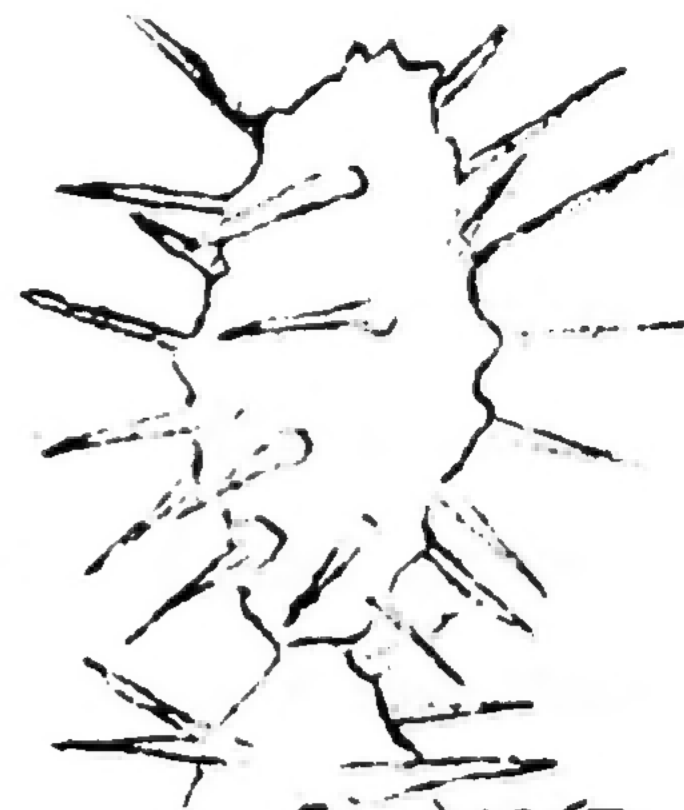


E SPINAS

Y

FLORES



Jan-1967

Publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

CACTUS CAR-A-VAN

Fasten your seat belts and listen intently, as observers of Cacti, we all know there are many points and people of interest in San Diego County; perhaps more than in any comparable area anywhere. Why don't we make it our business to know more about them, and to visit them? With your cooperation we can do it. This is the plan: periodically during 1967, probably on four occasions, we will promote caravans in members' cars to such exotic points of interest as commercial nurseries specializing in Cacti and to members' homes and gardens. Even to non-members' who are open minded and interested. Our purpose is four-fold. 1. to learn more about Cacti and succulents 2. to promote Club and individual interest 3. to find out what & where who is doing what 4. to assist exhibit chairmen in spotting potential display or specimen plants in a long range fair exhibit program.

We would like to keep the Car-a-van program interesting, simple, workable, and inexpensive; also it must necessarily be 100% voluntary. At the outset we would divide the County into three general areas - North, East, and South. Later an extended northern trip would go out of the county to the Los Angeles area; provided the earlier Car-a-vans were successful. Trips would be scheduled for the third Saturday of the month; the first being planned for February 18th to the North County. We will meet at 9:30am at Frank Mousseau's home - 5955 Lauretta St. SD (tel#295-9526) for a tour of Frank's "espinas y flores", and then as a group go to - Seaborn's Del Dios Nursery, Indian Rock Nursery, and the Botanical Gardens at Palomar College. If time permits, and we hope it do, we will go enmass to the Palomar C&S meeting. Afterwards we will go to the Smorgasboard in the Escondido Shopping Center for a taste treat that will appeal to everyone's palate.

JANUARY MEETING

Saturday, Jan 7th 2pm

Floral Assoc Building

Balboa Park

TOPICS

Open Forum

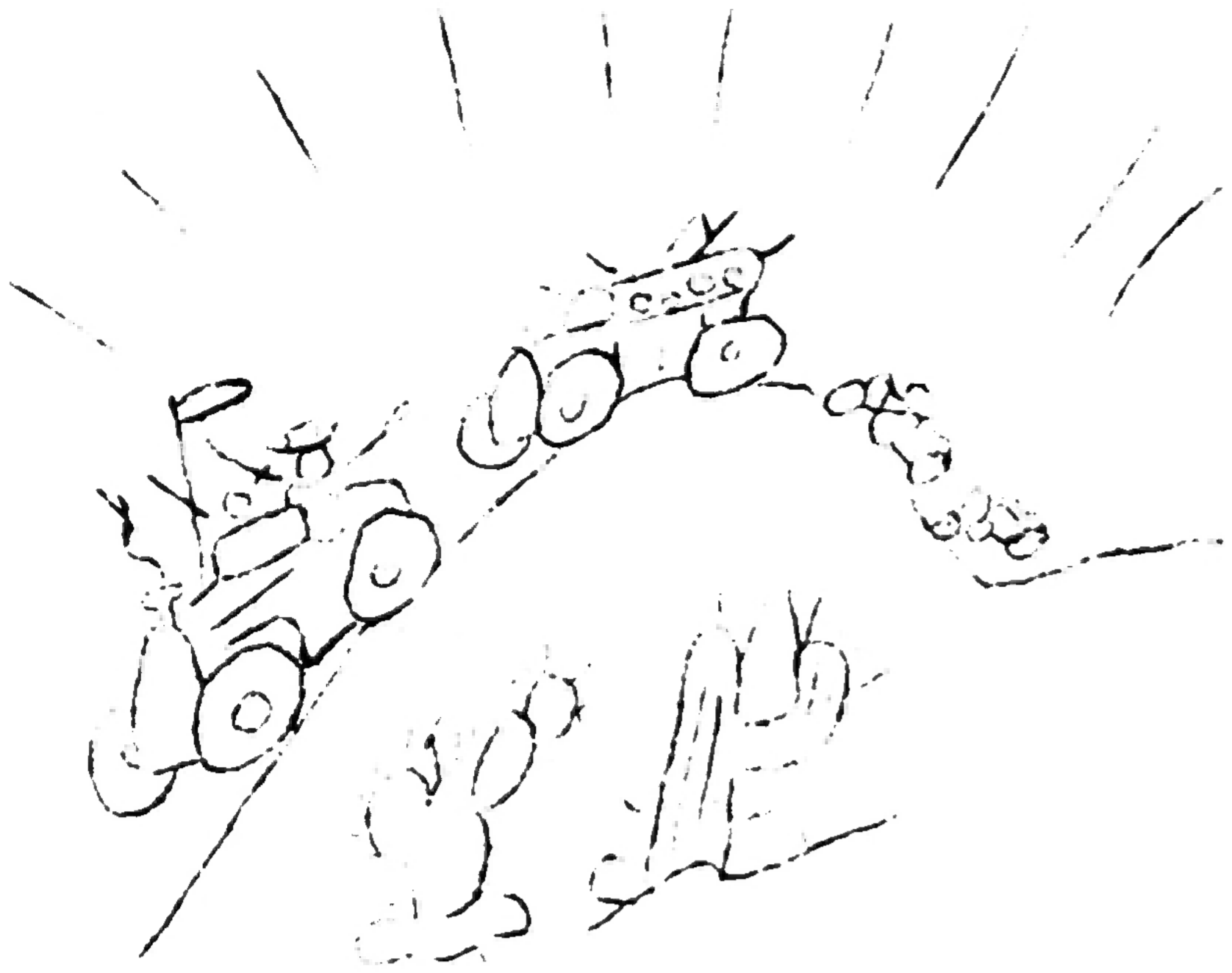
Cactus we know Best

Plant Exchange Table

Member with best specimen plant gets first choice

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and the BEST IN THE NEW

A holiday drink suggestion - one part Vodka, one part orange juice, & one part milk of magnesia... "Phillips Screwdriver" and pocketbook.

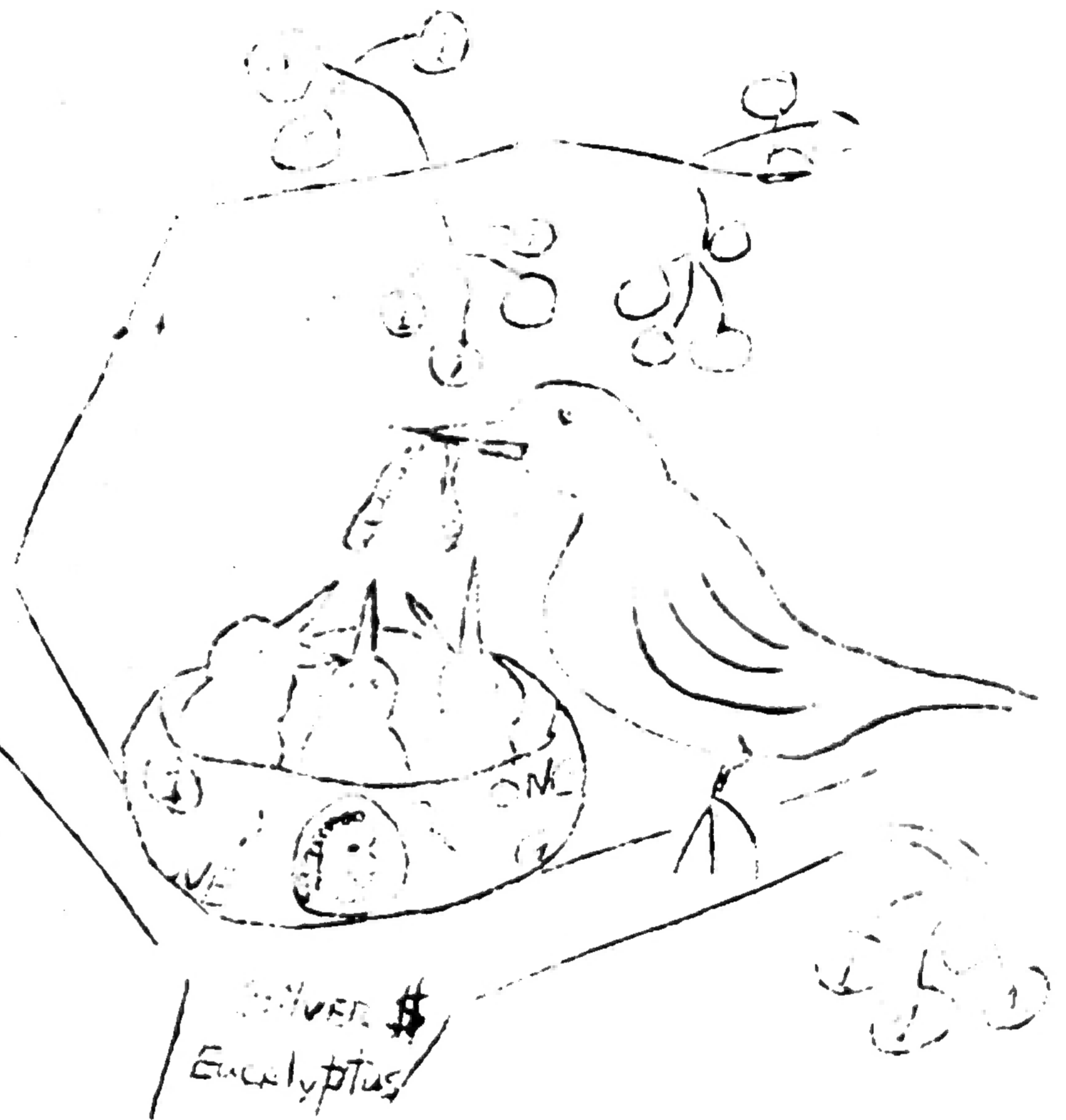


The trips will be in private cars, owners as drivers, and the spare seats available to Club members and friends. All scheduling will be on a first come, first serve basis. In the event of inclement weather the trip will be cancelled automatically. You will find a self-explanatory form on the back page, which you fill in and give or mail to me (Walter Scott-3430 Wilshire Dr. SD-92104) as soon as possible.

editorial — FEATHER OUR NEST

A wise man once said, "Money is like manure, useless except when it be spread". Yes indeed, it's that time again - Jan 1 - time for annual dues for the Cactus Society. With the cost of living constantly going up ... the cost of belonging remains the same. Love, interest, need, enthusiasm, and a ONE DOLLAR bill (U.S. currency of course).

Please, fill out the inclosed membership statement on last page; and bring to the Jan meeting or mail to Walter Greenwood, Treas., 4085 49th St. San Diego, Cal. 92115..... remember, the plainest print cannot be read through a Silver Dollar.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

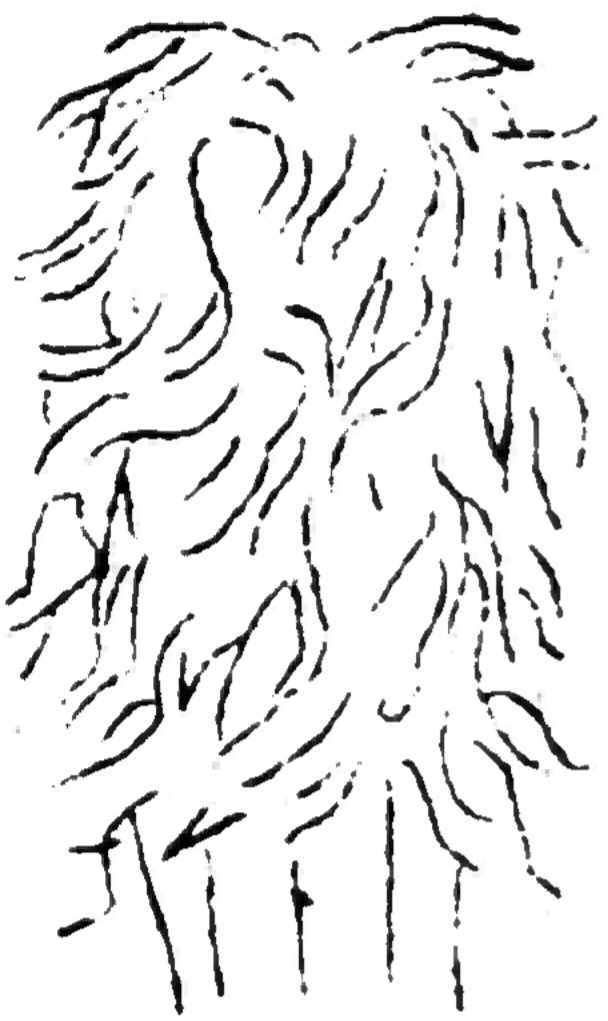
This month's selections were made not on the basis of their blooming period, but because of the timely significance of the names... it would be difficult to imagine not issuing out the old year without the "ooOld Man Cactus" (*Cephalocereus sinilis*), and wishing in the new with "Baby Toes" (*Fenestraria rhopalophylla*).

CEPHALOCEREUS SINILIS, described and known to collectors as early as 1800, is always given pride of place in the collection. In its native habitat it dominates the landscape and is a sight to behold. The name *Cephalocereus* is a combination of the Greek *KEPHALE* meaning head, and Latin *CERA* meaning wax torch or candle; which refers to the hairy mass of cephalium or pseudocephalium at the top of the plant like a grey headed Carl Sandburg or Robert Frost, and the candle or torch like shape of the stem.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)

Found on the limestone hills in the eastern part of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico and extending into Guanajuato, where they reach a height of 50ft. and a stem diameter of 12 to 18 inches, mostly solitary; but often branching from the base. In as much as the plant is considered to be a slow growing species; plants of this size would be 200 or more years old. Young plants have 12 to 15 ribs, but mature specimens have 30 or more. The ribs are low and rounded, divided by narrow furrows. The stem is light green turning to grey with age. The areoles are large rounded and closely set like slightly prominent warts. From each areole there are from 1 to 5 yellow spines a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long in young plants; 2 inches long in older ones. Along with the spines, 20 to 30 soft white hairlike bristles are developed on each areole; 4 to 6 inches in length. These are retained only in the upper most part of the plant as it ages.



C. sinilis blooms for the first time when it reaches a height of 18ft. The flowers are nocturnal and borne in woolly masses on the side of the stem near the top. They are rose colored externally and creamy white with a reddish mid-stripe inside. The cephalium can be shampooed and back-combed or ratted (or what ever it is you ladies do to your coiffure).

This makes a Mad Russian or symphony conductor effect for show display, or helps clean it, if it's just plain dirty. The hairs are somewhat brittle, so do not be too vigorous with the brush. The plant grows well in a sunny location, and requires moderate watering during the growing season. It roots fairly easy, but has a remarkably weak system for a plant so large. Well drained soil a must... probably 75% sand, 25% organic matter, and quantities of lime would be good. A more rapid growth rate can be achieved by grafting to any one of a number of fast growing *Cereus* stocks. It also grows readily from seed, and even when very young will be one of the show plants of honor.

FENESTRARIA a genera with only two species (*F. rhopalophylla* and *F. aurantiaca*)... we will cover both in this article. The generic name comes from the Latin *FENESTRA* meaning window and eludes to the window like tips of the plant stems. *Rhopalophylla* is a combination of *rhopalon* meaning club and *phyllum* meaning leaf... and refers to the club shaped leaves or stems. *Aurantiaca* is from *aurantiacus* the word for orange or old gold colored and refers to the color of the flowers.

These two remarkable mesembs. which form this genus hail from the sandy coastal belt of Greater Namaqualand (*F. rhopalophylla*) and Lesser Namaqualand (*F. aurantiaca*) in S.W. Africa. In their native environs these plants are completely covered in the sand to their windowed tips. The watery green tip serves as a filter for the harsh

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)

sun and is triangular or somewhat heart shaped in the *rhopalophylla*; being a little more obscure in *aurantiaca*.

They grow in a tufted habit with the stems erect and slightly bent inwardly, and vary in length from 1 to 1½ inches. The thickest part of the stem being towards the tip and about ¾ of an inch in diameter. The tips are slightly convex and without chlorophyll; the sides are very smooth greyish green and possibly a little reddish near the base. *F. rhopalophylla* has a graceful white flower with a yellow center up to 2 inches across; *F. aurantiaca* is a little more showy with its 3 inch orangy yellow bloom. The flowers in conformation are very much like most in the *Mesembryanthema* family. The growing season extends from February throughout the summer and blooms from summer to early Autumn. Even during this time the water requirement is not too great...and in the winter they should be kept quite dry.

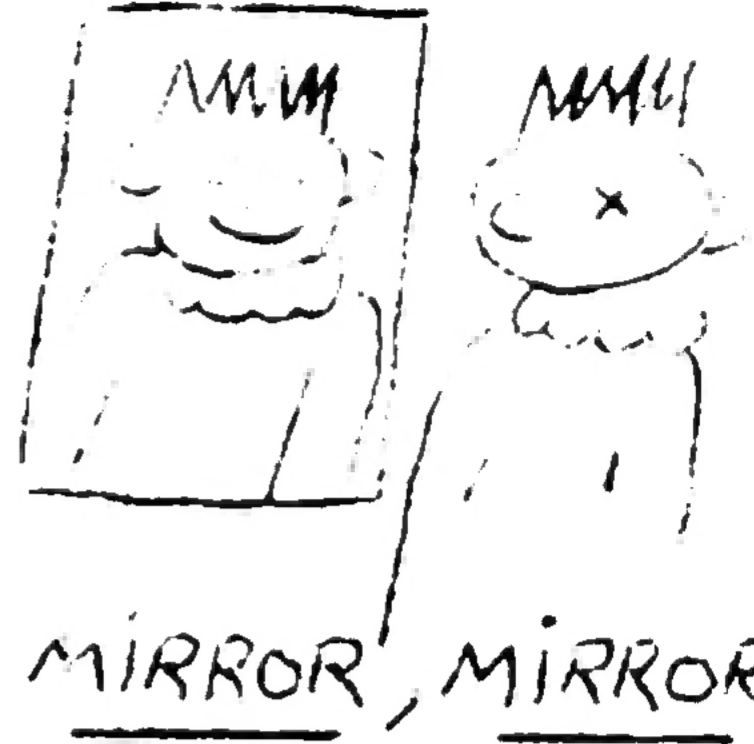


These plants are extremely water-touchy and careful treatment is needed to insure against rotting or bursting like an over ripe melon. Plant high, not covering the stems as found in nature (which is all the better to observe the plant), with a mixture of sharp sand and pea gravel with very little organic matter...75/25 percentage. Put in a sunny location, and do not overhead water, if possible. This doesn't seem to effect *aurantiaca*; but is fatal to *rhopalophylla*, who enjoys pot life with saucer watering and feeding. Both grow freely from seed. THESE are very fascinating plants and a challenge to grow. Don't forget first time visitors receive a PLANT OF THE MONTH from the Society, so bring a friend and start the New Year right.....

DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN ——— only if it's gilded... Here we are again... with hardly any rest from the last writing and literally going out and beating on the old government mules to get the paper delivered to you all, B/4 the last meeting... speaking of mules and the like... Doc Vaughan told a good one after the meeting... What's the itchest thing in the world... A horse with a buggy behind... That's a medical man for you... should have been a liquor store operator; he's really a case... Thanks to Edith Werner, the library has a copy of the *EPIPHYLLUM HANDBOOK*... a \$15 copy for two dollars... wow, what bookstore do you patronize, and I use the term loosely.

Walter & Hazel Scott went on one of the periodic bus trips sponsored by the Natural History Museum... \$3.00 for members - \$4.00 for non-members, which includes box lunch; this trip, piloted by Mr. Harbinson of the museum, toured the North County's Cactus gardens and took in the Palomar C&S Society meeting... Hazel said they were thrilled, informed, and well fed... for info on future trips, contact the Museum in Balboa Park, and take special note of the forth coming Cactus Car-a-van... Thanks to
(continued next page)

DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN (con't) — Fred Echeverria of the Mission Hills Nursery for use of truck and personnel in the clean up detail at the Floral Building last month... also same to Penny Bunker of the Iris Club for furnishing coffee... "Irish"... (the "H" is silent) coffee, that is... Tony Rienbolt must have so insensed over our blurb about his garden in last issue, .. that he promptly went out and bought a two column story about his artistic achievements, complete with picture in the Dec 2 Evening Tribune (page H-2)... (Congrats old friend, we are all proud of you... The new officers were installed; it was difficult to tell the new from the old without a program... the was true as to which table was which... gifts, exchange, bragging, etc... signs, maybe... Scotty, can you handle??? A BIG SECRET and surprise birthday party is planned for J.M. in April... interested in helping... contact Ruth... never too early to start something good — A. Phidd



NEW COLUMNIST added to staff... at this time we would like to introduce the very feminine and charming, Miss Nema Toed, who will be giving the women's side of the news (as if there were any other)... Thank you, A.P.; 1st off would like to make a correction in last month's paper... our Hospitality Hostess and Board Member is Perlso Lewis not Pearl as written... "Perl" recently christened her new home California style... with a case of the flu... hope you're felling better... Helen Craine's husband Bud announced that the new book on ALOEs by Renoyls is out and available through Abbey Press for \$14.50 per copy... it's too late for xmas, so hint to hubby or someone that a birthday is near... suggestion was made that the Club acquire a copy for the library... the directors will advise at next meeting... Ruth Nelson has the answer to an ancient household question... What to do with smelly old cigar butts... She says, she has her husband Bill deposit them in a gallon jug of water, and after a sufficient fermentation period, she drains off the effervescence for use as a garden spray; good for everything from ants to wireworms... The gift exchange was a big success, and there was truly something for everyone... but the gift that will probably leave the most lasting impression was



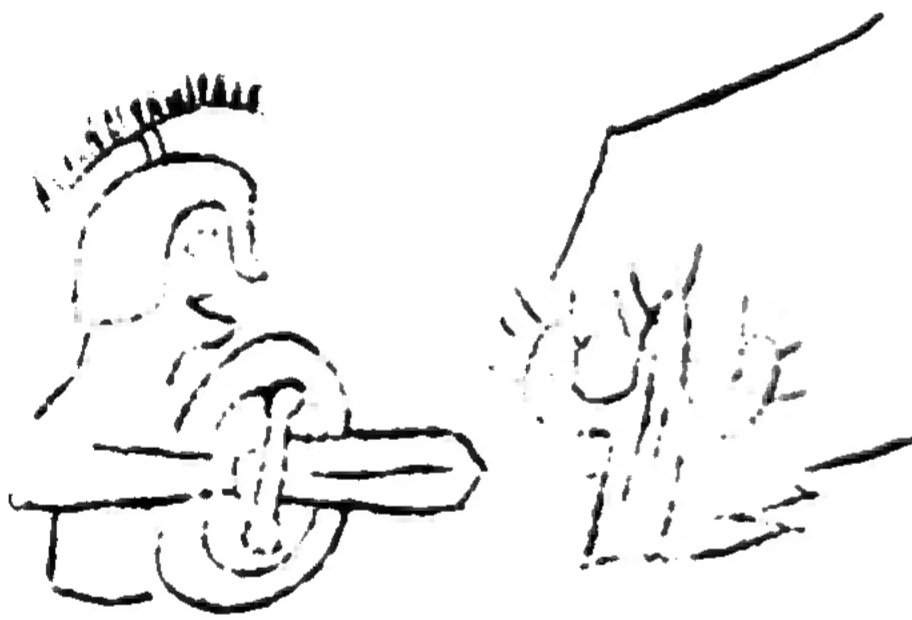
a sack of "Benbow's" special Bat Guano... not guaranteed to do anything, except to bring "Robin" in the Spring... Nellie, the cake was devine and the coffee never better... 1st time visitors Pierre Hegyi & Debbie Wilcox each received a lovely Plant of the Month... Many, many thanks to all for the generous contributions of car goods for the Taylors... A beautifully decorated Agave attenuata complete with xmas ornaments and ribbon, which strongly reflected the artistic hand of the "Mrs."; was donated as a door prize by F. Mousseau... to wit... Helen Hegyi quickly put under arm being the first name drawn out of the hat... a beautiful day & an afternoon well spent ——— Nema Toed

ATHENS OR ROMEWHAT'S THAT???

How often has this happened to you...while walking through a garden or nursery, you pause to ask, "What's that?" "Aeonium arboreum atropurpureum", might have been the candid reply. "What's that?", you ask again - "Aeonium...I think they call it the Sun Rose or something", "That's better"...

Botanical names aren't really that hard to figure, if you know the rules. Most scientific people, wishing to remain aloof, speak in these terms only to confuse the common gentre...and it makes one feel like he's been invited to a back-room poker game by a questionable stranger. Let's take a laconic look into their world; who knows maybe we'll like the game. Rule #1 the scientific approach to anything is a logical one...remember this...it helps one understand the illogical results. Somewhere in our far distant past someone decided it would be more civilized, if we extend the formality of a "name" to an object, instead of just a grunt and a pointed finger. Thus, from the first serious efforts to "name" (a series of grunts and a pointed finger); people have been trying to find a place for everything, and put everything in a place.

In our Western Civilization the Greeks & Romans had the most influence, and roots from their culture are found in all of our languages. Latin was chosen as the universal scientific language, that would be understood & accepted in all lands. But many Greek terms are still used, because the earliest works were Grecian. Scientist from



GREEK OR ROMAN?

all over the world formed a group called the INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, and set up the rules for naming plant life. We understand - Arnold, Scott, Vaughan, Joens, etc as family names; and all the Jims, Johns, Marys & so forth are members of one of these families. In some cases, there are so many

Johns in a family that a third name must be given, such as John Paul Jones, to differentiate him from the other John with the big ears.

Thus, it is in science...the family name or genus (Latin for kind or sort) and individual name or species (Latin for form or shape), and sometimes the variety or middle name which when put all together should give one an idea as to what the plant is like. The Congress has approved some 400 odd principal generic names; all of which must have a latin form regardless of origin. (i.e. when referring to the rain we had this month, one might remark...it rained like the Heavenly "waterpipus eruptus")

The generic names should end in -us, -a, -um for masculine, feminine, neuter. (i.e. - Cereus, Mamillaria, Pachyphytum) As we mentioned before, there are a few old names that have retained Greek endings of -os, -e, -on (i.e. Pleiospilos, Kalanchoe, (cotyledon))
When the name is derived from a proper or geographical name, the ending -a or -ia is
(continued next page)

ATHENS OR ROME (con't) used depending on whether the word ends in a vowel or consonant. (Dudleya - Haworthia) The specific name must agree in gender with the generic (Cereus grandiflorus - Rebutia grandiflora). In many cases plants are named for people. the correct masculine & feminine endings for names with vowel endings are -i & -ae (i.e. "Bud" Cranei - "Helen" Howeae) and for consonants -ii & -iae ("Bob" Taylorii - "Bernice" Sterlingiae). In such cases you would pronounce the name normally adding "i" for -i & -ii, "e" for -ae, and "i-e" for -iae. The suffix -ianus, -iana, or -ianum is also used as a personal ending; and when the specific name is taken from a geographic location the ending -ensis is often used (sonorensis for from Sonora). also -icus or -ica are used. Oh yes, don't forget -oid or -oides a suffix used for like, or in the form of (spearoid or stalsonburgoides). THE LAST RULE to remember is that the generic name is always Capitalized...the specific is not...or most often is never not; the variety name is or isn't. Now let's take a look at a few names and see how this works....

GENERIC NAMES

1. Acanthocereus - Akantha-greek for spiny & Cera-latin for wax torch or candle
(hence, the meaning would be Spiny candle)
2. Astrophytum - Aster-greek for star & Phytos for plant
(hence, Star like plant)
3. Aeonium - Aeon-latin for everlasting
(hence, a freely growing or self propagating plant)
4. Ferocactus - Ferus-latin for wild or strong & Kaktos-greek for a spiny plant
(hence, strongly or wildly spiny plant)
5. Mamillaria - Mamilla-latin for nipple with reference to the tubercles
(hence, a plant or cactus with nipples)

SPECIFIC NAMES

1. Abreviatus - (a-bre-vi-a-tus) shortened
2. Aculeata - (a-ku-le-a-ta) prickly
3. Alba - (al-ba) white
4. Atror - (a-tro) intense or deep
5. Arborescens - (ar-bo-res-enz) treelike
6. Monstrosus - (mon-str-sus) abnormal
7. Procumbens - (pro-kum-benz) prostrate or trailing

So with out too much imagination, we find our old friend Aeonium arboreum atropurpureum (Sun Rose) is nothing more than an everlasting deep purple treelike plant, and not something out of a science fiction thriller...

FROM THE EDITOR...thank you very much for all the wonderful letters; it is truly gratifying. To those of you who sent in articles, if they aren't here; they will be!

CARALLUMA --- by Bernie Tillman

A member of the milkweed family, because of its juice and seed pod; Caralluma was introduced to the world in 1809 by Robert Brown, a great English botanist. The name was derived from Car-allum as it was called by the native Telingas tribe of British India. The genera is extremely far flung; found as far north as Afghanistan, south to South Africa, east to Ceylon, and west to Spain. There are over 100 species, and the descriptions are as varied as the distribution is vast. Caralluma is often listed with Stapelieae; The plants belong to the same family and differ only slightly in texture, flower, and composition.

Carallumae are generally dwarf, although *C. retrospiciens* var. *tombuetuensis* has stout stems standing four foot high succulent and leafless. The stems are 4 to 6 angled with fleshy teeth along the margins. Plants generally have underground stems or rhizomes that rise to the surface to form another plant. The blooms, rarely solitary, are borne in clusters near the top of the stem in a starfish shape. The coloration of the blossoms is probably the most striking feature of the plant. Shades of red, yellow brown, white, or green blended into patterns forming strips, spots, or solid star figures. The flowers are usually covered with fine hairs and are equipped with a malodorousness which attracts the pollinizing Blue-Bottle fly.

Cultivation is fairly simple; furnish with a light well drained soil mixture of 50% sand and 50% organic matter. Water generously during the summer growing season, but keep quite dry during the Winter. Use a fertilizer that is low in nitrogen, but high in phosphorus and potash. A medium sunny location is desired. Plants can be easily propagated by stem cuttings; taken early in the season and allowed to callus.

CACTUS CAR-A-VAN, trip #1, North County..... Sat. Feb 18, 1967
Meet at Frank Mousseau's home - 5955 Lauretta St. San Diego at 9:30 am

-
1. Yes, I (we) would like to join the CAR-A-VAN ()
 2. I have a car and will drive ()
 3. I will have room for _____ additional members
 4. I do not have a car, but will go if space is available ()
 5. Name _____ phone _____

Membership Information: phone # _____
Name _____ spouse _____
Address _____ Zip Code _____