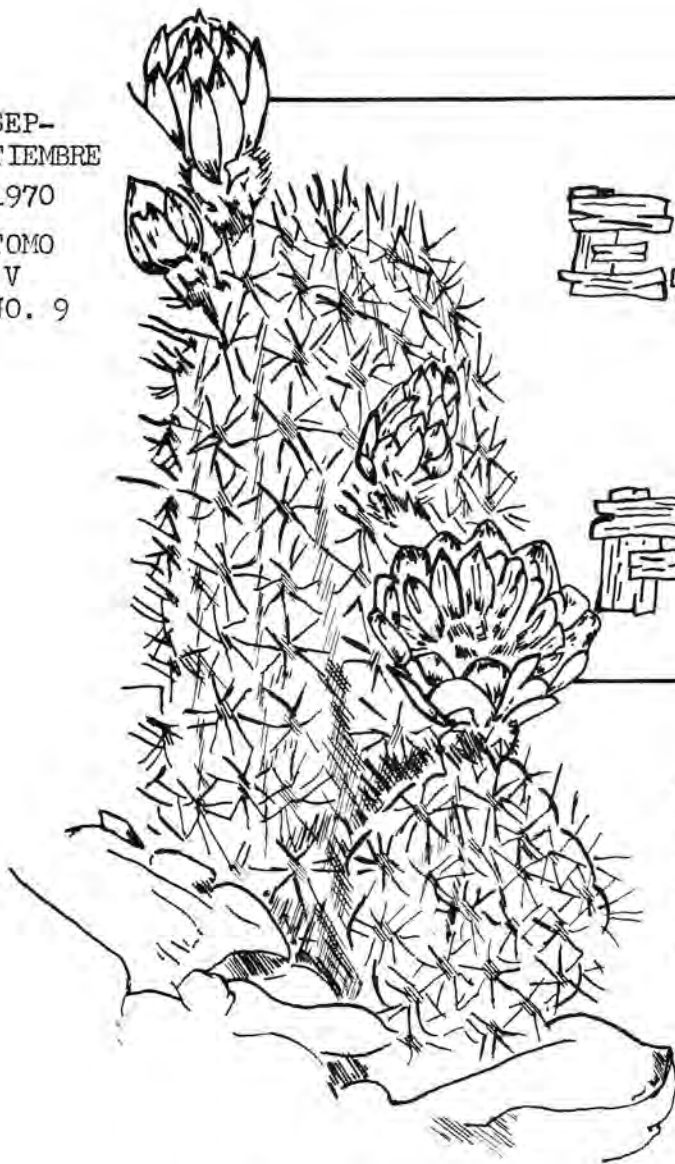


SEP-
TIEMBRE
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NO. 9



ESPAÑOL
Y

ESPAÑOL

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

THE WONDERS OF BAJA

"WELCOME---HAVE NO FEAR---TRUST ME AND I WILL SHOW YOU MY WONDERS." These were the words I formulated to express the feelings Baja California gave me

Recently I wrote of a collecting trip to Baja in the company of friends, and of the grand feeling the country gave me. At spring vacation from school I wanted to return to Baja, and as it turned out I did go, but alone rather than with a companion.

Most of my friends argued against a lone traveler in Baja, primarily, I suspect, because of the imagined dangers inherent in being alone. I don't believe in such dangers since a person who knows and trusts himself is as safe alone as he is in a crowd. Such were my thoughts as I prepared for the solo trip of several days, intending to go at least as far south as San Agustin, B. C.

I left San Diego in my VW squareback sedan on Friday morning, March 20, 1970, lightly loaded with a minimum of supplies. I knew I was off on an adventure and there was no thought of misadventure. I would enjoy each moment as it came, letting my instincts guide me to my next revelation.

After the brief stop at Maneadero for my tourist card validation, I drove on to the spot just north of Colonet where Myrtillocactus cochal is first seen in heavy stands near the highway. Since I have a nice plant of the cochal, I did no collecting of it but did succumb to collecting three bulbils from Agave shawii which is represented by a nice small form in this area. I was saving my space for greater things!

My first real collecting stop, about 3 p.m. was at a spot about one mile south of Rancho El Socorro near the coast. This is the type locality of Mammillaria louisae, but I wasn't sure that I had found that plant. I collected a few plants then moved by the coast trails on south to another likely collecting spot.

--turn to page 2

WONDERS
OF BAJA
Cont'd.

Here I found more possible Mm. louisae, a small crest of Mm. dioica and the first of several peculiar cacti I found on the trip. This plant had the milky sap characteristic of Mm. brandegeei which grows in the area, but it was upright and had a hooked central spine. Could it have been a hybrid of Mm. brandegeei and Mm. dioica? Unfortunately this was the only plant I lost from the collections I made.

I camped that first night within earshot of the Pacific Ocean with the breakers tumbling the large stones on the beach. It was a very pleasant sound to accompany the campfire, and my thoughts wandered far afield. I had waved to a few people from a distance, but had spoken to no one. Yet I didn't feel lonely or out of contact. In reviewing my day's finds, I came to my only regret which followed me throughout the trip--there was no one to admire my finds! I remember that I did talk to myself and provide myself with admiration of my finds, so all was not lost! Sleep came readily on my most comfortable bed in the sedan, and dawn seemed to come immediately.

After cleaning my campsite I searched the area with morning light, but found nothing more of great interest. I moved on down the coast towards El Rosario and stopped to search a rim of an arroyo on the mesa beyond the airport. There were so many flat-headed Mm. brandegeei, and I had made such a good collection before, that I decided to collect only three--or more, headed plants. And I had a feeling that I would find a monstrose plant here. As I walked along examining the cacti in the area, there indeed was the monstrose plant I had been looking for! It is about an inch in diameter with some divided nipples, many without spines, and looks most unusual. It has a buried body equal in diameter to the top of the plant and about three inches long. It is alive and doing well at this time.

Another one of my strange finds also appeared on this arroyo. This plant has not bloomed yet, so I don't have more than a suspicion of what it may be. It has the appearance of a domed Mm. brandegeei, but has brown straight central spines and watery sap. Is this too a hybrid? Time and seedlings may tell in the future.

Since I wanted most of all to go to San Agustin and surrounding areas, I made no more collections here. I drove on to El Rosario but was blocked about halfway down the hill by a truck with motor trouble. After the truck moved, I took the driver to El Rosario to obtain a replacement part. I needed gasoline and this was a good excuse to stop at Espinosa's place. Senora Espinosa waited on my and I introduced myself. We had a very good conversation, some in English and some in my limited Spanish. She wished me good luck on my trip and asked to to stop on my return. --turn to page 11

GARDEN
CRAFT

How to grow SIX VARIETIES of
IBERVILLEA SONORAE shown below.



Simple



Hangman



Bowline



Fig. 8

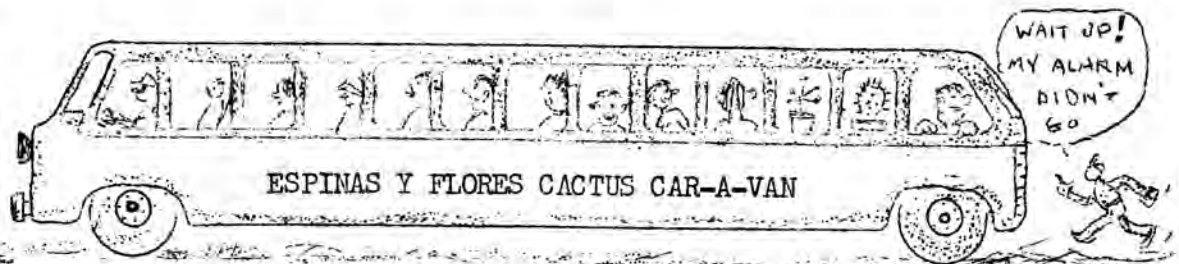


Clove hitch



W.R. SCOTT

Top: Square
Bot: Granny



SEPTEMBER
CACTUS
CAR-A-VAN

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1970

DESTINATION: ABBEY GARDEN, RESEDA, CA (More below)

DEPARTURE INSTRUCTIONS: Bus will load on the parking lot south of the Organ Pavillion in Balboa Park about 7:45 a.m. Departure time is 8 a.m. You'd better B-ON-HAND early. Sorry for anyone who forgets to set his alarm!!

ABBAY GARDEN: We should arrive there about 12:30 to 1 p.m. The Garden is the project of Charles Glass and Robert Foster, Editors of the CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL. It is their aim to procure, propagate and distribute new, different, uncommon, hard-to-get, unusual and "rare" plants. They offer "the largest, most accurately named selection of mammillarias of any source in the world". They have other plants too, for example if you'd like a BRACHYSTELMA, an IPOMOEA or a DIDIEREA (what? No Zygocactus?) here's your chance. Look over their catalog before you start the trip—you'll be doing yourself a favor, it will be a help to know what you want in advance.

SPECIAL FEATURE: A visit enroute to ED and BETTY GAYS' garden in Tarzana. They are members of OUR Club. Ed is immediate past president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, a caravan leader of renown, much in demand by many groups, a contributor of fine articles to the JOURNAL. Betty is--- . . . wait till you meet her!!! Their garden is-----see "OUR MORPHOLOGICAL GARDEN" in the Cactus and Succulent Journal of July-Aug. 1967, page 136 and on. You'll get a much better idea of what your coming to than we can portray on this page.

LUNCH: Take a sack lunch and refreshments to your liking. We will take a bit of time out at the Gays' regain our strength, BUT SAVE A LOT OF SPACE for later in the day.

PRIVATE CARS: You're perfectly welcome to join the car-a-van in your own car. It would be well to get route and timing info from the Old Wagonmaster--296-6022.

The SIGN-UP SHEET was filled to overflowing at the August meeting, more signatures than bus seats...a priority system will be figured out by the Board soon.

THE BUS: A 39-seater with a rest room. Our aim is to make our CAR-A-VANS self-supporting, not to make money for the Club treasury. Seats will be \$4.25 each, which sum must be paid BEFORE you have a reservation. Bus will be loaded in the order of sign-up plus any priority system developed by the Board for the occasion. Treasurer Glenn HEYER will be happy to receive your fee at the Sept. meeting.

HOMEWARD: We will be going toward RESEDA on the San Diego Freeway (405) but we will return on the Santa Ana Freeway in order to take advantage of a "regalement" at ARNOLD'S FARMHOUSE near Buena Park. It's buffet style--a fine selection of choice foods at very reasonable prices, approximately \$3.00 (round figure). Or if you particularly like salads you may have a salad dinner to saladify your appetite and cut down on weight at a bit less than \$3. We will endeavor to have a room and table set apart for our Club on the 19th.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE JOURNAL: The Cactus & Succulent Journal has the longest, unbroken record of publication for specialized magazines of any in the English language. It is a bimonthly publication, \$6.00 per year. You will be meeting the Editors, Charles Glass and Robert Foster at Reseda on CAR-A-VAN DAY, Sept. 19th.

ANY QUESTIONS, PROBLEMS, IDEAS? Call the Old Wagonmaster W. R. SCOTT 296-6022

SEPTIEMBRE
JARDINERIA

September in Southern California is most likely to be just a continuation of August heat. In El Cajon and other inland valleys the temperature rises and it still is very much summer. If the wind blows down from the northeast, we will have a dry Santa Ana. Near the coast in Doc Corliss' back yard, the smog and fog will blow out to sea and the temperature will rise and there will be excellent beach and garden weather under clear blue skies.

Yes, September is a busy month for the gardener and one in which we must arm ourselves with water pails and shade cloth. The many succulent plants which flowered earlier in the season, like epiphyllums and echinopsis should be repotted now rather than in the spring, otherwise buds are apt to dry off. After repotting be sure to place in the shade and not water for a few days in case of root damage which could result in rotting.

We should now be watering the stemless mesembryanthemums like conophytums, pleiospilos and lithops. These "mesems" require fair amounts of water and they should be "flowering their heads off". Stapelias flower exceptionally well this month and also they will need water along with crassulas, kleinias and senecios which all should be at their showy best.

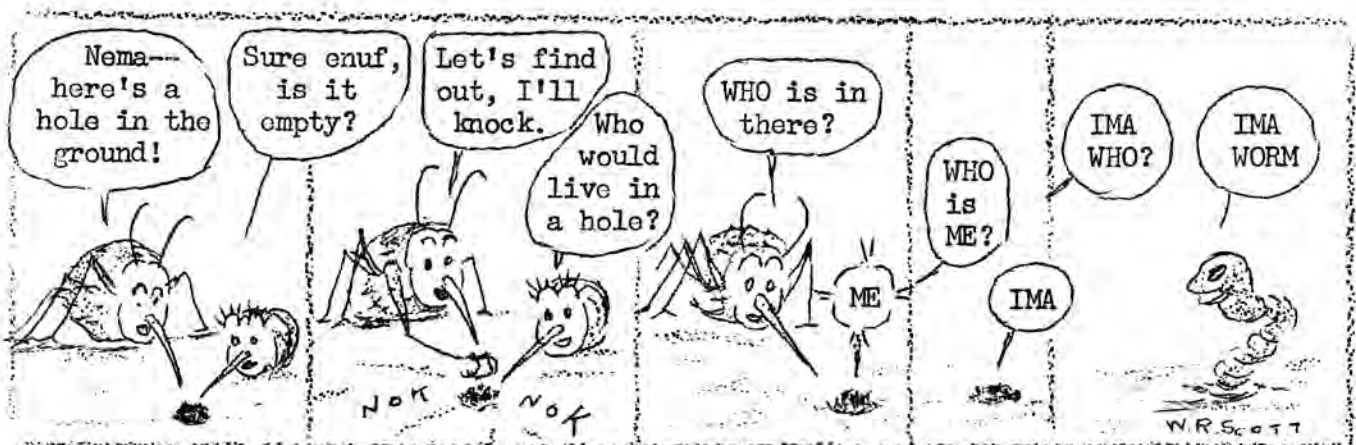
Fine heads of new leaves should have developed on the leafy succulents like echeverias and kalanchoes. If you want these plants to develop the highly colored leaves which make them so attractive, then begin to water them only half as much as you did throughout the summer.

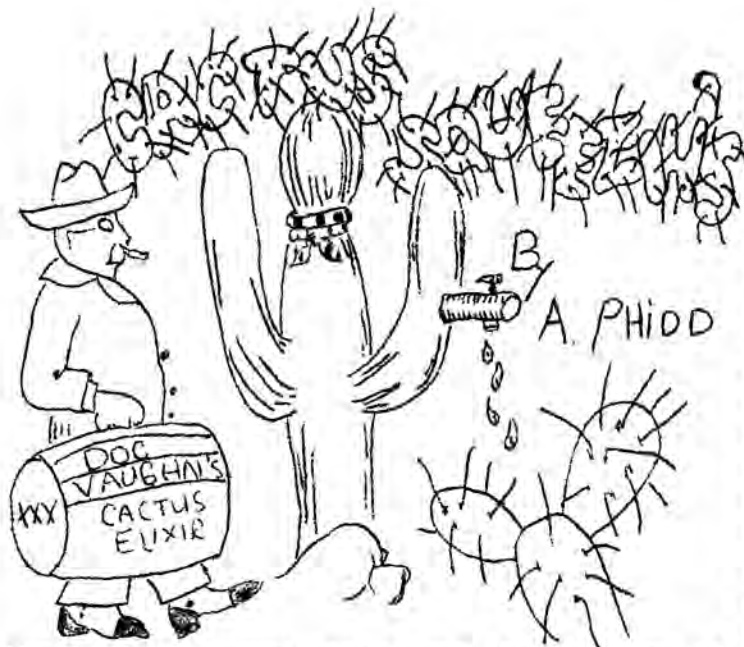
If September weather is hot and dry, then be on the lookout for red spiders. They are much in evidence and one of the worst summer pests. If you don't see them but see finely stripped leaves with silvery webs underneath, then get a hand lens and you will see them. Spray with malathion or meta-systox R for eradication. Also continue spraying for mealybugs and aphids. It is advisable to remove the dried dead skins from all plants in the mesem group, otherwise mealy bugs can find convenient homes.

BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF
THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

All members of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society are eligible to attend the Society's biennial conventions. The 1971 Convention theme is "Cactusland 1971". El Paso, Texas, has been chosen as the convention site. Clubs in the area--Texas, New Mexico--are planning field trips, programs, tours and pre- and post-convention events. More information on this exciting five-day meeting--May 10 to 14, 1971, will appear in Espinas y Flores as the time approaches. Registration forms will be available early in 1971.

Start making plans NOW to attend the most interesting of ALL conventions!





DOES THE SUN MAKE the garden? If it has any effect at all, San Diego should rightfully be the Garden Spot of this earth...nowhere else is the expression of His demeanor so tempered, that even His wrath bathes the body like a gentle western breeze...the moisture that hangs motionless in the evening air is taken quickly by the swollen lips of buds expanding...and the almost imperceptible humming of nocturnal industry fills the air in preparation for that moment just before dawning, when with a great inhalation of silence, Nature pauses expectantly for the

Mestros downward stroke and the symphony of day begins..."Open afresh your round of starry folds, Ye ardent Marigolds! Dry up moisture from your golden lids, For Apollo bids; That in these days your praises should be sung...On many harps, which he has lately strung; And when again your dewiness he kisses, Tell him I have you in my world of blisses"...Keats...

Nema and I have taken a brief, enforced vacation of late, while the dispute over malathion, cygon, nicotine, and other insecticides was being resolved...we wanted to be reassured of our place in your garden...while many of you are enjoying the fruits of your early Spring labors, others of us are trying to keep the Cornucopia in its original conical form...they just don't make 'em like they use to...So much has happened since last we talked together, we are terribly afraid we are going to miss telling about something, or worse yet, someone...Nevertheless, you will recall, we scheduled a "Workshop" session for the June meeting...featuring our members and some of their specialties...WOW... it was more like a, "would you believe?" five ring circus...the only thing lacking was the mid-way smell of hotdogs, popcorn, and cotton candy...and we are not too sure that LUCILLE UNDERWOOD, Regalement chairman, couldn't have arranged it, if anyone would have suspected such a ruction...the participants were more like sideshow barkers than lecturers...RUTH CUZNER said we blew at least four sterling programs in one fell swoop...that's the way it is when you have a hyperthyroidal condition of the horn of plenty...but it was beautiful...

Never have we heard such overtones of chirping, giggling, buzzing, laughing... like a flock of Scarlet Tanagers working over an ear of winter corn, or possibly it was more like one of those fabled wartime ladies' nylon sales..."Step right up ladies and gentlemen...watch Taylor The Terrible with his super sharp Syrian scimitar cut the heads off your favorite specimens, stick them on walls, windows, or trees and watch them grow before your very eyes"...And on your right with the quickness of a 1.4 lens Pedantic Phelps will let you peek at the peerless pedigrees of the Cactus world for one thin dime...the 10th part of a dollar"...In center stage left it gives us great pleasure to bring to you at no expense, the 18th and a half wonder of the world, the Sophisticated Sorceress..'Sophia the Great', who with the wild wizardry of spirit-rapping, table-tapping, and other mystic bedevilment and mumbo-jumbo, will enchant you with the art of Vegetative Viviparity while swaying to the gentle Afro-Cuban rhythms of Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite"...MINNIE HOGUL pressed the daylights out of living things so that they might live forever...RUTH NELSON demonstrated that a more complete fulfillment could be reached through a little organization...while BILL hung around with his hanging

Cactus Squeezin's, cont'd.

baskets...HELEN HEGYI, with the tact of a wine connoisseur not wishing to emulate "El Presidente", talked of 'double potting'...the "Yorgin Method" of seed propagation never germinated fully...but who could want for anything more...it was an affair where friendly people did friendly things...together--Hallmark...

In July you all read of our efforts at the Fair and the luminating qualities of our exhibits...thanks to KIM and BEA ARNOLD...wine margaritas will never replace the real thing...but unummm, it was, "The End of a Perfect Day"...the meeting at Taylor's Cactus Garden was called a 'pot-luck'...aptly named we trust...the food was rainbow struck...the assemblage was a yard full...clean out to the garden gate...the throng had barely choked down their last mouthfuls when DOC CORLISS delivered a very digestible lyric epic, now in print...there was a clanging of bells, a wizzing and clattering of the old wheel of fortune...door prizes, doorprizes, door prizes, and more...PERLSO LEWIS said that one number was pulled from the hat four different times...oddly enough on each occasion there was a different winner...those secret family societies are everywhere...and more door prizes...right in the middle of some 'high bid' auctioneering, or should we say 'high handed'...we bid up, we bid down, and sometimes we went both ways...and someways not known to ordinary auction goers...wizzzzz, bang, clatter-clatter and BOB DIMERS picked off the first prize of the day from the big wheel...a gigantic Echeveria...TAYLOR'S granddaughter SHERRY won back all the gems BOB and SUZANNE wanted to keep...we'll probably see them again at next year's raffle...WILSON WELLS sent ALICE on a vacation immediately afterwards...to see if she could bring back some eastern money to make ends meet for the next few months...JULIAIN RICE and her entourage from the Imperial Valley seemed to be trying to single-handedly repopulate the Borrego desert with spiny little purchases...Mrs. WHITESTONE, a visitor from Canada, won on her first two chances and urgently left to catch the 6th race at Caliente...FLORABUNDA, operating under new restraints for her at an auction, couldn't get her hand up fast enough...so she took to nodding her head, much to the chagrin of SCOTTY'S wallet...

The auctioneer in sycodelic picnic attire and flanked by the pulchritude of vivacious NIBBY KLINEFELTER and lithe EVE WARN as ticket sellers, with the mindful ELAINE NIEHAUS watching the till, could not disguise his true pyknic form...LEE PHELPS gave up bidding in pure frustration when DOC VAUGHAN, WARREN BUCKNER, and WALT GREENWOOD decided, "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better"...it's tough to have a reputation for having a discerning eye, when you're up against some high dollar bidders...JACK RANAY made good use of his little Ranchero in carrying home his loot...and BOBBY FLETCHER made good use of his little 'Scotch Cooler'...the afternoon sun, usually large and resplendent in the July sky, was somehow almost insignificant compared to the beaming smile of ELLEN LOW as she packed away, ever so carefully, the prize tree graft, grafted by SHERRY, that she had craftily maneuvered away from competitive bidding...or was it the rufous hue of her husband's face, when he almost swallowed his cigar, after her winner take all bid...wizzzz, clatter-clatter, bang-band...happy people doing happy things...together...Hallmark.

In August we settled down to normalcy...fun and games...'El Presidente' opened the meeting to some 80 plus smiling faces...he was wearing that crazy mixed-up shirt again for those who hadn't availed themselves of the opportunity to see it at the Taylor fest...the meeting was turned over to 1st Veep, IONE HUBNER, who ably demonstrated her ability to wield the gavel over this rumpus room clan...a parcel of 1st time visitors to our spinetastic emporium of garden facets...sometimes known as a hose bibb...were introduced and a mad-cap parade of plants and activities past, present, and future commenced...the chief bill-of-fare was a sparkling slide review of plants and flowers presented by ALICE DOIMBY TAYLOR...complete with hints on how to do...the meeting was interrupted by a 15 minute plant walk down to the barely existing old Cactus Garden in Balboa Park...at its

Cactus of The Month

Ariocarpus

THE LIVING ROCKS

The living rock cacti are very aptly named because they look and feel like nothing more than rocks, but show they are alive by blooming with good regularity every fall. The genus Ariocarpus was named by Scheidweiler in 1838 for the type species, A. retusus. The name means a fruit like the Aria, a genus of plants unknown to me. The plants in Ariocarpus have been stuck with a number of names, most of which are fortunately long out of use. Britton and Rose knew only the first three species, but since their monograph three additional species have been described. I am using as my authority the article by E. F. Anderson, "A Taxonomic Revision of Ariocarpus (Cactaceae)," Cactus and Succulent Journal 37:39-49, 1965.

The most commonly seen plant is A. fissuratus, the Mexican living rock. It has triangular tubercles about one-half inch on a side with a furry furrow from the pointed tip to the base. The tubercles meet closely, forming a flat or domed round top. The surfaces of the tubercles are very warty and hard with a dark gray or dirty green color. This may be the slowest growing of them all, a 3 inch plant reportedly being at least 50 years old. This plant is a dependable bloomer, with one and one-quarter inch pink flowers from the center each fall.

A. retusus looks a little more like it might be alive, but only with a stretch of the imagination. The tubercles are triangular, rough but not warty, and stand up somewhat more than the previous species. Rarely, a plant may be found with small areoles at the tip of the tubercles with a few weak spines. This species has a white to pinkish color, somewhat like pale rose quartz. The flower is white to pale pink, also appearing in fall.

The smallest species is A. kotchubeyanus (also known as A. maddowellii), rarely over 2 inches wide. The top is either perfectly flat or somewhat depressed in the center. Beneath the ground the plant is quite large, having a tuber the diameter of the top or larger, and up to 3 inches long. The tubercles are similar to those of A. fissuratus, but only one-eighth to one-quarter inch long. The one inch rose flowers look as though they were coming from the bare earth. It is a real test of the eyesight to find these plants in a friend's garden, even when you know they're there. This species was first imported into Europe in 1840, and one plant sold for \$200.00!

The largest species is A. trigonus, and one which looks like it could be alive. This species has tubercles up to 2 inches long and an inch wide at the base, and they stand nearly upright. This species will get well over 6 inches in diameter. The plant is a deep gray green in color with copious wool between the tubercles. The flowers are a very pale yellow.

The only member of the genus I haven't seen is A. scapharostrus, a species found in the 1930's. It is described as having triangular tubercles up to 2 inches long with a callous at the tip and membranes along the tubercle margins. The flowers are reported as purple.

The last species was described as Neowomesia agavioides by Castenada in 1941, but Anderson moved it to Ariocarpus. The specific name is very appropriate since the plant does look like a small agave. Closer examination of the plant shows a woolly areole about one-third of the way from the tip of the long narrow tubercle. With age, the plant forms a short caudex. A pink flower comes from the tubercles near the center of the plant.

-Continued next page-

CACTUS OF THE MONTH-CONTINUED

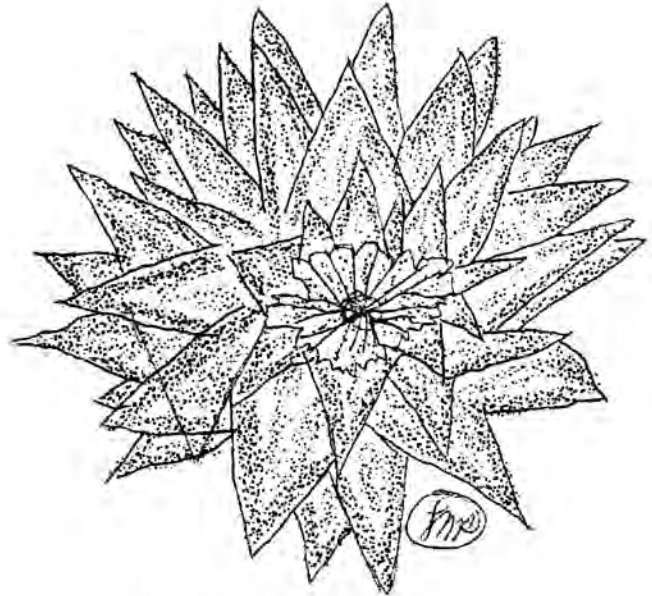
All of these plants come from areas of Texas and Mexico with long, hot, dry seasons, and grow in full sun. In the garden or potted they should be in sandy, well drained soil in full sun. I would like to say they grow well, but can only say that they live well under these conditions. I have only had an Ariocarpus for 4 years, and I haven't seen it grow yet! But it is alive since it blooms regularly. These plants will grow somewhat faster on a graft, so if you want fast results, graft onto a hard-bodied stock.

I believe every collector should have one Ariocarpus, if not for his own pleasure, then to astound his friends!

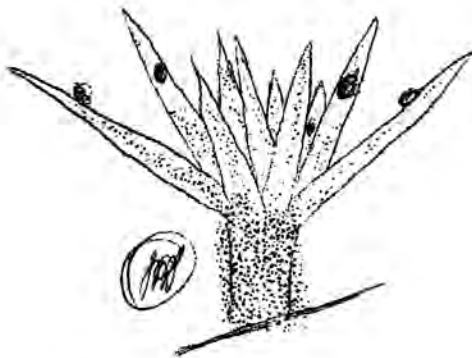
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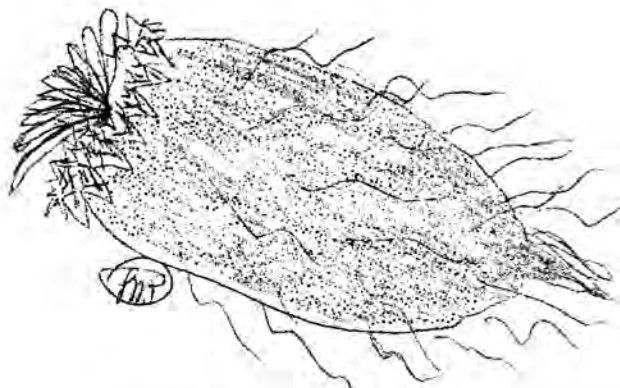
A. fissuratus



A. trigonus



A. agavoides



A. kotchubeyanus

Cactus Squeezin's cont'd.

conclusion a committee was formed with WILSON WELLS, AUGIE PFEIFFER and others to look into the possibilities of resurrection for the Balboa Park Garden, as well as to establish new ones at the Zoo, Cabrillo Lighthouse, and other places of note throughout the City...interested people, doing interesting things...together... Hallmark... "The great fundamental laws of life refuse to be used on any basis other than the unity of good"... — 8 —

A.Phidd

SUCCULENT OF-THE-MONTH SEDUM SPECTABILE

Did you ever make a hollyhock doll -- or a daisy chain -- or give a friend the do-you-like-butter test with a dandelion under the chin? If you did, then you most likely popped a leaf or two of SEDUM SPECTABILE in your time. For those who didn't, it isn't too late to try, for the leaf surfaces are double and you can blow them up like a rather unwilling balloon. Enough air is forced between to make a satisfactory POP!

This old friend behaved far more attractively in Northern Illinois than it has with me in Southern California. There it was adorable in the Springtime -- miniature cabbages clustering cosily together -- up before the tulips, a pale gray-green in the rockgarden, adding promise to the perennial beds.

During the summer its color and texture were handsome foils for ferns at the edge of the shady beds, or perfectly at home baking in the sun. It is sturdy enough to face down shrubs. Once I saw it used groundcover fashion in the circle of a sweeping driveway and it was spectacular, all right.

My flower-arranging friends depended upon it for foliage--sometimes it rooted in the water and was replanted. During the autumn it truly lived up to its name, appearing to bloom in solid sheets of lavender-tinged pink which lasted well. Thousands of tiny flowers with twice as many stamens, thousands of tiny pink stars.

While the species never needed improving, hybridizers have introduced varieties of deeper pinks and dark reds-- as I recall one cultivar is "Indian Chief".

This is the Sedum that unscrupulous mailorder nurseries advertised so extravagantly--their claims were almost justified but their prices certainly were not!

Offhand, I can't think of another plant so easily propagated. Pinch off a piece about six inches long, (it grows well over a foot tall in clumps wider than you can encircle), strip off the lower leaves and stick in the soil. No waiting to heal and simple to share.

By the time we started "putting the garden away" for the winter, the dried seed heads were cut for use in dried arrangements and wreaths. This use is one reason that Sedum Spectabile is referred to as "Live Forever", a common name shared with several other plants.



SEDUM
SPECTABILE

In California my experience^{*} has been slower growing, less striking in color and less crisp in texture, with smaller flower heads. Aphids appear in ever-increasing numbers just as the buds start to form and the whole plant looks sickly. Spraying with malathion, dipping into soapy water, or poking with alcohol-dipped Q-tip should control.

In the high-desert back country of Warner Springs, Elaine Niehaus reports that they grew into splendid specimens. Apparently they appreciate the low winter temperatures. However, she added, the variegated variety did not keep its lovely yellow markings but reverted after the first year.

*with Sedum spectabile, that is

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH - CONTINUED

It shouldn't have been the surprise that it was to find that ^{deciduous}perennials in Illinois also lose their leaves in California.

In my book a sedum is a Sedoideae, member of the Crassulaceae--which frivolous writing causes that grower of specimen succulentes, Elaine Niehaus, to scoff, "Who do you think wants to read THAT kind of stuff?!!" Furthermore, there is a bewildering bunch of them-- some 500 known and named Sedums.

Sedum is from the Latin "sedare" which means to assuage or soothe. The juicy leaves were used as a soothing application for aches and pains. Another source states firmly that it is from the Latin meaning "to sit", in reference to many species which grow "sitting in the rocks".

Our plant is said to have come from Japan and Central China. It is too well known to need description--pronouncing it is another thing, and not mine. In fact, it's simpler and more pleasing to call it Sedum SPEC-TAB-A-LIS than spek-tab-i-le. (All soft vowels.)

Other sedums creep and crawl, shrub and sprawl. It's indeed a rare garden without a sedum of some kind. They are native to both the Old World and the New. Being one of the laziest labelers in the Society, I am taking advantage of this opportunity to make a list of some of the ones most of us know by sight but not necessarily by name.

- S. DASYPHYLLUM - about the tiniest, very blue, mat-like in growth
- S. MULTICEPS - miniature Joshua tree
- S. SIEBOLDII - graceful hanging-basket plant
- S. ACRE - Called "Golden Acres" - hardy, yellow flowers, light green, creeping
- S. SPATHULIFOLIUM - flat, glaucous rosettes of leaves, yellow flowers, Pacific coast
- S. REFLEXUM - "the Cockscomb Sedum" - cristates easily
- S. PRAEALTUM - the best known fasciated form - also known as "Perlso's Pride"
- S. BREVIFOLIUM - white mealy leaves in close rows, very neat - hugs the soil
- S. PACHYPHYLLUM - light green, fat leaves rosette on end of stem, rosy tips
- S. StahlII - "red beads" - "coral beads" - very tender - similar to Guatemalense
- S. GUATEMALENSE - shiny green turning red in full sun - almost every leaf sprouts
 . also known as "Christmas Cheer" and "Boston Beans"- Plant-of-the-month
 for this December
- S. ALTISSIMUM - spreading, light blue-green, about 5" tall - hardy

and that's enough for openers. Cultural requirements? None in particular. This sedum is also used as a pot plant, both in California and the Middle West where it becomes quite stately. (Left-over note: The Crassula genus usually has five stamens -- sedums ten. One source stated that sedums have 4 to 8 petals -- double the number of stamens.)

SALUDO! Bra. Florabunda y Sr. Wagonmaster!!

At the Annual Cactus and Succulent Show of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, at Arcadia on July 3, 4 and 5, the Old Wagonmaster (Scotty) and Hazel Scott (Florabunda) brought to our Club a bit of recognition with five ribbons: Two blue, two red and a "special" as follows:

- BLUE: A beautiful BROMELIA BALANSAE with a brilliant inflorescence,
- BLUE: A "CARTOON PANEL" consisting of twelve individual cartoons especially prepared for the Show. Some of the winning group will appear in future issues of the Cactus and Succulent Journal. Watch for them.
- RED: Five featherstone planters entered as a group, each containing cacti.
- RED: A RHIPSALIS CEREUSCULA in a basket.
- SPECIAL: An ACANTHOSTACHYS STROBILACEAE in a hanging basket.

I suspect she was making sure I returned safely, since I know now that she fully lives up to her reputation of being extremely kind and gracious.

The road to San Agustin is very rough with several mountains to cross. One downhill grade seemed to be five miles long at a speed of about two miles per hour! The road continues through nearly uninterrupted Idria columnaris (cirio) forest, and what a marvelous sight. Along the way I stopped several times just for the pleasure of it, not for collecting. Near Rancho Arenoso I saw a beautiful one-foot seedling of Pachycereus pringlei (cardon) from the car, so I stopped to collect it. And was I happy I had done so. That seedling has magnificent 4-inch spines--exceptionally long for the seedlings I have seen. And within a few feet of that plant was a one-foot specimen of Ferocactus gracilis with two heads. Naturally I found room for both.

No more collecting on the road to San Agustin, but my thoughts had turned to my object, Pachycormis discolor var pubescens--the elephant tree. Would I be able to recognize it? After all I had only seen small plants, and one picture of full-size trees. Would it be possible to drive through them for miles without knowing it? On past San Agustin and the turnoff to El Marmol. Then... There they were! A mountainside covered with elephant trees without doubt. No problem in recognition. I passed several groves that were fairly distant from the road, then came to an old campsite very near another grove. I jumped out with my tools and headed for the grove on the steep mountainside. What a feeling? A small plant and a picture had not prepared me for the fantastic sight of these trees. The grossly swollen trunk and lower limbs are a special beauty not granted freely in nature. And it was apparently an uncollected site insofar as I could determine, and I collected my first four trees before sunset. To dig a one-foot tree from the rocky hillside was slow work since I wanted near perfect specimens. That meant about thirty minutes per tree.

At sunset I drove on south to a new campsite in the level countryside. I stopped just a few feet off the highway, but traffic was no problem since there was only one vehicle all night. The moon was full--there is no describing the peaceful feeling of the scene. The only sound was my own breathing. There were no night sounds, no crickets, tree frogs, other insects or animals. This is another of those wonders of Baja, and one which must be experienced to be believed. I must say that this was a silence easy to bear, primarily because I became fully aware of the plant life surrounding me. And what plants! In the moonlight I could see cirios, cardons, senites, barrels and various shrubs breaking the distant mountain skyline. Again sleep came readily, and a most restful sleep it was.



I was up at the first hint of dawn (automatically, not with a clock!) and made my camera ready because the clouds bespoke a spectacular sunrise. The changes in the sky were very beautiful and my camera worked overtime for a while. Then I explored the area, but all my collecting was on film. A Lophocereus schottii (senita) with 20-foot stems, and a bird posing on top of one of a stem; a 3-foot F. gracilis with about 10 branches; many tall graceful cirios, all recorded on film as a permanent record of a glorious dawn and some of the wonders of Baja.

I drove back to a spot I had seen the previous evening for more pictures. An 8-foot cardon growing from a small vertical crack in a boulder, a one-foot cirio growing in a depression on top of another huge boulder, a very large elephant tree growing

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from the vertical face of the mountain, and a large cirio growing on top of two boulders with the roots between them. These are sights to be seen and marvelled at and preserved on film.

Back to the original collecting site, which was the best I had found. I was perfectly willing to begin my return trip from this point since my greatest desire was to collect elephant trees. I spent about two hours collecting here again in a different grove of trees. I gathered three more trees and also discovered several plants of Mammillaria (Phellosperma) tetrancistra in the area. What a nice bonus! These cacti are beautiful, usually single, white spined mams with extremely large red seed pods and very thick, wide-spread roots. Around a couple of them I found a number of quarter inch seedlings--the first time I had found seedlings in the field. Since I was uncertain if these seedlings would survive replanting in the field, they came back with me. Parenthetically, I might say that only one of the seedlings has survived to the present time.

The return trip to El Rosario was uneventful until I spotted a crested branch of a cholla (Opuntia acanthocarpa?) near the road. That was nearly the cause of a traffic jam. There was no place to park except in the road because of the deep ruts, so there I parked. I sawed the four best branches off the bush and barely got back into the car when five vehicles approached in front of me. I did get to a pull-off point in time to allow the herd to pass.

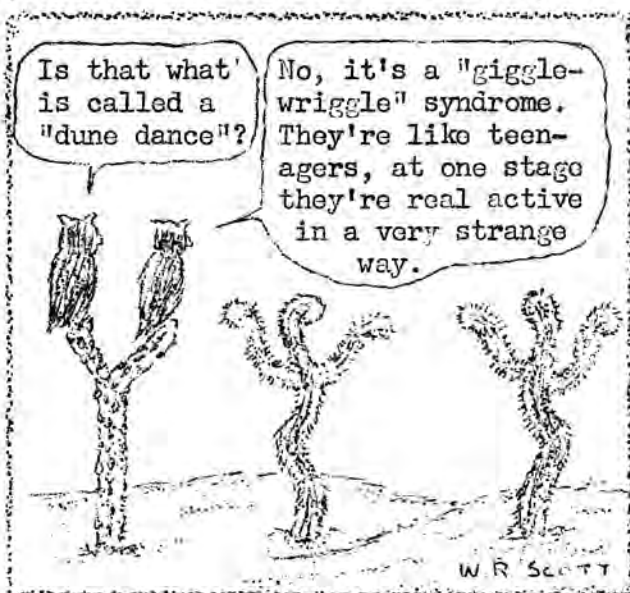
That long rocky mountain grade was in my mind all the while as my nemesis, and I really dreaded having to cross it. But when I got to it, it was only about one-half mile long and very easily traversed! I arrived in El Rosario shortly after lunch and was invited to have tea by Sra. Espinosa. What a pleasant hour that was! We talked of many things, and discovered we had mutual friends in areas other than cacti. I was most happy to carry news of a fossil find to a geologist friend in the States. It was a pleasure to leave a gift for the children and for the hospital, and to give Sra. Espinosa several plants for her garden.

My collecting that afternoon was on a cliff several miles north of Rancho El Consuelo. And what an afternoon! One of my habits is to inspect every open flower of Mm. dioica in a search for a plant with male flowers only. One plant I inspected had a flower with a brilliant red stigma rather than the green or buff I had expected. I looked at it for several seconds before the full realization of what I had found hit me. The spines were different also! Here at last, without doubt, was Mm. louisae. Once I had studied this plant, there was great ease in separating the two look-alike species. As I had been instructed, these plants are found near or at the edge of the

seaward vegetation. The thrill of finding several specimens of Mm. louisae was eclipsed only minutes later when I found an otherwise typical Mm. dioica with pure green flowers! This plant has pale green seed pods (when ripe) rather than red, and seeds are plentiful. Currently I have about 100 seedlings from this plant, and in a few years I should know whether this is a true breeding sport or just a melanistic freak.

Dusk was approaching again, so a decision had to be made. Should I spend another day here or go on to a new collecting ground? I decided to go on and return to these grounds later. So I drove north to near Colonia Guerrero to camp.

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WONDERS OF BAJA Cont'd: This was a foggy night, and although traffic was heavy, the sound proofing was very good.

The following morning was spent driving to San Carlos canyon near Ensenada and collecting Echinocereus pacificus at its type locality (one of two known locales for this species). I had never found this species for sale in the San Diego area, and feared that the plant was near extinction or some other equally horrible possibility. The drive up the canyon was a real surprise, since there was a large flowing stream to be forded several times. I had forgotten there was a hot spring at the head of the canyon, and naturally a spring implies water.

I stopped frequently to scour the steep canyon walls with my binoculars, but nothing. Then, about ten miles up the canyon, I saw a blotch of red on the cliff. Quickly I scanned again and saw a 2-foot clump of E. pacificus with many 2-inch flowers. They were here! Much of the land is privately owned and fenced, so I drove on until I came to an open area. I had to park on the wrong side of the stream, but stone for crossing had been placed to eliminate the wet-foot problem. There were many clusters of E. pacificus from small to large, all growing on nearly inaccessible cliff faces. Into my goat act, and up I went! I came back down in a few minutes with several near perfect clusters, one with about 20 2-inch diameter heads covered with flowers. With these my trip was complete!

I had collected every plant I had wanted plus some additional attractions. It was time now to head for Tijuana, customs, inspection, and home, where I arrived in late afternoon.

Why had I made the trip alone? Yes, to collect a few plants, but even more because Baja California had called to me and bade me welcome. I feel the promise of the country to share her wonders, and there can be no doubt that she has shared them with me.

I have since returned to Baja with companions, and she shared more of her wonders with me. I shall return again, as frequently as possible. But no trip could be the soul-satisfying experience of this solo trip when I wasn't alone for even one second

---Leroy N. Phelps, Ph.D.

DIAS DE IMPORTANTES

- SEPT. 12, SATURDAY: Monthly meeting of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society (Postponed a week from Sept 5 by reason of the Labor Day Weekend)
- SEPT. 19, SATURDAY: CACTUS CAR-A-VAN to Abbey Garden and other points of interest. (Read about it elsewhere in this issue--final arrangements Sept. 12)
- OCT. 3, SATURDAY: Monthly meeting of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
- OCT. 21, MONDAY: First regular meeting of the newly formed San Diego Epiphyllum Society at 7:30 p.m. in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park. Full info from Mr. William Nelson--298-3349.
- OCT. 22, THURSDAY: Prof. Werner Rauh of University of Heidelberg, Germany, will be our guest and speaker at a meeting of our Society and the Bromeliad Society at Sir George's Smorgasboard, 6942 University Ave., La Mesa. You may (should) sign up at the September meeting, may be a full house.
- OCT. 24, SATURDAY: Quarterly meeting of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America at the Arboretum in Arcadia. Prof. Rauh will be the speaker.
- MAY 10-14, 1971: BIENNIAL CONVENTION of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America at the Airport Hilton in El Paso, Texas. Start thinking and planning NOW. This event is "tops" in the Cactus World.



by Cacto Phil Corliss

I simply love the mammillaria
Because they need so small an area.
In bloom they really far surpass
The plants of any other class



Neoporteria is a tribe
Which truly as your humble scribe
I wish you all would try to grow,
Their ease and beauty thus to know.



Neo-por-TRIBE



Tricho—
in full Moon

As for the mighty trichocereus,
I must admit that I am furious
Because their large and lovely flowers
Are open in the night time hours.

The same is true for epiphyllum
Who often make me want to kill 'em,
When even in the deepest shade
Their gorgeous flowers in daytime fade.

Sorry



—about
my floppy flowers!



Echino "C"

But echinocereus is a must
In which to place your trust,
For noble flowers big and bold
Which many days you can behold.

Although they're open but part of the day
I must confess they force me to say
The flowers put forth by most of the gymnos
Are many and certain as ev'ryone knows.



Jim? NO!
GYMNO. Si!

Alas! We find that echinomastus
Culture is a thing just past us.
Only as grafts we have a chance
Their growth and vigor to enhance.



Echine "I"

The genus named for Doc. Rebut
Deserves a sure and proud debut
On both the shelves and in the grounds
Of all true cactus-loving hounds.



Rebutia



Lobivia

And one step up comes the lobivia
For it is not just idle trivia
To say you need no true green thumb
For bloom to strike you simply dumb.

How much the world of cactus owes
To Berger, Borg, Eritton and Rose
And all the others in the field
Who garnered such a cactus yield!



W.R. SCOTT

ESPINAS Y FLORES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

-----MAILING ADDRESS-----

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
1744 Englewood Dr., Lemon Grove, Ca.
92045

-----OFFICERS-----

PRESIDENT---Jim Stalsonburg 465-6661
10274 Madrid Way, Spring Valley, Ca.
92077

TREASURER---Glenn A. Heyer 466-7937
6956 Wyoming Ave., La Mesa, Ca.
92041

REC'G SEC---Nibby Klinefelter 276-6517
2201 Fairfield St., San Diego, Ca.
92110

EDITOR---Michael Buckner 469-1391
1744 Englewood Dr., or 281-5625
Lemon Grove, Ca. 92045

SEPTIEMBRE 1970 ASAMBLEA ! !!

REMEMBER! The September meeting will be held one week later than usual--- September 12 rather than September 5th because of the Labor Day weekend!

-----SOCIETY MEETINGS-----

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Visitors are welcome! Ample and convenient parking.

-----ARTICLE REPRINTS-----

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-----PROGRAM--SEPTIEMBRE ASAMBLE-----

Saturday, Sept. 12, 1970--1:30 p.m. in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park.

SPEAKER: Mr. Larry L. SISK of the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation will describe progress on and features of the new Botanical Building now under construction on the Prado in Balboa Park--"CASA del PRADO".

Larry will bring us up to date on this very important development and explain what our Club must do to accomplish a smooth switchover from the present Floral Association Building to the new "CASA del PRADO" sometime in 1972.

-----PLANT OF THE MONTH-----

CACTUS: Borzicactus samaipatanus
SUCCULENT: Sedum spectabile

-----PLANTS OF THE MONTH, OCTOBER-----

PLANTS OF NORTHERN BAJA AND SONORA--our program in October will be on members' trips to those areas.