

AFS History
Trowel Memento,
Flower Show, Sept 1931.
Info provided by AFS Historian
Janis Bergquist

The California Flower Festival was held at San Leandro September 11-13, 1931. The booth of the American Fuchsia Society was more beautiful than it has ever been and more uniformly and correctly arranged. All exhibits were in uniform glass containers, carefully marked, and were distributed tier above tier, so that they could be individually observed. A special attendant was in the booth at all times, and several officers of the Society gave volunteer service.

Mr. Hazard of Pacific Grove, who is an enthusiastic hybridizer of choice fuchsias, furnished many beautiful blooms for the last two days of the festival. The committee responsible for the pleasing results was as follows: Dr. F. B. David, Chairman, Professor H. W. Shepherd, and Mrs. Mary C. Ware.

A few handsome specimens of growing plants attracted much attention. The American Fuchsia society received a yellow ribbon as Third Prize among the exhibitors. For a society which has exhibited only during two San Leandro Flower Shows, and with the rich competition of that very beautiful exhibits, the reward of the third Prize was valued. The award was accompanied by a handsome bronze trowel and a finely glazed pottery flower bowl.

Many years latter.....

Putting her records in order, Recording Secretary Barbara Schneider found among the properties of the Society a garden trowel. The engraving on it reads:

**Seventh Annual California Flower Festival San Leandro Cal Sept-1931
Presented to American Fuchsia Society**

Wanting to share her find with the participants in the Branch Officer's Workshop, she put the trowel in her handbag and, without suspicion of events to come, approached the checking area at the airport. There the trowel set off alarms and brought, what appeared to her to be, everyone in the airport, all converging upon her, a "woman with a dangerous weapon", as one attendant described her. The outcome? Officials packaged and sealed the trowel and sent it with the baggage, and Barbara nearly missed her flight.

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