

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to all things will be sublime in '69, like aged and mellow wine. It's time again to drag out all the old long standing resolutions, dust them off and give them another try. Number one, of course, for us; is to get the paper printed and in the mail to you each month a week prior to the meetings. Inasmuch as we are late in starting this year, we decided to postpone the meeting a week, so that we wouldn't be breaking our resolution right off the bat... pretty sneaky, I'd say. In reality the gradiose 200th birthday celebration of San Diego kicks off this weekend, and the entire facilities of Balboa Park are tied up for the gala of galas. But business as usual commences January 11.

We are a somewhat loosely arranged organization of devoted non-professionals - errors in spelling, weaknesses in sentence structure, and general lapses of memory may occur periodically. After all, when one has a two-fingered typist the likes of Bea Arnold, trying to make sense out of the hurried handwritten scribbling of A. Phidd and Nema Toed, the artful renderings of Nibby Klinefelter, the tractless meanderings of this witless editor; and endeavoring to fit them all between obstreperous virtuosity of Scotty, the Picasso of the Cactus Caricaturist Set.... you were expecting something

"spinetastic"?

Our second resolution was consummated a while back when it was our good fortune, after a meeting, to give a lift home to one of our members. During the drive she remarked to us how much the Espinas y Flores had meant to her, and how much she enjoyed attending the meetings, when she was able. She expressed that the Cactus Society was her only social activity any more.

The thought occurred to us that there are many, who have no one but you. It is true
(Continued next page)

JANUARY MEETING
Saturday, Jan. 11, 1969 - 2pm
Floral Association Building
Balboa Park

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
SLIDE REVIEW
1968 Cactus Car-A-Vans
EXCHANGE TABLE
BRAGGIN' TABLE

REFRESHMENTS
ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE - \$2.00/ person -
\$3.00/ family - Olivia Fletcher, Treas.
4351 Alder Drive, San Diego - 92116

that the Society is a gathering of interested parties to promote knowledge of Cacti and other Succulents, but also to foster fellowship. These principles should not be only for the members who attend a particular meeting, but should also include members who can no longer attend regularly, through no fault of their own, and even to those who can not attend at all.... the so-called "paper member"... who still wishes to remain in association, sort of brothers or sisters in spirit.

The more we think on this, the more responsible we feel towards our membership. Responsible not only to make the meetings more informative, but more enjoyable.... to savor the refreshment break, and to take time to ask, "How does your garden grow".... to extend our activities beyond the monthly assemblage, and convey our presence to others not physically able to share.

Thus the third annual revival of this paper.... your paper, and through it we hope to pass on the warmth of your fellowship as well as the facets of "God's Green Thumb" to people as we, who like cactus, and the people who collect them.

--js

ODE TO THE WARN'S CACTIVITY

Harry and Eve, we love ya,
Your party was just great;
Two and a half days I suffered,
I know it was too much I ate.

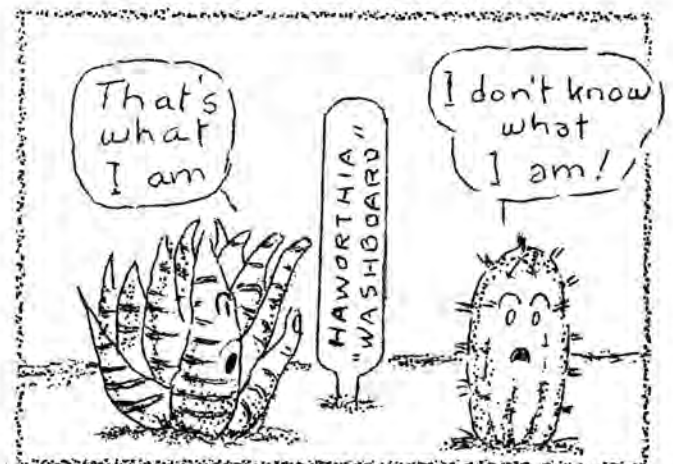
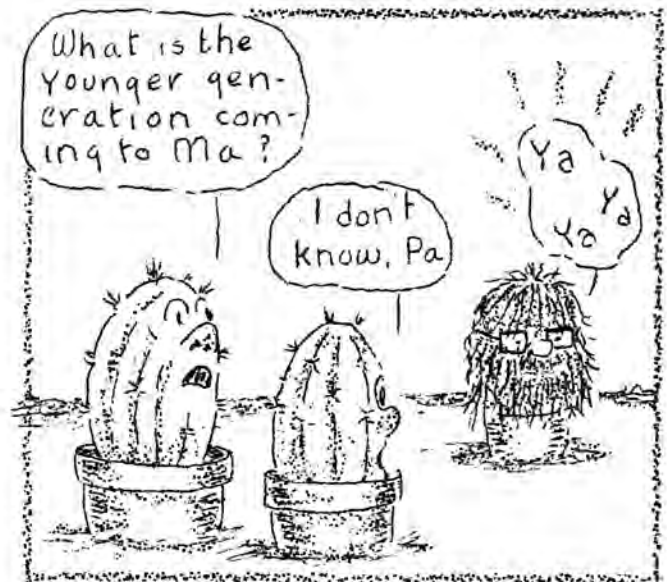
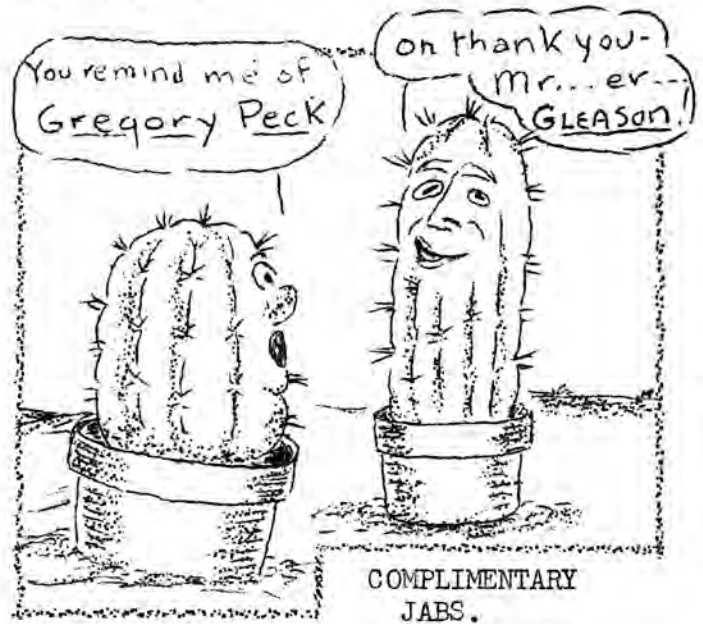
We didn't name much cactus,
At so many we had to look;
Our weary eyes wouldn't focus
On the fine print in the book.

The cheery faces were smiling,
The talk was warm and gay;
The sun in all its glory
Played second fiddle that day.

Your garden was surely lovely
The weather was simply sublime,
The gathering was certainly friendly
Please, ask us again some time.

-- Leif Hopper

A new talent joins our ESPINAS y FLORES staff--BEN KLINEFELTER, age 13, an 8th grader at Marston Jr. Hi in Clairmont. He is the youngest member of our Club and the son of Nibby K. The future is very bright for Ben.



PERPATETIC, UBIQUITOUS, BUT NOT INDIGENOUS

-- contributed by Philip G. Corliss, MD, San Diego

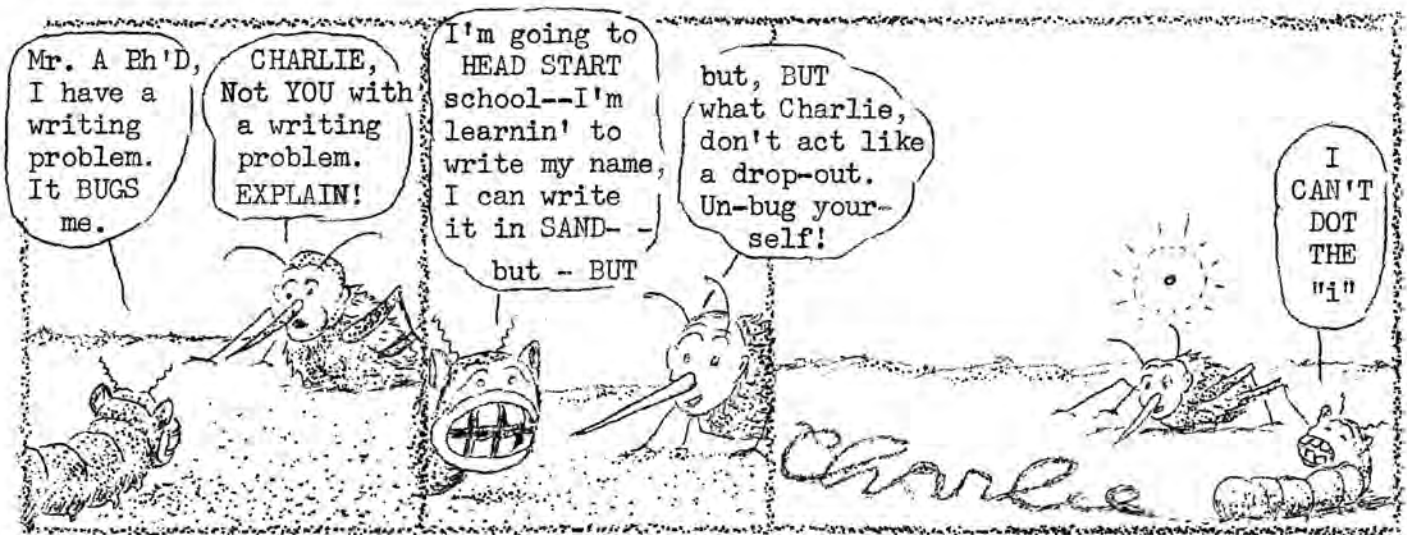
There are many New World plants now grown in abundance in Europe, five of them most commonly seen being: the dahlia, corn, potato, tobacco, and cactus. The first four are widely cultivated and of great commercial importance. But most widespread of all is the cactus, notably the opuntias, although its only commercial value is the sometime cochineal dye industry. So prevalent are the opuntias, especially in the Mediterranean area (as in Africa and Australia) that I find both natives and tourists commonly believe they are indigenous to those parts.

In the Fall of 1968 I took a cruise to the Black Sea, followed by leisurely visits to Italy and Spain. One of my principal interests was to survey the cacti in the countries visited. The botanical gardens of the Russian Crimea include fine specimens of both cacti and the succulent euphorbias of Africa. I was also surprised to find many potted cacti in the museums of both Russia and Rumania. Turkey and Greece, both mainland and islands, are covered with opuntias. The walls of the Acropolis, for instance, are nearly scaled by huge thickets of opuntia. Rare is the palace or cottage garden that does not feature handsome clumps or hedges of cactus.

It is in Spain that one finds the most serious interest in cactus. Opuntias are almost universally used for landscaping, in public and private gardens, and along highways. About 50 miles northeast of Barcelona, near the resort town of Blanes on the Costa Brava, is located the "Jardin d'Aclimatacion" (also called "Pinya de rosa a Mas del Sol"), which features what is generally considered to be the finest collection of opuntias in the world. (The Riviera's "Les Cedres" and the Monaco cactus gardens are too famous to need mention here.)

Fabulous Montjuich Park in Barcelona is the site of a Municipal School of Gardening. Established just before the Spanish Civil War, this is the only school of its kind in Spain. It produces about a dozen horticultural graduates each year, and is so excellent that gardening has become in Spain, as in England, one of the most respected professions. I had a pleasant visit with Professor Juan Panella Bonastre and Senor Jose Carrillo de Albornoz, agricultural engineer, at the school. They kindly provided me with a car and driver to visit the botanical garden and its nursery in Montjuich Park. The cactus area of the botanical garden features mostly cereus and opuntias, but the nursery is well stocked with the globular cacti of all the Americas. I must note here that this is the first cactus nursery I have ever visited where there was no evidence of scale nor mealy bug. On the other hand, it was heavily infested with snails! Farther south, at the incredible resort city of Torremolinos, I found snails rampant everywhere. Blades of sea grasses bore as many as a dozen snails each.

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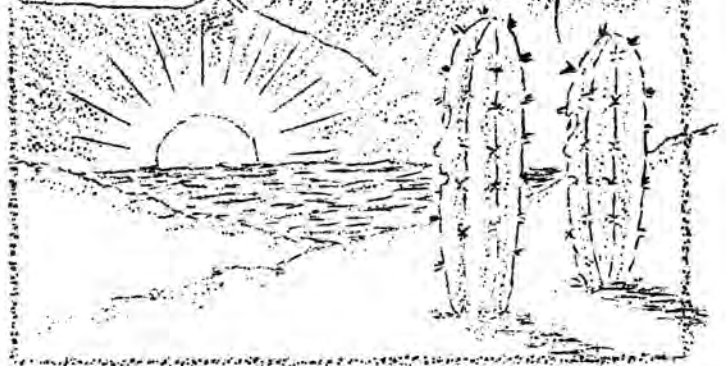


Barcelona is to me the most fascinating city in the world. Among its many great attractions is the long avenue called "Las Ramblas" with its promenade, sidewalk cafes, bird and flower stalls, running from the great Plaza de Cataluna to the harbor. A large number of the flower stalls sell potted cactus plants in great variety, including crests and monstrosae. Perhaps I was homesick for my own collection; I never failed to daily inspect the cactus offerings of these flower stalls which were right in front of my hotel.

In Granada I picked up two items of non-cactus horticultural interest. I was told that the persimmons, although native to Japan and the southern United States, was allegedly named for Father Simon (Pere Simon); and the pomegranate is so called because it is the "apple of Granada" ("pomme de Granada").

They say that's WATER out there--that 80% of the earth's surface is water.

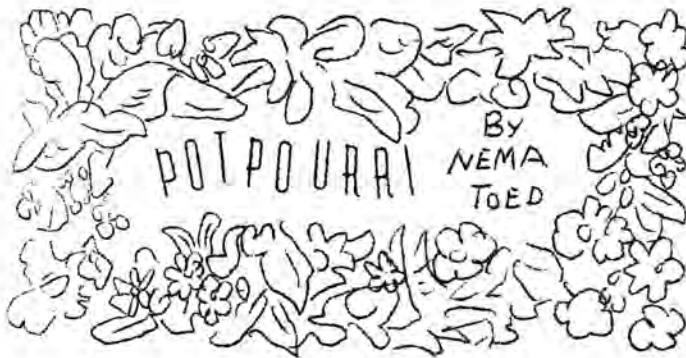
Aren't we the lucky ones, living on Madrid Way in Spring Valley. We don't even need an umbrella.



WATER----EIGHTY PER CENT

TO JENNY MEANS, 101 years of age, who on Dec. 11th accepted membership with the Great Architect of the Universe in the "Grand Society"....

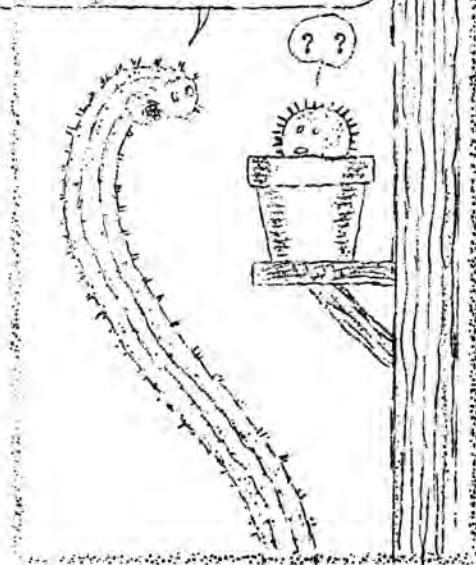
"Wilt Thou not ope the heart to know
 What rainbows teach, and sunsets show?
 Verdict which accumulates
 From lengthening scroll of human fates,
 Voice of earth to earth returned,
 Prayers of saints that inly burned -
 Saying, what is excellent,
 As God lives, is permanent;
 Hearts are dust, hearts' loves remain;
 Hearts' love will meet thee again." (R.W.E.)



DEAR NEMA: At least once a year I have the opportunity to express to you my appreciation for the hard work you perform in preparing and circulating your very interesting monthly issue. After reading Espinas y Flores, I have the feeling that I really attend the meetings and the trips you describe; and I am also very proud of the success that you report for the activities of the Club.

-- Harold J. Simons - Los Gatos

Why does Doc Corliss have you in a pot up here on the shelf? You got a rooting problem? You know there's not much future in a pot--on a shelf.



SHELF LIFE

DEAR HAROLD - Thank you for your kind words. We look forward to your letter each year.... We believe the cheerful live longest in life.... and the cheerfulness and interest is the offshoot of goodness. If you run across things during the course of the year, that are of interest to you, we are sure they will be of interest to others; mail them in, regardless of size.... correction does much, but encouragement does more.... encouragement after labor is as the sun after a shower..

N.T.

DEAR NEMA: I am compiling a list of the toasts and worthy comments made by our members at the various social gatherins.... Can you recall any?

-- Life of Party

DEAR L.O.P. - We agree with you.... If you want some-
 (Continued next page)

thing worthwhile to come out of your mind, you have to put something worthwhile into it.... here's one that we believe EMILY PARK related to the new day with eyes asparkle like vintage champagne, "Here is a bit of advice to heed, As you go through this earthly affray; You won't have to lie awake at night, If you just stay awake in the day."

This one's from LOUISE DE GROOT at the Mas Party, through a mouthful of Nellie's cookies, "An Optimist laughs to forget the woes of this world with all of its chaff, while on the other hand, a Pessimist forgets to laugh"....

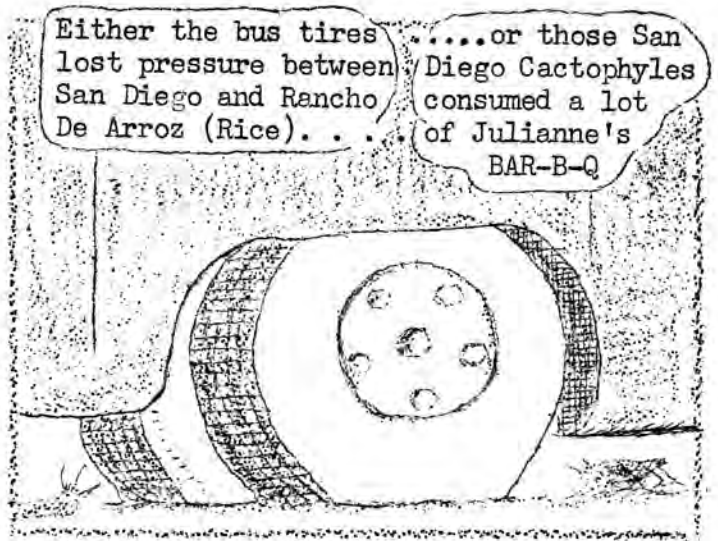
MAE KRAMER was overheard to say by the refreshment stand at the Warn's party, "Don't fume and fret and argue, as through this world you roll, For if you don't control your exhaust, you're apt to exhaust your control"....

EYDIE KEMP was glad MIKE took an interest in cactus, instead of fishing, when she gave her definition of same, "Here's the definition of a fisherman, on which you can always depend; it's a jerk on one end of the line, waiting for a jerk on the other end"....

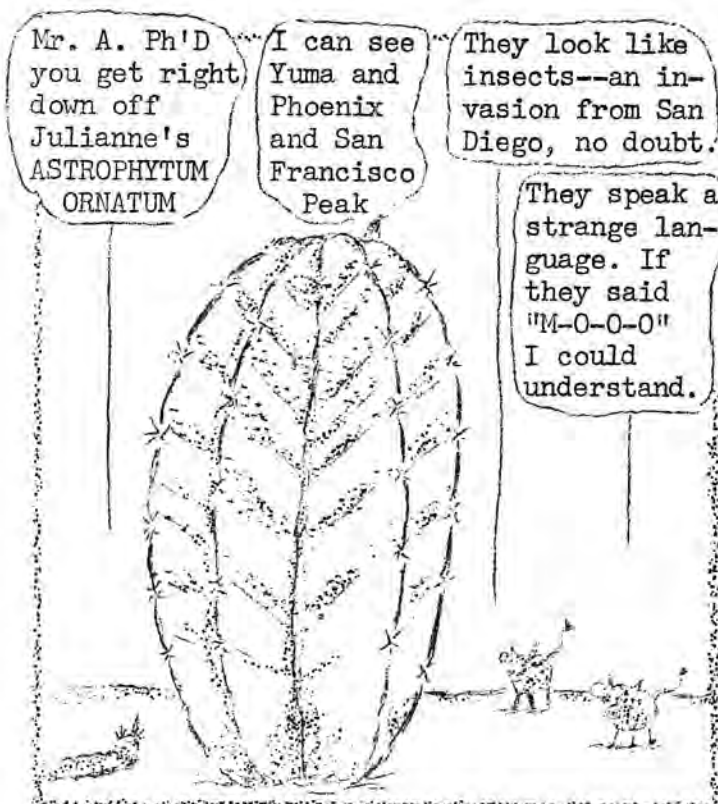
RUTH CUZNER was discussing the job of Treasurer with LIVY when she said, "Nowadays money passes so fast, through the hands of sisters and misters; it is really a modern wonder, that the friction doesn't cause blisters"....

But MARY MC DOWELL tops them all with, "They say each rhyme must have a reason, and here's the reason for this rhyme; the nicest thing about the future is, it happens just one day at a time"....

-- N.T..



LOSS OF PRESSURE OR LOAD GAIN



ASTROPHYTUM "AWESOME"

North Dakota State University
 Fargo, N.D. - Dec. 31, 1968

Dear Mrs. Fletcher,

Inclosed are \$2.00 for the '69 subscription to Espinas y Flores. I continue to enjoy your fine publication and wish it every success. The illustrations and cute cartoons make it unique among all of the other news letters and journals I receive.

San Diego has a lot of appeal to me about now. We are having an unusually severe winter. So far there has been six inches of snow, most of which has been deposited in huge drifts by the fierce north wind. This morning the temperature is 27° below zero, with the expected high (?) today of 15° below zero!! With the 12 mph wind the chill factor is 67° below zero and I believe it. My outdoor cactus bed is covered with 2 feet of snow and trust the 8 or so species out there are not too cold or unhappy.

Sincerely, Larry W. Mitich

DEAR LARRY: We live in a world that has narrowed into a neighborhood, before it has broadened into a brotherhood. We hope that a little warmth from San Diego will help weather those North Dakota winters.

NEMA TOED.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

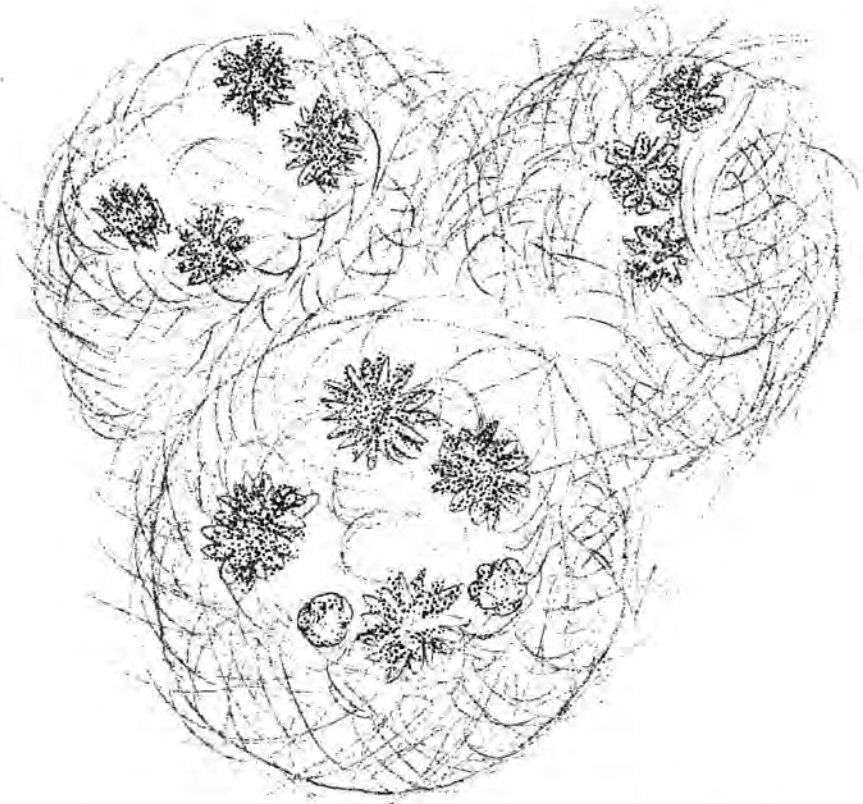
HOLIDAYS AND HONG KONG FLU and 200th Anniversary can't keep E & F from flourishing - but almost. It would be simpler to write

about the difficulties of writing about the genus *Senecio*, one of the few succulent members of one of the largest plant families, the *Compositae*, than to attempt untangling the species of the month - *Senecio* (sen-ee'-si-o) and then again (Se-nee'-shi-o).

S. HAWORTHII was formerly known as *Kleinia* (kly-ni'-ah) *Tomentosa* and *S. HERRERIANUS* as *K. Gomphophylla*, which most of us are flexible enough to take in stride. However, Haag authoritatively states that the genus *Kleinia*, now included in *Senecio*, formerly was separated.

Then again, Chidamian writes, "The genus *Senecio* is so similar in most respects to the genus *Kleinia* that the two have been combined and separated repeatedly in botanical literature. Actually there are some minor differences in the thistlelike flowers of these two genera, and popular usage now seems to favor keeping them apart. Haselton says that the *senecios* have daisy-like flowers while the flowers of *Kleinias* are thistle-like with no ray petals. Still another writer, A. J. Huxley, lists only *Kleinia*, while Taylor's *Enc. of Gardening* has but two words for *Kleinia* - See *Senecio*. So.

Senecio is from the Latin *Senex* for old man in supposed allusion to the pappus, the collection of minute bristles among the disc flowers. Occurring mainly in South Africa, they are of easy cultivation, readily propagated from cuttings during the growing season, and are of fairly quick growth. They are sensitive to changes of temperature, preferring it to be about 45 degrees, and need little water, and of course well drained soil. The thick-stemmed species which renew their leaves annually (*S. Articulata*) usually rest in summer after their leaves have fallen. Those with persistent leaves (*K. Tomentosa*) usually rest during the winter. Caution: Water sparingly during dormancy.



MAMMILLARIA HAHNIANA (WE HOPE)

The most popular species apparently is *S. Articulata*, whose common name "candle plant" must be derived from the cylindrical stems which are, however, segmented with fascinating leaf scars, almost like a child's stick-figure drawing, but disappearing with age. Seasonal ivy-shaped leaves are grooved on the upper surface. *S. Kleiniiformis* is similar with larger leaves, whose margins roll inward.

S. Haworthii or *K. Tomentosa*, is one of the most attractive species forming foot-high clumps with cylindrical leaves about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, pointed at both ends and covered with dense white felt. The orange flowers bloom in July. *S. Scaposus* is similar, but the leaves are arranged in rosette fashion.

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PLANT OF THE MONTH - Continued



S. Gregori, the "peppermint stick", K. Pendula, the "inch-worm", and K. Radicans (as well as K. Horriana) with striped, nearly round leaves which are actually sun windows, known as the gooseberry plants, are familiar to us, for if they are not in our collections, they are pictured in Johnson's catalog.

S. Kleinia is widely sold as K. Noriifolia with very thick, grey-green stems, branching in whorls, and densely studded with white leaf scars. Linear-lanceolate leaves are present only on the young growth and are about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

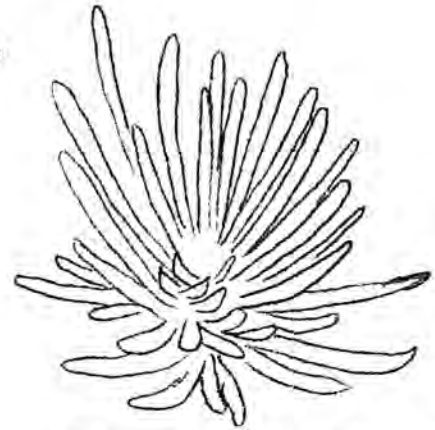
We hope to see a variety of species on the Bragging Table - the ones listed above are but a smattering of those available.

SENECIO ARTICULATA

-- Nibby

SINCE MAN first started putting little spiny plants into pots over 400 years ago, HAMMILLARIA has been one of the most sought after groups of cacti. Their varied shapes and forms, their intriguing patterns and arrangements, their diversity of colors and hues, their wide range of habitats and environs, and their almost ever present garland ring of bell shaped flowers or clavate fruit around their crown, has endeared them to collectors and casual plant lovers the world over. But not until Dr. Eric von Wordermann stumbled down from a rocky hillside in the Mexican state of Queretaro, shouting with glee and waving with gusto, had the likes of HAHNIANA been seen.

From a distance it looks like patches of melting snow lying breathless under twisted mesquite stunted by the fury of "Boreas", while obbing towards its destiny with the warmth of Spring. But as one reaches down, in hopes of grasping up the last portion of winter remains and dashing it against the surrounding cold and mocking desolation, his fingers touch the soft tender warmth of furry young suckled close to their origin.

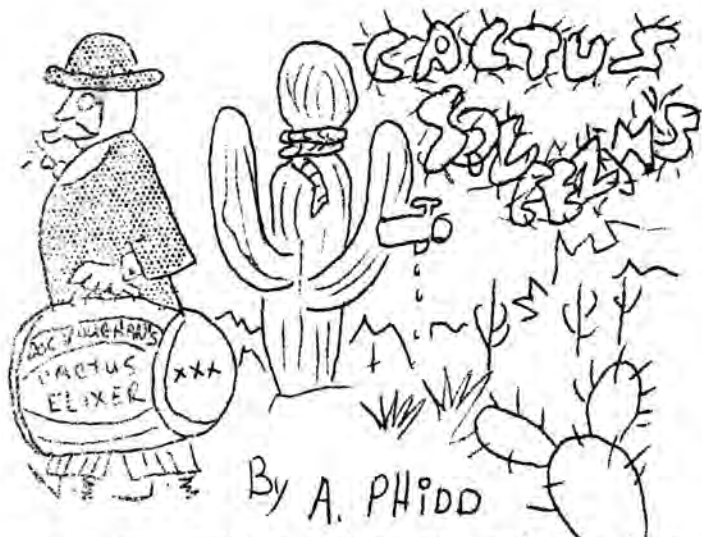


SENECIO SCAPOSUS

M. HAHNIANA is at first a solitary globular plant with a slightly depressed top. When it attains about 3 inches in size it branches laterally, forming large clumps covered completely with long white, woolly hair-like bristles. Among the Hammillaria species, it is the counterpart of Cephaleocereus Senilis (Old Man Cactus). It does have one or two weak central spines that are also white tipped, slightly reddish brown. The flowers are borne in a ring around the crown; small narrow petals, crimson in color. The fruit is fleshy, reddish purple, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and is borne the following season.

Hahniana grows readily from seed, and attains flowering size in about three years. It is free flowering in full sun, but thrives well in half-shade also. Please keep dry in winter, and commence with a moderate watering program about in May. It has a tendency to rot at the root crown if planted too deep. A very light loose soil should be used with a smidgin of lime incorporated. This is truly a very lovely and desirable species to add to any collection.

-- js



DOES THE THUMB make the garden.... Not entirely, but it helps turning the pages of the books we got for Christmas.... speaking of books, let us recommend "Cactaceae" by Marshall and Bock... "Lower California Guidebook" by Gerhard & Gulick... "Meet Flora Mexicana" by Posman ... good books like good plants are always worth collecting.... Of course, this time of year abounds with loving holiday stories of our members and their activities... like when we overheard KIM ARNOLD saying to BEA while doing some last minute Yule shopping... "Sure, you can have a fur coat, Honey.... WHO offered you one?????" IONE HUBNER remarked to PEARL SULLIVAN about her date for the New Year's Eve Party, "A little tomato who knows her onions

can go out with an old potato and come home with a couple of carats..." And CHARLIE BENBOW who stayed home and watched TV said, "A bachelor is a man who has never made the same mistake once".... BEN KLINEFELTER, on being introduced for the umpteenth time to another old family friend, "How do you do? My, how I've grown!!! May I go now?".... DOC VAUGHAN, like the typical overburdened taxpayer about to make out his tax returns exclaimed, "The trouble with our foreign relations is that they're living beyond our means".....

Our CHRISTMAS MEETING was a real bash.... EDITH BELLINGER and BETTY HASTINGS took their spiny vows.... and welcome to the Club, gals.... MIKE BUCKNER had a very grand Euphorbia brandicornis for the Draggin' Table. The SCOTT & STEVESON Cabbage Head was so big it took the both of them to carry it into the meeting.... It was analyzed later to be an Echeveria Hybrid grown in E y F "special mix"..... NIBBY'S Bolivicereus Samaipatianus with bright red blooms was an easy winner in the open class.... Unique was the offering of BILL NELSON to revise the "Mooncactus" of last year's fair.... Rotundocactus Pollospinus.. a globular little devil with spines of leftover Thanksgiving wishbones. SUZANNE TAYLOR told of their many trips into Baja to help the poor help themselves, and brought to us a big Muchas Gracias from our distant neighbors for our many gifts of clothing and food.... the Exchange Table was loaded with the spirit of things... who brought the black cat????

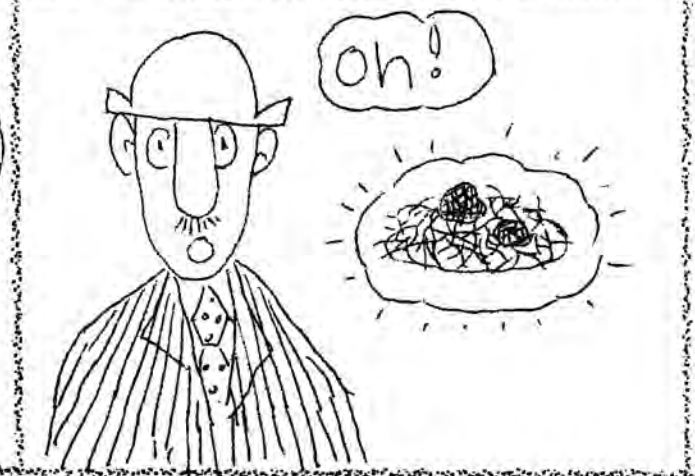
BELLIE KENNETH and N. R. STEVESON were standing on their heads on the head table for free squirters, while RUBEN WACHTEL was stuffing down all the German Sauerkraut Cake, and ANNIE LOGHIL was counting the stitches that LABEL GREENWOOD dropped while listening to Doc talk of fish and sails, peas and puppy dog tails... PERLSO LEWIS rearranged the boy & girl labels on the presents under the tree to see if ROBIN STRATE could tell the difference by lifting the flaps.... RUTH RICHARDSON and BILL WAITE had removed their shoes while tallying the vote... which gave rise to some interesting speculation.....

WALT GREENWOOD is our new President, BOB FLETCHER, 1st Vice President, OLIVER LOYLAND, 2nd VICE, LIVY FLETCHER, Treasurer, NIBBY KLINEFELTER, Secretary, and the Board of Directors consists of WARREN BUCKNER, BILL NELSON, WALTER SCOTT, PERLSO LEWIS, and JIM STALSONBURG.... DOC VAUGHAN was elected President Emeritus and granted Life Membership... and as he rang down the gavel for the last time, ending a three-year tenure, he said, "The man who lives only for himself is engaged in a very small business"..... omitting many, many remarks of approbation.... Thanks, Doc, it's been our pleasure.....

--A. Phidd

APOROCACTUS: (ap^o-ro-kak^{tus}) A genus of cacti with air roots, in the Hylocereanae tribe..Greek: "impenetrable cactus"

FLAGELLIFORMIS: (fla-jelⁱ-for^{mis}) Shaped like a whiplash.



DRY-BUT VERY