

MAMMILLARIA THORNBERI

Espinas y Flores

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

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TOMO OCHO, NUMERO DOS

FEBRERO 1973
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A FEW ASTUTE OBSERVATIONS ON PLANT CLASSIFICATION

Myron Kinnach

- ...Those who want a permanent system must remain disappointed for knowledge grows and a classification must change with it.
- ...New species often interconnect two genera and mergers must then often be made.
- ...A species at first thought to belong to one group of species, may on further study, be found to be more closely related to another genus.
- ...A genus may grow so large and diverse that a division may be called for.
- ...A difficult problem is conservation vs. radicalism in recognizing taxa.
- ...No system of plant classification will ever be devised that will be accepted by everyone.
- ...Taste and fashion are strong factors, and although these are hardly scientific values, nomenclature is, after all, a very human endeavor.
- ...Botanists have different temperaments and life has treated them all differently; such factors may well influence their scientific attitudes.
- ...Until recently it was fashionable to recognize hundreds of cactus genera, but of late there has been a reaction against such extreme viewpoints and there now seems to be a need for a more conservative classification.
- ...A perhaps frivolous comparison is the raising and lowering of hem-lines, a cycle which proceeds on no logical basis.
- ...Another factor in taxonomy is that some botanists who carry out meticulous cytological and anatomical studies are not really very good taxonomists and should perhaps present their data without changing nomenclature, leaving this task to those who have breadth rather than depth of knowledge and who can interpret the data of others. (Cactus & Succulent Journal, VOL XLI, NO. 1, p43-4)

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Doc. R. V. Vaughan

Think back! Were the "good old days" always days of joy and bliss as so often pictured in song and story, or are they a phantasy, a delusion that builds up in the minds of men with the passing years? Looking back over the early years of my life, I am inclined to believe the latter.

Turning back the pages of time, here is how I see "the good old days." I see myself climbing out of a warm bed at four o'clock in the morning, into an icy room to start a fire in the fireplace or heating stove, shaking and shivering until the fire began to throw out a little heat.

I see myself dashing out to the barn through a blinding snowstorm, pouring rain or freezing blizzard to feed a bunch of livestock that would rather horn, paw or kick me to death than act as domesticated animals.

"What about Spring and Summer? It couldn't have been cold all the time", someone is sure to say.

True. Early Spring was usually nice. Of course, there were off days when it would be exceptionally cold. There would be days when rain would pour down in torrents leaving the fields a sea of mud and water. There might be a pounding hailstorm that would cut young crops to shreds, sometimes utterly destroying them.

Regardless of the season, routine was the same. Up at four o'clock, feed and water the livestock, milk the cows. Then hurry to the house, eat a hasty breakfast, back to the barn, harness the horses or mules, then out to the field.

The day's work started with the rising sun; eight-hour days were unknown. An hour was taken for lunch--'dinner' we called it in Oklahoma--at noon. Then we returned to the field and worked until the sun disappeared below the western horizon.

I can still look back to "the good old days" and see myself as a skinny kid working in the fields under a blazing sun until I was ready to drop from sheer exhaustion and heat. How well I remember leaning against a fence post or propping myself up with my hoe handle, vomiting and retching from the heat and fatigue, but some inner force kept me going and I always managed to complete the day.

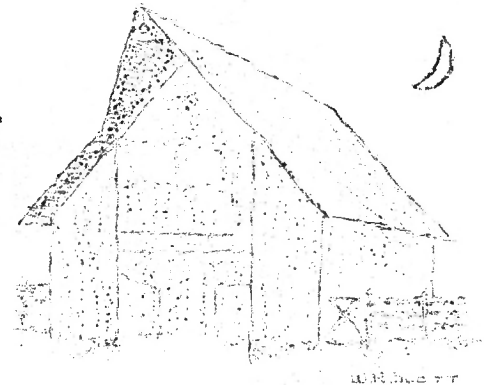
When the sun finally dropped out of sight, I always managed to stagger home to water and feed the stock and do the chores that had to be done. Then I would sit down to the evening meal. It was good wholesome food, but on many occasions I was too tired to enjoy or even taste the food that was placed before me.

After eating, I would stumble off to my room and drop into bed, every bone, every muscle and every nerve in my body aching and crying out for rest and relaxation. It seemed I'd hardly closed my eyes when that old familiar cry would ring out: "Four o'clock. Time to get up. There's work to be done." Once again I would scramble to my feet and begin the grind all over again.

When winter came and the crops were all harvested, I would start to school. There were no warm buses for youngsters to ride to school in those days. It was ride a horse, drive a buggy or walk. I walked.

In good weather and bad I trudged to school. Three miles each way. Six miles, five days a week. Bad weather wasn't the only thing we had to contend with. Many half-wild cattle roamed the open range. On more than one occasion we would have to climb a tree to escape the charge of an enraged bull or an angry cow that thought we meant harm to her calf. All we could do on such occasions was sit perched in a tree until they decided to wander off, which might be only a few minutes or an hour.

Yes, as I look back on "the good old days" they don't seem to have been so good.



Backward, turn backward,
O Time, in your flight
Make me a child again
just for tonight.

YOUR PAGE and
IN THIS ISSUE
.....

WINNERS IN JANUARY:

CACTUS: Mammillaria plumosa - Floyd L. Gable
SUCCULENT: Crassula mesembryanthemumopsis - Floyd L. Gable
(Hold a minute, the typewriter seems to be smoking.)
OPEN CLASS: A random arrangement of crassulas in a
container, winner Nellie Kennett.

(Time out!

.....

"Our Cup Runneth Over" -- thanks to the following donors of goodies:
Charles BENBOW, Elvira BIBBEY, Jean HAPEMAN, Nibby KLINEFELTER, Julianne RICE,
Hazel SCOTT, Lorena VALENTINE and Alice WELLS. AND the three maitre dames:
Pat MOONEY, Rose D'ATTILIO and Elvira BIBBEY. And THAT was January!! Regalement.

.....

Our President and Board Chairman says the Board meeting in
February will be on Friday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m. in
room 104, Casa del Prado. He says all Board Members can read!!

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GOOD, BETTER, BEST The January Plant-of-the-Month program
BETTER AND BETTER! was the best yet, or should we say the "all
. time best", thanks to Program Chairman Loyal
J. Bibbey, Martin L. Mooney and Dr. Leroy N. Phelps and Julianne Rice. . .Ye Ed

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We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.

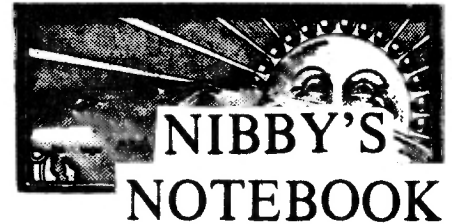
A difficulty is like a weed, the longer you delay getting rid of it, the
stronger its roots become and the more it spreads.

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YOUR PAGE and IN THIS ISSUE PAGE BY PAGE:

- 1 Myron KIMNACH -- Observations on Classification of Plants.
- 2 Doc. R. V. VAUGHAN -- "The Good Old Days"
- 3 That's THIS page: See for yourself, if your name doesn't appear in this
issue write a note to the Editor and then watch in the March issue.
- 4 N. P. STEVESON -- Scientific Investigation and Report on "Pest Strip"
- 5 Nibby KLINEFELTER -- NIBBY'S NOTEBOOK
- 6
- 7 Nibby KLINEFELTER -- BURSERIA and PACHYCORMUS discolor "Elephant tree"
- 8
- 9 CSSA Special Activity in Riverside, Feb. 10th
- 9 Anthony D'ATTILIO and Dr. Leroy PHELPS: "Project and Volunteers"
- 10 Edith Werner "Desert Solitaire", JES, Alameda "Purpose of Life"
- 10 Doc Corliss: "GO GO POTS & STONES"; BOOKS, Authors at random.
- 11 Dr. Philip G. CORLISS -- "Cacto Phil's Observations"
- 12 Larry W. MITICH, Fargo, North Dakota, Joseph BUSEK, West Germany
and Gloria J. BOWEN, Oklahoma City.
- 13 Martin L. MOONEY -- "Cactus-of-the-Month" - Rhipsalis and Copiapoa
- 14 Julianne RICE --- "Succulent-of-the-Month" - Oxalis, you have 25 choices.
- 15 Francis J. BORG, Paola, Malta -- OROYAS, continued from December
- 16 " " " OROYAS, to be continued in February.
- 17 OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, FEBRUARY PROGRAM
- 17 Dave GRIGSBY -- "Serving you is my business, your satisfaction
is my pleasure".

"A man working in this world without tapping his own reservoir of spiritual strength is like a twin-engine plane flying with only one motor." (Dr. Tom Dooley)



As of 6 January 1973

The

nicest thing about having retired from the Notebook is that it simplifies doing another...the burden of putting it off has been eliminated, a most miserable self-inflicted punishment... Call me "easily persuaded"... Today's meeting was so productive, notewise. We had one of our largest crowds - at least 90 - and still we missed Augie & Chris. Hope they didn't have the flu as Frances Langer did. Ruth Nelson sat at her place while Harriet Sopp filled in at the Welcoming Table because Edith Billmeyer was also ill... Lucille Beckfield got back in harness assisting Rose, Pat & Elvira at the Regalement Table... Did you notice how the crowd thinned out after refreshments -- even before #s were called for the Plant Drawing? Ed Miller did the honors... Bill Nelson, President, (second time around) has already asked for volunteers to replace Rose, Pat & Elvira, Scotty made mention of the need in EyF... Then Wilson Wells suggested (suggested? CATEGORICALLY STATED) that all the men whose wives did not attend - and it would seem that the same should apply to the male Singles - would host the Regalement Table for February! There are always innovations in our Society, praise the spirited! Follow your leader, fellows, for Wilson will chair the endeavor.

L

IBRARIAN Edith Werner's eye-catching hunk of turquoise pendant was purchased at the Gem & Mineral Shop in next-door Spanish Village ... Helen Hegyi is a member in Very Good Standing. She is not only willing to share succulents, but grows them from seed, BRINGS them and asks: "Do you have this? Would you like it?" Helen had obtained seeds from some exotic place of Dorotheanthus bellidflorus described in Volume III of Jacobson's SUCCULENTS...how's that for being enterprisingly generous? The only thing - did anyone rescue my forgotten plants of Dorotheanthus and Nellie's miniature that were in a tiny little cut-off box? They were missing when I left the meeting ...have left such a treasured trail of belongings behind me..

P

LANT DRAWING TABLE: The lady in a white flowered sweater who bought the nice little rosette from the Sophie-Oliver-Rickey Sales Table, donating it to the Drawing Table, should be delighted to know that it was chosen by Floyd Gable, a Most Discriminating Collector, as one of his first place prizes for having won the best Plants-of-the-Month... Sophie mentioned that Doc Vaughan buys and donates almost every month, also, as does Mr. Benbow... Bill Nelson noted that we should all be more considerate of our gardens -- LEAVE THE LOOSE SOIL AT HOME - JUST BRING THE PLANTS for the Drawing Table...the dirt on the floor has bugged every president...presidents always get stuck sweeping before we leave.

(So much for keeping within the line)

THE

other thing - you wouldn't think it would be necessary to ask cultivated collectors to USE AN ASHTRAY...but when cigarette butts are found on the floor on leaving that weren't there on arrival ...well... It occurred to me that it might be a good thing if we smokers were confined to a certain area where we could offend each other, rather than the nonsmokers.

B

ACK to the winners. CRASSULA mesemberiathemopsis, looking just like the angular gray gravel in which it was potted, its presence revealed by a sprinkling of tiny but long-rayed white starry flowers - a true mimicry plant and one of the nicest of miniatures...but rare and difficult. Floyd's MAMMILLARIA plumosa..."Water around the plant," he said, "never over it -- and very little water at that." M. worburensis had our vote...same owner. Alice Wells came out on top with a box full of Echeveria crenulata in bloom...purchased from Taylor's. Cultural note from Alice: "All I do is love it!" ...Special award: Nellie Kennett for her charmingly assembled collection of 15 small varieties of crassulas.

LOYD said this before and since he repeated it today, it seems only fair to pay attention: "It's embarrassing -- I only bring so many plants because Lee has been asking for more." He added: "They're NOT MEANT TO BE IN COMPETITION." Why not a GABLES TABLE? We're fortunate that he shares his magnificent collection with us, many specimens that otherwise we might only see in a book or botanical garden. They could be exhibited with explanatory comments.

DON

KRUZNER gave us another program which we can all look forward to seeing soon on TV. Don rode in the cab with the engineer during part of the journey between Los Moschis and Creel - gave the viewers a taste of the trip, backing us right against our chairs -- a narrow ribbon of rail-track seemingly suspended in space over yawning chasms of the Grand Canyon of Mexico, older and deeper and larger than our Arizona Grand Canyon. Don said that you can start at Mexicali...now THAT would be a TOUR for some lucky some of us if someone wanted to make arrangements...Another memorable shot was of a Mexican farmer plowing with a forked branch and team of oxen. There were untrammelled beaches and seashell collecting and sunsets straight from creation. An enjoyable program.

J

ULIANNE Rice said that it is up to individuals to continue their membership in CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA...time to make plans for the Convention in Las Vegas from May 14th through 17th...Surely Hazel and Scotty will be going, and Dr. LeRoy Phelps (familiarily referred to as Lee) since they are CSSA Board Members...they were off and running at the halfway mark of today's meeting for the Quarterly...perhaps they'll come back fired with enthusiasm.

M

ildred Gregory brought her grand nephew, Paul Bingham, who has been badly bitten by the collecting bug -- Mildred gave him full exposure with a trip to Abbey Gardens! Mildred is another multi-talented member; she tailored her handsome plaid pants suit herself.) ... Ruth Nelson and Minnie Mogil have been promised cuttings of "Polly's Pink" Crassula; this is a pledge as well as a reminder. Have seedlings of Euphorbia lathyrus or is it E. biglandulosa? similar to (if not actually the one) pictured in the last CALIFORNIA GARDEN with an article by Katie McReynolds. The co-editor, Bill Gunther, is a new member who paid dues to get his own personal copy of EyF...ATTENTION: Martin Mooney and Warren Buckner & Scotty

(Continued on page 8)

BURSERIA and PACHYCORMUS
by Ed and Betty Gay

"ELEPHANT TREES", they are called, because of their swollen trunks and limbs. As natural bonsais, small specimens have lately gained great favor among succulent fanciers. They are native to hot, desert places, where they grow slowly, slowly over the years, storing their strength in fleshy stems and roots, dropping their leaves during the driest months, putting forth their small flowers and forming their fruit when the rains come.

OF the small species of Bursers which are native to Mexico, only one ventures into the United States. Bursera microphylla is the famous "Elephant Tree" of the Anza-Borrego Desert, and also is found in a few locations near Yuma in southern Arizona. These poor specimens are much abused because their soft bark is easily carved and the red sap just underneath makes it appear that the tree is bleeding when it is cut. The turpentine-like fragrance of the small green leaves is very appealing to some but equally obnoxious to others; no one seems to be indifferent to the strong scent.

IN a "Synopsis of the Genus Bursera in Western Mexico" published in the 1965 Kew Bulletin, McVaugh and Rzedowski divide this genus into two major sections: Section Bullockia with grayish bark, not papery or peeling, having a fruit with two sections. These number 15 species, called "Copales" in Mexico; and Section Bursera with papery, peeling bark, numbering 20 species, called "Cuajiototes" in Mexico. It is appropriate that the largest group in this section seems to be the Bursera confusa-fagarioides complex, because we will confess to being most confused in our attempts to classify Burseras on the Mexican mainland.

IN Baja California, where there are fewer species, we have had better luck. Bursera microphylla, "Torote", is common in the northern region. The "Copal" of the Peninsula is Bursera hindsiana, with bark which is purplish gray and does not peel. The compound, serrated leaves are in three to seven sections, each an inch or two long. The fruits are about the size of peas, with a soft, purplish bloom, like tiny hard plums. (The fruits of B. microphylla are like miniature red and green apples.) Although the base of B. hindsiana is enlarged, it is seldom as much so as some of the other "Elephant Trees", notably the most typical one of the Peninsula: Pachycormus discolor.

THIS is a totally different genus, in the Sumac family (Anacardiaceae). With a reasonable amount of water it is a shapely medium-sized tree. In the drier desert areas the main trunk may be only a foot or two high, grossly thickened, with thick contorted branches. Near the Pacific in the prevailing sea winds the trunks are just big balls, while the branches sprawl in weird forms along the ground. Here the delicate

C S S A

SPECIAL ACTIVITY:

Saturday, February 10, 1973
at the AUDITORIUM of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
3700 Central Avenue
Riverside, California
Starts at 10 o'clock AM
: : : : : : : : : : :

10 AM - Auction of Plants
10:30 AM - Peter Dangermond, Jr.
Director,
Riverside County
Parks Dept.
"Ecology and
Conservation"

12 NOON - Hosting GATES
SOCIETY will serve a light lunch.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM - Myron Kinnach, Curator, Huntington Gardens
will talk about some of the rare plants he has encountered
on his many explorations.

Remember Edmund C. Jaeger's talk on Deserts of the World at the previous
Special Activity in Riverside? Wasn't it exciting, informative, spell-
binding?

Let's get the camels fed and the caravan rolling on Saturday, February 10th.

William C. Lockwood of Pasadena, CA, is President of CSSA.
Peter R. Sharp of Alhambra, CA, is Vice President.
Board Members from San Diego are Dr. Leroy N. Phelps, and Ye Ed.

AND keep in mind the CSSA Biennial Convention scheduled for Las Vegas, Nev.
May 14 to 17. TOPS in Conventions, THE Convention of Conventions.

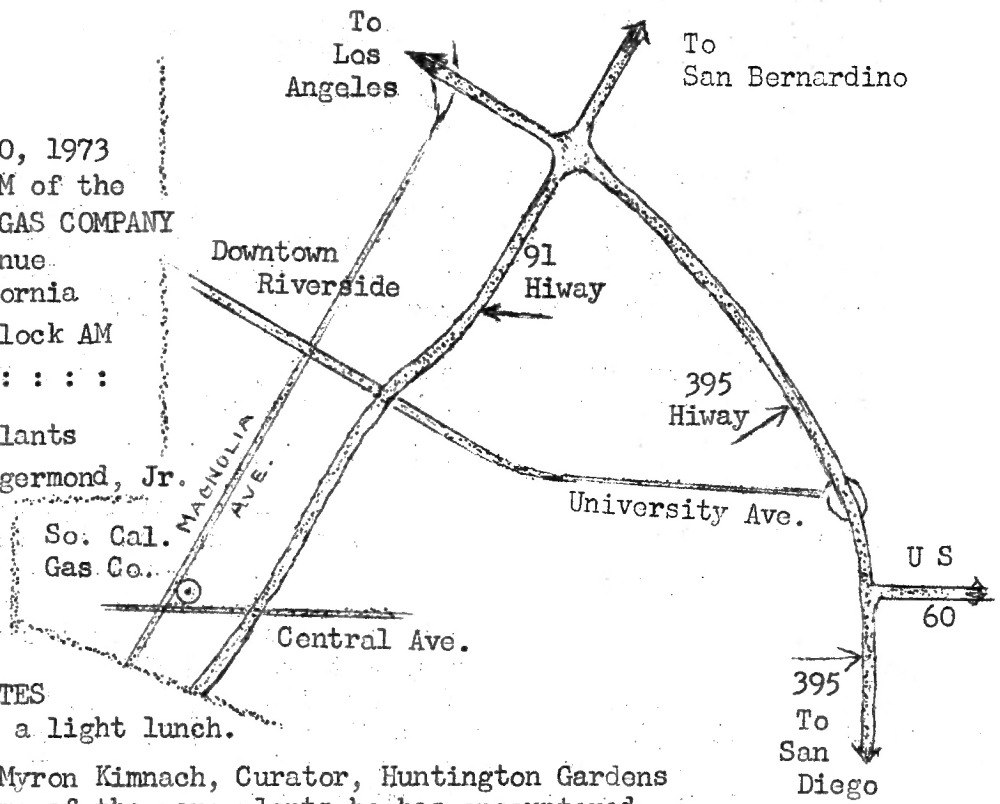
PROJECT AND A VOLUNTEER (Tony D'Attilio and Dr. Lee Phelps studying Backeberg's
list of cactus genera and species.)

Tony: "Lee, we ought to develop a list of cacti by species
to augment this list by genera. It would be very useful.

Lee: "That's a great idea, Tony. Let's see, there are 2800 species and
about 240 genera. If four persons took 60 genera each, they could do it.
You know I think so well of your idea I'll start it by taking the first 60
genera.

Tony: "Lee, you're a gentleman and a scholar. Since you're the first to
volunteer, you should get your pick of the genera--the first 60.

Lee: "Fine. We'll get two others and get the job done. Let's see
(thinking) m-m-mm.. ... I'll take 60 monotypes."



"DESERT SOLITAIRE"

--Edward Abbey--

"A man could be a lover and defender of the wilderness without ever in his lifetime leaving the boundaries of asphalt, powerlines and right-angled surfaces.

We need wilderness whether or not we ever set foot on it. We need a refuge even though we may never need to go there. I may never in my life get to Alaska, for example, but I am grateful that it is there. We need the possibility of escape as surely as we need hope; without it the life of the cities would drive all men into crime, drugs or psychoanalysis."

(This is the way I feel, possibly it's why I take to the hills so often. It's a 'must' with me. . . . Edith Werner.)

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I enjoy "E y F" very much. It is one of the best newsletters. Tell Ye Ed we in North Dakota still claim Fargo. I sent an article for early '73....L.W.M.

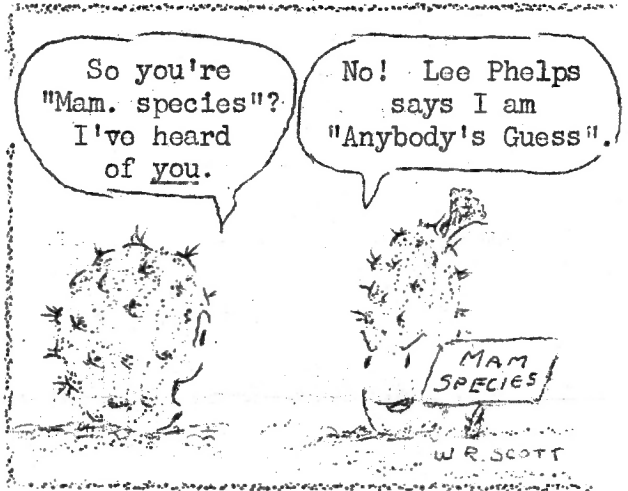
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"Some thoughts are very apparent in E. y F. which are unwritten that are very pertinent. Life persists among the little cactus plants on the desert as elsewhere. Life seems to have no absolute dimensions, physically or otherwise, but there that drive or force in a pollen grain the same as in a dinosaur. I wish I could understand the "architecture" of life that we all take as a matter of fact.

I am in agreement with the thinking of Doc Vaughan, there is design and purpose altho we may not understand it.

J.E.S. Alameda

.....



GO-GO--GO---GONE .
POTS AND STONES!

Cacto Phil Corliss has been plagued with thefts at his beach home. Not long ago someone absconded with a large number of stepping stones measuring 14" in diameter, two inches thick, pebbled surface. They formed a walkway from his front gate to the sidewalk on the beach. Stepping stones don't just walk away of their own volition, they have to have hefty help.

More recently he is missing a 27" tall, 14" diameter straw-colored plastic planter (with plants) which was purloined from the deck of his beach front yard. These measurements again: 14" X 4" X 14", one of only four in San Diego. If you should see it, get the word to C.P.C.

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BOOKS: Libros y amigos, pocos y buenos. Books and friends, few and good.

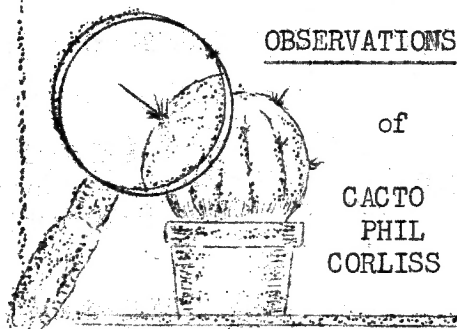
"Blessings be on the head of Cadmus, the Phoenicians, or whosoever invented books". Books are one of man's greatest inventions. Without books mankind would have to depend upon memory or go through the discovery and use of fire, the invention of tools, and the establishment of all human activities with each new generation." Environment Southwest, Willam A. Burns.

"His sins were scarlet, but his books were read." Hilaire Belloc

"Not all books are as dull as their readers". Thoreau

"As sheer casual reading matter, I find the English dictionary the most interesting book in our language." Albert Jay Nock

- 1 - CACTI IN PLASTER: 2 - TABBY CATS & CACTUS NAMES
 3 - PERESKIA ACULEATA FAILS; 4 - LOOKING TO 1975
 5 - HANDLING SOCIETY BUSINESS.



1 - WHAT DO YOU THINK of the way cacti are being sold in tiny pots embedded in a solid mass of plaster and (?) vermiculite? Dealers like such merchandise as it is easy to ship it requires minimum care. They say such plants will live for two or three months under such conditions. I think the is bad for maintaining or increasing interest in cacti because no explanation or suggestions for care are given and people are bound to be unhappy when their little plants perish. Do you think we should take some action? Surely it is up to us if anything is to be done to stop this practice or mitigate its effects.

2 - On Atab Street in Baghdad the weavers made a kind of watered silk cloth called "Atabi". This became known as "Tabby" and cats with line markings were thus called "Tabby cats". I wish more cactus dealers would understand the derivations of cactus names. Too many cacti are mislabelled. When the name is understood it should flash a warning if the plant does not reflect the name. For example, Mammillaria dolichocentra means "Mammillaria with long central spines" yet there are sold locally many different types of plants which do not have long central spines. True, there are sports and varieties, but when the name is "nigrispina", "brunispina", "aurispina" or "albispina", one should expect black, brown, yellow or white spines. Other names which should be understood include flower color, flower size, hooked spines, spineless, large-flowered, large-tuberled, etc.

3 - What went wrong with Pereskia aculeata this past season? Planted only in cement blocks, our vines grew so mightily that Jose had to spend an hour or two each week cutting back two or three feet of unruly growth. Eventually the vines hung heavy with buds and we expected an unprecedented show of yellow bloom. Alas, most of the buds turned to black mush without opening! Helen Hegyi brought a stem to our meeting showing the same phenomenon. It was not frost, as we don't have frost at the beach. Helen thinks it was the heavy wind storm we had. But our buds blasted on both the windward and leeward sides of the fence. We have eliminated all of our vines, as they caused too much care with no reward other than the dropping of their deciduous leaves on the other cactus. I am going to have to forego the fun of astounding visitors by telling them that this rose-like vine is considered to be the ancestor of all cacti.

4 - We hope to bring the 1975 Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America to San Diego. We will need hundreds of small plants to be given as souvenirs at the banquets, and larger and specimen plants to be used for prizes and drawings. It is not too early to start growing offsets or divisions of choice plants to donate to the Convention Committees. We want all our guests to have living and lasting souvenirs of our meeting. Those who have the the talent and space should plant seeds now to provide the small plants for souvenirs. Let me know if you need seeds!

5 - I think our society's meetings are greatly improved since the business has been conducted at the meetings of the Board of Directors. I hope more members will attend these meetings to make suggestions and express their opinions. I think these meetings and reports of all officers should appear in "Espinasy Flores", along with committee activities.

(You all read that last paragraph. A page or pages will be available in Espinasy Flores in future issues for 'responses'. . . . Ye Ed)

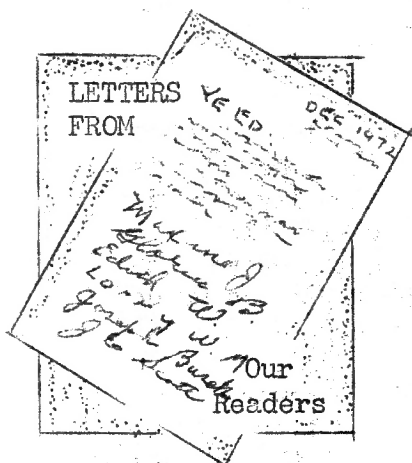
IT'S ROUGH BEING YE ED! JUST CAN'T MAKE A MISTAKE!! ALWAYS GET CAUGHT. GRADE? D.

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Maria says: "Numero always carries an accent." Like that!!
Page uno, Diciembre, NO! Noviembre? NO!! Octubre? NO!! Way back, no accents.
BUT February 1973, numero uno...si! Marzo, Abril, Mayo, etc. Si, si, si.
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Larry Mitich was puzzled when Ye Ed moved Fargo to South Dakota. Diciembre, page one. Ye Ed moved it south for just one month thinking it would be a good sister city for Rapid City. But it didn't work out. It was moved back where it belongs in Enero, page 11. It's a lot of work moving a City like Fargo around month by month. I'm going to leave it in North Dakota from now on. I'm tired!!
.....

Ken Kendrick says: "You mean even Backeberg didn't know about Rebutias?" E y F, Noviembre page 10 col. 2. It wasn't Backeberg's doings, Ken. It was Ye Ed's goof! Rebutias are such pretty little cactuses, shall we all put 'em back on page 10, column 2? All 19 species of them?

When you get that done, Ken would you look in Britton and Rose and see what happened to all the Mammillarias. I'm a Britton & Rose admirer, and I don't want to keep calling my Mams "M. orphana". Martin Mooney says one that I have is a M. plumosa and another is a M. dioica. What about the rest of 'em?
.....



Dear Miss Martin:*

819 Wolfratshausen
Gartenstrasse 16
W. Germany

I should be very glad you find some time to read my letter and help me fill out my one Christmas wish.

I am looking to get a letter contact with some collector in USA or Mexico, which has the same interests as me - it means collecting of Mexican and Northamerican plants, cultivating of seedlings, fotografing and making trips in deserts. He or she should be living in Cal., Texas, New Mexico - it means in some cactus area.

In Europe are many collectors and with much of them I am in contact. But getting letter from cactus-land with pictures is something else. I'd like to change plants, seeds, experiences etc, if possible. My collection is mostly composed from Astrophytum, Ariocarpus, Thelocactus, Navajoa, Epithelanta, Coryphanta and some new southamerican plants which are waiting names.

I am looking to your answer with best regards
*Rec'd. by Virginia Martin, Secretary, CSSA. Josef Busek

.....
Joanne Fleeer, Cathedral City: You know the desert and cacti, and you write beautifully - could you find time to respond (maybe in German) and give us a copy?
.....

"I am temporarily located in Oklahoma City and have discovered that a section of Will Rogers Memorial Park is devoted to cactus greenhouses. I will see what information I can gather there and give you a report on their collection.

Gloria Bowen, Oklahoma City

.....
"Although I've never attended a meeting I love to read your Bulletin. I hope to make a meeting in 1973, see some I don't have and maybe get some.

Good gardening, Maxine Johnson

CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH --- TWO OF THEM

RHIPSALIS and COPIAPOA

Martin L. Mooney

RHIPSALIS Gaertner 1788 (rip-să-līs)

usually are epiphytic plants (plants which grow on another plant but not nourished by it, hence not a parasite). They grow in

dripping rain forests in tropical jungles, sometimes on moss-covered tree trunks or rocks, but mostly hanging from trees and growing epiphytically. Very rarely are they found growing in humus, organic matter or soil in nature. Usually they grow in a moist atmosphere and permanently in the shade of trees. That does not sound like a cactus, does it? However they all have the important family characteristic, the areole.

The generic name Rhipsalis is derived from the Greek word 'rhips' meaning 'wicker-work', therefore the common name of 'wicker cactus'. From the species with slender cylindrical erect stems resembling coral comes the name 'coral cactus' also.

Growth habit may be erect, hanging or creeping and very much branched. The branches or stems may be cylindrical, flat and leaf-like or angular. Areoles are along the margins of the flattened or angular joints and more or less evenly distributed all around on the cylindrical ones. In some species the small areoles have hairs or bristles, and in others only small tufts of wool. Leaves are represented by minute scales. The flowers are small and not very showy; they appear from the areoles; they are usually solitary but in some species occur in clusters. The flowers remain open day and night and last for a week or ten days. They are yellow, white, pink and red.

There are some 60 recognized species. They range from Florida to Argentina, with the center of distribution in southern Brazil. Eight or ten species are found in the wild state in Africa, Ceylon, Madagascar and neighboring islands. They constitute the only exceptions to the rule that no cactaceous plants occur outside the new world. In 1912 a French Botanist, M. Roland-Gosselin suggested that seeds were transmitted by migratory birds, air currents or sea currents and the exception must not be attributed to parallel evolution.

As for cultivation of the genus, it is to be remembered that they are epiphytic plants that live in tropical jungles with high humidity and no less than half-shade. The soil should be very porous. They will grow in mineral soil but organic compost is much better, in fact they are often grown in orchid compost, such as is used in growing orchids. The plants should be kept moderately dry at the roots, but frequently sprayed overhead with water. Growth is during the summer and flowering is at the end of winter. At the end of the growing season they should be given a rest for a month or two, kept dry but not dried out.

COPIAPOA Britton and Rose 1922. Our February program will be "COPIAPOA". Speaker will be Dave Grigsby of Vista, CA. Program Chairman Loyal J. Bibbey asked that the genus Copiapoa be added to cactus-of-the-month. In light of Dave's program, which I am looking forward to, I point out some highlights of this very interesting genus. Also I refer you to VOL XLIV, NO 6 of the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL in which you will find the best article ever on Copiapoas written by Mary Bleck of Los Angeles, CA. The name Copiapoa is derived from the town of Copiapo, northern Chile.

Copiapoas may flower throughout the summer, all are yellow except C. rubriflora. The genus includes many plants that have been well known to cactus growers and hobbyists for over a hundred years but under other names. Some of the little known ones to this day are hard to find. Like all rare and exotic treasures, they have to be paid for, but one gets his money's worth.

We had 'umsteen' plants at the January meeting (umsteen is up to 40). Let's get on the ball and have 'umsteen-plus' in February.

REF: CACTI, J. Borg; EPIPHYLLUM HANDBOOK, Scott Haselton; CACTI AND SUCCULENTS, Paul Hamlyn; CACTI AND SUCCULENTS, Walther Haage; CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL VOL XLIV NO 6 (quoted above) and WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.

O X A L I D A C E A E

OXALIS or "Wood-Sorrel"

-- by Julianne Rice ---

OXALIDACEAE, as generally interpreted, is a large genus of about 500 species of herbs and suffrutescent (woody at the base) shrubs or subshrubs.

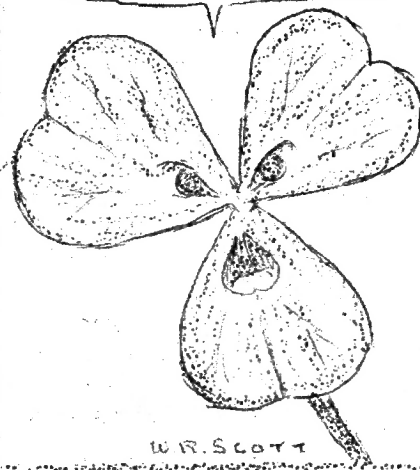
The word "oxalis" comes from the Greek, meaning "sour".

The group is allied to Geraniaceae. One genera Averrhoa carambola (below) is grown for its edible fruit as well as for the ornamental tree.

There are about ten widely distributed genera of herbs, shrubs and trees, with usually compound leaves, regular flowers with five sepals and petals, 10 stamens and superior 5-celled ovary. Fruit is dehiscent - a capsule or a fleshy berry. The leaves are clover-like, some of them close at night. The flowers are long stalked. Some are grown for ornaments and others for their edible roots. Some species have somewhat branching leaf-bearing stems, sometimes more or less woody. Others are scapose (full of stalks or scapes) with the peduncles (the stalk of a flower cluster or of a solitary flower) arising directly from the crown of the plant or the bulb.

Propagation is by bulbs or divisions of the roots and by seeds. For bloom in late winter or early spring in window gardens, bulbs should be divided in September. After blooming the bulbous oxalis should be placed in a cool cellar for a resting period. The flowers are showy in the sunshine. Several species are regarded as common weeds. The 'tree oxalis' Averrhoa carambola (India to China) is an evergreen 15 to 30 feet, with pinnate leaves of 5-9 leaflets which close when touched or at night. (Remind you of sensitive plant?) Flowers are small, fragrant, white marked with purple, the fleshy drooping 4-inch fruit is ribbed, yellowish-brown, 'quince-scented and edible'. (Y'All bring in 'umsteen' varieties on Saturday for 'communication' by Dr. Leroy Phelps. Thank you!)

So Cousin Averrhoa's fruits are 'quince-scented and edible'. It was nice of Julianne to mention it but I don't seem to be hungry at the moment.



Continued from January, 1973.

Backeberg, however, in his "Kakteenlexicon" maintained that O. FR 143 is O. neoperuviana, and that O. FR 143a is no new Oroya at all, but only O. peruviana (K. Schum.)

The protestant missionary Dr. Alfred Lau is also the discoverer of many an Oroya, many of which are still unpublished. Although it is very probable that many of these are known species, or some minor varieties of known species, it is not excluded that there are some new Oroyas, such as O. peruviana v. conaika (Don. & Lau). The plants Lau finds are normally examined by J. D. Donald who publishes the new species for him.

Another explorer who is currently finding many new Oroyas is Karel Knize of Checkoslovakia, who however lives in Peru, where he has literally explored hundreds of acres in places where few or no other person had ever ventured before. Among the Oroyas he found, one can mention O. baumannii, O. acolloma, O. subgibbosa, and O. gigantea, all of which are still 'nomina nuda' and hence are not yet valid names.

Before I end this commentary, I now give a list of all Oroyas known, with all the varieties, however trivial, with some short note here and there.

- 1 O. acollana: An Oroya recently discovered by K. Knize close to Acolla; remains rather small in size; areoles quite sparse and each areole contains few radials, but these are quite robust. Distributed also as O. Kz. 5F8.
- 2 O. acollana v. fuscata: A variety of the previous Oroya found also by Knize. Spines rather dark in colour.
- 3 O. acollana v. luteispina: Another variety of O. acollana reported by K. Knize as having white spines. Distributed also as O. Kz. 5F9
- 4 O. baumannii: Found by Knize and published in "Biota" 1969 as O. Kz. 380. Grows near Tatumhuasi and Tauricocha, between the Departments of Tunin and Lima. Resembles very closely an Oroya described by Lau as O. laxiareolata or Lau 2FF.
- 5 O. baumannii v. aureispina: A new variety of the previous, also described by Knize and distributed as O. Kz. 388.
- 6 O. baumannii v. rubrispina: Knize also reports this variety from the same habitat as for O. baumannii. Distributed also as O. Kz. 238a.
- 7 O. borchersii: Just discovered by Dr. Borchers; later rediscovered by Rauh in vast quantities in both Cordilleras Negra and Branca. Grows up to a diameter of 20 cms. Has a completely yellow flower.
- 8 O. borchersii v. aureotenuispina: A variety of the previous Oroya recently discovered by Knize in the Cordilera Branca. Distributed also as O. Kz. 3F8.
- 9 O. borchersii v. fuscata: Another variety, with rusty brown spines instead of the yellowish spines of the original.

(Continued overleaf)

Feb. '73

O R O Y A, continued:

- 10 O. citriflora: Another Oroya from Knize's lists. Could be it is only a misprint, the plant being O. gibbosa v. citriflora. (See 13)
- 11 O. citriflora v. aureispina: Another plant introduced by Knize, which also appears in his lists. This name suggests that Knize considers O. citriflora (See 10) as a new species.
- 12 O. gibbosa n.n. Found by Ritter and published in 1939 as O. FR 143a. Has very broad ribs. Plants 5 cms. in diameter are ready flowerers in habitat. Some say it is only O. peruviana.
- 13 O. gibbosa v. citriflora: Found and described by Knize in the South American magazine 'Biota' for 1968 as O. Kz. 386. Since O. gibbosa is a n.n., O. gibbosa v. citriflora is invalid. It is pertinent to ask here whether it was this which caused Knize to name an Oroya O. citriflora (See 10) if both plants are identical. Lau reports a very similar plant from the same locality, namely O. peruviana v. conaika, and if both are the same the latter name is the valid one.
- 14 O. gigantea n.n.: One of the most recent discoveries by Knize. Nothing else is known except that it appears also as O. Kz. 38F.
- 15 O. laxiareolata: Found by Rauh; rather globose cylindrical (height 15 cm, diameter 10 cms) with few areoles per rib, but each areole is longer than usual. In some books described as O. neoperuviana v. laxiareolata.
- 16 O. laxiareolata v. orthovachis: A variety of the above reported by Knize.
- 17 O. laxiareolata v. pluricentralis: A variety described by Backeberg in 1963 as a form of O. laxiareolata with many central spines. Found also by Knize who distributed his plant as O. Kz. 3E4.
- 18 O. neoperuviana: Grows very near the town of Oroya. Grows much bigger in size than O. peruviana and also more cylindrical. The radial spines are finer and more flexible than those of O. peruviana.
- 19 O. neoperuviana v. depressa: Found by Rauh near Andahuaylas and described by Backeberg. Tends to sprout more prolifically than O. neoperuviana. Has the smallest flower of all Oroyas. Rauh, however, called his plant O. peruviana v. depressa. (See 23)
- 20 O. neoperuviana v. ferruginea: Reported by Rauh from the same region. Has red spines. Flower again quite small.
- 21 O. neoperuviana v. tenuispina: Another form of No. 18 with finer and longer radials, narrow ribs and light green epidermis, against the dark green of O. neoperuviana.
- 22 O. peruviana: The first Oroya ever discovered, grows in the Departments of Junin and Apurimac. Grows to a diameter of 14 cms. and sprouts from the base when large. Grows flat, deeply embedded in the ground.
- 23 O. peruviana v. depressa: Grows completely flat with the ground surface. Found by Alfred Lau in the Department of Andahuaylas (Lau 131)

To be continued:

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL -- NOTICE -- FINAL -- MAILING LABELS

Mailing labels for a three-month period will be prepared in mid-February for mailing the March issue of 'Espinasy Flores'. Only the names of members who have renewed will appear on the labels. If you intended to renew your membership, but didn't, NOW IS THE TIME for action. As of the last count 75% of members have renewed. A note to our Treasurer with \$3.00 for single, or \$4.00 for family membership will keep your name on the list. If you have already renewed, please disregard this notice.

Martin L. Mooney, Treasurer, 97 K. Street, Chula Vista, CA 92011

PROGRAM --- Feb. 3, 1973

DAVID B. GRIGSBY "COPIAPOA"
Vista, CA 92083

Dave Grigsby will be our speaker at Casa del Prado on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1:30 p.m. He will have

specimen plants of little-known Chilean Copiapos. They are most attractive and unusual plants. They are from the Atacaman Desert in northern Chile where the temperature range averages between 50 and 100°.

A very informative, popular and well written and illustrated article appeared in the November-December issue of the CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL, written by Mary Bleck. Mary says more than 50 species are found in that warm zone.

Oh yes, more about DAVE. His activity is "GRIGSBY CACTUS GARDENS", 2354 Bella Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92083 (714) 727-1323. His catalog is interestingly called the "Cactus Wish Book". His motto is: "Serving you is our business-- your satisfaction is our pleasure." -- Loyal J. Bibbey, V.P. & Program Chairman

PROPERTY ROUNDUP "If you have club property in your possession, please
Pres. Nelson says: check with me at your very early convenience!"