



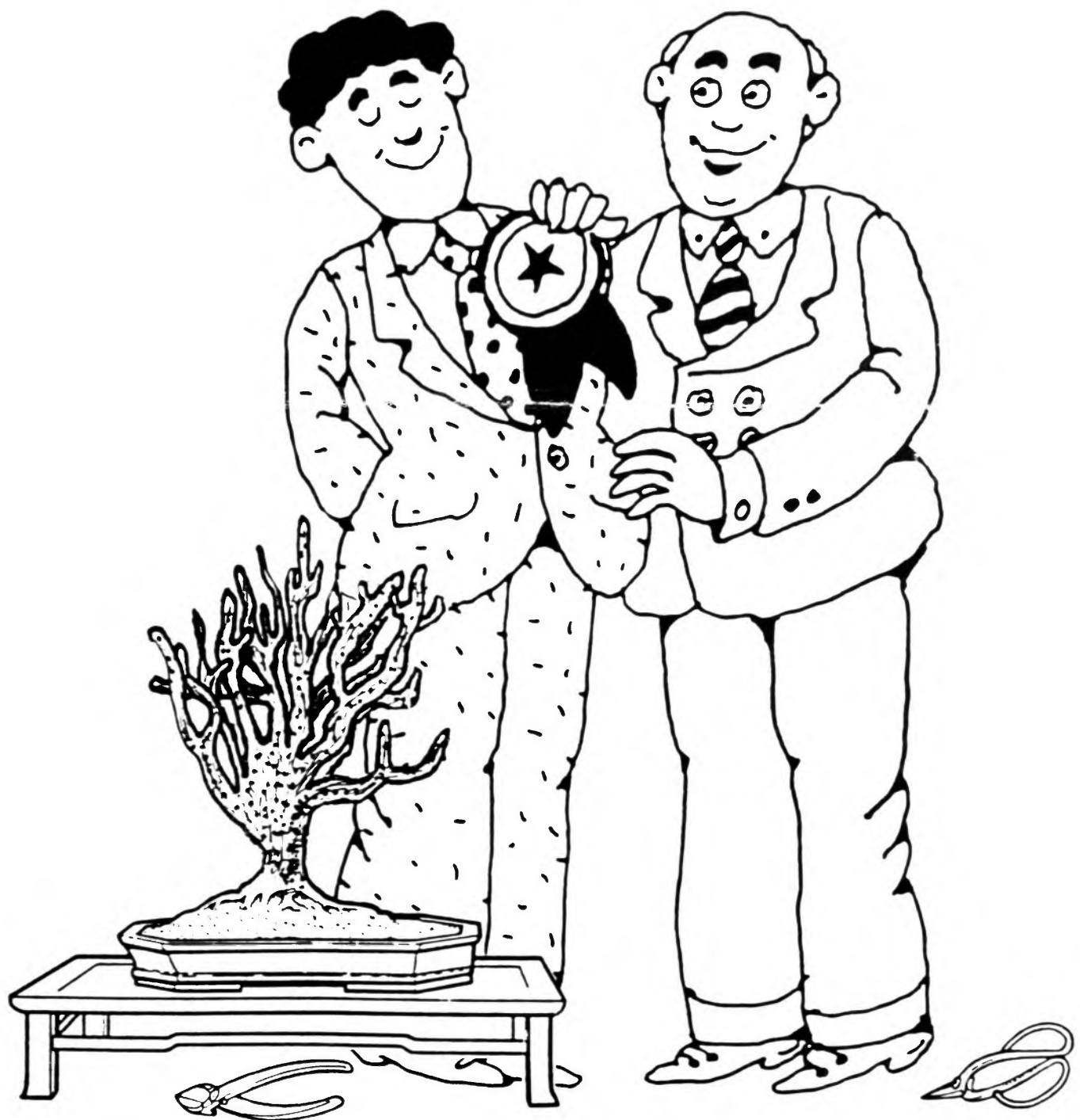
# Espinas y Flores

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER SIX, JUNE 5 & 6, 1993

NUMBER SEVEN, SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1993

## JUNE SHOW & SALE ISSUE



**JULY AUCTION AND PICNIC ISSUE**

OUR FOUNDER  
CLEOVIS HARDIN  
FOUNDED MAY 6th 1961

## and Succulent Society

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*Espinas y Flores is dedicated in loving memory of Russell Evans,  
good friend and long-time member. We'll miss you.*



REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS FOR  
JUDGE'S LUNCH  
SATURDAY, JUNE 5th

YOU!!



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## MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP: LAURA DE MERRITT, 619-571-5127. DUES ARE \$10.00 FOR SINGLE MEMBERSHIP AND \$5.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF SAME HOUSEHOLD (ONE ESPINAS y FLORES MAILED). CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO S.D.C.& S.S. AND MAILED TO P.O.BOX 33181, HILLCREST STATION-102, SAN DIEGO, CA. 92163-3181.

MEETING TIME: MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT FOR JUNE & DECEMBER) AT 1:30 pm IN ROOM 101 - MAJORICA ROOM, CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK. COME EARLY FOR PLANT, CONTAINER & SUPPLY SALES AND SOCIALIZING. BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT NOON PRIOR TO GENERAL MEETING.

Judge's lunch will be at approximately noon through about 2:00 pm on Saturday and all Volunteers are invited to participate -- this is how:

- \* Bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert - take it to the kitchen & give it to someone on our regalement committee: Lois Zaranka, Gail & Don Bamber, Mildred Richter, Stefi Mangold, Marylyn Henderson, or Joyce Buckner - we will then mark you on a list as a welcome participant in the judge's lunch.
- PLEASE NOTE: JUDGE'S EAT FIRST - SO PLAN TO EAT AROUND 1:00 AS THEY MAY NOT BE FINISHED JUDGING UNTIL 12:00 OR 12:30.

We will supply some lovely sandwiches from Canora's Sandwich Shop and plenty of soft drinks. If you can bring a big cooler full of ice - this would also be extremely helpful. Any questions or suggestions - please call Joyce 222-3216.

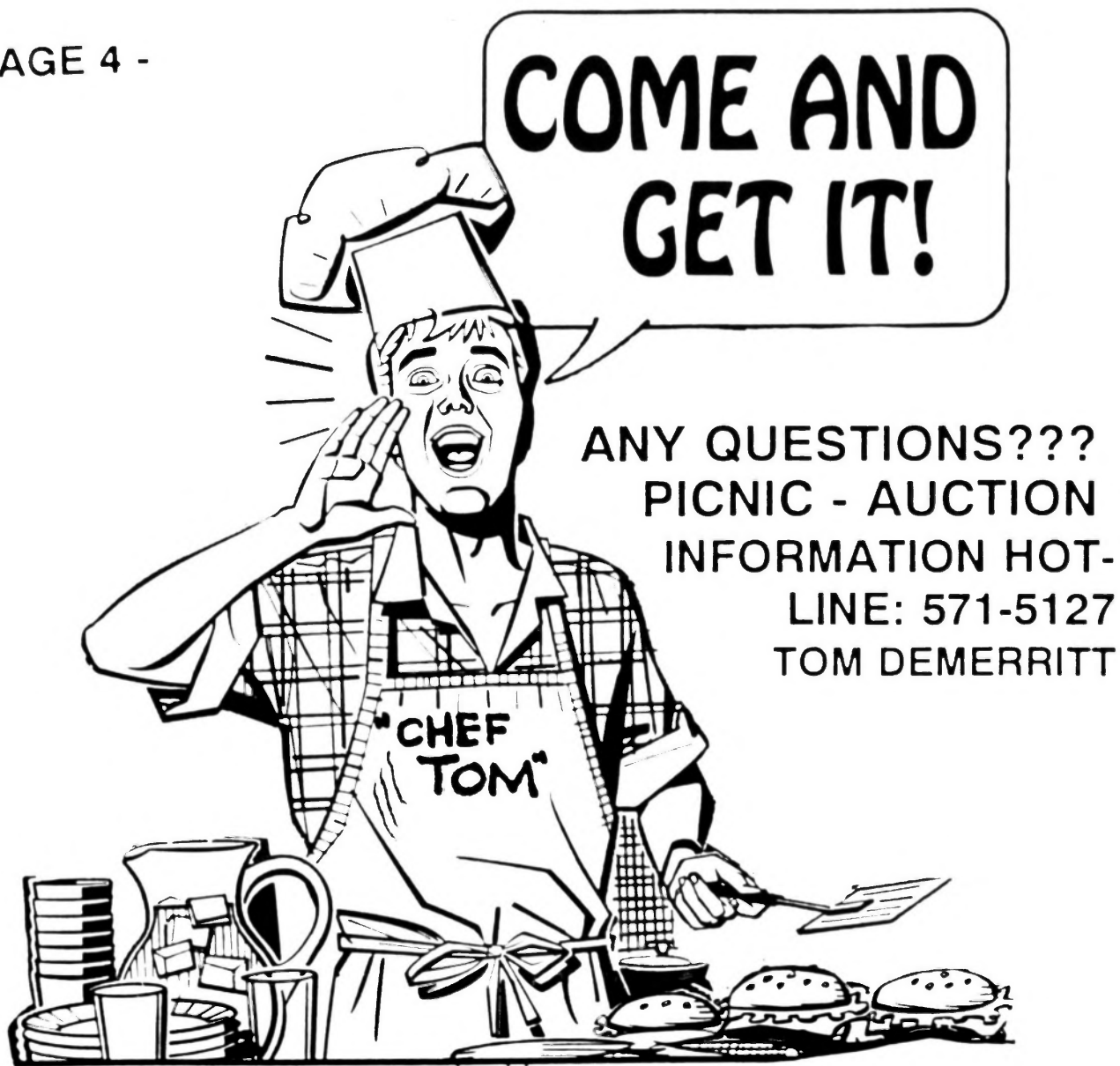
Many thanks to Phyllis Flechsig and Kay Quijada for their wonderful presentations on Mammillarias of Baja and Sansevierias. Good Job!

The June and July - Show/Sale and Picnic/BBQ/Plant Auction Issues of Espinas y Flores will be combined this year. SDC&SS (and the editors personally) will be very active in this year's Del Mar - California State Fair. SDC&SS entries will include Plant Collection - Cacti, Plant Collection - Succulents, Plant Collection - Hanging Epiphytes and a Major Landscape exhibit - Xeroscape Garden.

PLANTS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME - ALL DEL MAR FAIR PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REWARDED WITH FAIR PASSES AND OTHER PERKS!!

It is really a lot of fun setting up exhibits as well as observing the whole fair coming together in a matter of days. If you wish to participate call Michael 222-3216; exhibits must be completed by June 15th.

EVERYONE, PLEASE!! BRING CARRY-OUT BOXES  
ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY FOR THE SHOW SALE,  
WE ALWAYS RUN SHORT --- PLEASE HELP OUT!!!



*San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Picnic  
will be @ Kate Sessions Park Saturday, July 10th  
Rare Plant Auction to follow Lunch*

Here's the directions to Kate Sessions Park. Take the Grand - Garnet exit off of I-5; go West on either Grand or Garnet (they run parallel) until you get to Lamont Street; take a Right on Lamont (North) and go approximately .7 miles; Kate Sessions Park will be on the Right. We will be at the end of the park (we will put up some signs, just like last year) - there will be some shade, however, should you have one of those shade tents or a good camp table - please bring it. Tom & Laura will bring one. Everyone should bring their own lawn chairs and something good to eat for the pot luck. Please bring dishes that are picnic style and ready to eat: Fried Chicken, Roast Beef, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Fudge Brownies, Fruit Salad, Cookies, etc, etc. - yum, yum! Cold Beverages, ice, paper plates, utensils, & napkins will be provided. We shall meet and eat at around Noon.

The Rare Plant Auction will start at 2:00 pm. Do we ever have some beauties for you all this year!!!



## THE SHOW PLANT ... A FEW NOTES

by Michael Buckner

If you have decided to enter a plant (or plants) in a show, completely read (and re-read and underline) the SHOW RULES & SCHEDULE. These are the rules that one should follow to the letter. You will decide in advance which plants you will enter and where they fit in their class, division, and size designations. If the show schedule designates the size of the container "up to 6 inches" or "larger than 6 inches", measure your containers so there will be no mistakes. It is very disappointing to have a plant disqualified by having placed it in the incorrect category. The clerks servicing the judges will designate this disqualification by writing on your entry card the letters N.S. or N.P.S. (Not per schedule). You may not think this "fair", but judges are under a lot of pressure to 'move along' as time is essential. It is up to you to place your plants carefully.

The second thing a person should do well in advance of the show set-up is to look up the proper name and correct spelling of the plant. Although misspellings of genera and species are only slight deductions overall, they can be the difference between Blue Ribbons and Red Ribbons, or a Trophy. Often the clerks will note the deduction for incorrect nomenclature on your entry card (ie. incorrect plant name or misspelling).

PREPARATION is of vital importance with regards to any entry into a plant show. The key to ribbons and trophies can be succinctly stated in one word: PRISTINE. What this means is that the plant is absolutely clean of debris, and mites. Any plant which has spider webs, snail or slug tracks, pet hairs, dirt or grime on the stem or in the spines, fingerprints on leaves, old flower buds, calcium water deposits, or any other non-natural or distracting element will be reduced in the judging process.

INSECTS of any kind (even if their beneficials!) will disqualify a plant immediately and the plant may be removed from the show completely. Even apparent damage to a plant from insects will often take a plant out of competitive standings.

There is a difference of opinion among judges on whether some succulent plants like dudleyas and aloes, and others which have persistent non-defoliating leaves (old dead chaff) on their stems should be shown clean or not cleaned. This also applies to plant which have persistent flower peduncles like cotyledons and pelargoniums. The decision to clean or not clean comes down to the overall effect of the plant's appearance and the subjective opinion of the particular judge.

The container in which a plant is shown is important and included in the "staging" element of judging. It is very true that many plants have won ribbons and even trophies presented in plastic containers, but in the United States this is infrequent; a plant would need to be very rare or in remarkably better condition than its competition. The container should always be secondary in importance to the plant, an aesthetically pleasing size in proportion and a texture and/or color which compliments the plant. Container should always be impeccable clean. Judges are looking for is an overall pleasing appearance.

The same is true of top dressings; it should be pleasing in appearance - adding to the total effect. Bright, unnatural colors are anathema. Staging devices such as driftwood, larger pebbles and rocks can be very dramatically used as long as they don't distract from or upstage the plant. This is another very subjective area that is difficult to make generalities about. One should not try to be "cutesy" - no gnomes or deer unless placed a show category allowing for such props - like dish gardens or arrangements.

Eliminate Labels in your show plants unless you are entering into a collection or display category. If you do use labels, they should be clean and easily read. Since the plant's name is already printed on the entry card, labels in your containers are redundant as well as distracting (and present a tombstone appearance). It is best to leave them out.

Lastly, upon placing your plant on the correct show table, check to see that it is properly faced towards the front, and assure no shifting has occurred to displace top dressing or plant in its container. If the show chairman has to move your plant to accommodate others, he will always attempt to set your plant as you have originally faced it. It is improper plant etiquette to touch or move any plant not belonging to you! If something appears to be wrong - don't move it yourself - rather, notify the show chairman or assigned clerks.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY**, participate and have **FUN!** - the purpose of showing! Never loose sight of this objective! Respect the judge's selections and learn from each show, observe what people who do win - do - to win.

**IT'S EASY TO ENTER!**

**IT'S EASY TO WIN!**

## AND A FEW MORE NOTES:

When you are looking at or judging two equally excellent show plants, the rarer or more difficult of culture should be selected. The reason for this is that skill of cultivation should always be taken into account. This, of course, puts much pressure on judges to really know the differences. The differences are good color, regular growth patterns and strong spination. Flowers, flower buds, and/or healthy fruit are an advantage indicating proper maintenance. Knowing how difficult it is to grow a particular species comes from years of experience -- "in the trenches". This is another pleasure of the hobby-profession: learning how to maintain and grow these wonderful plants and sharing the experience.

Judges will select the best plant in the category regardless of the rarity /commonality issue. However, judges "being human" are often swayed by rarity, (familiarity breeding contempt). So, the exhibitor is advised to enjoy the "easy to grow" plant in his/her home and to enter the "more difficult" or rarer plant into the show -- unless there is something very, very special about the common specimen.

Study the Award winners! Consider the trophy table as a learning experience rather than an exhibition of competitiveness. View the judge's selections as if you were the judge. Volunteer to be a judge's clerk at the next show. You will learn much from this. Increase the pleasure you receive from this hobby by striving to increase your skill and by sharing your experience and education, and participate, participate, participate .....

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## ~~SUMMER MAINTENANCE~~

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This is the time of year for intense cultivation, seed sowing, vegetative propagation, and grafting, re-potting and grooming, and "training", if you have a proclivity for bonsailing your succulents. Most all species of cactus are in their growing season and should be provided with all the cultural essentials. The succulent groups are mostly in growth, but the summer dormant plants like many *Mesems*, *Othonnas*, *Pelargoniums*, *Aeoniums*, etc. should be properly grouped and given a special lack of attention. Just try growing a *Mittrophyllum* now and see what happens --- to your checkbook!

One has to be aware that midsummer solar radiation can burn cacti and succulents causing discoloration and scaring, so proper shading is a necessity. This is particularly true of many *Aloes*, *Gasterias*, *Haworthias*, *Conophytums*, and other plants found in association with shading boulders and companion plants.

In July, the *Seleniceres* and *Hylocereus* are in the middle of their growth period and should be in full bloom with their magnificent large and fragrant flowers. These plants are particularly vigorous and do best with abundant water and fertilizer.

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### MAY BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by guest speaker: Guy Wrinkle

FIRST: Shirley Berry's *Mammillaria microthele*  
SECOND: Kay Quijada's *Tillandsia ionantha* variety *ionantha*  
THIRD: Gloria Graham's *Rhipsalidopsis rosea* in full splendor.

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## PLANT CULTURE by Charlie and Bob

"Most annoying of the myths that surround cactus and other succulents is the old saw, "they thrive on neglect". Our answer is that they exist with neglect, but that they thrive on tender loving care! While it is true that too generous treatment can kill off a succulent which might have survived for years with virtually no care, to grow beautiful plants one can give far more generous treatment than is generally assumed. We can give you here a few basic rules, but the only way to learn about your plants is to observe them and their responses closely and to be a bit daring and experiment.

Those who have collected for some time have their own potting mix, and they generally are convinced that the use of anyone else's potting mix would kill off their plants. It is true that for those who water less frequently, a heavier, more water-retentive mixture is perhaps preferable, whereas those who water often and heavily or who use plastic rather than clay pots need a looser, coarser, better draining mixture. A general basic mix with which to start would be equal parts of sand, fine gravel or pumice; leaf mold or some similar planter mix; and a loose, sandy-loam topsoil. We use a soilless mixture of just sand and planter mix, but that means that we have to fertilize regularly and more often.

We also water very heavily, soaking the container two or three times at a go, on the theory that soil cannot be partially wet, but that a little water merely soaks the top layer of soil, encouraging weak surface roots, and that this technique builds up harmful salts in the mix which never get "leached out". We've seen others get beautiful results with far different care, but we're happy with our system, for us, under our conditions, with our soil mix, our climate, our water, and our watering schedules. Experience and experiments will lead you to a system that works for you. The main rule with succulents is that during the growing period they want water, but do not want to be kept sopping wet, so use a mix that drains fairly rapidly and allows a slight drying out between waterings.

There are many other factors which affect culture, and with each there are various pros and cons. Some like plastic pots which are less expensive; others swear by clay pots which allow the grower more control if he has time to devote to his collection; still others prefer the elegant and expensive bonsai type pots which, however, are not very porous but react more like plastic in this respect. As to those who use tin cans, styrofoam cups or plastic dishes, we're not even going to refer to them! We would rather see a common plant which is well grown, obviously cared for and neatly and attractively potted ("or staged") than the rarest of succulents in poor condition and stuck in some old tin can.

Another controversial factor is the use of a top-dressing on the soil in the container. Top-dressings, such as small pebbles or coarse gravel, offer quicker water penetration, slower water evaporation, elimination of a crust on top of the soil, and what is generally considered a neater, more attractive appearance; those opposed to or afraid of top-dressings claim that they make it more difficult to tell when the plants need water. We feel that experience and the plant's appearance tell you when the plants needs water, but if you don't use a top dressing, at least keep the surface of your mix neat, clean, level and crust free by "raking" or combing it occasionally.



# PLANT CULTURE

Most books on culture of succulents tell you not to feed succulents, not to water after repotting, and various other rules that the authors themselves break regularly. Rules are made for those who don't know enough to know when to break them, and don't forget that such general rules have to apply equally to all sorts of conditions and climates. In the hot, dry atmosphere of southern California, for instance, we can get away with techniques that might be sure death for a plant growing in a window or a glasshouse in the northeast. If you're growing a cactus in poor light in a north-facing window in an apartment in New York, you certainly don't want to give it as much food or water as you would if it were growing on a bench in southern California or Arizona!

But the main indication should be the appearance of you plants. If your plants are yellow, skinny or pin-headed and refuse to grow, you're doing something wrong. If it's growing in the shade chances are, then, that it needs more light; if it's growing in the full sun, and looks that way, then probably it needs more shade. Maybe it hasn't got any roots any more; take it out of the soil and check! You'll learn something about your plants in the process.

## BUILDING A COLLECTION:

There are many types of collections, many directions in which a collector may go. Our main words of caution are not to let your collection grow too large or too fast. If it grows too fast, your interest can burn itself out prematurely and you will miss a lot of enjoyment; if it grows too fast, you are unable to really get to know your plants, and to know them is to love them; if it grows too large, it not only becomes a burden, but you can neither appreciate nor properly care for your plants. Learn to be discriminating, and learn to say "no", a hard thing to do when you're offered pieces of every conceivable type of succulent from friend's collections!

Most collectors enjoy specializing in one particular group or type of plant. Some collectors try to get one representative of every succulent family, or of every genus within a family, but eventually one's interest usually zeroes in on some particular type of plant."

from CACTI AND SUCCULENTS FOR THE AMATEUR by Charles Glass & Robert Foster, authorized by CSSA, Abbey Garden Press, c.1976

*(editors note: At the time this article was written, Charlie and Bob owned Abbey Garden Cacti & Succulent Nursery as well as editing the CSSA Journal. Charles is now curator for a natural botanical garden in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico; Robert is now involved with the Abbey Specimen Shells. Bob and Charlie have discovered and/or described twenty eight new species of Cacti - including Mammillaria tayloriorum named in honor of Bob & Suzanne Taylor, our wonderful Life Members; Bob and Charlie have also reclassified 26 other cactus species!)*



# SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

## SANSEVIERIA: A Genus of *Creeping Rootstock*

Kay Quijada



suffruticosa

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The *world's* most hardy and popular houseplant is one of 60+ described *Sansevieria* species, *Sansevieria trifasciata*, and is known to most of us as "Mother-in-law's Tongue", or "Snake Plant". The somewhat difficult to pronounce genus was named after an Italian patron of horticulture, Raimond de Sangro, Prince of Sanseviero, in the 18th century. Over the years these plants have had a number of different names such as Aloes, Acynthas, Lillies, and Sanseverinias. No matter what you may call them, after many years of neglect these ornamentals are slowly, but steadily, gaining attention.

The genus *Sansevieria* is currently placed in the Agavaceae Family, (formerly Liliaceae and still in debate), and is native mainly to the tropical regions and islands of Africa, India, and parts of Asia. They are described as stemless plants with *creeping rootstock* or rhizomes, having dark to light green marbled, striped or banded leaves that are cylindrical, channeled, or flat. The leaf texture may be succulent or fleshy (tropical species), semi-succulent, or leathery (arid species). *Sansevierias* take numerous forms occurring as tall (up to 9 feet), short, cylindrical, or small epiphytic species. The foliage is described as forming rosettes, whorls of swords, bundled spikes, fans, or prostrate and spreading. The flowerstalks are described as simple or branching, clustered with small whitish lily-like flowers, fragrant, and nectar producing. They are also described as hardy or tough, insect free, and long-lived.

The information available is limited at best with most publications in the form of articles, short descriptions, and botanical garden bulletins, such as the Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, of June 1966, by Ladislaus Cutak. The most complete descriptions are found in N.E. Brown's 1915 Kew Gardens, Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, No 5, a monograph of *Sansevieria*. Brown's information was taken from a Kew Bulletin published in May 1887 describing all of the species in cultivation at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. (It is in this bulletin the term "*creeping rootstock*" is truly exercised!)

Formerly, *Sansevierias* were valued as an agricultural crop for their fiber used mainly in rope making and, like the *Opuntia Prickly Pear*, were transported to a wide range of tropical areas where they were propagated and later abandoned to a wild state. The plants were imported to this country by the U.S. Department of Agriculture during or right after World War II and were housed in tropical places such as Florida and Hawaii for hemp production studies. Later, the U.S.D.A.'s commercial interest in *Sansevieria* declined when synthetics such as rayon and nylon were introduced.

## **SANSEVIERIA: A Genus of *Creeping Rootstock*, Continued**

One of the earliest mentions of Sansevieria, *S. hyacinthoides* (?), is in a listing of plants introduced to Amsterdam from South Africa in 1690. Interestingly, Mr. L. Cutak of the Missouri Botanical Gardens describes the Sansevieria flowers as evening bloomers, frequently emitting....“a delightful fragrance like that of Hyacinths or Tuberoses”. While these plants are not grown for their flowers, when they bloom it can be quite an event. The *powerful* fragrance is heaviest between 7:00 and 8:00 PM, and will, quite literally, smack your olfactory sensors a good one. One would think the pollinators of this genus to be nocturnal creatures such as moths and possibly bats. What ever it is must really be a nectar feeder as many of this genus are *very heavy* producers of sweet, sticky dew.

Most Sansevieria species are easy to grow. The large and compact varieties of *S. trifasciata*, the dwarf birdnest varieties of *S. trifasciata* v. *hahnii*, or the wavy, dark green, cylindrical leaves of *S. schweinfurthii* are examples of the “soft” or more tropical varieties that are rewarding to cultivate. Generally speaking, the species with long to short lanceolate leaves are considered native to more humid or semi-humid environments. Other species that are interesting and challenging to cultivate are those that are slower growing with thick coriaceous or leathery leaves from regions that are more or less arid. Some examples of these “hard” varieties are, the beautiful agave-like *S. pinguicula*, the powerful, channel-leaved fan of *S. desertii*, the clubby-looking leaves of *S. baseball bat* (GC 81-069), the recurved, channel-leaved fans of *S. patens*, the sword-like, metallic leaves of *S. kirkii-kirkii*, and the multiple, short, fiercely pointed leaves of *S. sp. FKH 432*, to name a few.

Several of the species we value are grown in hanging containers. One of the softer species, *S. parva*, is best grown in a hanging basket and dynamically sends attractive 2 to 3+ foot long stolons cascading towards the ground. The extremely sharp leaved or “spiney” spreading species such as *S. suffruticosa*, *S. phillipsiae*, or *S. sp. FKH 432* are very well suited and extremely attractive in hanging planters.

All species prefer good drainage, some shade, and prefer to be on the dry side. They all thrive in temperate climates, and are very cold sensitive. (Some of our plants, particularly the “softer species, exhibited a light-colored dermal eruption on the leaves that drove me crazy until I found out why, ....“Sansevierias are frost sensitive, and where leaves are not killed outright by frost, white lesions may show up about a month later”, D C Speirs, British Cactus and Succulent Journal, 1983). Propagation is accomplished by seeds (*very slowly*) and easiest and fastest by leaf or *creeping rootstock* (root tuber or rhizome) cuttings. Additionally, annual repotting is highly recommended. The plants will flagrantly advise when repotting is necessary, one day the plant is fine, the next day the strong and powerful *creeping rootstock* will burst right through the walls of its expensive little pot and wave hello.

**May's Succulent of the Month article is being reprinted in its entirety with apology to Kay Quijada for deleting a page. No more 3:00 am editing, it's not even for the birds!**

## SANSEVIERIA: A Genus of *Creeping* Rootstock. Cont

### References:

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Rick Latimer, Sansevieria, Espinas y Flores, **Bulletin of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society**, May 1990



**Illustrations from Hermine Stover's THE SANSEVIERIA BOOK, c.1983, Endangered Species Press - A wonderful book we are proud to have in our library, check it out.**

SDCSS -- CACTUS/SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH -- 1993		
June 5 & 6	Annual Show/Sale	Annual Show/Sale
July 10	Annual Picnic	Annual Picnic
Aug 14	Anna Cornett Michael Buckner	Mammillaria camptotricha Ficus/Strangler Figs
Sept 11	Joe Quijada Phyllis Flechsig	Melocactus Ceropegia
Oct 9	VOLUNTEER NEEDED Anna Cornett	Sulcorebutia Haworthia
Nov 13	VOLUNTEER NEEDED Phyllis Flechsig	Cleistocactus Small Aloes
Dec 11	Holiday Party	December Party

★★★★★ ★ ★★★★★★★★ ★★ ★★★★★★★★ ★ ★★★★★ ★

LIBRARY DONATIONS - THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

Ruth Nelson:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, HANDBOOK ON SUCCULENT PLANTS  
 Dorothy & Bob Hargreaves, HAWAII BLOSSOMS  
 Dorothy & Bob Hargreaves, TROPICAL BLOSSOMS  
 Yosemite National Park, WILD FLOWERS OF THE SIERRA

Frank & Marianne Thrombley:

BRADLEY vs. 1-6  
 BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL (1:3,4-6:all)  
 NATIONAL CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNALS (Vs. 34-37)  
 CSSA JOURNALS 1969,1976-90  
 SUNSET'S BONSAI  
 Southampton Branch BCSS, CACTUS & SUCCULENT YEARBOOK - 1983,'85,'87  
 Wendell Minnich, THE GENUS MAMMILLARIA  
 THE JOURNAL OF THE MAMMILLARIA SOCIETY (Vs. 29-30) et al.

Anthony and Rose D'Attilio

CSSA JOURNALS - various 1950-68, and 1969-87

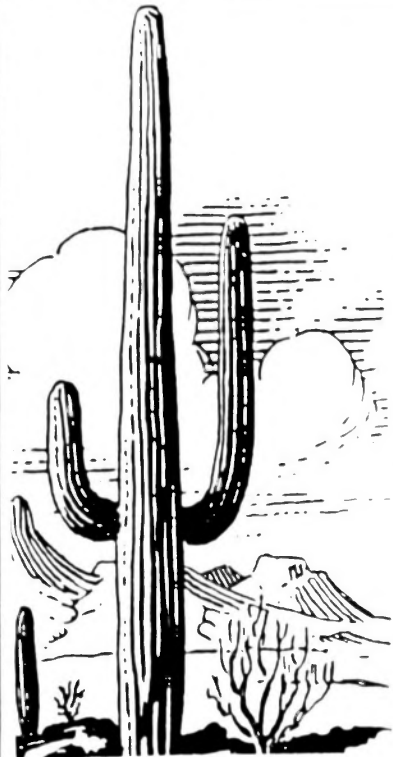
Rick Latimer, Librarian

★★★ ★★ ★ ★ ★★ ★★ ★ ★★ ★★

Deadline for our August "Summer Sex Issue" is July 25th.

## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

an international organization dedicated to education, protection and preservation of some of nature's most unique creations



### JOIN NOW! Your membership will include:

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- the opportunity to obtain rare seeds at nominal cost
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- meeting many other cactophiles who share their enthusiasm and interest at meetings, conventions, conferences, and shows

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THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

### BOYD L. SLOANE, 1897-1955



**Ex-Teacher**

**Electrocuted**

**in His Bath**

I hapchanced on this old clipping from a newspaper dated January 24, 1955. It fell out of my copy of "The Stapelleae", by Alain White and Boyd L. Sloane. This first edition copy is now rare and out-of-print; it came from Helen McCabe of McCabe's Cactus Gardens, San Diego; Mrs. McCabe had her nursery until 1967 at 6721 Imperial Avenue. She died at 101 years of age. "The Stapelleae" was published by Scott E. Haselton of Abbey San Encino Press in October of 1933, at Pasadena. I though I would publish it here for the record and the history.

Boyd L. Sloane, 68, retired Pasadena school principal, 1421 Dominion Ave., Altadena, was electrocuted at his home Saturday night when he fell against an electric heater while he was taking a bath. He was taken to the St. Luke Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The schoolmaster had a teaching career of 48 years, 29 of them in Pasadena public schools. When he retired in 1952, Mr. Sloane was in his 11th year as principal of the George Ellery Hale Elementary School.

Mr. Sloane leaves his widow, Emily H. Sloane; three brothers, H. M. Sloane, Pasadena; William, Greenmist, N.J., and George, Philadelphia, and a sister, Martha Sloane, also of Philadelphia.

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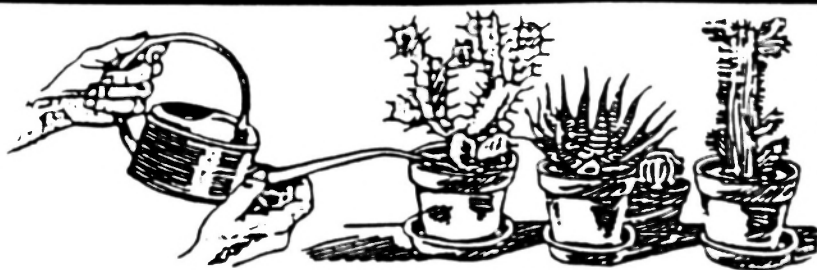
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Bus trip to the Eighth Annual Tri-City Show? There will be a sign up sheet at our June show & Sale for this trip scheduled for Saturday, August 21st. Bus departs Balboa Park (behind the Organ Pavilion) at 8:00 am and will stop at the Cal Trans Park & Ride - N.E. corner of La Costa exit off Interstate 5 @ approximately 8:30 am for our North County residents. Bus should arrive @ L.A. Arboretum around 11:00 am. We will then view what is considered the largest Cactus & Succulent Show in the world. They also have a terrific sale and the totality of the L.A. Arboretum cannot be explored in just one day. For more information call Michael or Joyce @ 222-3216. Bus trip and entry fee is, \$20.00 per person with includes entry into Arboretum; bus only holds 45 people, so reserve early by sending your checks to: SDCSS, Laura De Merritt, treasurer @ address on back cover.

FROM ALL CORNERS  
by Shirley Berry



If you have had the experience of planting a succulent in the ground, in "properly prepared soil", and found it not only didn't grow, but seemed intent on meeting its maker, the following facts may expose the source of the problem.

In the article "Root Systems of Desert Plants" by Vera Higgins in the American Cactus & Succulent Journal of May 1948, she explains the structure and function of roots of plants in general and shows how that function differs in xerophytic plants.

Basically, of course, the root is the organ which feeds the plant --- that is, the root is the means by which a plants is able to take salts in solution from the soil in which it grows.

Mrs. Higgins tells us, "Roots take various forms which are related to the plants they support. The absorption of water by a plant cell is only possible if the cell is very thin-- as soon as the cell is thickened or becomes corky, the cell becomes incapable of taking in liquids. The process by which solutions are absorbed is known as osmosis.

"Soils vary much in composition, but the substances necessary for plant growth are usually present, though in varying amounts. The size of the particles is more important than the chemical composition, for on this depends the amount of water that a plant can extract from the soil. In clay, where the particles are very fine, only a small amount of water present can be absorbed by the roots, whereas in a sandy soil, where the particles are larger, almost all the water present can be utilized. The reason for this is that the water between the particles is not available, but there is a film of water which is held by capillarity closely round each particle, and this is the form in which the roots can take up water most readily. When the root hairs withdraw this film of water from a particle, the film is replaced by water from an adjoining particle, and so on, thus the plant can collect water from a considerably greater area than the roots actually cover.

Surplus water between the soil particles is useless to the plant; such a soil is waterlogged. For healthy growth the presence of oxygen is necessary -- if air is not present in the soil, useful bacilli cannot live and the soil becomes "sour". The presence of air in the soil is quite as important as the presence of water. *Fouquieria*, *Opuntia*, *Mesembryanthemaceae*, and other plants which normally grow in loose, sandy, well aerated soil are very intolerant of a shortage of oxygen.

It has been mentioned that water is absorbed through the cell wall by the process known as osmosis; the ability of plants to take in solutions is measured by the osmotic pressure and is dependent on the concentration of the cell sap. If this is high, the osmotic pressure is said to be high and the plant is therefore able to extract more water from the soil than one with lower osmotic pressure. It is typical of non-succulent xerophytes that the osmotic pressure is abnormally high. This, coupled with a extensive root system (mesquite bushes and acacia scrub of African deserts), enables the plant to obtain sufficient water for its needs.

- continued on next page -



# FROM ALL CORNERS

by Shirley Berry

When we consider succulent plants we find that different conditions occur. Unlike the high osmotic pressure of typical xerophytes, the osmotic pressure of succulent plants is abnormally low. The very shallow arrangement of the roots in many cacti is largely the result of small rainfall -- but also due to the fact that these upper layers of soil are better aerated.

From this we may draw a moral for our methods of cultivation: if we want the shoot to grow to the best advantage, we must make sure that the roots are suitably provided for. One of the chief dangers of growing plants in pots is overwatering. If the water poured into a container can drain right through and be carried away there is little danger. The soil particles will take up what they can, and when each hair has its film of water, the plant can get what it needs, but if water is held in the soil, then the danger that the valuable air spaces between the particles will be choked --- and the roots will be unable to do their work in the absence of necessary oxygen."

And so -- these specialized plants, our succulents, have very particular (no pun intended) needs --- and certainly soil texture is one of them!

## BACK TO NATURE

© Joergen Nielsen



For a great catalog with new and rare succulents, write to: RARE PLANT RESEARCH  
-1993 plant list, 9527 S.E. Wichita, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222; fax: (503) 652-1471.

*"Consider well the proportions of things,  
It is better to be a young June-bug  
than an old Bird of Paradise."*

# WISE AND OTHERWISE

*by Michael Buckner*



".....in Australia, Graham Armstrong, an amateur herpetologist taking part in a wildlife survey near Burra, came upon a freshly killed brown snake on the highway. When he looked inside the snake's belly, Armstrong found the remains of the first pygmy bluetongue lizard seen since 1959. Though it usually takes 50 years after the last sighting before a species is considered extinct, most authorities had already written off the three-inch pygmy bluetongue. A follow-up survey by Australian biologists located a colony of some 20 more of the rare lizards, most of which were tagged and released. Two males and a female were taken to the Adelaide Zoo, where, according to assistant director David Langdon, zoo officials hope to establish a captive-breeding program to ensure that the bluetongue lizard doesn't become extinct .... again."

from WILDLIFE CONSERVATION May/June '93, "Every Stomach Has a (Silver) Lining" by Steven D. Mirsky

.....

"In proposing desert nature reserves, we should think of small ones as well as large ones. Small reserves to protect a particular landmark or other natural feature can be very satisfying. But large ones are most to be sought, for desert connotes vastness, great sweeps of land untouched by the often grimy hand of man, who is given to taking over the land and cluttering it with his 'developments' of roads, subdivisions, etc."

---E. Jaeger, THE CALIFORNIA DESERTS, 1993

.....

## OVERHEARD:

"What kind of started out as a love affair quite frankly now is feeling more like date rape"

*Jay Hair, president of the National Wildlife Federation, on the environmental community's relationship with Bill Clinton.*

*"In communicating with Earthlings about sexual, philosophic or ethical matters, one enters very dangerous terrain. Stick to larval issues. It is almost impossible to discuss philosophy with yokels."*

*Interstellar Tourist Guide  
a.k.a. Exo-Psychology*

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from WHAT DOES WOMAN WANT? by Timothy Leary

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# WELCOME

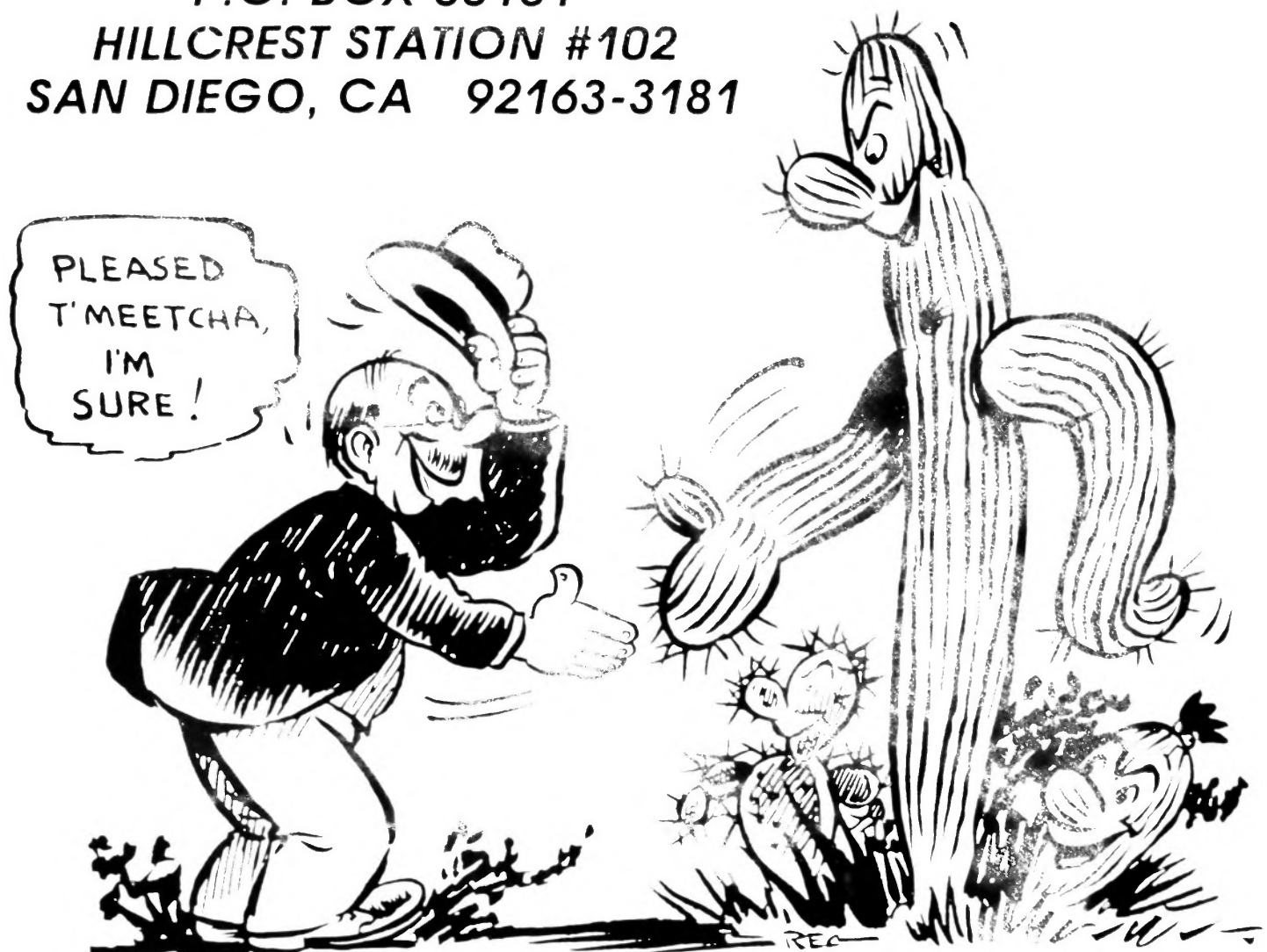
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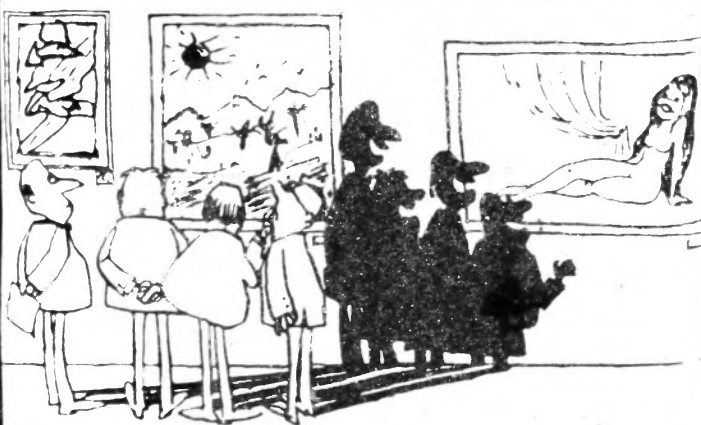
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P.O. Box 33181  
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San Diego, CA 92163-3181



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