AMERICAN CAMELLIA *Quarterly*

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CAMELLIA JAPONICA • BEAU HARP

Courtesy Camellias in America Revised Edition, by H. Harold Hume

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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.

Annual members—$5.00; Sustaining Members—$10.00; Life Members—$100.00; Patrons—$200.00. Make payment to American Camellia Society, Box 2398, University Station, Gainesville, Florida.

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SPEND AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY WEEK IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — FEBRUARY 20 - 26

RALPH PEER, Los Angeles

Although actually the Annual Meeting does not occur until the evening of Thursday, February 23, many members are planning to arrive ahead of time so they may have an opportunity to visit camellia centers other than Los Angeles before and after the Los Angeles Camellia Show.

If you plan an automobile trip to California, it is recommended that you use this opportunity to see some of the remarkable California scenery as well as the California camellias. In the winter time it is most pleasant to approach the West Coast via U.S. Route 80. The trip across arid regions of New Mexico and Arizona is very exhilarating and will lead you to San Diego. From San Diego there are exciting side trips to Tijuana and Ensenada in Old Mexico and the opportunity for bathing in the ocean at Coronado Beach.

Between San Diego and Los Angeles one passes through the pleasant Winter Resort of La Jolla and the world famous amusement center—DISNEYLAND. This is not far from Santa Ana, home of the Camellia Society of Orange County. A whole day can be spent profitably in this remarkable by-product of the Film Industry.

Convention Headquarters will be at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, which is not far from the Highland Avenue entrance to the fast automobile road known as "Hollywood Freeway." It is advisable to make reservations far in advance because during the month of February the hotels in the Los Angeles area are well filled.

Visitors arriving before February 23 will have no difficulty in finding things to do. Transportation and guides will be provided to visit and explore the Camellia Nurseries in Los Angeles County and numerous private collections of camellias. Also available will be visits to film studios, The California Arboretum and other points of interest.

The Official program is as follows:

Thursday, February 23

9:30 A.M.—Board of Directors' Meeting.
12:00 Noon—Luncheon for Directors.
1:30 P.M.—Board Meeting reconvenes.
8:00 P.M.—A.C.S. Annual Meeting.

Friday, February 24

10:00 A.M.—Shopping tour and luncheon for the ladies.
10:00 A.M.—Informal trips to private gardens and nurseries.
12:45 P.M.—Bus leaves Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for Huntington Gardens.
4:00 P.M.—Bus leaves Huntington Gardens for Roosevelt Hotel.
6:00-
8:00 P.M.—Cocktail Party at Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

Saturday, February 25

9:00 A.M.—Bus leaves Hollywood Roosevelt for Temple City.
10:00 A.M.—Temple City Festival Parade.
12:00 Noon—Western Barbecue—Temple City.
1:15 P.M.—Bus leaves Temple City for Descanso Gardens.
2:30 P.M.—Los Angeles Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens.
5:00 P.M.—Bus leaves Descanso Gardens for Hollywood Roosevelt.
7:00 P.M.—Banquet at Roosevelt Hotel.

Sunday, February 26

9:00 A.M.—Los Angeles Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens.
10:00 A.M.—Informal trips to private gardens and commercial growers.

The Annual Meeting on Thursday night will be open to all persons interested in CAMELLIAS—it is not restricted to A.C.S. Members.

All Visitors are requested to register at the Roosevelt Hotel. The registration fee of $20.00 per person will cover the following:

American Camellia Society Banquet.
American Camellia Society Cocktail Party.
Admission to Los Angeles Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens.
Western Barbecue at Temple City.
Transportation by bus to and from Huntington Gardens.
Temple City Festival and Descanso Gardens.

Persons not desiring to purchase the Complete Ticket may register individually by paying a fee of $1.50 and receive the Official Badge. Any person who has registered may purchase a separate ticket for the Cocktail Party for $5.00 or for the Banquet for $7.50. The Ladies' Luncheon schedule for Friday will be $2.00. The Camellia Festival at Temple City—an annual event—is open to the general public. Tickets for the Barbecue may be purchased upon arrival at Temple City for $1.00 each.

The Los Angeles Camellia Council has been formed by the four Societies in Los Angeles County,

Los Angeles Camellia Society
Pacific Camellia Society
Southern California Camellia Society
Temple City Camellia Society

To handle the problem of propaganda incident to making this the largest Annual Meeting we have ever held, the Officials of Los Angeles County, an area having a population of more than five million people, are giving us extraordinary support, both tangible and intangible. The four Societies have combined their resources and the efforts of their membership to make this the greatest Camellia Show ever held in this country.

The following Chairmen have been appointed for various Committees:

CAMELLIA SHOW	Alton Parker
VISITOR REGISTRATION	Dr. C. H. Eshelman
HOSPITALITY	Dr. E. C. Hubbs
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION	Hal Dryden
HOTEL RESERVATIONS	Cal Mullen
ANNUAL MEETING	Doug Thompson
A.C.S. BANQUET	Edwards Metcalf
A.C.S. COCKTAIL PARTY	Mrs. Robert Dohrmann
TEMPLE CITY FESTIVAL	Lawrence Bryant
OFFICIAL PROGRAM	John Robinson
PUBLICITY	Mrs. Sidney Harris

Any of the above may be addressed in care of:

Los Angeles Camellia Council
8159 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles 46, California
Telephone: Hollywood 7-8831

The Members of the Council will be glad to help you with your problems and to give you any information to make your visit easier and more pleasant.

Visitors desiring to stay in California after the A.C.S. Meeting, can profitably visit private camellia gardens in Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, Fresno, the area around San Jose, the area around Oakland, and Sacramento, otherwise known as "Camellia City."

Persons intending to visit San Jose, Oakland or Sacramento should get in touch with our Vice President

Mr. David Feathers
No. 1 Camellia Lane
Lafayette, California
Telephone: Clifford 4-2171

For automobile parties, there are countless interesting places in Central and Northern California. Santa Barbara and Monterey Peninsula — along the Coast — and Yosemite Park are easily accessible. Golden Gate Park in San Francisco is a great horticultural attraction, and San Francisco itself is considered by many world travelers to be next to New Orleans, the most interesting city in the U.S.A.

The most important entertainment center in the world—Las Vegas, Nevada, is easily reached from Los Angeles by automobile, plane or railroad in a few hours. From Oakland, U.S. Route 40 is open throughout the winter. A most interesting trip can be made: Oakland - Sacramento - Reno - Las Vegas - Boulder Dam - Phoenix - and then eastward.

The Los Angeles Camellia Council and the County and City of Los Angeles will welcome you with open arms and will do everything possible to assure you an unforgettable Camellia Holiday.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

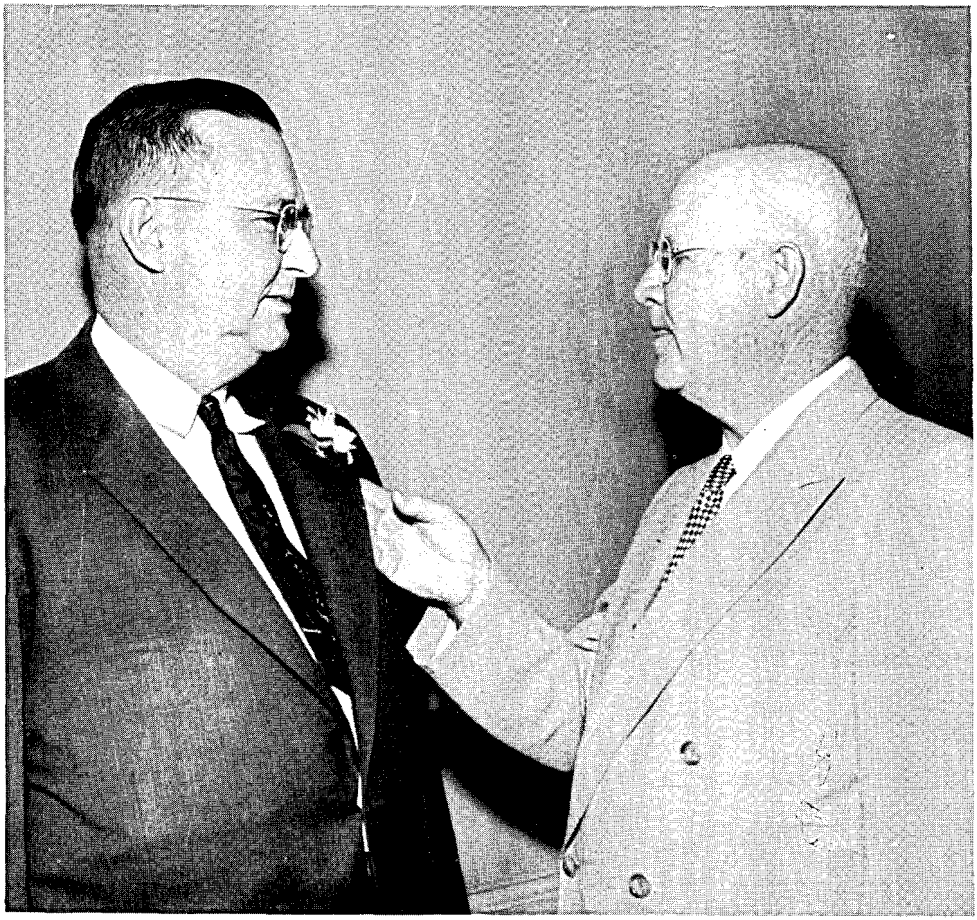
The members of the Board of Directors of the American Camellia Society, in special meeting assembled at Atlanta, Georgia, on October 9, 1955, honored me far beyond my expectations by elevating me to the position of President of the Society to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Calder W. Seibels. My pleasure at being the recipient of this great honor was tempered to a considerable degree by the fact that illness made it desirable for Mr. Seibels to relinquish the office.

My tenure will be a brief one—until the Annual Meeting of the Society which will be held in Los Angeles, California, during the latter part of February, 1956. That period will be far too limited for me to initiate anything constructive to further the interest of the Society. I shall, therefore, confine my activities to two things.

One is to endeavor to conduct the routine affairs of the Society, and to serve as an ambassador of good will and fellowship on the high plane established by Mr. Seibels.

My other endeavor will be to lead a large and enthusiastic group of members of the Society who reside in the South and East to the Annual Meeting.

Camellia growers, wherever they reside, have a number of things in common, including—a spirit of comradeship, tolerance of the thoughts and expressions of others, and, above all, a love for the genus *Camellia* and a desire to further its cause. The meeting at Los Angeles will provide wonderful opportunities for the two widely



A Presidential conference. Mr. Hoyt W. Lee, President, American Camellia Society, (*right*) evaluates boutonnaire worn by Mr. Earnest A. Judice, President, Louisiana Camellia Society.

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separated groups—widely separated in distance only—to foregather for the purpose of renewing old acquaintanceships and making new friends; exchanging, in an amiable and forthright manner, views and opinions to the end that the American Camellia Society shall take its place in the vanguard of camellia associations; and see and enjoy camellia plants and flowers that cannot be equaled anywhere else in the world.

There can be no question but that the entertainment feature of the Annual Meeting will be something that will linger long in the minds of those members who go to California. Any doubt of the correctness of this thought should be dispelled by a rereading of the adventures of the Four Georgia Crackers as related by Judge Arthur W. Solomon in the July, 1955, Quarterly. At that time our California hosts were merely "warming up" for the main event—the Annual Meeting. By February, aided and abetted by thousands upon thousands of camellia blooms, they will be fit and eager to demonstrate their prowess as camellia growers and charming hosts.

Here are a few things that will be of interest to those who anticipate attending the annual convention of the American Camellia Society in Los Angeles on February 23, 1956.

All meetings will be held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. The meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors will start at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 23, continue until lunch time and reconvene after lunch. The annual meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m., Thursday.

It is advisable for you to write immediately to the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for room reservations, and also to Mr. Fred W. Holder, District Passenger Agent, L. & N. Railroad Company, 11 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama, for train and sleeper reservations. The schedule of special cars is as follows:

Lv. Atlanta A&WP No. 37 "THE CRESCENT" 8:35 a.m. Sunday, February 19, 1956
Lv. Mobile L&N No. 37 "THE CRESCENT" 3:20 p.m. Sunday, February 19, 1956.
Lv. New Orleans SP No. 1 "SUNSET LTD." 11:45 p.m. Sunday, February 19, 1956.
Arr. Los Angeles 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 1956.

Sample fares, including 10% Federal Tax:

Round trip First Class Rail fare Atlanta to Los Angeles or San Francisco	$160.60
Round trip First Class fare Mobile to Los Angeles or San Francisco	142.73
Round trip First Class fare New Orleans to Los Angeles or San Francisco	142.73
Lower berth Atlanta to Los Angeles	23.87
Double Bedroom Atlanta to Los Angeles	54.42
Lower berth New Orleans to Los Angeles	21.85
Double Bedroom New Orleans to Los Angeles	48.01
Extra Fare on the "SUNSET LTD." New Orleans to Los Angeles	11.00

The above fares do not include any diverse routes, which can be included for a very little more. Be sure to decide by which route you wish to return home and make your return reservations in advance. This is very important because we will be in California at the height of their tourist season. Any information regarding routes and schedules may be obtained from Mr. Holder, whose address is given above.

HOYT W. LEE, President
American Camellia Society

CAMELLIAS TO YOU!

E. A. COMBATALADE, Sacramento, California

The Camellia story is as romantic as the flower itself. It is permeated with the mystery of the ancient orient, the salty vigor of the rugged merchantmen, and the perfumery of the decadent court, to become revitalized in the pioneering strength of the new country.

The Camellia, named after a seventeenth century Moravian priest, George Joseph Kamel (Camellus), traces its origin to the tea plant of Eastern Asia. From the aristocratic Chinese gardens via the seafaring English merchantmen the "Chinese Rose" covered itself with glory on its way through the nineteenth century romanticism of Europe.

The French recognized the flowers' aesthetic beauty with Dumas' immortal story, "La Dame Aux Camellias," which became the play, "Camille" and the opera "La Traviata."

The Camellia found its way from the "Old World" to the "New World" about 1797. Just as many of the hardy young men followed Horace Greeley's advice to go West, so did our exotic Camellia.

During the gold rush of 1849 there came to Sacramento, California, a New Englander named James L. L. F. Warren. Prior to getting the "gold rush fever" he had been a prosperous New England nurseryman. In 1850, instead of going to the mines, he opened a seed store at 15 J Street in Sacramento. His first advertisement included Camellias and appeared in the February 7, 1852 Sacramento Union, the first newspaper in the West; and among its accomplishments points with pride to the fact that Mark Twain was in his early days a reporter on its staff.

With more than a century of Camellia culture and the capital of the fastest growing state as a backdrop, Sacramento staged its first Annual Camellia Festival in 1955.

To commemorate this capital city's official flower, the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, for the first time in its history, this November issued the Sacramento telephone directory with a Camellia on the cover and the caption, "The Camellia Capital." The camellia pictured is a beautiful white Japonica (Purity) done by letter press process. Approximately 175,000 copies will be distributed to Sacramento and to key points throughout the United States.

Sacramento, "The Camellia Capital of the World," invites everyone to share the beauty of the Camellia, the queen of queens, during our second Annual Camellia Festival. The Festival will take place from March 1 to 11, 1956, and will include the following events:

DATE	EVENT	SPONSOR
March 1, 2, 3	The play "Camille"	Sacramento Civic Repertory Theater
March 3, 10:30 a.m.	Children's Camellia Parade	City, County, parochial schools, and City Recreation Department.
Evening of March 3	Camellia Ball (Camellia Queen is crowned at the Ball; she will have been selected from contestants from the three local colleges: Sacramento State, Sacramento Junior College, and American River Junior College.)	Mercy Hospital Guild
March 4	All churches will participate in Camellia Sunday, decorating the churches with camellias and in many cases the subject for the sermon will be flowers.	Sutter Hospital Auxiliary
March 4, afternoon and evening	Annual California Federation Folk Dance Festival (theme Camellia Spring Rhapsody).	Sacramento Folk Dance Council
March 10-11	32nd Annual Camellia Show	Camellia Society of Sacramento

Partial view of exhibit prepared by the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley for display at the 10th Annual Congress of the American Horticultural Council in Washington, D. C., October 26-29, 1955. Note the specimen of Alba Plena at right.

CAMELLIAS EXHIBITED AT AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL CONGRESS

JOHN L. KOEHNE, JR., McLean, Virginia

The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, which draws its membership from the Washington, D. C., and the nearby Maryland and Virginia areas, prepared the only camellia exhibit which was shown at the 10th Annual Congress of the American Horticultural Council, held in Washington, D. C., October 26-29, 1955.

The exhibit, which was prepared by Dr. Arthur A. Maryott of the Society's Program Committee, consisted of cut blooms, plants in bloom, camellia literature, and two educational displays, one showing proper planting methods for camellias and the other camellias suited to outdoor growth in this area.

Among the plants in bloom that were displayed was a particularly striking Alba Plena, lent by Mr. Edward P. Carter of the Society. A number of Sasanquas in bloom, lent by Society members Mr. and Mrs. Leon B. Habecker of Silver Spring, Maryland, and by the National Arboretum, also were shown.

The following cut blooms from camellia plants growing outdoors were also provided for the exhibit by Society members: Emmett Barnes by Dr. Allan Walker of Washington; High Hat by Col. Lee Edwards of Washington; Daikagura, Arejishi and Arejishi Var. by Comdr. William Domer of Washington and Mr. Frederic Heutte of Norfolk, Virginia.

An arrangement featuring camellias, prepared by Mrs. William Holden, Alexandria, Virginia was displayed in a prominent place in the hall.

A REPORT FROM THE NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST

ANDREW F. SEARS, Portland, Oregon

A trip through the northwest immediately following the American Camellia Society Annual Meeting to be held in Los Angeles, February 23, 24, 25 will be a little disappointing to both the southern visitors and the camellia fans of the northwest. This would be true in any year, since the camellia blooming season in Oregon and Washington reaches its peak well along in April and extends to early May. The trip would be particularly disappointing this year due to the fact that we have already suffered the most devastating early freeze in the history of the northwest. We have already had more snow, and practically as much freezing weather, as we have in a normal winter. This freezing weather started Armistice Day following several weeks of warmer than normal weather, and at the end of a much later than usual growing season. As a result there will be practically no camellia blooms out-of-doors, and it is almost a certainty that if any do bloom, they will not be normal.

Azaleas and rhododendrons and many other types of shrubbery have suffered even more damage than the camellias. Camellia plants themselves were not damaged too severely, as most damage is confined to the second, immature growth. However, there are a number of places where camellias are grown in greenhouses, or in protected locations, that will undoubtedly have some camellias in bloom which will be up to the usual quality. Of course, the Pacific Northwest still has some of the world's most beautiful scenery, other than camellias, for those who might be interested.

In southern Oregon the one place of outstanding interest to camellia fans would be the planting of Donald Stryker which is located just north of the town of Langlois, the home of the famous Langlois Cheese, on Highway 101. Mr. Stryker is a well known semi-professional botanist with a large collection and a wide variety of choice, rare, flowers and plants including one of this country's largest collection of specie magnolias. He also has a large selection of rare camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, iris and many other interesting plants. He has, perhaps, the best collection of camellia species in the northwest, particularly varieties of saluenensis, reticulata and the Williamsii Hybrids, including many of which are unknown in the rest of this country.

Camellia plants are fairly well distributed over most all of Oregon west of the Cascades and north of Langlois. With very few exceptions they are mostly the more common varieties and do not produce the best quality of plants and blooms except in the Willamete Valley or some of the other interior valleys.

The City of Roseburg, approximately 200 miles south of Portland, in the beautiful Umpqua Valley, has a large number of camellia plantings. Practically everyone has several plants in his yard. Although I am not familiar with any individual plantings, I have heard that there are several plantings of 75 or 100 varieties in this area, and the Women's Garden Club in this city is actively interested in camellias and usually has a small camellia show each year.

The next center of active camellia interest is at Eugene which is approximately 120 miles south of Portland. This city has an active though small Men's Rhododendron and Camellia Society and it is reported that there are a couple of excellent plantings here, although I am not personally acquainted with them and cannot describe them.

The next point of interest would be the City of Salem, approximately 50 miles south of Portland, which has a very active Men's Rhododendron and Camellia Society. Large plants of some of the better camellia varieties are fairly common around this area. There are a number of outstanding large plantings in this vicinity with perhaps the most interesting ones belonging to Mr. Walter A. Barkus, 470 Vista Avenue, Salem, Oregon, and the Henry Brothers around Brooks, Oregon.

In the Portland area, among the outstanding plantings is that of Mr. H. H. Harms, 6928 S.E. 122nd Avenue, Portland, the "dean" of camellia growers in the northwest. Other points of interest are the Bradley's Camellia Gardens, 4045 King Road, Milwaukie; Barney Goletto's, 16515 S.E. Oatfield Road, Milwaukie, 22, Oregon; Mr. Chester Hattan, 4504 S.E. River Drive, Portland, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Johnson, 397 Greenway Drive, Beaverton, Oregon, and, of course, the well known plantings of Mr. Russell Gainer, 206 N. Meridian Street, Newberg, Oregon, approximately 25 miles west of Portland, and that of the Oregon Camellia Society president, Mr. Joel J. Callison, 3533 S.E. 143rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

North of Portland and in the state of Washington, along the route between Portland and Seattle, there are a great many camellias grown, but I am not acquainted with any particularly outstanding plantings until we get to Seattle. Anyone making this trip should not fail to see the planting of Mr. C. Prentice, 9252 East Marginal Way, Seattle, Washington, the University of Washington Arboretum, and the old plantings in the Ostobo Nursery.

The City of Seattle as well as the neighboring cities of Tacoma and Olympia have a large number of big camellia trees and plants, but the majority of these are original imports from Japan and do not produce particularly spectacular or outstanding blooms. The climate in this area averages several degrees cooler than in the Portland area and the blooming season is several weeks later, reaching its peak towards the last of April or the first of May.

I am completely unfamiliar with camellias or camellia fans north of the Seattle area. However, I do know that they are fairly common on up into Victoria and Vancouver, B. C.

The above list is by no means complete, as it would be impossible for me to begin to list all of the nice camellia plantings with which I am familiar. There are undoubtedly many more that I have not had the privilege of visiting and, therefore, am not acquainted with. The above list contains some of the more outstanding plantings and if the visitor stops at these places he will undoubtedly receive directions as to how to find as many more interesting places to visit as they have time for.

The University of Washington Arboretum planting is definitely a "must" on the list of the traveler who goes into the Seattle area. This is a very large planting developed under the supervision of the very capable director, Mr. B. O. Mulligan, and contains plants of many hundreds of varieties, including many varieties which are direct imports from Japan, Korea and other parts of the world, many of which are unknown in other parts of the United States.

FALL MEETING OF DIRECTORS AND GOVERNING BOARD

The Fall meeting of the Board of Directors and Governing Board was held in the Dinkler Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on October 9, 1955. In the absence of President Seibels, Judge Arthur W. Solomon, Senior Vice-President, presided at the meeting of the Governing Board.

The following members were present:

Arthur W. Solomon
S. L. Marbury
J. P. Illges
D. C. Strother
Mrs. L. C. Fox
T. S. Clower
T. J. Smith
L. C. Wannamaker
Alison J. Parsons
John N. Sewell
Mrs. John N. Sewell
(proxy for Calder W. Seibels)
Maxwell Murray
(proxy for W. P. Fulton)
Arthur C. Brown

Visitors included Mrs. L. C. Wannamaker, Cheraw, S. C., Mrs. Alison J. Parsons, Norfolk, Virginia, and Mrs. Carl E. Good and Boynton Cole, Atlanta, Georgia.

Judge Solomon read communications from President Seibels and Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Katz expressing regret that they could not be present.

Brief reference is made in the following paragraphs to the several matters considered and acted upon by the members of the two Boards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The resignation of President Seibels, brought about by ill health, was accepted with great regret.

The Directors thereupon appointed Mr. Hoyt W. Lee, Vice-President, Gulf Coast Territory, to the position of President to fill out Mr. Seibel's unexpired term.

GOVERNING BOARD

This meeting, immediately after being called to order by Judge Solomon, was devoted to expressions of sympathy and concern for Mr. Calder W. Seibels, and hopes for a rapid recovery from his illness, on the part of all members present. As tokens of appreciation for the invaluable services performed by Mr. Seibels in furthering the interests of the Society, it was ordered that he be presented with the Society's Bronze Plaque, and in addition appointed President Emeritus. Mr. L. C. Wannamaker, State Director for South Carolina, was instructed to prepare and send to Mr. Seibels a Resolution expressing the Society's thanks and appreciation for the admirable manner in which he discharged his duties and responsibilities as President of the Society.

Judge Solomon reported the gesture of interest in the Society manifested by Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz, Covington, Louisiana, in the form of a gift of a complete set of Verschaffelt's *Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias.*

The Board accepted this magnificent gift with many expressions of appreciation and approbation. The Secretary was instructed to prepare and send to Mr. and Mrs. Katz an appropriate resolution. The Secretary was also instructed to safeguard the books by keeping them in the locked vault in the rare book room of the main library of the University of Florida. This gift of Verschaffelt's Iconographie brought forth the expressions of hope that the action of Mr. and Mrs. Katz will open an avenue for a flow of camellia literature from other members that will bring about the establishment of a highly creditable camellia library.

The Secretary was also instructed to prepare a resolution addressed to Mr. Ralph S. Peer, State Director for California, commending him for his efforts to stimulate interest in the development of new seedling Sasanquas of outstanding merit by providing an award, to be known as the Ralph S. Peer Cup, to be presented at intervals to the originators of new Sasanqua seedlings of exceptional quality.

The Secretary requested approval of his action in terminating the appointment of Mr. Gordon Adams as the Society's representative in New Zealand. It was evident the press of personal affairs prevented Mr. Adams from discharging his responsibilities in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned. The Secretary recommended the appointment of Mr. Felix M. Jury, Waitara, Taranaki, N.S.W., as the Society's representative. The Board approved the action with regard to Mr. Adams, and instructed the Secretary to communicate with Mr. Jury relative to an appointment as representative with the duties of arousing interest in the Society in the minds of camellia growers in his country, and inducing them to become members.

Ways and means for increasing the membership of the Society were discussed at some length. It was the concensus that local and state camellia shows provided excellent opportunities for obtaining new members, and that the managers of these shows should be induced to feature the Society at their shows.

Mr. Lee was requested to undertake the task of stimulating interest among camellia show managers to the end that attractive booths be set up at each show, staffed by members of the Society who would be willing to devote a considerable amount of time and attention to the task of selling memberships. The Society, for its part, will continue the practice of furnishing copies of Quarterlies and application blanks, and in addition, large posters, printed in color on heavy cardboard, carrying an invitation to join the Society will be furnished. Mr. S. L. Marbury, Vice-President of the Atlantic Coast Territory, generously offered to prepare the posters and send them to the Secretary for distribution.

In view of the fact that supplies of Quarterlies and application forms placed on tables disappear with the first wave of souvenir hunters or children that pass the booth, show managers should see that this material is safeguarded in some manner. The Quarterlies, as well as the placards, should be attached to the wall behind the booths. One or two copies of the Quarterly should be kept out of sight but readily available for display to interested visitors.

The large placards, together with copies of Quarterlies and application forms, will be a part of the show kits that are sent to show managers by the Secretary.

There being no further business presented for consideration, the meeting was adjourned.

CAMELLIAS FOR RELAXATION

DR. C. B. LYNN, Austin, Texas

Camellias can be grown successfully in Austin. Our own experiences are offered in support of this statement. In the Fall of 1944, Mrs. Lynn bought five camellia plants. As my hobbies were hunting and fishing, I must confess that this purchase aroused no interest on my part—that is, not until the plants put out their beautiful blooms. Then I exclaimed, "*We* sure have something!"

That was the beginning of my interest in camellias. This interest, of course, brought a demand for more plants, and we decided to landscape the property with camellias and azaleas. After getting the plants, we began to get some experience. We met with disappointments brought about by lack of cultural knowledge. Plants were injured by the big freeze of January 1948, and by an early freeze which hit us in November 1950 and lasted for three weeks. During that period temperatures ranged at times from 18° to 25°. The camellia plants had not become hardened and were severely injured by the sudden drop of temperature.

While we were disappointed as a result of the cold injury to our camellias, we were not discouraged, because growers of plants other than camellias were victims of the same cold weather. Our faith in camellias has been rewarded and we now have 118 plants representing 70 varieties. Most of the varieties have performed satisfactorily in our garden. We favor the early and mid-season varieties such as Arejishi, Charlotte Bradford, C. M. Hovey, Daikagura, Daikagura Red, Debutante, Eugene Lize, Governor Mouton, Herme, High Hat, K. Sawada, Lila Rosa, Lindsay Neill, Mathotiana (Purple Dawn), Mathotiana Supreme, Prof. C. S. Sargent, Rose Ann, September Morn, Stephen Foster, and Thelma Dale.

The following varieties have bloomed satisfactorily following a freeze—Berenice Boddy, Christine Lee, Finlandia, Flame, Imura, Koku-ryu (Black Dragon), Lady Clare, Red Gold, Rev. John Bennett, Stephen Foster and White Empress.

For the benefit of residents in this locality who may be thinking about growing camellias and who would appreciate some suggestions about their culture in the vicinity of Austin, we will pass on some of the things that have contributed to our success as camellia growers.

Soil conditions, including good drainage, are most important. We use a mixture of equal parts of sandy loam, peat, well-rotted cow manure and leaf mold. After the mixture has been placed in the holes where the camellias are to be planted, it should be packed tightly, or, where practical, allowed to settle for several weeks. Great care should be taken to ensure that the plants are not set too deeply in the ground. The soil at the base of newly purchased balled and burlapped plants should be examined for the purpose of ascertaining the depth at which the first lateral roots spring from the trunk. This can be accomplished by probing around the base of the trunk with the fingers. If the first lateral roots branch out at a depth of about an inch, the plant should be set in its new location so that the top of the ball is an inch or two above the ground level. If the first lateral roots branch off several inches below the top of the ball, the surplus dirt should be removed, and the plant set as directed. It is much more desirable to set a plant a few inches too high than a few inches too low. If too high, additional soil may be placed around the crown of the plants. If too low, the plant must be raised before it will grow vigorously.

Plants should be given plenty of water at planting time, and from then on whenever it is needed. If the soil is not well drained and stays wet, corrective measures should be taken. We use a mulch of oak leaves to keep the ground cool and reduce evaporation of moisture. Plants set in full shade are likely to become "leggy" and do not bloom profusely. Some varieties tolerate more shade than others.

Do not spray or water the plants in the sun in midsummer when the temperature is above 90°; to do so may cause leaf scald. Do not water the foliage when the weather is freezing. However, the soil around the roots should be watered—if dry—when low temperatures are anticipated. Freezing is a drying-out process and plants in moist soil are able to withstand the effects of this process better than plants in dry soil.

Do not over fertilize. We have found that it is better to fertilize lighly at frequent intervals than to make one or two heavy applications annually.

Be on the watch constantly for signs of dieback—twigs and at times entire branches with wilted, light green leaves, or cankers on larger twigs and stems. Drastic surgery, cutting back to healthy tissue, is the best control for dieback.

Another condition that in our opinion is best corrected by drastic surgery is bull-nosing. If any of our plants bull-nose for two years in succession, they are cut down and the stubs are used as grafting stock.

Cut flowers off cleanly immediately above a healthy leaf bud. Cutting blooms with long stems—well, *fairly* long stems—is a form of pruning that is helpful in the development of more compact plants, which, in turn, means more flowers the following year.

In December 1949 a coronary condition and arthritis forced me to give up my practice as well as my gardening, but did not dampen my love for flowers. To the contrary, my flowers have been a most gratifying source of pleasure and enjoyment, even if I have been relegated to the position of straw boss. It is my conviction that there is no greater diversion for the business and professional man, or any other person for that matter, than the hours spent in the garden. There is nothing more relaxing than being surrounded by trees, shrubs and flowers.

RESEARCH CONCERNING THE DISEASE KNOWN AS CAMELLIAITIS (TSUBAKI FEVER)

R. K. WOMACK, M.D.—V.C.[1], Shreveport, Louisiana

1. HISTORICAL INTEREST

The origin of this disease is lost in antiquity. Investigators agree that it was known to exist in Japan and China at least five centuries ago. It was unknown outside of the Orient until the latter part of the 17th century, when it first appeared in Spain. The first Spanish victim was Maria Theresa, wife of the king of Spain, who became afflicted the latter part of the 17th century. It first appeared in England in 1739, the patient being one Lord Pitre. It soon was reported to be prevalent in Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Portugal. It has been known to exist in Australia and New Zealand for about a century.

In 1798 camelliaitis made its first appearance in the United States, the patient being John Stevens of Hoboken, New Jersey. In this country it reaches epidemic proportions in the temperate zone, but is also endemic in a few large cities farther north. The areas of heaviest infections are the Eastern Seaboard from Maryland to Florida, the Gulf States and the Pacific Coast from California to British Columbia. No cases have been reported from beyond the Arctic Circle.

2. ETIOLOGY

This malady is caused by a virus. Now, like all viruses, the camellia virus has many families and strains. Most investigators believe there exist about 60 families, but not all of these are considered to be very contagious. The most dangerous of the families are known as Japonicas, Sasanquas and Reticulatas. Each of these has many strains, some more contagious than others. Most victims can trace the onset of their disease to exposure to the Japonica strain known as Pink Perfection.

3. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The sexes are equally affected. Many cases of the disease being passed from husband to wife, or vice versa, are a matter of record. In some instances entire families are victims.

It has been noted by many observers that patients become intensely interested in certain ornamental evergreen shrubs that usually bloom only during the fall and winter months. While in close proximity to the blossoms on these shrubs the patient will become unduly excited, the face flushes and the pulse is accelerated. Although the disease is not entirely seasonal, acute exacerbations are noted during the late winter months. During this period the victim is liable to neglect his business and family and seems prone to spend most of his time outdoors, regardless of the weather. He may usually be found wandering in his yard or the yard of another victim of this malady.

During this phase of the disease the patient is heard to repeatedly mutter something that resembles "scions-scions-scions." He is known to carry a very sharp pocket knife, but fortunately no human being has even been attacked. However, certain very expensive, small evergreen shrubs have been found mutilated. During the hot summer months most patients undergo remissions and return to a state of near normalcy.

Many observers have noted that victims undergo a distinct personality change. Usually this is for the better, but some become egotistical, dogmatic and even snobbish. Many, after having the disease for only a year or so, have delusions of grandeur and even imagine themselves to be Horticulturists. There is a tendency for the patients to band together in groups known as clubs or societies. It is thought they do this for mutual protection.

1—Victim of Camelliaitis

4. PROGNOSIS

Most victims eventually become immune to one virus, but new virus strains are constantly appearing, so for this reason the prognosis is poor as far as complete cure is concerned. Investigators report that in the Japonica family the following new strains of virus are particularly contagious: Reg Ragland, Guest of Honor, Drama Girl, Margaret Tourje, Marie Wilson, Eunice Buckley, Miriam Stevenson, Tomorrow and Billie McCaskill. Among the Sasanqua family it is observed that Bill Wylam, Charmer, Cotton Candy, Pink Princess and McIlhenny's Double White have claimed many victims. Of the Reticulatas, serious epidemics caused by Buddha and Confuscious, have been observed on the West Coast.

5. TREATMENT

Treatment is of no avail and not recommended. During his 18 years experience with the disease, the writer has never encountered a patient who really wished to be cured—least of all himself.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Bernard Zachry

1889-1955

Robert Bernard Zachry was born in Eatonton, Georgia, on March 2, 1889, a descendant of substantial old pioneer stock. When he was eight years old, the family moved to Waycross, Georgia, where he attended the public schools in that city.

At the early age of 17, Robert Bernard Zachry started a long and successful business career in Waycross and elsewhere in Ware County. He was among the first to see the potentialities of slash pine and cattle industries in South Georgia, and devoted time and talents to the promotion of these industries.

As Robert Zachry's status as a community-minded citizen grew apace with his status as a business man, he became greatly interested in the city and citizens of Waycross and in long range programs for city beautification. In his capacity as a member of the Park and Tree Commission, he worked tirelessly to carry on and complete these programs.

Business and community affairs in no way curtailed his interest in his own garden, which ultimately grew into a collection of over 400 varieties of camellias and azaleas, or in the American Camellia Society. Included in the collection were many rare specimens which were collected only after the expenditure of considerable time and money. His generous nature was revealed by his willingness to share his garden with others who were interested in plants. This was especially true with respect to members of the Men's Garden Club of Waycross for it was through that organization that his interest in plants and gardens could be transmitted to others.

The passing of Robert Bernard Zachry left a void in the business and community interests of Waycross which will not soon be filled.

Waycross, Georgia — C. E. McINTOSH
November 11, 1955.

CAMELLIAS CAN BE SHIPPED ANYWHERE

JULIUS NUCCIO, Altadena, California

During the ten years since the formation of the American Camellia Society, nurserymen everywhere have been endeavoring to find new and better ways to ship camellia plants in order to take advantage of the great interest in new varieties. Camellias have been shipped successfully, not only in this country, but throughout the world. Last season our nurserymen shipped camellias to 42 states and to the following foreign

countries—Australia, Japan, China, New Zealand, France, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Hawaii, Mexico, England, Belgium, Canada, Central and South America.

The reader may ask the question, "Camellias to 42 states and over 16 foreign countries, many of which do not enjoy temperatures suitable for camellias—why?" The simple answer to this question is that "camelliaitis" has no boundaries, and once the bug bites, the enthusiast stops at nothing—especially when on the hunt for a new variety.

During the last five years, the number of camellias shipped bare rooted—that is, without soil around the roots—has increased greatly. Such shipments invariably go forward by air mail or express and, consequently, the new plants are delivered safely in the hands of its new owner within two or three days, and long before any damage could occur in transit. Nurserymen have gradually improved their techniques and, of course, they have benefited by their experience in shipping by this method. Shipping camellias bare rooted give the customer several very important advantages, including opportunities for thorough inspection of the root system, and lower transportation costs because of reduced weight.

The most important phase of preparing camellia plants for bare root shipping is the thorough washing of the root system. Great care must be taken to avoid breaking the roots, and the roots should never be allowed to become dry. Immediately after the root system is free of soil, the plant should be kept in water until ready to ball. The plants are then balled in peat moss, making certain that the roots are positioned in a natural formation and not pressed all to one side. This can be accomplished by first spreading the roots outward and filling the center with a ball of wet peat moss, then distributing the roots equally on the outer circumference of the peat ball and covering with more wet peat moss. The task is completed by wrapping the ball with burlap which is tied tightly around the stem of the plant. To prevent evaporation from the peat moss, the burlap is wrapped with water-proof paper.

When plants that have been prepared in the above manner are received the outer water-proof paper should be removed. Do not remove the burlap or disturb the ball. The twine around the stem of the plant should be cut after planting.

I have received hundreds of letters from camellia buyers all over the world. In practically every letter the purchaser reports that plants packed and shipped in this manner arrive in first-class condition. Some of my friends go so far as to say that plants shipped bare rooted grow faster and develop better than plants shipped with a ball of earth around the root.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CAMELLIA SOCIETY

MRS. W. A. MILLER, JR., Jackson, Mississippi

Normal propagation from seed should bring a camellia plant into flower within a period of four to seven years. The Jackson, Mississippi, Camellia Society in the fall of 1953 planted a seed, in the form of the election of Mr. W. Clarence Buckley as President of the Society, that burst into flower almost immediately. The Society now has 345 members, and expects to increase this number to 400 in 1956.

This condition was brought about in large measure through scientifically controlled conditions, such as submitting the Society to controlled light, which included the burning of a lot of midnight oil. This plant, the Jackson Camellia Society, is not a new variety, for, basically, it is like other camellia societies. It is different in the manner in which it has flourished under the direction of Mr. Buckley who has administered to ailments caused by dry summers and freezing winters, scale insects, dieback and cankers, and bud dropping.

Four inspirations for names of new varieties of camellias. *Left to right*, Dixie Knight, Rivers Yerger, Eunice Buckley and Mynelle Hayward.

During dry summers when most camellia societies are completely inactive, Mr. Buckley calls on prospective members, visits gardens, and gives advice on the preparation of plants to withstand winter's freezing fury. When, in his trips around the city, he notices a planting of camellias owned by individuals who are not members of the Jackson Camellia Society, he stops and talks the owners into joining. Mr. Buckley, a successful insurance executive, knows that you cannot make sales unless you make calls.

Non-members who attend meetings receive personal notes from the President in which he thanks them for their attendance, invites them to join the Society, and encloses copies of the Society's Bulletin. These bulletins serve as reminders of things that should be done in camellia gardens each month, and contain news of the camellia world, with occasional bits of humor and philosophy.

It is too bad that the camellia world does not have a treatment like Mr. Buckley's for canker (cantankerous members). He uses a mixture of humor, diplomacy, and intelligence that affects rapid cures. Scales (members who sit back and take no part in the meetings) are given small tasks to perform, such as registering guests or making out application forms for members who join the American Camellia Society. These members are made to feel that they are needed and by their contributions and participations are contributing to the success of the Jackson Camellia Society.

As George Gobel would say, "The Jackson Camellia Society just does not suffer from dieback or bud dropping any more." Reference is made, of course, to the fact that we do not have members whose interest dies and drop their membership. Interest is kept at high pitch through the gift of door prizes, rare camellias for the most part, and refreshment and fellowship periods after the meetings. But the biggest attraction is the list of outstanding speakers provided by Mr. Buckley, such as Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz, Covington, Louisiana; Mr. Aubrey C. Harris, Shreveport, Louisiana; Mr. George Sawada, Overlook Nurseries, and Mr. Gregory Smith, Flowerwood Nurseries, Mobile, Alabama; Howard Asper, Huntington Gardens, San Marino, California; and Mr. Frank Griffin, Columbia, South Carolina.

This fall we have had a lot of excitement brought about by the planting of new varieties. Local enthusiasts are shopping early and are busily engaged in planting the four choice varieties named for the wives of members of the Jackson Camellia Society—Dixie Knight (American Camellia Society Registry No. 230); Eunice Buckley (American Camellia Society Registry No. 229); Mynelle Hayward (American Camellia Society Registry No. 228); and Rivers Yerger (American Camellia Society Registry No. 227). These four varieties are described in the 1955 Yearbook in the article "My Experiences with Camellia Seedlings" by their originator Mr. R. L. Wheeler, Macon, Georgia.

Members of the Jackson Camellia Society are justly proud of the fact that their Society has come into full flower within the space of a few years, and that four outstanding varieties of camellias have been named for members of the Society.

THE RHODENDRON AND CAMELLIA YEAR BOOK FOR 1956

Members of the American Camellia Society will be interested to learn that the Royal Horticultural Society's Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book for 1956 is now available at $1.65, postpaid. Orders should be mailed to the Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W. 1.

Minterne, in Dorset, one of the outstanding rhododendron gardens located in an area in England where this genus can seldom be grown, is described by Col. The Lord Digby. Dr. J. Macqueen Cowan's article on the rhododendrons at Stonefield in Scotland records some of the finest of the older plantings in the country, and he and H. H. Davidian have revised the Lacteum Series, thus continuing the revision of articles which have long been a feature of this Year Book.

Camellia growers will be especially interested in the series of articles on this genus. Mrs. Mildred Blandy tells about the wonderful old camellia plants in her garden on the island of Madeira, where *Camellia Sasanqua* may be seen in the form of shade trees over 33 feet tall. The outdoor camellia collection at Kew is described by the Curator of that institution, W. M. Campbell. Sir Giles Loder writes about his visit to the Guichard Camellia Nurseries near Nantes, France, Charles Puddle describes some of the camellias at Bodnant, the estate of Lord Aberconway, and F. P. Knight, Director of the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley, contributes a very helpful article on the propagation of camellias.

Lanning Roper describes the famous Kurume Punch Bowl in the Great Park at Windsor. There are in addition reports of shows both at home and abroad, lists of recent awards, notes on both genera and numerous photographs, including Camellia "Donation" in colour, from a recent painting by Paul Jones.

CAMELLIAS TAKE HURRICANE TEST AT ELIZABETH CITY

BUXTON WHITE, Elizabeth City, North Carolina

The unwelcomed visitations of the hurricane sisters, Connie, Diane and Ione on August 12 and 18 and September 19, 1955, at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, really put camellias through a third degree. Some varieties quickly cracked under the grilling; more rugged individuals remained adamant.

Like other river towns of coastal areas, much of the better residential development in Elizabeth City has been along the waterfront. Landscaped grounds, featuring hundreds of varieties of camellias, hug the banks of the normally placid Pasquotank. Prior to Hazel's rough trip through that locality a year earlier, inundation had been no problem and excellent drainage was afforded. Hazel's rapid but severe passage was bad enough, but her effect on camellias was mild compared with the repeated and lingering torture of the more recent storm succession.

The lashing gale winds and whipping of waves, submergence up to two or more feet in salty water for days and the beating of floating debris was too much for even such vigorous specimens as waxleaf ligustrum. Hollies, 20 feet high or higher, expired quickly. The devastation caused to azaleas and other choice evergreens in flooded areas was heartbreaking. The wreck of the Hesperus!

An amazing discovery of the aftermath was that some varieties of camellias stood up, without flinching, like the rock of Gibraltar. Yet others in the same beds under identical conditions suddenly folded with apoplectic shock. The degree of vulnerability to adversity graduated from one extreme to the other.

No one can account for the marked difference in varietal resistance except through inherent varietal characteristics. Did the damage result from suffocation, drowning, salinity, corporal punishment, or a combination of all?

Harold C. Foreman is the dean of camellia addicts and collectors of the Albemarle section in the northeastern corner of North Carolina. His garden slopes to the river's edge. Almost half of his rather mature camellias were in flooded ground, submerged from two inches to two feet, with waves higher. For what it might be worth in future guidance, he made a check and recorded the effect of the agonizing experience on each of the varieties subjected.

Condition of varieties that were submerged in river water to depths ranging from two to 12 inches.

VARIETY	HEIGHT IN FT.	CONDITION
Alba Fimbriata	3	Good
Alba Plena	5	Good
Bessie McArthur	5	Excellent
Blood of China (Victor Emmanual)	4½	Very good
C. M. Hovey	8	Excellent
Candidissima	7	Excellent
Catherine Cathcart	6	Excellent
Christmas Cheer	10	Excellent
Comte de Gomer	5	Excellent
Countess of Orkney	3½	Dying
Daikagura	5	Excellent
Donckelarii	4½	Good
Duchess of Sutherland	5	Leaves yellow, will probably recover
Elegans (Chandleri)	6	Good
Edwin H. Folk	4	Fair
Gigantea	6	Excellent
Governor Mouton	6	Good

VARIETY	HEIGHT IN FT.	CONDITION
Haku-Rakuten	4	Good
Horkan (Rena Campbell)	5½	Excellent
Imura	3	Good
Jarvis Red	6	Excellent
Leucantha (Tricolor—white) (Siebold)	6	Fair to good
Lotus	2	Good—one branch removed
Marchioness of Salisbury	4	Fair
Mathotiana (Rubra)	6	Good
Mathotiana Rosea	5	Dying
Mine-no-yuki (Sasanqua)	8	Excellent
Mrs. Abby Wilder	5	Good
Paeoniaeflora	5	Good
Pink Perfection	6	Poor—may die
Rev. John G. Drayton	4	Damaged slightly
Tricolor (Siebold)	7	Excellent
Ville de Nantes	1½	Excellent
White Empress	3	Damaged slightly
White Empress	5½	Fairly good

Condition of varieties that were submerged in water to depths ranging from 12 to 24 inches.

VARIETY	HEIGHT IN FT.	CONDITION
Amabilis	3½	Dead
Bella Romana	7	Fairly good
C. N. Hastie	5	Excellent
C. M. Hovey (Colonel Firey)	8	May live — pruned drastically
Captain Ike Davis	6	Poor — may die
Chalmer's Perfection	7	Good
Chiyoda-Nishiki (Princess Nagaskie)	2½	Fair — may be OK
Duchess d'Orleans	7	Died quickly
Gigantea	5	Damaged very slightly
Haku-Rakuten	4½	Fair to good
Kelvingtonii	8	Excellent
Kumasaka	6	Dying
Lactea Alba	5	Died immediately
Lady Charlotte	5	Good
Lady Mary Cromartie	7	May live — pruned drastically
Lady Vansittart	6	Fair to good
Lawrence Walker	4½	Fair
Lindsay Neill	2	Dead — washed out of ground
MG188 (David Gerbing)	6	Fairly good
Margaret Higdon	5	Fairly good
Marchioness of Exeter (Marquis of Exeter)	10	Good
Multiple Graft (Debutante, Blood of China (Victor Emmanuel) and Frizzle White)	5	Fairly good
Oniji (Empress Variegated)	5	Dead immediately
Prof. C. S. Sargent	8	Excellent
Rio Rita	2	Dead
Robert E. Lee	4½	Fair
Ville de Nantes	5	Damaged very slightly
White Empress	7	Good

None of the plants were youngsters, but no correlation to size or age was discernible. Naturally, the deeper submergence was somewhat more harmful and emphasized the spread between susceptibility. The few replicant varieties represented are indicative, though not conclusive, of some uniformity of varietal hardiness or resistance to the conditions encountered.

A river-side corner of my camellia plantings at Whitehall is lower than the rest. Tide water did not stand above ground, but underneath it rose through the sandy soil to surface level and remained for several days. Damage in the area was quickly apparent, while none showed on higher ground. It was spotted from none, to slightly, to heavy, to severe and loss. Though I had relatively few varieties involved compared to Foreman's, a few were repeated several times. The extent of injury followed rather closely through each variety, somewhat in line with Foreman's conclusions.

A few varieties that gave no indication of suffering in my waterlogged section were Akebono, Flame, Pink Shell, Prof. C. S. Sargent, Prince Albert, Rev. John Bennett and White Empress. It looks like knock-outs may have been delivered interspersed to Anna Zucchini, Elizabeth, Fimbriata, General George Patton, Nobilissima, Pink Ball, Rose Queen.

Individual differences in condition of plants may have played some part. The salt content of the water backed up in the river from the sound, 18 miles away, may have been the most deleterious factor. Who knows?

SPHAGNUM MOSS[1]

ARTHUR C. BROWN, Gainesville, Florida

Sphagnum moss is an acid-bog plant that is used as a substitute for soil in propagating, growing and shipping plants. This medium has become important to commercial nurserymen, home gardeners, and others who handle plants, because of its sterile condition, high water-holding capacity, and lightness in weight. Sphagnum moss is sold by most horticultural supply houses in small bales weighing about 20 pounds. Before the moss is used, it is generally shredded either by hand or machine. Because of the wide natural distribution of this material, small bogs or ponds may be found locally where the crude moss may be gathered and used just as well as the baled moss.

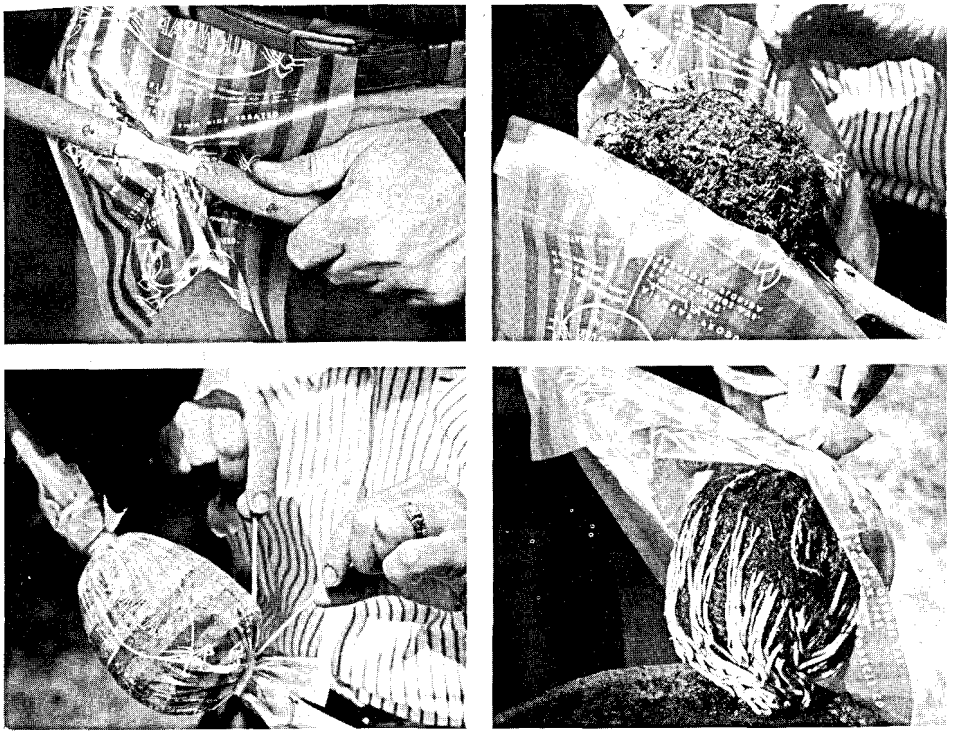
Sphagnum moss is capable of absorbing 10 to 20 times its weight in water. Since there is little deterioration of sphagnum moss that is taken fresh from the bog and baled, the water holding capacity continues to exist after the moss has been dehydrated. Because of its cellular structure, added water is evenly distributed through the moss and evaporates very slowly. Sphagnum moss is highly acid. Nevertheless, it is a good seeding medium for all types of plants, including those that normally grow in alkaline soils.

Sphagnum moss contains most of the elements essential to plant growth, but only in relatively small quantities. Consequently, seedlings and rooted cuttings can be grown in the moss only temporarily without the application of a nutrient solution.

For seed germination, as a rooting medium, or for potted plants, crude sphagnum moss must be shredded. Hand shredding can be done by rubbing the moss through a wire screen having three meshes to the inch. Larger quantities can be ground through a small shredder, provided the grid size will not reduce the moss to a dust-like consistency.

Sphagnum moss in the shredded condition is a highly desirable seeding medium. The moss can be used to fill the seed flat entirely, or an underlying, easily drained soil mixture may be placed in the flat first and covered with a three-fourths inch layer

1—This article was prepared from material published in U. S. D. A. Farmers Bulletin No. 2085 "Sphagnum Moss for Plant Propagation," and by the Agri-Plast Corporation, Box 142, Sarasota, Florida, distributors of Airwrap, a Vinylite plastic film used in making air-layers.



Courtesy Agri-Plast Corp.

TOP, *left*—Remove ring of bark (width equal to diameter of stem) and dust with hormone powder. *Right*—Soak sphagnum moss, squeeze to remove excess moisture, and apply around cut surface. Bottom, *left*—Wrap with plastic cover. *Right*—bind ends of wrap tightly with tape, rubber strips, or string.

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of sphagnum. The moss is placed in the flat and mounded above the rim. Then it is compressed to a smooth seed bed approximately one-half inch below the rim of the flat. The moss is watered and allowed to drain. Seeds are then sown, either broadcast or in rows. Larger seeds should be covered lightly with more of the screened moss. After the seeds have been sown, the flat should be sprinkled, preferably with a fine mist. The flat should then be covered with a pane of glass or a glass substitute. In place of the glass pane, a sheet of plastic film tacked to the rim may be used as a cover. Plastic with wire screen embedded in it will last longer. When dry conditions exist or where seed flats remain for several months before germination, watering may be necessary.

Seeding in sphagnum moss is one way to overcome losses due to damping-off fungi. Diseases caused by these fungi rarely appear in sphagnum seed flats, and the use of fungicides specifically designed for combating those organisms is not necessary. It is possible to use a sphagnum moss flat for the second time without detrimental effects, in so far as diseases are concerned.

Sphagnum moss may be used as a medium for rooting cuttings. Shredded moss is best suited for this method of propagation, and it may be used alone or mixed with equal parts of sand. Both softwood and hardwood stem cuttings may be rooted in sphagnum moss. A combination of sphagnum and sand results in a rooting compound that retains moisture.

Air-layering is a widely practiced method of rooting older branches of plants by wrapping them with a handful of sphagnum moss[2]. In greenhouses it is only necessary to wound the branch, apply a small amount of a rooting compound, and bind moist moss to the branch. The sphagnum will require an occasional watering, and rooting of most succulent-stemmed conservatory plants will occur in a matter of weeks.

The same method can be used out of doors on woody plants, provided the sphagnum is covered with a sheet of plastic film, such as polythene, to reduce moisture loss to a minimum. Because of the low rate of moisture transmission of such films, it is not necessary to remoisten the sphagnum moss once it has been applied. Generally, this method is best suited to plants that will ordinarily root from cuttings or from mound layering of branches.

In preparing an air-layer, the branch should be wounded, either by a slant cut or girdling, preferably on wood formed the previous season. It is possible to use older branches for layering, but the degree of success will diminish with the age of the wood used. A small quantity of a rooting compound, such as is used for cuttings and sold in most garden supply stores, is dusted into the wound and the branch is then wrapped with a handful of damp sphagnum moss. The moss should be squeezed tightly to remove excess water. An 8- by 10-inch sheet of plastic film is then wrapped around the moss, overlapping to make a good seal, and tied at each end with electrician's plastic waterproof tape, rubber banding strips, or strips of the plastic film itself, to make a tight sack around the moss.

Air-layers may be applied in the spring or late summer. With some plants air-layered in the spring, rooting will take place by fall. With layers made late in the summer and with difficult plants layered in the spring, rooting will not occur until the next year, and some plants, such as magnolia, have required even longer to root. Fletcher Pearson Crown, in her article on air-layering camellia plants in the 1952 *American Camellia Yearbook*, stated "Branches that we had cut and wrapped in late April produced sufficient roots by October to warrant their removal from the parent plant. We reduced the leaf surface . . . and, in addition, removed the flower buds. The rooted branches, together with the balls of moss, were potted and removed to a greenhouse. Do not remove the moss from the air-layers, as it helps the plant to become established and leaves the newly formed roots undisturbed."

When the layer has rooted, some roots may be seen through the film. In other instances, rooting can only be determined by opening the layer to find the fine roots emerging from the stem. When the layer has been cut from the plant directly below the ball of moss, remove the film and place the layered plant in the soil in a cool shaded place without disturbing the roots. If a cold frame or unheated greenhouse is available, layers will continue to develop roots during part of the winter and will be well established for planting out the following spring.

Sphagnum moss should be used as a growing medium for all plants that are to be shipped long distances or where shipping weight is important, as in air transportation. Not only are plants grown in moss light in weight, but develop root balls which will not break when dropped. Furthermore, clean sphagnum is an approved shipping material because of its aseptic properties.

The Agri-Plast Products Company, Sarasota, Florida, has packaged airwrap kits that contain patented Airwrap plastic coated material, plant ties and sphagnum moss. It is stated that the Airwraps are coated with harmones, vitamins, nutrients, trace elements, insecticides and fungicides.

2—For further information concerning the use of sphagnum moss in air-layering and tip grafting, see "Top-Working Camellias at Magnolia Gardens" by C. Norwood Hastie, and "Air-Layering Camellias" by Fletcher Pearson Crown, in the 1952 Yearbook.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It may be true that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, but the new President of the American Camellia Society, Mr. Hoyt W. Lee, has shown that this is not the case with respect to community minded citizens. He has been awarded the M. O. Beale Scroll of Merit by the Editor of the Mobile *Press* in recognition of his valuable contributions to the well-being of his city and county.

Letters from new members, together with their checks for dues, are oftentimes interesting, and always welcome. A recent communication from one of the Society's newest members, Mr. Whitney Warren, Wheatland, California, was most unique. Instead of writing a letter, he used to the greatest advantage the margins of a membership application blank to make such gratifying remarks as "This check (for $23.50) is for 1955 membership"; "please send *two* copies each of the 1949, 1952 and 1954 Yearbooks, also two nomenclatural cross-reference lists"; "also two more membership application blanks"; "send me bill for 1956 dues when you are ready."

Lt. Roy G. Davis, a Tampa, Florida, boy who is serving with the armed forces in Japan, is another member who is anxious to complete his file of Yearbooks. He needs copies of the editions of 1946, 1947 and 1948. Lt. Davis, incidently, has reached the ripe old age of 22 years, and is probably the youngest member of the Society. He is anxious to return to his collection of camellias.

The warmth that penetrates the cockles of your Secretary's heart following receipt of interesting letters from current members, applications for membership from camellia enthusiasts without the fold, and orders for Yearbooks, is chilled by the arrival in almost every mail of several Yearbooks marked "Addressee moved, no address" and "Postage due, 16 cents." Each book returned costs the Society 32 cents for postage, and another 16 cents for forwarding when the member furnishes us with the new address. That is an unreasonable charge upon the Society. *Please* notify this office promptly when you change your address.

Mr. John N. Sewell, State Director for Florida, observed this sign displayed at a filling station in Jacksonville:

$3.00 CAMELLIA PLANT (SIC) FREE WITH EACH OIL CHANGE

Mr. Sewell referred to the joint use of color subjects for the Quarterly and the Northern California Society's *Camellia Bulletin* with this question "What are you and Dave Feathers trying to do, confuse everybody?" A good question. In the future the two editors will alternate color prints for the covers and thus reduce confusion among members of both Societies.

The number of nominating ballots for the Directorate returned by members in several states in the Gulf Coast Territory is an encouraging indication of aroused interest in the Society and its management. The final ballots were mailed from Gainesville about the time this Quarterly went to press, so it is not possible to give the final returns at this time. They will be published in the April Quarterly.

Two articles about camellias in a single issue of the Quarterly contributed by representatives of the medical profession—Dr. Robert K. Womack and Dr. C. B. Lynn—emphasize an interesting point, namely, the large number of doctors who are camellia enthusiasts and members of the Society. Cynics might attempt to account for this interest by claiming that doctors make so much money they can afford to splurge on camellias. Most of us, however, prefer Dr. Lynn's explanation to the effect that there is nothing more restful and relaxing to those harassed workers for the public welfare than to be surrounded by trees, and shrubs, and flowers—camellia flowers in particular.

Mr. E. A. Combatalade, President, Camellia Festival Association (*left*) and Mr. William E. Williams, Division Manager, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, Sacramento, California, holding the new telephone directory commemorating the City's official flower—the Camellia.

Speaking of doctors, I am laying for one. Some day he is going to call me to ask that I prescribe for his ailing Alba Plena. I am going to tell him that I specialize in red varieties only, and he will have to seek help from a specialist in white varieties.

We find it difficult to leave the subject of doctors. Dr. William A. Brooks, 480 Park Avenue, New York, is engaged in an experiment that should be of considerable

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interest to camellia enthusiasts who live in the colder parts of the country. The purposes of the experiment are to develop strains of cold-resistant camellias, and to apply treatments that may increase the ability of camellias to withstand low temperatures. Living in a locality where the supply of plants for experimental purposes is very limited, Dr. Brooks will be pleased to test plants sent to him from other parts of the country.

A correction: In the October Quarterly we reported that the variety High Hat owned by Mrs. Herman Grieco, Memphis, Tennessee, bloomed on August 22. The date should have been July 22.

Another correction: Even your Editor should have known that the name of the Governor of California is J. Goodwin Knight, and not J. Knight Goodwin as printed in the October Quarterly.

It has been stated that an allegation often repeated and seldom denied becomes accepted as the truth. This is a good place to make a vigorous denial of the allegation that the American Camellia Society lost over 1,000 members in 1955. The reason given for this alleged drop in membership was discouragement and disappointment suffered by camellia growers as a result of the freezes of 1954-55.

The number of members in the Society as of December 14, 1955, is 5,345 as compared to 5,387 on the same day last year. While we are disappointed because there was not a substantial increase in membership over 1954, we believe that the Society has done remarkably well in face of the great and widespread injury to camellias during the winter of 1954-55.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR TRAIN, HOTEL AND OTHER RESERVATIONS FOR THE MEETING IN LOS ANGELES?

LOCAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWS

As a part of the show kits furnished by the American Camellia Society, the Secretary will send to show chairmen large posters bearing the inscription:

"JOIN THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY. YOUR $5 MEMBERSHIP FEE ENTITLES YOU TO A YEARBOOK AND FOUR QUARTERLIES. JOIN TODAY."

These posters are made available through the generosity of Mr. S. L. Marbury, Wilmington, North Carolina. Show managers are requested to display these signs in a prominent place close to the American Camellia Society membership booths. Show

Use HAWKINS

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For Healthier Plants and Better Blooms

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Timmonsville, S. C.

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managers could be most helpful by making determined efforts to induce a minimum of from five to ten visitors to join the Society, and accept renewals from current members. We wonder how many local Societies will equal the record of 23 memberships set by the Men's Garden Club of Greater Beaumont, Texas, at their show last year.

Members of the San Diego (California) Camellia Society have set an example that could well be followed by others. In a recent letter Mr. L. L. Carringer, Treasurer, enclosed a check for $10.00 and stated that his Society wished to take out a Sustaining, rather than the usual Annual Membership. Mr. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Drive, San Diego 15, is the new Secretary of that Society.

The Jackson (Mississippi) Camellia Society has set another excellent example. Mr. W. Clarence Buckley, President, has requested that we send him a large supply of membership application forms to be used in a drive to induce at least 50 of his fellow members to join the American Camellia Society.

Mr. Howard Asper, Huntington Gardens, San Marino, California, is making the circuit of camellia societies in the South as a featured speaker. He recently appeared before members of the Dallas (Texas) Camellia Society, and the Shreveport (Louisiana) Men's Camellia Club, and is scheduled to speak before several other groups.

The Editor of the Dallas Camellia Society's *Bulletin* describes a bore as being one who, in reply to your question as to how his camellias are getting along, tells you!

The Editor of the *News Letter* published by the Shreveport (Louisiana) Men's Camellia Club suggests the title of Champion Liar for the chap who says "I had a 100% take."

Welcome to the most recent addition to the list of garden clubs that will hold their shows in cooperation with the American Camellia Society — The Amaryllis Beaty Garden Club, Marshall, Texas. Mrs. E. N. Smith, President, has indicated that her club will stage their Sixth Annual Camellia Show, scheduled for February 25, 1956, in cooperation with the A.C.S. and members will participate in the Society's Arrangement Contest.

In a recent issue we stated that we had lost track of the whereabouts of that eminent camellia traveler and missionary, Mr. Ralph S. Peer. We can now report that he has been located. In a phone call from New Orleans the other day, he stated that he was en route from Cuba to Los Angeles, with a stopover to talk to members of the Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, Louisiana.

While there is Life there is hope. Our fears that the year 1955 would pass without the enrollment of a single new Life Member were dispelled at the last moment. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. W. C. Farmer, Macon, Georgia; Dr. Ernest H. Yelton, Ruthersfordton, North Carolina, and Mr. Alison J. Parsons, State Director, Norfolk, Virginia are now enrolled as Life Members of the American Camellia Society.

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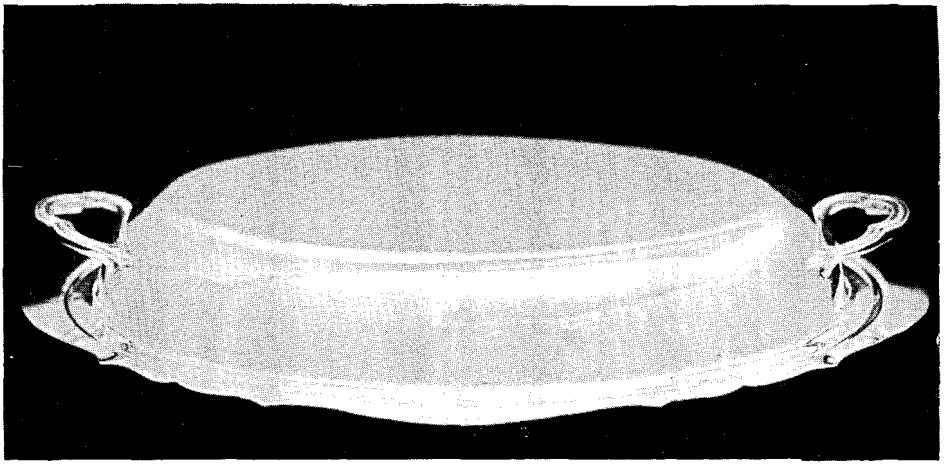

This beautiful sterling silver covered vegetable dish will be awarded to the winner of the most outstanding arrangement in the 1956 American Camellia Society Arrangement Contest.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF SHOW DATES

Herewith is presented additional show dates that were received too late to be included in the October Quarterly:

JANUARY, 1956

Abbeville, Louisiana (Madame et Madmoiselle) 7- 9
New Orleans, La. (New Orleans Garden Society) 7- 8
Laurel, Miss. (Laurel Men's Camellia Society) 14-15
Tifton, Ga. (Tifton Council of Garden Clubs) 18
Ocala, Fla. (Ocala Garden Club) 21-22
Pensacola, Fla. (Men's Camellia Club of Pensacola) 21-22
Bainbridge, Ga. (Bainbridge Garden Club, Rose Garden Club, and Men's Garden Club) 21-22
Baton Rouge, La (Baton Rouge Camellia Club) 21-22
Mobile, Ala. (Men's Camellia Club of Mobile) 28-29

FEBRUARY, 1956

Albany, Ga. (Federated Garden Clubs of Albany) 4- 5
Long Beach, Miss. (Long Beach Garden Club) 4- 5
Orangeburg, S. C. (Men's Garden Club of Orangeburg) 4- 5

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SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF SHOW DATES (Continued)

	FEB.
San Diego, Calif. (San Diego Camellia Society and Southern California Camellia Society, cooperating)	11-12
Yonges Island, S. C. (St. Paul's Garden Club)	11-12
Spring Hill, Ala. (Dogwood Garden Club)	12
Tyler, Texas (Azalea and Camellia Society of East Texas)	12
Marshall, Texas (Amaryllis Beaty Garden Club)	25

MARCH, 1956

Fayetteville, N. C. (Fayetteville Garden Club)	3- 4
Charlotte, N. C. (Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte)	11-12
Norfolk, Va. (Virginia Camellia Society)	17-18

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF JUDGES

The following are additions to the list of Accredited Judges which was printed in the October, 1955 Quarterly:

ALABAMA

Dothan:
- Carter, Mrs. Stuart B.
- Carter, Stuart B.

CALIFORNIA

Glendale:
- Hubbs, Dr. E. Clark
- Storey, Lon, Jr.

FLORIDA

Tallahassee:
- Brock, Richard N.

LOUISIANA

Pineville:
- Smith, Mrs. Joseph D.

Thibodaux:
- Dolese, Robert S.

MISSISSIPPI

Biloxi:
- Sadler, Mrs. Emery F.

Jackson:
- Brent, R. L.
- Buckley, W. Clarence
- McDill, Jack

SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia:
- Smith, James U.

Greenville:
- Morris, Cecil

Manning:
- Reedy, Mrs. F. C.

Orangeburg:
- Brailsford, John F.

Rock Hill:
- Latimer, Mansfield

TENNESSEE

Knoxville:
- McReynolds, Mrs. R. L.

VIRGINIA

Norfolk:
- Wolter, Bernhard H.

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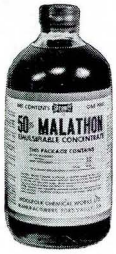

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