

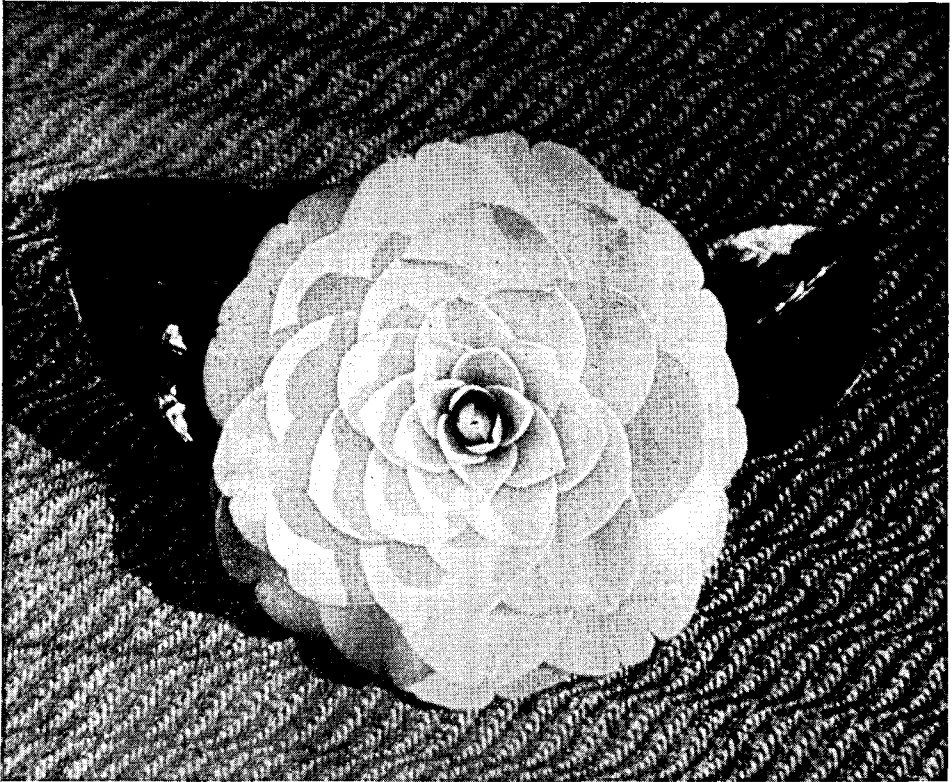
Northern California Camellia Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Organization

Vol. 6, No. 2

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

December, 1952



Valtevareda

Photo by Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda, Calif.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.**ROSTER OF OFFICERS****PRESIDENT:**

Harold L. Paige (Lafayette 3408)
1212 Monticello Rd., Lafayette

VICE-PRESIDENT:

David L. Feathers (Orinda 2171)
1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette 1

TREASURER:

Woodford Harrison (LA 4-4671)
915 Oxford St., Berkeley

BULLETIN EDITOR:

Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)
12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda

ARRANGEMENTS:

Mrs. Herbert Teachout (Orinda 2028)
23 Acacia Drive, Orinda

BLOOM DISPLAY:

R. N. Swope
14929 Farnsworth St., San Lorenzo

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM:

Walter N. Powell (OL 3-1586)
423 - 60th St., Oakland 9

CULTURAL EXPERIMENTATION:

Gordon W. Richmond, M.D. (BEacon 2-1576)
475 Mount St., Richmond

HOSTESS:

Mrs. John J. Kampschroer (AN 1-3687)
1115 Wellington St., Oakland 2

LAKESIDE CAMELLIA GARDEN:

O. E. Hopfer (AN 1-5737)
1872 Brentwood Rd., Oakland 2

PUBLICITY:

Jack Osegueda (OL 2-4010)
6819 Pinehaven Rd., Oakland

SECRETARY:

Wallace H. Brown (OL 2-5404)
201 The Uplands, Berkeley 5

DIRECTORS:

John Paul Edwards (GL 1-1854)
1347 Trestle Glen Rd., Oakland 10
Fred E. Heitman, D.D.S. (Orinda 2177)
5833 Patton St., Oakland 18
Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)
12 La Cintilla Avenue, Orinda

MEMBERSHIP:

Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)
12 La Cintilla Avenue, Orinda

PROGRAM:

David L. Feathers (Orinda 2171)
1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette 1

AWARDS:

Wallace H. Brown (OL 2-5404)
201 The Uplands, Berkeley 5

RECEPTION:

John Paul Edwards (GL 1-1854)
1347 Trestle Glen Rd., Oakland 10

QUESTION PERIOD:

H. V. Allington, M.D. (HI 4-1867)
1053 Ardmore St., Oakland

BOOK SALES:

Mrs. Lenore Broze (HU 3-9668)
6100 Harwood Ave., Oakland 18

NOMENCLATURE & CLASSIFICATION:

Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)
12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

John J. Kampschroer (AN 1-3687)
1115 Wellington St., Oakland 2

The Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization of camellia fanciers interested in the culture, propagation and development of camellias. Meetings are held on the first Monday in each month from November to May inclusive, at 8 p.m. at the Chabot School Auditorium, Oakland. Membership is open to all those with a serious interest in the subject. Annual dues \$5.00. Membership application blanks may be obtained from Barlow Hollingshead, Membership Chairman, 12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda (Phone: Orinda 2054).

Published by the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc.

Copyright 1952

COVER FLOWER

Camellia japonica VALTEVAREDA—Medium large double, regular-imbricated. Pink shading to deeper pink on outer petals, occasionally splotched white. There is also a white mutation. Vigorous, upright, compact growth, with unusually fine foliage.

To obtain perfect flowers plant in a protected, shaded area, preferably in high shade under trees, with morning sun. If grown in container, place in a cool, shaded location during blooming period.

The cover flower was grown by Barlow Hollingshead at Orinda.

THE CAMELLIA SECTION OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

By H. W. Jessep, M.Agr.Sc., B.Sc. Dip.Ed., Director, Melbourne Botanic Gardens and Government Botanist of Victoria, South Yarra, Victoria, Australia

The Camellia, which was a garden favorite during the middle 19th century, gradually lost its popularity until by the end of that century it was practically neglected. This was partly due to the fact that camellias in their popularity were planted in unsuitable environments and thus gave unsatisfactory results. Again their formality was Victorian and the Victorian era was fast fading. In Australia during the 1930s, interest in the camellia was renewed and soon Hazlewood Bros. of New South Wales issued a special camellia catalogue. Naturally the catalogue contained several synonyms and doubtful names but it was an excellent stepping-off place for investigations into the Japanese varieties.

By 1938 the interest was definitely aroused and research into the nomenclature of the older varieties was being investigated by a small group of camellia enthusiasts. Unfortunately the war period intervened and the scope narrowed but still the camellia was receiving attention and gaining in popularity. Soon after World War II subsided, the interest was such that the demand for plants far out-stripped the supply. As the public wanted to purchase by name and not merely by color-description the nurserymen were forced to change from mere color-descriptions to the variety name. This meant that the camellia nurserymen had to study the varieties they had been neglecting for years and get up-to-date with the correct names.

Fortunately some of the better older varieties had retained their old labels in the Melbourne Botanic and other gardens so that these were checked and formed a nucleus for cuttings of named varieties. Some of the older nurseries still had a few named plants

and the older members of the nurseries remembered a few others. Seedlings and sports were being raised and from these selections were made so that by 1946 we had new varieties available, but there were still a large number of good older varieties the names of which were not known and the necessity for research into the nomenclature of these varieties was self-evident.

During the after-war period, work was carried out in co-operation with the American camellia societies and with enthusiasts in other parts of the world. The interest in the camellia had become intense.

In 1950 the Camellia and Magnolia Conference was held in England and Professor Waterhouse of New South Wales and I were able to attend it and afterwards to spend some weeks in English and continental gardens and nurseries to our mutual benefit.

Camellia Section Formed

By 1948 the interest in camellias in Australia had reached such a stage that the public was anxious to know the correct nomenclature. They had seen the same variety under different names and also different varieties under the same name. To try to rectify this the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, which is the leading general Horticultural Society in Australia, was approached about the matter and in 1950 the Society decided to form a special section to deal with camellia problems.

On my return from overseas at the end of 1950, the section had been formed under the guidance of Dr. C. R. Merrillees, a noted camellia grower and enthusiast, who kindly informed me that I had been elected chairman in absentia. By this time the section

was in working order and the oiling was so successful that it has run smoothly ever since. The aim of the section can best be seen from the activities that are being carried out.

The executive section meets every month, formulates the work for the year and discusses any matters of a specific nature such as camellia show schedules, monthly lectures, research and investigational activities and such like. The section meets the first Wednesday of every month. The meeting consists of a brief lecture on a specific subject such as classification of camellia japonica flowers, propagation of camellias, nomenclatural problems, insect pests and their treatment.

Activities

There are monthly competitions for camellia blooms during the flowering season, which commences in April and finishes in November.

A plant-growing competition is carried out and is scheduled to last three years. The young rooted cuttings are all from the same plant and as similar as possible. The young plants are carefully tagged and the final size container together with the young plant in a 3-inch flower pot are given to the competitor on condition that it is brought in for judging when required and that a careful record is kept of the treatment given to the plant and the data made available to the section. In other respects the plant can be treated in any way the competitor desires.

During the evening of the meetings, the blooms are judged, and this gives an opportunity to train judges. An experienced judge is in charge of the competitions and there are three others chosen from successful exhibitors who want to know more about the judging methods. The three consist of a senior judge, an intermediate, and a novice. As the senior obtains sufficient knowledge to carry out judging, he is removed from the panel, the other two promoted, and

another novice added. In this way we are working up a panel of judges who will be available for judging camellias at the various shows. After the judging, the manager of the judging activities gives a talk on the exhibits explaining the decision of the judges and answering any questions on the exhibits.

Victorian Camellia Shows

In 1951 the first Victorian Camellia Show of this century was held in the smaller Town Hall. It was such a success that the hall was overcrowded and it was immediately decided to have a two-day Camellia Show the next year.

In 1952 the show was held on the 15th and 16th of August. The show schedule was enlarged and divided into three sections. Section 1 was open to all exhibitors, Section 2 to amateurs, and Section 3 to floral art. Sections 1 and 2 were based on the classification and color forms of camellias much the same as in the Northern California Camellia Society show schedule. All the blooms had to be grown by the exhibitor. In the floral art section the blooms could be obtained from any source.

The show was a huge success in every way. There was a large number of entries, the competition keen and the blooms very good. The floral art showed that artistic flower arrangements could be made with camellias. The attendance was excellent on both days and the financial aspect very satisfactory.

Future Plans

It has been decided that next year more definite research into camellia problems will be carried out and it has been arranged for two Camellia Shows to be conducted. In May sasanquas and early japonicas will be staged in conjunction with a special lecture night on camellias. The main show will be held on the 14th and 15th of August and the schedule will be enlarged.

(Continued on page 5)

SYMPOSIUM ON GROWING SEEDLINGS

PANEL: Louis Macchia, San Carlos; Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda;
David L. Feathers, Lafayette, Moderator

This is the time of year to go into the matter of growing camellia seedlings. In fact, Mr. Hopfer has some rooted already.

Question: Why do some people fail to get camellia seed, and what type of camellias bear seed?

Mr. Hollingshead: It is necessary to leave some blossoms on the plant until the corolla either drops or starts drying. Some years ago I tried to hand-pollinate varieties which, I know now, rarely bear seed: Lady Clare, Herme, Gigantea, Nagasaki, and of course was unsuccessful. There are other varieties which bear seed freely: Amabilis, Donckelari, Kreena, Lady Van Sittart, Jennie Jones, Duchess of Sutherland, Gigantea Alba, Pink Star, Tricolor Sieboldi, Imura, Ville de Nantes.

Mr. Feathers: I should like to expand on that: In the first place it is necessary to leave the blooms on the plant after they wilt. In the second place the conditions must be right: a protected or a warm spot. In the third place, if you don't do hand-pollinating, there must be bees, humming birds, ants, or something that does the pollinating for you.

Question: When is the seed ripe and when is the best time to plant?

Mr. Macchia: Where I live in San Carlos, the seed ripen sometime during the early part of October. At this time I watch the seeds very closely,

and at the first sign of the pod cracking open, remove the pod from the plant and soak the seed in warm water overnight. Those that sink to the bottom I consider good seed and plant immediately. I have already planted this year's crop.

Mr. Hollingshead: The pod will carry anywhere from one to eight seeds. Donckelari usually has but one or two seed; that is also true of Hibiscus and Ville de Nantes, which are probably related to Donckelari.

Mr. Feathers: When a seed pod has begun to split on a plant, I take off all the pods on that camellia. This fall there were sixty seed pods on T.K. Variegated. If one pod breaks open, it is almost a certainty that the seeds are ripe.

Mr. Hollingshead: If the seed are black or dark brown, they are ripe. If seed are picked prematurely, they will not germinate. Occasionally a pod will split open as early as August due to internal pressure of the expanding seed. If in such cases the seed are still green, the pods should be left on the plant until the seed are brown or black in color.

Mr. Feathers: There is a definite advantage in planting the seed as soon as possible; the fresher the seed, the sooner they germinate.

Question: What methods are recommended for planting the seed?

Mr. Hollingshead: For the last two or three years I have been growing seedlings in flats: last year about 400 seed were planted from which I will pot about 300 seedlings this fall. After the seed are ripe, I plant them in a 50% sand and 50% peat mixture in a three-inch flat. First I place one inch of the mixture in the bottom of the flat; then fill the flat with 2x2x3-inch plant bands standing vertically. Next, I fill each plant band within 1 inch of

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY—

(From page 4)

The camellia has fully regained its popularity as a garden and pot plant subject and, with more information on its cultural habits and by improvement through cross-breeding, it is destined to play the part that its beauty warrants.

the top with the mixture of sand and peat. A seed is placed flat-side down in the center of each plant band. I place the varieties in rows according to parent plants, and label the row with the parent names and the date seed is planted. Each plant band is then filled, covering the seed with the mixture of sand and peat.

Mr. Feathers: By using plant bands, one gets about an inch greater depth in the flat.

Mr. Hollingshead: When the flat is planted to seed, I place it in a semi-shaded location in the basement where the temperature is 65 to 70 degrees. The flat is then sprinkled soaking wet; it is watered every two weeks or as dryness of soil requires. It takes about two months for the seeds to germinate. By May, the seedlings have 2, 3 or 4 leaves. I leave them in the flat for a whole year.

Question: Do you recommend pruning the tap root?

Mr. Hollingshead: I don't. I vary the size of container when transplanting according to the size of the root system.

Mr. Macchia: I never prune the tap root, which grows to approximately 6 inches in length. Before it reaches 6 inches, laterals have begun to grow. The tap root is there to hold the plant firmly in the ground and to seek food.

Mr. Feathers: I tried pruning the tap root one year, but didn't have success.

Mr. Lattin: I have used the method of cutting of tap root and have had success. I germinate using bottom heat. I bury the seed in sponge rock.

Question: What advantage is there in growing camellia seedlings?

Mr. Macchia: That is one way of producing new varieties. Some grow-

ers will carefully hand-pollinate, crossing two fine varieties or crossing species, hoping to develop a new variety worthy of propagation. Others will use the seedlings as grafting stock.

Mr. Feathers: The quality of the progeny will be in keeping with the quality of the parents. To illustrate, a seedling from Lotus will be more likely to bear good flowers than one from Christmas Red. Try to get seed from someone or from some area where there has been an opportunity for good varieties to be crossed.

Mr. Feathers: One can expedite germination by placing seed in a jar containing sterile peat, but when the seedlings are transplanted they may be weak.

Question: Is there a right or wrong way to place the seed in the ground?

Mr. Feathers: I have heard an authority say it doesn't make any difference how you plant the seed. I use a dibble and place the seed flat-side down, with the seed scar pointing downward. The scar is where the seed was attached to the seed pod.

Mr. Feathers: I have a Lady Van Sittart seedling in which I am particularly interested; there is a tendency for the leaves to twirl — perhaps the flower petals will twirl, too.

The above symposium was held at the November 3, 1952 meeting of the N.C.C.S.

DOMOTO SEEDLING No. 197

Dr. Fred E. Heitman, who appreciates a good camellia when he sees one (nobody will deny), reports that in his opinion Domoto Nursery Seedling No. 197 is even better than Virgin's Blush.

Dues are now due and payable. Forward to Woodford Harrison, Treasurer, 910 Oxford Street, Berkeley, California.

WINTER FERTILIZING FOR BLOOM DEVELOPMENT

PANEL: Dr. Fred E. Heitman, Orinda; Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda;
David L. Feathers, Lafayette, Moderator

Tonight your program committee endeavored to bring together several qualified persons to discuss "Winter Fertilizing for Bloom Development." Dr. Heitman won sweepstakes at the 1952 camellia shows in Berkeley and Sacramento. Mr. Hollingshead won sweepstakes at Sacramento in the 1950 and 1951 shows and was runner-up in several of the Berkeley shows. We also tried to get Mr. Stoeckle and Dr. Wells, both of whom grow camellias to perfection, but they were unable to be here. (Mr. Feathers won sweepstakes at the Berkeley Camellia Show a number of times. Ed.)

The purpose of this panel is to develop the details of winter fertilizing to grow exhibition blooms. Dr. Heitman, will you tell us something about the type, amount, frequency of application of the fertilizer you use for bloom development?

Dr. Heitman: I would say that I feed the year around. I go by the theory that camellias, like human beings, require more than 2, 3 or 4 feedings a year. I feed my plants often and a little at a time. Instead of applying the portions called for by the manufacturers of fertilizers, I feed about half that amount about every six weeks. In the winter, I still feed my camellias, but I decrease the amount of nitrogen and increase the other elements; the nitrogen might cause growth of foliage rather than flower buds.

Mr. Hollingshead: I think feeding for exhibition blooms is an around-the-calendar matter; but I feed for growth in the spring and for blooms

in the fall. The first part of April I start feeding with a full 10-5-5 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potash) application, and again in May and June. I cut the feeding during July, August, September, and even October if it stays warm, because I don't want to force winter growth except on young plants. Beginning with cooler weather in November, I apply another feeding, adding phosphoric acid and potash to make it 4-10-4 for development of blooms. When using liquid fertilizer such as Liquidgro, I step up the phosphoric acid by using commercial liquid phosphoric acid by putting 5 c.c. in five gallons of water and feed through a 16:1 proportioner attached to the hose. For those of you who do not have such a proportioner, a similar result may be obtained by using 5 c.c. of the commercial liquid phosphoric acid in a gallon of water; then mixing 1 measuring cup of this solution in 2 gallons of water to which is added 1 tablespoon of 10-5-5 liquid fertilizer and 1 teaspoon of sulphate of potash. The latter solution is used for watering the camellias for bloom development during winter months.

Dr. Heitman: I think you have to take into consideration fast-acting and slow-acting fertilizers. A liquid fertilizer is available immediately.

Mr. Feathers: For years I have been mixing my own dry fertilizer, which is similar to RAC; what I strive for is 4-8-4. I give the heaviest feeding as soon as the blooms are off the plants. I do not feed at all during July, August, September, and possibly October. In November I resume feeding with a light, possibly a half-portion of what was used in the spring. For bloom development, the nitrogen needs to be cut down; this can be accomplished by using only half as much fertilizer at one time.

(Continued on page 15)

ABSENTEE CAMELLIA GROWING

By Clifton W. Lattin, Vice President
San Francisco Business Men's Garden Club

The subject of my talk is "Absentee Camellia Growing"; it probably should be, "How Fanatical Can You Get Over Camellias?" I am no camellia expert. I know very little regarding them, but I am continually searching for more and more information.

My story begins early in 1943 when I purchased two camellias: one a Sarah Frost, and the other a variety without a label. I planted these in my garden—Sarah Frost was in the rear of the house, and the other in front. Two days later someone, who no doubt wanted the camellia more than I did, dug up the unlabeled plant during the night and carted it away. The Sarah Frost continued to grow and bloomed nicely the first year. The second year it bloomed but had small flowers. The third year it bore no flowers and the leaves started to drop. It worried me to see Sarah Frost dying for I had thought I knew quite a little about gardening. Finally I got to the point where only seven leaves were left, so I gave it the kill-or-cure treatment. I dug it up, dunked it in a pail of water, separated and trimmed the roots. Then I replanted it in a location on the north side of the house, evidently an ideal location. Almost immediately the plant responded and started to throw out new growth; by the end of the year it was again a healthy plant.

This initial experience, which covered a period of approximately four-and-a-half years, indicated to me that I could grow camellias, so I became interested in other varieties. I purchased several from various nurseries, picking them out during non-blooming seasons from catalogs. As you all know, this is a mistake, and I

say to you **never** buy a camellia plant unless you see it in bloom. But I must admit I still buy the **hot** ones without seeing them in bloom.

I no longer have any of those plants that I purchased from catalogs; subsequently I lopped off their heads and grafted better varieties on them. My collection of camellias has continued to grow and as I became more and more interested, I wanted more plants and more varieties.

Our home is in East Oakland on a 45 x 125 foot lot. I erected a semi-lath house with a glass roof and lath sides approximately 20 feet by 30 feet at the rear of the lot and installed two propagating beds in it. Gradually the property became so crowded with plants that it became necessary to move or to get rid of the plants, for there was scarcely a spot on the entire lot—even the lawn—that was not covered with camellias.

My wife and I decided to buy a piece of property in the country and move the camellias there with the idea in mind that when I retired we would make that our home. Every week end, Saturdays and Sundays, for a period of a year or more, we took trips in the country, traveling all the way from St. Helena to Gilroy, looking for a suitable place: one with adequate water, shade, sunshine. At last we found such a place in the Santa Cruz mountains, located approximately 16 miles from Los Gatos and 16 miles from Santa Cruz at the apex of a triangle between those points. It is on the coastal side of the range of the Santa Cruz mountains overlooking Soquel, Capitola and Santa Cruz. The elevation is approximately 1900 feet and on clear days we can see the northern tips of Monterey Bay and approximately 100 miles of the outer ocean.

The above talk was given at the regular meeting of the N.C.C.S. on November 3, 1952.



Interior of lathhouse at country home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lattin

The property consists of 40 acres set out primarily to fruit trees: Bartlett pears and imperial prunes. Besides this there is a family orchard of eight different types of apples, four different persimmons, Bing and Royal Anne cherries, figs, several kinds of plums, and English walnuts. There is also one stand of approximately 125 redwood trees, some well over two hundred feet tall. There is no water actually on the premises except where the land goes down to Amaya Creek where we have a frontage of about 350 feet. In addition to this water, we have a deeded right to a spring in Amaya Gulch. On the property there is a seven-room house, built about 1879. There is a four-room cottage, a two-room cottage, a two-car garage, a very large barn (minus most of the

roof), together with a blacksmith shop and miscellaneous tool sheds.

Water Problem

Our first problem after acquiring the property was to get water from the spring to the house. The spring was located approximately 1500 feet away and it was necessary to carry 73 lengths of one-inch pipe through trees, underbrush and poison oak to get to the location. This pipe of 73 lengths was all carried in one day and connected the next.

After the water was connected to the house, we then had to erect a 6,000-gallon water-tank for storage and install a centrifugal pump in order to get the necessary pressure, as the water flow from the spring to the tank is by gravity and the fall is only 30 feet.

Transporting Camellias

When the water problem was taken care of, we started moving our camellias from Oakland to their new location. This took a considerable period of time as we have only a small 4' x 8' trailer and it could not hold many plants at a time. We placed the camellias, which were in containers, under several large maple trees. But we soon realized our mistake, for there was too much shade and the plants were too crowded. So we planned to build a large lath-house.

Building of Lath-House

We decided on a location for a lath-house, approximately 650 feet from the main house and the water storage-tank. I spent considerable time making drawings considering various sizes, various lengths of spans between posts, and orientation on site where it was to be erected. Then there was the problem of the kind of wood to be used, sizes of lumber, and the actual construction.

I arranged for a man to come in with a bulldozer and level off the space where the lath-house was to be built, graded 6 inches to each 100 feet.

Next, it was necessary to get water to the location. In bringing water from the spring I had to cross the orchard and it was necessary to dig a trench to carry the pipe so that the cultivator would not cut it. I dug about 200 feet of ditch by hand, but decided that 650 feet was a little too much, so I got a contractor to dig the ditch for me. When he came up to look over the job, he estimated it would take him four-and-a-half hours overall to dig the ditch that was required; it would take two hours to go back to Los Gatos and get the equipment, one hour on the job, and one-and-a-half hours to take the equipment back.

Just as he was leaving, he said, "It's too bad you don't have your pipe connected so that we could throw it into the ditch"; he could cover it up and save me a consider-

able amount of work. I assured him that the pipe would be laid out and connected by the time he returned with the equipment. He stared at me as if I was a little "tetched" because to carry and put in place 650 feet of one-and-a-quarter inch pipe is quite a task. However, we did the work and had only five connections to make when he came back with the equipment. When I say **we**, I mean my wife and I, and believe me we were two very tired people.

The machine he used to do the work was not the usual type of ditch-digger, but a converted road-scraper with a short blade which he could up-end vertically. He set this blade and with this big bulldozer equipment, roared up the hill where the pipe was to be laid as fast as a person could walk, digging a ditch approximately 15 inches deep. I then had him dig two ditches, one across the face and one through the center of the proposed lath-house, in order to have that work done also.

As he came down the hill the second time, digging the trench a little deeper, we were on the next to the last connection. In making these connections, we had used a 14-inch and a 16-inch Stillson wrench. I used the 16-inch and my wife used the 14-inch with an extension pipe. She was weary and wasn't paying much attention to what I was doing; as she was standing on the length of pipe to give it leverage, I pressed down on the 16-inch Stillson wrench with such force that I raised her about three feet in the air and she came down bottom-side down. The man on the grader got a big kick out of this and shouted, "That's no way to treat a lady!" Shortly, we finished the next connection and threw the pipe into the ditch. The man turned the blade around and with one swoop up the hill, in about two minutes' time, the ditch was covered over.

The next problem was to lay out the location of the posts for the lath-

(Continued on page 13)

SELECTING CAMELLIA VARIETIES TO SUIT HOME LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

PANEL: David L. Feathers, Lafayette, Moderator; Toichi Domoto, Hayward;
Dr. Alexander Payette, Los Gatos

The purpose of this round-table discussion is to develop the fact that the camellia is a variable plant, in growth habit as well as in bloom, and to point out for the benefit of beginners, particularly, which varieties or species have characteristics which make them more suitable than others for certain situations.

Some of the plant habits which will be covered are: earliness of bloom, low-growth habit, tall-growth habit, sun tolerance, heavy-shade tolerance, and types most suitable for espaliering and container culture.

To begin with, perhaps we should mention some of the fundamental principles involved, such as: varieties best adapted to container culture which grow slowly and tend to be symmetrical and bushy; varieties best for espaliering which tend to be rangy and leggy. There is also the fact that most camellias may be pruned quite freely after attaining some size and be forced into the shape we wish them to assume. Obviously, it would be impossible for this panel, in the short time at its disposal, to discuss anything more than the proven and well-established varieties which are readily available. We shall also endeavor to give you several choices of color and flower form in each category. Perhaps the job of similarly classifying all well-known varieties, under headings somewhat as used here, may be undertaken by some ambitious person at a later date.

Early Blooming Varieties

Mr. Domoto will open the discussion on early-blooming varieties which I shall mention, with brief comments on each:

DAIKAGURA is our standby variety for early bloom, from the middle of September and even earlier, depending on location. The plant will stand considerable sun.

ALBA PLENA is not too early a bloomer — early midseason I should say.

ARAJISHI is one of the earliest, but not too dependable.

PAEONIAEFLORA (Aspasia Macarthur in Australia) and its sports such as Strawberry Blonde, Pink Lady, are early midseason bloomers.

CHANDLER'S ELEGANS and its mutations such as C. M. Wilson and the pink sport, blooms quite early in East Oakland and in other localities too if it is planted in a protected spot. We have had blooms in November.

Dr. Payette: Chandler's Elegans blooms later in Los Gatos than in Southern California, where they are at their best in October.

Mr. Feathers: In East Oakland we used to get flowers in November; now in Lafayette, we never get one until February.

DEBUTANTE is not really an early variety. (Plants bloomed under glass will flower as early as November. Ed.)

VILLE DE NANTE and its sports, such as Lady Kay, bloom fairly early once they get set.

VEDRINE and its sport Eleanor of Fair Oaks may bloom early but the flowers may not be outstanding.

Dr. Payette: We have had Vedrine blooms already, but not of good size. Last year, however, later in the season, we had some fine flowers.

Mr. Feathers: I have seen some stunning flowers of that variety.

FIMBRIATA, like Alba Plena, is an early midseason bloomer.

PINK PERFECTION is early in Southern California; here it is mid-season.

JOSHUA E. YOUTZ (White Daik) is definitely in the early category and one of the finest white camellias. Is a **must** for your collection.

MARCHIONESS OF SALSBURY gives early, strikingly-variegated red with white flowers in a southern exposure in Lafayette.

NAGASAKI flowers from early mid-season.

ROSE GLORY is early and has a long blooming season.

WHITE EMPRESS begins blooming in early midseason.

Dr. Payette: White Empress was awarded Best Flower of Show in Southern California two years ago, the latter part of February.

YOHEI HAKU (September Morn, Albatross) is one of the earliest bloomers.

CAMELLIA SASANQUA — As a class, *C. sasanquas* are quite early to flower.

CAMELLIA OLEIFERA — This species is early to bloom.

APPLE BLOSSOM and other hybrids are also early bloomers.

Low, Spreading Growth Habit Other Than Sasanquas

Sometimes a camellia with low, spreading growth habit is desirable for certain locations, such as under a window where height would not be desirable. Mr. Domoto will comment on this group.

CHANDLER'S ELEGANS is not recommended unless it is kept pruned.

LADY CLARE (*Grandiflora Rosea*) While this variety has a spreading growth habit, the flowers hang down and may get muddy if blooming close to the ground.

Dr. Payette: With a little encouragement they will branch out laterally. Since the flowers hang downward, they will not be spoiled by the rain.

Mr. Feathers: I had a Lady Clare at my mother's place in San Leandro some years ago. Boysenberries near-

by spread until they almost completely covered Lady Clare, forcing it to grow laterally. It still hugs the ground.

CHIYODA NISHIKI (Mallot Vgt.) would adapt itself to under-window situation.

PANACHE has a spreading growth habit; but the foliage needs shade, and if the plant is shaded, there won't be many flowers.

VILLE DE NANTES is a slow-grower.

GOV. EARL WARREN is too strong a grower.

NAGASAKI spreads and has a nice foliage.

MARTHA BRICE is upright and would require pruning

TRIPHOSA is very compact; a beautiful plant.

Tall, Columnar Growers

For certain purposes in landscaping, tall columnar growers are desirable:

ELENA NOBILE, LA REINE AND LADY MARY CROMARTIE, CAPRICE, LALLAROOK, CLEOPATRA (Antony), GOSHUGURUMA, MARGARET HIGDON, CLIMAX (Ella Drayton), PAEONIAEFLORA and its sports, PAX, SEN. DUNCAN FLETCHER, TINSIE, PRIDE OF GREENVILLE, ROSEA PLENA.

Suitable for Espalier

Among the japonicas, Mr. Domoto has found the following suitable for espalier: CHANDLER'S ELEGANS, DEBUTANTE, FLAME, GIGANTEA, MENA LADNIER. It is also possible to take a compact plant and train it. Practically all the sasanquas espalier quite easily.

Suitable for Container Culture

Among the japonicas which are most adaptable to container culture because of the slow and compact growth habit, the following are recommended: ALBA PLENA, FIMBRATA, ANITA, BRILLIANT, CANDIDISSIMA, CAPT. MARTIN'S FAVORITE, CHO CHO SAN, COLLETTI, COQUETTI (Glen 40), COUNTESS OF

ORKNEY, DAIKAGURA, HIGH HAT, EUGENE LIZE, EASTERN SUN, EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, FRED SANDER, GOSHOGURUMA, HELENOR, HENRY MIDDLETON, IWANE SHIBORI (FG #2), JOSHUA E. YOUTZ, K. SAWADA, MRS. K. SAWADA, MAGNOLIA QUEEN, MARCHIONESS OF SALISBURY, MARION MITCHELL, MARTHA BRICE, MISS PASADENA, MONJISU, MOUNT SHASTA, MRS. TINGLEY, NAGASAKI, ORCHID PINK, PAX, REGINI DEI GIGANTI, REV. JOHN G. DRAYTON, RISING SUN, SEN. DUNCAN FLETCHER, SHIN AKEBONO, SHIN SHIOKO, SHIRAGIKU (Purity), ST. ANDRE, SWEET SIXTEEN, TRIPHOSA, WHITE EMPRESS, YOHEI HAKU.

ABSENTEE GROWING—

(From page 10)

house and get them squared-up and measured to the proper distances. Then there was the little matter of digging 90 post holes. Ninety post holes 3 feet deep amounts to a hole 270 feet deep. These holes were dug over one week end and I left Sunday night with a sense of satisfaction that I had really accomplished something and also with the thought in mind that the following week end I would set the posts. But believe it or not, when I arrived there the following week end, 71 of the holes were more or less filled up completely with dirt that the gophers had filled in, so they had to be dug over. I learned my lesson the hard way: I set the posts as I re-dug the holes.

We had decided on a lath-house 108 feet wide by 128 feet long, which requires a great deal of lumber. There were 108 braces made of 2-1 x 6 laminated together with 2 x 4 that had to be fabricated. There was the matter of cutting two hundred 2 x 4 semi-braces. The construction of these braces took a total of 3200 12-penny nails. I constructed a jig in which to make the redwood lath roof. I needed 288 bundles of redwood lath, or 14,400 lath. To nail these laths on 5/8

1 x 4 stringers took 43,200 5-penny galvanized nails. Averaging three strikes to the nail, amounted to a total of 130,000 strikes.

Now there was the problem of getting these frames on top of the stringers which had been previously set on the posts. With the help of another man it was accomplished and they were lashed in place with 12-gauge galvanized wire.

The next job was to construct the lattice work for the outside. This took 11,328 feet of 1 x 2 and a total of 12,700 nails.

Overhead Watering System

The next hurdle was to construct the overhead watering system, which gets us down to the main subject of this talk. In installing this watering system there were 49 pieces of 1½ inch pipe, 270 feet with 65 threads; 51 pieces of 1-inch pipe, 432 feet long with 85 threads; 55 pieces of ¾-inch pipe, 432 feet with 93 threads; 72 pieces of ½-inch pipe, 1860 feet long with 438 threads. Just a job for a Sunday afternoon.

This system had to be supplied with water from the pump which is located near the tank 650 feet away. The pump that I had was not large enough nor strong enough to give me the pressure or volume required, so it was necessary to extend a 1½-inch pipe for a distance of 375 feet up on a hill 90 feet high where an 8,000-gallon tank was erected.

Then it was necessary to purchase a new type pump to get the water to the new tank so that the downward pressure from the tank to the lath-house would be strong enough to operate the 72 sprinkler-heads on the system. At the time the pipe for this system was purchased, it was impossible to get 2- or 2½-inch pipe, so I had to be satisfied with 1½-inch pipe which was laid to the new tank and connected to the watering system. The water system worked fine except that the 1½-inch pipe did not give the necessary volume, so it was neces-

sary to install a separate control system for one-half of the lath-house. Each control system consists of a hydromotor and a time clock. There is a float-switch on the 8,000-gallon tank which operates a relay at the pump which in turn operates a switch on the pump. As a protective measure, a second float-switch was put in the 6,000-gallon tank.

Automatic Sprinkling

During the week I am unable to get to our place in the Santa Cruz mountains, so it is necessary to anticipate weather conditions for the coming week. I decide when I want the plants to be watered, say Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I set the clock for Monday, Wednesday and Friday operation and decide the hour that I want the sprinklers to be turned off. These clocks are electric and at the set time they close the circuit to the hydromotor which in turn opens the valve which controls the water system. After sprinkling for the set length of time, they automatically turn off.

In addition to this, I am now installing a set of relays and thermostatic controls for each system which will automatically turn the water on and off when the temperature reaches any given degree. Let us suppose that the thermostat is set for 90 degrees. Until that degree is reached, the thermostat will remain open. They function separately from the other system of the time clock, so I have complete control even on days when we do not water by the time-clock arrangement. If we should get an extremely hot day on one of the off-days, the thermostat will take over and the plants will be watered.

By this method I don't have to go to the location at all and could leave it for a period of months if I wished. The type of sprinkler that I use is a Thompson 215 C Baffle Spray. It gives a very nice fine rain-like water spray. With the 72 sprinkler heads, we get

complete coverage, and our watering problem is now solved.

Expanding Camellia Collection

Originally I told you I started with two small camellia plants. Since then my collection has grown to where I now have 412 varieties, with over 9,000 plants. It has been a lot of work, but a lot of fun, too, and there is a sense of satisfaction in knowing that I can look forward each year to more and better plants and larger and better flowers.

In the lath-house I have also constructed propagating beds 48 feet long consisting of eight sections. Each section is separate, and it is my ultimate aim to have each one equipped with a heating cable, separately controlled. It is here that I plan to continue with this hobby, growing more plants by rooting cuttings and by grafting. I also have a considerable number of seedlings growing and hope to develop some new varieties as time goes on.

PRUNING HANDBOOK

By Roy L. Hudson

SUNSET Magazine has just published "Pruning Handbook" by Roy L. Hudson, Supervisor of Maintenance, Golden Gate Park and Past President, California Horticultural Society, illustrated by Robert Blanchard. Sells for \$1.50.

This is a very fine pruning handbook which covers the subject from A to Z including trees, shrubs, vines; covers the whole field and does it beautifully, based on the author's own experience.

Mr. Hudson has been so very nice to our Society, lecturing on "Rhododendrons and Camellias in Golden Gate Park" and bringing with him quantities of colorful rhododendron and azalea flower trusses to illustrate newer varieties imported from England.

SUNSET Magazine, too, has been most generous in cooperating with our Society.

WINTER FERTILIZING—

(From page 7)

Mr. Hollingshead: To make it easier for the small grower, there are some commercial dry fertilizers that are 4-8-4; the analysis is printed on the package.

Mr. Feathers: Have either of you tried to eliminate other fertilizers and use only phosphoric acid?

Dr. Heitman and Mr. Hollingshead: No.

Dr. Heitman: NuGro and some of the fertilizers that are fed through the leaves of the plant are high in nitrogen.

Mr. Feathers: In Southern California some of the growers say they use LiquidGro, a synthetic urea. It is quite heavy in nitrogen: 10-5-5. Nevertheless the results they have gotten down there are satisfactory in every sense.

Dr. Heitman: Makes 'Em-Gro is 10-10-5 with trace elements. I happened to see it in use in a nursery; their camellia flowers were beautiful. Makes 'Em-Gro is largely used for application in irrigation ditches for watering California field crops and orchards.

Mr. Hollingshead: Some experiments were carried on by University of California scientists on citrus fruits: Plants where phosphoric acid was withheld made poorer growth than the control plant. Where they stepped up the phosphoric acid they got better quality fruit and better foliage. This is especially true of citrus fruit trees. Orange trees fertilized with high phosphoric acid content produced excellent growth with dark green foliage and a heavy crop of smooth, high quality fruit. When phosphoric acid was not used growth was meager, foliage yellow and fruit crop light, low in quality.

Another thing that I have found: if you use a 10-5-5 fertilizer during the blooming season, red camellias take on a blue cast; for instance, Mathotiana.

Effects of Over-Fertilizing

In case you have got heavy-handed in applying fertilizer, have you had bloom distortion?

Dr. Heitman: I don't think I have ever over-fertilized. Milorganite is slow in breaking down.

Mr. Hollingshead: Using a 10-5-5 fertilizer, I obtained discoloration of blooms on Mathotiana, which is a late bloomer, but just two or three days after applying liquid fertilizer, the red turned a bluish color.

Mr. Feathers: How about fish emulsion?

Dr. Heitman: I don't use fish emulsion because its odor is objectionable.

Mr. Hollingshead: Orthogro is a good fish emulsion.

Mr. Feathers: Using fish emulsion I have found it possible to distort the form of the flower. One can make a mess of the variety Pope Plus by fertilizing too much.

Mr. Feathers: In nature, food is made available to the camellia plant when there is rainfall. The rainfall tapers off in the summertime.

Dr. Heitman: In the mountains in the province of Yunnan in China there is considerable rainfall.

Mr. Feathers: They probably get about 70 inches of rainfall.

Mr. Hollingshead: But the rainfall tapers off in summer.

Mr. Feathers: To get maximum flower development, you must keep the plant at the highest degree of efficiency of health; the three elements of growth are sun, water; fertilizer.

Mr. Hollingshead: If the plant is fed properly during the winter and spring months, a food supply is built up; the sun helps through photosynthesis to make it available for bud development. Adobe soil—I use some adobe in my mix—picks up the nutrient ions and gradually liberates those ions as the plants are watered during the summer months.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Dr. H. V. Allington, Chairman

Tonight the questions submitted concern seedling care and they have practically all been answered during the Seedling Symposium. There is one question on how to open the seed pod.

Answer: When the seed are ripe the pod will open naturally.

Question: New growth is knocking off the buds on my plants.

Mr. Feathers: Withhold heavy watering; let the plant go slightly dormant. Heavy watering will start growth in September.

Mr. Paige: I should like to ask Mr. Domoto whether it would be detrimental to pinch off new growth?

Mr. Domoto: I don't think it makes much difference.

Mr. Feathers: Unless you have already had one cycle of growth, I wouldn't recommend doing it.

Mr. Paige: What would be the effect of pinching off second growth?

Mr. Domoto: It would make the plant bushier.

Question: Would fertilization affect the cycle of growth?

Answer: I should not recommend fertilizing after the middle of June or first of July.

Question: Does the bearing of seed take strength from the mother plant?

Dr. Allington: I believe you would be pretty well through with your crop of blooms by then.

Mr. Hollingshead: If you leave too many seed pods on a plant, you will jeopardize blooms for the following year. I remove part of the seed pods if too many set.

Mr. Feathers: I would say it depends on the variety. I had 60 pods on T.K. Variegated and still had to disbud it.

PRIZE WINNERS & DONORS

Wallace H. Brown, Chairman

Again this camellia season nurserymen are generously providing plants of outstanding varieties to use as prizes. Let us show our sincere gratitude by patronizing them when we purchase new camellias.

During November and December 1952, the varieties, donors and prize winners were as follows:

November 3, 1952

SHOWA NO SAKAI (USUBENI)—One of the finest of the Camellia sasanquas. Deep lavender-pink incomplete double, golden stamens intermixed with petaloids, to four inches in diameter. Two plants donated by DOMOTO NURSERY, 26591 Western Road, Hayward, California; won by David L. Feathers of Lafayette and C. W. Lattin of Oakland.

NARUMI-GATA—Large cup-shaped single, white shaded to pink at edge. One of the best-liked Camellia sasanquas. Two plants donated by DOMOTO NURSERY, 26591 Western Road, Hayward; won by J. D. Merritt of Berkeley, and Harold L. Paige, Lafayette.

December 1, 1952

DR. TINSLEY—One of the celebrated new camellias; best flower of the Lafayette, Louisiana, 1950 Show. Large deep double irregular, petals pale pink at edges fading to white at center. Hardy. Donated by SMYTH CAMELLIA NURSERY, Thomas Court, Lagunitas Road, Ross, Marin County, California; won by Dr. Fred E. Heitman of Orinda.

LA REINE VGT.—Large, deep incomplete double; rosy pink with white splotches. One of the finest variegated camellias. Vigorous upright growth. Donated by SMYTH CAMELLIA NURSERY, Thomas Court, Lagunitas Road, Marin County, California; won by Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda.