

South Coast Orchid Society

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

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

(Orchid Digest 18(4):171 (July, 1954))