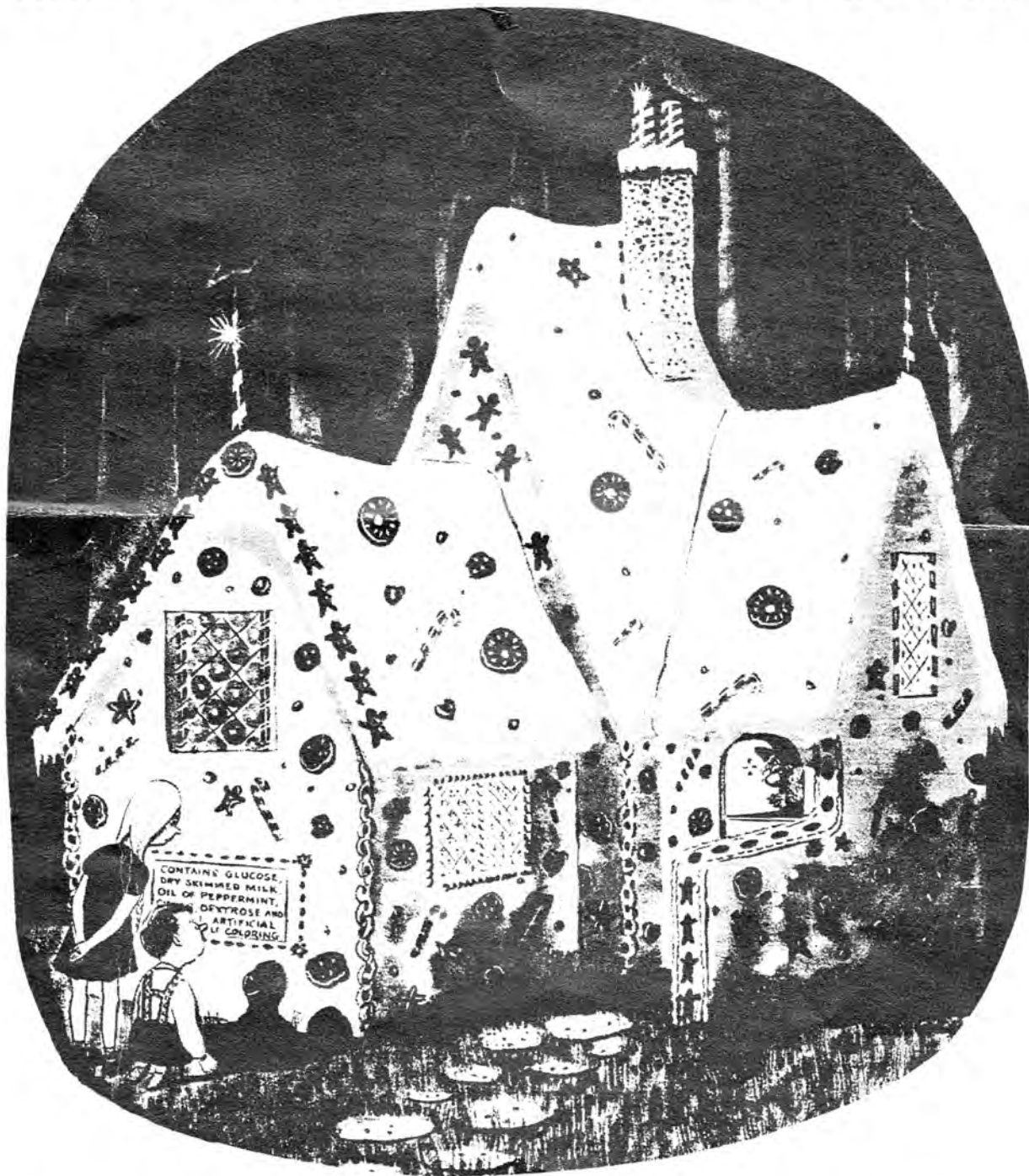


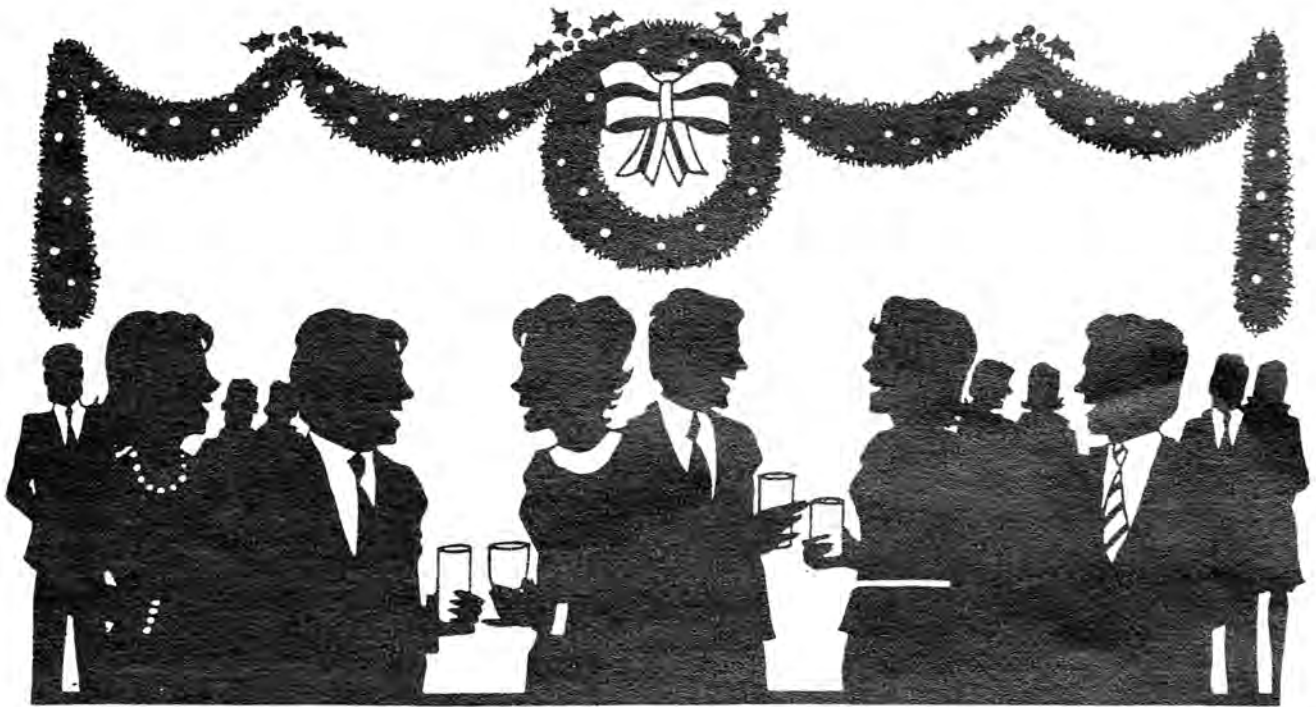
Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER TWELVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1994 @ 12:00 NOON



Season's Greetings



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY!

AND PLEASE FILL OUT THE NEW 1995 MEMBERSHIP FORM. PLEASE HELP US BY UPDATING ANY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

★ ARE WE SPELLING YOUR NAME CORRECTLY???

★ DO WE HAVE THE CORRECT ZIP CODE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL???

Now is the time to be preparing your exchange plant for our Holiday gift exchange. Evaluate your collection and choose a special plant that you are proud of but can still bear to part with. Always make sure your plant is insect free and clean. This is always a fun event and the nicer your plant is the sooner you will have a chance to select among the many lovely specimens brought in by your fellow members. If you have not participated in the plant exchange this is how it works:

Any member or guest may participate; all you do is bring in a desirable cactus or succulent plant. It should be in good condition, clean and pest-free, and nicely potted. Include a label that identifies the plant on one side and has your name on the other side. The first plant to be selected will be auctioned off at the end of the meeting. The person who brought in that first selected plant now gets first choice from all remaining plants. Whenever a plant is selected, the person who brought it gets the next choice, so the more appealing the plant that you bring in the earlier you will get your chance at the "gems". Please one plant per person. This is a terrific way to give, receive, and broaden your plant collection all at the same time!!

If you plan to attend the SDC&SS Holiday banquet on December 10th, and receive a beautiful holiday gift plant your 1995 dues must be paid. If you joined during the middle of the year, a prorated membership @ a rate of \$1.00 per month will be available to you (50¢ per month for affiliated members). If you do not know when your present membership expires please check your address label on the back of this issue. The first line consists of a series of ** and numbers; the first number is my primitive attempt to count you all; the second number represents a year and a month. If your second number says 9501 it means your membership expires January of 1995. If you feel that the membership information is incorrect please let me (Joyce Buckner 222-3216) or Laura DeMerritt our treasurer.



A great big thank you to Elizabeth Glover for performing the bulk mail duties of distributing the Espinas y Flores in spite of a slow healing broken ankle. Elizabeth can finally get around driving; so glad to see you at the November meeting. If you would prefer not to get your Espinas y Flores via Bulk Mail please contact Joyce Buckner @ 222-3216 - we will make some special arrangements, as there are some people do not always get their bulk mail - even in ten days.

Also, a million thanks to our outgoing officers for all there "behind the scenes" hard work, especially Laura DeMerritt, who has been our treasurer for the last two terms, four years. Thanks Laura.

Election of officers for the next two years will be held at the December meeting. Slate of proposed candidates are Joey Betzler for President, Tom DeMerritt for Vice-President, Rick Latimer for Treasurer, and Herb Stern for Secretary. Also, Betty Athy has been appointed to the Board of Directors to replace Mille Williams. We look forward to seeing Jim and Mille back for their world travels, and in good health.

Joan Fleeer has donated a good group of interesting staging rocks that we will give away as door prizes at our Holiday Party. Last year Harold & Mildred Richter donated a mine field of wonderful staging and specimen rocks - this proved very popular. Thank you Joan . . . and Thank you Harold & Mildred.

If you have never been to one of our Holiday party meetings you have really missed out. This is a special party where people really get an opportunity to dress up in their special Cactus fashions. The food has always been top-rate from Top Hat Caterers of Lemon Grove. Gift plants for all members are always special - distributed by "the luck of the draw" ticket system. We will have some very special guests at the this Holiday Meeting, and announcements of new SDC&SS Life Members and special service awards. Don't miss it

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Friends,

After the SDC&SS meeting yesterday, it seems to me that the trouble with the nominations lies in the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization; and that if they are as the president stated, they need to be changed!

In all organizations the president is a member of all committees with the exception of the nominating committee. If the president appoints that committee, it sort of sets it up like clay pigeons!

Most organizations take nominations from the floor. Some allow the Board to make one of the nominations. If the president controls the nomination committee, he or she controls the election! Of course, a real politico can line up whom he wished. I use to do it, but stopped as it can thwart a whole organization.

Sincerely, Virginia Innis

(editor's note: Nominations can be taken from the floor for SDC&SS Officers per our Bylaws - but only immediately prior to voting. Suffice to say this is going to be an exciting December meeting.)

November 21, 1994

Michael Buckner
4822 Santa Monica Avenue #103
San Diego, CA 92107

*Thank you Beverly!
You are the Best!*

Re: SDCSS Educational Programs - 1995

Dear Michael:

Following is the final list of the 1995 programs:

January	Ed Nolan Phyllis Flechsig	Arrojadoa Medusoid Euphorbias
February	Rick Latimer Ed DeLollis	Rhipsalis Beaucarnea
March	Dylan Hannon Kelly Griffin	Cereus Dudleya
April	Joey Betzler Dorothy Byer	Buiningia Dyckia vs. Encholirium
May	Tom Knapik Joe & Kay Quijada	Weingartia Cryptanthus/Tillandsia
July	Dylan Hannon Michael Buckner	Lobivia Commiphora
August	Anna Cornett Marylyn Henderson	Cacti w/Fragrant Flowers Senecio
October	Kelly Griffin Ed Nolan	Varigated Cacti Tropical Agaves
November	Joe Clements Philip Favell	Parodia Tropical Aloes

I have not been able to reach Kelly Griffin to verify switching him from a succulent to cacti in October, but I don't think this will be a problem with him.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this, Michael. Please call me if you have any questions, comments, etc.

I hope you and your entire family have a very nice Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you in December.

Beverly

Beverly Kirkegaard
10009 Bonnie Vista Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91941
670-1035

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

30, 25, 20, 15, 10, and 5 Years Ago

by Rick Latimer, SDC&SS Historian

Page 5

In 1965 William Nelson began the first of his two single year terms as SDC&SS President. Burr Clouette was Vice President. Ruth Nelson was Secretary. The Treasurer was Suzanne Taylor. The first issue of *Cactus y Suculentos* came out in August of that year with Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ward as Editors. This first issue announced the Del Mar Fair exhibit awards: First Place - Rock Garden - Mr. & Mrs. Kim Arnold; Second Place - Succulents - Mr. & Mrs. W. Nelson; Third Place - Cacti - Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ward; Fourth Place - Hanging Baskets - Mr. & Mrs. Ward; prizes were \$150, \$150, \$125, and \$100 respectively. Joseph Johnson Jr. was the speaker at the August meeting. Mrs. Alice Dombay gave the September program, which include slides of the Taylor's Cactus Nursery. In October Don Skinner spoke on soils. In November Ruth Cuzner showed slides of Lotusland with Robert Nelson assisting. In December Mr. & Mrs. William Hoffman hosted the Christmas social. Before the end of the year the Vice President moved to Georgia, so Walter Greenwood took over this job.

In 1970 Jim Stalsonburg was president, Ione Hubner was 1st Vice President, Oliver Loyland was 2nd Vice President, Nibby Klinefelter was Recording Secretary, Perlso Lewis was Corresponding Secretary, Glenn Heyer was Treasurer. Board of Directors included: Dr. Leroy Phelps (Education), Warren Buckner (Exhibits), Michael Buckner (Editor), Ruth Nelson (Library), Walter Scott (Activities), Lucile Beckfield (Regalement), and Walter Greenwood (Past President). Standing committees: Lillian Feingold (History), William Waite (Preparations), and Julianne Rice (Reception). Programs for 1970 included: Alice Taylor "How to Photograph your Cacti", Dr. Phillip Corliss "Flower Shows and Private Gardens of Europe", Bob Taylor "Cacti and Succulents of Mexico", and Wilbur Wier "Cacti from Seed". The month of May had two events - an Open House on the 2nd & 3rd with a featherstone post theme and on the 21st Brian Lamb "Exotica". The June program was a workshop:

- 1) Classification - Dr. Leroy Phelps
- 2) Plant Records - Ruth Nelson
- 3) Grafting - Bob Taylor
- 4) Hanging Baskets - Bill Nelson
- 5) Propagation - Oliver & Sophie Loyland
- 6) Double Potting - Helen Hegyi
- 7) Arts & Crafts - Minnie Mogil
- 8) The "Yorgin" Method of Seed Propagation - Jim Stalsonburg

July had the traditional picnic at Taylor's Cactus Nursery, Alice Taylor returned with "Dr. Troxell's Epis" (the San Diego Epiphyllum was born that year), Larry Sisk "The New Prado Building" (our present home in Balboa Park), Dr. Leroy Phelps "Collecting Plants of Northern Baja California and the Sonoran Desert", Joyce Tate "California Succulents - Their Place in History" (this was your Historian's first SDC&SS meeting - just missing the special October 22, 1970 program of Dr. Werner Rauh "Bromeliads, Cacti & Succulents"), and Ed & Betty Gay "Four Corners". The "Cactivities of that year included: Feb 22-23 Cactus Car-A-Van to the 23rd Annual Cactus Show at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona; March 8 Garden visit to Dr. Edmund Jaeger's "Don't Touch Me Garden" followed by Dr. Jaeger's presentation "Deserts of the World" at the San Bernardino County Museum in Bloomington; April 11 offered a tour of four nurseries (1) Howard Asper's Green Valley Nursery, (2) Paul Hutchison's Tropic World, (3) Alvery's Cactus Nursery, and (4) Abbey Garden, Reseda, CA. The SDC&SS Exhibit at the Del Mar Fair came in First in Grafts, Second in Cacti, and Third in Succulents. Late in this year Martin & Pat Mooney became the 200th members to the society.

In 1975 Martin Mooney was President, Nibby Klinefelter was 1st Vice President, Reed Pierce Second Vice President, Doris Rake Recording Secretary, Madelyn Lee was Treasurer, Jeanie Merrill was Corresponding Secretary, and Loyal Bibbey was Past President. The Board of Directors were Oliver Loyland, Ione Hubner, Warren Buckner, Augie Pfeiffer (Editor), Mary Birchell, and Perlso Lewis. Committee chairpersons included: Madelyn Lee and Dr. George Radwin - Plants-of-the-Month, Tom & Lucile Hamecher - Del Mar Fair Exhibits, Edith Werner - Library, Lucile Beckfield and Edith Billmyer - Reception, and Jean & Leta Hapeman - Regalement. By the end of the year Madelyn Lee moved to First

SDC&SS HISTORY by Rick Latimer continued

Vice President and Russel Evans took over as Treasurer. The programs for 1975 were: "Development of Florida Canyon" (film), Virginia Innis "Flower Arranging Succulents", R. Mitchell Beauchamp "Cacti and Succulents of San Diego County", panel - "CSSA Convention in San Diego - May 12-16 CSSA CONVENTION at the Bahia Hotel", Dr George Radwin "The Bloom's the Thing - or Cactus Flower Photography on a Budget", Frank Horwood "Southwest Africa", Mary Birchell & Thelma O'Reilly "Bromeliads", George Kennerson "Cacti & Succulents - Collecting, Growing and Selling" (a week later members drove out to his nursery in Jamul). Other 1975 member news: Lauron Lovelace's home burned down in August. All three of the SDC&SS Del Mar Fair exhibits took second place in their respective categories.

In 1980 Tom Hamecher was President, Rick Latimer 1st Vice President, Carl McLeod 2nd Vice President, Beverly Kirkegaard Recording Secretary, Anna Cornett Corresponding Secretary, Joan Johnson Treasurer, and Warren Buckner was past President. The Board of Directors were Elizabeth Athy, Shirley Berry, Dr. Ronald Monroe, Martin Mooney, John Pasek, and Dr. Leroy Phelps. Committee Chairpersons were Rick Latimer, Frank Thrombley & Dr. Monroe for Education, Shirley Berry - Brag Plants, Martin Mooney - VIP Plants, Warren Buckner - Cactivities, Rick Latimer - Historian, Elizabeth Athy & Marcia Monroe - Library, Marcia Monroe - Editor, Ethel Standish & Doris Rake - Plant Exchange Table, Perlso Lewis & Veryl Snowhill - Reception, Nancy Roth - Regalement, and Martin Mooney - Open House. Cactivities included a May bus tour to the Anza-Borrego. Programs featured: Jim Gibbons "Lotusland", Woody Minnich "Down Oaxaca Way", Dr. Gerald Barad "Stapeliads", Len Newton "Succulents in West Tropical Africa", Sophie Kabiesz "Polish Collections", Steven Hammer "Mesembs in Habitat", picnic at Quail Gardens, Ed & Betty Gay "Chilean Cacti in the Atacama Desert", Dr. Ronald Monroe "Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, and Weingartia", John Lavranos "Recent Trips to Arabia", and Steven Southwell "Aloe '75 Zimbabwe". In May Dr. Leroy Phelps and Martin Mooney presented "Show Panel" in preparation for the upcoming SDC&SS Show and Plant Sale - this was the first Show & Sale of the type we are presently doing.

In 1985 Dr. Leroy Phelps was President, Jim Dice was 1st Vice President, Susan Clements was Secretary, Warren Buckner was Treasurer, and Frank Thrombley was Past President; Board of Directors: Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Madelyn Lee, Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, and Verna Pasek. Mary Aubuchon was Editor, Frank Thrombley Show Chairman, Bill Miller ran the Plant Exchange Table and Joey Betzler the Plants & Supplies Table, Warren Larberg & Dr. Lemrow were in charge of Regalement, Perlso Lewis & Ethel Standish at Reception, Cathy & Sandy Frost were Liaison & Publicity Chairpersons. 1985 speakers were: John Trager "Families of Succulents", Sam & Dorothy Williams "Chile", Seymour Linden "Bolivia and Peru", Susan Carter-Holmes (on tape) "Euphorbias of East Africa", Victor Gass "Cacti & Succulents of Arizona", Piet van de Mark "The Best of Baja", Gilbert Voss "Plant Collecting among the Cora & Huichol Indians of Western Mexico". Additional activities and programs in 1985 included a Mini Show, a picnic at Felicity Park, and Jim Dice, Phyllis Flechsig, Dave Grigsby, Martin Mooney, and Dr. Leroy Phelps paneled a program "Propagation by Seed". Honorary Life Member Troy Shipman celebrated his 100th birthday early this year. The CSSA Convention had its third sojourn in our city held at SDSU. (The first CSSA Convention in San Diego was held in 1963 at the El Cortez.) A special program by John Lavranos on Somalia was given in room 101 after the Convention.

In 1990 Chuck Adams was President, Mitch Bahr Vice President, Jeanette Dutton secretary, Dana Adams Treasurer and Dr. Leroy Phelps was acting past President. Board of Directors were Dorothy Dunn, Cathy Frost, Madelyn Lee, Bob Marder, Rudy Lime, and John Pasek. Mary Aubuchon was Editor, Rick Latimer was Show Chairman, Marilyn Lemrow and Dorothy Larberg ran the Plant Exchange Table, John Pasek ran the Plant & Supplies Table, Diane & Bill Crowley worked Regalement, Perlso Lewis and Ethel Standish were Reception, and the Program Committee was Joe Clements, Bill Low, & Elizabeth Athy. Programs for 1990 included: Duke Benadom "Echinocereus", Guy Wrinkle "Succulents of Namibia", Eckhard Meier of Germany "Echinopsis & Trichocereus", Madelyn Lee & Leroy Phelps "Preparing and Staging Plants for Show", Daryl Koutnik "Euphorbias", Leo Pickoff "Big Bend National Park", Dr. Roberto Keisling of Argentina "Plants of Argentina", and Gary James "Plants of Madagascar". Other activities of 1990 consisted of July picnic, a walking tour of Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Book Store, and Christmas party. The Point Loma Native Plant Preserve was started in 1990.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT & SOCIETY

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ELECTION OF 1995-1996 OFFICERS

DINNER PROMPTLY @ 1:00 PM

SPECIAL PLANT EXCHANGE

SPECIAL SERVICE & LIFE MEMBER AWARDS

DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT PLANTS TO MEMBERS

MINI-AUCTION

NO LIBRARY AND NO PLANT SALES

HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU - TOP HAT CATERERS:

**Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing ★ Mashed Potatoes with Giblet Gravy
Hot Buttered Corn ★ Tossed Green Salad with Tomatoes and Choice of Dressings
Relish Tray of Fresh Vegetables ★ Cranberry Sauce ★ Rolls & Butter
Coffee ★ Soft Drinks ★ Wine ★ Apple or Pumpkin Pie**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

S.D.C.& S.S.

Mrs. Laura DeMerritt, Treasurer of the S.D. Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O. BOX 33181

SAN DIEGO, CA 92163-3181

Dear Laura,

Yes! Please reserve Holiday Dinners for Members @ \$10.00 per Member:

MEMBER NAME _____

MEMBER NAME _____

Please reserve Holiday Dinner for Guest @ \$10.00 (Sorry, No Gift Plant for non-members or members who have not renewed their membership through 1995).

GUEST NAME _____

GUEST NAME _____

**THE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th MEETING BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON -
HOLIDAY DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 1:00 - PLANT EXCHANGE DURING
DINNER, GIFT PLANTS FOR ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED DURING DESSERT.**

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Membership

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit, hobby organization created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or beginner, who loves unusual plants and flowers. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND.

Regular meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 1:00 p.m. (One may come as early as noon just to socialize or obtain a parking space easily.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership with an additional \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address. The dues are payable at time of joining, and January of each succeeding year. Members receive our monthly publication Espinas y Flores, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in our many field trips and other activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers at our programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authorities. We have a number of shows each year, especially our Annual Show and Plant Sale in June. We have a wide range of plants and supplies for purchase at favorable costs at most meetings. We also have a plant exchange table and monthly door prizes. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions. Please join us and help us grow.

For more information, call Laura De Merritt, Treasurer @ 270-5544 or Joyce Buckner @ 222-3216.

Yes, I (we) wish to become 1995 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

Please note: New members joining mid-year will receive 12 issues of Espinas y Flores. Prorated memberships will be offered in November /December for any new members joining during the middle of the year and wishing to continue their membership through 1995.

NAME: _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Please note in order to receive a beautiful gift plant at the Holiday Banquet your 1995 dues must be paid.

Before I ever joined the cactus club I thought growing plants was easy. Shoot, all I ever did was to stick 'em in the ground and stand back. I didn't have the slightest idea that it was in the same league as raising pigs, but I guess it is. I knew raising pigs was hard because of Rufus, the singing pig. Rufus used to drive my Aunt Effie nearly crazy. Aunt Effie liked to listen to the oldies-but-goodies station on the radio, and every time she'd turn it on, Rufus would start to sing. He had a hell of a range, but he couldn't carry a tune in a trough. Now the reason Effie was so good at raising pigs was that she treated them like humans. So instead of hurting Rufus's feelings by telling him he couldn't sing, she got him his own Walkman. Now Rufus sings to a different drummer - Sid Catlett to be precise. It turned out that Rufus was partial to Louis Armstrong, and now he trots around the yard, his cute little Walkman on, a smile on his snout, scatting Blueberry Hill - leastways I think it's Blueberry Hill.

I found out that raising cactus is about as hard as raising pigs when I took my Star Cactus to show and tell. The first guy I showed it to told me - he was a tall skinny guy with a bow tie right over his Adam's apple. Every time he swallowed that tie bobbed up and down like a cork on a fishing line. He took one look at my plant, looked down his nose, bobbed his tie, and said, "Its got spots!" Your top watering!"

I was pretty embarrassed to have everybody know that I'd been doing such a dumb thing as watering from the top, but on the other hand, I couldn't figure out how not to top water. Well, there wasn't much going on in the meeting - the guy up front was talking about taxis - so I leaned over to a woman in a purple blouse and asked her. She whispered, "You've got to water from the bottom." I sat there dumbfounded. I had this weird picture in my mind of me with a plastic syringe jamming water up through the bottom hole of the pot - a sort of plant enema. I had never much liked enemas, and I couldn't believe that plants would either.

By the time we broke for coffee everybody in the place knew I was top watering, and people kept drifting by and

offering advice. A lady wearing Navajo jewelry came up, winked, and whispered in my ear, "Full of the moon." I wasn't too sure if she was talking about me or my plants. A serious little man with half glasses peered at me and said, "Have your water pH tested. "I was about to ask how many PH's it was supposed to have when a large woman with a heaving chest came up and said, "Use rain water."

"But we're in a drought," I replied.

She gave me a scathing look. "You have to plan ahead."

Her husband, a paunchy guy with four hairs combed over his bald spot, shrugged, "You can use distilled water."

As I was trying to figure out where I could buy 20 gallons of distilled water at a whack, Chester Taube, our resident scientist came over. He scribbled something that looked like an Egyptian zip code on a piece of paper and handed it to me. I must have looked startled. He said, "It's a wetting agent."

"What's it do?"

"It makes water wet."

"I thought it already was."

"It makes it wetter."

"A wetter water?" I must have winced.

"Why a wetter water? A wetter water works wonders!"

"How often?"

"Once a week -- on Wednesday."

I was getting woozy. "Let me see if I've got this straight. I water once a week on Wednesdays with a wetter water works wonders."

He smiled wryly.

As I was leaving that night, I got a final piece of advice. "Only water when it rains in the desert." That sounded like great advice until I tried to put it into effect. First of all I didn't know which desert to watch, and secondly the Orlando Sentinel didn't report the weather for any desert anyway.

It's amazing how complicated watering is. The desert would probably have a lot more plants if Mother Nature just knew some of this stuff.

Taken from the May 1992 issue of Roadrunner News, Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club. Carol & Joe Wujcik, Editors.

Memorable Moments by Frank Thrombley

Page 10

Dear Joyce & Michael,

The enclosed article is for your approval for the Espinas y Flores. The short trip was very rewarding and was full of many pleasant surprises. One of which was meeting a group of botanists. Two of these botanists were from Kew Gardens in England - one of them worked for Nigel Taylor; Edward Anderson from Arizona, previously of Walla Walla, Washington; and Charles Glass with two botanist friends - all from Mexico. Their mission was to study the coastal cacti of Northern Baja which are endangered. They talked about Ferocactus viridescens, Ferocactus viridescens var. littoralis and Ferocactus fordii.

Lots of Fun & Things to do.

Kind regards,
Frank

It is October 21, 1994. Jim and Frank are once again driving south in Baja. Homesick, Jim Gibbons was experiencing severe withdrawal pains. When he phoned from Nevada suggesting a quick trip to Bahia de Los Angeles what could a friend do but say yes. Jim arrived in San Diego by one of the airlines on the evening of the 20th. He did not say so, but I believe he flew himself and led the aircraft into the airport.

Our destination was 450 miles south of Tijuana to stay with Tom Parks in Bahia. Tom did not wait for those 'longing' pains to develop into withdrawals - he leased a house in Bahia for a year and avoided doctor visits. The evening of the 21st was a perfect ending to a wonderful day of driving through familiar memorable territory. Tom's neighbors barbecued a large Yellowtail (fish). We were invited to a fine dinner of salad, rice, fish, and a drink of our choice. Tom baked sweet potato pies for dessert. All eight of us enjoyed an excellent meal. Later that evening the harvest Moon, now two days after a full moon, rose seemingly out of the Sea of Cortez, and removed any maladies that may have lingered in Jim's longing pains.

Saturday, October 22nd was certainly a day to remember. In the morning Tom took us to an area on the Pacific Ocean to see the "sleeping rings". These rings were built long ago by a tribe of Indians who camped here in the summers. This area is on a high mesa, approximately 100 feet above sea level. The Indians built a stone wall about two feet high in a ring around an excavation of four to five feet with a ten foot diameter - a sleeping ring to protect them from constant wind. Today, the excavations are filled with sand and

debris, but the stone rings are still there. The discarded refuse (garbage dump) near these rings are primarily the shells of mollusks gathered from the sea for food. No tin cans, bottles, or paper here, just a ton of Calcium.

The wind never stops blowing across these mesas, changing only in velocity and temperature. Between Santa Rosalillita and Millers Landing (El Tomatal) the *Pachycormis discolor* and *Bursera microphylla* grow about a foot above the ground, but many feet long. We measured a *Pachycormis* that had a trunk or bole that was two feet wide and one foot tall; branches in full leaf extended nine and a half feet hugging the ground. Nearby grew a *Bursera* that had two main branches growing diagonally opposed to its trunk; although this *Bursera* was not tall, it measured nine feet across its leafy branches.

Joan Johnson botanized south of Millers Landing in 1978. She collected a small *Bursera* on January 21 of that year which she gave to me in October of 1987. The main stem of this *Bursera* is decumbent, but all of its branches grow upright. This is a happy *Bursera*, but it will never grow like its cousins that have been maturing for decades in the natural wind tunnel of the Baja mesas.

Jim found two dried inflorescences which still held their seeds. The flattened seeds were similar in appearance to small Agave or Yucca seeds. The stems came up out of the ground. After collecting the seeds my moral fabric broke down - I had to find the source. Two well developed small bulbs were unearthed. They turned out to be in the Amaryllis family, perhaps *Bloomeria clevelandii*. Tom will replant them and watch for flowers.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS by Frank Thrombley continued

We left the mesas and drove to Rosarito (not to be confused with Rosarito Beach just south of Tijuana) to see our friends and obtain water at Señor Mesa's well. We walked up the small ridge behind the cemetery to find the *Mammillaria blossfeldiana* that we knew grew there. We probably saw a hundred of these gems. We also found a few *Mammillaria brandegeei* and of course, *Mammillaria dioica*.

We stopped at the little restaurant on the northern edge of Rosarito for some sustenance. Tom left the table and went to a corner of the room to look at and identify the decorative item against the wall: an *Agave shawii* var. *goldmaniana*, dried and preserved with a varnish or shellac-like coating. The real surprise was the crested inflorescence on this large plant.

Hard to believe? John Pasek, a Life Member of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, first saw a similar crested specimen in May of 1983 near the Desengano Gold Mine. Madelyn Lee wrote a brief article about this discovery for the Cactus & Succulent Journal, vol. 55, No. 6, Nov-Dec, pg. 244. See this issue for pictures and info on this beautiful plant. The three of us thought that this dried plant was surely the same one that was discovered at Desengano. In his best Spanish Tom questioned the young woman who served our meals; she said the plant came from the mountains in the San Borja region. Then came the surprise that surpassed all surprises. Our young waitress then lead us into another eating area decorated with another crested *Agave shawii* var. *goldmaniana*, only bigger. Then she pointed out the window to another crested beauty drying in the sun. This one had roots sill attached and was probably removed

from its habitat within the year. All three were from the San Borja Mountains. This was indeed a new insight into the wonderful world of Mother Nature and a discovery to be pursued on some future adventure.

In the afternoon we visited the site of some Pictographs (*Or is it Petroglyphs?*) on the face of a large basaltic out-cropping. Located in one of the major washes about seven miles west of the highway just north of Punta Prieta this rock art displayed many different symbols. It would be nice to understand the messages these Native Americans left for us so long ago. We left the Pictography site to go swimming in the Sea of Cortez at Tom's home. Air temperature 80°F; water temperature 75°F. Tom prepared Turkey Tetrazzini and a salad for dinner. What a day!

Sunday the 23rd was another beautiful day. After watching the sun rise and light up our little sphere on this vast peninsula we had breakfast, *deseuno*. Tom prepared an egg omelet with mushrooms and black olives complimented with a good cup of coffee. We visited Eliodoro Arce, our hermit friend at Desengano. He is 83 years of age now with cataracts on both eyes and a loss of hearing. He will not leave his desert home, however. Swimming again in the afternoon was followed by a Tom Parks chicken curry dinner.

All too soon it was Monday morning - time for the northward drive home. Jim seems a little remorseful, as his desire to stay at Bahia is strong. Rejuvenated by his Baja vacation he is once again back in Nevada at his occupation.

Thank you Jim Gibbons and Tom Parks for some memorable moments.

BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER 1994: JUDGED BY KELLY GRIFFIN

CACTUS:

FIRST PLACE: JOE QUIJADA'S *Mammillaria elongata*

SUCCULENT:

FIRST PLACE: MICHAEL BUCKNER'S *Euphorbia aphylla* Bonsai

SECOND PLACE: RUDY LIME'S *Pelargonium alternans* Bonsai

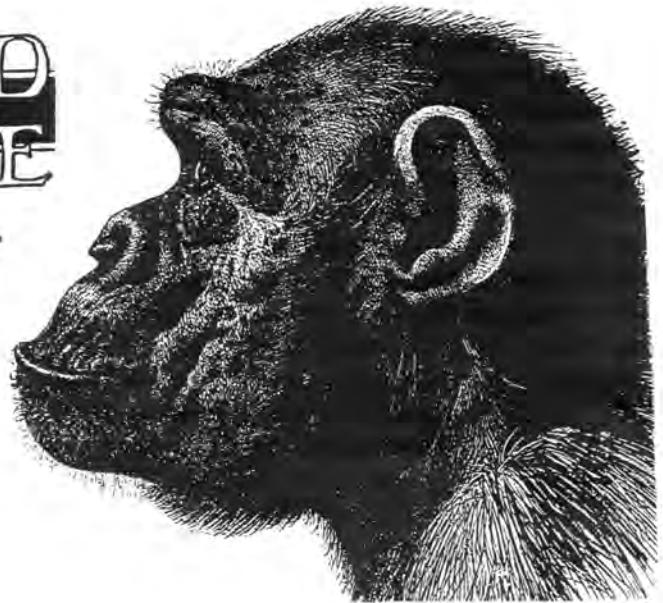
THIRD PLACE: KAY QUIJADA'S *Dyckia dawsonii* x *marnier lapostolle*

WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner

*"As a child I understood how to give,
I have forgotten this grace since
I have become civilized."*

-Chief Luther Standing Bear



'MAGICAL' USES

In rural South Africa, plants are still commonly used for 'magical' purposes. A specific feature of a plant or animal is often believed to be acquired by the user when ingested in a particular way. For instance, the heart of a lion would render strength, or the eye of a vulture keen eyesight. The mottled leaves of *Gasteria* species provide a camouflage effect so that it blends into its background, making it difficult to find. F.A. van Jaarsveld jnr (pers. comm.) relates that for this reason *Gasteria croucheri* is highly prized for its magical properties by Zulu warriors in Natal, who believe that, when eaten, it will make the user partially invisible. It is often consumed before faction fights or in an attempt to hide from an enemy.

Gasteria is known to the Nguni as 'ntelez' (that is, a plant with magical properties). The Xhosa believe that when placed on top of their homes, the plants will actually ward off lightning. Occasionally plants can be found actually growing on the rooftops of Transkei dwellings."

-GASTERIAS OF SOUTH AFRICA, A NEW REVISION OF A MAJOR SUCCULENT GROUP, BY E.J. VANJAARSVELD, FERNWOOD PRESS, C. 1994

And now, grandfather, I ask you to bless the white man. He needs your wisdom, your guidance. You see for so long he has tried to destroy my people and only feels comfortable when given power. Bless them, show them the peace we understand, teach them humility. For I fear they will destroy themselves and their children as they have done so with Mother Earth.

*I plead, I cry, after all
They are my brothers.*

-Sandy Kewanhaptewa

COPYRIGHT 1994 LADY'S CHOICE PUBLISHING /PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Remembrance is the only paradise out of which we cannot be driven away."

Richter

Because of the complexities of classification, not all published papers and books on the cacti or any other group of plants or animals are in agreement . . .

Britton and Rose's comprehensive review of the Cactaceae has not been matched by a complete, comparable recent treatment based upon research on the natural populations of the family, and there is no comprehensive coverage of the family prepared according to conservative policy. In fact, there has been little botanical research upon classification of the species for half a century. The result is retention in semitechnical works (and even in some technical publications) of microgenera and microspecies at levels recognized currently by few botanists in works on other groups of plants. If the rest of the plant kingdom were to be classified according to the policies often applied to the cacti, millions of changes of plant names would be necessary. The thought of bringing the classification of the rest of the plant kingdom into harmony with some publications on the cacti, expressed by several recent horticultural authors, is beyond comprehension. . . .

. . . a conservative or liberal viewpoint is tenable on theoretical grounds, but the position of a "lumper" or a "splitter" is not. These terms apply to persons recognizing as "species" or "genera" or other "taxa" groupings of plants or animals that are mere artificial assemblages based upon the presence of some one or two characters to which arbitrary "importance" has been attached. No character is, *per se*, more important than another. *Classification is not according to individual characters, but to the tendency of groups of characters to be consistent in association.* Application of this criterion brings about recognition of natural taxa composed of related plants or animals. One or more characters commonly in the association may not be present in any particular instance; therefore a single character, by itself, means little.

"Splitting" of taxa, especially at the generic and specific levels, has been the rule rather than the exception in treatments of the cactus family. Commonly this has been associated with choice of some one character, designated as the "mark" of the taxon and as being so "important" as to eliminate all other considerations. This, is of course, a fallacy, and it leads to formulation of an artificial system of classification.

-- THE NATIVE CACTI OF CALIFORNIA BY LYMAN BENSON, STANFORD UNIV. PRESS C. 1969

WISE AND OTHERWISE

*Oh Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees.
So when you work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the glory of the garden it shall never pass away.*

Rudyard Kipling: *The Glory of the Garden*

4822 Santa Monica Avenue #103, San Diego, CA 92107

Editors: Michael & Joyce Buckner - (619) 222-3216

P. O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

OFFICERS

President - Joey Betzler
569-8510
Vice President - Michael Buckner
222-3216
Secretary - Amna Cornett
291-6426
Treasurer - Laura DeMerritt
270-5544
Membership - Joyce Buckner
222-3216
Corresponding - Virginia Innis
Secretary - 225-1464

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Athy
469-7647
Dylan Hannon
598-9347
Rick Latimer
697-4100
Ed Nolan
486-6195
Kay Quijada
282-5919
Shirley Berry
756-3659

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CSSA Affiliate Rep - Michael Buckner
Education Committee - Phyllis Flechsig,
Dylan Hannon, Kay Quijada, Beverly
Kirkegaard.
Historian - Rick Latimer
Librarian - Rick Latimer, Elizabeth Athy
Plant Exchange Table -

Seed Exchange - Kelly Griffin
Plant & Supplies Table - Michael Cullen,
George Plaisted, Marylyn Henderson
Program - Michael Buckner, Dorothy
Byers, Ed Nolan
Publicity - Kay Quijada, Tom DeMerritt
Reception - Ethel Standish, Elizabeth
Glover, Marylyn Henderson

Regalement - Don & Gail
Bamber, Stefy Mangold,
Mildred Richter, Marie Pierce
REPRESENTATIVES:
Balboa Park Desert Garden:
Susan Hopkins
Quail Botanical Garden -
Phyllis Flechsig
S.D. Botanical Garden
Foundation - Rick Latimer
S.D. Floral Association -
Elizabeth Glover
Wild Animal Park - Frank
Thrombley, Paul Stewart
Show - Joey Betzler
Auction Show Sales: Michael
Buckner & Rick Plant

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held at 11:30 AM prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, and \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1.00 per copy sent within the U.S.A.; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00 - 3 mailings per year. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Incorporated. Fax available - please call editors Michael & Joyce Buckner @ (619) 222-3216.