

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

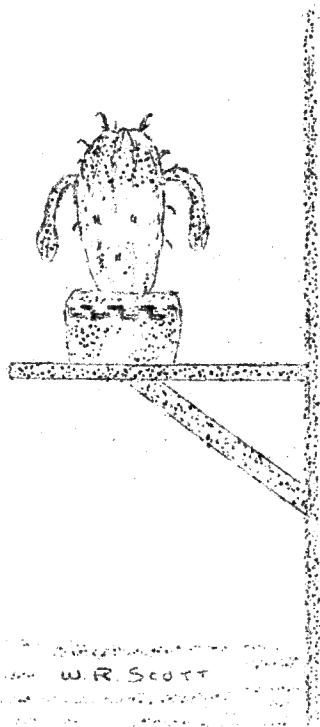
Espinas y Flores

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

TOMO NUEVE, NUMERO SEIS

JUNIO 1974

Was it something
I said? Or....



W. R. SCOTT

Garden Conversation

· MY CACTUS GARDEN ·
 · Matthew Barisic ·
 · ·

Why are poems written by boys like me?

I have a cactus garden you should see.

Some are very soft, others are sticky,

I watch fingers when I touch the prickly.

I have one beauty, I call it "Peaches"

I'm not sure of its genus or species.

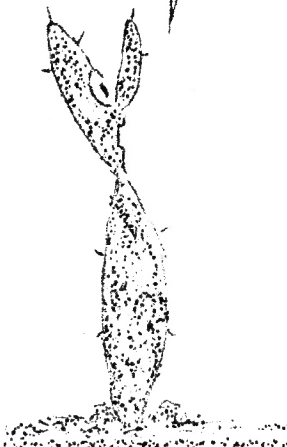
One day while digging in the dirt

Something struck my finger, it sure did hurt.

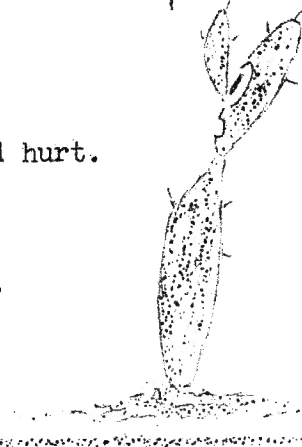
Now that you are at the end of my rhyme

I hope that I haven't wasted your time.

It's a short poem Matthew wrote about his 'cactus garden'.



I love the way he uses words to make his points.



C-O-M-M-U-N-I-C-A-T-I-O-N-S:
'Spice' of Espinas y Flores

A. Reader, San Diego:

"Espinas y Flores" is a very enjoyable and worthwhile garden bulletin, not only for your Club members, but for those like myself who by chance happen to read it.

Nibby's 'Notebook' is exciting...her report on a recent trip south of the border was simply fascinating. It sounded like sheer fun. It has given me the urge to venture into Bajaland.

When will Doc Vaughan's thought provoking page return to the bulletin? I find his articles an inspiration and a revelation.

Your "Educational Succulent Plant Exhibit" at the downtown Library was seen and enjoyed by many. I observed some making notes and overheard others' favorable comments. A very worthwhile project for a Club.

We were simply fascinated by the unbelievable variety and beauty of cactus and 'other succulents' at Open House at Casa del Prado earlier this month. Keep up the good work and keep the timely 'cactus cartoons' coming!

(A. Reader: Thank you for your comments and letter. The most comfortable moment of each 'E y F' month is when the bulletins are addressed and stamped ready for the trip to the main Post Office. Many people and many things are involved in the production of a bulletin. Every facet of its production can best be described by a hyphenated word ending in -work.Ye Ed)

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Bill Nelson says he can remember the time when only Washington's face was on our money. Now he says something has been added: Our money is in the hands of Washington.

S E E D G R O W I N G

Anita M Heywood
Glendale, Missouri

LABELS:

I first make name labels for each seed packet and each pot, and also a card for each seed packet.

COFFEE FILTERS:

I write the names of each packet on a one-cup coffee filter which contains the seeds for soaking and sterilizing. I use a pencil---ink washes off the filters.

STERILIZING:

Each seed species is placed in a separate filter which is folded twice and immersed in a Chinosol solution---one large pill to a pint of boiled rainwater---and soaked for 30 minutes.

I had visions of the filter papers falling apart and spilling their contents but I overcame spillage by using a small flat bowl.

SEEDS SWELL:

To my amazement each seed swells visibly during the 30-minute soaking period. I was able to see even the tiniest of all cactus seeds--Blossfeldia flocculosa FR89.

DRYING:

After soaking, the seed bearing filter papers must be dried. Earlier I had tried holding the individual wet packets and drying them with a hair dryer, but that took too long. Or maybe I was impatient! I became exasperated. Then I recalled a TV ad: "Bounty paper towels---they sop up everything!" I tried them! They were the answer! The wet filters dried quickly in the towels.

STERILE POTS:

I use small pots, size 2 by 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 2" deep. They are sterilized in boiled rainwater containing one large Chinosol pill to a pint of water. I use sterile soil which I press firmly into each pot.

DELICATE TOUCH:

Altho the seeds at this stage are easy to handle since they are swollen and they have become a bit 'sticky', opening each filter and handling the seeds is a touchy problem. I pick up the seeds with the tip of my finger which I sterilize by dipping in a Chinosol solution. I carefully space them in their individual pots. Experience is a good teacher. I have become quite adept and fast in all my seeding operations. Previously I had gotten too few or too many seeds on the tip of my finger and at times all would fall into one pot. As I look back at this time, I can say it was 'easy'.

GERMINATION:

Seeds started germinating this year in about a week at the end of February. Some were still germinating late in May. I had absolutely no 'dampoff' problem altho the pots were continually moist. No algae either.

SEED GROWING, Anita M. Heywood, cont'd:

ALGAE:

Repeating: "No algae". That alone is a 'plus'. At a previous time I had a lot of trouble with a thick algae which formed after about 4 to 6 weeks in the moist pots. I still boil rainwater and spray with a dilute, a tenth of a pill to a pint of water, every other day or perhaps once a week. Since some seeds are still germinating, I feel they need that added protection.

DICOTS:

The seedlings at this time (mid-May) vary in size from about one sixteenth to one eighth inch and tiny spines are showing on the larger ones. At this stage cactus seedlings are known as 'dicots' which means that they bear two tiny seed leaves. All cactus seedlings are dicotyledonous.

I keep watching the box of Blossfeldia flocculosa closely. I was sure algae was forming about four weeks ago, but after examining with a magnifying glass, I saw the tiniest seedlings ever. Even to this day they are barely visible.

SEED SOURCES:

I received 30 seeds from Kochres. It will be interesting to see how many germinate and survive the first year. In Europe they never grow these tiny plants on their own roots--they are always grafted. I am giving it a try. If there had been algae as I once thought, my tiny 'babies' would have been 'choked to death' by now. I hope for the best!

BOAT SHAPED SEEDS:

Although the usual damp-off did not occur this year, there were severe losses in the Eylychnia, Espostoa and Cleistocactus groups. These seeds are slightly boat-shaped and when they germinate while laying on their side--one might say they were 'beached'--they seem to have a problem. Their first hair root is not strong enuf to reach the soil in order to give them a 'lift' and set them upright. I tried assisting them with a sterilized toothpick, but righting them is not easy without also damaging them. They do not have a 'coat' strong enough to resist damage. I did save a few--it was: either they survive my ever-so-gentle treatment, or perish of malnutrition.

ORDERING PROBLEMS:

This has been the first, and it will be the only year that I will order three different seed shipments from Europe. The orders involved currency problems in the different countries. Two orders from Germany in which my Mother assisted, worked out very well. I had problems with orders from Belgium. The problems involved make it too costly and time consuming, such things as air rail, minimum orders, and hidden costs which I did not anticipate. In addition seeds were deducted from some shipments, and they happened to be the seeds I most wanted.

I have been happy and successful for three years with seed orders from Horst Kuenzler in Belen, New Mexico. His latest catalog excels all previous ones and his orders include 25 seeds per packet unless otherwise stated. And there is no problem with checks or money orders. Also I enjoyed a higher rate of germination with Kuenzler seeds.

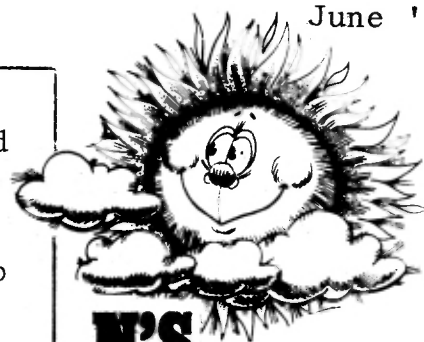
" **W**e were to sail in the early morning, and that night we walked a little in the dim-lighted streets of La Paz. And we wondered why so much of the Gulf was familiar to us, why this town had a 'home' feeling. We had never seen a town which even looked like La Paz, and yet coming to it was like returning rather than visiting.

Some quality there is in the whole Gulf that trips a trigger of recognition so that in fantastic and exotic scenery one finds oneself nodding and saying inwardly, 'Yes, I know.'

And on the shore the wild doves mourn in the evening and there there comes a pang, some kind of emotional jar, and a longing. And if one followed his whispering impulse he would walk away slowly into the thorny brush following the call of the doves.

Trying to remember the Gulf is like trying to re-create a dream. This is by no means a sentimental thing, it has little to do with beauty or even conscious liking. But the Gulf does draw one, and we have talked to rich men who own boats, who can go where they will. Regularly they find themselves sucked into the Gulf. And since we have returned, there is always in the backs of our minds the positive drive to go back again. If it were lush and rich, one could understand the pull, but it is fierce and hostile and sullen. The stone mountains pile up to the sky and there is little fresh water. But we know we must go back if we live, and we don't know why."

from John Steinbeck's THE LOG FROM THE SEA OF CORTEZ



**N'S
NOTEBOOK**


Thanks to Gentle Readers and Indulgent Editor -

Part II - BAHIA de los ANGELES

It took us three hours and fifteen minutes to drive the 22 miles from the turnoff to the San Borja Mission. The little orange Honda was in the middle, the better to see how the big muscular LandRover cleared the rocks...and rocks there were. (That's 22 miles I would like to backpack with a truck following.) Behind us Clare's camper swayed sturdily and majestically along, rather protectively we thought.

A dent in the gas tank was the only scar. The nearest thing to a mishap was repeating a particularly rocky twisting hill after Ray Gilmore cleared the big rocks and I lightened the Honda. Found some beautifully round concretions, singles and doubles and multiples, walking up that hill. Unless you have the talent of a Parnelli Jones - or a Gus Schonefeld, cannot honestly recommend taking a "town car" on the rocky trail to San Borja.

Traffic was not heavy. We met four motorcyclists halfway in and as we were leaving, four campers were taking the cutoff to San Borja. We considered ourselves extremely fortunate to have had the Mission to ourselves, except for the few people who live there.



We arrived at San Borja at six o'clock with enough sun left to take photographs of this "best preserved UNpreserved" mission. Founded by the Jesuits in 1762, handsomely built of stone, it is "supposedly" being reconstructed. Supposedly because there are bags of cement and scaffolding around with evidence of cement recently and patchily slopped around. This is the Mission with the carved pillers in bas relief flanking a heavy wooden door, and is most unlike the other Missions. It is the one you've seen photographs of on books about Baja, with the sun warming the stone and highlighting the pillers. (A tree has grown since the photos.)

The ceiling is high in the main part of the building. There has been a fire in one section and there the roof is gone. The area behind the alter had been painted blue and was the only color. In the belfry hung a bell so small and so new that it appeared to be a joke. In a small room adjoining were statues, prints of religious paintings and many bunches of faded plastic flowers...there was a handpainted sign in Spanish, reminding us that this was a holy place and therefore to be quiet...there was a heavy layer of dust over everything, and it must have been weeks at least since work or worship was in progress...many windy weeks.

We climbed the triangular stairs of stone set one atop another, spiral fashion, to the roof. That is a most beautiful stairway. Each tread is a single carved block...light and shadow...From the roof we looked down on the newly planted gardens of succulents. Visualize two huge checkerboards. In the center of each square place one cactus or succulent...But, I consoled myself, it's native plant material at least and not iceplant and geraniums. There is a double row of sizable Aloe vera along one side of the Mission, the coral-pink upright one with yellow bloom, so newly planted that straggly pieces had been cast aside and swept into a pile...and now one grows in my garden.

After another night of cozy camping we left San Borja about nine o'clock. There were lots of very small desert holly plants, seedlings from last year's abundant rainfall? The desert was frosty with their gray leaves. We saw desert sunflowers, fairy dusters, prickly poppies (noticed them throughout the trip, particularly in fresh road cuts - desert milkweed - apricot mallow. Very imposing yuccas with trunks to 3' in diameter in groups of 5-6...we drove through lichen collectors' paradise...elephant trees were hung with balls of tillandsias...a leafless plant with small flowers that "felt" like a euphorbia, small pink and scalloped with red ring...saw them numerous times but NEVER ONCE while we were stopped. Pencil cholla with long spines, blooms almost a true chartreuse...We didn't see the dudleyas but they gave away their presence by rosy bloom stalks in bud.

Picture an elephant tree, an elegant elephant tree with an agave sitting in its lap, elephantine arms wrapped around, and further picture a single solemn cardon thrusting rigidly straight through the elephant tree, a no-nonsense verticle line of strength.

Plants show such definite personalities. The red-spined barrells were chesty solid citizens, so substantial, with feet firmly in the ground. (Ferocactus bisnaga, F. peninsulae?)

Alas, we haven't covered El Marmol - and I'm afraid to promise more...See you at the meeting.

THAT was A SHOW !! and

THESE are the individuals who did it !! ALPHABETICAL -- if you please!!

THIS is what THEY did !!

- BARISIC, Matthew: He named his individuals (as a group) "The Untouchables", and he received FIRST for a 'Junior' Euphorbia species, and a SECOND for a plant and a container.
- BIBBEY, Loyal Joe (our President) gathered THIRTEEN cactuses out of his yard and showed them off on a table which brought him FIRST IN CACTUS award. Good thing he wasn't competing in George Radwin's class, or the judges would not have been able to agree. . .they were having problems as it was.
- BILLMYER, Edith brought in TWO plants from her yard which she used to improve that table. You should ask Edith what happened at a Garage Sale very recently.
- BUCKNER, Doug & BUCKNER, H. Warren, in a 'teamwork' effort, and without the assistance of an elephant, brought in TWO displays which received TWO awards: FIRST for 'Plant & Container' and THIRD for CACTUS TABLE. One specimen, a FEROCACTUS in a box--the cactus had about TEN heads--and it was field collected--and it was a good thing the exhibit containing this item was a two-man exhibit. Oops, that Polycephalus had TWELVE heads, sorry. And they very cleverly 'protected' their exhibit, or better should we say, they 'armed' it with a Ferocactus rectispinus which was armed with spines in the area of 8 inches in length. The underlying thought about this exhibit was: LOOK, don't TOUCH! And nobody did. In addition to that, somehow they loaded about 10 large hanging baskets into a BRONCO, carried them in, and hung them on special racks. The racks were another story!
- EVANS, George showed up with the first exhibit, a thoughtful collection of cacti in pots, each pot upon a special stand, very appealing, and a THIRD "Plant & Cont'r."
- HEWITT, Herbert: That your first show, Herb? The 'pros' don't scare you, do they? It's only their plants, SI? But isn't it so nice to look at others' plants?
- JOHNSON, Audrey: One day would you put your 'Home on a Hill' on wheels in and let all of us climb it? Or maybe there would be an easier way!
- LEE, Madelyn: (Now we're in the PRO class) Yo Ed admits to not being equal to describing this exhibit. He just jotted down some names which tell about it. You'd have to see them to understand the exhibit--or better appreciate it. Euphorbia loricata, E. grandicornis crest, E. tortirama, E. aeruginosa, and E. persistens. A stranger was among 'em--Senecio fulleri. The total group consisted of forty-two specimen plants. Awards stacked all over the exhibit.
- LEWIS, Perlso: You are in Yo Ed's class--you're a brave cactophile. Stick with it!
- LOYLAND, Sophie & Oliver: The Loylands bring FOUR tables to every meeting, but this time they expanded it to SIX. They never did get to attend the meeting.
- MILLER, O. Ed: Ed has problems deciding which plants to bring in. You should go see his cactus farm, unlike the rest of us, he trdats his plants to 'ground'.
- MOONEY, Pat & Martin: My notes show TWO awards for TWO tables, but they don't distinguish between Pat and Martin. But judging from the awards, it must have been Pat: ART ARRANGEMENT and SPECIAL AWARD. Right, Martin?
- NELSON, William: Notes say 38 plants, two tables. Bill used his head, placed his tables near the entrance so the plants he left at home wouldn't be too lonesome. (Not enuf room here to tell about the O'REILLY-BIRCHELL effort, turn the page.

THAT - THESE - THIS & THEY continued:

TheIna

O'REILLY, ~~Pax~~ and BIRCHELL, Mary: Please sit down!! GRAND PRIZE (Best of SHOW) BEST SUCCULENT, Echeveria cinderella; SPECIAL JUDGES' CHOICE; SPECIAL SUCCULEN. of one Genus--PACHYPODIUM, seven of 'em. Two tables, 32 plants. This team works like a computer, everything falls into its place automatically and the result is a printout called an 'exhibit'. And would you believe it, all this is a 'secondary activity'?

PFEIFFER, August: Awards "PLANT IN A CONTAINER"; ART ARRANGEMENT; SPECIAL AWARD. That tells the story about a fine collection of arrangements.

PHELPS, Dr. Lee N: Specialty, BONSAI. You ask my opinion of THE most interesting? A BONSAI FOREST, a miniature hilltop with seedlings--Idria columnaris, 'boojums'. You react quickly and you are long gone from the problems of the day.

RADWIN, Dr. George E.: Tops in organization, presentation, planning and awards: A table with 18 South American cacti, each with a string leading to a spot on a map of South America, revealing its habitat. Awards: FIRST for EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT and FIRST for RAREST CACTUS: Pseudopilosocereus fulvilanatus. As I 'scan' that botanical name, I see 30 letters. As I recall that's more than there is in the alphabet. Walk along the name and count the syllables--thirteen.

Then there was a group which you might call the 'Also Rans': Doris RAKE, the Scotts (Floribunda and Yo Ed), Ruth Richardson and Ruth STANTON. We want you to know this was just a 'practice run' so watch out next time.

OUR 'SHOW CHAIRMAN' and EX-PRESIDENT sums it up this way: What more can we say: Quote: "I was overwhelmed at the beauty and success of our show. Every exhibitor (and this year the membership was more fully represented than ever before) outdid himself in the selectivity of beautiful and rare specimens, whether he brought in only a few exhibits or a full table.

"And wasn't the educational value tops? George Radwin's table was the most!

"Visitors were lavish in their comments. (Note: A count of Sundays visitors revealed that from 75 to 95 persons were in the show at all times, coming and going.) No wonder the judges were perplexed and had problems making decisions.

It was a great show. Everyone, exhibitors, workers, the regalement crew and all those who brought 'goodies' worked like a team. All their efforts are very much appreciated.

Wilson Wells is to be commended. He was able to keep things under control and a running inventory of all plants. Result: No problems! There was no report of the loss of a single plant. All exhibits were brought in on Saturday, Sunday was free for total enjoyment. An attempt was made to register and count visitors, but the idea turned out to be impractical and impossible....traffic was very heavy. A conservative estimate of attendance would be 1,000, perhaps a more realistic guess would be 1,500.

*Depauperate: Dr. Radwin used this term in his "Cactus-of-the-Month" and there wasn't room for its definition. So, here and now: "Poorly or imperfectly developed". An adjective! No extra charge for the service, George.

GARDEN VISITS

Sunday---May 11, 1975
CSSA Convention is coming

Espinas y Flores will endeavor to cover in advance the 1975 Convention activities as they involve our Club members. With this issue we start making plans for the very first Convention activity, a Garden Tour of our area on Sunday, May 11, 1975.

Some conventioners arrive early. They have previously and they will again. What better for the early arrivers than visits to our local Club members' gardens. If you're a plant enthusiast, there's nothing you'll enjoy more than a visit from someone with similar interests.

El Paso, Las Vegas and Pasadena visitors were treated to garden tours the Sunday before Convention. Now it will be our privilege to meet with the visitors in our own back yards.

Time and place of the start of the tours is of course Convention headquarters, the Bahia We do not know, of course, how many will arrive early, but it would be reasonable to guess it would be as many as, or more than at Las Vegas in 1973---about 20 cars, more or less. Some visitors will drive their own cars but they will have to have guides. Others will depend upon local seating. With prior planning caravans should move with precision.

Gardens in San Diego are wide spread, from Mirimar to Imperial Beach, Pacific Beach to El Cajon and southeast to Lench Grove. Our advantage is that with a year's notice, all the gardens listed to the right may enjoy care like they have never had before. Of course our visitors may not be able to visit all of them, but that shouldn't discourage gardening with aforethought. Your plants will love that.

When we say 'caravan' at this early stage we very well know it is impossible for 20 cars to congregate at any one time at most gardens. The answer is: Split the tour into three caravans, one to travel east, another southeast and the third to work the beach areas. Otherwise there would be parking confusion and foot work like noone has ever seen heretofore. Besides no garden could accommodate all the visitors at one time. Neither would any of our visitors like to be subjected to such confusion.

Considering area, distances and traffic in our area, you'll be glad you are with a small closely knit, well organized tour group.

We shall need three tour leaders and perhaps two standbys. You who are leaders will be hosting some of the finest people you will ever meet, and they will in turn surely appreciate our very best efforts in their behalf.

Note: The two gentlemen to the left have just finished their tour and surely they will find their way home guided by Ursa Major and the pole star.

Other features of the Convention will follow in order in future issues of Espinas y Flores. Watch for them!

Y' All start thinking GARDEN TOURS about now!

Baker
Beckfield
Bibbey
Billnyer
Birchell
Buckner

Chathan
Corliss

D'Attilio

Evans

Falk
Fisher

Gable

Hapeman
Hubner

Justice

Kennett
Klinefelter

Latiner
Lewis
Loyland

Miller
Mooney

O'Reilly

Pfeiffer
Phelps

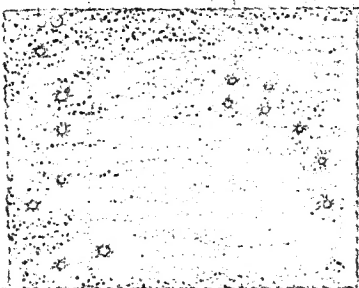
Radwin

Scott

Wells
Wier

&

Taylor



You sure we're going the right direction?



WRS

Star Guided Tour

CACTUS CLUB of Long Ago

- - Margaret Evans - -

While researching another subject in old San Diego Unions, I came across several news items about 'Cactus Clubs' of a period long ago which I thought would amuse our readers:

NOV. 4, 1893, Page 5, column 1:

"Elegant rooms have been fitted up in the Fisher Opera House block by the newly organized 'Cactus Club'. The quarters comprise a parlor and music, card and billiard rooms which form a very comfortable home for the members."

NOV. 13, 1893, Page 5, column 3:

"ROOSTER VS CACTI" The Los Angeles Herald says there are just six more days before the Roosters of this city will jump the Cactus baseball team of San Diego and do battle for the honor of Los Angeles and the privilege of the Society's smile."

NOV. 13, 1893, Page 5, column 3:

"CACTUS BOYS VICTORIOUS" Quite a number of the young Society people of the city accompanied the Cactus Club to Los Angeles yesterday in a special car to witness the baseball game with the Los Angeles Roosters.

"Last night the Los Angeles boys tendered a merry dance to the visitors and their friends in the Westminster Hotel, Los Angeles. The affair was very swell and was pronounced one of the most enjoyable of the year."

JULY 3, 1894, Page 5, column 2:

"The management of the Cactus baseball team received the following telegram from the California Club: 'We leave by special steamer tonight bringing heavy team.' The local team received the dispatch after two hours hard practice and felt exceedingly jubilant over the news."

.....
(Margaret: Please continue your very interesting 'research' activities. It reads like 'Cactus Club' interest of old was not so much genera, species and variety as balls, bats and bases. . . .Ye Ed)
.....

REGALEMENT--MAY: The following 'ten reasons' explain why regalement was so 'bountiful' to say it mildly, for Open House on Saturday the 11th. See who did it! Not only that, but there was regalement leftover for Sunday Open House too!

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Leta HAPEMAN | Evelyn CHATHAM | Jean HAPEMAN |
| Nellie KENNETT | Ione HUBNER | Frances JOHNSON |
| Lena RICE | Margaret MUCKENTHALER | Thelma O'REILLY |
| | and Ruth STANTON | |

'E y F' June 1974

COME TREK WITH ME

Julianne Rice

Dear, dear Flower Children, hearts of my heart, come along with me out Dos Cabezas way to Fouquieria splendens country where plants of all sizes and shapes in generous leaf from adequate rainfall are in splendid bloom. Truthfully, some wands have so many racemes as to look like bouquets until one is quite close.

The contrast of a very rich medium to dark green leaf shade with the brilliance of the orange-red flowers is a handsome treat for those who are fortunate to behold at this peak of performance by my special succulent preference. Oh, long may you sport your colorful raiment, dear Ocotillo, as you are generally called, that those who come after will experience the great measure of joy which has been ours these many years of roaming the desert areas in search of native flora doing its natural thing.

As one drives in to the abandoned Dos Cabezas Station and water tank, one is greeted with a wealth of bloom on Opuntia basilaris with flowers larger and brighter than any year since 1968. Keeping them quite complimentary company are lovely clusters of Echinocereus engelmannii showing equally large flowers. One rather interesting plant with perhaps thirty torches (stems) had flowers of about the same shade as Chrysler Imperial Rose. I have seen very rich crimson-magenta hues but never this shade of red. The spines too were much fuller and very, very golden. Wonder of wonders, these desert treks.

I believe Dr. George Lindsay identified two varieties of O. basilaris and this area has both. One has round rather heart-shaped pads, the other has distinct elongation of pads. The plants here with the elongation seem much more vigorous and the flowers are larger and a deeper shade of pink. However, all give a feeling of permanence and create a yearning for proper supervision that this area may be perpetuated as is.

Chollas everywhere! That grand old man, O. bigelovii, with its yellow to pale green flowers, rivalled by O. acanthocarpa whose flowers range from "butter-scotch" thru a lovely bronzo tone. One happy hike afforded much material for speculation. Experts, where art thou? Where one each of the aforementioned grew in luxurious profusion we saw what might have been a combination of the two. The plant was a bit larger than either but seemed to have characteristics of each. The joints were fatter and longer and the tufts of spines at the areoles were very handsome. The flowers were very brown with pleasing roddish overtones with shape and size more like O. bigelovii. Wish each and everyone of you could have been there to see and enjoy.

Each turn of the winding road provides a vista and each vista another step up to the ultimate destination of those who know the area, where there is a veritable "sea" of native flora; a lush tropical-like garden enforcing one to carefully pick ones way thru.

After a prolonged session of pure enjoyment and a bit of picture-taking, we wound our way to Indian Hill for the luncheon break. How heavenly to share so perfect a day with two quite knowledgeable rock hounds and a lady whose first recreational interest is Old Indian Trails and Artifacts and who does a first-rate lecture accompanied by very good slides. Why do we not invite her to do a program for our Club? Incidentally, she has recently joined the IVC&SS which makes her virtually one of us ?? (Attention --- Vice President!!)

And because of her special interest, and because this same dear gal had never been on my favorite 'fun to negotiate road', and because she had not seen the sleeping rings, we skimmed around the mountains and thru Yanqui Pass to the Polo Line Road with its acres and acres of Perocactus acanthodes waiting out there to welcome us, some already with crowns of lovely flowers and with ample buds for future enjoyment.

COME TREK WITH ME, cont'd:

Not satisfied with the 'easy road', we wheeled over to the one directly by the poles and on to the top of a very steep short hill for Winifred's treat--the circles--where some poor uninformed wheel-happy 'so-and-so' had driven the full length. CAN WE NOT PUT UP A FENCE ?

This area also has Opuntias, one of which is O. ramosissima. It is now liberally covered with new growth so delicate appearing, but, oh, so wicked to handle. Here also Fouquieria splendens, not so lushly gowned, but just as lavishly in flower. Both varieties of O. basilaris blooming beautifully along the one road. I was reasonably sure turning space was afforded further on and with space on firm ground. Chuparosa and small wildflowers everywhere in full bloom!

Since my T&C would find it difficult to negotiate as my trusty companion of many years, 'Little Fellow' had so faithfully done, Winifred and I, leaving Ray and Trudi to explore close in to home base, walked those lovely Windrows of Beauty all the way to the foot of the mountains. Every step of the way was rewarded with the special treats which a bit of elevation so often affords.

The poppies were larger. Malvastrum rotundifolium, by the hundreds, was lifting a sea of pretty faces to the sun. If you are not acquainted with this charmer, please do seek out a good reference and correct the situation. Your heart will sing a unique song of joy. Most were minute, perhaps 3/8 of an inch in diameter, others were well over an inch.

My favorite cache of large old clusters of Mammillaria dioica were no longer there, but a generous new crop evidenced joy for another year not so far distant.

As seems their year in, year out habit, all, even the tiniest ones were in full bloom with larger than usual flowers shading from the usual pink-white thru a distinct butter-yellow which I thought at first to be reflected from those lovely centers. However, upon quite close inspection, the petals were found to be decidedly yellow. Once before, about seven years ago, I found a colony way high amongst the rocks with this same coloration. Perhaps some seeds drifted down.

Here is hoping each of you, someday, take this trip when the conditions are right for a spectacular blooming.

.....

GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

Audrey A. JOHNSON

During my morning chores a few days ago, I took one of my not infrequent trips to the window for a peck at the flowers and activities of the outdoor world. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed movement on the driveway, and immediately thought: 'Darn it -- visitors so early in the morning!' At that moment, round the bend came my plump little 'visitors', a pair of California quail, plodding steadily up the steep incline, 'bonnets' a-nodding, for all the world like a couple of dear old ladies coming to pay a formal call.

By this time Jacquot (my Scottie) had begun to take an interest in the proceedings. Realizing this, apparently, our guests by-passed the house in a dignified manner, and swerved onto the rock incline leading up to the bird feeding station above. Once here, they pecked around at the seed and food scraps in a leisurely manner until they had decided to call it a day. Of course, I called out: 'Come again, any time' as they wandered off into the bushes.

I wonder if they heard me? 12

'E y F' June 1974

. C A C T U S O F T H E M O N T H .
 . Newly Described Species of Cactus .
 . Dr. George E RADWIN .

People who have kept abreast of current trends in 'cactophily' (the love of cactus) are probably aware that the field of cactus (no pun intended) is booming (or should that be blooming?). Until a very few years ago the contemporary wisdom had it that whereas North America (especially Mexico) was excessively rich in cactus species, South America, except for its large coreoids and its few pockets of Notocactus and Neoporteria, was relatively depauperate* in terms of cactus diversity. Imagine the surprise, not to mention the delight of cactophiles the world over when plant explorers such as Ritter, Rausch, Horst, Buining, van Vliet and Cardenas began to discover and describe unexpectedly large numbers of cactus species from almost every corner of the South American continent. The increase in numbers of species described, primarily from South America, in the eight years since the last edition of Backeberg's Kakteenlexicon has been truly phenomenal; as a brief look through three of the most active journals--Cactus & Succulent Journal, USA; Succulenta; Kakteen und andere Sukkulanten--for the years 1967-72 will show.

In 1967-68 only sixteen new species were described in the pages of these journals. In 1969-70 forty-three were described, and in 1971-72 forty-four were introduced. This does not take into account species described in other journals, nor does it account for the many new varieties, some of which may prove to be distinct species.

A breakdown of the new species mentioned above, 105 in six years, shows that there were more new species of Robutia (17) than of any other genus. After Robutia came Lobivia with 12; Parodia with 11; Sulcorebutia with 9; Mammillaria with 8; Notocactus, Melocactus and Echinopsis with 6, Frailea and Gynocalycium with 5; Colocephalocereus with 4; Mediolobivia, Arrojadoa, Uebelmannia with 2; and Pseudopilocereus, Neolloydia, Micranthocereus, Weingartia, Coryphantha, Cereus, Opuntia, Disocactus, Tephrocactus and Acanthocalycium with 1 each. (See "PROGRAM for June" last page.)

"S U C C U L E N T F A N T A S Y"

9th Annual CSSA Show

At the Arboretum in Arcadia, July 4 thru 7th.

..... Kathryn Sabo of Woodland Hills in command

The object of this annual show is to stimulate interest in the growing and displaying of fine succulent plants. This show is where you will see some of the very best and where competition is vigorous and where plants come from far away places.

We hope to have more and better information available at the June meeting. And remember it will not conflict with our July meeting which will be some days later. Who will volunteer to ask our President to call upon our "Show Committee" to give details.

Remember last year our Floyd Gable entered a group of select plants from a Santee garden and displayed them at the show and came home with a first place ribbon. Any plants in Santee itching to go to Arcadia this year, Floyd?

The show is open to the public daily. And there will be a program in addition, as follows:

PROGRAM:

Thursday, July 4th, 7:30 p.m. JUDGES' DINNER at the Peacock Pavilion.

Friday, July 5th, 7:30 p.m. SYMPOSIUM* conducted by John and Mary BLECK in the seminar room.

Saturday, July 6th, 7:30 p.m. conducted by Douglas Rowland of England in the seminar room.

Sunday, July 7th: Garden tours will be scheduled by the show committee.

.....
*SYMPOSIUM: In the old days the symposium would follow refreshments and a feast and it would feature intellectual and interesting and informative comments pertinent to the subject at hand. The scheduled symposiums should be of particular interest to all persons interested in succulent plants. This is your opportunity to become informed.
.....

STAMPS ANYONE ?? Ye Ed sometimes, occasionally that is, receives envelopes in the mail and very often there are strange looking stamps up in the right hand corners. That is they are unfamiliar to Ye Ed. But he does cut 'em out and set 'em aside inasmuch as they are suspect and strangers.

If anyone in the Club is interested in strange stamps, please contact Ye Ed. There is no obligation. Stamps are a bit like cactus, they get along all by themselves without much attention, but they do even better with attention, especially if someone knows about them.
.....

Bill NELSON has a good definition of an 'old timer'. One who remembers the wonder drugs--camphor and castor oil.

C A L E X P O (Our COUNTY FAIR)

CAL-EXPO, our County Fair approaches. Dates June 21st to July 4th, at Del Mar. The fair has provided prize money in years past for the operation of our Club. We will continue to need that kind of help.

This year the Club will sponsor three exhibits: CACTUS GARDEN, SUCCULENT GARDEN and a GRAFT EXHIBIT. Ex-President Bill NELSON has volunteered to serve as General Chairman. He will need a lot of help. It is not a one-man show.

Pres. Joe BIBBEY will Chair the GRAFT EXHIBIT. Look for a good Exhibit. The CACTUS GARDEN is without a Chairman at the present time. We need a lead man. . . will you volunteer?

The Nelsons report that they have a sufficient inventory of succulent plants for the SUCCULENT GARDEN. They have been 'scouting' with excellent results. It will include some hanging baskets.

Many of our members come from fair visitors who perhaps for the first time have seen exhibits of 'Cacti and Other Succulents' on exhibit. They become interested. There is no more rewarding plant hobby, it seems to have no limitations. And CAL EXPO is said to be one of, if not the finest flower shows in the land.

FIND A SPOT WHERE YOU CAN HELP THEN GIVE A HELPING HAND!!

Call Bill NELSON at 298 3349.

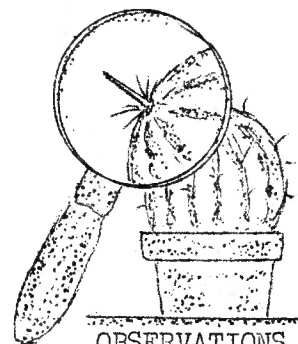
Innes of Costa Blanca

Notocactus from Uruguay

Plant Breeders' Handbook

Giant Peanuts Cactus

Clive Innes, Proprietor of England's Holly Gate Nursery, one of my favorite sources of cactus plants, now has an home in Alicante, Spain. This is on the famed "Costa Blanca", about midway between Barcelona and Malaga on the Mediterranean coast. He says that cacti and succulents from Madagascar grow well for him in the ground, as the area is completely frost-free. He is coming to California in September and I am looking forward to his visit for many reasons, one being to talk with him about the famous statuary competition that is an annual event in Alicante.



OBSERVATIONS of
CactoPhil Corliss

Enormous statues of wax and other flammable materials are created in many of the city's parks and plazas. They are judged and then, after a tremendous parade and display of fireworks all over the city, they are set afire and completely burned. The burning of the statues occurs on the day of one of the minor saints whose name I cannot remember. Alicante, south of Valencia, is on the coast. If my health ever permits, I would like to spend a week in Alicante at the time of the big celebration. Just as Siena in Italy is divided into sectors by the twice-a-year horse races, so are the citizens of Alicante rabidly partisan to the statues of their sectors.

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You may remember my several references to Hugo Schlosser of Montevideo, and the articles he wrote for this publication on collecting cacti in Uruguay. His Notocactus #157 has been published by Van Vliet as Notocactus schlosseri, and is already in the trade. Mr. Schlosser says in a recent letter to me: "I would like to sell to dealers in the U.S.A. in the next and following years some cacti, especially notocacti of the not-so-common species including such rare types as N. allosyphon, N. crassigibbus, N. herteri, N. schlosseri, N. buiningii, N. wernermannianus and my field numbers #150, #151 and so on. I will have thousands of some kinds, of the others only 50 to 250". I hope some of our dealers will take advantage of this opportunity. His address is available from me or the Editor. It would be nice if these fine South American plants could be obtained by those who attend our convention next May.

The Amateur Plant Breeders' Handbook will be published by the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens this month. It contains my chapter on raising cactus from seed, illustrated by drawings from Yo Editor of this publication.

In recent years Frank Reinolt's favorite stock for grafting has been what he calls "Chamaecereus jumbo" or "giant peanuts". I got a supply of it from him and find it very suitable for my conditions. It clusters rapidly and the stem is between that of the common peanuts and echinopsis. I had assumed it was an hybrid between Chamaecereus sylvestrii and an echinopsis, although its stems are larger than any of the several chamaecereus hybrids in my collection. Its flower strengthens my belief, as it occurs on the upper sides of the stem, has a tube about two inches long and a salmon-rust flower two and one half inches in diameter.

S U C C U L E N T O F T H E M O N T H

Kalanchoe (Kal-an-ko'-e)

Madelyn R. LEE

The name of this genus was adapted from a Chinese name for one of the species. This is a very large family with over 200 species. They are found in warmer parts of the Old World, China, India, Africa, Socotra, Madagascar, etc.

For many years there were three genera: Kalanchoe, Bryophyllum, and Kitchingia. In 1907 they were all included in the genus Kalanchoe. The name Bryophyllum is still in general use and usually indicates the plants with pendant flowers and adventitious buds. These 'buds' can be quite a problem as they drop off the mother leaf 'ready to grow' and you can soon have a 'forest' if you don't control them.

The growth habits of Kalanchoe range from 20-foot trees with 18-inch leaves (K. beharensis) to small vines with one-half inch leaves (K. mangini). Some have white powder (K. purila, K. gastonis-bonneiri, K. thrysiflora) and some are covered with velvet or short hair (K. tomentosa, K. velutina, K. orgyalis). Some even send out offsets on long spike like satellites, for example K. synsepala.

The Hummel hybrids of K. beharensis, with their thick, felt-covered leaves and beautiful shapes and colors are very attractive and well known. In Europe K. blossfeldiana hybrids are popular house plants and the florist industry has conducted studies to control the flowering time and the variety of flower color.

Some of the species start flowering in December and others continue thru July. The flowers on one plant can last from three weeks to three months depending on the species. Colors range from red to pink thru orange and even clear yellow (K. joegranii). The flower is usually four petaled with many individual blooms forming large 'bunches' at the end of each stem. The vine-like varieties usually have the lantern shaped flowers scattered along the stems, the upright varieties usually put up a tall flower spike with a large group of flowers at the top.

This genus is generally very easy to grow in light, well drained soil. Full sun brings out the color in the upright types and a little shade is preferred by the vine-like types. Few of this group like temperatures below freezing and most prefer it above 40°F. Water well in warm weather and lightly in winter.

These plants propagate easily from cuttings, leaf cuttings, adventitious buds or seed. There is a short period of dormancy following the flowering period when cuttings are slow to root. It is best to take cuttings at another time.

BRING ONE OF YOUR KALANCHOES TO THE JUNE MEETING AND LET IT VISIT WITH US FOR A DAY!

JUNE MEETING: SATURDAY, June 8th, at 1:30 p.m. Room 101 Casa del Prado.

JUNE PROGRAM: Paul BINGHAM our young member from Irvine, CA will tell and show some of his experiences collecting one of his favorite plants--PEDIOCACTUS. And maybe he will pin down his 'favorite'.

NEW MEMBERS*

Mary Louise, Eddio A CARGILL
4620 Highgrove Drive
Fort Worth, TEXAS 76132

Elizabeth CELIS
4040 Lamont, Apt. 19
San Diego, CA 92109

Robert (Joyce) COOKE
3858 Bonita View Drive
Bonita, CA 92002

Janet HUCKABY **
123 Magnolia Drive
Salinas, CA 93901

Dr. Donald (Nancy) KRUZNER
12970 Highway 80
Rancho Valley Village, SP 10
El Cajon, CA 92021 (Renewal)

Vernice D. SIEGERT
3790 Meade Avenue
San Diego, CA 92116

.....

*New members are the 'fuel of the future' for the Club.

**Janet HUCKABY is President of the San Jose Cactus & Succulent Society. The San Jose Club will be co-sponsoring the INTERCITY SHOW in San Jose on the 7th and 8th of September. Those of us who were fortunate enough to visit the same show in Sacramento in 1973 remember well the 'supershow' of the Bay area. A show sponsored by a club other than your own is always an inspiration, visit it if it is at all possible.

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Mary Lou CARGILL of Fort Worth, Texas, volunteers a new feature for Espinas y Flores starting in July. It will be about the meaning of plant names and words used in describing them.

She asks: "What in the world is a 'specific epithet'? Do you know what the name Ferocactus acanthodes means? What do 'taxon' and 'taxonomy' mean to you?"

These are samplings of what you may look forward to in coming months. The feature is intended to enlighten those who are unfamiliar with the meaning of plant names and to refresh those already advanced and knowledgeable.

(Espinas y Flores has sought information of this kind for a long time. We often hear 'specie' used for singular. Is that proper? Thank you Mary Lou. Yo Ed)

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