

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM

ESPINAR
Y
FLORES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1:30 p.m.
FLORAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING, BALBOA PARK

Christmas Time is synonymous with giving;
in keeping with that theme,
our December meeting will be
an expression of this sentiment.

Each year we ask that you bring canned goods
and usable clothing
to be distributed to needy neighbors in Baja
by Bob and Suzanne Taylor.

1970 has been a wonderful year for our Society--
let us reflect this with
a generous out-pouring of friendship
for some of our less fortunate friends.

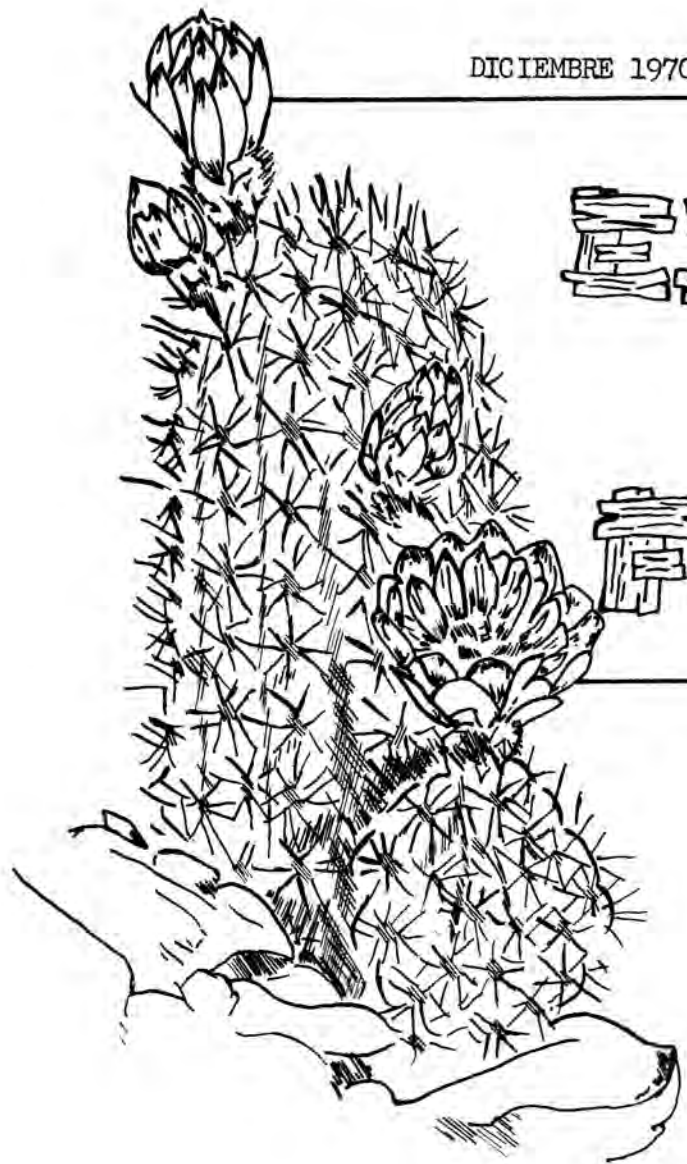
There will be no plant exchange table as such;
we will have our annual "GIFT EXCHANGE".

Each of us brings a gift around a dollar in value,
a plant - a pot - a candle - or a bag of Bandini,
what ever strikes your fancy.

Simply mark it male or female, whatever gender you are.

If you bring guests, please bring extra gifts
so that no one will be left out of the fun ...

Our program is one we can insure will be of interest.
Ed and Betty Gay will present,
"CACTUS COLLECTING IN THE FOUR CORNERS REGION"
Hope to see you all there!



ESPAÑOL Y JAPONÉS

BULLETIN OF THE
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

TEN POINTS FOR BEGINNERS

By NOEL MAIN, Yarrowonga, Vic.

BASICALLY WE HAVE THE THEORY, but sometimes fall down putting it into practice - this of course can be summed up in the one word EXPERIENCE.

The following points are only observations which I trust will act as "seeds" for you to think and act upon - as ultimately we must by applying what we learn, try and help ourselves.

1. How often have you looked at your plants and wondered if ever they will become mature specimens? This sense of impatience is natural, but IMPATIENCE can lose plants! The urge to pot your seedlings singly too early, and impatience with cuttings watered before thoroughly healing can result in their loss.

2. In the first wave of enthusiasm we collect everything. In many ways this is perhaps a good thing as we gain experience over a wide range of plants. Soon, however, from necessity we find that we have to be more SELECTIVE in our choice. Most of us have favorite genera or type, and usually the desire is to put together a collection of these.

3. As beginners we are often attracted to plants of which we have seen photographs. Sometimes we even order plants by name only (having no idea how to grow them). We are advised to learn to grow less difficult plants first to gain experience before tackling rare plants, this is sound advice. But, often we cannot wait, in which case we ought to learn as much as possible about these RARER PLANTS' REQUIREMENTS before we buy them.

---continued on next page.

TEN POINTS
FOR BEGINNERS, cont'd.

4. Perhaps you have obtained seedlings and in disappointment noted they were very different from the illustration, or friend's plants that inspired you to own one for yourself. Remember that only after several years do many plants develop their MATURE CHARACTERISTICS e.g. Echinocactus grusonii and Echinofossulocactus seedlings have tubercles instead of ribs. Also in many Mammillarias the spiral arrangement of the tubercles and woolly appearance does not appear for some time.

5. In contrast we have plants such as Glottiphyllums and Pleiospilos, to name two which LOSE CHARACTERISTICS if given too lush treatment (watering, shade and rich soil) becoming fat and green, which is out of character. Harder grown plants usually have richer markings, color texture, and in the case of cacti, stronger and brighter spines.

6. Not all of us have glasshouses in which to grow our plants, if you're not lucky enough, learn to IMPROVISE shade houses, cold frames and "mini" glasshouses can be made very cheaply from plastic or polythene, and give those touchy plants and tiny seedlings that extra protection. Utilize the veranda, window, handy tree or sheltered position around your house or yard.

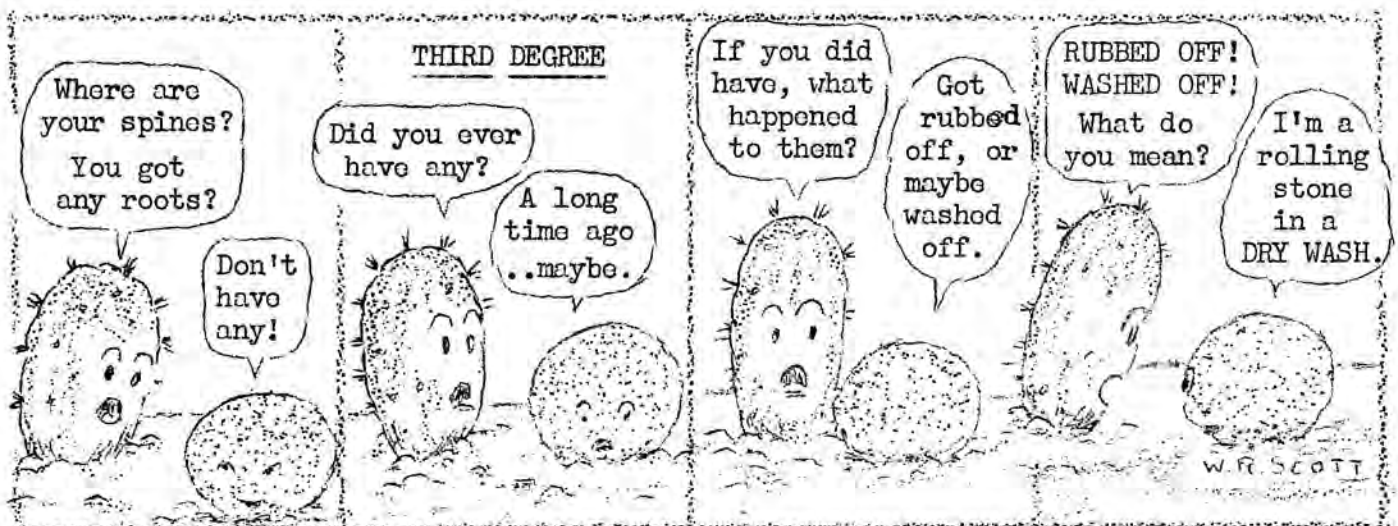
7. In our Journal (Cactus & Succulent Journal, organ of the Cactus and Succulent Society of New South Wales) and any good cacti reference book you pick up there are articles on grafting. Often we say "grafting is for the experts" --- this is not so! (Perhaps they do make a neater job) but EXPERIMENT now, as the time will come all too soon when you will need to save one of your better plants.

8. All of us as beginners have hundreds of questions, many of those can be answered by reading books and magazines, but first-hand information is much more satisfactory. One of my greatest thrills has been the willingness of the experienced to ANSWER QUESTIONS from novices like me. If you have any queries, approach the more experienced grower in your area and I am sure he will help.

9. If you are a country member, you may not be able to get to the Society Meetings, but perhaps you can arrange an occasional get-together with growers in your own area. This FRATERNISATION with exchange of ideas and common interest must be for the mutual benefit of all.

10. Finally PERSEVERE.

NEW CACTUS GARDEN - - The first and indeed a very constructive and generous offer of plants for this garden (1.5 acres east of Park Blvd.) has come from Charles F. Harbison of the S. D. Nat'l. History Museum, retired. Thank you sincerely C. F. H.



CACTUS OF THE MONTH-

Ferocactus stainesii

By Floyd Gable

FEROCACTUS STAINESII is a very popular species, frequently grown on account of its ruby red spines. All spines are ringed transversely and at first a lively red or ruby red, but as plant grows older they change to yellow passing to greyish.

Radial spines are 4 to 6, awl-shaped, stiff, straight or slightly curved, up to one inch long, mixed with many soft hair-like bristles. Central spines 4, yellowish, thicker and more curved and are 1 1/4 to 1 1/2" long. In habitat spine coloration varies quite a bit, some plants with all red spines and others with quite a bit of yellow. This I think is due to the age of plants. Stems are at first globular, pale green with a rounded top later, becoming cylindrical with age. Reaches a maximum height at maturity from 42 to 48" with a diameter of 10 to 12 inches. Typical flowers are 1 1/2" long, bell shaped, orange red. There is also a form with violet flowers which is native to San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Ferocactus means "ferocious" cactus. It is well named due to the fierce armament of spines on most species. There are about 47 known varieties and more are being discovered all the time. None are particularly difficult to grow and all are worth while. Ferocacti have stems, globular or cylindrical, and in some species grow to large size. Ferocactus diguetii attains a height to 12 feet with a 32" diameter. Flowers are fairly large bell-shaped or red, yellow, or violet, borne on the upper or under part of the young areoles at or near the center. They are natives of Texas, California, Arizona and Mexico. All species require full sun, warmth and a moderately rich soil, porous and perfectly drained. They should be kept rather dry at all times. If these requirements are met they are not difficult to grow and will stand low temperatures.

A few of the more desirable and better known species are as follow:

Ferocactus acanthodes (California fire ball) is a solitary plant, rarely sprouting, grows to 9 feet with a diameter of 32 inches, glaucous green, with 13 to 23 broad obtuse ribs covered with long curved spines. Radial spines 9 to 13, 1 3/4" long, curved, various colors or zoned, very sharp, central spines 4, the upper and lower angular and flattened up to 4 1/2" long, strongly curved. A very attractive species with its long curved spines. Flowers are yellow to orange, about 2" long. Habitat southern California.

Ferocactus wislizeni (Arizona barrel) Like F. acanthodes, may reach quite a large size, reaching a height 6 feet with a 32" diameter. Stem at first globular, depressed at the top, later oval, in old age cylindrical. Is dark green passing to a greyish green. Has 15 to 25 ribs rather acute with large oval areoles. Radial spines about 20, yellowish, bristle-like, up to 2 inches long. Central spines 4 longer at first yellowish, or reddish, turning to reddish brown. Flowers 2 to 2 1/2" long, bell shaped with a green tube. Outer petals green, the inner reddish yellow with pronounced red stripe. Thrives well in cultivation. Native to Texas, Arizona and into Sonora, Mexico.

Ferocactus latispinus is a well known and very popular species. Stem globular, grows to 12 inches high with a 10 to 12" diameter, greying-green with 8 to 14 ribs, up to 21 in the adult stage. Radial spines 6 to 12 spreading 3/4 to 1" long, white or red. Central spines ringed much stronger and more highly colored, erect or directed outward strongly hooked at tip. Flowers are 1 1/2" long. Frequently the flowers are mauve to deep violet-blue. A truly lovely species that every collector should have. Habitat eastern and central Mexico.



Ferocactus stainesii

has most interesting spine and hair color.

(Rib section)

W.R. SCOTT

SPINE STUDIES

Genus: Ferocactus

(Britton & Rose)

By—Anthony D'Attilio

Genus Ferocactus contains about 30 species known from the United States according to Benson, 1969. They are known popularly as "barrel cactus", are generally unbranched, and at maturity form massive stems. The flowers are "produced at the upper edge of the spine-bearing areole on a nearly formed tubercle composing the Apical part of a ridge on the stem". *ibid.* Their spines however are of more than ordinary interest ranging in color from red to pink, white, tan, brown, or yellow. The spines may be smooth or annulate, meaning as in the species here shown that there are concentric projecting, ring-like bands crossing the spines.

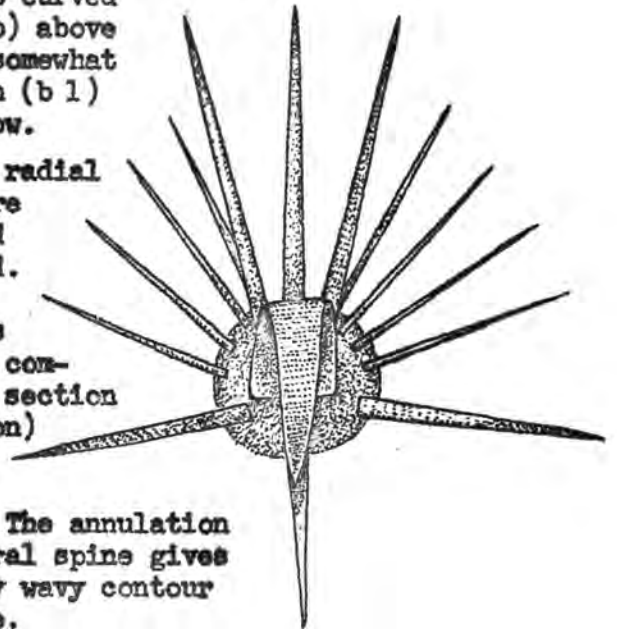
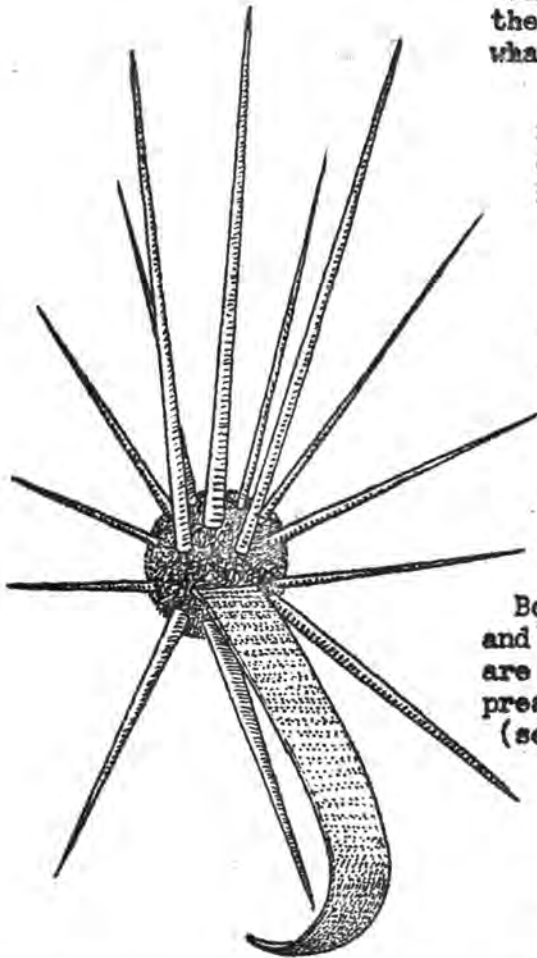
In the species from Mexico, Ferocactus latispinus, the spines number as follows: 1 large central (a) projecting straight out with the forward half strongly recurved downward, six secondary spines project from the areole diagonally in an almost circular arrangement around the central, and eight smaller radial spines are somewhat flattened against the plant.

The large central spine is red colored, wide, roughly elliptical with the upper surface slightly concave and the lower surface convex with a centrally placed keel.

The secondary spines are also red, comparatively narrower, not curved with the 3 (b) above the central somewhat longer than (b 1) those below.

The straight radial spines (c) are smallest and straw colored.

Both secondary and radial spines are elliptically compressed in cross section (see illustration) and all spines are annulated. The annulation on the central spine gives a noticeably wavy contour to the spine.



The spines typically as for the family spring out from the woolly areole. Microscopic examination of the spines shows that the surface is longitudinally, unevenly striate.

Schematic spine arrangement on areole



- a - 1 central spine
- b - 3 secondary spines
- b1 - 3 secondary spines
- c - 2 groups of four radial spines

(all spines annulated)

Such spines are generally referred to as subulate, meaning: flattened (forming a narrow ellipse in cross section) and gradually tapering to an apical point.

(Literature cited: Benson, Lyman 1969, The Native Cacti of California)

SUCCULENT of-the-MONTH -- SEDUM STAHLII

Johnson's catalog lists Sedum stahlia as "Coral Beads" and describes it "each bead a jewel of bright red -- brightest when grown in full sun and poor soil -- grows too fast in rich soil."

That was ten years ago and two plants were only 35¢! When the poor little things arrived, partially shriveled with loose beads rolling around in the packing, the bargain didn't seem so great. But it was, for I still have their progeny. However, never bright red -- more russet, almost brown. When they color close to coral in my garden, they look wan and withdrawn. Color them green in shade.

The advice to grow in full sun is well given. It would take all summer outside for these tiny plants to recover from sitting on the windowsill in Illinois all winter where they grew spindlier by the day. This tender succulent from Mexico likes it hot and dry.

Sausage-shaped, the leaves are less than half-an-inch long. They grow about 6-8" high but have a trailing tendency. Opposite, with the next pair at right angles, they are tightly packed in the traditional Crassulaceae manner of a cross.

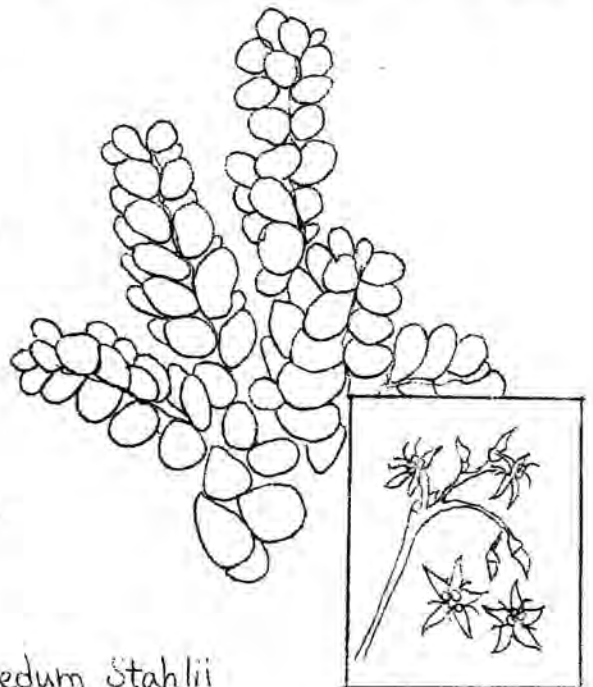
I understand the flowers are yellow and appear in summer. Little stars, of course, bristling with ten stamens. (Guess whose haven't bloomed?)

We all know that SEEdum is from the Latin, meaning "to sit", which they like to do among rocks. (Although another source states that it means "to soothe".) But who knows who Stahl was?

There is another Sedum from Guatemala frequently confused with our plant-of-the-month -- Sedum Guatemalense. (Do I have a PLANT for YOU?!!) Much more easily grown, spreading more rapidly, blooming more often, S. Guatemalense should have the star billing this month -- if only because its common name is CHRISTMAS CHEER!

The fat and sassy egg-shaped leaves are more loosely arranged and roughly twice the size of S. stahlia. Both share a lovable trait -- almost every leaf that drops to touch soil forms a new plant, so tiny and perfect that it brings out your protective instincts. On the other hand, both become a sorry mess in a hard frost. Christmas Cheer was so named because of its pleasant habit of coloring rosy red at the tips -- given full sun and rather poor dry soil -- voilà -- red and green! -- associated with holiday happiness.

Still another similar Sedum, S. rubrifolium (with red leaves) is mentioned in the books but I have not been fortunate enough to see it. Perhaps there will be a specimen brought for our further edification. As there are 500 Sedums there must be a great many more tender juicy little fat-leaved ones unmentioned. It would be fun to share visually as a special exhibit, so bring any look-alikes you have growing about. S. pachyphyllum is a little larger, pale green with rosy-brown tips, for example. See you at the Bragging Table!



SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

Sedum stahlii

By: Floyd Gable - -

Sedum stahlii often known as "coral beads" is a very charming plant with low 6 to 8" branches, spreading and usually branched only at the base. The leaves are opposite, egg shaped, about 3/4" long, fleshy, blunt and dark green. Grown in a bright situation the leaves acquire an

attractive reddish brown tint. Practically every leaf that drops from the plant will root (like most of the sedums). Sedum stahlii blooms profusely in August and thru September. This species is semi-hardy and will stand quite a few degrees of frost. Flowers are a bright yellow. The plant is a native to the Pueblo district of Mexico.

The sedums belong to the Crassulaceae group. There are over 500 known species some of which are of a weeding nature and are only of interest from a botanical standpoint, but some are really gems and are fancies by collectors for pot culture. The word "sedum" is derived from the word "sedo" (to sit) in reference to the method by which some species are attached to rocks. Most of the species are in the temperate and even the frigid zones of North America. These hardy frost-resistant species are widely used in the east and middle west as rock garden plants.

The tender species are native to central Africa, Madagascar, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico and the Philippines. These comprise the more interesting types favored by collectors. Some of them are rare plants. The tender species with few exceptions require a minimum temperature of 40 to 50°. All stem and leaf cuttings will regenerate new plants with great facility. Some of the more compact plants assume very attractive coloring if grown in a bright situation. A clump of this type gives a nice touch of color and makes a nice accent plant. A few in this group are as follow:



S. guatemalense is a creeping plant with erect 8" tall branches becoming a bright cherry red if grown in sun. Flowers are yellow. Native of Mexico.

S. rubrotinctum is very similar to S. guatemalense but leaves are more compact on stems and assume a purplish red color. Flowers yellow. Native of Mexico. Very distinctive.

S. pachyphyllum has branching stems, leaves spirally arranged 1 1/2" long, cylindrical and club-shaped. The leaves are bluish green with red tips. One of the most colorful mat-forming sedums. Flowers bright yellow. Native of Oaxaca.

S. allantoides is similar to S. pachyphyllum in growth but has fewer and thicker leaves of a pale pinkish white. Flower white. A native of Oaxaca, Mexico, at 6000 feet so is semi-hardy. Choice variety.

Sedums make outstanding plants for hanging baskets. One of the most attractive and widely grown sedum for baskets is S. morganianum, and a S. morganianum hybrid. It is commonly known as "burro tails". The stems of S. morganianum grow to six feet and in its flowering period it has a cluster of reddish brown flowers on the ends of the growing tips. The leaves are an attractive bluish-green and grow very compactly on the stems. As plants get older they have a tendency to drop their leaves on the upper stems, which may soon be covered by new growth. A well grown pants of this species is the pride of any collection. Native of Mexico.

A well-grown plant of S. seiboldi is truly a lovely sight. It has powdery blue leaves edged in red with clusters of rose pink flowers. This plant is deciduous and goes completely dormant in the fall. It loses stems and leaves. In the spring it comes to life with even larger and finer stems.

Cactus Penchant ~
Pot Pourri

CONVENTION NEWS

In January, registration forms will be available for the 1971 Convention at the Airport Hilton Inn, El Paso, Texas from May 10 through May 14th. Early arrivals will enjoy local tours. During the week, there will be programs and seminars of interest to every one. Also included will be a session on shows and judging, there will be field trip days, choice of tours plus collecting field trips to collect in unspoiled territory, and other areas.

Group dinners every evening with a distinguished speaker afterward. Included will be a rip-roaring Western Chuck Wagon dinner and a Mexican Fiesta and election and coronation of the King and Queen. Also, post-convention field trips. A three to four day Big Bend National Park tour, two rugged week-long camping trips into Mexico and a field trip by rail and bus from your motel to Chihuahua and the Pacific, skirting the fabled Barranca de Cabre, a five day conducted tour.

So amigos, start planning to take your vacation that will be!!! Everyone is welcome, so sign up as soon as you can.

FROM OUR TREASURER: Mike: News item? It has been "El Presidente's" objective to attain 200 members ... last meeting when Marti & Mooney paid his dues he became #200 ... I let out a shriek & Jim ran over to Mrs. Loyland & took her biggest sale cactus & gave it to Mooney. So-o for the record we will end the year with 203 paid members ... Suggest a note in the paper too, that 1971 dues are now payable though what they will be is subject to the vote of the members at the next meeting. This comes about as a projection of EYC printing & mailing costs runs to well over \$2 per member, with postage and supplies going up, we have to do something... (Glen Hyer)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Bill Borgman, 3539 Hateras Ave., San Diego; Jack & LaDonna Anderson, 5034 Gaylord Drive, San Diego; Abram & Ann Hodge, 1351 Pepper Drive, El Cajon; Marti & Pat Mooney 97 "K" St., Chula Vista; Elizabeth Mc Donald, 2128 Oliver Avenue, San Diego.

Plea... Plea... Please

Do... Dew... DUES!

7 payable to your honorable treasurer..

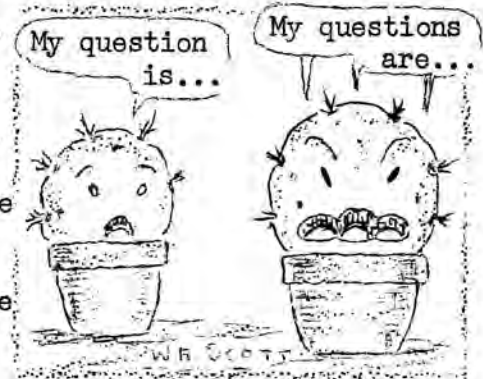
WHAT IS A SUCCULENT ?

By Walter R. Scott

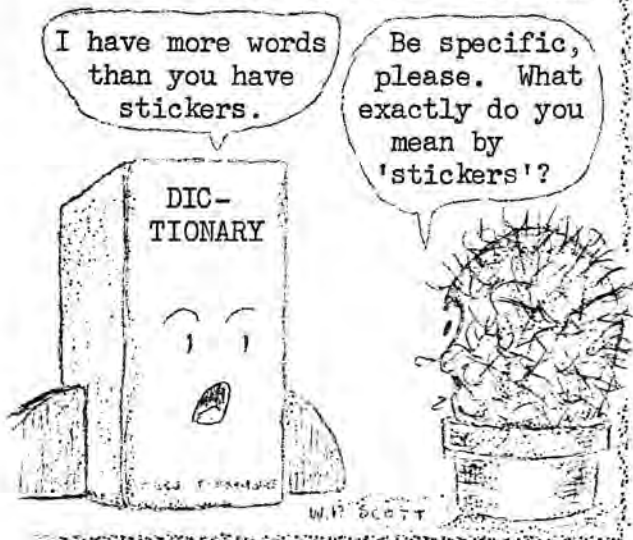
THE TITLE-QUESTION "WHAT IS A SUCCULENT" comes to one's attention repeatedly if he is a plant enthusiast. It never seems quite clear just exactly ^{WHAT} is a succulent. How does one distinguish between a succulent and a non-succulent? There must be a black and white answer.

When one seeks the answer to a question, he may choose one of two methods:

1) Seek out the best information source and look it up, or 2) go to someone you think may have the answer and ask him outright. The second method has a very interesting backlash on occasions. The person you ask may pretend to know, and he may not want to openly display his ignorance, he will come back with the multiple-question parry. For example in this instance he will propose three questions to throw you off-balance. 1) WHAT is a succulent? 2) What IS a succulent? Or, 3) What is a SUCCULENT? At this juncture everyone is really "succulent conscious".



It is axiomatic that when one wishes to obtain the precise meaning of a word, he goes to the dictionary. One can be led astray there too. So let's arrange for a double-check, let's use TWO dictionaries. That's reasonable isn't it?



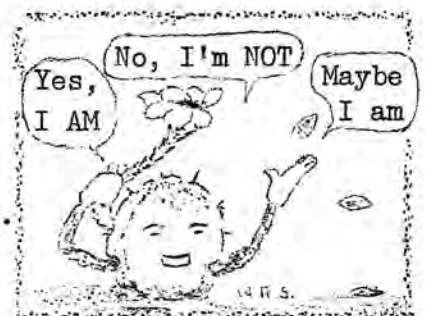
Let's look first at Funk & Wagnalls. It reads very simply: "Succulent, 1 suk'yu-lent, a (for adjective) 1. Juicy, fleshy, as a plant. L. succulentus "succus", juice." They've made it very understandable. So with that information stored in mind, let's do the double-check act.

Let's turn to Random House and see what their thinking is: (suk'ye-lent) "adj. 1. full of juice; juicy--having fleshy and juicy tissues, denotes the quality of being succulent, juicy." Continuing: "Succulent (us) equiv. to succu(s) var. of sucus) juice & lentus, adj. suffix. Succulency, n.

Now we are fully succulent-conscious, we know how to spell the word, and we've learned a bit of its Latin background. We have no quarrel with dictionaries, we don't have the word-power for a skirmish. Their word inventory is in the hundreds of thousands, whereas ours is, maybe on the outside, in the neighborhood of 5,000, give or take a few thousand. And many of the words we use are "repeats", used over and over again, like "Have a nice day".

With the bookwork back of us, let's go out into the yard and do some ground work and see whether or not we can arrive at some down-to-earth conclusions. Let's call it word-laboratory work with actual props and accessories.

The first plant we encounter is on the bank, it is a "mess-em- (Hold a minute till we look it up in the dictionary) "mesembryanthemum". (Sorry we stopped here, never could spell that word) so let's call it "ice plant". Now let's see if it conforms to the simple dictionary descriptions. Juicy? Definitely. Fleshy? Very. Next stop is in the head lettuce section. ---see next page

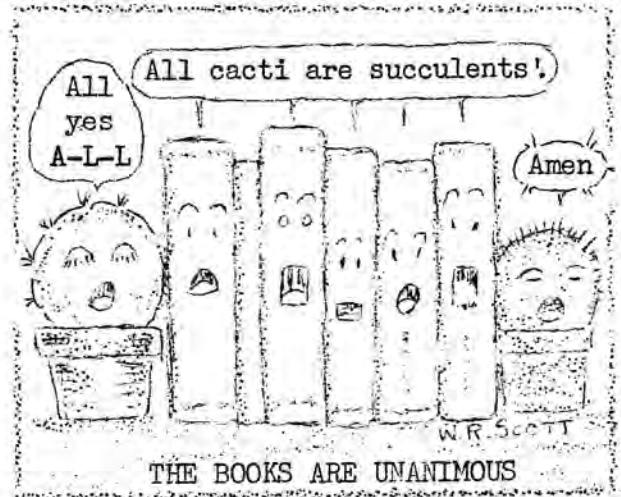


WHAT IS A SUCCULENT ?

---continued---

Let's take an "average" head. It really looks succulent, but to be fair let's detach a leaf on the outside and ask ourselves: Juicy. No question. Fleshy. Yes, even luscious. We can hardly wait to use it in a salad. There's a cantaloup vine just a step or two away. We see one which seems to be saying "I'm ready, are you?". So we accept and ask ourselves: Fleshy. And HOW. Juicy. VERY, even mouthwatering. Next to the cactus collection. It isn't expedient to select and pick up a specimen here for a critical examination. Besides it really isn't necessary. All the literature is unequivocally in agreement that "all cacti are succulents". PERIOD.

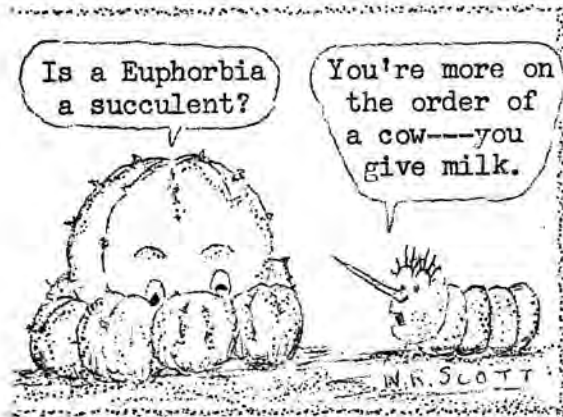
There's still another criterion as the knowledgeable say, which we may use in our attempt to arrive at a solution----or in our case a simple answer. This "thing" has been in the back of our mind for ever-so-long. Pardon us for even mentioning it, it's so commonplace. It's so insignificant the books ignore it. Perhaps the authors weren't gardeners--at least not cactophiles. The latter have come to depend upon it. Without it they would be "dead" as would most of their plants. And really there's nothing more unsightly than a dead cactus, unless it is a dead cactophile holding a dead cactus. Without further stalling, let's come to the point, so to speak.



THE BOOKS ARE UNANIMOUS

Does a portion of the plant in question (not a seed) but cuttings, a leaf, stem, pad, branch, or a root, if fallen off or carefully severed from the mother

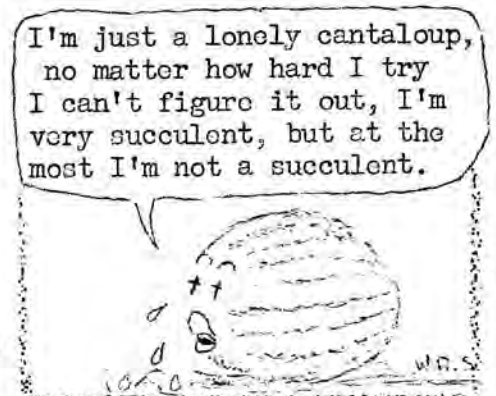
plant, retain the thread of life which will once again make it a total plant. Will it resume growth from that segment once again and grow into a completely new plant if afforded the opportunity and favorable growing conditions? Will all its life cycles and processes repeat?

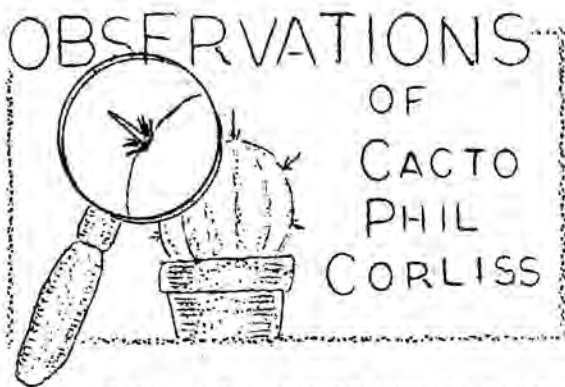


Now let's go back to the garden and look at the same four plants and see if the answers give us an additional insight into the meaning of "succulent", including the life-continuity factor. First the ice plant, the answer is "yes". Lettuce--"no". Cantaloup "no, no". Cactus--definitely.

All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. That statement will get us off onto a siding, and that's precisely where we don't want to be. So let's give the word "succulent" a broader meaning. Let's use it either as an adjective or a noun and let Mossrs. Webster, Funk, Wagnalls, and Random House fall where they may, preferably among the lettuce and cantaloups, not among the cacti.

Next time you acquire a slip from a plant and you think it has potention for becoming a complete living plant, and it doesn't, there's either something wrong with your gardening techniques or the cutting wasn't a succulent. Isn't Nature wonderful?





I FLEW TO GUADALAJARA on October 15th, expecting to continue on to Manzanillo after the weekend. To my pleasant surprise, I found I had arrived in Guadalajara at the height of the second annual "Fiestas Octubre", and so my first visit to the Pacific coast town of Manzanillo was postponed and relegated to the weekend of October 31st.

One feature of the "Fiestas" was a national Folklorico competition, with a company from a different city of Mexico putting on a program every night for a week at the Opera House (Teatro Degollado). The best orchestra seats cost \$1.20 and the performances were superb. There were free concerts, dances, etc. every night in many of the plazas and so many things going on that one had difficulty in making a choice. The 18th annual Home Exposition was open at the new Jalisco Auditorium. The Round-Mexico bicycle race spent 48 hours in Guadalajara before the final run to Mexico City. Four of the teams (Spain, Columbia, Switzerland, and Czecho-Slovakia) stayed at my hotel and the corridors and rooms were filled with racing bicycles and forty participants and their crows.

Once again I stayed at the charming old Hotel Frances - next to the Liberacion Plaza and a half block from the Opera House. My single room with bath cost \$2.80. The restaurant, which spills into the arch-lined three-story patio, serves what most gourmets consider to be the best food in Guadalajara. The five-course comida costs \$1.44. It consists of: choice of 8 cocktails (shrimp, oyster, fruit, avocado, etc.); choice of soups; choice of 2 or 3 entrees such as omelette or pasta; choice of 8 entrees such as steak, pork, fish, veal, chicken; choice of 8 desserts (such as fresh strawberries with thick cream); plus beverage and bread. It is MORE than anyone can or should eat, and the cuisine is a muy delicioso blend of French and Spanish.

Taxi fares in the city are a flat 40¢ and the buses, which go everywhere, cost 3½¢. The many large and comfortable cinemas charge 40¢ for four hours of current American movies. The daily Mexico City News costs 16¢ and has all the U. S. and foreign news, complete stock market reports, and an exceptionally large number of popular U. S. columnists.

What has this got to do with cactus? The eye of the cactophile finds much of interest. The peeled tunas (fruit of opuntias) are piled high in neat pyramids in the markets. Of the 18 varieties on the menu of the El Farol restaurant, I liked best the "nopales", made from the pads of the opuntia (nopalea). The intriguing flavor resembles that of eggplant - at its best. All tacos at this popular eating place (on Calle Pedro Moreno, behind the Copa de Loche restaurant) cost 12¢ each. There are bowls of pickled onions, carrots, etc. on each table, and dulces (sweet, sort of like small tortillas boiled in syrup) are served free for desert.

The FIRST CLASS fare from Guadalajara to Manzanillo by train (8 hours) or bus (6 or 7 hours, depending on route) costs only 32½ pesos (\$2.60). It is a beautiful trip - through the mountains on winding roads, pausing briefly at the village in each valley. Manzanillo is a port; not as important as Mazatlan, but Pacific headquarters for the Mexican Navy. Its plaza, with a refreshment stand and umbrella tables, is a wonderful place to spend a few hours watching the passing scene. I moved out to the resort area of Santiago Bay, a 12½¢ bus ride of 30 minutes, seven miles north of the town. The beach is good, and the bathing excellent, in warm clear water. On the ride to Manzanillo, the cardons and opuntias appear soon after you leave Guadalajara, reaching maximum occurrence about halfway to the coast, and then disappearing. It is an interesting side-trip to a visit to Guadalajara. I'm going back about three days after you read this!

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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

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-----CLUB MEETINGS-----

Monthly 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. Visitors are welcome! Ample parking and convenient.

-----COPY DATE-----

Please submit all material to the Editor before the third Saturday of the month. Sooner is BETTER of course.

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-----PROGRAMA POR DICIEMBRE ASAMBLEA-----

ED and BETTY GAY of TARZANA will present a slide program on a recent trip to the "Four Corners" area on which they were the leaders. As an added attraction they may bring along plants from their Morphological Garden, and if so the plants will be available to Club members.

-----ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN-----

SPECIAL: CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE
BRAGGING TABLE
XMAS REFRESHMENTS

NO plant exchange table!!

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

CACTUS: Ferocactus stainesii
SUCCULENT: Sedum stahlii.
OPEN: Something special in your garden.

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