

MAMMILLARIA THORNBERI

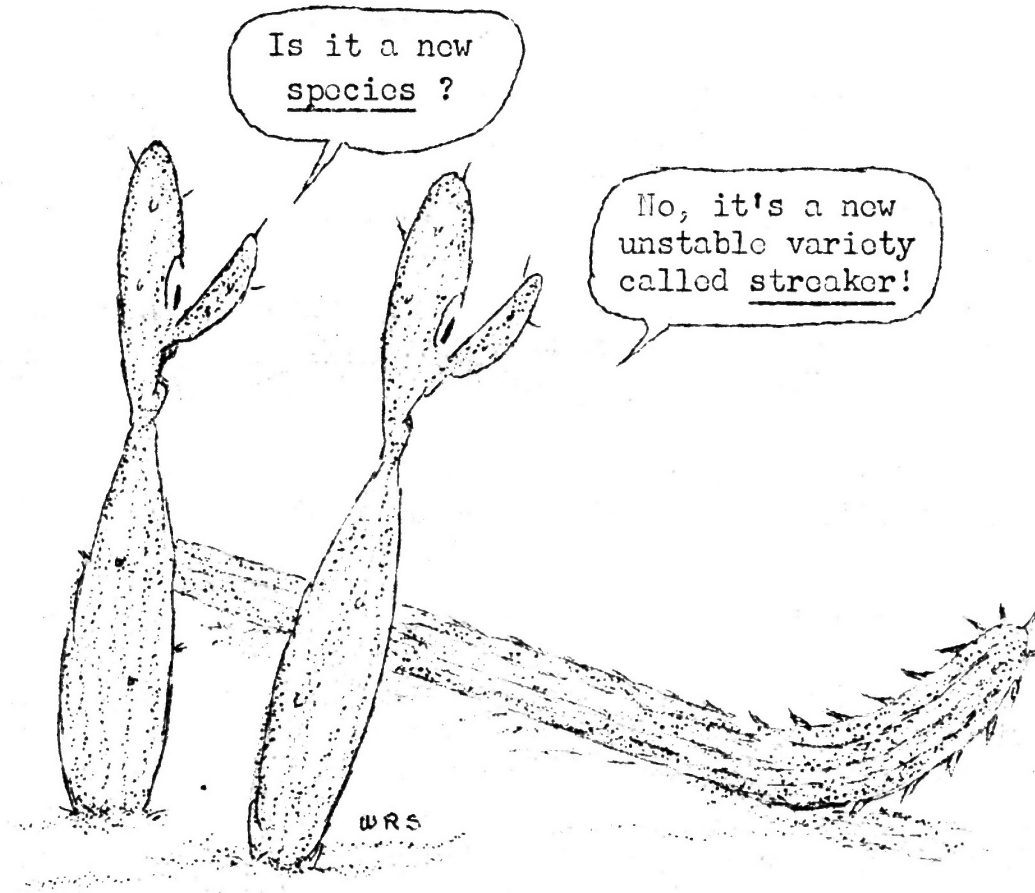
Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

.....
TOMO NUEVE, NUMERO CINCO
.....

MAY 1974



.....
Botanical Anomaly
.....

SUCCULENT PLANT EXHIBIT

At the Downtown Library

APRIL 1974

Arrangements were made some months ago with the Exhibit Division of the Downtown Library for our Club to set up an 'Educational Succulent Plant Exhibit' in the lobby. The Library periodically arranges for

displays in the lobby and in glass enclosures on two street sides. Mrs. Lois McKenzie heads the 'Exhibit Activity' and provides direction and assistance to Clubs in setting up exhibits.

Walls provide vertical surfaces for paintings and photographs. The walls are cork panels set between shelf bracket supports...ideal for flat as well as three-dimensional exhibits:

Warren Buckner chose 'exhibit-hardy' plants, those which would survive a 'vacation' from habitat and at the same time exposure to close public scrutiny. The secret was 'no touch', very applicable to cactus. His selections were Haworthias, 'Living Rocks', Ariocarpus from Texas and Mexico and Euphorbias from Africa. A note read: "Euphorbias are to Africa and the Old World what the cactus is to the Americas...natives. The succulent, thorny Euphorbias resemble cacti closely. They are readily distinguishable by the 'milky' latex which flows from the stems at the slightest wound. Five Euphorbias made up the exhibit: E. cereiformis, E. schoenlandi, E. suzanne and two forms of E. obesa, one normal, one a crest.

Joe Bibbey obtained a representative collection of San Diego County cacti, together with color enlargements, from which he made special displays in the glass cases. The floor cases had built-in handicaps since upright space therein allowed for a plant height plus pot of about eight inches. Many specimen plants exceed that measurement.

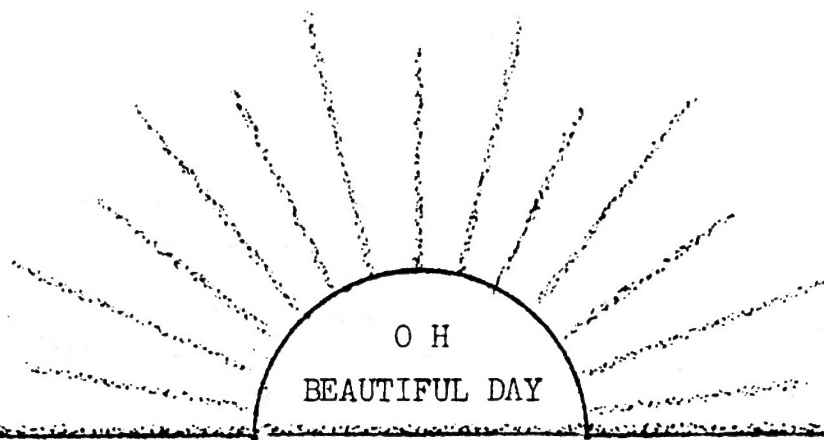
A collection of strictly American desert type succulents were placed in a separate case. Selections were: Echinocereus engelmannii, Ferocactus acanthodes, Bergerocactus emoryii, mammillaria tetrandia and two Dudleyas, all native to San Diego County.

A painting by Suzanne Gillie of Coronado, a Club member, provides a center piece for the north wall exhibit. Its subject is: "Succulent Exhibit at Cal Expo". It is an eye-catching rendition in oils of a blue ribbon exhibit at Del Mar.

Twenty brilliant and colorful Japanese photographs of cacti and other succulents are on the north and south walls of the lobby. They are 'spraymounted' and preserved on pressedwood panels and coated with an acrylic spray for brilliance and durability. We will learn as time passes whether or not they will retain their brilliant luster. They are outstanding photographs.

One floor case contains three types of grafts: Cleft, flat and side, together with the explanation: "The art of grafting, regardless of form, is the process of joining a piece of choice variety, capable of new and perhaps accelerated growth, onto the stock of another different and vigorously growing plant.

Cactus publications fill two cases. They are the Cactus & Succulent Journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, bimonthly, and "Espinasy Flores" the monthly publication of the San Diego Society. Information on the Society reveals that it was founded in 1961 with twelve charter members. It has grown... in 1973 membership reached 256 representing sixteen states and nine foreign countries. H. Warren Buckner assumed leadership for the exhibit and he was assisted by Pres. Joe Bibbey, V.P. Martin Mooney and Ye Ed. Pres. Bibbey learned that exhibits may present problems...his color negatives were lost for a period of time overlapping exhibit dates. The exhibit is without doubt the most constructive and worthwhile activity undertaken by the Club. You are encouraged to make your own judgment.



..... Julianne RICE

Tis the season to enjoy the Creator's Gift of Love and Joy.

All one has to do is take a drive thru the back country with time enuf for side trips, afoot, to the natural gardens awaiting in seclusion there.

One need only to be possessed of an exploring nature to come face to face with breath-taking vistas. Incidentally, it will not matter one whit whether or not you recognize or can call by name the plants so livingly sharing their gorgeous bursts of spring color. Whether a flowering type or a tree in dress of now green, the reward is great and totally satisfying.

Telegraph Canyon Road out of Chula Vista has been one of my favorite springtime haunts for many years, and so-o-o on Tuesday last, after deciding that Bonnie, my dear co-worker, would rejoice along with me and not mind my subsequent tardy arrival in the Imperial Valley, I headed out that way. Shortly, my eyes were feasting upon hillside after hillside of Caenothus ranging from softest shades of lavender to deep-deep purples of our stormy weather desert spectaculars at close of day.

As I curved upward on the winding road which is ever a delight to drive, the landscape was enhanced with wild sweetpeas lacyly draped over whatever afforded them clinging space.

Would you believe a refreshment stop at Dogpatch, U.S.A. with Mountain Dew as the liquid part of the refreshment?

Eastward again..on thru lichen-covered boulders..oh, how I'd love a cottage there..reminescent of other much loved locales which had contributed to an unfoldment of a Special Love Affair with Natural Beauty. Humbly grateful I am to all who have helped to open my eyes that I might see the beauty available to all who will see and receive.

By the side of the road, here and there, a small lupine showing its blue flowers with, as bonus, a glimpse of Ipomopsis tenuifolia (gilia) amongst the rocks. Just before Campo, I believe.

Penstemon, penstemon and more penstemon. With its interestingly shaped flowerets composing regally graceful wands of ever so many luscious colors. Not as generously represented as McCain overlooking Carrizo, but there all the same in delightful array. (Cont'd.)

OH, BEAUTIFUL DAY, continued:

Always, I am soul-satisfyingly amazed at the wealth of natural hybrids, each, in its uniqueness, a perfect art of reproduction.

One very secluded area offered a spectacular view with Cowania Mexicana, the 'quinine bush-cliff rose' to some, as principle with three yellow composites drifting around, and to complement, one of my favorites, the wild heliotrope or Phacelia, in a gentle lavender-pink variety favorably accented with a ground cover of those minute-all-in-bloom-ones so prevalent this year.

With all due respect to Landscape Architects, and I know some excellent ones, only a Master Hand can create as these special spots are created.

Way up high, what looks ever so much like a ghost flower; over there something resembling Minulus--monkey flower; too far away and NO Bi-Hocks.....

Must include a thumb-nail mention of our (Imperial Valley's) only wild-flower expert, Ida Little, for whom some years ago I dubbed Minulus Biglovi "Little Ida's." You may safely bet your best pair of Sunday boots that we know where the best stands of "Ida's" hide away. Perhaps it should also be mentioned that Ida and JR are, without equivocation, the most fearless female jeopers in all of this magnificent creation. Hence, much exposure to the wondrous world of the out-of-doors....far beyond the ribbons of concrete.

Everywhere, Encelia farinosa, or brittlebrush, with its silvery foilage contrasting pleasingly with the many shades of green now bedecking the slopes as one descends to the desert floor. Some blooms are spent; some in full array; others budding with a promise for future enjoyment.

Beloperona californica, the humming bird Chuparosa, is also cheerily greeting all who will see. Here and there a Castilleja--paint brush.

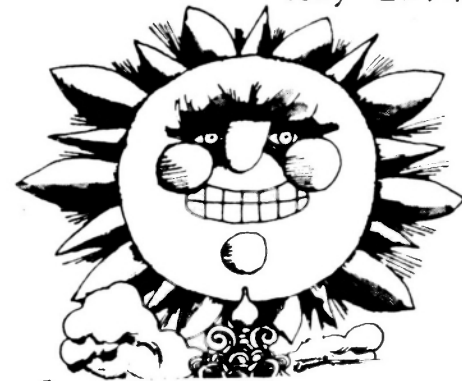
If one is diligently observant as one descends, interestingly shaped by-the-elements-terrain is visible; areas of which provide natural planters of varying proportions to native flora. On the rim of one such saucer-like depression I sat to fully appreciate all growing there. There were smallish smoke trees, Dalea spinosa, their branches with the ashy-gray pubescent quality, a lovely foil for Fouquieria splendens so generously in leaf and nodding graceful heads of orange-red. Handsome half-spheres of Encelia in full flower nestled among the foot-high Ferocactus acanthodes with red-red spines glistening in the sun. Jillions of belly flowers, each sporting superlative coloration and freshly opened to the sun flowers, furnishing an added fillip.

One might think that enough for one day, but no, another treat was in store....about five feet above my eye level as I sat there, flowering in its own special container, a drift of Oenothera cardiophylla, with its heart-shaped leaves of a most pleasing shade of soft, velvety green, nodded a vigorous "Welcome Home" to this child whose adoptive home is the desert.

When we cannot find contentment
in ourselves, it is useless
to seek it elsewhere.
LA ROCHEFOUCAULD

NIBBY'S
NOTEBOOK

May 1974



BUT -- it you do intend to seek contentment --
Baja is the BEST place to start looking.

Yes, I've made another trip and THE EDITOR
A*S*K*E*D me to give an account. This Easter
was the third I've spent in Baja and the second
in the company of Museum of Natural History personnel.
The first was by boat (the fishing boat HM-85) down to Magdalena Bay.
Last Easter I was one of four in a Frontier Enterprise venture and
we travelled in a great little truck that weighed three tons EMPTY.
This year we combined the best of both, camping in remote spots and
sailing with Antero Diaz in his boat SAN AUGUSTIN II to tiny islands
in the Sea of Cortez. In conjunction with the seminar on Baja the
Museum of Natural History sponsored this field trip which on the hand-
out fact sheet was titled simply "Bahia de Los Angeles".

BAHIA de los ANGELES

We were 20 altogether (a small number by the Museum's reckoning
and their absolute limit) traveling caravan style...more or less...
I was assigned to ride with an interesting photographer who drove an
orange Honda. I learned that a Honda is a small car that looks closer
to the road than it is and can take in stride the rough roads to San
Borja when it is driven skillfully. Ray Gilmore -- that THE Doctor
Gilmore who has been a recognized authority on whales for a number of
years -- drove a Land Rover filled with four females named Miriam,
Mary, Madelyn and Eve. Referred to as Ray and His Harem...He kept
them all fascinated with tidbits and stories relevant to the scene.

Our leader and his wife and passenger also drove a Land Rover.
Dick Schwenckmeyer is a biologist and geologist at San Diego State
and if you can ever take a trip with him, DO - he's a great leader.
Dick does have a grievous fault -- show him a rock and he asks, "Want
me to break it for you?" In addition to Dick & Verle, passenger
Valery, there was a (medical) Dr. Vinton travelling together in a
Chevy Suburban (thought it was a Land Rover). In Claire's big heavy-
duty camper which rolled behind us nice and easy, swaying like a
prairie schooner giving us a most comfortable feeling of protection,
rode a nurse from the Navy Hospital who has made many trips to Baja
with the Flying Samaritans, and another staff museum man.

BARTLETT BAJA BUG had been dismemebered and reassembled for
structural sturdiness. Grant Bartlett is a biochemist who does com-
parative studies of hemoglobin in mammals and was doing research.
His driving companion was a marine specialist. Now ERNIE'S ELEPHANT
really was a Land Rover and Ernie is a biologist; his passenger Van
was a co-worker. John and Doris drove a Chevrolet Pickup...AKA
DUDLEY? As far as I know, everyone got along beautifully. We brought
food and each group prepared their own, much in the manner of a wagon
train, and then all shared a community campfire.

We left my house at 0700 Sunday the 7th of April 1974 and re-
turned the following Sunday evening, having driven 971 miles -- My BAJA
1,000!

We met at the first Toll Gate and made the first stop at an excellent bakery on the far side of Ensenada, PAN EMY, and shopped for other necessities - scientific people always know how to travel. While we were in the fast-moving line at the checkpoint, Maneadero, about 20 large Motor Homes rolled by, one after the other...like travelling real estate offices...what a strange way to travel... anyway, get your tourist permit BEFORE you go because the slow-moving line was very long.

At El Rosario Senora Espinosa was much more relaxed than last year. More gas pumps, more water, more flowers...there's a little jail, too...and it's operating...an armed Mexican soldier stood on guard across the street. Don't take pictures. So many campers busting through made it hard to remember how hard it was to get there on the dustiest ruttiest road in memory.

We camped beyond the ruins of San Fernando Velicata Mission, below the natural stone wall with Indian pictographs. After breakfast we wandered about taking pictures of Cardons in bloom and the sun shining through golden glimmering spines of cholla...as well as the pictographs and everything else that took our fancy. Dick and Ray led us on a hike around the stone wall and down into a dry river bed to a reservoir surrounded by man-made stone walls. I had seen a similar structure the year before and learned that it was the same one when I saw the silver boulders across the way -- perhaps the elation I felt was overresponsive but to recognize the same spot from entirely different views, having come upon it from another location - and to have it retain some of the magic in the sunlight it had had in the silver moonlight! Well, it's like HOME --

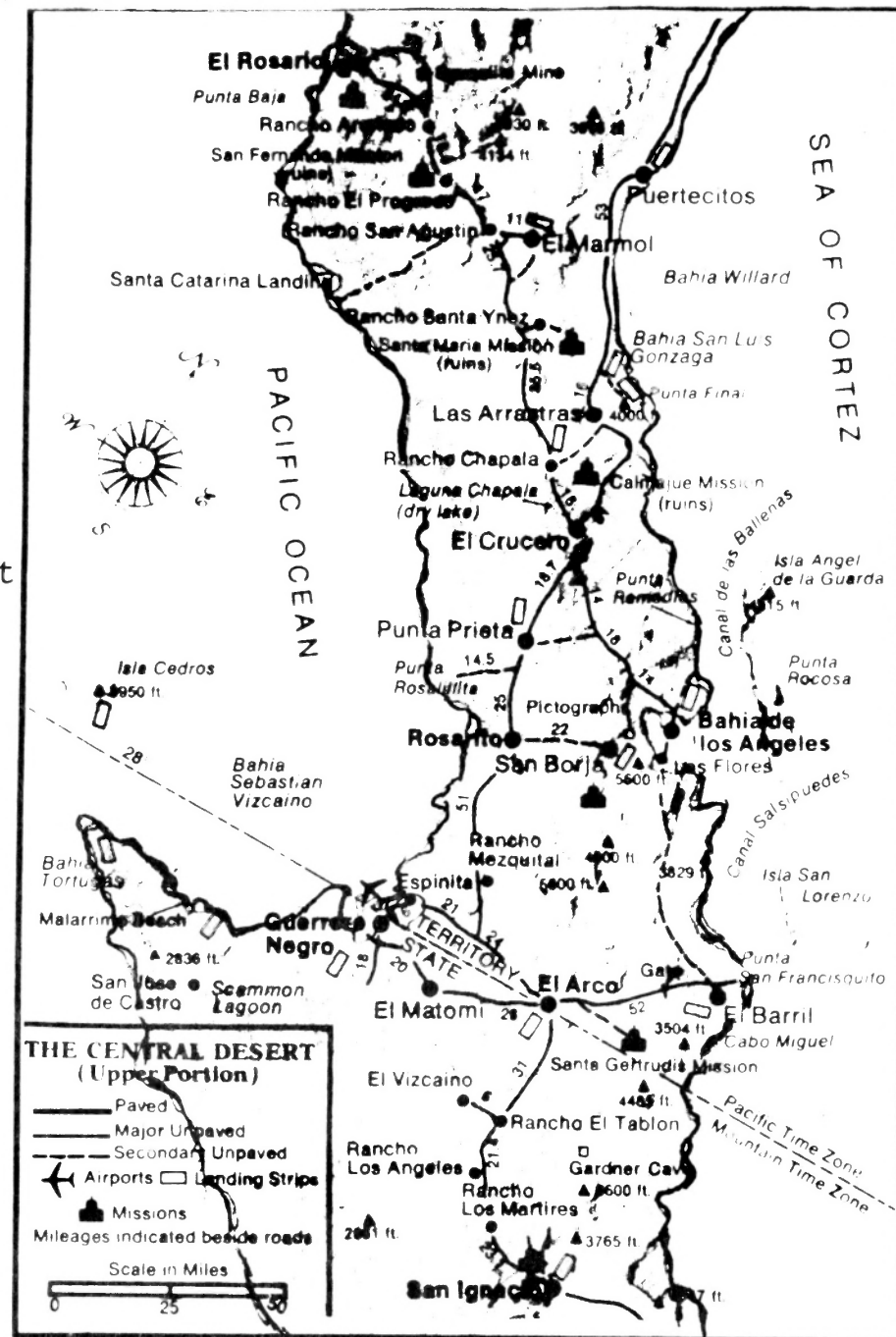
What about plants? If you like idrias, yucca, pedilanthus, fairy dusters, creosote in bloom, ocotillo, elephant trees, pitaya and similar creations, you'll like the area from there on. The weather was perfect. We left the paved road shortly after noon. The paved road did not seem as narrow and the shoulders were smoother but there were still great ugly mutilated ravished stretches 50 feet wide on both sides. 50 mph is comfortable driving.

Before we left the new highway we stopped at the parador at Santa Inez. I would like to spend a night there for the experience. They're decorated with native crafts, cool interiors with sunlit patio and handsome wood & stone & plants. They were not in service but we could see lots of stainless steel that appeared to be a cafeteria. I hope the plumbing isn't shot by the time they do open.

We lunched at Descanso GOLD MINE, wandering around picking up hot rocks with a cold beer in one hand. The leaves, the dainty little compound leaves of the elephant trees had turned to gold. While driving they glittered golden but close to touch they glowed. The leaves would fall soon...wish I could have been there to photograph the golden puddle around the base of these heavy limbs. (The texture was soft, not dry.) Golden trees amid goldbearing quartz...adobe ruins...piles and piles of colorful rocks. Very dry, very hot, very dry and hot and then suddenly the blaze of blue, the blinding exciting WET BLUE OF THE BAY. We pulled in hot and dusty about four o'clock ready to shower...It was Easter weekend, remember, and BUSY...Antero Diaz apparently was beset beyond endurance for instead of 5 double rooms there was one...

One room meant one shower and there were 20 of us...EACH one wanting a shower NOW...we allowed our leaders to go forward first and scattered in all directions to explore the beach and the spring above the middens of past and present, bringing home shells and a mold for making ingots of gold or silver...most productive walk...but we couldn't find the reported panderia. Verle figured if the kids in town didn't know where it was, it wasn't.

Drop by drop we all had a shower and then over for dinner. When I had been there before everyone ate at one long table, family style, and most of the table was empty...no sitting around the fireplace drinking Margueritas this time -- you went to the bar and got a beer -- and we were on the third shift of diners - and there were four long tables! I understand that what I thought was fried chicken was fried turtle. Am glad I didn't know for My Friend Miriam's plaintive cry of, "I'll have no turtle soup -- I've SWAM WITH TURTLES!" made them too personal to eat.



Antero told us to take whatever we wanted to have with us on the boat down to the dock whenever we were ready and someone would take us out to the boat...and it all worked out just like that -- much nicer on board a rolling bobbing rocking deck than inside any quarters. SAN AUGUSTIN II was now our home and Antero was our host - you've all to take such a trip. Antero was tired of tourists. He decided that we should go beyond Isla San Lorenzo and sail on to where the bluefooted boobies nested and see the tropic birds! We really felt that we were on a Scientific Expedition -- the things he showed us. The name of the first island that we reached was San Pedro Martir Island. It was a geologic wonderland where volcanic action was most disruptive. Sheer walls mostly. It was a small island and I managed to be on the first boat (which is good advice because sometimes the second boat doesn't land). It was slippery and rough going, especially on the way back with a sack of rocks. There were sea lions and gulls, brown boobies and bluefooted boobies. Now that's a crazy looking bird I saw in the slides of my companion driver-photographer...all I actually saw were brown boobies and I kept wondering why they were called blue-footed. The blue is almost turquoise and the legs are that same wild blue and the breast is white and the blue legs and feet are NOTICEABLE. But in the din and smells and wondrous sights you can't see everything. There were caves and sealions everywhere. There's no use. That island was too much to be able to put in order for a paragraph or two. The tropic

birds are pure white with two very long tailfeathers. In the air we saw a number of them at once and they are very beautiful flying high above you. But they are a very insecure bird and nest way back in a crevice of the rocks so that you have to bend way down and peer in until your eyes become more accustomed and finally spot a white wing or a red beak.

We had circled the island and then landed, while the other boat circled and went back aboard. Then when we were back it was time for cocktails and after dinner there were luminescent sparkly Things in the water which Fay will know what they were. All night we heard the groans and bellows, roars and squeals of the sealions while we rocked on the deck under the stars. After a second trip to San Pedro Martir we had lunch while heading back to Raza. The weather was quite brisk, almost stormy. Using my sleeping bag for a laprobe was illadvised for it became wet to the point of sogginess...just wanted to be able to confide that Antero Diaz loaned one to me -- it's fun to be on a first name basis with A Living Legend.

Again it was late afternoon so we bypassed Raza for Cardonosa. We anchored in the sheltered water there and went ashore. Climbed up to see an osprey's nest. There were cardons on the top of Cardonosa and in fact cardons marched down to the water's edge in many places on many of the islands we saw. (Don't you think that is surprising?) That night we listened to gulls and terns in gentle comfort.

In my notes: "RAZA ISLAND. Incredible experience." Then there's a big thinking space. "Antero led us all over - in and among and through the elegant terns nesting, with gulls surrounding them and in some cases making islands within the tern colonies. Din. Cacophony. Guano deep and cushiony. Rocks had been piled in square cairns to leave more room for more birds to nest to make more guano for fertilizer -- or for gunpowder? Men had gone to an awful lot of trouble. It's a little island and we were all around and over and crisscrossing through. It's one of those private isolated bits of Nature that makes one feel none of us should be there, the balance is already so precarious. Antero took us down to the stone house he had built for the game warden. The game warden was not there...the game warden was late...the game warden was... Antero asked what we thought of building a hotel there with observer's blinds...The eggs are pretty and spotted with from one to three in a nest. The yolks are bright orange-red. With all the racket and ear-splitting sound there doesn't seem much emotion. There were more birds than you can imagine...they let us walk through...we all felt glad they hadn't seen Hitckcock's movie...

Walked on the beach the next morning at sunrise...Good Friday. Left Bahia de los Angles at nine o'clock but returned almost immediately for Schwenkmeyer's Land Rover had a hub problem. Dallied with tide pools and saw tiny sun-star fish, feather worms that were black with big sluggish bodies while the repair was going on. After lunching under the tamarisk trees John & Doris decided to stay while the rest of us went on to San Borja. Cardons amid piles of pectans and scallops and elephant trees. Very bushy ocotillas, some with a low trunk that appeared almost like an apple tree, with orange-red flowers, along with the usual rigid wand type. Smoke trees and idrias again. The gold, pure newly minted, unadulterated GOLD with the sun shining through - hillsides of elephant trees...transparent, a paler gold shimmering around the cholla...

! Sorry...I didn't have enough time to be briefer. NK

S U C C U L E N T P L A N T S I L I K E

- - - Matthew Barisic - - -

CEPHALOCEREUS SENILIS
(Old Man Cactus)

I like the 'Old Man Cactus' because it always looks attractive with its hairy covering. When visitors come to my garden they seem to notice it in particular and they enjoy looking at it.



Cephalocereus senilis



Opuntia microdasys
(Bunny ears)

Opuntia microdasys really is not a favorite because if I touch it I get at least eight stickers (glochids) in one finger. They are so small they are hard to find and remove. And they hurt!

I have one planted next to a succulent. It has grown so large it has pressed against the succulent. At the 'contact' point the succulent now has 'stickers'.



Zygocactus truncatus
(Thanksgiving cactus)

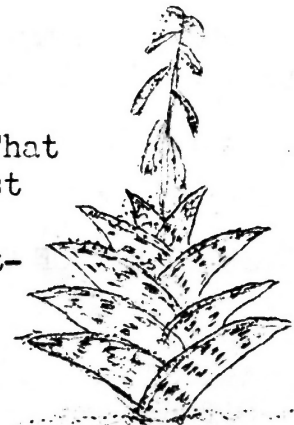
This cactus is sometimes called the 'Crab cactus'. It's difficult for me to tell why I like this particular cactus but it really is nice during the season when it is in flower.



Faucaria tigrina
(Tiger jaws)

I like 'Tiger jaws' because it really does look like tiger jaws. Also the flowers look like miniature suns.

Aloe variegata may be my favorite over all others. That may be because mine has just finished blooming and it looked particularly attractive because of the pattern of markings on its leaves.



Aloe variegata

SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

ADROMISCHUS

Greek: 'hadros' (stout, thick) and 'nischos' (stem). (Ād-rō-nīs'-kūs)

This handsome member of the Crassulaceae was called 'Cotyledon' until 1852 when Lemaire separated them from the genus mainly due to differences in the flower.

Of the fifty species named (the botanists are still working at it) about twenty-five are under cultivation.

All the species are from Central Southwest Africa, mainly in Cape Province, namaqualand and the Transvaal. A few species have a wide range but most are found in only one or two localities.

Most of the plants are short stemmed, with smooth, waxy leaves in any shape except ordinary. The one-half inch flowers range along a stout terminal raceme which is surprisingly long for the size of the plant. The plant does not die after flowering, but terminates growth with the flower stalk and then branches at this point.

Many species are easy to grow and their sculptured form, small size and interesting colors and textures make them ideal plants to collect. Their main requirements seem to be a loose, rich soil, moderate sunlight, some warmth in winter, and ample water in summer.

Adromischus cristatus, A. maculatus and A. festivus (usually sold as A. cooperi) are best and easy to grow for people who would like to try the genus. They are generally available in local nurseries.

If you want a real challenge, try A. alveolatus or A. herrei. For a pretty plant A. marianae is my favorite, and if you like plants covered with white powder, try A. leucophyllus.

There is a size, color or type for everyone. So take your choice and good growing.

Note: See Myron Kirmach's article in the Cactus & Succulent Journal, VOL. XXV, No. 2, 1953, page 44 for a key to the genus and expert information.

. Madelyn Lee

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH for the remainder of 1974

JUNE	Kalanchoe	JULY	None (Annual picnic)
AUGUST	Echeveria	SEPTEMBER	Crassula
OCTOBER	Senecio	NOVEMBER	Caudiciform
DECEMBER	Your personal favorite		succulents
	succulent plant.		

REMEMBER: Only you can make the Plant-of-the-Month table an interesting and informative program by bringing at least one plant in to the meeting. And if you're a 'winner' you get your choice from the Exchange table.

C-O-M-M-U-N-I-C-A-T-I-O-N-S

'Spice' of Espinas y Flores

G. STANLEY, San Francisco:

"Can you do us a favor and tell us who the publishers are for CACTUS COUNTRY and BAJA CALIFORNIA and the year they were published? They are new to us and we want to get them for our library."

(G.S. You raise a good query. Other readers may be interested, so here are the answers.

Both are TIME-LIFE 1973 books of "The American Wilderness Series. Price inside the flap is \$7.95. Several other volumes have appeared in the series as indicated in their pages. Both books contain 184 pages and page size (book size) is about 9 by 10½". Emphasis is upon photography. Botanical names are not given. There comes a time when such words as hedgehog, jumping cholla, teddy bear, and so on become confusing and tiring. . . . Ye Ed)

Evon RAY, Sacramento, CA

"H E L P" This is a search project! We are looking for quilt patterns featuring cactus and/or cactus flowers. The following article appeared in the Cactus & Succulent Journal, Mar-Apr 1951, page 62:

"NEW HOBBY: Cactophiles! Enjoy your hobby in a new way by making a cactus quilt. I have designed one, each block of which is a different blooming cactus, in natural colors, copied, in applique and embroidery from the living plant. I will be glad to share these designs with anyone who will write me, enclosing a 3-cent stamp.

Mrs. F. Bestard, 3203 E. 17th Street
Wichita 14, Kansas"

We'd be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows about or has these patterns. A letter addressed to the above address was returned.

Any reader with info about cactus quilt patterns is urged to communicate with:

Dorothy Williams, 6240 Wildomar Way, Carmichael, CA 95608, or Ye Ed.

Ellie WACKER, Las Vegas:

"How I wish I could get down to see your month-long Library Exhibit. There just are not enug hours in the day, or days in the week, or weeks in the month. Our eleven fruit trees are loaded with blossoms, tiny fruit and migratory birds.

PS: Would you inquire whether an Espinas y Flores reader would become a regular contributor to 'EyF' by assisting with pronunciation of words and their meaning and pronunciation which are associated with succulent plants?

(Ellie: Like for example our succulent of the month Adromischus: (ād-rō-nīs-kūs). A genus of plants in the Cotyledon group of the family Crassulaceae. From two Greek words meaning "stout stalk". Any volunteers? Ye Ed)

. Parodia Spegazzini, 1923 .
. Dr. George E. Radwin .
.

The genus Parodia was originally named Hickenia by Britton & Rose (1922), a name preoccupied by an identical one in the milkweed family (Euphorbias, etc.). Spegazzini (1923) noting this duplication, renamed it Parodia after an early Paraguayan plant explorer. Type species is P. microsperma.

Two groups, once thought to be part of Parodia have since been segregated, Islaya and Uebelmannia. The latter genus was recently erected by Buining who stated that he sees a close relationship between Parodia, Notocactus, Frailca and Uebelmannia. These, he says, are all divergent in habit (growth form), bloom and fruit, and particularly in seed structure. Even with Parodia proper there appear to be, as in Notocactus, coherent groups of species more closely related to each other than to members of other groups.

The genus Parodia can be divided into groups on the basis of seed-size-range (tiny -0.5mm or less vs. larger -1mm avg.). Other observers distinguish the straight-spined forms (primarily from N. Argentina, S. Brazil and Uruguay) from the hooked-spined forms (mainly from Bolivia). Unfortunately, the occurrence of each of these features does not correlate with that of the other. Some species with tiny, dust-like seeds have hooked spines and some have straight spines. The converse is also true.

Just about all Parodias are unusually beautiful by most standards. They range from small to moderately large (2 to 8 inches in diameter). They are generally globular to briefly cylindrical, and almost all solitary, i.e. non-offsetting. They are ribbed with tubercles on the ribs and they are generally quite spiny and/or woolly. The flowers are, in most cases, small, borne apically, and brightly colored, ranging from yellow through shades of orange to red. Flowering, as well as most growth, generally occurs during the period of late spring through early autumn.

The solitary nature of the plants results in the fact that propagation is primarily from seed, however species with minute seeds are difficult to raise in that they remain so small for a year that they cannot be safely transplanted. In nature Parodias grow at moderate to considerable altitudes and seem to prefer sandstone or volcanic soils. Bolivian species are known to occur as high as 12,000 feet. Culture generally presents few problems if an open, well-drained, moderately rich soil mixture is used. Their only weakness is a susceptibility to fungus infections and, in a few species, a tendency to burn in direct sunlight.

The recent explosion of plant exploration in South America, combined with the natural affection that most cactophiles have for this genus, have caused a corresponding explosion in the number of Parodias named within the last few years. Spegazzini included three species in the genus in 1923. In 1945 Borg listed 28 species and Backeberg (1962) listed 130 species, to which numerous other species have been added in the past five years, primarily through the work of Ritter and Cardenas.

Some of the best known species are: P. aureispina, P. naasii, P. sanguiflora and P. mutabilis.

REFERENCES: Backeberg, C., 1949: NEW WAYS IN CACTOLOGY. Cactus & Succulent Journal, (U.S.) 21(4): 123-126; Block, M., 1973, PARODIA SPEGAZZINI. C & S Journal (U.S.) 44: 106-107, 117; Rogers, J.E.C., 1948, CEREUSLY SPEAKING: The Diary of a Cactophile. C & S Journal (U.S.) 20(9): 131, 135.

TWO EASY-TO-GROW, INTERESTING SUCCULENTS

Bowiea volubilis

"Climbing onion"

This strange member of the Lily family is called a "climbing onion" because of its large globe-shaped bulb from which the wantering succulent stem arises.

It has no known value in cooking, but is grown simply for its interest and novelty. Every three or four years the great bulb, exposed to full view, splits in two, producing an extra that you can give to a friend.

There are no true leaves on the twining green stems, but in winter tiny flowers may appear, followed later by little bulblets.

This plant seems at home in a collection of succulents and may be treated the same. It will grow in a dry atmosphere, and its bulb is so full of moisture that you can neglect to water it occasionally without fatal results.

In autumn the bulb rests and needs no watering at all.

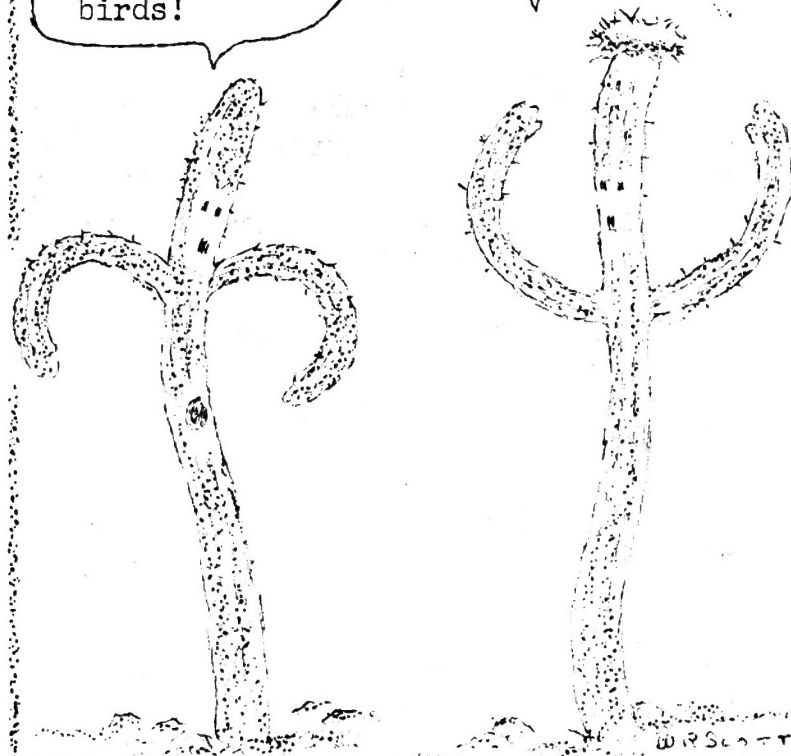
Ideas for the two saguaro cartoons on this page are courtesy of:

C. M. Scott, Trinidad, Colorado

Thank you, CMS.....Ye Ed

I've got a hole in my chest....
pocked by the birds!

That's your bird problem!
What I've got ain't dandruf!



For the Birds

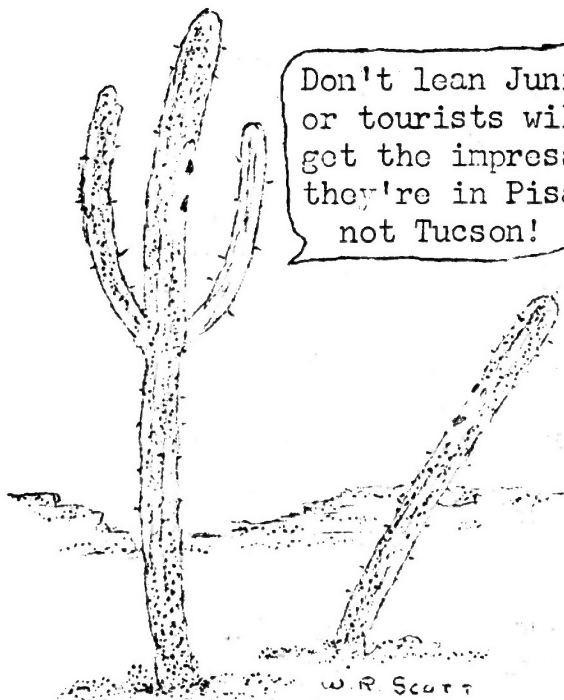
Sedum morganinum

"Burro tail"

Most gardens contain at least one or two representatives of the large family of sedums or stonecrops but the one described here, from Mexico, is not hardy enough to remain outdoors in winter over most of the country.

It is an excellent plant for hanging pots or baskets. When it grows well it sends down its nice, soft, gray-green "tails" for two or more feet. It is easy to care for, and like most succulents, it can withstand long periods of dryness. Sometimes tiny pink flowers appear at the stem tips. It prefers moderate temperatures, good light, well-drained potting soil, and a watering schedule that permits it to dry between waterings. New "tails" may be started by rooting the individual leaves in a bed of moist sand.

Don't lean Junior, or tourists will get the impression they're in Pisa--- not Tucson!



Leaning Tower

PERSONAL PLANT COLLECTIONS

Dr. Philip G. Corliss

The most satisfactory way to acquire plants for your personal collection is to personally select and buy them from a nursery. San Diego County now is the area with more cactus nurseries than any comparable area. The advanced fancier may wish to look elsewhere as well.

For collected plants and new and rare varieties not available locally, it is suggested that you patronize dealers who advertise in the Cactus and Succulent Journal of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America. The Editors exercise care in their acceptance of advertising. Dissatisfaction should be reported to the Journal.

Fortunately most plants grown from seed or propagated from offsets, even grafted ones, cost only about a dollar each from many dealers. Collected plants are far more expensive.

In order to receive plants from out of the country you must have a Plant Import Permit which is issued without charge by writing to the Dept. of Agriculture, 209 River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.

South American cacti and seeds are offered by South American Plants, S.A. (Karel Knize) of Lima, Peru. Their wholesale business requires most of their attention at this time.

My recommended source on the continent of Europe is:

H. van Donkelaar, Werkendam, Netherlands.

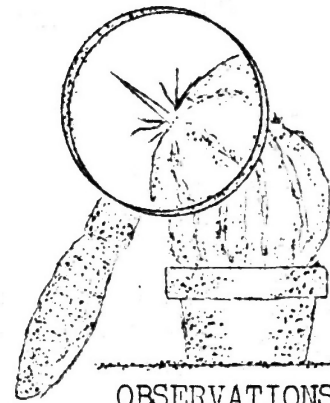
A free catalog listing over 1,000 cacti and 1,000 other succulents is available on request. His African list is especially strong since he is agent for a leading South African nursery.

Holly Gate Nurseries, Ashington, Sussex, England, is a splendid seed source, propagated plants and collected items. They offer a monthly list which you may receive for one dollar a year, or if you prefer \$3.00 a year for air mail delivery.

Subscribers to the monthly bulletin "Exotic Collection" which is published by The Exotic Collection, 16 Franklin Rd., Worthing, Sussex, England, receive free seed packets once a year. (Subscribers are regarded as members) Additional seeds may be obtained from the seed lists. The annual membership has been \$5.00 a year. It includes a monthly illustrated publication with two photographic plates. Dues may be paid thru Abbey Garden of Santa Barbara.

Mr. Werner Uebelmann, better known as Su-Ka-Flor, does not solicit customers from the United States at the present time.

Note: A list of retail and wholesale cactus and succulent nurseries in San Diego County will appear in a future issue of Espinas y Flores.



OBSERVATIONS of
Cacto-Phil Corliss

M A Y P R O G R A M

OPEN HOUSE, May 11-12

Vice President Martin Mooney's signal for OPEN HOUSE in May is bright green. Refer to the Abril issue of 'E y F' page 3 and refresh your memory.

VEEP Mooney says 'open' is exactly what it means. Plants, hobbies, needle work, handicrafts, pottery, arrangements, art work....and don't forget lots and lots of specimen plants. And we've heard someone has some very special slides.

Ione Hubner says she has about 20 tables scheduled and she expects more to come in without prior announcement. And she says there are plenty of tables at Casa del Prado. Space? No problem. Exhibits? That's YOUR problem. Fill that space!

When you set up your table, make certain the exhibit and all its parts are stable! Last year someone looked at a table and it collapsed. The raised center shelf set upon narrow supports collapsed about the time the show was about to begin. Someone must have sneezed. Plants don't bounce very well even some of them are filled with 'latex'. And a pot attached to their roots isn't very helpful when it comes to bounce. Right, Ed?

Also, when spotting plants or whatever on a table top, set them back from the table's edge. Passers-by sometimes brush against the tables in order to get a better look. And remember many cactus species have 'hooked' spines, they make it a point to hook onto anything they can get close to, just to go for a ride.

If your exhibit is 'tall' place your table against the wall and plant it for front viewing only. If you're totally confused at this juncture, read the following classes and categories and become self-oriented. If you think one table makes for too much monotony, share it with another exhibitor. The exhibits will get along with each other. . . .they know nothing about competition.

CACTUS TABLE -- If you think your plants receive better care and look sharper than others, bring them in and prove your point.

SUCCULENT TABLE -- The books say all cacti are succulents. What an opportunity that affords. You've got the judges over a barrel.

SPECIMEN PLANTS -- If you have enuf to outfit a table, go right ahead. Or if you want to be more competitive with particular plants, make a contest of it. Everyone enjoys and appreciates specimen plants.

ARRANGEMENTS -- I've read there are rules governing the judging of arrangements, but I've never been able to understand the rules. If you have pet theories, this is your opportunity to try them out.

ARTS -- BONSAI -- GRAFTS -- HANDICRAFTS -- HOBBIES -- YOU NAME IT !
All these categories offer possibilities for 'eye openers'.

REGISTER YOUR EXHIBIT and get a number for it. WHY? For the benefit of the judges, not that they would be partial, we want them to be comfortable. They can go about their job more methodically and routinely if they're not handicapped with names other than plant names.

H-E-L-P !! We hope someone comes up with a quilt pattern using cactus plants or flowers for the motif. (See page 10) Would there be any competition? Then comes CAL-EXPO at DEL MAR in June and July. Are you ready?

A WORLD REBORN -- 48 SEEDLINGS

The oldest living thing on earth, a bristlecone pine in the White Mountains near Bishop, California, has produced 48 seedlings. They are the first known progeny in more than a century.

Methuselah is what they call the tree, but it started growing long before Genesis was written. Its life began with the Pyramid Age in Egypt. Most of man's history has been written in the 4500 years since then.

It must be significant that the oldest living things make their home where most life cannot survive, at 11,000 feet, in the mountains as unfriendly as they are inspiring and pure.

Those seedlings are being nurtured at an arboretum of the U. S. Forest Service where trees of new vigor and resistance are being hybridized to survive where the land is friendlier, less inspiring and polluted.

We don't know just what plans the Forest Service has for those bristlecone seedlings. Perhaps they, too, can be hybridized to create a conifer better adapted to what man has made of the earth since the parent plant's life began.

We could imagine a grain of pollen from these progeny catching on a droplet of water at the mouth of the microphyle of a cone of another pine, moving inward as the droplet evaporates, penetrating the archegonium to generate new life in the fusion of male-gamete nucleus with egg nucleus, new life for a new tree to survive far below 11,000 feet, down where the people are.

Whatever happens, those 48 seedlings surely celebrate the continuum of life, the promise of a world reborn with each vernal equinox, the preciousness of life, each life. (Thanks to J. Warner Dodd, Phoenix)

.....

A SCOTTISH TERRIER and a TORTOISE

We had long been intrigued by the cosy tarpaulin 'tent' at the far end of Ruth Stanton's garden in Carlsbad. Ruth told us it is the residence of a big old tortoise which comes out to sunbathe and eat scraps left out each day. One day our visit coincided with its appearance. We decided to watch the performance between terrier and tortoise.

On Ruth's suggestion, with our misgivings, we took our Scottish terrier, Jacquot, on our tour of Ruth's fascinating garden. All went well until we reached the area of the tortoise's domain. Here Jacquot suddenly stopped in his tracks and warily approached the hard, rock-like shell of the tortoise. He sniffed furiously. He backed off once or twice, then reassured by our presence, decided to attack the 'monster' in real earnest! With ears erect, tail wagging furiously and every hair standing on end, he circled warily, uttering short shrill barks. No results! By this time we were all fascinated but we wanted to make sure no harm came to the tortoise. Jacquot decided to bolster his attack, first with nips followed by short, sharp shoves with his long, square nozzle. His teeth slipped off the shell. For a time the tortoise put up with the indignity but finally decided that he had enuf for one day. He lumbered to his feet and made for the safety of his tent and burrow, closely followed by frenzied Jacquot.

The tortoise's retreat left three highly amused spectators and one very mystified young Scottie! (Thanks to Audrey Johnson, Escondido, CA)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

San Diego, California

DATE RECEIVED: 10/15/68
BY: [illegible]
FROM: [illegible]
RE: [illegible]

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

San Diego, California

DATE RECEIVED: 10/15/68
BY: [illegible]
FROM: [illegible]
RE: [illegible]

[Faint, illegible text]

Walter R. Scott
3430 Wilshire Ter.
San Diego, Ca. 92104
Return Requested

PRINTED MATTER

[Faint, illegible text]

[Faint, illegible text]

[Faint, illegible text]