

Along Azalea Row

By RUTH BARRETT SMITH

This week's column might well be changed to read, "Along Fuchsia Row," for since the initial fall meeting of the Azalea Garden club held last Thursday in the pleasant atmosphere of the Chetco Inn lounge, those with prized fuchsias have been putting to work much that they learned there while the others have been searching for space in their gardens where the charm of fuchsia colorings may be included.

Making the long trip from Portland for the sole purpose of addressing the Garden club, Mrs. Phil Brady, twice president of the Oregon State Fuchsia Society and always its guardian angel, held her audience at quiet attention as she shared with it her large stock of information on the subject of the day.

"Fuchsias date from the fifteenth century," said Mrs. Brady, "and were natives of Mexico, South America and New Zealand as a genus of small plants, shrubs and trees. The earliest species were the *Macraetemma Alba* and the *Magellanica Gracilis*, sometimes called 'ladies' eardrops' because used for decoration by the young ladies of the time. In the centuries since, great has been the change from the first small type of bloom and the development of colors has been almost limitless."

Mrs. Brady explained how to start cuttings with a two-and-a-half or three-inch slip, first dipping it in Rootone and shaking off the surplus before setting it in clean, sharp sand with good drainage. When rooted, the slips should be put in two-inch pots of rich soil and then shifted to successively larger pots as growth makes it necessary; too large a pot will tend to send the strength into making greater rootings rather than into the plant itself. In repotting, the branches should be cut back slightly.

There are two forms of fuchsia, the trailer and the standard or upright form and one type cannot be changed to the other. However, a very beautiful tree type plant may be developed by pinching the branches to one central stem; then all shots except the leader must be pinched back carefully until, at the top, a bushy, umbrella-like crown is formed. (And, said Mrs. Brady, no better pruner for fuchsias has been found than a good sharp finger nail!) No fuchsia plant should be cultivated in the usual sense, but it is best to root-prune back all fuchsias by use of the spade, the distance from the center stem depending on the size of the plant. Nor should one ever spray nor fertilize a dry plant or the earth around it for fear of burning.

In reply to a question on how late to fertilize, the speaker approved any time from September to December and her suggestions for fertilizers were: Orthogro is excellent to start active growth while the leaves are small, and later both this and Hyponex will stimulate the buds to the point of the point of popping open; phosphate meal plus cow manure are splendid and any fertilizer containing potash, ammonium sulfate, nitrogen and phosphorous will produce results. As with azaleas and rhododendrons, fir needles are good; even the lowly coffee grounds can provide nitrogen, and grass clippings after soaking in water may be used along with them.

On the subject of hanging baskets, Mrs. Brady revealed her own secrets of success, namely to first line the basket with peat moss, then with an inner lining of waterproof building paper before putting in the earth; for plenty of trailers and beauty she uses three plants for a twelve-inch basket, pinching the main stems to insure larger side growth. The use of warm water hastens the growth of the plants.

The best fuchsias of 1950 were Swingtime (a trailer), Crinoline, Juliana (an upright), Bluebonnet, Don Peralda, La Blanca (Good), Maxine Elizabeth, Merle Hodges, Pink Elegance and Vienna (an upright). Outstanding in 1951 are Bewitched, Caricoca, South Pacific and Purple Sage. wingtime, Rollo and Trifella take the sun well and other favorites are Bernedette, Venice, Titanic, Orange Tone and Heavenly Bloom.

Mrs. Brady brought specimens of many of these from the Crissey gardens and gave a boost to our climate (Chamber of Commerce please not) in saying that the fuchsias here are much larger and show more opened blossoms than can ever be produced in Portland and that our wonderful fogs create exactly the ideal atmosphere for their development.

The traveling Craft's exhibit, assembled and sent out by the Oregon State Federation, showed the skills and talents of Garden club members over the state, truly another fine attraction. Then, two of our own talented members, Lillian Weidman and Alice Rausch, brought for our pleasure, their famed sea-scapes which combined painting, sand, bits of driftwood and shells so cleverly the effect was almost three-dimensional. Our president, Mrs. Erskine Miller, presided most graciously and Mrs. Edwardson, the club Sunshine chairman, warmed our thoughts for the day with the Chinese proverb, "Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hand that bestows them."

The tea table was covered with beautiful lace and hand-embroidered Chinese linen cloth, the possession of Mrs. W. J. Collis, who, with Mrs. George Weber and Mrs. Lyle Redfield, were our hostesses of the day.

Pouring at the tea table were Mrs. William Crissey and Mrs. Chester Maris. Altogether it was a beautiful afternoon and we were happy in having so many guests to share our pleasures with us.

Graduates Dine

Shirley Kerr entertained the class of this spring's Brookings-Harbor school graduates and their advisor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Art Guthrie, at a dinner party on Tuesday evening.

Many of them will soon be away at school, at work or in the services.

Movies of their graduation exercises and travelogues the Kerrs have taken will add to entertainment of games, etc.

LOCAL NEWS

The Lozella Sternberg Mercy Fund has reached \$1,722.5 with a number of other money raising

events yet to take place throughout the county. The I.O.O.F. and Rebekah Social Club dance netted \$178.60. Mrs. Putnam donated her services and the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows supplied refreshments. It was a nice dance and a good time was had by all who attended. The Eagles dance on September 8 netted \$294.

Mrs. Eleanor Hochler attended the American Legion Auxiliary department convention at Seaside and brought back a presidential unit citation for membership achievement. A potluck supper is planned for both Legion and Auxiliary at the VFW hall on October 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Miss Patricia Henry will go to Ashland on Wednesday to enroll in Southern College of Education. She and Shirley Kerr will room together.

The Ladies' Missionary society of the community will meet at the home of Mrs. Claude Goldizin on Thursday at 1:30 for desert luncheon and business meeting.

Deputy C. W. Means was called to the I. O. O. F. hall on Saturday night to accompany a 14-year-old girl to her home across the bridge in Harbor. She started home walking alone but was accosted by a car load of men or boys under the influence of alcohol and returned to the hall where Mr. Means was called.

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Brookings

Doctors at the Grants Pass clinic removed varicose veins for Mrs. Budd Carr on Wednesday of last week.

Art Pierce went to Oakland Friday night to visit his brother, Dr. Pierce. His mother and sister from Colorado will also be at the brother's home in Oakland.

Mrs. Bessie Dickey of Riddle, Ore., is visiting old friends in Brookings. Years ago Mrs. Dickey was a resident of Brookings.

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