

# New Greenhouse Gives Plant of Carolina Orchid Growers, Knollwood, 30,000 Square Feet Under Glass

Buildings Contain 30,000 Flowering Plants of Some 600 Species of Orchids

ONE OF LARGEST IN U. S.

By BEN BOWDEN

But few Sandhills residents, and even fewer visitors to the section, are aware that Southern Pines is the home of a great manufacturing plant, and that what it manufactures is plants—orchid plants.

The project started back in 1923 when Judge and Mrs. William A. Way began to experiment in orchid culture, in a small way, out in the Knollwood section. At that time it was strictly a hobby with them and the greenhouse area under glass was limited to their modest requirements. In the intervening twelve years, however, and with the recent completion of a new 4,000 square foot, steel and concrete, thoroughly modern addition to one of the buildings, the Carolina Orchid Growers, Inc.—that's the great commercial enterprise that has grown out of the hobby—has 30,000 square feet under glass and ranks with eight or ten others as the third largest commercial orchid greenhouse in the United States. Only two other such enterprises, one in Bound Brook, N. J., and one in California, are larger.

At the present time there are approximately 30,000 flowering plants of some 600 different varieties of orchids in the nine greenhouses and these plants produce some 30,000 blooms annually. In addition to the flowering plants, however, there are many thousands of other plants varying in size from the tiniest seedlings only a few weeks old to large, strong, healthy ones seven and eight years old that will bloom for the first time some time within the next year.

### Marketing the Orchids

Their principal markets, Judge Way says, are the retail florists along the eastern seaboard from Washington to Florida. From them he receives daily wires, phone calls and letters communicating their wants and the orders are filled and shipped the same day they are received. Other markets are the retail and wholesale florists in Philadelphia, New York and Boston, to whom are shipped the surplus and the great majority of the rarer blooms.

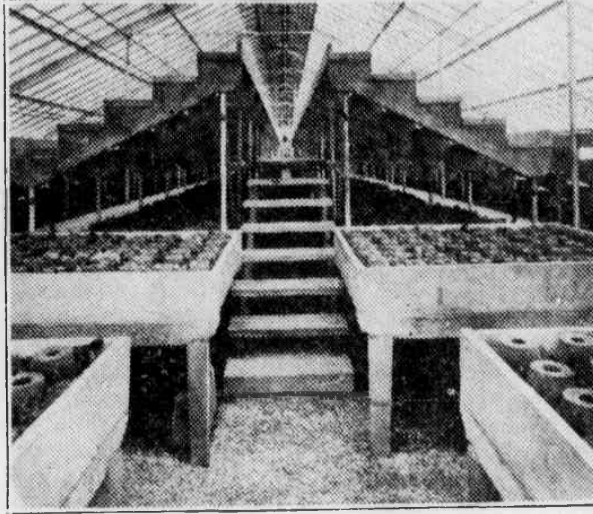
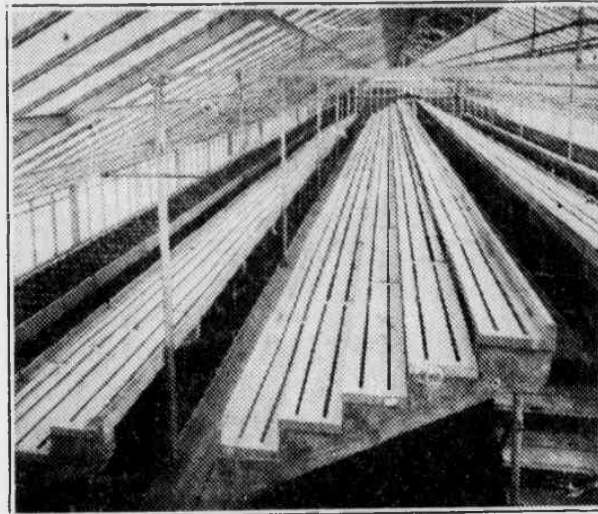
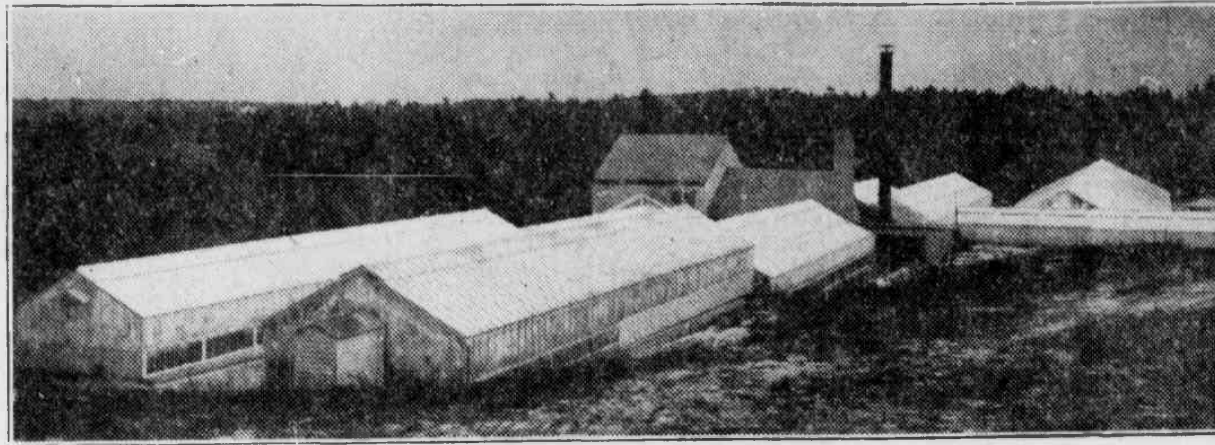
There are definite styles in orchids, according to the Judge, and these styles change from time to time just as do the styles in clothes, automobiles and other necessities and luxuries that we associate with our daily lives. But by style, when referring to orchids, is meant the color rather than the shape of the bloom, for the shape is pretty well confined to that of the South American Cattleya, the principal type of commercial orchid, of which there are some half-dozen species that grow wild, and from which an infinite variety of hybrids of varying colors have been produced for commercial purposes. At the present time the style in orchids is running strongly to those of the deeper lavenders and purples and to blooms with white petals and deeply colored "lips," as the large center section of the orchid is known.

The native, or pure-bred, orchid, we learned, is not as commercially valuable as the hybrid. The plant, itself, is none too strong and the bloom is more apt than not to be of inferior color and texture. As a result, man has found it necessary to improve upon nature in the production of orchids for the commercial market, and he has done this to a surprising degree and in a manner that is little short of bewildering to the layman who has the process explained to him and sees the results that have been accomplished by this process.

During the course of the years, as a breeder after breeder has cross-bred native species of orchids and then re-crossed the resulting hybrids with other hybrids or with other native species, there has been built up an amazing total of named and registered hybrid varieties of orchids that is estimated in the hundreds of thousands. Many of these have been found to constitute no improvement over existing varieties and further experimentation with and development of the strain has been dropped. But frequently an outstanding new bloom of distinctive color and characteristics is developed and the industry at large benefits from the discovery.

### Pure White Flower

As a matter of fact, Judge and Mrs. Way have recently succeeded in developing as close an approach to a pure white orchid as has ever been attained by any orchid grower. They



(Top) General view of the offices and greenhouses of the Carolina Orchid Growers, Inc., owned and operated by Judge and Mrs. William A. Way, located at Knollwood on the outskirts of Southern Pines. There are about 30,000 square feet under glass in the nine greenhouses, making it one of the third largest orchid growing enterprises in the United

States with an annual production of approximately 30,000 blooms. (Lower left) General view of the interior of the new, 4,000 square foot addition to the greenhouses. This addition, built by K. M. Garner of Aberdeen is of steel and concrete construction and the tiers are arranged so that all of the plants are equi-distant from the roof and therefore will all

get an equal amount of sun. (Lower right) Cross section view of the new greenhouse showing the arrangement of the tiers, the board walk through the center of the building to allow attendants access to every plant in the building and the ventilating space above the coke beds that hold moisture and provide the humidity necessary to the successful growing of orchids.

have not yet reached the point where they are producing these blooms in any great quantity, but what few blooms they can put on the market are commanding top prices.

In addition to the Cattleya, there are several other species of orchids that enjoy some measure of commercial popularity and it is with these and with still others, of interest almost entirely to the breeder alone in his experimental work, that the great orchid greenhouses are concerned.

The hybridizing of the plants, as Judge Way explained and illustrated through the medium of the plants in his greenhouses in their various stages of development, is a fascinating and painstaking process, the first step of which consists of the artificial fertilization of the bloom of one of the chosen species with the pollen of the other. Then nature is allowed to take its course for several months until the seed pod on the stem of the fertilized plant has swollen and burst. The seed is then collected for planting in a tightly sealed jar containing a jelly-like mixture of agar-agar, water and chemical nutrients upon which it will subsist during this stage of its development.

When the seeds have taken root and the young roots start to show in the jar the tiny plants, or seedlings, are removed from the jars and carefully packed in small pots filled with the chopped up roots of the osmunda fern and are carefully tended for a year or so until they begin to outgrow their quarters. Then, at approximate intervals of a year, as they grow larger and larger, the plants are thinned out and repotted yearly, they produce their blooms. If the hybridization is an experimental one the grower just sits and waits for that length of time to find out what he is going to get. If, on the other hand, the same two species have been crossed before, he can be absolutely certain that the results will be exactly the same as the result that was achieved previously.

### Fairly Hardy Plant

And all of this nursing, planting, potting and repotting takes place under the most rigid and exacting requirements as to temperature, humidity, ventilation and watering, calculated to simulate the tropical conditions under which the native species grow in their wild states. And, contrary to the general impression, the orchid is a reasonably hardy plant and stands up well under handling.

In connection with the hybridizing process, Judge Way stated that native hybrids, or hybrids in their wild state, are practically unknown to the professional collectors from whom orchid growers purchase their wild plants. The reason is that the different species of wild orchids grow in distinctly separated parts of the

world and that it is practically impossible for insects of any kind to travel the distances that would be necessary in order to carry the pollen from one species to another in order to produce a native hybrid.

By the hybridization process, also, the grower is able to assure himself of a constant supply of blooms to meet his market requirements for, although the orchid in its native state blooms at regular intervals that cannot be altered, the blooming of the hybrid can often be determined in advance.

An orchid flower is not cut from the plant the moment it blooms, for growers have found that allowing it to remain on the plant for a day or so gives it a chance to become more firm and marketable. Then, after it has been cut, it is placed in a cool place for a day or more before it is in ideal shipping condition. An orchid will keep, under proper condi-

tions (principally a reasonable amount of humidity and daily clipping of the stem) for from two to three weeks.

So the next time you buy an orchid don't wonder at the price. It will have been the result of eight or nine years of constant and expensive care under exacting conditions and if you could but see that process you would wonder that they can afford to sell an orchid at almost any price.

And if you want to see for yourself what goes on in an orchid greenhouse, Judge and Mrs. Way will be glad to show you around and tell you all about it. It's a charitable side-line with them. They charge the nominal sum of \$1.00 per person for a tour of the premises and all of the proceeds go to the Sandhills Kiwanis Club's Hospital Bed Fund to provide free hospitalization for underprivileged children at the Moore County Hospital.

## Kiwanis Hears, Lauds S. P. School Glee Club

Members Insist on More When Youngsters Finish Program at Highland Pines

The Sandhills Kiwanis Club was convinced on Wednesday that Southern Pines has a glee club that is a glee club. Prof. Frederick Stanley Smith brought his high school boys and girls to the Highland Pines Inn for the club's weekly meeting, and they sang a number of the songs which have landed them in first place in State competitions for several years. They scored such a hit Wednesday the Kiwanians continued to sit after Prof. Smith had announced the show was over, so the youngsters sang some more.

Charles W. Picquet voiced the sentiment of the Kiwanis club when he congratulated Mr. Smith and the glee club members on the excellence of their performance, and further congratulated the Southern Pines School Board and the Board of Commissioners on making possible the training in music which these young people are receiving.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in a certain mortgage deed of the 29th of August, 1929, by Gertrude Brown, widow to Thos. S. Burgess, same being recorded in the public Registry of Moore County, in Book of Mortgages No. 46, at page 551, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and the power of sale therein contained having become operative, the undersigned Administratrix of the estate of the late Thos. S. Burgess, will, on the 17th day of May, 1938, at the Courthouse door in Carthage, Moore County, North Carolina, at 12 o'clock noon, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, all those certain lots, tracts or parcels of land in McNeills Township, Moore County, North Carolina, described as follows, to-wit:

Those certain lots situated in the town of Southern Pines, designated as Lot No. Nine (9) in Block M and Thirteen (13), and that portion of Lot Number Ten (10) in said Block M. and Thirteen (13) immediately adjacent to Lot Number Nine (9), and having a frontage of 34 feet on New York Avenue, said lots being according to the official map of the Town of Southern Pines, which map is of public record in Moore County, N. C.

This the 16th day of April, 1938.  
MRS. MOLLIE BURGESS,  
Administratrix Estate Thos. S. Burgess.

A22-M13

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Erastus E. Holt, deceased, late of Moore County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased, to exhibit them to the undersigned at Southern Pines, N. C., on or before the 15th day of April, 1939 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This April 15th, 1938.  
F. W. VAN CAMP,  
Administrator of the Estate of Erastus E. Holt, deceased.  
A15M20.

### NOTICE OF SALE OF NOTES

\$7,500.00

### TOWN OF SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA, REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES

Sealed bids will be received until 11:00 o'clock a. m., May 11, 1938, by the Local Government Commission of North Carolina, at its office in Raleigh, for the above notes, dated May 10, 1938 and maturing October 10, 1938, without option of prior payment. There will be no auction. Notes will be awarded at the lowest interest rate not exceeding 6 percent for which a bid of par and accrued interest is made. Principal and interest payable at place of purchasers choice if specified at time bid is made. Interest payable at maturity. Notes will in denomination or denominations to suit purchaser if specified at time bid is made. Bidders must present with their bids a certified check upon an incorporated bank or trust company, payable unconditionally to the order of the State Treasurer for \$37.50. The right to reject all bids is reserved.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION,  
By: W. E. Easterling, Secretary.

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## Democratic Meeting

The Democrats of the Southern Pines Precinct will meet at the Municipal Building on Saturday afternoon, May 7th at 4:00 o'clock. At this meeting the Precinct Committee will be elected and also the delegates to the County Convention on May 14th, at Carthage. All Democrats are requested to attend.

GEORGT G. HERR

Chairman, Southern Pines Democratic  
Precinct Committee

## FURNITURE

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