

# ESPINAS Y CEROS

February, 1970  
PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND  
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## DESERT LANDSCAPING

THE NEW CONCEPT in desert landscaping is to use a few well chosen specimens to create the illusion of a desert scene that will be reasonably authentic and appealing. This would channel your choice of plant material to the most stark and dramatic plants, ones that have been sculptured by nature into unusual, even bizarre, forms. The succulents of our own desert are among the very best for this purpose, but specimens from other American

deserts will give you a larger spectrum for growth habit and cultural requirements. All this means that there is a trend away from colored sand and decorative crushed rock that once dotted the landscapes of subdivision after subdivision in a futile attempt to create low maintenance gardens and grounds. Weeds would invade them and rock and sand would mix in an homogenous horror; to say nothing of the handiness of the rocks for youngsters to throw. The natural landscape is generally good looking throughout the year, with a minimum of care for the owner.

One of the more dramatic specimens to be considered is the Ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*, a native to the California deserts. It supplies a vertical accent, and with clusters of bright red flowers from April to June at the tips of its slender stems furnishes an additional theatrical bonus. Delicate bright green leaves appear after the rains, then fall off, and are replaced again several times a year, depending on irrigation applied.

*Yuccas* can be the most dramatic plants in the landscape, and when they bloom can be the most glorious. They have stiff pointed leaves, and look very harsh and belligerent. They certainly can be if placed in the wrong location, such as near sidewalks and patios. However, if placed where their forms are effectively displayed, they can be the most pronounced features in the landscape. The candelabra of flowers, which are often fragrant, is seldom surpassed by other blooming plants. Their sizes and shape offer a wide range of

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desired accents. The low clumping Yucca Glauca, sometimes called bear grass, with blue-grey hues and thread-like leaves that radiate from the center; Yucca Pendula or Recurvifolia that grows no taller than six feet with flat leaves that bend gracefully to earth. It has billowy masses of white flowers in the summer that are really eye catching. Yucca Aloefolia or Spanish Bayonet is so named for the shape of its long narrow leaves that remain semi-rigid. It attains a 10 to 15 foot height and branches along the stem. In the summer the crowns are filled with white flowers tinged with purple. Yucca Gloriosa or Spanish Dagger is much like the Spanish bayonet, but with wider leaves that radiate like a sunburst along the tall stems. This one also takes on a tree form, but predominantly branches from a swollen base. The flowers are green-white and appear in late summer. Yucca Elephantipes, often sold as Gigantea, is probably the most dramatic of them all. It has very wide pendant leaves of bright green, without sharp tips. It eventually takes a tree form and may develop several trunks; the creamy white blossoms appear in late spring. There are many, many more Yuccas and variations of those already described, each offering something unique and individual to the landscape; these should be given primary consideration because of their ease of cultivation and adaptability. We would be remiss, if we didn't mention in passing two of our back country favorites, Yucca Brevifolia or Joshua Tree, and Yucca Whipplei, called Our Lord's Candle. The Joshua Tree is generally considered the largest of the family, growing to 30 feet, providing it has enough room for its extensive root system. It bears greenish-white flowers from February to April. This one is a bit difficult to grow, but well worth the effort. We have found that it responds to considerably more water than its native habitat would indicate. Yucca Whipplei spends most of its life as a formidable mass of stiff grey-green spike-like leaves. After several years it produces a stem some six to ten feet tall that bursts into a blazon of white flowers near the tip. After this ostentation the plant dies.

Similar in its growth cycle is the Agave, but usually it takes somewhat longer than the Y. Whipplei to complete it. Again we are dealing with a very large group of plants that offer an amazing variety of leaf forms to add contrast of color and texture to the landscape. Agaves will furnish accents from small clumps to enormous masses of foliage. The Agave Americana is often taken for granted or considered a noxious weed, but its value in a landscape theme should not be overlooked. Its huge, broad blue-grey leaves are stark and commanding. Agave Attenuata, with its soft fleshy sunburst of dull light green is an asset to any theme. The smaller varieties of Agave, such as A. Parryi, or hauchucensis, add a bit more formal touch with their low clustering rosettes. Each has an appeal of its own, and something ideal for a particular effect, but all respond in time with floral displays that stop autos in the street and birds in the sky. When this group of plants completes its life cycle they suddenly produce a bloom stalk that will soar to 10 and sometimes 25 feet, depending on the species; and will display an inflorescence as different and bizarre as the plants themselves. Most agaves will set pups or off-shoots after blooming and before the mother plant succumbs. Sometimes this can be a bother, but you never have to worry about replacements. Agaves will give you color, mass, texture and all the essential ingredients for a desert landscape, but most of all they will give you authenticity.

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#### FEBRUARY MEETING

#### 1970 Dues Now Payable

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1:30 pm  
FLORAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING  
BALBOA PARK

#### PROGRAM

SLIDE REVIEW OF FLOWER SHOWS AND  
PRIVATE GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND  
CONTINENT. DR. PHILLIP CORLISS  
WILL DISCUSS HIS EUROPEAN TRIP.

Dues in the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society are now payable for 1970. They are \$2.00 for the year, \$3.00 for family membership. Your membership includes a subscription to Espinas Y Flores, which is published monthly. Please make your check payable to the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and mail it to the treasurer:

Mr. Glenn A. Hoyer  
6956 Wyoming Avenue  
La Mesa, California  
92041

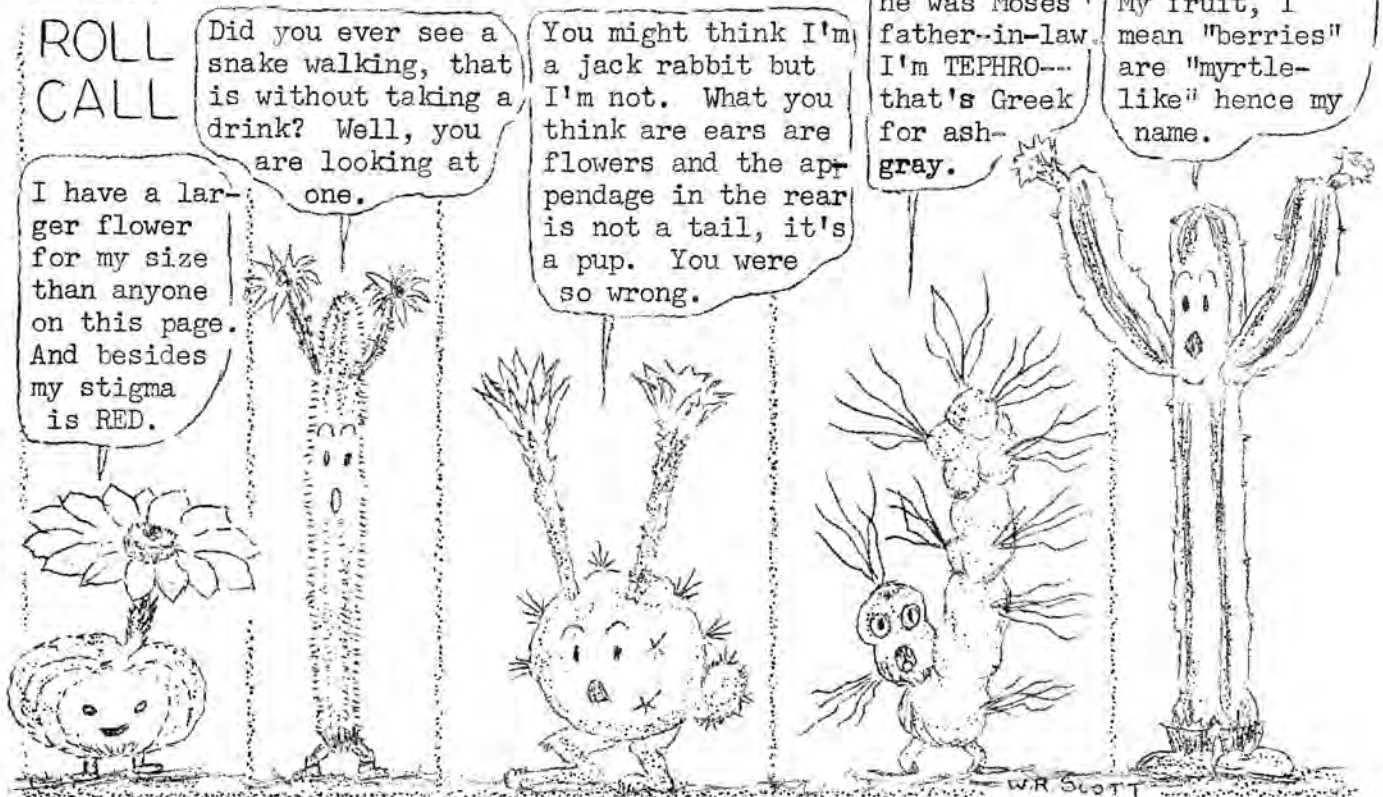
EXCHANGE TABLE  
BRAGGIN' TABLE  
REFRESHMENTS

The Palo Verde Tree, Parkinsonia Aculeata, is the leader of chaparral accouterments for the

desert landscape. It is the green tree of the desert, because of the color of its sparse boughs and foliage. It is a rapid grower to 25 feet, and bears umbels of lemon yellow flowers mainly in the late spring, but also intermittently throughout the year. It is thorny and should be respected, but all of this adds to its character when it sheds its leaves in the hot days of summer. Others that are prevalent in the real desert are often difficult to obtain and grow. However, one can look elsewhere for plant material that will give a wizened, twisted, or contorted effect and be far less demanding in their cultural requirements. Leptospermum Laevigatum or Scoparium, Malalueca Nesophila or Armillaris, and certain acacias are just a few that will, if properly pruned, give the illusion of the hard life of a desert existence.

Once the principles have been established, of course you should add some cactus. Choose ones for ease in care, as well as for beautiful flowers. Think of these smaller plants as a means to amplify the larger forms, not to conflict with them. Flat stem opuntias like O. Chloratica, Ursina, Elata, or the wrinkled pof ofBasilaris, the Beaver Tail, all with outstanding flowers, are useful for color and mass. The cylindrical Chollas, Opuntia Acanthacarpa, Parryi, Bigelovii, and the slight stemmed little Ramosissima, will give shape and texture. The Golden Barrel, Echinocactus Gausoni; or the Red Barrel of our desert, Ferocactus Acanthodes; the hedgehog varieties like Echinocereus Engelmanni or Fendlesi; the Easter Lily Cactus, Echinopsis Multiplex, or maybe some tree forms, as Cereus Peruvianus or Consolia Falcata; wait, wait, slow down. It is all too easy to be carried away, and sometimes very difficult to make a decision on just which few will best exemplify your intent. Remember, we are attempting to create a realistic landscape not a collector's jungle; limited in number but not sparse; full, but not crowded; packed with interest, but not confusion; most of all a credit to the neighborhood, not an eyesore. The creating of a pciture that expresses life and beauty is just as important to the Divine scheme of things, as the creation of the universe. It takes the sum of each of us formed in the mass of our aggregato thoughts to produce the great mosaic of life. --- is

ROLL CALL



I have a larger flower for my size than anyone on this page. And besides my stigma is RED.

Did you ever see a snake walking, that is without taking a drink? Well, you are looking at one.

You might think I'm a jack rabbit but I'm not. What you think are ears are flowers and the appendage in the rear is not a tail, it's a pup. You were so wrong.

Please don't call me "Jethro"-- he was Moses father-in-law. I'm TEPHRO--- that's Greek for ash-gray.

Someone has to be last. I'm "Myrtillocactus". My fruit, I mean "berries" are "myrtle-like" hence my name.

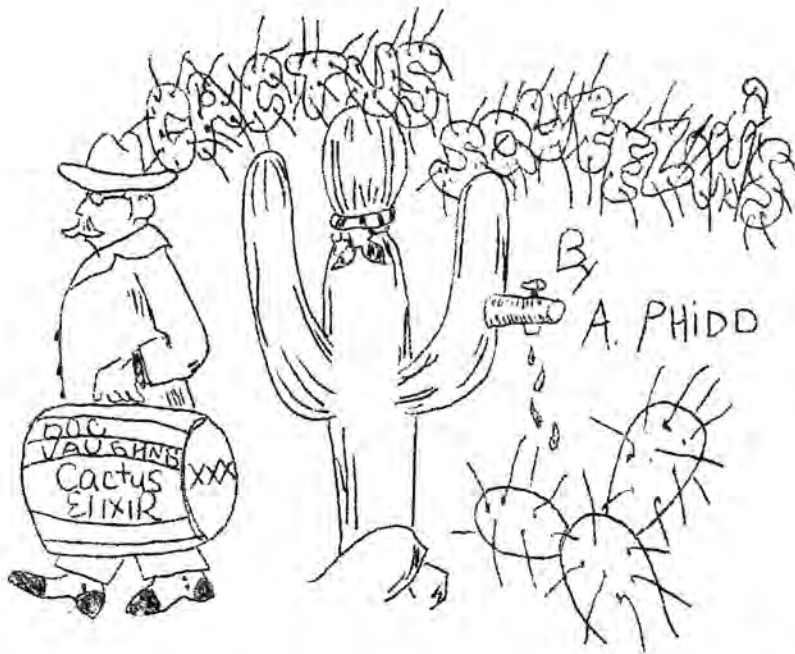
NOTOCACTUS  
CONCINNUS  
(So. Brazil)

NYCTOCEREUS  
SERPENTINUS  
(Mexico)

ECHINOPSIS  
TUBIFLORA  
(Argentina)

TEPHROACTUS  
POLYACANTHUS  
(Argentina)

MYRTILLOCACTUS  
GEOMETRIZANS  
(Guatemala)



AS THE SUN reigns in sovereignty these last few hours of January, it is difficult to visualize the impending sovereign rains that for over a year have not disrupted our daily affairs...they are coming though, as sure as the windsong tingles our ears... It is winter and there should be some discomfort... the television ads are loaded with remedies, and preventatives.... having just returned from a pre-rush sale of anti-histamines, decongestants, and vasostimulative volatilizing ointments, we will be content to roll another log onto the fire, and in the company of "six hundred tiny time pills" wait for the first symptoms of nasal congestion,

sneezing, weeping eyes, and itching feet.... rest is what is needed most... rest and storehouse the energy that will be demanded when buds break through their protective husk, and new born rootlets go in search of sustaining life... read, relax and plan ahead as to how you are going to satisfy the demands of your words in seasons ahead....

RUTH NELSON and her two assistants, HELEN HEGYI and LILLIAN FEINGOLD have plenty of good reading material for winter pleasure.... as a matter of fact the library has become such an important facet of the Society that we are compelled to adhere to certain long standing regulations... 1. Books are available to members of the Society only. 2. A maximum of three books may be checked out at one time. 3. A fee of 25¢ per book will be charged each month for books remaining out over a period of one month, unless arrangements have been made with the librarian.... The reason for this is that some books are in high demand and a waiting list has been established; while others, because of the sheer volume of their scientific components would be difficult to discharge in 30 days..... Speaking of reading, we saw in the paper the other day where our member, DAVID BRANT, was the

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largest importer of Marihuana in the state... he feeds it to those big black angus up on the Tejon Rancho, because he specializes in one cut of meat - "Pot Roast".... Soviet scientists predicted that the first man on Mars may land on a cactus plant.... It seems that the Russians have been experimenting with the loves of our life and compared with spectrographs taken of the dark areas of Mars, conclude that these dark areas may be covered with cactus-like vegetation.... No one likes to repeat gossip, but what else can you do with it?????

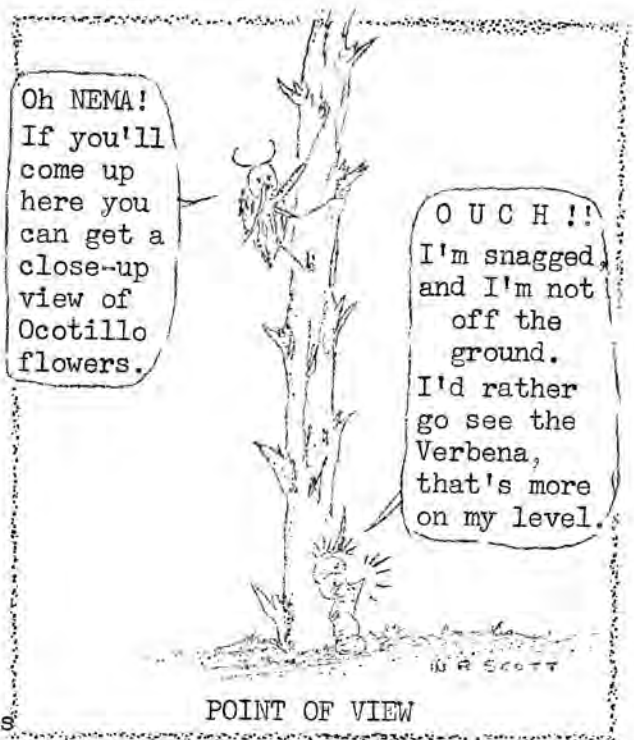
OLIVER and SOPHIE LOYLAND will have a nice selection of mammillarias and aloes at the sale table.... last month the miniature dish gardens went like hot cakes....each month they try to feature the plant of the month...it's a good way to start your collection.... recently NIBBY KLINEFELTER walked in to her boss's office - Dr. Bill Joy - under the pretense of

closing the windows of the well ventilated room; she sat down and said with a serious expression... "I had a man to man talk with my BEN about the facts of life, Doctor. I'd like to check on a number of things he told me".... IONE HUBNER has some very tempting programs on tap for us... Feb., DOC CORLISS on his European trip last fall; March, BOB TAYLOR has a slide review on many Baja trips; April, WILBER WIER will talk and demonstrate how to raise them from seed; May, BRIAN LAMB will be in from England to talk on the exotic collection of succulents; June will be a Graft and Specialty work shop.... it never fails to amaze how quickly you get results when you advertize.... last week a department store had an ad in the newspaper for a night watchman, and that very night they were robbed....

ALICE TAYLOR gave what we thought was one of the most informative and well illustrated talks at the last meeting... the subject was on how to photograph your plants and flowers.. or how to increase your enjoyment time long after the blossom has gone... a very artful display even under conditions that were something less than ideal; we hope she'll be back for our workshop sessions.... NELLIE KENNETT with a fabulous Kalanchoe Marmorata walked off with the Succulent of the Month Award.... BOB TAYLOR displayed a fantastic multi-headed Mammillaria Celsiana, and HAZEL Floribunda SCOTT topped off a delightful Braggin' Table with a Crassula Hybrid that was almost as tempting as the vittles at break time. BOB BUTLER says confusion is one woman and one left turn; Excitement is two women and one se-

cret; Bedlam is three women and one bargain; Chaos is four women and one luncheon check.... Under the heading of Can You Top This.... our welcoming hostess, JULIANN RICE had a name badge with a seedling cactus of the month.... What are you going to do when we feature the Sahuaro.... WARREN BUCKNER, Exhibit Committee Chairman, tells us that as of now the Men's Garden Club Annual Show at the Mission Valley Mall is off... which brings up the possibility of doing our own thing... let Warren know your feelings in this matter.. we'll need a considerable amount of support. AUGIE PFEIFFER was just receiving the finishing touches from his barber a short while back, when a hippie type with hair down to his shoulders strolled into the shop, and asked, "Tan, are you the cool that cut my

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hair the last time?".. the barber replied, "I don't think so, son' I've only been here for

six months..."

Remember in February when outside gardens are rather stark, look within yourself for "the heart is a garden, where thought flowers grow, the thoughts that we think are the seeds that we sow.... every kind, loving thought bears a kind, loving deed; while a thought that is selfish is just like a weed.... We must watch what we think, each minute, all day; and pull out the weed thoughts, and throw them away..... and plant loving seed thoughts, so thick in a row, that there will not be room for weed thoughts to grow"....(Katherine Merrill)..... As always ....

A. Phidd.

-- IT IS GOING TO ROLL AGAIN:

## CACTUS CAR-A-VAN

WHAT ----- WHERE --- WHEN: The Twenty-third Annual Cactus Show will be held in Webster

Auditorium, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 22 - March 1, and is open to all persons interested in Succulent Plants, Arrangements, Photography (B&W, or colored) Paintings (desert subjects), or Desert Woods. No entry fees. ADMISSION FREE!!!

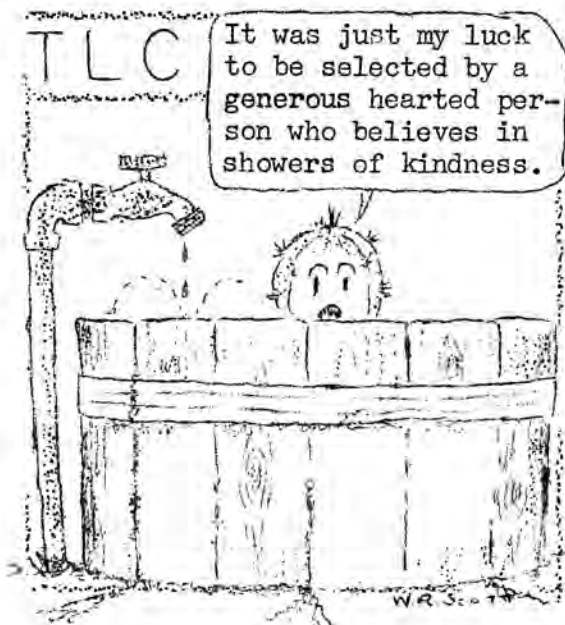
All entries in ARTS should be entered by wed., Feb. 18, 5 pm. All other entries should be entered from Thurs., Feb. 19, 9 am to Sat., Feb. 21, 4 pm. Judging will be from 7 to 9 pm, Feb. 21. Sweepstakes will be awarded for the most Blue Ribbons accumulated in the four large Sections; small trophies will be given for outstanding exhibits in the various classes, ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention, if merited, in each classification. Exhibits will be removed only after 5 pm, Sunday, March 1.

WHERE DO WE FIT IN? Our CAR-A-VAN as it appears at this writing, will be a private car, over-night affair, on Sunday Feb. 22 and 23. Details are being studied and a program will be submitted at the February meeting by the Old Wagonmaster.

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN? You must make up your mind between the time you read this and the time it is presented at the meeting what you would like to do, and place your name on a "sign-up" list which must of necessity guide our plans.

The event will remind you of our Southern California Expo at Del Mar insofar as plants are involved but under very different circumstances. And it's nice that it is "competitive". But time and circumstances do not permit us to submit entries. In a way that's nice, we can all the more enjoy the efforts and exhibits of others.

Mr. W. Hubert Earle, Director of the Garden writes: "We are glad to hear that a group from S.D.C. & S. Soc. will be over on a week-end to see our exhibits." -- WRS



### EDITOR'S NOTE

At our January meeting, I was both surprised and elated to receive from numerous people small news items and tidbits that they thought would be of help to me as editor of Espinas Y Flores. How very right they were and how very grateful I am!

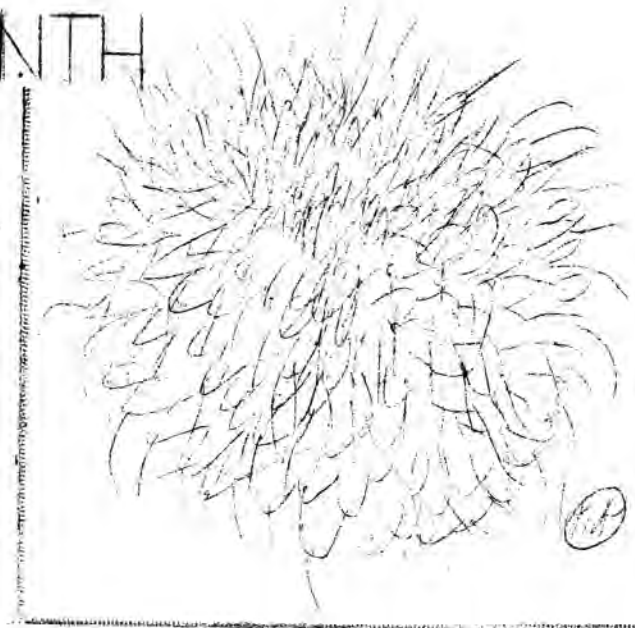
My first realization as editor was a gleeful one. I realized that Espinas Y Flores was a paper for the people but even more important, it was a newspaper by the people. Those ideas and tidbits that were passed to me in a moment's visiting or on the back of a brown paper bag, represent the unity which our club has achieved, a growing together of people and interests. Our newspaper is a compilation; and it will remain a compilation of ideas and interests by the members and for the members. Thank you and please keep the ideas and tidbits flowing.

-- MSB

# PLANTS OF THE MONTH

## MAMMILLARIA ZUCCARINIANA

A favorite cactus of some friends of mine is *Mammillaria zuccariniana* (mam - uh - la - re - uh zu - ka - re - ne - ah - na), one of the largest of the globular mams. This plant is normally single with a body up to 10 inches high and 8 inches broad, with a depressed top. Visualize a volleyball, and you have the approximate size! Seeing a full-grown plant is somewhat of a surprise when you are used to the usual small-sized mam. The tubercules, with milky sap, are about  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch high and are pyramid shaped. The axils between the tubercules are quite woolly when young, but lose the wool by the time the seed pods arise.



The areoles are woolly when young, also, but become bare with age. There may be 3 or 4 white bristles as radial spines, but these also fall with age. The usual 2 central spines are arched, and are opposite. The upper one is rarely more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length, but the lower one may reach one inch. If there are 3 or 4 central spines, the extras are more like the upper spines.

The flowers are borne in a profuse ring in the axils around the top of the plant, like other mams, over a period of months during the winter. They are nearly an inch long and as broad. The color may be described by different persons as being from magenta to purplish-pink to purple. The fruits, which appear several months later, are bright red and may be up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long.

This species was described by Martius in 1832. The genus name refers, of course, to the nipple-like tubercules. I have been unable to trace the species name, and infer that it honors an individual by the name of Zuccarini. The habitat of this cactus is the state of San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Mam. zuccariniana thrives well in any good cactus soil (about 25% organic matter with excellent drainage) in part to full sun. In part sun the color of the plant will be a deep green. In full sun the greatest beauty is expressed as the plant takes on a beautiful deep purple color. This cactus, as well as most others of the genus, does very well in a pot only slightly larger than the diameter of the stem. It should respond well to light feedings 2 or 3 times during the growing season.

-- L. N. Phelps, Ph.D.

You have driven along Hiway 5 at 28th street many times, but I'll bet you never knew you were in the vicinity of one of San Diego's finest cactus and succulent gardens. It is the home of Mrs. Hazel Hartman of 3043 Boston Ave. The late Mr. Hartman, never a member of any garden club, developed an interest and hobby in succulent plants. His efforts were magnificently rewarded. The back yard contains many specimen type plants, numerous varieties and species, all well cared for, including euphorbias, cephalos, harrisias, trichos, opuntias, cereus, echinopsis, stapelias, golden barrels, and others. All are rooted and many are sizeable. The home is going to be sold and unless someone buys the home AND the plants and maintains the place as it is, they will be sold. Too, you'll see some superb craftwork inside the home - Mr. Hartman was a skilled craftsman too, and that as a hobby. Call Mrs. Hartman before you go to see the place - 239-1996. You'll be in for a surprise and you may find a plant or two you'll like.

A GARDEN without an Aloe is a garden without love. Aloes (commonly pronounced, al-o) are often mistaken by laymen to be Agaves, and superficially there are many species that have a resemblance. Aloes are members of the Lily family and are chiefly found in South Africa and surrounding territories, while Agaves are members of the Amaryllis family and found in the desert and semi-arid regions of the Western hemisphere. Fundamentally we find that not only are the flowers different, but they are also borne in a different manner. The flower of the Agave emanates from the growing point of the plant, consequently the flowering rosette dies after bloom; whereas the inflorescence of the Aloe arises from a leaf axil and does not effect its future growth.

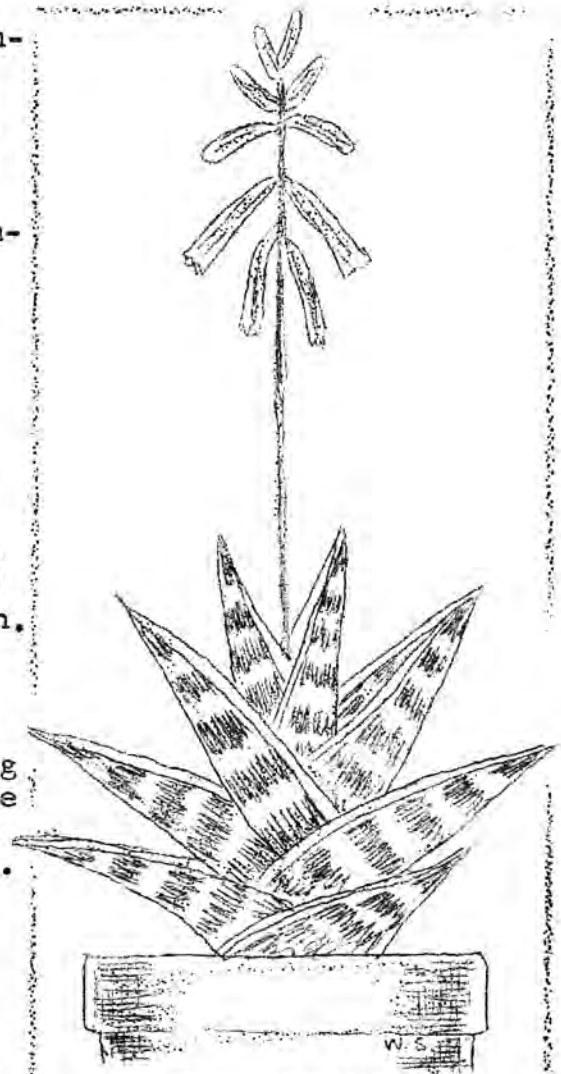
Aloes are tender succulents with thick fleshy leaves which store large quantities of water during the rainy season and are thus able to withstand long periods of drought. Many become tree-like with stout woody stems, while others form dwarf clumps of stemless clustered leaves. Aloe comes from the old Arabic name for these plants, and for centuries before Christ the resinous juice of the leaves was medicinally used for a myriad of ailments both internal and cosmetic.

The leaves are usually spear shaped with the margins being lined with a horny material or toothed. The surface is dark green, grey-green, or reddish; often flecked or striped. The bell-shaped flowers are orange-red to yellow and are borne as a club-like cluster on one spike or a many branched cluster like an exploding fire ball; they will last for many weeks.

**ALOE VARIEGATA** will be in full glory during the month of February and deservedly rates our spotlight at this time. The specific name, *variegata*, (pronounced, va-ri-e-ga-ta), is derived from the rhythmic transverse splotches of white that adorn the otherwise dark green leaf. This along with the erect leaf give the allusion of a Partridge, hence the nickname of "Partridge Breast Aloe". *Variegata* hails from Cape Province in South Africa; Cape Province is very much like San Diego County with its sub-tropical coastal plains, inland mountains, and arid desert beyond, and *variegata* comes from the other side of the hill, so to speak. Because of the dry air it seems to grow better inside the home than it does in a greenhouse, but shows a full measure of appreciation for the Southern California outdoors.

The stem is very indistinct; covered closely by triangular sharp leaves 5 inches long in a 3 leaf rosette, and grows to a height of one foot. The leaves are concave on the inside and keeled on the outer edges giving the plant a three dimensional perspective. The margins are horny with minute white teeth. The flowers are reddish and droop in a cluster from an unbranched spike. Propagation is chiefly done by removing the

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ALOE VARIEGATA  
'Partridge breast'



PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't) numerous subterranean offshoots, as well as shoots above the ground in the leaf axils. Plants are produced very readily from seed; but as in all Aloes, caution should be taken to make sure the seeds are obtained from a pure source because of the tendency to hybridize with neighbors.

Water thoroughly during the summer; keeping it quite dry in the winter. Although *A. variegata* comes from an area of poor soil, we have found it does quite well in a standard Aloe mix of 2 parts organic to one part sand with a dash of lime to keep the soil from getting too acidic. Most Aloes tolerate full sun, but unless you give them a little protection from the high noon variety, sun scald and tip burn will be prevalent. There are many species in this genus, and they offer a wide spectrum of shapes, colors and interest. As a matter of fact, this one genus could develop into a life's work. The good place to go for more detailed information about this exciting flock is in "Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar"- by Reynolds, or you might drop a line to Helen Crane - 305 W. Frontage Rd. San Ysidro, Calif. 92073, our local authority.

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## Chayotes

In the 1658 edition of Ecnav Nahuav's CULINARY DELIGHTS, published in Mexico by command of Emperor Maximilian: We read---

Chayotes are prepared in many ways for table consumption--there are three desirable ways of cooking that most people prefer:

The Italo-Franco manner is to place a chayote in a vessel and cover it with water and add a tablespoonful of oil; salad, olive, etc. One large clove of garlic and salt the water as it also adds to the heat rise of the water. Bring to a boil and cook for twenty minutes and then let the chayote remain soaking in the water until ready for serving. They can then be haved or quartered and buttered and eaten "con mucho gusto".

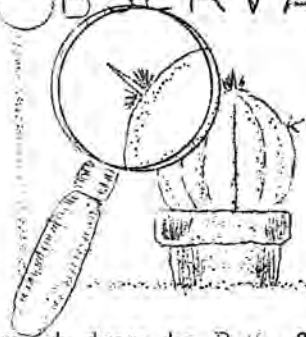
Los indios preferred to roast the chayotes over an open fire, slowly and then insert into the chayote slices of some meat such as bacon, ham, or bits of sausage and let the meat juices penetrate all the chayote. They, los indios, like the francos, ate all the chayote.

The last and least desirable way to cook them is to peel, slice mix with some other vegetable and add condiments, oils salts, spices, etc. To most gourmets this simply ruins the delicate, haunting taste of this ancient and rare table delight.

As for myself I prefer the pressure cooker--I wrap the vegetable in a bit of saran pressure cooker paper--place in cooker--raise temps to fifteen pounds when two cups of water have been added. Cook for ten minutes and then let cool and serve as desired. This makes the vegetable exceedingly tender-- I rather like to eat them when more solid. No Alkaselser needed...ummm. -- Harry Chin --

BUEN APETITO

# OBSERVATIONS OF CACTO PHIL CORLISS



PUERTA VALLARTA was a new experience for me this winter. My ten days there in early mid-December were hugely enjoyable. There is a fiesta day (religious holiday) December 12th with dancers performing in native costumes afternoon and evening. There were posadas (candlelight processions) nearly every evening to the cathedral. As everywhere in Mexico, the people are very friendly - even the stray dogs on the beach will give you the fleas off their backs. My hotel was fully booked until April. I know several people who

went down to P.V. from Mazatlan and could not find a place to stay - they had to go to Tepic for a bed and back to Mazatlan - which itself was almost completely full over the holidays.

I had over two weeks in Mazatlan over the holidays and the weather this year was perfect. A short motor boat ride from the city took me to an island hill that was chock full of cactus. I did not find any mammillaria mazatlensis, but lots of pachycerei, cyclocerei, selenicerei, and what seemed to be echinocerei.

In Tucson and Phoenix one sees many cactus gardens, but they are scarce in Mexico. Parents avoid them because the young population explosion bambinos which crowd every yard make frequent adventurous contacts with ospinas.

One reason I enjoy visiting in Mexico is my fondness for papaya, which I eat several times a day. I also like the Mexican bananas which sell in the market for one peso (8¢) per kilo (2.2 lbs). This figures up to ten medium-sized bananas for a peso - less than 1¢ each!

Guadalajara was nicer than ever, with the warmest winter weather I have yet experienced there. I made many new friends and attended Spanish language classes at the University of Guadalajara - welcomed without fees! I discovered the charming old 100-room Hotel Frances, adjacent to the Plaza de los Dos Fuentes (Plaza of the Two Fountains) between the Cathedral and the Teatro Delgado (Opera House). Here I had a big room with bath for \$2.80 a night. In the attractive hotel dining-room my huge American breakfast cost 80¢. The 5-course comida corrida ("Table d'hote lunch") was less than \$1.40. Excellently served, it featured huge shrimp cocktails, soup, salad, main course, such desserts as fresh strawberries with thick cream, and beverage. Less than \$5. a day total.

My favorite airline as of now is Aeronaves de Mexico, one reason being because they serve FREE drinks. I floated happily to Puerto Vallarta on six tequila cocktails and floated back from Guadalajara on five of the same - doubles, at that.

The Scotts kept my cactus garden in San Diego so happy during my perigrinations (wow, love that 50¢ word!) that I came home to find a wealth of bloom - much more than usual for January. Thirty-plus varieties of mams were flowering and I find it interesting to note that the species with white wool (such as plumosa, auriculanata, bombycina, etc.) had a much larger percent in bloom than those without wool. Most kinds of flowers will throw occasional out-of-season blooms, but the cactus were really showing off this winter. Besides the mams, there were blooms on such species as ancistrocactus, neoporteria, rebutia, and parodia!

But alas, San Diego is such an Earthly Paradise that the weeds and annual flowers were volunteering all over the place, and it is apparent I will have no time for mischief this spring. Anyone for dandelions, lambs' quarters, or F2 and F3 pyrethrum, gaillardia, petunia, or other lovelies?

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WANTED: Copies of Cactus y Suculentos, Volume One, Number Five (Dec., 1965) and Volume Two, Nos. One and Two (Jan. and Feb. 1966) to complete my collection. Will pay. Please contact Mike Buckner or call 469-1391...

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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PLANTS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY

Cactus ..... Mammillaria Zuccariniana  
Succulent..... Aloe, Open

MARCH

Cactus..... Schlumbergia Gaertneri  
Succulent..... Dudleya Attonuata

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