



ESPAÑOL Y

ESPAÑOL

MAYO 1970

PUBLICATION OF THE
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

A WELCOME FROM BAJA

Leroy N. Phelps, Ph.D.

Baja California has beacons to me since going on a Society car-a-van to la Valle do las Palmas and Ensenada in October 1968. On that trip we collected Ferocactus orcuttii and Mammillaria dioica at the valley and Machaerocereus gummosus, Echinocereus maritimus, Bergerocactus emoryi and Mm. dioica at the second stop. My family and I did return to la Valle de

las Palmas in the spring of 1969 to collect a large specimen of F. orcuttii, but I wanted to go on an extended trip. The opportunity of going never presented itself, so I began asking some members of the Society if they would have me along on such a trip. There were affirmative answers, so we began planning. We were school oriented, and the trip was planned for the semester break in January 1970. What anticipation! The crew was finally set to include Jim Stalsonburg, Herman Castillo (who works with Jim), Mike Buckner and me.

We loaded Jim's van with food, tools, boxes, etc. and crossed the border about 6 p.m. Friday evening. We stopped in Ensenada for dinner, then proceeded south. At the 250 kilometer mark (150 miles) just beyond Colonet, the pavement ended and we were on 20 m.p.h. dirt road. We drove on for another 40 miles and camped near the beach at Bahia de San Quintin where we made our campfire, calmed down from some of the excitement (especially me) and were in bed two hours. The time turned out to be about 2 a.m. but we didn't mind. We were up with the sun later in the morning--about 6:30 a.m.

We continued on the road for a very few miles to just beyond Santa Maria then turned to the coast for our first search for Mammillaria louisae. We didn't find one, but we did collect Ferocactus fordii and the first of a vining plant with a large tuber which Mike and Herman spotted. This plant turned out to be Marah (Echinocystis) mac-

--continued:

rocarpa, a member of the gourd family also found in the California and Arizona deserts according to Shreve and Wiggins in Vegetation and Flora of the Sonoran Desert. On the way from Santa Maria to Rancho El Socorro, Mike spotted a crest of Machaerocereus gummosus from the van window. A quick stop by Jim and a mad scramble by everyone up the hillside. I laid claim to this first crest and got away with it!

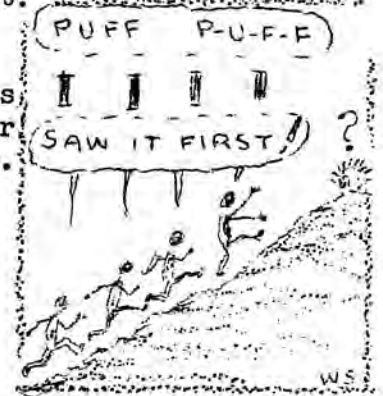
This turned out to be a good collecting spot, even though we searched only a small area. Mike found more of the vines, as did the rest of us, but Herman came up with the largest, a tuber of at least 12 inches in diameter and estimated to weigh 20 lbs. Jim identified Euphorbia misera, a beautiful small shrub, and we collected several specimens with their enlarged trunks and

I should have a PURPLE HEART not band aids!



WOUNDED SHAWII

roots. Jim was very interested in a graceful small tree we had seen near our campsite and dug around one with hopes it might be of interest. And it was, with a greatly enlarged trunk just below ground level. We misidentified it as a species of Bombax, but later with some effort I was able to identify it as Aesculus parryi, the Baja buckeye. We collected several of these apparently partially succulent trees in an attempt to grow them in our area. This collecting consumed several hours, then we headed south again.



Just north of Rancho El Consuelo, Mike (again!) spotted a Bergerocactus emoryi crest from the van window. We jumped out, I bumped into a cholla, and we searched for more cacti after I pulled the spines out of my leg. We found some Mm. louisae at this point, so devoted several hours to a more thorough search. I found my first crest, a beautiful specimen of Mm. dioica, in a spot that had been passed up by the other three. We found 3 to 4 inch specimens of Mm. brandegeei including a 4-headed specimen I found near the crest. Twilight was approaching, so we headed south, this time for El Rosario and hopefully for dinner at Espinosa's place.

Good fortune was not with us as the Espinosa's were in Ensenada for the weekend, but we had an excellent fried lobster dinner at another cafe. We drove on in the dark to about 15 miles east of El Rosario over a 10 m.p.h. road, and selected our campsite for the night. We had to remove some brush and a large number of Mm. dioica from the site, and that really hurt! With the campfire we saw nearby our first Idria columnaris--the cirio--in all its 20-foot majesty (not knowing what was to come with dawn). What a thrill! We also saw a 3-foot specimen of Ferocactus gracilis (along with some smaller ones) with its red spines and many Mm. brandegeei. Much conversation, then to bed. Before sleep, my thoughts were concerned with what we would see with dawn.

And what a dawn! Less than a quarter mile away we saw a cirio forest with 40 to 50 foot specimens! Since Jim was the official cook (I don't remember whether he chose to be or whether Mike and I appointed him) and Herman his helper. Mike and I felt unwanted and headed to the forest with our collecting tools. When Jim whistled for breakfast, Mike and I had collected at least 10 cirios of the proper size, including a 3-headed one about 6 inches tall. We had an excellent breakfast, cleaned up the site, and began collecting again. More cirios, naturally. Lo! and behold! another magnificent crest of Mm. dioica in my area, and a 5-headed Mm. brandegeei. We also found that we hadn't hurt the Mm. dioica population the night before since we were able to find at least one plant in every square foot of ground for a quarter mile in each direction!



We really wanted more B. emoryi crests, so up a steep mountainside that was covered with these plants. Mike found one immediately, but nothing more on the hill. At the top, about a quarter mile up, I found the most beautiful red-spined specimen of F. grac-

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ilis I have yet seen. A near-perfect sphere about 10 inches in diameter with nary a broken spine. I did have to carry it down that very steep mountainside, but it was well worth the effort. About noon we drove on 3 or 4 miles to newer grounds. We lunched--as we had before--when we were hungry, on carne seca (dried beef), cheese and crackers. I found a Lophocereus schottii with three perfect heads, and those Senitas were for me. We found others, of course, but the first are always the most exciting. Mike found a 2-headed Idria just a foot tall, and what a beauty! That one is now in Mike's garden, and the 3-headed one is in my garden (I can talk persuasively). Mike finally found the Mm. dioica crest he was looking for, and I found three large plants of M. gummosus with crested branches. Jim and I collected a number of these crests for the group. The E. martinus was so perfect in this area that we collected several one foot clumps. I also had my second argument with the vegetation, this time with Agave shawii. A spine into the same log as before, bit it bled well so there was no pain and little swelling. We did collect some small bulbils from this species as well as from A. deserti which is a small plant in this area.

Between the two spots we collected, Mike had pointed out a truly magnificent specimen of Pachycereus pringlei, the cardon. We stopped near this plant and Mike told the story of he and Bob Taylor spending two hours sawing a crest from it. This cardon has a trunk at least 6 feet in diameter, and must be 50 feet tall--my largest cactus at this point. We collected a number of seedlings, then went on to a middle-sized cardon nearby. It had crests, also, and I was fortunate enough to be able to collect a 6-inch crested branch which had apparently grown the previous summer.

Darkness was catching up with us again, so we returned to our original campsite to have dinner, then began driving towards home. Fortunately we had cleaned and packed our specimens as we went, so we didn't have to spend more time with that chore. We drove about 75 miles to near Colonet and set up camp near 11 p.m. We woke up at dawn with a full gale wind blowing. We couldn't have breakfast, so we drove on into the mountains for some protection. After a late breakfast near San Vicente, we drove on to Tijuana and the border. It was about 1 p.m. Monday, so we had time to clear customs before closing time. We filled out our plant import forms at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, took our plants to the fumigation chambers at the San Diego County Dept. of Agriculture, then to my house for the accounting about 5 p.m. With the help of the group, I selected my plants, and the others were reloaded on the van. The rest of the group headed out, and I was home again.

I had had a most magnificent time on our collecting trip, and I felt the others had also. It was one of the most exciting times of my life. When could I go again? I knew I would return to Baja California before too long. How about Easter Vacation from school? Who could go with me? No one, as it turned out. But I went anyway, alone, into one of the most soul-satisfying experiences there could ever be.

If you know yourself and have confidence in yourself, there is no finer way to spend several days than in the wilds of the grand state of Baja California, Mexico. The people are friendly and helpful, and the country itself says, "Welcome--have no fear--trust me and I will show you my wonders." And the country is right! I hope to describe at a later time some of the wonders I saw and some of the wonders the country gave me.

Help Wanted

San Diego Cactus & Succulent members on June 13-14,
June 20-21- July 6 at Del Mar help collect, haul,
label, index, tear down, make coffee and sandwiches,
sign up at the monthly meeting or call 469-1391

SPECIAL ACTIVITY
BRIAN LAMB
Worthing, England
Guest and speaker
May 21st, 1970

ABOUT A YEAR AGO Dr. Corliss learned that BRIAN LAMB of Worthing, England was planning a trip to the United States and Mexico and that he would be in California in late April and early May 1970. Brian (as he prefers being called) originally planned to cross the Atlantic on the USS Constitution. When we learned of Brian's planned visit, we arranged for him to be a guest of our Club and a speaker at our May 2nd, 1970, meeting.

All went well to a point! Shortly after Brian made reservations on the USS Constitution the ship was "taken out of service". All his plans vaporized. When his schedule was rearranged, his arrival in California was too late for our May meeting and his visit was to end on May 25th, too early for a June appearance.

We switched our plans. Brian will be "one of our group" on Thursday, May 21st at a dinner meeting at Sir George's Smorgasboard, 6942 University Avenue, La Mesa, from 4 to 8:30 p.m. So once again we will have the opportunity and privilege to meet and visit with Brian in a very pleasant setting and a congenial atmosphere. He will be guest speaker and he will show selected slides of the Lambs' EXOTIC COLLECTION--8,000 species of plants including a fine all round collection of cacti and succulents--"Best in the United Kingdom".

In order to keep our meeting friendly, informal and orderly, we are asking everyone who plans to attend to let us know in advance so that all details may be smoothly coordinated. If you have not already signed the "sheet" passed at the April meeting, or otherwise have not made reservations, we ask that you fill in and detach the slip at the bottom of this page and give or mail it to The Old Wagonmaster (name and address on the slip) before May 18th. We are looking for the attendance of members of other Clubs and perhaps other plant lovers in the San Diego area may wish to join us. PARKING SPACE. NO PROBLEM! LOTS OF SPACE!

We also ask that all who plan to come do not arrive "enmasse" at 4 p.m. sharp but instead move along the food service counter at intervals for half to three quarters of an hour or longer so that Sir George's normal patronage will not be handicapped. Let's "eat and visit". Dinner will cost approximately \$2.00 (plus tax) and we have the privacy of a separate dining room for four and a half hours. You make your own selection of food items and choose your table. The room serves 85 persons seated at tables. Look for the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society sign at the dining room door.

It is Sir George's policy to permit (encourage) more than one "pass" at the serving counter. If at first you don't have a "fully" satisfactory encounter, try to catch a second pass.

For Club members who have greater ambition and drive, we announce that Brian will be guest speaker at the Cactus & Succulent Society of America at the Quarterly meeting in Santa Monica the day prior to our meeting--May 20th. There will be no CAR-A-VAN to the Quarterly.

-----The Old Wagonmaster

(Detach on the dashed line for mailing)

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

Note: Friends and visitors are welcome to the extent that accommodations are available.

Please make ___ reservation (s) for May 21st, Thursday, May 21st, from 4 to 8:30 at Sir George's, 6942 University Ave., La Mesa, for Brian Lamb's Program.
(Or phone 296-6022)

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____



IN EARLY MAY the peach blossoms that have been overhead, now cover the lawn around the bowling green like pink flakes of snow; everywhere flowers are lifting their faces to the sun, and the green landscape is bright with showy trees. It is the season of revelry for the bumblebee. Thousands of them hover and romp about in the cushiony blossoms of the Bottlebrush tree in a grand droning, while others with epigorean delight sip their fill from the perfumed chalices of the Tabebuia, Bauhinia and Jacaranda. May is also the time of the fairest shrub and sweetest birdsong,

it is the beginning of some gardener's dream that will be realized in the radiant bloom of a Special Spring Garden..the gateway into endless patterns of beauty, their waiting stillness yet clothed in a veil of Holy mystery.

Of May, Shelley wrote: "And the Spring arose on the garden fair, Like the spirit of Love felt everywhere; and each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast, Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest". Arising from its wintry rest, the Fair Committee has embarked upon a tour of members' gardens to seek out those specimens rare to fill the exhibits at the Expo Flower Show with a bounty of shapes and forms not likely to be duplicated anywhere on Earth. Each garden visited was unique to the character and available space of its master...the ingeniousness of gardeners, especially cactophiles, never fails to amaze and delight. None can truthfully say there is nothing to see until they have looked behind every tree, beneath every potting bench or under every clump of Nasturtium for in these quaint surroundings lay attractions to whet the appetite of more things than slugs or snails. The thrill of finding strange life forms is constantly exciting whether it be in the wild or in your neighbor's garden.

It is weird, this compassion we have for these little plants that have fought so hard to exist when by all odds they should have been left stranded at the bottom of the hill like the "little locomotive"...."I'll bet I can, I'll bet I can". It is as if by second nature that we without thinking endeavor to preserve those curiosities which without our helping hand might be lost in the turmoil of our culture. Speaking of turmoil, RUTN NELSON, our Librarian, has established a priority list on the "most wanted books". Fees charged for books remaining out over one month will go for the purchase of additional copies of the hotter items.

Between LUCILLE BECKFIELD UNDERWOOD (you will note the new surname, thanks to Jess) and SOPHIE LOYLAND, our Board of Directors meetings take on more flavor of an international gourmet's conclave than a hustle-bustle, knock-down, drag-out of our Society's mundane affairs. Everybody's got to eat strawberry shortcake this time of the year..their motto is "Eat here, diet at home".

Without the minutes of our last fest to guide us, we must draw upon our somewhat dim consciousness to remember the winners of the Braggin' Table: LEE PHELPS, our impressario of the noteworthy plant set, had the only definitive examples of Echinocereus and waived contest. NIBBY KLINEFELTER, our chief "scribe" and radiant influence, tickled the fancy of the assemblage with Haworthia cuspidata all bundled up in a shiny blue bonsai pot...and HAZEL "Floribunda" SCOTT took her choice from the Exchange Table with an exquisite plant, whose name is being withheld pending notification of the next of kin. A modest laconic pitch was given by "El Presidente" for the purchase of an electric typewriter..the motion was made, seconded and passed, and Nibby will have it on display at the next meeting...oh, my, what are we going to do with all those used quills.

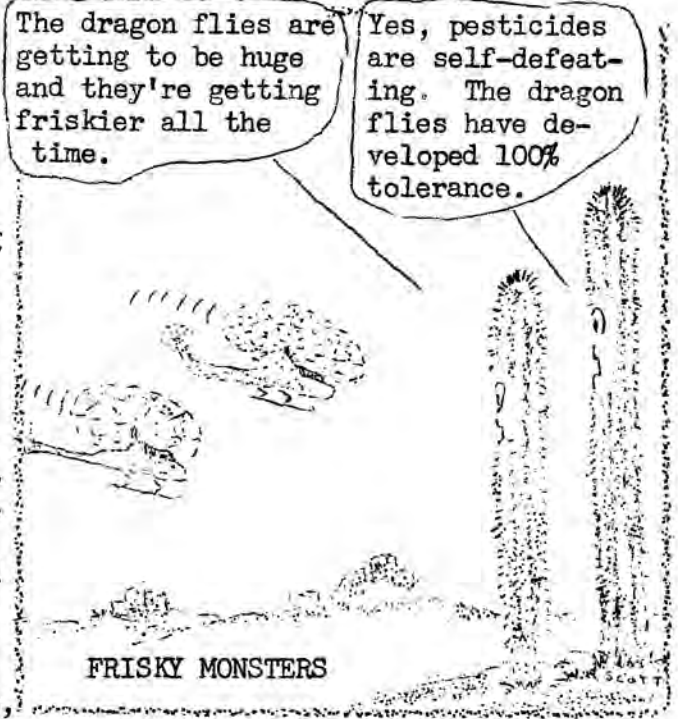
CACTUS SQUEEZINS; cont'd:

Welcome to the Club GENE and VIRGINIA YORGIN of La Mesa, Mrs. Jack F. BUTLER of Upland, JACK RAMAY and CHARLES WOOD of San Diego...you have certainly joined us at a good time...all hands will be needed in the "Fair" effort...can you make coffee, dig holes, sweep, name plants, serve tea, brush and curry plants, or pass the bread? Wow, how lucky we are to have you. PERLSO LEWIS our quill driver, will mail out your cards as soon as she gets another shipment from the Treasurer GLENN HEYER.

Exhibit Chairman WARREN BUCKNER is planning two gala pot-luck picnic and work sessions on the week ends of June 13 and 20. Dear ol' Del Mar, how we love ya. This will be the Cactus Garden Chairman's first shot at a big blue. We can see LEE now, as he steps somewhat stumbling out of the sand pile, after putting on the finishing touches, there probably will be the pad of some Cholla bobbing ever so gently from his posterior...he might be heard to say "My word, where on earth did that come from?...to wit MARY BIDDLE might be heard to reply in soft languid tones: "You sat on my Bigelovii, you jerk"...and so we look forward with anticipation to another bunch of fun-filled hours at the headwaters of that stream of gold whose elixir is as soothing to our Hon. Treasurer as cool milk to a hot and burning ulcer.

Under the heading of another countyheard from...welcome, welcome to SCHARLOTT BLEVINS from Davenport, Iowa, and sister-in-law VERA BLEVINS of Bettendorf, Iowa, who were introduced to Cactus on the plains of Kansas, of all the likely places, and who were introduced to our Society by that fireball on the "Burlington Route" ALICE KYZIVAT when the group met at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show...Abu Ben Adam, may our tribe increase?...for the want of an up-to-date mailing list which should be out most presently, you can address your mail c/o Nema Toed at the Espinas y Flores address.

The Quail Gardens Foundation has sent us some tickets to the QUAIL GARDEN DAY at Palomar College, May 24th...a 3-part program is on tap: FLORA OF THE MIDDLE EAST, NATURE IN COLOR and ALOES AND ELEPHANTS IN DUFT...sounds like a pretty fine event for only \$1.00. Also some discount tickets are available from Nema for the 33rd Spring Home Show at the Civic Concourse, May 19 thru 24. A garden lighting exhibit will be featured...maybe our head electrician KIM ARNOLD can get some new and exciting approaches to set our own Fair exhibits off in voltaic splendor.



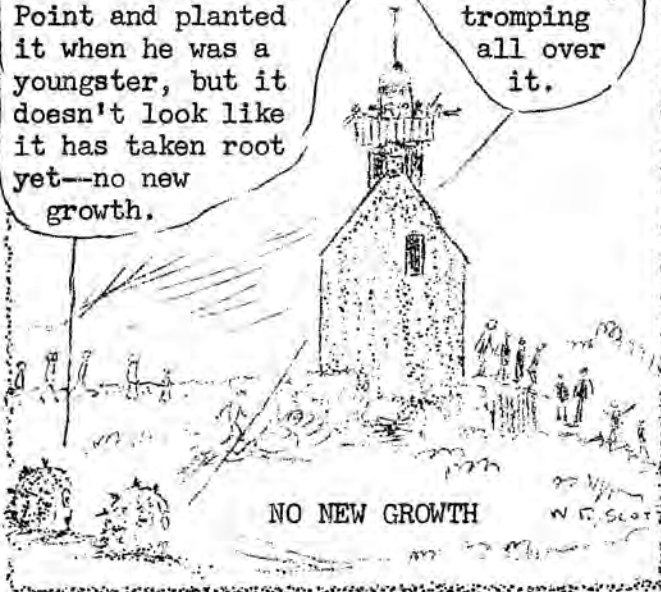
The dragon flies are getting to be huge and they're getting friskier all the time.

Yes, pesticides are self-defeating. The dragon flies have developed 100% tolerance.

FRISKY MONSTERS

Grandpa said some men brought that what-you-call-it out on the Point and planted it when he was a youngster, but it doesn't look like it has taken root yet--no new growth.

And it never will so long as they keep tromping all over it.



NO NEW GROWTH

With the advent of the ROCK PLANTER CONTEST this meeting, we will need a few extra hands to set up the old meeting place, would like to have a small band of willing helpers report at 12:00 noon on the meeting day--thanking you in advance. Also those who have entries please bring your prize selections in as early as possible so that we may be completely prepared before the gavel sounds at 1:30. We will have OPEN

--Continued:

CACTUS SQUEEZINS, cont'd:

HOUSE at the Floral Building the following day (Sunday) from 1 to 5 p.m. It will feature our rock planter exhibits as well as other specimen plants from the Braggin' Table. Scotty needs some volunteers, Tennessee type, that is, to

man the doors, sign people in the gudst book and generally show people around the wild, wonderful World of Cacti.

The walking wounded are with us again, IONE HUBNER was hobbling around with a broken toe at the last meeting...RUTH PURDY, not to be outdone, tripped over something on her way to the Exchange Table, a compound fracture below the hip. Ione will be with us next week but we are afraid Ruth will have to sweat it out at home with her ever present smile and a toe-to-hip cast...if you need some cheering-up, give Ruth a call: 281-6547 or drop her a note at 3658 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, 92105. We have never met a person who was so reassuring about life's manifold blessings. If you think that Bob Hope can ad-lib, you should have heard LEE PHELPS on KCBQ Radio for 15 minutes this month. He was voted the "most popular" professor or something at San Diego State...one of his students said his opening remarks in Microbiology class were "everyone present has automatically passed the course, where you go from here will be up to you". Oh, oh, if only our 9th grade Algebra teacher had only said that..we would have been able to get to the Malt Shoppe an hour early...we needed the extra weight in those days.

PERLSO, Noma Todd tells me that your Ficus tree is suffering from a "leaf mosaic" it's spread by leaf hoppers or other sucking insects...spray early with Cygon 2E... give it a good spring tonic of a well-balanced fertilizer, treat for a zinc and boron deficiency, and deep water to leach accumulated salts from the root zone. How does that "grab" you?

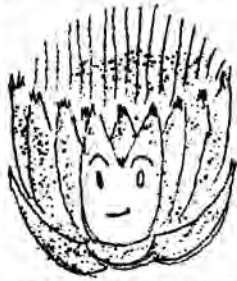
For those who have asked about JOYCE TATE'S "Cactus Cookbook", write to Joyce at 11845 Hubbard St., Sunnymead, Ca. 92388. She's the author and should have the latest info. MARY McDOWELL is on her way to Czechoslovakia for a month to take photos of Mother Nature's favorite places...she is expecting to make contact with VLASTIMIL HABERMANN and FERDINAND PLESNICH...it should be an interesting program for us when she returns...also on the road for an extended tour is LILLIAN FEINGOLD on her way to EXPO '70 in Japan. We certainly hope she has time to see KAZUMICH OKAMOTO in Ehime-Kw...bye the bye "Kazu" there is a package of Agaves on the way to you now. Oh yes, Lil dearest, if you should happen into BOB & LIVY FLETCHER on your way through Hawaii, tell Bob to keep his hands out of the Emu pit and to wipe the poi from his beard before coming home...and ask Livy to bring ol' A. Phidd one of those pickled coconuts. It is said that life is like an onion, you peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep..with the weeping there is a cleansing, with a cleansing comes a clarity, with clarity comes an understanding, with understanding comes a joy...a joy that is shared is a joy made double.

---A. Phidd



'THAT WAS THE DAY'

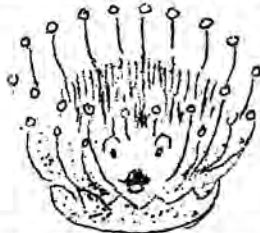
HAVE YOU EVER WAKENED in anticipation of an exciting day ahead? As a youngster those were the days when I awoke too early to go fishing or maybe to go to the circus. Well, now you know how I felt on THAT SATURDAY, April 11th—Cactus CAR-A-VAN Day!



KING CYNAROIDES



QUEEN BARBIGERA



CROWN PRINCE NUTANS

ROYAL FAMILY: PROTEACEAE

W.S.

"Travelling is no fool's errand to he who carries his eyes and itinerary with him" said A. B. Alcott. Mrs. Wells and I had the Wagonmaster's foolproof directions but our eyes were fixed on the beautiful landscape. I "zigged" when I should have "zagged". We drove blithely past the "San Marcos-Vista" sign post and found ourselves in the good company of other "errant" drivers with a common destination. The view still was grand from the unscheduled stop on the hilltop beyond our destination.

We drove back to the "chainlink fence and gate" the landmark of J. Howard Asper's GREEN VALLEY NURSERY. It was a very pleasant surprise to be greeted inside the gate by Bill and Ellen Low who had gotten up early and driven down from Simi. They, being the first arrivals, volunteered to direct traffic at the cross roads within the nursery for all other scenery-gazing Car-A-Van-ers. The greetings and smiles of the Lows lifted our hearts and put us at ease.

As we drove into Asper's flowerland, it was immediately evident that flowers were the life-substance as well as the enjoyment of the Aspers. We were in the midst of "umteen thousands" of blooms which were destined for distant points. Flowers are loaded for week end shipment in nitrogen-refrigerated trucks which sustain the tender petals fresh and crisp for delivery on Monday morning in Texas, then on to the Gulf and even to eastern cities like Philadelphia and New York.

The "orange pincushion" Protea, a most delightful species, is perhaps the best known and most abundant on the grounds. The Proteaceae Family had head billing at the Asper show and held rapt attention for what seemed a long period, or until Mr. Asper displayed with desrving pride in an adjoining area an unusually large red bloom of a Camellia he had developed and given the name "Valentine Day".

The "Silver trees" (*Leucadendron Argentum*) with their silken leaves and very different and unusual male and female flowers were the delight of everyone. The cone-like flowers of the female tree reminded me of pine cones I had known in Minnesota. *Leucaspermum grandiflora* with its yellow blossoms was described as "rare" and in fact it was rare --only two at Green Valley.

Proteas are from South Africa and Australia. One is incorporated in the "Great Seal" of Australia. And the Protea is the national flower of that country. Mr. Asper told of the "honey Protea" which served the early settlers of South Africa as a source of "sugar" and "firewood" but the double burden became so demanding the supply was threatened with complete depletion.

The "King Protea" reminds one of an artichoke. One could choke on its name: Protea Cynaroides. The "Waratah" or *Telopea speciosissima* is another protea with coral-red tubular flowers. Banksia was named for Capt. Cook's botanist Sir Joseph Banks. One species was in bloom, others would be in flower in June. Terminal buds and flowers of Banksia when removed encourage additional new growth at the point of severance.

THAT WAS THE DAY!

Cont'd:

It might be looked upon as a means of doubling, tripling or quadrupling one's assets, but there surely must be a limit to that technique too.

Some species of Proteas require the assistance of a long-billed bird for pollination of flowers. Unfortunately the local HB's don't have the proper accessories and Proteas are necessarily propagated by other means. Their dispersion may be slowed but it surely will not be stopped.

Green Valley Nursery began about seven years ago. Mr. Asper came to the area from Armstrong's--the best known name in the business. Proteas do well in the North County climate altho it may get a bit cold on occasions--not TOO cold, just invigorating. They are playing it "cool". They are learning about Nature's law about "survival of the fittest" and some of them are experimenting with the law at this time. Some may fall by the wayside but by the same token and on the brighter side, newer and better ones will be developed--if that is possible.

The Aspers are very busy people but they did take time out to conduct our group on a tour of their grounds. A total of sixteen cars lined "Protea Place" while their occupants, about 35 of them, strolled over the grounds in a tight group to hear what their leader, J. Howard Asper, told them, very often interspersed with a bit of humor or an appropriate story which enlivened the tour. The day and the occasion were delightful, informative, stimulating, rewarding--terms which cannot be construed as superlatives in any sense of the word.

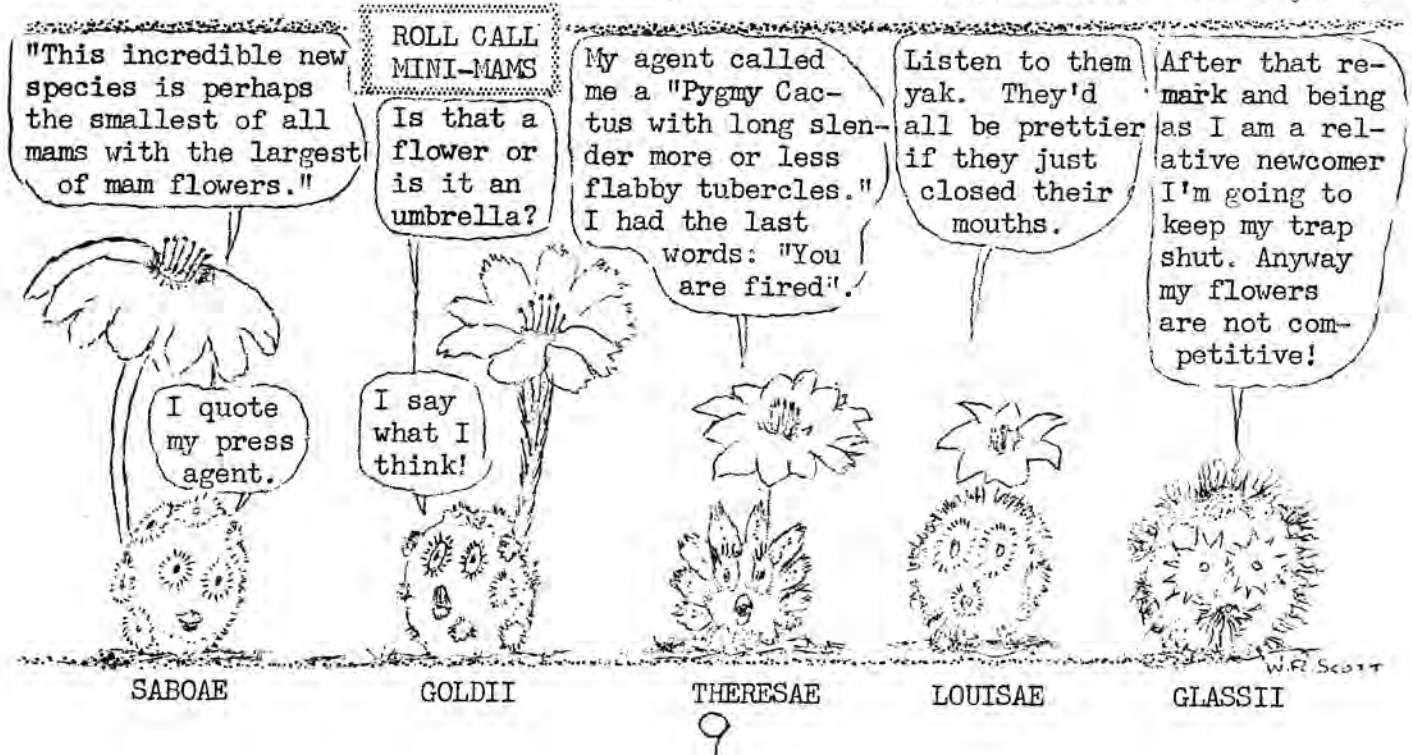
Many, many thanks to you, Mr. Asper, for your generous contribution to "THAT WAS THE DAY".

The latch string is always out at Green Valley, but a pull on the string should be preceded by a ring on the phone. There is much work to be done at Green Valley, unscheduled visitors could unwittingly tie a knot in the latch string.

-----Wilson Wells

Another Chapter in THAT WAS THE DAY is scheduled to appear in a later issue of Espinas y Flores. Watch for it!

After you have read Mr. Wells' article, and just in case you may have forgotten what Club you pay dues in and what Bulletin you read, think "Cactus Flower" and "E y F".



OPEN HOUSE CACTIVITY
SUNDAY, MAY THIRD
FLORAL BUILDING

A YEAR AGO in May the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society had its first OPEN HOUSE. Sixteen Club members offered helping hands; more than 100 plants (cacti, succulents and hanging baskets) were placed on display; about 300 Balboa Park Sunday afternoon visitors dropped in; most of them registered; many were from distant places, out of the state and some from out of the country. All seemed very much interested.

This year—next Sunday, May 3rd, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. we are going to do a repeat performance, only this time we will highlight "plants in rocks" (Featherstone or other man made stone-like materials, excepting clay pots) The "rocks" will be held over from our Saturday meeting. They will contain cacti, succulents or combinations thereof. They will come in singles, doubles, small groups and large groups, just whatever strikes the fancy of the person who submits the entry. The Club voted three cash prizes and the Board will decide how the entries will be judged.

Again this year we need the help of members to: (1) bring in your rocks with plants, creations you will be proud of, (2) arrange the displays on tables for viewing, (3) register visitors, (4) answer questions, (5) spread good will, (6) help clean-up after the show, and (7) return exhibits to their owners.

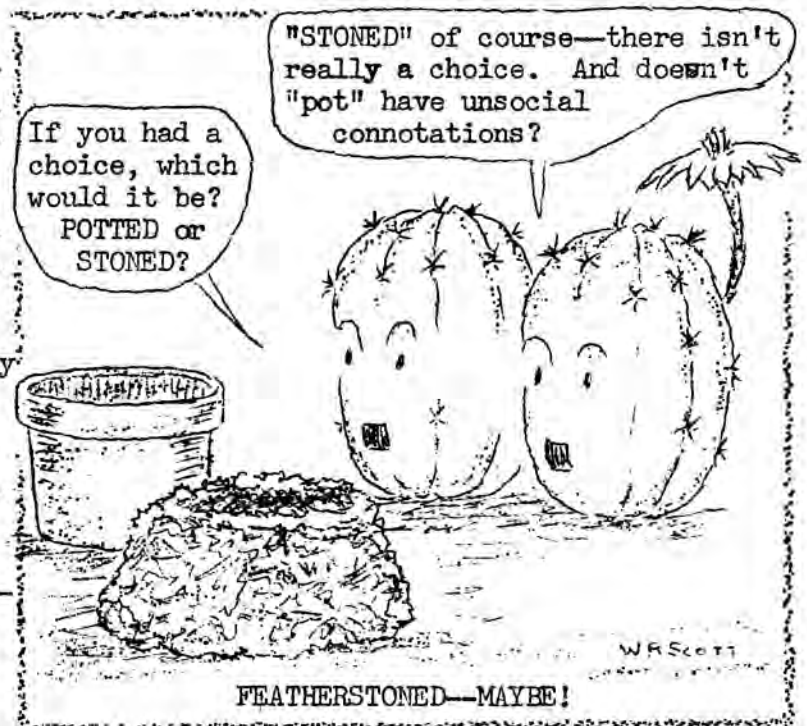
And who will volunteer to display the May issue, and maybe others, on a rack or frame for viewing by visitors so they may get an idea of what goes on within our Club. Or they may just want to look at the pictures. We will not have a sufficient number of copies of ESPINAS Y FLORES for general distribution, so the copies on display must suffice.

Also a committee is working out an "information sheet" for distribution which will spell out the purposes and activities of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society. You may want a copy yourself so you will know what transpires at monthly meetings and back of the scene, at Board meetings and in members' gardens. SEE YOU SUNDAY!

A PLANT FOR
THE MONTH

ON OUR TRAVELS through "Cactusland" we once again stop in South America to pay our respect to the early blooming varieties that temper the thirsty tongues of northern winds which still roam our land. As we pause at this crossroad in time and space, there stands before us upright and proud, an elegant column clad in crystalline calcimine with deep carmen fingers pointing out the many trade wind routes. Looking for all the world like the "Devil's Sign-post" at the crossroads of the River Styx, *CLEISTOCACTUS STRAUSII*, (klis-to-kak-tus strous-i) is a most lovely species from the rugged lonely hills of northern Bolivia. Often called the "Silver torch", it stands as a reminder that the beauty of nature need not always be apparent or limited to established standards and restraints, but is boundless in the conception of the observer in the recesses of life.

C. strausii is one of a family of around 15 in number. It stands from 3 to 6 feet tall when mature; frequently branching from the base to form large clumps like



A PLANT FOR THE MONTH—cont'd: a silvery candleabra. The stems are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches thick and are divided by 25 low transverse furrows. The light green body is almost completely obscured by the delicate needle-like white spines emanating from the small areoles spaced scarcely $\frac{3}{8}$ inch apart.

The white spines are almost too small and too numerous to count, but most journals relate that there are 30 or more and range in length around a half inch. Usually there are four very pale yellow central spines up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, that are stouter and more prominent. Flowers are borne in reserved profusion from the upper middle part of the stem, where they arise laterally about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and assume a violet carmine hue. The petals are closely compacted, almost scale-like, and do not expand fully, even at the tip of the bloom. From this flowering habit (cleistogamous) the genus derives its name, from the Greek word "kleistos" meaning closed. When the bloom is receptive, the pale green stigma will protrude from the tip like a viper's tongue.

There are several species of *Cleistocactus* that are similar to *strausii* and are often sold as same, because they vary only slightly. If your plant doesn't quite check with the above description, it could possibly be var. *fricii*, which has long white hairs at the top of the stems; or *C. nivosus* whose flowers are larger, but the plant itself only attains a height of 2 to 3 feet; maybe it is *C. jujuyensis* whose central spines are brownish; but more probably it will be *C. hyalacanthus* with more transparent spines, glassy yellow centrals and a cream colored stigma. All the *Cleistocactus* species do well in a light well-drained soil, and are considered moderately rapid growers. We use a soil mix of 3 parts sandy loam to 2 parts organic material, and find they respond well to love and attention, as well as, full sun, warmth and frequent waterings when in bloom and throughout the growing season that follows. They will propagate easily from seed or stem cuttings, and are disease free.

---Jim Stalsonburg

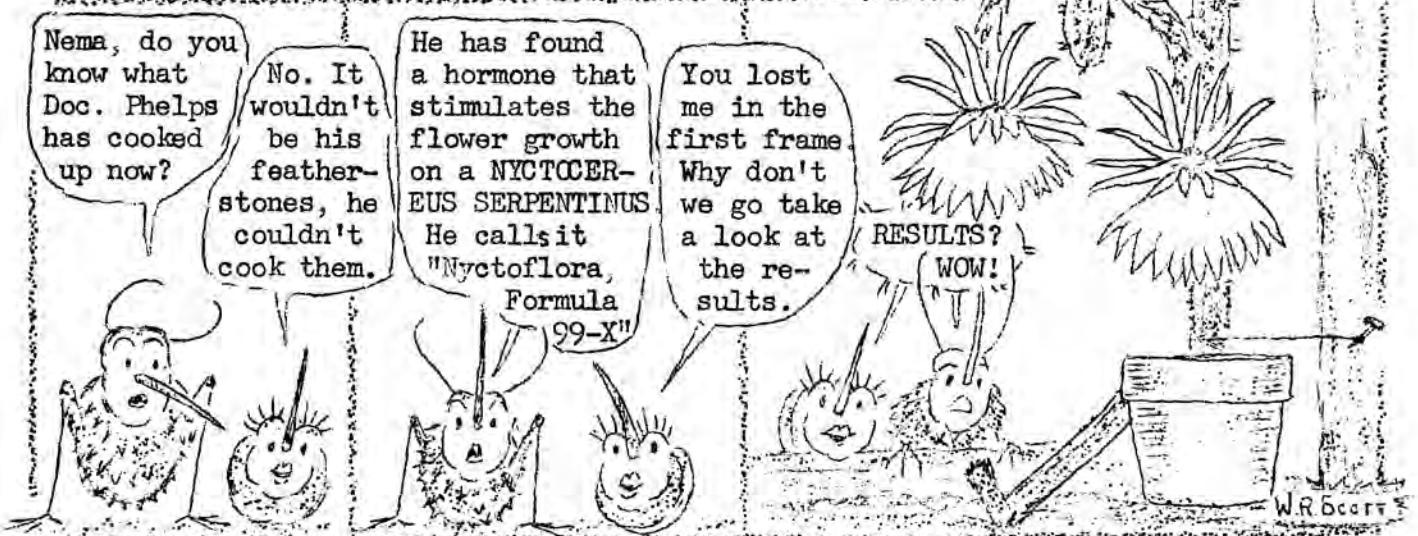
CACTUS SQUEEZINS

--- ADDENDUM ---


BEING THE NICE GROUP we are, we donated a couple dozen eggs to the Colina del Sol EASTER EGG HUNT. Monday morning following the City Gardener was busy cleaning egg residue off the lawn, from under the shrubs, and off windshields of cars parked there overnight.

Compliments of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, we thought they were going to boil them first, Al.

---A. Phidd



OBSERVATIONS OF CACTO PHIL CORLISS



THIS MONTH I will begin with what I hope will be an annual list of specific suggestions of sources of cacti and other succulent plants. Please review my column of last month which is pertinent and includes suggestions and warns of pitfalls. There are many sources, doubtless some of them excellent, with which I have as yet no personal experience and hence will not mention this year.

DOMESTIC SOURCES: A good basic collection may be assembled by the purchase of plants sold by general nurseries throughout the southwest that are grown by Indian Rock of Vista. This was the foundation of my collection.

Hardin's Nursery at 9209 Harness St., in Spring Valley (off Sweetwater Road, closed Thursdays) and Bob Taylor's in El Cajon (no catalog) are convenient to residents of San Diego. To visit Bob Taylor, please phone for appointment: 444-3019.

There are several other nurseries in the northern part of San Diego County, my only experience being with the new Tropic World of Paul Hutchison which is located a bit over five miles north of Escondido at Jesmond Dene Road (right) on Hiway 395.

Mr. Harry Johnson is now accepting mail orders only at 10% increase on prices of the latest (1968) catalog of Johnson Cactus Gardens. His address: 2735 Olive Hill Road, Fallbrook, Calif. 92028.

Henrietta's Nursery, 1345 No. Brawley, Fresno, Calif. 93705, offers an interesting catalog for 20¢. They purchased a large part of the stock of Johnson's Cactus Gardens to augment their own extensive plantings and imported new and unusual South Americans.

I like the plants sent by Davis Cactus Garden of 1522 Jefferson St., Kerrville, Texas, 78028. (Free catalog) They offer mostly southwestern species and imported South African succulents.

Abbey Gardens and I.S.I. (See Journal) offer mostly rare and unusual plants, including newly discovered species. Abbey Garden, P. O. Box 167, Reseda, Calif. 94335.

FOREIGN SOURCES: My highest recommendation for an overseas source goes to Holly Gate Nursery, Ashington, Sussex, England. Mr. Clive Innes, the owner, issues a list every month. Send him \$1.00 for one year's subscription to the list or \$3.00 for Air Mail subscription. I have visited his nursery and had several satisfactory shipments from him. Most of his plants are grafted and priced between 65¢ and \$1.25, (U.S.) He offers many varieties not often seen in this country including unpublished species of the noted European collectors. He has the largest list of epiphytic cactus I have seen, including some 3,000 varieties of U.S., British and European epiphyllum hybrids!

CHUO COMMERCIAL CO., Ltd. of Japan (see back issues of Journal for address) has a fascinating list with a large variety of crests and monstrosae and variegated forms. Stock of some grafted plants is often difficult and service is not too dependable but available plants may make difficulties worth facing.

H. E. Born (D-5810, Witten, Postfach 1207, West Germany) has an excellent catalog. I have had two large orders from them and recommend grafted plants preferably.

Su-ka-flor (W. Uebelmann, 5610 Wohlen, Wilerzelgstrasse 18, Switzerland) has an extensive plant list, including many grafted varieties. Communication is difficult, service is poor, but again one must weigh rewards against frustrations.

SUGGESTIONS: When you send an order, tell dealer you are a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Let me know if service is good and if the plants are healthy and true to name.

NEXT MONTH: Adding new varieties by growing your own seedlings.

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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

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-----MEETINGS-----

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park, San Diego, Ca. VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

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-----MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTION RATES-----

Single \$2.00, family \$3.00
Membership includes Espinas y Flores.

-----PLANTS OF THE MONTH-----

JUNE: Rebutia miniscula (cactus)
Dyckia (succulent) species open.

MAYO 1970 MEETING

SATURDAY MAYO 2, 1970, 1:30 PM
In the Floral Association Building
in Balboa Park, San Diego.

P-R-O-G-R-A-M

The usual feature of monthly meetings is the display and discussion of particular plant species, both cactus and succulent. May will be an exception. Featherstone and-or other rock plantings will be featured and prizes awarded for best plantings. EXCHANGE, BRAG TABLE, REFRESHMENTS.