

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

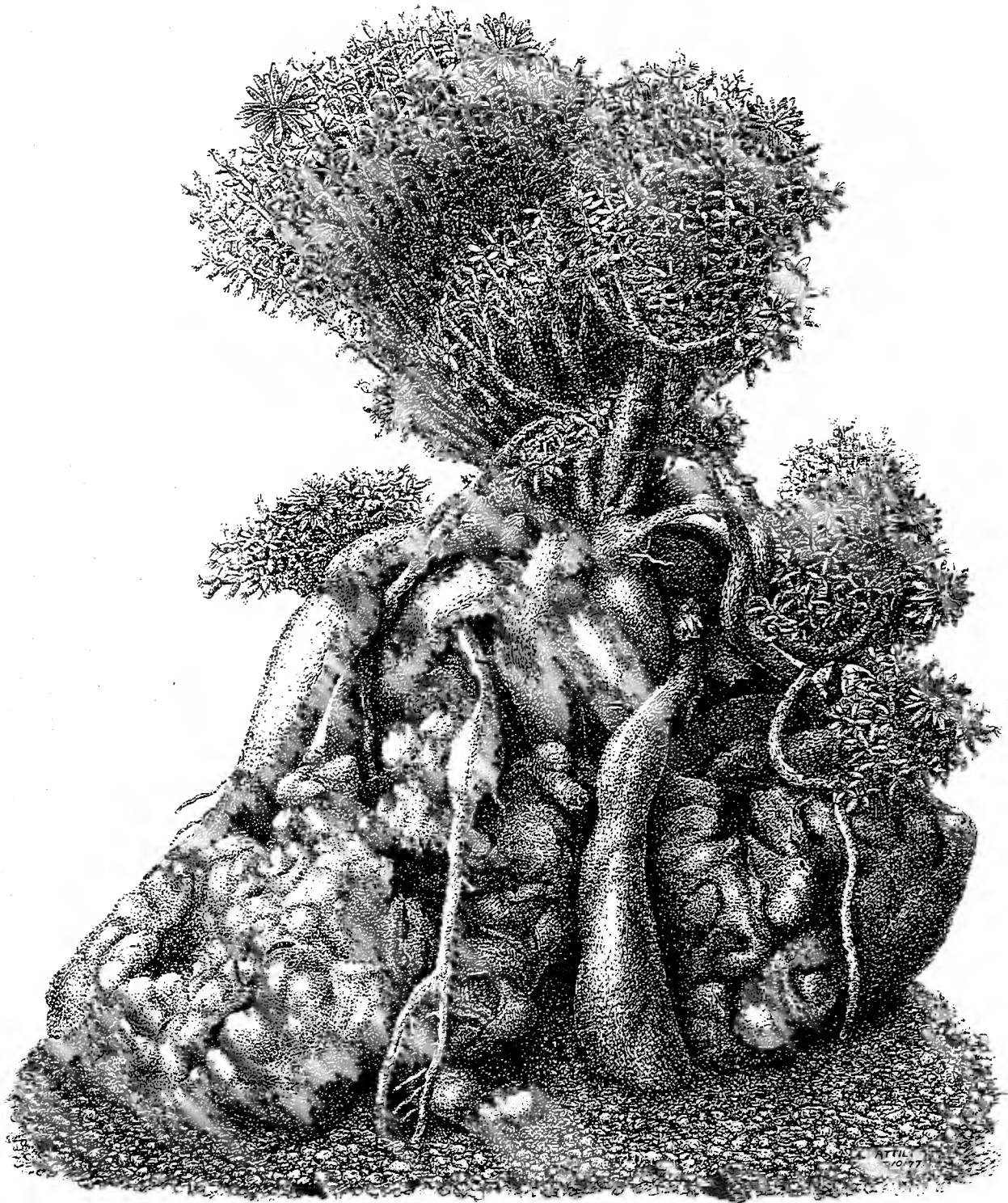
September Picnic Issue - Details Inside

ESPINAS Y FLORES

NEWSLETTER of the SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

A Non-Profit Public Benefit California Corporation

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER NINE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1997 @ NOON



This issue is dedicated to the Memory of Anthony d'Attilio 1909 - 1997

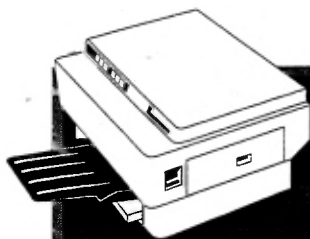
Anthony D'Attilio 1909 - 1997

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of a remarkable man, and a wonderful friend, **Tony D'Attilio**. Tony and his wife of 60 years, Rose (*who passed away in 1994*), were active members of our organization since 1975. His drawing of *Mammillaria thornberi* stills adorns each issue of *Espinas y Flores*. Tony worked as a curator for the Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park from 1969 through 1987. When Tony got interested in something, he went all the way. In the late '70's and '80's he owned nearly 2,000 exotic succulent plants. So far, we have found three covers of the CSSA Journal that he painted or drew: Nov-Dec 1976, Jul-Aug 1977, and Nov-Dec 1987. We know there are several others!

Writing these few paragraphs about Tony have been the hardest writing I have ever had to do for this newsletter — I keep coming across letters and artwork he sent us these past couple of years. We will both miss him very much.

About our cover: This wonderful rendering of a *Trichodiadema bulbosa* was drawn in 1977 by **Tony D'Attilio** from a staged specimen in the collection of **David Grigsby**. You probably recognize it, as it has graced the cover of "**Grigsby's Cactus Garden Wish Lists**" and appeared in many Grigsby advertisements for many years. The original artwork is in the private collection of **Madeline Lee**, who has graciously supplied us with a quality copy for publication in honor of the man and the artist, **Anthony D'Attilio**. Thank you! Madeline!!

Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent-of-the-Month articles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:



MICHAEL & JOYCE BUCKNER, EDITORS
4822 SANTA MONICA AVENUE, #103
SAN DIEGO, CA 92107
PHONE OR FAX: (619) 222-3216



PUBLICATION DEADLINE IS THE 20th of the prior month.

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Opinions stated in the articles and editorials of *Espinas y Flores* are solely the opinions of the authors or editors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of other SDC&SS members, the Board of Directors, or the organization in general. All materials submitted to *Espinas y Flores* for possible publication may be edited for form and content. All material in the *Espinas y Flores* may be reprinted by non-profit organizations (**unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material**) provided that proper credit is given to the SDC&SS *Espinas y Flores* and the author, and one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editors. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the editors is prohibited.

Dying while young is a boon in old age.

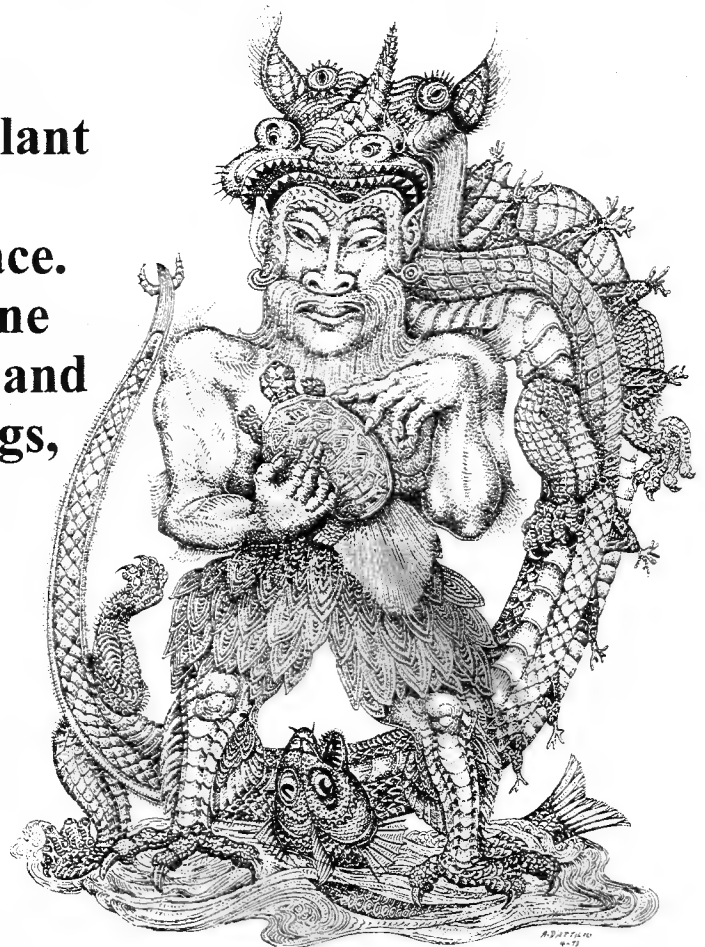
Jewish Proverb



Joyce Buckner and Tony D'Attilio at the SDC&SS Holiday Banquet 1996. In the background: his granddaughter Jennifer Trumbull and his daughter Sandra Booth. (Photo by Betsy Buckner)

"Every animal and every plant seems to know its destiny and its fate and have a place. But man, who is the only one who has a cerebral cortex and can think about those things, is the most confused of all possible creatures that could ever have been invented."

Anthony D'Attilio

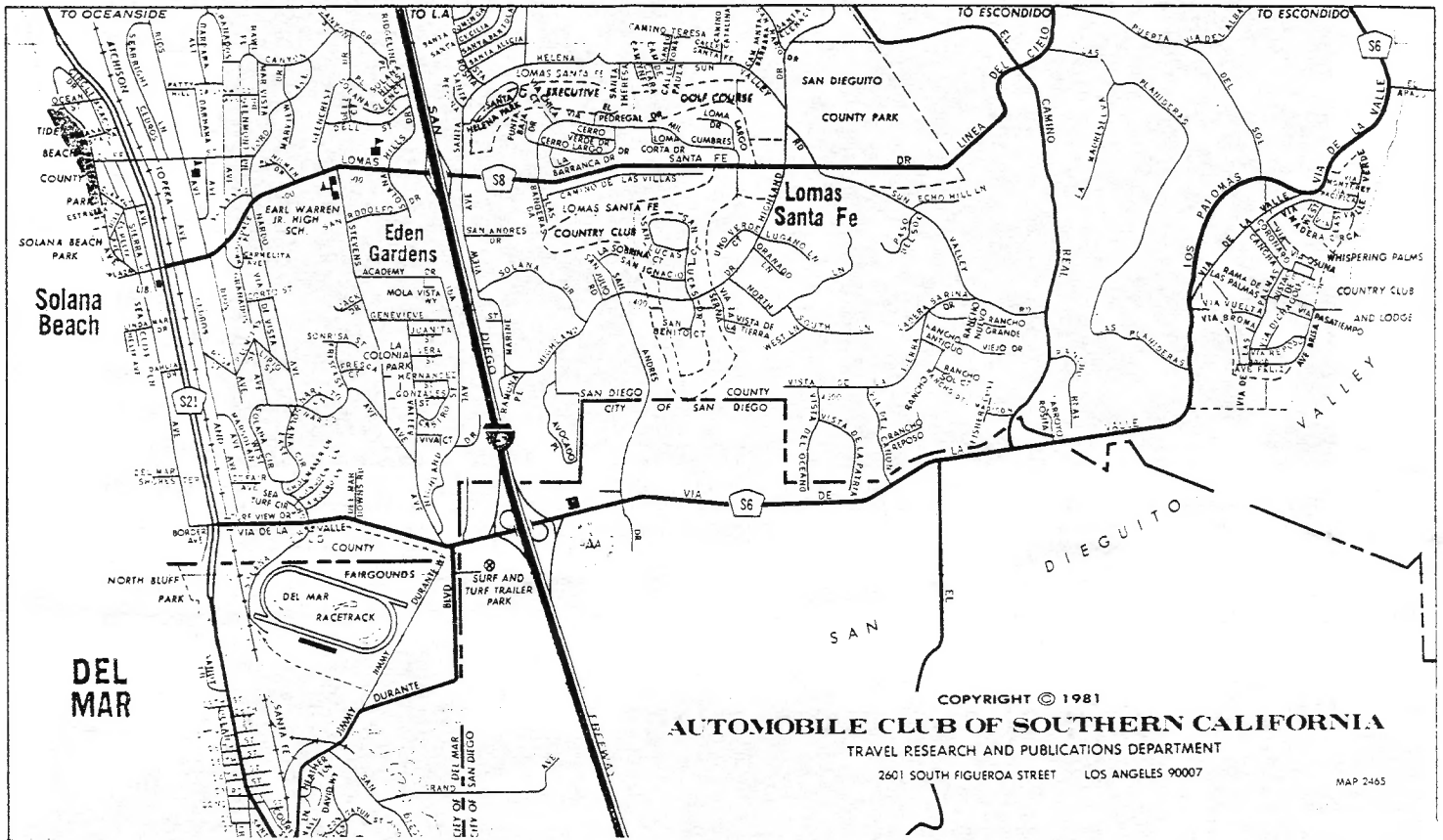


I never think of the future. It comes soon enough.

The SDC&SS Annual Picnic & Rare Plant Auction

**Come One!! Come All!! Visitor's Welcome!!!
Bring your Cousins, your Grandparents, your Children!!!
You may even bring well-behaved pets!!!**

Here's the map folks!!



Directions to SAN DIEGUITO PARK "LOWER SECTION":

**Take the Villa de la Valle (Solana Beach) exit off of Interstate 5.
Go East on Villa de la Valle for 1.5 miles to El Camino Real.
Turn left (North) on El Camino Real and go an additional 1.8 miles.
The park is located on the West side of the street (left hand side)
at the 15900 block of El Camino Real.**

SAN DIEGUITO PARK has ample parking, flat space for people, food, and plants (there will be no hills to climb!), shade trees, and restroom facilities. Tom & Laura DeMerritt will set up their shade tent in the middle of the park. There will be several signs posted to help you find your way!!

**PLEASE BRING SOMETHING YUMMY TO EAT AND TO SHARE!!!
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR FUN-TICKETS. LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!**

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PICNIC & PLANT AUCTION

When: Saturday, September 13th 11am
Where: San Diqueto Park
Solana Beach

**YUMMY! YUMMY!
IT'S TIME FOR
THE ANNUAL
SUMMER SHINDIG!**



Picnic

Our annual picnic and auction should be lots of FUN. Please bring a POTLUCK dish - one of your specialties - to share with the bunch. The dish you bring should feed 6 or more people. The club will be providing beverages, plates, napkin, utensils and a shade tent.



Some other items to consider bringing:

- SUNSCREEN
- CHAIRS
- BLANKET
- HAT



**FRIED CHICKEN!
THREE-BEAN SALAD!
POTATO SALAD!
PEACH COBBLER!**

The park is in a lovely location. There are no hills to climb and there is ample parking. We should be setting up somewhere in the middle of the park. Signs for the clubs spot will be posted once you are inside the park.

Plant Auction

BRING YOUR FRIS-BEE, AND GOODIES!

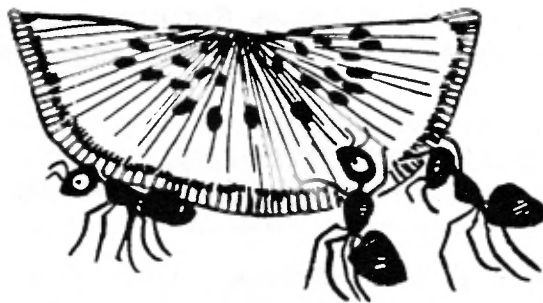
As always the club will be conducting a plant auction. The club would like to upgrade the quality of the auction and to do so WILL TRY SOMETHING NEW - have people donate auction quality plants - with 70% of proceeds going to the donor. Any person wishing to donate plants should contact the auction chairperson: Betty Athy 619-469-7647. Note: these plants need to be of auction quality. Also, the club will be accepting any quality plants for sole donation purposes.



COLESLAW

PASTA SALAD

BROWNIES!



SALSA & CHIPS

GUACAMOLE

MARGARITAS

BEER & WINE



**DELICIOUS FOOD,
& GOOD TIMES WITH GOOD FRIENDS.**

ON THE MEND: Sorry to hear that **Paul Hutchinson** has been in the hospital again. We wish him well.

◆ **Ted Nelson** has been under the weather lately with lung problems (*from his mining days*). We have missed seeing him at the meetings and certainly hope he is feeling well enough to join us for the picnic.

◆ We have also missed **Charles & Joanne Clark** at the past few meetings, and we understand from **Ethel Standish** that they both undergoing surgery to get brand new knees! We hope you are both doing much better and are looking forward to your return.

◆ Also we note the **Warren "Pops" Buckner** has been laid up for a couple of weeks with a real pain in the neck which developed immediately after hard day's worth of yard work and hedge trimming. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY WARREN!!** We hope you are feeling better!!

◆ Finally, we were sorry to hear that **Steven Hammer** had an appendicitis attack and operation in South Africa, cutting his latest trip short. We are all looking forward to **Steven "Mabel" Hammer's** arrival to San Diego County; he will be running a propagational greenhouse for **C&J Nursery**. Also we wish a warm welcome to Chris who is already working for **Carl & Jim**. Everyone is looking forward to their new introductions of rare mesembs, etc.

INTER-CITY SHOW A WHOPPING SUCCESS!!

☆ SDC&SS Members seen in attendance at the Inter-City Show: **Collette & Terry Parr, Mark Palandri, Michael Cullen, Rick Plant, Pam & Lee Badger, Dr. Leroy Phelps, Herb & Ana Stern.**

☆☆ SDC&SS Members caught judging at the Inter-City Show: **Edward Nolan PhD, Carl Volkers (*The PBS cameras started rolling with these two!!*) Jim Kampwirth, Joey Betzler, Madeline Lee, Dick Hulett, and Catherine McCammon.**

☆☆☆ And for something totally new and a real lot of FUN!!! This year the Inter-City Show featured "**The Alternative Awards**". Trophies consisted of a beautiful piece of framed artwork rendered by a fabulous illustrator, Michon Witters of CMW Design in West Sacramento — they were so exciting and imaginative that we decided to reprint the entire listing of Alternative Awards in this issue. These awards were the brainchild of **Carol Wujcik** — **HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAROL!!** and thanks for the terrific new addition to an already great show! SDC&SS Members caught judging the Alternative Awards: **Ron Burnight, Michael & Joyce Buckner.** We had a terrific time judging this, although it was a little nerve racking having PBS camera's following you around everywhere!!

☆☆☆☆ SDC&SS Members seen helping and/or showing at the Inter-City Show: **Monte Woodworth, Chuck Everson, Jerry Williams, Woody & Kathy Minnich** - Best Echinocereus - Best Astrophytum - Best Cereus - Best Cactus (open), **Rudy Lime** - Best Madagascar Plant/Not Euphorbia, **Carol & Joe Wujcik** - Best Gasteria, **Dick & Lupe Hulett, Michael & Joyce Buckner** - Alternative Award for Most Masculine Plant, **Marylyn Henderson, Alan & Fé Weiss, Betty Athy, Rene O'Connell** - Best Echeveria, **Ted & Marilyn Alford, Ellen Low, Jim & Roberta Hanna** - Best Aloe - Best Agave - Best Haworthia (*The Hanna's get our vote for the Helpers Extraordinaire! They are the first to come and the last to leave, everyday and every show!!*), **Michael & Catherine McCammon** - High Points (advance succulents), **Steven & Rowena Southwell** - Best Staged Plant - Best Succulent (open), **Ron Burnight** - Best Wit, **Camille Rutkowski, Lemm & Pat Higgs, Guy Wrinkle, Rosalie Gorchoff, Duke Benedom, Bridgette Williams and Madeline Lee (Grigsby)** - Best Pachypodium.

Looking for Landscaping Succulents? Melissa Hartley sent us a photo of a very large *X Euphorbia "Zig-Zag"* which she states, ". . . either needs to be trimmed way back or removed completely." The plant looks quite large and healthy, . . . and quite lovely, if you are as fond of thorns as we are, that is! If you are interested in all or part please leave a message for Melissa at work (619)453-4100 ext#1180 or at home (619) 282-6651.

Octopus Agave - Agave Vilmoriniana: SDC&SS Member **Lanny Roth** has had two of his *Agave vilmoriniana* specimens flower and set bulbils — at least 1,000 offsets!! He would like to share these with any interested members. The agave species is distinguished by its unarmed, large, gracefully arching and deeply guttered leaves resembling giant spiders, or octopuses, if you will. Lanny lives in El Cajon (*near Fletcher Hills*), and can be reached by leaving message at (619) 461-0461. Thanks! Lanny!!

Help Wanted: North County Coastal Nursery needs Salesperson, Propagator, and Landscaper knowledgeable regarding Cactus & Succulents. Please send inquiries /resume of work experience to:
CKN, 1534 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

September 8: Myron Kimnach "Plants of Madagascar" - San Diego Horticultural Society Meeting at 6:30pm - Del Mar Fairgrounds, Satellite Wagering Facility, Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. For more information: (760) 630-7307.

September 14: Southcoast Cactus & Succulent Society Speaker - Michael Buckner - The Good Ol' Days in Baja California - a slide show presentation on the people, plants, and profile of peninsular Baja. Meeting begins at 1:00pm at the Southcoast Botanical Gardens for more info contact Southcoast C&SS Vice-President Jim Hanna @ (562) 920-3046.

September 21: The San Diego Hoya Group Meeting @ Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Bookshop featuring a Mexican-American BBQ - Pot Luck and Succulent Bonsai Demonstration by Dr. Leroy Phelps. Visitors are welcome - please RSVP: **Chuck Everson or Jerry Williams @ (760) 758-4290**, if wish to eat (\$3.00 charge for non-members); BBQ and socializing starts at about 11:30am with Hoya meeting & presentation beginning around 1:30. The Rainbow Gardens Bookshop will be open all day. There will also be a plant raffle - not just Hoyas! And if you haven't visited the Rainbow Gardens Nursery lately, you are in for a very pleasant surprise, as it is looking better than ever!!

September 27: Huntington Succulent Symposium - This year's symposium will be held in conjunction with the IOS Convention on Friday, Sept 26 & Sunday, Sept 28th. More details in this issue.

September 28: Long Beach Cactus Club Auction - noon at Dominquez Adobe, 18127 S. Alameda Street, Compton, CA 90221. Please BYO sack lunch, club will provide coffee and sodas. Questions? Contact Dick Hulett (562) 832-2262.

October 18: Inter-City Post Show Meeting & Pot Luck - starts at noon. Everyone is welcome - this is where all those terrific ideas for next year's show get started!! Meeting will be held at the lovely home of **Jim & Roberta Hanna** in Long Beach. Please call (562) 920-3046 for further details.

October 22: San Diego Bromeliad Society Speaker - Paul Isley, author of the book, *Tillandsia*. Meeting begins at 7:30pm; Room 104, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park. Visitors Welcome. For more information about the San Diego Bromeliad Society please contact SDC&SS Member **Camille Horack @ (619) 469-9629**, she is also secretary for the SD Bromeliad Society.

November 1 - 2: San Gabriel Valley C&SS Winter Show & Sale @ L.A. Arboretum - 9am to 5pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to show those wonderful winter growing specimens, like dudleyas and pelargoniums which always look either ratty or dead during our June show!! Contact Jim Hanna @ (310) 920-3046 for more information.

November 19: San Diego Bromeliad Society Speaker - Lou Levinsohn, South African Naturalist - 7:30pm in Room 104, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park. Visitors Welcome!!

We have just received the latest volume of **HERBERTIA**, the publication of the International Bulb Society, and it is terrific! Membership to the IBS for one year is only \$30 — a real bargain nowadays! Write to: International Bulb Society, P.O. Box 92136, Pasadena, CA 91109-2136, U.S.A.

Q: How does a blonde's brain cell die? A: Alone, very alone! Well, with that in mind . . . rattle rattle . . . let me take this opportunity to print a **CORRECTION TO THE AUGUST 1997 ISSUE:**

Answers from our cover (Left to right; top to bottom): *Astrophytum asterius*, *Pelecyphora aselliformis*, *Ariocarpus (Neogo mesia) agavioides*, *Encephalocarpus strobiliformis*, *Obregonia denegrii*, *Epithelantha micromeris*, *Lophophora williamsii* (Peyote), *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, *Aztekium ritteri*, and the smallest of all cacti (bottom center) *Blossfeldia liliputana*.

The Vice-President's Message

While our president Tom Knapik is off spending a month of his school teacher's summer vacation exploring the special sights of Chile, I was asked to write his president's message. I would like to thank the following people:

- ☉ **Virginia Innis**, whose talk on Sedums was enjoyed by all. Virginia's presentation was a fine mix of humor and detailed insights into the genus that so many of us enjoy, in pots and in the ground.
- ☉ **Ed DeLollis** who gave his second talk of this year. His first was on Giant Cacti, so naturally the second should cover the smallest species of the *Cactaceae* Family.
- ☉ **Dennis Sharmahd**, who illustrated "Cactus Practicalities", as a source of nutrition as well as providing protective fencing. Dennis brought enough cactus fruit and juice for everyone to sample.

This month's "meeting" is our annual picnic and rare plant auction. Please come!! It will be FUN!!

Tom DeMerritt



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The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc. invites commercial advertising for publication in *Espinas y Flores*. In order to conform with Postal regulations regarding non-profit bulk mailing, all advertising must be related to the functions of this Society (*education about and the propagation of cacti & succulents*). This newsletter has a circulation of approximately 350. (290 copies are mailed to members and additionally, some 40 - 50 copies are mailed to educational institutions, botanical societies, cactus & succulent nurseries, and some CSSA board members.) Whenever possible, copies are made available to the general public should they attend a SDC&SS meeting, and extra copies of old issues are made available to interested parties at numerous botanical events and succulent shows throughout southern California.

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society encourages the propagation and culture of succulent plants and their conservation. In order to promote these goals, the society will not allow the sale of field collected plants at our general meetings, nor at the June sale; all advertisers are expected to follow this policy. Education is one of the society's most important goals. The SDC&SS has a very extensive and outstanding library. A majority of our members regularly invest in botanical books to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of this hobby.

The deadline for all submissions is the 20th of the month prior to issue. Ads should be camera-ready. We invite your inquiry for advertising rates, which are based on size and number of insertions. Please contact Michael Buckner at (619) 222-3216.



The Monthly Benefit Drawing

We had a dynamite table with over twenty plants for the August drawing. We hope you were one of the lucky participants. A truck load of **THANKS** to our generous donors:

**Betty Athy - *Frithia pulchra*, *Myrtillocactus geometrizan* Crest, and *Echeveria "Alta May"*;
**Shirley Berry - A Huge Quilted Cactus Wall Hanging; Bruce Edwards - *Aloe saponaria* hybrid
and a miniature *Agapanthus* species; Carol Jean Wolcott - *Acanthostachys strobilacea*.****

Many, many thanks to all of you splendid supporters. Let's do it again in October!! Please remember, you are always invited to participate. Your donations of plant material or any other cactus & succulent related items help keep the benefit drawing interesting and unique, as well as contribute to the general welfare of the club! Please call: **Betty Athy at (619) 469-7647 with your donation.**

Thanks - See you at the Picnic!! Kay Quijada

REMEMBER: IF YOU HAVE AN EXCITING "SHOW WORTHY" PLANT YOU WISH TO SELL AND/OR CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SEPTEMBER AUCTION & PICNIC—PLEASE CONTACT BETTY ATHY.

BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR AUGUST 1997:

JUDGED BY PHYLLIS FLECHSIG


SUCCULENT:	FIRST PLACE:	Lee Badger's <i>Pachycormis discolor</i>
	SECOND PLACE:	Don Patterson's <i>Aloe descoingsii</i>
	THIRD PLACE:	Carol Jean Wolcott's <i>Cissus tuberosa</i>
CACTUS:	FIRST PLACE:	Don Patterson's <i>Mammillaria schumannii</i>
	SECOND PLACE:	Joe Quijada's <i>Matucana madisoniorum</i>
	THIRD PLACE:	Ed DeLollis' <i>Rebutia muscula</i>

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**CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
AUGUST 9, 1997**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park by Tom DeMerritt, Vice President, in the absence of Tom Knapik.

ANNOUNCEMENTS The following announcements were made by Tom DeMerritt.

Field Trip The San Diego Bromeliad Society is sponsoring a trip to The Huntington on September 21. The cost for this all-day trip is \$30.00 per person. Fliers pertaining to this event are available on the Reception Table.

Inter-City Show The 12th Annual Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show will be held next week-end in Arcadia. Fliers outlining the details are available.

Picnic Our Annual Picnic will be on Saturday, September 13, and will take place at the San Dieguito County Park. Tom briefly described the park and advised that a map and detailed information pertaining to the location will be published in the September issue of Espinas y Flores. Those present were urged to participate in this annual event. Tom advised that members are being solicited to bring in any specimen plants that they would like to have auctioned off on a commission basis. The owner of the plant will receive 70% of the sale price and 30% will go to the Society. It was stressed that these plants must be of auction quality. Specific details will be published in the newsletter.

Nominating Committee Volunteers are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee to solicit Board members to be voted in at our November election. Laura DeMerritt will chair this committee and at least two volunteers are needed to assist her. Anyone interested should contact either Laura or Tom.

Anza-Borrego Donation The Anza-Borrego Foundation is sponsoring a special project which involves the purchase of land to be added to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Society has initiated a matching funds donation and members are urged to donate to this project through the Club so that all donations will be combined and we will receive credit as one group. Brochures on this project are available.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH / BRAG TABLE The Succulent of the Month, Sedums, was presented by Virginia Innis, and Ed DeLollis discussed small, tiny, diminutive cacti for the Cactus of the Month. The Bragging Table was conducted by Phyllis Flechsig.

Tom DeMerritt reminded the members of the Plant Exchange which takes place at the end of the meeting and introduced Michelle Heckathorn who chairs this function. He also reminded them to purchase their tickets for the Benefit Drawing, and thanked Kay Quijada for chairing this activity.

Joey Betzler called the names of members whose nametags had arrived and advised that a sign-up sheet is available to anyone who might want to order a nametag.

Following the refreshment break, tickets were called for the Benefit Drawing.

PROGRAM Tom DeMerritt introduced Dennis Sharmahd, an organic gardener who gave a brief slide presentation on edible cacti. Following the presentation Dennis discussed the fruits of various cactus plants, which he had on display, and had samples of some of the fruit for anyone interested in trying it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Beverly Kirkegaard, Recording Secretary

August 16, 1997

The Twelfth Annual Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show

Presents:

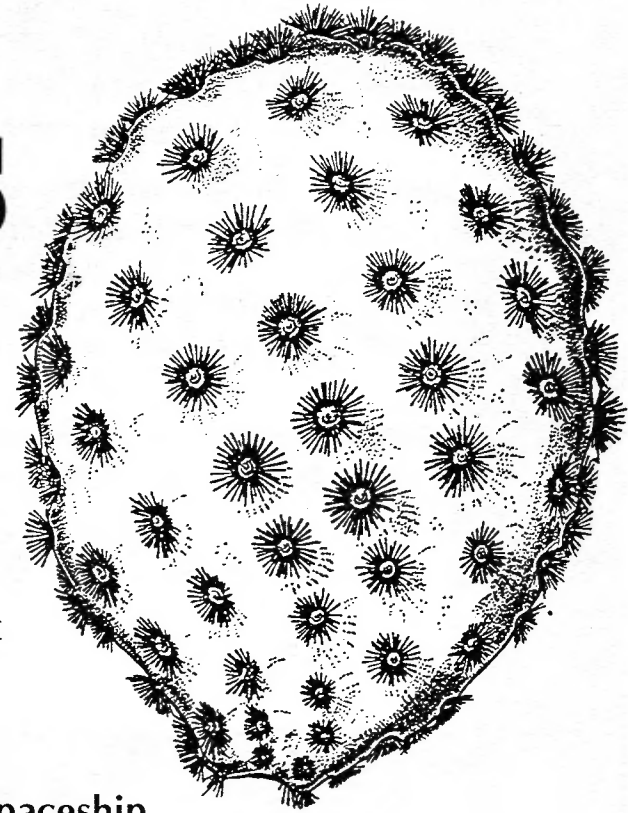
**THE ALTERNATIVE AWARDS
FOR
THE MOST OUTSTANDING
CACTUS/SUCCULENT PLANT OR FLOWER
BEST REPRESENTED
IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES**

- I. MEDEA BRONZE BUST AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST FEMININE C/S PLANT
- II. JASON GOLDEN FLEECE AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST MASCULINE C/S PLANT
- III. HERCULES HERNIA AWARD . . .**
FOR THE LARGEST GUT-BUSTER C/S PLANT
- IV. HADES GOING TO HELL IN A HANDBASKET AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST LETHAL (THE TERMINATOR) C/S PLANT
- V. MT. OLYMPUS TOWERING INFERNO AWARD . . .**
FOR THE TALLEST C/S PLANT
- VI. PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST DEAD-LOOKING C/S PLANT
- VII. TROJAN HORSE ROAD APPLE AWARD . . .**
FOR THE C/S PLANT BEST RESEMBLING COW PATTIES, ETC.
- VIII. GODS MUST BE CRAZY AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD U-F-O C/S PLANT
- IX. VENUS FLY TRAP AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND CAPTIVATING C/S FLOWER
- X. POSEIDON SINK A SHIP AWARD . . .**
FOR THE MOST C/S PLANTS ENTERED BY ONE PERSON

THE DAY OF THE GLOCHIDS

BY RONALD BURNIGHT

I have just discovered something so startling that it boggles my mind. Even as I write this my hand trembles. For a long time now I have been a student of the paranormal, so I consider myself somewhat of an expert in these matters. What I am referring to is the invasion of the earth by extraterrestrials.



By now everybody knows about the spaceship that landed at Roswell, New Mexico. And everyone has heard about how the Air Force hushed it up. By now it is almost common knowledge that that same Air Force has at least one of those extraterrestrials in a hanger at the infamous Area 51. Now I have figured out the nature of this beast!

In all the literature about invasions of the earth, the Martians . . . and that is what they are . . . have certain characteristics. Number one: they look like harmless denizens of the earth and, thus, take us unawares. Two: they are almost indestructible. Number three: they always have one distinguishing mark of habit that gives them away—by this mark mankind is able to spot them and thereby save itself.

The creature from Hell housed at Area 51 is none other than an *Opuntia*. It fits all the qualifications. Opuntias look like ordinary earthbound plants. Some even have beautiful flowers and have captured the hearts of many a catophile. Coming from the hostile deserts of Mars, the vile opuntias must have greeted the Mojavan and Sonoran deserts as the land of milk and honey; quickly they reproduced and totally infested them. With a premeditated ease they established colonies in the deserts of South Africa, Australia, and South America. . . . It is only a matter of time until they take over our whole civilization—surely you've heard of global warming.

DAY OF THE GLOCHIDS BY RON BURNIGHT CONTINUED . . .

The future of mankind is all too plain. The final *Putsch* will be horrible. The Army will fight back with weed killers. That will prove to be useless. Artillery shells will blow them into a thousand pieces, each piece rerooting into another monster. Humans will be surrounded and faced with dying the death of a thousand glochids, or, worse yet, death by *Tunicata* or *Bigelovii*. It is all too horrible to contemplate.

How can we be sure that opuntias are not the "harmless" flowers they seem to be? Remember that one identifying mark the invaders always have? Well, these invaders have two such marks. Opuntias have glochids in their areoles. No other cactus has glochids! And opuntia fruits have a strange conical depression which no scientist has ever found a purpose for. No other cactus has such a depression.

It is clear as the nose on your face. They are here!! They have already taken over the deserts. Awake, America, before it is too late!!! ARISE!!! THE END IS NEAR!!!

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GROWING PLANTS FOR YOU SINCE 1965

VISITORS

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - Tues., Weds., and Thurs.
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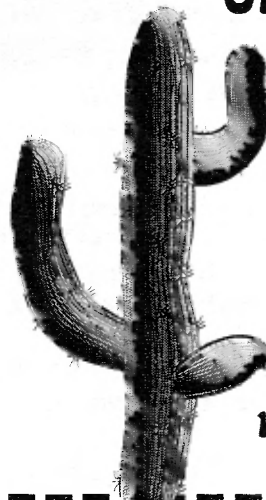
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QUEEN OF THE EPIES: *ETHYL HURST*

BY FRED KELLER

Recently, I have developed an interest in hybrid epiphyllums, and have been duly ordering them as they appeared from the price lists of Hurst Nursery in El Monte, California. Being of a somewhat cautious nature, I would study the lists for some time before ordering; they were not illustrated. Then having made my choices as best I could, I would place the final order by telephone. I had grown to look forward to this ritual of entertaining fantasies of the blossoms from the descriptions. Like a race track addict betting on certain jockeys as well as the "form", I began to concentrate on **Wressey Cocke** hybrids registered and introduced by Hurst Nursery. The proprietor, **Ethyl Hurst**, was always interesting to talk to during these order placing sessions and helped shape my final order.

As I was placing my 1996 order, I was sorry to learn that this was to be the last order, as she had suffered a bad fall in the nursery which was causing her much difficulty. She felt that as an octogenarian, "It was time to quit."

I did not receive a '97 listing, and assumed that she had followed through on her intentions. I was quite surprised to receive a call last week, from a fellow Santa Barbaran, **Frank Jordano**, who said, "You don't know me. I was just speaking with Ethyl Hurst, and she said that I should contact you. I haven't been to her place for about ten years, and I want to go. Would you like to come along?"

It was shortly decided that we would travel down in two days, if the nursery would be open. Frank followed through and made the arrangements, and we embarked on the 100 mile outing.

Ethyl Hurst proved to be even more fun to meet in person than she was in her telephone conversations. She is a veritable "bundle of energy", full of anecdotes and little stories explaining how she had come to select the various names for her introductions, as well as freely dispensing cultural tips. She still has many seedlings from **Wressey Cocke**, **Alice Buchanan**, **Fred Boutin**, **J. Carr** (*Australia*) and other hybridizers to register and introduce — may she have a long time to continue these efforts. We spent the final portion of our visit perusing photo albums picturing some of her recent offerings. Predictably, we both acquired far more than intended.

As I write this I am admiring a blossom of **Ber-Tee** (*Coolidge/Hurst 1964*) a very enduring introduction. I realize anew just how much pleasure she has brought to fellow hobbyists through her plant introductions, as well as through the fine people met through the hobby network.

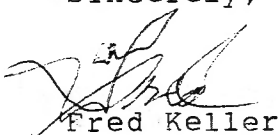
25 May 97

Dear Michael and Joyce:

Enclosed is a short piece for your consideration. As usual, feel free to make any changes that you feel may be needed -- if you can use it.

Michael's talk was great and what sterling composure when the slides became jumbled! It was nice seeing you both again.

Sincerely,


Fred Keller

Join us for exciting slide presentations on trends in the classification of succulents

Program:

- ◆ Edward F. Anderson, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona, *The Puzzle of Cactus Classification: Will All the Pieces Ever Fit?*
- ◆ Susan Carter Holmes, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England, *The Classification of the Euphorbieae in Africa*
- ◆ Beat E. Leuenberger, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Berlin, Germany, *Taxonomic Revisions of Pereskia (1986) and Maituemia (1997) - Are Taxonomic Monographs Out?*
- ◆ Robert S. Wallace, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, *Phylogeny, Systematics and Biogeography of the Cactaceae: New Insights from the Study of DNA Variation*
- ◆ Daniela Zappi, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England, *Biodiversity and Conservation of Cacti in Eastern Brazil*
- ◆ Panel Discussion with above speakers,
 - * Myron Kinnach, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
 - * Donald Pinkava, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona
- ◆ Roast honoring Seymour Linden Following dinner

Time:

Continental breakfast and registration begin at 8:30 A.M. Program from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. will include speaker presentations, silent auction, garden and conservatory tours, refreshments, and lunch. The optional evening dinner will begin at 6:00 P.M. on the Garden Terrace.

Location:

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7th IOS Inter-Congress**



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Saturday, 27 September 1997

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Other Events:

- ◆ Succulent plant sales
- ◆ Silent auction of rare and unusual plants
- ◆ Tours of the Desert Garden and Conservatory
- ◆ Friday evening dinner with IOS at the garden director's home
- ◆ Saturday evening dinner and roast of Seymour Linden

Registration:

Symposium	\$65.00
Friday dinner	\$15.00
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The deadline for registration is September 23rd. *We cannot guarantee meals for late registrants.*

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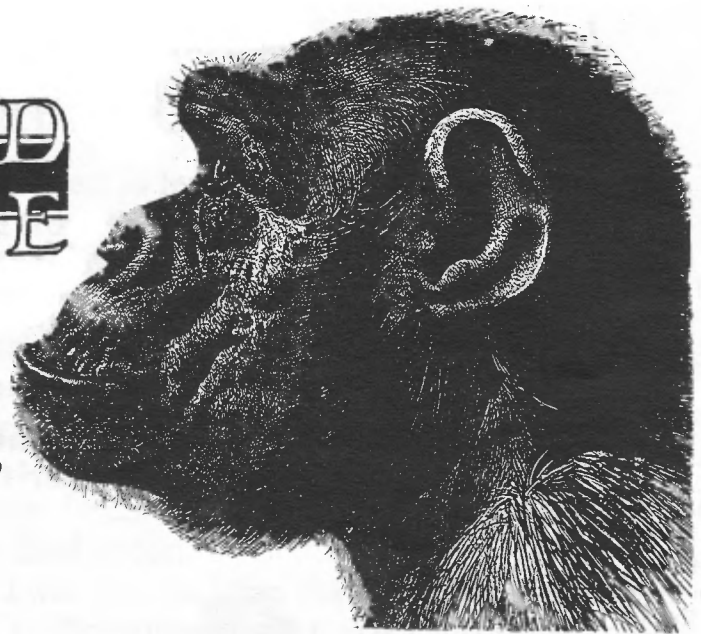
Total enclosed _____

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Michael Buckner

*Start every day off with a smile,
And get it over with.*

W.C. FIELDS



FROG FABLE: A Chicago doctor tells this story about fishing while visiting his daughter in Sedona: In Oak Creek, on an overcast day, I was fly-casting with little success. I had tried about every fly I had.

Then I noticed a little snake with a tiny frog in its mouth squiggling along the creek. I caught the snake, took the frog, attached it to a hook, and fastened that to my line to cast.

I felt guilty about robbing the snake, so I gave him a little nip of whiskey from a flask.

I had only just begun to cast the frog when I felt a tapping on my leg. I looked down and there was the snake offering me another frog.

— Robert Schmitz, MD (from *Arizona Highways* - Aug 1993 - Volume 69 - Number 8)

VOLUNTEER COOK: The men on the construction crew building the visitor facilities at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Ajo agreed to share housekeeping duties while working there.

I took the first turn as cook with the understanding that the first man to complain about the food became the next cook. Days passed with no complaint. Finally, in desperation, I cut up a bar of soap and put it into the boiled potatoes.

The first man to take a taste said, "Ugh, these potatoes taste like soap."

Then, realizing he was the first to complain about the food, he hastily added, "But that's just the way I like 'em."

— Evan Farley (*Arizona Highways* - Aug 1993)

A WRENCHING ORDEAL: While visiting with my parents in Tucson, my wife Linda, brushed against a cactus. The hundreds of tiny needles proved too much for tweezers, so I called the local "Ask a Nurse" number to find out if there were a better way to remove the cactus needles.

"Elmer's Glue," said the nurse. "Put it on, let it dry, and just peel it off"

So off to the store I went, driving fast, to buy Elmer's Glue. It wasn't long before a policeman pulled me over.

"I know I was speeding, officer, but I have to get a couple of tubes of Elmer's Glue right away so I can smear it over my wife's face and body."

The policeman looked me in the eye for five full seconds, looked up at the sky, then drove on without a word.

— Jeff Worley (*Arizona Highways* - Feb 1993 - Volume 69 - Number 2)

*Kathy Minnich loaned us a marvelous little book called **Live and Learn and Pass It On** written and compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville, TN, 1991. The book begins:*

On the morning of my fifty-first birthday, I thought it would be interesting to jot down a few things more than half a century of living had taught me.

I wrote, "I've learned that . . ." twenty times on the lefthand side of a piece of lined notebook paper and proceeded to complete the sentences. . . .

To broaden the age group, I enlisted the help of kindergarten kids, seventh and eighth graders, high school students, young married couples, and senior citizens. Eventually hundreds of people of all ages and backgrounds participated.

Here is a selection of our favorites and we have each added one of our own:

I've learned that the secret of growing old gracefully is never to lose your enthusiasm for meeting new people and seeing new places.
- Age 75

I've learned that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It could be the last time you see them. - Age 60

I've learned that things don't always turn out as planned, sometimes they turn out better.
- Age 44

I've learned that there's nothing you cannot teach yourself by reading.
- Age 78

I've learned that you learn most from people who are learning themselves.
- Age 62

I've learned that when I grow up, I'm going to be an artist. It's in my blood.
- Age 8

I've learned that if I don't try new things, I won't learn new things. - Age 38

I've learned that total pleasure is a good book, a soft couch, and a cat curled up beside you.
- Age 50

I've learned that a full life is not determined by how long you live, but by how well.
- Age 66

I've learned that whatever I love to do, I do well.
- Age 48

I've learned that it takes a lot more creativity to find out what's right than what's wrong.
- Age 38

I've learned that an insatiable curiosity is important to never feeling old.
- Age 71

I've learned that goldfish don't like Jell-O.
- Age 5

I've learned that no one makes potato salad as good as Mom's. - Age 51

I've learned that if you put a June Bug down a girl's dress, she goes crazy.
- Age 6

I've learned that you can always get more money, but you can never get more time.
- Age 65

I've learned that you form a committee to "study the matter" when you really don't want to do anything. - Age 43

I've learned that when someone gives you free tickets, don't complain about the show.
- Age 45

I've learned how to hold animals without killing them.
- Age 5

I've learned that all objects animate or inanimate are part of a living plasma, a flux of continuity and integrity.
- Age 50

I've learned that history is not what actually happened, but what people reported to have happened. - Age 60

I've learned that for a happy day, look for something bright and beautiful in nature. Listen for a beautiful sound, speak a kind word to some person, and do something nice for someone without their knowledge.
- Age 85

I've learned that the best and quickest way to appreciate other people is to try and do their job. - Age 51

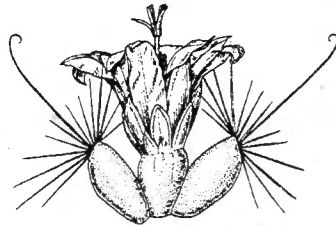
I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.
- Age 92

What have you learned? Please send us your thoughts!! Write it down and share it with us!! We would like to continue this column with all the stuff you have learned in the December issue!!

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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except June, Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$25.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Editors, (619) 222-3216 Fax or Phone.