

South Coast Orchid Society

Summary of April, 1954 meeting as published in *Orchid Digest*

The South Coast Orchid Society held its Fourth Annual Dinner at the Lafayette Hotel, Long Beach, California on Monday, April 26, 1954. One hundred members and guests attended.

The President, George D. Field, introduced the guests: Mr. Harry Crosby, program chairman for the Cymbidium Society and well known Cymbidium authority, and Mrs. Crosby; Mr. Julius A. Muller, President of the Southern California Orchid Society, and Mrs. Muller; Mrs. James M. McWilliams, Secretary-Treasurer of the Orchid Digest Corporation, and Mrs. McWilliams; Mr. and Mrs. John Spitzel; Mrs. Judy King of Denver, Colorado; and Mrs. Becky Hollaway, teacher of our corsage-making class.

Mr. Harry Crosby spoke on "Where Are We Going in Orchids?" He took us through an English Conservatory of about the year 1875, where he described to us beautifully well grown rare specimens of *Lycaste*, *Masdevallia*, *Zygopetalum* and many other genera that were quite in vogue. He also mentioned the big 3 – *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium* and *Cypripedium* – of lesser importance at that time. He pointed up the outstanding advancements made in hybridizing in these three genera that we see today.

What has happened to the other genera? They are all but forgotten – the *Lycaste*, *Dendrobium*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum*, *Zygopetalum*, and the fine *Laelia* species to name but a few. If these species were hybridized for improvement of their respective genera wouldn't they, too, come back into their own in the orchid world? He challenged us (some amateur or private grower with the pioneer spirit) to undertake the task to breed and improve some of these rare species before they are lost forever. His speech was most thought provoking for all and especially for those of us who do like the lesser genera of orchids.

Mr. Field, having been re-elected President, introduced the new officers (listed inside the front cover) and expressed the Society's thanks to the outgoing officers for their fine work accomplished during the past year. He also expressed our special thanks to the commercial growers, Mr. Joe Ozzella, Mr. Joe Hampton, Mr. John Yuill, Mr. Harry Rapella, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Toy, Mr. Harry Cosner, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fricker, who have contributed their time, knowledge, plants and greenhouses to the society and its members; also the society's thanks to Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturing Company for their donations of thermometers, etc.

The banquet tables were beautifully decorated with orchid and candle centerpieces. The committee (the corsage-making class) was complimented by all.

Mrs. Elva Hanes