

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

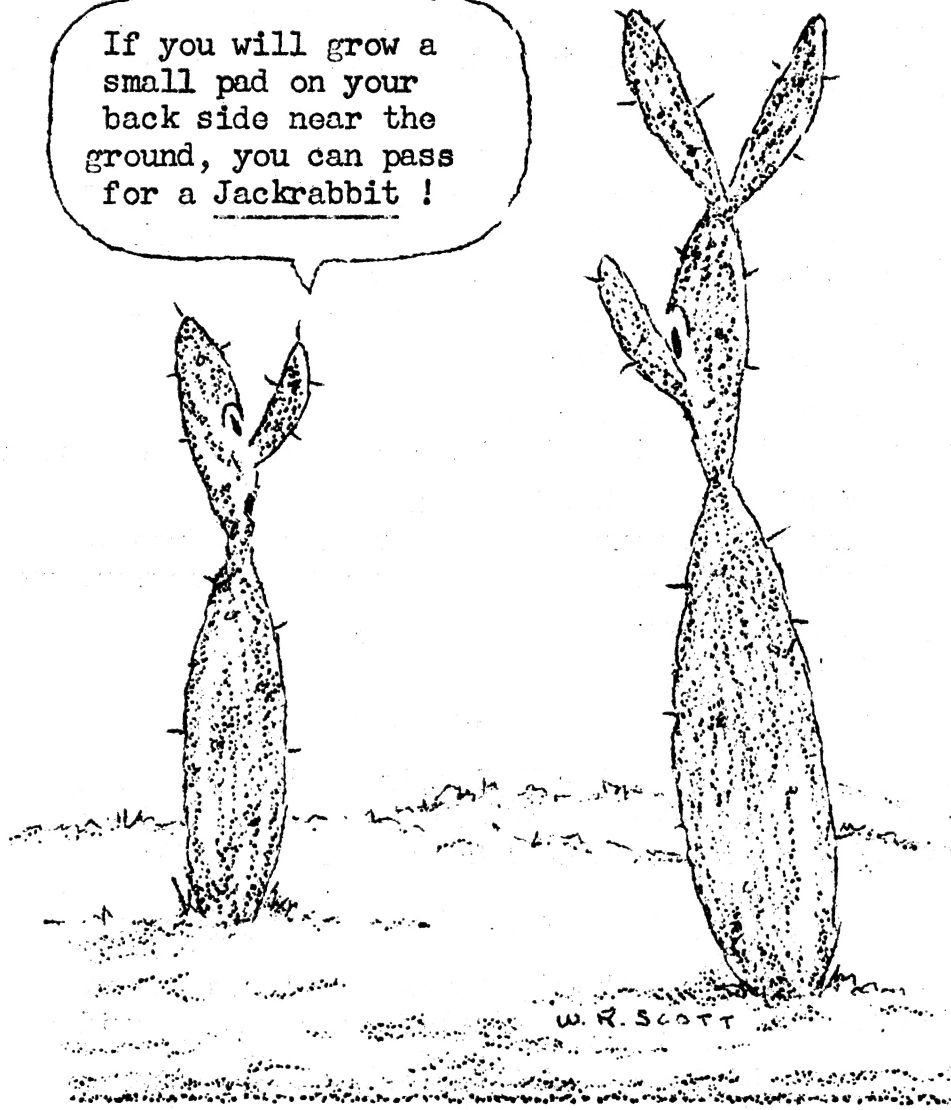
Espinas y Flores

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

.....
TOMO OCHO, NUMERO DIEZ
.....

.....
OCTUBRE 1973
.....

If you will grow a small pad on your back side near the ground, you can pass for a Jackrabbit !



Succulent Suggestion

"Many years ago, before I had even heard of a 'succulent plant society' I grew a small collection of pot plants which

I treasured --- three epiphyllums, five sedums, one or two kalanchoes and one other which I prized most of all, a Stapelia variegata. The last named one really fascinated me.

The form of the plant was so exotic, and those weird flowers. Nothing weird about the odor of the flowers, it was like rotten meat, carrion*. The blowflies used to congregate in the vicinity of the plant and my little dog used to sniff the flowers inquisitively.

After joining the Cactus & Succulent Society of New Zealand, I was delighted to find that there were more of these strange plants and I was given many cuttings by Club members. Although my collection now includes Huerias, Duvalias and Carallumas, the Stapelia is still my favourite. If grown in a garden corner the smell is not particularly noticeable.

When the flowers appear the blowflies are attracted by the carrion odor and they get busy and lay their eggs inside the flower. Some of the eggs hatch but as there is nothing to nourish the tiny maggots, they soon die.**

Flowering time in New Zealand is from February thru March and a little later, so all this time the blowflies are kept out of the kitchen. If every householder grow a few stapelias, that is out in the garden, maybe the blowfly population would be reduced considerably, thereby making life a bit more pleasant in the hot weather.

*carrion --- dead and putrefying flesh.

**One of nature's clever or ingenious schemes to pollinate flowers, but one wonders why nature seems to favor the flower over the fly.

Thank you Patricia Anne. . . . Ye Ed

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Doc R V Vaughan

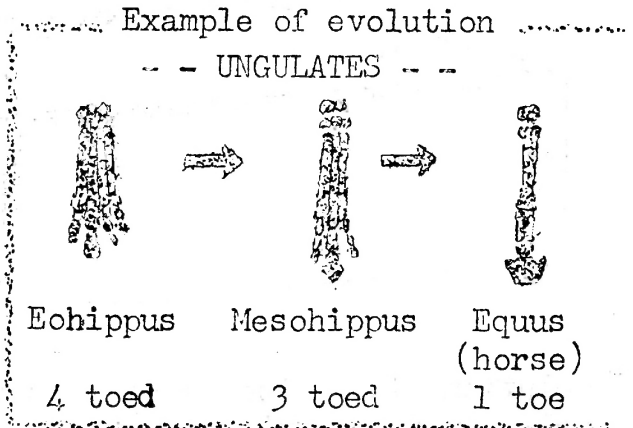
Pizarro drew a sword line across the earth at his feet and declaimed: "Yonder lies Peru and its riches; are you with me?" To a man the tattered horde of adventurers advance into the unknown.

Since the beginning of time man has desired to know what lies over the horizon? This urge is stronger in some homo sapiens than others. Some men find a happy valley and settle down and till the soil, raise some kinders*, build settlements of schools, stores, and establish councils for law and order. Other men gird their loins and face the western land out by the restless sea, seeking solitude for meditation or the hope of finding the rainbow's end in gold so that they can buy power or enjoy freedom from toil, knowing in their hearts that such hope is a chimera.** Only in charitable service to others will we find real happiness.

The study of migrations of birds, fish, mammals and man has proved thought provoking to me. Anadromous*** fish living along the continental shelf suddenly awaken and start a long journey back to the river born of melting ice where their journey began as spawn several years before when the father and mother performed the wedding ritual and later floated downstream dead and as food for the bears and otters. The spawn became catadromous and found their way eventually back to the deep sea where they fattened and matured until the spring freshets from the melting glaciers and snowfields sent surging, boiling oxygen-surcharged waters into the salty sea and released the activating oxygen which excited the sexual glands of the fish.

Man is thought to be a sedentary animal but this is not true for he has populated the entire earth. Deserts have not hindered him from building oases in the most fearful desert furnaces and in the rigorous Arctic where he built igloos and survived thru the years. He found that it was necessary to follow the herds of mammals as they in turn followed the vegetation and he found the fish and sea mammals as the season changed and brought to him food and shelter material.

The ungulates are the best migrators of all mammalian creatures. The great bison, the caribou of the Arctic, and whales are excellent examples of organized migrations. The first touch of frost on the Arctic vegetation causes a restlessness upon the reindeer herds. This may come as early as July. The males start to walk southward, followed by the females heavy with calves many of which will be born along the southward trek. Some will be lost in mountain torrents, some will become sickly to be taken by predatory animals---a wise provision of nature. Crippled or sickly animals cannot survive the rugged life of a long journey south and back again to the tundra.



Each year for centuries the same route has been followed by these beasties. The way of the tern which migrates from the Arctic circle to the Antarctic nexting ground, a ten-thousand mile one way trip, is the same. We all know of the Grey Whale that comes south to Mexico and calves in the inland arm of the sea which Scammon found by accident, and which provided a gold mine for years by the killing of these great mammals for oil and meat. We know of the seals and their long journeys to California from the Pribilof Islands. Blue whales wander over the oceans of the Pacific basin and return yearly to the Ross Sea off Antartica for food (krill), mating and calving. Fascinating reading on a stormy night is MAURY'S SAILING DIRECTIONS published July 1858 by U.S. Navy Hydrographical Office. Capt. Maury was assigned to get information at the time when the captains of the American whalers had a kind of Masonry and secret society as where to fish, how to catch the big ones, etc. Ben Franklin wrote and edited a part of the book as he was the one who discovered the Gulf Stream. You can imagine yourself at sea as the wind howls and screeches thru the rigging. (*kinders---general plural of 'kind', children; ***anadromous, said of salmon that go from the sea to rivers to spawn, **chimera, absurd or groundless fancy.)

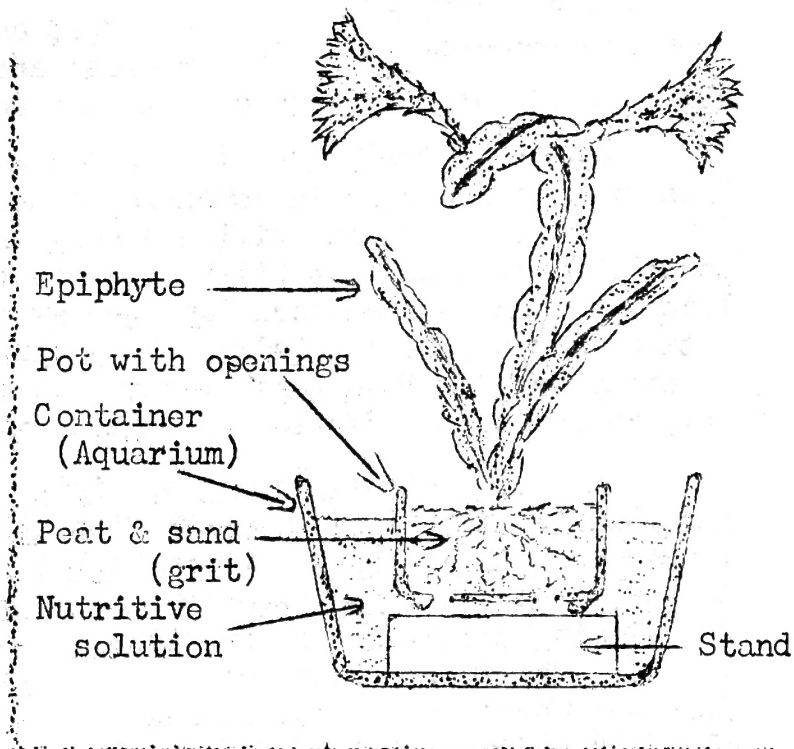
WATER-CULTURE, continued;

Francis J. Borg

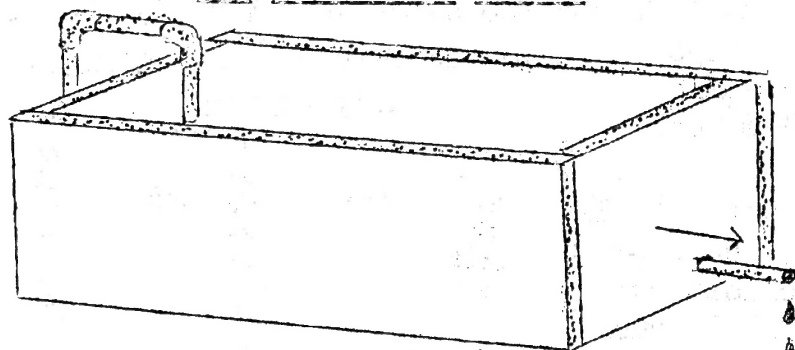
An easy method for growing healthy cacti (especially epiphytes) using water-culture is explained very simply in the diagram to the right. A plant (an epiphyte in this instance) is potted in peat and sand (or better grit). It is placed in a container (vase or aquarium) and the nutritive solution (water plus fertilizer) is added. The pH value of the solution is checked by means of indicator paper. If needed, drops of nitric acid are added. That's all.

From time to time some water is added to the solution to make good for the loss of water which evaporates or is absorbed by the plant.

Among the advantages of this method it is important to mention that the roots never get dry. The plant can conveniently be left in a living room and it grows healthily and it may flower profusely.



SUB-IRRIGATION SYSTEM



Before I close, I want to record also the latest of hydroponics developed which is slightly more advanced. It is referred to as the 'sub-irrigation system', It consists of a box or tank, especially constructed, in which many plants can grow together.

Again the medium is peat and sand but the nutritive solution is this time pumped into the medium. The solution floods the medium at predetermined intervals only. The excess of the solution drips into another tank and it reused in continuous circulation.

"hydroponics -- (construed as singular) the cultivation of plants by placing the roots in liquid nutrient solutions rather than in soil; or soilless growth of plants. . . . The end.

NEW TALENT APPEARS IN 'E v F' --- page 14: The cactus cartoon by one of our young members from Irvine, CA, is representative of one of many talents, one of which is succulent plants. It is one thing to talk about plants, yet another to put ideas into pictures or words. We shall be looking forward to continuing efforts, either in words or pictures from young Paul Bingham.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM. Baja California by Nibby Klinefelter was one of the most interesting programs of the year. And how does one determine that? By noting audience participation and response. The two give good clues as to how a speaker is being received, or how the speaker is communicating with the audience. It turned out to be one of the best conducted tours to Baja to date and it was illustrated with slides well chosen to illustrate particular plants, the terrain and the make-do conveniences (or inconveniences) of the land south of the border.

OCT '73

Not only is he an excellent Editor AND Cactus King for the coming '74 convention --

but he is the modern mailing accomplisher of a major/miracle for readers of EyS - mailing and having the paper delivered the same DAY!

Postmarked the 24th, it arrived the 24th - Nellie noticed this detail, Scotty...Robin Strate took issue with her postmaster in San Ysidro and improved delivery...not that we're instigating a general uprising, but don't blame Scotty when your paper is late.

Nibby's Notebook

He also took over for Loyal Joe Bibbey who was called out of town and help set up the program. Bill Nelson has asked gently each month, "Does anyone have anything to suggest for the good of the club?" Here's one: Let's have posted in each of our storage areas general information about where-is-what in ALL of our storage areas. For example, where are the orange tablecloths kept? Who has keys? Add a note: There is a long heavy-duty extension cord in the supply closet located to the right of the speaker's table. It's in a box marked THIS CORD IS FOR USE IN ROOM 101. (Fortunately.) Inventorying still lags along; notify Nelsons of club properties if you have not yet done so.

As promised "Mindless in Baja" was not knowledgeable. It wasn't even mechanically good; about the only sin uncommitted was upsidedown slides. Thanks for bearing with me -- I had a ball. One point pictured bears repeating: Take your trash with you when camping in the wilderness. Trash buried is resurrected by coyotes...they are very curious.

Ilse Sommerfeld shares the credit (or whatever) for she helped review and select the relatively few slides used...we finished at seven a.m. meeting day. Had we followed Elaine Niehaus' advice there wouldn't have been 10 minutes worth...Mother always told me: "If you have to explain it -- FORGET it!"

Rickey Latimer and Martin Mooney decorated our table in Casa del Prado with great good taste and shining examples of c&s for Finest City Week the end of August. Who will be next to take a table or two?* Would Thelma O'Reilly and Mary Birchell? Ann Boyd and Suzanne Gillie? We can use these blue-ribbon winners...in past years board members have accepted this pleasurable responsibility but it's time to SHARE it. "THE PLANT MAN" Mike Buckner had a table, too...if you missed him there drop by his booth in Old Town near the Farmer's Market in Casa del Mundo. (*Floral Association's invitation for first weekend in December.) THE PLANT EXCHANGE TABLE is improving under Betty Baker's able care... she became interested in c&s in March and already can talk most of us under that same table with genera and species, parentage of hybrids et cetera due to her scientific background and perfectionist personality... It won't be long until she's giving programs and writing articles. (Put that prediction in our Talent Bank.) Audrey Justice volunteered to help Betty this month.

Wish every issue could be settled as easily and quickly by clubs as was our change of meeting from the first to the second Saturday...

and the raise in dues to \$5...it's still the first Saturday in October (in room 104), the 2nd Saturday in November but the third Saturday in December. Mark your calendars - OCT 6th, NOV 10th, DEC 15th.

BOARD MEETING: Committees have been chosen. Lee Phelps will head By-Law Changes, assisted by Warren Buckner and - are you with them Herman Englander. Julianne Rice will chair Nominating Committee with Augie Pfeiffer and Betty Baker. Augie was also chosen as Chairman of the Christmas party - that's the 15th of December. If you want to be active in the group, attend Board Meetings which are held the Friday following our regular meeting, ordinarily. There's always something for which to volunteer.

For such an active society we have had quite a number on the Sick List. Julianne hopefully is over her bout with pneumonia, Alice Wilson's arm is healing, Mable Greenwood was in and out of the Navy Hospital so fast I didn't get a chance to run down to say hello. Chris Pfeiffer is still having discomfort from surgery in August; that's the month of August. Ruth Nelson is feeling a little better - "I'm doing just what the doctor told me to do -- NOTHING!" For Ruth, that's not easy...she made a number of calls for the Annual Show of the Hylocereus undatus Opening (one of the Queens-of-the-Night, you know). A number of people were delighted with the opportunity. Betty Baker took Audrey Justice, Ilse Sommerfeld and son Dale plus neighbor. Mary Toth, Mr. & Mrs. Clough and Irene Adams were there representing the Epi's on our arrival.

Ruth measured the flowers to be 10-12" across and as deep. While they bloom in spurts, the first usually open on their wedding anniversary, the 31st of July. We counted 22 Sunday evening the 2nd of September. Ruth told us that it's a month from bud to open bloom and advised keeping them in the refrigerator for longer viewing. Bill cut a flower for us to take home and had a pile of cuttings as well. Thanks for sharing. (From Taylor's Encyclopedia: Hylocereus has an oblong fruit 4" long, red and edible and often called "Strawberry Pear" or "Pitahaya!" How about that, Ruth & Bill?)

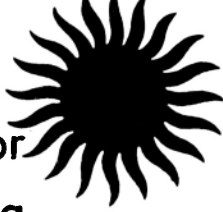
PLANT-of-the-MONTH winners for September - Borzicactus, Ruth Stanton. Pachyphytum, Julianne Rice. Open? What & who? In August - Sempervivum, Tony D'Atillio. Tony won another and so did Ruth Richardson - but which was for open and who for Coryphantha? It's out of my province to suggest that the Editor be given the names of the winners each month but all the same, why not? There's a lot going on and because people WILL talk it's hard to hear.

Harriet Sopp not only thinks nice things about people, but puts it in writing--we thank you humbly if belatedly...how are the ceramics coming?

***"I think that I
shall never see,
A poem as lovely
as a tree.
Indeed unless the
billboards fall,
I may not see a tree
at all."***

Have you had delivery on your Echinocereus missing in action from the Fair, Walt Greenwood? You've really been bewitched with disappearing plants and we love you for continuing to loan more -- it has been located... Jim Stalsonburg had it for you at the meeting, but missed you. Nice to see prominent old members reactivated...Bob Myers is another plantsman from the Park with an elevated title, Head of the Landscaping Department...still another member who just happened to join with a Very Important Position with the City Park Department is Bill Labiak, along with his wife Mary - welcome - and pick a project...

Botany Curator Visits Herberia



(Notebook cont'd, Oct '73) Reid Moran isn't a member but he's so well known that it seems a pity...make it a point to see his outstanding photos on view in the Natural History Museum. Close-ups of the Stonecrop Family...back from a 5-year tour of the U. S. under the auspices of the Smithsonian...truly a treat for succulent fanciers.

Eager to share Dorotheanthus bellidiformis (Mesembryanthum criniflorum or "Livingstone Daisy"), Helen Hegyi said, "You bring the envelopes and I'll bring the seeds."... If you want to get potted with Ruth Stanton send her a card at 3156 Harding St, SD 92008 --she can get them for you wholesale. Is Joan Fleer back from her quarterly in Europe? The Loylands back from Minnesota? ... Stevesson, so far, so good - Cinderella is not pregnant... How was your trip, Alice McNichols? I didn't see Helen Claydon or Ernie Wetzell at the meeting - and Jean Hapeman was out of town -- if you're interested would be glad to run through my slides at my house - anyone else is welcome.

Reid Moran, curator of botany for the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park, was in England last week, attending the meeting of the international organization for the Study of Succulent Plants at Reading University. While there, Moran delivered a lecture on the Stonecrop family, entitled "Echeveria in the Scheme of Things." The botany department of the Natural History Museum maintains a study collection of some 77,000 plant specimens as a primary source of information. Such a collection is called the museum's herbarium. Before returning, Moran also visited some of the larger herberia in England, including Kew, the Royal Botanical Gardens, the largest herberia in the world, and the British Museum. Moran hopes to add to the Balboa Park museum's collection by exchange with the British institutions.

Ed Miller, HONEY -- if you are still beekeeping may I order two jars? Mildred Gregory came in last for Ed's honey -- but she was still ahead of us...again... Gloria Bowen of Oklahoma City - where fore art thy Questionnaire? ... Helen and Herbert Hewitt joined in August from seeing the notice in the paper. He's retired and both are willing to take part in anything going...they're from New York.

We haven't seen Bill and Ellen and Miss Michelle Low in ages... True, Simi is a bit of a haul...the same for Danielle & Ray White from Holtville... Mrs. John E. Miller is among those interested in miniatures...might be nice to have others interested in the little ones band together...a club-within-a-club. We know that Lena Anne Rice and Nellie and Ruth R. are miniature-minded to begin with.

Contact Mrs. J. D. Reilly (451 Country Club Lane, Coronado, CA 92118) if you would like to give a program on cactus & succulents for the Crown Garden Club... I have been asked a number of times to recommend a speaker...so many could, if they but would. We really do NEED a Talent Bank and a coordinator for it.

Virginia Martin was quick to fill my order for "SHOWS"...so I'll have a copy to replace the borrowed-and-lost one, Hazel...also will have typewriter cover for you Frances Langer...wish she hadn't mentioned the instruction book...

Tam O'Shanter & Robert H. Fletcher belong in our club's Photograph Album...which come to think of it, have never seen...is it on view at the President's Table every month with all those pictures Ruthie takes? ... I'm bringing my camera for you to demonstrate How to Load Film Properly, Bill Waite - ok? ...

FLORIDA CANYON. The San Diego Chapter of CNPS is committed to maximum support of the Florida Canyon Nature Trails project in Balboa Park, and we are delighted to note that the city of San Diego has committed substantial funds toward the first actual physical improvement of the canyon. With this impetus, the San Diego Museum of Natural History has agreed to sponsor, as a public service, a training program for "Naturalist Guides".

If FLORIDA CANYON is in the making, then can our garden in the park be far behind? We know the bond issue failed, but nevertheless these things get done...eventually...the strip designated has been freshly scraped, a border of boulders has joined the palms and they, too, are waiting... Has there been any mention in the UNION that San Diego was chosen as CSSA Convention host city? ... Would the Powers in the Park be interested? Of all places one would expect a cactus and succulent garden city-sponsored and tourist-attracting to have been in existence from the beginning of the park... Leaving that subject, how about doing "something" for Mission d'Alcala... I know we did it once and it wasn't maintained but it lasted for several years...what did it cost us? A day of work that was fun-filled and satisfying, a few plants and a few dollars. Monsignor Egan was DELIGHTED when Julianne and I dropped by and is EAGER for us to Do Something...and so are we. (It looks awful - the wall behind it is gone and so is the contouring ... most of the stones and a great many of the plants. The poor things left are spaced rather rigidly.)

MEANWHILE, back to the Sempervivums, the live-forevers that are known as "Hens-and-Chicks". If you're hung up on them you'll be interested to know about the Sempervivum Society of England - for information write to Peter J. Mitchell, 11 Wingle Tye Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex, England.

Information from Helen Payne's PLANT JEWELS OF THE HIGH COUNTRY. Published by Pine Cone Publishers, Medford, Oregon; 1972. It's a delightful pore-over book with a splendid collection of colored photos - and will be back on your shelves at the meeting, Edith Werner.

HINT FOR HIKING IN RATTLESNAKE COUNTRY - wear slacks and do not tuck the bottoms into boots -- a rattlesnake's fangs can penetrate leather but will catch in cloth. From the same book. Also: "Many people don't know that moss won't die if allowed to dry; wet it and it revives. (Damp moss stacked, however will mildew) I have moss several years old. When it is thoroughly soaked, it snaps right back."

Now that the title is straight we may as well make corrections of a few of the names used last month. S. fauconnetti (the tiny clumper that loses its web in winter when there is no need for protection from a strong sun) - S. simonkaianum - S. ciliosum (most unusual and outstanding clumper) - S. sanfordii (among the most colorful...and then lavendAr is lavendEr - thank you, Nellie.

This is really a great little book with a good number of sedums included. "Grigg's Surprise" is a hen-and-chicks with hollow leaves!

Martin Mooney, would you believe you had a call at my office in SOQ at the Naval Hospital? You will believe there was some confusion... especially since the caller was a doctor...Dr. Charles Thomas of El Cajon who saw our exhibits at the Fair, called their office for information and received our combination of name & number. Since he wanted the nearest nursery I sent him the July EyF with Taylor's map in it.

Remember, it's Room 104 this month.

NK

A GREENHOUSE

Its Joys & Heartaches :

(A true story!) :

Anita M. Heywood :

..... :

After returning from a trip to Colorado in 1967, cacti plants were spotted everywhere,

in the kitchen and on the stove, in the bedrooms, the guest room--everywhere! A family conference was called. The result, a greenhouse salesman was called. We signed a contract!

Unfortunately we selected a small one--six feet wide and 8½ feet long, thinking it would be simple to install. It was a do-it-yourself type. Two weeks before the Labor Day weekend, a dear friend and my husband set the foundation (base plates) and set up the aluminum frame.

On Labor Day they glazed it. It so happened that was the occasion of the Cactus Show at Shaw's Garden. Our friend's wife and I just had to see the show. When we returned home there was only one sheet of glass to install. Our friend turned to tell us it was 'finished'. His hand hit the glass edge and blood spilled all over the place. Within minutes he was at the closest hospital's emergency room. First a tetanus shot, then seven stitches and bandages. Infection set in within the week. Fortunately, treatment promoted healing.

We added a pebble flooring to the four-inch thick wood rounds. It looked good but it was hard on the feet. I told my plants they had better appreciate the discomforts and human sacrifices including blood, labor, expenses, pain. They sympathized!

The first winter in the greenhouse was 'heaven on earth'. The plants soaked up the winter sun. And then I began to notice unsightly blotches on my forehead. Friends kidded but a dermatologist said: "It's a serious skin burn--keep your face out of the sun". I explained about my greenhouse. "Just cover your face" was his advice. I tried an assortment of hats but it seemed they got in the way of hanging pots. They didn't work, so I turned to a "Flying Nun's" headgear. It worked! My plants were aware of these happenings so I asked them for moral support. (A woman can be so vain.) They gave it to me!

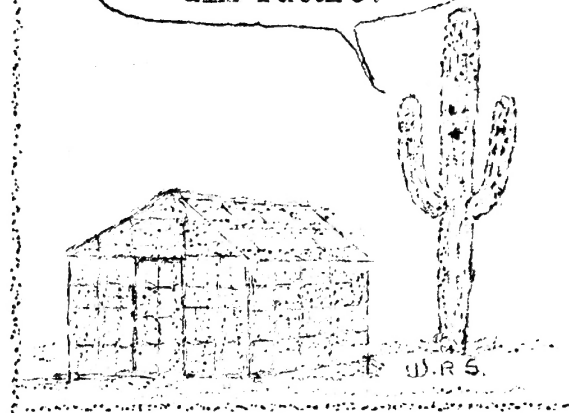
Within a year the small greenhouse became overcrowded. Then came the 'true bill' for spilt blood. I must admit that I have a superior talent as a "wallpaper-er" and my friend the accident victim's wife remembered it. Neither did she forget her husband's 'sacrificial blood' during construction of the greenhouse. There was an atmosphere of "extrasensory perception". I papered her bathroom. All corners matched! On my return home I was dead tired. I had to explain to my plants what I had done for their good. They understood!

With 1,600 seedlings bursting out of the soil, it became necessary to enlarge the greenhouse. Since it was midwinter I was not in a mood for 'papering'. We decided to have the job done professionally. The workmen began in February. It was cold, one fella caught pneumonia but the work proceeded on schedule. I couldn't wait, all the plants had to come out of the basement; I moved 'everybody' in at the end of March. The weather cooperated! After a gas heater was installed the weather turned bitter cold.

With the arrival of spring and warm weather a tall oak tree's branches overhung the greenhouse. They posed a problem. What if a branch fell? Uninsured tree surgeons refused to tackle the job, altho I did finally find one--expensive. The boss said he could cover the greenhouse with special padding to break the fall of upper limbs. I was more concerned with 'breaking glass'. I was a ner-r v-vous wreck. It was necessary to explain the situation to the plants. "You'll be covered; it's all for the best" I told them. I assured them! They appreciated it!

(Continued next page)

Mini-greenhouses remind me of California's housing developments...excessive current exposure with a dim future.



A GREENHOUSE

Its Joys & Heartaches (Continued)

The crew arrived and the work began. When the first branch came tumbling down, I rushed from window to window. I remembered a "blessed candle" a Catholic friend of my Mother had lit for me prior to a flight from Frankfort, Germany, to St. Louis. My Mother mailed the candle to me months later thinking it might come in handy. The candle calmed me for the air trip, why not light it now? I did! I couldn't see the plants; the greenhouse was covered with padding. I prayed for the plants as the candle sat on the kitchen table.

When the job was completed, the boss came to me and asked if it met with my approval. "Great" I said. He spotted the burning candle. It was 8:45 a.m. and bright and sunny. He said: "Lady, what's with the candle?" I explained it was "for assurance". My answer brought forth the response: "Lady, in 30 years in this business I've never heard of such nonsense."

When the workers left, I went into the greenhouse and urged everyone to "snap out of it, sharpen up, the danger had passed". I told them they weren't the only ones around with grey hair, that I had some too. They were soaking up the sunshine; I felt assured they would try even harder to please me.

My cactus friends seemed to enjoy my greenhouse, or it could have been 'envy' until they spent a few minutes in it on a mid-summer day in Missouri. Noon temperatures reach 120 to 140 degrees. Considering the temperatures along with the humidity---it has to be love! Makeup isn't useful; a hairdo doesn't last; fancy clothes absorb moisture, much more commonly known as sweat. Quitting time for me by the thermometer is 120°.

Heat isn't my number one problem. Playground space for youngsters is! There are a number of the latter next door---four boys and their twelve to twenty friends. Kids love to throw things. That is when I tell my plants of my plans to cope with situations as they exist.

My young nephew in Germany has a 'prize' haircut. I did it on his last trip; I took a picture to show to my next door neighbor. She was eager to know more about my talent. Her thinking was no doubt geared to the cost of visits to the barbershop for the boys. The boys received John Kennedy style haircuts the first year and Mark Spitz style the next. The boys are now 'protectors' of my greenhouse. I have four dedicated assistant protectors. I had to explain to my plants about my barbering activities and how it was much better for them than flying rocks, baseballs and broken glass. News like that promotes growth of spines, blooms and hair on cacti.

An unforeseen budget problem has entered my life. The heater must run thru the night during the winter; and there is the matter of the purchase of plants and seeds. And I don't like to leave the plants 'cold' for even a few hours. I may have to consider a part-time job to help defray costs of such items.

I explained my dilemma to my plants and asked them for their support, to do their best, to make a special effort to grow and be beautiful in the event I had to leave them to work, even for a few hours each day. I told them: "When I come home weary and tired, I would like to feast my eyes on their ever-increasing beauty." They understood!

Some people think that I talk to myself. Those of you who know the joys and heartaches of growing cacti and the problems of a greenhouse know that I don't. I may talk with my plants.

Old Wives' Tales
and
Other Cultural Thoughts



OBSERVATIONS of
CactoPhil Corliss

The cactus literature abounds in exhortations for the grower to provide plenty of fresh air at all times. Dire predictions are made for the life of plants in houses where the air is allowed to become stagnant. Even cactus seedlings are said to require the circulation of fresh air. This is but one of many "old wives' tales" that have been refuted in recent years. Seedlings grow best in pots enclosed in plastic bags - which may not, if they remain intact, be opened nor fresh air provided for a full year or more. Unless efficiently screened, openings to provide fresh air in plastic or glass houses will permit entry of all sorts of insects, flying or other, as well as seed-eating birds. **IN** warm and sunny weather the admission of fresh air or air currents will reduce the humidity and hasten transpiration and evaporation. This is not desirable. Not only do the epiphytes require high humidity, but in warm weather it can benefit all cactus. It must be remembered that some of the most interesting cactus come from deserts ~~where~~ rain has not been recorded ever in history and it is the condensation of humidity (dew, fog, "garuas") that provide the only moisture which permits cactus in these areas to grow or even to live.

Collected rain water is admittedly best for watering cactus. It is hardly feasible for large collections in a climate like that of San Diego where rainfall is minimal and does not occur when it is most needed - in the hot months. If it is stored, precautions must be made to exclude all light to prevent the growth of algae. Storing tap (city) water for a day or more will permit the escape of chlorine. But chlorine is not the principal fault of such water - it is the content of unwanted mineral salts, and this is not changed by storage. I feel the chlorine helps prevent the growth of algae as well as bacteria and possibly virus and fungae and should be welcomed. The correction of the accumulation of excess mineral salts can be effected only by frequent repotting.

I have written before that you should not change the location of a cactus plant if it is doing well, especially if it is one known to be difficult of culture; conversely, if a plant is not doing well, try it in a different place in regard to wind, light, sun, etc. If a plant has been exposed to the sun, **DO NOT TURN THE PLANT** so that a new area, not hardened to the sun, will be subject to sunburn. Mark the south side of your pot (the sunny side) with an "S". Or, if you move the plant to a place with similar sun exposure, have the label always facing you. Many species, however, never develop a tolerance to the sun and although you may be guided by knowledge of the habits of the genus or the spination, hairs, or wool that protect it you must be ever vigilant to rescue the plant before damage from the sun becomes irreversible. It is also important not to change the position of flower buds in relation to the sun. In many species, a change with regard to the sun will abort the flowers.

I am surprised by the different advice given on rooting cuttings.. All cactus should have the cut surfaces lightly dusted with sulphur and allowed to dry and form a callus. They should be set **ON** the surface and not **IN** the rooting medium. Some authors suggest placing the plants in full sun and standing the pots in a saucer of water at once so that moisture will rise and induce cuttings to send roots down to it. I prefer to keep them out of any direct sunlight, to give no water until new growth **AND** roots have appeared, but to spray with a fine mist at frequent intervals. I am sure there is a great variation to follow for different species. Some cactus root in a few weeks while others take at least a year. As with all aspects of cactus culture, the watchword is **PATIENCE**.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING about
Gardening in Southern California

Upgrading Green Thumb Skills: Gardening in Southern California

General Interest

Course Coordinator: Paul C. Hutchison, A.B., Botanist, President of Tropic World, Inc., Escondido

Contrary to the popular myth, green thumbs are made — not born. Knowledge, not luck, is the best fertilizer. The object of this course is to provide ten years' experience in ten weeks. What are the basic principles of landscaping and of plant nutrition? What are the unique problems and advantages of gardening in southern California? What are the joys, the pleasures, the practical ecological dividends that can be derived from seeds and soil? As the weeks pass, watch your thumb grow green.

SEPTEMBER 24 — GETTING A KICK OUT OF GARDENING. Patricia F. S. Welsh, B.A., writer, artist and enthusiastic home gardener
HOW PLANTS RELATE TO THE WAY YOU LIVE. Lawrence Black, Landscape Architect, Del Mar

OCTOBER 1 — HOW TO GROW ALMOST ANYTHING: A DISCUSSION OF SOILS AND PLANT NUTRITION. Mr. Hutchison

OCTOBER 8 — CULTIVATED TREES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Jim Stalsonburg, Landscape Technologist, City Park Department, San Diego

OCTOBER 15 — CULTIVATED SHRUBS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Mr. Hutchison

OCTOBER 22 — EPHEMERAL COLOR: A DISCUSSION OF ANNUALS, BULBS AND PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS. Mrs. Elizabeth Marshall, Los Angeles, Vice-President, Southern California Horticultural Institute; Secretary, Pacific Horticultural Foundation

OCTOBER 29 — THE SHADE GARDEN. George Kempland, Supervisor, Landscape Redevelopment and Nurseries, City Parks, San Diego

NOVEMBER 5 — LAWNS AND GROUND COVERS. Victor B. Youngner, Ph.D., Professor of Agronomy, Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside

NOVEMBER 12 — FRUIT TREES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: HAZARDS AND REWARDS. Waldo J. S. Small, Owner, Small's Nursery; Instructor, University of California Extension, Riverside

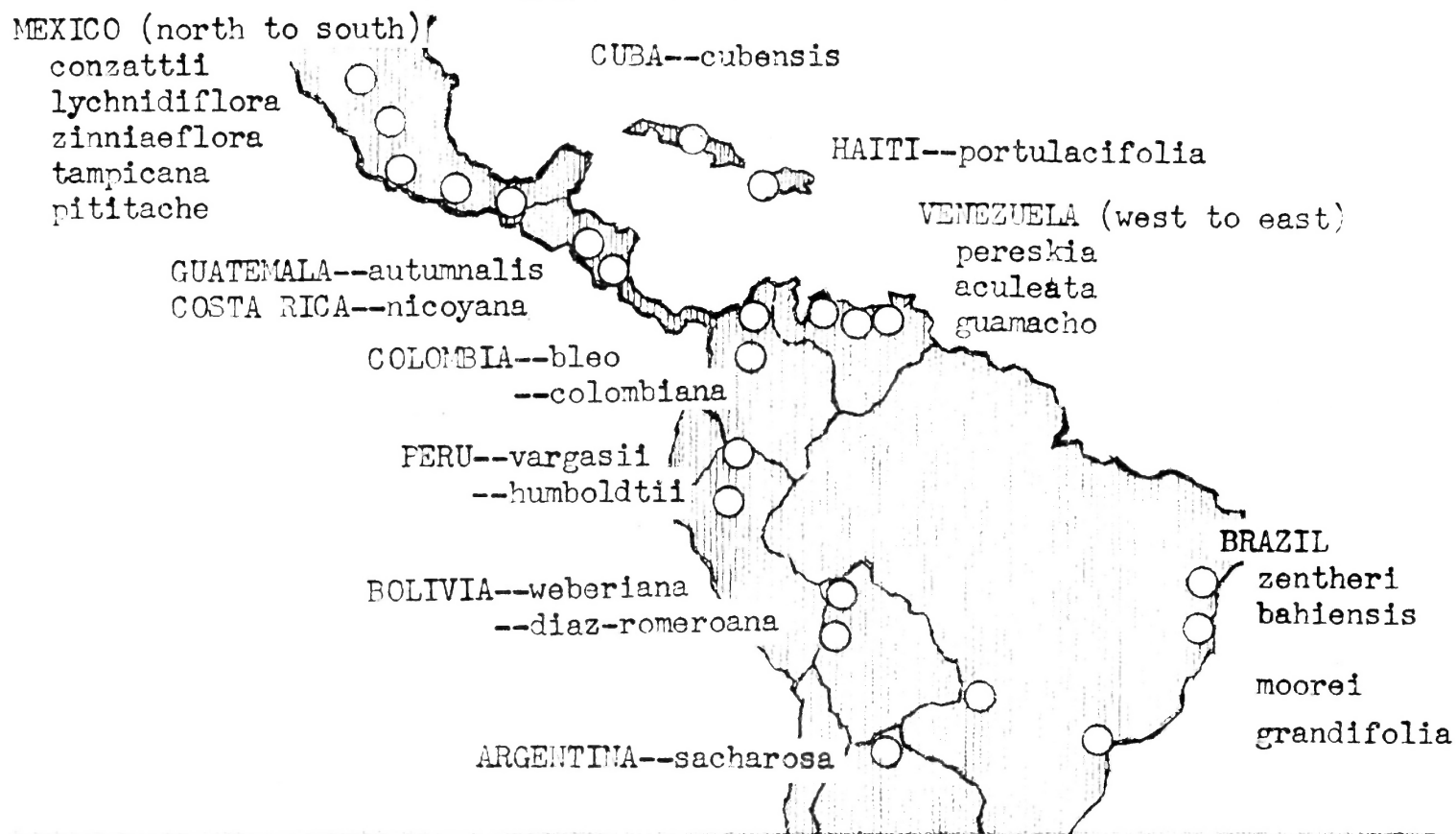
NOVEMBER 19 — BIZARRE STORIES ABOUT PLANTS AND PLANTSMEN. Mr. Hutchison

NOVEMBER 26 — NOVELTIES AND SPECIALTIES FOR THE GARDENER (POTTED PLANTS). Mr. Hutchison

EDP No. G0019, General Interest 810.2; 10 meetings; FEE: \$46; Mondays, 7-9:45 p.m.; Room 2622, Undergraduate Sciences Building, Revelle Campus, UCSD

the opportunity is yours in classes coming up with
instructors you may know. Full information above.

WHERE is the HOME of CACTUS ??



MAP OF MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA SHOWING
TYPE LOCALITIES OF 23 PERESKIA SPECIES

WHERE IS THE HOME OF CACTUS ?? That is a good question. It is uppermost in the minds of everyone interested in the unusual family. One genus, *Carnegiea gigantea* (Eng.) Br. & R. (sahuaro or saguaro, sã-wã'-rõ) is the most striking and spectacular representative of plant life in the desert and perhaps on the earth.

No author likes to pinpoint the origin of the family. It comes in many shapes and sizes, and in unlimited variations. If a person unfamiliar with cactus were handed two leaves, one a lemon, the other a *Pereskia aculeata**, and he were asked "Which is the cactus", he would be hard pressed to make a decision, or he would be inclined to answer "Neither". Since the general impression of a cactus is that it is leafless, he would doubt that either leaf came from a cactus. Cactus generally have gotten around the need for leaves. Their stems have taken over the necessary botanical functions necessary for life, particularly photosynthesis. Lemons have thorns and cacti have what are commonly called 'spines'. General appearance between lemon and *P. aculeata* leaves is strikingly similar.

Cacti are regarded as indigenous to the Western Hemisphere. There is one difficult to account for exception which makes it hard to say with certainty that 'home' of the family is one particular area. The exception, if you will, or the 'escapee' in the family is *Rhipsalis*. Again *Rhipsalis* differs greatly from the general conception of cactus. Anyone seeing *Rhipsalis* for the first time and being told it too is a cactus, would be dubious.

Rhipsalis is found native to areas in Africa, Madagascar and Ceylon as well as South America. If, indeed, it did escape South America and cross the Atlantic, it has man baffled as to its means of escape. No one has found a convincing answer. Continued overleaf.

WHERE IS THE HOME OF CACTUS ?? Cont'd.

It is readily understandable how plants migrate great distances on land and shorter distances over water, but some thousands of miles across an ocean is something else, except when man enters the picture. *Rhipsalis* 'escaped' before man entered.

Suppose we pursue origin on the basis of the evidence and facts as they exist now and as they are known to us. First let us ask "Which cactus is most primitive today?" Botanists are in general agreement that it is *Pereskia aculeata*, the vine mentioned above. What does *P. aculeata* look like? It is a vine; it sprawls and it may extend over an area of ten meters. It must have support for upright growth. Is it a desert cactus? No! It grows in the tropics. Where is its home? Its type locality is Venezuela. Does it have areoles? Yes, or it wouldn't be a cactus.

Are there other forms of *Pereskia*? Yes, some appear as shrubs or bushes, others as trees. Botanists have records of one which grows to 20 meters in height and it much branched like many trees. What area does the *Pereskia* tribe cover? Its several species span an area from Mexico on the north, southward thru Guatemala, Costa Rica and into South America and as far south as northern Argentina and southern Brazil. (See map) Also some islands of the Caribbean.

P. aculeata is the only member of the tribe which remains a vine. The natural order of botanical progression in evolution would be from vine, to shrub or bush, to a tree.

How many species of *Pereskia* are there? The answer to that question is moot. It depends upon which authority or botanist one quotes. Britton and Rose describe 19 species whereas Backeberg, examining the same group of plants, calls eight of them *Pereskias* (more accurately *Peireskias*) and he has transferred some to another genus, *Rhodocactus*. The problem involved in naming cacti has been that names in many instances were provided before adequate material upon which to form correct conclusions was at hand. It is difficult to change a plant's name once it is described and recorded.

One can group the *Pereskias* within reason into three categories, one vine, nine shrubs or bushes, and thirteen trees. Some may cross over, being a bush in one instance and a tree in another, perhaps depending upon growing conditions. One finds variations in the case of plants grown in containers as opposed to those grown in the ground or in nature. Growth may be restricted in nature or it may be confined by other means, an example being bonsai.

Tree *Pereskias* would be regarded as most advanced botanically and one would expect to find tree forms outside the area of origin. The largest tree *Pereskia* is *P. pitatache* found in Mexico. It grows to 20 meters in height. Next largest *P. columbiana* in Columbia grows to 11 meters, followed by *P. autumnalis*, 9 meters in Guatemala and *P. nicoyana*, 8 meters, in Costa Rica. Two smaller tree types are found in Argentina and Brazil. Thus going from the primitive sprawling vine to the largest tree one might conclude the Home of Cactus is Venezuela **aculeata*, beset with prickles.



October 1973

INTERCITY SUCCULENT SHOW

Succulent Spree for '73 A fine plant show requires ample space, fine staging and congenial surroundings. All are provided in the new Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park in Sacramento. Show quarters just could be best in the state--does anyone know of any better? The Center was thoughtfully designed for the production of such a show as Succulent Spree for '73, or could it be "Spree" was designed for the Center--or was it mutual?

Show space is provided in rooms and open areas inside and out, under cover and in the open. There is ample parking and kitchen facilities are excellent. It must make a garden enthusiast anxious, exuberant and willing to work at the Center and enjoy living with succulent plants.

Anyone who regards his plants as good, better or best would be surprised to see what is being achieved by a number of individuals in the Bay area and in the Valley in the way of growing, grooming and displaying unusually fine plants. The areas necessitate enclosed facilities, but one must remember that plants approve of extra warmth, and special attention does them no harm, and they enjoy it.

Another very interesting feature of the show which surprised the judges was the quality of entries of several 'novices'. It may be said with candor that in a number of instances novice entries shaded the best some pros had to offer. That augers well for future 'Sprees'. The novices aren't just coming in Sacramento, they are arriving, or maybe better we should say "They have arrived". Is that an indication of expanding interest in succulent plants in these times?

The show was presented in four DIVISIONS: I CACTACEAE, II SUCCULENTS, III ALLIED INTERESTS and IV COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS. To top all that there were BEST of the show. That is putting it mildly--they were superior. The overall quality and stature of any show is revealed by the selection of the BEST of each DIVISION, The winners in this group are to be commended, they are the plant showmen. It wasn't a closed situation, it was highly competitive, and quality follows competition. It was observed by the judges that specimens generally were well groomed and highly competitive. The judges in many instances awarded double ribbons in a class. A show requires a lot of planning and endless work in addition to fine plants. It is a very fine undertaking for a garden club. The only distressing thought is that the show is of short duration and more persons should be able to see it.

The 'Spree' was with the cooperation and help of CSSA and the help of entries from a wide area. Did we see an entry from Riverside? There was a winner from Simi Valley--BEST! At this juncture let's list the BEST in each category together with the name of the plant and the winner and hometown.

BEST CACTUS -- Echinomastus unguispinus, Evon Ray, Sacramento
BEST SUCCULENT -- Haworthia maughnii, Evon Ray, Sacramento
BEST MINIATURE CACTUS -- Discocactus horstii, Jim Morrow, Sacramento
BEST MINIATURE SUCCULENT -- Anacampteros alstonii, Alice Waldhofer, Stockton
BEST RARE CACTUS -- Backebergia militaris, Martin Overhauer, San Jose
BEST RARE SUCCULENT -- Raphionacme hirsuta, Alice Waidhofer, Stockton
BEST BONSAI -- Fockea edulis, Jim Morrow, Sacramento Salinas
BEST CACTUS BY A NOVICE -- Parodia subtorranca; Lawrence & Evalyn Livermont,/
BEST SUCCULENT BY A NOVICE -- Fouquieria columnaris, Ellen Low, Simi Valley
BEST EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT -- Barbara Hass, Sacramento

Considerable credit and thanks must go to CSSA President William (Bill) Lockwood of Pasadena for his diligent, productive and untiring efforts in bringing all the ends together to make a very worthwhile intercity activity available to a lot of plant enthusiasts. Everyone who saw the show was impressed by the way it was managed and its planning and organization and by the abundance of fine plants. How can one improve on excellence, maybe one day there will be an answer.

CACTI IN URUGUAY

Hugo S Schlosser
-- Cont'd. from Sept.

We interrupted Hugo's narration in the September issue about Cacti in Uruguay. We left him on a strand in the Atlantic Ocean up Brazil way near sea level at a point where he was saying: "We saw thousands of *Wigginsia* (*Malacocarpus*). Let's go with him from there.

In some places we had to look before taking a step; there was no room to put the feet. My son found here one of the most interesting novelties* of *Notocactus*. At this time it is marked with my field number SCHL 157 and I hope that the publication about it will appear yet in 1973.

The globular body of older plants is slightly columniform. It is covered very densely with "intercrossed side spines" and also the four central spines are likewise intercrossed because they are very much longer than the distance between the areoles. Spines surrounding the body of the plant are rust-colored. Flowers are yellow but different in construction to other *Notocactus* species.

We searched the zone very systematically for three hours. The three of us found only 22 plants of this apparently very rare type among many thousands of *Wigginsia* and some *Notocactus ottonis*. Logically, we left one of the oldest plants in its habitat to propagate its kind. Due to the everincreasing growth of the pines, I fear that all cacti of this zone will be lost.

The same zone afforded another surprise regarding *Notocactus scopa*. I had always found this very common species on top of the hills above a given elevation, never at the foot of the hills. Now only a few kilometers away from the previous place I found *N. scopa* in big quantities at sea level and less than 100 meters from the strand and in the same 'shingly' earth.

While looking for cacti it is impossible to make rules. There will always be exceptions and surprises. I tried at times to find them by searching among certain kinds of stones and plants. Neither stones nor plants help.

I tried to learn whether cacti prefer northern or southern exposures on hillsides. There seems to be only a preference limited to particular species. *N. werdermannianus* grows in a very limited zone on southern exposures. Up to now it is the only one that prefers the south side. This experience did not give me courage to exclude the southern exposures. It could happen to other species of capricious cacti.

Some *gymnocalyciums* grow among stones with only traces of earth. Others grow in loam near a river.

A large number of measurements were made to determine the pH of the soil where cacti grow. pH readings showed a very narrow range. The average appears to be pH 6.2. Only a few tests were at pH 6.0 or 6.3.

*novelties -- probable new species.

Hugo: You write of your experiences in collecting in a most delightful and informative manner. Your descriptions are fascinating. It is constructive to have this information supplied to our readers from someone on the scene as you have so graciously done.

I know our readers would be delighted to hear from you again in the future regarding your discoveries, experiences, findings and observations. And we hope your SCHL 157 appears yet this year. We shall be watching for it. . . .Ye Ed

SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

S-E-N-E-C-I-O
(Compositae)

-- Julianne Rice --

WHAT GREAT VARIETY ! All the way from a somewhat fragile rosette called S. scaposus thru interesting shapes and colors such as S. scruentes which we enjoy as "cineraria"*; S. mikanioides with ivy-shaped leaves; S. tropaealifolius whose leaves remind us of nasturtiums; and one group, including S. articulatus X S. pendula with lovely, unusual markings and a segmented growth characteristic not unlike some of the tree type cereus.

Shrub-forming varieties such as S. spiculosus (small) and S. petasitis, the California geranium to eight feet tall; from New Zealand, the "Mutton-bird Scrub" (Senecio rotundifolius) which grows to tree size and whose leaves are used as postcards by visitors to the area, the white-tomentose under surface accommodating such use.

Many have yellow flowers, some orange, and sometimes referred to colloquially as "Crazy Daisies" Some flowerheads are also white.

No matter what our special "bag", the pleasing waxy-white powdered effect, the stately, large leaved plant in a tub, or an unusual design, there is a variety to suit our preference.

The March-April 1971 issue of the Cactus & Succulent Journal has an article by Prof. Rauh of Heidelberg, who visited us on his last trip to America, describing a new species called S. meuselii to Prof. H. Meusel on his 60th birthday because of his interest in European compositae. The habitat of this species is the granitic rock of the high plateau of Central Madagascar.



Leaf postmarked "New Zealand"

Lavranos, in the July-August Cactus & Succulent Journal says that with nearly 2,500 species, the genus Senecio is one of the largest within the Family Compositae. It certainly will be well worth your time to seek out this article and enjoy his description of this very rare species S. ceflorsii, and its habitat which is South Yemen.

For no other reason than the simplicity of transportation, the selection of small specimens to bring for discussion, display and possible reward is always a safe one. However, if someone has a proud tree-type tub-full from Mt. Kiliamanjaro a strong back and perhaps a friend with a truck, there is no question but that we have a full fledged hero or heroine in our midst. Stand forth and be heralded.

Come on fellas and gals, let's give Lee an interesting assortment for challenging commentary. Y'all goin' t' bring some attractive senecios to the October meeting (Saturday October 5th) aren't ya now !!

Incidentally, last Saturday while on a delightful garden-cruise, strictly tongue-in-cheek, we discovered a new species dubbed "S. whirly-bird" because of its location and subsequent peculiar characteristic. You see, we are sure the "chopped-up" currents from that hovering petal creature forced its departure from the original lavishly large green-leaved state to one that resembled those revolving-blades.

Also it looks as tho it were growing in a very arid area rather than in the lushly verdant garden in which it was planted.

These dear plants ! And how they frequently mystify !!

PLEASE READ ! OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE IN ROOM 104 Casa del Prado.

CACTUS--OF--THE--MONTH

A--R--I--O--C--A--R--P--U--S

Martin L Mooney

ARIOCARPUS, Scheidweiler 1938

With the genus Ariocarpus, we have one of the greatest curiosities in the cactus family. In appearance, they have been described as a plant carved from stone in a most intricate fashion.

The word Ariocarpus comes from the genus Aria and the Greek word carpus, a fruit referring to the aria-like fruit. At one time the genus was known as Anhalonium, Lemaire 1839, but was discarded because of the priority of Scheidweiler's Ariocarpus. Engelmann was greatly puzzled over this group of plants and first considered them as Mammillarias and then as a subgenus of Mammillaria, and then later on as a distinct genus. In 1925 Berger proposed that species possessing an areolar groove be separated from the other species of Ariocarpus and placed in a separate genus Roseocactus (in honor of Dr. J. N. Rose). However, this has been rejected by most authorities.

So far as is known today, the genus is composed of six species and two varieties. They all occur in Chihuahuan Desert of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. Generally from south-eastern Arizona, southern New Mexico and western Texas southward thru northern Mexico to somewhere within the state of Queretaro. Most of the plants occur in the central plateau area of northern Mexico, between the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains.

The Chihuahuan Desert varies in altitude from nearly sea level to well over 6,000 feet and is characterized by the absence of winter rains. The early spring is dry, the hottest time of the year being June, the rainy season is from July to September. The annual rainfall is 10 to 25 inches. The chief growing period is during the rainy summer months. Flowering occurs at either the beginning or the end of the rainy season. With but minor exceptions, all species occur in limestone, or soil of limestone origin. This soil is ^{pro}ous and relatively rich in organic material.

These plants are usually simple, low with a round of flat top and spineless. The tubercles are tough, horny and hardened with surfaces having a texture like weathered rock. The tubercles are spirally arranged in a somewhat rosette-like form, some members very closely resemble certain small Aloes and Haworthias in form. Areoles are terminal or at the bottom of a wooly groove near the middle of the tubercle. The flowers appear from the silky wool near the center of the plant on young tubercles. They appear singly or in clusters and run from purple to pink, to white. The fruit is oblong and smooth, deeply imbedded in the soft velvet-like wool and very well protected. Seeds are black with large basal hilum. The seed apparently is germinative for a very long time, probably longer than any other cactus. New plants are frequently found growing imbedded in the dead plant bodies where they have remained for several years until the parent plant has decayed. Our plants have thick turnip-like roots which, like the plant bodies, act as water storage organs. These roots shrink so much during the dry season that the plant body is drawn into the ground and partly covered with sand and rock debris. This provided protection from the bright sun. Such retraction makes the search for the plants very difficult for almost without exception they are the exact color of the soil and rocks into which they are drawn.

There are more common names for Ariocarpus than there are species. Some are "Living Rock", "Deer Foot", "Chantke" and "Peyote Cimarrons". It is said the natives use the mucilage of A. trigonus as a glue to mend broken pottery. Our plants for this month are worth their weight in gold (even at today's prices). In 1840 the first plant of A. Kotschoubeyanus introduced into Europe was paid for in the sum of \$200.00.

REF: CACTI & SUCCULENTS, Haage; CACTACEAE, Marshall & Bock; TEXAS CACTI, Schulz; CACTUS CULTURE, Buxbaum; ESPINAS Y FLORES, Oct. 1970 and Sept. 1971; CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL, VOL XXXVII, NO 2; same journal VOL IX, NO 5.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the
Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER MEETING, October 6th (Saturday) 1:30 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. SPEAKER: Madelyn R. Lee of Grigsby's Cactus Gardens in Vista. Madelyn is SPEAKER, WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER and a SPECIAL FRIEND OF SUCCULENT PLANT LIFE. Subject of her choice. Clue: Euphorbias are one of her favorites!

CSSA SPECIAL ACTIVITY, January 12, 1974, Casa del Prado. San Diego Cactus & Succulent--host and serve lunch. A 'Special Program' titled PLANT-O-RAMA under the direction of Julianne Rice, Coordinator, is being developed for the occasion. . .local talent. . .all Southern California participating.

CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION--May 1975--will be held in San Diego, specific date and location soon to be announced. The CSSA Conventions are the finest of all Conventions. Ed & Betty Gay of Tarzana, Convention Chairpeople, assisted locally by Yo Ed and Dr. Philip G. Corliss.

CHANGE OF MEETING DAY to second Saturday of the month being considered, coming up for vote at the October meeting. Expected to pass by a wide margin.

INCREASE IN DUES from current \$3.00 to \$5.00 also to be voted on at the October meeting, effective immediately thereafter. Necessitated by cost of producing bulletin, anticipated increase in postage, and inflation.

NEW MEMBERS--Greetings to you and a hearty welcome. There are no limits to the varieties of succulent plants which you will enjoy....the choice is yours.

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Harry G. MOSKWA
525 M Avenue
National City, CA 92050

Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Hodge, Joan Somers, Leta Hapeman, Perlso Lewis, Frances Langer, Frances Johnson, Mary Biddle and Florence Meredith were the gracious individuals who regaled YOU at the September meeting.

Walter R. Scott
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Return Requested

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