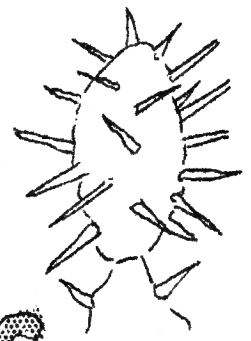


ESPINAS

Y

FLORES



August-1968

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

--SMILE--

YOU'RE ON Candid Camera.... or is it water-melon time in Hope, Arkansas... or maybe it's

just because you're walking around with an arm load of gold trophy adorned with a purple ribbon... Yes, that's it... July 7th, 1968, a day of "Affamy"... the day that the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society was awarded the Royal Purple of the "Grand Award" at the Southern California Exposition at Del Mar for being the outstanding contributor at the world's largest outdoor flower show.

A day to remember, salve for cuts and bruises, balm for weeks of work and worry, and ointment for plants damaged by a sudden change in weather extremes; but none the less a thanks from grateful people to an outstanding Society of great dedication for a good job well done.... We can add no more!

A-P-L-E-N-T-Y

CACTIVITIES

WHAT A CLUB--with wounds barely healed and blood pressure just getting down to normal-- we're off to a wild summer and early autumn filled with little gems geared to tickle the spines of any red blooded cactophile...so be prepared and keep your calender clear.....

(next page for pronouncements)

AUGUST MEETING

Saturday, August 3rd, 2pm

Floral Assoc. Building

Balboa Park

GRAFTING CLINIC
by

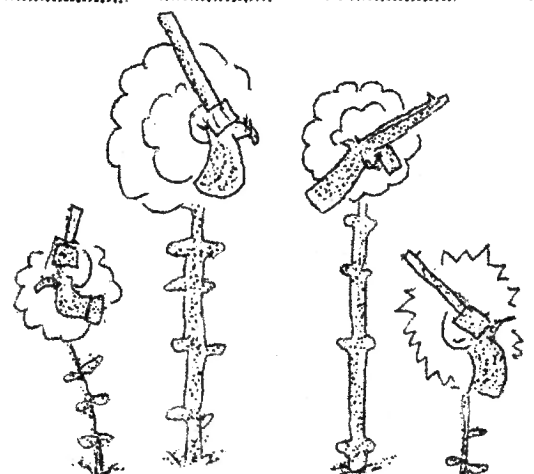
Bob Taylor

Materials available at nominal cost.

Bring last year's grafts

Exchange Table

Refreshments



Arm your plants with systemics

A "CACTIVITY" -- A SUPER SPECTACULAR: On Sunday, August 18th, the PALOMAR CLUB is sponsoring a CACTIVITY at Taylor's Cactus Garden at 1640 East Main Street, El Cajon. (Take Highway 8 east to Greenfield Drive, turn left under Hiway 8 then south a short distance and watch for Taylor's sign on the right.)

STARTING TIME is around 11 o'clock. The early hour is set to permit self-conducted tours of the spiny forest atop the hill.

Thereafter, along about noon, a pot luck dinner with refreshments will be in order. Bring your table, chairs and a DISH. Set up where you like, under the big tree in the shade or out in the sun like a Golden Barrel if you like, or if you're a sun worshiper. A plant sale will be one of the events. Sr. Jim (es DIEGO in Espanol) will don his special headgear and call out botanical names, legal descriptions and \$\$ & ¢¢, etc. Winners will be pointed out as they emerge with choice specimens. You may sit and admire (or envy if you're built that way) or you may participate to the extent of your own desires and financial solvency. BUT we are inclined to believe Sr. Jim will keep the tempo within reasonable bounds.

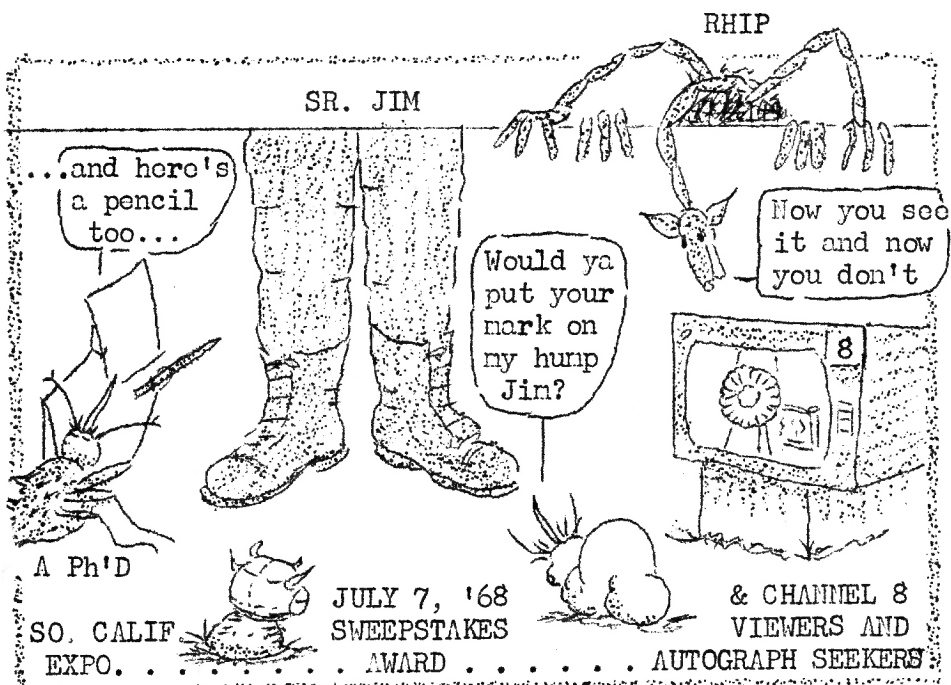
You'll agree the Taylor's Hilltop is a delightful place to spend the greater part of a day, but if you are inclined to be skittish or frivolous as you trod the trails, you'd better bring along a pair of tweezers and an assistant--for you know what. You wouldn't want to have to stand up while you were at a pot luck--now would you?

Groups from far away places have indicated they may be attending, maybe some in groups, for example PALOMAR (aforementioned), GATES from Riverside, EL CENTRO, MOJAVE, SAN GABRIEL, and of course there'll be some "Flores" y "Espinass".

By the way Sr. Jim who shows in part in the sketch below with a number of his assistants and fans and admirers was the recipient of a SWEEPSTAKES AWARD on July 7th at Del Mar. Gist of the sketch if you can figger it out is that the TV cameramen were there and it appeared on Channel 8 and a lotta people saw it...and so they reported. Maybe Sr. Jim has a few autographs left. He should, Nema TOED doesn't have her "MARK" yet, neither does Prof. A Ph'D have any sig on his sheet altho he's came equipped with a pencil. Wouldn't an 'autographer' have a problem if Nema TOED was built like a tape worm, in sections, and had a 'hump' on every section?

Say, by the way BOB, does SUZANNE have some electricity in that wire which leads out to the coffee maker yet, or shall we bring along a wire with some sparks in it?

BE SEEING YOU on SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th at the TAYLOR'S at 1640 East Main St., El Cajon.



SO. CALIF EXPO. JULY 7, '68 SWEEPSTAKES AWARD & CHANNEL 8 VIEWERS AND AUTOGRAPH SEEKERS

LIQUID MEASURE

3 tsp	1 tbl
2 tbs	1 fld oz
8 fl drams	1 fld oz
8 fl oz	1 cup
16 tbls	1 cup
16 fl oz	1 pint
2 cups	1 pint
2 pts	1 quart
4 qts	1 gal
37½ gal	1 brl

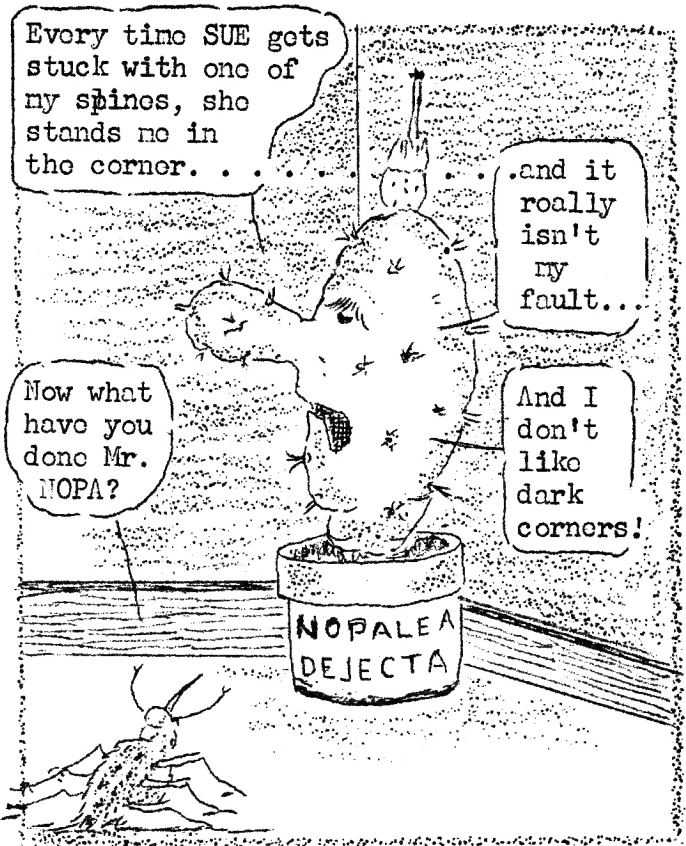
ACROSS THE BORDER--DOWN MEXICO WAY--IN OCTOBER:

You'll recall at the July meeting a discussion about a 1-day trip into Manana Land. And judging by hands held aloft, it appeared there was more than passing interest.

It's still tentative, or shall we say formative depending upon follow up interest. This is about what we would expect:

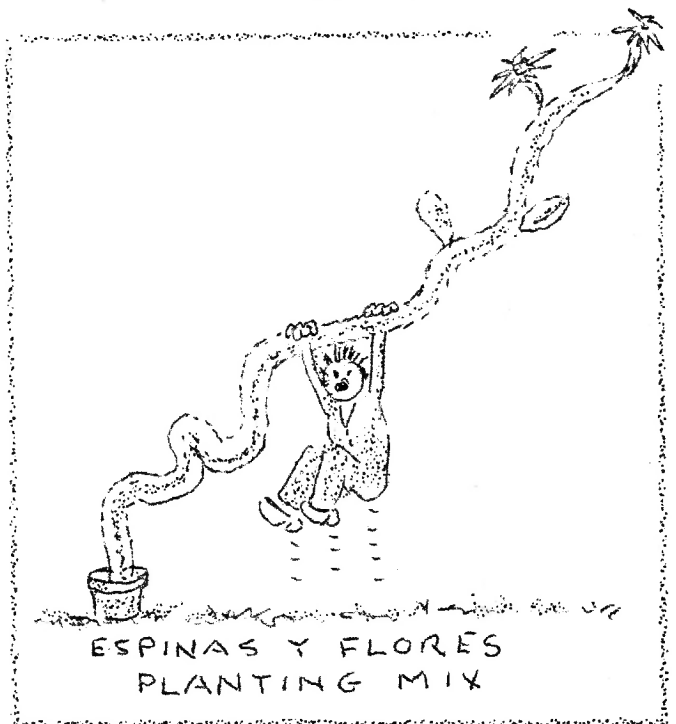
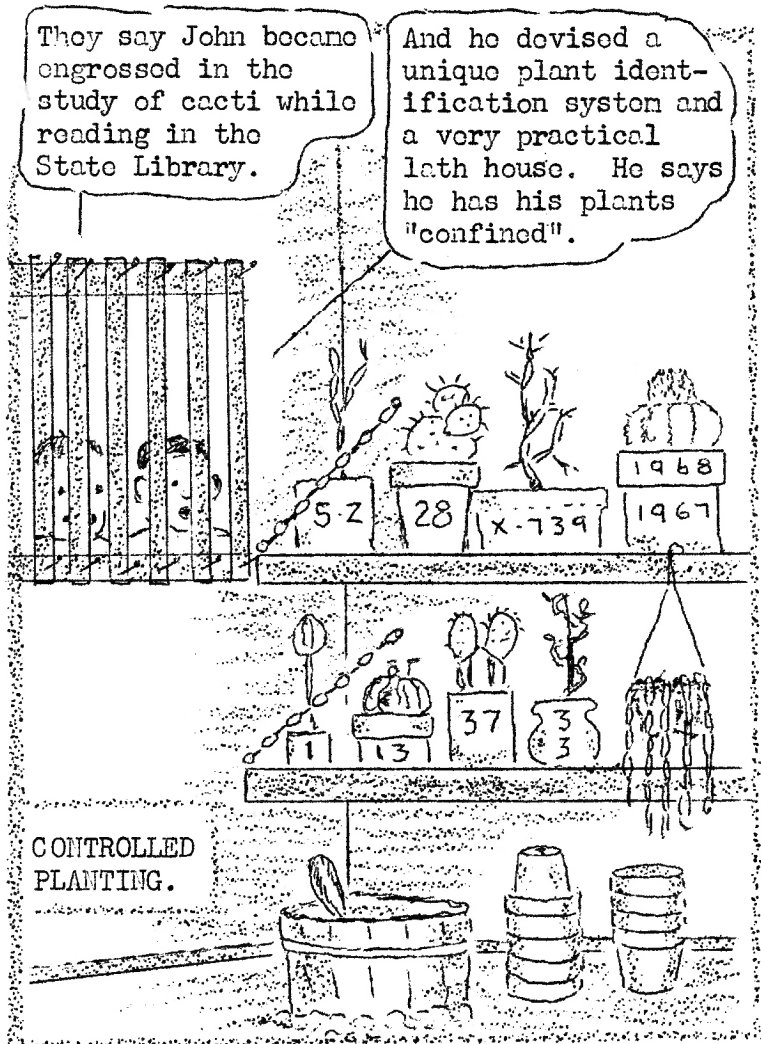
- 1) A one-day trip, probably on a Saturday.
- 2) It will take us south of Tecate but not so far we wouldn't be back the same day.
- 3) Everyone will arrange his own transportation--unless of course he has friends who can handle the job better.
- 4) Bob & Suzanne Taylor will be the guiding spirits, but they don't assume YOUR responsibilities.
- 5) So if your interest is still showing all you'll have to do is put your name and telephone number on a "I WANNA GO" sheet which will be passed around at the August meeting.

There may be some international complications but we have experience and know-how in the club which is equivalent to the problem.



For yesterday is but a dream
 And tomorrow is only a vision
 But today well lived makes every
 Yesterday a dream of happiness,
 And every tomorrow a vision of Hope.
 Look well, therefore, to this day.

-Sir William Osler



PLANT OF THE MONTH

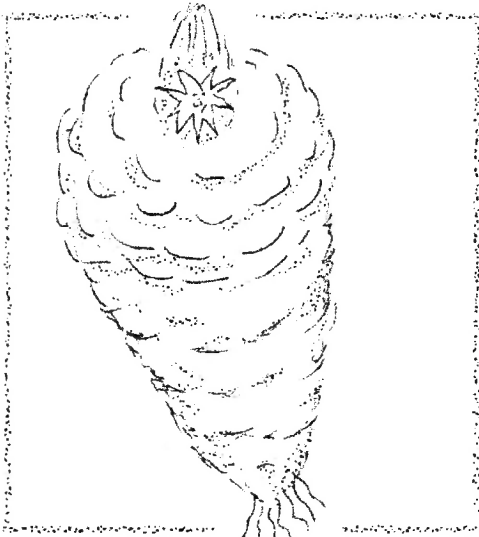
HEADING NORTHEAST from San Juan Del Rio into the Mexican state of Queretaro, on the dew of a humid August morning, the sun in brazen

battle dress is tempered by the lush green of grassy fields that stretch in endless cortege to the writhing fingers of the Eastern Sierra Madre, which madly tear at the wounded and bleeding sky in a vain attempt to subdue its fiery adversary.

As the long streaks of this early aurora transform into an intense blaze of staccato fury, the once proud summits are seemingly reduced to blunted shapeless knobs of twisted and blistered debris, through which your progress is marked only by a ribbon of scorched earth hanging motionless in a cadaverous void.

It is here, some 70 kilometers north of Tequisquiapan, in the shale, high up on the cut banks of the roadway the elusive STROMBOCACTUS DISCIFORMIS quietly seeks refuge under the sparse cover of wizened shrubs. Even with precise measurements to the actual spot, the inexperienced could easily miss this prize, whose flat chiseled tubercles closely resemble, and whose color blends in monochromatic association with the surrounding ground. But,

alas, the little white flower, that openly flouts the authority of the raging ruler in his noonday kingdom, attracts the eye of the collector like the matador's cape captivates the bull. As you gaze down on this thrilling sight you may be moved to say, "Little one, let me take you away from all this," and with twinkling eyes and wry little smile, the plant might be heard to answer, "I thought you'd never ask!"



STROMBOCACTUS Disc.

Strombocactus (Strom-bo-kak-tus) comes from two Greek words meaning top shaped cactus, and alludes to the confirmation of the plant with its rounded body and tapering tuberous roots. Disciformis (Dis-ci-for-mis) refers to the disc-shaped appearance of the plant as it lays round and flat, almost withdrawn in its native soil.

Usually the ash grey-green body attains a size of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, sometimes larger in cultivation. The apex or growing point is somewhat depressed, around which a tuft of fine bristle-like spines are borne from shingled or scale-like tubercles. The tubercles soon become bare and papery in texture. The small white flower emerges from the center, revealing white with yellowish base inner petals, while the outer ones have a slight reddish median stripe on the back side.

The principal fascination of this desert curiosity is the rhythmic arrangement of the tubercles which are similar to the small formal petalled camelia blossom of Pope Pius IX, or a petite bouton-neice. The culture for Strombocactus is the same as for the equally slow growing Ariocarpus; about $\frac{2}{3}$ sharp sand to $\frac{1}{3}$ organic, and a couple of jiggers of lime, not the kind you get from citrus trees. Moderate watering in the summer growing period, much less to completely dry in winter. It grafts well on Myrtillocactus and Marginatus stock, where it attains large proportions, as well as develops "pups".

The "Rosary Vine" is everybody's plant. In the garden of most any avid "green thumber", whether he's a cactophile or not, one can find the delicate cascade of CEROPEGIA WOODII (se-ro-pe-ji-a) + (wood-i).

C. woodii is found in Natad, South Africa, while others of this genus range through tropical Africa, East Indies, and Canary Islands. In less congenial climates than Southern California, they must be grown in a greenhouse or indoor window garden. Most have succulent stems and fleshy leaves, and some have tuberous roots. The name Ceropegia comes from keros for wax, and pege for fountain, and refer to the flower that protrudes from leaf nodes like a waxen fountain head or horn. Some grow in stalks like asparagus, others like

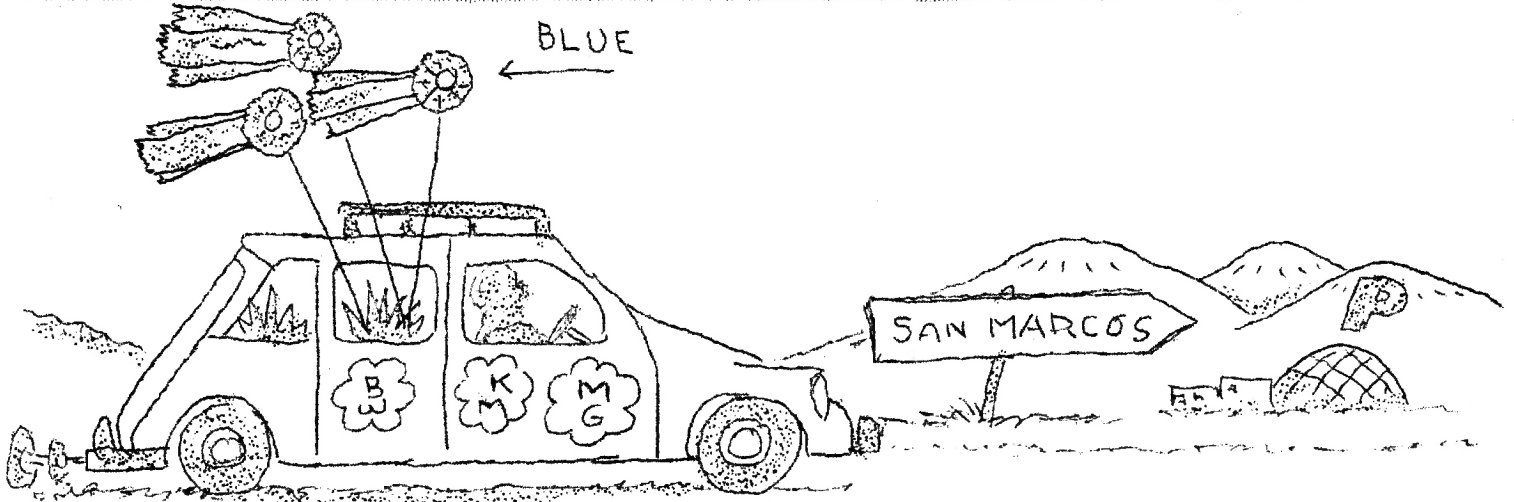
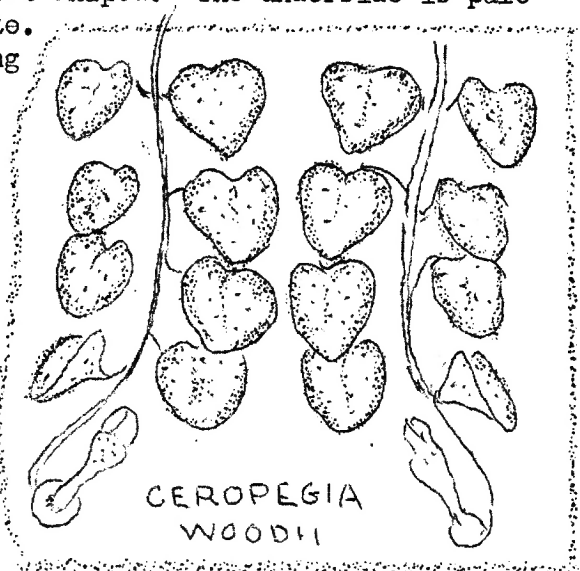
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PLANT OF THE MONTH (Continued)

woodii are twining with fleshy thread-like stems, along which small tubers form randomly

at the node.

The leaves are formed in opposite pairs that are heart shaped. The underside is pale green with the upper side dark green marbled with white. The flowers are pinkish-brown, about 3/4 of an inch long resembling a royal scepter, and bloom practically year round. Because of its creeping, twining, and hanging habit, C. woodii is a natural for baskets and rocky inclines. There are more than a hundred species of ceropegia known, but only a handful are grown in gardens. Minimum winter temperature should not drop below 45 degrees. During the summer a moist tropical atmosphere suits the plant best; in the winter a little water should be applied directly to the soil from time to time. They love a soil rich in organic matter. Cuttings of small side shoots or new formed tubers will root easily in sand, especially if done in April or May. Well developed tubers may be planted individually in pots with tops well above the soil to serve as root stock for Hoodia, Tavaresia, and Trichocaulon, which are difficult to grow. Simply place fresh cut shoots immediately onto a fresh cut on the top of the tuber. Also, in many instances, "russet" and "new" potatoes have been used as root stock with success.



Espinas y Flores
10274 Madrid Way
Spring Valley, Calif.

From: Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

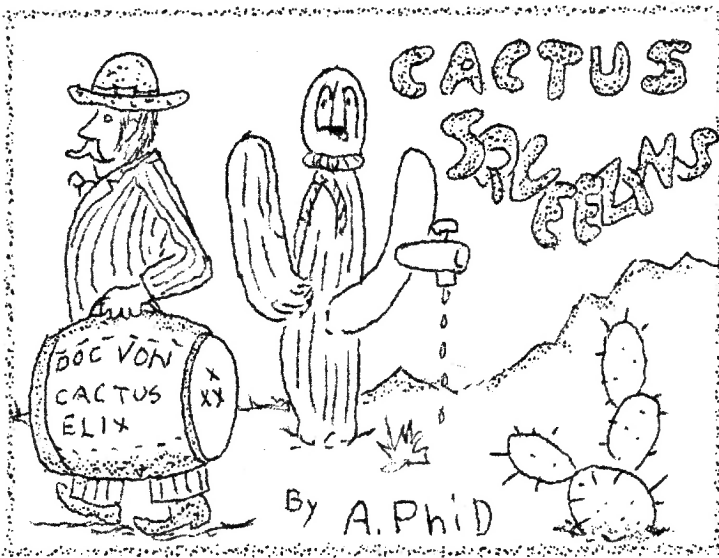
SAN DIEGO CACTUS SOCIETY:

This is just a note to congratulate you on the award you won at the Southern California Exposition in Del Mar. It is because of the participation of interested individuals such as yourself that the Exposition is successful each year.

I hope that you will continue to participate in the years to come, and that you will be equally successful in the future.

Sincerely,

Lionel Van Deerlin
Member of Congress



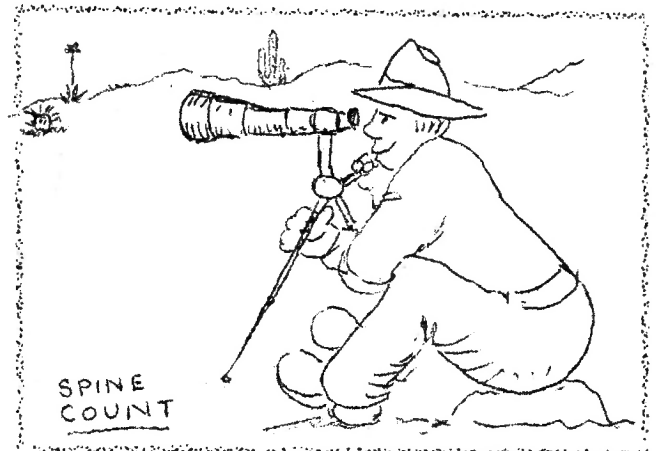
DOES THE THUMB make the garden??? Not if it has a blister on it from opening cans of "Olympia". Here's a thought for BOB FLETCHER.. several years back your editor had just completed a delivery of a 10 x 55 foot mobile home to Pacific Beach, Washington... when he tried to start his truck the battery was dead... upon investigation he found it to be bone dry.... With nothing around for many miles except quantities of sea water and two cans of Olympia beer, the decision was made to forego temporary pleasures for regaining contact with the outside world... The contents of the two cans were deposited with dispatch into the yawning chasms of the thirsty "Nickle-silver"... which fired off immediately and our traveler was homeward bound... We

don't know if you can derive any moral from this anecdote, but it is comforting to know that the brand you choose is so unversally accepted.

TROY SHIPMAN was taken by one of the plantings at the Fair... Hylocereus intertwined among the branches of a manzanita tree.... he has erected a large corner planting of same in his front yard.... Couldn't find a single tree big enough, so he built it around the branches of many.... looking much like a big barrel of snakes, it should keep the kids away.... But wait till next year - it'll be a real traffic stopper.... The height of laziness was reached when TOM STRATE was advised by his doctor to play eighteen holes a day for needed exercise.... so he bought a harmonica.... DOC VAUGHAN reminds us in this election year that politics is the art of making yourself popular with people by giving them grants out of their own money.

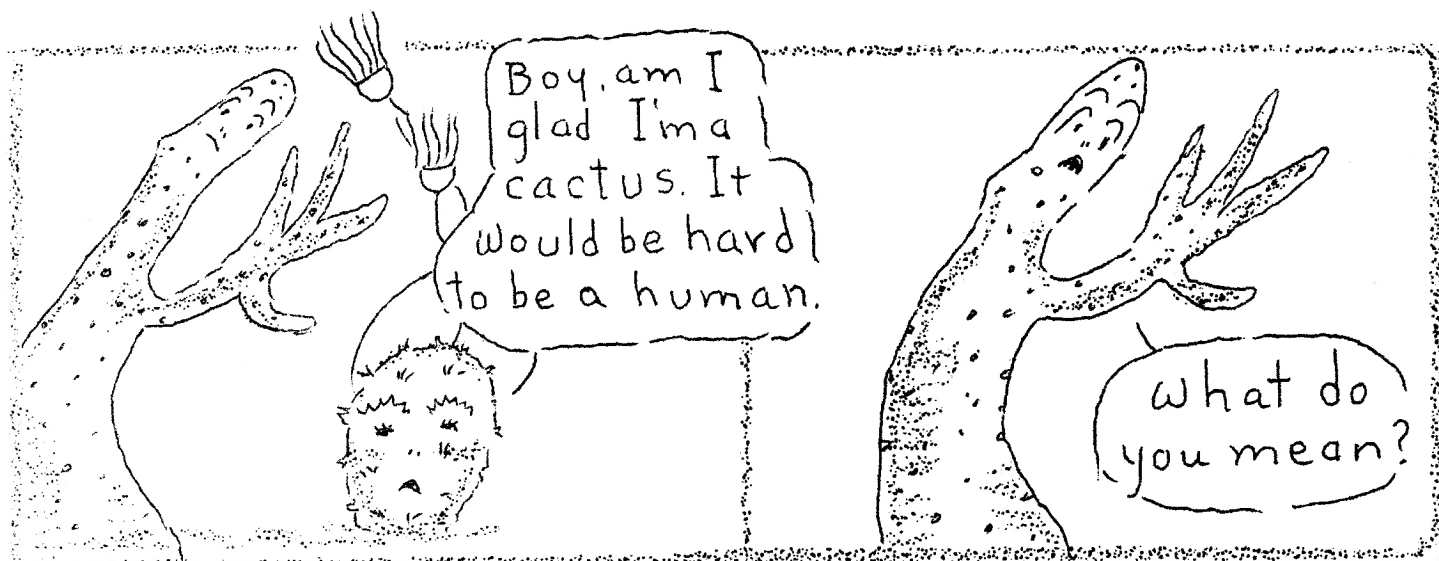
IONE HUBNER to HELEN HUDSON: "You look tired".... "I am, Ione. I've been all over town trying to get something for my husband"... "Had any offers?"... Remember, when you're on vacation this year and about to cast that new lure into a likely spot, that the shining glitter of the sun's reflection on the rippling water may be a floating beer can.... SMOKEY BOB BUTLER says, "Keep our forests green, our waters pure, and our overworked city gardeners from exhaustion"...

Is there a doctor in the house.... WARREN BUCKNER, not subject to fainting spells, faded dead away last week when #3 son, Mike, asked for the garage keys and came out with the lawn mower.... Do you know another word in the English language except "Hijinks" which has 3 dotted letters in a row??? Does the thumb make the garden???? Not alone... and whereas your garden may be for you alone, it's the effort made for the happiness of others that lifts us above ourselves.... Said Martin Luther, "If the world would end tomorrow, I'd still plant a tree".....



A. PHIDD

NOTE TO BILL WAITE: Sorry about those plant tabs following the '67 Fair... You had 9 Cacti, 3 succulents and 1 in outdoor living...total 13..no wonder your luck was in reverse. Tell you what the Editorial Staff of Espinas y Flores will do, in fact we are doing it now. Check the activities of Nema and the gang on the next page.....



(But WAITE till BILL tries to match name tabs with plants in his yard.)



WHAT'S BECOME of "Baby Jane" and ABE FEINGOLD.. no word on recovery from recent heart problem.... telephone calls receive no answer... movies may come and go.... Abe, we hope you will be making a showing soon....

Dear Nema: Greetings, here's a question from New York City... The Xmas cactus I sent there from Johnson's is sprouting an unsolicited volunteer from the same pot. Could you identify?

Emily Park

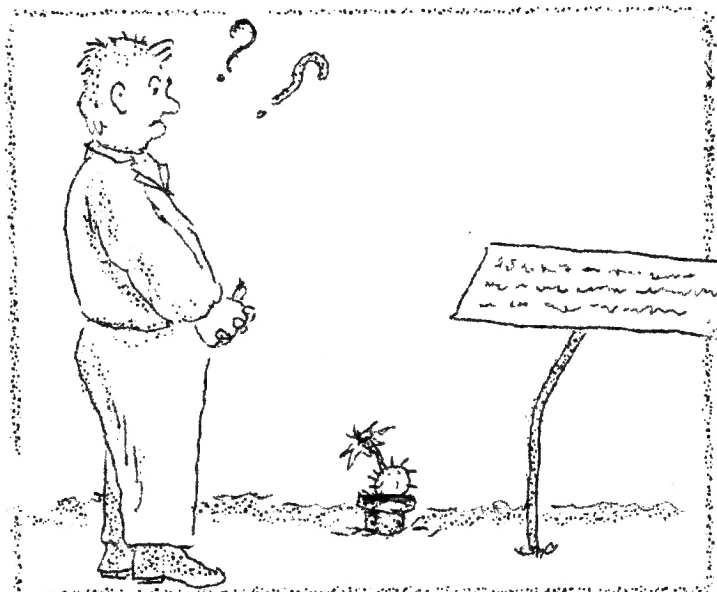
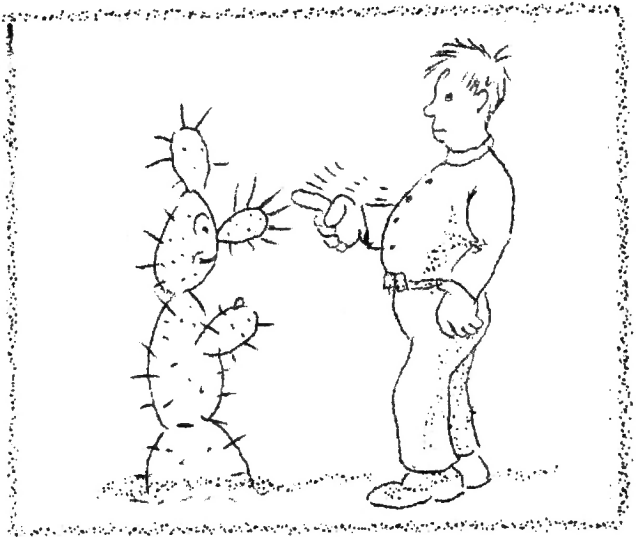
Dear Em: From the drawing and description it appears as though your friend has the popular *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian Pepper) stowaway... a fine tree for California, but we're afraid the winters back East may be a little too severe. At any rate, if they use it as a small patio tree potted in a well protected area, the results could be interesting. Around here it will grow to 25 or 30 feet, but in a container, 10 or 15 feet should be maximum.... Treat it like a tropical, and it should give evergreen enjoyment....
P.S. Thanks for the stamp... N.T.

Dear Noma: A man's life consists of 20 years of his mother asking where he's going... 40 years of his wife asking the same question, and at the end, the mourners wondering too....
Leif Hopper

Dear Loif: Each of us is to some extent the mirror of what we see in others' eyes... what we think others think of us, conditions us as to what we are.
N.T.

Dear Nema: Explain to me in words I can comprehend, what makes an acid soil, acid. I noticed for sale "acid fertilizer" - has a low nitrogen number... and fertilizers for pushing bloom have a low "N" number. Would that make it an acid fertilizer? Also, did anyone from the group attend the Santa Barbara meeting?
Helen Hegyi

Dear Helen: The soil is like the stomach.... cram it full with a couple of plates of spaghetti, an antipasto, 3 tacos, a burrito, 2 pieces of gooseberry pie, and a chocolate milk shake, and you have an acid condition... Soil acids are developed the same way, that is, from the abundance of decaying organic material present. However, acid conditions in the stomach as well as the soil may also occur, from a type of food rather than solely from the amount. The source of nutrients in fertilizer, not the amount, determines the acidity... simply, but not wholly.... nutrients derived from a sulphur base are considered acid in nature, while those derived from sodium are considered alkaline; it is quite often an over emphasized point to buy a particular kind for a particular plant, because the soil of this area being predominantly alkaline, and most of the fertilizers available here are
(Continued next page)



of an acid formulation. Acidity and alkalinity present the extremes in equilibrium of conditions for nutrients; a proper balance between the two is optimum.... so, enjoy your repast, but keep the alkalizer handy! Don't know of anyone attending the Santa Barbara meeting.... every man, woman and child doing Del Mar Duty..... N.T.

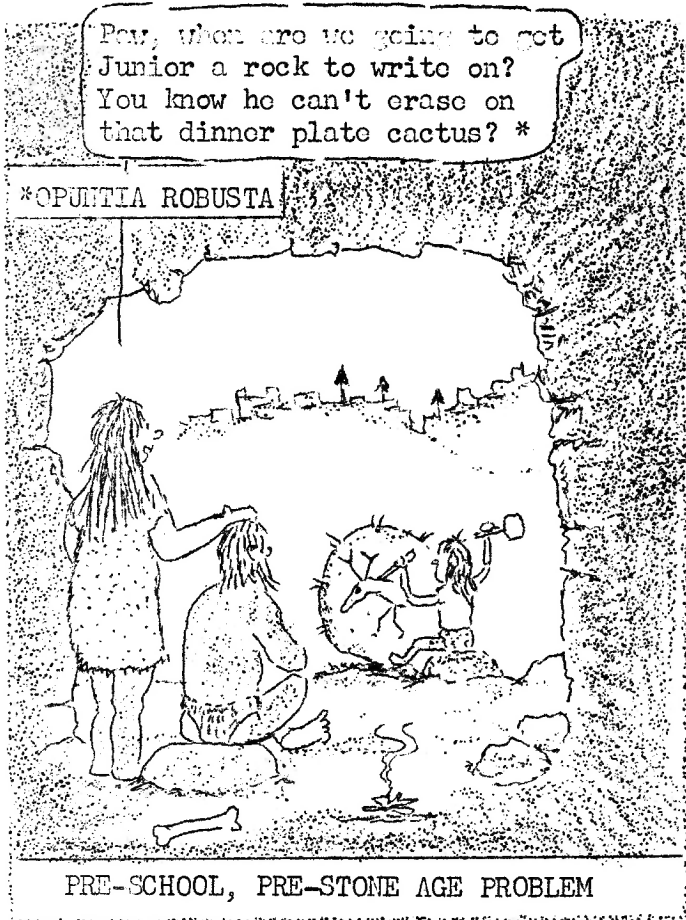
Dear Nema; As we look in retrospect at this accomplishment of 1968, let's start now to plan and plant for 1969.... When we plant the best seed of today in the best soil of all our yesterdays, we will have a richer harvest tomorrow.....

Harry Warn

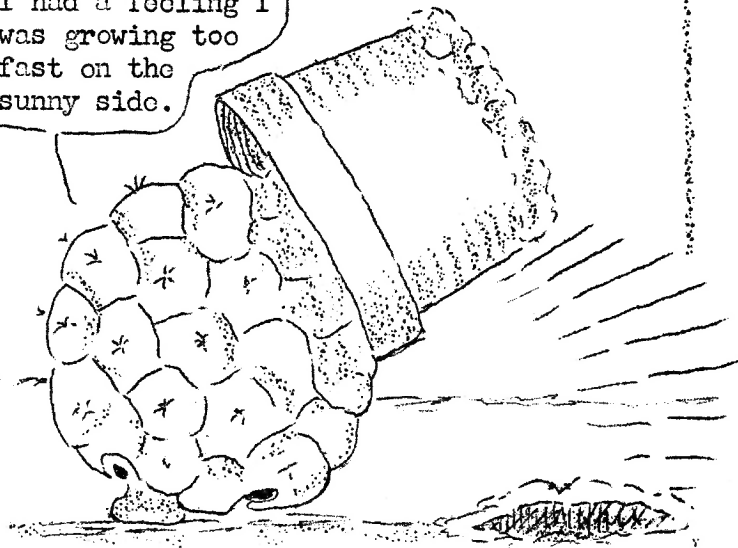
Dear Harry: The only thing we can add is that the man who rests on his laurels is wearing them in the wrong place.....

Nema Toed.

Send your letters to NEMA



I had a feeling I was growing too fast on the sunny side.



UNBALANCED GROWTH

LIF'S GARDEN

I wandered through life's garden,
To see Beauty in its bloom.
Some were buds not in blossom,
Others fallen, in their gloom.

But those that had not fallen,
Were cherished by life's span,
Groping their way, they cast fragrance,
By their power in God's hand.

Look you, amongst these flowers,
Which one do you wish to be.
There are many of different colors,
And weeds, you cannot see.

You may be the fairest,
If you'll but play your part.
Keep your mind well occupied,
Spread perfume from the heart.

Day by day, God questions us,
Deep within our hearts to change.
Hate, anger and selfish motives,
are weeds that bring us shame.

Let us mould our life like lillies,
Love and Mercy we must sow.
With the dew of God's perfection,
Loves' warmth you soon will know.

In mind where Peace and comfort dwell,
Seeds will grow so great and grand.
Flowers bloom of strength and will,
In life -- 'tis this you understand.

So keep your life a Garden spot,
With all your thoughts aglow.
Where thorns and thistles flourish not,
And flowers alone may grow.

Minnie Faller