

# Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XI, No. 12.

December, 1976

DECEMBER MEETING DATE..... Sat., December 11th, 1976

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Cactus: The Christmas Cactus.  
 Succulent: Your favourite Succulent.

## PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

During the December meeting, an election of officers for 1977 will be held. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate: (Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.)

President	Warren Buckner
1st Vice-President	Tom Hamecher
2nd Vice-President	Gerald Dice
Secretary	Doris Rake
Corresponding Sec.	Betty Athy

Directors for three years:

Ricky Latimer  
 Joan Johnson

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WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM:  
THE JOHNSONS.

"Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way....." I hummed rather wistfully to myself that first Christmas in sunny Southern California. Inevitably my thoughts turned longingly to the beautiful snowy landscapes of far-away Ohio, which had helped so much, in the past, to inspire me with the spirit of Christmas! Even the precious family ornaments for the tree, which we had collected over the years, seemed to take on a somewhat tawdry appearance in the brilliant sunshine.

Since then I have learned to use more natural decorations for our Christmas trees, and we all enjoy stringing ropes of popcorn and cranberries and collecting pine cones to attach to the branches. My long-time collection of small bright red cardinals, which I perch here and there on the tree, always add a nice touch of colour, I feel. Nevertheless, I must admit that I do still hang a few of our more glittery treasures, towards the center of the tree. In this position, they gleam softly through the greenery in the daytime, but, towards evening, (in the reflection of the twinkling lights) they really come into their own! It is then that we draw the curtains, gather around a cheerful wood fire, and, imagining deep snow outside, enjoy our glittering Christmas tree, as we have so often done in the past.

The last, but by no means the least, of my very enjoyable decorating chores at Christmas-time, consists of preparing a "tree" for my special favourites, the birds. Actually, a tree is not at all necessary for these accommodating little fellows - any suitable twiggy branch of bush or tree will do just as well. Having "planted" my tree in a spot handy for both birds and bird-watchers, I proceed to drape more strings of popcorn and cranberries, hang lumps of suet, and attach seed balls (held together with melted fat) on my creation. I usually place a large red bow right on top of the birds' tree, but this is really more for the pleasure of the birdwatchers than for the birds, of course. And yet, perhaps the red bow does help to attract their attention because, very quickly, the birds are flying in from all directions and attacking their feast with vigorous and noisy gusto! It is always one of my special treats, on Christmas Day, to watch the birds enjoy their meal, before I retire indoors to our own festivities around the tree. These are followed by our feast - of Roast Turkey ( I say this softly, in case the birds are offended!), Mince Pie, and Plum Pudding!!

Just before I take my seat with the rest of the family, I prepare dinner for the dogs. Yes, certainly the dogs join us for dinner on Christmas Day. After all, dogs are people, and part of the family, aren't they? At last, just before we all "tuck in", the whole family joins me in singing a little ditty (with which the Cadets of Annapolis used to entertain us at Christmas-time, when we lived in Maryland). It goes something like this: "We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas.....", but I'm sure you all know the rest! Anyhow, a very, very Merry Christmas, and the brightest and happiest of all New Years to one and all - from:

THE JOHNSONS  
Now of: Escondido,  
Southern California.

MEMBER'S PLANT DISPLAY TABLE

Congratulations to Martin Mooney for the rarity, as well as the beauty, of his display of plants at the November meeting. As Shirley Berry so aptly put it: "I don't think many of us will ever see field collected plants so beautifully grown!". Thank you, Martin. It was indeed a privilege.

REGALEMENT TABLE

November's refreshment table more than came up to expectations, and how we all enjoyed the vast array of delicacies! Our heartiest thanks go to the following, who provided them:

Joan Johnson, James Dice, Iona Hubner,  
Marcelle Barfield, Alberta Widen, Angela Ledbetter,  
Marcia Hamecher, and last, but by no means least,  
JEAN HAPEMAN, who was in charge of it all.

Jean was somewhat hampered in her efforts, owing to the absence of her fellow organizer, Lita, who recently had an unfortunate accident to her arm. Members of the Club were quick to rally around, however, and everything went off smoothly, as usual. We were all sorry to hear about Lita's misfortune, and we do hope that she will be sufficiently recovered to join us at our December meeting and Christmas Party.

PLANT SALE BY MEMBER

Rose D'Attilio brought some of her beautiful plants to sell at the November meeting. Out of the proceeds of the sale, \$4.00 (50%) was donated to the Club. Thank you, Rose.

WELCOME BACK, EMILY PARKS!

What a pleasure it was to have Emily Parks at our November meeting. Her lively comments, in answer to Martin's little welcome-back speech, were particularly delightful, and should act as a pep talk to those of us who sometimes moan about "how to get by"!

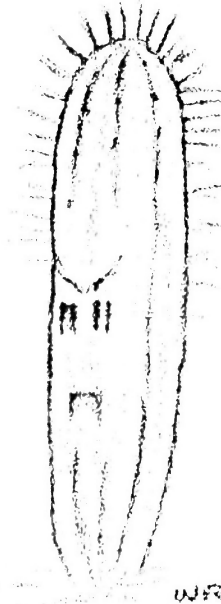
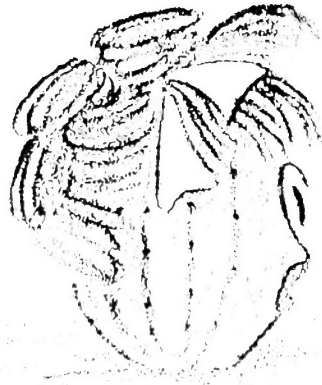
At 90 years young, Emily obviously enjoys life to the full. Please come again often, Emily, and, needless to say, we are all very much looking forward to meeting you again at our December meeting and Christmas Party!!

SCOTTY'S CHRISTMAS TREAT!

Thank you so much, Scotty, for our very special Christmas treat of two cartoons (no less!), and for passing on the information concerning everybody's favourite Christmas plant, the Poinsettia. I'm sure it puts all our minds at rest!!

My hairdresser says  
this is the latest  
garden bouffant,  
Do you like it  
Mr. Cephalo?

May I suggest  
you go back to  
glochids and  
spines.



CACTUS BOUFFANTUS

POINSETTIAS

ABOUT POINSETTIAS

Reproduced from:  
"Flower & Garden",  
October, 1976 issue.

POINSETTIAS ARE NOT POISONOUS!--The last few years, around Christmas time, rumors have circulated suggesting that poinsettias were poisonous. The Society of American Florists, in collaboration with Ohio State University, researched the question thoroughly to find out the truth. They have concluded that there is no factual foundation at all for such scare stories. In the most recent annual interval reported by the federal Poison Control Center, not a single person was hospitalized, and no one died, from ingesting poinsettia or any other plant sold by commercial florists around the nation.

NOTE FROM YE L. ED:

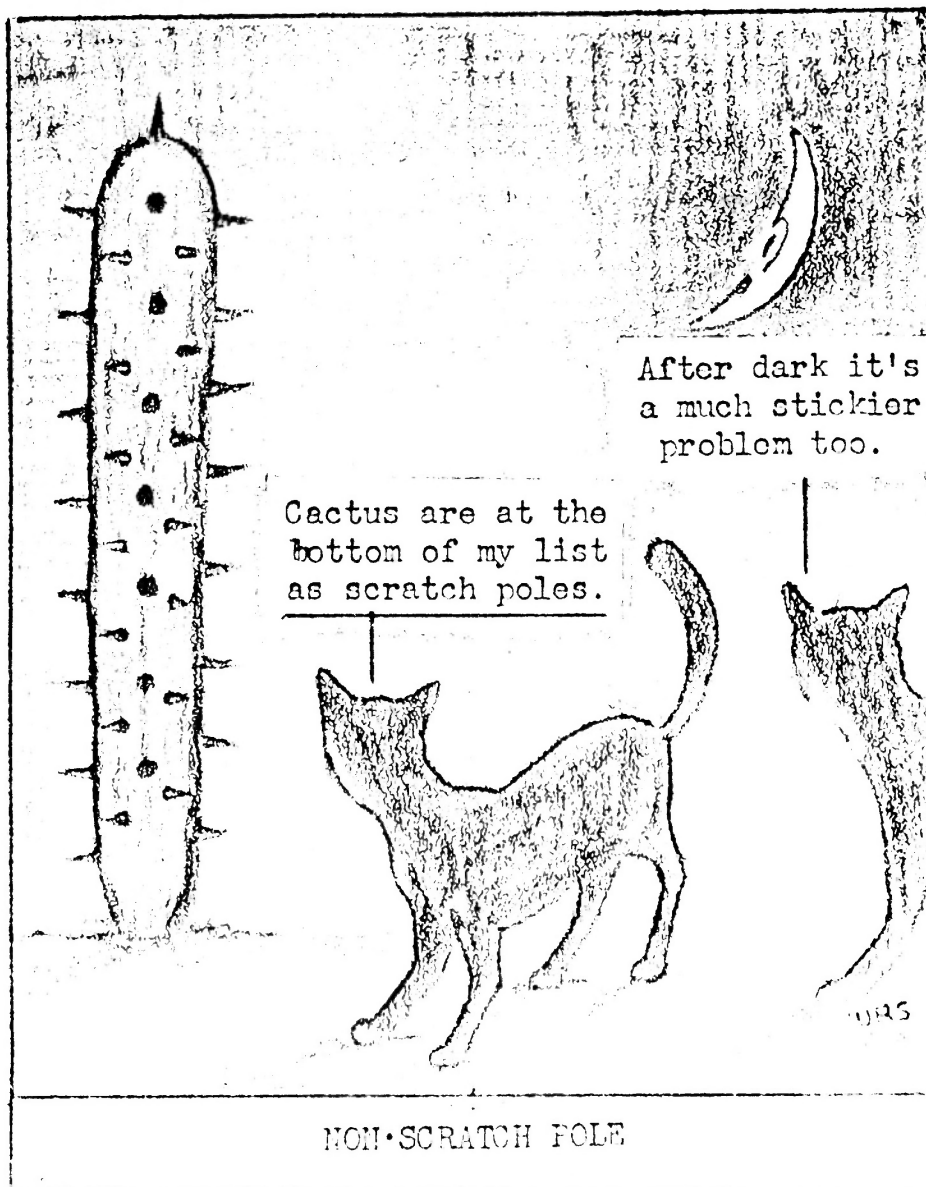
Here are a few pointers which members might find useful to keep Christmas plants of poinsettia in good condition:

Provide plenty of daylight, but not wilting sun.

Give plant a thorough watering when dry, shelter from draughts, and keep at low 60o temperature at night, and low 70o temperatures by day.

To keep the plant shapely, when bracts fade, cut back the stalks to three joints, reduce water, and do not fertilize until new shoots appear - in the Spring or Summer.

Pinch plants back for bushiness.



RE: PROPOSED REGULATIONS GOVERNING THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Our thanks to Mrs. Joan Johnson, a newly elected Board of Directors' member, who wrote the letter (reproduced herein) voicing her concern about the new law to protect endangered species of plants. Thank you, also, Shirley Berry, for typing and sending it on to me. The letter is published for your convenience to use itself, or as a model for one you might like to write if you agree with its contents.

Carbon copies were sent to the following:

Senator Philip A. Hart  
 Russell Office Bldg.,  
 Delaware & Constitution Aves.,  
 Washington, D.C. 20510.

Senator Alan Cranston,  
 452 Russell Senate Office  
 Bldg.,  
 Washington, D.C. 20510.

Congressman Robert Leggett  
 Rayburn Office Building,  
 Washington, D.C. 20515.

Congressman Clair Burgener  
 880 Front Street,  
 San Diego, Ca.

Mr. Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director  
Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior  
P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Greenwalt:

I am writing to you concerning the proposed rules to implement the law regulating and governing threatened and endangered species of plants, and on behalf of succulent plant hobbyists, especially, because we are interested in natural species of plants almost exclusively, not horticultural hybrids.

I cannot urge you too strongly to reconsider the regulations and prohibitions proposed for interstate trade and for the sale of cultivated plants (as opposed to field collected specimens), even of endangered species which have been imported into this country in the past and exist here in fairly large numbers in nurseries and private gardens and greenhouses. I agree that field collected plants should be prohibited from importation from countries of origin into the U.S., but I see no purpose in preventing interstate trade and sale of cultivated descendants of those same endangered plants. It will only work a great hardship on commercial nurserymen and propagators and hobbyists without saving a single wild plant from destruction.

Additionally, I deplore forbidding importation of seeds of endangered species. Collection of seeds in no way hurts plants, endangered or otherwise, and permission to collect and import seeds would enable hobbyists and nurserymen to continue the hobby which gives recreation to thousands. It would also permit propagation of new species for growing in safer places than threatened habitats.

Interference with the interstate trade of plants which do not occur in the U.S. makes no sense from the conservation point of view. Prohibition of the importation of seeds makes no sense either.

Please confine the prohibitions of the implementing regulations to prohibiting field collections and the importation of field collected specimens of endangered species only. All cacti for instance, are not endangered species, and many are considered weeds in their place of origin.

Please exempt from the provisions of the Convention and the implementing regulations in the U.S. all seeds and all cultivated plants (as opposed to field collected plants).



More than three years have passed since I first wrote about our hillside home, which perches high up in the foothills of the mountains, just outside Escondido. To this day, I am asked for up-dated information on our various 'happenings', and it occurred to me that some of our members might like to hear what has been going on during those three years.

Adventures we have certainly had - some good, some bad - but, I'm happy to say, our superb views remain as soul-satisfying as ever. A quite recent adventure was not a very happy one, however, and involved our two dogs: yes, we now have a small, nervous Cockapoo who is a "Buddy" (his name) to Jacquot, our Scottish terrior. One evening when we had all settled down to watch a favourite T.V. show, we suddenly heard a tremendous barking and scuffling just outside the window, where the dogs were tethered. At almost the same instant, our noses were offended by a particularly revolting stench - somewhat like burnt rubber! With one accord, we shot out of our chairs, and, upon investigation, discovered that the two dogs had, apparently, disturbed a wandering skunk, with dire results. The rest of that evening we spent in cleaning up the driveway and the dogs, and, with the help of a good dousing with tomato juice, we did get rid of most of the odour. And to think that we had recently decided that the celebrated skunk smell was vastly exaggerated...! There is obviously something of a skunk pest this year (hereabouts anyway), and we have smelt them all too frequently, but on previous occasions they must have been quite a distance away!

Apart from this pest of skunks, my enemies, the gophers, still pop up occasionally, and, only last week, they polished off two more of my favourite roses: a Pascali, and a Sterling Silver. How they get in through my raised beds, which are surrounded by a wall of solid, local rock, I'll never know, but they do. Thinking back, I remember how I used to cuss the dear little rock squirrels when they energetically chomped on my tasty young seedlings. Right now, they would be the least of my worries! I still see a few squirrels, it is true, stealing food from my bird-feeding areas, but most of them seem to have wandered farther afield. No doubt they have been chased away by the huge cats which come up from the valley below to hunt for food on the hillside.

As for the birds, I haven't had a visitation from the quail family for quite some time, although I can still hear them calling from some distance away. Our pair of red-tailed hawk, I'm happy to say, still nest in the tall eucalyptus tree above our house., and my flowers and feeders are visited by the friendly hummingbirds most of the year round. My particular favourite, the roadrunner, now only pays me occasional visits, but he does seem particularly fascinated by Geoff's steps up our little gully. Clacking his mandibles fiercely (in case we haven't noticed him, no doubt), he runs daintily up the steps, perches precariously on the rim of the bird-bath for a final drink, and then trots away over the hillside. Since our bird-bath is used mainly by a flock of dainty little goldfinches, with an occasional visit by the larger, very colourful, blue jays, I am always convinced that the poor bird-bath will collapse under the solid weight of the roadrunner, but, to date, he has always alighted and taken off without mishap!

Having dealt with most of the animal life on our property (with varying degrees of success), I will now get down to those most important dwellers on the hillside - THE PLANTS. For the normal garden flowers, it has not been a good year, although, with the present cooler, damper weather, they are now finally coming into their own. The oleanders, and the several areas of bourganvillia, did very well, but my roses (apart from the climbers and ramblers, for some reason) were not a success. Surprisingly enough, the young trees which we planted fairly recently have survived the long hot Summer remarkably well (with a little help from us, of course), and we are hopefully expecting great things from them during the coming rainy season, gophers permitting!

I must admit that our cactus and succulent areas remain a joy, especially those planted on the hillside behind and above the house. With little or no care, they continue to grow and flourish year by year. The agaves and the aloes seem particularly to enjoy their location, and enlarge at a surprising pace. This is our next project - to "de-pup" the larger ones, and to transfer the young plants to other areas, where they will have room to expand and grow by themselves.

As for my favourite vine (Senecio Angulatus), about which I wrote earlier this year, at the moment it is putting forth a brilliant display of sunny, yellow flowers, which tumble and cascade over our large rocky boulders. Already this wanderer has clambered half-way up the gully, and I hope to speed things up by planting a number of cuttings the rest of the way up. They will, I hope, get well started during the Winter season, and, with a little bit of luck, next year our display should be really spectacular! Since this vine will be flowering for quite some time yet - until Christmas, at least - it still has to be one of my very special favourites for large-scale landscaping.

I would like to mention here that I could write a book about the adventures of our entire valley during our recent yearly battles to keep from being annexed to Escondido! Suffice is to say that, for the past two years, we have struggled to preserve our present way of life, and have succeeded in our efforts. Fortunately, every farmer, horsebreeder and homeowner in our area is of the same opinion, and we found that LAFCO, respecting our united front apparently, went along with our wishes. Of course, we are anticipating more battles in the future, but we are fairly well organized now, and more than prepared to fight again for our homes and properties!

Long ago our particular valley was known to the Indians as "Ka-wa-lee", which, I understand, means: The Vale of All Spirit, and evidently a great deal of this "spirit" lives on in the inhabitants of the valley today. Long life to our little valley, and to all other small areas with similar ideas. Without their struggles for survival, we would soon lose all the beautiful countryside surrounding our towns, and that would indeed be a tragedy!!



## REPORT ON NOVEMBER PROGRAM

As expected, Lila Lillie's program: "Succulents in a Rock Garden" was greatly enjoyed by all.

I'm sure we all gained a multitude of ideas about how to show to advantage our own many and varied succulent plants, provided we are able to find the time and the patience to carry our projects through to anything approaching such perfection!

Lila's talk, and her beautiful slides, gave us all many hints on how to plan beautiful rock gardens, and no doubt, viewing the beauty of the completed areas, many of us will be inspired to attempt similar projects in our own gardens. Her living "Succulent Pictures" were just gorgeous, and some of our more ambitious members might be tempted to try these.

After the program (as an added treat) we were all privileged to examine, and purchase, some of Lila's plants. Such was the stampede that she was very quickly "Sold Out". My particular purchase was an Echevaria Leucotricha, which has now been added to my very own "specials".

Thank you Lila for an inspiring program!

## DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

We hope to make our December meeting a fun-time for all, so please do not bring along membership dues checks on this occasion. Rather, send them to:

Russel Evans (our Treasurer)  
3115 Nile  
San Diego, Ca. 92104.

Thank you.

### PLANT EXCHANGE TABLE

There will be no Plant Exchange Table at the December meeting.

### DRAWING FOR PLANTS

For the December meeting, the drawing for plants will be restricted to members only. Since we hope to see all our members present at the "party", there may be a big crush, so please be sure to bring along your membership cards! At the Christmas meeting, we ask members to confine their guests to immediate members of their families.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	-	Martin L. Mooney, 97 K St., Chula Vista, Ca. 92011	427-6796
1ST V.P.	-	Madelyn Lee, 2310 Bella Vista, Vista, Ca. 92083	1-727-1364
2ND V.P.	-	Reed Pierce, 3525 Wilshire Terrace, San Diego, Ca. 92104.	291-1994
SECRETARY	-	Doris F. Rake, 4410 38th St., San Diego, Ca. 92116	282-1722
TREASURER	-	Russel Evans, 3115 Nile, San Diego, Ca. 92104	284-5859
CORR.-SEC.	-	Jeanie Merrill, 9306 Mesa Vista, La Mesa, " 92041	469-6014
PAST PRES.	-	Loyal Bibbey, 490 Citrus Ave., Imperial Beach, Ca. 92032	423-5133

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One year term: H. Warren Buckner and August Pfeiffer.  
Two year term: John Pasek and Perlso Lewis.  
Three year term: Shirley Berry and Thomas Hamecher.

COMMITTEES FOR 1976.

ACTIVITIES	-	Perlso Lewis.
EDUCATION	-	Madelyn Lee, Succulents.
	-	Dr. George E. Radwin, Cacti.
EXHIBITS	-	
LIBRARY	-	Edith Werner, Pat Mooney, Helen Hegyi and Mike Johnson.
MEMBERSHIP	-	Russel Evans.
PLANTS & SUPPLIES	-	Reed Pierce.
PROGRAMS	-	Madelyn Lee.
PUBLICATION	-	Audrey and Geoff Johnson.
RECEPTION	-	Lucile Beckfield and Edith Billmyer.
REGALEMENT	-	Jean and Leta Hapeman.

Reps. to S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anders.  
Rep. to S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek.

MEMBERSHIP: The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents, and exotic plants.

Dues: \$5.00 annually, due in December of each year.  
Single copy of E y F: \$0.50.

Meetings: Second Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m., Room 101,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, unless otherwise indicated.  
Board convenes after the general meeting.

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE:  
DECEMBER 18TH.....PLEASE!!

Audrey Johnson  
1226 Citracado Pky.  
Escondido, CA 92025  
Address Correction Requested