

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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Editor N. Trumond Peterson, 1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.
Advertising Manager George Schlanert, 13611 Wheeler Pl., Santa Ana, Calif.

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General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:

Dorotha Waddington, Membership Secretary, 1135 N. Kenter Ave., Los Angeles 49, Calif.

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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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EASTER LEGENDS

By NORVELL GILLESPIE

There are many legends connected with Easter, and in some of them flowers and plant materials have played a role.

The history of the Passion flower as a religious symbol dates from the year 1610, when a Mexican friar brought a drawing of the flower to Jacomo Bosio, who was preparing a monument.

The bud of the flower was interpreted as a symbol of the Eucharist. The half open flower was the Star of the East followed by the Wise Men. The ten sepals symbolized the ten apostles present at the Crucifixion. The corona represented the crown of thorns. The five stamens were the symbol of the five wounds. The three central styles with their stigmas suggested the three nails used to fasten Jesus to the cross. The long coiling tendrils represented the strands of the scourge used to beat Jesus.

The Passion flower is not mentioned in the Bible. Of the three hundred species, most are native to tropical America, though several were discovered in Asia and one in Madagascar.

And, at this time of year, the story of the dogwood is worth telling again.

It is said that centuries ago the stately dogwood tree proudly stretched its limbs toward heaven in praise and supplication. Then came the Crucifixion and the cross which bore the body of Christ was fashioned from the proud and mighty dogwood.

Then the tree's humility was so great that it grew twisted in agony and gnarled with disgrace. Its true grain was stained by His blood, forever to remain a living symbol of His pain and suffering.

But the miracle occurred on Easter morning and the dogwood tree caught the radiance of New Life and Re-awakened Hope, and burst forth in a shimmering array of beautiful white splendor.

And, emphasizing its part in the Crucifixion, the blooms consisted of four pure white petals which formed a cross, with each edge marked with brown nail prints. A crown of thorns, such as He wore, formed the center of each blossom.

For almost two thousand years, the stately white dogwood has been a vivid reminder of the precious gift He gave on Calvary and of His promises which were fulfilled on that first Easter morning.

DO YOU KNOW?

That the first figure shown on a fertilizer formula is nitrogen content, the second phosphoric acid, and the third potash, thus a 10-10-5 is indicative of the amount of each plant food contained in the fertilizer.

Nitrogen forms a part of all proteins. Protein makes up the bulk of the protoplasm which is the living matter. Nitrogen is an essential constituent of chlorophyll (the green coloring bodies in leaves and stems). Chlorophyll is essential for the manufacture of sugars. Nitrogen is also a constituent of amino acids, alkaloids, and aromatic compounds within the plant. Actually, nitrogen is responsible for vegetable growth, size of foliage, and color in flowers.

Phosphorus is an essential constituent of the proteins. It occurs abundantly in the nucleus (seed) and to a less extent in the cytoplasm (body cells). It is an essential to cell division. Phosphorus is associated with reproduction. Seeds are rich in phosphorus. It is helpful in root development and in balancing nitrogen. Excessive amounts of phosphorus make iron unavailable and cause chlorosis, the yellowing of foliage.

Potassium (Potash) is an essential element.
(Continued on Page 87)

COVER PICTURE

Rhizomatous Begonia 'Beatrice Hadrell' — a Merry hybrid.

— Photo by P. I. Merry

Companion Plants to Begonias

By RUTH PEIRCE MERRY
Needham, Massachusetts

Although there is a wide variety in leaf form and manner of growth in begonias, it is a good plan not to be too hide-bound and to vary the collection with plants of other genera.

For background value, the diffenbachias, with their large leaves of different patterns of green and cream, are most interesting. The variety 'Exotica' is especially striking and makes a fine focal point for grouping.

The dracaenas, with their stiff, simple leaves of varying widths and color combinations, are easy to grow and give a good effect with other plants. *D. marginata*, a special favorite, has narrow green leaves margined with maroon; *D. deremensis warneckeii* has blue-green leaves striped with cream.

Of the many marantas, the variety *M. leuconeura massangeana* is the most striking although the hardest to grow. It enjoys a combination of sphagnum and peat moss, and can be grown much larger in such a mix than in ordinary potting soil. The related *Ctenanthe oppen-*

heimiana tricolor, with leaves of striped green, cream, and rose, is not seen so often, but is well worth growing. It likes the same potting mixture.

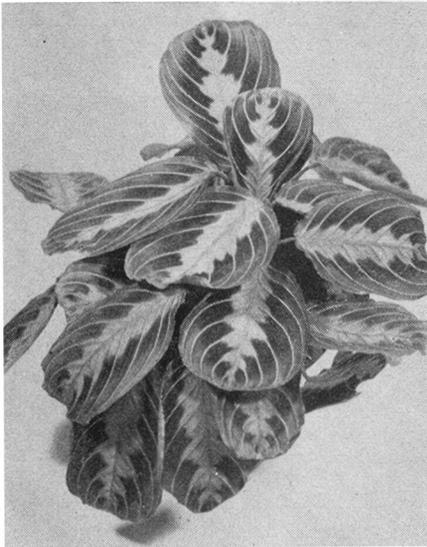
The "lowly" philodendron family (an adjective applicable only to *P. oxycardium* or *cordatum*) has many interesting members. *P. verrucosum*, its emerald green velvety leaves marked with paler lines and sunken veins, is probably the most beautiful but also the hardest to grow. It definitely prefers greenhouse conditions but will struggle along fairly well for a while in the house.

The huge *P. sagittatum* is just the thing for a corner and looks more like a large rhubarb plant than anything else. The leaf-stems arising from the base are just as large as rhubarb, and the leaves, sagittate (like an arrowhead) in form, grow extremely large. It has to be grown in a large tub and is fun to have.

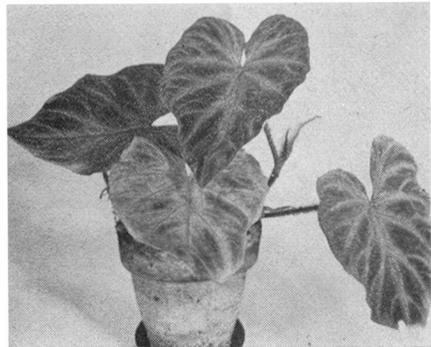
P. squamiferum is fairly easy to grow and is a good filler. The trailing *P. micans* (Velvet Queen) makes a stunning hanging plant when well grown.

In addition to the common *Aglaonema commutatum* (Chinese evergreen), there are several varieties that provide interesting foliage and flowers, that do well without special care.

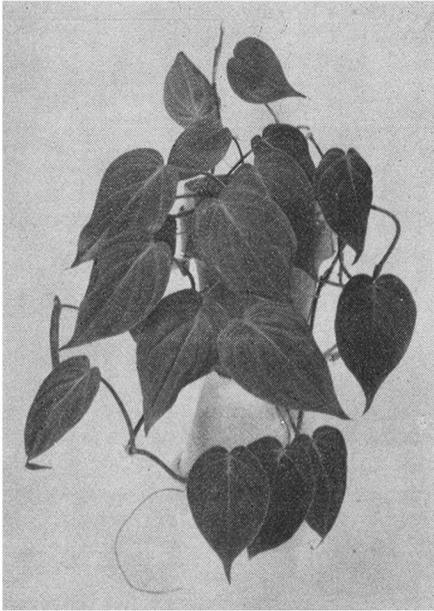
For vines, *Scindapsus aureus* (commonly called Pothos) is a quick-growing plant; and *Hoya carnososa* and *variegata*,



Maranta leuconeura massangeana



Philodendron verrucosum



Philodendron micans

while slower growing, are most decorative, especially in bloom, when trained along a suspended wire or across windows. Although the flowers are simply beautiful and are most tempting to the flower arranger, all future blossoms are sacrificed if they are picked, since the cymes spring from the same spur, which must not be destroyed.

All of these plants, and many more from subtropical areas, are constantly being tested for their ability to flourish in our New England conditions, and to live happily with begonias.

Among those, "Mrs. Fred Scripps," *luxurians*, *venosa*, *scharffi*, *hispida cucullifera*, and 'Thurstoni' are grown for height. The red-veined *nelumbifolia*, 'Beatrice Haddrell,' and 'Ricinifolia' are grown for breadth. There are also many small begonias that are very popular. One variety that is proving most interesting and that will eventually reach a large size is 'San Miguel,' an offspring of *venosa* and probably *scharffi*. It is a fast grower and fascinating to observe.

Begonias, ferns, ivies, and a collection of subtropical plants will form a varied and decorative unit for the sun porch or plant room.

THE JAPANESE GARDEN

Contrary to popular beliefs, a Japanese garden cannot be created out of rocks and dwarfed plants with the mere interjection of stone lanterns.

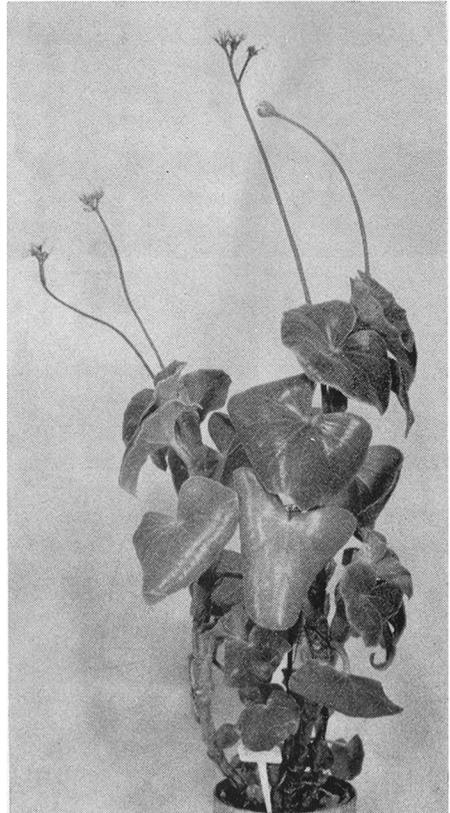
Neither is it "a quaint, thinking medley of little arched bridges, crap ponds, paper lanterns, oddly pruned trees, bamboo blinds, and perhaps a dainty geisha."

It is instead a work of art — a unified and harmonious composition — which is "naturalistic in concept but subjective in spirit."

In Japanese, life man and nature are one. There is no inherent division between habitations and gardens.

The Japanese use natural elements such as rocks, evergreens, and water to relate man to the timelessness of nature.

—From *California Garden*



B. venosa, grown from seed from Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Photo by P. I. Merry

BEGONIA BASICS

By BERNICE BRILMAYER
West Redding, Connecticut



FERTILIZING

Feeding begonias should be one of the least of our problems. So much has been learned about fertilizers, and there are so many excellent and inexpensive products available, the selection is mostly a matter of personal preference and convenience.

The problem arises when we expect a fertilizer to work magic — to accomplish miracles on its own, rather than as one part of an all 'round program of good culture. If begonias don't get enough light and sunlight, for example, fertilizer won't make them flower. If they're growing too hot and dry, fertilizer can't make the leaves stay crisp and fresh. If the soil is too hard or too light, fertilizer won't correct the condition.

I recall a conversation with a member of one of our Branches. I heard about the beautiful begonias another member was growing — and how everyone was "green with envy" because she had "inside information" about the use of sheep manure. Granted, sheep manure is fine food for many plants. But I think the real difference here was that this fortunate grower possessed a greenhouse, and the others didn't.

One other caution: The fact that any fertilizer gets good results for one person does not prove that it will work as well for you. There may be differences in the potting soil, or in the type of plant, or cultural conditions like water supply. Basically, you simply need to make sure your plants get the proper balance of food elements they need for healthy growth and flowering — and sometimes you need to experiment with various feeding programs until you find just the thing for your plants, and your growing conditions.

There is a wide variety of soluble fertilizers, with balanced nutrients, both organic and chemical. These mix readily

with water, and are applied when you water the plants. Or you can water with manure "tea," made by soaking a bag of well-rotted or dehydrated manure in water, and diluting the solution until it is the color of weak tea. The elements of soluble fertilizers are quickly available for use by the plants.

For the quantity of fertilizer and frequency of application, follow the directions on the package — or feed half the recommended quantity twice as often. Half-strength solutions of packaged soluble fertilizers can also be used for foliar feeding. Sprayed on the leaves, they are ingested through the pores and provide quick nourishment.

Bone meal mixed with potting soil will slowly release food over a long period of time. Superphosphate is used similarly, to encourage flowering. Humus, like leaf mold and manure, supplies some nourishment. Or you can mix in recommended quantities of balanced or complete commercial fertilizer; or sprinkle a small quantity on top of the soil, and scratch and water it in. These chemical fertilizers are most desirable when the package analysis carries a note like "minor elements" or "trace elements added."

When to fertilize is much more critical than how. It is a mistake to use fertilizer as a "pick-me-up" for plants that are resting or just "not doing very well." Like children, plants need supplemental feeding only when they are growing actively, as most of them are doing now, in spring — not when they are ailing, or resting after a period of rapid growth or bloom, and certainly not when they are dormant, as many begonias are in the dark days of winter. Since they are not growing actively, they simply can't use the food.

Here are the fertilizing "do's and don'ts." Don't feed begonias when they are weak or suffering from insect or

disease, or resting or dormant or finished flowering, or for some time after they have been potted in fresh soil, or when the soil is dry. Don't expect fertilizer to compensate for other cultural needs, like proper light and temperature. And don't believe that any fertilizer is the only one, or even the best one for all kinds of plants in all kinds of growing conditions.

But do fertilize begonias when they are growing vigorously, or preparing to set buds and flower, or when the pots are filled with roots. Do read the directions on the package, and follow them to the letter. And do read the list of ingredients. If necessary, check them against some good horticultural reference book, to make sure they include all the elements of plant food that could be derived from a perfect soil.

Actually, there's more danger in too much fertilizer than in too little. Underfed plants may grow slowly; but overfeeding can also cause poor growth, sparse flowers, and even slow death.

THE MAIL BOX

Mrs. Wally Kroeger of Norwalk, Wisconsin, has written a most welcome letter about her experiences in growing the Mother Goose series of double-flowering *semperflorens* begonias. "My first year was tragic — so I spent time in the library trying to find out what I was doing wrong. Since I couldn't find anything on begonias, I joined the American Begonia Society, and looked forward to every issue of the *Begonian*.

"I was doing well in a north window that is very large and has no obstruction outside to keep out light — and having them in a frame with plastic all around, to keep them moist. Then I read that they needed sun, and into the sun they all moved. I didn't think that light is determined in part by latitude and season. In one article I read, for example, that an unshaded north window is all right south of Washington, D. C. through the entire year — but inadequate in Maine during winter months. After that, I left them in the north window; and they are beauties."

This is what makes it difficult to write specifically about growing begonias or

any other plants. Conditions vary in so many ways. It's refreshing to know of a grower who was interested enough to hunt for helpful information, and to use it intelligently.

From Mrs. Leslie S. Daly, Coventry, Rhode Island — "I'm glad that you are telling people to give begonias more sun. Last summer we had our most beautiful rexes where they received full, hot afternoon sun (out of doors). Not one burned; and the colors were richer than those that had only a little morning sun. Of course, these were set out early in the spring and became accustomed to the sun as they grew — which is different from being grown in shade and then moved into bright sun. They all do better with all the sun I can give them, here."

I might add that I'm still fighting the battle of shade *versus* sun for summer-flowering tuberous begonias. In Connecticut, our cottage has a north-facing wall that is not shaded in any way by trees or shrubs, or another house. It seemed to me that this would be an ideal location for a bed of these garden begonias. But they grew tall, weak, and straggly, with few flowers — and many rotted. A friend who has lived there longer than I now sets her tuberous begonias into a sunken bed in her patio, where they get sun all day long, and even heat reflected from the paving and white house wall. They grow compact and healthy, and bloom their head off. Full sun for mine, from now on!

Help! Find The Elephant Ear

What was the "elephant ear begonia" so popular in grandmother's day? Was it a begonia? Or was it an elephant-eared plant with begonia habits?

We know this much: It has very large, smooth green leaves, asymmetrical (lopsided) in shape. That description lets out two old-timers, *B. scharffi* and 'Ricini-folia.' What could it be?

To the writer of the first letter that leads us to the correct identification of this plant, we will send small plants of a choice of either a colorful, named rex begonia, or *B. kenworthyi*. Write to Bernice Brilmayer, West Redding, Conn.



Prize-winning display by American Begonia Society

WORLD FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Garden clubs and amateur arrangers of Southern California scored outstanding successes with the hundreds of thousands who attended the World Flower and Garden Show at Pan-Pacific Auditorium, in Los Angeles, California.

The amazing "know how" of Southern California's garden club groups and amateur garden hobbyists was displayed in scores of exhibits that drew "ooohs" and "aaahs" from admiring throngs.

Taken as a whole, the exhibit was an outstanding success, both from an artistic and a commercial standpoint. Under direction of Harry Macres, veteran commercial florist and flower showman, a wonderland of riotous color and eye-popping beauty mushroomed under the Pan-Pacific roof before the show opened February 24.

An estimated 250,000 persons crowded the aisles before the international displays during the ten-day show.

A.B.S. EXHIBIT WINS AWARDS

The American Begonia Society's exhibit in the first annual World Flower and Garden Show at Pan-Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, was awarded first place among amateur gardens. It was an exhibit featuring shade plants, using other plant material and accessories for effect. With the first award was a premium of \$200.00.

The display also received a trophy for horticultural merit and a large rosette for excellent design and application for use in a back yard.

The exhibit was made possible through the efforts of Bert Slatter, show chairman, assisted by Jean Kerlin, Grace Yerick, and Terry Olmstead.

The Flower and Garden Show was the largest held this year in the country, and broke all records for garden show attendance on the Pacific Coast.

BEGONIA 'ERICI MAGNI'

By DR. G. M. MOREL
Versailles, France

Begonia 'Erici magni' was originated by Bertil Lindquist, Botanic Gardens, Gothenburg, Sweden. First published 1955, *Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift* 49, 1-2-1955. A.B.S. #147.

One of the most striking begonias that I know is *B. crispula*. The deeply crisped grey-green foliage makes it different from all others. A good picture of it was published in THE BEGONIAN, Vol. XXV, number 1 (cover picture). Native of Brazil, it was described ten years ago by Brade.

I have grown this plant for several years. It is beautiful, but I found it difficult to keep it in good shape. The succulent leaves rot very easily, and it is a good precaution to get young plants every year from seeds or leaf cuttings. Seeds are obtained only after hand pollination. They germinate readily and produce nice plants quickly.

Since I first received it, I have tried to cross it with other species, but always without success. So I was very thrilled to hear that Dr. Bertil Lindquist, at the Botanic Gardens of Gothenburg, Sweden, was successful in crossing it with another beautiful species from Sumatra, *B. goegoensis*. The latter species, much larger,

is truly a magnificent plant and it is easy to grow.

The big peltate leaves, almost circular, are very decorative. The full green, almost crystalline veins make an interesting retrulate pattern on a background that is reddish, almost iridescent, in artificial light.

The hybrid, named *B. 'Erici magni'* by Dr. Lindquist, is pictured (page 82-83) between a leaf of each of the two parents. It was registered in 1958 by the American Begonia Society under no. 147 (THE BEGONIAN, Vol. XXV, page 206).

The stem has a tendency to become erect and is much longer than in the parent species. The whole plant is not so compact, the leaves being more spaced. They are reniform like the leaves of *B. crispula*, just a little bit more circular and not peltate, like those of *B. goegoensis*. The lamina is very different in texture and color, slightly bullate and not deeply cristate, and bronzy green instead of grey-green as in *B. crispula*. The flowers are intermediate, as big as those of *B. goegoensis* and of deeper color.

This is really a plant for the collector of rare species. I found great interest in growing it between its two parents.

A BOUQUET FOR GLENDALE

Besides the great satisfaction of meeting together in the ever fascinating study of begonias and their companion plants, many Branch members accrue additional enjoyment by growing plants from surplus cuttings and donating the plants to their Branch plant sale.

There seems a never ending endeavor to express good-will to others by A.B.S. members, even outside of their own Branch activities. One of the most outstanding of such endeavors has come to the notice of your Editor, by members of the Glendale, California Branch.

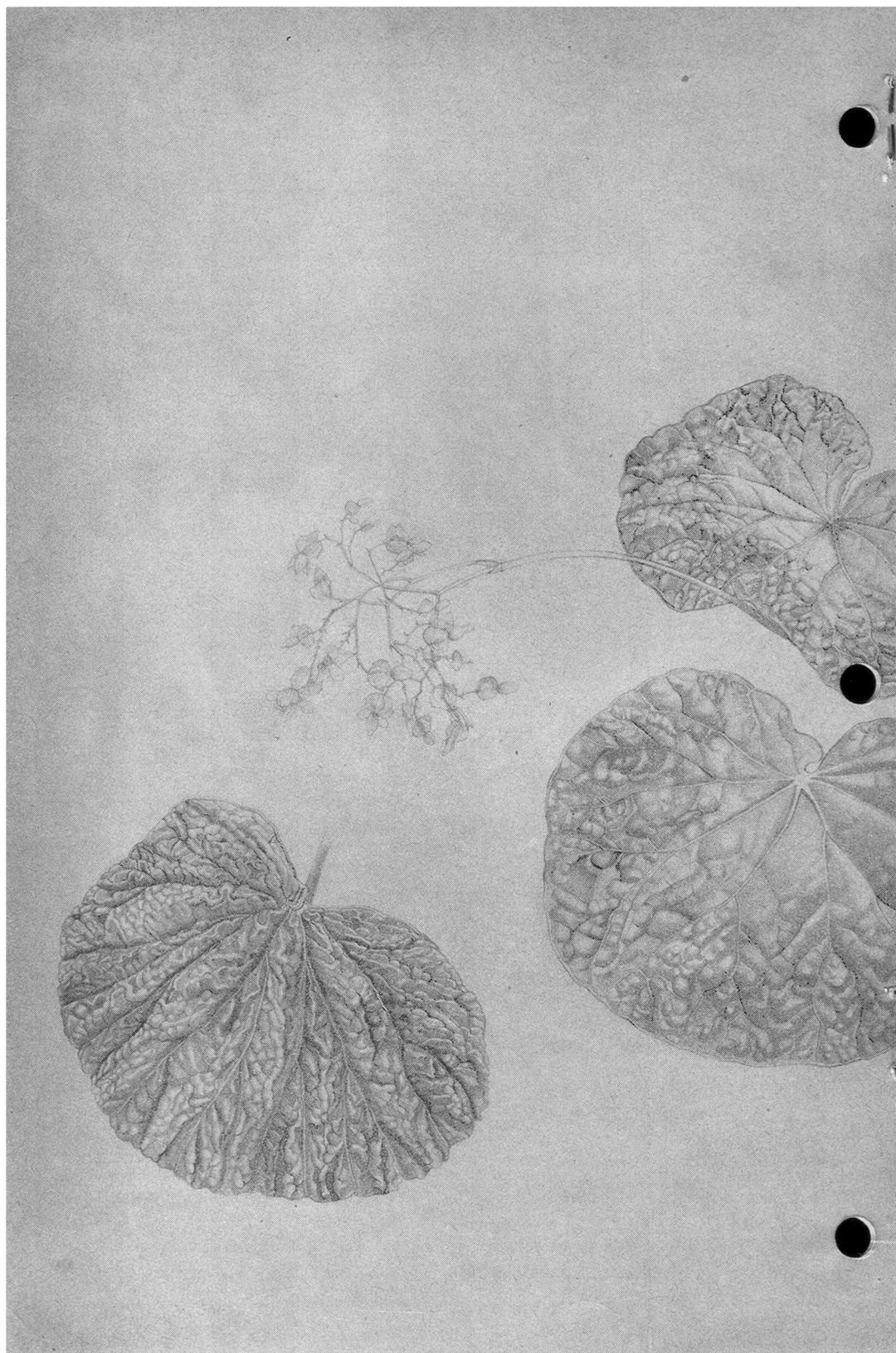
During the Christmas season a few

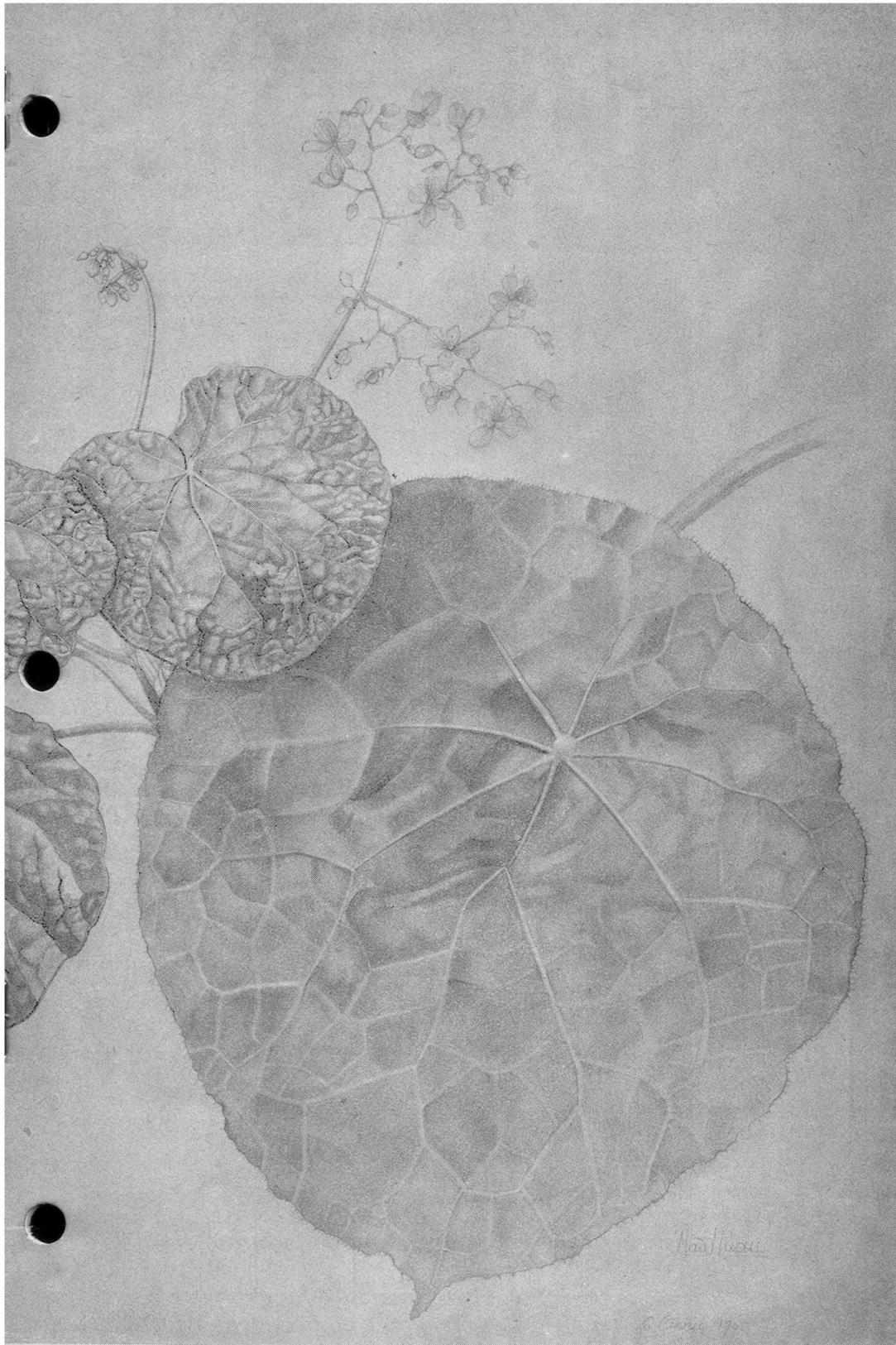
years ago a Christmas stocking was passed around to the members for contributions to a very worthwhile cause — for a non-profit organization devoted to giving blind children as normal an existence as the organization's limited means would permit.

The Los Angeles organization has grown by leaps and bounds and instead of donating money, the Glendale Branch formed a committee to address envelopes, stuffing and sealing and stamping them to be used for mailing solicitations for financing their pet program.

Under the able chairmanship of Mil-

(Continued on Page 87)





Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight



B. masoniana

Photo by Bernice Brillmayer

No. 1—*B. masoniana*—

Syn. *B. 'Iron Cross.'* One of the most beautiful begonias in cultivation. White-hairy, reddish stems and large, roundish, firm, puckered leaves, Nile green, marked with contrasting bold pattern of brown-red in the form of a cross. Older leaves are overlaid with silver, and covered bristly red and red-ciliate. Waxy flowers are greenish white with maroon bristles on the back. \$1.00 per pkt.

Comment: Seeds of *B. masoniana* are slow to germinate. However, no special care is required. Allow four to six weeks, although they have been known to require more time, especially if some form of heat is not provided. Seeds are fresh, hand pollinated, and come to us from a grower in Israel who says that almost every seed will produce a plant. Therefore, the Seed Fund cannot make adjustments or refunds. Success of germination depends entirely on the grower. Supply is limited.

No. 2—*B. vellozoana*-Brade—

Brazil. Herbaceous, eight to twelve inches tall; stems short, oblique, up to

5½ inches tall; broadly ovate-suborbicular, cordate, with a closed basal sinus, palmately eight-nerved, four to five inches long, five to seven inches broad, hispid-pilos on both surfaces; with small frimbiolate scales on the nerves beneath, green above, with a whitish zone on the veins, paler below and occasionally reddish. Flowers are whitish, sometimes the outer rosy. Beautiful and popular begonia that should be in every collection. Supply is limited. (Description from the University of California Department of Botany, Los Angeles, California, courtesy of Dr. Mildred Mathias.) \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. 'Charm'*—

Semperflorens cultorum. Bright yellow and green spotted, speckled leaves. Pink blossoms at all seasons. Easy to grow and highly recommended. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. 'New Hampshire'*—

A mutant of *B. 'Semperflorens-cultorum.'* Tall. Green leaves, spotted with yellow. Flowers pale pink. (Sometimes erroneously call *B. lepidota.*) 50 cents per pkt.

While generally accepted as the most striking and outstanding of all the wax begonias, the temperamental 'Calla lily' is often a challenge to the most experienced grower. The two varieties offered here are considered quite hardy and even an amateur can grow them without difficulty.

No. 5—*B. heracleifolia nigricans*—

Mexico. Medium; rhizomes procumbent, thick; leaves long-petioled, to a foot across, handsomely variegated with bright black-green, seven to nine finger-like lobes, taffeta-like in appearance. White flowers on tall panicles. Handsome foliage begonia, also favored for its flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. 'Organdy'*—

F₁ hybrid originated by Benary, Hann, West Germany, in 1945. Dwarf, compact habit of growth, approximately eight inches high. Foliage is green, and from

a single package of seeds you may have at least five different colors of blooms, but not all on the same plant. They come in shades of pink, rose, salmon, red, and white. Plants are free blooming, weather resistant, and make outstanding bedding plants. However, some protection from hot sun should be provided. Granted honorable mention and a special award by the American Begonia Society. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7—B. sachen and B. preussen, mixed—

Not enough to offer separately. *B. preussen* attains a height of two feet or more. Stems erect, branched and smooth; leaves ovate-pointed, toothed, olive green, faintly silver-spotted when young. Flowers large, pink, numerous. Blooms almost constantly. *B. sachen* is low, more spreading than the preceding. Leaves bronzy olive green and notably darker than *B. preussen*. Flowers bright red. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8—B. 'Tuberhybrida'—

Camellia type, red. Still ample time to grow for summer blooms. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9—B. 'Sparkler'—

Semperflorens. Large flowers of brilliant orange-salmon, with each petal base contrasting creamy white. Only true salmon colored begonia. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10—B. 'Rose Wonder'—

F₁ Hybrid. New, extra dwarf and free flowering semperflorens. Rich, rose-pink in color. Heat resistant. 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Special Seed—

We are taking advance orders for seed of Anthurium now. Due to the fact that Anthurium seeds are very fragile and must be mailed and planted quickly, it is essential for your request to reach us as soon as possible. We will have several different types and colors, including *A. andreanum*, *A. forgetti*, and *A. crystallinum*. However, it is difficult to know all the varieties that will be available, as sometimes seeds do not set on a particular plant although they have been artificially pollinated. We expect seed in late April and May, and will send them out via air mail promptly. Six seeds for 50

cents. Please do not request less than six.

Saintpaulia—

Gesneriaceae. Fancy leaf crosses. 'Girl' types, frilled and ruffled foliage from the softest lettuce-green to dark patent leather. Single and double flowers in various colors. 50 cents per pkt.

Saintpaulia—

Gesneriaceae. Crosses from S. 'Summer's Dream.' 50 cents per pkt.

Episcia—

Gesneriaceae. Canal Zone hybrids. New supply contains many beautiful hybrids. 50 cents per pkt.

Episcia—

'Chocolate Soldier.' Very dark chocolate leaf with narrow silver midrib. Red flowers. 50 cents per pkt.

Episcias are grown for their multi-colored leaves and graceful, trailing habit, accentuated by the many runners and plantlets that develop on the parent plants. Useful and beautiful hanging basket plants.

Smithiantha hybrida compacta—

Gesneriaceae. Plants are quite compact, but the leaves have indescribably beautiful purple and green patterns and veining. Flowers vary from cream, pink, orange, and red. 35 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus kewensis—

Gesneriaceae. Compact plant having rosettes of narrow, dark green leaves and pale pink flowers with maroon stripes in throat. 25 cents per pkt.

Tetranema mexicana—

'Mexican foxglove.' Miniature plant with everblooming clusters of rosy violet, dainty blossoms over glossy, leathery, green leaves. 25 cents per pkt.

Crossandra undulaefolia—

Popular plant, with glossy, laurel-shaped leaves, topped by ever-blooming spikes of close-set salmon flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

Sinningia eumorpha—

Brazil. Gesneriaceae. A pretty, free-blooming species with large, glossy, thin, lightly downy leaves of bronzy green, and numerous milky white flowers like nodding bells lined with lilac and yellow in the throat. 25 cents per pkt.

Gloxinia—

'Slipper' type mixed. 25 cents per pkt.

Aeschynanthus lobbianus—

Gesneriaceae. Java. Epiphytic trailer with small, elliptic, fleshy, dark green leaves. Tubular two-lipped flowers with hairy calyx cup soot-red, glistening like silk, the downy corolla fiery red, creamy yellow in the throat, and only twice as long as the calyx. 25 cents per pkt.

Dryopteris erythrosora—

Mainly woodland ferns of upright habit. Rhizomes stout, short-creeping, erect, and copiously chaffy. Fronds borne in a crown; fertile and sterile blades usually alike (except in *D. cristata*), one to three pinnae glabrous or glandular or variously pubescent, conspicuously chaffy only in a few species. 25 cents per pkt.

Polypodium meyenianum—

'Bear's paw fern.' Distinctive epiphyte with thick, paw-like rhizome covered thickly with brown hair. The long pinnate, glossy fronds have broad, barren segments on the lower part, while the upper third bears narrow, fertile pinnae with prominent sori on their pearly margins. 25 cents per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Solanum pseudo-capiscum—

Madeira. 'Jerusalem cherry.' Robust, shrubby plant with flexible branches dense with lanceolate, pubescent, soft, deep green leaves, wavy at the margins and pubescent beneath. Small, white, star-like flowers, followed by large, globular, lustrous orange-scarlet, sherry-like fruit. Grown as a pot plant at Christmas. 25 cents per pkt.

Arthropodium—

New Zealand rock lily. 25 cents per pkt.

Metrosideros villosa—

New Zealand. Very hard-wooded tree of the family Myrtaceae. Chiefly opposite leaves and showy red flowers in terminal cluster. Calyx more or less turban-shaped. Stamens many, long protruding, and most conspicuous. Greenhouse culture in cold climates. 25 cents per pkt.

Cymbalaria muralis—

'Kenilworth ivy.' Creeping vine easily rooted at the joints. Leaves generally alternate, roundish or kidney-shaped, more or less shallowly three to seven angles and lobed. Flowers small, lilac-blue in upper part of corolla, yellowish inside. Popular, widely grown plant for hanging baskets or small trellises. 25 cents per pkt.

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

Begonias Slanted Toward The Beginner

By Dorothy S. Behrends
Published by Wildcrafters

A complete handbook on propagation, culture, pronunciation, and new begonia descriptions. Well illustrated.

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Buxton Check List of Begonias

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MRS. LUCY A. SAULT, *Librarian*
26938 DAPPLEGRAY LANE
ROLLING HILLS, CALIF.

LEAVES DELETED

"Leaves From Our Begonia Branches" will no longer be a regular feature of THE BEGONIAN. While the primary reason for this change is to reduce costs of publication, the change should be an improvement. We hope your interests will focus on future plans, instead of taking satisfaction in past accomplishments.

Let members know what you are going to do — next month's program, a future project, a show you are planning. That is what will interest new members and prospective members. The "Coming Events" column is yours for that purpose.

However, we should not overlook the past entirely. If you have an event of outstanding interest, a show entered, prizes won — anything that the entire membership should know about — then your story about it will be welcome.

—THE EDITOR

BOUQUET . . .

(Continued from Page 81)

dred Radcliff and her commere of Bernice Gunther, Elsie and Roy Joyce, Lucille Brunner, and Annetta and Elmer Lorenz, and many others, they addressed the stupendous total of 15,000 envelopes, stuffing and sealing them, as the Glendale Branch gift to The Foundation for the Junior Blind.

Such an outstanding achievement is to be highly commended and your Editor passes along this bouquet to this most unselfish group.

Palos Verdes

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Farm**

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WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

In response to many suggestions regarding a question and answer department, we have decided to try such a column for the benefit of all members, but *particularly* the new members.

The Inglewood Branch organized a study group some years ago and they continue to meet once a month, with Bert Slatter as chairman. They are all good begonia growers and have gained much information by working together. This knowledge should be on record for the benefit of our new members, as well as older members. Many times I find myself referring back to something I have read in THE BEGONIAN, such as a favorite potting mix for begonias.

Both questions and answers will be published. If you have problems send them to: The Inglewood Study Group, Mr. Bert Slatter, Chairman, 4600 Sixth Avenue, Los Angeles 43, California.

Mrs. Edna L. Korts, *President*,
American Begonia Society

DO YOU KNOW . . .

(Continued from Page 75)

ment whose role in plant growth is a bit hazy. It is not known to form any organic compounds in the plant. It is essential to cell division and is probably important in many chemical transformations. As in the syntheses (the art of making or building up of compounds) it is also associated with root growth. It tends to strengthen stems, extends root activity, and plays a part in resistance to diseases. Potassium also helps to make plants bloom, improves texture and keeping quality of flowers.

—Bert Slatter

THE LENTEN ROSE

The Lenten rose is not a rose, nor is it even remotely related to the rose. It is a hellebore, a member of the buttercup family. Its correct name is *Helleborus orientalis*. Its flowers vary from purple to rose, pink, and white.

VIOLET SHOW IN INGLEWOOD

"Hearts and Flowers" is the theme for the eighth annual African Violet Show which opens to the public on April 28 and 29 at the Professional Women's Clubhouse, 820 Java Street, one block east of South LaBrea near Arbor Vitae Street, in Inglewood, California. The event will be sponsored by the African Violet Society of Inglewood.

Emphasizing the theme of the show will be a large heart, seven feet high and six feet wide, made of pink net and bordered with more than 400 deep purple violets. This heart will be suspended from the ceiling of the stage at one end of the auditorium against a green curtain back-drop, to which will be attached six eighteen-inch hearts of pink styro-foam adorned with glitter.

A large heart will stand on each display table. Heart-shaped plant labels will identify each plant exhibited.

Awards include Sweepstakes, Queen of the Show, Princess of the Show, Council Award, and Novice Award. These trophies and trophy-winning plants will be exhibited on a special table, the "Court of Honor."

New varieties of African violets, on display for the first time, will be featured.

Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel, commercial grower of La Verne, California, will show many of her blooming African violets and will answer questions on their culture.

Choice plants and hard-to-find varieties of African violets will be on sale.

A snack bar will offer a selection of home-made refreshments.

The show will be open Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission will be 25 cents.

NEW ADDRESS FOR LIBRARIAN

This is the new address for the A.B.S. Librarian: Mrs. Lucy A. Sault, 58 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills Estate, California. It's still the same location.

CALENDAR

April 6—Westchester Branch. Dorothy Behrends, begonia authority, will speak on "Begonias Slanted Toward Beginners." Mrs. Behrends will furnish our plant table.

April 8-9—Spring Flower Show: "Blossom Time Houston," at Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive, Houston, Texas. Open Saturday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission \$1.00 for adults; 25 cents for children.

April 13—Orange County Branch. E. Beauforte will speak on "Begonias and Shade Gardens."

April 19—Hollywood Branch. Joe Littlefield, writer and lecturer, will be the guest speaker and will give "Spring Garden Tips."

April 26—Glendale Branch. "Beauty Is Where You Find It," by Mrs. Jessie Gale. The Glendale Branch is honored to have one of our past presidents as our guest speaker. Mrs. Jessie Gale was one of the organizers of the Glendale Branch and the second president. She is a charter member of Glendale, almost a charter member of the A.B.S. as your old BEGONIANS will tell you. Col. C. M. Gale and Mrs. Gale had the pleasure of taking a leisurely trip to the Far East recently, and will share this trip with us via slides and lecture. We are sure you will enjoy Mrs. Gale's program.

April 28-29—African Violet Show, Professional Women's Clubhouse, 820 Java Street, Inglewood, California.

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.

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN ADVERTISERS

MINUTES OF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:42 p.m. February 27, 1961, by President Edna L. Korts.

Twenty-one officers, chairmen and representatives responded to roll call.

President Korts reported attending the Camellia show and the World Flower and Garden Show. President-Elect George Schlanert reported attending the Westchester and Orange County Branches.

As Advertising Manager, Mr. Schlanert re-mitted \$97.78 to the Treasurer.

Past President Clarence Hall brought up the matter of the proposed ad in *Flower and Garden* magazine. The cost would be \$31.90 for one month, \$153.12 for six months. The same ad in *Flower Grower* magazine costs \$83.16 for six months. Although circulation is greater for *Flower and Garden*, it was Mr. Hall's opinion that the cost is too great at this time, and a final decision was tabled.

Mr. Hall discussed the matter of finances. A raise in dues to \$3.00 a year seems acceptable to most Branches. Bi-monthly publication of THE BEGONIAN is not an acceptable suggestion. The Editor, Tru Peterson, suggested that four pages could be deleted from the magazine at a saving of \$55.00 per month, without reducing essential contents. The feature, "Leaves From Our Begonia Branches," could be dropped and other material condensed. Mr. Hall recommended that this be tried. After some discussion regarding the value of reporting past events against coming events, Mr. Hall made the motion: That four pages, including "Leaves From Our Begonia Branches," be removed until such time as the Society is financially able to resume the feature. Motion was seconded by Joe Ogden and carried.

Mr. Hall read a letter from the San Francisco group regretting the inadvisability of hosting the convention. Consequently, the Begonia Show and Convention will again be held in Southern California. George Schlanert will be convention chairman. Mrs. Edna Korts will be chairman of the plant sale booth.

Vice-President A. Roy Joyce announced that the judging school would resume on March 3, with William Meyn giving a lecture on fuchsias.

Treasurer Leona Cooper gave her report, which was filed for audit.

Membership Secretary Doratha Waddington gave the following report: new members 60, renewals 135, receipts \$502.75, expenses \$42.93. Lists of delinquent members have been sent to the Branches. Mrs. Brilmayer's book is proving a good source for memberships. The number of BEGONIANS printed has been cut by 200 for the March issue.

Seed Fund Chairman Florence Gee not being present, her report was read by Leona Cooper: expenses \$28.27, \$90.00 remitted to the Treasurer, revolving fund \$100.00. Mrs. Gee has received a number of letters as the result of the ad in *Flower Grower* magazine. She requested an exchange of THE BEGONIAN to THE GLOXINIAN, and this request was approved. It was agreed that 100 BEGONIANS be given to Mrs. Gee to use when seed lists are requested, to save additional expense of having seed lists printed.

A request was received from the Houston Branch for copies of THE BEGONIAN to be used in their show. Mr. Peterson has extra copies which will be sent. There are also the cultural brochures for this purpose. They may be purchased by the Branches for 7½ cents per copy, to be resold for 15 cents.

Public Relations Director Ethel Arbuckle received a request from E. Weaver of Port Arthur, Texas, to be relieved of that chairmanship. Replies to letters asking for name suggestions have not been received. A letter from the Knickerbocker Branch told of the seventy-foot booth they will have in the New York International Flower Show.

Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, reported on the show which is in progress at the Pan-Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles. The American Begonia Society's exhibit won a first place ribbon with a \$200.00 premium and a trophy for horticultural merit. Most of the work on this exhibit was done by members of the Inglewood Branch.

Report of Mrs. Lucy Sault, Librarian, was as follows: balance \$56.49, receipts \$52.83, expenses \$5.69, new balance \$103.63. Sent to the Treasurer \$6.24 for one Buxton Check List. Mrs. Kelly of Long Beach donated to the library her brother's set of BEGONIANS. They are not to be sold.

Mrs. Alva Graham, Nomenclature Director, reported writing many letters with no replies and consequently no report. She had visited Mr. Ziesenhenné regarding the 'San Miguel' question and planned to see Mrs. Lee. President Korts requested a final report to given at the next Board meeting.

Two Branches have recently requested A.B.S. stationery. It was voted to purchase five reams from Mr. Duffield at a cost of \$25.00. Stationery may be purchased by Branches at cost.

Branches reporting: Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Orange County, Pasadena, Redondo Beach, San Gabriel, Westchester, West Valley, and Whittier.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

MARGARET B. TAYLOR
Secretary

Branch Directory

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

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

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Percy I. Merry, Secy.
109 Brookside Road, Needham, 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
Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy.
5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland 18, 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
Mrs. Isabel Compton, Secy.
2339 Mayberry St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

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. Georgina Barton, Secy.
2821 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. E. H. Claggett, Secy.
4415 Austin St., Houston, 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
395 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Bee Olson, Secy.
13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne, 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.,
Machinists Hall
728 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Bessie Anthony, Secy.
153 Ellis St., Long Beach, 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. R. H. Hyatt, Secy.
6812 Hunter St., Raytown 33, 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. J. Perry Long, Secy.
6532 E. Cedar Ave., Merchantville, 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
Constance D. Bower, Cor. Secy.
2413 — K St., San Diego 2, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Edward Reuter, Secy.
933 Sonoma Way, Sacramento 19, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Mrs. E. R. Bohe, Secy.
3141 N. Mountain View Dr., San Diego 5, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Mrs. Doris Howie, Secy.
1407-42nd Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.,
Los Angeles State & County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Ruth Eppley, Secy.
4858 Willard St., Rosemead, 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.
Mrs. Hilda Gundel, Secy.
1414 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. Ruth Burr, Secy.
8335 Fordham Rd., 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. H. Rowland Timms, Secy.
Willow Lane, Wallingford, Pa.

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