

# ESTADINA Y ESTADINA

## A MIRACLE

by Jim Stalsonburg

When man travelled west and carved his empire out of the wilderness, it was easy for him to realize his own importance in life. He felled trees and cleared the land, and stood alone facing the onslaught of omnivorous adversaries. His role was clear -- the Protector, the Provider, the Propagator; his success was simple to measure.

The role of the woman, too, was equally unconstrained -- the Consumer, the Contriver, the Conveyor of the inner Faith. When he banded together in communal efforts in places called Prairie Home, Junction City, Steamboat Springs, Green River, Salt Lake, Sacramento or Plymouth, he served as the baker, the farmer, the carpenter, the preacher; in any capacity that was akin to his nature or just served as a filler in a void in the vanguard thrust forward to repel predisposed forces bent on pre-empting the universal faith.

Some times by sure weight in mass, but more often by his cunning and guile, man took the strength of the forces that could subdue him and channeled them to his good. Fire to warm the hearth and cook the food, rivers to irrigate the fields and grind the harvest, wind to transport and pump from the earth life's substance, and poison to control pestilence and cure disease.

As man has transuded to this modern complex culture, it has become increasingly difficult to relate what contribution he affords. The computer, which looms as a new and formidable adversary to many, gives answers to questions heretofore unanswerable; sometimes answers to questions heretofore inconceivable.

Take some small part of this nonsalivary spewing and fashion for yourself a bit of purpose and meaning, if you will. But better

A MIRACLE continued) yet, squat upon a fragment of hard cold granite and watch the deep purple of repose change to the buttermilk of ferment, then pass from the crystaloid blue of exhilaration onto the flush hues of accomplishment...

"So here hath been dawning another new day, think will thou let it slip useless away."

Realize that whatever is true of the universe, as a whole, is true of the individual, as a part of that whole. We must therefore find in ourselves the same inherent attributes as in this universe from which we spring. The Creative Mind of the universe is discovered when we use that mind to create all thought; motivating that thought into realities within us, our mind becomes in instantaneous relationship with universal creativity, we become an intricate part of the sustaining Life Force. From each minute thread the fabric takes its form and formulates its strength. With a thousand weavers weaving a thousand different patterns, the answer is still the same.

One doesn't have to smash all barriers before him into dust or raise lofty towers to demonstrate his importance. The real self is incorporated into a greater self, which is nothing less than a reproduction of the Universal Mind on the scale of the individual. Imagination, will, and volition fused into one is what we call a person. The contribution you give may seem very small from your vantage point, but in all likelihood, you probably furnish a sort of spiritual airconditioning to all with whom you associate.

How minutely can you reflect? Ponder the miracle of a blade of grass; quiet, unassuming, infinitesimal in our daily thoughts. However, it probably does more for our existence than any other life form or material acquisition. To consider it solely as a cushion for concrete-weary feet, a buffer against harsh architectural forms, or a chamber pot for the neighborhood dogs, is like giving greater importance to the welfare of the apple, than the force which draws it to earth.

A blade of grass absorbs from our atmosphere such polluting gases as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and hydrogen fluoride. In return it gives off pure life-giving oxygen while providing the basic food source for animals and man.

It performs this miracle by taking the energy of the sun, the atmospheric gases, water, decomposing minerals and organic matter and converting them into fresh vital new growth. It perpetuates itself by utilizing the residues of our existence.

According to the 1970 "Lawn Care", a 50x50' area of lawn liberates enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four, day after day after day. Therefore, every lawnmower is doing more than just meeting the MDAR; he is making a worthy contribution to the life sustaining process. It was further reported that the percentage of noxious gases in our atmosphere is on a steady increase because of the continuing use of fossil fuels to generate electric power, run our automobiles, operate our factories, to heat and cool our homes.

At the same time more good earth is being pushed aside and covered over with roadways, parking lots, and buildings of all size

(con't)

MIRACLE continued) and dimension. This raises questions about practical means of preserving land for greenery. John Fischer's article in last April's HARPER'S suggests that the next "Heroes of the Republic" may well be those who plant trees, instead of those who do their pruning with a bulldozer. He might have included, we feel, those heroes who plant and nurture lawns, shrubbery and gardens.

It is important to consider that the clearing of much of our our Southern California land is not all bad. The native flora does not have the vitality to sustain the intensifying population. More and more of it must be refined and made adaptable to increased demands. However, positive action should be taken, not only to preserve sections for the sake of patrimony, but mandatory provisions should be set to insure a minimum land-use ration for living green things in any new land development-housing subdivisions, industrial sites, commercial centers and highways.

It may be very possible that we are in the throes of rearing a society of individuals who will never experience the silence of the forest or desert, or intimately befriend one of Nature's fluttery creatures. We know that many city dwellers have all but forgotten what solace there is in a sunrise. It has been said that the sun does not rise anymore in the central part of Los Angeles; it just appears sometime before noon.

Green, green grass is truly the wonder drug for the pollutant-ravaged atmosphere around us. The leaves attract and hold dust and soot particles laden with obnoxious materials, which are then washed into the soil by irrigation or rain where they disintegrate into basic soil elements. The blade of grass unobtrusive, silent with no moving parts to produce brain-numbing sounds, does more than maintain

atmospheric balance by liberating the very breath of life and cleanse the air. It also serves as one of Nature's foremost air-conditioners.

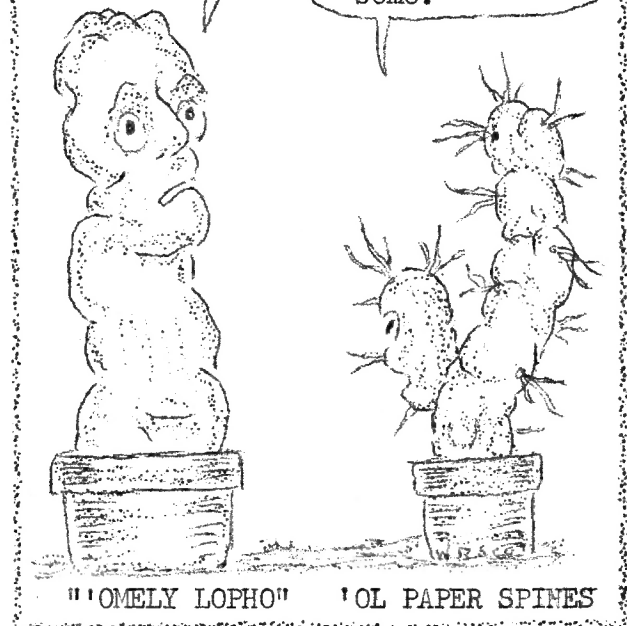
Through the process of transpiration, grass, in contrast to barren land or pavement, tempers the heat of the sun and provides a natural cooling. The cooling effect is caused by the loss of water from the leaves to the atmosphere, much like the perspiration of the human body.

Dr. Carew of Michigan State U stated recently that an acre of grass on a single summer day may lose 2,400 gallons of water through transpiration and evaporation. This cooling effect would approximate the job done by a 70-ton air conditioner -- and with no humming, wheezing or clatter.

A spring of evergreen or the leaf of a tree also performs these functions; but grass is (Contin'd)

I 'ad 'oped to be on hexhibit at the Hexpo but they said I was too 'aggard and 'ome-ly. Is there another way?

It wasn't right how I got passed either. They said my spines were like paper and my posterior was unsightly. I admit it isn't exactly handsome.



(MIRACLE continued) probably the most important conditioner in the world's land mass, because of its extent and continued growth, even though mowed or grazed upon. Noise ricochets from hard surface to hard surface, with each magnifying the previous. They didn't choose to name this modern music "Hard Rock" without some forethought!

Introduce it, however, to the soft embrace of a grass-like surface and you begin to bridge the generation gap. In days to come "Arbor Day" may be one of our most revered holidays. Don't wait -- you have every reason in the world to act NOW. Make every day "Be-Kind-to-a-Plant-Day".

The miracle of a blade of grass is really the miracle of nature. In her name we propose a new Golden Rule. By paraphrasing the wellknown expression of "Let peace in the world begin with me", we submit "Let a wholesome environment begin with me".

Just as the power within the seed contains everything necessary for its complete expression, so the real self within us includes everything necessary for the full expression of life. We are inseparably linked to its Creative power.

(Jim is committed to an article, ecologically speaking, on THE GOLDEN RULE, for April.)

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N O T I C E

WHAT? Not paid your dues? You tardy little members--

Then you shall have no paper!

This paper will be the last one mailed if dues for 1971 have not been received. You will notice a statement on the back of your EyF.

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LETTER-to-the-EDITOR

Lorene Burns

566 Lowden Avenue

Glen Ellyn, Illinois, 60137 writes -- "In the February issue of the EyF there was an article on Bob Taylor of El Cajon and his cactus nursery. Does he have a catalog or list and does he ship plants? I would appreciate it very much if you could help me in this matter."

Answer: Suzanne Taylor said that they do, indeed, ship plants. They do not, however, have a list or catalogue. Write to them to ask about plants you're interested in--they have more cacti than succulents and all fine healthy specimens. TAYLOR'S NURSERY -- 1640 East Main in El Cajon, California.

Local residents -- take the Greenfield offramp on Interstate 8 to Main Street. They are located on a hill with little signs of a nursery; watch carefully for their sign. They are open every day but it is wise to call first. 444-3019. Week days are better.

Bob is giving us an opportunity to graft a MELOCACTUS MATANZANUS in May -- Scotty will ask you if you want one at the meeting Saturday.

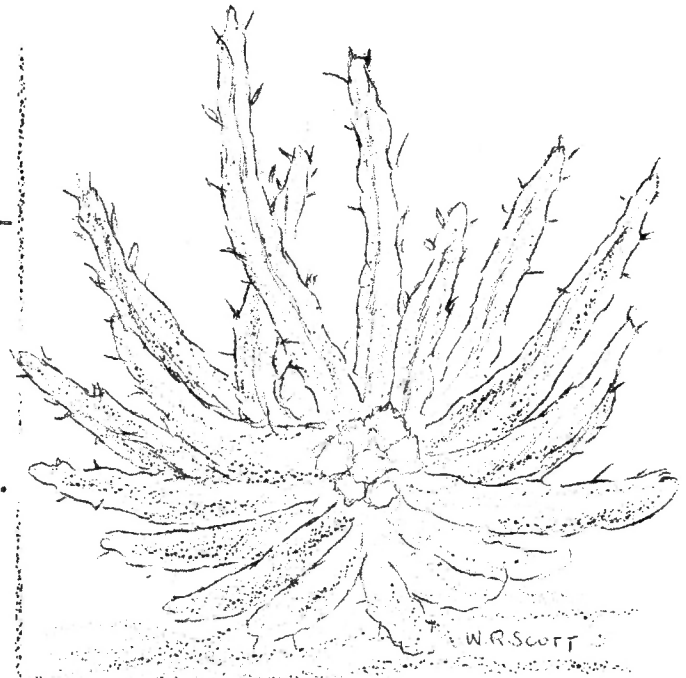
EUPHORBIA FLANAGANII  
SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

By - Floyd Gable

name of Flanagan, after whom it was named.

The name "Euphorbia" was first recorded in the natural history of Pliny in a book unfinished at the time of his death in the year A.D. 79. "In the time of our Fathers" wrote Pliny, "King Juba of Mauritania discovered a plant to which he gave the name "Euphorbia" in honor of his physician Euphorbus. King Juba found the plant growing on the slopes of Mount Atlas. It is generally accepted that it was the plant we know today as Euphorbia resinifera. The curative powers of the plant were considered remarkable and were used not only in the reign of King Juba, but was recorded as late as the eleventh century by the Greek physicians.

EUPHORBIA FLAN-  
AGANII was dis-  
covered in the  
year 1850 by a  
collector by the



EUPHORBIA FLANAGANII

While it is undoubtedly curative for certain ailments, it is also true that some species are extremely poisonous. The milky latex of E. virosa has been used for ages as an ingredient for arrow poison by the bushman on hottentots of South Africa.

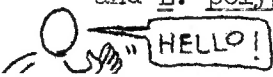
Milky latex is common to all the euphorbias and if it enters an open cut, or the eyes, it can be extremely painful. This should be borne in mind if the plant is cut up for propagation. In cultivation Euphorbias require an open, well drained soil, considerably richer than for most cacti and in the summer plenty of water, from September till April very little.

E. Flanaganii is a dwarf spineless succulent with the main stem only about two inches above the ground. The branches radiate from the crown and are four to six inches in length, a deep dark green. The flowers are produced from the central branches, they are very numerous and a bright vivid yellow. There is also a very pretty cristate form much prized by collectors. The plant in appearance is very close to E. Woodsii and by many is considered a variety of Woodsii. In culture this species seems to prefer semi-shade and more water than most of the African euphorbias.

The Euphorbiaceae constitute a very large family of plants that include herbs, shrubs and trees that are divided into 250 genera and around 6,000 species. They are represented in all parts of the world with the exception of the arctic regions.

The interest of collectors of euphorbias centers almost wholly on the curious, bizarre and odd growths that give this group of plants a character all its own. The most distinctive forms are native to Africa, Madagascar and the southern countries of Asia. They range in size from the tiny E. squarrosa to the giant tree E. Winkleri from Tanganyiki where it grows to a height of ninety feet.

For a collection to show the varied growth and bizarre forms that give these plants their unusual appeal, I would suggest the following which are among the smaller plants adapted to pot culture: E. oboea, E. meloformis, E. valida, E. Flanaganii, E. Susannae, E. horrida, E. bupleurifolia, E. echinus, E. globosa, E. mammillaris, E. enopla, E. grandicornis, E. Schoenlandri, E. multiceps, E. bubalina and E. polygona.

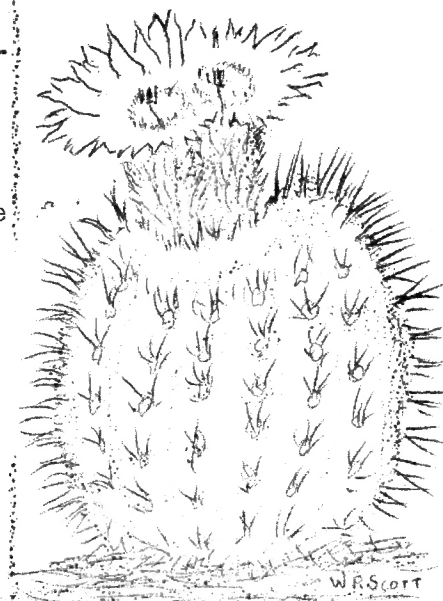


NOTOCACTUS SCOPA  
CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH  
By--Floyd Gable--

NOTOCACTUS SCOPA is a lovely species, popular with all collectors. Its habitat is Uruguay near the coast on the spurs of the Brazilian coastal ranges. In its native habitat it is always columnar, it grows to twenty inches in height and offsets quite freely around the base of the plant with individual heads  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to 2 inches in diameter. It is a pale green in color, covered with soft white spines brown or dark brown in the type species. Flowers are diurnal, are borne at the center of the plant, are acute and a bright canary yellow with red stamens.

In addition to the type species there are distinctive forms that are quite attractive. N. scopa var. candida, central spines tipped pink when young.

N. scopa ruberrima, central spines a vivid crimson red. A very choice variety. There is a cristate form of ruberrima that is outstanding - a brilliant red. One of the most colorful of all cristates. Somewhat rare but sure well worth having. (Does anyone know where I could obtain one?)



NOTOCACTUS SCOPA

The genus Notocactus was formerly listed by Britton and Rose under the genus Malacocarpus. There are about thirty-five known species, all native to South America. There is quite a diversity of spines as to color and shape in the group and the flowers fairly large and range from yellow through orange.

"Notos" are of easy cultivation, they seem to prefer some shade and the average cactus compost suits them fine. They should be kept somewhat dryer than most cacti. If they are kept dry and somewhat cool in the winter months, they will set bloom more freely. I fertilize mine with a 6-10-10 in the second and third weeks in March as I do the Mams and they seem to bloom quite well. There are so many beautiful species in this genus it is hard to list them all. The following species are all available and among the more popular.

N. concinnus - southern Brazil, Uruguay - globular  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, 4 inches across, flowers-outer petals red, inner petals satiny-canary-yellow, very showy.

N. Nelenowskryi, a most beautiful species of fast growth,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, 6 inches across, glossy green. Flowers funnel shaped,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, glossy golden yellow with red stigma.

N. ottonis has nine different varieties, differences are in color of spines, very free flowering,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, 6 inches across, flowers toothed, deep glossy yellow.

N. Haselbergii - another lovely species of small size, four inches across,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, densely covered with snow white spines. Flowers, outer petals red inner petals fiery red. Flowers last for several days. It prefers shade. Growth is always slow.

N. Leninghausii is a beautiful and popular species, it is of easy growth, it should be kept rather dry. It prefers half shade, grows to 36 inches in native habitat, densely covered with golden yellow spines, offsets freely when old. Flowers glossy yellow, toothed, tipped green on outer petals. Will not flower till certain height is reached. Often grafted as growth is slow.

(Note: "Scopa" means "a broom or brush". Ref: Glossary of Succulent Plants)



SPINE STUDIES

OPUNTIA GLOMERATA  
(Haworth, 1830)

By: Anthony D'Attilio

With its long ribbon-like spines *Opuntia glomerata* is an interesting member of a South American group known as *Tephrocactus*. Whether *Tephrocactus* is used conservatively as a sub-genus of *Opuntia* or given full generic rank remains apparently at the discretion of the specialist. Nevertheless by their growth characteristics the *Tephrocacti* form a distinctive group among those cacti having glochid-bearing areoles.

Under fair growing conditions they form spreading clumps whose branches are erect or prostrate. The globular or ovate joints possess either spines like most cacti or spines modified as in *O. glomerata*. In the species *O. floccosa* the entire plant is almost hidden below a beard-like growth of long hair-like spines.

(Note: Observations for this article were made on cultivated plants growing in San Diego.)

An ovate joint of *O. glomerata* may be five or six inches in length and is colored bright green. Owing to its variability in overall shape, length of spines, etc., many "species" have been proposed for forms which, according to Britton and Rose, may be found all growing together in one place. The tubercles may be low, roughly five sided, and conic, or they may be folded intricately into one another.

On the newly mature tubercles (Fig. 1) the areole at the tip is circular, filled with tightly appressed, straight filaments of wool. The wool, often looking like a small tuft of carpeting, is as long as the glochids, approximately four to six mm. Imbedded in the wool towards the outer edge of the areole are the many barbed glochids. The ribbon-like spines, ranging from 2 to 4 but mostly 3 in number, are located on the lower half of the areole. They are concave from above, may be six inches or more in length, with a few ridges running lengthwise on the lower side. Under magnification the soft wool is a warm, translucent silver; the glochids are rust colored and barbed along their entire length (Fig. 2). The spines appear dull brown or ashen with a paler zone at the margins and sometimes with a weak, diffused coppery zone in the center. They end in a long red brown point. Under high magnification the surface of the spine is very minutely longitudinally striate and covered by a lustrous, translucent

membrane which seems to be attached along the striae and detached between them.

(Fig. 3)

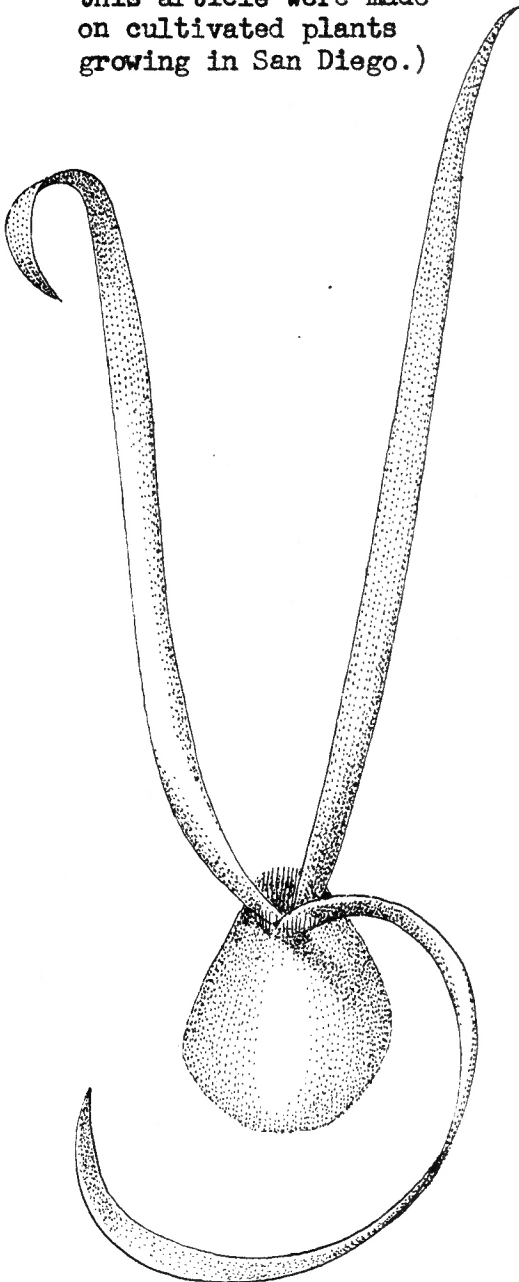


Fig. 1

Single tubercle showing three papery spines and top glochid cluster.

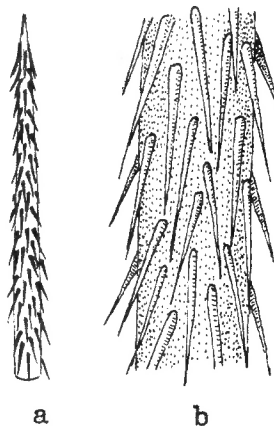


Fig. 2

Glochid, 4 to 6 mm  
a--one glochid  
b--detail enlarged

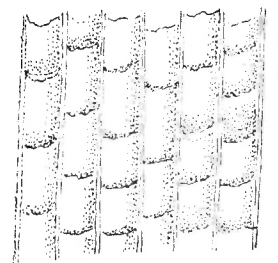


Fig. 3

Highly magnified surface detail of papery spine.



# THE MARCH PROGRAM

## FAVORITE PLANTS OF OUR MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL

The March 1971 program may be one long remembered -- it is going to be a "participating" program. About eighteen members have volunteered to bring their favorite plants for "show & tell", to be admired and maybe envied.

It is common knowledge that all of us get in a rut in our garden activities. Plants don't respond as we think they should. Plants are strange; they act differently in other yards under different circumstances. Lack of imagination, information on soil conditions, watering, et cetera, all form the basis for that "rut" we get into. Looking at it another way, if one is going to be in a rut, what better place than in the garden?

RULES--RULES--RULES There must be RULES, but they are simple.

Rule 1 -- ONE MEMBER, ONE PLANT: Select one you favor in March. Be prepared to show it and tell what you did to make it "showy". Add a little personal enthusiasm. We hope everyone brings in different plants; there shouldn't be two alike. We don't want a "plant-people mixup". (If you have more than one favorite in your garden in March, prepare the others for the Southern California Exposition -- THE FAIR -- in Del Mar for June 23 to July 4th, and get in touch with Wilson Wells.)

RULE 2 -- Plants may be (a) A cactus - (B) Other succulent - (C) or a complete surprise. The idea is to give everyone an opportunity to see what grows well in other member's gardens without the inconvenience of visiting each other's gardens in person. Although we heartily approve of visiting, it isn't always practical.

Rule 3 -- AUDIENCE QUESTIONS: Be prepared with answers, you never know who is going to ask what. Your audience may want to know botanical names as well as common names, origin, flowering and resting seasons, watering information, soil and temperature conditions, et cetera.

Rule 4 -- A TIME LIMIT will be imposed on each participant, maybe up to three minutes to tell all you know. Some of us could tell all we know about ALL plants in LESS TIME. President Ione will have a stop watch AND a gavel. If she doesn't mistake you for a table top, and if you stop within 3 minutes, you'll not be in jeopardy!

Rule 5 -- THERE WILL BE WINNERS: If your plant isn't a winner, your sales pitch may be. After all, this is a "plant-people" presentation. The audience will be given slips of paper and asked to vote for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. Votes will be tallied and winners will have the opportunity to make a selection from Sophie & Oliver's little "Garden of Eden" in the back of the room.

Hope to see you with your March Favorite at the meeting.  
Any questions, call Scotty at 296-6022.

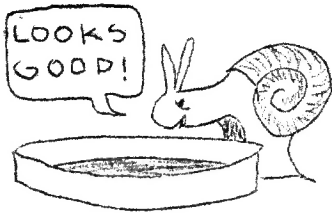
Walter Scott,  
1st VP\*\*\*\*\*

### DEDICATION of the DESERT CACTUS GARDEN in the BORREGO AREA

Sunday  
March 28th

Julianne Rice will have more information at the meeting this Saturday. The SIDEWHEELERS of California Ass'n of 4-Wheel Drive Club are providing vehicles for transportation of guests to and from the dedication spot to the main road. Julianne warns that it really is 4-wheel drive in!





## NO POISON, PLEASE



By Lynn Nicholson

These are the times when we should think twice about getting rid of anything in the garden -- even pests. Fortunately, cactus and succulents are bothered by few pests. However, succulents and ice plant are "food for the gods" for snails and slugs which are brought out in full force by the cool damp nights of Spring.

The best way to get rid of them without poison bait is BEER! Pour the beer  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep in shallow pans and put them out in the early evening when the ground is damp. They die right in the pans (what a way to go!) and it is a simple matter to dispose of them. Continue for three or four nights and then stop for awhile; repeat until you've got 'em all. The incubation period for snail eggs is about ten days so you'll have to keep at it till they're all gone.

Your only trouble will be if you have a dog. They'll beat the snails to the beer every time, so keep Rover in the garage on the night you "slug the slugs":

If you succumb to temptation and drink all the beer yourself, leave a bit in the bottom of the can and remove the top with a can opener. Lay the cans on their sides about the garden -- the snails crawl in and cannot seem to find their way out again. Next morning dump the cans in the trash -- snails and all.

The body of snails and slugs is soft and highly sensitive to such sharp objects as sand and slag, and to such dry corrosive substances as wood ashes. A narrow border of sharp sand or cinders around a bed or favorite plant will serve as an effective barrier against them.

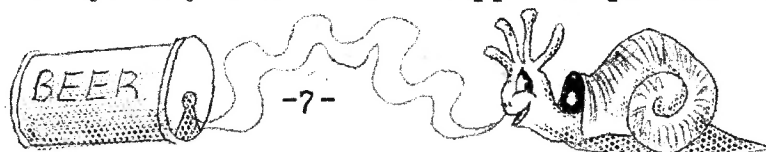


(Editor's note: Lynn submitted this article (much to our delight) and is willing to research other ways of succulent gardening without poisons. She has an excellent background for this work, having gardened organically for the past three years. On the telephone Lynne described herself charmingly as "the one with the baby". Her husband Joe is a Navy Chief at 32nd Street. They live in Lemon Grove with their 3-month-old son Robert and our youngest member. We will be looking forward to more articles.



From a rival paper, the LA TIMES 926 Aug 70)

--There's nothing like a bed of tipsy flowers, says Edward Torbeck of Altamont, Illinois. He gives his plants a drink of beer twice a month. The 70-year-old gardener mixes one quart of beer with 10 gallons of water for his flowers' fortnightly binge. "I find that the beer solution makes them start blooming earlier and makes the blooms larger. I always say I have the happiest plants in town," said Torbeck.



# DESERT FERNS

by Helen V. Witham



We went to Cactus Land, the photographer, her husband, and I. It was a dazzling day and the wind was high. The cactus plants and their spiny associates--Desert Agave, Catclaw, Condales, and Ocotillo, were out in numbers, to left and right, above and below, but we paid them scant attention. (Short of wearing armor, one cannot completely ignore them.)

You see, on this day, the whole cactus and succulent group, in all its astonishing variety of shape and color and habit, was beside the point. We were looking for ferns. That's right, fern-hunting in the desert, unlikely as it may seem. We found them, too-- five different species, beyond San Felipe Valley, in a steep narrow canyon on the east side of Grapevine Mountain. It was all gravel and rocks and tumbled boulders--not what we usually think of as fern habitat. Isn't fern country the shade of damp woods, or a rocky ravine, or the edge of a spring, where ferns spring out of mossy banks?

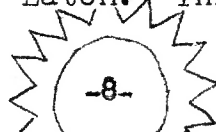
When we plant ferns in our gardens we don't put them in gravel at the largest granite boulder in the cactus garden. But then we don't plant desert ferns. When we plant ferns we want something lush and green, of delicate appearance, preferably evergreen, and big enough to make a showing; in other words, something "ferny". When we think that word we are not thinking of a plant four inches high with fronds which, most of the year, look like that stuff you sweep out from under the beds when you come home from vacation.

This is a fairly good description of one of our finds, Parry's Cloak Fern, Cheilanthes parryi (D. C. Eaton) Domin. This 3-8" high fern is found under overhanging boulders, in crevices, or on the ledges of steep rocky outcrops where it is sheltered from midday sun. The upright fronds grow in a dense cluster. The dense woolly covering of the leaflets nearly obscures their outline, so that they resemble pellets of brownish wool. On the upper surface of the front the hairs are light gray; on the reverse, golden brown. The plant presents an untidy appearance since the exceedingly brittle stalks remain in the cluster long after the tops of the fronds have fallen or been broken away, and bits of straw or other debris gather among these stalks or are caught in the wool, the most noticeable characteristic of this little plant.



Less common in our canyon was the Coville's Lip Fern, Cheilanthes covillei Maxon. This we quickly nicknamed "Old Beady" because at this time of year the plant is at its lushest, or beadiest. Each tiny segment, with its edge turned under all around, looks like a shiny green bead, pinhead size. Turn the frond over and the beads disappear, the under surface of the segments covered with overlapping scales. These are more or less heartshaped, with brown centers and think silvery edges. Each scale has a long point which extends beyond the edge of the leaflet, so that each bead has a fringed appearance when viewed from above. Speaking of points, it was while trying to photograph this little number that the photographer sat on the Agave.

Our next sighting was of a quite large colony of Bird's Foot, Pellaea mucronata D. C. Eaton. This was in a cliff facing



(Continued) almost due south, where a half-dozen or more clumps followed a near-vertical crevice for some six feet, perky as you please with their purple stripes and small gray "bird's feet". This is one of our most common ferns, being widespread in open brushy places and about rocks, from near the coast to the desert side of the mountains.

Then we found two small clumps of Cheilanthes newberryi (D. C. Eaton) Domin. This, our "Cotton Fern", seemed out of place, since it is usually found on the west side of the mountains and down to the lower hills, as in Mission Gorge. However, the San Felipe Valley is one of the areas where the biology gets mixed up. Coastal fauna and flora spill over through Warner's Pass, and mingle with the upper edge of the desert fauna and flora. Cotton Fern is somewhat woolly, but is greener, taller, and more graceful than Parry's Cloak. It is also much less brittle. Young fronds may be nearly white, hence, "Cotton Fern". As they age, the upper surface becomes a silvery green, the reverse a soft buff in color. Quite common below 2500 feet, on rocky slopes in such places as Mission Gorge, San Miguel, Tecate Peak.

Our little canyon yielded only one Desert Goldenback. This is not to say that no more were there, but we needed only one to sit for its portrait, and we saw only one, in all of the dozens and dozens of shaded crannies we peered into. This one has a name almost as large as the plant--Pityrogramma triangularis var. maxoni. For essential ferniness, this one would be hard to beat. It is small, graceful, beautifully colored. Red-brown stalks hold thin, bright green leaves, lightly powdered on the back with pale gold.

Our apologies to the cactus clan for paying them so little attention, but we did get hooked on Catclaw.

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(Helen Witham (of Florida Canyon Botanic Garden fame) is a botanist at the Museum of Natural History, a member of all the conservation groups, and is on the Publication Board of CALIFORNIA GARDEN. We are proud to present her article and will be looking for ferny treasures on our next trip. At the moment Helen is writing a booklet on the native ferns of San Diego County to be published this spring by the Museum of Natural History. We are fortunate to have this preview.)

.....

TECOLOTE CANYON and VERNAL POOLS - March 20

Helen also called our attention to a field trip sponsored by the Sierra Club and Century III on Saturday, 20th of March, at 1000. Meet at 10 AM. Take 395 to Clairemont Mesa Boulevard off ramp. Take Kearny Mesa frontage road north to end of pavement, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Helen said turn right, go north, past Circle Arts Theatre -- lots of parking and walking will be level. Bring sacklunch. Biologists will be there to discuss findings in the vernal pools. Group will be at North Clairemont Recreation Hall about noon for second part of tour. Shall we go? Thank you very, very much, Helen.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

4 February 1971

Dear Nibby,

As the real Billie Lucas, I am coming forward. You do not have my money but I think Nellie Kennett has been kind enough to buy my subscription to ESPINAS y FLORES for 1971. My journal has always been addressed to Mrs. Kenneth R. Lucas, 2060 via Taormina; Monterey, CA 93940. Billie Lucas and Mrs. Kenneth R. Lucas are one and the same.

I note that buds are appearing everywhere on my Gymnos. I have been collecting cacti for 26 years and have been studying Gymnos for the past nine years -- and now have at least 590. They truly delight me.

I have been doing some hybridizing (a nasty word to some cactophiles, I know) to improve flower color and hope the results will be rewarding. Not many Gymnos are available in the U. S., so I import from Switzerland, Holland and Germany.

Best of luck to you in 1971.

Sincerely,

Billie Lucas

How delighted we all are to have heard from you--may we take this opportunity to ask for an article on your experiences collecting Gymnos, and another on hybridizing?

---

February 1971

To Whom It May Concern:

We are extremely interestd in growing cactus & succulents here in the Imperial Valley. Could it be possible for you to send us some color photographs, color pictures, posters and written information. We would certainly appreciate any information that is available -- it would be of great help to us. Thank you kindly.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Armand Orensztein  
736 Tangerine Dr - El Centro 92243

We have several members from your area who grow terrific cacti -- Julianne Rice still has a tremendous display in nearby Holtville. Danielle & Ray White are beginners in our field but are rapidly catching up. (We miss you at meetings, by the way.) Mary Graham of El Centro Cactus & Succulent Society would be one to contact to join a group with the same interest, which is the most valuable and pleasant way to acquire information. Have you checked your library? Also, one of our favorite nurseries is located in beautiful downtown El Centro -- KENNERSON NURSERY -- better than a thousand pictures!

Incidentally, have you considered subscribing to ESPINAS y FLORES? Membership comes with subscription -- subscription comes with membership -- truly, a no-lose deal! (We're sorry not to be able to send you color pictures or color photographs, but there's just no way.)

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\* \* \* W E L C O M E    B A C K    \* \* \*

Hell-O, Bill -- Hell-O, Eva -- so NICE to see you back where you BELONG!

Bill & Eva Wier rejoined our group in November, 1970. They were charter members of the Society. Bill gave us a program last year on raising cacti from seed. Their address is 8717 Jefferson Street in La Mesa.)

PAGE TEN

## SECRETS OF SANTA CATALINA ISLAND

by "Doc" R. V. Vaughan

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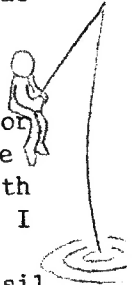
Honorable Beauchamp at our last soiree mentioned my unworthy name---- most honored am I that he should know that I, the humble one, was so well known as the revealer of many secrets hidden on Santa Catalina Island.

In the year 1915 I sojourned a short vacation on this delightful island and found that it had many mysteries geologically, botanically, indigenous and exotic plants, animal and birdlife. Having short vacations on the island I decided to purchase a small home and devote my time when on the island to research in the hills and canyons. Why were some valleys water-formed, and others ice-carved? Why were ginkos, "living fossils" from former ages and native to the plains of China, still growing on Catalina? Could it be that there was some connection between the fact that redwoods of coastal California and the redwoods of Japan and China were inter-related?

The more I studied the many facts, the more I was intrigued and dug ever deeper for facts. I wrote to many men outstanding in geology, paleontology, et cetera. I even went to the Field Museum in Chicago to see what I could find that related to the Channel Islands with little success. An eminent oil geologist had researched Catalina Island and wrote that "NO FOSSILS HAD EVER BEEN FOUND AND NO TRACE OF OIL".

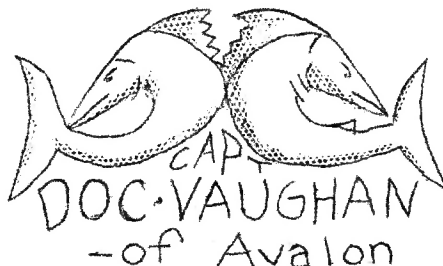
Years passed and I never ceased to work on my hobby when time from the pharmacies permitted. I neglected all other labors to come back to Catalina and search the many valleys, old river bottoms and highest peaks. When I began to fish from my cabin cruiser I used field glasses with attention to the outline of the island and the valleys. Some were glacial formed; ice forms "U"-shaped valleys as the stone-imbudded ice cuts the sidewalls of the valleys. Some were still high above the ocean and water-carved into steep, deep "V"s.

When time permitted I would land on the many tiny beaches and search for evidence of some fossil which might give me a starting point. The first evidence of oil under and around the island was the bubbles that I saw at times burst forth from the sea and cast a metallic sheen over the waters around the cruiser. Then I could smell the gasoline. At other times I found blobs of crude oil. While on these small beaches at very low tide I found definite coal seams. Coal is a fossil -- another step onward!



While at Buffalo Springs on top of Mt. Black Jack I detected the odor of gas and saw a metallic sheen from bubbles that occasionally burst through the water. "How could there be a running spring on top of Mt. Black Jack?" many asked.

All these questions in due time were easily answered. Not before many publicans employed by the "Great White Father" had gathered at the fountain to have their daily guffaw at that "crazy druggist who roams the hills and beaches looking for fossils".



(Continued) (Secrets of Catalina/Vaughn)

Time passed. Ralph Chaney, who was with Roy Chapman Andrews when the dinosaur eggs were found in the Gobi in the Althai Mountains of Mongolia, came to Catalina Island to verify my findings of the coal-bearing seams, the original coffee tree, the magnolia leaves, and other plants. Mr. Chaney is with the Carnegie Institute of the West and is an accredited paleontologist.

The findings that I had made were found on ONLY TWO OTHER PLACES IN THE EARTH -- Suzanne, France, and Japan!

The Island Company denied the theatre and school auditorium to Mr. Chaney so that he could show his slides of the Gobi and tell them, also, of my valuable research as an amateur...

Why were ironwood fossils and living trees found on Catalina Island? Why were skunks on Santa Cruz and rattle snakes on Catalina? Why fossil pygmy elephants on Santa Rosa Island and why giant pigs on Catalina? The answer is there for those who choose to read the pages of geological time.

Mt. Black Jack has been submerged three times to within 400' of its top. Around this top is a ring of seashells that is tipped four degrees from the perpendicular, which shows that here the sea held domain for a long time. There is at the Isthmus on Catalina a bed of chalk that took 60,000,000 years to be deposited by sea shells. You possibly know this chalk as "Dutch Cleanser" or "Barkeeper's Friend".

This Isthmus of Catalina Island is the broken back of a volcanic batholith that was once the center of this tremendous volcano. The other islands of the Channel group are on its perimeter. As Catalina Island's volcanic plug rose above the sea, the mainland sank. There are 26 beach marks along the Palo Verde coastline through San Pedro and vicinity that are the OPPOSITE of the Catalina beach marks, which proves that each time Mt. Black Jack arose from the sea, the mainland sank, and at certain depths in certain times remained for years at that level. Beach lines were formed. The metamorphic faces of the Franciscan series can be traced along the San Andreas fault from the Gulf of Lower California through all of coastal California, as the seaward landslide toward the northwest.

The coast range of mountains was formed from the offshore land mass we now see only as the tops of high mountains. The rivers of that time ran towards the Rocky Mountains and formed the coastal plains we know as Los Angeles. During these orogenic changes some of the "islands" we now call by various names were connected to various parts of the then forming coastal regions. Various plants and animals were introduced and later isolated.

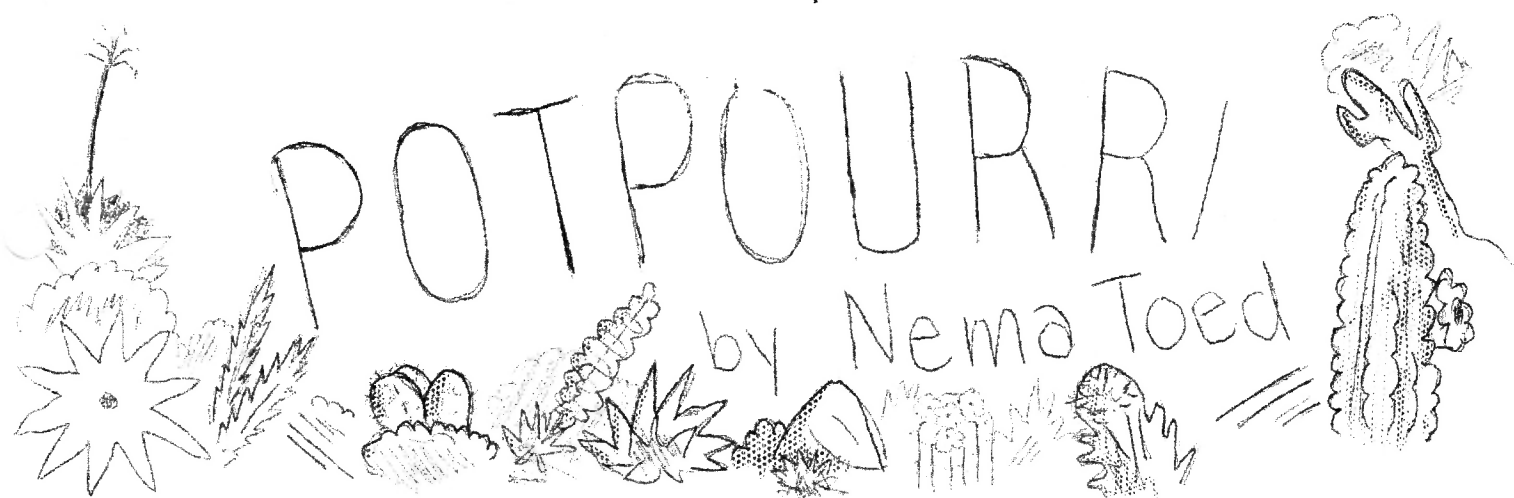
If you could view on film a movie showing happened in the Channel Islands over these past 25,000,000 years compressed into 25 minutes -- it would make you dizzy as the scene changed from lofty mountains to vast seas with many small islands scattered therein.

(To be continued in future issues.)

For the benefit of new members: Doc is our beloved President Emeritus. He is a fisherman of great repute, was The Night Owl on our local radio station, and has two books in our library -- DOGS OF CALIFORNIA and THE LIFE OF MY REMEMBRANCE.

\*\*\*\*\*  
FLASH! SCOP WEL PRUSS --Scotty has a last-minute bulletin--Be thinking about Melocactus Natanzanus to graft in May -- Bob Taylor needs to know for ordering them for us. Beautiful idea, Bob!





It was like old times, seeing Olivia Fletcher taking in the money and Warren wants her to know he's glad she did it when he was forced to be absent last month. Speaking of absent last month, looks like we might need a posted statement to answer "WHERE'S JIM?", Ione was heard to comment. We wonder how many of our 16 visitors were from the Grossmont Garden Club in Lamesa, drawn to C&S by the program on SHADY GARDEN PLANTS that our immediate past president gave them, a shady character, assisted by Bobby Myers and visual aids from the shady section of the Park Nursery... We hope to see Ruth & Ben Purdy enjoying the March meeting because that will mean that Ruth has recovered from the bad break she had last year...your Aloe aristata is still growing, ids... Bill & Ellen & sweet Miss Michelle Low must come the farthest to join us -- 165 miles they drive from Simi... and how does your gorgeous multigraft grow?

Ruth Stanton jumped the gun winning the open class with EUPHORBIA FLANAGANII in January when it will be plant-of-the-month this coming meeting...which poses the question, Can Ruth's handsome plant make the rest of us happy as a two-time winner...? We've seen other plants win twice...no rules have ever been mentioned. So, why not? Do bring your flanaganii, Ruth, and let's let the best plant win!

Wasn't it great the way people followed Harriet's advice when they said they couldn't hear while she was reading the minutes? "OK -- then be QUIET in the rear!" And we were then as we should have been... Don't forget the CSSA Convention (which many think of as National) in May. It will be bright with Ed & Betty GAY. See Perlso for registration blanks. Thought to be going -- Hazel & Scotty, Ruth and Bill Nelson, Alice & Wilson Wells. Wilson is checking tours to El Paso at the Surfside Travel Agency in Ocean Beach where he works. They just returned from a cruise to Mexico -- so did Ruth Markley, by the way... she said it was a lovely way to go...but didn't bring home a single cactus!:

Bill Nelson is President of the Epiphyllum Society, our first off-branch...sort of a "pup" of SD C&S, you might say. Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month in the Floral Building... that would be the 17th, St. Patrick's Day...visitors welcome. San Diego FLORAL ASS'N is sponsoring a tour to Busch Gardens, Saturday, March 20th for \$6. For reservations and information call 232-5762. Also there will be a tour to RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANICAL GARDEN on the first of April...which is a well worthwhile garden to visit...isn't it about time for us to make an excursion to HUNTINGTON?...So many

(continued) So many flowery places to go and flowery growing things to see...Don't miss the SD ORCHID SOCIETY "OPUS 25" Orchid Show the 12-13-14th of March. Try to go Friday night, the 12th--proceeds to CALIFORNIA GARDEN--also, Scotty has (or had) 10 tickets--\$1.00. Conference Building in Balboa Park. It was a truly splendid sight last year with many orange blooms and beautiful arrangements done by both the Ikebana International and Flower Arrangers Guild. Do go.

Floyd Gable received a a wonderful compliment from Clive Innis who said he had never seen a Mammillaria wolverinus (wobur-ensis?) so well grown as the one Floyd exhibited at the January meeting. He credits poor and porous soil and semishade. Innis also mentioned that Backenberg described 63 species of Rhipsalis, but that he himself has 90 species! Adding convincingly as a clincher, "If you don't believe me, I can repeat it!" That WAS a meeting...that was a meeting for last month's paper...all the chairs available were filled, benches brought in from the porch and occupied, people were standing, braced against the wall and perched on the storage shelves in the rear. It was GOOD to have visitors from other C&S groups--we're glad that you who came from Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Gabriel were with us and welcome you back whenever you're in town on the first Saturday. We'll have larger quarters soon; the new building is progressing well. Nice to see Bill Lockwood again.

CONGRATULATIONS--a whole 60 years of congratulations to Troy & Sarah Shipman of National City who celebrated their 60th Anniversary recently. Something like 7 children, 19 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren attended. The Shipmans are charter members.

Remember hearing a suggestion that our paper be indexed? GREAT! was our response. But who is to do it? Call the editor if Y.O.U are willing... Another suggestion that has been kicking around for sometime is a membership list...well, it isn't as if it hadn't been planned, it's more like a little late...but it's in the making. Warren will be checking the list for the utmost accuracy and Bea Arnold has graciously consented to cut the stencils. We hope to have the lists out for the April meeting... In the meantime call me, Nibby, the Editor, at 276-6517, or drop a postcard to 2201 Fairfield (92110) if there are any corrections to be made on your address label. We hope to have a NEAT "action" or information sheet for you next month...if you out-of-towners didn't get one this month, it's for reasons too numerous & frustrating to involve yourselves in...Sorry, Scotty Corliss, to miss you but readers are reassured that you will be back in April... Didoes & doodads done here & there on our pages by Benjamin Klinefelter, artist-in-residence...While on my way to join the Natural History Museum, my attention was caught & held by an exhibit of creative stitchery, many using plants as their theme --gorgeous things--and there was one signed by Bea Arnold!...Was asked to list the classes for the May "YEAR OF THE WOOD" in advance as they should be planted well in advance--at least 30 days.

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| (1) Single cactus  | (2) Single succulent        |
| (3) Minimum of 3 cactus  | (4) Minimum of 3 succulents |
| (5) Miniature planting, 5" max.  | (6) Single psuedo-"bonsai"  |
| (7) Combination of cacti & "other" succulents  |                             |
| (8) Planting in palm spathe or other seed pod, gourd, coconut bamboo, or whatever in woody, natural grown material |                             |

HOWEVER, no commercially made wooden products; must be owner-made or collected from Nature. Planters must contain live, growing, rooted plants. You may enter only one in each class but may enter more than one class. Wilson Wells will have more at a later date.

# ESPINAS Y FLORES



Mar 71



(Mailing address: SD C&S Society - Editor - 2201 Fairfield, San Diego 92110)

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY • Founded 1960  
Affiliated with Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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- 1st VP - Walter Scott ..... 296-6022
- 2nd VP - Oliver Loyland ..... 298-3093
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- Recdng Sec - Harriet Sopp ..... 281-8337
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### OF NOTE (Or Who Else Is What)

- Affiliate Director to C&S Society of America - Periso Lewis - 583-1087
- Representative to SD Botanical Foundation  
Walter Scott - 296-6022
- Rep to Floral Ass'n and to CALIFORNIA GARDEN - Nibby Klinefelter - 276-6517
- Chairman of Sand & Soul Committee -  
Augie Pfeiffer - 282-6220

### MESSAGE from OUR PRESIDENT

It is our pleasure to announce a new appointment - Ed Miller is the present Cactivities Chairman, familiarly known in the past as "The Old Wagonmaster".

BOARD MEMBERS, please note - Board Meeting Friday, March 12th, 7 pm - Colina del Sol. The 2nd Friday of the month is permanently set for Board Meetings so there will be no further calls made. (Unless a change is to be made.)

\* Ione Hubner \*\*\*\*\*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Solvent today, hopefully continuing.  
156 members as of 22 Feb 71  
Dues \$3 single, \$4 family - past payable  
Delinquents notified with this issue  
Never too late to JOIN, however.

Warren Buckner  
1744 Englewood - Lemon Grove, CA 92045 \*\*\*\*

### WELCOME TO-NEW-MEMBERS Corner.

- Joined in February 1971
- Gertrude Baskerville - 1415 1/2 Tyler SD 92103
- William & Pearl Kamrath - 1001 S Hale, #99 Escondido 92025
- Cactus Pete - 9459 E Guess St - Rosemead, California 91770

### NOTES from the SECRETARY'S MINUTES

- January BRAGGIN' TABLE winners were:
  - Bill Waite - Mammillaria parkinsonii
  - Floyd Gable - Cheirodopsis candissima
  - Ruth Stanton - Euphorbia flanaganii (Open)
- February BRAGGIN' TABLE -
  - Bob Taylor - Neoperteria "Chilean Pink Barrel"
  - Hazel Scott - Dudleya candida
  - Helen Hegyi - Crassula hybrid Morgan's Pink

February attendance - 92 - 16 visitors !!



### OUR FEBRUARY REFRESHMENTS

This Avenue of Appreciation taken by Hazel Scott & Rose d'Atillio, Regalement girls to publicly acknowledge and thank all those good cake & cookie bakers who contributed

- Edna Hopper
- Lorina Valentine
- Nita Cotten
- Honore Rousch
- Lynne Nicholson

### PROGRAM

Ringmaster Walter Scott presents

18 Member Participants  
in  
"SHOW & TELL"

Saturday, 1:30 pm - 6 March 1971  
Floral Building in Balboa Park

- PLANT EXCHANGE
- BRAGGIN' TABLE
- REFRESHMENTS\*\*

Visitors are welcome

### PLANTS of-the-MONTH for APRIL

\*\*\*\* MAMMILLARIA zeilmanniana/HAWORTHIA Rugos

*Espinas y Flores*  
2201 Fairfield Street  
San Diego, Calif. 92110



MR. MARTIN (PAT) MOONEY  
PHONE NET 6700  
BY K STREET  
CHULA VISTA, CA. 92011