AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

News-Letter

VOLUME 4 — NUMBER 3 JULY, 1949



CAMELLIA, VILLE DE NANTES

American Camellia Society News-letter
Volume 4 - Number 3, July 1949

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Lorelei — High Hat — Gypsy — Simeon — Glen 40 — King Lear Kenny—Lotus—Tiara—Pax—St. Andre—Red Wonder—Virginia Davis

Camellias

WE SPECIALIZE IN RARE VARIETIES

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CHARLESTON, S. C.

AZALEAS: In addition to old favorites, we are now propagating many magnificent varieties of Azalea Indica heretofore unknown commercially. Imported a century ago, these varieties have had ample time to prove their worth.

American Camellia Society
NEWS-LETTER

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3 JULY 1949

From
The Office of the Secretary

PLANS FOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

When Arthur Solomon, our new President, asked me to accept the Chairmanship of the Membership Committee of the American Camellia Society, my first inclination was to duck the assignment. But soon I realized that it was incumbent upon all of us who are interested in camellias to do all that we could to help Judge Solomon accomplish a job that was going to require so much of his time and energy. Thus I most willingly agreed to contribute my meager bit.

In the correspondence that I have had with Judge Solomon, he has written me as follows: "I consider that our Number One objective should be the obtaining of a membership commensurate with the importance of our organization. We now have 3,500 members who joined without a highly organized membership campaign. The goal is 10,000 and I hope that this goal can be obtained by December 31, 1949.

"The American Camellia Society has accomplished much in the past; we have even higher hopes for the future. The Society is eliminating the confusion arising from careless nomenclature. Numerous varieties are being examined by our committee, and when warranted, they are being recognized. The test plot at the University of Florida at Gainesville is beginning to produce results. The test garden at S.L.I., Lafayette, La. and Huntington Botanic Garden at Pasadena are also in operation. Our quarterly bulletins will continue to bring you current happenings in the camellia world, and in the ACS. Our Yearbooks, containing as they do, contributions from the most expert camellia growers, have become recognized as top flight camellia lore.

"We have done all of this on a pittance. To continue and to expand our activities, we need 10,000 members."

"Organizations in each State where there is camellia activity, are being perfected and information pertaining thereto will be furnished in the next issue of the bulletin. Plans are being made to award prizes to those members who do the best job, and full details about the various contests will be published in the next issue of the bulletin.

"In the meantime, it is hoped that every camellia lover will consider himself or herself a committee of one to get three of your friends to join the ACS. Blanks are being enclosed — more are available from Mr. Wilmot—and the membership fee is only $3.00 per year. Write your name somewhere on the blanks so you will be credited with the new members.

"Some new members have indicated a desire to obtain the 1948 Yearbook in addition to the 1949 Yearbook and arrangements have been made for the printing of 1,000 additional copies, which are available for new members for an additional $2.50. So the membership fee is $5.50 if the 1948 Yearbook is obtained, and only $3.00 if the new member does not want the 1948 Yearbook.

"All new members signed up since January 1, 1949 will be cred-

ited in determining the winners of the contests.

M. J. Witman, Chairman
Membership Committee
American Camellia Society"

You have read Mr. Witman's announcement above and you might be interested to know that the machinery he has set in motion is turning in members as this is written and we can report that 1227 new members have come in this year.

Mr. Wendell M. Levi of Sumter, S. C. has sent in 40, Judge M. M. Mann of St. Matthews, S. C. 23, J. M. Jones of Savannah 61, Mrs. Houston Manning of Latta, S. C. 24, and Mrs. F. M. Houser of Perry, Ga. 22 plus a renewal. Sixteen others have turned in 5 to 11 members so the drive is well under way. It does not seem to make much difference as to the time of year because it seems that camellia fans have them on their minds the year around.

* * * * *

Mr. F. E. Hobika of Dillon, S. C. reports that a plant of Arejishi he sold to a grower in Tatum, S. C. bloomed from the middle of August until the last week in April. He also reports that a Herme which started blooming in November still had some good flowers and buds the first of May.

VARIETY REGISTRATION

No. 6. LORELEI: Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario, Calif. have submitted Lorelei, which they put on the market this season. It is a seedling of unknown parentage. It first flowered in 1943. It is 3-4 years old. It is a handsome, bushy, compact shrub, with long, broad, very shiny leaves. The flower buds are ovoid, light green. The flowers are incomplete double with large petaloids, and are quite fragrant. The bloom is distinctive, with the edges of the petals crimped. It is crimson (Wilsons Hort. Color Chart, plate 22, page 22). The 3½-4½ inch flowers, with 30 petals, bloom in late midseason. A plant will be placed in the So. Calif. Cam. Soc. test garden.

No. 7. PATRICIA MEALING is a 9 year old seedling, grown by Dr. & Mrs. H. G. Mealing of North Augusta, S. C. It first flowered in 1945. It has not been distributed. The plant is compact in growth, and grows well on its own root; rooted cuttings blooming second and third year. The leaves are medium size, fairly deep green and rather pointed. The buds are round, with very dry and brown scales that make the buds look as if they would not open properly. The 4-5 inch flowers vary from semi-double through A, B and C of incomplete double, and all the flowers which open from October to February are ochid pink (Maerz & Paul 41-J & K-1). The petals shade darker from base to apex.

No. 8. ALICE GAILY: A six year old seedling of Queen of Hearts that first flowered in November 1946. It was produced by Stanley W. Miller, Rt. 1, Box 604, El Cajon, California. Plants have not been distributed. The plant is of compact growth with dense, medium dark green foliage. The buds are round and full. The incomplete double flowers, with large petaloids, are white with yellow stamens, opening from November to February. The slightly fragrant flowers are from 4 x 2 inches, to 5 x 2 inches, in size, with 14-17 petals. The larger petals are wavy with the petaloids twisted and fluted among the stamens. November bloom is early for California.

No. 9. INDISCREET: A seedling, probably of Nobilissima, since the seed was found on the ground under this variety, planted in 1943, first flowered in 1947. Also produced by Mr. Stanley W. Miller. The plant has sturdy upright branches of rather slow growth, with a nice compact shape. The leaves are 4-4½ inches, bright green. The flower buds are full, round and pointed, opening rather slowly. The complete

double irregular flowers are 3 x 1½ inches to 3½ x 1¾ inches, opening November to March. The flowers have about 17 guard petals with 167 petaloids. The definitely fragrant flowers vary from white with a few red petaloids, or a few penciled red lines, to delicate cream color with a few light pink petaloids and penciled markings, to an occasional all red flower.

No. 10. BEAU HARP: Seedling from Japanese seed, planted 1936, first flowered 1945, grown by G. H. Wilkinson, Pensacola, Fla. It is being propagated by Mr. Wilkinson and A. J. Parr, Phenix City, Ala. It is of very hardy upright growth. The large oval buds are produced in profusion. The red flowers, incomplete double with large petaloids, open December to January, are 4-6½ inches in diameter and have 22-30 petals. It won an Award of Merit at Savannah, 1949.

No. 11. C. M. WILSON: A sport of Elegans (Chandler), produced in 1936 by Mrs. Ada E. Wilson of Pensacola. It is being propagated by several nurseries. This is a blush pink form of Elegans, that is a match in color for High Hat, that is typical of Elegans in all other respects. It has bloomed in the Gainesville test garden for two years.

No. 12. MONA FREEMAN: A seedling of unknown parentage that first flowered in 1942 at McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena, Calif. The plant has average, upright, compact growth. The leaves are elliptic, 3 inches long, acute and slightly serrate. The light green flower buds are long and blunt, and the petals extend weeks before blooming.

The flowers are incomplete double with large petaloids, which are more or less erect. They flower from December to May, and vary from 3½ to 4½ inches in diameter. The average number of petals is 26. Plants or scions are offered to both the Univ. of Florida and Huntington Botanical Gardens test gardens.

No. 13. NINA AVERY: Seedling 47-17 from Jungle Gardens, E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La., first flowered in 1947. The flower is an incomplete double 3½ inches in diameter, central petals crinkled at the edges and upstanding, forming a high center. Stamens in small fascicles appear at irregular intervals among the inner petals. Petals are white, washed rose pink with base of petals almost self white, giving the blossom the appearance of white edged rose pink. The stamens are white-tipped, buckthorn brown. It flowers in January and February. Award of Merit, Lafayette, La. 1948.

No. 14. KERLEREC: Seedling 46-21 from Jungle Gardens, E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La., first flowered in 1946. An incomplete double with mixed petaloids, 4 inches in diameter. There are three rows of large petals widely spread with the tips turned down and a few large petals interspersed with large fascicles of petaloids in the center. Self colored, the same shade as Cameo Pink throughout. It blooms December and January.

No. 15. EMMA COKER ROGERS: A 15 year old seedling grown by Miss Anne Rogers, Society Hill, S. C. that first flowered in 1944. The plant has rapid upright growth. The 21 petalled flower is incomplete double with large petaloids, 4½ to 5 inches in diameter, self cardinal red. It blooms January and February.

No. 16. ARLENE LEE SHEPP: A sport produced on Olive Lee Shepp in 1944 that is being propagated by Paul E. Shepp of Shepp's Shade Gardens of Pasadena, California.

The plant and flowers are the same as Olive Lee Shepp except the flowers are light pink shading to white on edges of each petal. Olive Lee Shepp is white with a red stripe.

CAMELLIA CITY: Newberg, Oregon joined the ranks of camellia cities by officially designating the camellia as their city flower on April 11, 1949. The Men's Garden Club started a campaign in early March instigated by our member Russell Gainer. All the civic clubs joined in the movement and carried it through to a successful conclusion. All this was followed by a Camellia Show April 23-24 followed by a week when camellias were available to the public at wholesale prices.

Mr. Lloyd Baron, President of the Men's Garden Club said the reasons



From left to right: Lloyd Baron, President of Men's Garden Club, Russell Gainer presenting camellia plant to Mayor D. Homer Hester.

for choosing the camellia as the city flower were many, it was early blooming, a show flower, and that he believed they had the proper climate for best culture.

Mr. Russell Gainer is shown above presenting a plant to the Mayor to be planted in the City Park.

* * * * *

CAMELLIA SHOW DATES: We have received some advance dates for next season's Camellia Shows. Please get these dates in as soon as possible to Mr. W. T. Wood, 564 Mulberry St., Macon, Ga., or to this office. Some of the magazines go to press several months ahead of publication date and want this information early.

SOUTHERN STATES TAKE ACTION SEEKING TO PREVENT ENTRY OF CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT FROM CALIFORNIA

For several years camellia growers, nurserymen, and plant quarantine officials in the Southeast have been concerned with respect to the entry from California of camellia flower blight **(Sclerotinia camelliae)**. a destructive fungus disease which attacks the blooms of camellia plants. The quarantine officials of several of the southeastern states have agreed on a uniform quarantine to become effective July 1, 1949. After that date, only properly careful bare-rooted and disbudded plants grown in California will be permitted entry into Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The quarantine also prohibits the entry of cut flowers from California. The Florida quarantine will also apply to Fulton County, Georgia, where the disease is known to be present in one private property. Quarantines of the other states will probably apply only to the one infected property near Atlanta. To date, quarantine officials of Alabama and North Carolina have not announced their intention to take similar quarantine action.

Camellia growers who have seen the injury caused to camellia flowers by this disease, or who have read articles on the disease, will appreciate the need for this restrictive action. For some time quarantine officials of the Southeastern States have been considering such action. The need for restricting the movement of plants and flowers was the chief topic of conversation at the meetings of the Georgia Nurserymen's Association held at Jekyll Island, Georgia, on May 16-17, 1949, and at the meeting of the nurserymen's branch of the Florida State Florists Association at Jacksonville, May 23-24, 1949. The Florida and Georgia nurserymen went on record as being in favor of quarantine action.

At the meeting of the Alabama Nurserymen's Association held at Montgomery on June 10-11, and attended by nurserymen from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Tennessee, a number of individuals spoke in opposition to a quarantine. Dr. D. L. Gill, Assoc. Pathologist, Division of Fruits and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, B.P.I., S.A.E. USDA, Spring Hill, Ala., gave an excellent talk on the subject, and described in detail the manner in which the disease might be transmitted as well as the destruction of blooms affected by the fungus. Opponents of a quarantine pointed out that camellia plants growing in soil have been moved into the Southeast for a number of years and that if there was any risk of dissemination of the disease in this manner it should have made its appearance in a number of places in the South by this time. They were also fearful that such quarantine action would have to be taken with respect to any nurseries in this section in which the disease might make its apperance, in which event the owners of the affected nurseries would be ruined.

Proponents of the quarantine met this last objection with the statement that owners of affected nurseries would not be ruined by a quarantine, as they would be able to sell bare-rooted plants, although it was admitted that large plants could not be moved bare-rooted with any great degree of success. It was also argued that if the disease does make its appearance in the Southeast the demand for camellia plants on the part of the buying public would in all probability be greatly curtailed, as many individuals would be reluctant to pay from ten to thirty dollars for a plant which might be affected with

camellia flower blight, and therefore not liable to produce perfect flowers.

The Southern Plant Board adopted two resolutions petitioning federal officials to interest themselves in the flower blight problem. One requesting that a survey be made in camellia plantings of the South during the blooming season in order to determine whether the disease has made its appearance in this area was addressed to the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, USDA. The other was addressed to the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering USDA and requested that research investigations of the disease, with particular reference to development of control measures be undertaken at a suitable place in California at an early date.

It is possible that as a result of research investigations information could be developed which would provide for the movement of balled or container grown plants from infected nurseries without risk of spreading the disease.

* * * * *

ELEPHANT FUND added to by camellia fanciers. The Daily Oklahoman reported the fund to buy a baby elephant for the Oklahoma City Zoo jumped $20.00 with a check from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Polaski who presented it with a dozen camellia blossoms to the head of the fund drive. The newspaper carried a picture of the presentation. Mr. Polaski is one of our two members in Oklahoma.

* * * * *

EARLY FLOWERS: Reports of Arejishi flowers in Alabama in July last year brought out a comment in Home Gardening that any that came earlier would have to be considered late spring flowers but it has been brought to our attention that there have been some flowers in Florida on this spring's early growth.

Mr. Guy Champlain of Jacksonville, Fla. had a perfect Prof. C. S. Sargent, except that it was not as deep red as usual, open on June 17 on growth produced this spring.

In the test garden here at Gainesville a single red of Magnolia Gardens origin was found open in the week of June 6-11 and it was also produced on this spring's growth. Some varieties in the test garden and elsewhere have buds that usually would not be of comparable size until September.

Mr. B. P. Poyner, Jr. of Dothan, Ala. also had a Prof. C. S. Sargent open June 18 and expected to have a Sarah Frost shortly thereafter.

Mr. J. S. Bradford, Ocean Springs, Miss. has sent us a flower of Colletti from a plant which he says has been in bloom constantly and has a number of buds showing color. He attributes this to the mild winter and the fact that it made some new growth in December.

* * * * *

NORTH CAROLINA NOTES: Our director for North Carolina has sent in excerpts from two letters she received this winter.

"Fayetteville, N. C. . . . We bought a Flame, from Magnolia, only to have it variegated, but it has had several lovely blossoms, looks like a Donckelarii to me. I remember the gorgeous Mathotianas in the Jacksonville show of last year above everything else. I do not know Admiral Nimitz.

Also we have had quite a few Pink Stars. I am very fond of them, and they seem to do well in colder climates. Flames must be quite hardy too. My Marchioness of Exeter was beautiful this fall, though many were killed at Christmas time. Rev John G. Drayton is so lovely and does fine here. I have a Lallarook, but the flowers are so small when they bloom. The "Magnoliaeflora does well here. We had a lovely graft, but it is new. Helen of Troy is one of the best reds here. My

Duncan Bell does fairly well. The White Empress does fine, and is so lovely. The Donckelarii does especially well.

The Haigh garden has been beautiful, far more advanced than ours. I believe she has more semi-doubles than we have, as I have always fallen so for the doubles.

We will see what can be done about the memberships, and try to get a few.

Among the later bloomers that have done particularly well for us are the Victor Emmanuel, Duchess of Sutherland, Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek, Orton Pink, Sarah Frost, Herme, Kumasaka, and best of all our local varieties that have no names. Alba Plena and Pink Perfection do well here too.

Our show is to be held, weather permitting, March 9 and 10 at the Ray Ave., U.S.O. and I do hope you can come down. I have meant to write you before and thank you for the kind things you have said and done for the Fayetteville Garden Club particularly mentioning us in the American Camellia Society Yearbook. Also, to thank you for our invitation to join in your study group each fall. I have gotten quite a lot out of those meetings.

Our club has just planted two specimen camellia plants at the American Legion Home on Green Street, as living memorials to the World War dead. At our first show we took up a voluntary offering for this purpose, instead of making a charge. The plants were seven feet tall, one Sarah Frost and one Gloire de Nantes. We procured them from Orton, and Mr. Sprunt was very kind, taking them out of the garden for us.

Also, I forgot to tell you that our show will be held under the auspices of the American Camellia Society. Also to tell you how well Arejishi and Daikagura, and the sasanquas do here. Also Eleanor Hagood, Lady Clare and Glen 40." — Mrs. David T. Oates.

"Charlotte, N. C. . . . My experience with camellias has been fairly limited but I can heartily recommend the following varieties for our climate:- Kumasaka, Rosea Superba, Rev. John G. Drayton, Daikagura, Triphosa and Flame. Last year, we planted Lady Charlotte, Mrs. Freeman Weiss, Imura, Rev. John Bennett, K. Sawada, Haku-Rakuten, Semi-double Blush, Victor Emmanuel, Lady Vansittart, White Empress, and Prof. C. S. Sargent. Will tell you how these behave next year. We have Debutante, Mathotiana and C. M. Hovey also, but have not had much luck with these. The latter drops its petals every year just as it is about to bloom, and the other two get nipped by the frost.

Hope you have another meeting in Raleigh next year like the wonderful one this past winter."—Mrs. Robert McKay.

DIARY OF PILGRIMAGE TO SACRAMENTO

W. T. Wood, Macon, Ga.

February 22—7:15 p.m.—Aboard the A&WP train, Atlanta to New Orleans, in a special Pullman, sixteen camelliaphiles full of anticipation.

February 23rd—9:30 a.m.—Greeted in New Orleans by Miss Camilla Bradley of "Home Gardening For the South" and a motor trip to a famous New Orleans garden, then to the Southern Pacific station to find our special car ready to go out on the Sunset Limited.

February 25th—11:30 a.m. — Arrived at Los Angeles and were greeted at the station by members of the Pacific Camellia Society who escorted us to our hotel and were our hosts for lunch, followed by a sightseeing trip around Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills.

7:30 p.m.—Meeting of the South-

ern California Camellia Society at Pasadena with a display of flowers before the meeting. Here we met officers and members of the Southern California Camellia Society that we had known only by name in the past. On this program, from the south-east, were Mr. K. Sawada, with a talk on "Hybridizing Camellias," and Mr. W. T. Wood on Judging Camellias.

February 26th—Camellia Show of the Pacific Camellia Society at Glendale where four of our party had the honor of being judges—Mrs. W. T. Wood, in the Arrangement Class, and Dave C. Strother, T. Ed. Fletcher, and W. T. Wood, in the Specimen Classes. It was a wonderful show and in California where so many large plants are grown in containers, they make a background of blooming camellia plants that are truly the envy of any chairman of a Camellia Show, from the east.

February 27—We were escorted by members of the Southern California Camellia Society to the Huntington Art Gallery, Library, and Test Gardens. This is an outstanding place, and just to meet and talk with Mr. William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus, is worth a trip to the Coast. After leaving the test garden we were entertained in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Taylor in Flintridge, and here we had the opportunity to meet more camelliaphiles and have informal chats with them on our mutual hobby.

February 28th.—If anyone in our party just mentioned anything they desired, it was provided, and so today some of the party went to lunch at M.G.M. Others to meet with the most famous flower arrangers and artists in Southern California, while still others spent the day in nurseries. And this is the day that Judge Solomon tried to corner the market on a new sport "White Daikagura" (you will be hearing about this one). Tonight we are invited to a barbeque dinner at the home of Mr. Frank Williams in Beverly Hills. (The next time you see one of the party who went west, let him tell you about it.)

March 1st.—Again the party was divided in their interests—Some to the shops, some to the Farmers Market, but all the rest were escorted by members of the S.C.C.S. to Rancho Del Descano for lunch under the big oaks and our hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Asper (Yes, the one whose name you all know —Has it bloomed for you yet? What a beautiful flower!) and Dr. W. E. Lammerts. Here we saw camellia seedlings fifteen months old and with buds—yes! At night we attended the meeting of the Pacific Camellia Society in Glendale and again had a large display of fine flowers — kodachrome slides and talks. It was a grand and spirited meeting.

March 2nd and 3rd—Shopping, sightseeing, nurseries, and what-have-you. Some of the party motored to Palm Springs, others to Yosemite to see the snow (you ask them about this).

March 4th—8:25 a.m.—Board the San Joaquin Daylight for Sacramento — and arrived at 7:30 p.m. where we were met by members of the Camellia Society of Sacramento and escorted to our hotel where a special meeting of the directors of the A.C.S. was held at 9:00 p.m.

March 5th—Opening of the Silver Anniversary Camellia Show of the Sacramento Society and what a show! Mrs. Wood, of our party, was a judge in the Arrangement Class. The outstanding flower at this show was Shin Akebono, and it is a lovely flower. The annual meeting of the A.C.S. started at 2:30 P.M., and at 6:30 p.m. the annual dinner was held at the Senator Hotel and this was followed by a general meeting of the A.C.S. with Carl M. Hoskinson, President of the Sacramento Camellia Society, as Master of Ceremonies. There were Pianologues by Mrs. Robert Munn, followed by talks

from Mr. Harold Paige, W. T. Wood, and Dr. David W. McLean.

March 6th—A visit to gardens in the Sacramento section which included a trip to the home of Mrs. Frank Edinger, at Hood, California, where we saw specimen camellias 28 feet high and met a most charming camellia fan in Mrs. Edinger. In the afternoon we inspected the planting on the grounds of Capital Park with Jerry Olrich. Here we saw about 1500 specimens, including 600 varieties — just before leaving for Berkeley on the late afternoon train. At Berkeley our hosts from the Northern California Camellia Society met us at the train to escort us to the lovely Hotel Claremont.

March 7th—What a day! We were called for at 9:30 a.m. and after a drive to points of interest in San Francisco we arrived at James Nursery at Campbell, Calif., to find an outstanding nursery and a wonderful host and hostess. We were entertained at lunch by the members of the Santa Clara Camellia Society at San Jose. After lunch we all enjoyed a trip to the nursery of T. Domoto at Hayward, Calif. After dinner we went to a joint meeting of the Northern California Camellia Society and Santa Clara Camellia Society at Oakland, and I can assure you that there is no end to the fine people you meet in Camellia Land.

March 8th — This was the day when our party started on their many routes home. Some left at 8:00 a.m. and by night all had left except Mrs. Wood and the writer. We remained in Berkeley until Friday, March 11th, when we left for Portland, Oregon.

March 12th—On our arrival here we were greeted at the train by Morrie L. Sharp, President of the Oregon Camellia Society and during our two days in Portland, we visited various gardens and the nursery of Doty and Doerner. The Oregon Camellia Society had a called meeting of their society and we saw slides of camellias in their section with short talks by members of the Society and by Mrs. Wood and the writer. They are truly grand hosts.

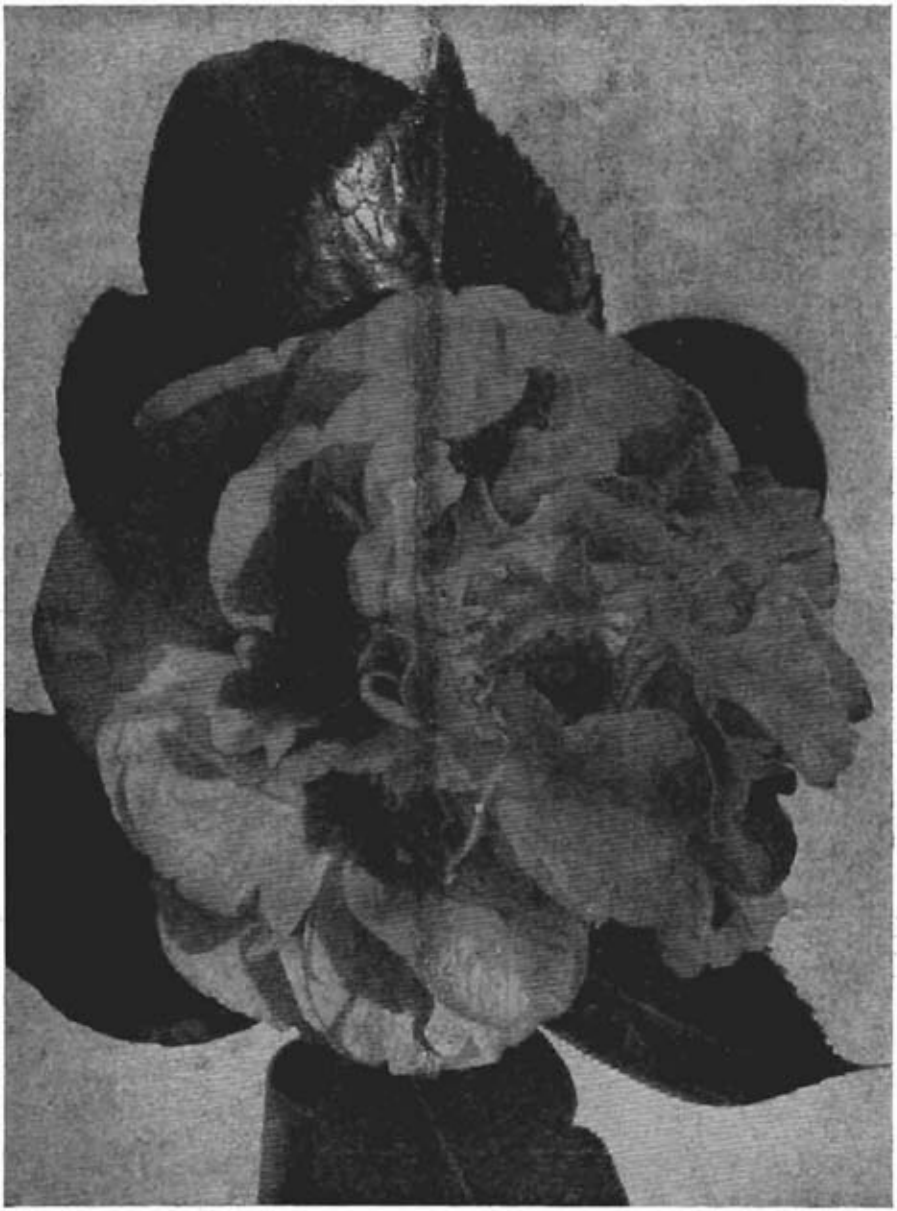
At the start I said we left home full of anticipation, and it is said that "Anticipation is greater than realization"—not so on this trip.

This article is supposed to give you a story of the Western Tour, but believe me, it is only a meager sketch for it would take a professional writer to tell of the marvelous time that was had by all.

R. J. Wilmot, Secretary - Box 2398, University Station - Gainesville, Florida

(This space was available for advertising)

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