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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Inside Cover
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	
CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME, <i>RALPH S. PEER</i>	1
REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA	1
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1955?	3
NEW CAMELLIA SOCIETY ORGANIZED, 5	4
RESUME OF 1954 - 55 CAMELLIA SEASON IN PARTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, <i>DAVID A. TILLINGHAST</i>	5
SOME MORE ABOUT TOP-WORKING LARGE CAMELLIA PLANTS, <i>EDWARD ALLEN</i>	7
CAMELLIA TAG DAY	8
NORTH CAROLINA ENJOYS CAMELLIAS, <i>MRS. R. I. McMILLAN</i>	9
HARVEY SHORT DISCUSSES THE NEWER VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS	11
VARIETAL-NAME CARDS AND CROSS-REFERENCE LISTS	12
ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK	13
IN MEMORIAM - STUART HAYNE BRECKENRIDGE	15
THE ILLGES AWARD WINNER - VARIETY, MRS. D. W. DAVIS	16
BEHAVIOR OF VARIEGATED VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS, <i>DR. A. G. PLAKIDAS</i>	16
COLD INJURY - SEASON 1954 - 55, <i>ARTHUR c. BROWN</i>	19

REMOVING THE BOTTOMS FROM GLASS BOTTLES, <i>JOHN M. WALTON, SR.</i>	20
GRAFTING LARGE UNDERSTOCKS, ARTHUR W. SOLOMON	22
SHOW DATES	24
ADVERTISEMENTS	24

American Camellia Quarterly

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A membership in the American Camellia Society will bring you a bound Yearbook that contains the latest information on culture, pest control, varietal nomenclature, history, descriptions and sources of new varieties, and exact scientific information on various subjects concerning camellias and a subscription to the American Camellia Quarterly.

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CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

RALPH S. PEER, Los Angeles, California

The Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society to be held in Los Angeles February 25 - 28 (inclusive) 1956 will provide a unique opportunity for the display of the far famed Western Hospitality. Because of the special problems involved in handling camellia visitors in this area which now has a population of five million persons, the Los Angeles Camellia Council has been formed by bringing together the leading members of the three local societies—Southern California Camellia Society (Pasadena), Pacific Camellia Society (Glendale), and Los Angeles Camellia Society (Los Angeles).

The details have of course not been settled, but it has been decided that at the time of the Annual Meeting a combined camellia show sponsored by all three societies will be held.

Special efforts will be made to entice visitors from Washington, Oregon, and Northern California so that there may be a real meeting of Eastern, Gulf Coast, and Western devotees.

During the month of February there will be camellia shows staged in San Diego, Santa Ana, Pomona, Temple City, Bakersfield, Fresno, Sacramento, Oakland, and San Jose. Visitors should plan to travel by automobile and spend the entire month of February visiting interesting and noteworthy camellia plantings and collections in California. In a subsequent issue, we plan to offer specific suggestions for such trips.

Anybody requiring information at this time may have it by addressing inquiries either to the American Camellia Society, Box 2398, University Station, Gainesville, Florida, or to Ralph S. Peer, 8159 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 46, California.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Members of the Men's Camellia Society of Birmingham and the Men's Camellia Society of Bessemer County were hosts to the American Camellia Society at the Annual Meeting held in the Tutwiler Hotel, January 28-29, 1955. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Macon, Georgia, but because of the rather widespread injury to camellia buds by low temperatures early in November, 1954, it was decided to meet in Birmingham instead.

On Friday morning, members and visitors were conducted on a bus tour of some of the many camellia greenhouses in Birmingham and Bessemer. At the same time, the members of the Board of Directors and the Governing Board held their annual meetings.

The program at the afternoon meeting was interesting and informative. Mr. Ralph S. Peer, State Director from California, gave the audience an insight into what we may expect of camellias during the next ten years. Dr. Denzell L. Gill, Plant Pathologist of the Coastal Plains Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia, and a Fellow of the American Camellia Society, talked about camellia flower blight. Mr. K. Sawada of Mobile, Alabama, the well-known authority on camellias, discussed cross-pollination of camellia flowers. The afternoon meeting closed with the panel discussion which has become a feature of the Annual Meeting.

Saturday morning was devoted to another sight-seeing tour. Some of the members went on the bus trip over the famous "Vulcan Trail," while others took in more of the camellia greenhouses.

The Board of Directors re-elected all of the current officers except Mr. T. Edgar Fletcher, Cordele, Georgia, a Charter Member who had served the Atlantic Coast Territory in the capacity of Vice-President since 1952. It was with great reluctance that the



Mrs. W. T. Wood, Macon, Georgia, recipient of the Bronze Medal of the American Camellia Society in recognition of meritorious services performed as Chairman of the Arrangement Contest Committee, 1949 - 1954.

Directors accepted Mr. Fletcher's resignation. Mr. S. L. Marbury, Wilmington, North Carolina, was selected to serve as Vice-President to fill that vacancy.

The results of the election for the Directorate held in the Atlantic Coast Territory last fall were announced at the meeting of the Governing Board. Mr. D. C. Strother, Fort Valley, Georgia, and Mr. J. P. Illges, Columbus, Georgia, were re-elected Directors-at-Large. Mr. W. T. Wood, Macon, Georgia, and Mrs. L. G. Fox, Rockingham, North Carolina, were re-elected as Directors from their respective states. Newcomers to the Directorate were Mr. L. C. Wannamaker, Cheraw, South Carolina, and Mr. Alison J. Parsons, Norfolk, Virginia.

The combined flower shows of the two host societies opened at 2 p.m. Saturday, and continued through Sunday. The quantity and quality of the blooms on exhibit were a source of delight to visitors. They had expected to see excellent greenhouse flowers, but were agreeably surprised at the exhibition of outdoor blooms, a large number of which had been sent in by growers in other localities.

A bloom of the variety Emmett Pfingstl, the variegated form of Joseph Pfingstl, was judged to be the most outstanding flower in the class for greenhouse blooms. The award for the most outstanding flower grown in the open went to a Mathotiana Supreme.

The Annual Meeting came to a most successful conclusion with the banquet held

on Saturday night. Members listened with interest and appreciation to the talk by the featured speaker, Mr. John Temple Graves, well-known editor, columnist and lecturer.

Awards made to members for meritorious services performed in the Society's interests included Bronze Plaques for Mrs. William T. Wood for her work with the Arrangement Contests, and to Mr. D. C. Strother for his contributions to the nomenclature of the Camellia. Mr. Austin Griffiths, Jr., a former editor of the *Yearbook*, was elected a Fellow of the American Camellia Society.

Another event that was thoroughly enjoyed was the presentation, by Mr. W. T. Wood, of the coveted Illges Medal to Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Davis, Seffner, Florida, for their outstanding seedling, Mrs. D. W. Davis.

The responsibility for serving as hosts to the American Camellia Society at its Annual Meeting is a serious one. The discharge of that responsibility in a creditable manner requires many months of preparation and hard work on the part of the General Chairman and his associates.

Responsibility for the entertainment of the members of the Society at the meeting at Birmingham last January was thrust upon the members of the Men's Camellia Society of Birmingham and the Men's Camellia Society of Jefferson County, Alabama, on very short notice. That these members rose to the occasion in an enthusiastic and efficient manner was evidenced by the highly creditable manner in which the meeting was directed and managed.

We take this opportunity, on behalf of the American Camellia Society, to express our thanks and appreciation to all of the members of the host clubs and their wives, especially Dr. Gilbert E. Fisher, General Chairman; Judge Whit Windham and Mr. Horace Tinsley, Presidents of the Birmingham and Bessemer Camellia Societies; Publicity Chairmen Henry Johnston and Ray Furr; Finance Chairman George M. Wheeler; Reservations Chairman Lowell S. Hamilton; Registration Chairman Elbert A. Hamilton; Hospitality Chairman Dr. Lee F. Turlington; Entertainment Chairman Frank M. Lynch; and Show Chairman John F. Herndon.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1955 ?

The value of a continuing membership in the American Camellia Society should be self-evident—as it is to many camellia growers. The fact remains, however, that each year a certain percentage of our members become delinquents. These delinquents fall into two classes: (1) those who retain their interest in camellias but overlook the fact that membership is for the calendar year; and (2) those whose interest has declined to the point where they no longer care about keeping abreast of the times, in so far as the camellia world is concerned. Fortunately, the latter group is comparatively few in number.

In spite of the fact that members who do not pay their dues on or about the first of each year and, consequently, are not entitled to enjoy the privileges of membership, it is the Society's policy to furnish such members with copies of the January and April Quarterlies. It is with considerable regret, therefore, that we must inform delinquent members that this is the last copy of any of the Society's publications that they will receive until or unless they pay their dues. Furthermore, only the names of members who have paid their dues prior to October 1, 1955, will appear in the roster of members to be published in the 1955 Yearbook.

The number of members who enrolled in 1954, 5,384, was the second highest in the history of the Society. (The high mark, 7,769, was reached in 1950 following a well-managed and aggressive membership drive.) A membership of between 5,500

and 6,000 is necessary if the Society is to continue to operate on the present basis. It is with satisfaction that we announce the number of members, new and old, who, have paid their dues as of April 1, 1955, is 4,374 or only 52 less than the number recorded on that date last year.

Procrastination is no doubt the reason for the neglect to renew on the part of the majority of delinquents and, in time, it is to be hoped that condition will be corrected. On the other hand, the situation with respect to the enrollment of new members is a serious one, brought about, no doubt, by the cancellation of some camellia shows during the past season. There can be no question but that in many instances the desire to join the American Camellia Society and become informed on the subject of camellias was inspired by attendance at camellia shows where thousands of camellia flowers in all their glory were on display.

The closing of this avenue for the enrollment of new members as a result of the cancellation of camellia shows should be a matter of concern to all of us, and arouse in our minds a determination to bring new members into the fold. While enrolling new members, it should be emphasized that membership is for the calendar year, and that the only publications they will receive will be the Quarterlies and Yearbook published that year. Many new members expect to be furnished with copies of the Yearbook published the year previous to their enrollment. They may, as members, purchase such back issues of the Yearbook as may be in print at \$3.00 the copy.

The need for the Secretary to estimate our needs, with respect to the number of Quarterlies and Yearbooks to be ordered is another reason for the desirability for early enrollment. As the Society cannot afford to accumulate excess stocks of its publications, we must keep the number ordered within the realm of probability of demand. There have been cases in past years when stocks of certain issues of the Quarterlies became depleted, and we were unable to furnish complete files to members who waited until November, or even December, to renew their subscriptions.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1955, PLEASE DO SO WITHOUT DELAY.

A handy renewal slip is enclosed for that purpose.

NEW CAMELLIA SOCIETY ORGANIZED

W. S. DOMER, Washington, D. C.

The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, a full-fledged camellia society, was started on January 18, 1955, when a group of local camellia enthusiasts met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton H. Brown, in Arlington, Virginia. It is our hope that this Society will develop into one of the most active ones in the country. The area covered is primarily the northern Virginia counties, the District of Columbia, and the adjacent counties in Maryland.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted at the first meeting and officers were elected for the first two-year term. The officers are Mr. Milton H. Brown, President; Mr. Charles F. Holden of Alexandria, Virginia, Vice President; Mrs. Milton Greenland of Alexandria, Recording Secretary; Col. L. E. Edwards of the District of Columbia, Treasurer; and Mrs. Milton H. Brown, Corresponding Secretary. Comdr. W. S. Domer, of the District of Columbia, was selected as Chairman of Membership, and Mrs. Leon Habecker of Hillandale, Maryland, was chosen as Show Chairman.

The first regular meeting of The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley was held at the famous old Gadsby's Tavern, in Alexandria, Virginia, on February 28. Sixty-seven out of the 103 people in attendance were charter members. After a short business meeting, Mr. Charles F. Holden showed beautiful slides of the Norfolk Municipal

Gardens, Pierate's Cruze, Magnolia and Orton Plantations, and also a few slides of his own plants.

The initiation fee of \$6.00 includes the dues for the first year, an interesting booklet on camellia culture and descriptions of more than 300 varieties of camellias, many of which can be grown out of doors in this area.

The purpose of this society is to stimulate interest in the culture of camellias. This is to be accomplished through suitable lectures and well-selected articles on culture and propagation. The society will serve as a clearing house on cultural methods and experience data.

Undoubtedly a great many gardeners here have experimented with this delightful evergreen. It provides an amazing display of bloom during the fall and spring months, and occasionally during periods of moderate temperatures in the winter. The Society hopes to reach and aid these pioneer gardeners so that they may have greater success with this slow-growing, glossy-leaved plant from the Orient—*Camellia japonica* and its myriad varieties and hybrids.

Emphasis will be placed upon the use of the camellia as an out-of-door plant, although they are the joy of the gardener with a "cool greenhouse." The latter is necessary for continuous bloom throughout the winter, but only a few such fans are known in the Washington area. The society will principally serve the large number of backyard gardeners who have defied all the literature that shows Washington outside of the area of adaption. These hardy souls are said to number in the thousands.

The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley will hold its first annual camellia show in the auditorium of the Chevy Chase store of Woodward and Lothrop on the two days of April 14 and 15, 1955. It is the hope of the planning group that this will be a very successful show.

This new society has contacted a few of the various camellia societies throughout the country in search of advice on the development of a successful society. Ideas for interesting programs and for effective publicity is desired from anyone who cares to offer them. The address of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley is 2220 N. Trenton Street, Arlington 7, Virginia.

RESUME OF 1954 - 55 CAMELLIA SEASON IN PARTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA¹

DAVID A. TILLINGHAST, Greenville, South Carolina

The weather of the winter season just closing has been unkind to the *Camellia japonica*, not only around Greenville but almost everywhere else.

Camellia shows, long a fixture in many southeastern cities, had to be cancelled, right and left—Charleston, Savannah, Macon, Columbia, to name a few, along with Greenville.

Cold which seriously damages the crop of blooms seems to come about every five years. Last year Greenville's blooms were magnificent and a most successful show was held by the Men's Garden Club of Greenville, originator of the event.

This season the knell for the 1955 show came the first week in November when the mercury tumbled one night to an unusual low of 19 degrees. This temperature caught camellia plants before dormancy had set in and before hardening-off had occurred. The result was heavy damage to the still developing bud crop, of which there was a generally good set. However, plants themselves generally escaped any serious injury.

Insult was added to injury three weeks ago when the February freeze sent the

¹Reprinted from the *Greenville News*, Greenville, South Carolina.

mercury down to 12 and further damage was done. Some of the buds, which had survived the November cold and were showing color, were killed.

Nevertheless, despite the severity of weather conditions, there will be camellia blooms in the Greenville area this season. Not many may be of show quality but there will be a variety of color and in fair quality, although some will show the brown of damage.

In order to learn just how serious had been the impact of the current winter on camellias of this area and what species had shown the greatest resistance to the unkind temperatures, H. T. (Dick) Lashley, local fancier, who grows them both under glass and in the open, recently made a survey of nearly 100 varieties found planted outdoors in Greenville. As he made his check, Mr. Lashley jotted down the plants in four categories according to the measure of staying qualities against the cold shown.

He found some 12 kinds of camellias which apparently had endured the harsh weather in most instances without loss. He found some 33 more varieties which had suffered some damage but would produce a fair crop of blooms. In a third class, where buds have been damaged too much to open but remain on the plant, there were 13, while some 20 varieties were found to have dropped all buds.

While disappointment has come to many because of bloom loss this season, Mr. Lashley stated that since damage to plants themselves had been so small, next year may bring back this shrub to full beauty and popularity. Though every few years camellias in Greenville area suffer cold damage there are some varieties which are almost immune to the effects and these can be grown with greatest assurance.

Mr. Lashley pointed out that unusual conditions preceded the November damage of this season. The weather had continued warm and the ground was dry, the combination making the plants more susceptible to a sudden drop in the mercury.

Of course, the location of plants and protection that may be thus afforded are factors also in reducing damage. Some times when specimens of the same variety are planted on both sides of a yard, one plant may suffer when the other does not. Use of water on plant roots is another way to protect plants from cold. Water should be given before the freeze and just afterward.

When winters are normal with no precipitate drops in temperatures before the time for dormancy or after the buds begin to open, Greenville can expect a wealth of bloom in scores of magnificent colors and forms. A season of profuse bloom quickly offsets the disappointment of a bad one.

Mr. Lashley does not believe in special efforts to protect plants in the open from cold spells such as wrapping cloth or burlap around them. If the cover touches the foliage anywhere, it fails to do the job; if it is airtight and is left on the plant for any length of time, the sun may heat the air so enclosed to the detriment of the shrub and bloom encased. The use of wooden frames around plants to support fabric protection may help but for the cost and trouble involved, the value is questionable in his opinion.

Hardy varieties, properly located and vigorous, and well watered during danger periods, will take a lot of adverse weather without any protection.

As a guide to those interested in varieties of camellias and how they withstood the cold ravages of 1954-55, Mr. Lashley has made available the four categories as grouped by his survey of bud damage.

UNDAMAGED

Aunt Jetty	Pink Perfection
Berenice Boddy	Prof. C. S. Sargent
Dixie (Dixie Pink?)	Semi-double Blush
Latifolia Variegated (Fanny Bolis)	Tricolor
Monarch	Vedrine
Mrs. Charles Simmons	

SLIGHTLY DAMAGED

Admiral Nimitz	Imperator
Adolphe Audusson Variegated	Kellingtonia
Albertii (Concordia)	Kumasaka
Amabilis	Leucantha
C. M. Hovey (Col. Firey)	Magnoliaeflora
Debutante	Mathotiana Alba
Eleanor Hagood	Mathotiana Variegated
Elegans (Francine)	Panache
Elegans Variegated	Prince Eugene Napoleon (Pope Pius IX)
Elena Nobile	Purity
Eugene Bolen	Rev. John G Drayton
Firebrand	Rose Dawn
General George Patton	Sarah Frost
Herme	September Morn

COMPLETELY DAMAGED

(Buds remained on plants, but not likely to open)

Augusta Wilson	Longview No. 67
Adolphe Audusson	Maria Morren (Ella Drayton)
Cameo Pink	Pride of Descanso
Countess of Orkney	Rainy Sun
Florence Stratton	Shiro Botan
Haku-Tsuri	White Queen
Lallarook (Laurel Leaf)	

ALL BUDS DROPPED

Alba Plena	Latifolia
Black Dragon	Margaret Madsen
Blood of China	Mathotiana
Brilliant	Mary Charlotte
Daikagura	Mildred Seydell
Daikagura Red	Mrs. Charles Cobb
Elizabeth	Pink Star
Elizabeth Boardman	Rev. John Bennett
Eugene Lizé	Ville de Nantes
Gigantea	Waterloo
Lady Vansittart	

SOME MORE ABOUT TOP-WORKING LARGE CAMELLIA PLANTS

EDWARD ALLEN, Melrose, Florida

Last year Judge C. I. Tolles, Melrose, directed my attention to the article "Top-Working Camellias at Magnolia Gardens," by Mr. C. Norwood Hastie, Jr., which appeared in the 1952 *American Camellia Yearbook*, and suggested that we try our hand at top-working one of his plants. The plant was an undetermined variety, about twenty feet high, and believed to be about fifty years old. The small flowers, which usually fell to the ground before opening, were of no value. The plant was profusely branched, and in reasonably good health, other than a small amount of dieback. It was growing on the lawn and for years it had received no fertilizer other than what it could pick up from the fertilizer applied to the lawn itself.

On February 17, 1954, I started top-working the camellia. The scions were taken from other varieties in the yard and from bushes in the neighborhood. I used about forty scions, and they represented about fifteen varieties common to this area, such

as Alba Plena, Prof. C. S. Sargent, Cameo Pink, Lallarook (Laurel Leaf), and others.

I cut most of the top branches and grafted them first, cutting off about three-fifths of the upper branches. The lower branches will be grafted another year. I felt this was necessary to reduce the shock to the plant. The limbs ranged in size from that of a finger to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. I put two scions in most of the larger limbs. The top-most graft was about eight feet from the ground.

The technique used was to cut the branches with a fine saw, then smooth the cut with a sharp knife. The split was then made and the scion prepared and put in place. They were not tied. A handful of sphagnum moss was then dipped in a solution of Ferbam and placed around the union and tied loosely in place. A regular two-quart size of plastic freezer bag was then drawn over the entire end of the limb and the scion, and tied tightly in place. As the camellia had no natural shade, poles were erected around it and a war surplus shrimp net thrown over the tops, giving a shade estimated at about sixty-five percent.

This shade was left in place until October. The bags were not removed until even later than that. In some instances, when the growing scions had reached the top of the bags, the latter were split at the ends to provide more growing space.

Twenty-six of the forty scions inserted lived and grew in lengths varying from three inches to three feet the first year. With regard to the "misses" we know that four scions were knocked out of place when we were working on other branches. Others were injured when the bags were pulled out of place by the weight of water that accumulated in the bags.¹

The plant itself showed no sign of shock. Many suckers developed, some close to the scions, and were removed. Other new growth was not touched. I believe that we should have trimmed more growth in order to divert more vigor to the grafts.

This year, 1955, I reworked some of the branches where the grafts did not take hold, and most of the remaining lower branches of the tree. We have made only two changes from the methods used last year: (1) We painted the cut surfaces with Cabot's tree paint, which has an asphalt base, to encourage healing; and (2) for the purpose of preventing the bags from sagging, we tied to each branch a small brace made in the form of a cross and extending well beyond the scion. The limb was wrapped in sphagnum moss and the bags tied tightly in place.

CAMELLIA TAG DAY

Members of the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter, South Carolina, devised a novel way to further interest in camellias and, at the same time, raise funds for worthwhile projects.

Friday, March 18, was designated as Camellia Tag Day. Garden Club members pinned camellia flowers on coat lapels in exchange for silver offerings. There is little doubt but that those who contributed were well rewarded, for from reports received camellia plants in Sumter are in full bloom and the flowers are of exceptionally fine quality.

Proceeds from the sale of camellia flowers will be used to further the conservation program adopted by the public schools in Sumter. The Garden Club of South Carolina is cooperating with the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the purpose of establishing a conservation camp in Cheraw State Park for the use and benefit of children. The sale was held as a part of the Society's participation in the National Wildlife Week celebration.

¹Small holes punched in the lower sides of the bags would provide drainage for excess moisture.—Ed.

NORTH CAROLINA ENJOYS CAMELLIAS¹

MRS. R. L. McMILLAN, Raleigh, North Carolina

Did you go on any of the 1954 Southern Garden Pilgrimages? Did you visit any of the large Camellia Shows?

If you did, you will know that camellias are called the debutantes and glamour girls of modern flowers by those who "cover" the Flower Shows and Pilgrimages. You will know that the camellia, called by Noah Webster a "divine creation," is finding new recognition and a royal welcome. Older writers remind us that in the crinoline and hoop skirt period, long before the days of Garden Pilgrimages or Flower Shows, the camellia reigned in all its glory. For a hundred years its lovely pinks and strange mottlings, to purest white, have been found in Southern gardens and Northern greenhouses in bleak cold winter months when all sensible flowers should be asleep.

One of the largest Southern department stores recently ran a full page advertisement which read:

"As Southern as Camellias—the prize winning camellias in the Flower Show and the Cape Jessamines that flourish casually along our wayside are in the best Southern tradition. We have a Southern heritage of more than sixty years of store keeping. This proud tradition we cherish zealously—in the soft spoken voices of our Southern store family—in the warmth and hospitality of our service that we try to keep as Southern as camellias!"

Nationally circulated magazines are publishing articles entitled *Camellia Fever*, *The Camellia Carries On*, *As Southern as Camellias*, *Camellia Time in Dixie*, *Camelliaitis* (North Carolina's Bugs Barringer), *Camellias Are the Aristocrats of Flowers*, etc. Camellia growers drive thousands of miles each season to enjoy new varieties with other growers. No basketball or football fan reads the sports news any more eagerly than camellia growers read every word written by Dr. H. Harold Hume, Judge A. W. Soloman, Mr. K. Sawada, Mr. Ralph S. Peer, Mr. Kenneth M. Sprunt, Dr. Rose, Judge Henry Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. P. Kemp, Mr. S. L. Marbury, Mr. DeVane, Mr. Oates, Dr. J. Allan Easley, Mr. Holmes, Mr. D. C. Strother, Mr. J. W. C. Entwistle, Mrs. Anna Lee Harris and many others. All of which is just a way of saying that there is a Camellia Renaissance today.

Camellias were considered "stove" or tender plants when they were first introduced by the East India Trading Company. Even as late as 1880, literature published in England and in America treated camellias as a tub or pot plant for greenhouse use. However, in 1885 Robert McIntosh wrote: "The *Camellia japonica* in its native country is exposed in the summer to a heat equal to that at Bengal, India, while in the winter the cold is nearly as intense as it is in Moscow, Russia." Camellias are big business in the United States, Japan, Australia and other countries today. Kunming in Yunnan Province is the northern terminus of the famous Burma Road. The eyes of the world are upon China and Yunnan today and camellia growers know that the lovely Yunnan reticulatas are enriching the world's gardens.

My son, R. L. McMillan, Jr., returning from a long period of duty with the United States Marine Corps Occupation Forces, traveling thousands of miles all over rural Japan in a jeep, reported valleys and hillsides covered with wild camellias.

In North Carolina we see miles of unattractive hedges, many of them privet, which have little beauty to offer. Why not substitute some of the hardier and cheaper camellias? Marshallville, Georgia, has won fame for its roadside camellia planting. The foliage is beautiful and if they "bloom, and they usually do, we can call in our Sisters of the Green Fingers and our Brothers of the Spade. Their exclamations of surprise

¹Reprinted from *The News & Observer*, Raleigh, North Carolina.

and pleasure will repay us for any sacrifice we may have made to buy camellia plants.

We have learned from experience that camellias are not difficult to grow. They have a soil preference for rich deep sub-acid clay loam with sand mixed in or an acid soil, the kind found in deep woods or garden soil with leaf mold or peat moss added. They should be fertilized with a special acid-producing fertilizer and well-rotted cow manure with an occasional dressing of potash. A little copperas now and then should be added. They like plenty of water and a rather humid atmosphere. Spraying two or three times a year with one of the new sprays will control the usual pests. Mulching with pine needles is routine in most North Carolina camellia gardens. These are all quotations from experienced camellia growers. A most successful grower recently stated:

"Camellias should not be pampered. Planted correctly—not too deeply—in proper soil, with moderate amounts of fertilizer and water—I feed them three times a year. My first bloom each year is a miracle. I had never grown a camellia until my doctor recommended growing them as a hobby several years ago when I was convalescing from a long illness. I found that I got more out of my camellias than I did from any drugstore preparations. By carefully selecting my plants I now have flowers eleven months of the year."

People who visit camellia shows and gardens invariably ask "What is your favorite variety?" What an interesting and puzzling problem! Factors affecting such a choice would include color, formation (whether single, double, semi-double, loose peony, or formal), habit of growth, and time of blooming. Mr. D. C. Strother, one of the world's camellia authorities, says that his favorite continues to be Ville de Nantes. Many North Carolina growers prefer the exquisite Magnoliaeflora. Prof. C. S. Sargent, one of the oldest and one of the cheapest, is the favorite of a great many men. It is a rich carnation-like red. Each year many new varieties are introduced. Some of the older and less expensive varieties will remain favorites always. Favorite flowers in some of the large camellia shows during the last few years (by vote) were Blood of China (very late bloomer), Mathotiana, Joshua E. Youtz, Rosea Superba, White Queen, Mrs. Charles Cobb, Dr. Tinsley, Lady Clare, Bessie McArthur (Named for Mrs. Bessie Wade McArthur of Cumberland County, N. C.), Daikagura, Donckelarii, Monarch, Gigantea, Haku-rakuten, Ville de Nantes, K. Sawada, Magnoliaeflora, Woodville Red, Fred Sander, Adolphe Audusson, Rev. John Bennett, Te Deum, White Empress, High Hat, Martha Brice, Lallarook (Laurel Leaf), Eleanor Hagood, Kumasaka and Margaret Higdon.

Most of us have felt disappointed in flower show arrangements featuring camellias, whether they were entered as Colonial, Georgian, French Victorian, Contemporary or Miscellaneous. Richardson Wright senses this disappointment in his foreword to Mrs. Fisher's beautiful book, *Eighteenth Century Garland*, when he says that flowers and people are closely allied—living flesh responds to living flowers—and commends Mrs. Fisher's pleasant arrangements which he finds so welcome "amid the clutter of self-conscious macabre combinations of plant material so often bemedaled today." Many North Carolina women, especially in Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Whiteville, Wilmington, Lumberton, Mount Olive and Rockingham have mastered the fine art of arranging camellias.

Next to "What varieties shall I plant?" we hear most often "How shall I arrange my camellia blooms?" The fundamental laws apply to all flower arrangements, in whatever style they may be executed. The containers must have something of the dignity, beauty and grace of the flowers. Camellias are lovely when used alone or with flowers that bloom with them in our gardens; for example, they are at their best when used with Roman hyacinths, violets, violas, Lady Banksia roses, fragrant viburnums, wintersweet, and star magnolias.

Our favorite arrangements depend for the pleasantness of their effect on exquisite

color combinations and well placed material rather than upon bizarre and exotic combinations.

I asked a dozen well-known Raleigh gardeners to suggest a Christmas present that would give them individually the greatest pleasure. Nine of them said "I'd rather have a nice camellia plant than anything else." There are good nurseries all over eastern and central North Carolina where fine plants can be bought at reasonable prices.

North Carolina gardeners, men and women, want to ENJOY camellias. Some like to leave them in their gardens. Others like to make them into glorified bouquets for their friends.

Hurricane Hazel did great damage to the camellia plants of North Carolina. Busy men like Dr. Rose and Mr. Kemp of Goldsboro, Mr. Marbury of Wilmington, Dr. Easley of Wake Forest, Judge Stevens of Warsaw, and many, many others have gone about their programme of replanting.

Many young Raleigh couples are planting and grafting camellias as a family hobby. Peat moss, potash, acid soil and camellia varieties are every day topics of conversation even among the children. One young Raleigh business man refuses every Saturday afternoon invitation so that he can spend the time with his children. He wants them to learn to love gardening and especially camellia gardening as much as he and his wife do. He knows that thousands of North Carolina gardeners are ENJOYING camellias and he agrees with them, and with Noah Webster and Linnaeus that they are "divine herbs—divine creations."

HARVEY SHORT DISCUSSES THE NEWER VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS¹

In checking new varieties of camellias, they become a fascinating study, as you all know, from the time you acquire the first scion to the period it begins to produce its first bloom. You are first interested in its vigor as it pushes its structural branches, you then analyze the texture and coloring and size of the leaf. Then the thrill or disappointment following its first performance in your garden.

We find we have a wide variation of tastes and opinions of camellias, so it is fortunate that we have such a wide range of colors and styles to choose from. Indeed this is one reason for the camellia's great popularity. We well know that the novice as a rule is much more interested in the formal or imbricated style of flower but usually as his interest mounts, he finds himself admiring form or color that he did not enjoy earlier.

I would like to emphasize the point that novice and professional alike strive for two things in successful camellia growing. One—patience. Camellias are not fast growers and we quickly condemn the first bloom or early behavior of a plant. When given time to form its true character, it may be a real treasure. I am thinking here of the *reticulatas* and many of the large flowered types. They cannot be bushy and compact immediately. The second point is imagination. Other than just another shrub stuck in the garden, why not study the individuality of the plant? It may be truly oriental in pattern. Place it so it adds design to its setting. Large blooms well spaced and lingering on tip branches lend much more charm than masses of large flowers crowded onto a bushy shrub. Here is where the small flower shines, cozily tucked in the closely branched bush radiating a rich splash of color.

I am grouping the newer varieties into three classes for discussion as follows: Group One, the notables that have been emerging possibly back to five years ago and just now are being definitely evaluated.

These include Finlandia Blush (Monte Carlo), Edwin H. Folk, Crusader, Thelma

¹Reprinted from *The Camellia Review*, Vol. 16, No. 6, March, 1955.

Dale, Big Beauty, Elizabeth LeBey, Mrs. Bertha A. Harms, Frizzle White, White Empress, Dr. Tinsley, Pearl Maxwell, Simeon, Morning Glow, and "sleepers" Marion Mitchell, Sweeti Vera, Paeoniaeflora Rosea (Otahuhu Beauty) and Gigantea Alba.

Group Two is made up of entries of the past two seasons that are giving us a first preview:

From the West: Melody Lane, Ann Miller, Masquerade, Mattie O'Reilly, Spring Sonnet, Shiro-Chan, Drama Girl, Frank Williams, Jr., and Thomas D. Pitts.

From the East: St. Andre, Capt. Ike Davis, Governor William Bradford, Lena Jackson, Mrs. Lyman Clarke, Letitia Schrader, Dr. John D. Bell, R. L. Wheeler, Dr. H. G. Mealing, French Emperor, Nina Avery, Princess Irene, Marguerite Calusaut, Kerlerec, Wildwood, Mathotiana Supreme, Eclatante, Hazel Herrin, Betty Sheffield, Ethel Davis and An-Flo Lee.

Group Three includes some of the so-called "hot" numbers that are probably getting into the grafting lots this season:

They are Reg Ragland, Island Echo, J. J. Whitfield, Indian Summer, Jack McCaskill, Arlene Marshall, Trumpeter, Margaret Noonan, Pink Champagne, Monique Peer, Mrs. D. W. Davis, Dr. J. V. Knapp, Tomorrow, Miriam Stevenson, Frances McLanahan², Marguerite Tourje, Rosemary Kinzer, and Charlie Hoak.

VARIETAL-NAME CARDS AND CROSS-REFERENCE LISTS

The varietal-name display cards prepared by the Society's Committee on Certification of Varieties and Nomenclature were received by show chairmen and visitors with approval and approbation.

These cards bear the accepted names and synonyms of 250 of the most popular and generally encountered varieties. An extra 50 blank cards are included in each set for individual show preparation of varietal names not represented. The cards are made of durable cardboard, 4 inches high and 5½ inches wide.

Subsequent to the announcement of the availability of the varietal-name display cards in the January, 1955 *Quarterly*, there was prepared in pamphlet form a nomenclatural cross-reference list of the names and synonyms of varieties represented in the sets of cards. The names appear in alphabetical order. The accepted names are printed in capital letters, and the synonyms appear in upper and lower case.

Sets of the varietal-name cards may be obtained from the Secretary at \$5.00 the set, postpaid. One nomenclatural cross-reference list is included in the price of \$5.00 for each set of cards. Additional lists are available at the following prices: Single copies, 25¢; 12 copies, \$2.00, 24 copies, \$3.75; 36 copies, \$4.75. All of this material will be sent postpaid.

A study and discussion of the cross-reference lists would be an interesting feature for camellia club meetings.

²This is probably the pink sport of Lady Vansittart in the collection of Mr. D. C. Strother, Fort Valley, Georgia. To date, Mr. Strother has refused to name or release this sport because all of the blooms have not come true to the new type.—Ed.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Another garden show place has passed into the hands of a member of the American Camellia Society. Reference is made to the Delhaven Gardens, a 30-acre, beautifully landscaped estate on the Lynnhaven River, near Witch Duck Point, Norfolk, Virginia. These gardens have been purchased by Mr. George L. Bonney, Norfolk, and will be known in the future as the Delhaven Gardens and Nursery.

Mr. Bonney, who is known as an outstanding exhibitor of camellias and roses, will expand the nursery now located on the premises and conduct a wholesale and retail business. Certain days will be designated as "open house" days, and visitors will be permitted to stroll through the gardens and select varieties of plants that strike their fancies.

Speaking of the Lynnhaven River, we recently received a letter from one of our frequent correspondents, Miss Evelyn Collins Hill, whose property, "Sea Breeze Farm," is located on that stream. Miss Hill took time to tell us about the satisfactory manner in which her camellias performed during the past season. Blooms started to appear in September, and, in spite of set-backs caused by snow storms and freezing weather, continued to flower heavily.

Dr. James D. Harrell, Laurel, Mississippi, tells us that as a means of causing entertainment and excitement at a club meeting, there is nothing better than a bottle-cutting contest between members using the bottle-cutting gadget described elsewhere in this *Quarterly*. Incidentally, in signing his letter reporting on cold injury, "I remain, bothered, bewildered, and bewitched," he no doubt expressed the mental attitude of many of us with regard to the behavior of camellias this year.

The article on the behavior of camellia plants affected with viruses, by Dr. A. G. Plakidas, which appears elsewhere in this *Quarterly*, was written in reply to several questions asked by another member who appears to be "bothered, bewildered, and bewitched." Calder W. Seibels is worried about the way some of his flowers acted this year. His Donckelarii plants and other semi-double varieties had a tendency to lose their variegation, while the variegated peony-formed varieties showed a large amount of white. One exception was the mutations of the Duchess of Sutherland; the flowers of that group were beautiful and held their variegations perfectly.

There are several ways for a camellia grower to join the Society, but it remained for Mr. E. V. Moseley, Jr., Natchez, Mississippi, to tell us about a new one. A customer, while waiting for Mr. Moseley to add up her bill for plants she had purchased, (camellias, of course), terminated her questions about the American Camellia Society by telling him to include in the bill a year's subscription. The name of that new member, incidentally, is Mrs. Laurie G. Ratcliff.

Nurserymen, on the whole, are most helpful and cooperative—even if the majority do not advertise in the Quarterlies or send us copies of their catalogues. Mr. J. Lloyd Abbot, proprietor of Abbot's Sunny Knoll Nursery, Mobile (see ad in this issue) is enthusiastic about the Nomenclatural Cross-Reference List and believes that it will be helpful in correcting nomenclatural errors. He ordered a supply of the lists which he will make available to his customers.

Mr. Paul E. Hines, Beaumont, Texas, writes "I am enclosing my check for 1955 dues. The renewal envelope fell out of the Yearbook last night while I was reading it, and that reminded me that I had not paid my dues."

It is suggested that members give their 1954 Yearbooks a good shaking, and if

the renewal envelope falls to the floor, pick it up, stuff in a check, and mail it to this office without delay.

Members of the Society who have heard rumors that camellia flower blight reared its ugly head at the camellia show at New Orleans on flowers from a property and locality that is not known to be affected with that disease, will be relieved to learn that the rumor is not founded on fact. It is true that the hand of suspicion pointed to a flower in a large exhibit entered by a prominent grower who resides in a locality in which camellia flower blight is not known to be present. That flower was sent to a pathologist at the Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, who, after a careful examination, could find no symptoms of the disease.

Mr. Frank Griffin, Editor and Publisher of the *Camellian*, in cooperation with the Jean Berke Travel Service, will accompany a limited group on a tour of the better known gardens and flower shows in England, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, Holland and France. Detailed arrangements are now being made for the tour to leave New York via the British Overseas Airways the latter part of May, 1955.

Dick Lashley, Greenville, S. C., is flying high, wide and handsome these days. He will be part of a consignment of some two hundred choice camellia blooms that will be flown to Washington, D. C., along with Miss Suzanne Young, Greenwood, S. C. Miss Young will be South Carolina's Princess at the Cherry Blossom Festival. The camellia flowers, products of the Lashley Gardens, will be presented with the compliments of the South Carolina Society to Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower and to each of the attending Princesses. It is to be hoped that while on this trip Dick will confine his "fluttering about" to the camellias.

The July issue of the *Quarterly* should be full of news about camellias in the Pacific Coast Territory, written by members who visited that area recently. Judge Arthur W. Solomon, Mr. J. P. Illges, Mr. D. C. Strother and Mr. Maxwell R. Murray made up one party. Mr. Aubrey C. Harris, Shreveport, La., was another voyager into that far country. Incidentally, all of these members served as judges at the San Marino, California, Camellia Show held on March 5 and 6.

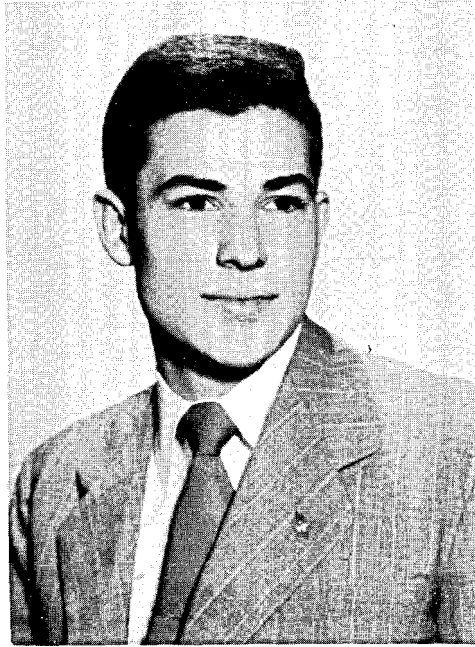
Mrs. Hibbard Moore is General Chairman of the camellia show to be staged by The Amateur Gardeners, Seattle, Washington, on April 2-3, 1955. Net proceeds of the show will go to the camellia planting in the University of Washington's Arboretum. This planting is the club's project.

L S. Lindsay, Corresponding Secretary of the Oregon Camellia Society, has told us about a forthcoming publication that no doubt will be one of the season's best sellers. *Camellias—What To Do* is a 20-page booklet which will present the answers to some 290 questions directed by perplexed camellia growers to nurserymen and experts. The booklet should be available for distribution by the Oregon Camellia Society about the time this issue of the *Quarterly* is placed in the mails. As indicated in the advertisement in this issue, the price for single copies, postpaid, is 35c.

From time to time your Editor is chided about the absence from the *Quarterly* of a good question and answer section. Our stock reply is to the effect that if members will send us questions we will try to find the answers. In order that we may not be called to account for not asking even a single, solitary question in this *Quarterly*, we will ask this one:

"HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1955!"

IN MEMORIAM



STUART HAYNE BRECKENRIDGE

NOVEMBER 16, 1932 - JANUARY 29, 1955

Through the untimely death of Stuart Hayne Breckenridge, Savannah, Georgia, on January 29, 1955, the American Camellia Society lost one of its youngest, if not the youngest, members. Lt. Breckenridge was fatally injured in an accident while on maneuvers with his Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Since early childhood Stuart loved flowers. While a small boy he helped his father, the late J. M. Breckenridge, Jr., in the retail and wholesale floral shop founded by his grandfather, J. M. Breckenridge, Sr. These activities did not occupy all of his time, however. He participated in many of the activities of his school and church, and served as Assistant Scout Master of the Boy Scout Troop sponsored by the Bull Street Methodist Church, Savannah, Georgia.

Stuart's major interest in his father's business centered around the nursery division, and he became particularly interested in the propagation of camellias and azaleas. For the purpose of furthering his store of information on camellias, he joined the American Camellia Society in 1950. That same year he entered Alabama Polytechnic Institute, and after majoring in horticulture and business administration, graduated in June, 1954.

In September, 1954, Stuart married Miss Elizabeth Anne Aycok, a resident of Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to his wife, Stuart is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mildred M. Breckenridge, and two sisters, Miss Dorothy Ann Breckenridge and Miss Emily Breckenridge.

Members of the American Camellia Society join with the host of family friends and business associates in their expressions of sympathy and condolence to Stuart's mother, wife and sisters.

THE ILLGES AWARD WINNER — VARIETY, MRS. D. W. DAVIS

One of the features of the banquet attended by members at the Annual Meeting held in Birmingham last January was the presentation of the Illges Medal to Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Davis, Seffner, Florida, for the development of the outstanding *Camellia japonica* seedling which has been named Mrs. D. W. Davis. The presentation was made by Mr. W. T. Wood, Chairman of the Awards and Exhibitions Committee.

The flowers of this chance seedling of Elizabeth Boardman are exceptionally large, semi-double in form, and a very light bluish pink in color. Some of the blooms that won the Highly Commended Seedling Awards at several shows were from 5½ to 6½ inches in diameter. This seedling was reproduced in color in the 1954 *American Camellia Yearbook*.

The parent plant bloomed for the first time in December, 1952, and the flowers immediately demonstrated their exceptional value by winning the Highly Commended Seedling Awards at the camellia shows at Orlando and Jacksonville, Florida, and Savannah, Georgia.

There are several items of interest in connection with the variety, Mrs. D. W. Davis. It was developed in a locality in Florida, some ten miles east of Tampa, that up until a few years ago was considered as being too far south for successful camellia culture; another plant from the same seed pod produces large, rose-pink imbricated flowers that appear to have considerable merit; and it is the second Florida-developed seedling to win the Illges Medal.

Other varieties that have won that coveted medal are: Beau Harp, developed by Mr. G. H. Wilkinson, Pensacola, Florida, 1949; Joseph Pfingstl, originated by the late Emmett J. Pfingstl, Montgomery, Alabama, 1950; and R. L. Wheeler, developed by Mr. R. L. Wheeler, Macon, Georgia, 1953.

The awarding of Illges Medals to originators of outstanding seedlings of the genus *Camellia* L. is made possible through the generosity of Mr. J. P. Illges, Columbus, Georgia. Mr. Illges is a Charter Member and Patron of the American Camellia Society, and has served as Vice President from the Atlantic Coast Territory since the time of the organizational meeting.

BEHAVIOR OF VARIEGATED VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS¹

DR. A. G. PLAKIDAS, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Plant viruses (several hundred of them are recognized) fall conveniently into 3 distinct classes as follows:

I. *The Mosaics*. This class contains a large number of viruses which cause very serious diseases in most cultivated crops, such as tobacco, potato, tomato, pepper, cabbage, cucumber, etc. The viruses of this class are very easily transmitted. They can be transmitted by contact. You can rub a leaf of a healthy plant and you transmit the virus. They can be easily transmitted by sap. You can squeeze the sap from any part of a diseased plant and either inject it in, or rub it on, a healthy plant and the plant will become infected. They can also be transmitted by many species of insects (mostly by sucking insects such as plant lice and leaf hoppers, but also by many chewing bugs). Several of these viruses have been obtained in pure form.

II. *The Yellows Group*. The viruses of this class, which infect for the most part trees and shrubs (peach yellows is a typical example) but also some herbaceous plants, are characterized by the fact that they are difficult to transmit. They cannot be transmitted by contact or by sap inoculation. They are transmitted by insects, but even in this respect they are peculiar in that, in general, each virus is transmitted by one kind of

¹Excerpt from a letter written by Dr. Plakidas and addressed to Mr. Calder W. Seibels.



Courtesy The Tampa Tribune

Seedling Mrs. D. W. Davis and Illges Medal Awarded to Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Davis, Seffner, Florida, at Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society, Birmingham, Alabama, January 30, 1955.

insect and by one kind only. They can also be transmitted by grafting and budding. None of the viruses of this class have been obtained in pure form.

III. *Infectious Chlorosis (Infectious Variegation) Group*. This group contains relatively few known viruses, mostly occurring on ornamental shrubs and trees. The only known method of transmission in this class is by grafting. They cannot be transmitted by sap inoculation, and no insect vectors are known. It is assumed that, in nature, these are transmitted by insects, but these have not been found. The camellia virus apparently belongs to this class. I have tried repeatedly to transmit it by sap inoculations but have failed. There must be a union between the stock and scion to effect transmission. It is not necessary for the variegated scion to grow; if it forms even a temporary callus and then fails to grow it still transmits the virus. I have checked this point repeatedly.

It is logical to assume that the virus was transmitted to camellias sometime in the past probably from some other kind of plant, by means of some insect, somewhere in the Orient. I feel pretty certain, however, that this insect does not occur in this country because there is no indication whatever of spread of the camellia virus here by any other means except grafting.

With this more-lengthy-than-intended discussion as background, I'll try to answer some of your questions.

1. The camellia virus has not been isolated, but even if it had, it could not be reintroduced into camellias already infected. We cannot introduce it even into healthy plants in any other way except by grafting.

2. You state that several highly variegated varieties appear to be *reverting to almost solids*. I beg to doubt this assertion. I have heard claims of this sort before which were not substantiated. For example, one of my colleagues here told me that last year his variegated Adolphe Audusson was nearly solid, however, this year, it produced highly variegated flowers. I believe that differences of this sort are seasonal. We call the flower variegation "color breaking," but this is probably not strictly true. I believe (and I have some evidence to support this belief but I won't go into that now) that the virus does *not break* the color, but simply prevents the development of color in certain groups of cells. Furthermore, this inhibitive action in all probability takes place while the flower buds are in the embryonic stage. Now, if this assumption is correct, it is also reasonable to assume that the weather conditions prevailing during the period the flower buds are forming may have an influence. It is a well-known fact, for example, that in the case of most viruses, multiplication of the virus within the plant is inhibited to a considerable extent by high temperatures. I really believe that if one would take the trouble to measure the degree of variegation in a particular plant over a period of several years, one would find seasonal differences but the over-all picture will not change.

Another point deserves mention. In class I (mosaics) the viruses are uniformly distributed throughout every part of the plant. In the other two classes, and especially in the case of woody plants, the virus is not so uniformly distributed, and, also, travels rather slowly through the plant. It is therefore possible for a part of the plant, a branch or twig, let us say, to be free of virus while the rest of the plant is infected. This accounts for the fact that variegated varieties of camellias often produce some solid-colored flowers.

The above discussion refers to virus-induced variegation. The variegation due to genetic constitution of the plant (exemplified by Herme, Tricolor, Sarasa, T. K. Variegated, etc.) is an entirely different matter. Here, the plant is composed of a mixture of groups of cells, some possessing the property of developing color and some not. In this case then it is possible for the color-containing cells to multiply faster than the colorless ones, and the plant will then be producing more solid-colored flowers.

COLD INJURY — SEASON 1954 - 55

ARTHUR C. BROWN, Gainesville, Florida

Post-mortems are not pleasant subjects for discussion. At times, however, the information developed is of interest or value. It is for this reason that we are presenting reports on cold injury suffered by camellias and camellia flowers last fall from several localities where the injury to blooms was severe.

TEXAS—George Du Brul, Dallas: No frost, no injury.

LOUISIANA—S. J. Katz, Covington: Temperatures in this locality up to this time have not dropped to freezing. Light frosts damaged very tender new growth, and wide opened flowers without over-head protection.

Aubrey C. Harris, Shreveport: No cold injury to date (November 12), although the temperature dropped to near freezing several times. I believe that this was beneficial for the plants as it helped to harden new growth.

T. K. McKnight, Baton Rouge: No damage to camellias experienced so far. Lowest temperature to date was 33 degrees.

MISSISSIPPI—Dr. J. D. Harrell, Laurel: The members of the Laurel Men's Camellia Society have carefully checked the condition of camellia plants in this area and found that there was at least an 85 percent bud drop on midseason and late varieties. Weather conditions experienced here were similar to those in other localities—a dry, hot summer, followed by an early November freeze. It apparently made no difference whether the plants had been well cared for with regard to water and fertilizer, or neglected. Early varieties (Daikagura, September Morn, Arejishi and Joshua E. Youtz), with buds well developed, quite a few showing color, did not seem to be injured, as the plants went ahead and produced some very, very fine flowers. The behavior of the variety Woodville Red is a puzzle to most of us. This variety is regarded in this section as being very tender. Yet we observed plants, protected and exposed, with the best flowers that have been seen in recent years. (This report was dated January 27, 1955.)

ALABAMA—Hoyt W. Lee, Mobile: A temperature of 28 degrees on the morning of November 6 caused considerable injury to camellias throughout this section of the State. New growth that appeared after the recent rains was killed or badly damaged. A considerable loss of flower buds, formals in particular, should be expected.

J. Glen Stanley, Greenville: Tight flower buds suffered the greatest injury in this area. Partly opened Daikaguras, High Hats, etc., were damaged slightly. Injury to midseason and late varieties was severe. Official temperature was 28 degrees, but there are reports of 17 degrees from lower ground near the city.

Harry E. Nation, Montgomery: The situation here can best be described by quoting from one of our growers: "I have the prettiest, greenest camellia buds with the blackest hearts that I have ever seen." Over 90 percent of the flower buds were frozen. Very few varieties escaped injury. Members of the Daikagura family appear to be the least damaged. A few other varieties will bloom. Berenice Boddy seems to have escaped injury. It is too early to try to evaluate the degree of plant injury.

Charles L. Gay, Birmingham: All outside buds ruined. New and late growth injured. No real injury to established plants has been noted.

GEORGIA—Mrs. Aubrey Anderson, Perry: Plants suffered no damage, but injury to flower buds is estimated at 100 percent.

Dr. James Stokes, Milledgeville: A temperature of 22 degrees in this area occurred at a time when camellia plants had not recovered from the ill effects of last summer's dry weather, and before the new growth had hardened. Some of the most recent growth was killed. So far as I can determine, all of the flower buds have been either severely injured or killed. I am of the opinion that the latter is nearer correct for most of them.

Dr. D. L. Gill, Tifton: Practically 100 percent of the flower buds are dead or badly damaged. No bark splitting observed. The temperature dropped from 67 degrees to 22 degrees.

VIRGINIA—Frederic Heutte, Norfolk: To my knowledge unopened buds were not damaged. While it has been dryer than usual and the cold weather arrived ahead of schedule, the light freeze that occurred did not injure opened flowers.

By reason of the fact that flower bud injury was very severe in the vicinity of Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, it might be of interest to publish the official report of the Weather Bureau at Auburn, Alabama, for the period of October 15 - November 3. We are indebted to Dr. Frank S. Persons II, Opelika, Alabama, for furnishing this information.

OFFICIAL TEMPERATURES RECORDED AT AUBURN, ALABAMA, FOR THE PERIOD OCT. 15 - NOV. 3, 1954

October 15	— 65 degrees	October 22	— 44 degrees	October 29	— 49 degrees
" 16	— 34	" 23	— 43	" 30	— 31
" 17	— 33	" 24	— 42	" 31	— 28
" 18	— 39	" 25	— 48	November 1	— 31
" 19	— 44	" 26	— 45	" 2	— 35
" 20	— 42	" 27	— 49	" 3	— 19
" 21	— 36	" 28	— 53	"	

It is always darkest just before dawn—and immediately after a freeze. It would be interesting to learn about the subsequent behavior, in so far as blooming is concerned, of camellia plants growing in the localities covered by this cold injury report.

In a letter dated March 15, 1955, Mr. Wendell M. Levi, Sumter, South Carolina, stated: "Our blooms are more beautiful today than they ever have been in our years of raising camellias. In addition, practically all varieties, early and late, are blooming at the same time. Just think, I still have flowers of the varieties Arejishi, Joshua E. Youtz, Debutante, and others, along with such late bloomers as Rio Rita and Blood of China. It's unbelievable!"

REMOVING THE BOTTOMS FROM GLASS BOTTLES

JOHN M. WALTON, SR., New Orleans and Covington, Louisiana

I have found one-gallon bottles and jugs so satisfactory for covering grafted understock that I thought other camellia growers might be interested in the description of the simple gadget I use for removing the bottom from these containers. Advantages of these bottomless bottles over the more widely acclaimed bell jar are, for one thing, the ease with which they may be obtained (usually for free from a drugstore); and the fact that they have a convenient handle to which the variety identification tags may be wired.

Naturally the question arises as to how one can remove the bottom from one of these bottles or jugs without breakage. The answer is simple—by electricity. It is quick, sure, and makes a good, clean cut. I have cut well over a hundred bottles without a single failure. The only one that ever failed was a bottle on which I had forgotten to unscrew the cap and there was a little liquid in the bottom. So, don't forget to take the caps off or stoppers out before turning on the switch.

To make this little cutting gadget, one will need the following equipment:

- 1 electric iron cord, long enough to reach from outlet to work bench.
- 1 spring action plug by which you can turn current on and off when the cord is plugged into socket.
- 1 flat plug (at opposite end of cord) with pair of solid prongs having a small hole in tip of each prong.
- 1 heating element (750-1000 Watts) such as is used in a hot plate.

2 machine screws (6/32" x 1/8").

1 inexpensive glass cutter for *marking* the bottle.

4 or 5 pieces broken marble 1 inch thick or same number of wooden blocks covered with asbestos siding to keep the heating element on an even keel around the base of the bottle.

First assemble the electrical equipment by tapping the two prong holes with a 6/32 tap, then bend both prongs to within 1/8 inch of each other. Now attach the coiled heating element to the prongs by means of the machine screws. This will make a circular loop of the element and, electrically, you are in business.

I might add that if you do not happen to be the household fixer, you can no doubt get your radio repairman or other electrician to make up the gadget and most assuredly you can do the rest. The electrical gadget becomes permanent equipment and the way to use it is quite simple.

Set the bottle on the work bench and, before encircling its base with the heating element, make a 1-inch long scratch in the glass at the point where the prongs of the element will touch the bottle. This is to make the glass crack clean at this spot where the current will not be as strong as over the balance of the element.

To make the scratch, place the glass cutter on its side atop one of the blocks and press and rotate the bottle against the cutter. One inch is all you need, and this takes just about 5 seconds.

The next step is to place the marble or wooden blocks equidistant around the bottle, preferably with only their corners touching the glass. Slide the element down to rest on top of the blocks, making certain that the prongs are touching the scratch in the glass. Uncap the bottle, if you have not already done so, and turn on the current. In a few seconds the element begins to glow. A few more seconds and the bottle says "clink"; a few more and it goes "clank"! You now turn off the current, wiggle the top of the bottle, and the bottom is out—slick as a whistle.

Caution: Do not turn on current unless element is around bottle; to do otherwise is likely to cause a short circuit.

Possibly some members of the Society might be interested in this follow-up procedure for making the bottle more useful. After the bottom has been removed, I paint the bottle white, leaving an unpainted section about 4 x 6 inches to serve as a windowpane for light to enter. When the bottle is placed over the graft this window should face toward the north. Painting obviates the use of a burlap sack, provides plenty of light, promotes healthy grafts, and does not look unsightly in the garden.

After the bottle has been set in place, I drive four bamboo stakes around it so it cannot be displaced accidentally.

When I want to observe the condition of the graft, all I have to do is to peer through the window.

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GRAFTING LARGE UNDERSTOCKS

ARTHUR W. SOLOMON, Savannah, Georgia

Here in the South camellias may be grafted in the open during the period from the latter part of December through March. Propagation of camellias by grafting is not as intriguing as the production of seedlings. As a rule, grafts come true to type, while we may get anything, good, bad, or indifferent, from seedling plants.

There has been so much written about ordinary grafting procedures that I will not discuss them here. The information in this article is presented for the benefit of growers who want to graft large understocks.

I do not believe in putting more than one variety on a single stock unless the garden is so small that space is at a premium. However, if growers want to put in scions of several varieties, it may be advisable to use material from sports of one variety, such as Herme, Mrs. Baldwin Wood, Duchess of Sutherland, Finlandia or Elegans. By using sports of one variety, which have similar growth habits, the graft, as it matures, will produce a uniform plant, and the flowers will bloom at approximately the same time.

There is nothing difficult about grafting, nor does the task require any great amount of skill. The only tools required are a heavy kitchen knife, sharp pocket knife, hammer, and a screw driver to hold the split open while the scion is inserted. However, there is one thing that must be done properly if the scion is to take, and that is to make certain that the cambium layers of the scions make close contacts with the cambium layers of the stocks.

When casting about for scions, it is not necessary to confine the search to terminal growth buds (Fig. A). Ordinarily, on each side of the piece of scion wood there are several leaves. At the juncture of these leaves with the twig will be found what are known as leaf buds. These lateral buds may be used as satisfactorily as terminal buds. Another advantage to be found in the use of the lateral leaf buds is that at times as many as three or four scions may be cut from a single piece of graft wood (Fig. B).

It goes without saying that the understocks should be healthy, and free from defects. A stock with some decay on one side could be used, but the best results will be obtained through the use of healthy, sound understocks.

There are two questions that are frequently asked by growers who want to graft large understocks: (1) "What is the best way to do the grafting?"; (2) How many scions can be inserted in large stocks?"

The usual procedure is to make splits across the stock with a kitchen knife or other sharp tool. Quite recently we learned about a different method in which a hacksaw was used to prepare the stocks for the insertion of a considerable number of scions.

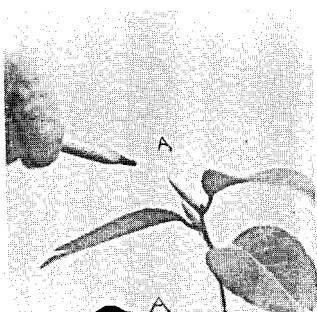
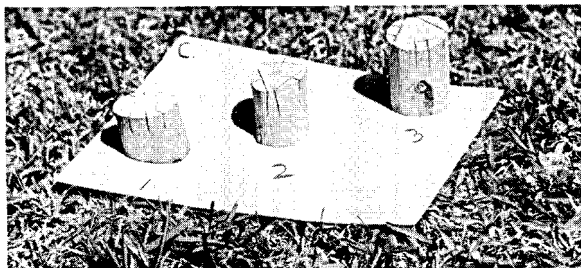
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While the cuts made by a hacksaw have parallel sides instead of slanting ones, the scions may be shaped and fitted to make a snug fit.

The diameter of the understock will govern the number of scions that can be used. The stocks illustrated in Figure C, 1 and 2, were a little more than two inches in diameter. The stock shown in Fig. C-3, which was prepared for twelve scions, was over three inches in diameter.

In recent years we have not covered newly completed grafts with any material such as vermiculite, asphalt preparation, paint, gravel, sand or anything else, and the callus has been equally as good as when anything was previously used. Regular glass containers are put over the understock covered with a piece of cloth to cut off the heat of the sun. We use Spanish moss from the trees, which allows the light to filter through perfectly. Occasionally it may be necessary, where the rain has been light, to water under the glass jar so as to keep up the humidity. The glass jars or containers are removed as soon as two new leaves are formed, and the graft is then shaded with a piece of burlap or other similar material for about six weeks. This is desirable in order to give the new leaves an opportunity to harden without being burned by the heat of the sun.

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SHOW DATES

While it is a little early for anyone, other than the members of the several camellia show committees, to be thinking about the exhibitions for the coming season, it is desirable to publish as early as possible the dates that have been selected by several of these committees. The period during which camellia shows can be held is a comparatively brief one—far too short to provide for all the shows without some conflicts. On the whole, conflicts in the dates of shows held in widely separated localities are of no great concern. However, when the dates of shows sponsored by several clubs located in neighboring towns or localities coincide, officials experience difficulty in obtaining the services of capable judges, and attendance suffers as a result of competition.

It is for this reason that the dates of all shows received by the Secretary are published as early as possible. Those received to date are listed herewith.

	1955	
Florence, S. C. (South Carolina Camellia Society)		Nov. 19 - 20
	1956	
Covington, La. (Woman's Auxiliary to Christ Episcopal Church)		Jan. 7 - 8
Summerville, S. C. (Summerville Camellia Society)		Jan. 14 - 15
Slidell, La. (Ozone Camellia Club)		Jan. 21 - 22
Hammond, La. (Men's Garden Club of Tangipahoa Parish)		Jan. 28 - 29
Biloxi, Miss. (The Irish Hill Garden Club)		Jan. 28 - 29
Aiken, S. C. (Aiken Camellia Club)		Feb. 4 - 5
Columbus, Ga. (United Garden Clubs of Columbus)		Feb. 11 - 12
Georgetown, S. C. (Georgetown Garden Club)		Feb. 18 - 19
Cheraw, S. C. (Cheraw Camellia Society)		March 1 - 2

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