

Dec-1966

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Publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

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NEW OFFICERS TO TAKE POIDS

By unanimous approval of the attending membership at the Nov. 5th, 1966 meeting, the following people will guide us through the coming year: President-R.V. "Doc" Vaughan, Vice President-Frank Mousseau, Secretary-Ione Hubner, Treasurer-Walter Greenwood. In addition the slate of: Pearl Lewis, William Nelson, Kim Arnold, and Walter Scott were affirmed as members of the Executive Board..dubbed, "the wailing wall". Mrs. William Nelson will act as Librarian.

DECEMBER MEETING

Saturday, Dec. 3rd 2pm  
Floral Assoc. Building  
Balboa Park  
Installation of Officers

TOPICS

Crassula Family and Micro-Climates  
(approach to artificial atmosphere)  
Discussion on Patatoes as a culture  
medium for seeds and cuttings

-GIFT EXCHANGE-

Anything under a dollar value  
plants, pots, etc to be exchanged  
between members

\*\*PLEASE BRING\*\*

Can goods and/or useable clothes  
for needy Mexican family  
sponsored by Bob & Susanne Taylor

I like cactus because they seem  
more resigned to the way they have  
to live than other things do.....

The demonstration of good will  
and enthusiasm by this formidable  
group lends credence to the belief  
that this will truly be our "Blue  
Ribbon" year. The new officers  
will formally be installed at the  
Dec. 3rd. meeting.

At this time we certainly wish  
to thank all of last years officers  
and committee chairmen for their  
good efforts, especially, Treasurer  
Helen Howe, Librarian Edith Werner  
and our "cookie queen" Mrs. Kennett.

\*\* TOPICS \*\*

At the Nov 5th meeting Frank  
Mousseau, Vice President elect,  
gave a talk entitled, "How to Kill  
a Bromeliad". The title of course  
was shocking and, as we later  
found out, was a little misleading  
In substance Bromeliads are extr-  
emely easy to culture in this area  
and will withstand a tremendous  
amount of abuse. But because of  
their wide range of beautiful co-  
lors and shapes; they are used

(Con't next page)

## TOPICS (con't)

quite frequently as indoor decoratives, thus are often the recipient of wayward cocktails or misguided cigarette butts.

Bromeliads are both terrestrial and epiphytic; often being hosted by trees. They range in scope of size, color, and fruit from the Pineapple to Spanish Moss. Bromeliads characteristically form a funnel arrangement and receive their nourishment through these so called moisture traps. The roots for the most part serve as anchors rather than assimilators for food.

For domesticated varieties aquarium, rain, or bottled water is preferred to ordinary tap water, because of the chlorine content. Fertilization program... approximately once a month with half strength solution of liquid fish emulsion or something comparable sprayed gently on leaves of plant and rinsed away after 48 hours. A lath house environment is required for best growth conditions. Potting mix should always be light & well drained, and consist of a large amount of Redwood wool or fir bark.

After the bloom the mother plant sets out pups and dies. This is the chief means of propagation, as demonstrated by Mr. M's "tender touch" in separating a Silver King (*Aechmea fasciata*) with one big yank. All in all Bromeliads are a wonderful succulent group for members to add to their collections.

For starters try *Aechmea fasciata*, *A. fulgens discolor*, *A. venrathi*, *Billbergia amoena*, *B. lanata*, or the top of a fresh Pineapple.



Stand still and silently watch the world go by---and it will...

## OPEN LETTER

Dear Editor; I've heard a rumor that the Cactus & Succulent Society is going to have a Gimme, swap or Mooch department; the purpose being to provide a source of plants for those who are shy or backward about coming forward; but who don't mind mooching a bit.

I not only want to test the sincerity of the offer, but the memberships generosity and resources as well as to find out whether this is just another cruel hoax or false rumor.

I am anxious to get the following... would you spread my anxiety.. I am giving two alternates in case of backorders or out of stock conditions...

1. one (healthy) *Notocactus mammulosus*
2. one (ditto) *Rebutia senilis*
3. one (ditto) *Astrophytum asterias*

P.S. Make it without mealy bugs or aphids, please. I would be willing to pay a nominal amount for the pot, if there are no strings attached to the plant. I would not object to some thorns either... and thank you. I'll let you know the results next month. You will be able to identify me at the next meeting; I'll be the man with the wheelbarrow--name Scott

ME TOO... Frank Mousseau is looking for a quantity of *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* (*Bryophyllum*)-tricolor--variegated variety for show display hanging basket... he has four infant *Aloe vera* to swap.

Harry Warr has a *Solida pectinata* to exchange for *Leuchtenbergia principis*...

WILL HART with *Haworthia coarctata* for *Haworthia viscosa*, *H. tortuosa*, or *H. schmidtiana* with some boot, if necessary... Jim Stalsonburg

ADDRESS ALL requests, items, and comments to:

Editor- 10274 Madrid Way  
Spring Valley, Calif. 92077



# THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Walter Scott

A plan to name a Plant of the Month has been tentatively agreed upon by your new officers, directors and editor to spotlight and promote particular plants each month throughout the year. It is believed that December affords a propitious month to initiate the program, and very appropriately it so happens that the Christmas Cactus is a natural for the start of the program. As everyone knows who grows and observes succulents, they come to the apex of their beauty and growth during a particular month or season; and something to behold.

It is hoped that club members will join in this endeavor: If you have the plant in your collection other members of the club would enjoy seeing it, so bring it to the meeting and display it on the "Bragging Table". It is believed at this time that the owner of the best display may be rewarded in a modest way each month, although the admiration of others will be rewarding in itself. Of Course you get to keep your own prize plant.... and for those who do not possess the Plant of the Month this will provide an opportunity to start a year-round collection and hobby; as each month passes and plants accumulate, your collection may well be termed a succulent Zodiac. An accumulation of a plant each month will afford many hours of enjoyment...this venture will grow on you, and surely you will grow with it.

Also it was thought possible for the Club to present the Plant of the Month(not your prize of course) to a first time visitor to the meeting in order to promote interest in our club and activities. The visitor would be on his own each month thereafter. The presentation would afford the original incentive or motive; and who knows, it just could be that a small gift plant might develop into a prize specimen later on. We urge you to join in this program.

A descriptive write-up of the Plant of the Month will be excerpted from authoritative sources and run concurrently in your publication so that you and others may have basic and fundamental knowledge of it.

## CHRISTMAS CACTUS (*Zygocactus truncatus*)

Close to the hearts of many is a group of epiphytical plants with a series of stubby spineless glossy green succulent stems called Christmas Cactus, so named because the apex of its blooming period comes during our "Holiday Season". Christmas Cactus was introduced to the world from the Organ Mountains in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1818 by Adrian Hardy Haworth, an English botanist and collector. This group is comprised of three genera: *Zygocactus*, *Schlumbergera* and *Epiphyllopsis*.



Originally described by Haworth as *Epiphyllum truncatus*, a name still applied to it in error; *Zygocactus truncatus* is considered the mother of Christmas Cactus and gained great popularity in Europe by the mid 1800's due largely to the efforts of one G. Gardner, and English collector. The generic name is derived from the greek word *Zygon*-meaning Yoke-which eludes to the branches forked like the linkages of a yoke, and the Greek word *Kaktos*-self explanatory, we hope. The species or specific name *truncatus* refers to the cutoff or square cut appearance of the stems. (con't x page)



## PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)

*Z. truncatus* is found in its native habitat on limbs and crotches of trees and shady craggy shelves in hilly places along with orchids, ferns and bromeliads. The stem segments are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch broad, and flat with 2 to 4 acute teeth on each side; the upper tooth always being more pronounced. (However, there is a considerable variation in the number and shape of the teeth in Hybrid forms) Flowers, liken to a bird in flight, up to 3 inches in length vary in color from rose pink, red, claret, to violet. Blooms last approximately 15 days; full grown plants may have as many as 200 or more at the same time.



These plants are easy to grow provided a few modest requirements are satisfied. Rich well drained soil is preferable; but because they are primarily tree dwellers where there is very little compost, they will thrive in very loose material. Avoid direct sun...shaded and cool environment best. It is a good indoor as well as outdoor plant in this area, and because of its pendulate nature goes well in hanging baskets. Water generously during growing season; periodically using well balanced fertilizer ..liquid or granulated..growers dry them slightly

when shoots have developed fully, which is usually September, this is conducive to flower bud formation. After flowering the plants do not begin to grow immediately, but rest for a few weeks.

This group grows readily from cuttings...at least two or three stem segments should be a minimum. The cuttings should be taken early in the year so that by September they are established enough to bloom at Christmas. They are frequently grafted and do extremely well on stock of *Pereskia*, *Selenicereus*, and *Opuntia*.



*Schlumbergera* (named for Frederick Schlumberg, an amateur student of botany) differs very little outwardly from *Zygocactus*. The flower tube is shorter; the teeth on the stems are not as pronounced; and it generally blooms later (Jan-Feb). Two well known species are ...*russelliana* and *bridgesii*.

*Epiphyllopsis* also varies little from the other two. The stem segments are smoother and have long bristles at the joints. The plant is more floriferous; the flowers being more open and the blooming period is much later (Mar-April), hence has earned the name "Easter Cactus". The best known species is *gaertneri*.

There are many hybrids of all the above genera with different flower color variations too numerous to name here. The Christmas Cactus group is sometimes referred to as Crab Cactus...the stem shoots are reminiscent of crab's claws.

### ### VITALOGY ###

This series of articles stand in no need of any elaborate prefatory introduction. It is in fact a collection of food and home remedies from the historic past. With tongue in cheek these healthful hints embody the wisdom and experience, and best results of years of practical observation, of the prominent and enlightened R.V. "Doc" Vaughan and others, upon the simplest and most effectual methods of promoting health, overcoming disease, and prolonging life. (con't next page)



## VITALOGY (con't)

### NIGHT-BLOOMING CEREUS (*Selenicereus grandiflorus*)

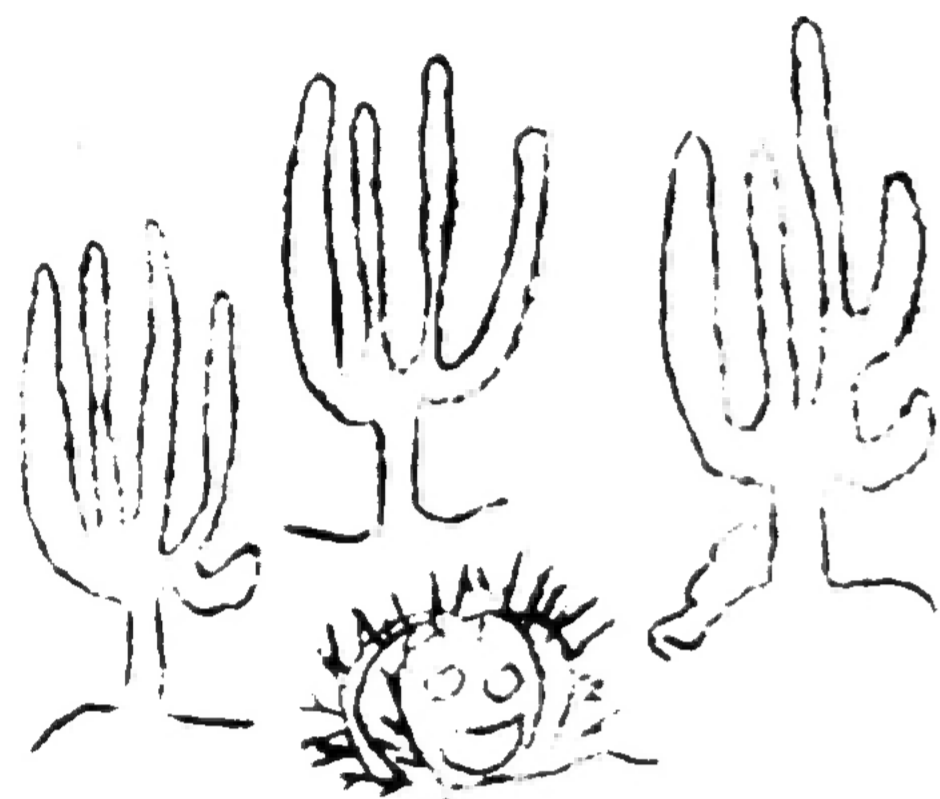
Parts Used: The young branches and the flowers.

This plant is regarded as an effectual cure for one form of heart disease, medically called "angina pectoris". It must be given in small doses two or three times a day and its use perseveringly employed. The saturated tincture should be used. It is made by adding two ounces of fresh bloom to half pint of alcohol (Kentucky vintage). Dose: one to five drops, every one, two, or three hours, according to urgency.. we repeat..urgency of the symptoms.

But after these have passed it may be administered three times a day in two or three drop doses. This medicine is also recommended for dropsy and rheumatism. (source: Wood & Ruddock.. "Encyclopedia of Health and Home")

### EDITORIAL PAGE...AND TIME FOR REFLECTION

#### ## DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN ## by- A. Fidd



..why so Cereus???

We reflect that it takes a good hand and on occasion lots of heart...our award for Most Active member of the month goes to Frank Mousseau..who besides preparing monthly programs, attending meetings for San Diego's 200th anniversary, representing our society at the S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation, and working on displays for the next county fair; is trying to scratch out a living..HELP!!

Helen Hegyi, whose membership may be plural, but whose enthusiasm is singularly universal, showed a wonderful little plant at last month's affair..*Sempervivum orostachys*..the narrow pointed attenuate leaves form a sunburst in color this time of year..can be obtained at Mrs. Doney's Nursery in Monrovia...the friendly face and warm hand at the door of the meeting is Pearl Lewis, Hospitality Hostess...Tony and Mrs. Reinbolt just returned from a three week vacation type trip to Wisconsin and leisurely return through America's back-countryside..when asked whether he collected any specimens along the way, his retort was, does a cactus have spines..be sure, if you haven't already, to stop out and see his masterful work with the paint brush.

In the, "they don't build them like they use to", department..Mrs. Carlson's 6ft., 200 lb., 17 yr. old, yard hand has come up lame and prostrate with exhaustion..that Bermuda will get 'em every time...reminds me of the man that was relating his jungle adventures to his fiancée about how he had hacked his way through almost impenetrable jungle by chopping and slashing at the thick undergrowth and trees...When she said, "Oh, George, how wonderful...you will be so good at weeding our garden"...Nice to see A.B.Caulk and wife come out of the desert gloom for some San Diego sunshine..its a long way from Ocotillo; come again real soon...The Scotts, Helen Howe, Ruth, and Doc worked with members of other Garden Clubs in cleaning, fixing and beautifying the Floral Building...Helen was away on vacation the last meeting..any connection? Our sincere thanks, gang.

Mrs. Arnold after taking the "minutes" of the meeting for the last time was heard to say...sooohh...they seem like "hours"...Anything closely resembling reality or views of the management in this epic is purely a transgressionality...in passing -- In nature there are no rights; there are only duties----- A. Fidd...

# NO ONE BUT YOU

by -- the editor

After a recent meeting it was our good fortune to be able to give a lift home to one of our members. During the drive she remarked to us how much the monthly paper had meant to her; and how much she enjoyed attending the meetings, when she could. She expressed that the Cactus Society was her only social activity anymore.

Hence, the thought occurred to us that there are many who have no one, but you. It is true that the Society is a gathering of interested parties to promote the knowledge of cacti and other succulents, but also to foster fellowship.

These principles should not be only for the members who attend a particular meeting; but should also include members who can no longer attend regularly, through no fault of their own; and even those who can not attend at all...the so called paper member...who still wishes to remain in association, sort of brothers or sisters in spirit.

The more we think on this; the more responsible we feel towards our membership. Responsible not only to make the meetings more informative, but more enjoyable...to savor the refreshment break and to take time to ask, "How does your garden grow"...to extend our activities beyond the monthly assemblage, and convey our presence to others not physically able to share.

Thus the revival of this paper...your paper, and through it we hope to pass on the warmth of your fellowship as well as the facets of "God's Green Thumb"...Next month bring a friend or the name of one; who, as we, likes cactus and the people who collect them.

## SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION--

This is an organization of garden clubs and individuals to act as a coordinating body with the City of San Diego in promoting a new Floral Building and Botanical Center in Balboa Park, and to aid in the administering some 7 million in funds that have been appropriated for such a development. The next open to the public meeting will be held at the Floral Building Nov 30th at 2:30pm.

Deadline for the monthly paper for all items, bits, and pieces is the 15th of the month...

APPOLOGIES to Bernie Hillman...because of the length of preface paragraphs in this issue, we had to cut the article on Caralunae. However, it will run in next month's issue...any other writings from any source would be appreciated.

## BOOKS worth reading...

- Cacti and Succulents..by Haage  
pub. by Vista..1963
- Your Garden Soil..R.M.Carleton  
pub. by Van Nostrand..1961
- What Kinda Cactus Izzat..  
by Reg Manning  
pub by..J.J.Augustin..1945



THE END

