

# NEWSLETTER OF TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY Affiliate of Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

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"CONTINUALLY STRIVING TO EXPAND OUR HORIZONS AND CONTENT IN THE INTEREST OF CACTOPHILES EVERYWHERE."

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## PILGRIMAGE TO EL PICACHO WILLIAM A. PLUEMER

It was a brilliant, warm, November 1975 morning as neighbor Ray Lucas and I drove our Blazer aboard the car ferry that would take us from Guaymas, Sonora, to Santa Rosalia, halfway down the Baja peninsula. A usually pleasant six-hour cruise became a heaving, pitch black, tempestuous nightmare as a strong chubasco bore down from the northwest at sundown. The lights of Santa Rosalia did not appear for seven hours. Unable to dock because of high seas, our ferry labored up and down in sight of the port, rolling heavily from side, sea-spume washing the upper decks. Acutely "under the weather", we drove off at 1:40 A.M. the following morning, and thus began our pilgrimage to El Pichacho.

Spurred by Ed and Betty Gay's exciting account of their ascent of El Picacho in the Jul-Aug 1969 issue of our Cactus & Succulent Journal, I was determined to add both Morangaya (formerly echinocereus) pensilis and Mamillaria petrophila to my list of plants collected at their type locality. Neither of these plants are recent discoveries, being first described in 1904. The new genus, Morangaya, was recently erected by Gordon Rowley, of England, in honor of Dr. Reid Moran and the Gays, through whose efforts M. pensilis has been recollected, described, and made available to collectors.

The Sierra de la Laguna forms the spine of southern Baja. El Picacho is perhaps the highest peak within the range, rising 7100 feet (2164 mtrs.) above sea level. From the highway near

Todos Santos the silhouette of El Picacho resembles the prow of a ship, the last few hundred feet of naked rock thrusting sharply upward from the granite massif. The inaccessibility of the area, coupled with recent firsthand accounts of the thrill of conquering the peak, not to mention some of its botanic treasures, has acted as a powerful magnet to the hardier professional and amateur botanist alike.

Rancho La Burrera is the jumping-off point for El Picacho. Three years had passed since Ray and I had visited the rancho. unable at that time to consummate the tripbecause of the language barrier. Now we found the new highway had been paved to the approaches of Todos Santos. The grading had effectively obliterated our carefully noted turnoff to La Burrera. forced to return to Todos Santos, restudy our notes and pay closer attention to odometer readings. This time we arrived at the rancho about 4 P.M., with a nicely typed note in Spanish, were, where we were from, and what we desired explaning who we to do. Four caballeros were engaged in a game of cards on the patio of one of the ranch buildings. My greetings were acknowledged and the game continued. Sensing a break in the game, I produced my note. Two men glanced at it, shook their heads, and passed it on. A younger man, better dressed than the others, studied it and then placed it under the deck of cards. Nothing was said. The game continued. As the sun set, I reached very gingerly to recover the note, at the same time trying to convey we would return in the morning. More silence. Ray and I then retreated several miles and set up camp in the dark. We were astir before dawn. Still a little queasy from the crossing, tired and disappointed, I was ready to forget El Picacho, but Ray convinced me to give it another try as long as we were there. Our four caballeros greeted us once again at 7 A.M. Unbeknownst to us, a truck had arrived from Todos Santos, and the gods that smile upon cactus collectors must certainly have been aboard. The driver was a jolly fellow with some understanding of English. Taking our note, he immediately went into animated discussion with the others. It then dawned upon me that none of the caballeros could read! It was now 8 A.M.

Within minutes our requirement for two horses, a pack animal and guide were arranged and fee agreed upon. We were assured we could make the trip with but one night on the trail and, in happy ignorance of what was in store, we accepted. Our bed rolls plus a US Army ski-trooper back-pack containing the necessary supplies went aboard one horse. This particular animal, we learned, was not in best of condition, and would not have carried a man on the ascent. Ray, who in his early years, spent much time prospecting the desert, was very happy to take the mule; the second horse being assigned to me. Quite a commotion ensued as the women, children and men of La Burerra wayed us

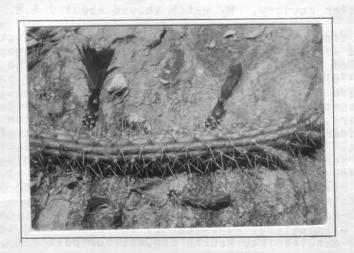
off to the high country. My watch showed about 9 A.M.

For a short time we climbed gentle slopes through thick cover interspersed with ceroid cacti. Our emergence into more open country called for a short stop and cinch check, as the animals were now in full lather. The valley was visible far below, but the upward view became more threatening. Huge boulders and slabs of granite were jumbled helter skelter on the steep slopes. Over the years, the pack animals had worn deep, narrow trails into the slopes. Now our guide, Ramon Dominguez, was frequently out of sight. Coming to sheer slabs of open granite, the animals became nervous and required more and more prodding to keep pace. Two hours - three hours - four hours - would it never end? Animals and riders were now bathed in sweat; our once jolly bantering now nothing but grim silence. Suddenly Ramon's horse balked. "No further!" he seemed to say, with great thrashing of hooves. Dismounting, Ramon calmed the animal and led him the final 90 minutes into Rancho Laguna, our base camp.

Rancho Laguna consists of a log ranch house, opening to the entrance of a separate cooking area, along with a corral and considerable garbage heap. It appeared to have been abandoned for some time. Ray and I were more than content to sit on a log with a can of fruit juice while Ramon led the animals to water some distance away. Tall trees shaded our surroundings, the air fresh with earthy forest smells. With the setting sun our thoughts turned toward supper. Not yet fully recovered from our voyage, we passed along to Ramon a can of chili in favor of some hot soup. As far as I know, Ramon did not eat that night nor all the next day, with the exception of a few pieces of cheese.

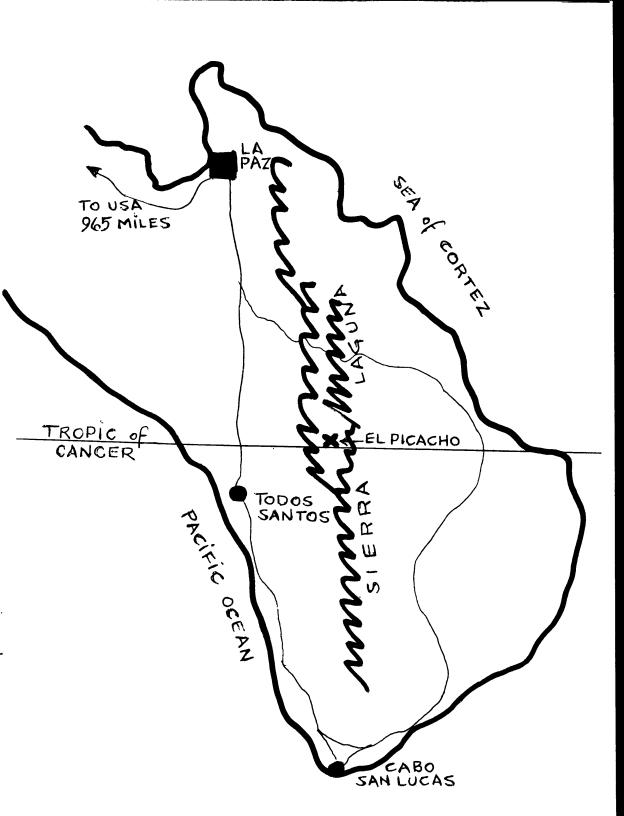
It was 5 A.M. as we rolled out on the blackest of nights, to find Ramon had already gone for the mounts. Breakfast of a sweet roll and ashy-tasting algae-stringed coffee made from boiling water the previous night is not the ideal start for a strenuous day. In the pre-dawn light we were formed up and off to the final jumping-off point for El Picacho, A short ride brought us to a wide, beautiful meadow, ringed by giant trees. Here Ramon dismounted, unpacked the pack animal and motioned Ray down. I was to continue on my mount, following Ramon, leading on foot. Ray remained behind to mind camp, graze the animals and enjoy some rest. My parting remark to him was that we would return in three hours. Fortunately, he is a man of great compassion. I was soon to find that riding with a large back-pack was not easy, as the brush constantly struggled to remove it.

Our trail led through thick forest, sometimes even dark and fore-boding. I scanned each rock outcropping for plants but to no avail. An hour elapsed and I began to query Ramon periodically as to the whereabouts of El Picacho. Always he would indicate "further". His knife came into play as he hacked out a trail,



Morangaya pensilis - Sierra **de** la Laguna, May 1968. Photo by Ed & Betty Gay

taking bearings from sources known only to himself and his guiding spirit. Finally, we broke into the open. Ramon motioned somewhere ahead and spoke the words I had come so far to hear: "El Picacho!" Underbrush and loose rocks now making mounted travel unwise, I tethered my horse to a yucca, glad of respite from the saddle. Starting the final ascent, I saw my first cluster of M. pensilis draped over a rock outcropping. Breathing hard, soaking wet from exertion, it was a welcome sight to me. Ramon was now far ahead, oblivious of thorns, spines and sharp rocks that caused me concern even though I wore alpine boots and he, open sandals with little protection. With the crest in sight, I began to see the first mams. My exhaustion gave way to exhilaration. Mamillaria petrophila is one of the true porcupines of the genus. Protected by strong armament and foothold in rock crevices, removing them is difficult; something like hard-rock mining. Ramon aided in plant spotting, as I labored to collect a few after close scrutiny. The plant population is quite large and I suspect it will remain so. One plant of M. pensilis, in full sun, draped over a slab of rock, threw out stems over four feet long. How I wished it had been the blooming season! The mams were in full bud. One is treated to an incongruous sight atop El Picacho; he can look upon the Pacific on the one hand, and the Sea of Cortez upon the other. The magnificent Baja peninsula disappears into the far haze toward La Paz, to the north, and Cabo San Lucas, to the south. Ed and



Betty Gay wrote of being overcome with a feeling of awe and reverence at this sight. I dare say no one can be entirely unemotional atop El Picacho.

Plants safe in the back-pack, I heaved it on. As always, I was to quickly learn how heavy a few plants can be. About five hours had elapsed when we once again sighted the interim camp. Ray had grazed the animals and caught a much needed cat-nap. He was in better shape than I for the return trip to La Burrera. A short respite, Ramon saddled the mounts, and we were off. Some of the wild cavalry charges of my more youthful Army days had taught me that climbing down a rocky slope on a mount can be more difficult than the ascent. So, when we reached the open rock, I was content to dismount and lead my horse for the better part of two hours. Ray, who believes all mules have built-in gyroscopes, remained mounted and coached his animal down with all sorts of verbal promises. The pack animal burdened with campgear and plants, had been given a free lead to return alone on what must have been a familiar trail. However, the animal later picked a divergent trail, causing Ramon to hurredly dismount and make after him on foot. This action, together with Ramon's yelling, further excited the animal, which became frenzied in its thrashing through the brush. In sympathy, Ramon's horse went slightly berserk, and it was some time before we could calm all the animals. The sight of our gear scattered on the ground lowered my hopes for returning with nicely preserved specimens.

Late in the afternoon we reached the valley floor, totally exhausted and dehydrated. Now it was only a matter of following a good sandy trail into La Burrera. Suddenly Ramon dismounted, raised his rifle, and fired into a close bush. Curious, I dismounted and, with some eye strain, made out a large rattlesnake in its death-throes. The horses had not spooked, and I later thought this odd. I wondered then about the power of the man's eyesight. On occasions, Ray and I had discussed the fact that after many days in the back country we feel as though our senses have sharpened. Perhaps enough of this and I could spot with ease more of the small, elusive plants I now find only on my hands and knees!

The sun was angling downward as we entered the corral, unpacked, settled our account, and bid farewell all around. Once again on the highway leading north to La Paz I glanced up at that strange promontory etched against a now darkening sky, and marveled that only that morning I had stood upon its summit. We had been five days and four nights without change of clothes; through a rough sea-voyage and two memorable days in the Sierra de la Laguna testing El Picacho, The exhilaration of a hot shower that night and the realization of the final accomplishment is

something I shall never forget. I wish to extend here my thanks to good friends Ed and Betty Gay, who so generously allowed CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER the use of their color photo of their namesake in bloom, in situ. This photo in itself is a rare achievement.

Ref.: Britton & Rose Vol. III pg 8; Vol IV pg 73. Cactaceas y Succulentas Mexicanas, Oct.-Dec. 1967. Cactus & Succulent Journal Vol. XLI, 1969. Ashingtonia Vol. 1, #4, Jan. 1974.



# TUCSON CACTUS & BOTANICAL SOCIETY 1975 FREE PLANTS AND DOOR PRIZES

CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER is deeply indebted to Mr. Carl Horst for providing detailed lists and descriptions of all the door prize plants and free plants distributed to our members during 1975. Well over 800 plants were given out.

There were no free plants given at the September meeting when our plant auction was taking place. The October free plant was Marenopuntia marenia, a hardy opuntia from Kino Bay, Sonora, Mexico. Our November free plants consisted of left-overs from previous months' give-aways. No free plants were given at the December meeting.

Carl, in addition to his statistical data, expanded his efforts to include the origin of names associated with the plants, together with other interesting observations of value to the plant recipients. Carl's finished work is of such excellent scope and nature, a decision was made to publish it completely in one issue of CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER. rather than in two installments.

# FREE PLANTS AND DOOR PRIZES - 1975 CARL HORST

The lists accompanying this writing cover the subject matter from January 1975 through August 1975. We have tried to give an idea of the minimum temperature each plant will tolerate. All should be given some protection from summer sun, and those which show a minimum temperature of 25 degrees or above must be protected in the winter. Most can be kept in the city in a patio, closed porch or against a wall. The plants were chosen with Tucson weather in mind.

We will try to give essentially the same information we gave at the TCBS meetings, in this account. So, by listing again,

where we know the meaning of the names, we will cover the species given as door prizes first, hoping to contribute a little to the knowledge and enjoyment of the recipients. Other members of the Society may have plants of the same species and thus may be able to benefit as well. The genera (first names) will be given first:

ARIOCARPUS. (Areole-body). An areole is the point on a cactus or a few other plants where the tufts of hair and spines are growing. In essence, it is a sunken bud with its bud scales elongated into thorns.

ARROJADOA. A district in South America.

ECHINOMASTUS. The last part of the name, "mastus", refers to the shape of the areole. The udder of a cow is the reference here. The flower occurs inboard of the thorns. "Echino" is a contraction of "Echidna", the scientific name of the European and Australian hedge-hog, a rat-like animal with stiff, pointed, forked hairs known to be dangerous.

FEROCACTUS. We have seen two explanations of this name: "Fero" from "ferox" - fierce or ferocious and from "ferro" for iron - chemical symbol Fe. This probably refers to the rust color or extreme sturdiness of the spines of most species, if it applies. "Ferox" is better.

LEMAIREOCEREUS. Lemaire was a French botanist who worked in northern Sonora, Baja California and the border states generally. "Cereus" is from the Greek and Latin words for wax, hence translated "candle".

 $\underline{\mathsf{LOBIVIA}}$ . An anagrammatic term for Bolivia, the original type locality for the genus.

MAMMILARIA. From "mamma", the Latin term for the mammary gland. It refers to the general shape of the tubercles bearing the spines.

NEOBUXBAUMIA. From "neo" - new, and Buxbaum, another botanist. It might be translated "box-tree", but this translation is completely independent of any botanical significance.

NEOPORTERIA. From still another botanist - Porter.

NOTOCACTUS. We are not familiar with the meaning of the prefix "noto in this application. It is generally accepted as meaning "back" but here may mean "striking" or "noticeable", from "notas".

SETICEREUS. "Seti" meaning bristles and "cereus" candle. The name is synonymous with Borzicactus.

SORENSIA. We are not sure but think this, too, refers to another botanist by name of Sorensen.

STENOCACTUS. May be assumed to mean crisped or curly cactus. Its former name, although more lengthy, is to be preferred because of its more precise applicability.

ECHINOFOSSULOCACTUS. "Echino" - see ECHINOMASTUS. A "fossulum" is the Latin term for the moat around a castle. Hence, it is translated as "ditch" here referring to the sharp deep spaces between the ribs of the plant.

TRICHOCEREUS. Based upon the Greek word for "whisker" - a chin-shisker and "cereus".

BEAUCARNEA. Reference to another French botanist, Beaucarne.

GASTERIA. Taken from "gaster", the Latin word for stomach, and referring to the fact that this group of plants possesses many small stomachs in their leaves in the form of little dropsized containers full of water acting as the plants' storage provision.

The following listing is a description of the meanings of the specific or second names of the door prize plants:

KOTSCHUBEYANUS. From Kotschebue - a Russian botanist.

RHODANTHA. A combination of "rhodo" - pinkish red, and "anthus", a flower.

McDOWELLI. From McDowell, a man's name.

FORDII. From Ford, ditto.

PRUINOSUS. A general meaning of "pruinose" is "dusted". The "bloom" on a plum or grape which rubs off in handling is pruinosity. They are "pruinose".

FESHERI. Fesher - a man's name.

HERTRICHIANA. Hertrich - ditto.

BRANDEGEI. Brandege - ditto.

CELSIANA. Fine; epicurean.

COMPRESSA. Compressed; crowded.

<u>ELONGATA</u>. Elongated.

GEMINISPINA. Gem-spined.

MAGNIMAMMA. Large mammae or tubercles.

 $\frac{\text{NANA}}{\text{also}}$  . Latin for spreading, creeping, low. Spanish for grandmother; also the source of the English word "nanny". We are not sure this is a valid species, possibly a form of M. compressa.

NEJAPENSIS. From Nejapa, Mexico.

PARKINSONI. Parkinson, a man's name.

TOLIMENSIS. From Tolimen, Mexico.

EUPHORBIOIDES. Like a euphorbia.

NIGRISPINA. Black spined.

CRASSIGIBOSUS. Coarse-ribbed: big chinned. Referring to the shape of the tubercles.

RUTILANS. Becoming rutile: shining reddish.

ICOSAGONUS. Having twenty sides "icosa" equalling 20. "genus" meaning side but translating to "angle."

FORMOSA. Shapely: beautiful.

VIOLACIFLORUS. Violet-flowered. In Latin, violet was a red-purple.

CANDICANS. Candid: whitish.

PASACANA. Pasaca, an area in Argentina.

POCO. Spanish for "few" but probably referring to the plant's usual bowl-like shape, especially when young.

TERSCHECKI. Terscheck, a man's name.

RECURVATA. Recurved; curly.

VERRUCOSA. Verrucose: rough, pebbly-like surface.

In our opinion, no work of this kind is complete without a comment on the Linnean taxonomic system. It was designed as a trinomial system, the first name to be in Greek, describing the general character of a small group of creatures. We did NOT say plants. All creatures were to be so classified, although Herr Karl Linne knew that he could not do it alone. The second name was to be in Latin, describing a particular or specific character of a certain creature in its group as compared to others in the group. The third name was to be in the language of the discoverer or developer of the creature, and was to identify him.

In the process, the groups were to be combined into larger groups of similar characters, the family. The family name was to be in Latin and was to be plural; i.e., ending in "ceae". Then there were to be orders, their names ending in "ales", meaning "like". Now we can see the order of the proposed system. It was quite well thought out. Next, let us return to the list. Notice how many men's names are applied to the genera and to the species. Note that the third name is never given. Rather, the genus and/or species is given the discoverer's name and the purpose of the Linnean system is completely defeated. We have no objection to honoring discoverers. In fact, we know a few of them and they are nice people, but species named after people cannot be described by peoples' names.

To this we object. Well, we believe we have made our point and the subject needs no further discussion. Should we ever be so fortunate as to discover a new species, may our name be third, if used at all!

Following this excursion into taxonomic philosophy, we want to return to the subject matter at hand. We will now cover the free plant names in much the same manner as we did for the door prizes. It will be noted that the lists are similarly arranged and provide the same information. In this list, however, we will break down each name in its entirety.

CEPHALOCEREUS SENILIS. From "cephalium" Latin for "head";
"cereus", wax; "senilis", senile or old.

CEREUS CHILDII. This is really PIPTANTHOCEREUS, or pip-ed flower candle referring to the point on the developing fruit left by the spent pistil from the flower. Childii probably should be Childs, from a botanist named Childs.

ECHINOCEREUS ENNEACANTHUS. Echinocereus has been covered above. "ennea" probably refers to the beautiful spine arrangement. "canthus" translates to "hook".

ECHINOCACTUS GRUSONI. Echinocactus covered above. Gruson was a botanist.

ESPOSTOA LANATA. "es" from the Latin meaning "becoming" or "like". "post" as in English. "lanata" is from "lana", or wool. Hence, "woolly post".

FEROCACTUS COVILLEI. Ferocactus covered above. Coville, again, was a botanist in these parts.

LEMAIREOCEREUS DuMortieri. Lemaireocereus covered above. DuMortier was a French botanist who spent time in Mexico.

LEMAIREOCEREUSTHURBERI. Thurber worked hereabouts and was a very thorough naturalist.

MAMMILARIA CAMPTOTRICHA. Mammilaria covered above. Camptotricha is from the Latin "campus" or field, and "tricha" comes from the Greek for "whiskers". Hence, "field of whiskers".

MAMMILARIA CELSIANA. Covered above.

MAMMILARIA DEALBATA. "de-albata"-whitened: hence, almost white.

MAMMILARIA ELONGATA. Covered above. The "pink nymph" is a pink-flowered, white-spined variety. "Stella-aurata" means "stargolded" - hence, "golden star".

MAMMILARIA MICROHELIA. "micro" - tiny, and "helia" - suns. Hence, "tiny suns."

 ${\underline{\tt NEOCHILENIA.}} \quad {\hbox{New Chilean.}} \quad {\hbox{In this case we do not know the species.}}$ 

NOTOCACTUS RUTILANS. See above.

OREOCEREUS CELSIANUS. From "oros", or mountain; hence "mountain candle". Celsianus explained above.

OREOCEREUS TROLLI. After a man's name: Troll.

PACHYCEREUS PECTEN-ABORIGINUM. From "pachy" meaning "fat" or "thick", and "pecten", or "comb" combined with "aboriginum" (aboriginees) to complete the name.

TRICHOCEREUS SPACHIANUS. Trichocereus as above. In this case, the Spachian trichocereus, with the capital letter in "Spach" generally not used. If this name were used as names usually are in taxonomy, we would have "T. Spachi"...

This little effort to bring information to the TCBS membership may seem extensive. It really is not. Almost all of the above information is already inherent in the language we use every day and, with one or two exceptions, the meanings of the names can be found in an ordinary English dictionary. One must only look up a similar English word and refer to its derivation. We make this comment merely to demonstrate that the job of learning scientific names only appears to be big and impossible. Chin up, it's easy! Now, as a post-script, pedagogic aid and partial apology to taxonomists for the adverse comment above, we would like to make a few more statements. The limitations of languages are involved. When one considers the scarcity of words in any one language having the same meaning, especially the nouns, and compares that with the extreme abundance of living creatures to be named, he experiences little wonder that in desperation the taxonomists have turned to any and all expedients available. Naming creatures after men or any other thing available constitutes in reality a desperate escape mechanism for taxonomists. In actuality, although we don't like it, this appears to be more or less necessary, in spite of our objections. Maybe we will have to tolerate it.

We claim neither credit nor blame for the information given here. It is all second-hand from various references and nothing except the wording is original. Anyone with the same background and references could do as well. We want to extend our acknowledgements and gratitude to Mr. Harrison Yocum for comment and suggestions on the original draft.

#### PLEA OF A CACTUS

An open soil is what I need, Sand or gravel helps a lot. Now and then a little feed Keeps me growing in a pot.

On perfect drainage I rely
As you will quickly see.
Water when the soil is dry,
Otherwise you will drown me.

If I'm going to survive,
I must have air and light;
Growing me in total shade
Is not to my delight.

The sun brings out my colour Enticing me to flower, Now you can see what a joy I can be

To any cactus grower.

### FREE PLANTS

Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum Mexico

Number

10

10

10

10

100

100

100

10

Name

"pink nymph" Mammilaria elongata

Mammilaria microhelia

Notocactus rutilans

Oreocereus trolli

Oreocereus celsianus

Trichocereus Spachianus

stella-aurata

Neochilenia sp.

20	Cephalocereus semilis	Mexico	20	-
20	Cereus Childii	Brazil	30	
10	Echinocereus enneacanthus	Texas	15	
20	Echinocactus Grusoni	Mexico	20	
100	Espostoa lanata	Peru	20	
10	Ferocactus Covillei	Arizona	15	
100	Lemairocereus DuMortieri	Mexico	25	
20	Lemairocereus Thurberi	Ariz/Mexico	25	
20	Mammilaria camptotricha	Mexico	25	
10	Mammilaria celsiana			
		Mexico	20	
10	Mammilaria dealbata	Mexico	15	
10	Mammilaria elongata	Cultivar	20	

Native To:

Mexico

Mexico

Peru

Chile/Peru Chile/Peru

Chile/Peru

Chile/Peru

Min.Temp.

deg.F.

20

25 25

25

20

25

15

	DOOR PRIZES		Min.Temp.
Number	Name	lative to:	deg.F
	Ariocarpus Kotschubeyanus		20
1	Arrojadoa rhodantha	Peru	25
1	Echinomastus McDowelli	Mexico/Texas	20
1	Ferocactus Fordii	Baja	20
1	Lemaireocereus pruinosus	Mexico	25
<u>]</u>	Lobivia Fesheri	Peru/Bolivia	20
1	Lobivia Hertrichiana	Peru/Bolivia	20
1	Lobivia X Trichocereus hyb	or.Cultivar	20
1	Mammilaria Brandegei	Baja	20
1	Mammilaria celsiana	Mexico	20
1	Mammilaria compressa	Mexico	20
1	Mammilaria elongata		
	"pink nymph"	Culțivar	20
1	Mammilaria geminispina	Mexico	20
1	Mammilaria magnimamma	Mexico	20
1	Mammilaria nana	Mexico	25
1	Mammilaria nejapensis	Mexico	25
1	Mammilaria Parkinsoni	Mexico	20
1	Mammilaria tolimensis	Mexico	25
j	Mammilaria hybrid	Cultivar	20
1	Neobuxbaumia euphorbioides		25
]	Neoporteria nigrispina	Peru	20
1	Notocactus crassigibbosus		20
<u>l</u>	Notocactus rutilans	Peru	25
į	Seticereus icosagonus	Mexico	25
l a	Sorensia formosa	Chile	25
4	Stenocactus violaciflorus		20
ļ	Trichocereus candicans	Peru	20
l .	Trichocereus(Pascana)	Peru	15
l 2	Trichocereus poco	Peru	20
ı	Trichocereus Terschecki	Peru	15
1	Beaucarnia recurvata	 Mexico	30
i		S. Africa	25
•		<del>-</del>	-



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#### A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER is the quarterly newsletter of Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society. This issue focuses on information of interest to persons attending the 17th Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

This issue also introduces to our readers its first cover, designed by Agnes Daniels, member of Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society, and a talented artist of many years' experience. Her Sonoran Desert landscape on the cover of CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER will lead its readers into its contents where we are "continually striving to expand our horizons and content in the interest of cactophiles everywhere."

TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

A VIGNETTE

As Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society prepares to be host to the 17th Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of American, Inc., we recall the 1965 C.S.S.A. Convention for which we also were hosts. One highlight for all attending, and very specially for us was our dedication of the Haag Memorial Garden at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. "Cactus John" Haag, botanist at the Museum, founded the Tucson Cactus Club in November He died in 1962. The Museum accepted our offer to develop a cactus garden there, memorializing John Haag. On May 15, 1965 during the C.S.S.A. Convention, we dedicated this Garden to the memory of our founder, our great friend, and a dedicated cactophile -- "Cactus John" Haaq.

Tucson Cactus Club, in time, became the Tucson Cactus & Botanical Society. It is our good fortune to be situated in the heart of cactus country, in the cactus capital -- inside the great Sonoran Desert. Our membership, unique in its make-up, averages 150 cactophiles of varying interests and efforts. It runs the gamut from novices to the professional and expert botanist-hobbyists having serious cactus interests. Members are amateur cactus hobbyists from Tucson's large retirement population. Some are university students. Others are new residents from the North and the East, falling under the spell of plants they have never known. Many need information about native plants to adapt to desert landscaping that requires minimum watering. To meet these interests and needs, our program embraces botany lectures with slide illustrations cactus culture classes; visits to cactus nurseries, botanical gardens: cactus shows; a library.

#### SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT ARIZONA

Embracing the southeastern corner of California, southwestern Arizona, most of the Mexican State of Sonora, and most of Baja California is the vast, lonely Sonoran Desert. Two small, picturesque sections of this desert near Tucson, Arizona, have been set aside as SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT. The primary reason for establishing this public preserve was the protection of superb stands of the giant saquaro cactus.

The giant saguaro grows in the desert-scrub biotic community. which is found up to about 4000 feet. When you are in the desertscrub community, look for the desert tortoise, gopher and coachwhip snakes, ground squirrels, peccaries, covotes and mule deer. And for such common birds as the Gambel's quail, Gila woodpecker, curve-billed thrasher, he cactus wren. The saguaro is a remarkable plant. It survives and grows to tremendous rize against what appear to be great odds - heat, scarcity of water. disease, and the many animals that feed upon its fru is and seeds. Yet, these, as well as the coolness of a desert evening and the freshness of an occasional rain, are the world of the saguaro. Life begins for a saguaro when one of the seeds, having escaped the many creatures that feed upon them, sprouts in the shade of another desert plant. Thus for the first years, the plant may be hidden beneath the branches of a palo verde or a mesquite. At 5 years, the saguaro is only a few inches tall; at 30 years, a few feet; at 75, it may reach 15 or 20 feet, and about this time develops its first blunt branch. It sometimes readhes a height of 50 feet, with as many arms, and may live 200 years. Most die earlier of disease or injury.

THE TUCSON MOUNTAIN SECTION of Saguaro Monument is west of Tucson in the Tucson Mountains near Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Here, the dense forest of vigorous young saguaros presents a striking contrast to the dwindling population of old giants in the original

section of the Monument. In addition to this impressive saguaro forest, several plants and animals common only to the western parts of the Sonoran Desert can be seen. These include the tesota (desert ironwood), desert horned lizard (horny toad), and small sidewinder rattlesnake.

THE RINCON MOUNTAIN SECTION of Saguaro Monument presents excellent views of an aging saguaro forest, with the majestic Rincon Mountains as a backdrop. Desert flatlands sweep away to the mountains. Studding the desert are thousands of stately saguaros, with lesser plants forming a dense understory. In the distance the pine- and fir-clad ridges of the Santa Catalina Mountains tower more than a mile above the surrounding desert. The 9mile Cactus Forest Drive will give you a close look at the desert-scrub community. A mature saquaro, weighing several tons, can absorb a great deal of water following the first heavy summer rain. During extended dry periods, it gradually uses its stored water, shrinking in girth and decreasing in weight. Saguaros provide food for countiess creatures of the desert. Birds eat the fruits and seeds while they are still on the branches. Many animals, including coyotes, mule deer, and peccarries, eat the fruits after they have ripened and fallen to the ground. In the Tucson Mountain Section, Papago Indians still harvest the fruits of the saguaro as they have done for countless generations. Some of the fruit they eat fresh; others they prepare into pressed, dried cakes and syrup boiled from the juice.

### THE BOYCE THOMPSON SOUTHWESTERN ARBORETUM In Superior, Arizona

This Arboretum consists of about 30 acres of land planted with plants from many of the arid parts of the world. Each kind of plant is labeled with its correct name. More than 2 miles of interconnected walks and trails wind through these plantings and into the adjacent native vegetation areas. Natural Sonoran Desert biological communities exist.

A complete VISITORS' CENTER includes a bookstore and a unique gift shop. A receptionist is on hand to answer questions and be of general assistance to visitors. Adjacent to the visitors" center are 2 greenhouses that are open to the public. THE EAST GREENHOUSE is devoted to various species of cacti that require more warmth in the winter months than is normally available in this region. Here you may see Cephalocereus senilis, Mammillaria Oliviae and Echinocactus polycephalus. THE WEST GREENHOUSE contains primarily succulents other than cacti. Many African species are growing here; for example, Kalanchoe beharensis; Euphorbia Caput-medusae; Sansevieria zelanica, and several species of Haworthia and Gasteria. From the visitors'

20 minutes of easy walking over level terrain.

VISITORS TO THE ARBORETUM ARE INVITED TO STUDY: displays in the Visitors' Center; cacti in the East Greenhouse; succulents in the West Greenhouse.

THE BOYCE THOMPSON SOUTHWESTERN ARBORETUM was founded in 1927 by Col. W. B. Thompson as a museum of living plants for research and teaching in plant science. It was the first institution in the Rocky Mountain states to be devoted to plant study, and the first non-profit corporation founded in Arizona. It is affiliated with the University of Arizona and is operated in conjunction with a Desert Biology Station used by professional scientists and college classes.

During May, several of these common plants in the region may be blooming: saguaro and cholla, prickly pear, ocotillo, yucca, catclaw, palo verde, creosote bush, mesquite tree, ironwood tree. Depending upon rainfall, the wild lupines, penstemon, hyacinths, and California poppies bloom from February through July.

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN IN PAPAGO PARK, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

ITS IMPORTANCE. It is recognized internationally as the only botanical garden dedicated from its beginning to the study of plant life of deserts and other arid lands. It is unique since here the majority of plants grow outdoors naturally and retain their true characteristics. Its threefold purpose has been to study, to conserve, to educate. The Garden is engaged in a worldwide program of assistance and exchange with other botanical institutions, scholars and scientists. It is the center for the definitive study of the Agaves. Rare and threatened species of desert plants are propagated here, as well as plants with horticultural potential. Many facets of desert plant life from both hemispheres can be seen here.

ITS FEATURES. In the 40 years of its existence, the Desert Botanical Garden has collected over half the different kinds of cacti in the world -- some 1400 species are growing here outdoors in the two large lath houses. Along the paths, cacti from our Southwest, Mexico, Central and South America display the startingly different ways that plants have adapted to life in the hot and nearly waterless deserts.

There are miniature cacti the size of a half-dollar as well as Arizona's giant saguaro cactus, and the even more massive Mexican cardon that can weigh as much as 10 tons. Organ Pipe, Octopus, Prickly Pear, Boxing Glove and Cow's Tongue are some of the names in the fascinating cactus family.

### BECOME ONE WITH THE WORLD OF NATURE-VISIT THE LIVING ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

The Desert Museum is a combination of zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, and natural history museum which tells the ecological story of the Sonoran Desert region including Sonora and Baja California, Mexico and Arizona. You'll see over 300 kinds of plants and over 200 different animals of this rugged and beautiful country, along nature paths winding through several acres of indoor and outdoor displays.

MAJOR FEATURES OF THE MUSEUM --

Orientation Room. Small Animal Room (reptiles, insects, arachnids). Amphibian Room with Aquarium. Large Mammal Enclosures. Animal Nursery. Walk-in Tortoise Enclosure. Prairie Dog Village. Circular Aviaries and Walk-in Bird Habitat. Beaver-Otter-Bighorn Sheep Habitats and Canyon Habitats for Small Cats. Nature Trails. Sunset Magazine's Demonstration Desert Garden. Haag Memorial Cactus Garden. Saguaro Cactus Exhibit. Papago Indian Exhibit. Tunnel Exhibit. Watershed Exposition.

MISSION OF THE DESERT MUSEUM

William H. Carr Director Emeritus

"We have tried to open many doors for you,

To prepare many paths for you:

Doors opening upon the World of Nature . .

Which after all, is your World."

IMPORT NO MORE CACTUS
by Don Cucote, Curator of Plants

Visitors to the Desert Museum are often so charmed or intrigued by our desert that they wish to take some of it home with them. This has made one item in the Desert Museum's Gift Shop --cacti-a consistent best seller over the years. The Gift Shop has always sold two kinds of cacti: those greenhouse-grown from seed and those collected from the wild and boxed for mailing. The latter-the wild, boxed cacti --no longer will be sold in the Museum's Gift Shop because their sale here encourages the Rape of the Desert in those states where these cacti are collected.

They had to be imported from other states because the State of Arizona has a strong plant protection law which not only protects rare and endangered species, but also regulates commercial activity involving native plants exploited for commercial and residen-

tial landscaping. This law specifically prohibits the **removal** of any cactus from the desert without a permit. And there is a fee for each plant collected, which makes collection for sale unprofitable on a mass scale. Many states have no laws whatsoever to regulate the collection of cactus, and those laws which do exist are all considerably weaker than Arizona's. Hence the desert vegetation in these other states is severely exploited, contributing to the ruin of the environment.

At the urging of the Desert Museum's management, Joyce Brockelsby who operates the Gift Shop, agreed to end the sale of the imported cacti. This she did at considerable sacrifice, as the boxed cacti were always a money-maker. However, the greenhouse-grown cacti cultivated from seed, fare far better in the hands of an amateur collector than the cacti collected from natural habitats

On the federal level, the U. S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, which protects endangered animals, also provides for the eventual protection of plants. Proposed now are a set of federal regulations which would protect endangered or threatened plants involved in interstate commerce - but ONLY endangered species. This reveals how very progressive Arizona law is, which seeks to prevent, as much as possible, our native plants from ever reaching the endangered stage.

----The A S D M News'etter. Reprint permission granted by Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

GARDENS OF SOME TCBS MEMBERS
Blackburns' Open Cate Cactus Ranch

A "must" on your list of places to see -- take a drive to the foothills of the Tucson Mountains, up a country road in the middle of ten acres of unabulterated desert to the home of Alan and Betty Blackburn. As you come up the driveway, your eyes will catch the glimmer of gold--then a few feet farther you will start seeing the largest private collection of echinocactus grusonii-golden barrels -- in Arizona. These spectacular barrels average between 10" to 2' in diameter, plus the clusters - totaling between 40 and 50.

Now that you have seen some of them, I suggest you walk back down the driveway and start looking at NATIVE cacti in earnest. There are the three species of palo verdes, plus the Mexican variety, mesquites, hackberry, desert broom, bursage, jojoba, creosotes, Mormon tea, fairy dusters, saguaros, ocotillos, 8 species of chollas, at least 10 species of opuntias and ferocactus, polycephalus, numerous echinocereus, coryphantas, mammilarias, Yuccas, including a large Texas variety, numerous agaves, including tequiliana, not to mention cacti native to our neighboring states and Mexico.

Around the house, you will see an unparalled display of specimen cacti, shaded by some large trees. Then on to the lath house. How many specimens does Alan have? Who knows! But he does have 700 varieties that seemingly cooperate with him beautifully. As a starter, at one time he counted 100 4" potted plants.

So how does a young married man in the 30's start collecting cacti in Ohio? While Betty was shopping in one of the local boutiques, Alan was in the five and dime store discovering cacti. Some of his first purchases included golden barrels at  $10 \cupee$  each. About 30 years ago, they moved to Tucson and started raising some of their own specimens from collected seeds. He was the botanist for the Desert Museum for five years, as well as supervisor of the Watershed Department there; did plantings; helped construct the paths and collected plants from all over the state and Sonora. He also found the first Epithelantha micromeris in Arizona.

Alan and Betty are charter members of the T.C.B.S. which was organized in November, 1960, with Alan as vice-president; and later he was president. He has given generously of his time and talents for the club and free lessons on cactus culture. He gives slide shows and talks on cacti to various organizations. He also hosts the Lambs of England and joins them on their field trips.

He has won many blue ribbons and top awards when entering plants in competition. Not only are many of our door prizes at the T.C.B.S. meetings from Alan, ten of the door prizes at our National Convention will be from him. It takes more than one visit to absorb all the species of cacti in his garden-there are "new" ones each time.

.... Agnes Daniels.

#### KEN HARTSOCK'S DESERT GARDEN

As you drive into the Hartsock yard, the first thing that catches your attention is the large Opuntia coachuila along with a hexagonus Cereus. The palo verde helps shade the Trichocereus spachianus, the Echinocactus grusonii, a Cereus forbsii, an agave and Notocactus. Near the front door is a rock garden which is predominately succulents.

To the right of the driveway, a path leads you thru the cactus garden which consists of native plants and a very interesting New Mexican hedgehog; then on to an eight-headed barrel of considerable size. To the north, Ken has his greenhouse which to date is 8' x 12', where he has started raising cact; from collected seeds. The patio faces an open desert which has 17 varieties of native cacti.

The Hartsocks have been living in the desert for about five years. It was when they moved here from Georgia and lived on an east side city lot that Ken became interested in cacti. One day he saw an ad in a magazine with an offer so terrific that he couldn't turn it down. Here was an opportunity to enhance his garden with beautiful specimens from Texas, for only \$2.00. At last and after one month, the mailman rang the bell and delivered a package, size 2" x 2", which they managed to fill with cactus. After close examination of these plants, and having been a farm boy in Ohio, this would be a challenge - they were planted in a dish. The Agave was the easiest to identify since it measured one inch and the Opuntia coachuila was nearly that size with a piece eaten out of it. They were the only two that survived the rigors of Arizona. For proof; the opuntia is the very large tree-like cactus you see as you drive into his yard.

.....Agnes Daniels

#### MARY CHURCH'S URBAN MOUNTAIN-LAKE CACTUS COVE

Who else do you know in Arizona on one of Tucson's busy thoroughfares that has cactus, succulents and wild flowers growing around a pond that is stocked with goldfish and runs off into a cave in some man-made six foot "mountains."

Harold and Mary Church came from out east for health reasons about 1960. In 1961, 3 months after the Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society organized, they attended a meeting at the invitation of a friend. Within a year, Mary was "hooked" and has collected cactus and various types of plants ever since. Harold and son-in-law, Phil Cheesman, started with the pool and the area gradually developed to what it is now. Fortunately for Mary, Harold can also make the redwood pots that she needs for her many plants. Her privacy hedge on the north and east shade her many iris and other plants reminiscent of the east. Growing around the pool and up the mountains are succulents and cactus collected from outlying states plus native plants from Arizona. To the west are areas of cactus and flowers. Large trees, such as the chinaberry, milberry, ironwood and mimosa shade the area and also the potted plants and hanging baskets. There is a small greenhouse and an enclosed ramada for the sun and frost-tender plants.

If vou walk into the "Plant Room". formerly the family room, you will be surrounded by about 200 house plants and cacti and several aquariums. Mary has always given willingly of her time to the cactus club and generously of her plants.

.....Agnes Daniels

#### HARRISON YOCUM'S ROCK HILLS CACTUS GARDENS

If the Yocum home in Tucson were on a larger piece of land, it would be called an estate by reason of its unusually large number and varieties of cacti, succulents, and other plants. As one approaches its site down a quiet side street, he can see that this garden is unique in comparison with others. A five foot saguaro is flanked by a small rock hill on one side and a tiny one on the other side.

The U-shaped drive draws the observer up to the house which is constructed of rock and appropriately follows the Wright philosophy of blending into its surroundings. There are low, long hills flanking the drive with palo verde trees in the back corners of the U.

When I use the word "hills", I am referring to the mounds of rocks that have been constructed by Harrison with the help of his father, from choice rock specimens that he collects wherever he goes in his pickup truck. The rocks on the bottom of the hills are large and they are graduated upwards until the top ones are the smallest. In the nooks and crannies of these rocks are growing every cacti that is hardy in this climate. The largest and most interesting hill is on the southeast corner of the property. It is the shape of a "C" with several large fissures running back into it like miniature canyons. At its highest part, it is close to 15 feet.

The carport is full of pots and hanging plants that are too delicate to be planted in the ground. There are two large, long leaf eucalyptus trees and one large pine that give much shade for the planting of sun-sensitive plants. These trees are a distinct advantage of those of newer residents whose largest trees are usually palo verdes.

There is a warm, humid greenhouse on the south side of the house for growing tropical plants. In no way can I describe the thousands of plants in this garden. You will have to wander slowly along the winding paths to discover them for yourselves.

.....Dorothy Christensen.

#### NANCY CLARKE'S "CONVENTIONAL" ARIZONA GARDEN

When you drive down Treat Circle, one sees the conventional city lawn, palm trees, some shade trees and flowers - but at Nancy's you enter the garden gate and stop. Are you in Florida or California? No, this is what Nancy calls a "conventional" Arizona garden.

Along the patio wall are several large containers of roses, along with palms, Star Jasmine, Texas Ranger, Crepe Myrtle, a Magnolia tree, two Palo Verdes, plus a large Algerian Ivy on the south wall. Towards the back is a rose garden ready to bloom. A large Arizona cont'd page 11

Ash and Olive tree shade the patio with its many potted cacti. The two greenhouses and an open-sided ramada, house the over 1000 species or over 2000 cacti (not counting those that sprouted overnight) that are beautifully groomed. Nancy has collected and grown many from seed over the last 18 years.

Our "Sunset" readers will possibley remember Nancy's picture in this magazine a few years ago, with her roses; another, showing her taking down the removable panels from her greenhouse which she uses over the winter to protect her frost-tender cacti. It is always interesting to note why a person started a cactus collection. In Nancy's case, someone gave her an echinopsis in bloom.

.....Agnes Daniels

#### DAN BIRT'S CACTUS PLANTATION

Rocks outline the cactus garden of Dan Birt. Among the annual flowers in season are 2 Saguaros, an ocotillo, Echinocereus Engelmanuii, a Mammilaria MacDougaliii, Coryphanta recurvata, a Yucca aliofolia variegata, Homalocephala, Thelocactus, a hybrid Acanthodes, a Burbank, Echinocactus wislizenii, and a lysiloma tree. Shading a ramada in the front are Junipers, trimmed in bonsai style which also give intermittent sun to his succulents.

Now, we come to the "back yard". How does a person face a one man operation of 800 varieties or 14,000 cacti and know what you have or what do I have to do today. Well, maybe it comes naturally to Dan, who comes from a long line of farmers. He received his degree in Botany and Range Ecology from the U. of A. in Arizona, which, however, did not involve the study of cacti. But, he used to cross the Mall everyday which at that time was beautifully landscaped with cacti. One night he saw a night-blooming Cereus which was second to none in size and beauty, and that was enough incentive to start him on the cultivation of cacti.

What makes a brand new aficionado of cactus think that a 6' x 6' lathouse will be just great? Think of the man hours needed for remodelling to arrive at the present size of 16' x 36' He started raising cactus from seeds, and all of a sudden he found himself in an embarassing situation. The seeds grew into seedlings and fortunately into full grown plants and he had run out of space. His 14,000 plants now fill his shade house. The seedling trees have spilled over to the balance of the yard and some of the larger plants are now filling the back ramada.

And so - future cactophiles - where do you start - or, is it stor?

.... Agnes Daniels

- SOME TUCSON CACTUS NURSERIES THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO VISIT
- 1. ARIZONA CACTUS PATCH. 545 W. Roger Rd. Call 888-4019. Specializing in native and non-native desert plants.
- 2. ARIZONA GROWERS. 1725 E. Prince Rd. Call 326-9519. Specializing in Arizona and Mexico cacti.
- 3. TANQUE VERDE GREENHOUSES. You've heard about it. Now come and see it...thousands and thousands of quality cacti. This is the Nursery that SUNSET MAGAZINE chose for pictures to update their book, "Cactus & Succulents". George Scannell, 10810 East Tanque Verde Rd. Call 749-4414.
- 4. HUGO C. JOHNSTON'S CACTUSLAND NURSERIES. Since 1936. Arizona's largest cactus, succulent and native plant nurseries. We have recently received many exotic plants such as the Ferocactus Pringelli in all sizes; new, large clusters of Mamms.; new agaves; 6 varieties of ariocarpus; coryphanthas; large cephalocereus senilis to 30"; new varieties of echinocereus; cereus of all kinds. You all come to see me. Hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday only. 5740 South Sixth Ave. Call 294-1992.
- 5. GERLACH'S NURSERYMEN. 1901 North Park ave. Call 623-2212. Specializing in cacti -- rare and native. Worldwide shipping.
- 6. CACTIRAMA GIFTS OF THE DESERT. Individual and Boxed. 1607 No. Stone Ave., Call 624-3613.
- 7. GREENHAND CACTUS GARDENS. A large variety of cacti and succulents of North America, South America, Africa. Call Louie Fodor 624-9297. 2433 North Estrella Ave.
- 8. DAN BACH & ASSOCIATES. 405 West Camino Fairhaven. Call 297-0473. Cacti only. Dealing mostly in the varieties of the cacti of Mexico and South America. No native Arizona cacti. All plants greenhouse grown. 1,000,000 seedlings. Retail s Retail sales Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 9. DESERT FLORA. Robert and Beverly White. 11360 East Edison St. Call 749-4030. Specializing in cacti and native plants.
- SHIPPING INFORMATION: United Parcel Service 840 East 18th St. Call 623-8443 Tucson

TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY, INC. 1977 OFFICERS

President: Roger G. Dean. Vice-President: John Gaston. Secretary: Mr. & Mrs. Earl Christensen. Treasurer: Ken Hartsock.

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# 8TH ANNUAL CACTUS SHOW AND PLANT SALE OF TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Our 8th Annual Show and Plant Sale was held on April 8 and 9, 1977, at El Con Shopping Center in the Mall south of Penney's. This was our 5th year at this location. Hours were 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. This was the Easter weekend. Prior experience has proved this to be a good time as there are more than the usual number of shoppers at the stores.

Shows do not just happen. They require a lot of planning, work, and arrangements. The site chosen for the Show had to be reserved with the El Con Shopping Center in January, and periodically reconfirmed to be sure they did not forget us and book the space for someone else. The tables used were rented from the City Parks and Recreation Department. These were reserved and paid for well in advance, to be sure of their being available. In order to determine the number of tables needed, prospective plant sellers in the club had to be contacted to find out how many they would need.

Publicity also requires planning far ahead, I notified SUNSET MAGAZINE immediately, in January, as they need three months notice to print an announcement. Incidentally, they were very accomodating, calling by long distance to obtain more information. Notice of our Show was in their April issue. Further publicity was given us by Verne Owen's GREEN THUMB program on KTUC radio, both the week before the Show and the Saturday of it. The El Con Shopping Center paid for a beautiful ad for our Show in both newspapers. They also gave us a plug on KCEE Radio, and they loaned us the use of the black stanchions and chain placed around our display plants.

Joyce Hardin volunteered to handle the rest of the local publicity. She sent press releases to all the newspapers who carried good write-ups on our Show. She also arranged for an appearance on Cathy Ciampa's show on KZAZ-TV on Wednesday in fore the Show. When Joyce called me about being on TV, I was thrilled but scared (never having been on TV before). I persuaded her to appear with me. It was an exciting experience.

I did something different this year and would like to recommend it to future show chairmen. This is to appoint someone in charge of Display. Agnes Daniels and Linda Ryan agreed to handle this. The result of their work produced nothing but compliments. Many persons have said that it was the best display that the club has ever presented. Props and backgrounds were used with harmonizing colors, and some of the plants were grouped in little niches. We do have artistic ability in our club! While it was a lot of hard work for the girls and their helpers, they must feel well repaid by all the lavish comments.

Dan Birt was appointed by President Roger Dean to be in charge of Plant Sales. This year again was different in that we did not buy plants wholesale for reselling, but relied on plant donations from our members. This worked out successfully as our members were most generous. The plant sales tables were kept well stocked, and the club sales people remained very busy all the time.

I hesitate to list names of those who helped, for fear that someone will be unintentionally omitted. I will have to take that chance because if it had not been for the efforts of these members, there could have been no cactus show and plant sales.

T.C.B.S. members who donated some of their plants for sale: Wiedhopfs, Deans, R. Toth, J. Porter, Anne Christensen, W. A. Pluemer, G. Fisher, G. Kunze, A. Daniels, R. Riggins, L. Hillgert, P. Henshaw, Busches, K. Stehulka, O. Bent, H. Housman, Mrs. R. White, D. Birt, Gastons, B. Rogers, R. Dougherty, M. Church, K. Hartsock, Earl Christensens, Col. W. Young.

T.C.B.S. members who donated their time .... setting up and taking down the Show, manning the club sales tables, watching the display, answering questions from the public: A. Blackburn, Busches, W. A. Pluemer, Hartsocks, Kutzes, K. Stehulka A. Christensen, R. Riggins, Deans, De Havens, J. Porter, A. Daniels, Doughertys, L. Frank, Gastons, N. Beckman, M. Watrous, Elliotts, H. Housman, B. Rogers, Henshaws, R. Wiedhopf, N. Clarke, D. Birt, J. Reardon, M. Raney, H. Bolton, E. Cap, Turennes, M. Church, B. Martel, L. Snider, D. Ocker, R.Toth, J. Shelby, M. and R. Bellafiore, L. Ryan.

Members who displayed their fine plants included: Judy and John Gaston, Alan and Betty Blackburn, Helen Housman, Goldie and Roger Dean, Dan Birt, Bill Pluemer, Agnes Daniels, Nancy Clarke, Myrtle Ethington, Pat and Dick Wiedhopf, Rosella Riggins, Anne Christensen, Evelyn Turenne, Barbara Rogers, Linda Ryan, Mary Church.

250 cacti and other succulent species were exhibited, including the following genuses:

Cacti. Astrophytum, Cereus, Cleistocactus, Echinopsis (a crest also), Espostoa, Gymnocalycium, Mammillaria, Notocactus, Oreocereus, Parodias, Stetsonia Coryne,

<u>Succulents</u>. Euphorbia, Aeonium. Cotyledon. Kalanchoe. Aloe. Crassula. Echeveria. Haworthia.

And NOW (as they say on TV Emmy Awards) .. FOR THE RESULTS EVERYONE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR....HOW MUCH MONEY DID WE MAKE?

Again I want to thank everyone for his hard work in making our 1977 Show a very fine one.

.....Nancy Clarke, Show Chairman

#### TALLEST IDRIA COLUMNARIS IN BAJA IS DISCOVERED

During October 1976, Robert R. Humphrey camped in Montevideo Canyon, a side canyon off the road between Bahia Los Angeles and San Borja Mission in Baja California. Across from his camp stood a giant cirio or Idria columnaris Kellogg or boojum. Choose your own name for this plant "like nothing else on earth." Bob Humphrey measured it to be eighty feet tall soaring into the skies of Baja.

Dr. Robert R.Humphrey's intensive field observations and study of Idria columnaris Kellogg from 1967 to 1971 underlie his conviction that in-depth studies of plants as well as animals are sorely needed for man's better understanding of his universe. A studious researcher of Arizona vegetation since the 1930's with the U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, he developed an expertise that carried him subsequently into Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. He joined the University of Arizona faculty in 1948, becoming professor emeritus of Watershed Management and professor of Biological Sciences.

Dr. Humphrey has been invited to speak at the Sunday evening program, May 15, of the 17th Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. His subject will be "Central Baja - Before and After."

Our understanding of and appreciation of the plant life of central Baja are deeply enriched when we read his book - "The Boojum and Its Home (Idria columnaris Kellogg and Its Ecological Niche)", published by the University of Arizona Press, Tucson, Arizona.

ROGER DEAN \*\* 1977 PRESIDENT OF TUCSON CACTUS & BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Roger Dean is a native of the Kentucky Blue Grass country. He attended Iowa State College and Purdue University, Indiana, studying poultry husbandry. Here he received a certificate in production engineering. He was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1937 by the University of Kentucky. His horticultural interests fostered his great interest in plants. When he came to live in the Southwest, his attention focused on the world of cacti and the other succulents. He has belonged to Tucson Cactus Society since its inception. He and Mrs. Dean were delegates from T. C. B. S. to the 1975 C S S A Convention. Roger's favorite hobbies relate to the great outdoors: Scoutmaster work; Southern Arizona Hiking Club; Gem and Mineral Society; Tucson Camera Club. He is affiliated with the National Wildlife Foundation; American Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Cactus & Succulent Society of America.

"Many thanks for your kind wishes for my recent retirement. I will never forget my warmest friendships among members of the Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society, and your numerous meetings where I had the pleasure of addressing you. I am busy lecturing, consulting, and reviewing manuscripts. I am working on three books which I shall bring out in two years when I shall be 72 years old. I hope to be in the Soviet Union during June 1977, after attending the Seventeenth Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc., in Tucson, May 16-20, 1977. In 1978 I shall speak at the International Organization of Succulents in Monaco on the Mediterranean Sea. I'll be seeing you all soon. Thanks for your interest in me."

W. H. Earle, Director Emeritus of Desert Botanical
Garden
Papago Park, Phoenix, Arizona

(This letter from Hubert Earle is acknowlegment of a letter of appreciation with good wishes sent to him by CHATTER editor for the membership of the Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society).

#### ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

"Near Arizona's Rendezvous with California and Mexico, there is a world of space and color. Its horizons appear held apart by sky; its mountains look flatly two-dimensional; and its spectacular vegetation seems borrowed from another planet.

Reaching northward from the wilderness of northwestern Sonora, a sub-tropical finger of the Mexican gulf coast desert extends from the Gulf of California into a broad, mountain-fringed valley of southwestern Arizona. Accompanying a relatively frost-free climate, this vegetative probe meets the eastern edge of the California microphyll desert and the western rim of the Arizona succulent desert.

Here, within the 516 square miles of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, plants and animals of these three phases of the Great Sonoran Desert merge to form rich and varied biological communities. This scenic wilderness of rugged mountains, cactus-studded slopes, and desert flats is an American heritage preserved for the enjoyment of the people. Bathed in bright sunlight and clean, clear air, this amazing world awaits your discovery."

---Natt N. Dodge, Natural History Handbook Series/No.6.

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT...ARIZONA 35 miles south of Ajo, Arizona on State Highway 85. An overnight visit is highly recommended, due to long distance from Tucson and a vast area to see. Accomodations at Ajo and Lukeville.

ACTUS	NEWSLETTER OF TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY Affiliate of Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. SUBSCRIPTIONS \$2.50				
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	Hildegard Nase	Joe Brick	Dorothy Christensen		
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#### HERE AND THERE WITH THE EDITOR

Our long-time dear friends and active members of long standing-Mr. and Mrs. J. Vick Merrill, have returned to their former home in Minnesota, and are living near their daughters. Vick and Eliza served as co-secretaries; Vick was a Board of Directors member; both took active part in TCBS programs and projects through the years. We wish for them the return of good health and much happiness.

Special features of interest to you in this issue: 114 cactus clubs in the U.S.S.R. with 3000 members. The story of the founding of the Cochise County Cactus and Succulent Society. Editor John Hales' new feature -- CHATTERBOX. A message from the President of the Coordinating Council of Cactus Friends of the U.S.S.R.

In later issues, watch for reports on Tucson's newly organized ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE

ALMA H. STEININGER of Green Valley, Arizona. d. June 3, 1977. Alma had belonged to Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society for many years -- actively. She was a graduate of Stanford University, interested in educational and civic activities and Green Valley and neighboring Continental. A Memorial find in her honor has been established to improve the children's area at the Pima-Green Valley Public Library whre she was a volunteer worker. Her friends may send their donations to the First National Bank, Green Valley Shopping Mall, Green Valley, Arizona 85614.

MRS. F. LEE (LURA) FULLER. Mrs. Lura Fuller died on July 29, 1977 She was a charter member of the Tucson Cactus Club which was founded in November 1960 by "Cactus John" Haag and his friend, P.G. Nichols. She remained active for sixteen years, in her devotion to the goals and the program of the Tucson Cactus & Botanical Society (the altered name of the Tucson Cactus Club). Lura worked many years on the staff of Cactus Capital Chatter in the most efficient manner. She was a gracious club hostess several years, and worked on membership committees. She and Lee exhibited their choice cacti at many of our shows. This year they had observed their 67th wedding anniversary.

MR. BERT H. SMITH died on July 25, 1977. He had made his home in Tucson since 1953 and became a member of the original Tucson Cactus Club during its first year. Bert and his wife, Mildred, spent many happy years in their desert home in the Tucson Mountains Foothills, 4266 Camino Nuestro which they named Quail Trail. In his big hobby shop, Bert constructed a portable blind which enabled the Smiths to photograph intimately the wild birds and the small animals of tne desert. They presented many slide shows through the years to various interested and appreciative Tucson area audiences. Their very famous slide show is Quail Trail Parade. Clocks and furniture making were two of his other favorite hobbies. Bert and Mildred Smith and Lura and Lee Fuller have been good friends for many years.

MRS. DORIS OCKER died on August 10, 1977. She had been a member of Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society in late years. One of her active interests was the conservation of natural resources and the preservation of wildlife, both fauna and flora.

"We have no dearer word for our hearts' friends, For those who journey to the world's far end, and scar our souls with going; thus we say As unto them who step but o'er the way--'Good-bye.' Good-bye Alma Steininger. Good-bye Lura Fuller. Good-bye Bert Smith. Good-bye Deres Ocker.

(CORRIGENDA: \$2.50 is the current cost of one year's subscription to CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER, and not as announced in CHATTER No.2, 1977.

#### A SPEECH AT THE I.O.S. CONGRESS OCTOBER 1976 BARCELONA SPAIN

Ву

ANDREJ. P. SOKOLOW

President of the Coordinating Council of Cactus Friends of the U. S. S. R.

Member of I. O. S.

Translated by Hildegard Nase of Tucson Cactus & Botanical Society

Honored Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the I.O.S. and quests:

First of all, I wish to express greetings and great success for the 14th Congress of the I.O.S. from the 3000 organized cactus friends in the U.S.S.R. The cactus hobby in the U.S.S.R. is a relatively new one that only lately attracted to its groups professional scientists and devoted collectors. Our Cactus Club, "Astrophytum" in Alma-Ata was founded 12 years ago, the third in the U.S.S.R. Today we have 114 organized clubs in the various cities of the U.S.S.R. Almost all are under the jurisdiction of the Society for the Protection of Natural Beauty and Wildlife.

Such progress did not happen accidentally. The generous and successful home building program in the last 15 to 20 years gives several million people each year new and comfortable dwellings. which makes it possible to encourage a collection of house plants. The interesting part is that clubs and organization are much more numerous in the cities and villages of the northern part of the U.S.S.R. than in the southern, climatically more favorable part of the country. Presently there exist 3 cactus clubs even far beyond the Artic Circle -- the most northern clubs in the entire world. In 1972 was the first organized meeting in Alma-Ata of 29 representatives from 9 republics. All delegates emphasized in their speeches the necessity of establishing a National Cactus Society of cactus friends to form a center for guidance and information. For this purpose, a temporary council of coordination was established. By the end of 1972, the first Society of Cactus Friends in cooperation with the central council of plant protection in Kazakhstan was founded.

Since 1973 a journal entitled "Help for Cactus Friends" has been published. During the last 3 years an interesting subject has been under discussion by cactus friends and biologists. It deals with the development of the deserts of Kazakhstan (2 million  $\mbox{km}^2$ ). We are thinking of plant production by the planting of cacti.

The third national meeting in May of this year showed further progress by solving numerous organizational questions. 85 delegates from 55 cities met for three days, - the lectures and discussions were lively. A new coordinating committee was elected. This commitee coodinates the work of the seed-exchange program in Perm which has already been in existence for several years: a lending library for slides in Tashkent, a library for literature and

lectures in Kischinow, and an information center for photography in Sumy.

This was a short report of our activities. In essence the most important aspects of all our clubs have been the involvement in the environment and plant protection. That is my concern in the second part of my speech. We are greatly concerned when it comes to our attention in our special literature of the world-wide catastrophe of the destruction of many cacti and other succulents. The plant protection must be more rigidly enforced to work for our beloved plants. I wholeheartedly agree with our respected secretary of the I.O.S., Dr. H. Friedrich when he said: "All members, individually as well as collectively, should always be in the front line in the battle for the preservation of succulent plants." Yes, maybe in theory there seems to be some progress. Let us compare advertisements and catalogues of today with those of 5 to 10 years ago. In those days we frequently found ads of imported plants. Today the word "import" has disappeared. For instance, formerly the company's name was "Sud-Pflanzen-Import", Wiesbaden-Erbenheim, West Germany. Today it is only "Sud-Pflanzen", the "I" in the letterhead is all that is left to remind you!

Does that mean that imported plants are no longer available at the dealers? Don't you believe it! The word "IMPORT" must not only disappear in print but in greenhouses and at dealers as well. Plants raised from seeds and imported seeds should only be sold. I sincerely believe that the I.O.S. with the support of a group of enthusiastic environmentalists could achieve a successful control.

Mrs. Hildegard Nase of Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. wrote to me about a very commendable example of the "Plant Protection Law" of Arizona. She published this at the same time in the KuaS in October 1974. For instance, hundreds of tourists and cacti collectors dig up young Carnegiea gigantea plants each year, to take them home as souvenirs. Natural propagation of these plants was greatly disturbed by this. Members of the Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society under the direction of Mr. Joseph F. Brick organized a "Cacti Reforestation Program." Hundreds of seedlings were raised at members' homes and later planted in a State Park and other desert areas. Such examples should be publicized! It is a pity that in matters like this, we in the U.S.S.R. are unable to help. All we could do so far was to publicize the code of the Plant Protection Law in Bulletin 75 of the I.O.S. It was translated into the Russian language and distributed to all  ${\tt clubs}$ where it has unanimous support.

Realistically I recommend the following measures:

1.) A recommendation to contact all cactus nurseries all over the world and ask them in a diplomatic manner to please

refrain from the sale of imported plants.

- 2.) In the Prize lists of the nurseries all plants that are on the endangered list, those that are doomed to extinction, should be especially marked, in order that the purchaser can show a special appreciation and do everything possible to help propagate same.
- 3.) The I.O.S. should submit a petition which should be mailed to all countries and states where succulents are endangered, and express the urgent desire to prohibit the collection of cactus -- by penalty of law, except for scientific purposes. This petition should have three signatures: I.O.S., I.U.B.S., and UNESCO.

The greatest responsibility of our generation is to put a stop to the negative reaction of the technical progress upon our biosphere.

#### THE CHATTERBOX

Wherein Editor John B. Hales carries his readers into various fields of plant interests.

CACTI NEWEST CRAZE among plant lovers. The lowly cactus now seems to be an "IN" thing and the prices run up to \$800. Sophisticated plant lovers are getting tired of the usual Garden Variety of household plants - they want something different. The Saguaro seems to be the favorite. Attractive 'pink' barrels run \$35.00. Artists and off-beaters are drawn to the strange sculptural form of the EUPHORBIAS. One of the reasons stated for this current fad was due to the 'current water shortage' and general less care. Shoplifting is nonexistent in most of the stores, it is reported. San Francisco newspapers (UPI) 6-3-77.

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST Jan/Feb 1977 issue, priced at \$2.50, is an International Magazine of Fine Interior & Exterior Design, being the elite of decorator; magazines. "Interior Decorator" is seldom used anymore; Design Consultant or Interior Designer being preferable. It is evident that too many housepersons have pawned themselves off as Interior Decorators. In the above issue I estimated some (62) potted plants used in the various room designs, about (15) being of the succulent family. The front cover of this beautiful magazine shows an attractive room with an Euphorbia, tilted and twisted toward the sunlight. Very few of these mentioned plants have an ideal living condition. There is no doubt as to where a lot of our desert flora is going - into the decorating field of fine homes.

MYCETOPHLIA LAMARCKIANS: M. lamarckians is a type of Brain Coral found in various Oceans and called "CACTUS CORAL". The name is derived from the fact that the septa often have large spine-like teeth on their upper edge resembling a cactus thorn.

Ref: Hans W. Hannau-The Coral Reefs Page 60

YUCCA NEWBERRYI McKELVEY appeared on the front cover page of ARIZONA HIGHWAYS, May 1976 described as "Narrowleaf Yucca in bloom on a ledge along the Colorado River." By Joseph Muench. ARIZONA FLORA by Kearney & Peebles (Page 138) indicates Y. newberryi is found on the southern bank of the Colorado River from Kanole Creek to Lake Mead (Mohave County) 1000 to 2000 ft. elevation, known only from Northwestern Arizona.

FINIS: (?) Linda Forney who was lost 20 days in Grand Canyon has won new fame. (see CCC Vol. XII (1976) No. 1 issue) "BUDS OF CACTUS PLANTS - THEY WERE PRETTY GOOD." She appeared on National TV on Garry Moore's "TO TELL THE TRUTH" Show. Now, all Linda has to do is write a book and become famous.

SNAILS DO BETTER THAN CACTI (?) According to Mary Saul in her shell book, "AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO A TIMELESS AND FASCINATING WORLD", snails have been recorded living at over 16,400 feet and 12,550 feet high on the Bolivian plateau. 14 species of land snails live in northern Norway, well within the Artic Circle 1t the other extreme there are snails adapted to life in the DESTRT and midday temperatures at 110 degrees F. They are able to survive in such conditions for years at a stretch without either food or water. Nothing was said about the life-span of these snails. Do they reach the age of our large Saguaros? I'm sure Conchologists would say there are no comparisons between the two.

#### THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN'S 30TH ANNUAL CACTUS SHOW

John B. Hales

"DESERT FANTASY" could easily have been the title at the 30th Annual Cactus Show held in the Garden's Webster Auditorium in Papago Park near Phoenix, Feb. 20th thru the 27th, 1977. The beautiful outdoor grounds proved to be an exciting area in which to stage this year's biggest and most successful show. Saguaroland Bulletin reported some 25,000 in attendance. Our Winter Visitors and many friends look forward to the wonderful show of Cacti and Other Succulents; many from other deserts of the world. The walkways thru the garden; cactus-lined and interlaced with many Agaves, Yuccas, Ocotillos, trees and shrubs were well groomed by the Garden Staff. The many beds of Desert Wild Flowers proved to be a picture of colors, the most outstanding being beside the arroyo with canopied-shade provided by the green-bank Palo Verde trees. The Indigo Bush and Scorpion Weed gave us purple flowers; red and pink colors from the Penstemon family. Desert Daisy a white flower. Hummingbird busines of orange and red, Desert Marigold - bright yellow. The Fairy Duster bush with puffs of pink/white balls, and African Daisies - bright colors galore. with the blues of the Lupin. Across the way a huge bed of Aloe chabaudii - bloom stalks of reddish-orange flowers. Among the

desert shrubs, <u>Sweet Acacia</u> with small, yellow ball-shaped flowers, and <u>Cassias</u> - <u>many</u> from Australia-made a beautiful spring showing. Papago Park is really a "Desert Island" surrounded by (3) cities, its native flora outstanding; the brick-red Gila conglomerate buttes rising abruptly above the desert floor, giving the over-all effect of a colossal rock garden. An awe-inspiring setting.

Interest and popularity in Cacti and Other Succulents are certainly on the upswing and 'shows' are the best way to bring people and plants together - to learn and be exposed to the great varieties of succulents. Show plants, representing many geographical areas of the world; - offering a challenge to those who enjoy entering specimen plants in competition; - reflecting the pride of their owners. 69 exhibitors entered 817 potted plants.

Kathryn Sabo, Woodland Hills, Ca., Alan Blackburn and Nancy Clarke from Tucson, Az., competent Succulentophiles judged the Cacti & Other Succulent Classifications. Other judges were used for 'Arrangements & Centerpieces' - 'Photography' and 'Arts!. The co-sponsor of the show, The Phoenix Gazette, offered for the first time an award for most points awarded to any one individual in recognition for their hard work and excellent growing ability. Undoubtedly this will become the most sought after 'challenge' trophy and highly prized by its recipient. 17 Saguaro Trophies were won, together with the many ribbons.

SWEEPSTAKES AWARD PHOENIX GAZETTE TROPHY: FRAN M. TOLLESON

CACTUS: ROBERT MOULIS

PLANTERS: FRAN M. TOLLESON

OTHER SUCCULENTS: JAMES A. ROBBINS
Sierra Vista, Az.

The "BEST CACTUS" was a lovely Pelecyphora pseudopectinata, 3 heads displaying some 15 buds and pink flowers. The "BEST SUCCULENT" being very deserving, was an Euphorbia resinifera var. mogoridora, a bush type with countless stems.

The "RAREST CACTUS" in the show, although no award is offered, was discovered and collected by the JAMES A. ROBBINS Family recently; named COCHISEIA ROBBINSORUM Earle species nova. The story of this attractive cactus is told in the pages of The Saguauroland Bulletin, June/July, 1976 issue. It will be available in a few years thru ISI.

Limited space allows only a few comments on <u>OUTSTANDING-UNUSUAL</u> Cacti and Succulents:

Aztekium ritteri, with 6 olive-green heads, has a wrinkled or aged appearance. It won out of 19 entries (Div.1).

A beauty, Echinomastus macdowellii, white-spined with 6 pink flowers (Div. 5).

Mammillaria (10) enjoys great competition among some 45 entries allowing this genus 3 sections; small, medium and large pot sizes. Mam. elegans, a two headed 7" tall with a ring of lively pink-red flowers, was a gem. Mam. spinossima & M. schwarzii,

both in flower, added more color to the collection.  $\underline{\text{Mam.Plumosa}}$  filled 10" pot, clustering with its feathery-white spines. A lovely species.

Opuntia (15). O. erinacea var. ursina took a Blue Ribbon. So-called Grizzly Bear with white/brownish, hair-like spines exceptionally long. A very nice specimen. A selection of 25 "Barrel Cacti" consumed a large space (Div.6), the tops being an Echinocactus polycephalus - 5 heads. A nice clump.

<u>Crested or Monstrose</u> (20) own root or grafted. A fabulous collection which always seems to be crowded indicating its popularity. A 6-headed monstrose of <u>Coryphantha recurvata</u>, rare in collections, took a Blue Ribbon.

NOTOCACTUS (14). Came in with 19 entries-N. haselbergii won a Blue Ribbon and a Trophy for its owner, Dan S. Birt, It was a lovely small-size globular cactus covered with softish-white spines topped with reddish-orange flowers. Really a show plant.

#### THE PATIO AREA

The Patio Area served as interesting settings for other divisions, including most of the 'Leaf Succulents' displayed on long tables beneath the red-tile porch roofs. Again the wild flowers against the patio walls gave spring-time elegance.

<u>PLANTERS</u> (Sec.V) consisted of all rooted plants - 'Hanging Planters' from porch rafters - 'Patio Planters' - 'Dish Gardens' decorated many areas around the 'Trees & Shrubs' - 'Desert Bonsai' and 'Caudiciform' tables. It is thru the Patio that one must travel to view <u>PHOTOGRAPHY</u>, (Sec.VII), which is becoming more popular with its prints and transparencies.

AEONIUM (2).An attractive corner with 21 entries. A. Pseudotabulaeforme won first prize.

 $\frac{\mathsf{AGAVE}}{\mathsf{alba}}$  (3). A pretty entry was  $\underline{\mathsf{A.americana}}$  mediopicta forma

ALOE (4) with 29 entries gave us A. melanacantha, an ISI plant selection.

DUDLEYA, GRAPTOPETALUM (10) includes 3 Arizona species: G. bartramii - D. collomae and D. arizonica. D. traskeae (ISI 962) on Smithsonian Endangered List is fast becoming extinct. EUFHORBIAS (Sec.11) with 29 entries was certainly representative

of this huge milk-weed family. E. hougheyi, 5 ft. tall, and E. turbiniformis (ISI) 867 button size presented the largest and smallest plants in display.

H. maughanii under HAWORTHIA (Sec.12) was a jewel with 12 fingers truncate (square at the tips) with roots exposed.

PACHYPODIUM: (D.20). A beautiful display of 8 entries of all sizes, consisting of 3 different species: P. geayi - P. densiflorum var. densiflora - P. lamerei, 3 ft. tall. Frightening

and grotesque, these monstrosities go to extremes. Some trunks are covered with spines and others have no prickles at all. Pachypodiums are mostly from Southwest Africa.

A short resume to the 'ARTS' (Sec.VIII) that adds so much beauty to our bare walls above the plant tables displays. A lot of attention is given to the oils - watercolors - graphics - mixed-media, and this year a new classification - BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS (Class E.). These are primarily technical drafts - they can be beautiful, as these exhibits show, but their main functions is scientific. An illustration in color of Aloe marlothii Berger was a favorite. Zoraida Twitty won a B.R. & Trophy for her Desert Landscape in oil.

A commercial "Educational Exhibit" by J. Whitman Evans was on the genus ARIOCARPUS, and well illustrated with specimen plants collected over the years on his many expeditions into the Chihuahuan Desert of Texas and Mexico, and the fringe areas of that desert. This group of plants has been controversial and many proposals have been made. Plants exhibited were: -

Ariocarpus scapharostrus (\*)

Ariocarpus scapnarostrus (\* A. trigonus

A. kotschubeyanus

A. kotschubeyanus

var. mcdowellii

A. retusus gigantea

A. retusus var.

Ariocarpus lloydii

A. elongatus

A. intermedius

A. intermedius var. glabra

A. furfuraceus

A. fissuratus

A. retusus X trigonus, a natural hybrid.

\* not collected by exhibitor.

The "Plant Sale" held outdoors for the first time was a huge success under a canvas canopy in the Student Entrance area, giving greater advantage to the display of the plant tables, which groaned with potted cacti & other succulents, desert trees and shrubs, also wildflowers. Cuttings for rooting and miscellaneous items. In each show there is something about it to be remembered in particular--this year it could be the new outside location which lent such a beautiful and natural background for plant sales. The Plant Committee under the dynamic leadership of Chuck Merbs are to be congratulated for their outstanding performance.

It was also rewarding to see friends from the "Southland" come forward and assist in making the 30th Annual Cactus Show a success. We thank all of you. Special thanks to Alan Blackburn & Nancy Clarke, judges; Data S. Birt and John Gaston, exhibitors; James and John Robbins from Sierra Vista for their lavish display of African Succulents which is always a joy to see. Also, Rodney Engard, Supt. and his Garden Staff including about 100 devoted Volunteers. All in all, including the weather, it was an excelent show.

# CULTURAL NOTES ON FREE PLANTS GIVEN TO MEMBERS IN 1976 TCBS MEETINGS

#### Alan Blackburn

All the cacti given out in 1976 were seedlings. As such, they need more water than a mature plant needs. I try to keep my seedlings from drying out completely. In windy weather or during low humidity periods, 3-4 waterings per week may be required. The planting mix has not much food value. Hence, every third watering should contain plant food. Any balanced plant food may be used -- fish emulsion, Marvel, or any SOLUABLE plant food. After the plant has a good growth, watering can gradually be reduced to once per week during warm weather, and to once per month during the cold season, which in Tucson usually is November to March. I plant all my plants in the same mix -- l part Baccto Potting Soil to 3 parts sand.

Free succulents were: senecio rowleyans (string of pearls); Haworthia minor and Haworthia cuspitata. Free Cacti were: Cephalocereus alensis; Coryphantha odorata; Coryphantha clava; Ferocactus crassihamatus. The Senecio and the Haworthia are African plants and as such begin to grow during September and October. I water these plants once per week and fertilize every third watering until cold weather of 40 degrees or below. Then, only enough to prevent their drying out completely. Most Haworthias are tender and should be protected during freezing weather.



JOE BRICK AND ALAN BLACKBURN
PACKING JOE'S ESPOSTOA LANATA

#### JOE BRICK'S UNUSUAL ESPOSTOA LANATA HAS A NEW HOME

Joseph F. Brick

For several years this plant has been growing in a large pot on our patio. Apparently it liked its location and the treatment it received over the years, which was not out of the ordinary. However I have been told that its response was out of the ordinary. It grew four arms ranging from one foot to four feet, and when it reached the roof of the patio at its height of eight and one-half feet, there was only one alternative and that was to find a new home for it.

Upon my inquiry, our friend, Mr. Hubert Earle, Director of the

Desert Botanical Garden at Papago Park, Phoenix, Arizona, was happy to accept it and provide a home for it. With the help of another friend, Mr. Alan Blackburn, and a great deal of muscle and backbone, the three of us loaded it into a van which Hubert drove down to Tucson to truck it to its new home.

Mr. Earle stated that this plant is unusual with its tall size and the number of large branches. He stated that in its natural state it very seldom produced branches. Also, that he had visited several botanical gardens in Europe this last spring and saw a number of lanatas but not one with branches and not any as tall as the plant he was now looking at. Needless to say, I felt very proud of this plant. I feel sure that it will like its new home in the large Lath House at the Garden. I also feel sure that future generations will enjoy my unusual Espostoa lanata

# THE 1977 TCBS TOURS OF LOCAL CACTUS NURSERIES AND PRIVATE CACTUS GARDENS

Roger Dean, 1977 president of T C B S, has successfully introduced a popular, new monthly activity -- T C B S members visiting Tucson cactus and native plant nurseries; also visiting members' private cactus gardens. This is generally scheduled for Sunday afternoons of the week following the regular T C B S meetings. Two cactus nurseries were visited during January 16, 1977. Fifty-six members were guided through Tanque Verde Greenhouses at 10310 East Tanque Verde Road, by owner, George Scannell, and his family. A half-million succulents fill the five greenhouses. Plants were for sale. Questions about cactus culture were answered. The second cactus nursery visited was Desert Flora Nursery at 11360 East Edison Street, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Robert White who have become members of T C B S. They showed their newer and smaller greenhouse, answered questions, and sold plants.

The second tour of greenhouses, on February 20, 1977, was at Dan Bach's Wholesale Nursery at 405 West Camino Fairhaven. Fortynine members were guided through Bach's large nursery buildings which are converted chicken coops of A-line construction. Bach's large number of beautiful plants look well fertilized and well watered.

#### EARL CHRISTENSEN'S CACTUS HOUSE

The last thing that Earl did before he entered the hospital for lung surgery this year was to put in the footing for a lath or cactus house. He realized that it would be a very long time before he could work on his cactus house again. Some of his cactus friends suggested that they build it for Earl and Dorothy. On February 6, Roger Dean, John Gaston and Alan Blackburn, with two former Illinois retiree friends went to Christensen's home. Before they left, a 16 foot by 10 foot cactus house was practically

completed. Galvanized metal lath was used for walls, and clear fiberglass for the roof. The cactus house was finished later by Roger Dean, Boy Ayese and Stan Erickson. This experience, says Dorothy, brings back your feeling of the worth of your friends when something like this happens in times when no one seems to care about anyone else.

## IT ALL HAPPENED DURING C SS A 1977 CONVENTION IN TUCSON

Agnes Daniels

Josephine Shelby, Cactus Capital Chatter editor, asked me to write up some "interesting" anecdotes and observations about this convention. After a few notes, I thought why not call a few of the members who participated. I made my first call and explained my dilemma. My friend came back with: "Well, I said a lot of things that amused people ----but then, I didn't take notes." Now, who do you know in TCBS who can come back with such a fast retort? She's always good for a laugh.

Evelyn Turenne had just finished arranging the native plants and materials on the U. S. and Mexico tables at the convention. However, there remained one interesting 3-foot piece of ironwood. After contemplating a few minutes, she placed it between the two tables. She stood back to view the overall effect when two people walked over to admire the exhibit. One of them noticing the branch remarked: "What a lovely interpretation -- a bridge of friendship extending from one country to another!" Myrtle Ethington who was busy making the name plates for the plants exhibited, came over and decided it was a good interpretation also.

A list of people who received plants as door prizes really needed them. Each has at least 2000 plants or a nursery: Harrison Yo-cum, Hans Britsch of California and his son, Hildegard Nase, Warner Dodd of Phoenix, Charles Glass and Bob Foster of California.

People who did not come to the banquet and missed receiving door prizes were: Myrtle Ethington who was attending an Honor Society Banquet where her son received two high awards - one in Math and one in Social Studies. The other was Edna Zeavin who missed out on a Safari to Africa. Edna has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Biological Science and it has always been her dream to go to Africa to study plants and animals. Possible fate did not have a trip in store for her at this time.

If a plant had to "disappear" at the convention, why did it have to be Dan Birt's Mam. zeomaneana crest, a difficult plant to replace? And where else would you go to "find" a nice saguaro? Why of course -- in the display by the Agricultural Department. It was so convenient -- it was tagged -- and who would question you as to whether you bought it or "requisitioned" it?

Can you imagine yourself packaging over 1000 envelopes of cactus seeds -- about 60 varieties -- and putting a name on each envelope and listing them? Convention guests spent over \$160.00 at  $25 \rm cmu$  per package. Our thanks to Barbara Rogers. There were also 1000 envelopes of cactus seeds packaged by the Blackburns and Helen de Marinis. Each registrant received two in his convention packet. Again, many thanks.

Did you ever attend such a perfectly smooth-running convention? Dick had a little talk with the weather-man upstairs and he complied. The palo verdes were in full bloom; the opuntias really showed off--heavily loaded with yellow, gold, rust, red, maroon blooms. Buses ran on schedule to the parks. The food and service were excellent. The registration was perfectly organized. The programs were superb. People had fun. We met a lot of nice people and made new friends. But, no wonder--there were two very capable TCBS members in charge--Dick Wiedhopf and Barbara Rogers. Accolades and standing ovations to them. In between keeping her heavy schedule, Barbara found time to make cactus shirts for Dick and Pat. Many TCBS members wore such at the convention and looked stunning.

#### COCHISE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Jessie and Vince Lopresti, formerly of San Jose, California, moved to Sierra Vista. Arizona in 1975 to make their new home. Vince has the job of representing McGraw Hill Continuing Education Center, covering southeastern Arizona. They packed up more than 1000 varieties of their cacti and succulents in 67 huge boxes to bring to Arizona, and they gave away to San Jose friends 500-1000 plants. Finding no cactus and succulent club in Sierra Vista, they proceeded to form one with assistance from their Chamber of Commerce and friends; the local gardening editor of the Sierra Vista newspaper; television and radio; and newspaper articles in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Bisbee, Douglas. Today the membership of COCHISE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY is close to 30 members and growing. Their objectives are: "to function continuously in the study of cacti and the other succulents and native flora of Arizona; and to further the protection of cacti, the other succulents and native flora of Arizona; and to foster the planting of cacti, the other succulents and native flora in suitable places."

Cochise County Cactus & Succulent Society actively works on two projects at present. They have planted a Desert Garden at the Sierra Vista New Civic Center -- a five-year project. In this 243 foot by 65 foot garden space given them by their town for this project, they have planted 13 saguaros (tallest is in ieee,), Agave Americana, Ocotillo, Chollas, Opuntias. They will plant several thousand smaller cacti in due time. They have permission to collect cacti for this project from 84,000 acres of private ranches, the Nogales and Sierra Vista Ranger Districts. Also, the San Jose and Oakland, California cactus clubs donated plants. The Loprestis have made several collecting trips to Mexico, and CCC & SS makes trips to Sonora, Mexico. Their second project is related to the Sierra Vista Beautification Commision whose president is a member. They work with Ft. Huachuca on post beautification. Several other projects loom, but CCC & SS is concentrating on their Desert Garden Center for which they receive support from city, county, and federal governments, local ranchers and service clubs.

CCC & SS has invited TCBS as a group and as individuals to donate plants to their Desert Garden Center. Also, they have invited TCBS to attend one of their meetings. Loprestis have become members of TCBS. To know them inspires one to become more ambitious and active in his own cactus society.

#### COMMENTS ON SUCCULENTS FOR BEGINNERS

Larry W. Mitich North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota

The group of plants called "cacti and other succulents" provides tremendous variety for the collector, as there are about 11,000 different species of all shapes, sizes and colors, suitable for a wide range of growing conditions. The largest succulent plant family is the cactus family, with close to 2,500 species and varieties. However, there are about 50 other families that are either entirely succulent or contain succulent members, such as the lily, geranium, stonecrop, spurge and milkweed families. These "other" succulents will be discussed in this article.

Although many succulent plants superficially resemble cacti, they are not at all related but simply grow under somewhat similar conditions. Whether a plant is or is not a cactus is important not only for accuracy's sake but for knowing how to take care of it.

Succulent ("juicy") plants have rather spongy tissue enabling them to store water when it's available, for use in time of drought. Dissolved in the often gluey pulp are the nutrients needed for plant life. The plants may have fleshy leaves, fleshy stems, or both; or tuberous roots; or the stem may have a sort of swollen base, called a caudex (KAW-dex). Plants with such caudices (KAW-dis-eeze) are called caudiciform (kaw-DIS-si-form) and some of the rarer and weirder kinds are becoming a great attraction for collectors.

Some succulents have no leaves at all; others consist merely of two or more fat leaves without any stem to speak of. Considering that a large tree can transpire (lose) hundreds of gallons of water daily through the pores in its leaves, succulent plants are equipped not only to store moisture but to keep water loss to a minimum. The ideal succulent would consist of a globular body with roots, for this shape gives maximum volume while exposing a minimum of surface to the drying sun and air. Some succulents (Euphorbia obesa, for example) come pretty close to that shape and are greatly treasured by collectors; whereas, in the cacti, the globular form is quite common.

Succulents generally have thicker skin and fewer pores (stomata-STO-mah-tah) than other plants. Since these conditions and other physical factors curtail their "breathing" as well as their water loss, the plants' rate of growth is reduced; consequently many species grow very slowly and none are really rapid growers.

Many succulents are covered with a whitish or bluish powder, called "bloom", or a waxy coating which revels in the intensity of the sun's rays. Such plants require strong sunlight to retain their beauty. Some species have a chemical under their surface which filters the blazing sunlight before it reaches the chlorophyl deeper down.

Because succulents are found in many parts of the world, it is difficult to generalize the conditions they require for healthy growth. However, it is probably fair to say that they come from

areas where there is either little rainfall, or rain that occurs for only a certain time of year, and these plants are equipped to survive the drought between rains. Sometimes all they get for months is a little dew. Many need protection from the midday summer sun and others require light to moderate shade. Bearing in mind that there are also plenty of non-succulent plants that manage to survive the same tough conditions, we must conclude that nature has two ways of "beating the drought" - either resisting it or avoiding it by storing water.

Succulents need rather rich, but loose, sandy (porous) soil so that their roots are not continuously wet and can get oxygen readily. Contrary to popular belief, succulents need a substantial amount of water while they are in active growth, usually during the warm seasons. However, they need less water or none at all while they are resting or dormant, for they utilize the water stored in their tissues. Adding low nitrogen fertilizer during the growing season is beneficial.

Many succulents withstand not only great heat but also considerable cold. There are many winter hardy types that can survive below zero temperatures, but the non-hardy kinds can tolerate less cold and then only if they are kept dry. The best allaround night time winter temperature for non-hardy succulents in the home is 50 degrees; the combination of cold and dryness will force them to take a good rest so that they will grow and bloom when spring arrives. They also need plenty of fresh air (not drafts) to "compensate" for their slower respiration (breathing). The best place for succulents in summer is outdoors; a good rain does wonders for them.

Many collectors now prefer plastic pots to clay. Clay pots allow the soil to dry out too fast in summer and the plant's feeder roots die. Plastic pots give more protection and, if the soil mixture is porous, it will not stay too wet. More plants die from too much water than from too little.

Flowers of succulents generally are small and not as showy as cactus flowers, but many are very striking. The beauty of most succulents is mainly in the plants themselves; but if a plant flower, it is probably mature and healthy. Succulents properly cared for in the home usually look better than those in the wild because they get fertilizer and water when needed and are protected from animals and bad weather; consequently, they are not scarred, marred or sunburned. But if they get too much water, too little sun or light, too much nitrogen and no cold and dry winter rest, they will lose their coloring and characteristics and become etiolated (EE-tee-oh-lated). Such plants are pale, elongated and stringy, susceptible to rot and eventually may die. With experience in growing and observing other collector's plants, you will slowly develop an "eye" for what various plants ought to look like. Succulents generally are supposed to be compact, squatty, fat and colorful.



# NEWSLETTER OF TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY Affiliate of Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

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"CONTINUALLY STRIVING TO EXPAND OUR HORIZONS AND CONTENT IN THE INTEREST OF CACTOPHILES EVERYWHERE."

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# MANKIND'S SANITY DEMANDS SANCTUARIES OF QUIET AND BEAUTY

"A culture without an opportunity for modern man to know the Ancient Rhythms, the Great Silences, and to be at one with the Cosmic Forces will be a barren one. No greater challenge faces us than to preserve some places of quiet and beauty for the sanity of mankind. The Time to provide such places is Now. There will be No second chance."

... Sigurd Olson

#### 000000 SONG OF ARIZONA NATIVE CACTI HABITATS

Let us sing the Song of our Habitats -- a gladsome, thankful kind of a Song. Our Habitats where the Cacti grow -- secure from cactus-strippers; those greedy, cowardly, destructive Souls! Conservator - visitors rush to our Habitats; their cameras come To drink in our Desert Beauty; to capture our Desert Charm. No shovels they bring; no cacti they dig.

Cacti they leave -- in Obscurity; in Security; for Perpetuity!! Then, sing the Song of Our Happy, Safe Habitats -- Cacti Habitats of Amazing Arizona.

Praise and give thanks to Conservators allowing The Cacti to survive forever!

Conservator ed. for Preservation of all Arizona Native Cacti Habitats.

#### A LITTLE GIRL AMONG THE GIANT SAGUAROS

The saguaro cacti of the Sonoran Desert have such great appeal for a Tucson fourth-grader who attends Lulu Walker Elementary School, in Tucson, Arizona, that she wrote a poem about them, entitled "Sahuaro Cactus". For her poem, Melissa Kann won an Award given by the Judges of the Tucson Festival Society which sponsored its 8th Annual Fourth Grade Children's Story Contest this spring. She was the guest of CHATTER editor, J. K. Shelby, at the June meeting of T.C.B.S. where she read her poem.

SAHUARO CACTUS
The tall kings of the desert,
the slim and slender giants,
ever reaching upward
to the giant blue expanse
above.
Gracious, yet stern,
lions of the dry land,
dryads of the desert,
green dukes and duchesses,
staunch, still, and firm.

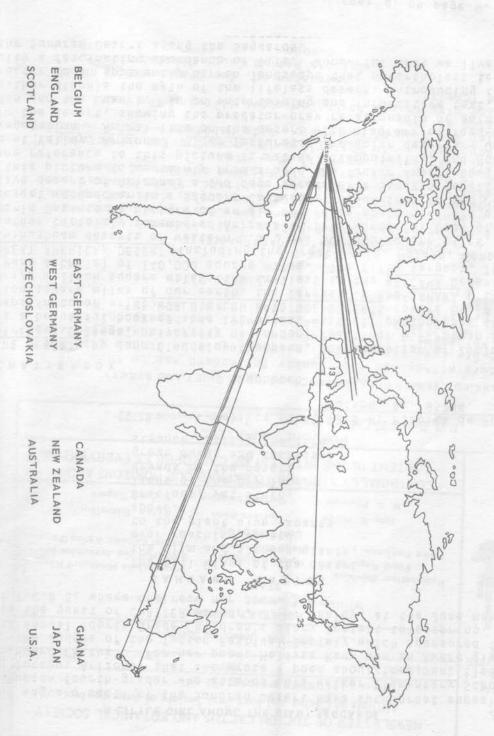
----Melissa Kann, 7725 N. Placita de Posada, Tucson, Az. 85704.

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#### CHATTERBOX

THE DESERT, by John Cloudsley-Thompson, now professor of Zoology at Birkbeck College, University of London, Publisher G.P. Putman & Sons, is a beautiful book of some 128 pages, most all photographs and maps in color. THE WORLD'S LOW LATITUDE DESERTS covers 8-1/4 million square miles of our earth; the largest is the SAHARA with 3-1/2 million square miles; the smallest is the ATACAMA Desert (Peru & Chile) of 140,000 square miles. The fifth largest, THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT (including the Great Basin, Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of western U.S., has 500,000 square miles. The author certainly remembered Arizona in this wonderful book of World Deserts: a picture of an elf owl in an abandoned hole of a desert woodpecker in a Saguaro Cactus; a Joshua tree in the Mojave desert of Arizona; a two page spread of a Saguaro forest (this picture is certainly from around the Tucson Area); however, the reference to this picture is rather disappointing; and Monument Valley, Arizona. Other features: The Polar deserts - Desert vegetation - Animal life on the desert with diagrams of food-chains in the desert, showing the predator-prey relationship of animals -Man and the Desert. In an entertaining and informative text, the author dispels the myth of the lifeless desert, introducing the reader to an apparently barren landscape that nevertheless teems with a fascinating abundance of life. Wonderful that we live on the Sonoran Desert among the Saguaros.

# GACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER'S WORLD DESTINATIONS



## 1977 ANNUAL REPORT OF CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER NEWSLETTER

OF

#### TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER exchanges newsletters with other cactus organizations, both in the U.S. and abroad. Thus we receive much fine information about the world of the succulent plants which they describe. In return, they tell the editor of CACTUS CAPITAL CHAT-TER the benefits that they gain from reading our newsletter. During 1977, the following cactus societies exchanged with us: Henry Shaw Cactus Society, St. Louis, Mo. Houston, Texas Cactus & Succulent Society. San Diego, California Cactus & Succulent Society. Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society. Los Angeles, California Cactus & Succulent Society, National Capital (D.C.) Cactus & Succulent Society. Maryland Cactus & Succulent Society. San Jose, California Cactus & Succulent Society. Las Vegas, Nevada Cactus & Succulent Society. Detroit, Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society. New York Cactus & Succulent Society. Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society. Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona. Christchurch, Hamilton, and Auckland, New Zealand. Cactus & Succulent Information Exchange, British Columbia, Canada. Gerhard Kaiser and Dr. Wolfram Spanowsky of the German Democratic Republic.

Cactus Capital Chatter operated on a budget of \$600.00 appropriated by the Board of Directors for this sole purpose. A total of 1250 copies of our newsletter was printed. These were distributed quarterly to our members, to paid-up subscribers, to those who received complimentary copies, and to exchange cactus organizations. The editors improved the format of CHATTER by adding a front page cover design and using brown ink in all printing. The Board of Directors made a \$120.00 gift of 400 copies of CHATTER No. 2, 1977 to registrants of the C.S.S.A. 1977 Convention. CHATTER editor filled this issue with that kind of information useful to all conventioneers, initiating the new cover design thereon. Many compliments proved the popularity of the cover which is the creation of our member --Agnes Daniels, with lettering by our member -- Dorothy Levering.

Friends and supporters of CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER continue to urge its staff -- K-U-T-G-W.

SPEEDY RECOVERIES AND GOOD HEALTH WISHED FOR FOUR MEMBERS OF TCBS

Dr. Paul S. Henshaw, a former president of TCBS, and Mrs. Edward Busch are recovering from operations. Mrs. Emily Anderson survived a heart attack and is convalescing at her home. Mrs. John Gaston, wife of TCBS 1978 president John Gaston, sustained a broken leg while roller skating. She, her wheel-chair, and her crutches are cooperating to bring about her full recovery.

#### VISIT TO VIENNA

#### William A. Pluemer

Through the good offices of my Belgium cactus friend, Mr. Fred Lampo of Maldegem, I was contacted by Herr Gunter Raz, second chairman of the Gesellschaft osterreicher Kakteenfreunde (Society of Austrian Cactus Friends), who offered to escort me through several collections in the Vienna area on September 20, 1977. Although our sight-seeing schedule was tight, I set aside this day for cactus... Actually, I felt it was an astute political move on my part, as it allowed Mrs. Pluemer the whole day to shop without my usual "It's nice-but what are you going to do with it back in Tucson?"

Herr Raz is a genuine cactus enthusiast, as is Frau Raz. We were able to converse quite nicely, occasionally referring to his German-English dictionary to resolve more complex terms. Frau Raz, the mother of two charming daughters, collects crests, one corner of their greenhouse given to her collection. Our first stop on a rather cold, drizzly morning, was in the Old Palace of Schonbrunn. to see the collection of Ernst Zecher. This collection, occupying two large greenhouses, is not open to the public. Herr Zecher was not present. I understood that he was on a collecting trip to South America. Those of you who are familiar with Walter Rausch's new three-volume work on lobivias will be interested to know that much of the original material is in the Zecher collection. Although this genus is not currently in my area of interest, I had no trouble appreciating what this collection contained. A great deal of propagation was being undertaken through offshoots and cuttings. Some seed germination was in evidence. In a very cool, rather dark environment 'I wondered how any level of success was achieved. The beds were constructed about six inches deep, with a layer of coarse gravel on the bottom, a medium gravel and then the growing mixture. Watering pipes were laid below the surface and controlled from one master valve for each bed. A large agave Huachucensis reminded me I had left our wonderful desert climate only a scant sixty hours ago.

Further on, in the village of Klosterneuberg, I saw the very fine, excellently displayed collection of Herr Gert Frank. Here again, the owner was absent - being in the Mid-East building railroads for either the Iranians or the Saudis. His collection was heavily weighted in favor of the South American plants, rather than the true American and Mexican desert varieties. It is possible that the Austrian climate is more conducive to growing South American plants, being cooler and more humid. Most of the "old timers" I have collected appear to have lost their lustre and general appearance of robust health. Again, South America is the new frontier in cactus discovery, and this fact always has a bearing on what collectors wish to have.

After a typical Austrian lunch, rich in calories, we continued to the Raz home in Stockerau. Here I was ushered through the new

greenhouse, erected of extruded aluminum framework and roofed with clear plastic panels of new design. These panels were about three-eighths of an inch thick and constructed on the honey-comb pattern, the center of the sandwich containing cells providing dead airspace for insulation. The panels came in 1-meter squares (about 39 x 39 inches) and cost approximately \$30.00 US per square. Where heating is a problem, this design must surely pay its way. Herr Raz had invested over 100,000 Austrian schillings (\$6000.00 US) in his greenhouse, which contains about 30 square meters of space.

As with most of us, his collection is already too large for the greenhouse. He is most proud of those plants he personally collected in Mexico, although the South American plants were most in evidence. Being a personal friend of Walter Rausch, he of course, has many of the newest discoveries. Herr Raz is a typesetter by trade, and during his own time printed a unique catalogue of Walter Rausch's collections numbers covering six trips from 1962-1974, with numbers and locales from 1 to 705.

There are about 300 cactophiles in the Vienna area, and many subchapters to the parent club. Frau Raz is Secretary to the parent club, and, as a couple, the Raz' know everybody and everything that is happening in the cactusworld of Austria.

Following my visit to the greenhouse, Frau Raz and her daughters served excellent Viennese coffee and tortes. I spent more than an hour going through a very fine reference library. Since book-binding is still reasonable in Austria, all of Herr Raz' monthly and quarterly publications are beautifully bound and titled. As a sometime bibliophile, I surely envied him. It had been a long day when I was returned to the Ambassador Hotel where we parted with much laughter and expressions of goodwill flowing in both our languages.

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# T. C. B. S. MEMBERS AND THE GOLDEN WEST

The Men's Garden Club of Tucson presented "The Golden West", its 17th Annual Fall Flower and Garden Show on November 12, 13, 1977. Several members of T.C.B.S. entered plants in competition. Group VII covered the cactus field. Group IX included succulents other than cacti. Awards were as follows: First... Blue Ribbon. Second .... Red Ribbon. Third .... Yellow Ribbon. Honorable Mention .... White Ribbon. Orchid Rosette .... Appreciation of exceptional exhibits not in competition. T.C.B.S. members competing in these groups won awards in all the classes.

#### CACTUS CAPITAL SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE

Your 1978 subscriptions are DUE AND PAYABLE AT ONCE. Make your checks for \$2.50 payable to TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY. Please mail them to EDITOR, P.O.Box 3723, College Station, Tucson, Arizona 85722. Thank you very much. -- ed.

CHATTERBOX cont'd.

"PRICKLY HORRORS" An amusing incident occurred in a crowded elevator at the 1977 CSSA Convention in Tucson, witnessed by Robert Moulis of Phoenix. Several Cactophiles were returning to their rooms from the Plant Sale Tables, carrying potted cacti, when a Conventioneer from another group entered the elevator. Looking around at the situation, he remarked:

"This is the Most Dangerous Convention I have ever attended." A few smiles passed around - and no 'spine' casualties reported.

CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF I-CHEN WU, a Chinese artist, whose calligraphy and paintings, The Asia Foundation is pleased to display at The Phoenix Public Library. Prof. Wu's accomplishments are many; being of the traditional school, he has developed his own style, blending the heritage of the past with perspective from the present. On the subject of style, he also says, "In painting, one must hold the balance between realism and abstract. Too much realism may lead the painting to dullness; too little, to deception." In Prof. Wu's view, painting, calligraphy and poetry are inseparable. He composes his own poetry. To my astonishment, hanging among some 70 prints is a 90" x 30" scroll of two Saguaros with small birds soaring above (Sparrows), and along-side, beautiful Chinese penmanship describing the cactus. Prof. Wu tells me he had a 1971 showing in Tucson and he will always remember the saguaro. Cacti is a far cry from Oriental subjects like Bamboo, Fishes, Birds, Gourds, Peonies, Insects, Loquats, Shrimps, Dragonfly, and Lotus Blossoms. It is nice to have a member of the Cactaceae family represented in this outstanding display of Oriental art.

#### A MONSTROSITY

Associated Press Reports on the \$180 million Georges Pompidou National Center of Art and Culture in Paris, for its glittering inauguration recently. Even tho \$180 million is hardly peanuts, "foes" contend that the center looks like an oil refinery. Rene Barjavel wrote in the Journal de Dimanche comparing the center to a "mushroom on a dank wall" and a "multicolored cactus." Could Mr. Barjavel have in mind a Gymnocalycium "CAP" which comes in various colors?

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# 1978 OFFICERS OF TUCSON CACTUS &BOTANICAL SOCIETY

# READING GUIDES FOR CACTUS PUBLICATIONS ARE CANCELLED DUE TO APATHY OF T.C.B.S. MEMBERS

For two years, Myrtle Ethington, T.C.B.S. librarian, has devoted endless hours to preparing these guides to reading the many cactus newsletters and journals to be found in your library. She is a voracious reader of this literature, trying to learn more about plants of the succulent world. For two years, this service has been offered by your library through Myrtle Ethington's great interest in helping you. CHATTER has carried it in eight issues. Two years of stark silence and indifference by the T.C.B.S. membership cancel this reading guide service at once, with the last report in this issue. This is the last, and you are now on your very own. Good Tuck. --ed. JKS.

READ ABOUT CACTI AND SUCCULENTS IN THESE PUBLICATIONS.

C & S JOURNAL, CSSA, Jan.-Feb. '77 - Gymnocalycium Part II,

Mam. Wrightii; Cacti & Succulent for the Amateur, and Sedum Macdougalli; Mar.-Apr. '77 - Part II, Mam. Wrightii, Mesembs. Neohrenricia sibbettii & Frithia pulchra, Gymnocalycium Part IV, Coryphantha Gracilis, Aloe Archeri, and Cactus tissue culture; MayJune '77 - Culture for Beginners, Two new Species of Aloe from
Arabia, The Genus Parodia, Ariocarpus and Genus Gymnocalycium
Part V; Leaf Production & Flowering in Ocotillos.

SAGUAROLAND BULLETIN, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ, '76-Those interested in desert plants will enjoy reading "Four Distinctive Shrubs for Desert Landscaping" and "The Holly Leaf Bursage"; Feb. '77 - Cereus Emoryi, House Plant Problems, For Desert Gardeners; Mar. '77 - Report of the 30th Annual Cactus Show; Apr. '77 - Agave Arizonica, Native Plants for Desert Birds; May-'77 - Opuntia Bradtiana, Growing Agave from Seeds, Wild Flowers in Your Front Yard.

KAKTOS KOMMENTS - Houston C & SS, Jan. '77 - Rhipsalis and Agave Parrasana; Feb. '77 - Coryphantha and Sempervivum; June '77 - Coryphantha Vivipara and Lemaireocereus; Apr. '77 - Schlumbergera Gaertneri, Crassula Deceptrix, and Ariocarpus Retusa.

LOS ANGELES CHRONICLE, Los Angeles C & S S, Jan. '77 - Melocactus and Mini Aloes; Feb. '77 - Soehrensia and Kalanchoe; Mar. '77 - Peniocereus and Euphorbia; June '77 - Echinocereus; July '77 - Astrophytum and Pachypodium; Aug. '77 - Neochilenia and Cotyledon.

ESPINAS Y FLORES - San Diego C&SS, Jan. '77 - Neoporteria-Neochilenia, Agave; Feb. '77 - Astrophytum and Echeveria; Mar. '77 - Copiapoa, Hectia, Dykia and Epiphytic Bromeliads; Apr. '77 - Crassula, Rebutia-Sulcorebutia; May '77 - Pyrrhocactus-Horridocactus, Adenia and Adenium; June '77 - Mexican Monotypes and Anacampseros; July '77 - Anacampseros.

HENRY SHAW CS,=St. Louis, Mo., Feb. '77 - Echinocactus; Mar.'77-Opuntia and growing cacti from seed; Apr. '77 - Aloe and more information on growing cacti from seed; June '77 - Agave; Sept.'77 - Echinopsis. COLORADO CACTOPHILES CACTIVITIES, Jan. '77 - Useful Plants in Ancient America, Raising cacti from seed, and the Petroleum Plant; Feb. '77 - Comments on Mesembryanthemums and Echeveria; Mar. '77 - Notes on Artificial Light Gardening; Aug. '77 - Aloes.

CACTUS COMMENTS, New York C&SS, May '77 - Fertilizers for Cacti; Gobbledegook or System (First of a series on the need for plant names, their derivation, meaning and pronounciation); June'77-Growing Tips, Splitters and Lumpers (Second in series of articles on Plant Names); Oct. '77 - Black Rot, Growing Tips.

CACTUS & SUCCULENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE, British Columbia, Canada, 1977 #1 - Good information on Astrophytums, Propagation of Rare Cacti from Seed, Cacti and Succulents from Seed; #2 - Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur, Winter Growers, Cacti from Seed, Information from Round Robins on Asclepiads and Opuntia, News from Members; #3- Propagation of Brachystelma Pulchella, Echinocereus, Information from Round Robins on Haworthias and Euphorbias, News from Members; #4 - Cissus Tuberosa, Propagation of Rare Cacti - Part III Grafting, Beginners Chronicle, Notes from Round Robins on Euphorbias, Opuntias and Asclepiads, News from Members; #5- The Succulent Lewisias, The Secret of Simultaneous Flowering, Gymnocalycium Denudatum, News from Members, #6 - Rhipsalis or Lepisium, Opuntia Round Robin Report, News from Members, Pleiospilos Simulans.

NEW ZEALAND C&S JOURNAL, Aug. '76 - Old and New Sedums, Crassula Hummels Sunset and Aloe Ramosissima Hybrid.

CACTOCHAT, CHRISTCHURCH C&SS, New Zealand, Dec. '76 - Jan. '77-Unusual Succulents, Bromeliads and Toumeya Papyrancantha; Feb.'77-Grafting, What Ails a Plant; Mar. '77 - Fasciation in Cacti, Noto. Lenninghausii, Mams. of Character, Aloe Bellatula and Bromeliads; Apr. '77 - Night Blooming Cacti, Mimicry Plants in Winter, Green-Flowered Echinocereus; May '77 - Pedilanthus Smallii V. Variegata and Anacampseros.

THE CACTUS CHRONICLE, HAMILTON BRANCH OF C&SS, New Zealand, July '76 - Echeverias, Lewisias; Aug. '76 - Echeveria X Bredburgii, Mammillarias; Oct. '76 - Aloes; Mar. '77 - Stapeliads; May '77 - Sedums; June '77 - Sempervivums; July '77 - Euphorbias.

THE SCOTTISH SUCCULENT SCENE, Scottish Branches of the NC&SS, Scotland, #3 Apr. '77 - Haworthias, Picture Parade on Mammillaria Sphaerica, Trichocaulon Simile and Rebutia Musula.

Members may find these publications in the T.C.B.S. cactus library in the office of Nancy Clarke at 2800 East Fort Lowell Road.

CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE
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# TUCSON CACTUS & BOTANICAL SOCIETY TO REMEMBER THE CHILDREN AT CHRISTMASTIDE

The 1977 pot luck Christmas picnic of T.C.B.S. to be held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, will remember the children as it has for several years. Gifts of money and appropriate soft toys will be collected to give to children of the Pre-School Exploratory Center for Cerebral Palsy and Neurological Impairment, 3825 East Second Street, Tucson, Arizona. This happy custom was started at the suggestion of our member, Dorothy Levering.

#### CACTI AND OTHER PLANTS IN ENGLISH GARDENS ENJOYED BY BARBARA ROGERS

Mrs. Barbara Rogers, a member of Tucson Cactus & Botanical Society, took a family trip to England during summer 1977. She met several English cactophiles, both amateur and professional, who guided her to cactus gardens and to large botanical gardens which included plants of the succulent world. Among her English hosts were: David Minnion of Pinner northwest of London; Dr. John D. Donald, president of I.O.S., editor of ASHINGTONIA and a speaker at the 1977 C.S.S.A. convention; Brian and Edgar Lamb; Geoff and Betty Hedgecock; John Boote. Barbara visited Dr. Donald's own greenhouse at North Lancing and found many cacti in bloom. She had English tea with Brian and Edgar Lamb at their home where she thoroughly enjoyed the Exotic Collection. She thought that their cereus greenhouse was most striking. They keep all of their Arizona native cacti in their Arizona greenhouse -- a unique place. Plants grow in raised beds in long greenhouses. She attended David Minnion's cactus club meeting. David took her to Cambridge University and to the Cambridge Cactus Show housed under three tents. There she bought one dozen cacti and succulents new

The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew were most impressive, located on the River Thames wouthwest of London. The greenhouses are huge and connected with each other. The Australian Temperate House contains only palms and vines, and is the largest glass-house in the world. The Kew Gardens originally were the estate of George II and Queen Caroline. Other highlights were: a very large cactus and succulent greenhouse; another greenhouse in the form of a panorama cactus garden; the Rockery. John Boote of the Warrington Cactus Club also showed Barbara his area gardens. Geoff and Betty Hedgecock took many cacti from Mexico back home with them after the 1977 Convention. Barbara saw all of their plants.

# CORRIGENDUM REGARDING TUCSON CACTUS & BOTANICAL SOCIETY AND THE RICHLYN INDUSTRIES PLANT SHOW OF OCTOBER 21-23, 1977

The Board of Directors of T.C.B.S. unanimously voted against the Society's taking part in this Plant Show of Richlyn Industries. The week-long ad -- running in the Arizona Daily Star stated that the "Cactus Society" would "present a display." This ad was strictly erroneous and without foundation. This error was called to the attention of the Plant Show Manager. We informed her that in no way whatsoever was T.C.B.S. participating in the show, and that her ad was carrying a highly misleading statement.

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#### 'NEW-AND VERY SPECIAL AT DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN AT PHOENIX

THEIR POSTER. The Desert Botanical Garden's Agave symbol (Century Plant) in greens and red on a buff background,  $22" \times 34"$ . Postpaid, \$3.50.

A FINE BOTANICAL PRINT. A reproduction of John Miller's 1758 hand-colored engraving of  $\underline{\text{Agave}}$  americana in flower. Limited and numbered edition in full color, original size, 18" x 23". Published by the Desert Botanical Garden. Postpaid, \$10.50.

ARIZONA FLORA SUITE. A portfolio of eight signed drawings of Arizona plants by botanical artist, Wendy Hodgson. Edition limited to 100 numbered sets. Print size 18" x 20". Postpaid (insured), \$100.00. (Subjects: Saguaro. Opuntia. Mesquites. Palo verdes. Sacred Datura. Ocotillo. Agave deserti. Jojoba).

If interested, write to: Desert Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 5415, Phoenix, Az. 85010.

AUSTRALIAN HORTICULTURIST, Mrs. Olive McKay, of Wembley, West Australia, was a recent house guest of Josephine Shelby, editor of CACTUS CHATTER. She came to explore some of the habitats of native Arizona cacti and to travel in areas of the Sonoran Desert. Among her interests are indoor plants and cacti. She has shown many indoor plants in the Royal Agricultural Show in Perth, West Australia. During 1976, she made field trips through Queensland, Australia, to gather many ferns. She is a Life Member of the Tree Society of West Australia, and is a state, general horticultural judge.

GERHARD KAISER of the German Democratic Republic sends good wishes to all T.C.B.S. members. Bill Pluemer of T.C.B.S. is a cactus friend and correspondent of Gerhard Kaiser. They met through the program of contacts made possible through affiliate relations between cactus enthusiasts of the U.S. and foreign countries.