easy decision for most of us, because it will take several weeks, or more, for branches to develop and produce flowers. If the tip removed is three or four inches long, it may be rooted as a cutting, provided the proper conditions are available.

Not many ground pests bother these plants. To prevent damage by grubs or soil pests, treat the beds with a chlordane solution. For snails or slugs, which can be annoying in some areas, the popular snail baits are the best remedy.

Air-borne pests are seldom a problem. Frequent inspections are suggested, as early identification is important so that action can be taken before damage is serious.

Powdery mildew occurs in some areas. For this, there are several good fungicides available. Use one occasionally as a preventive, and you will have it on hand if mildew is encountered.

If stem rot starts on a vigorous plant, cut away the diseased portion with a sharp knife. Disinfect the knife after each use. Any cut or broken stem should be dusted with powdered sulphur, powdered charcoal, or a mixture of both. If you use a mixture of both, do not drop lighted matches in it. Avoid wetting any cut treated in this manner until it has thoroughly healed.

Take the time to label each plant after blossoms appear. On the label record the type, color, supplier, and other information you will wish you had when next spring arrives. A notebook is also advisable. You will not remember many details, but if you record your mistakes, they are easily avoided next year.

Most writers advise that removal of the female blossoms will result in larger male blossoms. This might be of value if you plan to show or compete with other growers. I have decided that, as long as my starting and growing procedures require improvement, I had best not worry too much about removing the female blossoms. On some of the more double

types, the female blossoms are almost as spectacular as the male.

Even though the climate in your area may not be ideal for tuberous begonias, a little thought and planning should enable you to obtain the four basic requirements: perfect drainage, adequate but not excessive moisture, temperature, preferably seventy to eighty degrees, and good ventilation. A strong, vigorous plant is more than half the battle.

## FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SHOW

"Fact or Fantasy" will be the theme of the annual Fuchsia and Shade Plant Show to be held Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, California. The show will be open 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Admission will be \$1.00.

Sponsored by the California National Fuchsia Society, the event will feature garden displays by Branches of that society as well as other cooperating garden clubs.

Individual entries are open to the public. These will include fuchsia plants, fuchsia blossoms, begonias, ferns, African violets, gloxinias, and bromeliads, with trophies and ribbons to be awarded for excellence in various classifications.

Crowning of the Fuchsia Queen will officially open the show at 2 p.m. Saturday. Fuchsia Queen of 1960, Donna Gail Welch, with her two Fuchsia Princesses, Diane Horvath and Janet Ruckle, will be crowned by Fuchsia Queen of 1959, Bettie Gayle Davis.

**For a Better Garden!**

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**AT NURSERIES AND GARDEN STORES**

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Speakers Bureau Chairman Roy Joyce has really come up with something worthwhile for Branches within 100 miles of Los Angeles.

He has created a loose leaf speakers list to which others may be added as available. It is an excellent piece of work and a few sets are now ready, while more will be completed as the typing is done. A set is available for each Branch - just for the asking, on a first come, first served basis. And if you like it, drop Roy a line and tell him so.

The National Convention and Begonia Show is definitely scheduled for Labor Day week end, September 2, 3, and 4. It will be held at Plummer Park in Hollywood, and your committees are working to make it the best ever. The Show Chairman is none other than immediate Past President Bert Slatter, who promises great things. The General Chairman is President Elect Lola Fahey and yours truly. Why not plan your vacation to include Labor Day week end? We'd love to see lots of you folk from out of town. Let us know you are coming. We'll do our best to make your visit a happy one.

Someone who had the experience told me that finding material for a monthly letter is quite a chore. It is at times, and you readers shouldn't be like the optimist who put 25¢ in the plate and expected a \$5 sermon. I'm just a begonia fan like you, but fortunately this month a letter from a friend provides some nice thoughts.

She's a flower lover, as you will agree, and I must believe she loves Begonias, too. She writes: "Weather like today makes me want to get out and dig—and plant. Also, a day like today seems to bring out the beauty of just about everything. The shrubs are green. The roses are in full bloom. The lacy green leaves on the trees cast lovely shadows. One surely doesn't have to embark on a long journey to drink in the beauties of Springtime. The countryside is beautiful. Fields of poppies, mustard, and butter cup making a tapestry of pale tints."

Yes, indeed, it is a beautiful day. The old Chinese proverb is so true—no one grows old by living, only by losing *interest* in living.

It's a glorious day, isn't it?

And June is a wonderful month.

Not alone for its long pleasant days but because in this month a great day is celebrated. And in case you have forgotten—it's Father's Day! You know father—that's the thing enforced to bear childbirth without an anesthetic. Poor old Dad. His back aches and he's tired, but he's simply wonderful, and he should be remembered. I like this from Brinewell: "The father played possum while his youngsters tried their best to rouse him from a Sunday afternoon nap to take them for a promised walk. Finally his five-year-old daughter pried open one of his eyelids, peered carefully, then reported: He's still in there."

Good old Dad. Don't forget him on that very special day.

CLARENCE HALL  
*President*

*Palos  
Verdes*

**Begonia  
Farm**

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Waleria, Calif.

### **TUBEROUS BEGONIAS**

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS  
AND SHADE PLANTS

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*We feature African Violets and Begonias*

**PATRONIZE BEGONIAN  
ADVERTISERS**

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL

# Convention and Flower Show

SPONSORED BY THE LOS ANGELES PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## September 3-4, 1960

AT PLUMMER PARK, 7337 SANTA MONICA BLVD., HOLLYWOOD

The 1960 Annual Convention, Begonia and Shade Plant Show, will be held September 3 and 4 at Plummer Park, co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation department.

We are making plans for a larger competitive show and to encourage all members to bring their plants, we have revised the schedule and added classes in all divisions. A special division for novice exhibitors and also a division for commercial growers are featured.

Ribbons and trophies will be awarded in all classes and divisions.

Come one, come all, let us see our favorite plants or your best flower arrangements.

Meeting old friends and making new friends all good gardeners enjoy, whether its people or plants. We all look forward to Begonia Convention time each year, glad to greet and welcome YOU.

BERT SLATTER, *Show Chairman*

### Point System for Judging Begonias

#### FIBROUS AND RHIZOMATOUS SPECIMENS

Cultural perfection .....	50
Foliage .....	15
Difficulty of cultivation .....	15
Quantity and quality flowers .....	15
Correct and suitable labeling .....	5
	<hr/>
	100

#### REX BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT

Cultural perfection .....	40
Foliage .....	20
Distinctiveness .....	10
Size of plant .....	10
Difficulty of cultivation .....	15
Correct and suitable labeling .....	5
	<hr/>
	100

#### TUBEROUS BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT

Size of bloom .....	10
Form .....	20
Color .....	20
Substance .....	20
Foliage .....	10
Stem .....	10
Distinction .....	10
	<hr/>
	100

#### BEGONIA FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Color combination .....	25
Proportion and balance .....	25
Distinction and originality .....	20
Relation to receptacle .....	10

Condition .....	10
Suitable combination of material .....	10
	<hr/>
	100

#### SEMPERFLORENS—

##### SINGLE AND DOUBLE FLOWERED

Cultural perfection .....	25
Flowers .....	35
Foliage .....	20
Grooming .....	15
Correct and suitable label .....	5
	<hr/>
	100

##### NEW BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Distinctiveness .....	40
Foliage	
Color intensity .....	10
Texture .....	10
Form .....	10
Beauty of plant form .....	20
Flowers .....	10
	<hr/>
	100

##### CORSAGE OF BEGONIA FLOWERS

Color combination .....	25
Proportion and balance .....	25
Suitability of occasion .....	10
Style and grace .....	25
Distinction and originality .....	15
	<hr/>
	100

##### TOWARD WINNING SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY

First place .....	3 points
-------------------	----------

# 1960 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE OF

## A.B.S. Convention, Plum

### DIVISION A—SEMPERFLORENS BEGONIAS

- Class 1. Foliage green, flowers single.  
 2. Foliage dark, flowers single.  
 3. Foliage green, flowers double.  
 4. Foliage dark, flowers double.  
 5. Species, such as, Indian species, Mexican species, etc.  
 6. *Begonias* 'Richmondensis,' or 'Catalina,' others similar.

### DIVISION B—FIBROUS BEGONIAS, (CANE TYPE)

- Class 7. Tall types (over three feet), as 'Lucerna,' 'Orange Rubra,' etc.  
 8. Intermediate types, (18 in. to 3 ft., as 'Medora,' *olbia*, and others.  
 9. Low growing types (under 18 in.)  
 10. Any other cane type not covered in above classes. Thickened stalk type.

### DIVISION C—HAIRY FIBROUS BEGONIAS

- Class 11. Hairy, as *scharffi*, 'Fernando Costae.'  
 12. Sparsely hairy, as 'Neely Gaddis,' 'Braemar,' 'Dorothy Grant,' etc.  
 13. Heavy-textured tomentum—covered foliage, as *incana*, *kellermanni*, 'San Miguel,' etc.  
 14. Distinctive foliage, erect growth, as 'Mrs Fred Scripps,' *luxurians*, etc.  
 15. Any other varieties not covered in the above classes.

### DIVISION D—RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS (not rex)

- Class 16. Small leaves, as *boweri*, *imperialis*, *rotundifolia*, etc.  
 17. Medium leaves, star type, as, 'Glendale,' 'Silver Star,' 'Virbob,' etc.  
 18. Large star foliage, as 'Ricinifolia,' *heracleifolia*, 'Sunbar,' etc.  
 19. Medium foliage, no marginal cutting, as 'Erythrophylla' etc.  
 20. Large foliage, no marginal cutting, as 'Freddie,' *barkeri*, etc.  
 21. Spiral or crested foliage, as *manicata cristata*, 'Crestabruchi,' etc.  
 22. Distinctive, unusual or odd foliage, as, *acida*, 'Iron Cross,' etc.  
 23. Hairy leaved types, as, 'Otto Alfred,' *fusca*, etc.  
 24. Rhizome upright, as, *carolineafolia*, *kenworthyi*, etc.  
 25. Any other varieties not covered in the above classes.

### DIVISION E—REX CULTORUM BEGONIAS

- Class 26. Large leaved types, as, 'Cardoza Gardens,' 'President,' 'Rajah,' etc.  
 27. Medium leaved types, as, 'Helen Lewis,' 'American Beauty,' and many of the new rexes that are available.  
 28. Small leaves, as, 'Dew Drop' and others of approximate size.  
 29. Large spiral-leaves, as, 'Bronze King,' 'Mt. Baldy,' 'Green Pastures,' etc.  
 30. Medium spiral-leaves, as 'Bronco,' 'Curly Haze,' 'Mary Ann,' etc.  
 31. Branching Types, as 'Van Ex,' 'Silver Van Ex,' 'Silver Sweet,' etc.

32. Miniature leaves, as, 'terfly,' etc.  
 33. Miniature spiral-leaved 'Curl,' etc.  
 34. Any other varieties

### DIVISION F—TUBEROUS ROOTED (OTHER THAN 'TUBERH')

- Class 35. Species, as, *sutherlandia*  
 36. Cultivars, as 'Welter'  
 37. All *socotrana* and der  
 38. Any others not covered

### DIVISION G—'TUBERHYBRIDA,' O

- Class 39. Single forms, flowers  
 40. 'Multiflora' and 'Mu  
 pact, many flowered, l  
 41. Camellia forms, flo  
 double.  
 42. 'Fimbriata Plena,' lar  
 43. *crispa*; large, single, p  
 44. *cristata*; large, single  
 on each petal.  
 45. 'Rosebud'; rose like ir  
 46. 'Picotee'; irregular bo  
 into the domina sha  
 47. 'Marmorata'; Camellie  
 blotched and spotted  
 48. Ruffled camellia and  
 from 'Fimbriata Plena  
 49. 'Marginata'; camellia  
 precise line of a differ  
 50. *pendula*; drooping ty  
 tainers; flowers numeri

### DIVISION H—WALL POCKETS

- Class 51. Fibrous begonias, Clá  
 52. Rhizomatous begonias  
 53. Rex begonias, Classes  
 54. Tuberous begonias, Cl

### DIVISION I—HANGING BASKETS

- Class 55. Fibrous begonias, Clas  
 56. Rhizomatous begonias  
 57. Rex begonias, Classes  
 58. Tuberous begonias, C

### DIVISION J—COLLECTIONS

- Class 59. Collection of three be  
 60. Collection of six bego

### DIVISION K—NEW BEGONIA INT

- Class 61. Open to all members,  
 per exhibitors' nomi  
 ally by point  
 a  
 mendation upon sco

# THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Los Angeles, California

'Tôy,' 'Annie Robinson,' 'But-  
as, as, 'Cutie,' 'Berry's Brown  
of covered in the above classes.

## BEGONIAS (BRIDA)

*l, martiana, davisi, etc.*  
*iensis,' 'Richard Robinson,' etc.*  
atives.  
l in the above classes.

## NE SPECIMEN PLANT

suggestive of the wild rose.  
tiflora Alba'; low, bushy, com-  
oth single and double.  
wers camellia-like, single and  
ge double, carnation-like flowers.  
etal margins frilled.  
flowers with crestlike out growth

appearance.  
rder of a different color bleeding  
le.  
with a rose background  
white.  
novelty types as distinguished  
form, petals edged with a thin,  
ent color.  
pe suitable for suspended con-  
ous, both large and small.

sses 1-15.  
(not rex), Classes 16-25.  
26-34.  
asses 35-50.

ses 1-15.  
(not rex), Classes 16-25.  
26-34.  
asses 35-50.

gonias; each of a different class.  
ias; each of a different class.

## RODUCTIONS

Amateur or Commercial. Entries  
ed. Each entry judged individu-  
id. Each entry judged individu-  
ing a minimum of 85 points.

Begonias previously entered can not again be exhibited  
in this class.

## DIVISION L—BEGONIAS GROWN ON TOTEM POLES

Class 62. To be classified according to entries by show chairman,  
and chief clerk. 'A' and 'B' divisions if necessary.

## DIVISION M—NOVICE CLASSES

Any amateur Begonia Society Member who has never  
won a blue ribbon in an A.B.S. show preceding 1959  
may enter plants in this division, as classified in the  
previous classes, for a period of three consecutive  
years. These will be staged separately and judged  
accordingly. Class ribbons and trophies will be award-  
ed in this division.

## DIVISION N—COMMERCIAL GROWERS

In this division Commercial Growers may exhibit  
plants in any of the classes in this schedule. Ribbons  
will be awarded. Any of these plants may compete  
for the President's Trophy.

## DIVISION O—FERNS

- Class 63. Mounted large-leaved epiphytic, as *Platyserium*.  
64. Hardy North American species, as *Woodwardia fim-  
briata*.  
65. Hardy tropicals, as *Pteris* and *Polystichum* varieties.  
66. Tender and rare tropicals, as *Polypodium* varieties.  
67. *Adiantum* (Maidenhair) varieties.  
68. Hanging baskets, fine or heavy fronds.  
69. Wall baskets, fine or heavy fronds.

## DIVISION P—OTHER SHADE PLANTS

- Class 70. House plant.  
71. Any shade or tropical plant.

## DIVISION Q—FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

- Class 72. Begonia flowers and foliage, other than 'Tuberhybrida.'  
73. Low container, tuberous begonia flowers.  
74. Begonias and other plant material.  
75. Rex begonia foliage only.  
76. Corsage using tuberous begonias.  
77. Corsage of begonia blossoms or foliage other than  
'Tuberhybrida.'

## DIVISION R—PLANTERS AND TERRARIUMS

- Class 78. Plantings of begonias.  
79. Plantings with other house plants.

## DIVISION S—EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS (BY INDIVIDUALS OR BRANCHES)

Educational exhibit consisting of material assembled  
to promote increased knowledge and appreciation of  
begonias, such as, begonia seedlings, begonia illustra-  
tions, begonia literature, display of related begonias,  
begonia cultural techniques.  
Plants must be grown by members.  
Exhibited in the Nomenclature Room.  
A.B.S. educational award, \$25.00.

## A.B.S. Flower Show Rules and Regulations

1. All exhibits are, from the commencement to the close of the exhibition, in the charge of the Show Committee.

2. Competitive entries must be made according to division and classes; nonconformity will be subject to disqualification.

3. All competitive entries must be in place by 9:30 A.M., Saturday, September 3, and judging will commence at 10:00 A.M. All entries not in by 9:30 A.M. will be eligible only for non-competitive exhibition.

4. All entries will receive sealed entry cards at time of entering plants, judging same to remain sealed until after judging.

5. Chairman of Judges Committee will assume complete charge at start of judging and no person will be allowed to interfere, to offer criticisms, or to distract the decisions of the judges. Only judges and their clerks will be permitted in show room at time of judging.

6. Any Chairman or members of committees engaged in the show preparation are permitted to exhibit and to compete under the same conditions as any other exhibitor, with adherence to all show rules.

7. No entry may compete for more than one premium, nor may more than one entry be made in any class with the exception of DIVISION K.

8. All plants and flowers exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor or been in his possession for 3 months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to flower arrangements.

9. Amateur Grower is one who grows plants for self-pleasure and by self-effort, and does not hold a commercial license. Any member of the

family not falling into this category disqualifies the entire family as amateurs.

10. A commercial grower may enter any class. However, plant will be judged for the President's Challenge Trophy only, for the Best Begonia in the Show.

11. All plants and flowers must be clearly and correctly named. Errors in naming will not disqualify, but judges will recognize correctness and clearness of names as telling in favor of an exhibitor in close competition.

12. The management shall have the right to exclude inferior or diseased plants.

13. No plant may be removed from the Show except by official permission.

14. While the management will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for loss or injury.

15. Judges shall award premiums as in their opinion an entry merits. Whether a group of entries are in competition, or an entry is without competition, it will be at their discretion to award only on the merits.

16. Sweepstakes Trophy will be awarded by the point system and will be awarded on total points on blue ribbons only in begonia divisions.

17. All trophies must remain on display for the duration of the flower show.

18. Individual entries in the competitive show are limited to A.B.S. members only. Only one exhibitor per family may enter.

19. Challenge trophies are to be returned to the A.B.S. Flower Show Chairman two weeks prior to the 1961 A.B.S. Flower Show.

20. Any member having any suggestions for or criticisms of this schedule, please do so in writing to the Awards Chairman.

### Special Awards

The following perpetual Challenge Cups will be awarded:

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN PERPETUAL AWARD—

This award is given by Mrs. Dyckman in honor of her husband, the late Herbert P. Dyckman who was the Founder of the American Begonia Society.

The most outstanding NEW FIBROUS begonia exhibited each year will be honored with this award.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TROPHY — To be awarded to the Best Begonia in the Show displayed by either amateur or commercial entrant. The large trophy was presented to the A.B.S. by Calvin E. Trowbridge. Only plants which win division trophies may be considered for best plant in show.

PALOS VERDES BEGONIA FARM CHALLENGE TROPHY—Given for the outstanding Tuberosus Begonia in the Show.

EFFIE CHAPMAN CUP—For the best Fibrous Begonia in the Show.

GONDA HARTWELL CUP—For the best Rex Begonia in the Show.

JOHN R. WILLIAMS CUP—For the best Rhizomatous Begonia in the Show.

REDONDO BAY AREA PERPETUAL TROPHY—For the best *Semperflorens* Begonia in the Show.

CONNIE LEIGH HENDRIX CUP—For the best amateur Flower Arrangement in the Show.

GORDON BAKER LLOYD CHALLENGE CUP—For the best Seedling in the Show. (less than one year old).

A.B.S. SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY—To the winner of the most points in the begonia divisions of the show.

THE GLENDALE BRANCH AWARD—For the highest rating NEW CULTIVAR shown in DIVISION K.

THE INGLEWOOD BRANCH AWARD—For the most distinctive species shown in the Nomenclature Room.

THE EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY \$25 AWARD—To promote knowledge of begonias. Open to all.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDAL—To the hybrid begonia for 1955.

## ERNST BENARY

(Continued from Page 125)

for Erfurt and, in the long run for the export of Germany, is evident. In Erfurt, alone, the output of the seed growing firms showed an increase of fifty times as much as in 1843, the year of the foundation of the firm, Ernst Benary.

Many honors were heaped on the head of Ernst Benary, but until the end of his life he remained the modest man he had always been, and was deeply concerned with the well-being of his employees, many of whom had been with the firm for twenty-five years, some forty, fifty, and sixty years. Ernst Benary was the first firm with their own health and old-age insurance. These funds were all taken away when the Communists took over the firm in 1950. While Ernst Benary shared honors with his famous brothers, he was the acknowledged head of the family. At his 70th birthday, he became an honorary member of many agricultural societies, but one of his nicest gifts was an album with 500 autographed photos of business friends from all over the world.

Unassuming young Ernst, the Thuringian farmboy, as they had called him, had become a counsellor of his home town, a Koniglicher Gheimer Kommerzienrat, and a knight of many orders, among them the Saxonian Albrechtsorder, after the King of Saxonia had been his house guest. One of his proudest days was when he had the honor to show Kaiserin Augusta around his precious flowers. But being a considerate host, he guessed how tired the poor royal lady must have been, after receiving so many people and shaking so many hands. So he had quietly arranged

a few refreshments for her near his most precious treasures, the tuberous begonias, served by the two prettiest girls of the firm, dressed in Thuringian costume, thus allowing the poor lady to relax away from everybody.

Ernst Benary died in 1893. His two sons, Friedrich and John, took over and developed the firm further in the intention of their father. In 1881, John had been on a world tour to visit many of the friends of the House.

After the first World War, the Japanese started to develop their own seedgrowing firms, and a little later, California. This made a change for the Erfurt firms, of course, but they had their old reputation and their own experience to lean on, and there was always a good understanding and a fair competition among the great seedgrowers of the world.

The Nazi era and the second World War presented terrible difficulties. I do not remember how many times thousands of square yards of our hot-house and hot-frame windows were broken by the bombs. Of eleven buildings of the city offices, ten burned down, and so on. It was already the third Benary generation that had taken over the old tradition, two grandsons of old Ernst Benary, Ernst, Jr., and my husband, Wilhelm. They had a hard time resisting the Nazis and only survived because it was a vital branch of the economy. When in April, 1945, the American Army occupied Thuringia, we thought we could start a new life. But after ten weeks, they left us to the Russians.

We had had enough of one dictatorship and went west to West Germany. With a son of Ernst, Jr., my husband made a new start. It was (and still is) a



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LOS ANGELES 39, CALIF.

difficult start, as we did not own our land and had no machinery or hothouses. However, slowly things are improving and being built up. Ernst, Jr., stayed in Erfurt because he imagined he could save the firms. But the Communists wanted to swallow the fat morsel, and Ernst was lucky to get away with his life. Since he and another nephew came to West Germany, my husband and I could at last come to live in the United States, which we had wanted to do since we had first been here in 1936.

In Munden, West Germany, Ernst Benary advises his sons and the nephew of our line, in the difficult job to carry on the old tradition and to turn out first-class materials—against all odds. Even the climate is adverse, in contrast to Erfurt, there is much rain in late summer when the seeds must ripen. But even so the new-old firm has won prizes for new developments, and we may hope the old tree will grow new branches and will bloom again in the true sense of the word, relying on the old slogan of the family: *Only The Best Is Good Enough.*

## BEGONIA HERBACEA

By H. B. EDMUNDS  
(Epping, Essex, England)

I first saw *Begonia herbacea* five or six years ago in Zurich, Switzerland. I liked it very much and was fortunate enough to persuade a friend of mine to obtain a small plant for me.

I saw it again in the Municipal Nurseries in Paris, and then once more in the Gardens in Hamburg.

I have grown this begonia for about five years and I have found it to be one of the easiest begonias to grow; in fact, it grows in a greenhouse with a minimum air temperature of forty-five degrees, although there is bench heating at a slightly higher temperature. It grows well, and now in April it is in bloom.

This begonia, like most of my others, is grown in a half-pot or pan, in what we call here the "John Innes No. 1 Compost". This compost consists of seven parts of good fibrous loam, three parts peat, and two parts rough sand; and to each bushel there is added 1½ ounces of superphosphate, 1½ ounces of hoof and horn meal, ¾ ounce of sulphate of potash, and a small quantity of lime.

The begonia grows strongly and I have taken many pieces off the rhizome and given to other people. Although *Begonia herbacea* grows in a hot, humid climate in Brazil,<sup>a</sup> it seems to adapt itself quite well to much lower temperatures and a much dryer atmosphere. In the winter, as with practically all my other begonias, I keep it on the dry side, as it has been my experience that many more begonias are killed by too much water than by too little.

At the present time the leaves are about six inches tall and the leaves are all a good color and perfectly healthy.

I hope that when *Begonia herbacea* becomes more readily available and more members grow it, they will be interested in having the experience of a hobbyist who loves this begonia and has grown it satisfactorily for some years.

### NEW CROP

Rex Begonia Hybrid Seed  
\$1.00 per packet

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

### ILLUSTRATED CATALOG 25c

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### BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS

*NEW catalogue with color, 25c*

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(Est. 1892)

Danielson, Connecticut

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## EAST BAY

We did ourselves proud by letting the male members take over at our April meeting. The men went all-out, even to decorating the tables. What lovely color combinations they introduced! The plant exchange table was like a display at a garden show—everything in beautiful plants from Bonzai to choice slips.

Colorful slides on Ireland and Luxembourg were shown by our friend, Mr. H. Bell, whose commentary was as excellent as his photography.

At our May meeting, our speaker was John Thomas Howell, of the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. He showed slides, accompanied by commentary on the Figwort family of flowers.

## ELSA FORT

Our ninth birthday party was the occasion for an enjoyable dinner meeting in April. We changed from our usual custom, and went to a tea room for the affair. This made it easier for everyone.

Highlights of the years 1958 and 1959 were remembered as our history for those years was read.

Plans were made for a field trip in May.

## INGLEWOOD

Our April meeting featured a well rounded program covering fibrous and cane begonias.

Dorothy Behrends, who is well known to all readers of this magazine for her highly informative articles, talked to us about fibrous and cane begonias. She brought with her many plants to demonstrate the many varieties, the differences in appearance, and the care and grooming of the plants. Everyone agreed that she covered the subject thoroughly.

The plant table was made up primarily of fibrous and cane begonias from plants obtained by Terry Olmstead and Grace Yerick as well as those brought by Dorothy Behrends.

The ways and means table was well filled and a new table of extra plants for sale got under way and was well received.

President Pearl Parker presided over the business meeting, after which refreshments were served. Grace Yerick, Terry Olmstead, and Marie Zachau were hostesses.

## LONE STAR

The April meeting was held at the home of Mrs. George W. Hopkins, with President W. J. Thomas presiding. After dispensing with the regular order of business, Mrs. Thomas announced the speaker, Major E. A. Wood.

Major Wood discussed "The Culture of Ferns". Many members brought fern specimens, such as Maidenhair, Boston Fern, Elkhorn Fern, Bird's Nest Fern, Rabbit Foot Fern, Bird's Claw Fern, and Oak Leaf Fern. Since ferns come under the shade plant classification and because Texas has so many varieties of ferns, the members voted to continue the discussion of these plants at the May meeting.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM

The April meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Anna Steele, was called to order by the president. Anna Orhle sang the Begonia Song.

The afternoon was taken up mostly with discussion of what way this Branch could be most helpful in joining with the William Penn Branch for a Begonia Party at the home of Mrs. George De Coursey on September 20, for an exhibit of all kinds of begonias grown by members of both groups.

At this meeting we elected officers: Mrs. Anna Steele, president; Mrs. Marie J. Schaffer, vice-president; Mrs. Selena Jones, recording secretary; Marian Belser, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Edna Bishop, treasurer; and Mrs. Marie J. Schaffer, representative to A.B.S.

## SAN FRANCISCO

On April 6 we had a terrific meeting. "Standing room only" was the order of

the evening, with Pat Antonelli, of Antonelli Brothers Begonia Gardens at Santa Cruz, as our guest speaker.

"Raising Begonias Successfully" was the subject of Mr. Antonelli's talk. At the end of a short talk he held a question and answer period — and you should have heard the questions! Everyone brought problems and Mr. Antonelli graciously and patiently gave us the information we were seeking.

Our plant table was resplendent with many begonia seedling plants, and Carl Olgiata had also supplemented the begonias with lovely potted plants. Other donations were received from Frank Boichot, Carl Pehrson, and Irene Shepard.

We are all excited about the progress of our "Garden Center of San Francisco". The contract calls for completion by August 8. This will be the largest garden center of its kind in the world, complete with every modern convenience for meetings, flower shows, and library.

#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

The height of the begonia season was ushered in at our May meeting by a talk from the president, Mrs. Mabel Corwin. She gave a graphic picture of begonia culture and propagation and tips on grooming plants for the coming shade plant flower show.

Mrs. Corwin took most of the trophies last year in the show held at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, so she is an authority on begonia growing.

#### SAN MIGUEL

Dorothy Behrends was guest speaker at our April meeting. As usual, Dorothy's inimitable talent was evident, making the evening one of great interest.

New officers were installed, with Dorothy Behrends officiating as installing officer. Those installed for the coming year were: Mrs. Ferris Jones, president; Mrs. Jack Brook, vice-president; Mrs. Ed Hodgins, secretary; Mrs. Emil Stark, treasurer; Ray Purtee, national representative; and Ed Hodgins, board member.

Interesting changes and improvements are being made for our study class, which we hope will make this group second to none.

#### SMOKY VALLEY

"The World on Your Window Sill" was the theme of the annual spring flower show staged by the Smoky Valley Branch on April 19. This theme was carried out effectively by erecting, as a central attraction, a spacious window sill supporting a number of beautifully groomed plants, heavy with lush green leaves and dainty pink, purple, and wine blossoms. With each plant was a code, explaining its native home, origin, and history. All plants were grown by club members.

Mrs. Charles Fury won the Dorothy Romeiser trophy for the best rex begonia and the Smoky Valley plaque for the best rhizomatous begonia. Mrs. Alma Schults took second place, Mrs. Eula Berry, third; Mrs. Chester Beineke and Mrs. Clyde Capell tied for fourth; and Mrs. M. L. Rose, fifth.

After the judging, Major John C. Irving and Dorothy Romeiser showed color slides in keeping with the theme of the show, called "Famous Gardens of the World."

Our new staff is as follows: Mrs. M. L. Rose, president; Miss Verna Fowler, vice-president; A. T. Holtberg, secretary; Mrs. Clyde Capell, treasurer; Mrs. Chester Beineke, delegate at large.

#### SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Mrs. Ruth Gilkey was the speaker at our April meeting. Everyone enjoyed her beautiful, clear slides showing "Bulbs and European Gardens". The azaleas in Belgium were truly beautiful and the display of bulbs in the parks of Holland was breathtaking.

Mr. Peck, our garden show chairman, decided on a Japanese garden for our exhibit at the Oakland Spring Garden Show, April 30 through May 8.

Mr. Bolyard brought us up to date on the progress of his seedling tuberous begonias, and showed his planting method. Mr. Hammond brought a Hoya plant for the exhibition table. Mrs. Bartlow brought a rex begonia and explained how to start the king of the begonia family from leaves.

## WILLIAM PENN

The William Penn Branch has met every month during the early part of this year, in members' homes, to discuss first, the plans for our exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and secondly, our plans for the Begonia Party which we will sponsor with the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch on September 20, at the home of Mrs. George E. DeCoursey in Paoli, Pennsylvania.

We hope that all readers of THE BEGONIAN will note the date of the Begonia Party and attend if they are in the neighborhood. You will all be welcome.

The greatly increased interest in house plants in this part of the country is shown by the invitation our Branch received from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to show begonias in all stages of growth, proper soil mixtures, fertilizers, and control of pests which afflict begonias under house conditions. The African Violet Society, the Gloxinia Society, and the William Penn Branch staged their specialties in a large, quonset-shaped section of a greenhouse which used polyethelene instead of glass. It was gratifying to the three societies that the public stood three deep in front of the exhibits and stopped to ask many questions.

In February we enjoyed an interesting talk on photosynthesis by Mrs. Timms. It is much more interesting to provide your begonias with fresh air, good soil, adequate watering, and sunlight when you realize that none of these necessities will help your plants unless all are available.

In March we held a post mortem on the Philadelphia Flower Show. Mrs. Fazzell then spoke to us on the propagation of cuttings.

Our April meeting was a trip to see Mr. and Mrs. Ingersoll's lovely enclosed porch, which was full of begonias and other house plants which flourish in the same surroundings. The 'Limminghi' begonias were outstanding both for their luxuriant growth and their enormous clusters of bloom.

Starting in May, most of us will be moving our plants outside under high shade, to give them added vigor, which will provide us with plenty of strong,

handsome plants for our houses next winter and plenty of extra plants for the sales table at the Begonia Party.

## VENTURA

The Ventura (Theodosia Burr Shepherd) Branch observed its twenty-fourth anniversary on May 3 at the Alice Bartlett clubhouse, with Mrs. Louise Seaton presiding.

Past presidents were honored. A begonia plant 'Iron Cross' was presented to Mrs. Phyllis Dent, a charter member and special guest. Junior members Travis Piper and Tom Seward entertained with a musical program.

Mrs. S. B. Reed and her committee were in charge of decorations and served refreshments. Mrs. Oakley Murphy had an attractive plant table display.

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## BEGONIA SHOW AT OAKHURST GARDENS

The San Gabriel Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society will present its annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show on Sunday, June 26, from 1 to 6 p.m. The location will be Oakhurst Gardens, 345 West Colorado Street, Arcadia, California. There will be no charge for admission.

Exotic begonias and companion shade loving plants will be featured in this show, which will be staged out-of-doors in the shade of 500 years old native oak trees. Potted shade plants will be offered for sale by society members, and questions regarding your shade plant growing problems will be answered.

Plan to attend this outstanding event. Further information and show schedules may be obtained by contacting Charles R. Lovejoy, show chairman, 827 Woodward Blvd., Pasadena 10, California, telephone SYcamore 5-5361.

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## COPY DEADLINE

All material for publication in THE BEGONIAN must be received by the Editor not later than the fifth of the month preceding month of publication.

## CALENDAR

June 2—Westchester Branch. Stan Spaulding, who recently received his Master of Science degree in horticultural science at U.C.L.A., will speak on "Landscaping With Begonias". As Mr. Spaulding has been interested in begonias since the founding of the begonia society in Long Beach, his subject will be of special interest to everyone.

June 5—Kansas City, Kansas. Fifth Annual Spring Flower Show. Welborn School, 5200 Leavenworth Road, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Donation 50 cents.

June 9—Inglewood Branch. "All About Sempervirens" will be the subject discussed by Bert Slatter, John Thieben, Bill Kirker.

June 14—West Valley Branch. Speaker will be Frank Sobas, whose subject will be "Ferns and Landscaping with Ferns". There will be ferns available on the plant table.

June 18-19—Annual Fuchsia and Shade Plant Show, Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. Admission \$1.00

June 22—Glendale Branch. Mrs. Cecil Houdyschel will speak on a timely topic, "African Violets". New varieties will be mentioned.

June 25—Redondo Beach Area Branch—Whoopie party in Eipper's Gardens, 25338 Pennsylvania Avenue, Lomita,

California, at 8 p.m. Each player brings a plant or garden gadget and a donation of 50 cents. Come eat and play with us under the stars. Refreshments will be served. For most of the summer we plan to meet in patios of various members.

June 26—San Gabriel Valley Branch. Begonia and Shade Plant Show, Oakhurst Gardens, 345 W. Colorado Street, Arcadia, California, 1 to 6 p.m. No admission charge.

July 17—El Monte Community Branch. Pot-luck birthday dinner to be celebrated at 4 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers Street, Los Angeles. Coffee and dessert will be furnished by the Branch.

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## MINUTES OF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board, American Begonia Society, was called to order by President Hall at 7:35 p.m., April 25, 1960.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Whittier Branch representative Shute.

Aims and Purposes of the Society were read by Vice-President Korts.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Leoti Fisher gave her report. Report filed for audit.

President Hall reported that he had visited several Branches during the month and enjoyed all of the meetings.

Membership Secretary Schlanert gave his report showing 47 new, and 87 renewing members, with total receipts of \$340.96.

Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee not being present, her report was read by the Secretary, showing \$80.00 remitted to the Treasurer. At the request of Mrs. Gee motion was made and carried that copies of THE BEGONIAN be sent each month to two Seed Fund contributors, one in Germany and the other in India.

Past President Slatter reported he had visited the Riverside Branch Show and thought it very fine indeed.

Vice-President Korts reported she had visited two Branches and enjoyed the meetings, that Begonia pins are selling well and Judging Class lessons seem quite successful.

Business Manager Thieben reported \$27.50 in advertising for April; \$28.70 collected and paid to the Treasurer.

Mr. Roy Joyce, Chairman of the Speaker's Bureau, reported he has enough of the Speaker's Bureau lists prepared to furnish one to each Branch within 100 miles of Los Angeles.

Historian Mrs. Jackson reported that she had received history material from several Branches, that the San Francisco Branch had sent an exceptionally nice record of its activities.

President Elect Lola Fahey not being present, the Secretary read her report as Chairman of the Insurance Investigating Committee. Mrs. Fahey stated that after considerable investigation it appeared the Society should pay the balance due on workmen's compensation insurance and the amount due on the comprehensive policy. Moved by Mr. Schlanert, seconded by Mrs. Graham, that the Treasurer be instructed to pay \$56.03 and \$74.04. Motion carried. Moved by Mr. Schlanert, seconded by Mrs. Korts, that the Insurance Committee place a new workmen's compensation policy with whatever agency seems to be the best, and that the Treasurer pay the bill when received. Motion carried.

Awards Committee Chairman Mrs. Snodgrass reported she had written Mrs. Sachman of San Francisco asking her to fill the va-

cancy on the Awards Committee and that she had consented to do so, and asked for confirmation. Motion made and carried that Mrs. Sachman's appointment be confirmed.

Nomenclature Chairman Mrs. Graham stated she needed new cards for registration purposes. President Hall asked that she bring to the next meeting a sample of what she deems necessary so that it can be approved by the Board. In line with a request from Ernst Benary of Germany, motion made and carried that a copy of the Buxton Check List be sent via air mail to Mr. Benary.

Branches reporting: Foothill, Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent, Pasadena, Riverside, Ventura, Westchester and Whittier. Foothill Branch Director Mrs. Talcott presented to the Society a Certificate of Commendation from the U. S. Reforestation Department for the contribution made by the Society toward replanting of trees in the Angelus National Forest. Certificate handed to Historian to be placed in the History Book. Motion made and carried that the Secretary write a letter of thanks to Mrs. Cora Lee Walters for her efforts on behalf of the A.B.S. in collecting money for the reforestation project.

Mr. McKelvey of the Long Beach Parent Branch announced that this Branch had secured a booth at the show to be held by the California National Fuchsia Society on June 18th and 19th in the Long Beach Auditorium and that they are planning an especially nice display of begonias.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

IRMA JANE BROWN  
Secretary

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# Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. D. L. Comiskey, Secy.  
Valley Farm, Dover, Mass.

## DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences  
Mrs. M. F. Scribner Corr. Secy.  
1422 Marfa, Dallas 16, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School  
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California  
Mrs. Jane Scalzo, Secy.  
1126 Keeler Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Miss Lenore Schroeder, Secy.  
1828 So. 7th St., Alhambra, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Miss A. Esther Smith, Cor. Secy.  
309 E. Foothill Blvd., La Verne, Calif.

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mabel Anderson  
5226 Strohm Ave., North Hollywood

## GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Mrs. Charles Calloway  
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

## GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

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

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Homes of Members  
Mrs. Adolph Belsor Cor. Secy.  
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. J. C. Jenks  
6807 DeLongpre Ave., Los Angeles 28, Calif.

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. W. I. Como, Secy.  
Box 220 E. RR No. 1, Dickinson, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Ray Vollnogle, Secy.  
665 W. Athens Blvd., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

## KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.  
157 West 58th St., New York.  
Mrs. Gertrude Ferris, Secy.  
415 9th Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

## LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. C. Neal Sikkelee, Secy.  
3603 La Joya Dr., Dallas 20, Texas

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Linden Hall  
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Blanche Ashby, Secy.  
384 Roycroft Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Leslie C. White, Secy.  
3013 Addison St., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.  
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 1 p.m.  
World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Mel Westerdahl, Secy.  
16422 Heim Ave., Orange, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members  
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.  
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.  
6737 Harvey Ave., Pennsauken 8, N.J.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.  
1304 Poinsettia, Manhattan Beach, Calif.

## RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members  
Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy.  
372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park  
 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.  
 Mrs. Ethel Prior, Secy.  
 4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Chet Van Dusen, Secy.  
 4135 Merritt Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.  
 Mrs. Dora Hale, Secy.  
 Route 2, Box 1350, Florin, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday, Barbour Hall  
 2717 University Ave., San Diego  
 Mrs. Mildred Sima, Secy.  
 7655 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
 Mrs. Forrest Lee Jordan, Secy.  
 95 Ravenwood Dr., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.,  
 Los Angeles State & County Arboretum  
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
 Mrs. Carl Nauman, Secy.  
 652 W. Bennett St., Glendora, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
 Mrs. Ruth Brook, Secy.  
 7151 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

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

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
 Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at  
 SUNset 3-7122.  
 Mrs. Hazel M. Starks, Secy.  
 6116 Greenwood Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Alice Bartlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
 Mrs. Ted Lemmon, Secy.  
 P.O. Box 678, Moorpark, Calif.

**SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday of each Month  
 Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.  
 410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.  
 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.  
 Mrs. Chester Bartlow, Cor. Secy.  
 37075 Arden St., Newark, Calif.

**TALL CORN STATE BRANCH**

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

**TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
 Scott Hall, Ft. Worth, Texas  
 Mrs. James O. Burdick, Sr., Secy.  
 3211 Azle Ave., Fort Worth 6, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes  
 E. Weaver,  
 1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

**WESTCHESTER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Westchester Women's  
 Club,  
 8020 Alverstone St.,  
 Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Mrs. LaNeta Myers, Secy.  
 7550 Cowan Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

**WEST VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Orcutt Playground  
 Clubhouse  
 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.  
 Joseph Janatka, Secy.  
 18641 Casandra, Tarzana, Calif.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Walter M. Cowles, Secy.  
 1139 Mellon St., Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive  
 Anne L. Rose, Secy.  
 1255 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Ernest Drew, Secy.  
 635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.

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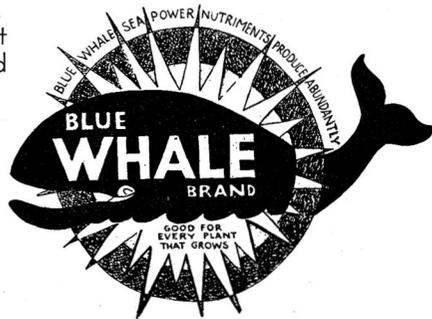
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