

The Camellia Bulletin

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PINK CHAMPAGNE

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The Camellia Bulletin, in keeping with the fundamental concept of the amateur organizations it serves, is a non-profit enterprise published quarterly (Nov., Feb., May and Aug.) by the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. Its principal objects and purposes are furtherance of the enjoyment and benefits derived from the culture of camellias and the dissemination of knowledge related thereto. By special arrangement with, and through the co-operation of, the Pacific Camellia Society, The Camellia Society of Sacramento and the Los Angeles Camellia Society, this Bulletin is also available in conjunction with membership, which is open to the general public upon application to the Secretary of any of the societies mentioned, at the respective addresses shown above. For full membership in the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc., and with respect to all persons resident in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo, the annual dues are \$5.00—outside that area, limited membership privileges, including the right to all Society publications, are \$3.00 per year. **MEETINGS** are held on the first Monday of each month November through May, at 8 p.m. in the Claremont Junior High School Auditorium, Oakland, and include an informal flower display and refreshments. All matter regarding the content of the Bulletin should be addressed to the Editor. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** should be reported promptly to **your Secretary**, as the Post Office will not forward periodicals. Remit dues to Treasurer.

NEW CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

In our last issue brief mention was made of the organization of several new camellia societies and it was stated that the full details would follow. Complete information is now given below. — Ed.

Of local interest particularly is the recent formation of two new camellia societies: the *Joaquin Camellia Society* at Lodi and the *Modesto Camellia Society* at Modesto, both in Northern California, the former on January 25, 1962 and the latter on May 14, 1962.

Joaquin Camellia Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month September through May in the Lodi Public Library Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Annual dues are \$6.00 for husband and wife or \$4.00 for a single person. Officers are: Charles A. Boynton, President; K. O. Hester, 1st Vice-Pres.; Mrs. George Motz, Secretary; Karn Hoertling, Treasurer; Mrs. Karn Hoertling, Historian. This society already has 33 members and invites all interested persons to join. Dues should be remitted to the Treasurer at 336 Eureka Ave., Lodi. Pres. Boynton wishes particularly to acknowledge the invaluable assistance rendered by Messrs. Lawrence Bouque of Sacramento, Dr. Ralph Gladen of Modesto, Dr. John D. Lawson of Antioch and E. A. Combatalade of Sacramento in getting this new society under way.

Modesto Camellia Society, whose members actually put on their maiden but a remarkably successful camellia show on the week-end of March 17-18 even before they formally organized, with 17 founder members, meets on the second Monday of each month October through May at the Modesto Junior College. Its due are \$5.00, which includes subscription to *The Camellia Bulletin*. Officers are: Dwight D. Wait, President; Dr. J. Holtzman, Vice-President; Eileen Madsen, Treasurer; Anne M. Collins, Recording Secretary; Marie Vernor, Corresponding Secretary and Dr. Ralph Gladen, Historian. Persons interested in joining this new valley society should contact Pres. Wait in care of Modesto Junior College, Modesto.

The *Peninsula Camellia Society* held its initial meeting on January 24, 1961, and now has a total of 43 members. It put on

its first very successful camellia show in Redwood City in February, 1962, which was well attended and highly commended, a total of 1,385 blooms and 82 flower arrangements being displayed. This show had the distinction of receiving two awards by the California Federation of Garden Clubs: a blue ribbon for the best camellia show of the year in the state and a trophy for being adjudged the best first-time flower show of any kind during the year.

Meetings are held at the Casa de Flores, 735 Walnut St., San Carlos, on the fourth Tuesday of each month September through April (excepting December). The society's By-Laws provide for affiliation with the American Camellia Society. Effective with this issue, membership dues of \$5 include subscription to *The Camellia Bulletin*. Its present officers are: Kai Freitag, President; Rodney F. Coltart, Vice-President; Everett P. Tenney, Treasurer and William J. Hocking, Secretary. Persons desiring further information about the Peninsula Camellia Society should address it at 2327 Casabona, Belmont, California.

International Camellia Society

This new organization, designed on a world-wide basis to foster the love of camellias, undertake historical, scientific and horticultural research on camellias, disseminate information about them by means of bulletins and other publications, and to co-operate with national and regional camellia societies and encourage a friendly exchange between camellia enthusiasts, was inaugurated on April 1, 1962, according to an official announcement by Charles Puddle, Secretary. Prof. E. G. Waterhouse of Australia will serve as President and Mr. Albert Fendig of Georgia, U. S. A., as Vice-President. Directors are: Howard Asper, U. S. A.; R. E. Dean, Hong Kong; Col. T. Durrant, New Zealand; H. G. Hillier, United Kingdom; K. Ishikawa, Japan; Le Vicomte de Noailles, France; R. N. Philbrick, U. S. A.; C. E. Puddle, United Kingdom; T. J. Savage, Australia; A. C. Soffe, Southern Rhodesia; Dr. W. Wight, India.

Membership is open to all, annual rates One Pound Sterling or equivalent; life

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COVERING GROUND

J. Carroll Reiners, Sacramento, California

Without doubt the camellia is an adaptable plant of such rare beauty and popular appeal that it will soon be planted far more extensively than at present. The number of camellia fanciers, the increase in landscaping use, the scientific exploration of the species and hybrids — all these, added to the natural attractiveness of the many cultivars, will combine to bring an ever larger mass planting of the camellia.

This prospect of mass planting, or the culture of any number more than the few now being grown in containers or other small groups by the average home gardener, merits a discussion of the treatment of plantings which are of magnitude greater than that possible by the ordinary container method of culture. Obviously, container camellias for the home grower must be limited to the number he can tend properly. We can omit all other references to the difficulties in the care of canned or boxed stock, since these are fairly well known to all who grow camellias successfully.

I would make the point here that we should give more serious thought to growing camellias in the ground, and thus minimize the amount of labor involved in caring for these plants. Factually, if the camellia is planted in a favorable spot it will grow well by itself, barring certain very irregular and rare conditions, with which we shall not concern ourselves at this time. Let us simply accept the well-known fact that camellias do well in a natural state in the ground; their native habitat and its great range of conditions should be proof of the durability of the genus. Accepting this, we face another problem. The camellia is a surface rooter and we are quite limited as to any procedures that will alter this habit. Deep watering does little to force the roots to seek lower levels. It is much easier to place a mulch around the plants to provide the needed protection and save the labor of frequent watering. Another advantage of a mulch is that of weed discouragement, and this is really almost a necessity since shallow roots prohibit surface cultivation.

I prefer camellias planted in the ground for reasons that I could offer *ad infinitum*; therefore, I have made many experiments involving mulches of the materials commonly used, namely: leaves, rice hulls, sawdust, shavings from a planing mill, composted garden material, various animal manures, peat moss, ground bark and shredded bark in grades from coarse to fine, and so on. The greatest difficulties seem to come from those mulches carrying possible foreign matter (salts or chlorides) that are detrimental to the plant. Many of the organic mulches become perfect culture media for various molds and fungi, including the camellia flower blight apothecia. Lesser difficulty arises from the too rapid deterioration of the organic material, causing a temporary nitrate deficiency. These suggestions as to possible lack of complete success do not prove that the above mentioned mulches have no good use; when discreetly treated, they are functionally as perfect as would be regarded necessary for the purpose intended.

At this point, I would introduce you to my preferred esthetic plant mulch, the living ground cover. The use of dwarf vegetation to supplement non-living mulch materials is surely not an idea new to horticulturists but it has an especial utility in combination with camellias. In themselves, these living mulches are decorative; allied with camellias, they enhance the larger plants above them. In a truly practical sense, they protect the camellia by adding to the humidity of the air by their own transpiration. They also inhibit weeds and protect the root zone of the camellia. It is true that, being living plant material, they insist on more water than you would use on a camellia having a dry mulch, but they call for much less irrigation than an unprotected camellia root zone, not excepting one in the shade-to-partial-shade of a tree or lath. They also maintain a more steady rate of transpiration and water use, so that there is not as much fluctuation between dry and wet conditions.

There follows here a list of plants suitable for use as low vegetation, particularly

adaptable to combination with camellias. It will be seen that certain plants have distinct advantages over others, or are best for a certain condition. As you read the descriptions, underline the factors for which you are searching. For instance, certain plants named here are tolerant to foot traffic; others may please your sense of decor. There are fast or slow growing ones, as well as fragrant plants. All plants listed are tough, dependable and of proven worthiness if used according to the limitations stated herein. The following ground cover plants are listed alphabetically—not from any preference standpoint:

1. *Ajuga reptans* — Carpet Bugle. This is a leafy rosette type of plant, 4 to 8 inches high, creeping over the ground with handsome dark green leaves and showing spring bloom of blue spikes, sometimes flowering to a minor extent in the summer and fall. It will grow in sun or shade. There are several forms of the Carpet Bugle. The *Bronzeleaf Ajuga* has excellent bronze foliage and deep blue flowers. The *variegated Ajuga* has silvery to cream variegation and paler blue flowers. *Giant Ajuga* has larger leaves and blue flowers; it is larger in all respects and more competitive than the Carpet Bugle. *Jungle Ajuga* is even larger than the Giant Ajuga, with very robust and luxuriant foliage, topped with spikes of blue flowers a foot high. There are also a *white* and a *pink* flowering Carpet Bugle but neither has good flowers nor are they as reliable as the above cultivars because of extra sensitivity to the fungus known as "Southern Blight."

2. *Arabis albidia* — Rock Cress, and its cultivars *A. albidia flore plena* and *A. albidia variegata*. The Arabis are very adaptable to sun or $\frac{3}{4}$ shade and carpet very well to a height of 8 inches. Their bloom is outstandingly profuse, nearly covering the foliage with white flowers in late February to April. All are competitive but not invasive and are easily controlled. The double flowering *flore plena* is the largest and of exceptional vigor, the flowers resembling, in small scale, the annual Stocks. The variegated form is the best of all the variegated ground covers mentioned in this article.

3. *Asarum caudatum* — Wild ginger. This is adaptable only to coastal areas, where it makes a beautiful, informal, exceedingly woody ground cover about 6 inches high. The flowers, hidden beneath the deep green heart-shaped leaves, are a unique chocolate color, rare among flowers. The bloom is interesting esthetically and for its strong ginger fragrance. The only objections are the ease of damage when walked upon and sometimes a slowness to accustom itself to the new environment. Once established it is competitive and spreads by running over the ground, rooting as it grows. This is definitely a shade plant and is not recommended for hot areas of low humidity.

4. *Arrhenatherum bulbosum variegatum* — Variegated Oat Grass. For an occasional accent and a modern touch, try this plant. It is best adapted to full sun but tolerates $\frac{3}{4}$ shade very well. This is a tight-growing grass 12 inches high, with leaves gracefully variegated with white. It goes dormant in mid-summer and begins growth in early fall. Cut it back at this season of rest before new growth begins. Oat Grass should not be used as a general ground cover, but is effective when used in small masses to highlight or accent special areas in front of camellias. Variegated Oat Grass is at its best during the late camellia bloom. It fairly sparkles in the morning sunlight. This grass will not become a pest.

5. *Bergenia cordifolia* — (Saxifraga cordifolia) — Heartleaf Bergenia. The large leathery glossy green leaf adds to tropical effects and is excellent when planted in mass in front of camellias. The large heads of pink bell-shaped flowers on 12 to 18 inch stems occur during the camellia blooming period. I have used it with *C. M. Wilson* and *Elegans Pink* (Francine) with almost breathtaking results. It could be equally nice with other cultivars of camellia, such as *Yobeki-Dori*, *Magnoliaeflora*, *Berenice Boddy*, *Purity*, etc. The large leaves tend to offset the inherent stiffness of most camellias, and helps to create a naturalness most becoming. Use this as an accent groundcover for special effects particularly in a front yard where the large leaves are in excellent scale with the mass of the building struc-

ture. Another *Bergenia*, *B. ligulata*, has similar foliage but the white flowers do not have the high quality of *B. cordifolia*.

6. *Duchesnia indica*—Indian Mock-strawberry. This is a close relative of the true strawberry; it spreads by runners. The flowers are yellow, followed by bright red strawberry-like fruits which are completely tasteless. The plant is an excellent general purpose ground cover 8 inches high, very competitive and quite woody in appearance. It is used to clothe the ground beneath the camellias in the California State Capitol Park Civil War Memorial Grove and in many areas at Descanso Gardens at LaCanada. This plant is highly recommended for broad areas of camellias.

7. *Erica carnea*—Spring Heather. A low-growing shrubby plant forming dense evergreen mats with tiny needle-like leaves. The flowers are bell-shaped of white, through pink, to deep red, depending upon the variety. It takes to full sun coastally but requires shade in the hot areas. Use this as an occasional interest to break the monotony of too much of one kind of ground cover. Its extreme neatness may indicate special uses at main entrances, oriental effects, etc.

8. *Fragaria chiloensis*—Wild Strawberry. Like the *Duchesnia*, this is wonderfully adapted to nearly all conditions. It does well in sun or shade, hot and dry or humid air. The leaves are bright shiny deep green, the plant low growing and it spreads quickly by runners. The fruits are of no consequence, the flowers white. This is highly recommended as a general ground cover for large areas for natural effect.

9. *Dwarf Bearded Iris*. While these are not generally considered as a ground cover, they do group well for a particular effect in relation to camellias with an eastern exposure. These *Iris* begin blooming in late February and by choosing from the many colors available one can make quite a brilliant foreground effect with camellias of contrasting or complementing colors. This is another suggestion to highlight special locations to add interest to the garden. The dwarf *Iris* are quite easy to grow and require practically no attention.

10. *Glecoma hederacea* (*Nepeta hederacea*). This is sometimes called "Ground Ivy," although it is not related to the Ivy but is a true mint with square stems, lipped tubular lavender flowers and aromatic leaves. The leaves are about 1½ inches in diameter, heart shaped, and carried on rooting stems which creep over the ground creating a very informal setting. The growth stays below 6 inches in height. It thrives on camellia culture and will take the brightest, hottest sun to the deepest shade. In all day sun it will yellow slightly. *Glecoma* is one of the best of the general group of ground covers, in fact it is my favorite. I have found that there are two forms in the nursery trade. The one sold in the northern part of California is much preferred over the one usually sold in the southern part of the state. The latter has a poor green color, does not hold well during the dormant season, and is damaged by snails and other pests.

11. *Hedera helix habni* and other small-leaved Ivy cultivars make choice covers beneath camellias. Particularly useful in some shaded areas are the variegated Ivies. Examples are *Silver King*, which has wide white leaf margins, and *Gold Dust* which is speckled with golden pigmentation. These, when used to illuminate certain shaded areas, add interest to the normal monotony of a yard overpopulated with camellias. Another select and little known Ivy is one *Hedera cordata*, the Heartleaf Ivy, which has a very dark green leaf and moderate growth.

12. *Helxine soleiroli*—Baby's Tears. A bright green moss-like plant growing from 1 to 4 inches high and forming a solid mat in the presence of shade and moisture. The leaves are tear-drop size, bright, shiny, and achieve a fragile lush appearance. It quickly recovers from the occasional footprint. In the shade it becomes very competitive with other smaller plants. It can become a pest, so it is advisable to plant it in restrictive areas such as between stepping stones, along a concrete walk or back against the foundation of the house. Its cool appearance always attracts attention. (See Editor's note.)

13. *Lysimachia nummularia*—Creeping Charlie. This interesting cover has

round leaves to one inch wide, and delights in hugging the ground. It belongs to the Primrose family—and you would never guess it. This has to have shade and is happiest beneath camellias. For a low-growing plant it is extremely aggressive and will give battle to any other plant which gets in its way. The flowers are yellow, up to one inch across.

14. *Ophiopogon japonica* — Mondo Grass. This deep green grass is closely related to the Liriope and belongs to the Lily family. It makes an excellent sod, with foliage up to 10 inches high, creeping slowly by underground stems about 4 to 6 inches per year. Unlike other grasses, it does not require cutting or clipping. Mondo is exceptionally hardy and tough and will take full sun or deep shade and look equally well. Metallic blue berries are completely hidden in the foliage. This grass may be used as a general ground cover or may serve for special effect adjacent to walks, or perhaps where one might like to create some oriental atmosphere.

15. *Pachysandra terminalis* — Japanese Spurge. We recommend this for the humid coastal areas only, where it excels as a 10 inch ground cover in shaded areas. The evergreen foliage, of dark green 2 to 4 inch leaves is very handsome. It spreads by underground runners. When massed it creates a sylvan atmosphere.

16. *Ranunculus repens* — Double-flowered Creeping Buttercup. This very aggressive creeper has deep shiny green leaves and flowers which are small pom-poms of deep yellow, up to one inch in diameter, appearing in late spring and summer. The plant is 4 to 10 inches high, very informal in appearance, and it naturalizes in both full sun and shade. The plant runners will extend over the ground for several feet in one season.

17. *Vinca minor* — Common Periwinkle. Adaptable to both sun and full shade, this trailing plant with shiny green foliage is attractive in all seasons. The flowers are phlox-like, about one inch in diameter and appear during the midseason and late Camellia bloom, and intermittently during the summer and fall. The best variety of *Vinca minor* is *Bowle's Variety*, with

deeper blue flowers of better form and better foliage in restrained growth. Other cultivars include a plant with *white flowers*, a *variegated-leaved sort* available in both *blue or white flowers*, and a *blue double-flowered form*. The white and double-flowering sorts do not bloom as profusely as the *Bowle's Variety*. The variegated form loses its leaf mottling if it does not get sunlight for part of the day. The flower colors of *Vinca* and *Camellia* offer endless combinations and are very nice particularly when the *Camellia* is allowed to bloom freely with not too much disbudding. For instance, the red of *Kimberly* and deep blue of *Bowle's Variety* are very striking. Try the *Vincas* with the new mass-blooming *Hybrid Camellias*. I have a *Saluenensis* x *Japonica* seedling of dwarf growth and very vibrant red flowers which I am going to combine with the *Vinca*.

CONCLUSION:

We can make a quick summary of the ground covers list thus: to quickly cover broad areas of ground, use *Duchesnia*, *Fragaria*, *Glecoma*, *Lysimachia* and *Ranunculus*; if haste is not a consideration, the slower-growing *Ajuga*, *Arabis*, *Erica*, *Helxine*, *Ophiopogon* and *Pachysandra* will be satisfactory. The other genera mentioned may be used for variety and spice.

Many camellia fanciers create work problems by not resorting to the simplest requirements necessary for camellia success. Included in the easy way to garden is a plan to eliminate weeding and mulching. Properly chosen ground covers will control weeds and the living material supplies the necessary mulching. The end result is a pleasing relaxed beauty similar to the pattern of nature.

Note: The desirability of using a living mulch such as recommended here has long been advocated by the undersigned. Perhaps the best example is the camellia that is planted in the edge of a lawn or surrounded by lawn grass. Not only does this green carpet act as an excellent insulator against sun and frost—the fact that the lawn must be frequently watered assures continuous moistness of the soil about the plant, which is so beneficial to the camellia.

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THE CAMELLIA SCALE

John Paul Edwards, Oakland, California

A large percentage of our camellia plants suffer rather severely from an insect pest, the camellia scale *Lepidosaphes camelliae*. This tiny but destructive insect is about the size and shape of a large pin-head, yellow and brownish in color. These sucking insects attach themselves tightly to the leaf surfaces or to the green twigs of camellias and are most active during the warmer seasons of the year. They do their greatest damage when the infestation is at the junction of green twigs or branches, where they suck the juices from the young growth, starting at the junction points. This stunts or kills the tender young growth before it can get a proper start and is therefore a serious deterrent to the well-being of the camellia. Sometimes the scale accumulate in numbers on the leaf surfaces, causing the leaves to appear sickly and to fall prematurely.

The infestation has the appearance of a waxy shield or covering attached to the plant, under which the female, a soft orange-colored bit, lays fifty or more eggs which hatch out and attain the crawling stage in the late summer. It is therefore well to examine your camellias, particularly at junction points of the growth and at the base of buds, in spring or early summer. If scale are present you can readily note the attacked areas. They can be readily flicked off with the point of a knife blade. If a live female is under the waxy covering you will note an orange dot as you flick it off.

Treatment: Spray in the spring after the blooming season is over so as to avoid injuring the blossoms. As a control spray, the so-called "summer oil" Volck Supreme oil spray is recommended, a well-tried and tested remedy for scale. Use at the strength of 2½ tablespoons of the oil spray per gallon of water and cover all parts of the camellia thoroughly, including both upper and lower sides of the leaves. Best results are obtained by making two applications or more three weeks apart.

Caution: Do not spray with oil emulsions at times when the temperature is higher than 75° F at the precise spot

where the camellia is growing. It is wise to make the first spraying at the close of the blooming season.

Where only a few plants are infested and the plants are small if you have the patience the scale may be cleaned up with a knife point, without the necessity of spraying. The main thing is to have your camellias clean of scale at the start of the fall blooming season.

There are several other kinds of scale which have been known to infest the camellia (notably, the tea scale, *Fiorinia theae*, in the southern part of the United States) but the writer has not come across them in our Pacific coastal regions. However, the same spray control remedy set forth here would be effective as to any other variety of scale found on camellias.

COVERING GROUND

(Cont. from Page 7)

Regarding *Helxine soleiroli* (Baby's Tears), our experiments would indicate that this might prove to be most desirable when used around camellias planted in sunny situations. We have been using Helxine experimentally in an endeavor to provide such a dense ground cover that *Sclerotinia camelliae* (camellia petal blight) cannot get started nor survive the intense competition. Helxine grown in the sun is controllable, much shorter and very much more dense than it is in the shade and it does keep the flowers and petals away from contact with the ground. It is yet to be determined whether it is sufficiently dense to prevent the apothecia (toadstools) of the petal blight fungus from penetrating and releasing their spores. It is a case of trying to "fight fire with fire."

The petal blight problem introduces a note of caution in the use of any mulch, green or dry, that tends to complicate the problem of keeping fallen flowers and petals picked up cleanly, which is so important where this problem exists or is a threat.

— Editor.

AMERICANA CAMELIANA

Mrs. John D. Lawson, Antioch, California

A camelliophile (some consider this synonymous with camellia "nut") can idle away many a happy hour scanning camellia catalogs or nomenclature lists, with or without a purpose in mind. He may be searching out those described as "very large" in the hope of acquiring some blue ribbon winners to exhibit at shows; he may be enjoying the fun of selecting varieties to add to a collection; he may be looking for unusual blooms not known in his area. Even without a reason for reading them, there is a fascination in studying the names that have been given the offspring of this bewitching, bewildering camellia family.

That camellia growers revere nature is apparent in some of the names given their blooms. From *Rose Dawn* to *Sunset Glory*, into the *Pale Moonlight* and back to *Morning Glow*—from *Breath of Spring* to *Indian Summer*, *Frosty Morn* and *October Glory*—the days, nights and seasons of the year are commemorated. Flora and fauna have their honored place in camellia nomenclature as evidenced in *Carnation*, *Hollyhock*, *Pine Cone*, *Holly Leaf*, scores of roses and roseas, *Cabeza de Vaca*, *Red Elephant*, *White Crane* and *Flamingo*. Poetry (*Dante's Inferno*), dance (*Waltz Time*), theatre (*Drama Girl*)—these are examples of how the Muses are represented. Royalty and mythology have their place as does religion. What may have escaped notice is that a good deal of American history can be traced in the names of camellias.

The *Colonial Lady* and *Puritan Lass* had not been long on our Eastern shores when brave and inspired men resolved that these colonies "are and of a right ought to be free and independent states"—the *United States*. First in the hearts of his countrymen, and first chosen by *Uncle Sam* to serve as president of this new nation was *George Washintgon*. It was in the state named for *William Penn*, and in the city of the *Quaker Lady* that the *Liberty Bell* tolled of the founding of this republic. Among the men honored in history who

met and deliberated there were *Henry Clay* and *Daniel Webster*.

Apache and *Chippewa*—only two out of the hundreds of tribes of American Indians whose destiny it was to lose their lives and their homes that this new nation might grow. *Osceola*, a brave *Indian Chief*, *War Eagle* and *Red Eagle* fought hard, but could not stop the westward expansion of a vigorous new country. A giant step toward the West was the *Louisiana Purchase* bringing the *Mississippi Beauty* within the boundaries of the nation. But this was not enough. Men's eyes will ever seek beyond boundaries to new frontiers, and the western land crowned by *Mount Shasta* and *Palomar* called the adventuresome, the ambitious and the holy.

Andromeda and the *Brilliant Star* of the north, with all their *Heavenly* company, had long smiled down on the *Cavalcade* of padres setting up the *Mission Bells* along the *Camino Real*, and teaching lessons of *Chastity*, *Purity*, *Peace* and *Faith* to all who would come, by the time *Capt. John Sutter* arrived in *California* to set a scene for one of history's greatest migrations and most exciting periods, the *Gold Dust* fever and the settling of the West.

Yet another fever struck the youthful nation for soon a *Rebel Yell* was heard throughout the land, and the *Storm* of a war between the States blew in a *Whirlwind* across the country. The *Southern Belle* bid farewell to her *Warrior* as did her *Northern* sister, and the brave soldier left with a *Fanfare*, a vow to be *Faithful*, and the *Fairhope* of *Victory* whether his eyes were on a *Northern Light* or on the *Southern Cross*. A great man, *President Lincoln*, was America's leader during this fearful time, and great generals, though they opposed his beliefs, hold places of honor in our history. Such men as *General Robert E. Lee*, *General Toutant Beauregard*, and *General Wade Hampton*.

But such people as make up our United States cannot live only in the grimness of war and the serious business of making a

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THE SOUTHERN SCENE

SOUTHERN GARDENS AND THE CAMELLIA

Mrs. M. J. (Lilette) Witman, Macon, Georgia

The Southern States of the U. S., thanks to their mild climate in winter, are blessed with gardens that are alive and colorful the year around. Some of these gardens have become quite famous through the years and visitors flock to them when they are at the peak of their glory. But there are also many obscure ones which the stranger never sees which are endowed with great loveliness and serenity. These modest gardens express the way of life and the personality of their owners who created them lovingly.

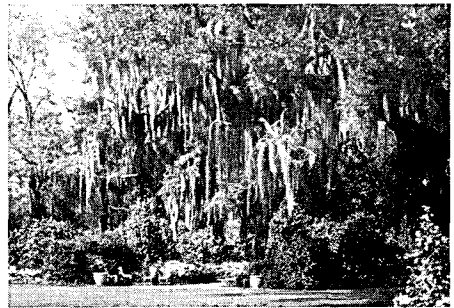
This is rarely true of the more elaborate and famous gardens. They have generally been designed under the supervision of landscape architects. These talented men are most of the time given free rein and their own imagination and personal taste are inevitably expressed in their creations. Their aim is merely to execute a whole design that will be pleasing and give enjoyment to the owner.

When one stands on the top of the steps leading down to various terraces at the Middleton Gardens near Charleston, S. C., for instance, and faces the great expanse of lawns, lakes and alleys sparingly bordered with statues, one feels the influence of the French Renaissance period. The setting is one such as Le Nôtre, the famous designer of the Versailles Palace Gardens could have visualized. For, indeed, Middleton Gardens are considered to be the best example of that period

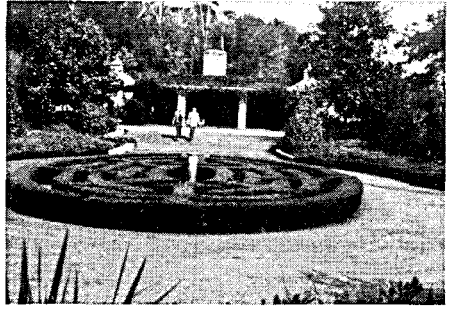
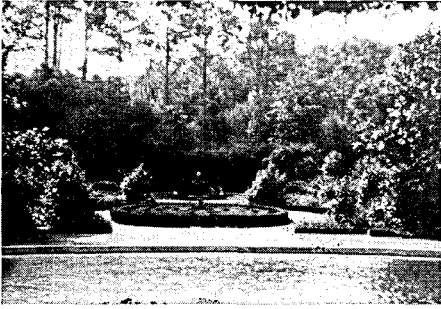
on this continent. The perfection of their design creates a sense of order and serenity that fascinates the visitor and somehow distracts his attention from the surrounding vegetation which comprises very old magnolias, azaleas, ancient live oaks and native magnolias, as well as other fine evergreens typical of the region.

In Magnolia Gardens, another of Charleston's world renowned spots, some of the oldest camellia trees on this continent are to be seen, with their enormous trunks hidden by masses of azaleas. It is one of the rare places where can still be found some of the famous old camellia varieties brought long ago from Europe. Towering over them and giving them shade are gigantic century old live oaks, so old no one can any longer recall their age. They dwarf everything around them. From their enormous gnarled and twisted branches streamers of Spanish moss hang like the long grey beards of the old prophets.

In the spring, large camellia trees in full bloom and endless masses of colorful azaleas are the main attraction of the famous Cypress Gardens situated some twenty miles north of Charleston. Here the cypress trees dominate the scene with their queer, grotesque-looking knees sticking out of the swamps and lakes. Many have become completely bald over the years. They raise their ghostlike forms high towards the sky, and the Spanish



(Left) At the S. L. Marbury residence, Wilmington, N. C. — Illustration of the excellent use of camellias as lawn background shrubs with typical Southern Pine overhead shading. (Right) Bellingrath Gardens, near Mobile, Alabama — View showing the use of camellias with striking effect in border planting.



At the Musgrove Plantation, St. Simons Island, Georgia — Two views showing the effective use of camellias as accent plants in the formal garden.

moss hangs like cobwebs from their denuded limbs emphasizing the feeling of desolation and decrepitude one has facing such a strange spectacle. Below them however, in the springtime, life, brilliant young and colorful, goes on forever thanks to the multicolored azaleas and camellias.

Bellingrath Gardens near Mobile, Alabama, "the charm spot of the deep South" as it is called, is different from the gardens already mentioned because of the fact that something is blooming there each month of the year to attract the sightseers. But starting in the fall, throughout the winter months and early spring, here, too, the aristocrat of flowers, the camellia, reigns supreme. Now a camellia arboretum has been built that will some day include all the rare species and hybrids known to the western world. Of course, those who are fortunate enough to visit these gardens in the springtime will never forget the magnificent displays of blooming azaleas along the walks and on the banks of Mirror Lake and of the Isle-aux-Oies River, which forms one of the boundaries of the gardens.

No garden lover passing through Tallahassee, Florida, should fail to stop at the Killearn Plantation. The gardens there are designed on a smaller scale than the ones described previously and it is easier for the mind to grasp the beauty of the entire pattern and not to be overwhelmed by too much ground to cover on foot. Several features borrowed from Italy characterize this charming spot. I hasten to say that Mr. McClay, the owner, who supervised the landscaping, was careful to omit the too theatrical effects that one is prone to find in Italian gardens. He was

a most discriminating man and did not let an over abundance of statues and showy waterworks distract the attention of the visitor from Nature's own creations and from the rare shrubs and trees which he imported from all over the world. The few statues there are veiled by shrubbery.

After a delightful pause in the small circular secret "della Robbia garden," famous for the della Robbia blue and white enamelled medallions used as ornaments on the old brick wall and for its blue and white mosaic walks, one exits through a small, skillfully hand-wrought iron gate, to be faced by the magnificent view of a wide, green alley overlooking a lake in the distance. Large camellia trees, and rare azaleas border this alley and reflect themselves in the clear waters of a narrow elongated pool in its center.

The gardens mentioned heretofore are typical of those famous gardens that attract thousands of visitors. The modest gardens of the South, those that people create themselves near their home to enhance its homeliness and charm, are more akin to the informal gardens of England with their mysterious and cool woodland effect, their spacious lawns and flower borders where one tries to grow everything at one time or the other. There are countless numbers of these simple and charming gardens in every Southern community because we simply love gardening. The great number of garden clubs that exist throughout the South and are still springing up each year are a testimony to this.

Within the past two decades we have been compelled to change our way of life. The elaborate entertainments with numer-

ous devoted and well trained servants that used to characterize our lavish social gatherings are a thing of the past to be admired longingly only on the screen. People now have to wait on themselves and they have learned to do it gracefully and easily by moving their parties out of doors. Gardens consequently have taken on a new importance. They have become, so to speak, an extension of the living quarters and we pay more attention to their attractiveness and care.

Camellia shrubs, being evergreens and also quite spectacular when in bloom, are great favorites in these little home gardens. They are mainly used as specimens or in background plantings, and tall pine trees provide shade for them and for the azaleas, their inevitable companions. When the latter are in full bloom in the early spring camellias are still covered with blossoms and take an active part in enhancing our spring parade.

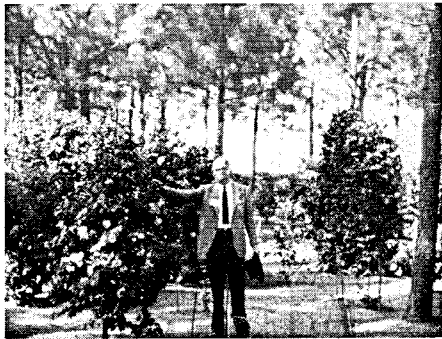
Last February, when I saw the fabulous size of the top blossoms gathered on a special table by the judges at one of the large Georgia shows, and heard people bemoaning the fact that their own camellias seem ridiculously small in comparison, I wondered whether we were not losing our perspective. There cannot possibly be a comparison between blooms grown for exhibition and blooms grown to add beauty to the home grounds. Nature intended camellias primarily for the latter purpose. The recent accomplishments of under glass growers are truly astounding and praiseworthy. Theirs is an arduous task and I realize that they have to give con-

stant and close supervision to the blooms that they are preparing for exhibition. It is very important to have shows and competition since they stimulate the interest of flower lovers in the camellia and allow those who are not fortunate enough to own gardens to enjoy well cared for blossoms.

I knew very little about dahlias when I used to spend the summer on the New Jersey coast. Once I was taken to see a collection of these flowers raised strictly for exhibition. Each plant had been reduced to one enormously thick and sturdy stalk, allowed only to carry two, or at the most, three blossoms, one carefully selected to open long after the other. The results were dahlias of unbelievable size, truly gigantic. Each flower, when ready for showing, was provided with a little parasol, lampshade-like. The tiny parasol was held over the bloom by a device that allowed it to rotate according to the position of the sun. Cheesecloth had been spread over the entire wired area where the dahlias were grown in the open, this for protection against possible insect damage. I was fascinated by the sight in front of me, but when I returned home I realized that the little variegated pompons and miniatures that grew in the surrounding gardens had infinitely more beauty and charm, for beauty and charm cannot be evaluated in terms of measurements. This can also be applied to camellias — the little Dresden china blossoms of the *Pink Perfection* or the little pink bells of the *Magnoliaflora* cannot be surpassed in loveliness, and the *Drama Girl*, the *To-*



(Left) At Wellesley Manor, near Savannah, Georgia — The size of these magnificent oaks may be judged by the 10-foot camellia specimens growing in their shade. (Right) At the Middleton Gardens near Charleston, S. C. — One of the larger and older public gardens, where the camellias have attained the size of trees, as pictured here.



At Masee Lane, the D. C. Strother Place, Fort Valley, Georgia — (Left) One of the lovely walks in this very large and beautiful camellia garden. (Right) A few of the many magnificent specimen plants — a new graft in the making in right foreground.

morrow and the other giants cannot touch them when it comes to garden effects. Their heavier, coarser flowers have a tendency to pull the branches of their shrubs downward and they rarely stand up to "look at you."

At Masee Lane, Mr. D. C. Strother's famous gardens which are in a category by themselves since they are strictly camellia gardens, the most spectacular shrubs are to my mind those covered with small and medium size blossoms. Each time I visit Masee Lane I never fail to look for the *Magnoliafloras*, the *Lady Van Sittarts*, *Glen #40*, *Dr. W. G. Lee*, the *Cabeza de Vaca* that grows near a pine tree close by its lovely relative, *Etienne de Bore*, then near an evergreen hedge the large *Florence Stratton* and the *Sieur de Bienville*. Of course, no one ever fails to rave about the finest *Ville de Nantes* strain and shrubs grown anywhere. In a special corner, which I know well, I get a glimpse of the large *Tinsie* which I would hate to miss, as well as the lovely whitelace frilled petticoats of the *Hishi-Karaito*. There are a few singles growing throughout the gardens on tall, bushy trees and I marvel and rejoice that they have escaped to this day Dave's grafting knife — *Cornus Flora* and *My Darling* among them. Soon the hybrids, of which Dave has already a fine collection and which are planted on a plot of their own, will add new colorings and new interest to the Masee Lane collection. The Strother *Donation* is a spectacle by itself when it is covered with its vivid lavender-pink blossoms.

A few years ago we stopped in Goldsboro, N. C., on our way to Norfolk, Virginia, for the sole purpose of visiting the gardens of Bill and Betty Kemp which had been so highly praised to us by the late Judge Arthur Solomon. There Betty and Bill have made a clever use of sasanquas along alleys and walks and as background for a semicircular old brick terrace topped with steps that lead up to a lovely fountain. The view of this fountain can be enjoyed from the house and the supple limbs of the sasanquas, particularly selected for this purpose, bend gracefully over the terrace bringing to it with their fall blossoms the color that other flowering shrubs nearby show in the spring. The alleys and walks have been curved gracefully and cleverly in order to create the illusion of distance and spaciousness, and this has been done so successfully that one can hardly believe that the Kemps had but a small area in which to accomplish their landscaping miracle. They are noted for their remarkable collection of rare sasanquas, some of which I had never heard of before I went to Goldsboro. These fine evergreen shrubs are forming a hedge along the street back of the property, assuring privacy. One of the latest acquisitions of Betty, and I believe her favorite sasanqua among the recent introductions, is *Miss Penderlea* which has large, wavy, white pink-tipped petals and is a single. A few that the Kemps mentioned as being particularly spectacular on their grounds are: *Setsuggeka*, *Papaver*, *Texas Star*, *Jean May*, *Pink Snow*, *Betsy*

Baker, Agnes O. Solomon, Hana-Daijin, Hana-Jiman, Christmas Candles, Yae-Ara-re, all the *Hiemalis* and *Vernalis* families, as well as the willowy and graceful *Mine-No-Yuki*, which Betty says reminds her of a fountain when in bloom.

Right here, in Macon, Georgia, there is a small garden which covers less than an acre of ground but which has been so cleverly designed, with long, curving, green alleys and lovely vistas that one has the impression of viewing a much larger area. We consider this garden as being the most charmingly landscaped in the city and there is no time of the year when there is not some sort of attraction in it. I often stop my car just to take a peek at "what's blooming now," and I am never disappointed. It has been designed and is cared for exclusively by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Roberson, and one can easily feel the love and pride which they have for it. The Robersons are great camellia enthusiasts and grow superb blossoms. Their camellia trees are planted under pines among beautiful Kurume and wild azaleas. They also have as companions some beautiful hydrangeas, including many oakleaf hydrangeas which are native of this part of the country and which bring us color all summer long.

I can not end this sketchy report about Southern gardens without saying a word about an unforgettable one — Wellesley Manor at Grimball's Point in Savannah, Georgia. There the landscaping was perfected over many decades by our dear old friend, the late Judge Arthur W. Solomon, owner of the place. The touch of his skillful hands is felt everywhere since he grew

most of the plants himself by rooting cuttings or grafting.

When the masses of tall and thick azaleas, carefully pruned by him, are in full bloom, Wellesley Manor has no rival for beauty. The stretches of lawns between the beds are wide and green, and there are long intriguing vistas under stately pines and evergreen live oaks. I still recall how the Judge used to enjoy inviting the visitors who dared not venture beyond the paths to please "walk on the grass." Camellias which had a special place in the Judge's heart are admired everywhere. Some are very old varieties still sturdy and flourishing although purchased a half century ago. The most recent introductions are also represented here, for the Judge was an avid collector and remained interested in what went on in the camellia world to the last day of his life. It is really the old nostalgic and incomparable Savannah charm that has been captured in the setting of these woody gardens, situated in a protected corner of the mainland, right on the water.

Mention should be made of other ravishingly beautiful and picturesque home gardens throughout the Southern States, but lack of accurate knowledge about them coupled with space considerations will not permit doing so.

The visitors to our shores should never fail to take time to see the gardens, large or small. They will never regret the time spent and will receive everywhere a most hearty welcome from the owners, always eager to meet kindred souls and exchange knowledge.



Azaleas and camellias beautifully combined in the home garden of the C. M. Robersons, Macon, Georgia.

NOTES FROM EUROPE

Roy T. Thompson, Glendale, California

Editor's Note: Our Associate Editor in Southern California and Mrs. Thompson made an extended tour of Europe covering approximately the months of March through June of this year. The following narrative of the horticultural aspects of their trip includes an excerpt from letters to the Editor and was submitted at our request.

France. In the latter part of March there was a brilliant display of cinerarias in parks, public places, and windows all along the Mediterranean coast from Monte Carlo to Cannes. These plants had been grown under glass, brought to blooming stage, then set out in the ground, or left in pots. The windows of florists' shops were literally filled with blooming hydrangeas which, by the way, were originated along this coast. At only one place — Cannes — did I see camellias growing out of doors; there were a dozen plants about eight feet in height and in bloom. I could identify *Alba Plena*, *Nobilissima*, and *Adolph Audusson*, but the blooms were only fair. Camellias, apparently, do not play a major part in Riviera gardens.

However, this is a major flower growing area. Between Antibes and Cannes there are acres and acres of glass houses where flowers are grown commercially. Carnations seemed to be the principal crop; in Nice, which is especially rich in flower shops, these big, floppy carnations were everywhere and overflowed on to the streets. The flowers were styled like semi-double camellias, loose and open rather than tight like ours, and measured up to five inches in diameter, but were rather flat in appearance. Paris had them too.

At Rouen there was a flower center in the middle of the city where five or six flower shops were clustered together in an open space like a park. This open space, a rarity in French cities, might have been made by a bomb for there was a bombed church across the street. Blooming hydrangeas and cinerarias were arranged in banks of color and the effect was spectacular. Some of the hydrangeas (all were in pots) must have measured ten inches

in diameter. And the cinerarias had gone mad; they had, apparently, been so much hybridized that the flowers had assumed many shapes, sizes, and colors — everything from black purple to baby blue, and from orange and tawny red to tan and white.

England. In going from France to England, the traveler (if he himself is garden-minded) notices a very great change in the appearance of cities, of homes, of public parks. In England almost every house has a little greenery in and around it. In Rome and Paris the public parks, or what ought to have been public parks, are now parking lots. This can be accounted for, I suppose, by the fact that in these two old cities there is little parking space except in the open areas wherever they may be. So these are covered with cars, day and night. London is just as old and as crowded but the public parks have remained inviolate. In all fairness, the bombings in the last war did give London a chance to convert some of its thus created space into modern car parking.

Kew Gardens had the only first class camellia flowers I saw in Europe, and these were under glass in the Temperate House. There were *Elegans* and *Audussons* growing on big, healthy plants. But outside in the open the camellias didn't look so well. In the first place they were mostly of the old varieties, many from Italy, which we have long since discarded. The best showing of camellias was made by *Jupiter*, an English variety, which bore many medium sized deep red semi-double blooms on healthy plants.

The best outdoor showing I saw was in Penzance where there were several vigorous plants ten or twelve feet in height and all but covered with semi-double deep pink blooms.

English hotels, by the way, have gone in heavily for artificial flowers; they are everywhere in huge bouquets, and about the only way you can tell them from real flowers is to touch them.

Chelsea Flower Show. The English people, by and large, are a nation of garden lovers and the annual show of the Royal

Horticultural Society, popularly known as the Chelsea Flower Show, is a national event. It is held in the spacious grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, a part of the huge London complex noted for its literary and artistic associations.

The exhibit buildings, public conveniences, and commercial booths were permanent structures. A big circus tent operated by the well known Lyons restaurants of London was in itself an amazing exhibition of mass feeding at the noon hour. The show operated on two consecutive days.

One's first impression was one of amazement at the huge crowds and of their speedy and efficient management. From the entrance gates—there were plenty of them, like a race track—through the exhibit areas, past spacious lawns covered by hundreds on hundreds of chairs for the weary, through the big lunch tent in a few minutes, and out to the street where dozens of double-decked buses were waiting, one had a convincing demonstration that the managers here were old hands.

The long rows of commercial booths arranged in "streets" were surprising because of their number and the variety of their products: garden equipment of all kinds, insecticides, ceramics, books, magazines, oil paintings of flowers, tea equipment, telephone booths aplenty, etc.

But the center of the show was the big glass building where the cut and potted flowers were shown. There were no individual exhibits as we know them in our camellia shows; everything was professional, and a great many of these professional growers were specialists in one line, such as fuchsias, or roses. We Californians are used to growing flowers out of doors, but in England glass houses are the rule. (The production of vegetables under glass the year round has become big business since the last war.) This explains the fine chrysanthemum blooms seen here in May.

I shall attempt to name only a few highlights here. Most spectacular were the orchids and cymbidiums. Most popular, seemingly, were the roses, and there were many. Spring bulbs, especially tulips, were plentiful. I was impressed by the peonies, for we can't grow them well in Southern California, and observed a bewildering

number of varieties. One exhibit of peonies occupied a space about fifty by fifteen feet; this one was stepped up from front to back for better observation and the arrangement was welcome because of the mobs of people in front of it. The big singles captivated me—one especially which was 7 inches across, had light lavender crinkled petals with a tuft of deep lavender petaloids (as we'd call them) in the center.

There were hordes of fuchsias, irises, carnations, and a surprising exhibit of alpine flowers set among rocks and moss, some of the flowers very tiny. Outstanding was the exhibit of BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) which had flown fresh flowers from the far corners of the earth: a dozen chrysanthemums from Tasmania, for example, each one a perfect sphere 8 or 9 inches in diameter. Also a fine bouquet of peonies from New York.

I was especially on the lookout for camellias. The spring in Britain had been late and cool and I had seen camellia blooms in Kew Gardens, in Devonshire and Cornwall. But there were only a few in the show, and these not exceptional.

To me, the people were as interesting as any exhibit. The English take their flowers seriously and one could see many of them writing names and data in notebooks. This was, however, a show for the "old hands," for connoisseurs who had attended regularly for many years, and one could well believe that flowers, for the thousands who came to the Chelsea Show, were a necessity of life.

COVER FLOWER

We are indebted to Mr. Gregory L. Smith of Flowerwood Nurseries, Mobile, Alabama, for the use of the color plates of *Pink Champagne*, a late-blooming soft pink semi-double to loose peonyform flower of large size which blooms late in the season. This is a very vigorous grower with a tendency to openness in habit and the quality of the foliage is good. This variety has become fairly popular out here on the Coast, especially with those desiring a striking flower in a good shade of pink late in the season.

AMERICANA CAMELLIANA

(Continued from Page 9)

living. There is a *Cheerfulness* and joy of life in them that loves the *Harmony* and *Melody* of song, the swish of a *Pink Petticoat* in dance and the thrill of a beautiful *Leading Lady* in a show. So United States historians must include the names of those who contributed to the entertainment of Americans such as *Lily Langtry*, *Jenny Lind*, *Minnie Maddern Fiske* and the beloved *Stephen Foster*.

As long as a great people endures it will know and live through good and bad, *Fairest Day* and *Stormy Weather*. When *President Franklin D. Roosevelt* was the country's leader (there were some who hated him deeply and sang the *Roosevelt Blues*) the *Swirling Cloud* of war again engulfed us. Beginning with *Pearl Harbor*, where an enemy attacked us, it took *Undaunted* Americans all over the world under the military leadership of now famous soldiers such as *General Dwight Eisenhower*, *General George Patton*, *General Douglas MacArthur*, *General Claire L. Chennault*, *Admiral Halsey* and *Admiral Nimitz*. What Americans did at *Iwo Jima* is immortalized in a beautiful monument in Washington.

And what we had to do at *Hiroshima* and *Nagasaki* will live in history forever, for it ushered in the new age of space, rockets and *Satellites* where the words *Atomic Red* are so full of multiple mean-

ings it is hard to contemplate them. It is only when we remember that the American creed is "In God We Trust" that we can look forward without fear to *New Horizons*.

In this historical tour through camellia nomenclature most of you will know that not all of the names were applied at times contemporary with the event or person mentioned. But it was interesting and fun to find how many of our country's great moments, both glad and sad, are held forever within the petals of a lovely camellia. It is also interesting to see that there are vast areas and great periods not so commemorated because the Americans living in and through them had no camellias to name. There should be a *Pride of the Erie Canal*, or *Great Lakes Beauty*. The great trails West—the *Jubilee*, *Santa Fe*, *Chisholm* and *Oregon*—should be in our lists; and where is *Dodge City*, *Council Bluffs* or the *St. Louis Woman*? *Texas*, the *Rio Grande* and the *Alamo* are neglected. It was especially surprising to find no camellia for the great *City of Our Lady*, the *Queen of the Angels*—no *Los Angeles*! And, more shame to the writer, no *San Francisco*!

We look forward with all our fellow camellia lovers to watching our nation's history progress with more joyful events like the addition of the states *Alaska* and *Hawaii*, and the ultimate joy of *World Peace*!

A PROMISING NEW CALIFORNIA SEEDLING

The past season was not notable for the number of outstanding new camellia seedlings, of whatever type. However, the as yet unnamed japonica seedling of *Ville de Nantes* produced by Mr. Milo Rowell of Fresno (his #585), which was for the first time exhibited in a number of the shows on both coasts, has been almost universally highly regarded and commended.

This is a large (5" or better) loose peonyform flower of dark, almost blood-red, having beautifully fimbriated petals and great height. The keeping quality of

the bloom is exceptional, as demonstrated by the fact the owner exhibited the same bloom at both the *Los Angeles* and *Fresno* shows a week apart, where it won the *Best Seedling* award in both instances. We cannot recall a similar instance of such an accomplishment.

The plant appears to be quite vigorous and similar to *Ville de Nantes* in growth habit. It is understood that *Nuccio's Nurseries* of *Altadena*, *California*, have acquired propagation rights to this fine seedling. This one looks like the real thing.

RE-VIEW FROM '62

Dr. John and Nora Lawson, Antioch, California

Despite the Satchel Paige type philosophy that one should "never look back, something might be gaining on you," an occasional backward glance can be of great value. It serves to remind us where we have been, helps us discern the direction in which we are moving, sharpens our sense of relationship with the past, and, perhaps best for our souls, fills us with humility as we recollect and evaluate the efforts and achievements of others.

Let's take a look over the shoulder back along the camellia trail to 1952, guided by the milestones of the American Camellia Society Yearbook and the bulletins and journals of camellia societies.

Beginning with camellias themselves, rather than people concerned with them, we find that the Culture and Nomenclature book in use in 1952 consisted of 79 pages as compared with the 1962 issue just out of 136 pages. Eleven species were listed in addition to the japonica, reticulata and sasanqua in 1952. But the new issue demonstrates the increased interest in species and interspecific hybridization by listing 86 species, 19 of which are growing in the United States. The cover illustration of the Nomenclature book was *c. reticulata* 'Lion Head,' and it is interesting to remember that the exotic reticulatas had been in this country only a couple of years at that time. After ten years the reticulatas are still somewhat "strangers" in our camellia gardens, and are an enigma and problem to many who would like to grow them. But here and there colonies of reticulata offspring and hybrids are beginning to take their place among camellia citizenry.

Camellia varieties registered with the American Camellia Society in April, 1952, were numbered 124 to 130. Among these were 'Linda Roberts,' described as fragrant, and 'Ella Wood,' "hardy to cold and heat." Where are these two varieties a decade later? But on the list, 'Pink Champagne,' is listed in many current catalogs and advertisements, and is winning greater popularity as time passes. The *Yearbook* of 1961 lists registration No. 590! A population explosion in camellialand? It was in 1952 that Vernon James, one of our well-known camellia growers, wrote an article entitled "Too Many Camellias," and referred to "the avalanche of new varieties that have been introduced over the past few years." The increased size of the nomenclature list and the large number of registrations would not seem to indicate a staying or even slowing of an avalanche. Many good varieties are bound to be inundated in such an "avalanche," but we are grateful for 'Pink Champagne,' 'Guilio Nuccio,' 'Tomorrow' and such that rode the crest!

In this regard, one of the most progressive and far-reaching developments during this ten-year span we are scanning is the American Camellia Society 'Camellia Rating' program. The adoption and conscientious application of this plan cannot but tend to limit camellia introductions to those the growers feel will merit high ratings not only nationally, but internationally as well. This, and such other things as we have considered so far, all indicate healthy growth and progress.

Mr. Calder Seibels was president of the American Camellia Society in 1952, and the *Journal* of the A.C.S., as well as other camellia publications, were carrying advertisements like this: "First release—'Emmett Barnes'"; "Available this season" at Nuccio Nurseries—'Elizabeth LeBey' and 'Masterpiece'; Councilman advertised 'Undaunted'—Now available; and another ad stated "A New and Sensational Camellia, 'R. L. Wheeler'". There was a "distinctive new camellia, 'Frank Gibson'" and "A magnificent new flower, 'Jessie Katz'." Remember the excitement of acquiring these when they were brand new? On the local scene, there were 37 accredited judges available to judge California shows in 1952 (in 1962 there are 92!), and three of the major California show reports give the best flower winner at Fresno, Feb. 24, 1952, as 'Lindsay Neill' displayed by Milo

Rowell; best flower winner at Sacramento, March 8/9, 1952, 'Elegans' exhibited by Dr. A. M. Johnson; and best flower at Berkeley, March 15/16, 'Eleanor Hagood' shown by Dr. Fred Heitman. The Tomorrows, Drama Girls, Mrs. W. D. Davises have stolen the show from these '52 varieties in the past few years.

It is well worth going all the way back along this camellia trail to 1952 to re-read articles written by Professor E. G. Waterhouse of "The Guichard Camellias," H. Harold Hume's "Kamel-Kaempfer-Linnaeus," K. Sawada on "How to Make Camellia Seedlings Bloom in Two Years," J. A. Deffeyes' adventures with camellias in Wyoming, all in the 1952 *Yearbook* of the American Camellia Society, and our own D. L. Feathers' "Growing Camellias on Wheels" in the 3/52 *Camellian* and Vernon James' "Too Many Camellias," *Camellia Review* 12/52.

Learning and progress in any broad field, whether camellia growing or any other, necessarily entails duplication and repetition of effort, findings, achievements. But the backward glance that takes one's eyes off his own "branch" and gives a view of the whole "tree" deepens understanding and the feeling of kinship with one's fellow-travelers. Look back with us!

SUMMER SUMMARY

Summer, with its invitation to relaxation and leisure, is with us once again. The days are long and the sun is high and hot—together they spell, not only an invitation to indolence, but camelliawise the most dangerous season of the year. It is during these languorous days that the camellia's state of well-being is determined—is put to the test. Especially in California, which, were it not for man's intervention, would, in its interior portions at least be almost desert-like (the state's name means, in Spanish, "hot furnace"), with the first hot days of May and until the rains return in November the premium on camellia care and watchfulness reaches its maximum. Aridity supplants humidity, temperatures double—together they cause a fantastic acceleration of transpiration—in plants as in humans. The cry for "Water" is constant—to neglect it means death. Here we have the obverse or counterpart of the situation experienced by the growers of camellias in small containers in the South's deep freeze of last winter—they will as surely perish from our heat in summer following but a few days' neglect.

When the weather is favorable and kind there is no real test of the plant's vigor and environment—survival is easy. But when, instead of the natural way of growing a camellia (in the ground) we substitute an artificial method and, in ad-

dition, the plant is confronted with its season of severest test, the chips are down—too dry, too wet, too alkaline, too hot, too little root space, too much or too little fertilizer—any of these may, under summer conditions, spell disaster.

We do not always appreciate the very great distinction in conditions as between the seasons and the environment in which the camellia is grown. Where plants are grown in the ground with ample mulch and summer rains are fairly constant, it is another matter. That it is necessary to remind oneself of this truism from time to time gives rise to the caption above.

NEW CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

(Continued from Page 3)

membership, Twenty Pounds Sterling or equivalent, directed to the Secretary, Charles Puddle, Bodnant Gardens, Tal-y-cafn, Denbighshire, U. K. Articles and illustrations suitable for publication are welcomed.

This is reported to be the first international society devoted to a single genus of plants—fitting testimony to the ease and speed of communication today. This organization was launched only after the most painstaking inquiry and the calibre of men associated with it in an official capacity augurs well for its success.

TWO NEW CAMELIAS

J. Carroll Reiners, Sacramento, California

It is being reported, with authority, that a new Japonica named *Dr. John H. Urabec* will be introduced this fall. I anticipate purchasing this introduction since observing it for three consecutive years at the All-America Camellia Selections trial gardens. *Dr. John H. Urabec* is definitely an exhibition item which will attract best-of-show awards. The manner of plant growth, type of foliage and degree of floriferousness would be rated as neither outstanding nor mediocre. The great merit lies in the bloom, which is very large, of anemone form similar to *C. M. Wilson*. I do not belittle *C. M. Wilson* by comparing it to this *Urabec* seedling; it seems the most apt way to describe the new flower to say that it is a *C. M. Wilson* on the grand scale, an extravagance of size, an enlargement on the qualities of form, of somewhat looser construction, and a more deep rich pink.

* * *

I have recently tried to buy a second plant of camellia *Brigadoon* (Hybrid) and found that in Sacramento it was in very short supply. I report this because *Brigadoon* has a special place, in my estimation; that is, from the viewpoint of a landscape architect. The plant is overwhelmingly colorful in mass, while at the same time the single blooms are exhibition specimens, many over 6" in diameter and 4" deep. Substance is outstanding; fallen flowers will remain in good condition for several days. Blooms do not discolor in full sun, only slight fading is apparent. The rate and size of growth is such that more than usual area must be reserved for one plant. Give this plant time, as it may take five or six years to reach its ultimate in the maturity which brings the grand display.

DIEBACK IN CAMELIAS — FURTHER COMMENT

Walter G. Hazelwood, Epping, N. S. W., Australia

Mr. Pearce's article "Hybrids and Dieback" in the February *Bulletin* says "considerable reliance is placed on the theory of Walter G. Hazelwood, who believes that dieback is caused by a nutrient deficiency, possibly molybdenum, which results from over-acidity." I must clarify this as it is not my theory but an established scientific fact, determined by Von Stieglitz and Chippendale, two scientists of the Department of Agriculture, Queensland and published in their pamphlet "Nutritional Disorders of Plants." Their finding is that dieback is caused by a deficiency of molybdenum, usually due to over-acidity making the molybdenum unavailable. Of course, a natural shortage of molybdenum would have the same effect but being wanted only in very small volume this is not usual. Their suggestion in their earlier notes was to spray with ammonium-molybdate 1 oz. to 6 gallons of water, or sodium molybdate of equivalent strength, but in a later pamphlet they recommend 1 ton of pulverised limestone per acre.

Later on, Mr. Pearce says "in certain limited tests, increasing the pH of soil has decreased dieback significantly." This is really an understatement. I have proved time and again, without one failure, that it did not "decrease" dieback but cleaned it up completely and the new growth, which came very soon after applying lime, was healthy. The information that *C. saluenensis* comes from limestone areas in China would account for the prevalence of dieback in hybrids. This means that hybrids need a more alkaline soil than *C. japonica* and this can be obtained by raising the pH of the soil by the application of lime. Bonemeal as applied by his local nurseryman, having a small lime content, would have some effect but would not act quickly enough for plants actually infected.

I might add that the statement that *glomerella* does not affect healthy tissue comes from Professor Walter Waterhouse, late of Sydney University, and therefore has scientific backing.