

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

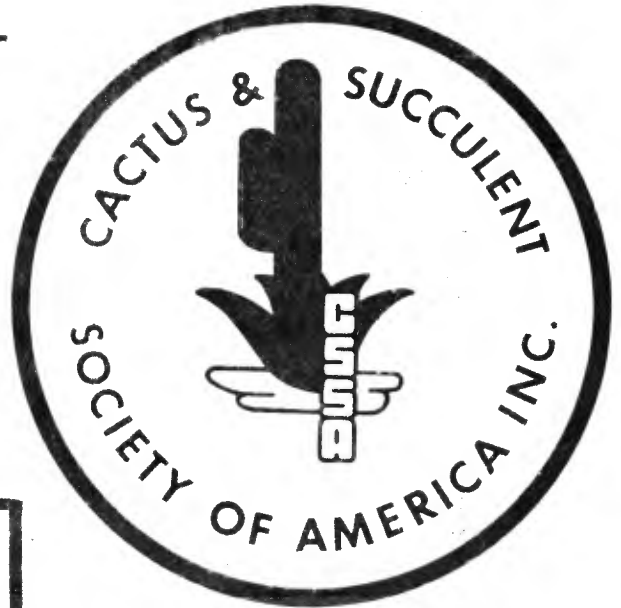
BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

1973 CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nevada
May 14th - 18th, 1973

**SPECIAL
REPORT**

See pages
CSSA 1-12



*A very Special
Invitation...*

Bien Venidos!

It's my special pleasure to invite you to be part of the Expo's great flower and garden show, because this is my 26th year as Don Diego, your host at the Expo.

Is there another flower show anywhere with 9,000 entries and 180 feature displays? Or another show that can match the magnificence and beauty of these exhibits?

I'll see you at the Expo.

Don Diego



June 22
- July 4

**SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
EXPOSITION
DEL MAR**



"FLORICULTURE"
Nibby Klinefelter
See pages 5 and 6.

WHY ALL THESE CONVENTION REPORTS?

As Geoff Hedgecock would say.

May we take this space to tell you about convention reports?

Succulent plant conventions are very interesting happenings as you know if you have ever attended one. Several members of the San Diego Club became aware of that and they reported the past two conventions---Pasadena and El Paso---in their Club Bulletin "Espinass y Flores". That's "spines and flowers" in Spanish in case you took your language courses for credit only or if you have never lived across from Baja.

The reports have been written for the entertainment and information of Club members who were unable to attend the conventions---and there were many---and to stimulate interest in succulent plant activities.

We believe a number of reporters can write a more interesting and well-rounded appraisal of a convention than can any one person. After all WHO can be present at every program and assimilate everything incorporated into every program? We have never met that particular Mr. Who.

You will note most of the reports have been volunteered (requested, pressured, sequestered, threatened or whatever) from many individuals from many places. See names and home towns accompanying reports. Some writers you may know, they may be from your town and members of your Club, or they may be residents of your state. Each has told his story as he has experienced it. No two people see any one thing exactly alike and all express themselves very differently.

Reports are not in the sequence of the published program. They appear in "Espinass y Flores" as they have become available. Some may arrive in the days and weeks to come, which, of course, is too late for the June deadline. But they will appear in the July bulletin, surely not in August.

Too, you must remember some of the programs were difficult to follow and to report for one reason or another. Let's be frank, they were given by experts and some of the material seemed to be in the area of the ceiling and it couldn't be gathered and recorded as fast as it was dished out. Anyway, who wants to lock horns with an expert?

We hope you enjoy what your cactophile compatriots have written about the convention and individuals and forgive them for what they have not written, and have forbearance for how they have expressed themselves and what they have said about others whether or not you agree with them.

Give us the giftie to see ourselves as others see us, as my Scottish forebears used to intone.

May we introduce our reporters? Please turn to the Salmon Section, page CSSA 1.

. . . Thank you, Walter R. Scott (Ye Ed) San Diego
June 1973

CAVEAT EMPTOR

Doc R V Vaughan



Caveat emptor*

Lately we are hearing and reading a great deal about the consumer and the many pitfalls he encounters when making purchases. Mostly these warnings are about his money losses and the many fake food packing cartons we encounter each time we enter stores.

Not so much is said about one of the biggest fakeries that we have had foisted upon us by the "drink pure water" salesman. All day we hear the slogans shouted at us thru radio or are shown bottles of "sparkling" water from deep wells that is "crystal" clear. "Only a dollar eighty cents for five gallons. You may have your water ionized, sterilized, purified, mineralized or flouridated. Have you ever watched the deliveryman remove a dusty bottle from his truck and carry it in his filthy hands to your cooler? Have you seen him remove the stopper and wipe the neck of the five gallon bottle with a filthy towel hanging out of his back pocket where his dirty hanky is also kept?

You may recall that when enzymes were introduced into our detergents I spoke and wrote of the danger that was prevalent to the human skin even though the clothing was well rinsed. I was muchly derided and a few months later the U. S. Department of Agriculture had all enzymes taken out of the detergents.

Recently I have devoted a lot of time to examining the water sales racket and have tested water purchased from dealers who use the advertising mediums and I have watched the delivery of the supposedly "safe and healthy" water. It is appalling that the local health authorities permit such potable material to be sold to the consuming public.

Some of this water comes from "springs". Such water is seepage from rains and water impounded farther up stream. Some of it is below cattle pens, graveyards, refuse dumps. The excrementa from stables and dairies will in time seek an outlet and we are then the recipients of this much touted sparkling artesian water so good for baby, the aged, the ill.

I wish to state to you that the tap or hydrant water is far healthier and much less expensive than some bottled water. Tap water can be heated on your stove. The chlorine which is added to make it safe to drink is quickly evaporated. If you bring to a boil a large kettle of water you can let it stand and when cold pour off the top four-fifths and have an almost pure distilled water. Why anyone would want distilled water for drinking is beyond me as many "heart attacks" come from drinking too much distilled water as the heart needs chlorine-potassium and the body needs many trace salts that you have to get from vitamins if you buy and drink distilled water. Save money and kick the slick salesman off your porch. If you must have bottled water, buy the small gallons or boil your can. Also there are attachments which you can place on your faucet that remove most of the salts. Boiling removes the bacillus coli communis that you find in most advertised waters. The human hands are at most times contaminated by thousands of deadly germs. If you could see what is on your bottle top after the handler places a bottle into a tank of stale water that has been in the cooler for months--you would go back to Mother Earth's Libation that has served us well these many generations.

If you want to eat germs, go to the nearest drug store and buy gramicin, aureomycin, penicillin. Get something that will not kill you. You may wonder "where did I get that cold?". Possibly off the dirty hands of the bottle water handler. *Caveat emptor, literally, let the purchaser beware, implying that the purchase is made at his own risk.

June '73

SPEAKING OF THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL (American)
 ANYONE LOOKING FOR BACK ISSUES ?? The following are available at this
 time on an exchange or sale basis. First come, first served!

- VOL. II Nos. 1-10 and 12, unbound
 - VOL. III entire Nos. 1-12 unbound, and VOL. III No. 7
 - VOL. VI Nos. 2, 4, 5-12 with issues 161-162 in No. 11 slightly damaged.
 - VOL. XX Nos. 1 and 3
 - VOL. XXV Nos. 1 to 6 complete
 - VOL. XXVI Nos. 1 to 6 complete
 - VOL. XXVII No. 6
 - VOL. XXXVI No. 2
- AND "Cacti & Succulent 1942 price list" R.W.Kelly

OR -- IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THEY ARE WANTED !!

- VOL. V Nos. 1 and 6
- VOL. VII No. 12
- VOL. VIII entire volume, Nos. 1-12.
- VOL. IX Nos. 1 to 6, and No. 8
- VOL. XII Nos. 4 and 5
- VOL. XIII No. 6
- VOL. XIV No. 2
- VOL. XV No. 11
- VOL. XX No. 12
- VOL. XXXI No. 5
- VOL. XXXII Nos. 1 and 2
- VOL. XXXIII No. 3
- VOL. XXXVI No. 1
- VOL. XXXVIII No. 6

In either of the above cases contact or write:

R. Mitchell Beauchamp
 321 Bedford Park Blvd., East
 Bronx, New York 10458

If you have other single issues or bound volumes for sale
 or trade send the information to the Editor, address on
 back. There is always a demand for some issues of the Journal.

WOODEN CONTAINERS--MAY CONTEST

Or should we say "wierd" wood?

Wooden you know, Nellie KENNETT scored both highest and most with her wierd wooden containers?

The wood containers contest was only a part of the open house for the public over the weekend. Total number of potted plants brought in for the show and the bringer-inners were:

- 83 Floyd GABLE
 - 37 Ilse/Nibby
 - 25 Nellie KENNETT
 - 24 Ye Ed
 - 22 Dr. Lee PHELPS
 - 14 Oliver K LOYLAND
 - 7 O. Ed MILLER
 - 7 William NELSON
 - 7 Ruth RICHARDSON
 - 7 Alice WELLS
 - 4 Perlso LEWIS
 - 3 Martin MOONEY
 - 2 Frances LANGER
 - 1 Ricky LATIMER
 - 1 Wilbur ROBERTSON
- (Total 244)

BOX SCORE

	1st	2nd	3rd
Nellie KENNETT	5	4	1
Ruth RICHARDSON	3	-	1
Perlso LEWIS	-	2	1
Alice WELLS	-	0	2
Richard LATIMER	-	1	-
Oliver K LOYLAND	-	1	-

Ione HUBNER was Chairman for the day. Visitors over the week end came in large numbers; many of them were most interested in the show plants, and some of them asked questions which stumped the experts.

FLORICULTURE

Robert G. Lamp, Superintendent

Cut-outs
rectly from
handbook of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EXPOSITION AT
DEL MAR
1973

Please read
and refer to
and REMEMBER

Exhibits in the Floriculture Department must have been grown by the exhibitor within the county, district or community represented by the exhibitor, except classes for arrangements. Florists and nurseries may exhibit plants, plant materials and flowers which they currently sell but do not necessarily grow.

Work parties
weekends of
June 2nd
9th
16th

Note: Only persons licensed to sell nursery stock may sell plant materials which have been incorporated in displays.

The management reserves the right to assign location of displays to achieve most artistic and harmonious effect for entire show, reject any exhibit for cause or remove any exhibit becoming unsightly. No part of any exhibit may be removed by the exhibitor during the show.

Exhibitors in feature display division must furnish their own superstructures and accessories, care to be taken not to obscure other displays.

In feature displays all basic construction and large plant material must be in five days prior to Exposition opening. Any exhibitor not conforming may be cancelled.

All feature displays must be complete new installation.

Dichondra must not exceed 40% of total sq. ft. in feature display.

Feature exhibitors must see that the exhibit has the proper division label posted thereon when exhibit is completed or it cannot be judged.

Feature Displays and Planting Divisions must be ready for judging at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 21.

Exhibitors shall not be permitted in the immediate vicinity of the judging area during judging.

Signs bearing name and address of feature exhibitor, not over 12" by 18", may be used after judging.

Trophies will be awarded at 11 a.m. on July 4 in Feature Division for best maintained and overall beauty of display in Cactus, Cut Flowers, Florist, Garden Club, Hanging Baskets, Nurserymen, and individual exhibits; also one each to the Rose and Cut Flower host or hostess.

Exhibits must be open for inspection by the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

LABELING: COMMON NAMES PREFERABLE TO BOTANICAL NAMES FOR PUBLIC INTEREST.

- INFO re EXPO -

June 1973

We'll need people and plants
and people to haul plants in
wagons & trucks - people to
register & groom plants -

FAIR DATES June 22 to
July 4th

SCORE CARD for C&S	
Design	30%
Perfection of Workmanship ...	20%
Quality	20%
Rarity and Variety	20%
Correct & Suitable Labeling..	5%
Lighting	5%

DIVISION 104-CACTUS GARDEN

Class

654 Cacti plants to predominate. Authentic props and accessories permitted. Approximately 400 sq. ft.
Entry Fee: \$12.50

1st-\$250.00

2nd-\$225.00



DIVISION 105-COLLECTORS DISPLAY

Class

655 Grafts (20% cactus, aloe or succulent plant material for background may be used if desired). Minimum of 15 specimens. Variation of variety desirable. Props and accessories permitted. Approximately 200 sq. ft.
Entry Fee: \$7.50



1st-\$150.00

2nd-\$125.00

DIVISION 123-SUCCULENT GARDEN

Class

674 Succulent plants, authentic props and accessories permitted. Approximately 400 sq. ft. Score Card B. Entry Fee: \$12.50

1st-\$250.00

2nd-\$225.00

EXHIBIT CHAIRMEN

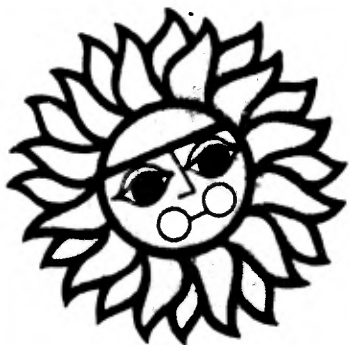
CACTUS	<u>Bob Myers, Jim Stalsonburg</u>
SUCCULENTS	<u>Ione Hubner</u>
GRAFTS	<u>Lee Phelps, Loyal Joe Bibbey</u>

HEY - it's time to
get busy working
toward the Fair!

COME each and ALL
for there will be
work and FUN to share!

I'm available at 233-2541
days - 276-6517 evenings.
For further information, that is.
Nibby Klinefelter
June 1973

General Chairman —
6



NIBBY'S NOTEBOOK

THE SAN DIEGO UNION

More Garden Shows

Sunday, May 6, 1973

I'm pretty sure Mrs. Bill called Bill Nelson in from his cactus and succulents when I talked to him on the phone. I've driven my car and flourish a cane now (disdaining the walker except when tying plastic buckets on it and picking my roses) but I still don't get around at will.

Nelson is in his second term as president of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. It was organized in 1961 and he's belonged to it for 10 years — a little subtraction and you find he was nearly a charter member.

This society has a mailing list of 200 for its great and prickly booklet called Espinas Y Flores. Fans in Germany, Japan, Czechoslovakia and other countries send in

their dues in order to get the pamphlet and trade seeds with San Diego members.

Nelson has a "small" collection of 500 or 600 cactus, succulents and epiphyllums. But he tells about Floyd Gable of Santee who has 1,000 or so of rare ones, mostly cactus.

There's also Dr. Philip Corliss who's a collector and grows from seed sent him from different countries.

Our Cactus and Succulent Society has an admirable idea in a portable library which is rolled in from the S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. for meetings. It holds 200 books and members can check out books at the meetings which are on the first Saturday of the month in Casa Del Prado.

By ADA PERRY



San Diego. May 5 and 6. Show by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society. Place: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Hours: 1:30 to 5 P.M. Saturday; 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sunday. Free.

San Diego. May 5 and 6. San Diego Epiphyllum Society show. Place: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Hours: 1:30 to 5 P.M. Saturday; 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sunday. Free.

Sunset

Sunset

75TH
YEAR

MAY 1973

Who put the NOTICE IN SUNSET? The Keeper-of-the-Calendar for Floral Association and Botanical Foundation garden events. She turns the notices in routinely the first of the year as requested by The City, and then as a gracious gesture, sends these notices to SUNSET. As any-

one who has ever been frustrated doing publicity for a club knows, the copy your turn in is not always the copy that comes out. It must have been so in this instance...

TALK ABOUT BEING CAUGHT WITH YOUR PLANTS DOWN! Wow -- were we ever! During the program people from Los Angeles and elsewhere were asking to come in to see our "show"... we had so few entries and bless you all who did ... I'm one who did not, thinking as others must have, "Oh, I'm so BUSY"... and perhaps as Ed Miller complained, "Parking-is-a-problem and we have-so-far-to walk and you-can't-always-get-a-spot-in-the-loading-zone-or-a-wagon-if-you-do." OK. There are difficulties always - but all the same those who came Sunday and brought a tableful of plants were glad they did. Ed overcame all obstacles Sunday that he couldn't Saturday...the Scotts were there with choice specimens... so was Lee Phelps with his outstanding bonsai-type succulents...the Loylands and Rickey and the Nelsons and a number of others... Floyd was there Saturday with two tables of the choicest plants under the sun, and thanks be to him that he was...Wilson Wells made an impassioned plea for people to come ^{back} and more did than I can remember, bringing plants... With the Epi Society's gorgeous blaze of color for a background, our mutual Open House fared very well indeed... We understand the President of the Epiphyllum

Society - George French - referred Ada Perry to the Nelsons which was a natural thing to do...Our President was President of the Epi group last year...

In the May EyF the Editor stated: "All plants in competition should be at Casa del Prado not later than 10:30 SATURDAY for judging at 11:00 a.m. OTHER PLANTS may be brought in even on Sunday, but the earlier the better." *This double feature - Saturday's "Competition" and Sunday's Open House - became an annual event several years ago when the City asked us to have an open house the first Sunday in May and we had planned the Competition for our regular Saturday meeting. Perhaps next year we can have a separate bulletin for the benefit of new members in particular who don't know "what we have ALWAYS done". Points out the real necessity for a Handbook as C. J. (Carol Jean?) Wolcott suggested, explaining the customs of the Society.

*Seems plain enough.

SUCCULENTS are many-splendoured things when grown in Helen Hegyi's garden in Escondido...she shared the results of years of collecting via color slides at the May meeting, along with tips on double potting, and making the mostes' of the leastes' where space is a factor as it was in her earlier garden; now she's making the mostes' of a lot more.

Helen joined back in 1966 after reading an early "Bulletin" loaned by Dr. Peterson, a member at that time, and attending a meeting. She also belongs to Palomar C&S. Helen moved here from Baltimore; she wrote she was a secretary "way 'way'way back" but it couldn't have been THAT long ago for she looks younger every year. Lending a helping hand to many of our activities, at present she's helping with the library. Direct quote from her questionnaire: "I've said this before...the programs are so rich...so plentiful...I fear you will run out of material. How can you keep up this bountiful pace?" ANSWER: It's easy -- with people like Helen Hegyi.

Joan Somers helped register plants for Ione, and I learned that Joan is Leta Hapeman's daughter and Jean Hapeman's niece...Joan would like a questionnaire (I hope)...unless she received one when joining in April...Another new member, Ann Boyd of Coronado, came with Suzanne Gillie (who rejoined) and we welcome Ann warmly -- The 18" pottery container planed with c&s 3½ years ago that she entered in the recent Coronado Floral Ass'n Flower Show, won Best in C&S, Best in Horticultural Division, and MOST OUTSTANDING EXHIBIT IN THE WHOLE SHOW!! She also had the best table arrangement in the artistic division! Congratulations to Ann Boyd who "brought home four pieces of silver" - (silver trophies are awarded in addition to ribbons)...Jack Schlotte also won a number of ribbons.

The three year old San Diego Epiphyllum Society was formed in answer to a feverish interest in these "jungle cactus" or "orchid cactus" as the public sometimes calls them. Picture shade cactus with day time flowers the size of our "night blooming cactus" but in glorious colors. Nature lovers say rainbow colors but city folks say neon.

There will be eight tables covered with the flowers and 10 hanging basket "trees," said George French, '73 president of the society. Most of the "Epi's" will be named and registered, about 90% you-all who care about these facts.

Mr. French does grow orchids as well as epiphyllums but I doubt he gets them mixed up. He had the perspicacity to grow the true vanilla orchid we wrote up several years ago. But in a glass house.

For the epiphyllums he has a growing lath house and uses some 73 per cent saran screen cloth too. He lets them rest a little after blooming, then feeds them for growing July till fall. In November they start a winter rest and then he feeds again when he notices buds starting.

Uses a low nitrogen fish emulsion for feeding and plants in a blend of planting mix or oak leaf mold and redwood compost plus a little hoof and horn. Waters about once a week when rains don't supply. Says the rains this winter really put on the blooms and they will be very showy.

The epiphyllums may belong to the cactus family but he emphasizes they are not a dry-growing group of plants and they also need shade.

By collecting early, medium and late blooming plants, the bloom season may be extended from the 15th of April to June 15th he says.

The 65-member Epiphyllum Society of San Diego is a happy group with good programs and speakers from the larger Los Angeles group of fans now and then. Meets the second Wednesday of the month in Casa Del Prado.

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Jr
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directi
ans
for
Epi's

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR - N

The bees and the bats that participate in the springtime rites of fertility, the rodents feeding upon seeds, are guests at the vernal feast. The real engineers in carrying out the inexorable design for communal existence, the saguaro's subdividers, are the Gila woodpecker and its cousin, the gilded flicker.

Both birds carve out nesting holes high up the green trunk. How they do it has been described by Oscar H. Soule: "The actual construction is carried out by both males and females. The bird holds itself on the lip of the hole . . . leans into the hole and drums the saguaro flesh with its beak. . . . it either grasps a loose piece of tissue with its beak or the piece sticks to the beak due to the plant fluids; the bird then brings it to the mouth of the hole. If the chunk is large . . . it will be flicked over the shoulder."

A way has been opened for a fantastic chain of organisms. Once the young woodpeckers or flickers hatch, and the hole has been abandoned, a succession of other birds begins. Day-sleeping elf owls move into vacant cavities. Ash-throated and Arizona crested flycatchers nest in them, as do Lucy's warblers, purple martins and an occasional cactus wren, among others.

If the belief of some ornithologists that hole-nesting is an evolutionary advancement for birds is correct, the woodpeckers and flickers have served to promote other species. The eggs

Such refuges, then, should attract not only birds but also a vast array of insects, and they do. During the warm months, the holes literally hum. Katydid and desert grasshoppers drop in to elude the searing heat. Plant-eating beetles co-exist with other beetles that consume animal remnants. Gnats, bedbugs, moths and wasps abound, but the most common insect is the wingless, primitive springtail, so named because of wire-like abdominal appendages that allow it to leap long distances.

One thing Krizman and Soule found was that the holes seldom damaged the plant. Sometimes, though rarely, breaks in the saguaro skin permit the entry of a bacterium.

Specialists first isolated this intruder in the early 1940's. A few years later, the University's Dr. Alice Boyle singled out a pyralid moth as perhaps its busiest carrier.

Although the tan, brown-marked moth has a life expectancy of a scant three days — or rather three nights, for like most moths it is nocturnal — it deposits eggs on the cactus. Other insects, as well, including fruit flies, transport the bacterium. Soil harbors it. The dust blows it. And the wake of death left behind stands starkly obvious even to casual observers.

The consensus appears to be that the bacterium is a serious enough pathogen though less responsible for the declining forests than is, say, climatic change.

On two points everyone agrees. The bacterium is widespread. Too, it is most likely to fell an individual that has been weakened by extremes in temperature (chiefly cold), vandalized, beset by animals or otherwise stressed. But most saguaros, fortunately, are sufficiently vigorous to withstand shock more often than not.

Ordinarily, the onset of injury unleashes an innate chemical defense which enables a saguaro to repel infection by the bacterium. One of the strategic defenders — conceivably the front-line force — was found by Dr. Roger Lee Caldwell to be an adrenalin-like compound called dopamine.

Upon attack, a metabolic alarm of some kind rapidly steps up the level of this compound, normally in the cortex, that major fleshy part of the plant outside the inner circle of wooden ribs.

Dopamine rushes outward to surround the site of the stress, and there it seems to signal the build-up of a thick callus layer of cork that serves to seal off the cactus from further harm. The principle is not dissimilar to that of scar tissue, or to the "boots" fitted into worn tires.

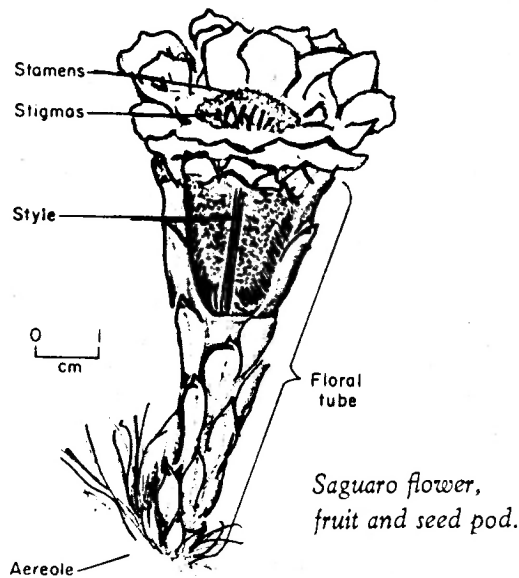
Upon exposure, dopamine darkens. Melanin, the same substance that puts the dark pigment in skin, also forms around the wound, and the armor of cork tends to turn almost jet in hue.

So durable are the calluses that sometimes they may be found nearby on the ground long after the saguaro itself has succumbed to longevity. Cowboys nicknamed the relics "Apache moccasins."

Not all the elements in the massive resistance are understood yet. Dr. Cornelius Steelink hopes to unravel more of the transformations that take place in the sugar-making processes of a damaged saguaro. But he, Caldwell and other chemists were able to learn much about the composition of the protective calluses by breaking them down in a blender and then analyzing the extracts by various laboratory techniques. One ingredient turned out to be lignin, one of the chemicals that make wood hard. This was curious because there is lignin in the tall, thin ribs but none, nearer to the skin

(-9-) where injury occurs, in the cortex.

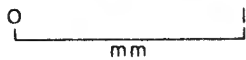
June '73



generally rest on the bare floor of the excavation, which may be about seven inches deep. Of all the birds that breed there, only house finches and starlings carry in twigs and grass to make nests. In so doing they lessen the advantages the holes offer as habitat, including concealment.

Very little has been known about these advantages, for until lately not much note had been paid the recondite micro-world of the saguaro tree-hole; then Soule and Richard D. Krizman, graduate students of Lowe, looked into them. They brought forth some intriguing information.

Temperatures within the chambers, virtually capsulated as they are in envelopes of tissue made up mainly of water, are milder and vary less than those of the outside air. When the temperature of the surrounding air reaches its highest, the holes remain comparatively cool. As the ambient air cools after dusk, the saguaro body holds some heat. And at a time when shade on the desert is most precious, at midday during the summer, almost none of the solar rays reach the lowest depths of the holes.



Saguaro Fruit Fly
Drosophila nigrospiracula

When all of these built-in protections somehow fail a doomed Goliath, though, the bacterial symptom, the harbinger of finality, becomes unmistakable. A thick, oily sludge seeps from the wound, yellow at first, then becoming black.

The ebony flow, because *Drosophila* or so-called fruit (or vinegar) flies breed in it, captivates other scientists who are little concerned with whether the bacterium initiates the demise of *Carnegia gigantea*.

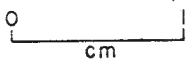
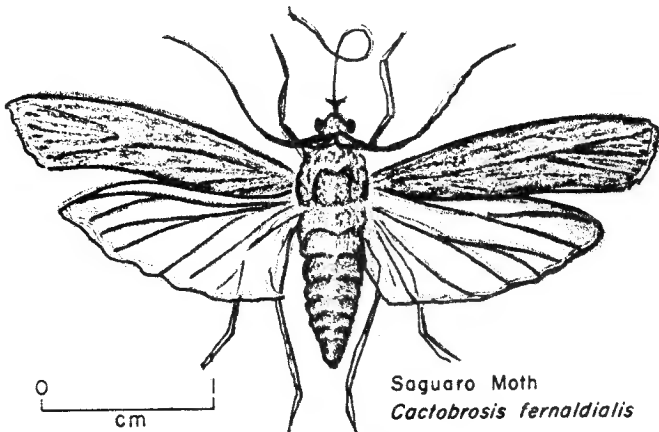
In the salivary glands of *Drosophila* loom chromosomes, the infinitesimal bundles of blueprints for heredity, that are enormous, considering the size (about that of a small housefly) of the insect. This makes them classic subjects for such geneticists as Dr. William B. Heed.

These scavengers swarm the world over, around spoiling bananas, pears and the like. But several species propagate only in specific cacti. Larvae of one species of red-eyed, dark *Drosophila* feed almost exclusively in the bacterial pockets of the saguaro and those, to the south in Mexico, of the more massive cardon. No one knows why this fly should be so specific, although Heed, Dr. Henry W. Kircher and their co-workers at the University have some suggestive evidence.

Their clues came from another cactus, the senita, the habitat for a separate species of fruit fly that procreates nowhere else. Their experiments established that senitas contain an unusual sterol without which that particular *Drosophila* cannot survive. Now, almost all living things require sterols. In mammals, in which the predominant sterol is cholesterol, the body makes them. Insects, on the other hand, apparently can acquire them only in their food.

The senita also manufactures alkaloids which are lethal to all but its single species of fruit fly, thereby discouraging competition by others. The same explanation, then, may hold for the saguaro, which also composes a unique alkaloid.

In this manner the scholars are learning something about the evolution of body chemistry. Insects perhaps have lost a once-held ability to synthesize sterols, possibly even the parallel process in humans has changed over the millenia.



Saguaro Moth
Cactobrosis fernaldialis

Scientific illustrations by Joanna McComb

This, in a manner of speaking, is what research is about in the first place. The saguaro scientists are interested in what the monarch of desert plants can tell them about the interrelationships of all life in so pitiless an environment and have been led along some fascinating by-paths, nonetheless, that have little to do directly with our largest cactus.

For instance, the same bacterium that infects the saguaro can bring about, by inoculation at any rate, the complete collapse of tomatoes, squash fruits and certain melons. Could it spread by soil or other means to food crops? And the abnormal tissue formation that results in a stricken saguaro is at least vaguely analogous to human scar tissue.

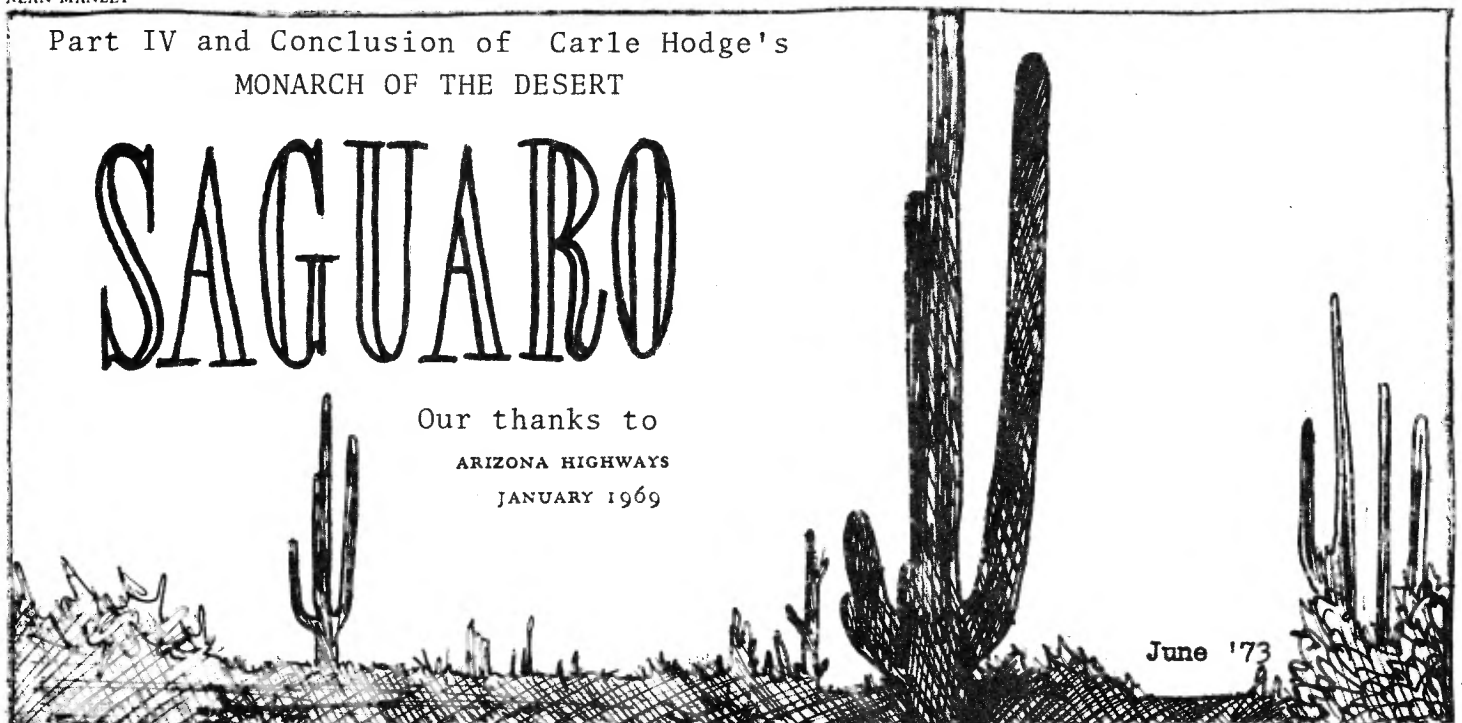
So, the giant cactus has not yet yielded all its secrets.

ALAN MANLEY

Part IV and Conclusion of Carle Hodge's
MONARCH OF THE DESERT

SAGUARO

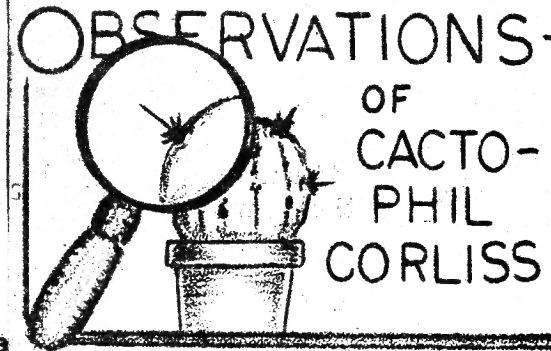
Our thanks to
ARIZONA HIGHWAYS
JANUARY 1969



June '73

MORE ABOUT OROYAS

NEW JOHNSON CHRISTMAS AND EASTER CACTUS HYBRIDS



The excellent treatise on oroyas by Mr. Borg which appeared in three instalments in this publication filled, I think, a great need, and I wish we could have similar ones on such other confused genera as matucana, weingartia, arequipa, fraileá, copiapoa, etc. Britton and Rose performed a wonderful service for cactus collectors with their massive work and so did Curt Backeberg. Their books are full of errors and need many additions and corrections, however, and it is a pity that no one is trying to correlate the findings of such as Cardenas, Rauh, Ritter, Knize, and others. The books by Craig on mammillarias and Marsden on rebutias filled a great need, but where can you find similar works on the genera lobivia, echinocereus, gymnocalycium, parodia, notocactus, neoporteria, etc.? Is there no way by which such authorities as Glass & Foster, Donald, van Vliet et al. could gather descriptions of each specie of a genera and get them published in an authoritative and available form?

I must point out two things regarding oroyas in which I disagree with Mr. Borg. He says they are shy bloomers. Perhaps his plants are not mature. I find that mature plants are heavy bloomers if given full sun - and my location at the beach is not one that is conducive to optimum bloom on many genera. I have an oroya gibbosa, for example, measuring eight inches in diameter with two proliferations at the base over two inches in diameter and seven smaller ones on the sides of the body. It has more than 20 buds today and has already opened six flowers... I must also quarrel with his statement that oroya flowers are mostly yellow. There is an oroya lutea and an oroya citriflora which probably have yellow flowers - mine are too small to bloom - but all of my oroyas to date have red buds and the flowers give the impression of being deep pink or red, although on close inspection they are seen to have petals with yellow bases and pink-to-red petal tips.

A recent visit with Harry Johnson impressed me with the success of his breeding Christmas and Easter cactus. I had followed his work for some years and thought the "improvements" were the figment of wishful thinking. Not so! He was trying to develop sturdy upright plants with large flowers in new colors. He has them, and they are being propagated for the wholesale trade and will soon be available. Among the outstanding new varieties you will soon be able to get are: VIRGINALIS (huge pure white flower with red pistil), PURPLE PYRAMID (very upright - completely purple in all flower parts), MARY LOU (large red and white flowers), BEIGE, SUTTER'S GOLD, RAINBOW (varicolored), and SHOCKING PINK. In addition to the flower size and color, these new varieties have great vigor and indeed some of them are repeat bloomers!

I well remember when Doc Vaughn exhorted us to constantly read about cactus. I find my interest in, and desire for varieties is whetted by reading about them. I went to the Canary Islands as a result of my study of their flora in books - one of the most outstanding trips of my life. Recently I have been intrigued by the flora of the Galapagos Islands and wonder if I can manage a trip - it is becoming a favorite tourist goal with cruises or flights available from Ecuador. See my report on Dr. Gerald Arp's talk at Las Vegas on the Galapagos Islands. I am sure my visits to the Jarilla Mountains during the El Paso meeting and to the Lima-Matucana area in Peru were made immeasurably more exciting by having read about the cacti of those areas before my visits.

: GROWING CACTI ON A WINDOWSILL* :
:
: M. Schneider :
: Toronto, Canada :
: :

It is generally believed that cacti grown in the home will not attain beauty, develop magnificently colored spines or flower freely as do those grown out of doors or in greenhouses.

As a Toronto apartment dweller on the fourteenth floor, facing west, I have had great success growing Notocacti, Gymnocalyciums, Rebutias, Mammillarias, Echinopsis, Lemaireocereus and Parodias.

These plants are in plastic pots on a five-inch windowsill enclosed in a mini-climate by windows and curtains. All the plants are permitted to pass their dormancy period on the windowsill in winter. They are not watered from October to March.

On cold nights ice forms on the inside of the glass which brings the temperature in the mini-climate down to about 55°F while it is about 20° warmer in the room. During the day the sun shines brightly on the plants which become richly coloured. They shrink a little but they never sunburn.

When the first buds appear in March, I start watering cautiously and when full growth begins, sometime in May, they are fed with Potassium phosphate and Potassium sulphate (about 1 tablespoon of each per pint) as well as chelated iron and trace elements (about 1/2 teaspoon per pint every four weeks).

Potassium phosphate makes for floriferousness and good root growth, whereas Potassium sulphate produces very sturdy growth of body and spines. This helps resist disease and pests and it adds to the flowering period with long lasting flowers. Chelated iron and trace elements both enhance body, spine and flower coloration.

By mid-May, through to September, the sunshine creates temperatures up to 118° F in the mini-climate. Extreme temperatures seem to be beneficial for the production of flowers on most cacti. The average cactus does not flower in spite of the cold, but because of it.

It is best to feed only with fertilizers low in nitrogen if true type is desired. Nitrogen pushes plant growth into luxuriant and unnatural growth and the plants become targets for pests and diseases. It also causes growth of offsets, even on plants which do not normally offset and it retards flowering.

I use leafmold and gritty sand, plus fertilizers having a formula of 6-16-35 to 8-20-50 with trace elements and chelated iron added.

*The Exotic Collection, Dec. 1972.

: :

LUCKY CLUB !! REGALEMENT is the most efficiently conducted activity in the Club this year. To put it mildly, the operation is "professional". It isn't often a club is favored by having fully competent personnel who can conduct an activity in a manner which seems to be 'effortless'. The trio responsible for such is: Jean and Leta HAPEMAN of San Diego and Verneta COTTEN of Escondido. The table in May was supplied by Evelyn CHATHAM, Jean HAPEMAN, Leta HAPEMAN, Nellie KENNETT, Minnie MOGIL, Harriet SOPP and Amy TICE.

CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

LOBIVIA

. Martin L Mooney

LOBIVIA (loh-biv'-ee-ah) Britton & Rose

The name "Lobivia" is an anagram of Bolivia, the home of a great number of the species.

In appearance, Lobivias are small globular or almost cylindrical, frequently clustering plants. They have definite ribs, more or less acute and spiny. Many have strong spines and some even have hair. Some species have extensive tuberous, turniplike taproots and these have to be grown in comparatively large pots to house these roots.

The funnel or bell-shaped flowers are rather large, up to 4 inches across, with a short wide tube that is scaly and hairy. The flowers are diurnal and brightly colored in shades of red, purple, orange, yellow, pink and white. Most Lobivias are free flowering, the flowers closing at night and opening again in the morning for several days in succession. Unfortunately, in very hot weather, the flowers last only a day or two.

In their homelands of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, Lobivias are found growing on the slopes of the Andes at altitudes of between 8,000 and 15,000 feet. In this region the temperature will sometimes drop to 5° F. but at this time of the year the plants are completely dry. They are often deeply embedded in the soil or hidden by other vegetation and rocks. This helps in insulating them against the cold winter. The other vegetation and rocks also help hide Lobivias from full sun as they require half shade.

Lobivias are of very easy cultivation, as we said, requiring half shade and rather dry and cool in winter. Most do very well in a rich porous soil, requiring lots of water in summer.

Lobivias are closely related to Echinopisi. They were formerly known as Echinopsis or Echinocactus and it has been suggested that they are a subgenus of Echinopisi. The naming of Lobivias is a confusing problem due to the large number of species, well over 100, and the great variation amongst individual species. There is also a large number of hybrids between various species of Lobivias as well as between Rebutia, Echinopsis, and Chamaecereus. Some of the most beautiful flowers are found in these hybrids. They are often more free flowering than their parents. Regretably, some hybrids have been listed under Latin names, or names with a Latin derivation. This is misleading and sure to result in disappointment to growers, especially to beginners. There is much to be said for not worrying about their names but growing them simply for their beauty.

The great diversity of form of the numerous species, the varying shape and wide range of flower color are good evidence that the Lobivia, like Rebutia and Echinopsis, are plants of comparatively recent origin and that their evolution is still in full activity.

REF: THE CACTACEAE, Britton & Rose; CACTI AND SUCCULENTS, Hamlyn; CACTI, J. Borg; CACTI & THEIR CULTIVATION, Martin, Chapman, & Auger

or Daisy Family

OTHONNA

-- Julianne Rice --

Othonna, native mostly to the Cape Province of South Africa is our succulent of the month. Our reference says "known best for their flowers which are like small yellow daisies".

However, there are some of us, I'm sure, who find them desirable because of their uniquely-shaped bodies; perhaps, too, their leaves with much diversity of coloration.

I remember having one precious little fellow with bluish leaves and tiny, tiny flowers on ever so fragile stems.

During this bit of research, I have come to the conclusion that it must have been Othonna minima, but cannot be sure as it was a gift and the donor has gone on to larger and better gardens to tend. Incidentally, it had been collected in South Africa by said donor along with many rare and beautiful plants.

A 1970-71 Abbey Garden catalog listed "O. herrei (the best Othonna) at \$3.00."

Othonna herrei pillans has a very knotty body with brown stems and undulate leaves. The lovely flowers have large centers which seem to wink at one as they nod in a sprightly breeze. Rather remind one of those large-eyed children painted by-- Mon Dieu--cannot remember the name.

Hans Herre, for whom this genus is named, is quoted by Abbey Garden by saying "in natural habitat these plants look more like carallumas than members of Compositae or Daisy Family."*

If you will get out your back copies of the Cactus & Succulent Journal and look up the index in Nov.-Dec. issues, and take the time to peruse carefully each reference to this interesting group of plants, you will certainly be rewarded and will more readily understand the attraction generated with close association.

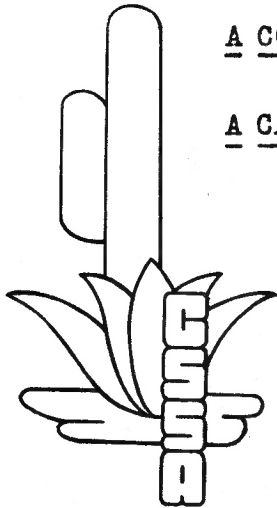
For you "crest bugs" there is a lovely picture of a crested Othonna found by Mr. Herre. I shall not mention the issue. It will be more fun if you find it yourself! (WA-A-AA-A, we wanna see that crest picture!! Who will hunt it up and report to Ye Ed so we can put it in the July "E y F". Would you do that, please, Edith W.? We all thank you!Ye Ed)

If you are not in possession of back issues of the Cactus & Succulent Journal, it is high time you take a few precious moments to sit down and subscribe to same. Also it is time to cease missing half the fun of "cactus-clubbing" just because you have neglected to avail yourselves of this fine publication which is, at once, a most attractively illustrated publication and a very informative reference source.

.....

Did you see that color photo of the "Cephalium, or flowering-head of a branch of Backebergia chrysomallus on the cover of the Jan.-Feb. 1973 issue of the Journal? When you see it you will appreciate fully the meaning of "chrysomallus". The GLOSSARY says "chrysomallus" means: with golden wool. If you had a plant like that in your collection you wouldn't be interested in a gold mine. . . . Ye Ed

More fun!! Abbey Garden catalog 1973 says "Othonna lepidocaulis looks like the leg of a chicken." Who is our expert on that? YOU? Steve??



A CONVENTION
and
A CAN OF TUNA

And what is a convention? "It's a meeting or formal assembly of representatives or delegates for action on particular matters." So says Webster. Utter simplicity! But don't say that to our Convention Chairpeople, Ed and Betty Gay, Registrar Bert Singer, Sales Committee Chairman Manny Singer or Convention Coordinator Joe Mast. They might not say anything but they would wonder where you had been all your life—surely not at conventions.

Since Webster came before Cactus and Succulent Conventions, let's take a closer look at his easy string of words and do some backing and filling with factual data. Perhaps you've never compared a can of tuna with a convention but they do have many points in common. Both require enormous behind-the-scenes, before launching activity (i.e. work). Conventions, in addition, have followup features which are non-existent in the case of a can of tuna. Once emptied, it is an immediate has-been.

Exactly what is back of a can of tuna? A boat, a crew, provisions, permits, (be careful to avoid Peru and Venezuela) a school of fish, a catch of proper size and quantity to be profitable; refrigeration, return to the base cannery; unload, can and cook; wholesale and retail, and so on until you purchase and open the can.

Tuna is great even tho it is extremely hard on the original sleek fish. Likewise conventions are great but they too are very rough on key personnel—the committees who do the preparation—the work. A tuna clipper's season may be months whereas committee work builds up over a two-year period to a climax—a convention. Letters by the hundreds; likewise phone calls; programming and speakers; copy preparation, proofing and printing; accommodations; many loose ends to tie up which are incidental and which don't fit precisely like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle; being on hand before, during and after the convention. Then there's a thing called "post-convention" activities which are enjoyed by participants but a drain on already exhausted leaders. And all this not on a 40-hour week basis. Overtime? No! Just around the clock.

Conventioneers come from far away places. Altho intensely interested, they have to be handled with care, entertained, fed and bedded, scheduled and shown around (maybe better 'led'), exposed to educational and informative programs featuring the best informed individuals in the world. Fortunately, unlike most conventioneers, ours have a common and intense interest in succulent plants. This gives our leaders courage, hope and life.

Back to the chairpeople. Everyone knows and appreciates Ed and Betty Gay. Some are aware of their exhausting, never-ending work, yet only a few know of their massive expenditures of effort, energy and time, and the physical strain, altho present, but not obvious. How does any one person, or an organization go about expressing appreciation and gratitude either in words or other tangible methods to such a team? The writer is at a loss for expression; Webster is of no help. Does anyone have an answer?

The next convention will be in San Diego in 1975. The whole complicated process must be repeated, and if possible improved upon. Is it possible? We can accept nothing less than success. It will be necessary to call upon a number of individuals and organizations across the land. If each responds and does his thing in his own way to the best of his ability, we should be looking forward to an alltime good convention in 1975. It will require a team effort. Let's be generous contributors and doers—with imagination. Perhaps that is what Mr. Webster inferred when he said "action on particular matters by delegates and representatives." Let's give our best!

. . . Walter R. Scott, San Diego

"The Galapagos Opuntias: A New Interpretation" was the title of a talk given by Dr. Gerald Arp. There are six varieties of opuntia, all probably derived from a single ancestor which developed into two strains. The seeds of these opuntias are unusually large and are not dispersed by usual methods (wind, birds, etc) but drop near the parent and produce an husky plant rapidly. These opuntias grow like trees to heights of up to forty feet. They are protected by a thick "bark" which resembles in appearance and substance that of the ponderosa pine—a protection against the jaws of the ravenous galapagos tortoises.

The talk, beautifully illustrated with color slides, was the best exposition of the Galapagos Islands I have ever heard or seen—and I have long had a tremendous interest in this land of contradiction and paradox. Situated plumb on the equator, the waters around them are very cold, due to the Humboldt current, and hence abound with seals and penguins, denizens of cold water. Yet the inland waters are so warm that they support flamingos.

Because of the "garuas", or heavy fogs, the "dry" season is actually much wetter than the "wet" season. In fact in the rainless "dry" season the islands are shrouded in constant fog with dripping dew. Among other paradoxes are the iguanas which, although born and living on the land, eat only on the sea floor; and the adult blue-footed booby bird which shrinks as it matures and is actually smaller than its chicks. There is also a cucumis whose pulp is delicious but whose seeds are a violent poison.

The Galapagos Islands are indeed a fascinating place with their unique flora and fauna inhabiting the miniclimates of coastal, meadow, dew forest, and mountain areas.*

. . . CactoPhil Corliss, San Diego

"WHYTHESELONGNAMES" was the title of a talk given by Mr. Geoff A. Hedgecock, one of England's well-known and knowledgeable cactus collectors. Actually, he demonstrated that the names by which we identify cactus are considerably shorter because of the system of nomenclature promulgated by Linnaeus. Before Linnaeus, as Hedgecock showed, the name might consist of ten or more words, naming the genus and then describing in Latin the type of leaf, flower, nature of growth or other characteristics.

The binomial system of Linnaeus uses Latin or Greek words, the first word signifying the genus and the second signifying the species. The one word for the species is considered sufficient and one must know or learn from reference the characteristics formerly described at length in the name. There may be an additional word—rarely two words—for the variety.

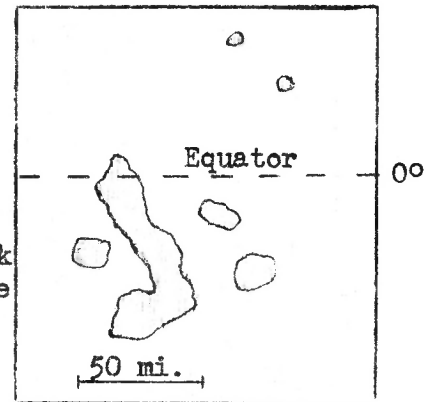
Proper names, to honor a person or the discoverer or place of habitat are latinized. The special and varietal names must agree in gender—masculine, feminine, or neuter—with the word for the genus.

The talk was well illustrated with color slides. That "echinus" was Latin for "spiny" was illustrated by a porcupine (hedgehog). Then followed slides of various cacti with explanation of the derivation of the names. It was an excellent dissertation which should enable anyone to understand the significance of cactus names.

The writer finds "Grow Cacti" by Marsden of much help because of its extensive glossary of Latin and Greek horticultural words. If it fails me, I resort to Cassell's new "Compact Latin Dictionary", now available in paperback for 95¢.

. . . CactoPhil Corliss, San Diego

*The Galapagos Islands could well be regarded as the "Mother Lode of Evolution" inasmuch as Darwin's observations confirmed some of his beliefs about how living things evolved. They are located in the Pacific Ocean about 650 miles west of Ecuador. They are famous for the peculiar plant and animal life which abound there, which is isolated from the mainland. "Galapagos" in Spanish means "tortoises". . . . W.R.S.



Galapagos Islands

-----SUNDAY GARDEN TOUR-----

Preconvention!

Two large groups of early Convention arrivers left the Sands parking lot for a Sunday afternoon guided tour of four Las Vegas home gardens, one at 3 p.m., the other at 5 p.m. Weather was perfect and driving very pleasant.

A very educational and enlightening side aspect of the garden tour was the revelation of a vast difference between native "home" life and transient "strip" life in Las Vegas. Too, how many present day homes can provide for caravan parking for garden tours?

Homes visited in order were: Steve Panak on South Arville; Leroy Wacker on Dover Place; Joe Mast on Fulton Place and Mike Stapleton, no address given as it was a "drive by" on a busy street.

It is always very interesting to visit another's garden. In every instance gardens are tailored to the area available, which areas are always different--never two alike, yet! Some individuals do a remarkable job of tailoring and tending, landscaping and growing. When one finds plants correctly named he may be assured the owner is no novice; he has given the hobby much thought and time. And who among us isn't always searching for correct names for plants in our collections....a never-ending project.

The back yard of Steve Panak's home revealed a happy family of succulent plants, all living together in harmony in a rock-raised area about sixty feet long and five feet wide, set against a high block wall. Particularly eye-appealing were native Coryphanthas (deserti) blooming as tho they were in habitat. And out front for all to see was a Yucca brevifolia which appeared to show several seasonal growth periods, except that there aren't that many seasons even in Nevada. We all know they have seasonal growth patterns, if the seasons are favorable, and at most one season a year in habitat. But not Steve's, he had it believing it should show growth every month or so.

Leroy Wacker's interest is broad....you name it, he has it, some in a green house, some under shade and others in the open, and often succulents growing compatiably alongside "other succulents". No apparent conflict. He demonstrated what could be accomplished with variety with seemingly no problems. The answer may have been piped-in music of the soft sounding notes. The soft, soothing music of Leroy's garden was so very unlike the raucous sounds heard on Thursday night. We wonder if a Cephalocereus senilis (old man) would have survived that night?

A recent Joe Mast addition was a sizeable growing house. Perhaps the most exciting thing therein was his approach to growing seedlings. Maybe Joe will give us a report on his methods at a later time. No explanation here inasmuch as you were there and saw it.

Mike Stapleton's roadside garden was a "drive by" since time had expired and another group awaited leadership at the Sands.

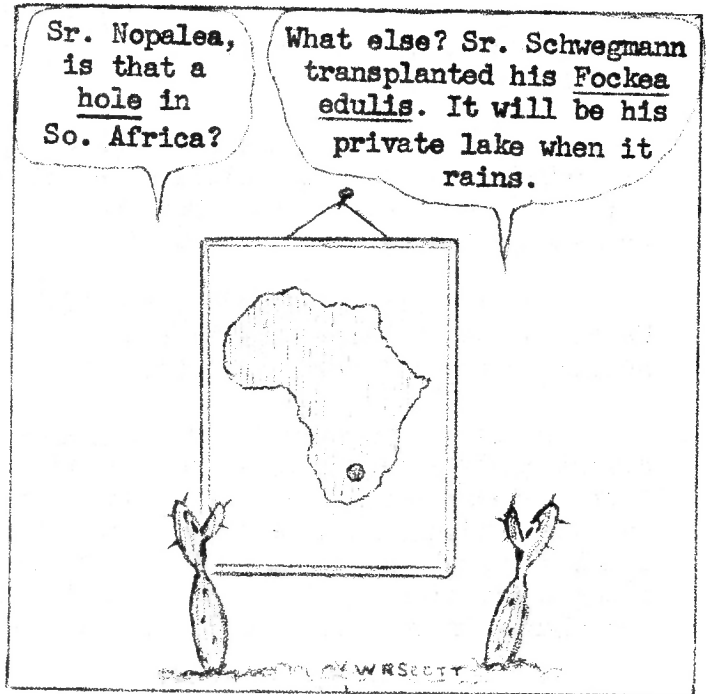
HOSPITALITY ROOM--SCENE OF GREAT ACTIVITY: Without doubt a highlight of the Convention was the activity in the large hospitality room when formal meetings were not in progress. Such room surely is the answer to what a convention is all about. Crowds surely bore out such conclusion. The room provided delegates with a meeting place and the opportunity to become acquainted, compare notes, discuss mutual problems---and have refreshments. Activities included a registration desk, refreshments, book and plant sales, displays of handiwork on tables, sketches and paintings on easels, chairs for those who wished to relax in between programs---and there were many. Walter R. Scott, San Diego

"COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA". . . . Lloyd Schwegmann

Mildred T. Zink, Santa Clara

Mr. Schwegmann began his talk by putting first things first—the growing of cacti from seed in a commercial nursery.

First information on the subject was, interestingly, from Marsden's book. Rules for seed raising are applicable in South Africa as elsewhere. Rule No. 1 states: "Make sure all materials used are sterile. Mr. S. uses a bottom layer of what he calls 'stones' in seed trays. We would assume he means medium size gravel. He emphasized it must be washed even tho it might not appear to be dirty. At the nursery in Robertson this past year, Mr. S. had a catastrophic loss of seedlings due to damp-off when a worker decided not to wash the gravel when he set up the trays.



Lake Schwegmann

The second part of Mr. S's. talk included pictures of his workers in the nursery at "Good Old Robertson", one of whom is named Michael. Mr. S. feels that Michael and at least two others who live in the Robertson area are good examples of the humane qualities of justice in South Africa since they have been convicted of serious crimes and did not receive severe penalties. However that may be, Michael is Mr. S's. best worker and Mr. S. would be sorry to lose him.

It was very interesting to see the slides of the veldt (open country or pasture land) where plants like Cotyledon paniculata grow to about 8 or 9 feet tall. Another unique plant shown was a Fockea edulis which was first shown growing in habitat and then in Mr. S's. garden with a caudex with a size not easily imaginable. In order to get the plant out of the ground, they had to dig a hole as big as a grave.

From the caudiciform plants, Mr. S. went on to show plants such as Cheiridopsis microspermis, C. posterrima juttae and a number of stapelias, duvalias and carallumas both in habitat and in cultivation in his own garden and in a neighbor's garden.

As a grand finale for his program we were shown a series of slides of proteas the flowers of which have a marvelous variety of colors and forms.

Ed's note: "Singer's Growing Things", Reseda, CA 91335 have been appointed exclusive agents for Mr. Schwegmann's "Sheilam Gardens" in the U.S.A. and Canada.

INTERESTING SIDELIGHT

Quoting our program: "Mr. Lloyd Schwegmann's Sheilam Cactus Garden is the source of many of the unusual and beautiful succulents now obtainable in this country. Mr. Schwegmann's discussion and slides will cover not only his own fine nursery but the succulent scene in South Africa generally, personalities, habitats, and all the background information that is so valuable for the appreciation and care of our plants. (Our programmers were so right, that's precisely what Mr. Schwegmann did. Thank you Mr. S. . . . Ye Ed)

"A DATE WITH GATES"
GATES Cactus & Succulent Society host
Pat Mooney, Chula Vista, CA

Luncheon Wednesday noon was aptly titled "A Date With the Gates". The Gates Society of Riverside who hosted the affair provided favors and table decorations reminiscent of their 'Inland Empire'. These included individual packages of dates from their annual Date Festival and a mammillaria elongata plant for each diner. Door prizes were furnished by the Sacramento C&SS.

Master of Ceremonies, Bill Lockwood, entertained the group with his usual friendly humor and an interesting tale about the "Snoop" or hoop snake which, he finally admitted, appears most frequently following the cocktail hour.

The good food and fine fellowship was highlighted by the election of the new King and Queen who will reign until the next CSSA convention. Present King, Edward S. Taylor, gave the history of the King and Queen who were first elected at the 1949 convention. Our current Queen, Virginia Martin, was seated at the head table. We were pleased when Kathryn Sabo nominated our own Hazel and Walter Scott and proud as peacocks when they were elected to reign for the next 2 years.

Bob McClurkin was awarded \$25. for his design which is the new CSSA symbol. The CSSA insignia is available as a window sticker with jewelry and other mementoes soon to be for sale.

Other awards were made: For the oldest member in attendance--Felicia Beard, who will be 88 this November. The youngest member and the member who had attended the most conventions. The latter honor went to Valarie Andes who has attended 12 conventions.

Virginia Martin, Chairlady of the Honors Committee of the CSSA presented fellowships to CSSA of which 61 have been awarded to date. New fellowships were bestowed on Dr. Edward F. Castetter of New Mexico, Dr. Cyril A.E. Parr of England, Dr. Werner Rauh of Heidelberg and Dr. Jay Dodson of the ISI.

The attractive dish garden centerpieces which graced each table were awarded to the person at that table whose birthday was nearest the day of the luncheon. Lucky Julianne Rice was the winner at our table.

LAS VEGAS B O N A N Z A

Martha Van Ness, Pacifica

"Las Vegas Bonanza" was truly the bonanza promised. Succulent prime rib roast, almond green beans which could have been 'nopalitos tiernos'. The meal began with seafood bisque and ended with ice cream torte.

Each table seated ten and there were (guessing) 18 or 20 tables. For favors every other person received a live potted cactus and the rest a felt cactus pin-cushion in flower. It should never need repotting or watering. The answer to most succulent growing problems. The cactus center pieces were cholla wood mounted on bases and planted with succulents. Each person at the VIP table had lovely planters as favors.

The invocation, most inspiring, was given by King Edward 'Ted' Taylor. The welcome address was presented by Lt. Gov. Harry Reid of Nevada. He really opened the gate to Nevada. He made us feel most welcome and told us about interesting places in Nevada which are little known outside the state.

Door prize drawings gave lucky winners nice plants of Edhinomastus neolloydia as well as a few of the head table planters.

Everyone enjoyed the splendid meal and the Las Vegas Cactus & Succulent Society is hereby given a tremendous "thank you" from all of us for their generosity and hospitality and the gifts that got the 15th Biennial Cactus & Succulent Convention off to a smooth start.

DELEGATES' MEETING

Julianne Rice, Holtville

Affiliate Director Ted Taylor in his own enthusiastic way, led the Delegates' meeting thru the pros and cons of good communication with CSSA; injecting now and then a humorous tid-bit to leaven the more serious turn of events.

Incidentally he and Virginia Martin were enjoying the last day of their two years of representing, so royally, the Society as King and Queen. As much as we disliked to see them step down from the throne, we cannot help feeling happy about our own Walter and Hazel Scott being elected in that capacity. Shouldn't we have a special "coronation" of our own at our next meeting? (Julianne, you do have a potent idea, the crownees really could use a lot of practice....Ye Ed)

Before I get too far afield, Mr. Taylor desires that you get a full report of contents of the Affiliate Reporter, and, with Bill Nelson's indulgence each second month, I intend to see that you get just that!

HEAR YE! H E A R Y E !!

We, the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, and all members thereof, have been asked, unanimously, to host the next-1975-convention. Yes, of course it means getting off the old rocking chair, rolling up our sleeves and getting with it! A large order? Certainly, but with so many talented, willing members it surely seems not impossible.

Just think of the myriad opportunities for getting better acquainted with the best people in the land. And contemplate the splendid gift of sharing.

Each and every member, YOU and YOU and YOU are challenged with this trust. Let us start with ideas, ideas and more ideas. Then with the melding of talents there is nothing we cannot accomplish. And so, as a united group working together for the next two years, our efforts will culminate in a great Convention, and a job well done!

. . . Julianne Rice, Holtville

