

# South Coast Orchid Society History

## *As Reported in ORCHID DIGEST (1949-1968 reviewed so far)*

*For some years, officers for ORCHID DIGEST affiliated societies were listed on the flyleaf of each issue, until the increasing number of affiliates made this practice unworkable:*

Officers for 1953:

[First mention, November-December 1953: “5364 Abbeyfield, Long Beach, California. President, George D. Field (Names of other officers not available)” ]

George Dean Field, President  
Dodd R. Young, 1st Vice-President  
J. L. Duroy, 2nd Vice-President  
C. F. Atkinson, Secretary  
Wayne Byall, Treasurer  
C. E. Blodgett, E. P. Cristensen, Robert H. Fisher, Rolan Howard, Joe Ozzella, Harry Rapella, John Yuill, Directors

Officers for 1954:

George Dean Field, President  
Robert H. Fisher, 1st Vice-President  
Dr. William T. Burns, 2nd Vice-President  
Mrs. Elva Hanes, Secretary  
Herbert Kusebauch, Treasurer  
E. P. Christensen, Herbert L. Davis, Rolan R. Howard, Joe Ozzella, A.M. Thompson, John Yuill, Directors

Officers for 1955:

John W. Hanes, President  
Dr. J. Lloyd Wallar, 1st Vice-President  
Robert H. Fisher, 2nd Vice-President  
Mrs. Elva Hanes, Secretary  
Herbert Kusebauch, Treasurer  
Mrs. Emily Embree, Membership Secretary  
E. P. Christensen, Herbert Davis, George Dean Field, Rolan R. Howard, Joseph Ozzella, Am. M. Thompson, Van Tilton, Directors

Officers for 1956:

John W. Hanes, President  
Dr. J. Lloyd Wallar, 1st Vice-President

Herbert Davis, 2nd Vice-President  
Mrs. Elva Hanes, Secretary  
Woodrow C. Wilson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Geraldine L. Brown, Membership Secretary  
Howard A. Anderson, Rolan Howard, Joe Ozella, A. M. Thompson, Van D. Tilton, John W. Yuill, Directors

Officers for 1957:

Glenn W. Hamilton, President  
Albert R. Stephenson, 1st Vice-President  
George M. Hudson, 2nd Vice-President  
Mrs. Don L. Gilson, Secretary  
Woodrow C. Wilson, Treasurer  
Mrs. George Abendroth, Membership Secretary  
John W. Hanes, Joseph Ozzella, Van D. Tilton, Howard A. Anderson, John W. Yuill, George D. Field, Dr. J. Lloyd Wallar, Directors.

Officers for 1958:

Charles Bowman, President  
George Hudson, 1st Vice-President  
James Thresh, 2nd Vice-President  
Ruth Hamilton, Secretary  
Rolan Howard, Treasurer  
Woodrow C. Wilson, Membership Secretary  
Albert R. Stephenson, Harry Rapella, Glenn W. Hamilton, George D. Field, J. Lloyd Wallar, Howard A. Anderson, John W. Yuill, Directors

*Reports from our meetings published in Orchid Digest or the AOS Bulletin, apparently submitted from time to time by our Secretary.*

**September, 1953:** About eighty-five members and guests met at Silverado Park Auditorium, Long Beach, California, for our regular meeting. Nearly one hundred seventy-five plants were displayed for the forum and these represented specimens from twelve or fifteen different genera – one or two quite rare botanicals as well as Cattleyas, Cypripediums, Odontoglossums, Laelias, Epidendrons, Phalaenopsis, Brassavolas, and their hybrids. The display included several exceptionally fine plants that have won high awards from the R.H.S., A.O.S., and the Orchid Society of Southern California.

Mr. Albert Moor brought selections from his fine collection of botanicals and entertained us with an informal but informative talk. He illustrated his remarks with color slides of his plants (products of his admirable ability with the camera) and thus gave us all a glimpse of many rare and unusual orchids whose generic names ran the alphabet from *Aerides* and *Angraecum* to *Vanda* and *Zygopetalum*. Certainly he instilled in many an interest in these fascinating orchids

outside the commercial types. He is, we found, an amateur authority on these types and the possessor of many remarkable plants.

After refreshments we stood adjourned until the next fourth Monday of the month. Should the gentle reader chance to be in Southern California, he is most cordially invited to sample our hospitality and program on that day.

J. D. Hood

**October, 1953:** The regular meeting of the South Coast Orchid Society, held October 26, 1953, in the [Silverado Park] Auditorium at 31st and Santa Fe Streets at 8 p.m., brought out reports that indicate the scope of our activities. For example, Mrs. Cleda Lincoln reported on progress of the corsage making class that meets in her home. Another example was the announcement of the judging class to be held at the Ozzella Orchid Range, Hawthorne, November 1, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Hampton. We have quite a busy program.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Norris Powell, a commercial grower from nearby Temple City, who talked on *Odontoglossum crispum* hybrids. He illustrated his lecture with slides showing some remarkable blooms. Mr. Powell has succeeded in growing these plants in an area where humidity and summer time temperatures are considered difficult. His successes have been noteworthy and he generously shared his experiences with us.

The exhibition table has sixty-eight plants, one of which was the widely known but not so widely grown *C. Portia*, *Westonbirt* var. The display made quite a show for the members and guests present.

J. D. Hood

[**June, 1953:** Orchid Society of Southern California newsletter reported SCOS meeting at Plummer Park, plants shown by Mr. & Mrs. Dean Field as well as Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hecker, known to be SCOS members]

[**November-December, 1953,** first mention of SCOS in *Orchid Digest*: “Welcome, South Coast Orchid Society. A very pleasant first duty is to greet this new sponsor of THE ORCHID DIGEST. On the inside of the front cover, it will be noted that this brings to twelve the number of societies who share in this undertaking – twelve voices to speak out on orchids.”]

**April, 1954:** 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

**May, 1954:** Speaker for the evening was Mrs. Frances Chadwick of Chadwick Gardens, Redondo Beach, and her subject was "Building a Florist Business Around Orchids." Mrs. Chadwick gave an interesting account of how 12 years ago they were inoculated with the orchidaceous "I-gro-it is" which first occupied a section of the back porch and has now expanded into acreage and the complete envelopment of their home and surroundings. Several bouquets and corsages were assembled during the course of her talk.

The Plant Forum was conducted by Mr. Joe Hampton and Mr. Morris Holmquist with 60 fine plants of various genera on the display tables. Two of the fine raffle plants were won by guests visiting the Society for the first time.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**June, 1954:** Our program for the evening was a panel discussion on orchid culture with Mr. Howard A. Anderson acting as moderator. The panel experts were Mr. Harry Rapella, Mr. Harry Cosner, Mr. Morris Holmquist, Mr. John Hanes, and Mr. Charles Atkinson, with the members trying to stump the experts. Mr. Cosner started the answer role by stating the to control the fall blooming plants for the Christmas market one must start using artificial lights as soon as the buds appears in the bulb, or date-wise, June 23, and to give them an 18-hour day until it is 9 weeks prior to December 18. Fertilizing of plants took quite a little discussion with Mr. Hanes stating that it depends on the humidity, light, heat and conditions of the plants. If the plants are growing vigorously, then they can be fertilized lightly with good results, but the plants must be growing and making good roots or they should not be fertilized. Mr. Rapella stated that if Cattleyas about to bloom are heavily watered (but not overhead) just before the buds come out of the sheath the flowers will develop longer stems. Mr. Atkinson said that back bulbs feed the plant if the back bulbs are in good condition, and in repotting one should try to leave a front grown and 3 bulbs with leaves if possible. Mr. Holmquist added, "Take the old back bulbs and place them in crocks

under the benches (no potting media, just the crocks) where the spray will hit them and before long the eye will break and you will have a new plant on its way.” He also said that it was O.K. to repot a Phalaenopsis when in spike if one is careful. As they are in bloom about 8 months of the year it is hard not to repot when in spike.

The Plant Forum was conducted by Mr. Rolan Howard and Mr. John Hanes with 63 fine plants of various genera on the display tables. Again most of the raffle plants were won by guests and members who had just joined Monday night.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**July, 1954:** Dr. Wm. Burns gave an interesting talk on Orchid Seed Flasking and Culture. He has worked out a very simple, yet completely sterile, method of flasking the seeds, something for us who have not yet made any crosses or done any flasking to think about. The Plant Forum was conducted by Dr. Burns and Mr. Paul Baker with 70 fine plants of all genera on the display tables.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**August, 1954:** August 23 was the annual Potluck Dinner (and such food as did find its way to the dinner and ultimately onto our own dinner plates) prior to the regular meeting hour, so it was a full crowd that stood and pledged allegiance to the flag at 8:00 p.m. Our speaker for the evening was one of our own members, Mr. Harry Rapella, and he took us with him via colored slides, on one of his orchid collecting trips to Venezuela, where he collected several thousand *Mossiae* plants. He showed a picture where a burro was completely covered with orchids, and it was only two specimen plants. He advised all of us not to go collecting in out-of-way places because our modern hybrids are so far superior to any of the species.

Our plant table display seemed to suffer due to the heavy potluck dishes; however, the 39 plants on the Forum tables were very beautiful for the summer weather. Mr. Ernest Hetherington (whom we welcome as a new member—along with Mrs. Hetherington) and Mr. Morris Holmquist conducted the Plant Forum. After the plant raffle was completed the meeting was adjourned and more refreshments were served.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**September, 1954:** Mr. Alexander D. Hawkes, editor of *The Orchid Journal*, was the speaker for the evening and took us along with him on a “Tour of Parts of the Orchid World” by means of colored slides and his excellent knowledge and memory of orchids.

The plant forum was conducted by Mr. Joseph Hampton and Mrs. Rolan Howard and there were beautiful species (in honor of our speaker, *Cypripediums*, now beginning to bloom, and *Cattleyas*) for the enjoyment of all.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**October, 1954:** Mr. Ernest Hetherington reported on the First World Orchid Conference and stated that it was quite a success and something all who enjoy and grow orchids should have attended. Much was gained by all and the judging of the orchids by the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Society of Southern California and the Orchid Digest Corporation will now be by a standard as to awards and judging. This is such a big step that these few words cannot do it justice.

Our program subject for the evening was "The Parents of Some of Our Modern Day Hybrids." Mr. John Hanes obtained Kodacolor slides from the firms of Armacost and Royston, B. O. Bracey and Co., and Fred A. Steward Co., and took us from the basic species through each stage until we saw the latest results of the hybridizers.

The plant forum was conducted by Mr. Joseph Hampton and Dr. Wm. Burns and there were 49 beautiful plants for our enjoyment. It was decided by a show of hands vote to have judging starting with our December meeting. For the time being, at least, our judging will be conducted by judges furnished us by the Orchid Digest Corporation. So now all we have to do is tell our fine plants not to bloom until the December meeting and to bloom their very best then.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**November, 1954:** Our meeting got off to a good start with the announcement that it had been decided that we would be the host society for the 1955 Western Orchid Congress, November 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1955. Mr. Joseph Hampton spoke on "The Use of Artificial Lights for Controlling Orchids."\* The plant forum was conducted by Mr. Morris Holmquist and Mr. A. M. Thompson.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

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\*Mr. Hampton's talk on the same subject at the Western Orchid Congress was recorded and will appear as an article in an early issue of the DIGEST.—Ed.

**December, 1954:** This was the meeting where we had our first judging of orchids, under the able judges of the Orchid Digest Corporation, and some very fine flowers were on hand for judging in spite of the Christmas season's taking so many blossoms. Our Plant Forum tables were adorned with 42 very fine plants five of these plants taking Bronze Awards: C. Eloquence 'Arctic Circle' (77.8); Lc. Magadha (78); Lc. Bonanza 'Ne-Plus-Ultra' (79.5); Lc. Bonanza 'Klondike' (76.66), all from the B. O. Bracey & Co. range; and Cyp. momag 'Whatcroft Hall' (75) from the Sherman Orchid Gardens. Mrs. Max Klein and Dr. Wm. Burns conducted the plant forum.

Since this was our first judging, a program on judging seemed to be in order so our Judging Chairman, Mr. Rolan R. Howard, took all of us to judging class and pointed out the important points that will make one flower win an award and its sister will not do so. (However, look at those Bonanzas go!) Perfection is what is judged: color, clearness, harmony and lip contrast; size in proportion to the whole; remembering that we must judge according to type and breeding. Experience is one of the most important qualifications for a good judge, also he must be one who is without prejudices of any kind. It is always best for amateur judges to work with experienced judges for a long time to help gain experience and knowledge of judging.

This was also the night for some lucky person to win the fine greenhouse donated to our society by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fricker of Fricker Orchids, Temple City, California, and the lucky winner was Mrs. Virginia Dickenson of Long Beach. This is the third greenhouse the Frickers have donated to our society, so a special big "Thank You" from all of us to Fricker Orchids.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**January, 1955:** For this first program of the year we were fortunate in obtaining Mr. Robert Casamajor, Editor of the *Cymbidium Society News* and well known authority on Cymbidiums

and Cypripediums, as our speaker. Mr. Casamajor's topic was the Growth and Flowering Habits of the Cymbidiums and its Recent Color Development. His talk was illustrated with Kodachrome slides. He surely brought out the importance of good culture for flowering Cymbidiums.

Mr. Blodgett and Dr. Burns conducted the Plant Forum and there were 72 plants for our enjoyment, eleven of which took awards. Those taking Silver Awards were Lc. Bonanza 'Territorial Enterprise' (82.5), exhibited by B. O. Bracey & Co., and Blc. Lorelei 'Cantarranas' (83.5), exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hecker. Bronze Awards went to: Lc. Bonanza 'Royalite' (75.22), Lc. Bonanza 'Donner Pass' (75.9), Lc. Ted Tremble 'Mardi Gras' (77.17), all exhibited by B. O. Bracey & Co., C. Mimir 'Sagacity' (76.07) by Nancy Ann Abbott; C. Bob Betts 'Virtue' (75.33) and Bc. Nellie Rank 'Snow Queen' (79.66), both by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hecker; C. Eleanor Wepper (80) by Mr. N. Bonhome; Lc. Trails End (75.17) by Mrs. Aspin; Cyp. Florales 'Ruby' x Cyp. Cardinal Morton (76.5) by Fred A. Stewart; and Cyp. London Wall 'Green Gold' (76.33) by Everett C. Wilcox. Once again the judging was conducted by the Orchid Digest Corporation judges. Starting with the February meeting the South Coast Orchid Society will conduct judging at each regular meeting. The Orchid Digest Corporation will conduct judging three times per year for any affiliated society desiring this service. So a New Year starts for us with a new look – Progress in Judging.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**February, 1955:** A most interesting talk on the Recognition and Manipulation of Quality Control Factors on Cypripediums was given by Mr. Everett C. Wilcox, who is a very well known grower of Cypripediums. Mr. Wilcox told us our plants need to look robust, have good color and shine to their leaves. The shine indicates good roots and the right watering. Cypripediums must never be completely dry. Soak them well after repotting and thereafter keep them damp. Mr. Wilcox recommends a medium similar to E-Z-R-Gro for potting Cypripediums. Osmundine is good but is hard on the roots at repotting time. The roots control the shape and size of the flowers. Divide the plants early in the season but don't cut them too small. Stuff the potting medium into the root system first, leaving no air pockets in the roots, then place the plant in the pot, which is about one-third filled with crock, and finish potting. Mr. Wilcox doesn't feel this type of potting medium needs any more fertilizer but be sure to repot as the medium breaks down. Good vegetative growths indicate good culture. Look for them early in the season. Light intensity helps the growths along; 400 to 1800 foot candle light is good for Cypripediums. The flower color is not controllable as far as Mr. Wilcox knows, however, some plants have a color variation from year to year. The popular shape for Cypripedium flowers is round with no reflex at the base of the dorsal. To help attain this correct angle, stake the flower after it is fully open. A 50° night temperature will help the flowers last longer so that we may enjoy their beauty a little more. Bronze Awards were made as follows: Blc. Lorelei 'Earl Monson' (75.7) and Lc. Rita Cobb 'George Cameron' (79), shown by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hecker; Potinara Red Friar 'Daybreak' (75), Cyp. Allendale 'Fine' (75.3), and Cyp. Esther 'Westonbirt' (76.8), shown by Clark Day, Jr.; Bc. Lynn Redmond 'Marnette' (75.1), shown by the Holmquists. The Holmquists were also given a cultural award for their Slc. Estelle Jewell.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**March, 1955:** Dr. William T. Burns gave a most interesting talk on Sophronitis hybrids and showed Kodachrome slides pointing out the various results of this type of hybridizing. He

expressed a believe that we would one day have the red and orange colors in the Slc. and Potinara hybrids.

It was a pleasure to have Mr. Keith Low of Stuart Low Company, Sussex, England, as a guest. Mr. Low, assisted by Mr. Morris Holmquist, conducted the Plant Forum. They had many constructive and interesting remarks discussing the parentage of the 49 plants on our plant tables. Bc. Imperialis 'The Globe' received a Bronze Award. It is owned by B. O. Bracey and Co. It was a most pleasing sight to see a specimen plant of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* with 98 flowers.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**April, 1955:** The South Coast Orchid Society held its Fifth Annual Dinner at the Lafayette Hotel. We were fortunate in having two guest speakers for the gala evening. Mr. George Pring graciously gave a short talk on some of his experiences at the Missouri Botanical Garden. John Chadwick took us on a tour, via Kodachrome slides, to some of the English growers' greenhouses and ended the tour at the L. Sherman Adams Range in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The banquet tables were beautifully decorated with orchid Ming trees and candles decorated with orchids, all made by our corsage class.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**May, 1955:** Our speaker was Joseph R. Hampton, whose subject was "Yellow Cattleyas." Mr. Hampton believes that the addition of more *Brassavola digbyana* blood in yellow crosses will help to eliminate most of the crippling which is found in some of the yellow hybrids. He showed slides of many of the fine yellow parents and some of their outstanding progeny. The plant forum was conducted by Mr. A. M. Thompson and Mr. Morris Holmquist.

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**June, 1955:** The program for the evening consisted of four speakers, Mrs. John Hanes spoke on Laelias, their native locations, temperature and culture requirements; Mrs. Rolan Howard, on The Woman's Viewpoint. She expressed her belief that we should learn to grow orchids as they grow in the natural conditions and that fir bark more closely resembles their natural habitat, so she is planting mostly in fir bark and doing some light feeding. Mr. Walter H. Butikofer spoke on Vandas and Miltonia. He too uses shredded tree bark and fertilizes all plants. On his Vandas he uses well dried "Buffalo Chips" and never less than 10% of his Vandas in bloom at all times. He uses a cooler to keep the temperature down and with the aid of fog misters keeps a good circulation of moist air. Mr. Albert Moore spoke on botanicals, which he defined as "an orchid which has no commercial value, or one that no florist will buy." He grows some of his genera in the cool house and all of his plants (except his Cymbidiums) potted in a redwood mixture and feeds every two weeks. Many of the genera are very large, the Epidendrum, Oncidium (called dancing girls), Maxillaria, Miltonia and Odontoglossum, to name a few of the more popular.

The display tables were quite a show with 68 beautiful plants for all to enjoy. Five of these plants were award plants: a Silver Certificate going to Mr. W. A. Brown, who drove all the way from Bakersfield so that we could all view his beautiful Vanda Nellie Morley 'Andersons', 88.3 points; Bronze Certificate to: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hecker for Blc. Hammercott 'Peach Queen', 77.8 points; B. O. Bracey & Co. for Lc. Arch Deacon 'Venerable', 78.6 points; G. D. Field for Lc. Eugene Casey 'Dumas', 76 points; and Joe Ozzella for Lc. Ken Kennedy 'Joseph Mark', 76.5 points.

Mrs. Elva Hanes



**January, 1956:** South Coast Orchid Society Annual Dinner

The Sixth Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers of the South Coast Orchid Society was held at the Lafayette Hotel, Long Beach, on the evening of January 23, 1956. The banquet tables were beautifully decorated by members of our society, each table having its own motif.

The invocation for the dinner was given by Mr. J. A. Muller, past president of the Orchid Society of Southern California. After dinner our president, Mr. John W. Hanes, introduced our guests, Dr. and Mrs. L. F. Hawkinson, also the presidents of various orchid societies of Southern California: Mr. Don G. Saurenman, San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists; Mr. John Chadwick, Cymbidium Society; Mr. Joseph R. Hampton, Orchid Society of Southern California; Mr. Emerson W. Charles, Orange County Orchid Society; and Mr. George Dean Field, Orchid Digest Corporation. Mr. Hanes commented on the fine support and unity of the orchid societies of Southern California and expressed a sincere desire that the societies would always display this keen spirit of coordinated helpfulness and unity of purpose. He then introduced the outgoing and incoming officers.

Our program chairman, Dr. J. Lloyd Wallar, was most fortunate in securing Dr. L. F. Hawkinson of Piedmont, California, as our guest speaker. Dr. Hawkinson chose as his subject matter, "Hits, Runs and Errors."

After growing orchids for some 16 years, he believes that 90 to 99 per cent of all greenhouses sooner or later become too crowded and it becomes a question of more glass or grading the plants on hand and tossing out those that do not meet your standards. He feels that disposing of less desirable plants is very important as this keeps only your top plants taking up greenhouse space and gives them more room in which to grow. Finding the proper temperature, both summer and winter, night and day; the humidity spray that works best for you; and the proper amount of shading is most important.

Virus in Cattleyas is on the increase and must be controlled. It can always be transmitted to other plants in your house by your cutting tools, so ALWAYS keep these tools sterile. No cure as yet is known for virus except to dispose of the infected plant by burning. In potting never leave holes around the roots of the plants. Pack the medium, whether fir bark, osmunda, or other medium, tightly. He stated that he is still using osmunda for his mature plants through fir bark is satisfactory for seedlings. The latest reports he has had on fir bark states that its pH is about normal so the addition of lime seems to be unnecessary.

In buying plants, seedling or mature, know your grower and beware of bargains. Most of the finest crosses made in the last few years have been made here on the West Coast, especially so of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis

Mrs. Elva Hanes

**January, 1957:** The South Coast Orchid Society, Inc., held their Annual Banquet and Installation of new officers at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 4363 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif. At 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, 1957 with 123 attending.

Rev. Knudson, president of the San Gabriel Orchid Society gave the invocation.

Mr. John Hanes, President, presided and introduced the new officers and directors for 1957.

Dr. Lloyd Wallar, Program Chairman, introduced Mr. Arthur Freed of Zuma Beach, speaker of the evening. Mr. Freed is well known as a producer for MGM in the movie world and

also having one of the outstanding orchid collections in the United States. His topic for the evening was "Ten Years of Collecting Orchids" and his experiences collecting here and abroad.

Mr. Joseph Hampton gave the Plant Forum.

The awards for the outstanding orchids of the year were presented by Mr. Howard Carrington, chairman of judging.

The Second World Orchid Conference will be held in Hawaii from September 19-23, 1957, so looking ahead a Hawaiian motif was used for the table decorations. The President introduces Mrs. Calvin Worthen, chairman of the decorations, and she presented those assisting her—Mrs. George Hudson, Mrs. Mary Hudson, Mrs. George Field, Mrs. Van Tilton, and Mrs. Don Gilson. On the tables branches of manzanita holding the beautiful orchids, sea fans, and leis in delightful colors.

Mr. Hanes presented Mr. Hamilton with the gavel, and he gave some very gracious remarks.

Dr. Wallar presented Mr. Hanes with a beautiful orchid plant from the Executive Board.

The South Coast Orchid Society meets 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at Silverado Park Clubhouse, 31st and Santa Fe. Visitors are welcome.

Amelia Gilson

Additional coverage, Orchid Digest, March-April 1957:



A high spot of the evening was the recognition of the Trophy Award Winners for 1956. From left to right are: Howard Carrington (Chairman of Judging), Joseph Hampton receiving award for B. O. Bracey & Co., Joseph Ozzella, Howard Anderson, Mary Chrisman receiving award for R. J. Chrisman, Albert R. Stephenson, John Yuill, C. J. Riedel.

Topping even Ricart's delicious steaks, Arthur Freed spoke on "Ten Years of Collecting Orchids" at the January 28th annual banquet.

**October, 1957:** Many of our members attended the Second World Orchid Conference, which was held in Hawaii. For the benefit of those not attending the Conference, our program for October 28th consisted of several brief, but interesting reports, with slides and movies, on various phases of the trip. The reports were made by Mr. George D. Field, Mr. Joseph Hampton, Mr. Ernest Hetherington and Mr. Frank Manahan.

The plant forum consisted of 51 plants, which were exhibited by the members, including some excellent specimens of miniature Cymbidiums. Of the two dozen plants that were submitted for ORCHID DIGEST judging, seven received awards.

Mrs. Don L. Gilson

**December, 1957:** Few new colored *Cattleya* hybrids blooming today are superior to the best produced 20 years or more ago. This statement by Leo Holguin, hybridizer and grower for Armacost & Royston, was supported by slides of outstanding examples from the past. Among the many examples used by Mr. Holguin to illustrate his talk on the development of modern hybrids was *Lc. Princess Margaret*, *Lc. Hyperion*, *C. Prospector*, *Lc. Areca* 'Model', *Lc. Bracyana*, *Lc. Cynthia*, *Lc. Grandee* 'Jules Furthman', and *C. Remy Cholet*. In modern day hybridizing, a knowledge of the successful breeding done in the past and its influence on modern trends is essential, concluded Mr. Holguin.

Of the 21 plants submitted for judging, 14 received awards. These were the most awards ever given by the Society in one session.

Mrs. Glenn W. Hamilton

**January, 1958:** Trophies for the best flowers judged in 1957 and the installation of new officers were regular features of the Annual Banquet meeting January 27. In addition, Mr. Arthur Dettweiler of Los Angeles Orchid Exchange gave an interesting talk on the workings of the Orchid Exchange and explained the efforts that were being made to expand the present flower market.

For the best flower in its class during 1957, a trophy was given to Bernard Wood for *Blc. Camilla* 'Goldilocks', to R. J. Chrisman for *C. Porcia* 'Cannizarro' and *Vanda Nellie Morley* 'Del Rey', to Howard Anderson for *C. Bob Betts* 'Snow Bird', to John Hanes for *Cyp. Cavalese* 'Majesticum', to C. E. Glover for *Cym. Swallow* 'Centennial Belle', to Ozzella Orchids for *Cym. Swallow* 'Justine', to B. O. Bracey & Co. for *Phal. Grace Palm* 'Avalanche' and *Lc. Elissa* 'Crimson Queen', and to Mary Agnes Chase for *Vanda Rothschildiana* 'La Habra'.

Hundreds of orchids were used in the table decorations by Mrs. Calvin Worthen in carrying out her original and very beautiful theme of "A Symphony in Orchids".

Mrs. Glenn W. Hamilton

**February, 1958:** Modern trends in Cymbidium breeding were described in a most informative talk given by Mr. Frank Fordyce of the Fred A. Stewart Orchid Range at the regular meeting February 24. Slides of outstanding progeny and their parents were used to illustrate the points of his address.

Nearly 75 plants of many genera were on the forum tables. These were segregated into groups by genera. Mrs. H. W. Crothers reviewed the botanicals, Mr. Clark Day reviewed the Cypripediums, Mr. Ernest Hetherington reviewed the Cymbidiums and Mr. Joseph Hampton reviewed the Cattleyas.

Of approximately 30 plants submitted for judging, 10 received awards.

Mrs. Glenn W. Hamilton

**January, 1959:** The Ninth Annual Installation Dinner of this Society was held in the beautiful new Petroleum Club Building on Linden Avenue in Long Beach, California. There were 190 members and guests present, with Mr. Joseph Hampton as the guest of honor. Following invocation and a fine dinner, a most interesting talk by Mr. Robert Casamajor related histories of several so-called "lost" orchids and the efforts made to find again their native habitats. His spellbound listeners enjoyed every minute of his speech.

Mr. Hampton, who is leaving this area to be located at Santa Barbara, was given a plaque in appreciation of all he has done for this Society.

President Charles Bowman thanked his officers and committees of the past year for excellent work for the Society and outlined some of the progress that has been made as follows: The format of the Monthly Bulletin has been improved and enlarged, a membership directory has been prepared, a memberships drive netted forty-eight new members, a Luau in August proved an exciting fun party for all, and interest in the novice classes has increased attendance so that seventy to ninety persons are coming to each class—and these were only a few of the successes of the year that were touched upon!

New officers installed for the coming year were Chas. E. Bowman, President; Geo. M. Hudson, First Vice President; J. L. Thresh, Second Vice President; Sarah Bentzen, Secretary; Woodrow C. Wildson, Membership Secretary; Rolan R. Howard, Treasurer; and two new members of the Board of Directors are Glenn Hamilton and Lee Bentzen.

Table decorations by Jerry Worthen were beautifully done in orchids, following a theme of "Orchid Treasures", with golden treasure chests of "jewels", pieces-of-eight and orchid flowers.

There was a long table of orchid plants all in bloom which were then given as door prizes, followed by the table centerpieces which were included in the drawing. When the last orchid was given away the party was over.

Rita Crothers

[The entire lecture by Mr. Casamajor was printed in the *Review* of the Orchid Society of Southern California, as follows]

## **RARE ORCHIDS AND HOW THEY GET THAT WAY**

ROBERT CASAMAJOR  
Before the  
**SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY**  
January 26, 1959

If you look up the word rare in the dictionary you will find it has several meanings, such as the way some people like their meat cooked, to a precious gem some wife might like to have her husband give her for Christmas.

As far as an orchid is concerned I think the one that defines it as “uncommon” is the most appropriate, but it does not go far enough. I would define a rare orchid as one that very few people have, but many people want. You might have the only piece of a plant in existence, but if nobody else wanted it, so what! I have some seedlings in this category, but I don’t consider them rare.

When Dean Field persuaded me to talk to you tonight he never gave me the slightest hint as to what might be of interest to you. As this is the third time I have appeared before this group he should have known better than to ask me.

After worrying about the matter for a couple of weeks I decided that rather than try to find some topic to please you, perhaps if I would just please myself I would enjoy it more, and those who don’t enjoy what I have to say might not like some other topic either.

One of the things I like to do in connection with orchids is to delve into the history and romance of this great family of plants we all admire. The only other plant that compares with it at all in colorful history is the Camellia, and while the Camellia is interesting, it really isn’t in the same league, as the saying goes.

Most of you who know me well realize that my principal interest in orchids centers on two genera . . . cymbidium and cypripediums. However, I have studied other genera, less thoroughly than my favorites, and the literature on Cattleyas and Dendrobiums contains some fascination stories which add much wealth to our orchid lore.

The plant explorers who discovered, collected, and brought back to England the orchid species of our present day hybrids, did a magnificent job, even if some of them were ruthless in the way they cleaned out the locations where they found these plants. We orchid growers of today should not forget these men and to me the history of the collection of species orchids is a romantic and charming facet of orchid growing. My remarks will be confined to only a few genera and I’ll start with *Cattleya labiata*.

As you cattleya growers know, this species is native to Brazil and is a very variable one. Its important as a parent of present day hybrids is considerable, and I won’t recite its many virtues, which you undoubtedly know. One interesting aspect of it is its discovery by William Swainson in 1817, who sailed from England in the autumn of 1816 and landed in the Province of Pernambuco, Brazil, 8 degrees south of the Equator about the end of December 1916. He was delayed owing to a political revolt, but collected several plants of which some he described as

“parasites”. His drawings and collections were dispatched to Dr. Hooker and a Mr. William Cattley in June 1817 from Rio de Janeiro. Of the plants received by Mr. Cattley there were *Oncidium barbatum*, *Catasetum Hookeri*, and a third plant which bloomed in the Cattley stove-house in November 1818.

Nothing like it had ever been seen before in England and it created a sensation in the horticultural world. It was referred to Dr. Lindley for identification, who declared it a new genus [and species], which he named *Cattleya labiata*.

Swainson never told anyone where he found this precious plant and for years plant explorers searched for it in vain. Finally in November 1836 Gardner found it near Rio de Janeiro growing on a precipice of a mountain called Pedra Bonita and was able to collect a few plants and ship them to England. Over 50 years elapsed before it was again located in Pernambuco and sent to England in quantity in the early 1890's. In November 1893 Charlesworth, Shuttleworth & Co. had a display in their houses of 7000 flowers of this first of the *Cattleyas* in a marvelous range of coloration.

With this species the great genus *Cattleya* was founded and subsequent discoveries and hybrids have combined to create the magnificent orchids so many of you admire.

I could go on and recite the stories of the discovery of other important *Cattleya* species such as *Dowiana* var. *aurea*, but to me one of the most modern ones is of special interest. Just a few years ago Mr. B. O. Bracey secured from an unrevealed source a small plant of *Cattleya guttata* var. *alba*. This plant was so rare that you can hardly even find it mentioned in any of the orchid books or publications. The only place I have found it is in the *Orchid World*, a long discontinued magazine. So far as I know there is no other reference to it in orchid literature. Belonging as it does to the bifoliate group the flowers open as a cluster and may have as many as two to twelve or more on one flowering stem. The sepals and petals are a clear lettuce green and the labellum almost pure white. Many of you have undoubtedly seen it in flower.

Mr. Bracey recognized the great value of this novelty and has perpetuated it by self-pollination. So far all of the progeny have come true indicating that it is a true species. While the story of the re-discovery of *Cattleya guttata* var. *alba* may not have the glamour of some other orchid discoveries, don't let the fact that it happened at your back door influence your judgement of its importance to orchid growing and future hybridization. *Cattleya* breeders should start working on this little gem.

The *Dendrobium* genus may not arouse in many of you any thoughts of romance or adventure but the pure white form of *Dendrobium Phalaenopsis* now known as variety *Schroederianum* has a long and interesting history. This rare plant was sent to Kew Gardens about 1875 by Forbes. It remained a special trophy of the Royal Gardens for many years. Eventually Sir Joseph Hooker gave small pieces of it, in exchange for other varieties, to three people, one of whom was Baron Schroeder. He proceeded to acquire the other two plants and thus had all of the variety known to exist in private hands, whereupon this variety took his name.

This state of things lasted ten years. Unable to get any of the plant Mr. Sander resolved to try to re-discover it in its native haunts. He studied the route of Forbes' travels and in 1890 sent Wm. Micholitz to seek *Dendrobium Schroederianum*.

Plant hunters in those days were an evasive lot and any ruse to throw others off your trail was considered fair practice. It was universally understood that Micholitz discovered the object of his quest in New Guinea. Maybe that is why so many explorers went to that interesting and

fertile island to search for plants, but they never came back with *Dendrobium Schroederianum* because it wasn't there.

William Micholitz was one of the most skilled and persistent of plant hunters, but the story of how he found this white beauty would scare some of you out of a night's sleep. Events didn't move as fast in those days and you had to know how to fraternize with ship captains and entice savages into doing you favors. Biding your time, on a plant hunting quest was one of the fine arts. Nobody else was in a hurry, so how could you be? I won't attempt to recite to you the whole lurid story as was told by Frederick Boyle in his book, "The Woodlands Orchids", suffice to say that Micholitz arrived in a trading-vessel, the captain of which was trusted by the natives. His destination was one of the wildest isles which stud the Australasian Sea, and some nice calculations by Mr. Sander with the help of the staff of Key Gardens enabled Micholitz to land at the right spot near the end of the dry season.

Under protection of the chiefs he was allowed to explore, but their power did not stretch beyond a few miles of the coast. The neighbors on each side were unfriendly, and bitterly hostile tribes lay beyond. All alike were head hunters and the captain assured Micholitz the best-intentioned of these islanders cannot always resist the temptation to crown their trophies with a white man's head.

There were no plants near the little port and Micholitz knew he must venture further. After a few days he was told the chiefs were going to a feast and that he might accompany them. The Captain could not go and looked at Micholitz with a hesitating air.

"Is there any danger?" Micholitz asked.

"On, no, not a bit of danger, you'll be amused I daresay, they're rum chaps."

At daylight he started with the chiefs. It was but a few hours paddling to the next bay. They embarked, paint and feathers, spears and clubs and were met by their hosts in the same guise upon the beach.

After a priest howled for a while the warriors began to dance two by two. It was wearisome and very hot. At length Micholitz asked if he might leave. The interpreter said there was no objection. He walked toward the forest which was some distance back. As he approached he noted that a channel had been dug in the land leading to the trees. This he skirted and when he parted the foliage observed a low temporary building which he assumed held the war canoe about to be launched and christened by the party on the beach. But to his horror he saw on looking further two naked human bodies impaled on spears, one on each side of the building. Hardly had he recovered from this shock than the party on the beach broke up with wild screaming and yelling and led by the chiefs all rushed upon the building tearing down the walls. When the head men were in their place in the prow, all others laid hands on the craft and started it moving down the channel to the water. The din and noise was deafening.

Frightened as he was when the rush started Micholitz had retreated from the launching site and made his way as best he could deeper into the forest. He told himself he had come to look for orchids not be a witness to a bloody spectacle and had better be about his business. He was so sick from the savage spectacle he hadn't noticed what was above him in the low trees. Suddenly he realized they were garlanded with orchids, some red, and one a deep purple, then glistening in a shaft of sunlight a large cluster of the purest white. *Dendrobium Schroederianum* had been re-discovered! Success drove all else from his mind, or almost, until the interpreter summoned him to sit down with the savages and eat their dubious viands. When the chiefs understood this eccentric white man fancied their weeds they offered them joyously—at a price.

Next day Micholitz returned aboard and the Captain brought his ship round to the bay. In three days, so plentiful was the supply Micholitz had gathered as many as he thought judicious and heaped them on deck. They could be dried while the vessel was waiting for cargo elsewhere. The Captain filled up quickly and sailed for a Dutch port where the orchids would be shipped to England. He arrived in the evening, the ship lay alongside the wharf; next day the precious cases would be transferred to the steamer. Content with his labors Micholitz went to sleep, so did everybody else, the watch included. Toward morning the harbor police raised a cry of 'fire'. It must have been smoldering for hours. Not one plant could poor Micholitz save.

On arrival he had telegraphed his success and joy reigned at St. Albans, but the next morning the second message arrived.

“Ship burnt. What do? Micholitz”

The reply:

“Go back. Sander”

“Too late, rainy season”

“Go back”

And Micholitz went, though the way was difficult and the rain grew heavier daily. Taking a mail steamer to the nearest settlement he worked his way back. But at this spot the *Dendrobe* was growing on limestone rocks and was especially abundant in the graveyard of the clan, a stony waste where for generations they had left their dead. The plants grew and flowered among bones innumerable, where they were not only the most plentiful but by far the most vigorous. Nervously Micholitz suggested their removal after displaying samples of his trade; looking-glasses, knives and beads. A clamor of indignation broke out among the warriors. It was swelling into a passion when he produced a roll of brass wire. That calmed them, and after debate they stipulated they would not assist in collecting, but if two of their most sacred idols should travel with the plants and be treated with honor, all the way, they would agree. After distribution of the brass wire they helped pack the cases.

Thus it happened that one of the *Dendrobes* sold at Protheroe's Auction Rooms on October 16, 1891 was attached to a human skull. As for the idols they were bought by the Hon. Walter Rothschild and it is hoped they were treated with reverence, as per the agreement.

Now we come to *Cypripedium Fairrieanum* and its colorful history. I'm sure I don't have to describe this flower to you because many of you are growing it. It has a distinct charm, and there is no other species like it. It has also been the despair and pride of orchid growers for over 100 years. The many attempts to cross it with other species and hybrids have produced some of the most colorful and astonishing progeny that exist in the genus. In several instances only one seedling survived and flowered, but the result was a sensation in its day.

No one knows who first discovered this plant, but it came into English cultivation and flowering in October 1857, when it was shown at a meeting of the Horticultural Society by a Mr. Fairrie of Liverpool and was described and named for him by Dr. Lindley. Two other growers bloomed it at about the same time, and the three plants all came from a consignment of East Indian orchids sent from Assam and sold at auction in London on March 24, 1857. Apparently this species bloomed within seven months after receipt from India.

Now Assam is one of the warmer provinces of India. Therefore growers assumed it required warm treatment. Undoubtedly this was their undoing. They overlooked the fact that M. Van Houtte in his magazine "Flore de Serres", a French publication, told that he had received the



plant from a collector in Bhotan, which is a northern province at elevations around 7000 feet and much colder than Assam.

From a goodly stock of this species breeders in both England and France spread its pollen around and produced many remarkable hybrids. All attempts to self it, or use it as a pod bearing parent were doomed to failure.

One by one, growers lost their plants or they shrunk in size to the class of mere seedlings. Division for the purpose of increase was disastrous. By 1876 there were few plants left, worthy of the name, in England or on the continent. The last recorded exhibit was at a meeting in 1887, a single plant.

Explorers went forth, based on the assumption it had come from the Garo Hills in Assam, and sought to re-discover it. Their efforts were in vain. All they had left were the dried herbarium specimens at Kew and the many hybrids in the hands of growers.

Sander came forth and posted a reward of £2000 for the discover and delivery into their hands of a quantity of plants of the lost orchid. This made first page news in the London newspapers and the search began anew. By 1905 most growers had given up hope of again ever seeing *Cypripedium Fairrieanum*. But in March of that year there appeared a story in *Indian Planting and Gardening* of Calcutta entitled "The Lost Orchid Found". I quote:

"Every horticulturalist in general and orchidist in particular will be interested to learn that the 'lost orchid' *Cypripedium Fairrieanum* has been rediscovered. The discoverer is an Englishman; and he with Mr. S. P. Chatterji, the well known florist and nurseryman of Calcutta, have the secret of its natural habitat between them. They have a fine stock of plants and will doubtless make the most of them in due course. They will now claim the reward of £2000 offered by a London firm of plant merchants to anyone who could re-discover the 'lost orchid'. The locality where this orchid was found remains a profound secret for the present, but it was not found in the Garo Hills, its supposed natural habitat. There is no doubt as to its identity as it has been submitted to Dr. Prain, Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, who has pronounced it 'Simon Pure'. The plant was lost to the world in 1876 and can be said to be practically extinct in Europe at the present time.

"This is probably the most important and sensational announcement the horticultural world has received for many years and ranks with the rediscovery of *Cattleya labiata* in Brazil in the 1890's. In due time the name of the discoverer and full particulars as to the conditions under which it was found growing and its locality will be published."

On April 14th, the *Times* and other London newspapers gave the re-discovery first page publicity, and the "Morning Leader" said it had been found the previous autumn by an engineer out hunting for grouse or pheasant. Final confirmation came from Kew when they received on April 26 two fine unestablished masses of a *Cypripedium* described as 'unknown species from the Eastern Himalayas' which they identified as *C. Fairrieanum*. The plants had been shipped to them from Calcutta.

This settled it as far as the orchid fanciers were concerned and Sanders were besieged by their many customers for some of the plants when they arrived.

On July 22nd the "Gardiner's Chronicle" announced that *Cypripedium Fairrieanum* had arrived at St. Albans at last, and that the young scapes on the plants at Kew left no doubt as to their identity.

After satisfying the demands of their royal and wealthy customers Sanders offered 179 plants at auction on September 15th at Protheroe and Morris' Auction Rooms in London.

Bidding was spirited at times and the total consignment brought £550. The best plant with one flower spike went for 21 guineas, which at that time would have been about \$100.00.

Finally in December 1905 there came from India the information the *Cypripedium Fairrieanum* was discovered by Mr. G. L. Seabright of Darjiling, an amateur gardener, who happened upon the plant growing in niches of Gneiss rock at an elevation of 7000 feet near the head waters of the Torsa River in the Bhotan Hills country. Thus it appears that assumption by growers it had at first been found at elevations of 3000 feet was the major cause of its gradual demise under cultivated conditions, when they should have arranged for temperature consistent with 7000 feet. It also appears from the record that when grown warm it is particularly susceptible to damage by thrips.

So now I close my story of the rediscovery of famous orchid species, and I hope you have enjoyed the recital as much as I did digging it out of the authentic sources.

[Orchid Society of Southern California *Review*, 1963, carried, first, a full-page advertisement about a tour to Hawaii organized by SCOS, and then a report of the tour itself. During the years 1959-1965, OSSC issued their newsletters in the form of a small magazine, then discontinued this practice due to costs, and resumed publication in the usual newsletter format.]

September 16-30, 1963:

**SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY  
HAWAIIAN ISLAND TRIP**

*By Mrs. James Barton*

I  
WISH  
I  
WERE  
A  
CYMBIDIUM  
OR  
MAYBE  
A  
CATTLEYA



JO

then perhaps you would call or write and  
say you will be joining us . . . . .

**SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY'S  
RENDEZVOUS  
HAWAII**

oahu-waikiki — "the orchid isle" — kona-maui

**September 16 - 30, 1963**

**ONLY \$360.00**

**Call — 655-8660 (Hollywood)**

Write — Joe Krul  
**FitzPatrick Travel Service**  
8624 Sunset Boulevard  
Hollywood 69, California

Full details will be furnished.

**DON'T MISS THIS UNUSUAL TRIP  
EXCLUSIVE FOR ORCHID LOVERS**

(so why shouldn't I wish to be an orchid)

The September trip to Hawaii was considered a fabulous success by all 78 of the group, including a number of members of the Orchid Society of Southern California. This entire trip was an orchid lover's dream, leaving aboard a big Pan-American jet. We transferred directly from Honolulu to Hilo, where we were officially greeted by our host group, the Hui Okika O Hilo representatives and taken to our hotel in time for a swim before cocktails.

The next two days were give to orchid nursery visiting, both commercial and back yard hobbyists. In between stops were made to see special attractions, including Hilo's five waterfalls.

On Wednesday evening we attended a joint dinner meeting with the Hilo group at the Lava Pit, a special banquet room. Our speaker for the evening was Mr. M. Miyamoto from Honolulu, and he showed slides of the Island's finest Cattleyas.

Thursday night was the highlight of our visit to Hilo. A cocktail party was given by the Hirose Nursery family in our honor and included all the local orchid growers. The food and drinks were truly enjoyable, and the music made it a night to remember.

Friday evening found us traveling to the volcano area and to the famous Volcano House for lunch. We then drove to the Kona district, stopping at the home of Albert Nagano and seeing his lovely garden. He had arranged with our travel agency to have us stop at this place as a surprise.

Several side trips were taken around the Kailua, Kona area. Two days later off we went for Maui. Our Hukilau Hotel on Maui was on a beautiful stretch of beach, so the swim crowd had the ocean and a pool for relaxation.

Some of the group had pen pals on Maui, other hobbyists with whom they exchanged plants, seeds and letters. These pen pals took a group on another swing of the local hobby growers and fine gardens. On another day we visited the capitol of Tahaina and the new Maui Sheraton Resort which is very lovely.

Once more we climbed aboard a Hawaiian Airlines plane, bound for Honolulu and the Hawaiian Village Hotel, a city in itself. On Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> there was a afternoon tour of some of the orchid growers in the area. In the evening a farewell banquet was held in the Golden Dragon Room for the people leaving to go to Singapore.

The next few days were spent in visiting orchid growers in the Honolulu area, sightseeing, shopping, and in general enjoying the people on this worthwhile trip – the best ever.



## **Orchid Digest, January-February, 1966**

### **16th Annual South Coast Banquet**

The annual installation banquet of the South Coast Orchid Society, Long Beach, California, was held at the Petroleum Club and hosted the President of the American Orchid Society and his charming wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Vaughn.

Mr. Charles Bowman, President of the ODC, introduced the Vaughns before they presented a panorama of the World Orchid Conferences. Mrs. Vaughn narrated the slides and gave delightful commentary about the wonderful fellowship of orchid growers around the world.

Table decorations created by Jerry Worthen features innumerable orchids in the center piece arrangements. Every conceivable subject – from boats to natives on a tropic isle to zebra – were calculated to delight the eye with such tasteful elegance as can only be accomplished by the effective use of orchids.

Mr. Lloyd De Garmo was re-elected president and his officers include: First Vice-President, Charles Stockham, who is on the publicity committee for the Fifth World Orchid Conference and is responsible for the posters of the orchid and garden show and conference bumper stickers; Second Vice-President, Leo Bance, who is going to have a busy year with plant procurement; Secretary, Helen Powell, who will be keeping all the men at their jobs; Woodrow C. Wilson, who will be responsible for the money and the purchase of the trophies. The DIGEST appreciates the support of this society and its directors.

[Note: in October, 1967, the cover of *Orchid Digest* bore the subtitle “The Orchid Magazine of Western America”]

### **Orchid Digest, October, 1968 (report of the August, 1968 Luau and meeting)**

SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY held its annual LUAU party in Bixby Park Club House preceding its regular August meeting. This is a pot-luck party where a wide variety of exotic foods crowds the tables Hawaiian style, followed after dinner with a fine picture program, this time a travel film of New Zealand’s wonderful scenery and fine cities. Members donated divisions of good plants or well-bred seedlings for the opportunity table. All orchid growers welcome.

*More about the Fourth Western Orchid Congress in Long Beach, November, 1955*

**SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY, INC.**

MEETS AT SILVERADO PARK

31st STREET AND SANTA FE AVENUE  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

June 6, 1955

Orchid Digest Corporation  
Rachel Parker, Editor  
P. O. Box 66  
Sharp Park, California

Dear Miss Parker:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the South Coast Orchid Society has been chosen as the Host Society for the Fourth Annual Western Orchid Congress. The Show will be held at the Municipal Auditorium in Long Beach. Headquarters for the Congress will be the Lafayette Hotel, Broadway at Linder, Long Beach, California. The dates of the Fourth Western Orchid Congress are November 10 through 13, 1955. The South Coast Orchid Society extends a hearty invitation to all interested in orchids and especially all societies affiliated with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

We sincerely hope that all societies will be able to display a group exhibit as a society as well as individual participation by their respective members.

Cordially,  
JOHN W. HANES, President  
South Coast Orchid Society

JWH/eh

# **FOURTH ANNUAL WESTERN ORCHID CONGRESS**

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Under the Sponsorship of

**THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION**

With the

**SOUTH COAST ORCHID SOCIETY, INC.**

Acting as Host Society

**Headquarters:** Lafayette Hotel

**Orchid Show:** Municipal Auditorium

## **Program**

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

12:00 noon—Completion of show arrangements

2:00 p.m.—Judging

5:00 p.m.—Social Hour and Buffet Dinner

8:00 p.m.—Show Preview

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Orchid Tour of Commercial Greenhouses

8:00 p.m.—Amateur Growers Session

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

9:00 a.m.—Science and Research Session

2:00 p.m.—Commercial Growers Session

6:30 p.m.—Social Hour

7:30 p.m.—Banquet

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.—Tour of Amateur Greenhouses

2:00 p.m.—Judges of international reputation will outline a fine orchid by the American Standard System on What Makes a Fine Orchid, using picture demonstrations.

—Australian Orchid Growing—Mr. Don Wimber.

*First Orchid Digest Corporation Award of Recognition for Meritorious Service to the Orchid World, inaugurated at the September 18, 1955 meeting of the Board of Directors held in Fresno, California, and awarded in November of that year at the Fourth Western Orchid Congress in Long Beach:*

(Orchid Digest, 1957)

#### ORCHID MEDAL OF HONOR – Mel Dittmer

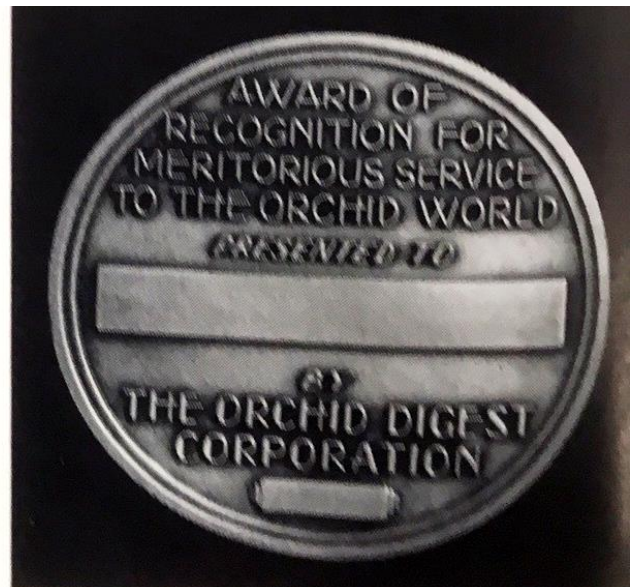
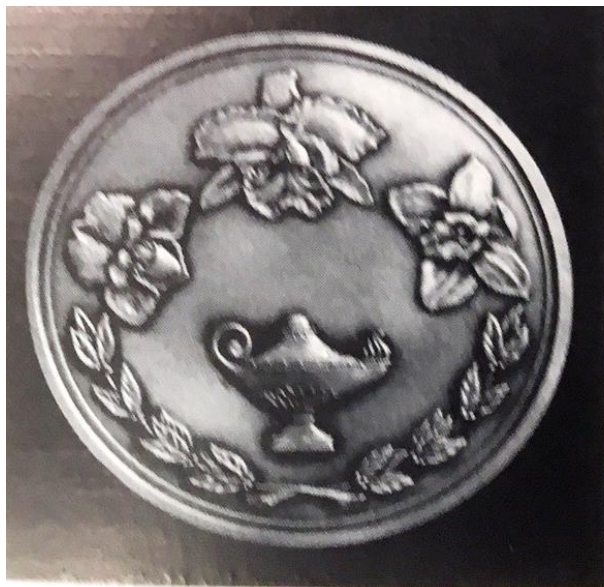
The Orchid Digest Corporation Award of Recognition for Meritorious Service to the Orchid World was inaugurated September 18, 1955, by the Board of Directors at a meeting held in Fresno, California.

The medallion was designed by Elsie Hetherington (Mrs. Ernest E.) of Arcadia, who submitted six different designs from which to choose. After considerable revisions and re-designing had been performed by Mrs. Hetherington, the final sketch of the medallion was sent to the O. C. Tanner Co. in Salt Lake City, where the die was made and the medallion struck.

It is of sterling silver – with raised design and lettering – and is 2 ¼ inches in width and approximately ⅛ inch in thickness. The bar in the center of the reverse side is for the engraving of the recipient's name, and the small bar for the inscription of the year awarded.

Mr. Robert Casamajor was the first to be recognized, being awarded the honor at the Fourth Annual Western Orchid Congress in Long Beach in 1955. The following year, at the Fifth Congress in Seattle, Mr. Ben O. Bracey was presented the medallion.

Selection of the recipient is made by the Board of Directors of The Orchid Digest Corporation following the report of a committee of Directors appointed to single out the person to be honored from among the outstanding orchidists. It is not a yearly award, but will be given at the discretion of the Directors.





Text of the presentation to Robert Casamajor, November 12, 1955, at the Fourth Western Orchid Congress:



As we proceed down life's highway and are constantly beset with the worries and the responsibilities of this word-a-day world, we all too frequently are inclined to overlook the unselfish and untiring efforts in our behalf of those around us and, to say the least, we all too often neglect to give due appreciation for their services. The Orchid Digest Corporation was created and founded for the purpose of increasing the appreciation and improving the culture of orchids. Through its Board of Directors and officers, it has set up an award to be presented from time to time to individuals who have contributed most toward the fulfillment of these worthy objectives. The committee of four appoints to select the first winner of this award has deliberated carefully and it is only after a great deal of discussion, and the weighing of numerous factors, that a unanimous decision has been made.

The individual who is the recipient of this great honor started growing orchids some sixteen years ago, approximately 1939, and has been an ardent student of orchid culture ever since. For the past several years he has devoted a minimum of two days a week, in collaboration with Dr. Wendt of the Earhart Laboratories of Cal. Tech., to experimentation and the study of *Cypripedium* and *Cymbidium*

culture, with pronounced results. He is one of the founders of the *Cymbidium Society* and has been editor of the *Cymbidium Society News* since its inception. The *Cymbidium Society* and the *News* have since attained international recognition. As editor of the *Cymbidium Society News*, he has constantly maintained, and has been an advocate of, accuracy in all of its articles with respect to their practical application and the elimination of theory. A large measure of the outstanding success of this publication must be attributed to his efforts. He has unselfishly made his time, experience, and ability available whenever called upon for judging, both as an accredited Orchid Digest judge and also as an American Orchid Society judge. All of these things he has done without any thought of remuneration, compensation, or personal gain, and his only reward has been the pleasure he has enjoyed from serving others. Through his unselfish efforts he has contributed materially toward enhancing our pleasure and success in the culture of orchids, whether we grow them as a hobby or for profit.

Mr. Robert Casamajor, on behalf of the Board of Directors and officers of The Orchid Digest Corporation, and the associated orchid societies, it is now my privilege and pleasure, and certainly a distinct honor, to present you with this award for outstanding and meritorious achievement in the orchid world. May God bless you and keep you with us always. — Walter Slagle.

Orchid Digest, March-April 1956, p. 57.

## **AWARDS MADE AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL WESTERN ORCHID CONGRESS**

Long Beach, California, November 10, 1955

Arthur Freed Trophy, Best Flower in Show—Grayce Hecker, *Lc. Bonanza* ‘Pay Dirt’.  
Armacost & Royston, Inc., Trophy, Best Registered Orchid Hybrid, American Origin—Nancy Ann Abbott, *Lc. Arch Deacon*.  
Fred A. Stewart Trophy, Best American-bred *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium* or *Cypripedium* seedling—Alvin Embree, *Cyp. Raven Hunter*.  
Past President’s Trophy (Orchid Digest Corp.), Best Flower of Show, Private Grower, Amateur or Novice class—Florence Huddle, *Phal. Grace Palm*.  
South Coast Orchid Society Trophy, Best display of Orchid plants by an Orchid society—The San Gabriel Orchid Hobbyists.  
Best Display of Orchid Plants of Not Less Than Three Genera, Commercial—Rod McLellan Co.  
Best Flower in the Show Shown by a Commercial Exhibitor—Grayce Hecker, *Lc. Bonanza* ‘Pay Dirt’.  
Best *Cattleya* Seedling Blooming for the First Time, bred by the Exhibitor—Rod McLellan Co., *Lc. Pacific Sun*.  
Most Outstanding Commercial Display in Show, Regardless of Genera Trophy—Armacost & Royston Inc.

### **Novice Awards**

Florence Huddle, *Phal. Grace Palm*; Irene Dobkin, *Oncidium lanceanum*; Margaret West, *Bc. Mars*.

### **Private Grower and Amateur Awards**

Best Three *Cattleyas* by One Exhibitor, Nancy Ann Abbott; Best *Cattleya* or Allied Genera, *Lc. Arch Deacon*, Nancy Ann Abbott; Best *Cymbidium*, *Cym. Adele Sander*, Dr. Phillip Karleen; Best Group of Three *Cymbidiums*, Dr. Phillip Karleen; Best *Cypripedium*, *Cym. Raven Hunter*, Alvin Embree; Best Group of Three *Cypripediums*, Nancy Ann Abbott; Best *Phalaenopsis*, *Phal. Grace Palm*, Florence Huddle; Best *Vanda* or *Vanda Hybrid*; *V. rothschildiana*, Albert Moore; Best Botanical, *Odontoglossum grande*, Dr. Phillip Karleen; Best Specimen Plant, All Genera, *C. Portia*, A. R. Stephenson; Best Collection of Cut Flowers, All Genera, William Farrell; Best Arrangement of Cut Flowers, All Genera, Monterey Bay Orchid Society; Best *Vanda* of Orchid Society from Hawaii, Hawaii Orchid Society.

From the December, 1955 newsletter of Orchid Society of Southern California, “President’s Message” by Ernest Hetherington:

“While the Congress held in Long Beach this last month was managed by the Long Beach Host Society it was also co-sponsored by this Society which is one of 18 Digest Societies. Mr. John Hanes and his many wonderful helpers did a splendid job. They should have a strong feeling of satisfaction that comes from a job well done... I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to all the members of our Society who worked in so many ways to make the Congress a success. My thanks, too, to those who attended – for it takes attendance to make any such an affair a success no matter how well planned.”

Reports relating to the Fifth World Orchid Conference in Long Beach, 1966:

ORCHID DIGEST, 1966, pp. 146-147

### **Conference Judging with an International Flair.**

*An interview with John W. Hanes.*

*During the Fifth World Orchid Conference I heard several people comment about the judging at the conference show. Their remarks were all very favorable and indicated a general interest in what might be a standard practice at the world conferences. I decided to talk with the man in charge of the conference judging and see if there was more to the enthusiastic response of the orchidists I had heard discussing it. I sought out answers to some of my questions from Mr. John Hanes, chairman of judging for the conference. The following article is an interview reported for the DIGEST. –JRW.*

#### **Has any World Orchid Conference ever used an International Judging System before?**

The American Orchid Society System was used at the first Conference in St. Louis, in Hawaii, and in Singapore. Or course there was ribbon judging at the shows, but the English Conference, No. 3, used the Royal Horticultural Society form of judging, which is by committee. I understand that some foreign judges were included in the judging sessions at that conference.

Actually, no international form of judging was used before the Conference here in Long Beach. There were a few judges from various parts of the world that were invited to participate in the judging at the other conferences, but it was basically AOS judging here or RHS judging in England.

It was after the Third World Orchid Conference that I became interested in a form of judging that might unite the better qualities of all the judging systems. For the World Orchid Conference should certainly operate with an international form of judging. This would give judges from all over the world a chance to participate.

At that time I discussed this idea with several of the local judges and talked about the possibilities of unifying the judging systems into a form that would make possible an international system at a world orchid conference. We discussed it in general and wrote to judges in other parts of the country, but some of them thought it would be too cumbersome to try to unit the ideas of committee judging and point scoring systems.

At the time that the Orchid Society of Southern California was chosen to be the host society, I went to work to see if we could not have a truly international system of judging. Following the plans and ideas that had been noted in my diary and had been discussed with a number of people, I began to make the recommendations more specific.

### **When did you finally complete the plans to have international judging?**

By September, 1965, J. Howard Carrington, Ernest Hetherington and I had pretty well formulated the procedures and policies that were most important in getting the conference judging ready to present to the Conference Committee. We felt that it was possible to incorporate the RHS system of committee judging, the Cymbidium Society of America form, the Australian standard form of judging used in that part of the world, and the Malaysian system. We used the American system of point scoring as a base and extended to other systems as we refined our ideas.

### **Did the Judging Committee include members from these judging areas?**

After the Orchid Society of Southern California was chosen to host the Conference – actually all of the societies in Southern California were hosts and participated fully and should be given credit for their support – we sent letters to all judging areas throughout the world to ask their advice and suggest changes to the proposed international system so we could work together. We sent letters to judges in 18 different countries.

### **How many countries were finally represented in the judging?**

There were eight countries that produced judges for the judging teams. Including the artistic division, we had roughly 200 judges.

### **Were the judges able to work together on this system?**

Actually, the judges found that their objectives of judging were quite similar throughout the world. Some judges are more strict in their evaluation of the flowers than others. We found that this was true from all the areas, and I have found it true with AOS and ODC judges. People who have had more experience in judging and are familiar with a greater number of species and varieties naturally are more apt to be critical of a flower (type and breeding) than persons with less practice in judging.

### **Were there any particular phases of judging that predominated the interest of individual judges?**

Some judges were more interested in color and scored the plant high for this quality, while others were more apt to score a flower high on form, if it met their idea of perfect shape. Really, there is probably more variation in the eight regional areas of judging in the United States than was noticeable among the judges working at the Conference. The norm for quality was consistent among the judges throughout the world.

### **What would you suggest to make this system work on a larger scale? What kind of form would you recommend after using the judging procedure in Long Beach?**

Before you developed a “form for judging,” an international group of judges would have to set some standards and then develop a “system” that would work for all areas. It would have

to be a system that would not put a straightjacket on perfection. In a broad sense, *appreciation of perfection* would be the standard. You know, the Australians have a system for judging commercial flowers that would be worth further investigation along these lines. Back to your question though, the “form” is just an aid in helping judges evaluate the total flower. Perhaps committee judging like the RHS would work if our standards were more completely uniform, but each judging team and area does not have the vast file of colored paintings to refer to as does the RHS. This might be an ideal to work toward, and you know the importance of orchids in color. But you also know the problems of obtaining colored slides that are true to the flower – even after a few years, the color may change.

### **Would you recommend award pictures to be taken in stereo?**

Photographic technique and equipment is constantly improving and it certainly would be worth while. It is every expensive to do this kind of work, especially if you were going to do it for all judging areas. This would be most advantageous to the judges. Here again, the three dimensional flower in this special slide device would be costly, but it would be a vast improvement over our present method of having to remember a flower that was awarded ten or more years ago.

I believe we could make large colored pictures from the slides that we normally take and have a reference to a previous award – something like the British have. It would be costly, but very practical to have a set of these pictures for each judging station. You really need documented proof that a former award was of the standard indicated by the awards register. The picture could help you confirm the mental image you retained of the previous award.

# Merger of Orchid Digest and American Orchid Society Judging Programs

Orchid Digest, October, 1966:

## *President's Letter*

### *Invitation of the AOS to the ODC*

As many of our readers know, representatives of the Orchid Digest Corporation and the American Orchid Society have been discussing possible avenues of cooperation, and the trustees of the AOS have invited ODC to affiliate with the AOS as the Western Regional Association in the AOS. The directors of the ODC have authorized a committee to explore the details of possible affiliation and cooperation further, and this committee has been in contact with officers of the AOS. The primary concern of the conversation has been to establish one unified national orchid judging system, and to end the duplication of awards by the two organizations, which, to a very large degree, have been made by the same persons acting as judges for both organizations. The present statement is being published in the hope that misunderstandings may be avoided, and the following paragraphs present information on (1) what the affiliation would involve and (2) what it would not involve, based on the invitation of the AOS and the conversations preceding and following it:

(1) *What affiliation would involve:*

A. The two judging systems would be merged, with all ODC judges of whatever status who are not already AOS judges becoming AOS judges.

B. Awards formerly given by ODC would be recognized as part of the on-going system.

C. The *Orchid Digest* would continue to be published and would have the privilege of publishing all or any part of the current awards.

D. The ODC would continue such activities as research, recognition of outstanding service to the orchid world or other activities with the exception of a separate judging system.

(2) *What affiliation does not involve:*

A. There is no intention that the ODC go out of business.

B. There is no intention that the *Orchid Digest* magazine be curtailed or extinguished.

C. There is no intention to abandon ODC research and other activities with the exception of a separate judging system.

In the opinion of the writer, acceptance of the AOS invitation would eliminate duplication in judging and establish the basis for cooperation and mutual trust between the ODC and AOS to the benefit of orchid growers everywhere, without restricting the ODC in any special effort it wishes to make to further the knowledge and enjoyment of orchids for everyone.

LAWRENCE L. VANCE

*President, ODC*

**Orchid Digest, January, 1967**

## **AWARDS COORDINATOR BECOMES JUDGING CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. Herbert W. Crothers has been named ODC Judging Chairman, following the resignation of Dr. J. Lloyd Wallar. Rita steps into this job from her previous responsibility as ODC Awards Coordinator. She has been serving under Dr. Wallar and has been originating procedures that have improved the reporting and recording of awards.

Dr. Wallar continues as an ODC Judge, but because of his increasing responsibilities in getting a new hospital off the drawing boards and into reality, as well as maintaining an active medical practice, it was necessary for him to give up his ODC position at this time. We want you all to know how much we appreciated his services to the ODC as Judging Chairman.

Rita and Herb Crothers became orchid enthusiasts while living in the Northwest and now live in Vista, California. They have a large greenhouse and an outstanding collection of species and hybrids. Between the large Spanish-type home, which is located at the top of a hill, and the greenhouse they have a saran covered area for cymbidiums and other acclimated orchids. Both Herb and Rita are well-informed orchidists and will continue to contribute much to the advancement of orchid knowledge.

**Orchid Digest, September, 1967:**

### **President's Message**

By a very large majority, the ODC Board of Directors voted in favor of affiliation with the American Orchid Society and merging of the two judging systems.

We all know, even those who have been in opposition, that it is imperative that all of us have the well being of the ODC at heart and must work together to that end. The corporate identity of the ODC will not be changed in any way and the ODC will retain all its rights and activities under the affiliation agreement. The closer relationship with the American Orchid Society should lead to a more successful liaison than had been possible heretofore. The result could lead to many benefits to all orchid growers.

The judging merger has been looked upon for a long time with favor by most judges and by many exhibitors. There will now be no duplicate awards with the resulting duplicate fees and confusion. The merger will in no way have any effect on the activities of the ODC at Congresses or other Orchid Shows but will only concern point judging. The present judging areas will be retained and will be conducted by the AOS. Judging will be done by the same judges, and their status, if not already AOS, will be honored by the American Orchid Society.



The agreement, upon its approval by the American Orchid Society, will be effective on January 1, 1968. It is hoped that all of us will work to make the ODC and the "Digest" an entity that will bring us justifiable pride.

I am confident that the feelings of the debate will soon heal. The energy and enthusiasm of both the "pros" and the "cons" can now be directed to constructive works and toward enjoyment of our Congresses and meetings. The *Digest* magazine will continue exactly as in the past as will our annual Congresses. I would like to thank each director that voiced his opinion, no matter what it was, for these are the directors who keep the ODC growing toward a constantly better tomorrow.

In my messages in future issues of the *Digest* I will discuss these and other matters of interest to *Digest* readers.

*Emerson W. Charles*

President, The Orchid Digest Corporation

### **American Orchid Society Bulletin, December, 1967:**

[These are the only mentions of the judging merger that we have found so far in the AOS Bulletin, the first as a part of Gordon W. Dillon's year-end message. Note the emphasis on the value of the ODC awards that have thus become part of the record of orchid history.] This year-end brings to the orchid world several terminations which mark the turning of a page in orchid history. In accordance with the agreement signed by the respective officers of the Orchid Digest Corporation and the American Orchid Society, award judging by the Orchid Digest Corporation will cease as of December 31st. American Orchid Society judging will supersede it wherever it was held. Before that page is turned, we underscore the many entries in the credit side of the ledger made by the Orchid Digest Corporation in serving the judging needs of so many orchid growers in the West – and our very best wishes to the Orchid Digest's continued growth and success in the years to come.

[Separate notice in the same issue of the AOS Bulletin]

### **Orchid Digest Corporation Judging Merges with A.O.S.**

Following the formal signing, in Corpus Christi, of the agreement between the Orchid Digest Corporation and the American Orchid Society, the Committee on Awards is busily working out the practical details of all arrangements involved as a result of the mergins of Orchid Digest Corporation judging with that of the American Orchid Society. The major provisions include the following: (1) all award judging by the Orchid Digest Corporation will cease after December 31, 1967; (2) all present Orchid Digest Corporation judges will become American Orchid Society judges with the same rank as held previous to the merger; (3) all judging centers currently operated by the Orchid Digest Corporation will be continued as American Orchid Society judging centers, except there this would duplicate a center, as in St. Louis, in which case they are combined; (4) all operational procedures conform to standard American Orchid Society

regulations; (5) the Committee on Awards of the American Orchid Society will be in charge of all judging centers, judges and judging.

No doubt some minor problems will arise in the transitional period, but with good will on the part of all who may be involved, the difficulties and oversights are bound to be transitory in nature.

[Part of the report of the AOS Trustee's meeting, October 20, 1967, at the Robert Driscoll Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas] On the recommendation of the Special O. D. C. Invitational Committee and the Committee on Awards, the Trustees voted to approve the agreement between the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest Corporation whereby the American Orchid Society would replace Orchid Digest Judging by incorporating judges and judging centers into the American Orchid Society judging set-up. The Trustees also approved the establishment of the supplementary regions and appointment of A. O. S. judges necessitated by this agreement.

### **Orchid Digest, January-February, 1968:**

#### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

Judging will be held in all ODC judging areas at the same times and places as usual. The consolidation of ODC/AOS judging merely means judges and awards will be AOS from January 1st on. Judging will be administered by the American Orchid Society with chairman of judging functioning in each of the regional areas. The Digest will continue to grant its special medal awards at shows where they have been granted in the past. **Our magazine continues, as in the past!**

**Emerson "Doc" Charles**

#### **A TRIBUTE**

It is difficult for anyone that has not been concerned with the problems of orchid judging to realize the amount of effort that is necessary to conduct this service. Now that the merger of ODC and AOS judging is complete, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those judges that served you and the ODC in the past, particularly the vice-chairmen of judging in the various centers and more particularly Mrs. Rita Crothers and her committee. The work of the Judging Committ has now ended, but Mrs. Crothers will be hard at work for some time in order to complete the final records.

So that the talent and energy of Mrs. Crothers can be further utilized to the advantage of the ODC, she will be chairman of the Trophy Committee, a newly established committee that will administer the issuance of any ODC medallions or trophies in the future. Mrs. Crothers has also been appointed to the Publication Committee. "If you want something done, look for a busy person" . . . Thank you again!!

**Emerson "Doc" Charles.**

**Orchid Digest, December, 1968** (part of a listing of all Orchid Digest Corporation affiliated societies)

Beginning in January 1968 the *Orchid Digest Corporation* affiliated with the *American Orchid Society* and all judging was merged which was considered by their mutual agreement to be in the best interests in furthering orchid cultivation.

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

September-October 1949, p. 473-474:

### CALLING ON PAUL N. BAKER

J. P. Spitzel

We are headed for a visit with Mr. Paul N. Baker, one of our newer members. Turning off Long Beach Boulevard at 37th Street, we are rather startled to find ourselves at the very edge of a busy oil field. Oil wells pumping, over there a typical little field office—yes, right here in the midst of it all, two greenhouses. Mr. Baker's greenhouses are not at his residence, but right among the oil wells. At first this seems rather startling, but when Mr. Baker explained that his backyard at home is too small to indulge in his hobby, and that on the other hand he has quite a bit of time during the day to take care of his plants, it all seems rather simple.

As we expected, we found Mr. Baker repotting and he was making a splendid job of it. His hobby dates back to 1942. His first collection consisted of a dozen miscellaneous cymbidiums, seven laelias and three stray "catts." Greenhouses were not available during the war, but there was a nice peach tree in the back yard, so the peach tree pinch-hits for a greenhouse and evidently fills the bill well. Such little inconveniences as moving all the plants into the kitchen when a cold spell was predicted did not deter nor discourage an enthusiast like Paul Baker.

Early in 1948 Mr. Baker built his first 10 x 12 greenhouse. Within a matter of months it proved too small and by November of the same year a second greenhouse, slightly larger than the first one, was erected. Now, six months later, plans are under way for another of generous size.

Overhead lath is used in lieu of whitewash. The plants look well. Mr. Baker has his own ideas on potting. He believes in ramming osmunda down real hard in the lower half or two-thirds of the pot, the balance is potted medium hard. He waters every week or ten days, soaking the material well; sprays overhead on every sunny day. He thinks that by pursuing this method of watering he can lengthen the life of the osmunda to three years instead of the usual two. In line with this thought he advocates the use of larger pots to allow for three years' growth. Some of the mature plants and seedlings are potted in Ashton's mix. He likes this mix so well that he is experimenting with this material by potting in a combination of half osmunca and half Ashton's mix.

Another of his experiments is potting the plants in Yucca Cactus Fibre. The cactus fibre is a by-product of water conditioning manufacturers. He claims root action is exceptionally good. Mr. Baker is also attempting to raise the carbon dioxide contents in the air of his house by letting a layer of yucca fibre decay under his benches. He hopes to raise the CO<sub>2</sub> to 0.04 of 1%. Normal is supposed to be 0.03 of 1%.

Whenever possible, rainsater is used for watering the plants.

Only one plant was in bloom; an unidentified seedling blooming for the first time, beautiful, dark reddish color, with five flowers.

We thanked Paul Baker for having so generously expounded his theories for the benefit of the readers of the ORCHID DIGEST and we promised to drop in sometime again soon.

July-August 1949, p. 428-429.

## **MEET JOE OZZELLA**

J. P. Spitzel

We had not seen Joe—Joe Ozzella, I mean—for more than a year, so we decided it was high time to go calling. Hopped in our car and less than half an hour later we arrived at 14126 Cordary Avenue in Hawthorne, where the nursery is located.

Joe was home—seemed rather glad to see us—remarkable fellow, Joe is. Born just 43 years ago in McAllister, Oklahoma, he started to earn a living when quite young; worked there for a combination nursery-florist for four years. He was California-bound in 1928, where he soon connected with Armacost & Royston. He started at the bottom, working his way up step by step to orchid potter and instructor. Needless to say the orchid bug got him during the nine years he spent there. Took charge of Marian Davies' orchid greenhouse for five years. In his spare time and on Sundays tended to his own few seedlings, hoping that maybe he too could start out on his own some day. Little could he have foreseen that from this part-time venture would emerge one of the largest orchid nurseries in the Southland. On his two-acre plot he now has a total of 24 greenhouses, covering approximately 40,000 square feet of glass.

Joe (nobody seems to call him Mr. Ozzella) is an experienced hybridizer, and has to date made about 165 crosses; about half of them have already bloomed. Many crosses were happy ones. His No. 39, "*Lc. Sandra Ozzella*" (*C. Dowiana aurea* X *Lc. S. J. Bracey*) named after his daughter, is a fine yellow, varies from cream to bronze, has fine texture.

His No. 42, recently named "*Lc. Lee Langford*" (*Lc. Calizona* X *Lc. S. J. Bracey*) another fine yellow, was judged the best flower last October 28th at the annual dinner meeting of the Orchid Society of California at Berkley. The exhibitor, Charles Dilke, was awarded the Dr. C. E. Wilson Cup for having grown the plant from a two-inch pot to maturity and was awarded a plaque for the best individual flower at the exhibit. Mrs. S. and I were present at the dinner and admired the bloom. Its color was orange-yellow, red lip, very striking flower, good size. The Bracey parent influence predominated, texture swell. Can readily understand that Mr. Dilke was quite proud. Joe, too, was proud, when we were praised his No. 42, listened modestly, thanked us with a friendly smile. This is Joe all over.

His No. 55 *Cymbidium Westmont* (*Cym. Grandiflorum* X *Cym. Erica Sander*) a fine green, was awarded the first prize at the 1948 Santa Barbara Spring Flower Show.

We spent quite some time in the new *Cymbidium* house. In reality there are four houses joined together, very impressive, housing over 3,000 fine plants—12,800 feet of glass. A night temperature of 45° is maintained by four separate forced air gas heaters, suspended high above the plants, one heater under the ridge of each house. Capacity of each heater is 100,000 b.t.u.

Also saw the original Cymbidium house, now quite crowded. It houses around 3,000 plants. There too, the plants look well though the “old” house does not have the pretentious appearance of the new structure just described.

It was getting late, so we did not spend much time in the flask house or the seedling houses.

Our tour finished, we thanked our host for having given us so freely of his time. Any special message to the readers of the ORCHID DIGEST? “No, but tell them they are welcome here any time.”

Key date: 1952, First Western Orchid Congress, see September-October 1952, hosted by Orchid Society of California, Inc., at the headquarters of the Anglo-California National Bank in Oakland. “Judging under the point system produced seven award winners. The November-December issue of the Digest will contain pictures and stories about the winning flowers. A permanent committee on judging and judging problems was established. Committee members, who will hold office on a rotational basis, are Herbert Hager, Robert Casamajor, Walter Diggelman, Ernest Hetherington and Francis B. Cobb.” Idea of orchid congress originated with Mr. J. P. Spitzel. The Alexander Brothers (songs and guitars) performed “When Orchids Bloom in the Moonlight”.

November-December 1952 (7442) – 6 awards, 4 of them with picture, from Western Orchid Congress.

January-February 1953, note that Mrs. Louie Y. Toy, 454 E. Olive Street, Gardena, California is Assistant Advertising Manager for Orchid Digest Corporation. Orchid Society of Southern California officers include John W. Yuill, Treasurer.

March-April, 1957: Orchid Digest Corporation, meeting of the directors, 1957, at Fresno, California:

It was provided that the Orchid Society of Southern California, Inc., and the South Coast Orchid Society judging be accepted the same as Orchid Digest Corporation judging and award winners be published in the Orchid Digest. The publication of photos of award flowers to be left to the discretion of the Editor.

Advertisement: IMG\_7534 (good B/W picture).

Fred A. Stewart, Inc., 8606 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel, Calif.

World famous Bifoliate Cattleyas of superb *proven* quality to bloom in YOUR Greenhouse *this* Fall.

This is the finest offering of these lovely, increasingly popular Cattleyas we have ever made. The beautiful plants bear heads of exquisite flowers between 3-4 inches across with as many as 10-12 flowers to the spray. We offer splendid plants well established of two Famous types.

C. Porcia 'Canizarro' AM/RHS. C. Armstrongiae x C. Bowringiana. This is the standard by which other bifoliate are compared, a renowned parent. A plant that adds quality and prestige to any collection. Beautiful plants in 7" pots with 4 large bulbs with leaves and developing growths. \$69.00. For years this plant has been sold at from \$25.00 to \$50.00 a bulb.

C. Portia 'Mayflower'. C. labiata x C. Bowringiana. One of the proven great purple bifoliate Cattleyas. Wonderful heads of rich. Sparkling purple flowers. This will be the show piece of your collection. Fine plants to flower this fall in 6"-7" pots, \$47.50.

California purchasers add 4% Sales Tax. All plants shipped Railway Express collect unless instructed otherwise.

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SCOS Meeting Places (Always 4<sup>th</sup> Monday unless holiday interfered)  
(Sources: newsletters, digitized Long Beach and Los Angeles newspapers)  
(More research is needed to fill in the gaps!)

1950: Holiday party, Weds. Dec. 20, Bowling Green Clubhouse, Recreation Park  
1951, 1952: Woodland Clubhouse, Recreation Park  
1954-1956: Annual banquet, Lafayette Hotel  
1957-1971: Annual banquet, Petroleum Club (Arranged by Petroleum Club member Arthur Falk)  
1953-1963: Silverado Park Auditorium.  
1971: Bixby Park Clubhouse  
1972-1978: Wardlow Park Clubhouse  
1989-present: Whaley Park Community Center  
2007, May only, Stearns Park, due to schedule conflict at Whaley Park

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Presidents of Orchid Digest

1951 **Whitney A. Gray**  
1952 **J. P. Spitzel**  
1953 **B. Walter Slagle**  
1954, 1955 **George D. Field \*\*\***  
1956 **Keith Shaffer**  
1957, 1958 **Robert D. Jones**  
1959, 1960 **John W. Hanes \*\*\* pic**  
1961 **Eugene Casey**  
1962, 1963 **William Farrell**  
1964, 1965 **Charles E. Bowman \*\*\***  
1966 **Dr. Lawrence Vance**  
1967, 1968 **Emerson W. Charles**  
1969 **Harold G. Schulter, M.D.**  
1970, 1971 **William E. Eilau**

1972, 1973 Dr. Maynard C. Michel pic  
 1974, 1975 **Carlton C. Wright**, M.D. (to this point from article by William Eilau in “Do Orchids Grow in Hawaii?”, 1990, Hawaii Orchid Foundation for AOS, Hawaii Regional Judging Center.  
 1976, 1977 James H. Riopelle pic  
 1978, 1979 **Fordyce S. Marsh**  
 1980, 1981 **Ernest Hetherington**  
 1982, 1983 **Donald Herman**  
 1984, 1985 Gerald Baughman pic  
 1986, 1987 **Mrs. Helen Michel**  
 1988, 1989 **Bill Livingston**  
 1990, 1991 Robert L. Miller Jr pic  
 1992, 1993 William E. Eilau  
 1993, 1994 Robert H. Schuler pic  
 1995-1996 Carol Baughman pic  
 1997, 1998 Steve Gollis pic  
 1999, 2000 **Marianne Matthews**  
 2001, 2002, 2003 Ron McHatton pic  
 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 **Lois Dauelsberg**  
 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 **Fred Missback** small pic  
 2018, 2019 Peter T. Lin pics

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Southern California affiliates of Orchid Digest as of about 1970

Orchid Society of Southern California, one of the Founder Societies, 1947

Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society, Oct 11, 1953

South Coast Orchid Society, Oct. 11, 1953

Orange County Orchid Society, Sept. 19, 1954

San Diego County Orchid Society, Sept. 19, 1954

South Bay Orchid Society, Oct. 15, 1960

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists, Jan. 21, 1961

Palomar Orchid Society, June 15, 1963



San Fernando Valley Orchid Society, March 21, 1964

Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society, Feb. 19, 1966

Malibu Orchid Society, Oct, 22, 1966

Ventura County Orchid Society, Jan. 28, 1967

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara, April 24, 1967

Orchid Society Meeting Dates, 1965 (from Orchid Society of Southern California *Review*)

1st Monday: Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society, Silverado Park Club House, Long Beach, 8 pm

1st Tuesday: San Diego County Orchid Society, Balboa Park Floral Building, San Diego, 8 pm

2nd Monday: Orchid Society of Southern California, Plummer Park, Hollywood, 8 pm

2nd Thursday: San Fernando Valley Orchid Society, Sepulveda Women's Club, Sepulveda, 8 pm

2nd Thursday: Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society, Slovene Hall, Fontana, 8 pm

2nd Thursday: Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society, 8 pm (November to June only)

2nd Friday: South Bay Orchid Society, El Retiro Park, Torrance, 8 pm

3rd Monday: Orange County Orchid Society, Farm Bureau Building, Orange, 7:30 pm

3rd Wednesday: Palomar Orchid Society, Avocado House Restaurant, Vista, Dinner at 6 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm

3rd Thursday: San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, 8 pm

4th Monday: South Coast Orchid Society, Silverado Park Club House, Long Beach, 8 pm

4th Tuesday: Cymbidium Society, Signal Oil Building [recall that Signal Oil was founded by Samuel Mosher, who established the huge *Cymbidium* business at his Dos Pueblos Ranch in Goleta], Los Angeles, 8 pm (November to June only)