

# 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 OCHO  
.....

AGOSTO 1973

*"Man's fate on this earth is linked closely with that of wildlife."*

"Will our delicately balanced society totter and fall in the decades ahead, crushing billions to death by famine, epidemics and violence, leaving the world of 3000 AD to roving bands of primitives lost among the giant wreckage of the past?"



Give it a thought!

Harvard psychologist B. F. Skinner believes that normal men and women are almost entirely products of the environmental influences around them. No one does precisely as he chooses, whether he knows it or not, but only what his environment dictates.

If Skinner is right, it would merely be necessary to adjust the environment in such a way that individuals would act as they ought to act in an overcrowded society.

"... **OR** will it be a world of controlled growth, and a society far more advanced than anything known today, with an environment resembling one huge world park where men, plants and animals flourish in a balanced ecosystem?"

National WILDLIFE, June-July 1973

# THE ANONYMOUS ALOE

KATIE MCREYNOLDS

ALOES MAY BE too anonymous for the garden-variety landscaper. They should be grown by the jillion in our sunny, warm climate, but they are conspicuous by their absence. They come in many shapes, sizes and colours, and the flower spikes are as varied, ranging from singles to clusters of six to twelve and in colour from white through yellow, orange, orange-red to red. The spikes flower over a long period of time and many are dramatic later in dried arrangements. There are so many species (more than 200) it is possible to have almost continuous bloom throughout the year, and the foliage is always decorative. They hybridize spontaneously, grow easily from seed and naturalize generously. They are at home on hillsides, in rock gardens, in containers both indoors and out. Few genera are so versatile. Best of all for many California gardeners, once planted correctly they thrive on neglect and are unusually free from pests.

Kate Sessions introduced them in Balboa Park many moons ago, and William Hertrich of Huntington Gardens used them in a stunning parkway planting in San Marino about the same time. Professional landscapers find them most satisfactory, and they are conspicuous around public buildings and parks world-wide—except those areas subject to killing frosts.

Then why the scarcity in home gardens? Could it be because they have NO NAMES? Botanical names, of course, but common names? No! *Aloe succotrina* is hard to remember, spell and pronounce, especially since it is not native to the island of Socotra, nor is it even the source of the drug, Socotrine Aloes, which comes from *Aloe perryi*, itself a native of South Africa. Confused enough? But, it is a lovely plant with blue-green, gracefully curved leaves, slightly spotted and white marginal prickles and racemes of light red flowers. If it were called "Grecian Goddess", it might be as commonplace as the Bird of Paradise.

On the other hand, *Aloe vera* (common name True Aloe) is well known by its botanical name because of an overwhelming advertising campaign pushing cosmetics using Barbados aloes, produced in the West Indies, which were native to the Mediterranean region. The majority of women are convinced the plant is named for an otherwise obscure Helena Rubenstein, ignoring the plant itself and the give-away translation of its common name. Yet, no one with an aloe garden would be without this thick-leaved basal-rosette and its nodding yellow flowers terminating the scapes in dense racemes.

Which is the most commonly cultivated and sought-after aloe? Partridge Breast, *Aloe variegata*. It is a charming small rosette, triangular in shape, that suckers freely and forms dense groups. The five inch leaves are keeled with wavy, transverse white-spotted bands—hence its descriptive name. It is a winter bloomer with red flowers in loose racemes. It needs VERY sandy soil, well drained and is an excellent pot plant where watering can be controlled carefully. Rotting is a problem if water stands at the base of the leaves, so it is touchier than most in the garden. Still, it has a name people can remember.

For the adventuresome few, who will painstakingly learn a new language or casually refer to any and all as just "aloes", a few notes on culture. They like a fairly rich, porous soil with good drainage, so if you are cursed with adobe, add sand, leaf mold and bone meal generously. Coming from South Africa, as most of them do, they like sun and must have it to bloom. Do not plant them with stems in the ground, only the roots, and do not allow the base of the rosettes of leaves to touch the ground. Then, let nature take its course.

For inspiration and to find out what you have been missing, visit the aloe garden in Balboa Park and tour Quail Gardens in Encinitas. You can also find them "in the wild" on the hill above Scripps' Biological Grade in La Jolla. After that, you will be an addict and should rush for the authoritative two volume set by G. W. Reynolds of Johannesburg, S. Africa.

Doc R V Vaughan



What lies ahead for our nation and the microcosms that made this nation the greatest that ever populated the earth? There is now the time to stop and examine what tremendous change has occurred that has laid our morals so low that the highest government appointees have not stopped at murder to gain and keep control of our nation. The commandments handed down by the wise men of the ages gone before are relegated to the ash heap by vicious schemers who use the various medias of communication to mislead, betray and rob us by device and trickery. No man is secure when he buys food, clothing, transportation, shelter, recreation, etc. Our law makers fill the pages of the law books to protect us and before they are printed the sharpies have riddled each law with loopholes that allow the clever deceiver to escape punishment.

When our United States were freshly freed from bondage, our elder citizens met in the village store after days of hard toil in the fields and mills. Around the pot-bellied stove they met and discussed the affairs and needs of their time and while so doing they evaluated the mental ability of certain citizens to hold high office. When election time arrived these outstanding men whose honesty, integrity, sincerity and devotion to freedom and enforcement of the laws were elected to rule and govern the citizenry. Men were safe in their possessions be they homes, farms, chattels, religious beliefs, travel and fair taxation. Thus good government was assured.

It was my good fortune to have been born at the beginning of the greatest century that man has ever known. The Civil War between the North and South was just coming to a close. One grandparent was with the Federal Army from Illinois and the other was a Confederate officer, and it was Abe Lincoln's last official act to pardon him for he was captured as a spy and ordered shot. Just as Lincoln started his last trip to Ford's Playhouse, Senator Henderson of Missouri asked him for a pardon. It was granted. Senator Henderson and my grandfather had been raised and schooled in Missouri and my grandmother was the school teacher in that war-ravaged village of Canton, Missouri. The church there has a stained glass window in her memory. Anyone who cares to read the full records of that last day and night may do so at my home.

When the flood gates to European immigrants were opened, the first great change started in the United States. Swedes by the trains from the east came into Montana and the Dakotas as immigrants who could not speak English and wearing tags such as: "This is Ole Olson's brother who lives in Great Falls, Montana. Please help him reach his destination!" Into New York poured vast armies of Italians to work on the then wonder of the world the subway. To the factories and mills of Chicago came men from the far reaches of other lands all seeking freedom and the good life. Men like Phil Armour, Cudahy, Wilson and others started vast packing plants to buy and sell meat products. Jim Hill and Harriman gathered money from the people and built railroads to haul the freight away from Chicago's humming, booming factories and on the return bring raw cereals and cattle. The United States was awaking. The lumber barons hurried to take over the virgin forests; sawmills screamed and shacks were thrown up along the prairie railroad tracks so the sod busters could have shelter for the women and on-coming families. Men stood, and women also, stout hearted, strong, faithful, earnest and determined to wrest from the soil the GOOD LIFE. In the small community church the parishoners offered thanks for what they had and not supplications for wealth nor the easy life and more welfare. Charity was the angel in men's hearts, not avarice and covetousness.

Years passed and in season came the robins which nested by the rough-hewn lumber shacks which housed the new babies brought into the world by midwives. Winters came and on yon hill rested some patriarch who fought a brave battle against the rigors of sod-busting. (Continued next page)

¿QUE PASA\*? Cont'd:

The years brought wars. We "took on" Spain to save Cuba from Bloody Weyler". Then we had to free the Philippines and build for them fine schools wherein we taught them that we were their servants--rich "do-gooders". They eventually kicked us out as you recall.

The great Gold Rush into the Klondyke created a horde of opportunists to flood in from faraway lands to partake of the golden fleece. Prairie lands were for the asking; Oklahoma was opened to the "Sooners". Some of my cousins rushed into the territory to get the free land. Men fought; men died; land brought gold, black gold, for which more men fought and died. The native Amerind was shunted into "Reservations" and fed alcoholic drinks in return for his pelts, horses and lands. When oil was found on his land, he was again sent away to some worse lands to perish. The charity that once so nobly existed in the pioneer's heart was forgotten. America's greatest tragedy was born. Read the history of the Seminole Indians and weep.

The original settlement in America was the stockade where pioneer settlers traded with their brother Indians and at night closed the gates to the stockade and posted guards. In the center of the stockade was a high tower where guards were posted to warn against any Indian surprise.

Most settlements were named after some General: "Fort Sheridan", "Fort Miles", "Fort Benton". They were in many respects very similar to the Missions of the Catholic Church along the California coast, beginning in Mexico City and continuing to Sonoma, California.

\*¿Que pasa? Literally "what passes?" or "what gives" or "What's going on?"

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The August meeting will be held in Room 104, the program will be a showing of slides from the CSSA Film Slide Library.

3 July 1973

To SD C&amp;S Society

Dear Bill,

Enclosed is a check for our library fund in memory of one of the "Greats" in the old time cactus and succulent world, Helen Helen M. McCabe, who was also one of our members.

Sincerely,

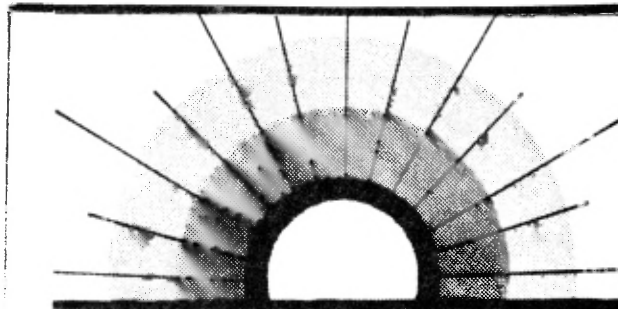


## IN MEMORIAM

of  
HELEN MCCABE

Gone like the rose that  
in winter sleeps,  
Gone like the bird who  
appointment keeps,  
Gone like the leaf on  
the ground in heat,  
Gone to the eye once clear  
but now weeps;  
Deep in Nature's breast  
still and protected,  
Waiting for the Spring  
your being projected,  
In the leaves of the trees  
as they take their place,  
In the flowers of the field  
we'll see your face;  
Gone but not far  
in the Gardener's plan  
For death is not cold,  
there's warmth in His hand.

JS



Nibby's NOTEBOOK

**THOSE** BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, BOB and SUZANNE TAYLOR, once again gave us a tremendous treat at the annual July potluck held at their Nursery. It was a most delightful day and everyone wants to **add** THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

We believe we can safely say there were at least 75 people there with that many different delicacies to share.

The auction provided plenty of laughs. Lee (I'm-not-going-in-dime-increments) Phelps and Floyd (This-plant-makes-a-BEAUTIFUL-hanging-basket) Gable alternated auctioning...Alice Bishop jumped into the slow bidding at one point and was heard to exclaim: "I can't believe it --I'm a shill --and I BOUGHT it!" Later, Alice made the winning \$6.25 bid for a golden-spined Mam and immediately congratulated her husband: "Bill --you GOT it!"

Lee conducted a bit of the Dutch auction action; you start at the top price and bid down. The idea is to see who can hold out the longest. The suspense is terrible. That awful silence.

As Lee intoned "Five dollars...four-fifty...four...three-fifty" -- nerves broke at that point and there was another new owner of another choice cactus... Jeannie and Robbie Robertson went home with some lovely specimens...Hazel "Floribunda" Scott won Bob Taylor's new hybrid Cotyledon...Warren Buckner moved away from Virginia where she couldn't hear him when the bidding started...Wilson & Alice Wells spoke of moving to an aptment with a patio for their plants - anyone want to buy a handsome house in Del Cerro complete with cactus (with some cactus, anyway)? Jean Hapeman took pictures and we're glad for Ruth ("Just-send-my-ribbons-home") Richardson wasn't there again...My new camera has provided more frustration than pictures. The roll of film (apparently behaving

(Nibby's NOTEBOOK con'd)

properly while I snapped 36 of the greatest candid shots ever seen...came back marked "No charge"...the film was still virgin black, completely unexposed...they also included the winners from the May competition. There was a very nice man there who also took pictures...whose name I regret to say I've lost...if he's reading this chitchat we do hope he will allow the Society to have duplicates made for the Historian to keep...

Scotty told me there was a guest present who is a student from San Diego State via Michigan - Bill D'Angelo - hope that's a close approximation of the spelling. Helen Claydon's guest, Fran Johnson, was introduced to our member Fran Johnson, who by an odd coincidence was separated in the line by only one person -- our Fran's Richard Johnson.

Not only THOSE but there's Audrey Justice and now a new member Audrey Johnson...Audrey and her husband Geoffrey Johnson and son Michael are from Escondido. They came to our May show and joined at the June meeting. They're from Ohio where they were active in conservation and are also members of the Sierra Club. They should be interested in the following:



SAN DIEGO CHAPTER  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
DEDICATED TO PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA  
% SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, PO BOX 1390, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, 92112

#### NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 1973

**NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR HOME GARDEN:** A substantial area of Mount Soledad, between La Jolla and Interstate 5, is scheduled for imminent "development". Because CNPS interceded on behalf of the native plants on the site, CNPS has been granted priority rights to remove whatever native plants it desires, prior to bulldozing. The time, date, and meeting place for this digging event is 9AM next Tuesday, July 24, at the big cross which stands on the eastern highpoint of the mountain. All CNPS members are encouraged to participate; please wear old clothes and bring shovels and some cardboard boxes or plastic tubs. Mike Douglas will be on hand with a survey map which locates the areas in which digging is authorized. The area includes many dudleyas, many barrel cacti, also a wide assortment of bulbous wildflowers and perennial shrubs appropriate for home gardens. Members may dig all the plants they desire for their own home gardens, or for donation to Quail Gardens or to community parks, or for CNPS plant sales, or for any other purpose they elect. 9AM next Tuesday, July 24.

**THE JULY MEETING** of the local chapter will convene at 7:30PM on Wednesday, July 25, in room 101 of the Casa Del Prado, in Balboa Park, San Diego. During this meeting Mike Douglas will present an illustrated preview briefing on the native plants of the Santa Rosa Mountains; this will be a preliminary to the follow-up field trip to the Santa Rosas scheduled for July 28 and 29. Also during the meeting we will have opportunity to renew acquaintance with Mitch Beauchamp, the founder and first President of our chapter. Mitch, who now is doing graduate work in New York leading toward his Doctorate in Botany, will report on the current status of the CNPS listing of endangered species of native plants in San Diego County.

A PLANT SALE of native plants growing in containers is planned for November,

Mitch and Mike are also members of our C&S Society...we thought all would be interested to hear what CNPS is doing...and wouldn't it be a natural if one of our mutual members would volunteer to be a Conservation Chairman to keep us posted so that SDC&S could intercede on behalf of other native plants before the bulldozer gets them? And if we joined CNPS?

Geoffrey Johnson is in Data Processing. They wrote on the Questionnaire that they would be interested in helping at the fair - greeting

(NOTEBOOK, cont'd) newcomers - doing publicity - so please, Keeper-of-the-Talent-Bank, list these offers under assets! (And accept the General Chairman of the Fair's apology for not calling on you -- but Martin Mooney will testify that I had not as yet rec'd the Questionnaire.

Amy Tice - you weren't at home when called; sorry - we missed you. Edith Hazlett, I didn't call you because Carlsbad is a toll call which I couldn't make from the office; evenings, have telephone-hangovers from days being on the telephone in my office...And Mr. Benbow, dear, I didn't have your number...Verneta & Emery Cotten helped with Palomar... next year will be our turn...Most of the gas milage is in...except from Ione -and don't forget the groundcover expense ... and from the Cactus Characters, Jim Stalsonburg and Bob Myers ... Walt Greenwood is again minus a cactus, this time Echinocereus --species, phonetically speaking (we hope) gantrii...Warren Buckner said it wasn't among the 40 or 50 of his that were returned; however, a Mam marked NK was... another found ...but don't worry, Walt - we'll get it back to you... Who is missing two saucers, clay type for large pots? We will bring them to the next meeting... LOST: one hose nozzle of vivid orange...otherwise, we hope all is safely returned.

A note from Julianne Rice: "The gardens were truly beautiful and the members of this club are just as grateful as if three blue ribbons had been hung there." Thank you, Julianne, from all Chairmen.

If we did something wrong,  
tell us.

If we did the job right,  
tell us.

## the judges

were most expertly able to evaluate specimen plants. They were BILL LOCKWOOD, President of CSSA -

VIRGINIA MARTIN - Secretary of CSSA - and VIVIAN DONEY who has a charming nursery in Monrovia. They were quite objective since Bill and Virginia are "paper"

members of our SDC&S. -- By the way, Bill, we're delighted that the CSSA will be having the quarterly meeting here in San Diego for our January meeting -- your invitation was accepted at our July Board Meeting.

For two weeks we hauled plants to the Fair and in less than two days we dissembled...bless you, Ed Miller and Bill Gunther, for answering a last-minute request to bring plants home... Ione Hubner and Jean Hapeman were frustrated trying to get in to the Fairgrounds, but Ione made it.\* ...We want to see Jean's pictures next meeting and Elaine Niehaus', too ... Elaine maneuvered Ilse Sommerfeld into position to add to Ilse's collection of succulent nicks - and to get a candid picture at the same time.

\*after two trips to Del Marr and one to Solana Beach - next year, evening breaker-downers would be well advised to wait until 10:30 unless they go early and take in the Fair again. Dale Sommerfeld enjoyed helping Ione get the names and numbers for Julie Mooney to letter - which she did with delicate skill under pressure of time...Rickey Latimer came one day and worked away placing numbers with quiet efficiency... in between, Floyd Gable came and named - almost 200 succulents, that is, and Ione is everlastingly grateful, and our gardens WERE lovely... Thank you, Augie Pfeiffer, for attending to the detail of supplying information about our group to the public with the handout sheets... Ruth Nelson has been having bouts of hepatitis, but all the same she and Bill were there helping in every area...they brought most of the hanging baskets; the most admired was Senecio rowleyanus - "String-of-Peas", which dragged the ground in unsurpassed length...Paul Hutchison must have sold out of this succulent after people saw what a wellgrown one could do...they shaped more number-hanger wires out of thin air and ingenuity when we ran short...Sophie & Oliver Loyland brought 50 plants and they, too, were indispensable...

(NOTEBOOK cont'd) Thank you, Johanna Hoffman, for offering to hostess at the Fair...our loss that we didn't contact you... Groundcovered or bare, THAT was a cactus garden to covet, Jim and Bob...we heard the directions and "Plant it!" and we saw every cactus lovingly placed to perfection - your design was flawless...the labelling GREAT.

Lee is such a good sport that he didn't mind undoing the graft exhibit to get the ladder in to paint the high board that the crew had missed...he didn't even appear to mind getting on the ladder and painting! Lee Phelps and Loyal Joe Bibbey neatly put together an attention-getting Graft Exhibit...furthermore, they liked their space. (Do members realize that all the Chairmen have fulltime jobs?)

And troubles, too...Joe Bibbey, the Society was saddened to hear of your mother's death after weeks of illness in Missouri...our hearts are with you.

\*\*\*\*

Lena Ann Rice enjoyed a cruise and was back in time for the Potluck...Alice McNichols is presently cruising the Orient - the long way - via Alaska and Panama...WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER Sarah Jervy who joined in June after coming to the meeting with friends. She's from Charleston. Carl Brasfield was an honored guest of the Taylor's at the Potluck...he was President of the Los Angeles C&S Society some years ago...Everyone was glad to see Cleovis Hardin at the June meeting and we hope he continues to improve in health...we missed competing with him at the Fair.

## **A Special Offer**

CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE is having a membership drive. A one-year sub is \$3 - we can keep \$1 for each NEW subscriber. Helen Claydon is our representative to FLORAL ASS'N who has published it since 1909 on a purely volunteer basis - only the printer gets paid. \*\*\*See Helen.

## **The possible dream.**

Let's face it. The Board did. The Plant Exchange Table has been getting progressively crummier. Upgrading has been discussed in EyF tactfully and at length.

Still, plants are brought in dripping soil and harboring insects and trailing leaves.

## **Think about it.**

The Board's dream is as desirable as it is possible. Bring better plants. Bring ALL plants in a container of some type - paper bags over the roots with a twist'em, plastic, foil -- why, you can even PLANT them in pots AHEAD of time! Now wouldn't that be much nicer than eliminating the Plant Exchange Table? (Our messy ways have provoked the "landlord's" comments.)

THE BOARD also will have two colors of tickets so that those who bring a suitable plant, suitably clothed, will get one color; these numbers will be the first called. Rejects will be placed elsewhere and those who brought them and those who brought none will have the color of tickets called last. I'll stand corrected at the meeting if I've misunderstood any points. \*\*\* In addition, The Board voted to become members of QUAIL GARDEN FOUNDATION again...announced a \$62.50 profit from the auction... appointed Rickey Latimer and Martin Mooney to do a C&S table for the FINEST CITY DISPLAY sponsored by The City from the 24th through the 31st of August.

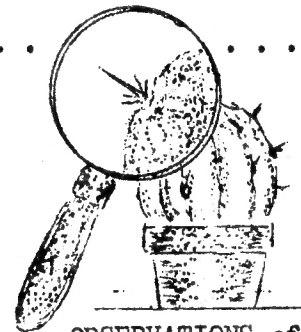
HOW ABOUT IT? BRING YOUR PLANTS

**with the extra touch.**

NK



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 slats 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.

CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

CORYPHANTHA

Martin L Mooney

CORYPHANTHA (Engelmann) Lemaire 1868

Coryphantha (ko-ri-fan'-tha) meaning flower on top of plant. This group of plants was formerly associated with Mammillaria. They were separated because, unlike Mammillarias, the flowers are borne at the base of grooves on the upperside of the young tubercles near the top of the stem. That is; the flowers are always on the top of the plant and are somewhat larger than in Mammillaria. Most all Coryphanthas flower readily with colors in the red-yellow range. The fruit is fairly large, mostly greenish or yellowish, sometimes red. The fruit ripen very slowly, mostly in the following year. New tubercles develop while the fruit is maturing so we can find last years fruit ripe and in color while this years flowers open. All of this at the same time but with the flowers always on top. The tubercles are grooved along the upper surface from the tip to the base. Sometimes this groove is very hard to see but if the plant is a Coryphantha, the groove is there. Sometimes the tubercles are arranged in riblike rows. The plant body is globe to cylinder shaped, either solitary or clustered.

Their cultivation is very easy with ordinary attention. They thrive in most any soil provided it is porous and moderately rich and most species will not fail to make good growth and set flowers. They should be kept dry in winter. Most require full sun at all times.

65

There are some species, all found from the United States, Mexico and Cuba. Most are from Mexico. California has three native species; Coryphantha Alversonii, C. Arizonica, and C. Desertii.

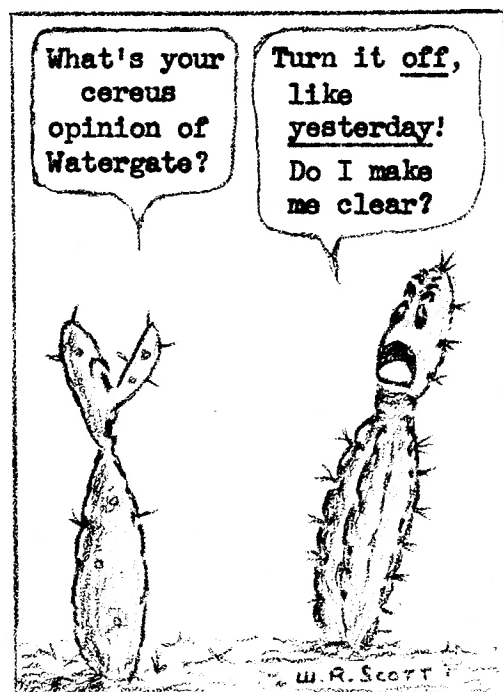
All species are interesting and worth growing for the beauty of their shape and spines, if not for their flowers. You have not seen a beautiful plant until you see the C. Desertii I found near Las Vegas.

- REF. "Cacti" J. Borg  
"California Cactus" E.M. Baxter  
"Cactaceae" Marshall & Bock  
"Texas Cacti" Schulz

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED IN NEVADA!

Echinops and Coryphanthas collected in the desert in Nevada were flowering profusely when collected. All were put in the trunk of the car. The Echinops continued to flower day and night until completing their flowering cycles in San Diego. The Coryphanthas closed their flowers. All were potted in San Diego. The temperature rose to the high 90's in June during a very warm period which lasted four days. The Coryphanthas opened their flowers on the first hot day and flowered each day during the spell. All are doing very well in their new habitat and looking forward to 1974. . . .Ye Ed

August 1973



NEW YORK --- Lester E. Rothstein: "Thanks so very much for 'Espinasy Flores' and for the kind words therein about my Convention lecture. I am flabbergasted at the compliments I got; I'd thought of the talk as simply another "travelog" that had to be jazzed up with gags to keep the audience awake. Luck sure was with me this time!!

Your request that I write up the talk for 'E y F' is so sincere I can't refuse. We both know it will be a tough job, or you would have done it yourself, the same beautiful way you and your staff summarized other speakers' remarks. Luckily, I have a bit of ego and made a tape of the talk, which ought to help me write you an article, as soon as I can.

(The reports are a great idea, by the way. After reading them I found out what I had been listening to in Las Vegas because a half of the time I was bombed out of my bird. --- Whee!)

I'm really chagrined at not having sought out your company in Vegas. Anyone who can turn out a publication like that, month after month, year after year---with cartoons, yet---must be the greatest. Hopefully, we can get together in San Diego. We'll find a spot for you to lie down because you'll probably be 'pooped'. Or maybe you're a 'human domino' as Jane Ace used to say. (Perhaps I should say that, being a botanist, you will be hushed.)

Some years ago I read thru a whole bunch of back issues of Espinasy Flores (which I still have) but it frankly didn't dawn on me, until this current issue, how fine this publication really is.

Our little Cactus Comments, which has been slowly dying for several years, due to "lack of literate person-power", is trying desperately to survive. And your reproduction facilities (Jim Henrickson please note) are also beautiful. If I only had the time and the know-how, I would like to edit our 'CC'.

Let's not mince words: I am, in effect, asking you to give me a course on how you manage to do what you do! And this is one of my problems: I try to learn too much about too many things and end up knowing everything about nothing.

Had a great time with the Gays, once again, in Baja post-Convention. Awfully rough at times, but saw and did so many interesting things, I wouldn't have missed the trip for the world. We did strange things with turtles, like eat them. (Don't ask me to write up the Baja trip, I was so stoned down there that my tape recorder is still hiccupping.) Y la tequila me cayo bien!!

All the best to you, the Queen, my other friends in the San Diego Society, and especially long life to 'E y F'. I am greatly impressed. Selenicereously yours, (How cute can one get?)

(Les: I examined the July issue of 'E y F' you mention more closely. I see there was room for substantial improvement. Now that I've received your communication, I shall look forward with anticipation to a very worthwhile contribution in a future issue...your description of European Gardens. How fortunate for our readers--they will be able to visualize those gardens as only you can picture them, and with just the right touch of timely humor. Glad you liked the way our over-worked, under-paid staff covered the Convention. I was more than elated with their efforts. Don't you think they deserve a raise, preceded with a 'p', that is? The Gays are continuing as Convention Chairpeople; rest assured of a very worthwhile Convention in S.D. in 1975... Ed)

COMMUNICATIONS ---

--- EXCERPTS ---

SAN DIEGO --- L. W. Newton: "I'd like to apply for membership in the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society for my father James F. Williams of 4911 West Mountain View Drive, San Diego, CA 92116, who is a senior citizen and who loves to grow and read about them. He might not be able to attend meetings.

(L.W.N. Your father is now a member and should be reading the June and July issues mailed to him. . . . Ed)

KANSAS CITY --- Louise Koch: "My 'E y F' subscription expired on my birthday and I would like to renew. It was given to me by my sister Cecile Fuller, a San Diego member of your Society.

My "Mother-in-Law" is blooming and my night blooming cereus has finished blooming. Isn't that pretty good for Kansas City? And my orchid cactus just grows and grows and blooms and blooms....and I love the flowers.

(Louise: Your 'Mother-in-Law' has me stopped!! How many do you have?? And which one do you have in mind? EXOTICA lists five of them: Kalanchoe pinnata, Sanseveria trifasciata, Caladium, Diffenbachie and Gasteria. I'd like to meet your Mother-in-Law. . . . Ed)

GLENDALE, Missouri --- Anita M. Heywood: "Thank you so much for the most stimulating June issue of 'Espinas y Flores'. I really loved it. And then this day there comes the July issue and I was overwhelmed when I read the nice story about my beloved plants. (CSSA 17).

And the cartoon, King Cactus on a throne, H.R.H. That's the way I feel about my plants, exactly. Only their wishes and their needs are important, and they let me know when I do not please them. I hope you will not mind if we photograph and use your well-fitting sketch "H.R.H." as a windup for a bit of fun and laughter on my program.

My three-year-old seedlings are doing very well. Parodias are in full bloom, and I am amazed. And would you believe a very rare Gymnocalycium not more than one year old and a half inch big is setting buds. I've had white or light colored Mams blooming under one year, but never a Gymno.

Enclosed is a photo of my greenhouse...it may look a bit different right now, I've just repotted 800 plants.

Keep your fingers crossed for us so that we can meet again in San Diego for the next, my second Convention. I know San Diego will be more suitable as a setting and no doubt a more stimulating convention."

(Anita: Thanks so much for your very thoughtful letter and the photo of your 'Cactivity'. Do any plants anywhere receive better attention or more care? And how are you able to develop each and every plant into a specimen? Wish we could reproduce your photo in our 'E y F' so all might see it. Excellent photography!! . . . . Ed)

LOS ANGELES --- Sherry Schmidt: "I am currently a member of the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles Affiliates of CSSA. At our L.A.Club meeting today, Bill Lockwood, President of CSSA, brought along a copy of your 'Espinas y Flores'. I loved it--it is a wonderful newsletter.

"I'm sending my check to Treasurer Mooney. Please enroll me so I may receive your bulletin. I'll try to attend next month's meeting.

(Sherry: We're happy to have you as a member of our Club. Wouldn't you agree there are a lot of very congenial and likeable people in the Clubs you mention? Is that the result of their interest in succulent plant culture? . . . . Ed)

SEEDLINGS once again are available ---  
 from Francis J. BORG, Malta:

LAST YEAR, 1972, Club members  
 ordered seedlings from Franz Borg in  
 Malta. The plants were carefully

grown, vigorous specimens, carefully packed for shipment and in excellent condi-  
 tion on arrival. The opportunity is ours again this year to obtain select seedlings.  
 It is much simpler to combine an order and to have the plants shipped in one ship-  
 ment. Study the following list of 25 genera, 65 species, and select those you want  
 and call Ye Ed, 296 6022. Order by the number preceding the plant name. The supply  
 is limited in some instances so make some second choices. Cost of the plants will  
 be approximately 50¢ each plus shipping charges---air mail, which will be apportioned  
 on arrival. Keep a copy of your order numbers and names of plants. Or if more con-  
 venient, see me at the next meeting. . . . Ye Ed

- |      |                     |                                     |      |              |                            |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1-a  | AREQUIPA            | rettigii                            | 16-a | MATUCANA     | clavispina (n.n.)          |
| 1-b  | "                   | leucotricha                         | 16-b | "            | hystrix                    |
| 1-c  | "                   | weingartiana                        | 16-c | "            | multicolor                 |
| 1-d  | "                   | orectocylindrica                    | 17-a | MELOCACTUS   | depressus                  |
| 2    | ARROJADOA           | rhodantha                           | 17-b | "            | oaxensis                   |
| 3    | ASTROPHYTUM         | myriostigma                         | 17-c | "            | elegans                    |
| 4    | BARTHSCHHELLA       | schumannii                          | 17-d | "            | porteirimensis             |
| 5    | CLEISTOCACTUS       | baumannii                           | 17-e | "            | HU-128 (Uebelmann)         |
| 6    | COCHEMIEA           | poselgeri                           | 18-a | NEOCHILENIA  | dimorpha                   |
| 7-a  | COPIAPOA            | cinerea                             | 18-b | "            | clavata                    |
| 7-b  | "                   | lembckei                            | 18-c | "            | intermedia                 |
| 7-c  | "                   | wagenknechtii                       | 18-d | "            | subikii                    |
| 8    | ECHINOCACTUS        | visnaga                             | 18-e | "            | odriflora                  |
| 9-a  | ECHINOFOSSULOCACTUS | crispatus                           | 19-a | NEOPORTERIA  | clavata                    |
| 9-b  | "                   | kellerianus                         | 19-b | "            | multicolor                 |
| 10   | ESPOSTOA            | Kz. 299 (Knize)                     | 20-a | NOTOCACTUS   | pampeanus                  |
| 11   | EULYCHNIA           | calderana                           | 20-b | "            | mammulosus                 |
| 12   | FEROCACTUS          | sp. La Paz, Baja CA,<br>rectispinus | 20-c | "            | brasiliensis               |
| 13-a | FRAILEA             | cataphracta v. tuensis              | 20-d | "            | herterii                   |
| 13-b | "                   | colombiana                          | 20-e | "            | floricomus v. velenovsky   |
| 13-c | "                   | horstii                             | 21-a | PARODIA      | fulvispina                 |
| 13-d | "                   | pumila                              | 21-b | "            | roseoalba                  |
| 13-e | "                   | phaeodisca                          | 21-c | "            | nivosa                     |
| 14-a | HAAGEOCEREUS        | achaetus                            | 21-d | "            | sotomayerensis             |
| 14-b | "                   | acranthus                           | 21-e | "            | suprema                    |
| 14-c | "                   | setosus                             | 21-f | "            | schwebbsiana               |
| 14-d | "                   | zonatus                             | 21-g | "            | schwebbsiana v. applanata  |
| 15-a | MAMILLARIA          | colombiana v. bogotensis            | 22   | PILOSOCEREUS | palmeri                    |
| 15-b | "                   | mercadensis                         | 23   | REBUTIA      | violaciflora v. brunispina |
| 15-c | "                   | nivosa                              | 24   | SETICEREUS   | icosagonus                 |
| 15-d | "                   | schiedeana                          | 25-a | TRICHOCEREUS | camaraguensis              |
| 15-e | "                   | schwarzii                           | 25-b | "            | spachianus                 |
|      |                     |                                     | 25-c | "            | FR-426 (Frederick Ritter)  |

(Note: Sophie, Oliver & Ricky: If you see  
 species which interest you, let me know.)

READERS PLEASE NOTE: A very interesting, comprehensive and well-researched article  
 on "Water Culture" will start in "Espinasy Flores" next month. After reading it,  
 you no doubt will be growing some of your "Epis" by the method. The article is  
 by Francis J. BORG of Malta. Thanks in advance, Franz. . . . Ed

SUCCULENT--OF-THE-MONTH .

S E M P E R V I V I U M .

"always living"  
Crassula family

.....  
Julianne Rice .

One reference lists forty known species;  
however, with their propensity for flirting  
so shamelessly with convention, there are 200  
occur  
or more recognized hybrids which in nature as

well as in the nursery.

Perhaps the best known to most of us honest, dirt gardeners is S. tectorum\*  
var. calcareum\*\* which seems to be included in the Cactus-succulent corner of  
almost any nursery. The compact rosette form whose glaucous leaves have reddish-  
brown tips, presents a very pleasing appearance which mixes quite agreeably with  
our "small pot" collections.

Incidentally the Semperviviums are quite prolific, throwing pups all over  
the place. A few of these in our "seed" pots can furnish a lovely variety of  
materials which will be needed for CSSA Convention 1975 in San Diego.

Another rather interesting species is S. soboliferum (shoot or sucker bear-  
ing) which is generally referred to as the "Hen & Chickens Houseleek" and comes  
to us from North Europe and Asia. In the nursery or in a shady part of the gar-  
den this can be a new-leaf green but takes on a lovely creamy hue when left un-  
shaded or unsheltered; most attractive when planted amongst rocks with compli-  
mentary coloration.

My favorite is S. arachnoideum\*\*\* with its smallish perfectly shaped rosettes  
whose leaves are connected with cobweb-like hairs. This one comes from the  
Pyrenees. The bloom-stalk is about 2 1/2 to 3 times the diameter of the rosette  
and it has lovely pink flowers.

By the way, Danielle, in yon Holtville---please visit one of those great San  
Francisco nurseries while on vacation and bring back a couple or so\*\*\*\* S. tec-  
torum var. lemotti, whose habitat is your native country---France.

- \* Tectum, a roof--thus tectorum, of roofs.
- \*\* calcareum - referring to a chalky appearance.
- \*\*\* Arachnida - a class of arthropods embracing the spiders, thus arachnoideum,  
or cobwebby.
- \*\*\*\* Danielle: make it three, or four or so, Sophie and Oliver and Ye Ed will  
want one--and maybe others.

## STAMEN COUNTS

- 1 - *Cereus giganteus* (*Carnegiea gigantea*, sahuaro or saguaro (sá-wá'-rō))
- 2 - *Selenicereus macdonaldiae* (Queen of the Night)

Botanists are not always in agreement on some things but they do agree that cactus flowers have numerous stamens. One botanist impressed with Saguaro flowers, wrote "stamens are very numerous". The statement would seem to be redundant but truly it is not an exaggeration. Saguaro flowers, and perhaps other genera of giant cacti which do not have recorded stamen counts, do have a proliferation of stamens.

In 1914 Dr. Charles E. Bessey, noting the great number of stamens in Saguaro flowers, had a count made of one flower. The count was 3,482. An ovule count was made at the same time. It was 1,980. Geoff A. Hedgecock might ask "WHYSOMANYSTAMENS" but I doubt whether he would have an answer.

It is not the point of this article to question counts, but I must admit that when I read the count number, I was incredulous. I wondered how it was possible for a flower less than four inches in length with a tube diameter of less than one and a half inches to have an inventory of 3,482 stamens. I decided on a count to satisfy my own curiosity.

I talked with a friend in Phoenix\* in June when the Saguaros were in flower. I asked him to send two flowers. They were mailed on a Saturday and arrived the following Monday in excellent condition. The blossoms had completed their flowering cycles and had closed. One flower was slightly larger than the other. (\* J. Warner Dodd)

When one counts stamens in a cactus flower, speaking particularly of Saguaros, and possibly other giant cacti, he should know in advance that it may take the better part of a morning or afternoon. I am unaware of any method or technique whereby counting may be expedited.

A stamen is described as "the male floral organ which bears pollen grains; it usually consists of a stalk called the filament and an anther or pollen sac." Stamens are concentrated within approximately one-third of the length of the flower tube of a Saguaro flower. The anthers remind me very much of a 'rolled oat' as is found in some breakfast foods. The anther is relatively large as compared to the filament and at times they become detached in the counting process.

One would assume nature intended for every stamen to consist of a filament and an anther. I relied on the filament count for accuracy. One has no way of knowing what happens to stamens in nature once the flower opens and it is invaded by insects or animals or is affected by the elements.

I slit the flower tubes lengthwise into six segments and removed that portion of each segment below the filaments. The segments were examined in turn under the objective of a low-power binocular microscope. A small pair of needle-pointed tweezers were used to remove the stamens from the flower tube. They are not large enough to be counted with the unaided eye.

I attempted to remove the stamens by twos or threes with the tweezers for accuracy but on occasions it seemed some stamens were more than eager to assist with the count and when I intended to "seize" two or three filaments, additional stamens would come along for the count and the ride. At times as many as ten or twelve stamens would become detached simultaneously.

The counts I arrived at in the two Saguaro flowers were surprisingly very different, the count of the smaller flower was 3,351 and the larger flower was 4,536. I wonder what specific number, if any, nature intended.

STAMEN COUNTS, continued:

2 - *Selenicereus macdonalidae*

The flowers of *S. macdonalidae*, a climbing, slender, trailing cactus from Argentina and Uruguay, are described as "very large". In fact the flowers are said to be the largest of any cactus species. The pistil exceeds one foot in length. The flower is appropriately described in the literature as "Queen of the Night".

It is nocturnal, flowering in the late evening and closing in the early morning. One year's preparation on the part of the plant for a one night performance by the flower. But what a performance it is. Actual movement of the petals may be detected visually during the hour or so that the flower is opening. The tips of the petals describe a wide arc of about nine inches while opening.

The particular flower used for purposes of a stamen count opened the night of June 19th, the week following the Saguaro flowers described earlier. The stamens measure from 5 3/4" to 6" in length. Altho large, they were examined and counted under the microscope after the flower had been slit into six segments. Portions below the stamens were removed to facilitate counting. Stamens are numerous as the botanists say, but not nearly as prolific as in the case of Saguaro flowers. The count was 589.

After counting stamens in Saguaro and *Selenicereus* flowers, I may have become overly stamen conscious. The next day I observed the racemes of an Aloe in the garden which bore a proliferation of brilliantly colored pendant flowers. I opened several flowers and counted stamens. The count was six, consistently. Why the vast difference in stamen numbers? There still remains much to be learned about flowers. . . . . Walter R. Scott (Ye Ed)

CSSA SUCCULENT SAFARI by John B. Hales

The 1973, EIGHTH ANNUAL SHOW, presented by The Cactus & Succulent Society of America was from June 29 thru July 1st at the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA. To those not familiar with the 'Arboretum' as it is commonly known, a bit of history of the 'Lucky Baldwin Ranch' should be of interest. The ranch was purchased by the City of Los Angeles after Baldwin's death. He lived close to his work. . . .horse racing. . . .and the Santa Anita Race Track became famous. The Baldwin home, a Queen Anne Cottage of Victorian style sets next to a large lagoon. It may be viewed by the public by looking thru windows around the porch area. Mrs. Baldwin (in wax) stands at the fireplace making it all very real. Incidentally, the kitchen or 'cook house' is situated across the lagoon. Cooked food was brought over to the dining room via boat. Rather a handy arrangement in days of servants. Also, a treat for visitors is the 100 or so Peacocks and Peahens, some with peachicks, which roam the Arboretum grounds strutting their beauty. In the early days of film making, Tarzan and Jungle Jack pictures were made there. I shall never forget the scene where a jungle plant swallowed a man alive. . . .just frightening. (I've dated myself.) A map outlining the Arboretum will be on file with our Librarian. . . .alert Colorado!!

Now back to the "Succulent Safari". I shall try to avoid too many superlatives in this report, such as: wonderful, terrific, great, surpassing, stupendous, gigantic, fantastic, colossal, spectacular, stunning, and so on, but from all accounts it was the best show ever. Californians, like Texans, do things on a grand scale--BIG.

This article is written on a 'personalized' basis. I shall leave the 'fine print' and excellent reporting of the show to our Cactus and Succulent Journal, watch for it--Sept.-Oct. '73! (To be continued next month)



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the  
Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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CSSA SPECIAL ACTIVITY, January 1974 --- Julianne RICE  
 CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION 1975 -- Cochairmen: Walter R. Scott, Dr. Phil Corliss  
 (New Activity) SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA'S FINEST CITY WEEK:  
 August 24 to 31, 1973, Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.  
 Chairmen: Martin L. MOONEY and Ricky LATIMER

Society meetings are held the first Saturday of the month in Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA at 1:30 p.m. Next meeting will be Saturday, August 4th.

"Espinass y Flores" is the Club's monthly bulletin. Membership dues are \$3.00 single, \$4.00 family, which includes "Espinass y Flores". A 'Special Report' of 20 pages on the CSSA Convention in Las Vegas in May 1973 appears in the June and July issues of the bulletin which is available from the Editor at a cost of 50¢ for each issue.

WHOA!! AUGUST PROGRAM: Kathryn Sabo intended to show at our August program; Vice Pres. Joe Bibbey had scheduled her in January. But even the best schedules must be adjusted at times. It's like betting on a horse race, you try to pick a winner. That brings us to the gist of this story.

A phone call to the Sabo home in Woodland Hills changed their plans--abruptly. The family is very active and interested--and skilled--in equestrianism. The message: Son Brian had been selected to ride in training for the Olympics at Gladstone, New Jersey; would he please appear! There was only one answer. Don't you visualize a station wagon, driver and passenger, horse trailer and cargo, east-bound on a turnpike with the intention of giving their best in N. J.? And how about all those equestrian-minded succulent gardeners out west all yelling "Giddap, Go! Go! Go! Brian, we want a winner!!"

TARAHUMARA COUNTRY

Kathryn Sabo . . . . . This report must necessarily be with a true Mexican atmosphere, revealing color transparencies and the delightful charm and running commentary of Kathryn Sabo whose humor delighted listeners at the Las Vegas Convention.

Ken W Kendrick . . . . .

Woodland Hills, CA . . . . .

The Sabo family of three and their neighbors departed from Woodland Hills, CA headed in a southeasterly direction toward Chihuahua, Mexico. On their arrival at that city they visited Aztec and Mayan ruins and took a tour of the one-time home of Pancho Villa.

Afterwards the two-rig caravan turned southwesterly toward the famous 'Barranca del Cobre' which, translated means 'Gorge or ravine of copper', literally 'Copper Canyon', which was their ultimate destination. When asking for directions from local inhabitants this side of the canyon, the locals simply pointed in a general direction, or 'that-a-way' as the crow flies. That description of directions proved to be correct since there were no roads, just a stream bed to follow. The crows knew best.

The travellers headed that general direction and later in the day stopped along a stream bed for lunch only to find out they were lunching in the watering hole of bulls raised specifically to supply the market for a favorite Mexican sport. Inasmuch as the caravan's equipment didn't include a flag of a color which interested 'los toros' all went well so far as the mutual lunch area was concerned.

It was a remote area at a relatively high elevation. On one stop, a colorful flower showed itself proudly atop a rock. Kathryn thought 'surely rocks don't grow flowers, but there it was, a cactus flower--a Mammillaria in flower. Its kind had been waiting for this moment to reveal its floral beauty. Had it not flowered at that particular time, it would have escaped attention for no one knows how long. At first it was "M. sp nova" and later it became M. Saboae, which, incidentally is one of the prized mini-mams. Another flowering cactus, Coryphantha recurvata was also found in the area at elevations up to 9,000 feet.

Non-agricultural areas, sheep and goat ranches, dotted the stream beds. Corn was raised on the hillsides. It was the country of the Tarahumaras, long time natives, who speak their own different language. They lived in log cabins at higher elevations and in stone huts at lower elevations. They had developed particular skills in wood carving and weaving. They carved toys for their children.

The intrepid travellers arrived at the town of Creel on Good Friday, a town about 350 miles south of the U.S.-Mexican border and a bit southwest of Chihuahua and at about an elevation of 7,500 feet. At this juncture it became necessary to make arrangements with the Mexican equivalent of the American AMTRAK to ship their two vehicles on flatcars on a train which went its way on its own schedule. What does one do when he waits in a town for a train which has no schedule? The locals were enjoying a festive holiday. They were not in the mood to work. And there was no loading ramp in the town. Nevertheless, a ramp was built, the two vehicles were loaded onto flat cars. . . by those who required the service. Probably the sight of the town vanishing in the distance was more exhilarating than the sight of the town looming up in the distance some days earlier. What is the saying south of the border? "Hasta mañana"? It always comes! Like the train.

The Tarahumaras number about 25,000 and they have developed their own culture and religion. Their churches are without seating facilities. An old truck tire rim served as a bell for the school. It served effectively and probably sounded much better than the 'buzzers' of other cultures.

(Continued)



**Walter R. Scott**  
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