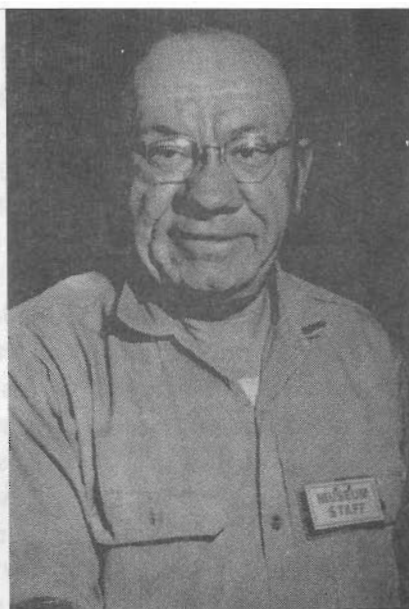


Cactus Capitol Chatter
Published
by
Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society
7020 N. Firenze Dr., Tucson, Ariz.
Marjorie Spring & Eva Copenhaver
Co-editors



CACTUS JOHN

Vol. 1 1st Quarter 1965 No. 1

With sincere gratitude and deep appreciation, we dedicate this, our first edition, to the memory of John A. Haag. To his many friends and associates he was affectionately known as "Cactus John" and indeed he has been sorely missed.

He was born in 1907 and started his first Cacti collecting in 1928. As he was a self-educated botanist there were many disappointments and a lot of experiments involved. Moving from Minnesota to Tucson in 1955, he established a cactus garden at his home on Giaconda Way and made many collecting trips to fill it. John's wife passed away in 1957 and in her memory, he renamed his garden "El Jardin Botanico de Santa Clara".

At the time of his death Dec. 2, 1962 he was in the midst of transferring his property to the Tucson Cactus Club, unfortunately (for the Club) this was not consummated. He was the Founder of the Tucson Cactus Club and helped to organize it in Dec. 1960 and was elected Treasurer and Director of Public Relations.

John had a very complete Botanical library, devoted to Cacti and Succulents, many of them rare and out of print volumes, which he freely loaned out to members. The Memorial Garden at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will be dedicated to him this spring.

1965 Club Officers

Hugh Copenhaver ---- President
Alice Wanner ----- Vice-President
Joe Brick ----- Treasurer
Isabelle Meyer ----- Secretary
Rosa Christensen ----- Affil. Director

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is with mixed emotions that I attempt to write this first "President's Column" for our new publication.

First a feeling of humbleness because of my lack of professional know how of the cacti and succulent world.

Secondly, with great pride in the fact that we, as an organization are going to have our own "Bulletin" with which I am sure we can build a really strong and well informed organization of cacti lovers.

May I list a few goals that your officers and directors hope to attain in the coming year.

1. Publication of this "Bulletin".
2. Put on the best program ever to entertain our guests at the National Convention here in May, may they never forget their stay in Tucson.
3. Complete and dedicate the Memorial Garden in honor of "CACTUS JOHN HAAG" at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.
4. Establish a permanent trading table for all indoor meetings, where you can bring excellent specimen plants to trade with your fellow members. If you can't make a trade or a deal, brag about them, show them off and take them back home.
5. Free hot coffee and sweets will

be served at all meetings including field trips.

6. Distribution of plants of some kind will be attempted at all indoor meetings.

7. Mark your calendar the 2nd. Sunday of every month for 1965. We promise to have something for you.

8. Promote a feeling of belonging, fellowship, and neighborliness among our members, the great secret to success in any organization.

All of the above things are impossible for one person or a few hard workers. This has to be a job for one and all. Any ideas, suggestions, criticism and volunteering or anything for the good of the club will be honestly appreciated by your president, just call 297-1865.

"HELP"

Hugh B. Copenhaver

"GO WESTERN IN '65"

After the "La Fiesta De Los Vaqueros", don't put those Western Duds in moth balls - keep them handy for "Go Western" is the theme of the National Cactus and Succulent Societies' bi-annual Convention. It winds up here in Tucson after starting in Phoenix May 2nd.

"Come one! Come all!" Don't miss the fun. Sign up to be on a committee and be on the inside for the convention activities. You'll meet wonderful, friendly people from all over the country. People who have vast reservoirs of know-

ledge of Cacti and plant life and who are more than happy to share this knowledge with you.

CONVENTION CALENDER FOR TUCSON

Wednesday May 5th. 5 P.M. Registration and Hospitality.

Thursday May 6th. Field trip in the morning. Evening banquet at the Sands Motel followed by Desert Ark an animal show by Hal Gras, Public Relations Director of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Friday May 7th. Dedication of the "Cactus John" Memorial Garden at the Sonora-Desert Museum and lunch, followed by guided bus tour of surrounding cactus area. Group dinner at the Sands after which Mr. Doyle Noel of the Plant Quarantine Inspection Division of the Dept. of Agriculture will give an interesting talk. Following this Mr. Allan Mollison will show his beautiful time lapse pictures of Cacti blooms.

Saturday May 8th. A.M. Bus tour of the Saguaro National Monument and Sabino Canyon. Afternoon free. In the evening chuck wagon dinner and square dancing pool-side at Sands Motel. Election and crowning of the King and Queen.

Sunday May 9th. Post-Convention activities will be determined by the number of people staying over.

COMMITTEES

The following is a list of committees and their chairman, any one that would like to help, please

contact one of the following.
Hospitality-Admiral Halloran
296-5888

Decoration and Souvenir

Marge Spring, 297-2414

Eva Copenhaver, 297-1865

Field Trip Organizer-Paul Shaw

297-2371

Wanted: 20 bus captains for guided tours. Call Paul

Transportation - Stella MacDonald
MA 4-1446

Publicity - French Anderson

297-1473

Registration- Will be handled by National.

BIRTH OF THE CHATTER

On the evening of Jan. 8, 1965 the bud burst forth and about Feb. 1st. the blossom opened, revealing the first issue of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society quarterly bulletin, called the Cactus Capitol Chatter. Through careful pollination and Cacti know-how we are confident that the resulting seeds of this pollination will put down its roots of Cacti lovers throughout the world.

Excerpt taken from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, May and June of 1957.

Quote, "Tucson is the Cactus Capitol of the United States". "The area about Tucson and thence for many miles is Arizona desert, this is the richest of the cactus deserts in the United States", hence our name "Cactus Capitol Chatter."

A Texas Cactus Collecting Trip
by P.G. Nichols

After planning for sometime with Cactus John for a collecting trip to the Big Bend country of Texas we finally set our starting date for Fri. May 22nd. 1959. My wife Alta and I arrived at John's place at 5 P.M. where we hooked John's luggage trailer to our car and the three of us struck out for Texas. We arrived in Las Cruces, N. Mex., about 11 P.M. where we spent the night leaving early in the morning and at 8 A.M. we had breakfast in El Paso, Tex., then headed for Alpine where we arrived at 1 P.M. after having stopped several times along the way to admire the many beautiful cactus.

While in Alpine we stayed at Marie Burgard's Trailer Court as Marie is an old family friend. After a short visit we unloaded our duffle and left Alta to visit with Marie while John and I headed south of town for cactus. We were driving slowly along a ranch road when John suddenly yelled, don't look now your slip is showing and right beside the road was a sight I will never forget, it was an *Echinocereus stramineus* about thirty inches across with possibly one hundred stems, a beautiful plant, it required about half an hour of hard work to get it out and loaded in the car trunk. It was now nearing sundown so we headed for Marie's place where we cleaned and packed our day's catch in cartons.

Sunday the 23rd we were up and rearing to go so John, Alta and I again headed south towards the Big Bend Park, we stopped at a ghost town store for a coke, there we met a fine old desert rat by the name of Mr. Dunkin who very kindly told us of several good places to collect cactus. We got busy and found quite an assortment but we couldn't locate *Ariocarpus fissuratus* which we especially wanted. As the sun was about to set we drove back to Marie's and packed our day's find and after a good dinner we hit the hay, very tired.

Monday morning we started for Terlingua which is a ghost town near the Mexican border; along the highway we saw possibly a thousand of the *E. stramineus* many much larger than the one we got. At Terlingua we found a nice elderly Mexican lady that had possibly a ton of mixed cacti in a pile on her porch which she had collected to sell. She couldn't understand me and I surely couldn't understand her so John came to the rescue and with the sign language, German, Mexican and English he managed to strike a deal whereby we purchased about two hundred mixed varieties.

We decided to head for town but collect more on the way, so we stopped at another ghost town where there were about a hundred roofless houses made of stone and there on a plateau was the *Ariocarpus fissuratus* we had been trying so hard to find. Also there were other kinds we had not found before. All these cactus were very hard to locate as they were growing on limestone that was badly broken into small slabs that covered most of the cactus or at least part of them. After we collected what we wanted we started for Marie's place and there we packed our cactus and loaded the trailer so we could get an early start for Tucson in the morning.

Tuesday morning the 25th, we left Alpine at 5:15 vowing we would come back here to collect again sometime. We stopped in Van Horn for breakfast and again at Mrs. Tankersly's who was a dealer about fifteen miles west of Sierra Blanca, from her we purchased some different cactus. We again stopped three miles farther west. I found other varieties we had not found in the Big Bend country.

Following is a list of what we found or purchased on the trip. *Echinocereus chloranthus*, *E. dasyacanthus*, *E. enneacanthus*, *E. Conoideus*, *E. viridiflorus*, *E. riechenbachii*, *Thelocactus bicolor*, *T. tricolor*, *Corypantha micromeris*, *C. echinatus*, *Ferocactus*, *F. hamatacanthus*, *Mammillaria pottsii*, *M. hemisphaerica*, *M. lasiacanthus*, *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, *Lophophora williamsii*, *Epithilantha micromeris*, *E. micromeris* Var. *greggii*, *Escobaria tuberculosa*, *E. dasyacanthus*, *E. runyonii*, *Homalocephala texensis*, *Neomammillaria meiacantha*, *Neo. denudata*, *Neolloydia texensis*, *Hamatocactus setispinus*, *Opuntia kleiniae*, *O. imbricata*, *O. grahamii* and *Echinocactus horizonthalonius* also *Echinocereus stramineus*.

We arrived home in Tucson at 5:15 P.M. and had a fine trip all the way with no trouble, the following two days we spent planting cactus and then settled down to rest for a week for we needed it.

Mr. Nichols was born in 1891 and upon retirement, in 1955 purchased a lot at 4471 N. Pomona Rd. where he now lives. They were interested in Cacti and started to build their collection and have one of the most beautiful well kept gardens in town. They heard about Cactus John, went to see him and from the start became close friends.

John had in his mind the starting of a Cactus Club which he eventually got organized in 1960 and Mr. and Mrs. Nichols were the first to join and to

date have never missed a meeting. Their garden has grown to about 2200 plants of near 350 different kinds. They have built raised beds for the small varieties to give them good drainage. He is a member of the following: Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Cactus Fanciers Assoc. of Alabama, Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society and Colorado Cactophiles, Denver, Colorado.



STAR
CACTUS
Astrophytum
Myriostigma
(Bishop's Cap)

Belonging to the Star Cacti family containing four species,
A. Myriostigma (Bishop's Cap)
A. Asterias (Sand Dollar)
A. Capricorne (Goat Horn)
A. Ornatum (Star)
this is my favorite, although it would be hard to choose.
(As-tro-fy'-tum Myriostigma var. Coahuilensis is one of the six or more varieties in this specie. This is a beautiful plant, divided by five fluted ribs, smooth (no spines) so thickly covered with small white dots that the color of the plant body is completely hidden. The flower is beautiful, yellow with a red center and blooms quite frequently during the summer.
What a thrill it was to find them in Mexico on highway 30, K. 604 and 605, on one of our trips that you will be reading

be reading about in a later issue. This has been a good plant as it has taken the cold (Please! very rarely in Tucson) and even the rabbits and etc. have not bothered them.

Eva Copenhaver

We are sending this bulletin to some of the other Cactus Clubs and we hope to receive some from them.

Anyone who is not now subscribing to the "Cactus and Succulent Journal" but who would like to, send check or money order for \$5.00 to:

Scott Haselton
132 West Union Street
Pasadena, Calif.

This is published bi-monthly.

My Trip to Alamos, Mexico.
by Stella Macdonald

On April 19th..1964 my sister-in-law and I started on a trip to Mexico not knowing how far we would go. We crossed early at the Nogales border and made no cactus hunt on the way down. We did take time to explore a couple of new turn-offs (for future trips) on the way to Guaymas.
We kept driving all day and it was sundown when we reached Alamos. Since we had not read up on anything about Alamos, it was very much of a surprise. It is a typical old Mexican village but has some very lovely homes. We followed signs to the Alamos Motel and much to our surprise found that we were the only tourists there. This dampened our spirits a little but didn't stop us.

The next morning we hired a Mexican man to go with us and be a guide. We did not find anything around the town that I did not have, so we went up the old mine road to Aduena. There we found *Cephalocereus Alensis*, which was a thrill. We took 21 cuttings which I later divided with friends and so far they are all still alive. We found a few *Mammillarias* and some other small cactus, that I still do not know the names of. We also dug a few *Ferrocactus*, in and around Navajo.

We spent our last night at a Ranch Resort out of Imuris, good collecting in that vicinity. We found some very nice Creams, Rainbows and one *Echinocereus* with an orchid colored flower.

THE LAST MEETING

This promises to be a good year, judging from the enthusiasm of the last meeting of Jan. 8th. With the return of Alan Blackburn and his family to Tucson, and the addition of Louis Fodor of the Green Hand Nursery to the club, we now have more knowledgeable people from whom to get information. This should take some of the weight off the shoulders of Paul Shaw and a few others in the group from whom the rest of us are always questioning about plants.

There was a good turnout at the last meeting and all the members received one plant of *Cephalocereus Senilis* and were able to purchase others at fifty cents each. At this meeting some of "Cactus John's" plants were auctioned

off and the bidding was hot and heavy. For those of you who did not manage to buy one of John's plants you'll have another chance at future auctions. So be on your toes and make it your business not to miss any meetings.

Considering it was our first trading table, business was brisk. Now stop being bashful! Bring in a nice potted plant to trade next time or if you have something very special to trade or want something different, get in touch with one of the editors and we will put it in the next issue of the "Chatter" in the trading column.

Committee chairmen were appointed for our coming convention, anyone wishing to help in any way please get in touch with someone involved in putting this convention over.

After the business meeting was adjourned, all enjoyed coffee and cookies and much sociability.

Because the refreshment committee did such a "Bang up" job, they are stuck with the job the rest of the year.

Trading Column

Idria Columnaris-Boojum Tree, 2 to 8 inches high, would like:

Leuchtenbergia Principis,

Aizoaceae-(*Lithops*, stone, rocks etc.)

Melocactus-or what have you.

Hugh and Eva Copenhaver

7020 N. Firenze, Tucson, Arizona

THE STRANGE ONE

Carnegiea Gigantea has found its natural habitat in So. Arizona. The saguaro (sah-wah-ro) blossom, delicate, waxy white is the State flower.

As it is a member of the Cereus group, the flower opens in the late evening and closes in the mid-morning, if it is cool and cloudy it will close later in the day.

Indians have used for generations the Saguaro fruit for preserves and the seeds of the fruit for meal to make cakes. The



numerous holes made in the stems are the nesting places made by the Gila Woodpecker. We have been wondering if they are poor housekeepers, they use the hole only one season and then move on and make a new one.

PLANT PERMIT

For those wishing a plant import permit, send a request for one to:
United States Dept. of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Division
209 River Street
Hoboken, New Jersey

In your request mention all ports of entry you might use. This is a permit to bring plants into the United States from other countries. No charge on this.

The purpose of the Tucson Cactus Club is to promote interest in Cacti, Succulents and other Desert Plants and to promote the Conservation of Native Desert Plants.

NOTICE

The next meeting of the Club will be held Feb. 14th. at the Flowing Wells Volunteer Fire Dept. 1451 W. Rillito (the corner of Rillito and Flowing Wells Rd.) at 2 o'clock.

Program

1. Plant Auction
2. Free plant distribution to members only.
3. Further Convention reports.
4. Bill Thornton will show color slides of plant life on the West Mexican coast, from Puerto Penasco to Los Mochis.
5. Coffee and cookies.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTICE
YOU WILL RECEIVE OF THE MEETING
"Ye all come"

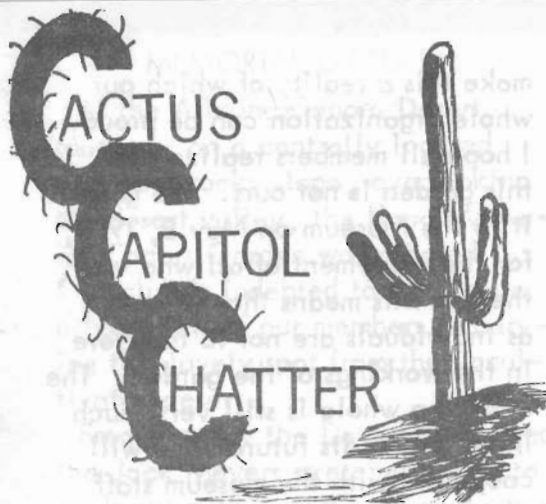
By the time most men learn how to behave themselves, they're too old to do anything else!

Life is an everlasting struggle to keep money coming in and teeth and hair from coming out.

A man has so many more temptations than a woman because he knows where to go and find them.

A raisin is a grape that has had too many worries.





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The dreams and aspirations of Cactus John Haag, to establish a cactus garden within the Tucson area, have been realized, we believe, far beyond his fondest hopes. Knowing John, his friends feel that he must truly have been at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in spirit on Friday, May 7th, when the garden created in his memory, was dedicated in an informal but moving ceremony.

As a major contribution to the Museum exhibits, John's garden will be a source of lasting pleasure and education to generations of visitors.

Haag Memorial Cactus Garden

- a fitting tribute.



Inscription reads, "Sponsored by the Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society in honor of its founder, "Cactus John".

Dedicated May, 1965

President's Column

Evening of May 8th, saw many tired but happy people around the Sands, Headquarters for the 11th Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America; tired after months of preparation and work, happy because our plans were successful beyond our hopes.

Hosting the Convention had seemed at first quite an undertaking for our small club but after getting better acquainted with our members and their various talents, I am sure no task would be too great.

Our Hospitality Room was one of the highlights; the lobby exhibit, table favors, centerpieces and door prizes appropriately native; and the cooperation of our members unbelievable. It was very gratifying to hear such comments from visitors, as "by far the best convention ever" and "you just didn't forget anything did you?" It is impossible to single out every individual and say, "Thanks, you made it possible"; just remember that the enviable reputation we have acquired as a host, is the result of your efforts.

To one person in particular for her many unselfish hours, my personal "Thanks" to our secretary, Isabelle.

One of the finest projects that our club will ever have the honor of accomplishing, I feel, is the "Haag Memorial Cactus Garden". Every member should be especially grateful to the few people who collectively spent over 2,000 hours to

make this a reality of which our whole organization can be proud. I hope all members realize that this garden is not ours. We gave it to the Museum on May 8, 1965, for the enjoyment of all who visit there. This means that any of us as individuals are not to interfere in the workings of the garden. The club as a whole is still very much interested in its future, and will cooperate with the museum staff on its continuance. It made me very proud to be the person selected to present the garden to the Museum for our club.

CONVENTION CHUCKLES

Outside looking at C. & S. Society sign in lobby of Sands—"Is this a convention of the Catholic and Secular Society".

At the field trip: Hugh—"Yes, help yourself to drinking water in my camper" Convention visitors (many of them) returning after going in camper, "Where is the water?"

Hugh—"Just turn the faucet in the sink". Visitors look blank and re-enter camper, while Hugh contains his laughter at their sheepish look.

Harry Bolenski: Don't tell us you just made a mistake in the turn on the Sunday guide trip. We saw that blonde in the white convertible you were following! Sure was dusty in the 12th car following you on the wrong road.

Bill to Isabelle Meyer
10# @ \$2.50 per lb. \$25.00

Please Remit,
Dr. Take-it-off

MEMORIAL GARDEN

At the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, on a centrally located one-acre rocky slope, overlooking the desert valley, the Haag Memorial Cactus Garden was created. Our club is indebted to a comparatively few of our members in carving this lovely spot from the uncultivated desert.

From the day the Dave Springs and the Jack Meyers stretched string to mark out paths, to the moment when Hugh Copenhaver and Alice Wanner unveiled the plaque, nearly two years or more have elapsed. During the first year, the "original pick and shovel gang", consisted of the following:

Alan Mollison, Chairman, and a good man with a jack hammer; Joseph F. Brick, whose artistic ability accounts for the sweeping curves of the paths.

Jack Meyer under whose presidency the garden was begun, and who slaved with Joe on the paths;

Alice Wanner, who looks fragile, but Oh my! She worked along with the men right from the beginning, and brought cookies for lunch, besides; and Leo M. Wanner, a mighty man with a 16 lb. pick and a crowbar. The following year Isabelle Meyer joined the gang, and insists she lost ten pounds. This became the regular gang, working from two to four days a week at the Museum. Others who worked were Hugh Copenhaver, Roy Doss, P.G. Nichols

(who planted the first mammillaria), Anton Nosek, Harry Bolenski and George and Berneice Renie. (If we have left out anyone, we are prepared to leave town!)

All the work was done under the direction of our member Paul Shaw, Curator of Plants at the Museum, who ruled the workers with an iron hand. (Tote that wheelbarrow; Lift that rock;) Seriously, part of the reward of hard work has been, for the workers, getting better acquainted with Paul and others of the Museum staff. Paul also directed several expeditions to collect specimens for the garden, under a Museum permit, and the people who accompanied him on these, benefitted greatly from his knowledge of plant life.

While there are cacti growing here and there on the Museum grounds, our garden is the only place where a visitor can see cacti grouped by genera, and so be able to compare the various species. The boxes on stands near each group, contain both the common and botanical names of the species. In accordance with Museum policy, all plants are native to the Arizona-Sonora Desert region. Native cacti from John Haag's own garden are included and given a prominent place in the collection.

The heavy physical labor involved limited participation by more of our members, and excluded those also who are employed during the day.

cont'd. on page 8

GRAFTING CAN BE FUN

by Alan Blackburn

Grafting cacti can be fun once you get the knack of it. Grafting is the uniting of two plants of different growing habits.

When a plant is grafted to a stronger plant with a large root system the plant grafted will develop into a larger plant than normal and sometimes change its form so that it would not be recognized as the original plant.

We graft for three reasons:-

1st. - To save a valuable specimen whose roots have decayed.

2nd. - To obtain large or mature plants quickly.

3rd. - To grow specimens that are difficult to grow on their own roots.

The tools needed:- 2, 6" or 8" narrow stainless steel knives (very sharp), rubber bands about 2" or 2-1/2" long, round tooth picks and alcohol to sterilize the knives before any cutting is done.

The purpose in grafting is to unite the vascular bundles of the two plants. When the plant is cut across the body you will notice a ring in the center of the plant. This is the vascular bundle which must be placed on the ring of the stock upon which you are grafting if the graft is to be successful.

Stock to be used to graft upon can be any one of the following and the best are named first. *Trichocereus spachianus*, *T. pachanoi*, *Cereus peruvianus*, *Harrisia*, *Jusbertii* and *Echinopsis*, *Opuntia* pads can be used also.



Grafting is best done when both plants are growing and full of sap.

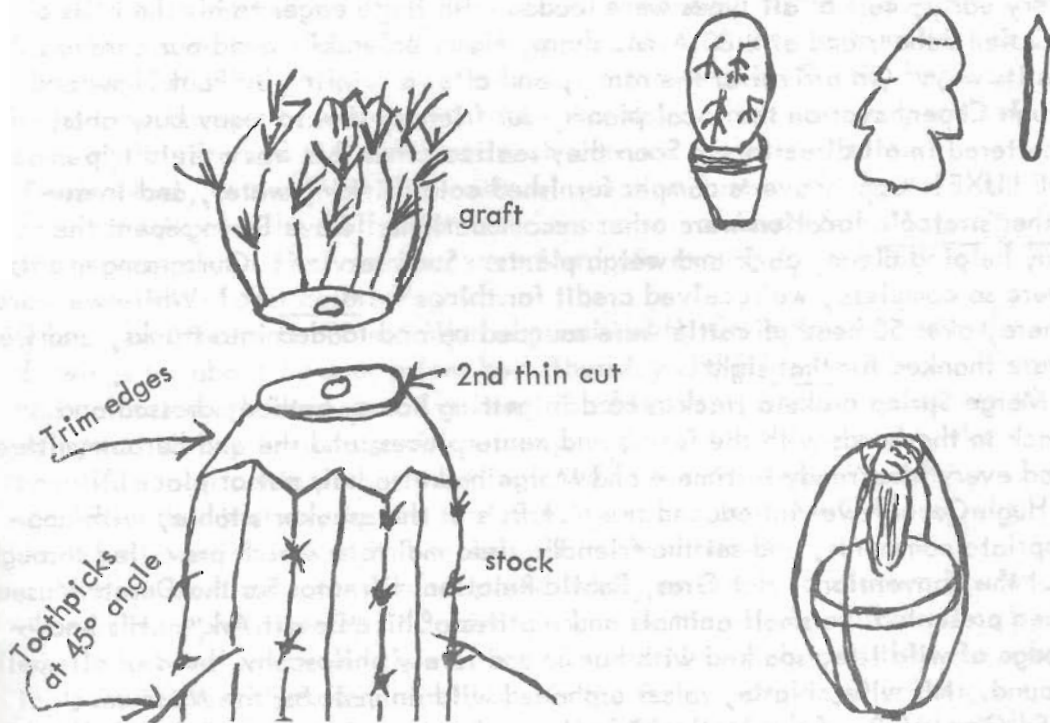
To proceed with the graft you select a good healthy stock and for this I will use *Trichocereus spachianus*. 1st. The spines are burnt off with a match or candle placed at the base and just touching the spines and not the plant. The spines will burn quickly and after the ashes are brushed off, the plant can then be handled easily. Next toward the top of the plant where the rounded edges goes into main stem we cut across the plant, then we trim off the edges as seen in the drawing. The round toothpicks are cut into two pieces and placed about 2 or 3 inches down the stem at 12-6-3-9 of the clock as you view the stock from above. These must be inserted at an angle sloping upward as the rubber bands are placed over the graft and hooked on to the sticks to hold the graft on to the stock and exert pressure as the two plants shrink while drying. Next make an additional thin cut across the top of the stock but leave it on until you have your graft ready to put on the stock, then quickly slip it off and the graft on, then place the rubber bands over the graft and hook them on the

toothpicks.

In our Arizona dry air the second thin cut on the stock is necessary as the juices would tend to dry out before you can get the graft ready. Be sure your graft is centered so the vascular bundles meet. You now have completed your graft and you can remove the rubber bands in five days or so, also remove the toothpicks. The graft should be firmly established by this time.

Reference - Cactus Culture by Franz Buxbaum.

Have fun!



In case your stock is too short and you can't put toothpicks to hold the rubber bands put the bands over the whole pot as shown. Prickly pear graft with Xmas cacti as shown. Leaf trimmed and inserted into pad after a cut is made with sterilized sharp knife. A toothpick is stuck through end inserted to hold it in the pad.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Our Tucson club was ready for early arrivals from Phoenix. Helen Bolton's cactus exhibit was alert in every spine, our welcome desk was staffed in the Sands' lobby; and by early evening, our Hospitality Room resembled a Navy reception, with Admiral and Flavia Halloran presiding graciously. Later, at poolside, Dr. Jay Dodson, Sec'y. I.S.I., gave an illustrated lecture, "New Succulent Plant Introductions".

Thursday was THE day for conventioners. A field trip on a real ranch! Very early, cars of all types were loaded with those eager to hit the hills of "Quien Sabe"; and at 8:30 A.M. sharp, Harry Bolenski waved our caravan on its way. On arrival at the ranch, and after a briefing by Paul Shaw and Hugh Copenhaver on the local plants, our friends, like so many busy ants, scattered in all directions. Soon they realized that this was a field trip DE LUXE! Copenhaver's camper furnished cold drinking water, and in another strategic location were other accommodations. Dave Spring spent the day helping clean, pack and weigh plants. Such service! Our arrangements were so complete, we received credit for things we didn't do! While we were there, over 50 head of cattle were rounded up and loaded into trucks, and we were thanked for that sight!

Marge Spring broke a track record in getting home, bathed, dressed and back to the Sands with the favors and centerpieces; and she and her committee had everything ready in time - and Marge hadn't a hair out of place!

Hugh Copenhaver introduced the V.I.P.'s at the speaker's table, with appropriate comments, and set the friendly, informal tone which prevailed throughout the convention. Hal Gras, Public Relations Director for the Desert Museum, then presented the small animals and reptiles of his "Desert Ark". His knowledge of wild life, sparked with humor and lively philosophy, held us all spellbound. His wife, Natie, raises orphaned wild animals for the Museum.

Ed Gay, V.P. of the National Society, then gave a talk on Baja, California, illustrated with his own colored slides. He and his wife, Betty, former Tucsonans, have logged more than 90,000 miles taking pictures and studying plants.

Friday morning, chartered buses took conventioners to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, where they had time to visit the exhibits, prior to the garden dedication. This was the event for which our own club members had been waiting. William H. Woodin, Director of the Museum, served as Master of Ceremonies and Dennis Weaver represented the County Board of Supervisors. Hugh Copenhaver presented the garden to the Museum, and its President, John D. Jameson, accepted in its name. The ceremony was brief but beautiful, and

the 300 persons present, many of whom had known John Haag, found it deeply impressive.

After lunch at the Museum, the bus tour continued through the lovely "back country" in Tucson Mountain Park, with three stops for viewing plant life. Our "guides", well briefed by Paul Shaw to help our visitors identify cacti and other plants, were hard put to it to keep up with them. The first ones off the buses took off like mountain goats, and were halfway up the slopes before the last passengers had disembarked.

At Friday night's banquet, we presented our own Alan Mollison, with his wonderful time-lapse movies, and our conventioners "Oh'd and Ah'd" over them just as we do. For the rattlesnake sequence, Alan had to collect and take home with him, the snakes he found on the Andrada Ranch, because he had not brought his camera with him that day. Then next day, with his camera, he returned the rattlers to their den and took his pictures.

Doyle Noel, of the Plant Quarantine Inspection Bureau at Nogales then gave his talk on "The Collection and Importation of Cacti from Mexico", which some of our club members were fortunate enough to hear last year, when we met at the Desert Museum.

Thanks to Alice and "Piney" Wanner, assisted by Craig Bolton, we had drawings for about 60 door prizes both Thursday and Friday evenings. They had collected and bagged native cacti for this event, and our guests were delighted if they turned up with a lucky number. On Friday night, the beautiful cacti centerpieces were included in the drawing. Wouldn't you know that the very largest one went to a gal from New Orleans, who vowed she would carry it in her arms all the way home?

Saturday found delegates on chartered buses, on a tour to Saguaro National Monument, with a stop at Sabino Canyon on the way back to the Sands, where they had lunch and then a free afternoon in which to rest for the evening's festivities. Saturday night, beside the Sands' pool, a Chuckwagon dinner was served, and later, a Convention King and Queen was elected. Unfortunately, it turned very cool that night, and many left early, but those who stayed were treated to an exhibition of Square Dancing, and some of our members kept warm by joining in with some vigorous dancing of their own. (Alan Blackburn, how about you and Betty giving us some lessons?)

After a late night, Dave Spring was on hand early Sunday morning to accompany about twenty-eight of our guests to Nogales, Mexico. Twenty others, who had remained over Sunday, visited some of our members' gardens.

CACTI or ROCKS

On our field trip Sunday May 23rd, it would have been hard to tell if we belonged to a cactus club or were rock hounds. The day began bright and cool as we met at the old R.R. depot in Patagonia, and from there the caravan of about 35 cars proceeded on South, past the ghost towns of Harshaw and Mowry City. It was beautiful in the Patagonia Mountains, the large old stately Oaks and Junipers and even a couple of white-tail deer bounded across the road. Carl Sandberg, our host and new club member, who was kind enough to give the club permission for the field trip, with his son Carl Jr. joined us at the old mining town of Washington Camp where we stopped momentarily. A few miles further on we came to the ghost town of Duquesne, which is almost within shouting distance of the Mexican border. At their peak in about 1900, Duquesne and Washington Camp had a population of about 2,000.

After the instructions of "stay away from the mine shafts, don't pick up any dynamite caps and etc." the group scattered, the majority of them heading for the rock piles, and Carl was heard to say "That you said this was a Cactus Club".

One of our visitors on the trip was Peter Sharp of London, England who had been here for the National Convention, and had most of us looking for Mammillaria Wrightii, of which about five or six plants were found that day. Peter belongs to the Ma-

millaria Society also and has quite a large collection of his own. He also has been kind enough to say, he would write an article for the "Chatter" in the near future, of which we will be looking forward to.

Cowboy coffee (cooked over a camp fire) was served all day, (good too) by our short order cook and pretty waitress, Anna Marie Mollison.

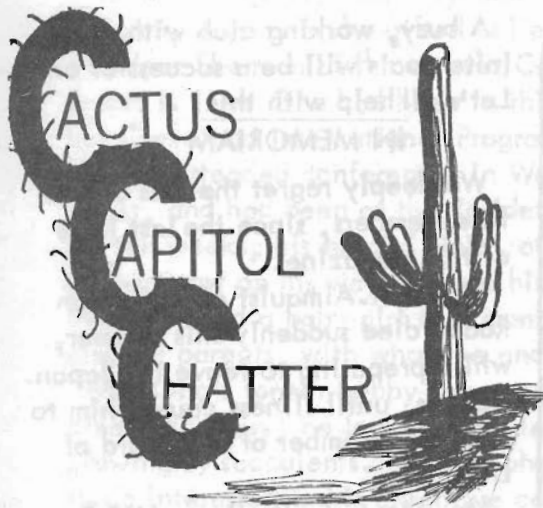
Because of the amount of rocks in some of the cars, we wouldn't have been surprised to find a few of them stalled along the way as their rear-ends were really dragging. The rocks were beautiful and so many different kinds were found: Copper ore, peacock, quartz, crystals, jasper, pyrites (fools gold), garnite, barrite and others too numerous to mention.

Our thanks to Carl and am sure a good time was had by all.

Memorial Garden--cont'd.

Heavy labor it was, but not without its humorous side, as Joe Brick relates in the following:

"As we retirees, all aged over sixty, were clearing the virgin desert area with pick, shovel, wheelbarrow and crowbar, thoroughly enjoying our job, but sweating under our bright, South-western sun, a couple stopped to watch our labors, the woman with a pitying look. Then turning to her companion, she said, "Aren't you glad, dear, that YOU don't have to work so hard for a living anymore?" Well, even if not for a living, we appreciate the hard work done by these dedicated members, and hope their satisfaction in a job well-done will soothe their aching muscles.



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Co-editors



Alta and P. G. Nichols
Charter Members

Vol. I 3rd Quarter 1965 No. 3

ARIZONA, YOU SURE LOOK FINE

When the good Lord made this world,
He must have had cactophiles in mind,
For He made the desert and mountains,
And filled them with cacti of all kinds.

He made the desert rough and rugged,
And planted shrubbery which have spines,
And I'm sure when He got it finished,
He said "Arizona you sure look fine".

Another spring has now rolled around,
And the trees and cactus look real grand,
With them blooming everywhere,
It sure beautifies our desert land,
Let us protect our Lord's gift to us,
By taking the conservation stand.

by P. G. Nichols

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It has been gratifying, every month of 1965, to see the increasing number of new faces at each meeting which means that your club is growing, with approximately 150 members now.

We can be complacent and satisfied with this growth, or be aggressive and desirous of bigger and better things for our Society.

At the June meeting, not one dissenting voice was heard when your president suggested as our next project a home of our own; in fact, everybody was enthusiastic and un-animously for the idea. Since that date only one person, however, has approached me with a concrete suggestion as to how this may be done.

Officers and Committee Chairmen alone cannot make a successful club; it takes the membership as a whole to tackle a project and see it through to its completion. This fact was clearly demonstrated by the huge success with our Memorial garden and the hosting of the 1965 National Convention.

Without a distinct goal as to projects and programs, I am afraid your club will disintegrate and die on the vine. Let's not let this happen - let's all get behind this project and do what we can to make it a success.

Adm. Halloran, Chairman of our Building Committee, has a phone. Call him and offer your suggestions and assistance; the number is 296-5888.

A busy, working club with definite goals will be a successful one. Let's all help with this!

IN MEMORIAM

We deeply regret the loss of two fine members, since the last issue of this magazine.

Mr. J.A. Almquist of Redington Road, died suddenly this summer, while preparing to leave for Japan. He was, until illness caused him to resign, a member of our Board of Directors.

Mr. Monte F. Walker, 4618 E. Cooper, passed away September 10 after a long and serious illness. He seldom missed a club meeting, and was the father of our former secretary, Helen Bolton.

To Mrs. Almquist, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Bolton and Mrs. Stehulka, we offer our sincere condolences.

"PLANTS OF THE DESERT"

The University of Arizona television station, KUAT Channel 6, will offer a new series called "Plants of the Desert" beginning Sept. 20. The 30-minute programs will be seen Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m.

The programs are also available as a television credit course through the UA Division of Continuing Education, said Frank Barreca, Acting Director of the Radio-Television Bureau.

Dr. Walter S. Phillips, UA Professor of botany, will be lecturer.

Mr. Osamu Ono, Head Psychologist at the Child Welfare Center in Takamatsu, Japan, and a gifted collector of cactus plants, was referred to us by Edgar Sherman of the Denver Cactophiles, and arrived in Tucson, September 1. Mr. Ono had been in this country since April, brought here by the Cleveland International Program for Youth Leaders and Social Workers. He had attended conferences in Washington D. C., and several Eastern cities, and had been at the Residential Treatment Center at Rochester, N.Y. for ten weeks, his special field, of course, the emotionally disturbed child. He was now on his way home to his wife, Miwako, his 3-year old girl, Madoka, and a baby girl of 3 months, whom he had not yet seen, Masana; also his parents, with whom he and his family live, on a rice farm.

Mr. Ono's former hobby was mountain climbing, but as he became increasingly busy, he looked for a less time-consuming one, and chose the growing of succulents. He had photographs of his greenhouse, and we were much interested in his extensive collection, and his knowledge. He explained that Japan is too humid to grow cacti outdoors, and that he has a special interest in grafting.

Unfortunately for others, but most fortunate for my husband and me, all the other officers were out of town, moving, or otherwise unavailable as hosts, so we were lucky enough to have Mr. Ono as our guest. We are indebted to Mrs. Oliver B. Marsh, a long-time member who lives just across the road from us, who turned over her guest apartment to Mr. Ono. It was convenient for him to have meals with us, and gave him a quiet retreat when our questions became too numerous. Joe Brick provided a tour of his garden and some plants, and he was impressed with the Copenhagen's cactus collection. Marshall Davidson guided him through the Ghost Ranch Lodge garden, and Paul Shaw was host at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

When John and I drove him around the Museum's "back country", he seemed thoroughly entranced with the magnificent growth of saguaros and other cacti. Honors, I think, must go to P.G. Nichols, however, who spent most of one morning, patiently putting about eighty varieties of seed into envelopes and labelling them, and giving them to Mr. Ono along with some small plants.

Mr. Ono, when questioned about his impressions of us, said that he found Americans kinder and friendlier than he had expected, especially in the West. Well, we expect people to be friendly, so we were not surprised that Mr. Ono was. He was a charming guest (even complimenting the hostess' cooking) and one whom we should like to have had stay longer. After only two days, he left for Phoenix, and we called Lois and Hubert Earle, who promised to look after him there. We look forward to hearing from him, and will share his letter with the club.

-Isabelle Meyer

MY TRIP TO HAWAII

by Rosa D. Christensen

On October 27th, 1964 my sister and I flew to Hawaii. The flight took a little more than 4-1/2 hours by jet from Los Angeles, Calif.

We landed at Honolulu International Airport and checked in at the Princess Kaiulani Hotel in the Waikiki Beach area. We spent the first two days and nights sightseeing in and around Honolulu. Our tours on Oahu included a drive to the Punch Bowl and top of Mount Tantalus for a spectacular view of the capital below us, between towering mountains and lush valleys.

After two days we flew up to Kauai, the Garden Isle, and checked in at Coco Palms where our rooms faced a lagoon filled with beautiful white, pink and blue lotus blossoms. Each evening they have a torchlighting ceremony. It is a lovely sight with the flickering lights reflected in the lagoon and among the tall palms. On Kauai we had a trip to Waimea Canyon - the Grand Canyon of the Pacific - and a trip up the river to the Fern Grotto where the ferns grow upside down.

Our next stop was the Big Island (Hawaii) where we landed at Kailua Airport and checked in at the King Kamehameha Hotel. The next morning we boarded a yacht for a cruise along the Kona Coast, visiting the spot where Capt. Jas. Cook, the discoverer of the Island, was killed by native spears and the British Government erected a monument in his honor. The following morning we motored around the southern end of the Island seeing magnificent vistas of lush tropical vegetation, black sand beaches, several lava flows, one of which took eleven years to cool enough for vegetation to come back. It was interesting to hear that the fern trees are the first to come back after an eruption. We stopped at famous Volcano House for luncheon, on the rim of Kilauea Crater where we could watch puffs of steam coming out of the sides of the crater. Sulphur fumes were also quite strong. An eruption was expected at any time, and it came a short time ago.

We visited a major orchid plantation, and stopped for a view of Rainbow Falls before reaching Hilo where we boarded our plane for Maui where we spent the last two days of our outer island tour.

At Kahului, Maui we checked in at the Maui Palms Hotel. The next morning we were taken to Iao Valley where the Needle, a volcanic cone, towers 1200 feet above the valley floor. It was very lush and beautiful there. Before leaving the Island we visited Lahaina on the other side, and stopped at a Black Coral Workshop where we observed the handcarving of many attractive items produced out of black coral which is found off the coast of Maui exclusively.

Then we flew to Molokai, the Leper settlement, for a brief stop before continuing on to Oahu where we spent the last five days.

The Islands are all very beautiful - very green mountains and valleys. There were lovely waterfalls everywhere, and all kinds of flowers. Always there was the beautiful blue Pacific with the white surf rolling into shore, and the surfers on their boards, out from dawn until dusk.

On Nov. 9th, we boarded our Jet for the return to the mainland, after fourteen marvelous days in our 50th state.

While in Honolulu, we took a garden tour and were told that Honolulu is starting a cactus garden in one of the nearby craters. We did not see it as our tour was cut short by a rain storm.

TO WATER OR NOT TO WATER

To water or not to water, cacti and succulents this time of the year is a sixty-four dollar question. According to reliable information available on the subject, it is advisable to start decreasing the amount of water towards the end of September as the next four months are the resting period for most cacti. Perhaps one of the most common faults is that of watering them too late in the autumn. A good proportion of cacti of blooming size in most collections ought to bloom each year, so instead of blaming the plant for not doing this, perhaps it is something you are doing wrong--such as your watering habits. To insure those big beautiful blooms next spring and summer it is essential that you allow them to become dormant. It is most unlikely at this time that a cactus will die from lack of water but too much could prove fatal, especially in their resting period.

In greenhouses and in warm rooms they will have to be watered some, just enough to keep them healthy looking, for if you water more at this time, the plant may grow but may not flower. Plants which look in any way shrivelled may have a light spraying and should be done in the morning so as to be dried off by evening. If in doubt about giving water, it is safer to give none.

Some South African plants have a different dormant period such as the Lithops and Conophytums. In their resting period from November until March, no water except for a fine mist spray not oftener than once a month, then until mid-June they will take light watering. In the summer give normal watering until after they bloom then start decreasing for the resting period.

S THE PORCUPINE said as he backed into the barrel cactus, "Izzat you, honey?"

NATIVE DESERT PLANTS

Mr. Verne L. Owen, in our August meeting, provided a pleasant change from our usual emphasis on cacti and other succulents, with his talk on "Native Trees and Shrubs". In introducing his subject Mr. Owen said that when he was a plant co-ordinator for the Demonstration Garden at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, more than 200 varieties of trees and shrubs were found, native to Arizona, Northern Sonora and other similar regions, which were suitable for decorative landscaping in our area.

He had brought with him potted examples of about forty of these plants, from small Desert Spoons grown from seed, to a sizeable Desert Willow. It was especially interesting to be able to see the plant as Mr. Owen gave a brief but graphic description of its growing habits and propagation, pinpointed the locale where it can be found, and suggested the proper time to collect its seeds.

Kept in a light vein by frequent references to legends, traditions and medicinal uses of the plants, Mr. Owens' program was entertaining as well as of deep interest and value to our members. We are very grateful to him, and think those members who could not attend, would be interested in his background.

He qualifies for the Pioneer Club of Tucson, having come from Ft. Worth, Texas, more than thirty years ago. He and Mrs. Owen formerly operated their own nursery

here, and Verne is currently employed by School District No. 1, growing low maintenance plants for school grounds. He also conducts an educational program for retarded teen-agers at Howenstine School, and some of them are now able to work with plants. He is immediate Past President of the Catalina Rotary Club, and formerly held the same office in the Men's Garden Club of Tucson and the Arizona Association of Nurserymen. He and Mrs. Owen write a fine weekly garden column for the Tucson Daily Citizen, and many of you will remember the excellent full page they did for us on the Haag Memorial Garden. (Incidentally, at the beginning of his talk, Mr. Owen complimented our club highly for creating this important new exhibit at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.) We hope sincerely that August absentees will have another opportunity to hear Mr. Owen.

ROVING EDITORS

I spent most of the summer in Guadalajara, Mexico (left father home to milk the cows) and attended summer school there. I was really going to study hard in trying to learn Spanish but after talking to a woman there, I wondered if it was so necessary. She said that she had spent the past year traveling all over Mexico, having the best time of her life and knew only one word of Spanish - Si. (could be dangerous!)

It was interesting taking in the

sights of Guadalajara and as there is so much to see really didn't have time to study anyway. The climate was lovely, not too hot, compared to Tucson, with usually a shower during the evening or night. The cacti that I saw around Guadalajara didn't seem very healthy, maybe because there is too much dampness, but of course I saw a lot of Agaves at the Tequila factories!

I drove down with a friend who was also taking the course and as she is not a cactus nut we didn't do much exploring for them.

One of our many side trips was made to San Luis Potosí, which I believe must be in the heart of the cactus country, and as we were driving along I could hardly stand not stopping to look. I finally spotted some cacti with quite large yellow flowers, and yelled "Stop"! I don't know what they were but we collected a few, also some Echinocactus (some of which were given for the club door prizes), and a couple of other varieties. A specialty here was "Tuna Queso" a cheese made from opuntias, which I had heard was delicious, (it is sweet and to me was horrible tasting!)

We flew to Puerto Vallarta one weekend and from there took a motor boat trip to the place where "The Night of the Iguana" was filmed. It was quite tropical and as we went along in the boat there were many night blooming cereus plants hanging over the immense rocks, which dotted the bay like

little islands. We enjoyed the swim on the beautiful beach there as it was very hot and humid.

My Mexican trip, I did enjoy, but it's good to be home again, Oh Boy! (It's catching P.G.!)
Eva Copenhaver

This roving reporter left Tucson July 10, with my husband and daughter, to drive to San Francisco. We drove along the coast of California. As we went through San Simeon I noticed spikes of flowers in bloom. We stopped to take a closer look and the beach was covered almost solid with Dudleyas. There appeared to be two or three different kinds, but I am only sure of the name of one which is Dudleya Farinosa. It grows in large size clumps, is about 4" across, has narrow-oblong green (sometimes powdered white) leaves and pale yellow flowers. Also we saw California barrels and Agaves, we didn't spend more time looking as we had a deadline to meet in San Francisco. Our daughter met a teen group at this point and took off for Mexico and we in turn left for Hawaii.

One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to the Hector Moir's Gardens on the Island of Kauai. This garden was started in the middle 1930's. It is planted on volcanic rock which forms a beautiful setting for the plants. When the garden was first planted it contained between 25 and 30 different Aloes but over the years they have hybridized until there are about 300 different varieties. con'td.

Due to the fact that this island has between 400" and 700" of rain a year, cacti does not do well here. The Euphorbias grow into large size trees in this climate which made my eyes turn green with envy. The Jatropha's grow for the Moir's like the weeds grow for the Springs.

Marge Spring

DISH GARDENS

Many cactophiles trace their start to a bowl of cacti or a dish garden seen in some floral shop or received as a gift. For a dish garden, one or more flat dishes, made of some glazed ware, should be used. These should be quite shallow, about three inches in depth and may be any shape. The first step is to cover the bottom of the dish with a layer of gravel. A mixture of good porous loam, that has been sterilized in the oven at 300° for 30 minutes, should be used. Firm the soil with the fingers so the dish is about half full. It is well to put rocks into position when the dish is half full and more soil pressed tightly around them. A center of interest should be maintained, with proper enclosure on the back and sides by means of larger rocks and plants.

Some knowledge of related plants should be had, using plants of similar needs. Choose plants of different size, shape, color and texture to create a more artistic effect. Seedling or dwarf plants should be used in the plantings.

It is a good idea to use rocks to anchor plants in place.

After the plants are in place sprinkle the surface of the soil with gravel, but do not water until the second or third day and after that only when the soil becomes dry.

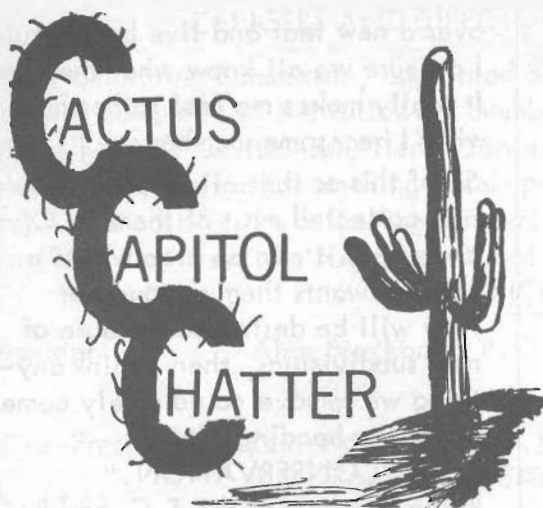
Dish gardens will look attractive on the coffee table but during the sunny portion of the day should be transferred to the windowsill to absorb all light possible.

This should bring OH'S! and AH'S.

DID YOU KNOW

by Prof. I'ma Spine

1. All Cacti are Succulents but all Succulents are not Cacti.
2. Cactus was derived from the Greek word meaning thistle.
3. All Cacti are native only to the American continents.
4. Most of the botanical work on Cacti prior to the Civil War was done by one man, Dr. George Engelmann, a physician of St. Louis, Mo.
5. After a lapse of over 50 years the next important work on Cacti was by Britton and Rose.
6. The Yucca, Agavies, Joshua Tree & Ocotillo are not of the Cactaceae family.
7. Yellow is the predominant color in Cacti flowers, blue shades are very rare.
8. Our T.C. and B.S. now has 150 members.



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Marjorie Spring & Eva Copenhaver
Co-editors

Vol. I 4th Quarter 1965 No. 4

SPECIAL DELIVERY

This western roadrunner-
no kin to the chickens-

Doesn't fly very well but
can run like the dickens.

He stops not for cactus,
he stays not for thorn:

He's a jet propelled Westerner,
sure as you're born!

He brings a pack of
fond greetings to you

With good luck, good health and
"A HAPPY NEW YEAR too".



SPECIAL DELIVERY

1965 CLUB OFFICERS

Hugh Copenhaver---President
Alice Wanner-----Vice-President
Joe Brick-----Treasurer
Isabelle Meyer-----Secretary
Rosa Christensen-Affil. Director
oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This, my last President Column, should be headed "Thanks to All", for without the wonderful cooperation and many hours of work by so many fine, dedicated members, the goals set out at the start of the year could not have been attained.

In my first President Column in the Chatter, we set an eight-point goal, which we attained many, many times over what we had hoped.

So much for the past--not let's look to the future. The main thought I would like to leave with all of you fine members can be summed up in one word--

"CONSERVATION".

With an organization our size, field trips are getting harder and harder to plan in confirmation with rules and regulations of the State of Arizona. Only through the cooperation of a few land owners have we been able to legally gather plants of the desert and take all we want to add to our collections.

I know that many of us have collected in the past with rather a dim view of boundaries and regulations, including myself. Let's all turn

over a new leaf and live by the rules. I am sure we all know what they are. It really makes me feel rather bad when I hear some member say "I found 50 of this or that all in one area and collected most of them." Of course, if it's in an area where a rancher wants them removed or they will be destroyed because of new subdivisions, then I think anything we remove could surely come under the heading of

"CONSERVATION."

Being members of the T.C. and B. Society, let's all set examples for the rest of the public and please don't think that being a member gives you privileges to collect indiscriminately.

Exactly the opposite is true. Let's be good citizens, obey the rules, and set a good example for others so our great grandchildren can enjoy the beauty of Arizona and its cacti.

I am sure the whole membership will concur with me in saying "Thanks" to our charming "Coffee Lady", Anna Marie Mollison; for her masterful handling of our refreshment table this year.

This above all other things helped to bring our membership together and to become better acquainted one with another.

Thanks again Coffee Gal.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Nominating Committee, appointed by the president at the September meeting was composed of the following members: John L. Meyer, chairman; Joseph Brick; Rosa D. Christensen; Henry Jones and David Spring. Their report was given at the November meeting, their proposed slate approved, and a unanimous vote cast for the following officers and members of the Board of Directors for 1966, their terms to begin the first of the year.

OFFICERS

President Alan Blackburn P.O. Box 1009 (1804 E. Drachman)
Tel: 326-2901

Vice-President Rear-Admiral (Ret'd.) Edward R. Halloran
P.O. Box 12581 (8840 E. Bellevue) Tel: 296-5888

Treasurer Joseph F. Brick (Re-elected) (5202 Genematas Dr.)
Tel: 297-0756

Secretary Mrs. Albert P. Wegner 1943 Calle del Ocio
Tel: 624-9200

Our new president is currently in the construction business. In the past he has been associated with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and the Ghost Ranch Museum at Abiquiu, New Mexico.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1-year term Mrs. Leo M. Wanner (Retiring V.P.) 2612 East 8th St.

3-year term Miss Rosa D. Christensen 4202 East King's Rd.

3-year term Alan W. Mollison (Re-elected) 1415 W. Wetmore Rd.

3-year term P. G. Nichols (Re-elected) 4471 No. Pomona Rd.

1966 MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues for 1966 are now due and payable to the Secretary.

\$4 single membership

\$6 family membership

Subscription renewals to the "Cactus Capital Chatter" are now due for the non members.

\$1 per year; \$1.50 foreign.

HURRAY!

Hugh Copenhaver, our President who had announced he was expecting to go to Viet Nam, has now received

word he will not be going. He will be here to remain as our fearless leader on future cacti hunting trips.

WHAT FUN

The co-editors of your "Cactus Capital Chatter" want to thank you one and all for the enjoyment they have received, in putting out our quarterly publication.

IN FACT—they have enjoyed it so much that they want two other members to have the fun for 1966.

"GROWING CACTUS PLANTS FROM SEED"

by...Louis Foder

Despite a quivering voice and shaking hands, our good member, Louis Foder of the Green Hand Nursery, presented a very interesting and informative talk and demonstration on growing cacti from seed, at our November meeting.

Growing seedlings is fun, it provides extra plants to share with your friends, it allows you to grow your own grafting stock, and, in line with the conservation aim of our club, to plant some of your seedlings in the desert as replacements.

Some of the equipment which will be useful to you are clean pots (glazed or metal pots are better than those of clay) not more than three inches deep so they can be watered from the bottom. I like to use plastic eggs, which you can sow in winter because they act as little greenhouses, but you must remember not to put them on anything too warm for your hand; Saran wrap for plastic cover, kleenex, tweezers, distilled or boiled water; or if you must use tap water, warm it to room temperature; moth balls, malathion or other insecticide; cotton to be used as a wick (pull it partially through holes in bottom of pot, using it instead of covering holes with broken pieces of pot); and patience, for seedlings may be slow, although I have had *Opuntia Basilaris* sprout overnight. The majority of seeds take from two weeks to two months, although I have had some sprout after two years.

Your plants will stay in the seed mix for six months to a year, so take pains to make it a good mix. Screen gritty sand and use the coarse sand that is left in the strainer, about six or eight parts sand to one part plain oak leaf mold, or leaf mold you can find under mesquite trees. However, this last is liable to contain fungus, so sterilize it by baking for one to one and a half hours in a 200 degree oven.

Don't start your seeds too early in the year. Except when using plastic eggs, sow from May to about August 15th. Arrange for a place where there will be free circulation of air at all times, shade from the hot daytime sun, but where pots get a little morning and afternoon sun. A temperature of 65 to 70 degrees or warmer should be maintained, and your mix should be kept moist but not wet.

Cactus seed pods may contain as many as 4,000 seeds, but don't be tempted by this plenty to sow seeds too thick. You will find that when the fruit dies, it seals its seeds and they have a glossy coating, which soaking will remove.

That is what you are going to do before planting--soak the seeds, which are all mixed in the pulp, in water overnight. Except in the case of *Notocactus* and *Astrophyllum* seeds, which won't sink, the best seeds sink to the bottom. Strain and get rid of the pulp, for pulp causes mold and rot. Then dry on pieces of kleenex or paper towel. Be sure to discard all pulp. Wet your seed before sow-

ing and have the mix moist. Do not fill pot to the top—leave 1/2 or 3/8 ", mound the mix higher around the edge of the pot, to prevent seeds from settling around the edges and set in a shallow pan of water. You can cover the pot with plastic, making holes for air. This will conserve water, but must be carefully watched. Small seeds you can sprinkle and don't have to cover; medium-sized seeds, sprinkle and cover lightly; large seeds, use tweezers and turn the blossom end or scarplace down, as this lets in moisture, and cover; if you are using mixed seeds in the same container, plant largest seeds first. (I have planted old seeds, four years old or more, and had them germinate.)

New seedlings are like blobs of jelly and delicate and first root is threadlike, seeking a way to fix itself into the soil. If your baby seedlings develop a reddish color, they are getting too much light, but when the condition is remedied, they will revert to a pale green or slightly pinkish color. If seedlings are too pale or elongate it is too shady. Water seedlings from the bottom and never let them dry out; but never get the mix too wet. Keep the moisture even, extra care for the first three months will pay off. Every 3rd or 4th time, I use a little Captan or Senesan in the water to keep down the growth of fungus.

Don't transplant seedlings in fall. This is their resting time, and you'll just waste your efforts. Crowded seedlings winter better than individual plants so leave them in seed pots, seedlings freeze very easily so keep them inside. Wait until spring to transplant and the seedlings have put out lateral roots, usually when they are about six months old. Plant them in a mix of three-fourths to one inch of leaf mold or potting soil, not peat, with maybe 2 teaspoons of bone meal, coarse sand and sprinkle with moth crystals to repel insects. Make holes to fit the seedlings, and use tweezers to pick out and replant, being careful of the roots and don't squeeze seedlings, if watered the night before the seedlings will be easier to pick out. Use wind-blown sand, or water down well to fill in holes. Put seedlings in filtered light, shade them more in summer, water when needed. Many people are afraid to water cacti, in the mistaken belief that they require very little. There is a limit both ways, too dry prevents growth, too wet—rot. Transplant should be watered enough to keep leafmold moist, about 4 days interval in summer. Good luck with your project and if you want further information, I recommend Edgar Lamb's, "Growing cactus from seed the easy way".

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Louie, your nervousness in your first club presentation was understandable, we all feel you can qualify as a pro now. Good luck in your commercial growing endeavors and thanks, for sharing your keen knowledge with your fellow members.

CRISTATE CACTI

Cristate forms of cacti are true freaks of nature! They are malformations caused by the strange phenomenon called fasciation whereby the terminal bud divides and sub-divides itself causing the shoot or stem of the plant to become greatly flattened instead of round. The reason an undamaged bud suddenly starts to sub-divide is not known. It is not unusual after a terminal bud has been damaged, either by insects or by frost, for the plant to suddenly start to crest. The writer has in his possession an *Echinopsis multiplex*, the growing tip of which was eaten out by a slater and instead of throwing out a ring of offsets as is usually the case after damage to the terminal bud, it has turned into a perfect crest.

It is possible to cause fasciation artificially by carefully inserting the sharp point of a thin penknife or the point of a needle into the terminal bud to the depth of about half an inch thus dividing the bud. In a small number of cases this will cause the plant to crest. It is known that exposure of plants to atomic radiation causes monstrosities and fasciations to occur, but I do not suggest to any of our members keen on cristate plants, that they set up their own private atomic reactors.

The phenomenon of fasciation is quite common among all plants and not just peculiar to cacti, although no other plants look as attractive as do some of the more beautiful types of fasciated cacti.

Almost every type of cactus is known to crest. In their native habitat many giant specimens are found, huge cristate forms of *Carnegiea gigantea*, *Cephalocereus senilis* and *Echinocactus* have been discovered.

Sometimes cristate cacti are found among seedlings but the percentage is very small, something like one crest among 10,000 seedlings. The writer found a crest among a batch of *Coryphantha elephantidens* last year and being a smart alex, he grafted it. The graft failed to take so now he has to raise another 10,000 seedlings to get a second one!

Most cristate cacti flowers, although the flowers are usually much smaller than normal and often misshapen. They sometimes set seed but the seed is mostly infertile. *Mam. wildii cristata* seed is fertile but as is the case with most seed from cristate plants, the resulting seedlings usually revert back to the normal type. One peculiarity of cristate cacti is that in all crests the spines are very much reduced in length.

Most cristate cacti are best grafted, however, several will grow quite well on their own roots.

When grafting, care should be taken in selecting the correct stock. Do not graft fine, delicate cacti such as *Epithalanthas*, *Rebutias*, *Lobivia* *Famatiensis* on strong growing stocks because they will open up and become coarse

and ugly. Use a dwarfing stock such as *Tricho. spachianus*.

A word of warning about grafted crests. Keep a watchful eye on the growing fans as the ends curve around the stock and exert a great amount of pressure where they meet. Unless they are kept trimmed back the crest will either be pushed off the stock or exert sufficient pressure on the sides of the stock, restricting the flow of sap to such an extent that the complete crest will dry up and die.

N.M.S.

Taken from Christchurch Cactochat, New Zealand

oooooooooooo

\$64.00---?

Due to the question over the spelling of the word "CAPITOL" in our publication title, we suggest your editors think big. Please study your dictionary, we did--this leaves room for some friendly arguments.

OVERSEAS SWAP

The P. G. Nichols and the Jack Meyers recently shared a box of red Hibotan plants, sent them by Mr. Osamu Ono, our Japanese friend. Quoting in part from his last letter, "Some other members of our clubs want to exchange their Hibotan with the cactus plants which grow in your area. If it'll be possible, it must be wonderful, and nice. Thank you for the "Cactus Capitol Chatter" I enjoyed myself in your article". Can you imagine any of us expressing ourselves as well in Japanese! He goes on to give instructions about Hibotan. More water than other cacti; keep them from cold weather; protect them from strong sunlight; but they need some sun to keep themselves red. If anyone wishes to swap Arizona cacti for these interesting little red plants, write or send plants to: Mr. Osamu Ono, Tai Takese, Mitoyo, Kagawa, Japan.

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SHARING WITH OTHERS

We are extremely fortunate in having in our club, a large number of members that possess a great knowledge of cacti and are so willing to share the knowledge with others.

One such member, Mr. Henry Jones, at our September meeting, gave an interesting and informative talk on Cacti in general.

He gave an excellent bibliography of books on cacti, which somehow we have misplaced. This list will be printed in one of our later issues.

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Thanks

We wish to thank the entire membership and especially the 1965 Officers for their unending efforts in making this past year so successful and enjoyable.

The National Convention could never have been the rip-roaring success it was without the efforts of all members.

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LUAU

You can put away your lei until another day—the big Luau at the Copenhavers has been cancelled.

The menu consisting of:

Laulaus with curry sauce

Javanese Sate¹

Limed fish with coconut cream

Tahitian Pota and etc.

PINEAPPLE SCORPION?

have all gone down the drain. After studying on how to milk a coconut, gathering banana leaves, ferns, orchids, anthurium and ginger for leis; practicing the ukulele, it has all been called off.

While we were on a trip to the Northwest this fall a little windstorm broke the foot long pineapple fruit, so—
No Party.



Growing your own pineapple (*Ananas Comosus*) is rather fascinating. Pick up a pineapple fruit at the store, slice off the leafy top with an inch or so of the fruit attached—eat the rest, delicious. Let the leafy top set for 3 or 4 days to dry or harden. Then pot the top in a light, rich, sandy soil, covering the skin surface, leaving the tuft of leaves exposed. Set the pot in a warm sunny place and keep the soil moderately moist. If started in the spring or summer they can be started outside in a semi-shady, sandy spot. However, they must be moved inside for winter as usually there are a few cold nites here in sunny Tucson and they might freeze. If any of the old leaves are damaged, they may be removed with a pair of scissors.

In time, your plant will produce a dense head of
will result in a real,
It takes nearly two years
but Hawaii has an almost
job, it took about

violet flowers which, in turn,
edible pineapple.
to grow a pineapple,
perfect climate for the
three years here in Tucson.

