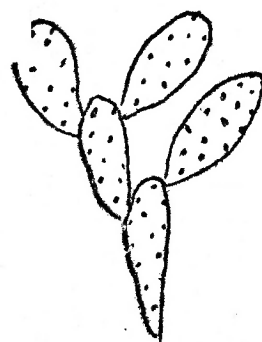


CACTOS Y SUCULENTAS



September, 1966

Vol. 2, No. 9

OFFICERS RESIGN POSTS

SEPT. MEETING

Sept. 10, 1966, Balboa Park Floral Building, 2:00 p.m.

The Appearance of Leslie Anne Mills, who was to speak on "Collecting in Baja," has been cancelled by the resigning officers.

The Sept. meeting will be devoted to a reorganization of the Society, with election of officers to fill temporary vacancies created by the resignation of the Pres., V. Pres., Secretary, and Affiliate Representative.

There will be no plant sale; there will be a plant exchange table.

NOTE: This last issue, as the first one, was paid for by the Wards, not the Society. Since we have erroneously been accused of producing nothing but editorials in past issues, we devote this entire issue to editorials.

"Doc" R. V. Vaughan, President, Ruth Cunner, Secretary, Jack Ward, Vice Pres. and Editor, and Shirley Ward, Affiliate Representative, have resigned their elected positions in the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

Resigning officers have stated that unwarranted and continued personal attacks upon their character, and the misrepresentation of their contributions and proposals for strengthening the Society have forced them no other alternative. Letters of resignation follow on page 2.

NOTE: Under the circumstances, we felt it best to leave out the informational articles which we intended to publish in this issue, which included a review of Mr. Beauchamp's collection locations for Dudleyas, information on different nurseries and interesting botanical gardens, such as that of the Moultons in Palm Springs, information on Big Bend National Park, and the Desert Botanical Garden at Phoenix, and an article on grafting.

Aug. 30th, '66
Point Loma Station
San Diego 6, Calif.

From "Doc" R. V. Vaughan
To The Members of the S. D. Cactus & Succulent Society:

With truly deep regret I am at this time forced to resign from this society after reading the letter written to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ward and after the tirade delivered to me at the last meeting for being derelict in sending out a "Get Well Card."

I am deeply grieved that such dedicated workers, as the Wards have proven to be, would ever be recipients of such an abusive letter from another club member. I do most heartedly endorse the reply made by the Wards to this letter and that my usefulness to this society has ended for the time being.

At this time I am reimbursing the Society in full for the expenditure made for buying a MIMEOGRAPH machine which I feel will not be used by any club member and so I am sending Mrs. Helen Howe the sum of \$124.68 in full and leaving the machine with the Wards where it will be put to good use educationally.

The key to the booklocker is being sent to Mrs. Werner. The key to the bldg. is being given to Mr. Wm. Nelson, Past President.

My home is ever open to all members should they be in my neighborhood. Thanks for having honored me as you have in the past.

Ruth Cuzner, elected Secretary, hereby submits her resignation.

Reuben V. Vaughan

August 30, 1966
Chula Vist, Calif.

From Jack and Shirley Ward
To the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

We regret that, because of personality conflict and long continued attacks upon our motives and character, we no longer find it possible to continue as officers of the society.

We thank the many members who gave us their cooperation and support, and we hope that the many friends we have made will not be alienated by our reply and resignation. Feel free to call upon us at any time.

Shirley and Jack Ward

August 11, 1966

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY: From Mrs. Perlso Lewis

Dear Fellow Cactophiles,

As you all know, I like to talk. Since I can't get myself heard all the time, I decided to write it down.

Now, I think the world of our fine club, but I think we need a few things changed. I've spoken to some of the members and

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they concur. So I feel as a spokesman for myself and the members.

First, we are not a money making organization, but you'd never believe it. Every meeting our time was taken up with the Del Mar Fair, and to make money for the club.

We were a much happier group when we were "poor" and had a few hundred dollars in the treasury. We looked forward to an enjoyable few hours with nothing but cacti and succulents on our minds. And then at the end of the meeting, a drawing for the plant table, hoping we'd get a chance for that pretty little plant we'd like to have, and for which we'd gladly donate 25¢ or more.

Why don't we have a "free" plant table again? The members love to share their cuttings and little potted plants for which the club realized a profit from the "donations." And while we are at it, I think the club can afford to spend a few dollars a month for inexpensive little plants to supplement the plant table and to stimulate the donations, then we could have a nice plant sale or auction twice a year.

Also how about a short session each month on a particular plant, whether its a question and answer or recognizing a genus. The librarian states books aren't checked out often, so why should we keep buying books if they're not used? My enthusiasm has waned for the plants and their books, due to lack of learning.

If rules are made, why can't they be carried out? We voted no more than \$100 for fair expenses to be used. After the \$35 Del Mar Fair entry fee, there was \$65 left. Why was \$209.85 spent?

Here is how I arrived at the \$209.85 fair total:

\$	35.00	Fair Fees
	127.37	Stalsonburg
	2.68	Ward Fair Expen.
	34.80	Arnold Fair Expen.
	10.00	Lost Plant
	<u>\$209.85</u>	

Also, let's put into our by-laws that anything over \$25 to be spent be voted on by the members.

Now, dear members this is your club. Why don't you try to put 2¢ worth in when the President and Vice Pres. ask for questions or remarks? They are trying to do a good job but they must feel inadequate as you all sit there so mum. I feel like a magpie as I volunteer a remark constantly. Why don't you all work for the club by expressing your feelings when asked, instead of griping after something is passed and voted on?

I must mention one last thing. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor of El Cajon, have every year loaned generously to our club lovely plants for the fair. This year, plants were purchased for \$30, which were to be sold to members after the fair. Now, the club has generously offered to the members free almost \$200 worth of plants which were to be groomed expressly for the fair. As I was one of the fortunate ones to receive some, I'll gladly buy one or more of the plants which I believe should be sold with a small profit for the club. I'm speaking for myself, but would like to see a vote on it.

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PLANT RAFFLE REVIEW

J. Ward

In August, 1965, Mr. William Nelson, then President, suggested that we hold plant sales in order to bring a bigger variety of named plants to the members, and as a possible source of income to help pay for lecture programs.

The next month, September, I proposed in the newsletter that the Society give Mr. Nelson's proposal a trial period for two reasons: 1) the quality of plants brought for the exchange table had been deteriorating in quality, were repetitious, and were rarely named; 2) a President of the Society should be given support or trial for his proposals if there is a possibility of their being of benefit to members.

At the October meeting, it was decided to have plant sales beginning with the March, 1966, meeting; Mr. Bud Crane was assigned as plant sale chairman. However, in February, 1966, Mr. Crane indicated he was unable to take responsibility for procuring plants, and the task was given to me by the President, as program chairman, to secure plants.

At the March meeting, raffle tickets were sold 7 for \$1.00, and members acquired a wide variety of named plants. A specific point was made of trying to buy only labelled plants for the two months that I served as plant sale procurer.

At the April meeting of the Society, I suggested to the members that we discontinue plant sales because the response of the members at the March sale made one thing very obvious: less than one half (only about one fourth) the members at the March meeting bought raffle tickets. This was indication to me that the majority of the members did not endorse plant sales. In addition, the raffles were very time consuming. I suggested that we either discontinue plant raffles or hold them only a few times a year. After lengthy discussion of plant sales on the floor, the members, with only a few abstentions (mine among them), endorsed a motion that we continue holding plant sales every month, with fewer and larger plants for sale, with the price of tickets to be 4 for \$1.00 instead of 7 for \$1.00.

At the same meeting, April, I resigned as plant sale chairman because I did not have the time to visit a large number of nurseries to purchase properly labeled plants. Mr. Jim Stalsonburg volunteered to assume duties as plant sale chairman at that time.

In the period since April, I have heard increasing personal complaints of members dissatisfied with having plant sales at every meeting, members who, by some quirk of misinformation or misunderstanding, hold me to be personally responsible for initiating and continuing the sales. I claim responsibility for neither; the responsibility lies upon the shoulders of the members, almost all the members at the April meeting, who voted to continue the sales at every meeting.

The decision to have plant sales does not rest upon the officers; it rests upon the membership, the same as it did in September, 1965, in April, 1966, and again this September, 1966. There will be no plant sale this month; I take personal responsibility for suspending raffles until members take another vote for continuation or cancellation.

FAIR EXPENSES AGAIN

J. Ward

A large number of members remain greatly disturbed and confused over this year's fair expenses, some holding me personally responsible, as fair chairman, for these expenditures.

Acturally, the fair chairman should be an over-all coordinator, a contact man, an assistant to the display chairmen. Unfortunately, I could not assume that role because I could not find enough members willing to chairman displays, so, for two years your fair chairman has been no more than another display chairman.

I was so busy with my own displays that I did not have any possible time to check on, or give assistance to other display chairmen. All display chairmen operated independently and with little knowledge of what the others were doing. Actually it was a battle for self survival for all chairmen concerned.

At the beginning of this year, the Society adopted a budget which included \$100 in expenses for four displays at the fair, an average of \$25 per display.. All of this year's display chairmen were at the meeting and received the newsletter in which the budget was adopted. In May, as fair chairman, I paid \$35, of the \$100 appropriated, for entry fees for four exhibits, which left \$65 for remaining expenses, or an average of around \$16 per exhibit.

In May, the display chairmen met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kim Arnold, to discuss fair problems. At that time, I informed everyone of the \$35 in entry fees and reminded them of the \$100 appropriated by the Society at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Stalsonburg asked if any plants might be purchased, and I told him that the Society had appropriated \$100 (when the budget was adopted) for purchase of additional free plants to be distributed to members for possible use in fair displays, and, that, if purchase were necessary, he might secure plants which would be distributed to members after the fair.

In regard to plants given to members last November, all the display chairmen were informed that the plants belonged to the members, that the only string attached was that the plants should be volunteered at fair time for display, and, after the fair, all plants were to be returned to the members.

Display chairmen had no further opportunity to meet after the May conference, being too busy collecting plants, arranging, etc.

This year, as last year, I made it a point to hold expenses for my two displays to the bare minimum. Mr. Arnold helped supply flood lights, electrical wiring, and labeling materials (which were added to his expenses), which kept our own expenses at an unrealistic \$2.68. My expenses would have run, most likely, around \$10 for two displays without material assistance from the Arnolds. I have made allowances for this in the figures below:

EXPENSE	ITEM	EARNINGS
\$ 35.00	Entry Fees for four displays)	
10.00	Wards (Succulent and Basket displays)	\$275
27.48	Arnolds (Specialty display)	175
10.00	Lost plant	

(Continued on next page)

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\$127.37 Stalsonburg (Cactus display)

\$125

\$209.85

\$575

Note: \$30 of Mr. Stalsonburg's expenses were for plant purchases to be distributed to members, which comes under a different budget appropriation.

I repeat again, I had no personal control over the expenditures of other chairmen, nor was I aware of their expenses until several weeks after the fair. The fact that far more was spent on one display than anticipated may be attributed to possible misunderstanding or poor judgment. Another fact remains: the expenditures were made without my knowledge, without the knowledge of the Arnolds, without the knowledge of any other officer of the Society. Mr. Stalsonburg, alone, is responsible for his decision to spend so much.

The situation remains that money was spent in the name of the Society which was not authorized to be spent. Approximately \$79.95, not counting the \$30 for plants, was paid out of the treasury without authorization or approval of the general membership. The money was paid by the treasurer upon authorization of the President.

It appears that many years ago the Society adopted a resolution (No one seems to know when, and a check of the minutes does not reveal the date.) that no officer of the Society had authority to authorize payment of more than \$25 out of the treasury without approval of the members. The resolution was never placed in the By-laws, and our present President, acting in good faith, was not aware of the \$25 limit.

What has happened, has happened. No good is served by trying to place blame where blame is not due; no good is served by continued recriminations and haranguing of the issue. The By-Laws should be amended to place a \$25 limit on approval of unauthorized expenditures, if the members so desire, and all future display chairmen should be informed that any expenditures in excess of those authorized by the Society are borne at the personal obligation of the chairman. I suggest that the Society place in the By-Laws, amendments which would limit maximum expenses on any future fair display to \$25, unless greater expenditure is approved in advance, by the Society. In addition, an amendment should be placed in the By-Laws which limits to \$25, unauthorized expenditures which may be approved only by the President or the acting President of the Society.

There are no peripheral problems which exist in regard to fair expenditures. Trying to confuse what happened (something that happens with regularity of late) with the budget, with a large treasury, and with a non-existent board of directors, serves no constructive purpose. I have proposed a constructive solution to prevent a reoccurrence of what happened this year. It is a simple solution. Let us stop creating additional problems where none exist.

OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS (continued from page 3)

Now, you people who disagree with me, lets hear from you, also you who do agree, contribute your thoughts and wishes.

Sincerely yours
Perlso Lewis

Aug 24, 1966

THE HOFFMANNS WRITE

Dear Mr. Ward:

In reference to the article in the August issue, "Fair in Review" you have stepped out of bounds, on toes and personal feelings for the umpteenth time. Twelve months a year we hear at the meetings, or read of it in the publication, about what we did or didn't do, should or shouldn't do, the help that wasn't there, or the plants that weren't loaned. The members get disgusted of constantly hearing this same old tune. One member remarked to us that she had gone up to the Fair grounds to help and was told, "Her help was not needed!" We did help at the Fair this year. Ask Bea and Kim who helped them arrange plants? And, who obligingly brought their own cacti books and helped name plants because a chairman had really goofed and failed to check out library books! We did not offer plants for the Fair, our plants have been in the Fair too many years and cannot be disturbed for some time. Some of them are permanently disfigured. You were informed last year that the club didn't need but two displays. The lack of help and plants made putting in additional displays too much of a burden. However, you choose to have four displays. Whereupon we are subjected to read again and again, how "the burden of two displays was placed on a single husband-wife team!" You didn't wish to listen to the "older experienced members" last year nor this year. Your complaining falls on deaf ears.

It's high time you stopped using the so-called publication for your own feelings, gripes, criticism, insulting and uncalled for remarks. And who has given you permission to voice your opinion openly about other club members? Through the publication you are shoving things down the members throats that they do not wish.

Actually, the publication isn't necessary. It needn't be a monthly digest. The members suggested a quarterly or by-monthly edition, if you will remember. And, for the editorials-those we can do without. The members could care less about your personal opinions to the tune of \$115 a year? Also, why must we read and pay for the minutes and programs that we already have heard? If the members are interested enough, they will come to the meetings and "hear" the minutes plus other adjenda along with the program. One of your novels had 16 pages, a wee bit long don't you think? Being a high school teacher, you have a fine way with fancy words. However, they are doing more harm than good. You must have failed the psychology course in college.

Our club still doesn't warrant a budget. It's true we do have 90 members, years ago we had 90 members also. We had no budget at that time and got along fine. And, 50, 60, or 70 members attended each meeting, look at your attendance now. Doesn't it make you wonder? Your club is only as strong as the members who attend. If you hadn't been so persistent in having a budget our club would have been a fraction of \$127.35 richer.

We have reason to write, we are deeply concerned about the club. Other members will not venture forth and express their views, they will (and are) quietly dropping out of club activity. Some of your ideas are fine, others aren't. From you never comes a pat on the back, a kind word of praise, or, a job well

done. Members notice this. You cannot constantly run down members and expect their fullest cooperation. You have deeply hurt (thru your publication) some very devoted members, so much so, that the club participation will be felt even greater next year. In general, our club is SNAFU.

Please make corrections in your mailing list: our name is Hoffmann, 794 Vista Grande Rd., El Cajon, Calif: 92020, 442-7076.

Sincerely,
Bill & Martha Hoffmann

IN REPLY TO MR AND MRS HOFFMANN:

Our first reaction to the Hoffmann letter was to silently leave the organization without reply, something we had already planned to do at the end of this year, but to do so would have only lent credence to the half-truths, confused issues, and accusations that are stated in the Hoffmann letter. In effect, it would have given the Hoffmanns an endless picnic at our expense.

We joined the Society to learn something, as observers, not participants. We did not seek responsibility nor want it; we found it thrust upon us. However, assuming responsibility, even unwillingly, entitles one to a voice in the affairs of the Society and entitles one to personal opinions.

I will try to answer the Hoffmann letter, incoherent and hysterical as it is, with some objectivity. We are relieved that the Hoffmanns have finally put some of their long-outpoured invective and confused thinking on paper because it affords us the opportunity to answer.

We have never sought personal conflict with anyone or intentionally "insulted" anyone. On the contrary, by their actions, their words, their attitudes, it would appear that the Hoffmanns have gone out of their way to create personal conflict through personal insults, uncooperativeness, and negative response to anything and everything proposed or contributed to the organization by the Wards. In effect, for over a year and a half now the Hoffmanns have had Wardphobia. Their opposition has gone beyond mere difference of opinion, it would appear that the Hoffmanns have also continually gone out of their way to wreck a positive program for the Society.

In reference to the first point of the Hoffmann letter, the "Fair in Review," about stepping "on toes and personal feelings for the umpteenth time": It is my advice to the Hoffmanns and the members to reread the editorial for themselves. The editorial was written in answer to the Hoffmanns' privately and publicly, oft-voiced deprecations of what was not accomplished at the Del Mar Fair. The editorial dealt with the real problems of fair displays: boycott of the fair by able-bodied and experienced members, such as the Hoffmanns. The type of help we were referring to was more than the putting in of a few personal appearances at the fair grounds; it was in reference to fair chairmanships, as the Hoffmanns well know.

When I was voted as fair chairman in January, 1965, without my prior consent, there were assurances from a number of "old timers" that I would not be lacking in display plants, display chairmen, or help from members in setting up displays. The Society had been putting in three displays for several years prior

to my joining, and I assumed, naively, that since the Society had produced three chairmen in prior years, that was to be the case for the 1965 fair. Because the Wards and a number of other members had an interest in baskets, we volunteered to put in a basket display, as the Arnolds had volunteered to put in the Rock Garden. When display chairmen did not come through for all the displays, it was too late to cancel the additional display. And another reminder, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffmann, your advice about having too many displays came only a few days prior to fair opening, when it was too late to do anything about it; it was not the type of advice that we needed at that critical time.

A good part of the failure of lack of help in the last two years falls on the shoulders of the Hoffmanns. Their role in the last two fairs can be interpreted only as a boycott. It would appear that the Hoffmanns, by their actions, were not only hoping for failure, but tried to bring it about. Where were the Hoffmanns when their advice and help was desperately needed and sought in the spring of 1965? Where were the Hoffmanns, for two years in a row, when chairmen were needed? Where were the Hoffmanns when plants were needed ("We did not offer plants for the fair.")? Where were the Hoffmanns when one display chairman became ill prior to the 1965 fair and could not work on the succulent display? A few token, and last minute, appearances at the fair grounds does not constitute the type of help that was needed.

The Hoffmann excuse, for two years in a row, that their plants were too damaged in previous exhibits to supply even one single plant, is not really an honest explanation. After two years of displaying plants in four displays, it has been our experience that no more than 25 per cent of plants suffer noticeable damage, and most of the damage is easily repairable in a year's time. It is true that some plants suffer permanent and irreparable damage, but the Hoffmanns would have us believe that their plants suffered such 100 per cent, complete damage in past displays, that it was impossible to supply even a single plant.

In regard to your "umpteenth time" reference about bringing up the subject of the fair: the members may check back issues of the publication to determine for themselves how many times the fair has been editorialized. At meetings, the only time I, personally, have ever mentioned the fair was when I was requested to report on progress; as for meetings, it is the Hoffmanns who often bring up the subject of the fair, usually in some derogatory manner or in confuse-the-issue situations.

In spite of the Hoffmann boycott, the question remains, "Are three, or four, displays too many?" It has already been pointed out that the Society was putting in three displays before I arrived on the scene. That I volunteered to put in a fourth display (The Wards supplied 28 of the 36 baskets for this year's display.), was not placing inordinate demands on the members to supply plants or "spreading them too thin." The basket display, in effect, placed no greater demand on member's plants than prior to my arrival. If the three traditional displays were lacking for plants, it can only be attributed to the actions of members, such as the Hoffmanns, who completely refused to volunteer plants.

Let us do a little arithmetic to further illustrate the point. Assuming that we have approximately 40 household (family) units

out of 90 members, and that the four displays require approximately 320 plants, we arrive at an estimate of around eight plants per family unit. Is it expecting too much for each family, including the Hoffmanns, to make available approximately eight plants for fair displays? Apparently, it was, considering the number of members, such as the Hoffmanns, who could not volunteer a single plant. In the two years in which the Hoffmann plants have been resting, the Wards started from scratch with their collection, potting and grooming it specifically for lending at fair displays. In that two years, we acquired approximately 400 separate species of cacti, 70 aloes, 15 euphorbias, 150 other succulents (not including baskets), and 40 baskets, all which were available for display. Although many plants were yet too young to display, this year we did supply 12 plants to the cactus display (many more were of display size and available), 80 plants to the succulent display, and 28 baskets, which represents more than one third of all plants in this year's fair displays. We are not bragging; we are deploring the fact that so many members, including the Hoffmanns, could not put forth the effort in two years to supply a single plant.

The only opinions that have been voiced in the publication about "other club members" is that they are derelict in their responsibilities to the Society through lack of cooperation and participation. Reminding members of their responsibilities cannot be construed as "insults," except perhaps by the Hoffmanns. On the other hand lack of participation, by those who are able-bodied, such as the Hoffmanns, constitutes boycott, an active negative role rather than a positive role.

In regard to the small item of checking out library books for use at the fair; again, the Hoffmanns have arranged the truth to fit their wishful thinking. The books were checked out and at the fairgrounds almost everytime we were there, which was daily. My own books were there too, if the Hoffmanns had bothered to ask for the use of them.

In regard to positive suggestions for improving and strengthening the Society ("shoving things down the members throats that they do not wish."): let me remind the Hoffmanns of a few of them: adding more books and back issues of the Journal to the library, donating time and Society money to building up the Balboa Park Desert Garden (not my idea, but a good one), combining the Desert Garden with the Kate Sessions Aloe-Agave Garden (not my idea, but a good one), more educational-type programs (not my idea, but a good one), distributing free plants to members to encourage more participation at fair time (not my idea, but a good one), adoption of a budget to eliminate the constant and time-consuming wrangling over approval of expenditures at meetings (not my idea, but a good one), creation of a board of directors to hold separate business meetings to allow more time for programs and guest speakers (not my idea and not adopted, but still a good idea), donation of money to strengthen the activities of the national society, donation of money to botanical expeditions so that the Society might share in new plant finds (not my idea, but a very good one), having meetings at the private gardens of members (not my idea, but a good one), an annual display open to the public, a monthly display table (not my idea, but a good one) a monthly publication (not my idea, but I gave execution to it).

Another reminder to the Hoffmanns: all these suggestions were no more than that; most of them were mentioned to me privately by other members, such as Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Werner, "Doc" Vaughan, the late Dr. Roberts, and other members. These were constructive suggestions offered for consideration by the membership. That some of them were adopted was due to favorable response on the part of the majority. Let me also remind the Hoffmanns that the Wards have never introduced a single motion at any meeting in the more than two years we have been members; we have not even spoken in support of any of these suggestions at meetings, except when called upon to do so. By any stretch of the imagination, even the Hoffmann imagination, the Wards can not be guilty of "ramming" anything down members' throats.

My editorials have never been negative. If, at times, they were critical, they dealt with real problems and offered constructive alternatives or constructive solutions to problems. In the same period of time, what, of a constructive nature, can the Hoffmanns lay claim credit to, except for a bus trip to Huntington? On the contrary, the Hoffmanns fabricate issues where there are none, and continually oppose almost all constructive proposals put before the Society without offering constructive alternatives. Let me remind the Hoffmanns of their negative record: They have opposed expansion of the library, opposed the donation of Society money to build up the desert garden, opposed the adoption of a budget, opposed creating a board of directors, opposed a publication, etc. In addition, the Hoffmanns have raised smoke screens around the fair, around the budget, around personality issues. Constantly deprecating the constructive proposals and accomplishments of the present officers, creating false issues and problems around real problems, and referring nostalgically to the "good old days" (when the Hoffmanns were officers), is not offering positive and constructive alternatives to ideas proffered by the present officers.

The Hoffmanns refer to the publication as a "novel"; can they be so unschooled as not to know the difference between fact and fiction? With all the fictional issues they themselves have raised at meetings, apparently they do not know the difference. As to the dig about failing psychology courses, the Hoffmanns could have learned a little from a few of my courses, including how to recognize some of the syndrome symptoms of megalomaniac paranoia.

In regard to the budget: the Hoffmanns appear to have not the slightest concept of what one is or how it functions. The purpose of adopting a budget, if the Hoffmanns had bothered to listen or to read, was to approve in advance, expenditures for the year, including those for national dues, library materials, etc. in order that each meeting would not be consumed with fuss and lengthy explanation over every little expenditure. If expenditures exceed budget appropriations, then the members must approve the excess spending in advance. As to the "\$127.35", by which the Society would have been "richer": what Mr. Stalsonburg spent on fair expenses had nothing to do with the adoption of a budget. What Mr. Stalsonburg spent, he spent on his own authority, without my knowledge, without the knowledge of the President, without the knowledge of anyone except Mr. Stalsonburg. Since his expenditures were in excess of what had been appropriated in the budget, he should have asked approval of the

membership before spending the money. What Mr. Stalsonburg did could have happened whether the Society did or did not have a budget, whether the Society had two displays or four, whether the Society had a large treasury or a small one. This is a good case in point where the Hoffmanns have tried to create as much confusion as possible, trying to relate what happened to all sorts of things to which there was no connection.

As for the adoption of a budget causing a decline in member attendance, the whole suggestion is completely irrational; there is just no conceivable connection. But has there been a drop in membership attendance at meetings? In the more than two years that the Wards have been members of the Society (mid-1964, when the Hoffmanns were officers), there has never been attendance of a large number of members at meetings. The largest meeting, of around 60, was for the appearance of Mr. Charles Glass, in March 1965. Present meetings bring between 40 and 50 attendance, as well attended as at any time under the Hoffmanns in the second half of 1964. When the Wards joined the Society, in mid-1964, there were only 60 members, 30 less than at the present time (I remind the Hoffmanns to check their 1964 membership lists.). The Hoffmanns are suggesting that they had 100 per cent turnout, plus as many as 10 guests, in some instances. It just never happened that way; again, the Hoffmanns are not able to separate fact from their own fiction. If membership were up to "90", "years ago", it must have been before the Hoffmanns became officers. Perhaps, and this is not being purely sarcastic, the Hoffmanns played an instrumental role in reducing membership from "90" to 60 members in the two years they served as officers, or, perhaps, aided in reducing membership before they became officers.

As to the charge of "running down" members: I deny the charge. The present letter is the only exception; and in this case, the Hoffmanns invited it. As stated before, deploring the fact that so many sit by unconcernedly when labor and plants are in need does not constitute "insult", "stepping on toes", or "running down members". If the idle have pangs of conscience, the remedy is to pitch in help rather than yell "insult". Prods, yes, insults, no.

As for the publication itself: let me again help the Hoffmanns separate fact from fiction. It was the Wards who suggested that, if the Society wanted a publication, it should be put out only several times during the year. It was the membership which voted to issue it monthly. As for the expenses of printing and mailing (\$115 appropriated in the budget): it costs no more to mail the average issue than to mail post cards reminding members of meetings. Even with postcards, there was the additional expense of maintaining a duplicating machine and buying ditto masters for imprinting the post cards.

If the membership was so dissatisfied with the publication, it was their choice to discontinue its publication at any time, just as it was the choice of the membership to publish it. As for the expense being "unnecessary:" since the spending of money is always of such great concern to the Hoffmanns, let me remind them that the extra basket displays sponsored by the Wards, and primarily supplied with the Ward's baskets (\$250 in two years) has more than paid for the machine, the supplies, and the mailing costs of the publication. In addition, the Wards chaired

two other displays which earned the Society \$250. What did the Hoffmanns contribute to the earning of the money they seem to be so concerned about?

As for "pats on the back" and "word of praise," the Hoffmanns would appear to be as deficient in that area, if not more so, than the Wards. Our President, "Doc" Vaughan has gone out of his way to conscientiously praise work done by others, and I have tried hard to recognize all contributors to the fair. If the Hoffmanns were so concerned that some members were not receiving their due compliments, the columns of the publication were open to them, as they have been to all other members.

While we are on the subject of "insults," and "stepping on toes," and "running down members," have not the Hoffmanns done their share of what they accuse the Wards of doing? Their attitude toward the Wards for the last 18 months, and the letter in this issue are ample testimony to that. Let me also remind the Hoffmanns that they have gone out of their way to be insulting to an ex-president of the Society, publicly and privately representing him as a money grasping man who "went after money," which resulted in the Society "going downhill." Whether the criticism is justified or not (that was before my time), it is indicative of the poor taste shown by the Hoffmanns in their public and personal relations with others.

Our own skin has not been as thin as a lot of "very devoted," and "hurt" members (Heaven knows how they were hurt!). We have ignored the Hoffmanns' insults for a year and a half, but there is a limit to vituperation, innuendo, false accusations, and sabotage.

If the organization is "SNAFU" (Situation Normal, All Fouled Up), the Hoffmanns must bear a full measure of keeping the Situation Normal, i.e., All Fouled Up, through their negative leadership and personal vendettas.

Since this is our farewell to the Hoffmanns and their "club," there are a number of other things we wish to clear. We have frequently heard ourselves, and the present officers, referred to as "money mad," and that our "money making schemes" are causing the Society to "go downhill." Since these falsifications appear to have originated with the Hoffmanns, since they play the most important role in propagating them, we want to give our reply.

"Money mad" connotes someone who is conniving and grasping, with an other-persons-be-damned attitude, "Everything for me, nothing for you," or "How much money is there in it for me?" By any stretch of the imagination, even the Hoffmanns', the term could not apply to the Wards or any of the other officers of the Society. On the contrary, in time, labor, and personal expenses donated to the Society, quite the opposite is true. The record speaks for itself; we have never made a cent of profit from the Society, nor have we made any other personal gain.

As for dreaming up money making schemes to milk money out of the members: there have been none. The extra income enjoyed by the Society has come through extra fair displays, not from members' pockets. That the Hoffmanns view the extra benefits which have accrued to the Society as causing it to "go downhill" cannot be justified by any of the facts.

The Hoffmanns keep yelling that the sky is coming down, and just like Chicken Little, have enough unthinking believers who

start yelling the same thing without examining the facts. In their own way, they may have just succeeded in pulling down the sky, on the Society, and on themselves, as well as on the Wards.

Where there is money to be spent, there will always be differences of opinion. But to oppose the spending of it for constructive purposes, such as the library (It is better to have a few informed members rather than none.), and other worthwhile projects, can be viewed either as stupidity or as personal antipathy so strong that it blinds to reason. The Hoffmanns appear to always create a disproportionate imbroglio over how funds should be spent, especially since they contribute so little to working for those funds and contribute so little in proposing constructive ideas for the betterment of the Society.

While the term "money mad" could not be applied to the Hoffmanns, just as it cannot be applied to the Wards, it is the Hoffmanns who appear to always be most disturbed over how the funds are to be spent. It is the Hoffmanns who seem to make a big bugaboo, almost a fetish, out of money. They seem to take off from the old saying "Money is the root of all evil," and modify it to read "Money is the root of all problems of the Society." From that base, they appear to go about trying to prove it, by trying to relate all problems of the Society to money, and inventing problems related to money. It is the Hoffmanns who take a situation where money was improperly spent without authorization (this year's cactus display) and confuse the real situation by falsely blaming it on the adoption of a budget, blaming it on a large treasury, and blaming it on authorization by a non-existent Board of Directors; this is what I mean by the invention of problems where none exist. It would appear that the Hoffmanns try to make every situation, where there may be a real problem, as confusing and emotionally disturbing as possible. Before the Hoffmanns again appoint themselves as vigilantes to return the Society to the status quo which existed when the Hoffmanns were officers, it is my recommendation that they stand off and take a long look at themselves.

Since we are relative newcomers to the organization, we feel it best to leave their "club" to the Hoffmanns and their "hurt" followers. We did not join the Society to insult or be insulted; we joined to learn. As stated before, we did not want leadership; it was foisted upon us; but once that we found ourselves as leaders' we did not shirk our responsibilities, and we proceeded to bring a constructive program for building the Society and strengthening it. That someone else chose to try to wreck what we tried to build is most unfortunate, but that responsibility is theirs, not ours.

That we now damage the Society by leaving it, was not of our own making. That certain members chose to place themselves on a collision course with us was not our choice. We went out of our way to avoid a crash, but it was their choice to pursue it to the bitter end.

We are sorry to disappoint our many friends. There are those who will say, "You have done a terrible thing by replying to the Hoffmanns." What we have done, perhaps, does not serve the best interests of the Society, but we feel that we were goaded into defending ourselves against our vigilante detractors.

Shirley and Jack Ward