

# Espinas y Flores

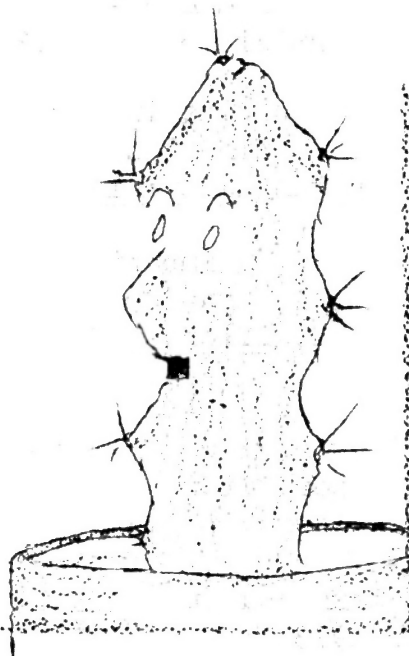
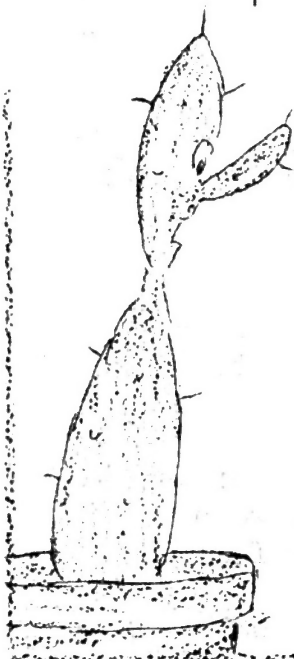
BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

TOMO NUEVE, NUMERO TRES

MARZO 1974

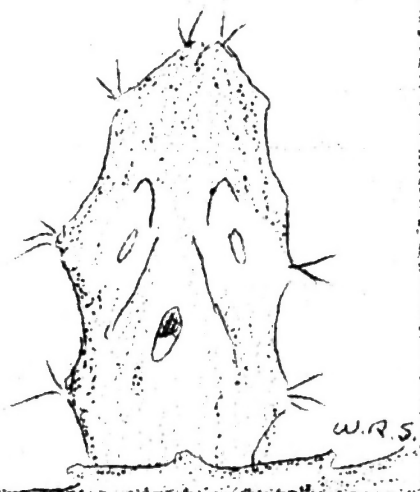
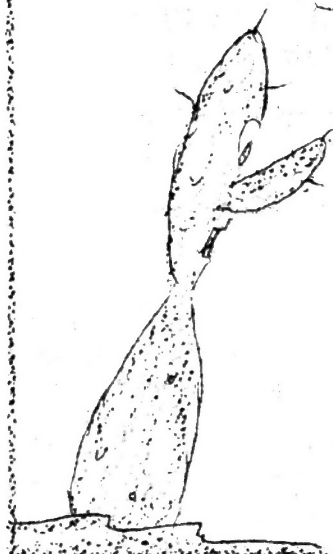
Señor, I hear you're a new Mexican cactus species. Have you been given a botanical name yet?

Si señor, my name he is on the can but I no can read up-side-down. You read ny name, por favor!



Genus, Coffee, species folger's variety, electric perc!

That's not my name, it's more a shock.



"TOUCH & FEEL" FOR THE HANDICAPPED

--Alice Wells--

Our Society voted in February to assist the Cerebral Palsy School's educational sessions on the second Saturday of the month. First class was Feb. 11th at 7949 Birmingham Drive. The session was devoted to Cacti and other Succulents and the opportunity was afforded to class members to learn about succulent plants by 'touch and feel'. Slides of various succulent plants and the gardens of Club members were shown.

Next class day will be March 11. Sophie Loyland will demonstrate planting of small varieties of succulents and class members will be provided plants of their own to take home. Sophie will also demonstrate the 'art' of grafting cacti.

Volunteers from our Club are always welcome to participate in the two hour class sessions.

P L A N T N A M E S -- More about same in addition to front cover and Dr. Phil Corliss' article on page 13

"Among the rebutias in our collections is one labelled Rebutia grandilacea. For some time I have suspected that this was a hybrid between R. grandiflora and R. violaciflora.

Jean Deane and I imported a plant each of R. grandilacea at the same time from the same grower. Jean's plant produced flowers remarkably akin to R. violaciflora and mine a bloom almost identical with R. grandiflora.

Just this week I was looking thru an old catalog of Johnson's Cactus Gardens and there it was listed as the hybrid that we had always thought it was! I presume it was another of Mr. Johnson's famous hybrids."

REF: Cactus and Succulent Journal of New South Wales, page 44.  
December 1973.

Kay JOHNSON, Shawnee Mission, KANS

"Inclosed is my check for all '73 issues of 'Espinaz y Flores'. I know I will enjoy having the past issues as well as future issues to read.

I have asked our chief chemist to make up the chemical fertilizer mentioned in your January issue. (Dr. Philip Corliss, page 10)

NEW ZEALAND CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL, October '73

MELOCACTUS -- I have always been under the impression that Melocacti are shallow rooted. When repotting, I found in several cases that this is not so. The roots had extended to the full depth of the pots.

For better or worse I am trying shallow plastic containers 6" wide, 'doggy dishes' I call them. Not perhaps everybody's choice, but I now have a uniform row of bright yellow and orange bowls with plenty of width for plant expansion and some very handsome Melocacti therein."

## A GREENHOUSE -- Home of Plants and Their Enemies

--Anita M. Heywood, Glendale, MO--

A greenhouse does wonders for most plants, but one must remember it also provides perfect living conditions for plant enemies. Enemies of plants are many: aphids, bugs, insects, scale and a lot more which might accidentally or intentionally find refuge in the greenhouse where they reproduce and multiply at will under very favorable conditions.

I've always been very careful. I've never had a serious invasion of bugs or other pests. (I trust all you pests are listening. You are hereby warned!) My plants as a group have never been sprayed with an insecticide or pesticide solution. If I do discover a plant of which I am suspicious, it is isolated and sprayed separately. I may spray it several times over a period of days.

The agent I use is isopropyl alcohol\* (rubbing alcohol) in the proportions of one part alcohol and one part water. I learned about the use of rubbing alcohol on a visit to the Winter Nursery in Germany. During a visit I observed a big mealy bug on a plant. The gardener demonstrated the effectiveness and simplicity of the alcohol-water solution and I was impressed with its simplicity.

I had forgotten about the alcohol solution when I returned from Germany and I was using a malathion solution\* which resulted in stains on the plants. The stains brought back to mind the alcohol-water spray solution and I've been using it ever since with completely satisfactory results.

The nixture is 'sudden death' for scale...the malady is cured 'forever'. The alcohol-water solution penetrates both quickly and effectively as no other spray solution is able to do. It goes immediately under the 'shell' of the living animal--a scale.

The method has a distinct advantage. The pest is destroyed very quickly and the solution evaporates very rapidly. Another advantage is that it leaves no marks, stains or residue on the plants as many other sprays do. Putting it another way it is 'clean'.

The injudicious use of strong malathion solutions on some cacti with waxy coatings or surfaces results in the loss of natural color and luster of the coating or covering. This is the case with some cacti much more than others. And some cacti are not affected by the spray. But one doesn't want to learn by trial and error which cactus is resistant. It's better to dilute and spray more often.

Some cacti are very sad looking plants with an ashen or deathly appearance instead of the normal green when sprayed with too strong solutions of malathion.

\*isopropyl -- iso pro pyl (adj.), containing the isopropyl group, produced from propylene by the action of sulfuric acid and hydrolysis. A chemist would say there are different kinds of alcohols, some of the more common being 1) 'grain' alcohol commonly used in alcoholic drinks; 2) isopropyl alcohol a very common item found in medicine cabinets used for cleaning, disinfecting and garden spraying, and 3) 'methanol' or wood alcohol which if consumed instead of grain alcohol may be deadly or it may cause blindness.

\*malathion solution: See use as described in paragraph seven.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT CACTUS

With a Happy Ending

COMMUNICATIONS

from our readers:

Matthew BARASIC (11)

One day a lady was in her front yard planting cactus and I asked her for one. She gave me a peanut cactus. I told my friends how nice she was and so we all went to get one from the 'Cactus Lady'. Each of my friends got one too.

She made Monday our 'Cactus day' and called us the Junior Cactus Club. After a while she had us come every Saturday. One week she had 54 kids who came to get cacti. Last summer our 'Cactus Lady', Mrs. Alice Wells, entered our Club in the Del Mar Fair and we all worked very hard. We won 3rd prize.

With her help I started collecting cactus and she has taught me a lot about them. I enjoy the hobby very much. This year for Christmas she bought me a membership in the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

She has moved\* away so I am writing this and hoping when she reads it\*\* she will know how much I have appreciated what she has done for me.

\*New address: 3750 Curtis Street, S.D. 92106

\*\*Matthew: I'll bet Alice reads and rereads this. . .Ye Ed

Audrey A. JOHNSON, Escondido:

"My undying gratitude to Ricky Latimer and Sophie and Oliver Loyland for their endless patience in answering my never-ending questions, and for providing such an infinite variety of fascinating little (some not so little) plants. I, and most other members of our Club, I'm sure, look forward each month to their beautiful display with the greatest pleasure and anticipation, and they never let us down!"

Jo GOELZHAUSER, St. Louis, MO

"Would you send me the name of the writer of "My Favorite Cactus" in the November issue of Espinas y Flores? I'd like to contact him.

I have a deep love for these hardy desert plants, even in midsummer when they are sere and gray, yet spinily defensive.

There is a fascination in their special adaptation to the ultimate tests of heat and drought and a certain nobility in their tenacious hold on life that speaks my feelings about them.

I hope to make the '75 Convention."

N I B B Y'S   N O T E B O O K

Nibby Klinefelter

Note: Nibby is on 'literary-leave' in February.  
Filler-inners for March issue are:  
Floribunda and Yo Ed - - -

B O O K   R E V I E W   by Lillian Pickoff, Riverside:

ECHEVERIAS by L. Carruthers and R. Ginns:

This easy to read, non-technical book should appeal to the average collector with an interest in the genus Echeveria. The book is hard bound and contains 110 pages. It begins with a horticultural history of the genus and has a map showing the main distribution of the Mexican species.

There are 48 color plates that give the reader an idea of the color displayed by the genus. Several line drawings are included. The authors describe 115 different Echeverias and 35 hybrids. The non-botanical notes on most descriptions give locality and method of propagation.

Since the authors are English, discussions on care are limited to the greenhouse. Greenhouses or not, there is good information for all collectors of the genus.

According to the authors, this book was not meant to compete with Walther's monograph which contains descriptions of the species in the technical language of the botanist. For the non-technical person the Carruthers' and Ginns' book is the best available.

The book is listed as available in the latest issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal for \$8.25 postpaid. (Note new address for Abbey Garden: 1593 Las Canoas Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105)

I N   P A S S I N G

As it must come to all persons, death came in recent weeks to two well-known personalities in the world of cacti and other succulents:

Ted HUTCHISON, Riverside  
Hazel JOHNSON, Fallbrook

LIBRARY EXHIBIT--month long, April 1st to May 1st, at the downtown library is being planned and organized by H. Warren BUCKNER, J. Loyal BIBBEY and Dr. Leroy N. PHELPS. The exhibits will be displayed in enclosed glass cases for better viewing by the public. Nibby will prepare a special display of Club activities and President Bibbey will show some special Mexican cacti. He says they may lose their roots in a month but he isn't worried, they'll grow new ones when necessary.

HANDICRAFTS AND ART are wanted for the CSSA Convention at the Bahia in May 1975 for display and for sale. Now's the time to get the jump, start your collections NOW!

A CACTUS IS A CACTUS IS A CACTUS

or WHAT'S IN A NAME ??

(Additional thoughts, see page 13)

LINNAEUS, Carolus (kárō'lūs línā'us) 1707-78, Swedish botanist and taxonomist, considered the founder of the binomial system of nomenclature and the originator of modern scientific CLASSIFICATION of plants and animals.

He studied botany and medicine and taught both at Uppsala. In Systema naturae, first published in 1735, he presented his classification of plants, animals, and in Genera plantarum (1737) he explained his system for classifying plants on the basis of their sexual characteristics.

Despite the admitted artificiality of his premise, the Linnaean system has remained the basis of modern taxonomy. Species plantarum (1753) described plants in terms of genera and species, and the tenth edition (1758) of Systema naturae applied this system to animals as well.

These two works are therefore considered the basis of binomial nomenclature, although the early herbalists had used a binomial system before Linnaeus.

Among the more than 180 works published in his lifetime were several books on the flora of Lapland and Sweden and the Genera morborum (1763), a classification of diseases.

After his death his priceless botanical collection was removed to England. Linnaeus was also known as Karl (or Carl) Linne' (of which Carolus Linnaeus is a Latinized version); when he was ennobled in 1761 he formally adopted the name Karl von Linne'.

There is a bit of humor in the Linnaeus story. Linnaeus was a teacher. He had a pupil. It is said the pupil dreamed up a binomial system for naming plants. Not long thereafter the binomial system became widely recognized and accepted. Whichever, it was and is a clever system. It is the basis of botanical and scientific nomenclature which at the present time embraces all languages. Plantwise, all nationalities speak a common language.

SPEAKING OF NAMES ::

Jean and Leta HAPEMAN and Nita COTTEN say:

"Thanks to seven helpful and thoughtful Club members who added to the bounty of the regalement table in February:

Alice BISHOP  
Edna HOPPER  
Edith WERNER

Jean HAPEMAN  
Ruth RICHARDSON

Helen HEGYI  
Hazel SCOTT

And all Club members say to Jean and Leta and Nita: "Thanks to you for the order and the organized manner in which the regalement activity is conducted each month.

OBISPOGRAM: An Opuntia erinacea, commonly known as the "Grizzly Bear Cactus" was sunning on a hillside southwest of Las Vegas when there appeared a baby porcupine which asked: "Are you a relative of mine?"

D E B R I S - - - on the LAND  
in the OCEANS  
now in OUTER SPACE - - - -

There are a lot of man-made objects (debris) in outer space. And the amount is increasing yearly. The chances of being 'beaned' by a flying object admittedly is remote, but there is always that possibility. The only recorded fatality in the space age was a cow in Cuba.

Some fragments survive re-entry and hit the earth because their built-in resistance to friction is getting better and better, but that improvement wouldn't console an individual who has been 'beaned' by a better object.

NORAD\* reports that the amount of junk currently falling from the skies is at the rate of about one-a-day.

Deep inside the rocky bowels of the Cheyenne Mountain headquarters of NORAD in Colorado, precise records of all man-made objects launched into space are kept by means of a world-wide network of radar and optical sensors, some of which are able to photograph an object the size of a basketball at a distance of 20,000 miles.

Since the beginning of the space age in 1957, mankind has launched a grand total of 7,038 objects into orbit and the rate of launching is ever increasing.

The main purpose of NORAD is to keep government posted on the active payload situation in space, especially with the nature and flight of foreign satellites.

There is a special branch of the program known as TIP which stands for 'tracking and impact prediction'. The goal is to analyze the decay trajectory of each satellite that has a chance of surviving re-entry. It also predicts the time and place of impact. If a re-entry situation is considered dangerous, warnings are issued.

The vast majority of surviving debris plunges into the ocean. There's a possibility of our orbiting junkyard getting so cluttered it presents a problem for new space launchings.

Some orbiting objects are programmed to stay aloft for just a few days or months. Others are destined to swing around the earth for centuries.

When it comes to littering, man is far out front on the LAND, in the SEA and in SPACE. . . . . Ye Ed

C O M I N G E V E N T S

OPEN HOUSE, May 11th and 12th, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park for the public-- a display of cacti and other succulents from members' gardens. Ione Hubner is in charge and will give a report in detail in our April issue.

CAL EXPO at DEL MAR, June 21st thru July 4th, fourteen days at which our Club will participate in the preparation and maintaining of four exhibits: CACTUS, SUCCULENTS, GRAFTS and HANGING BASKETS.

\*NORAD, North American Air  
Defense Command

## CARNEGIA (CEREUS) GIGANTEA

Dr. George Englemann, 1809-1884

Larry W. MITICH, Fargo, N. D.

*Carnegie (Cereus) gigantea*. The saguaro undoubtedly is the most famous plant named by Englemann; yet it is highly possible that he never saw a living saguaro. The original description of the saguaro is based on information and specimens received from Lt. Col. Emory, whom Englemann calls the discoverer of the saguaro. His subsequent and more complete description is based on data provided by Dr. Charles Christopher Parry, who was the botanist-geologist under the command of Emory in the spring of 1852. Englemann finally completed the description of *Cereus giganteus* after receiving information about the flowering of the saguaro from Mr. George Thurber. Stated Englemann: "Mr. Thurber is believed to be the only scientific gentleman who has seen the plant in question in flower.

Dr. Englemann's comments on the plant: "I cannot find that it has been collected west of the Colorado, though it is probably also an inhabitant of the Californian peninsula. Young plants, as Dr. Bigelow observed, are almost always found under the protecting shade of some shrub, especially of Fremont's "green-barked Acadia" (*Cercidium floridanum*) so characteristic of the barren wilderness; and not rarely the dead stems of this plant are found near the older Cerei. Dr. Bigelow notes that the fleshy part of the plants is bitter, not acidulous, as is most species of cacti. The branches usually drop off from the skeleton of the dead stems; but in very old specimens they remain, and present a view like the one in our landscape plate which is taken from an accurate sketch made on the spot by Mr. Moellhausen. The stoutest spines are one line in diameter, their bulbous base fully twice as thick. In old age, and towards the base of the stem the 6 central spines fall off first, leaving the radiating ones appressed to the stem; finally these also come off, together with the whole areole. The flowers are produced in abundance near the summit of the stems and branches; the fruit is usually found 6 to 12 inches from the center of the top."

## M O R P H O L O G Y   O F   C A C T I

There are few families of plants that have such a variety of forms as the cactaceae. Yet this family is so distinct from all others that each species can be readily classified as a cactus. Think for a moment: One of the smaller species may be covered with a thimble. Another is a five-story giant weighing many tons (*Carnegie gigantea*, above, and *Pachycereus pringlei*).

Because of the singular nature of the Cactaceae it has been difficult to ascertain the exact relationship of this family to the plant kingdom.

Nevertheless, members of the Cactaceae are typically dicotyledonous (a plant having two cotyledons or seed leaves upon germination) plants of the Order Centrospermae, and the primitive genera are obviously derived from the morphological type of the order.

The most primitive genus, *Pereskia* and its sub-genus *Rhodocactus* possess well developed leaves, just as do other dicotyledonous plants. The Cactaceae may be broadly characterized by: 1) the presence of areoles bearing hairs and spines, 2) a succulent stem with a green cortex, 3) lack of foilage leaves, and 4) usually very sparse development of lateral branches.



## AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE

--Even when it's on the rocks!

Audrey A. Johnson

As new residents of beautiful Southern California and members of the Vista Branch of the Audubon Society, the Johnson Family experiences with a new house, blasted out of the rocks, just outside Escondido, will contain very few technical details regarding the local flora and fauna! However, so greatly have we all enjoyed our adventures while trying to improve, without too much alteration, the natural appearance and condition of our property, that we felt that some of our new friends might be interested in hearing about a few of the more memorable "happenings".

Firstly, I should explain that our house sits high on the hillside, with gorgeous views, from the front and side of the house across our beautiful little "Spook Valley" (a local name, we believe) to some higher hills opposite. At the back and north sides are very large boulders and a sheer rock incline leading up to small natural shrub-like bushes, and on up to a citrus grove at the extreme top of the hill. As an added bonus, a very large window in the master bedroom looks out over the extensive rock incline, thus making it ideal for bird-watching.

Needless to say, I immediately claimed this area as a "Bird Sanctuary". Having ample coverage and protection for the birds at the top of the incline, this has proved to be most popular with the birds, and we have enjoyed it to the full. Here I scatter bird seed, scraps of food and stale bread for the larger birds, such as the blue jays and orioles--sometimes even road runners--and any of the smaller birds who care to join in the feast--and they do!

A most unwelcome visitor to this area is the rock squirrel, who consumes prodigious quantities of the seed that I scatter, plus any nice young shoots that he might fancy. Added to this, he got into my feeders and emptied them faster than I could fill them, consequently he has become pretty unpopular around here. For some months I was forever chasing away these little monsters, helped at times by the blue jays and orioles, who take a rather more aggressive attitude to intruders than the other birds.

Enjoying all forms of wildlife as we do, we have been somewhat reluctant to control the rock squirrel pest, but finally we were persuaded, on advice from the Agricultural Department, to purchase special food for their control. We seem to have made some inroads, but still see a few around, sitting sunning and chattering on the rocks when not eating. Maybe word has gotten around in the squirrel population that the Johnson's property has the cosiest rocky homes, with food always ready and laid out for the taking. What more could they want?

In addition to our large feeding area, there are bird feeders at all strategic points outside the many windows around the house. Bird watching, for me, is a day long activity which helps to make tedious household chores much less wearisome. We have always been keenly interested in the birds of each of the localities in which we have lived (and there have been many) and never feel truly "moved-in" until the birds have accepted us. This happy state we appear to have achieved, but oh! those wild birdseed expenses!

## AN ENGLISHMAN'S CASTLE--continued:

So far I have not mentioned the hummingbirds, for whom we have special feeders, and appreciation, this being our first experience of these beautiful little birds at close quarters. I, particularly, have a weakness for them, since they made such a fuss of me on my first viewing of them at the open air Aviary in Balboa Park last spring. I was wearing a white stole with long tassels, at the time and, no sooner had I entered their enclosure, than I was "attacked" from all sides. Apparently they took a fancy to strands of wool from the tassels for their nests. Needless to say, I was delighted, as were many of the visitors in the Aviary at the time. Cameras clicked in every direction while the hummers continued to flit back and forth and I stood stock still, almost afraid to breathe. This spring I intend to hang some tassels of wool near their feeders, hoping that one of my new friends will start a next in a small tree planted nearby. What a thrill that would be! They seem to enjoy the bright flowers we have planted everywhere, and most of all the fuchsias hanging in the lathhouse, so maybe we'll be lucky.

At the opposite end of the scale, for size, is another bird hitherto unseen by us, but now a favourite--the roadrunner. One magnificent specimen (obviously quite a mature bird) honked so vigorously one morning from the driveway while I was gardening. I looked up, astonished, and watched while he stood there for a couple of minutes (no doubt for me to admire). After a while, with another cheery honk of farewell, he trotted gaily down our very steep driveway to the valley below. How badly I wanted to take a picture of him as he stood there, but, as usual at these times, my camera was in the house. I guess I should keep it strapped around my neck, even while gardening!

Having lived in the eastern states for some years, I am at present having difficulty with my recognition of some of the smaller California birds. I must say, however, that their melodious year-round singing gives me great pleasure, and for that I can forgive them much. Nevertheless, I still miss my colourful cardinals and blue jays of the East (especially after a fresh fall of snow) not to mention the other little woodland birds, including the juncos, chick-a-dees, titmice, woodpeckers and so forth. All of these I managed to lure onto windowsills and nearby tree branches, and they certainly helped to cheer up those long winter days! On the whole, however, our whole family has decided that we'll settle for the glorious California sunshine and year 'round activities every time.

Throughout these past eleven most enjoyable months in Southern California and our new house, several incidents particularly stand out in my memory: The two glitteringly golden birds who flew onto the fence of the patio, took sips from the hummingbird feeder, sat for a few minutes rest, and flew away--Michael and I meanwhile sitting there dumbfounded, thinking that they had escaped from somebody's birdcage, they looked so exotic!; the mocking bird who, for months, periodically perched on our chimney, thus spreading his beautiful song throughout the house via the two fireplaces, both upstairs and down; the pair of red-tailed hawks who circle over the house, sometimes joined by a third who appears to be trying to muscle in on their territory. It is quite a sight to see the two male birds chasing one another in fascinating acrobatics, while the female flaps unconcernedly on, emitting discordant squawks!

One difficulty, I find, about being both a bird lover and a dedicated gardener, is that the birds make such a mess of scattering the birdseed while eating. (Cont'd. page 11)

AN ENGLISHMAN'S CASTLE--continued:

So far I have managed partly to combat this by withholding seed from the feeders for a few hours, whereupon my greedy little visitors do quite a good job of clearing both the flower beds and the car port of the fallen seed. My only pest, among the birds, seems to be the rock towhee, who is almost as destructive as the squirrel. He has a very bad habit of nipping at young seedlings and some of the more delicate and decorative succulents planted on the rocks. So far my collection of echeverias planted on the hillside (both the natural ones and the very colorful hybrids) seem not to be to his liking. Should he attack those, he'll really be in trouble!

Meanwhile Geoff and I continue our strenuous but joyful work of landscaping, planting and endeavouring to prevent erosion on our difficult, but oh so interesting piece of the local countryside. Our present and latest project is a decorative pool in which I plan to grow waterlilies and other water plants at the foot of a natural gully, or miniature canyon, which we are fortunate enough to possess. Our all-over plan includes a waterfall, fountain and bird-bath on the lower ground, with dwarf fruit trees and rock plants lining the steps up to the top where there is an elegant stand of graceful eucalyptus trees.

We were welcomed last Spring by a spectacular display and variety of wildflowers, and to this we are looking forward with great anticipation again this year. With a little extra watering through the dry season, I even managed to keep a beautiful bush of mimulus blooming the entire year. Having been compelled to leave all my flowers and plants behind in Ohio, I was very happy to enjoy the wildflowers of California while getting my new plants settled and blooming.

Concerning our present achievements and future plans for landscaping and planting, I could go on writing indefinitely, but for now, I will restrain myself! Maybe (should anyone be interested) I will write in more detail about this aide of our activities some time in the future.\*

Meanwhile there is work to be done!! Everything grows in Escondido, they tell me. This includes roses, cactus and succulent gardens and so forth, right down to the shady garden plants, such as tuberous begonias, fuchsias, caladiums, etc. I sure intend to try them all. So far we are doing fine!

\*'E y F' readers will be looking forward with keen anticipation to future reports on hillside activities. . .Ye Ed

\* \* \* \* \*

SPECIAL NOTE to all our friends of the San Diego C&S Society:

Thanks a million for all the help given us in establishing the cactus and succulent areas of our gardens. In a moment of inspiration we let it be known that we would be more than happy to take in any little, or big, cactus and succulent "orphans" and the response was delightful. So far we are still working on growing areas, but one day we hope to get to the stage when we will be able to invite you all out to take a peek at the results of our efforts.

I would like to add that being allowed to enjoy Ruth Stanton's beautiful plants in Carlsbad has been both a privilege and an inspiration to us. Whether we shall be able to maintain the excellent condition and gorgeous colors of her plants on our hilltop remains to be seen. We intend to try--hard!!

# G Y M N O C A L Y C I U M Pfeiffer

Cactus-of-the-Month

Dr George E RADWIN

This is a group of small to moderately large, primarily globular South American cacti. They are characterized as having naked buds (whence the name: 'gymno' naked, 'calycium' bud) and having sides clearly divided into tubercles that are bisected by transverse furrows. These form the "chins" that give this group its popular name "chin cactus".

The flowers of Gymnocalycium species are white to green-white, white-pink or rose pink and appear in the late spring or early summer; flowering may last only a few weeks or for the entire growing season. Size range of Gymnocalycium is from a few centimeters across, in the clustering species G. bruchi to over 15 inches in G. saglione, the giant of the group.

Although there seems to be no controversy concerning the validity and identity of typical Gymnocalycium, some botanists have considered other apparently distinctive genera, such as Weingartia and Neowerdermannia as synonyms with it (Gymnocalycium). Although no unequivocal statement can be made concerning the interrelationships of these genera, if any, the two latter genera appear to differ from Gymnocalycium in having large, tuberous roots, yellow flowers, no "chins" and in requiring better drainage; they also live at much higher altitudes as a rule.

In their native Argentina, Uruguay, southern Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia most Gymnocalycium species live in grasslands at moderate to low altitudes and are considered by some authors to occupy a similar ecological niche to that occupied by Echinofossulocactus in North America. This grassland habitat affords substantial shade for many species and should help explain the fact that in cultivation most species thrive in conditions of moderate to substantial heat with little direct sunlight.

The non-tropical nature of the habitat of most species is illustrated by their tolerance of temperatures down to 25° F. Low temperatures, however, combined with too much water may cause plants in cultivation to lose their roots.

Backeberg cited 83 species and 49 varieties of Gymnocalycium in his Kakteen-Lexikon but many authors feel that a better understanding of the range of variability here will probably reduce that number substantially.

## REFERENCES:

Albrecht, L. 1943 "The Hybocactus". The Cactus and Succulent Journal of America 15(12): 185-187.

Bleck, N. 1971

Gymnocalycium Pfeiffer. The Cactus and Succulent Journal of America 43(4)F 153-156

Hutchison, P. C. 1957

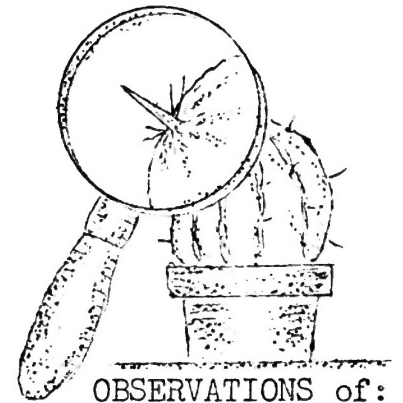
Icones Plantarum Succulentarum: 5. Gymnocalycium westii P. C. Hutchison. The Cactus and Succulent Journal of America 29(1): 11-14

A CACTUS IS A CACTUS IS A CACTUS

or WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Dr Philip G CORLISS

One of the many frustrations suffered by the cactophile is the confusion of names. Ever since cacti were discovered, writers have been changing the names of members of the cactus family. Unfortunately, the trend is increasing rather than decreasing. Each purported 'expert' who writes a book or even a short article attempts to put his stamp on the nomenclature by creating or eliminating genera and by shifting species from one genus to another.



OBSERVATIONS of:  
CactoPhil CORLISS

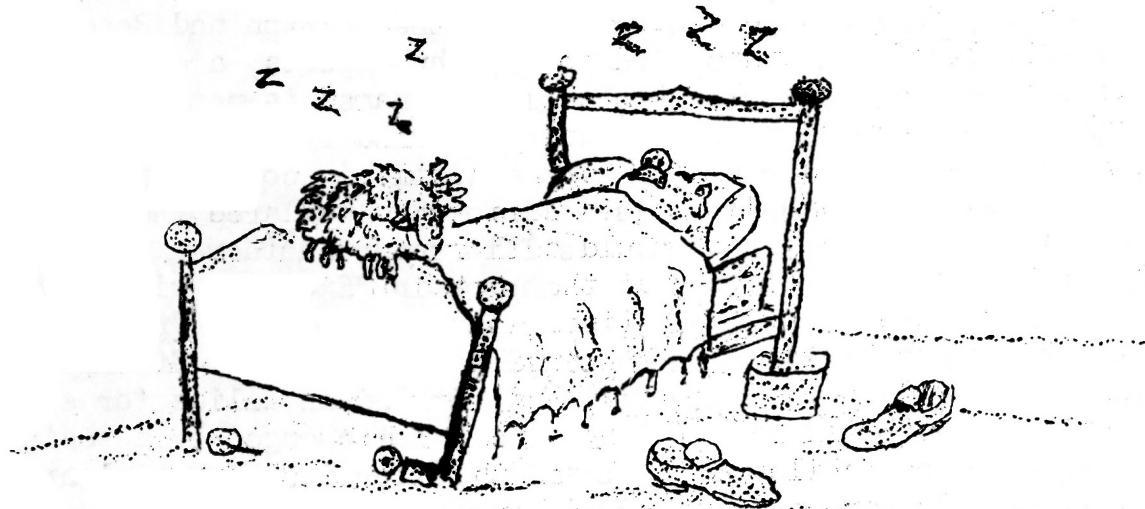
Need I cite examples? Where are the dispersed members of the erstwhile genus "Cactus"? How many species have gone in and out of the genus mammillaria? Cereus? Borzicactus? Do you have digitorebutias, sulcorebutias, mediolobivias, pseudolobivias?

We know that some species have been known in the past two centuries by fifty or more different names! Do you follow the Britton and Rose or the Backeberg classification? Some names, dropped by the experts, are continued in use by the dealers and others. But the changing of names is not the only problem. For example, wrong names are caused and perpetrated by misspelling by dealers and others. Some of these wrong names have little in common with the correct names. One of our largest dealers is said to have declared that if he could not sell a plant under one name, he would sell it under another. A prominent dealer identified his plants by looking at the photos in "Exotica" with the erroneous results to be expected. How many times do you suppose that Trichocereus chiloensis, named for its habitat on the large Island of Chiloe off the coast of Chile which was held by the Spaniards and their Indian allies for so long against the rebels, was correctly labelled by a dealer but changed by a recipient who thought it should be "chilensis"? I saw the letter in which a plant breeder sent her instructions to her introducer and her poor writing caused her 'Angel fare' to be introduced in his catalog as 'Angle fore' to the consternation and puzzlement of all concerned!

What can the amateur do about the situation? Cover his labels with all known names? The use of "common names" is not good and they would be applicable only in the language used. Yet Americans could more easily identify a plant as "horse crippler" than Homalocephalus texensis, which has already had its name changed several times. More the pity, because these "common names" are often more interesting and informative. For instance, the common name of Hyoscyamus niger is "henbane" which comes from the Anglo-Saxon words of "henn" for chicken and "bana" for murderer, and is suitable because chickens become paralyzed and die when they eat the seeds of the plant. But alas, another reason why common names will not suffice is because they may apply to several different plants. Thus many long-haired cacti are known as "Old Man" or "Old Woman". There are several plants known as "Sea Onion". All members of the ornithogalum family are known as "Star of Bethlehem". It is interesting to note here that coca-cola and its imitators were originally made from two toxic (medicinal) plants--the coca plant of South America and the kola shrub of Africa.

What is the answer? A nomenclature authority should be set up by all the cactus and succulent societies of the world. No names should be used except those authorized and approved by such body.

2000000000  
everything goes  
to HAZ WTA



to 253 SAOULO-A  
stood in bed

Cop for this page 14 and page 15 'stood in bed' at the Post Office while press time for the March issue was expiring.

This bulletin is being mailed just before postal rates go up, the afternoon of February 28th.

When cop for pages 14 and 15 arrive from the P. O. it will appear in the April issue -- no foolin' !!

NEW MEMBERS  
NEW FRIENDSHIPS

We welcome all of you to our Club and our activity. Make it a point to become acquainted with some of the finest people you'll ever meet -- anywhere!!

BARASIC, Matthew (583 5103)  
8384 High Winds Way (See right  
San Diego, CA 92120 and page 4)

BERRY, Mr. & Mrs. James H.  
Box 1811  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

DESBOROUGH, Derek  
1 Netherwood, Gossips Green  
Crawley, Sussex RH 11 8PT ENGLAND

ERICKSON, Linda  
3927 Polack Street  
San Diego, CA 92110

FIRTH Michael R.  
Box 36224  
Dallas, Texas 75235

HEREFORD, Lynna  
460 Camino Del Mar, Apt. 5  
Del Mar, CA 92014

JOHNSON, Paul C. and Joan  
3560 Lake Garden Drive  
Fallbrook, CA 92028

MILLSON, Capt. Wally  
5289 Manhasset Drive  
San Diego, CA 92115

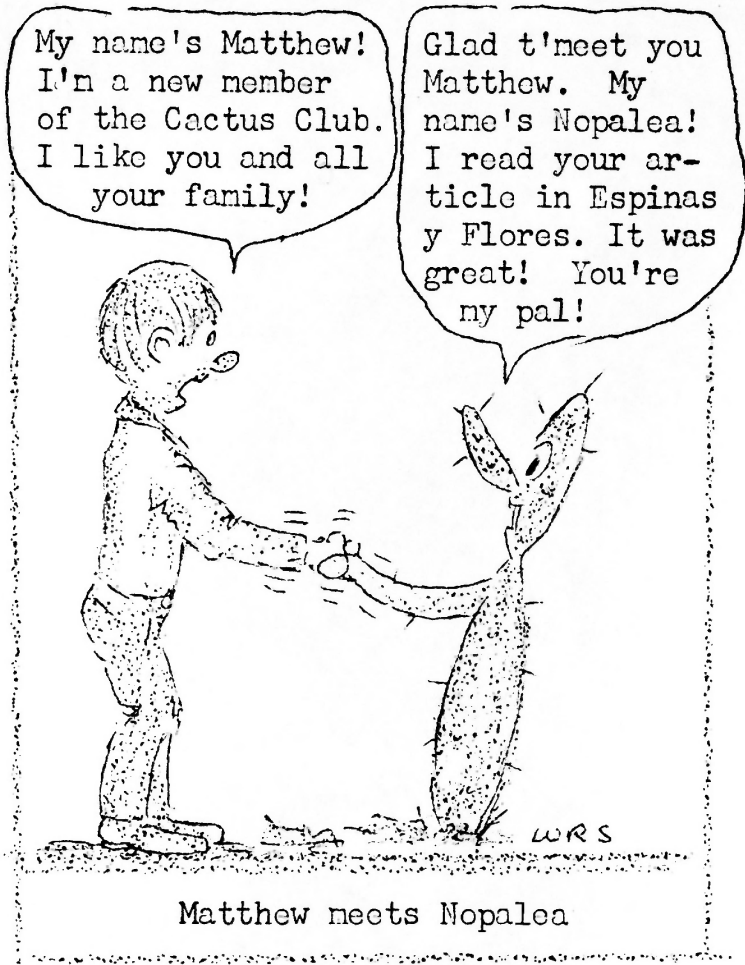
SCHMIDT, Dieter  
D 7301 Komnat  
Untere Panoramastr 17, GERMANY

SCHRAER, Paul S  
7372 Jackson Drive  
San Diego, CA 92119

THRUN, Elmer  
751 South Pleasant Street  
Jackson, MICHIGAN 49203

WHITMORE, Elaine  
5492 Pire Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92122

Next Mo.  
S O R R Y  
Budz  
Johnson  
Dr. Wood  
Worth



Matthew meets Nopalea

FISHER, Dr. & Mrs Jerome K.  
960 E. Green Street  
Pasadena, CA 91101

JOHNSON, Catherine J (Kay)  
5220 Howe Drive  
Shawnee Mission, KANSAS 66205

KLINERT, Walter J. and Alberta  
520 Division Street  
National City, CA 92050

ROMSKE, John C.  
2841 Scenic View Drive  
Alpine, CA 92011

SCHMIDT, Sherry  
1715 Ramona Avenue  
South Pasadena, CA 91030

STANDISH, Ethel  
5396 Wilshire Drive  
San Diego, CA 92116

WEIGAND, Nancy  
4960 Del Monte Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92107

WILLIAMS, Dorothy  
6240 Wildomar Way  
Carmichael, CA 95608

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the  
Cactus & Succulent Society of America

PRESIDENT - Loyal J. BIBBEY, 490 Citrus Ave., Imperial Beach, CA 92032 . 423 5133  
1ST V. P. - Martin L. MOONEY, 97 K Street, Chula Vista, CA 92011 . . . . 427 6796  
2ND V. P. - Richard G. LATIMER, 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa . . . . 463 1655  
  
TREASURER - John A KORVER, Rte 2, Box 2001-C, Escondido, CA. . . . . 1 747 7073  
SECRETARY - Frances LANGER, 4459 Texas Street, San Diego, CA . . . . . 298 6323  
PAST PRES - William NELSON, 4253 Maryland St., San Diego, CA . . . . . 298 3349

\* \* \* \* \*

OUR MARCH PROGRAM will feature Kathryn SABO of Woodland Hills, CA., a dynamic, energetic, imaginative, self-winding machine of activity in the succulent plant arena. Kathryn is one of the 12-member Board of Directors of CSSA, and a member of our Club.

She is coming to San Diego to share with us some interesting highpoints of her collecting, flying, picture-taking travel experiences. She may bring a once-in-a-lifetime color slide of the first flower ever seen by any person of a mammillaria in remote Barranca de Cobre----M. saboae. The coincidental presence of Kathryn and the opening of the flower on the tiny man is but one of the links in the chain of destiny of Kathryn's life.

All club members are looking forward to the March meeting in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park on Saturday, March 9th, 1974 at 1:30 p.n.

Page	<u>I N T H I S I S S U E</u>
1	"The Great Cactus Naming Game, a cartoon by Ye Ed
2	Alice WELLS, "Touch and Feel" for the handicapped "Plant Names" from C & S Journal of New South Wales Kay JOHNSON, Shawnee Mission, KANS, "Special chemical formula" "Melocactus" from New Zealand C & S Journal.
3	Anita M HEYWOOD, "A Greenhouse--Home of Plants and their Enemies"
4	COMMUNICATIONS Matthew BARASIC, "One day a lady . . . . Audrey A JOHNSON "Patience in answering . . . . Jo GOELZHAUSER "Fascination in adaptability of cacti . . . .
5-6	Nibby's Notebook, Nibby Klinfelter; Guest writers for March
7-8	" " Floribunda and Ye Ed
9-10-11	Audrey JOHNSON, Escondido, "An Englishman's Home is his Castle"
12	Dr. George E. RADWIN, Cactus-of-the-Month, <u>Gymnocalycium</u>
13	Dr. Philip G. CORLISS "A Cactus is a Cactus is a Cactus"
14-15	Julianne RICE, Succulents-of-the-Month "Succulent Safari"
16	20 New Members and Matthew meets Nopalca (cartoon)
17	OFFICERS, MARCH PROGRAM, IN THIS ISSUE

A Pelecocyphora aselliformis brought to the February meeting (in flower) by V.P. Martin Mooney had greater eye appeal than the one pictured in the Glossary, page 85. The Melocacti at 97 K Street in Chula Vista will have to learn 1) about 'other' succulents, and 2) they're not living in a one-cactus greenhouse with V.P. M.M. as greenhouse lord.



**Walter R. Scott**  
3430 Wilshire Ter.  
San Diego, Ca. 92104  
Return Requested

PRINTED MATTER