

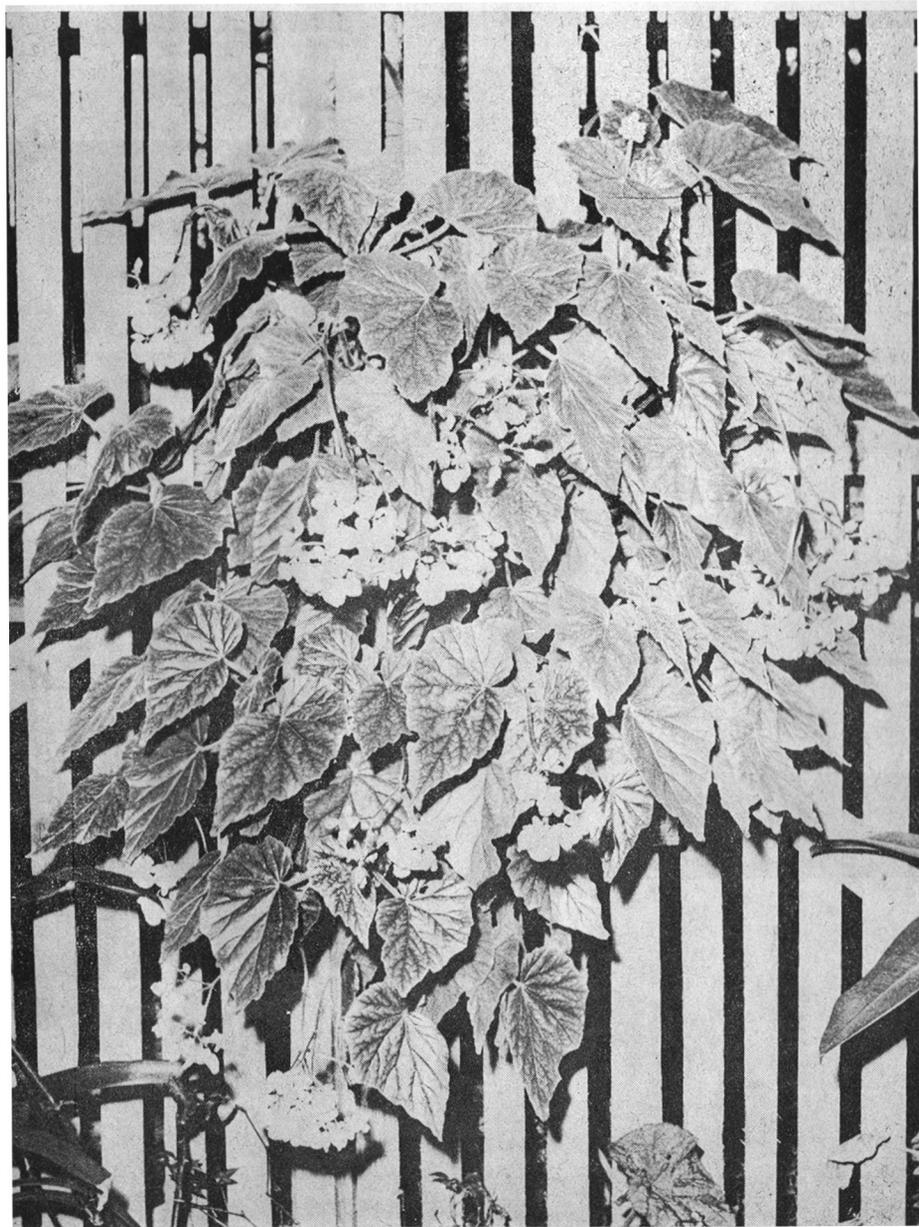
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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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Mrs. Green Thumb's Number One Boy

By ROBERT C. BRILMAYER
West Redding, Connecticut

To begin with, Mrs. Green Thumb, the favorite gardener of this Number One Boy, doesn't particularly care for the descriptive phrase, "green thumb". It's one of those pretty little paths which some poetic soul once laid out through the garden of words; but it's been trampled into a rut by all who take refuge in pat excuses for their inadequacies.

Just walk up to Mama and say, "My! You must have a green thumb!" — and watch her bristle. Depending on the degree of elevated blood pressure, she may change the subject or explain patiently that common sense, good seeds, and intelligent care will turn out anything equal to her best efforts. In other words, she pooh-pooh's the idea that some people are born with a talent for growing plants. She may be right, or she may be overly modest.

Green thumb issue out of the way, the next comment is usually, "I don't see how you do so many things! Where do you find the time?"

She is slightly busy, of course. She manages a household, three children, and her Number One Boy; and writes advertising copy five working days a week; turns out a few magazine articles a month, with illustrations; exhibits in flower shows; and keeps gardening so she can get practical information for her extra-curricular activities. But while she's carefully answering that she can do so many things because her husband helps her, her interrogator has passed on quickly to a problem of mildew, fertilizer, or root rot — and really didn't want an answer, anyhow.

Actually, however, this is where the Number One Boy comes in. He does help. He might even be called indispensable. For example, he can answer any number of unrelated questions: How long does it take to get a package of plants to Azalea, Florida, by airmail special delivery? Did we ever have frost

after May 15? When did we transplant mums last year? Where is the trowel with the blue handle? And where has he been the last half-hour? The last question is best left unanswered — or merely mumbled at.

The successful Number One Boy can do all kinds of chores — spading, shoveling, glazing, building cold frames, pruning. These are basic. If he can't do them, he might as well retreat to an interesting book, golf, or fishing.

It's the extra things, above and beyond the call of duty, that show the true merit of the Number One Boy. To the monthly flower shows, he must transport all kinds of fragile plants. Among these, there is always one specimen with a neck like a giraffe and a tail like a pea-fowl, which must be protectively boxed and carried via Long Island Railroad, subway, and taxi to a swank Manhattan hotel. And the boxed beauty must go safely through the revolving door without losing a bloom or bruising a leaf.

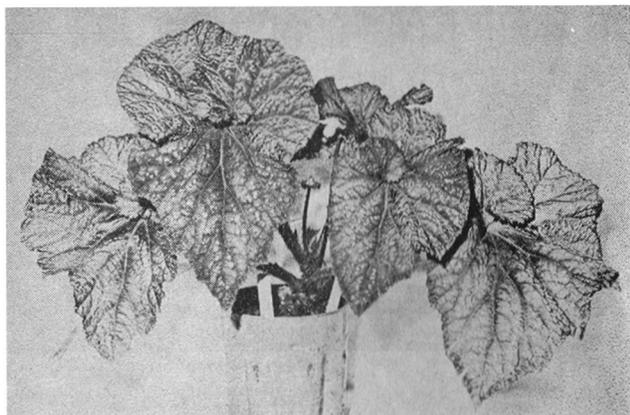
Then, there is The Big Flower Show in the spring. Here's where the Number One Boy shines. One hour before the doors open, the Hall is ringed by a long line of exhibitors from as far away as Bangor, Maine. Our hero and his potted hybrids come late, yet by noon he's all set up and ogling the girl in the daffodil booth. His methods are a well-kept professional secret. His results usually are so deeply appreciated, he's allowed to buy the daffodil girl a container of coffee in his leisure time.

When The Show closes, getting the
(Continued on Page 56)

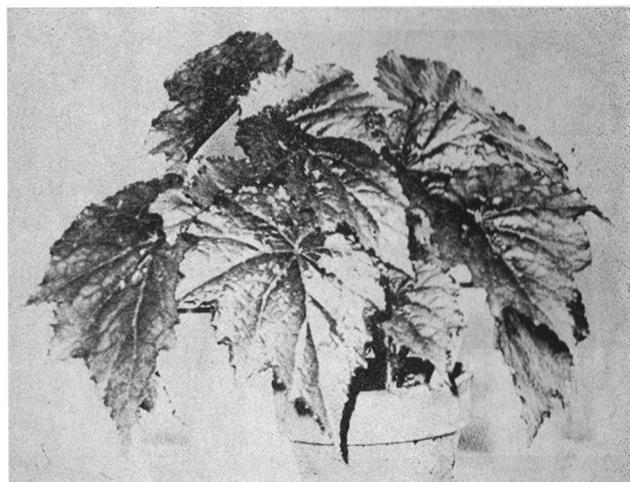
COVER PICTURE

Begonia scharffi, grown by Wynona Jensen of Bellflower, California. See page 45 for description.

— Photo by Dorothy Powell



'BRONZE KING'



'AMERICAN BEAUTY'



'JOE HAYDEN'

BEGONIA FAVORITES

By BERNICE BRILMAYER
Eastern Editor

BEGONIA 'BRONZE KING'

According to begonia history, this magnificent rex variety has been around for more than twenty years; but it still looks as fresh as spring. The large leaves are in varying shades of olive green. When the light is not too bright — but just bright enough — they are suffused with a satiny, bronzy sheen. The spiral at the stem end is pronounced and distinctive.

BEGONIA 'AMERICAN BEAUTY'

This small-leaved rex begonia created such a furor when it was introduced in 1949 it was patented by its originator, the Lewis Begonia Gardens. There's really no other rex quite like it.

'American Beauty' is more upright and branching than procumbent and rhizomatous. The pointed-edged leaves are crisp as taffeta, in several shades of red overcast with metallic silver, with an occasional dark touch for accent. It is one of the easier and more tolerant types for indoor growing.

BEGONIA 'JOE HAYDEN'

Large star leaves of deep green satin-velvet with lustrous highlights on long patios, facing front from a stout, partially ascending rhizome — tall panicles of glowing pink flowers in late winter or early spring — and an eagerness to help create new hybrids by producing pollen or setting seed — all these virtues have made 'Joe Hayden' one of the most popular of the "newer" begonias.

Introduced in 1947, this is one of Rudolf Ziesenhenné's outstanding contributions to our begonia treasury. It's a tolerant and enduring house plant, needing only bright light and some sunlight to keep its foliage shaded richly dark and to throw up its spires of flowers.

BEGONIA SCHARFFI

"Three hairy begonia species were discovered in Brazil, 1886, by Dr. Scharff

accompanied by Mr. Haage of the firm of Haage and Schmidt". So begins the story of this luxuriant begonia by Mrs. Helen K. Krauss in *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens*.

Of the three species, one was quickly named *B. schmidtiana*, and the name has stayed with it. Naming the other two was complicated by the fact that there was also a tuberous hybrid *B. haageana*; so that, actually, they were similarly named *B. scharffi* and *B. scharffiana*.

Begonia scharffi (see cover picture) is a fully branching and bushy plant, seldom more than two feet tall at maturity, with large, soft, silky-fuzzy leaves dull green on top and red underneath. The flowers are fabulous — great branching clusters of pale pink blooms as large as your thumbnail, so heavy the stems can hardly hold them upright. Each flower is decorated on the outside by bristly hairs of dark pink or red.

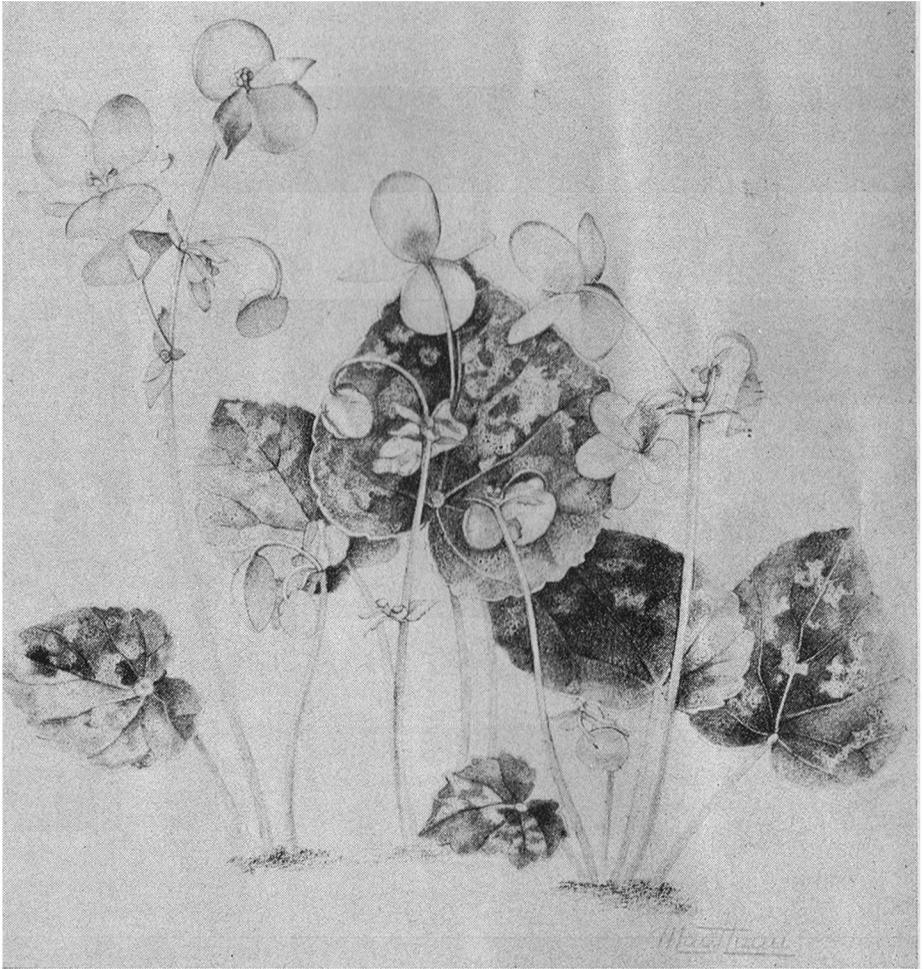
Like many hairy-leaved begonias, *B. scharffi* is grown moderately dry and cool, with (in northern areas) as much sun as possible to encourage flowering. It is propagated by stem cuttings in any propagating medium that can be kept moderately dry.

B. scharffiana, by the way, has a more pendant habit and much smaller flowers.

Specimen plants shown on the preceding page were grown by Wynona Jensen of Bellflower, California. Photos by Dorothy Powell.

HANGING BEGONIAS

The first forms of hanging type begonias were developed by Lloyd in London, apparently from *Begonia boliviensis*, and consequently were named 'Lloydii'. Since then, progress has wrought such changes that today few forms resemble the original 'Lloydii'.



Begonia Morelii Irmischer

BEGONIA MORELII IRMSHER - New Species

By EDGAR IRMSCHER

I have obtained this new species which appeared spontaneously in the cultures of the Station Centrale de Physiologie Végétale, at Versailles, from Dr. G. Morel, Director of this Station, who sent it to me for determination.

According to his characters, it belongs without any doubt to the Asiatic section *Reichenheimia*, the forty-eight species of which are distributed from India and Ceylon through Burma to the big Sunda Islands and to the north up to China. Then one can admit Tropical Asia as the origin for *Begonia morelii*.

This species is especially remarkable for the structure of the inflorescence built in the same manner as the inflorescence of *Begonia cardiophora* Irmsch. It forms a cyme consisting of three forked dichasia following each other. Each dichasium has one strong and elongated branch, the other being very short. Each of the two branches forms a cyme at its end, with two to four flowers having a very short and therefore barely visible internode. The terminal flower of the cyme is female and, when old, it is bent downward. The remaining flowers are entirely male. It provides thus a shoot system, which simulates a grape branching in which the strong forked dichasial branch apparently forms the main axis.

I am very glad to thank Dr. Morel, after whom this species is dedicated, for being good enough to add an illustration prepared in his Institute and for translating the text into English. Dr. Morel has already sent, a few years ago, seeds of this species to the A.B.S. Seed Fund as *Begonia* sp? near *Begonia Thwaitesii*. The members who have received these seeds can give to their plants the name *Begonia morelii*.

DESCRIPTION

Begonia morelii Irmscher—

New species — Section *Reichenheimia*.

Low herbaceous plant with almost tuberous rhizomes 0.8 - 2 cm. long, 0.5 cm. thick, from which leaves and inflorescence develop; petioles thin, 2 - 2.8 cm. long, barely hairy. Leaves sparsely hairy on the upper face, lower face shortly bristly especially on the veins. Lamina cordate in contour, 2 - 4 cm. long, 2.8 - 4 cm. wide in the middle, indented heart-shaped at the base with a rounded lobe 0.5 - 1.7 cm. long and 1.7 - 2.5 cm. wide towards the outside and a broad margin towards the inside. Apex widely acute, margin double dentate, rarely almost crenate, with apiculate notch. Inflorescence coming from the base, 8 - 11 cm. long, forming a cyme, with 2 - 3 dichasia following each other. Of these, one branch is longer, 1 - 3 cm. long; the others very short, 0.1 - 0.3 cm. long or almost missing. The two branches form a cyme of 2 - 4 flowers, the internodes being very short; the flowers seem often to be arranged in an umbel. The terminal flower of the cyme is female, all others male. Bracts of the cyme almost leaf-like oval or elongated ova 1 - 3.6 long, 1.7 - 4.5 cm. wide, under a hand lens, covered scarcely and irregularly with minute black glands. Male peduncle 0.7 - 2.2 cm. long. Tepals 4, the 2 exteriors almost circular or widely oval 7 - 9 cm. long, 7 - 8 cm. wide, the interior elongated to linear 5 - 7 cm., 1.5 - 2.6 cm. wide. About 22 stamens all turned on the same side, a little bent with filaments 1 - 2 mm. long, almost coalescent on the base. Anthers elongate 1 - 1.2 mm. long almost emarginate at the tip, forming a hood, the slits bent together towards the top, dehiscent when dry. Bracts of the female flowers minute, one or two, lanceolate, 0.5 - 0.8 mm. long, remote from the ovary. Female peduncle 0.8 - 2 cm. long, often sharply bent downward. Tepals 5, the two exteriors obovate 7 - 9 mm. long, 4.5 - 7 mm. wide, the two interiors narrow, the central 5 - 7 mm. long, and

(Continued on Page 56)

SUMMER BORDERS ARE BORN IN MARCH

By NORVEL GILLESPIE
Vagabond Gardener

Sparkling summer borders, featuring annuals in the whole gamut of varieties and colors, are born in the month of March. That is, if you decide to start your own from seed. For the seeds which are started now will develop into plants large enough for transplanting to their summer beds about six or eight weeks from now.

It seems to me that the trend in the past few years has changed us from a nation of seed planters to bedding plant buyers. And, while we need to depend on our nurserymen for ready-to-plant annuals, I think we miss out on half the fun in gardening if we fail to get our hands in the soil and watch the miracle of life unfold at close hand as we put our seeds into the ground.

For successful seed growing, here's a checklist of what to do:

Before you ever plant the seed, treat it first with a captan fungicide to prevent damping off disease troubles.

Sow the seed in the old reliable formula of one-third coarse sand, one-third leafmold, and one-third garden loam.

Plant the seed in flats or large pots. Make sure the soil mix is moist and then level it and firm it with a brick or a block of wood.

Sow the seeds evenly in rows and cover them with coarse sand.

Always see that the flats are kept moist — not soggy wet, but neither should the soil surface ever be allowed to dry out.

Place the flats in a half shady spot — a place guaranteed to be out of the direct rays of the sun.

When the little seedlings have two pairs of true leaves, they can be transplanted to the next flats and spaced about two inches apart. This time use a mix consisting of one-fourth coarse sand, one-fourth leafmold or peat moss, and one-half garden loam.

The transplanted seedlings should be kept in a a shady place for the following

two or three days. After that they'll take more light.

The plants should be "hardened off" in the sun about a week before they are to go into their permanent beds. Transplanting time is determined usually by the height of the plants — and they're ready for shifting to their beds when they've reached the three or four-inch mark.

Once the plants are set in place, the next important steps are to see that they are kept moist. Some people stick shingles in the ground at a slant to shade the plants the first two or three days. This seems to make them perk up faster.

Snails and slugs have the uncanny ability to smell out new annuals and often crawl great distances just to stick their fangs into the tender, juicy plants. Throw out a few handfuls of snail pellets around the beds for sure protection.

FIRST LOUISIANA FESTIVAL OF ROSES

The first Louisiana Festival of Roses, sponsored by the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, will be held at Hodges Gardens, near Many, Louisiana, on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29.

The competitive exhibition of specimen blooms, open to the public, will include a special section for old-fashioned roses. Because the old varieties are in danger of being lost, interest in their preservation is one of the objects of the exhibition.

Showing of new varieties from famous growers of the United States is also planned. On display at the same time will be Hodges Gardens' collection of roses.

Hodges Gardens is a year-round showplace in the pine hills fifteen miles south of Many, on Highway 171.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Rose Hixon, member of the Long Beach Parent Chapter of the American Begonia Society, passed away last December. For many years a friend of begonia growers, she will always have an honored place in the memory of her friends.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1—*B. rex* — American hybrids—

Seeds are of *B. 'Robert George'* and a lovely, dark-red-leaved rex similar to *B. 'Peacock'*. Pollen plant was *B. 'Lelia'*. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 2—*B. Brazil species*—

Plants were grown by a member in Minnesota from seed purchased from the Seed Fund about two years ago. His description does not coincide with that given for the Brazil species offered in *The Begonian* for January. It is as follows:

Plant is about twenty inches high, much-branched at the base, many flower spikes, leaves large, firmly held, pointed, slightly toothed, no definite lobes. Color of leaves an even light green; new leaves reddish but fading as they mature. Flower clusters very large; color is pure white but, given enough sun, pinkish. Hairs on the blooms are beautiful winish-pink which darkens as the flowers mature. Good begonia. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3—*B. fuchsoides*, Hook—

Growth bushy, shrubby, 30-100 cm. high. Stems erect, slightly bending over, fleshy, bare reddish-brown, with lateral small branches on which numerous close-ranked leaves grow. These are small, asymmetric egg-shaped, oblong, about 2 cm. x 1 cm., pointed at the margin, serrate-dentate, ciliate, and reddish. On top dark green, bare, beneath pale green, bare. Bracts oblong, pointed, greenish. Inflorescences forked several times with many flowers, hanging over. Flowers large, gorgeous, dark, brick-red. *B. fuchsoides* is a valuable, very beautiful species blooming profusely in winter. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. 'Verde Grande'*—

Hybrid by Zug. (*B. 'Dark Sheen'* x *B. manicata*). Voted the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal Award in 1957.

Rhizomatous plant, so distinctive both in shape and color it attracts the attention of everyone who sees it. It produces many basal leads in various stages of

development. The petioles appear to fan out, giving an excellent view of the breadth and depth of the plant. The leaves are bright, delicate green, the mature leaves each having an irregular trim of bluish-black along the edges. The same area on back is a deep cinnabar coloring on both the back and front. *B. 'Verde Grande'* makes a steady growth, thus requiring a good potting mixture with a light feeding at regular intervals. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. 'Veitch's Carmine'*—

(*B. dregei* x *B. coccinea*) Medium-sized plant with red-rimmed green leaves, brilliant clusters of carmine flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. 'Hydrangea'*—

Hybrid *semperflorens* by Burgos, Penna. Unusual and different begonia with flower petals lilac-blue and white. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. semperflorens*—

Species from South America (Peru). Seed first collected by the Goodspeed expedition about 1939. Very large plant growing from two to five feet high, making a large clump as it grows older. Usually the flower is white or pale pink, but the bees have gotten in their work over the years and once in a while a red bloom appears, but the plant, itself, has remained large and can be used outdoors as an informal hedge. Not for indoor culture. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. 'Charm'*—

Dwarf plant with leopard-like patches of cream and gold on bright green leaves. Light pink blooms. Hand-pollinated seeds. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. semperflorens*—

Double, pink, dark leaves. Hand-pollinated seeds. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. semperflorens*—

Double, mixed. White, pink, and red blooms. Hand-pollinated seeds. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. 'Leslie Lynn'*—

(*B. 'Lexington'* x *B. dayii*) A hybrid by Motschman. Sturdy plant with satiny,

large, dark, star-shaped leaves. Large, pink flowers in profusion. Rhizomatous plant. 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Adiantum gracillimum—

A beautiful fern, with the tiniest of leaflets, rich green, borne in multiple on graceful, large fronds which are produced in a dense tufted crown. 35 cents per pkt.

Platynerium coronarium—

(Malaya) a gorgeous and fairly rare epiphyte with long, fresh green, pendulous fronds to fifteen feet long; several times widely forked, and the lobes gracefully twisted. The thick barren fronds are tall and lobed. Spore is curiously borne on a separate fertile reinform disk. 35 cents per pkt.

Platynerium willinckii—

A distinct epiphyte with uneven, forked basal leaves and densely silvery-pubescent fertile fronds, erect at first, later completely pendant, very narrow and several times forked into long slender lobes, sporangia bearing at tips. 35 cents per pkt.

Drynaria linnaei—

Spores came from Germany. Fronds beautiful, wide, wavy at margins gray-green. 25 cents per pkt.

Suggestions for growing ferns from spores—

The method for growing ferns from spores is the same as that of begonias using the glass-jar method. The main difference is that in some cases it will require more time, but the actual length of time depends on the variety. Pteris, holly, and maidenhairs develop almost as quickly as begonias, but *Platyneriums* will require a much longer period of time.

Spores should be scattered on wet, well rotted, sterilized leaf-mold which is contained in a wide-mouth jar with a tightly fitting cover. Place the jar on its side in a protected, fairly warm location — about 65 degrees — and do not disturb until ready to transplant sporelings. Some growers transplant seedlings as soon as the first fronds show; others wait until they are larger. If the prothalli has come up thickly, it is best to transplant before

their roots become too intertwined to separate easily. Otherwise, they can be left in jars indefinitely.

To minimize shock of transplanting from humid jars, cover the flat or pot with a piece of glass and protect for a few days from strong light or sun.

Aeschynanthus pulcher—

Trailing epiphytic plant with small opposite, ovate, waxy, light green leaves and showy tubular axillary or in terminal clusters; calyx green and smooth, the bilobate corolla three times longer, vermillion red with yellow throat. 25 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus wendlandii—

Stemless plant with a single, huge leaf becoming three feet long and two feet wide, with olive-green, corrugated surface and densely hairy, purple beneath. The tall flower spikes sprouting from the leaf may bear as many as thirty small, violet-blue flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus hybridus

'Weismoor'—

A group of hybrids with light green, quilted leaves; free-flowering and large trumpet-like flowers, usually crested or fringed, in a wide range of colors, from white with purple veining, through rose to purple and blue. 35 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus Weismoor

'Moulin Rouge'—

Similar to above except larger and more colorful flowers. Newer. Germany. 35 cents per pkt.

Phoenix roebelenii—

'Pigmy palm'. Very graceful both as a miniature pot plant or outdoors in mild climates. Slender, rough trunk, topped by a dense round crown of feathery leaves, the pinnae narrow and folded and dark green, glossy when rubbed. Berry-like black fruit in large clusters; female clusters often clustering. 25 cents per pkt.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE

Seed Fund Administrator

234 Birch Street

Roseville, California

**PATRONIZE BEGONIAN
ADVERTISERS**

HISTORY OF BEGONIAS

By HELEN K. KRAUSS

(Continued from last month.)

Although Lt. William Bligh, under Lord Nelson, later became an Admiral, there was an interlude devoted to botanical expeditions under the auspices of Joseph Banks, who had earlier discovered Bligh's interest in botanical science. After the mutiny on the *Bounty* he made another expedition to the South Sea Islands and successfully introduced the breadfruit trees to Jamaica and returned to England with *B. macrophylla*.

William Aiton, probably the first Englishman to describe begonias, secured employment at Kew Gardens through the influence of Banks and was appointed Superintendent in 1759. Aiton, Banks, and a select group of men founded the Royal Horticultural Society in 1804, which popularized gardening among all classes of society.

David Carl Solander, a learned Swede and pupil of Linnaeus, became Banks' first librarian and curator, and made Linnaeus' work familiar to the people of England. Two begonia descriptions by Solander were included in Dryander's *Observations on the Genus of Begonia*. Solander originated the Solander case so dear to the hearts of rare book collectors.

Jonas Dryander, also a learned Swede, succeeded in Solander's position upon the death of the latter, and wrote the first important paper, included in the *Transactions of the Linnean Society* published in 1791. It is said that Dryander could be seen daily in the library dissecting plants and accumulating knowledge which gained for him the reputation of being the first botanical physiologist in the world.

Dr. Robert Brown (1773-1857), Ensign in the English Navy, assistant Surgeon, and naturalist, became a distinguished botanist. Banks induced him to take charge of his botanical collection. When Dryander died in 1810, Dr. Brown became librarian also. When Banks died he left a vast collection of botanical and natural science material, books, etc.,

which was transferred to the British Museum. It took Dr. Brown three years to arrange and classify the collection for the Museum, and he was then appointed keeper of it.

William Kerr, a botanist and son of a nurseryman in Hawick, England, was engaged in transplanting English fruit trees and plants to China and Chinese fruit trees and plants to England, under the protection of the East India Company, at the suggestion of Joseph Banks.

While in China he discovered *B. evansiana*. The discovery of this begonia is dated by some authorities as 1804 and by others as 1808. Since both schools attribute the discovery to Kerr, it appears to be of small importance. The place of discovery is another matter. Kerr spent seven years in Canton and was then appointed Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens in Ceylon, where he, after a short time, died of a tropical illness. Since his exploring was done largely from Canton, we may assume that *B. evansiana* was definitely discovered in China.

Incidentally, the *evansiana* motif has been used extensively in Chinese porcelains, embroidered silks, fans, etc. DeCaisne, a French botanist, recognized it in later years from a painting on a Japanese parasol.

Medical men of the English Navy, of the East India Company, and those stationed in remote colonies became ardent botanists.

Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, a Dane, entered the service of the East India Company and later became Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens in Calcutta. In 1815 he wrote on begonias in India and Asia. *Begonia wallichiana*, an annual, is named for him.

Dr. William Roxburgh (1759-1815), surgeon employed by the East India Company and later surgeon of the General Hospital in Madras, was a pioneer exponent of the flora of India. While associated with the hospital, he developed

a large garden of his own, cultivating spices and economic plants. Years later he had charge of the Botanical Gardens in Calcutta. He shipped his papers and drawings to England but during a storm at sea much of his work was lost. That which survived the storm was later published by the East India Company, titled *Flora Indica*. *Begonia roxburghii* is named for him and is in cultivation at the present time.

William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) was perhaps the last disciple of Joseph Banks and a deep friendship developed between them. Hooker started out in life with a brewing business and an eagerness for botanical science. The two vocations interfered with each other and he chose to give himself completely to the science which brought him renown.

Through the influence of Banks he became Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow at the age of twenty-eight, which post he held for twenty years. In 1840 he accepted the Directorship of Kew Gardens until 1855, when his son, Joseph (1817-1911), succeeded him. William Jackson and his equally famous son were long-lived men and their lives spanned several eras. In *Curtis Botanical Magazine*, founded in 1787, both father and son described and illustrated many begonias for us. In addition to this publication, there are numerous others which are worth investigation, including individual books written by them.

The earliest literature in begonias, since Plumier described his discovery of six species of a new genus in the West Indies and a few isolated descriptions and illustrations to be found in old books dealing on botanical subjects, was compiled by Jonas Dryander and read before the Linnean Society on November 3, 1789.

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788. Dr. James E. Smith, who had purchased the elder Linnaeus' collection including 14,000 herbarium specimens, was resolved on forming an institution for the exclusive promotion of natural science. This was accomplished with the financial aid of Joseph Banks. The King

of Sweden tried to intercept the precious cargo, but it arrived safely in England in 1784.

Dryander's *Observations on the Genus of Begonias* was published in the *Transactions* of the Linnean Society in 1791. Twenty-one begonias were described, the largest number assembled in one volume up to that time. Prior to publication, Dryander had seen only three living specimens, *B. mitida*, *humilis*, and *acuminata*. The remainder were taken from descriptions and illustrations in botanical books and manuscripts and also from herbarium specimens.

Two of Plumier's descriptions were adequate enough to be included.

Begonia macrophylla, meaning large leaf, is commonly known as *dominicalis*. The leaves are not as large as one would suppose or expect (about $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ now at the Montalvo gardens), but they were the largest known to Plumier. At the time of Dryander's observations the only other large-leaved begonia known was *B. evansiana*.

The other Plumier begonia is *rotundifolia*, in cultivation at the present time but very rare. It is an interesting subject for rock work with its light green, round, crenate leaves, which form a rosette and cling close to its creeping rhizome.

Of the other twenty-one begonias, one or two of which are synonymous, we have in cultivation *nitida*, possibly one of Plumier's but not sufficiently described, with its varieties, *nitida rosea* and *odorata alba*; *isoptera*, from Java, a beautiful plant when well grown; *longipes petiolata*, a variety of the described species; *evansiana*, the hardy begonia which reproduces itself by bulbils developed in its leaf axils as well as by seed; *humilis*, a small growing annual; *octopetala*, first discovered by Joseph Dombey, lost and rediscovered numerous times and on a few occasions renamed; and *malabarica*, a choice but somewhat difficult species with white flowers sometimes delicately flushed with pink. *Glabra*, although not generally distributed, makes an admirable basket plant because of its trailing habit and clusters of small white flowers and its lustrous, light green leaves. It should

have a place among the smallest begonia collections as there is no difficulty in growing it.

In recent years begonia species have been introduced from India, Ceylon, Java, etc., which have not yet been identified, and I believe it quite possible that, before too long, the Dryander list of begonias will be augmented by at least two or three additional species.

Of the four new begonias listed by Willdenow in *Species Plantarum* in 1805, we have *B. dichotoma*, frequently called *lindleyana*; *B. ulmifolia*, its leaves closely resembling those of the elm tree; and *cucullata*, which in some respects suggests *semperflorens*. The fourth has been identified as *B. angularis* and is sometimes referred to as *zebrina*.

Aime Bonpland (1773-1858), French naturalist, travelled through South America and Mexico with Alexander Von Humboldt, German scientist, from 1799 to 1804. Bonpland became Director of the Empress Josephine's gardens at Malmaison in 1805. In 1818 he became professor of natural history at Buenos Aires. While engaged on a scientific work in 1821 he was siezed by Francis, the Dictator of Paraguay, and kept a prisoner for several years.

Among Humboldt's and Bonpland's discoveries were the ferny and graceful *Begonia foliosa*; *balmisiana*, which they had named *populifolia*, not being aware of the earlier discovery by Ruiz and Pavon; *gracilis*, which is described as the hollyhock begonia; and *B. ulmifolia*.

About 1814, German botanists seriously entered the race when Ferdinand Sello went to Brazil and collected assiduously for seventeen years for his patron, Prince Von Neuwied. Ferns and orchids were predominant, of course, and in consequence, many begonias were accidentally introduced, growing from the soil on other exotics.

B. semperflorens was one of these. Several begonias grew out of the sheaths of orchids while others were attached to the roots of tree ferns. *B. semperflorens* was named a second time, *selowii*, in honor of Sello, but according to the rules the first name stands. The outstanding

discoveries by Sello were *B. sanguinea*, the seeds of which he sent to the Botanical Gardens of Berlin, and *semperflorens*, which was the progenitor of a large race of hybrids.

Deppe and Schiede were collectors in Mexico. In 1830, Deppe joined Dr. Schiede, a resident physician of Mexico City. They discovered the first "Star Begonia" and introduced it into Europe. From this, *B. heracleifolia*, and its varieties, some of our earliest hybrids were developed. *B. incarnata* grew from the soil on other plants and was purely an accidental discovery.

Reidel, also a German collector, who followed Sello within a few years to Brazil, introduced the first silvery-gray-spotted-leaved *B. maculata* in 1819. Its synonym, *B. argyrostigma*, which was applied several years after it was already named, has persisted to this day.

Begonia dregei, discovered by Dr. Drege in Africa in 1836, was the first semi-tuberous species introduced.

A steady stream of begonias arrived in Europe during this period, and Klotzsch was able to list 210 species and varieties in 1854 and 1855 before *B. rex* and the Andean tuberous were known.

In 1852 the first yellow-flowered *Begonia xanthina* was introduced with *B. rubro-venia*, both of which are in cultivation. *B. xanthina* was the forerunner of *B. rex*.

—Reprinted from *The Begonian*, 1942.

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ACACIAS BLOOM AT ARBORETUM

By FRANK G. HALVORSON

*Senior Information Aid,
Los Angeles State and
County Arboretum*

The largest collection of acacia trees outside of Australia will bloom in the Australian Section of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia from February through the month of April. Altogether, there are 133 species and varieties of acacia within the Arboretum.

Historically, one species, *Acacia seyal*, was used in the Ark of the Covenant and the Ark of the Tabernacle; this same species was used by Egyptians as the "incorruptible" wood to make coffins for the burial of kings. Buddhists and Hindus regarded the wood as sacred, and burned it on their altars. Not only is gum arabic for medicinal and technical uses extracted from acacias, but some varieties furnish from 30 to 50 percent tannin, as compared to 15 percent tannin from the oak. The lumbers, many of them of exquisite designs, are used in making fine cabinets.

Acacias are native to the warmer areas around the World, with approximately 400 species having been described. Australia, which uses the acacia for its floral emblem, is the native habitat for most of them. Since it grows under severe conditions in its native habitat, it is quite at home under drought conditions and for use in soil erosion control.

Some acacias show a little bloom off and on throughout the year, but their color peak is from January to April. *Acacia baileyana*, for example, during the month of February, literally covers its blue-green fern-like foliage with yellow blossoms.

The Sweet Acacia, botanically *Acacia farnesiana*, is the "mimosa" used in expensive French perfumes. The Pearl Acacia, *Acacia podalyriaefolia*, has silvery grey foliage and, under normal conditions, has the longest blooming period in the acacia family.

The word acacia, translated from the Greek, means "I sharpen", and refers to a peculiar trait of many varieties. Some of these plants, in place of having true leaves, have flattened stalks, called phyllodes, which serve as leaves. Variations of this feature result in some of the phyllodes taking the shape and hardness of thorns.

The seeds of the acacia grow in long pods, are very hard, and retain vitality for as long as fifty years. In order to get these seeds to grow, it is necessary either to toss them into the embers of a fire, allowing them to remain until the ashes cool, or to pour boiling water over them and allow them to stay in the water overnight. In using the latter method, the seed should be planted as soon as possible, but the fire-treated seed can be planted several months afterward.

The average longevity of acacias is thirty years. Some of the woods, when used as fence posts, have been found to be still in excellent condition after seventy years of service. With many varieties of acacias to be found in local nurseries, these plants, from the five foot height of the Sweet Acacia to the twenty foot Bailey's Acacia tree, can be reliably used for gay yellow color as heralds the approach of Spring.

CHICAGO FLOWER SHOW

The Fourth Annual Chicago World Flower and Garden Show will return to Chicago's McCormick Place March 24 through April 1, 1962.

Sponsored by the Chicago Flower and Garden Show in association with the Chicago Horticultural Society, the show will cover more than 200,000 square feet of the huge exposition center. Features will include displays of flowers, gardens of the world, horticultural exhibits, educational exhibits, a mountainside scene, and a Fountain Spectacular — an authentic reproduction of the one hundred fountains of the lovely Villa D'Este in Tivoli, Italy.

The American Begonia Society, as one of the cooperating horticultural groups, will enter a display in the show.

California International Flower Show In March

March 16 through 25, 1962, are the dates for the California International Flower Show and Food Festival, to be presented at Hollywood Park, Inglewood, California. Sponsors are the Southern California Floral Association, Inc. and the Nursery Growers Association of California, and by invitation the Southern California Retail Grocers Association will participate. This will be the tenth presentation of this lavish floral spectacle.

Besides many colorful exhibits by commercial flower growers, nurseries, and landscape architects, garden clubs will enter some of the finest displays ever assembled in such a show.

The inclusion of a Food Festival will be a suitable and imaginative addition. Certainly flowers and fine food go together for better living.

Related products will also be shown — garden accessories, planters, giftware, dinnerware — anything that is part of gracious living in the home — to help home owners make plans for embellishing their living areas, indoors and outdoors, to seek the newest, the most beautiful, and the best.

SPRING ORCHID SHOW

The South Bay Orchid Society will stage its second annual Spring Orchid Show on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11, in the Alondra Park Community Building, 3535 Redondo Beach Boulevard, Lawndale, California. The show will be co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Thousands of orchids of all varieties and species will be displayed. There will also be special exhibits by commercial growers, amateurs, and organizations.

Last year nearly 10,000 persons attended this show. To accommodate more visitors, show hours have been extended this year.

Persons with one or more plants are invited to bring their plants either for exhibition purposes only or for competitive ribbon judging. Entries will be re-

ceived at the Community Building from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, and from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday. There will be no entry fee.

Firms, organizations, or private growers desiring exhibition space to create special effects should communicate with the show chairman, C. P. Corliss, 1242 South Gertrude Avenue, Redondo Beach; phone FRontier 5-1080.

The show will be open to the public without charge. Show hours will be from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, with a special two hour period for photography hobbyists from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sunday.

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW IN GLENDALE

"Violets on the Moon" will be the theme of the fourth annual African Violet Show presented by the Glendale African Violet Society on Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, at the Glendale Y.W.C.A., located at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Lexington Drive, Glendale, California.

Displays will include many varieties of single and double blossoms, miniatures, species, plants in hanging baskets and unusual containers, and artistic arrangements. There will be educational displays showing propagation by seeds and by leaves. There will also be a classification for plants of the Gesneria family.

A feature of the show will be a snack bar for convenience of visitors. A variety of plants and supplies will be on sale.

The show will be open to the public from 2 to 10 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission will be 35 cents.

Belva Kusler's New Hybrid Begonias —

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Sophie Cecile, Anna Christine

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NUMBER ONE BOY . . .

(Continued from Page 43)

plants out of the Hall is another kettle of fish. They must be removed before late lingerers can snip off so many cuttings the remainder resembles the skeleton of a Thanksgiving turkey. Somehow, the closing bell always finds this Number One Boy on the ground floor — while his plants are on the third. And somehow, the elevators are only going down — escalators the same! Did you ever try running up an escalator that's going down? Two steps from the top, you stop to catch your breath — and you're back at the bottom again, saying "nuts" to the whole world of flora.

Many hours later, unpacking the plants at home, the Number One Boy thanks his lucky stars that The Show comes but once a year.

Thus are the trials and tribulations of the Number One Boy. Go ahead and laugh, fellows. It could happen to you — and most likely will. And I'm warning you — you'll probably like it!

BEGONIA MORELII . . .

(Continued from Page 47)

2 - 3 mm. wide. Pistil 3.2 mm. long, base 0.6 mm. long, caulescent at the top, lunate and two-lobed, stigma developed as a papillose spiral band. Ovary tripartite 6 - 8.5 mm. long, 4 - 4.3 mm. wide; with non-divided placentas, three winged. The wings decurrent at the base, more or less unequal, the larger equal-sided, almost triangular 2.5 - 3 mm. long in the middle, blunt at the top, the two others with two wings half oval, in the middle, 1.2 - 1.5 mm. long.

Has appeared spontaneously in the cultures of the Station Centrale de Physiologie Végétale at Versailles, France.

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.

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CALENDAR

March 1 — Whittier Branch: Charles Monoogian, from Red Star Plant Foods, will speak on "Garden Problems" — soils and soil correctives, irrigations, fertilizers, herbicides, etc. Come with plenty of questions.

March 1 — Westchester Branch: Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger will be guest speaker. Her topic will be "The Art of Developing a New Begonia". Join us and learn from this well-known begonia authority. This will be our first pot-luck dinner meeting this year. For information, call ORchard 2-5112.

March 8 — Inglewood Branch: Jean Kerlin will speak on "Fibrous Begonias".

March 8 — Orange County Branch: Outstanding 3D slides of plants and what can be done horticulturally and in landscaping from a bare lot to the present-day garden. Presented by Loren Paulsohn, Past President and present Organizer of the California National Fuchsia Society.

March 9 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Mrs. Edna L. Korts, Past President of the A.B.S., will speak on "Cane Begonias".

March 10-11 — Spring Orchid Show: South Bay Orchid Society, Alondra Park Community Building, 3535 Redondo Beach Blvd., Lawndale, California.

March 15 — Long Beach Parent Chapter: New meeting date and place. See Branch Directory.

March 16-25 — California International Flower Show: Hollywood Park, Inglewood, California.

March 23 — Redondo Beach Area Branch: Mrs. Wynona Jensen will tell what we should do to our begonias now to have prize-winning plants by convention time. If you have a special plant, bring it along and let us enjoy it.

March 23-24 — African Violet Show: Glendale African Violet Society, Glendale Y.W.C.A., corner of Glendale Avenue and Lexington Drive, Glendale, California.

March 24-April 1 — Chicago World Flower And Garden Show: McCormick Place.

March 28 — Glendale Branch: Mrs. Coralee Walters, well known fern specialist, will be guest speaker. She can give many points on different ways to grow ferns, how and when to fertilize, and answer many of your questions on fern growing. Mrs. Walters is a member of Glendale Branch.

April 5 — Westchester Branch: Don Horton will be guest speaker. His subject will be "Begonias and Begonia Hybridizing".

CHANGE ADDRESS EARLY

Members: When you plan to change your mailing address, notify the Membership Secretary as early as possible — at least a month in advance of the change — and notify your local post office to forward magazines to your new address.

When magazines are mailed to your old address and the post office has no instructions for forwarding, they are returned to the Membership Secretary. Under new regulations, a charge of 10 cents is made for each magazine returned. With your help, we can avoid this unnecessary drain on the Society's finances.

Send all notices and inquires regarding mailing to the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Dorothea Waddington, 1135 North Kenter Avenue, Los Angeles 49, California. Don't send them to the Editor.

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Branch Directory

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BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Miss Cynthia Webber, Secy.
5 Hillside, Ave., Bedford, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences
C. Sikkelee, Corr. Secy.
3603 La Joya Dr., Dallas 20, 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
Mrs. Arma J. Shull, Secy.
313 W. 2nd St., San Dimas, 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 Belser, Corr. 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. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, 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. Bee Olson, Secy.
13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne, Calif.

KNICKERBROCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Murray D. Morrison, Secy.
2109 Matthews Ave., New York 62, N.Y.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes, 10 a.m.
Mrs. M. F. Scribner, Corr. Secy.
1422 Marfa, Dallas 16, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ralph Eikema, Secy.
2071 Oregon Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Thomas D. Day, Secy.
4056 Hollywood 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.
Daisy G. Austin, Secy.
1510 Kimberley Ave., Anaheim, 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.
Mrs. Alice Martin, Secy.
640 West 141st St., Hawthorne, 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. Lillian Maddox, Secy.
7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, AFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
Constance D. Bower, Corr. 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
James C. Miller, Secy.
1962 - 18th Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 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. Lloyd Clark, Secy.
2252 Vulner Ct., San Diego, 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 2-2234
Miss Bernice Moore, Secy.
2842 West 59th St., Seattle 7, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Cora Lemmon, Secy.
316 Moorpark Ave., 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. Evangeline Muller, Cor. Secy.
36937 Cherry 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.
Homes of Members, Ft. Worth, Texas
Mrs. Olin S. Hughes, Secy.
2306 Market St., Ft. Worth, 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. Ann Hyland, Secy.,
6446 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Orcutt Playground
Clubhouse
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18641 Casandra, Tarzana, Calif.

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Mrs. A. S. Lash, Secy.
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