

ESPINAS

Y

FLORES



November, 1969

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

ROOTING, ROTTING, POTTING

Upon receiving a box of plant material, unpack, trim roots back, and place plants in a solution of lukewarm water and a root stimulating hormone, such as Hormex, for a half-hour. Clean sand is the material commonly used by florists for rooting; while sand is very good, we have found that succulents will root much quicker and with less danger of rotting, if a sandy loam or synthetic leaf mould is used instead of straight sand.

Most everyone is familiar with ordinary leaf mould, that wonderful crumbly crust of decayed and partly decayed material that one scrapes up in the woods, with a little of that beneficial earthy matter. However, in our Southern California woods there is a prevalent intensity of oak root fungus, which is why we recommend a synthetic. Too much sand or soil has a tendency to pack too firm, whereas the loamy leaf mould type medium remains loose and allows free penetration of the tender young roots. A good synthetic leaf mould mix would contain 50 to 75 per cent peat moss, redwood compost or any good organic, and the remainder vermiculate, as a softer substitute for sand. After placing plant or cutting into the soil mix, gently firm soil around the stem just enough to hold erect. Water

lightly, if you are impatient, but better results will be achieved when freshly cut tissues are allowed to callous from 24 hours to a week; many factors have to be considered on this score.

Warmth is essential to rooting; good light and ventilation also are important. Then, too, the season of the year has an influence. Plants or cuttings obtained in the Fall or Winter may not root until Spring, but you

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NOVEMBER MEETING

Saturday, Nov. 1st, 2 pm
Floral Assoc. Building
Balboa Park

"CACTUS FLOWERS"

by
Dr. LeRoy Phelps

FINAL READING OF BY-LAWS

FORMAL NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

Exchange Table
Sale Table
Refreshments

have to take 'em when you can get 'em. We have had cuttings remain dormant for six or

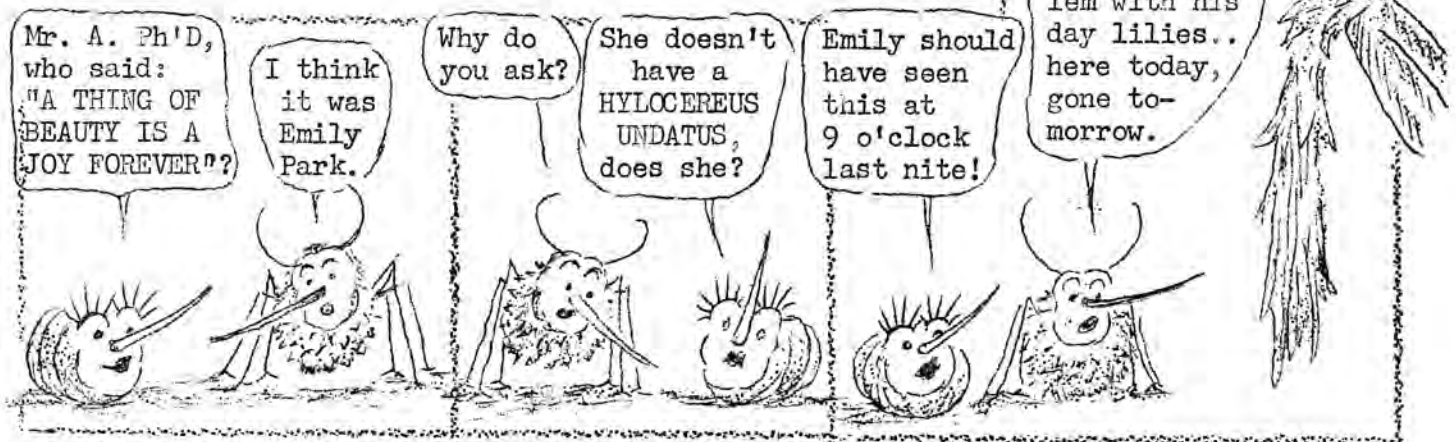
eight months before finally taking root. A lot has been said about stratifying the soil mix with various other bric-a-brac in the pot, such as gravel base, sand layers, charcoal, etc. We are of a mind to have uniform mix from top to bottom, thus insuring the ultimate in water disperement and a homogeneous area for root development. Many good things can be said about adjusting the basic mix to incorporate some ingredients normally found in a particular plant's habitat. Echinocactus Horizon Thalomium, for instance, may enjoy a portion of gravel mixed in to make it feel at home; or in the case of certain Echinocerei, that are found on limestone ledges, a bit of slacked lime well mixed may be advantageous. Regardless, the mix should be of a texture that receives water readily and holds it in suspension for the eager lips of a neophyte desert dweller.

A common difficulty experienced with succulents is rotting at the base in the cutting bed or of the roots when removed and potted. Fortunately, it is not true with all succulents, but it is one good reason to consider potting it originally into a permanent home. Repotting should be greatly simplified, if a uniform soil is used; and no environmental stress will be caused when moving the plant to a larger home. A damp, close atmosphere is conducive to rot, and as a general rule, a cutting bed should be kept damp. All the more reason to use a loose loamy soil, which allows the gravitational water to pass on through, leaving the desired capillary moisture to remain. As the old chicken rancher used to say, "You gotta have sumpthin' there for the chickies if ya 'spect 'em to set." However, watering all boils down to a matter of experience and judgment. This is what separates the men from the boys, so to speak. We have been asked many times how often to water. No definite rule can be given; in fact, nurserymen have no rule. They rely on their own judgment to relate past experiences and experiences of others to the now and the here. El Cajon can be hotter, dryer, colder, or wetter than La Mesa, National City or San Diego on any given day; or for that matter the 3400 block on 31st Street can be as different from the 4000 block on 49th Street as Acapulco from Tijuana - they are both Mexican resort towns, of sorts.

Look at the root development from time to time; experiment, see if you are getting the desired results. Ask questions, if someone else is succeeding, and you are not, reason out if or how what he does would apply to your operation. Should you discover the end rotting, cut back to clean sound tissue and proceed again, noting any difference in your approach. What you have learned or will learn can be of infinite value to others. Each day new plants are being introduced to new and different conditions; it is not possible to give specific directions in each case. However, fact will never contradict faith when we place fact and faith in the right relationship to each other. The more we exercise the forces of nature, the more is available to our use; there is no law of nature that has been exhausted by man, nor will man ever find limitations to those laws, except in limitations of his own consciousness. Keep an open mind....

-- js

PROVERB: "A well informed man is easy to spot-- his views are the same as yours!" -Nema Toed



CACTUS CAR-A-VAN

WHAT -- QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

WHEN -- NOVEMBER 9th, 1969 (Sunday)

WHERE -- CAL STATE AT LOS ANGELES. At the intersection of Freeway 10 (San Bernardino Freeway) and Freeway 7 (Long Beach Freeway) No. West corner up on the hillside. Lecture Hall in the Science Building. Lots of parking on Lot M via Lot E.



Quarterly meetings of the Society are always top notch and informative. They're sponsored by top men in the business and conducted on a professional level by specialists. Never a dull moment.

SUBJECT -- SUCCULENT PLANT FAMILIES by LAUREL WOODLEY.

Let's oil up the old gas wagons and take off for Cal State in a group -- oops, a CACTUS CAR-A-VAN -- and go back to College for a day. The professional protesters should have a day off on Sunday, so we will practically have the campus to ourselves.

But don't mention 'football', - it's a touchy subject after what our Aztecs did to the Lobos not very long ago. We'll pretend we're full time busy with succulents, etc. in our own back yards. Our business really is succulents, mixed with good fellowship, of course.

Take along enough \$ to partake of an evening repast (Doc. Vaughan would say "regalement" either at Knott's Berry Farm or at the Farm House, both of which are convenient to Freeway 5 on our return trip along about 5 o'clock.

A special sign-up board will be passed at the November meeting for you to declare your intentions. We MUST know how many are interested, and even then we don't promise or guarantee a seat. We will match empty seats with people to the extent empties occur - and the two numbers must come out even. To start with, there's three spaces in the Old Wagonmaster's Wagon. First come first served will be the plan.

In the event that thirty-five or more persons declare favorable intent, we will procure a bus, or let's say, we will make such an effort. Private cars take precedence at this writing.

The CAR-A-VAN will get under way at the Old Wagonmaster's Succulentarium at 3430 Wilshire Terrace promptly at 10 o'clock on Sunday, the 9th. Meeting time is 1:00 o'clock.

Now it's your move.

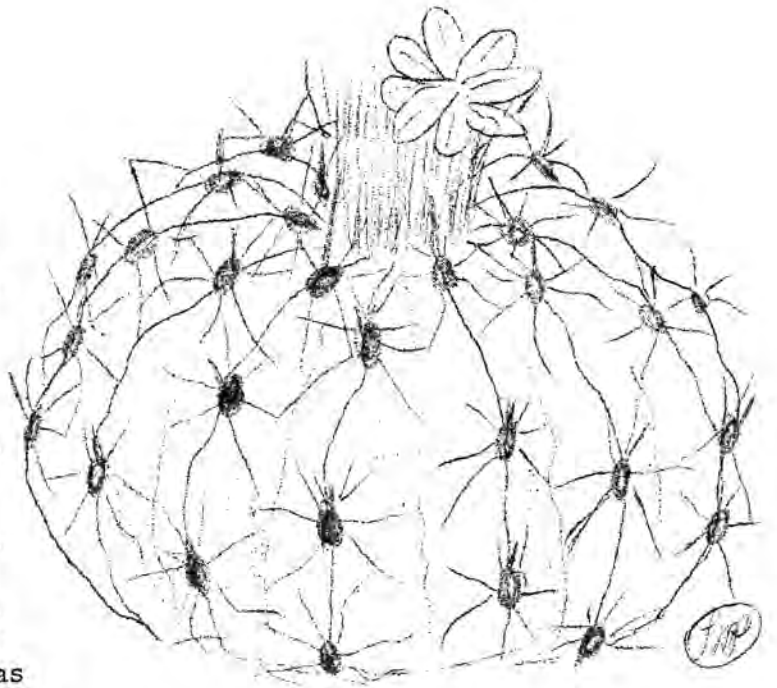
Phone 296-6022.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

MALOCOCARPUS SELLOWII

Our cactus this month reminds me very much of a Turk's Cap (*Melocactus*) because of the dense woolly crown from which the flowers arise. It, however, is not a close relative of the Turk's Cap. *MALOCOCARPUS SELLOWII* (mál - á - kó - kár - pús sél - lów - i - i or sél - lów - i) is a South American cactus as are all members of the genus. The genus name means "soft fruit", and this species is named for an early collector. The species was first placed in the genus *ECHINOCACTUS* (as were most of the barrel-shaped cacti) by Link and Otto in 1827. The genus *Malacocarpus* was created by the Prince of Salm-Dyck in 1850

for *M. CORYNOIDES*, and our species was moved to this genus in 1897 by Karl Schumann. Some modern taxonomists have suggested combining *Malacocarpus* with *Notocactus*, but the fruit characteristics are decidedly different.



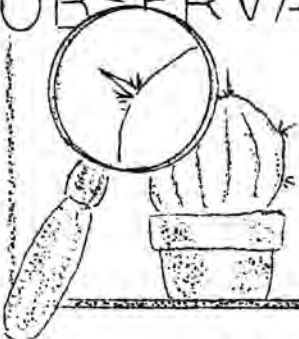
M. SELLOWII is a small flattened globe rarely more than 6 inches in diameter. It normally has 16 to 18 acute ribs with very deep, narrow furrows. The ribs are usually somewhat wavy, and are notched above the sparse areoles and are frequently wrinkled alongside the areoles. On large specimens the furry areoles are over an inch apart with only 3 or 4 to a rib. There are normally 7 radial spines, but on the same plant one may find from 5 to 9 spines. There may or may not be a central spine, although it is usually present. All of the spines are yellow when young, passing to gray with age. There are a number of varieties listed for the species by various authorities, rib counts ranging from 12 to 26, radial spines from 4 to 10, and central spine present or absent. The plant most commonly seen in Southern California appears to be *M. SELLOWII* var. *TURBINATUS*.

As mentioned above, the plant does have a woolly crown when mature. The yellow flowers, up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, arise from the crown. Several of the flowers appear at a time, and gives the plant a final touch. After the midsummer flowering the fruit, a red juicy berry, projects from the wool. The seeds fall from the ripe fruit and frequently germinate and grow in the garden. This is a pleasant surprise, to say the least, since so few cactus seedlings are capable of growth under normal garden conditions. When you visit Bob Taylor's Garden in El Cajon, look for the bed of *M. SELLOWII* (and other species) and look at the mass of seedlings.

This species does very well in full sun in our area, and the edges of the deep green ribs take on a rosy blush. The plants grow well in any loose rich soil with liberal water during the growing season. They don't appear to resent water at any time of the year unless soggy conditions prevail. The cactus of the month makes an excellent pot subject because of the relatively small adult size, and the apparent indifference to root restriction. They will do well in shallow pots.

There are about 12 species in the genus. All are similar in appearance and culture, and descriptions of the various species must be carefully read to identify any given plant. Incidentally, there are no common names for any of these plants.

OBSERVATIONS OF CACTO PHIL CORLISS



are to be commended for making it possible to preserve this remarkable display. In the afternoon we attended a Surrey Horticultural Society Flower Show. It was held in a large circus tent erected on public ground in the center of Worcester Park. The cactus society people sold raffle tickets for drawings of cactus and succulent plants, maintained a sales table, and solicited members for their group. I think we might well participate in like fashion in our local shows, especially the one staged by the Mens' Garden Club in Mission Valley. In addition to the splendid entries of Mr. and Mrs. Maddams, other cactus fanciers brought fine entries. Of particular interest was Mr. Road's Mammillaria Gigantea, grown from seed and now eleven years old. It is roughly eight inches in diameter and ten inches high.

On Wednesday morning, Sept. 17, I was joined at Sutton on the London-to-Portsmouth express by Mrs. Maddams. We were met at Arundel by Mr. John Donald, the authority on South American cacti and driven to North Lancing to see his quite complete collection of the many genera of his specialty. This was a most satisfactory visit to me because I am greatly interested in the globular South Americans, and they suffer a dreadful confusion of nomenclature - which Mr. Donald and Mr. Rowley are rectifying, and will do so further in the near future with two new books. I am pleased that they are "groupers" rather than "splitters"..

After lunch at the seaside resort of Worthing, Mr. Donald drove us to the Holly Gate Nursery of Mr. C. F. Innes. Here is a vast collection of bromeliads and epiphytes including over 3,000 varieties of epiphyllum. Mr. Innes also handles cacti and I bought forty-six plants, most of them not available in America, as they are in commerce as a result of the efforts of English and German collectors. Were there more hours in the day I would have augmented the numbers. (Where would I find space for them?)

We had a long drive back to Barnstead through the lovely Sussex and Surrey "Downs" where the North Surrey branch of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Great Britain had called a special meeting in Sutton to see some of my slides. It was a mild and sunny day and the trees were just starting to don their autumn color. We stopped for tea at a roadside inn. A Mammillaria Society member had kindly gone down to Mr. Innes' Nursery to drive us back to the Maddams'.

There was time to study the Maddams' collection before dinner. To a cactophile it is close to Heaven. I had to regret that the Maddams have a wide interest in all garden plants, for their cactus and succulent houses are stuffed and bulging with treasures which could be "potted up" and grown to greater size were space available. But they will not give up their borders, perennial beds, and rock gardens, where more cactus houses could stand. I would say that about 50% of the Maddams' cactus plants are mammillarias. Mrs. Maddams is especially interested in the rare African succulents and has many specimen plants as well as a great number of her own seedlings. Nearly half of one bench is given over to large clusters of varieties of *M. Magnimamma* and *M. Centricirra* but Mr. Maddams has about a dozen decided they vary in little significance, so perhaps elimination of some of these will provide room for many splendid plants now badly hidden under and in back of shelves. The Maddams do virtually no grafting, due perhaps to Shurly's intense dislike of grafted plants. Many English growers look on them unfavorably. I was pleased that almost all of the rare and difficult plants at Mr. Innes' nursery were grafted. I have yet another cactus day before I leave for Paris, Spain and Morocco. This Sunday I will show slides to the Mammillaria Society and have another opportunity to study the Maddams' collection.

ON SUNDAY, Sept. 14, I visited with Mrs. B. A. Baldry, Secretary of the Mammillaria Society. She has a splendid collection of cacti, with emphasis (naturally) on mams. In addition, she is caretaker for the noted Bates Collection of haworthias, one part of which is in custody of Paul Hutchison in California. It is unfortunate that neither Kew Gardens nor Wisley (Royal Horticultural Society) will accept and properly care for this valuable collection, certainly the best ever assembled away from Africa; but the cactus society people

PLANT OF THE MONTH

SCHWANTES RUDEBUSCHII

When Dr. Schwantes accepted the post of Director of the Prehistoric Museum at Kiel University, it was with the understanding that his collection of mesembryanthemums was to be transported by special train! And why not? Dr. Derenberg had willed his to Dr. Schwantes and the combination of the collections was bulky as well as valuable. And we're the group to admire a man who moves with his mesembryanthemums.

The more research, the more involved and interested in the man rather than the plant I became. Martin Heinrich Gustave Schwantes was born in 1881 in Hanover, Germany, and published his short book with the long name (THE CULTIVATION OF THE MESEMBRANTHEMACEAE) in 1954. In the meantime he collected plants and degrees.

When Dr. Schwantes was a young man only 300 species were classified. Now overpopulatedly there are 2,400 listed! Thanks in part to our man who was one of the busiest botanists around at a time when Africa was swarming with collectors glorying in the dazzling sheen and electric colors of the mesembs. They named plants after themselves and each other, wrote books, experimented with growing conditions and argued endlessly. We have Derenbergia and Derenbergiella after Professor Derenberg. Brownanthiana and Brownanthus after N. E. Brown of England, and Dinteranthus from Professor Dinter. And, of course, the genus, Schwantesia, numbering ten species.

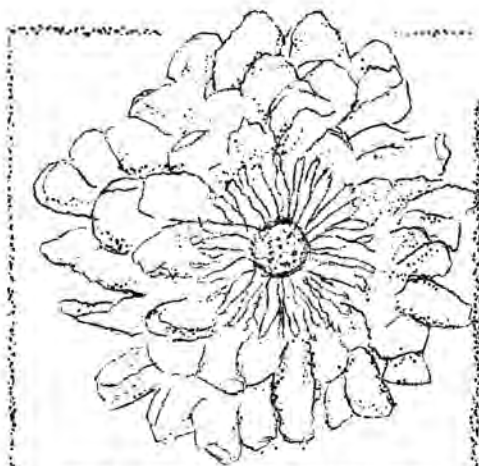
Our species Rudebuschii was named after a farmer in Great Namaqualand, SW Africa, presumably a good host with an eye for exotics. This little succulent is under 4" and forms small clumps. It looks like a rather blurred and untidy Faucaria as the leaves twist and turn haphazardly until the keel is sometimes uppermost, nor are the teeth as well defined. The yellow flowers with their fringe of modified stamens are so short-stemmed that they are often squashed between the leaves. Another child of the sun, they bloom from April to October and can take a fair amount of moisture during that period. In winter they prefer a temperature above 60°, liking it dry and bright, which does not describe San Diego exactly, but then we all have to make adjustments. Give them the same well-drained soil used for Faucarias, but not very rich. Too rich soil can not only be the death of them, but can destroy their character.

Dr. Schwantes quotes Berger on mesembs in 1908: "In nourishing soils they will grow luxuriantly - but will very easily fall prey to disease and die. They fascinate to such an extent that one disregards all exhortation to prudence and prefers to believe that perhaps there is not much truth behind it - the infallible sign of the ways of the amateur and beginner."

Dr. Schwantes further brings the point home when he writes of Lithops: "Planted in leaf mold without an admixture of sand over a layer of horse manure - within a few years the plant grew at a furious pace to the size of large clumps, flowering superabundantly, and appearing to ridicule all the warnings of Berger, until, during one summer I LOST THEM ALL THROUGH ROT!"

He is really a delightful man, writing with great spontaneity. For instance, in reference to the nasty habit of Titanopsis Schwantesia to rot in winter: "Clench the teeth and let the watering can pass them in winter. They shrink a little but only to a certain extent. If once one's nerves have become used to this condition and are capable of bearing it, the right attitude has been achieved."

(Continued next page)



SCHWANTESIA RUDEBUSCHII

"Rude" says: "My leaf growth is haphazard, it follows no pattern."

For those who take their succulents seriously the first half of our century was

particularly exciting. All the meaningful names mingled. Jacobsen was the new inspector to the Botanical Garden of Kiel about the time Dr. Schwantes arrived with his train load of treasures. Dr. Schwantes wrote: "Herr Jacobsen became inspired and began to occupy himself with my plants with enthusiasm!" Haage was around, too, and Vera Higgins translated Dr. Schwantes' FLOWERING STONES AND MIDDAY FLOWERS.

All in all, there's too much to be said. The seed capsules are little works of art that are alone worthy of an article. The multiplicity of mesembryanthemums is almost overpowering -- over 120 genera! Some authorities divide them into three groups (1) straggly "ice plant", (2) dense little clumps, and (3) living stones - progressively more difficult to grow well. We've covered two others this year that are also in the second group - "The Jewel Plant", (Titanopsis Calcareo) and "Elk's Horns", (Hereroa Dyori).

Hope to see you bring in sheaves of Schwantesia Rudebuschii to decorate the Bragging Table. Start grooming you Gasteria Maculata for next month.

POTPOURRI

by NEMA
TOED

---- Nibby

DEAR NEMA: When are we going to see the stories you promised on our local nursery men?

-- Percy Verring

DEAR P.V.: Sorry 'bout that, but have been preoccupied with 200th happenings; in January you will have a new editor... many of the old hands will be remaining; hope he has a longer needle than the present chief..

-- N.T.

DEAR NEMA: I am in need of "E & F" issues of January and March, 1967, to complete my file.

-- Nibby

DEAR NIBBY: We are fresh out of these epics; maybe some of our members have some spares... our greatest pleasure is that which rebounds from hearts that we have made glad.....

-- N.T.

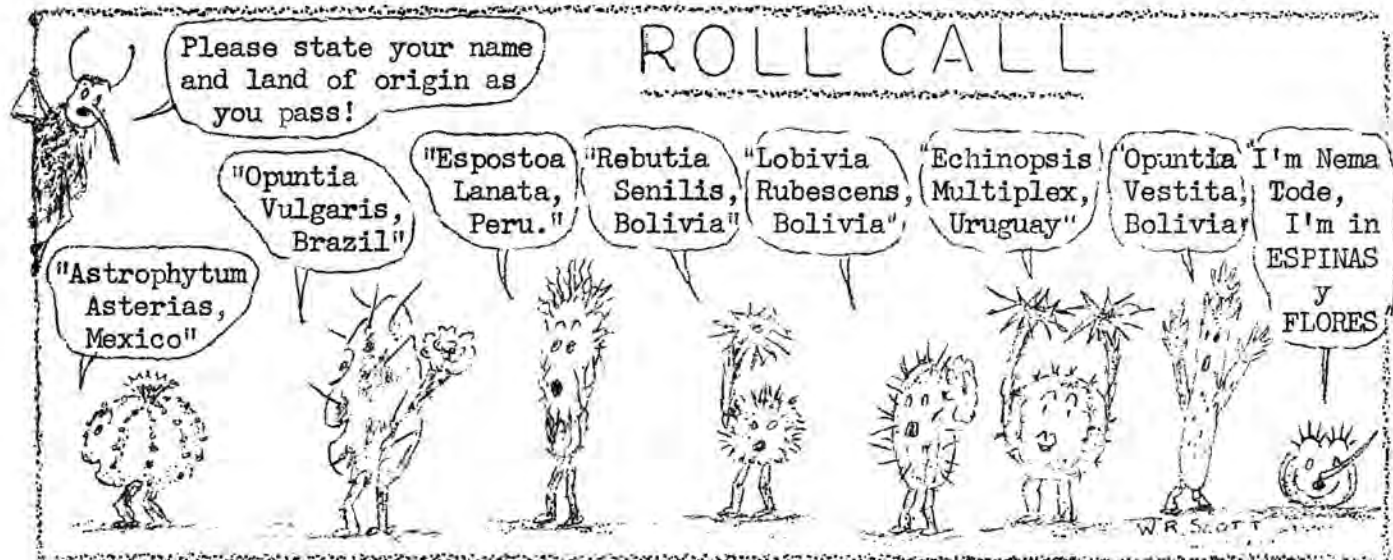
DEAR NEMA: I read in the newspaper the other day, where a man in England has an eight-foot cactus growing in his living room, and that it has subsisted on a diet of hot tea....

-- I. M. CURIOUS (Green)

DEAR I.M.: Impossible is a word only to be found in the dictionary of fools. -- N.T..

DEAR NEMA: The non-cactophile wife of a cactophile can be recognized by her bored expression, or her passion for bird watching, large extrovert dogs, or folk dancing.

-- Hardy HaHa (Cont. next pg)



POT POURRI - (Continued)

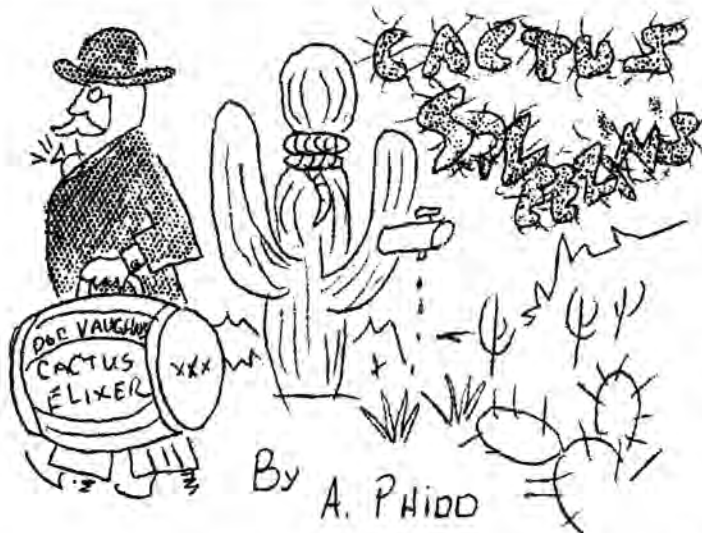
DEAR HARDY: A woman must be disappointed with the lesser things of life before she can comprehend the full value of the greater. --N.T.

DEAR NEMA: We just returned from a visit to the old San Diego Mission Cactus Garden. It still looks very nice, but there is a need for some additional plants in the second bed.

-- Leif Hopper

DEAR LEIF: Thanks for your report. We'll pass the word on to Walt and see if we can correct the deficiency. Some things have to be believed to be soon.

-- NEMA TOED.



NOVEMBER and chilling winds maraud our land... feebly we poke at the ground and go through the motions of doing those chores not done in the languishness of summer suns... restricted by protective vestments and a constant eye on the ebbing light... dolefully we say goodbye to friends who have given warmth and comfort. goodbye to smiling faces and the memories linger on... then before you on the naked earth your shadow forms distinct and clear, and to its bosom pressed the withered, burnt-amber body of "Harduk's" child... die to the root, sweet flower, as God wills, die to the root, live there awhile as an uncomplaining mute; blank with life and darkness wrapped about your head; fear not, the silence that around you spread... This is not a grave, though you are counted among the dead, this is

quick, Nature's torpid veiled place of power; die to the root.... until Spring, sweet flower.....

My goodness, what kind of act do you book in to follow that... so many things on our desk....as Bob Hope used to say, "Have Tux, will travel, but will not follow dog act".... November 9th at 2 pm... ground breaking ceremonies for the new "Garden and Cultural Center" in Balboa Park.... this will replace the gaping "hole" left by the demise of the Food and Beverage Building... and soon will become our new home... all club members are invited, and wear the Opuntia pad of your choice... on your lapel, of course... Speaking of opuntias, TONY REINBOLDT is growing a lovely little number, called Opuntia Impatiana... better it should be called, O. Impatiens; you don't have to blow in its ear to have it follow you everywhere.....

Retired or not???? BILL DE GROOT is busier showing slides of his many trips to garden clubs, rest homes, and interested parties than he was collecting movies for the tax assessor's office... of course, little do we know that these are the same films he took to aid the county in increasing our assessments.... Tahoe, Rogue River, North Rim, and Snow Flowers on Mt. Lassen... Next trip???? Ask Louise... Bill doesn't know a water lily from a brown bear....

Our Braggin' Table has been smething else... NIBEY had an outstanding miniature plant garden with the smallest aeonium... the name escapes me... drift wood and trimmings..... it really blows your mind to see what can be tastefully done with so little, when all you think about is specimen..... specimen..... specimen..... Don't overlook the good for the obvious... One member, I won't say who, though it really shouldn't embarrass her...brought

(Continued next page)

CACTUS SQUEEZIN'S (Continued)

in a plant that was obviously in stress; this was just what we needed to express a point in discussing care and culture.... It is difficult to illustrate the facets of environment without a broad scope of plants.. Dont' fudge.... As RUBIN STRATE has suggested for a long time, we are going to have a brief period of Questions and Answers on culture at each meeting... Maybe we'll call it the Locker Room... at any rate, we don't have a magic wand to cure your ills, but we won't wave from discussing them.....

RUTH STANTON has blessed us with several Hoya species of excellent quality and a variegated Euphorbia Caput Medusae, we'd give our Manhattan drip-dry, purple polka-dot, orange striped, belted, wrap-around, non=skip, tennis shoes for... Speaking of Stanton's... hey, Jack, up, boy up.... we miss you.... "It's not the score, but the way you play the game"... and DOC CORLISS isn't competing in the rock planting contest... all we have is a couple of gall stones, but we're willing to share... uproot those boulders and come to where the action is.... CHARLIE BENBOW has donated a book - "THE GRASSES" - unusual for a cactus club??? You haven't been at our meetings lately... Thanks, C.L., and from Ruth and Hazel - X X X

IONE HUBNER keeps bringing that adorable magenta echinopsis each year when it's in bloom and walking off with the awards... she keeps promising, but we never get a pup to give her some competition.... One of these days there will be a great number of nooks in our gardens consecrated to HELEN HEGYI for all the tremendous little plants she spreads around... Helen, it seems so inappreciable to just say thanks, but how will it make you feel to view all those placards that read, "In dedication to a friend and cactophile"?..... to another girl named Helen, thanks for that random copy of the National Journal we were searching for.....

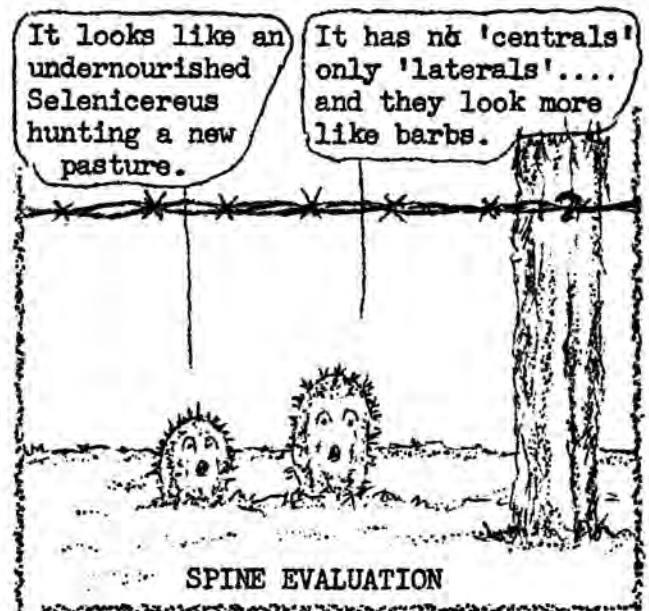
Charles Dickens once wrote, "Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts"..... it's easy to see he was never a cactophile.

-- A. Phidd.

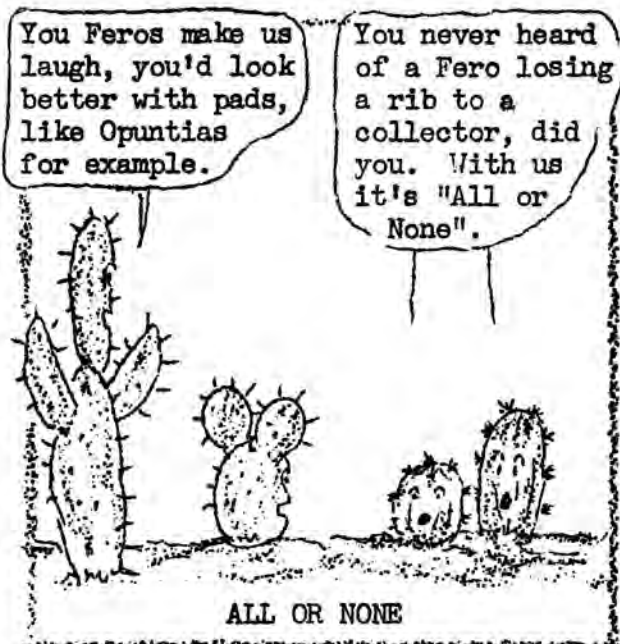
TO SAY HELLO

Early in the morning light
 And freshness of the morning chill
 A little bird delayed his flight
 To rest upon my window sill.
 My window has a lovely site
 To God's creation all around-
 And in the essence of this light
 My prayers answered, & I found
 That on this earth and in the sky
 And in the valleys far below,
 There is no need for us to cry,
 When birds can pause to say "Hello"

-- Laura O. Auld --



SPINE EVALUATION



ALL OR NONE