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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

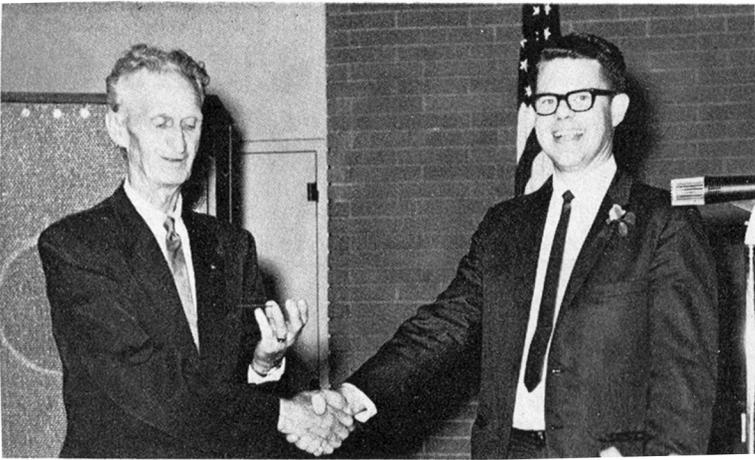
The purpose of this Society shall be: To stimulate and promote interest in Begonias and other shade-loving plants; To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; To standardize the nomenclature of Begonias; To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation 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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★ ★ ★
Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
those of the Editor, the Society, or its officers.



Charles Tagg presents Everett Wright with his life membership at the completion of his term as President.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following is the text of the address given by Mr. Tagg after his installation as your new President at the Convention banquet.

How many of you have really read the aims and purposes of the American Begonia Society lately? For the past year, as President-Elect, one of my duties has been to read those aims and purposes to the Board as a part of starting each meeting.

These aims and purposes are defined in our Constitution. They are the reason for which the American Begonia Society exists. Through our efforts to accomplish those aims and purposes we become a stronger, growing organization.

Many of us here tonight are to be members of the Board of Directors, and others will be asked to participate in events throughout the year to assist those officers and the officers of your branches. Only by our efforts to accomplish the aims and purposes may we receive the most from our organization.

The purpose of this Society shall be:

to promote interest in Begonias and

COVER PICTURE

B. caragatatubens shown by P. I. Merry at the Eastern Conference.

Photo by P. I. Merry

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

I began my year by not making any promises. I did my best, and received the best from the other members of the Board. It has been a good year and one we can be proud of. The cooperation of the Board has been very rewarding.

My sincere thanks to all of you for helping to make my year as President a good one. My best wishes to Chuck as he takes over, and I hope you will help him have a good year too.

EVERETT WRIGHT
Past President

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.

I am very proud to have been elected as your President, and deeply feel my responsibility to do my best for the Society. I cannot accomplish those aims and purposes by myself, but we can by working together.

BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

By RUTH PEASE

Each year the members of the American Begonia Society take part in the Annual Show and Convention and attend the banquet which brings so many of us together.

As we walked into the dining room Saturday evening and saw the beautifully decorated tables, we looked forward to another wonderful evening with friends.

Mr. Ralph Corwin, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, began by introducing Mr. Charles Tagg who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Invocation was given by Reverend Richard Shook.

The many out-of-town visitors and guests were then introduced including Mrs. Herbert Dyckman, wife of the founder of the American Begonia Society; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hale, Mr. Clarence Hall, Mrs. Hughes, and Mrs. Flanagan from Sacramento; Mr. Toby Lothman from New York; Mr. Paul Riviera, Mr. Sweet and Mr. and Mrs. I. Gold, and Mrs. Hyacinth Smith from San Francisco; Mr. Chester Nave from San Leandro; Mr. and Mrs. Al Kusler from Wisconsin; and Mr. and Mrs. George Benner from Rock Island, Illinois.

The dining room was filled to capacity and luncheon dinners enjoyed by all. The beautiful table decorations were made by Mrs. Alice Martin and her

lovely rexes were a nice reminder that this was a gathering of Begonia lovers.

Dr. Samuel Ayres, Vice President of the Southern California Horticultural Institute, was the speaker for the evening. His slides of many flowering trees and shrubs grown in various parts of the world were beautiful. Dr. Ayres mentioned that many of our lovely Begonias could be grown under such trees.

Mrs. Hyacinth Smith, Installation Officer, retired the outgoing officers who had so faithfully served the American Begonia Society for the past year. She then introduced the Past Presidents who were present—a most illustrious group—Mr. Everett Wright, Mr. Clarence Hall, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, Mrs. Edna Korts, Mr. Joe Taylor, Mr. Bert Slatter, Mr. Carl Naumann, Mrs. Terry Olmsted, Mrs. Mabel Corwin, and Mrs. Muriel Perz.

Mrs. Smith installed the incoming officers charging them with their individual duties for the ensuing year—Mr. Charles Tagg, President; Mr. Carl Naumann, President-Elect; Mr. Everett Wright, Past President; Mr. Walter Barnett, Treasurer; Mrs. Virginia Barnett, Secretary; Mr. Wilbur Olson, Senior Vice President; Mr. Herb Warwick, Vice President; and Mrs. Fred-

(Continued on Page 198)



1967 SHOW WINNERS

The 1967 Show of the American Begonia Society is over. In Southern California, there are many weary but happy members. In other parts of the country there are several members who are glad they came. In spite of the hot weather, there were many very beautiful plants—plants we can be proud of. Proudest of all are the winners of the perpetual and challenge trophy awards.

PERPETUAL AND CHALLENGE TROPHY AWARDS

Everett Wright Trophy for the best plant in the show—won by Mrs. Irene Nuss, Los Angeles for B. 'Eunice Gray' (*B. echinosepala* x *B. venosa*).

President's Challenge Trophy for the best Begonia in the show—won by Mrs. Irene Nuss, Los Angeles for B. 'Eunice Gray' (*B. echinosepala* x *B. venosa*).

A.B.S. Sweepstakes Trophies for the most points in the Begonia Divisions Novice and Amateur—won by Mrs. Edith Howard, Inglewood in Novice and Bee and Wilbur Olson, Hawthorne in Amateur.

Herbert P. Dyckman Perpetual Award for the most outstanding new fibrous Begonia—won by Walter Watchorn, Ocean for *B. paulensis* x *B. scharffiana*.

San Miguel Branch Challenge Trophy for the best Begonia in cultivation 25 years or longer—won by Mrs. Irene Nuss, Los Angeles for *B. pearcei*.

Effie Chapman Cup for the best fibrous Begonia—won by Mrs. Mabel E. DuShane, South Gate for B. 'Ellen Dee'.

Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for the best cane type Begonia—won by Mrs. Ruby Budd, Los Angeles for B. 'Helen Nicholson'.

John R. Williams Cup for the best rhizomatous Begonia in the show—won by Harold and Edith Howard, Inglewood for *B. sudjanae*.

Gonda Hartwell Cup for the best rex Begonia in the show—won by Ralph Sparks, Downey for B. 'Fairy'.



Mrs. Irene Nuss with B. 'Eunice Gray', best plant in the show, which was point-scored as a 91 point plant.

Trophy for the best tuberous Begonia in the Amateur Division—won by Paul and Jean Warren, Los Angeles for a roseform tuberous.

Orris R. Martin Perpetual Memorial Trophy for the best tuberous Begonia in the Novice Division—won by Gene Daniels, Camarillo for a roseform tuberous.

Jack Taylor Perpetual Trophy for the best hanging basket Begonia—won by Mrs. Mabel E. DuShane, South Gate for B. 'Ellen Dee'.

Inglewood Branch Ferd Neels Memorial Trophy for best wall pocket Begonia—won by Mrs. Irene Nuss, Los Angeles for B. 'Flamingo'.

Bessie Buxton Branch Perpetual Award for the best collection of six Begonias of different varieties—won by Mrs. Ruby Budd, Los Angeles.

Arthur Strandberg Perpetual Trophy for the best fern in Amateur Division—won by Bee and Wilbur Olson for *Nephrolepis exaltata* cv. 'Veroni'.

Dr. W. C. Drummond Perpetual Memorial Award for the best fern in Novice Division—won by John Ekstrand, Norwalk for *Cibotium glaucum*.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

by RUTH P. MERRY

Through the efforts of the chairman, Michael Kartuz, the Eastern Conference at the Sheraton Motor Inn in historic Lexington, Massachusetts, was a most happy and harmonious occasion. As Mike said in his opening remarks, the purpose of the meeting was to become acquainted with fellow Begonians and to exchange views on means and methods of growing their favorite plants. At the social hour before the Friday dinner, representatives from Georgia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and California met the Massachusetts friends and under the efficient and genial efforts of the hospitality chairman, Yarmilla Scholberg, had a most pleasant hour. Orpha Fox, registration chairman, was most happy to meet personally the members she had previously met only through the mail.

After dinner M. Carleton L'Hommedieu showed some most interesting color slides of the grounds and greenhouses at "Plantings" in New York, from which he had recently been retired. Of most interest were his own Begonias, which he was allowed to grow in the large greenhouses under perfect conditions, and which, naturally, grew magnificently. He grew them among camellias, orchids, and many other tropical plants.

The famous glass flowers and other fascinating collections at the Peabody Museum at Harvard University filled Saturday morning. After the luncheon, a panel composed of Mabel Corwin, May Taft Drew, Toby Lothman, and Mike Kartuz headed a discussion on all aspects of growing. Soil-less mixes were the favorite mediums of many recent growers, while the old timers like to use at least some good old sterilized soil with the new products. Soils vary with growing conditions—home, greenhouse, and fluorescent lights all need their special mixes. After the discussion, everyone has-

tened to look over the show and find the winners. Jeanette Kingsbury, chairman of judges, had a most efficient panel composed of Priscilla Beck, Daphne Bettle, Arlene Peck, Joy Martin, and Jerry Sausaman. Chairman of the show, Evelyn Cronin, was well versed in show practice since she is a national flower show judge and has been chairman of many large flower shows. Toby Lothman of New York was Classification Chairman. Clerks for the judges were LaVerne Collard and Grace Comiskey.

The show far exceeded the hopes of the branch members. There were twice as many entries as at the 1966 Waltham Show, exhibited in half the space. Since the conference was to honor Belva Kusler, the Kusler hybrid classes were staged in the center of the room and were the central point of the show. The delicate and difficult variety B. 'Crispie' won a first prize for Nancy Alvord; Percy Merry won first prize for a collection of five varieties; and Laura Englebert won a trophy for the best Kusler hybrid on the table. The Perz Trophy for the best Begonia in the show went to Olive Scrymgeour, President of the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch, and program chairman for the conference, for a stunning specimen of B. 'Nelly Bly', a fine well-rounded plant in full bloom. A fine B. *caraguatatubens* with a large cluster of tiny white flowers won first prize for the best most recent species and a pewter Paul Revere Bowl for the most unusual plant in the show for Percy Merry.

"Pete" Fratus won an A.B.S. trophy for the best rex cultorum, a fine B. 'Dewdrop', and also a trophy for the best rhizomatous, for B. *dark pustulata*. A five-foot B. 'San Miguel' gave Percy Merry a trophy for the best in the fibrous class. He also won the A.B.S. Sweepstakes and the Buxton Sweepstakes trophies for the most first prizes. Space does not permit listing all the prize winners.



After the Saturday dinner, Olive Scrymgeour introduced the master of ceremonies, Mr. Daniel Foley of Salem, an old time friend of Bessie Buxton, who presented the trophies and gave us some highlights on the life of Mrs. Buxton. His sense of humor and his wonderful use of words gave a wonderful lift to the occasion. He introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Mabel Corwin. Her fine selection of slides of people, places and plants created much interest for the Easterners and was a fine finale for the Conference.

On Sunday as a thank-you to the judges and workers, Jeanette Kingsbury entertained with a noon brunch at her beautiful home. She grows her plants in a greenhouse, the sun room, the basement under fluorescent lights, and in a lath house during the summer. From there two carfuls went to the Merry's to see how their plants were grown. Hundreds of hemerocallis were in bloom in their round formal garden, and Begonias were sprinkled in the sun room, the kitchen, and the greenhouse.

Between events, Lexington Nurseries, where thousands of all kinds of house plants are grown and sold, was visited, and everyone who could get a ride went to the greenhouses of Mike Kartuz, where all plants are grown to perfection. He had contributed plants for display which added greatly to the quality of our show. The visitors went away with a good idea of how we in New England grow Begonias.

FACE TO FACE

The Eastern Conference became a part of the National Convention during the seminar. Mrs. Mabel Corwin, who had attended the Eastern Conference last year and again this year, showed slides of the people, places, and plants of the Eastern Conference.

Mr. Toby Lothman of the Knickerbocker Branch provided information which helped us become better acquainted with these new faces with old familiar names. The familiar names became more than just names and it was good to meet our Eastern friends face to face.



Mrs. Olive Scrymgeour with B. 'Nelly Bly', best plant in the show of the Eastern Conference.

THE EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

By MARGARET LEE, Awards Chairman

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is presented to a person who has rendered outstanding service in promoting interest in the culture of Begonias and the furtherance of the American Begonia Society.

Sylvia B. Leatherman, the winner of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for 1967 is one of those persons that one has heard about but seldom encountered. A native Californian, she was born in Los Angeles about 55 years ago—give or take a few years—and attended the public schools of that city.

She has been married to Buck Leatherman for 39 years and has two sons and eight grandchildren.

Five years after their marriage, the Leathermans moved to El Monte which was a long way out into the country in those days. It was a wonderful place to raise the two boys and to start a hobby of growing Begonias, ferns and other shade plants. After a few years, the hobby had reached such proportions that it became a business as well as a hobby.

Sylvia became a member of the A.B.S. in 1945 and a few years later

joined the San Gabriel Valley Branch, transferring to the El Monte Branch when it was organized.

Her first article for *The Begonian* appeared in 1947 and she has been a steady contributor since that time. She has co-authored a book on ferns which is written so the average plant lover can understand it.

She has been in demand as a speaker of note for 20 years, doing a great deal of traveling in this capacity.

Sylvia is a shade plant show judge, serving, primarily, in her own area when invited, but was honored to judge in the country of Brazil several years ago.

She has been the research director of the A.B.S. and through her correspondence all over the world, has been instrumental in introducing a great many forgotten and new Begonias into our country. She has distributed many of her own cultivars and specializes in rexes which are winter hardy in Southern California.

Sylvia's most recent activity in behalf of the A.B.S. has been the work that she and her committee did in compiling a comprehensive course on the judging of Begonias.

No job seems to be too much work or take too much time if it will benefit anyone interested in Begonias.

A. D. ROBINSON MEDAL

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal, which is given for a Begonia cultivar which has been registered with the American Begonia Society and has been available to the public for at least five years prior to the nomination, was not awarded this year.

The originator of this Begonia nominee must be a member of the American Begonia Society. It would be wise for all of us to look more closely at some of the newer plants, watch them closely, and choose one to nominate for this Award next year.



Mrs. Margaret Lee presents the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award to Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman.

NORTHEAST BEGONIAS IN OCTOBER

By ELDA HARING

October is a beautiful month in the Northeast. The haze of late summer is gone; skies are blue and the air is crisp and bracing. The brilliant sunshine highlights the red and gold of the trees but it still retains its warmth. We must guard against giving Begonias too much sun in October. Some of them, such as the Begonias *semperflorens*, *schmidtiana*, 'Preusen' and 'Pinafore' can take full sun at this season, but others like the *pustulata* group cannot. The Begonia family is so large that it would be impossible to record here how each should be grown. It is important, therefore, to keep a watchful eye on all of your plants. If leaves are turning brown at the edges, or look papery and yellow, or if the leaves curl over and have a pebbly aspect, chances are they are getting too much sun. If, on the other hand, leaf stems elongate and the space between the leaves on the stems seems wider than normal, your plants are probably not getting enough light for proper growth.

My cellar windows face south and one would think that this would mean plenty of available light, but the room itself is dark. Begonias in this location lean toward the windows, reaching for the source of light and, if not turned regularly, become lop-sided. My east window is a large picture window with a wide ledge where the Begonias stay compact, thrive and bloom profusely. My workroom has a west window in front of which I grow Begonias on a chest but I find it necessary in October to allow the filmy curtain to stay between plants and window. Later in the winter, the curtain will be pulled aside to permit the plants to get all possible sunlight until mid-March when they are again shielded from the sun. Assuming that it is bright and the room behind it well lighted, a north window will give sufficient light for Begonias to grow

well. If the room is kept at or near 70°, rex Begonias and others which love warmth will grow beautifully as will many others with deeply colored foliage. *B. metallica* grew so large in my north window last winter that it had to be drastically pruned by springtime. Many varieties of Begonias growing in south windows will need protection from the sun in October and some will need it throughout the winter if the window is large and not at all protected by trees or overhanging branches. If kept too close to the window, plants may suffer from the heat of the sun. I also find it necessary on severely cold winter nights, even though we use storm sashes, to move plants from the sill. Most of the winter and spring bloomers do well in a south window from the end of October to mid-March, since they need all possible light during these winter months to stay compact and to bloom at the proper time. In my home greenhouse, in which I maintain a night time temperature of 60°, I have discovered that most of the winter and early spring bloomers do well on the west bench but still need shading from the sun in October. We therefore do not remove the shading from the west side of the greenhouse until November brings gray days.

Rexes and those which begin to yellow when subjected to too much sun are shaded by a muslin canopy to avoid the noonday sun. This canopy may not be a thing of beauty but the Begonias growing beneath it are certainly gorgeous. In other words, shading of some kind for some of my Begonias is not necessary but for many of them it is most important throughout the year. I learn which need shading and which do not by observing each plant daily in order to give it proper sun and light. I feel that it is the only sure way for the hobby collector to learn about the needs of the individual plants which he grows.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1—*B. goegoensis*—

Growth is bushy, compact, with high creeping rhizomes. Petioles very fleshy, sharply tri-cornered, bare. Leaves almost round to egg-shaped, closed, saucer-like, wavy over the entire surface or rugose; upper side of the leaf olive-green with lighter shading, silky gloss, a little lighter at the margins; beneath reddish, both sides bare. Inflorescence sessile, surpassing the leaves very little in height. Flowers medium large, pink. This plant is a treasure for collectors and fanciers of beautiful foliage plants and should be grown in a well regulated greenhouse or similar conditions. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. venosa*—

Brazil. Growth shrubby, erect, medium height. Stems succulent, round, green with small white lines, surrounded entirely with large, almost transparent, fine, venous, light brown vesicular bracts, in such a way that the stems, themselves, are hardly visible. Petioles are long or slightly longer than the leaves, fleshy, covered with a brownish pubescence. Leaves auricular, succulent, margins entire, and green background is covered with soft hairs. Inflorescence axillary, very long, succulent, covered with soft hairs. Flowers abundant, medium large, white, spicy-fragrant. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

B. venosa is an important plant, but we do not find it frequently. The white tomentose cover, which comes off easily when touched, constitutes the ornamental value of the plant. It thrives best in a warm or moderately warm location, where it gets a few hours of morning and afternoon sun. This condition turns the leaves to a beautiful white. If the plant is placed permanently in the shade, the leaves remain greenish. Requires less water in winter. Blooms in spring and summer.

No. 3—*B. lubbersii*—

Brazil. Exotic Begonia with silver-

splashed, dark leaves, it is unlike any other Begonia; has a peltate leaf, pointed at the top and bottom, with the surface patterned in silver blotches. Has the rare look of *Caladium humboldti*. This is just not another cane type Begonia and if it does not show the true characteristics when small, it will later. Do not become discouraged and throw seedlings out. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Note: The three varieties listed above are from one of our well known Begonia hybridizers who has gone to much work and patience to produce them for the Seed Fund. We hope you will grow and enjoy them. They are the freshest and best seed available.

No. 4—*B. convalliodora*—

C. de Candolle. Seed listed in the July *Begonian* under *B. Venezuela* sp #1003—now identified as listed above. See also, cover picture on the July *Begonian*. Unlike other Begonias, *B. convalliodora* has been found growing in various countries. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5—*B. cameroun* sp #1005—

Seed was also offered in the July *Begonian* as *B. Cameroun* sp item No. 2. Strictly rhizomatous with large oblong leaves. Flowers profusely in winter, bright crimson with white edges. The male flowers are borne in dense umbels on a short stem while the female flowers are sessile on the rhizome in groups of from one to three. It is not known to science as far as can be determined and certainly not in this country. Large seed, peculiar and interesting Begonia. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Correction: Information under pictures in the July *Begonian* is incorrect. It should be Begonia from Elbowi, Cameroun and not Ebowi, Cameroun.

No. 6—*B. pinetorum*—

Mexico. Heavy textured leaves, brown flannel underneath, fuzzy white over lemon green on top; scalloped

edge trimmed with a brown pencil line. Flowers pink. A hard to find Begonia. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. acida*—

Brazil. Large, seersucker-puckered leaves of apple-green are round but seem angled by a suggestion of points where veins run out to edge. Flowers are dainty, white in spring. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Note: Our *B. acida* has been growing all summer in propagating bed where it has plenty of moisture and humidity and is the only way we have ever had a nice looking plant. It is surrounded by large-leaved tropicals such as philodendrons, caladiums, colocasia, red leaf banana and a wide assortment of rex Begonias and orchids. All of these plants require moisture and humidity. *B. acida* is beautiful in this environment.

No. 8—*B. kenworthy*—

Mexico. Leaves textured, shaped, and veined like the ivy, but more grey or powder blue than green, rhizome erect. Prefers more sun, less water than average. Keep warm and dry to promote new growth. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. 'Orange Rubra'*—

(*B. dichroa* x *B. 'Coral Rubra'*). Clear green leaves sometimes silver-spotted; sometimes not. Ornate clusters of large salmon-orange flowers outshine the foliage. Nice Begonia. Good germination. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*Rhizomatous Begonias*—

Crossed and selfed. Good germination. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. epipsila*—

Brazil. Thick, polished, leathery green leaves coated with red-brown wool underneath. Grows low, good basket Begonia. Flowers white. Good germination. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, Calif. 95678

A NEW SUGGESTED BEGONIA CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

Interesting, isn't it, when we think that one word, Begonias, can awaken so much—an absorbing hobby—reading, learning, becoming personally acquainted with a plant family—the Wonderful World of Begonias!

For many many months, we have been preparing a guide to classifying as many Begonias as we could. We researched all material we had at hand and contacted two of the most knowledgeable members of the American Begonia Society, Rudy Ziesenne and Sylvia Leatherman.

The first half of the *Guide* lists Begonias alphabetically, their types and page numbers of suggested classifications for use at Shows when entering your plants. These page numbers refer to the second half of the *Guide* which lists Begonias under suggested classifications. The *Guide* was prepared to be helpful not only to members who work on shows as Show Chairmen and registration clerks, but to the many members who also enter their plants in shows or want to know about Begonias.

As a result, we have a mimeographed *Guide* the size of a half sheet of letter paper, 42 pages, punched with three holes so that you may put it into a binder. A *Guide—Over 500 Begonias Listed as to Type and Suggested Classifications* was prepared by the Westchester Branch, American Begonia Society. It is available for \$1.00 by writing to:

Mrs. Walter (Ruth) Pease, Jr.
8101 Vicksburg Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90045

Please make checks payable to the Westchester Branch, American Begonia Society. We had 100 copies mimeographed, so get your order for your copy in to us soon.

We have prepared this with the hope that it will be followed by research and further classification.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Recent robins have been laden with information on growing under lights, hybridizing, seed, and gesneriads. A greenhouse flight noted increasing popularity of Begonias.

Under Lights: Rufus Neas of Greenville, South Carolina, believes Westinghouse Plant-Gro lamp is one of the better growth tubes for African Violets and *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross), from his and others' experience. He wonders if they would not be good for rexes also. He and Daisy Austin of Julian, California, think different light intensities—and therefore different kinds of tubes—are needed by different plants. In addition to Gro-Lux Wide-Spectrum, Sylvania has 96-inch High Output and Very High Output lamps for growing plants like geraniums, that require more light. The VHO lamp with built-in reflector was developed for growing high-energy vegetable crops in Alaska.

Ben Marcus of Brooklyn is pleased with his Westinghouse Plant-Gro and daylight fluorescent combination. Begonias *leptotricha*, 'Sarabelle,' and others were in bloom. *B. ulmifolia* was over its pot in two months. *B. 'Black Magic'* and *B. acida* were doing well. Bill Wright of Kimberley, Canada, plans to try tuberous Begonias under lights this winter—tubers he grew from seed under lights last winter, that went dormant this spring. He will use one cool white and one growth light, hopes for flowers for Christmas.

Helen Matsubu of Fruitland, Idaho, noted that chrysanthemums are forced into early bloom by shading to shorten "day-length," wonders if different day-lengths are causes of some Begonias' blooming in spring, while others wait till fall or winter, and some bloom all year. (Tests have shown that short days promote tuber growth, and long days bloom in tuberous Begonias. What about rhizomatous bloom?)

B. herbacea: Mike Michelson of Miami grows *B. herbacea* (unusual epiphytic species from Brazil) on

coarse osmunda fern and hard tree fern slabs. Bob Shatzer and Jerry Sausaman of Albright, West Virginia, have brought *B. herbacea* into bloom in a fish bowl in moss.

Other Begoniaceae: John Scott of Ormond, Australia, saw plants of *Symbegonia*, sister genus of *Begonia* in the *Begoniaceae* family, at the Botanical Gardens. He understood they were from New Guinea. They have attractive, small hairy leaves, green-and-red tinted. None had flowered by July.

Seed: Ruth Stanley of Bellefontaine, Ohio, suggests that seed packets mailed in the lower left corner of an envelope will not be damaged by the postal stamping machine. Murray Morrison of New York still likes his method of sowing seed in small flats covered with breath-inflated plastic, rubber-banded at the end. Seed sowed in January had not been opened till June, yet the flat had lost no moisture, germinated seedlings were fresh and green. He is pleased that his *Platyserium* fern spores had germinated on vermiculite—also a batch on pure peatmoss.

Sterility: John Scott has a cross between *B. 'Erythrophylla'* and *heracleifolia*, despite reports from others in his last flight suggesting *B. 'Erythrophylla'* is sterile. Seedlings were similar, having maple-shaped leaves, serrated edges with bristly hairs, dark or bronzy green on top and red underneath. Flowers were pink. Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California, said all male bloom dropped from his *B. 'Freddie'* before opening; pollen never seems to appear.

Hybridizing: Ruby Budd's *B. 'Paul Bee'* (*paulensis* x *echinosepala*) has leaves two-and-a-half inches wide by eight inches long and the habit of *B. echinosepala* in curling, Dorothy Behrends of Encinitas, California, notes. She has not seen any Begonias that approach this. *B. paulensis* influence is not seen in this plant except for the size. It is as hardy as *B. echinosepala*.

Alice Roberts, also of Encinitas, crossed *B. 'Bow-Arriola'* with *B. incana* four years ago, resulting in all

similar plants—small, peltate, with leaf about two inches across, most with dark edging. The plants remain small and creeping. Pat Burdick of Burnsville, Minnesota, notes further changes in her B. 'Bow-Nigra' crosses, after blooming. New leaves are more deeply cut. B. 'Apple Jack' leaf is black with apple-green center.

Chuck Tagg notes that flower color seems to be affected by at least five genes, making the study of dominant traits difficult, even without using plants like rexes with their fantastically complicated ancestry.

Gesneriads: Velma Malott of Tucson, Arizona, had a *Rechtsteneria cardinalis* in a window in June that had been blooming almost three months. She enjoys miniature *Sinningia pusilla*, 'Bright Eyes,' and 'Baby Doll'—all loaded with blossoms. The first two grow in small pots in a plastic box, 'Baby Doll' in a glass bottle. She had a two-month gloxinia seedling already in bud.

A friend wrote Jerry Sausaman that *Columnneas* are grown in Norway for sale by florists, four plants to a pot, pruned semi-upright, and sold in flower as are azaleas in the U.S.—very popular and an important commercial crop.

Achimenes must grow as long as possible after blooming before dying away for winter, as this is the rhizome-producing period, Jerry points out. The longer they grow after flowering, the more rhizomes develop. They are produced at roots and leaf axils. Cuttings root easily and will produce the best rhizomes for next year. The original rhizomes disappear each year, as they are annual.

Don Salmon of Millicent, Australia, took many cuttings from his *Achimenes* to make them bushier, and these have rooted, flowered, and gone dormant. On some, tendril growth had started, and beginning rhizomes could be seen at each juncture. He is experimenting with growing five gloxinias over the winter. He wonders if cutting *Columnneas* back doesn't make them flower extra well.

Popularity: Peg Scott of Ashland, Nebraska, has seen marked rise in the sale of Begonias this past year. And a Clovis, New Mexico, florist who recently told Claire Roberts that she could not sell Begonias now has a standing order with Claire for *semperflorens*. Claire knew she would be converted once she had a few in her shop! B. 'Charm' (yellow-variegated *semperflorens*) sold well for Jack Nice of Wichita, Kansas, this spring. Also B. semp. 'Comet,' which stands more sun than many, and B. semp. 'Geneva Doubles.'

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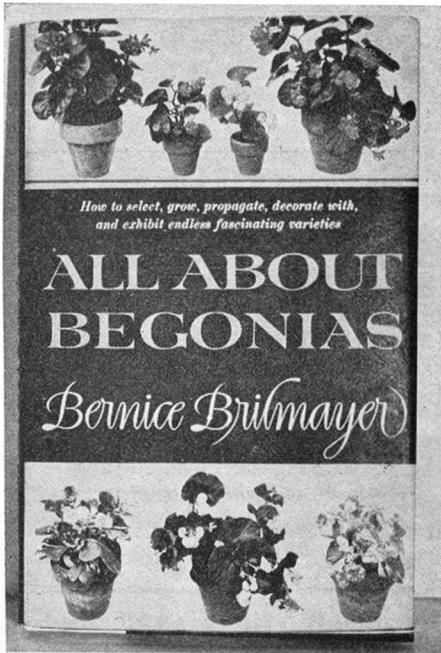
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ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS

The book, *All About Begonias*, by Bernice Brilmayer has been ordered by the Librarian and will be available from her immediately.

Begonia lovers have long depended on this book as one of their handbooks. Anyone who has been to the public library for books about Begonias, knows how few there are. *All About Begonias* was copyrighted in 1960, but was taken out of print when Mrs. Brilmayer passed away in 1962. This book has been very difficult to find since then. It is a treasured item on many bookshelves and many Begonia growers will not allow it out of their homes.

If you do not have a copy of *All About Begonias*, order yours now from our library at a cost of \$5.95 plus postage (Calif. residents add 5% tax).

MRS. LUCILE WRIGHT
 Librarian
 4508 West 133rd Street
 Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

CORRECTION

In the August issue of *The Begonian*, the article on adventitious growth, page 157, indicated that Ruth Pease of Los Angeles found growths on a cross of *B. hispida* x *B. macrocarpa*. The cross should have been given as *B. metallica* x *B. hispida cuculifera*.

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An Open Letter to Elizabeth and Herbert Warrick

How wonderful you people must be to have generously donated your time and effort to make available to the A.B.S. membership the mimeographed reproductions of the Monthly Bulletins of the American Begonia Society for 1934 through 1937. I feel I must thank you for undertaking this worthwhile project.

It is so interesting to read about the members who made such valuable contributions during those early years. The cultural notes are filled with excellent information.

These Bulletins will share a place on my library shelves with my special books.

I am very grateful to you and the A.B.S. members who gave you assistance for making it possible for me to share in the establishment and growth of this wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

THELMA O'REILLY
San Miguel Branch
National Representative

EDITOR'S NOTE

The above letter has come to me from one member. I feel that it states the sentiments of many of us in the A.B.S. Mr. and Mrs. Warrick have done a tremendous job and a wonderful service for all of us. This is not the first time they have contributed their efforts in a big way.

May I represent *you, the members*, in adding to the above letter by extending our sincerest thanks to Elizabeth and Herbert Warrick for a job well done?

Those interested in purchasing copies of these first *Begonians* for the years 1934-35-36-37 should send \$6.00 to the Librarian. The years 1934-35 are available now and the others will be mailed as soon as they are finished.

MAE TAGG
Editor

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Charlotte M. Hoak passed away September 3, 1967. We are sorry for the loss of this great lady. She was born October 24, 1874 in Mendocino County, California. Miss Hoak, a horticulturalist, was the second recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award and the first Editor of *Golden Gardens*.

A memorial service for Miss Hoak will be held on Sunday, October 22, 1967 in the Brethren Church of South Pasadena, California.

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BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from Page 184)

erick Kingsbury, newly elected Vice President. Mr. Warrick and Mrs. Kingsbury were not present.

Mr. Charles Tagg read a short acceptance speech emphasizing the Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society and encouraging all of us to work together so that we become a stronger, growing organization during the coming year.

Mr. Wright announced a garden tour to be held on Sunday for all members and guests. The gardens of Irene and Harold Nuss, Ruth and Walter Pease, Edith and Harold Howard, Bee and Wilbur Olson, and Lucile and Everett Wright were to be shown.

Mr. Charles Tagg, newly installed President, presented Mr. Everett Wright with a copy of *Exotica 3* and a life membership in the American Begonia Society.

Mrs. Margaret Lee, Awards Chairman, then announced that Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman was the recipient of the coveted Eva Kenworthy Gray Award bringing the banquet to a close on a most memorable note.

Members and guests of the following branches were present: El Monte, Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, North Long Beach, Orange County, Redondo Area, Riverside, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Gabriel Valley, San Miguel, Theodosia Burr Shepherd, Westchester, Whittier, A. D. Robinson, and Knickerbocker. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by all.

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1967 SHOW WINNERS

(Continued from Page 185)

As we close our Annual Convention and Show, it is with heartfelt gratitude I say thank you to the judges, clerks, exhibitors, and to all members who contributed to the success of the show. A gracious thank you to Southern California Greenhouse Company for their very generous donation of the Junior Ray Glasshouse and to the other firms who donated their products. Profound appreciation goes to those individuals and branches who donated trophies.

To my successor—best wishes and much progress in the days ahead.

BERT SLATTER
Show Chairman

PHOTO CREDITS

Photographs from the National Convention are by Ralph Corwin. Those from the Eastern Conference are by P. I. Merry.

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MINUTES OF THE 1967 A.B.S. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the American Begonia Society was held Saturday, September 2, 1967 in the Polaris Room, Hawthorne Memorial Building. The meeting was called to order at 2:45 by President Wright, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Past President Perz, and the Aims and Purposes were read by President-Elect Tagg. There were 16 officers and 18 branches reporting, with 58 members present.

President Wright thanked his officers and committee chairmen and all others who helped him in the past year.

The report of the ballot counting committee was read. 313 ballots were cast, with the following officers elected: President-Elect, Carl Naumann; Vice President, Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury; Secretary, Mrs. Virginia Barnett; and Treasurer, Walter Barnett. Our best to these new officers as they start their terms.

The branch reports were given. We were fortunate to have with us the East Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Knickerbocker branches, in addition to the local branches. We were also honored with the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Kusler from Wisconsin. Belva Nelson Kusler is a well-known hybridizer.

President Wright opened the floor to bids for the next Convention, changes in the Constitution and By-Laws or other matters requiring the vote of the entire membership, and suggestions for expansion and improvement of the American Begonia Society.

Margaret Lee suggested that the annual convention and show be held on some other weekend than Labor Day. Sylvia Leatherman suggested that the show schedule be frozen and not used until it has been revised. Carl Naumann suggested that the new administration form a committee for this purpose, and Malcolm Rich suggested that the show committee be appointed as soon as possible, in order to have time to work on this revision.

Treasurer Walter Barnett reported total receipts for the year of \$11,636.88, and total disbursements of \$10,551.93, with a balance on hand August 18, 1967 of \$1,084.95.

Advertising Manager Anne Rose reported a total income of \$1,166.15 for the year.

Membership Secretary Pearl Benell reported a total membership of 2331. We have had a total of 603 new members during the year.

Public Relations Director Vera Naumann reported three new branches formed during the year, one branch reorganized, and one branch disbanded. Many foreign letters were received.

Judges Course Director, Sylvia Leatherman, reported that eleven are now taking the course. The total of the course fund is now \$298.84.

The Historian, Evelyn Vollnogle, reported a successful year and announced that the history book is on display at the membership table.

The auditing committee reported that the audit of the Treasurer's books has been completed, with the books found in order.

Nomenclature Director, Rudolf Zieshenne, discussed the registration of new crosses.

President Wright displayed an award of appreciation which was prepared for the Herbert Warricks, thanking them for their mimeographing of the 1934-5-6-7 *Begonian*.

C. Tagg made a motion that this award be presented, seconded by W. Barnett. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Lucille Williams
Secretary

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CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month
Mrs. Peggy E. Fratus, Secy.
1363 Boston Post Road,
Old Saybrook, Conn. 06475

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Member's Homes
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.
3625 N. Fitzhugh St., Dallas, Texas 75206

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California
Mrs. Edmund H. Ellerbusch, Secy.
1051 Ordway, Albany, Calif. 94706

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Natural Gas Co. Building
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.
Catherine Mead, Secy.
9030 Points Dr., Bellevue, Wash. 98004

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Sylvia B. Leatherman, Secy.
2637 N. Lee Ave., So. El Monte, Calif. 91733

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Mrs. A. Esther Smith, Secy.
309 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona, Calif. 91767

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. Edna L. Korts, Corr. Secy.
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90039

GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH

Mrs. J. R. Coxie, Secy.
5757 N. Afton Park Way, Baton Rouge, La. 70806

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station
Houston, Texas 77024

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Business and Professionals Women's Club
820 Java St., Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Lydia Austin, Secy.
15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, Calif. 90260

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Mrs. Philip Sarna, Secy.
37 East 30th St., New York, 10016

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Social Hall of Community Savings and Loan,
3901 Atlantic
Mrs. Mabel Gage, Secy.
3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90807

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center
6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge
Mrs. Louis Sicard, Secy.
4520 Clark St., Baton Rouge, La. 70811

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Rosemond Merlweather, Secy.
1552 Plascentia Ave., Coral Gables, Fla. 33134

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.
Member's Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.
1104 Askew St., Kansas City, Mo. 64127

NEW LONDON COUNTY-NUTMEG BRANCH

2nd Saturday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Donald Beck, Secy.
R.F.D. 1, Mystie, Conn. 06355

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
Mrs. Betty Lou Barnett
3944 Clara St., Cudahy, Calif. 90201

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. William M. Hastings, Secy.
621 Orchard St.
Corona del Mar, Calif. 92625

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.
R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail,
Medford, N.J. 08055

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday Each Month
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Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
1304 N. Poinsettia Ave.,
Manhattan Beach, Calif. 92066

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Mary E. Tourgee, Secy.
92 Rodman St., Peace Dale, R.I. 02833

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park
3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Jim Smith, Secy.
8631 Clearview Pl., Riverside, Calif. 92509

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, Homes of Members
Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy.
1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego, Calif. 92103

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., Garden Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Mrs. Carrie Hughes, Secy.
2709 Florence Place, Sacramento, Calif. 95818

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Mrs. Nellie Castillo, Secy.
5443 Bonita Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92114

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way
Linda Priest, Secy.
6 Lacksley Ave., Apt. No. 1-D
San Francisco, California 94122

CALENDAR

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Ruth Eppley
9133 E. Longden Ave., Temple City, Calif. 91780

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Margaret Lee, Secy
1852 31st St., San Diego, Calif. 92102

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol
Mrs. S. E. Wilband, Secy.
1542 Marquard Terrace, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Loyal Heights Field House,
21st Ave., N.W. and N.W. 77th St.
Miss Sally Harding, Secy.
11632 1st Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98168

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Avril Butler, Secy.
2619 Ocean Avenue, Ventura, Calif. 93003

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday of Each Month
Mrs. Ruth Beineke, Secy.
1921 Highland, Salina, Kansas 67401

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Lorenzo Manor School
18250 Bengal Ave., Hayward, Calif.
Elma Midgley, Secy.
16105 Via Descanso, San Lorenzo, Calif. 94580

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy.
1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76110

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Thursday, Sabine National Bank Bldg.
Port Arthur, Texas
Mrs. R. J. Wilson, Secy.
4620 Evergreen St., Port Arthur, Texas 08055

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.
306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverson St., Los Angeles, Calif
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
1304 N. Poinsettia Ave.,
Manhattan Beach, Calif. 90266

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Irene Fediaczko, Secy.
125 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center,
5703 S. Palm Ave., Whittier
Anne L. Rose, Secy.
14036 E. Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif. 90605

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon, Homes of Members
Mrs. Robert E. Waite, Secy.
209 N. Locust Lane, Exton, Pa. 19341

October 11—Inglewood Branch: Annual membership birthday President's dinner at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Mr. Fritz Kubisch from Jungle Plant and Flowers Nursery in Culver City.

October 12—Orange County Branch: Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné will speak on McDougal's Mexican Introductions. Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Grange Hall, Century and Taft, Garden Grove.

October 13—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Dr. Samuel Ayers, Jr. will speak on Flowering Shrubs and Trees. Meeting at the Arboretum, Arcadia at 8 p.m.

October 27—Redondo Area Branch: Past-Presidents potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Jean Kerlin.

November 1—DEADLINE for all material for the December issue of *The Begonian*.

National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate City Auditorium
4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, Calif.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

This is the season for electing new officers. The Branch Directory will be printed again in the January issue. Please send me the name and address of your new secretary as soon as you know who it is to be. Deadline for the January issue is December 1st.

MAE TAGG, *Editor*

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