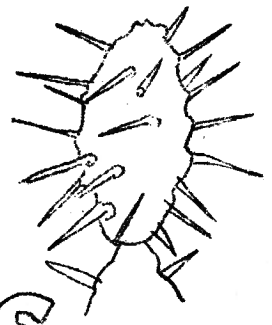




ESPINAS

Y

FLORES



Feb-1967

Publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

A THORNY PROBLEM

Each month a special table is set aside at our meetings, so designated as the "Bragging Table". Its original purpose was to display specimen plants collected by our members that were being featured in the Plant of the Month column for that month. However, after a couple of tries, we realized the short sightness of this endeavor; and propose to extend its scope to extol the blessings of nature cultivated in your garden regardless of origin, blooming period, or what have you. The membership will vote on their preference at the meeting and the winner will be given first choice at the plant exchange table. As in the words of the immortal & well liked English poet, "Tis not the barrel or the bottle; That makes the sweet wine be; Nor size, nor shape, nor dole; Tis sun, tis rain, tis thee."

To go back a bit and bring you up to date, Dec's table was graced with a *Zygocactus truncatus* var. *Mme. Ganna Walsica*, a tremendous specimen in hanging basket, brought to by Walter Greenwood, a fine grafted *Z. truncatus* brought by Walter Scott, a lovely potted *Crassula perfoliosa* brought by N.P. Stevenson, and an excellent display of *Melocactus*

FEBRUARY MEETING

Saturday, Feb 4th 2pm
Floral Assoc Building
Balboa Park

TOPICS

Gilbert Voss, Cactiphile Preeminent
on Mexican Trip
(with slides)

RARE CACTUS SALE

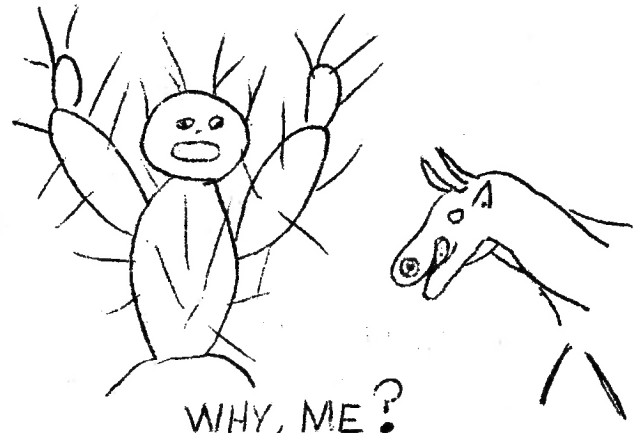
Also Plant Exchange

matanzan, *bahiensis*, and *violucens* on a three way graft of *Opuntia* stock brought to us by Bob Taylor. Jan's table displayed the horticultural achievements of Bill Nelson with *Aeonium arborescens atropurpureum* in full bloom, Walt Scott with *Cephalocereus senilis* not quite ready to bloom, Helen Hegyi with the delightful *Monanthes polyphylla*, Nellie Kennett with *Fenestraria aurantica*, Jennie Means with *Mammillaria elegans*, and Joan Fleer with a Hybrid *Aloe*, x *Sedum*, and a beautiful *Crassula perfoliosa* which won the prize. Don't worry about not knowing the name, Ruth Nelson has finger-tip control on the library or Scotty could come up with an amazing "handle".

If you are astride a horse,
sit close and tight;
If you are astride a cactus,
sit easy and light

CACTUS FOR FORAGE -- by R.V. "Doc" Vaughan Cactus enjoyed some success as a succulent forage food for cattle about 1906. Famed Horticulturist, Luther Burbank introduced a spineless variety of Opuntia to supplant the scarce natural forage in the Southwestern United States. Prior to the introduction of the Burbank "Spineless", cattle were a pitiful sight in the dry season, especially, with their noses and tongues filled with spines and pieces of Cacti; for it was either eat Cacti or die.

Joe Amar, the leasee of the cattle rights on Santa Catalina Island, was a typical cattleman of that era-not enough funds to buy feed and was compelled to rely on natural grazing. Ground was cleared and thirty-four varieties were introduced to the Island. The best developed was named Avalon. The cattle took to it so well, it looked like watermelon time at a 4th of July picnic. Because of this succulent success, "Spineless" fever ran rampant throughout the land; great quantities of money were invested in cheap land to be cleared for the planting of this miracle Cactus. However, the Cactus being so great in water content, necessitated the cattle to eat great amounts to get a meal. Consequently, the large stands were eaten clear out of the ground, and in the dry season it grew back little, if any at all. Thus, it was necessary to erect fences and fences cost money in any terrian; so the great stampede to buy cheap land and plant the miracle Cactus soon lost momentum and the fools and their money had been parted again.



The Spineless Cactus did survive, even though, it cross bred in subsequent years with the native Opuntia, and today on the Island there is a species of Opuntia with very few spines. Some of the other better known varieties developed were Fresno, Flyers, Compitent, Burbank Standard, Tapuna, Texas, and the Titanic which had pads up to four feet in length, 18" wide and three inches thick.....

JUST FOR THE RECORD.....

Espinosa y Flores is the monthly publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

Publisher-the Membership of the San Diego Society

Editor-Jim Stalsonburg

Feature Columnist-Bernie Tillman

Columnist ex-official-A. Phid & Nema Toed

Contributor regular-Walter Scott

Reporters-anyone wishing to give a hand

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THE PLANT OF THE MONTH -- "The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within", -William Cullen Bryant-let us reflect upon what our Midwestern and Eastern counterparts are doing this month in preparation for Spring's smiling face, and let your heart swell like the "leaves within"...it's great to be in San Diego. The Plant of the Month for February is a mate for the Old Man Cactus, featured last month; and just in time for Valentine's Day too. *NEOPORTERIA NIDUS SENILIS* (Chilean Old Lady) She was born into our civilization in the mid 1800's in the foothills East of Ovalle, Chile, under the maiden name of *Echinocactus senilis*; but was widowed early in the 1900's when a great purge of the *Echinocactus* family was affected in order to group together smaller units of more closely related species. The genus is named for Carlos Porter of Chile, a well known entomologist of the time. *Nidus* is Latin for nest and *senilis* means old or white haired, which eludes to the bristly woven-like textured appearance of the spines...like an old bird's nest.

Unlike many other old fashioned girls, her name is a trifle masculine sounding, but life is difficult in the northern mountains of Chile where she is found sprawling or pendent among the rocks or over cliffs.



Yet, every inch she's a lady, densely covering her brownish-red body with white, very slender, ascending, converging spines (as many as 30 in a cluster). Rarely growing to a height over 5 inches, she is quite plump when young; becoming more "slendrical" after adolescence. The body is made up of 16 to 18 ribs separated by deep furrows that are lined with numerous large circular areoles from which the hairlike bristles are borne, and a trunk diameter of 2 to 3 inches.

Somewhat different from most of our specimens, this South American plant starts its growing period in early January and most likely blooming by mid-February. Hence, some precaution should be made to keep it in a warmer location at this time. Also it would be advisable to start winter rest earlier than other plants. Over a period of time, however, it will probably adjust to our climate and season. The flowers are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, red with narrow pointed lobes. Soil should be porous and sandy with about 10% organic matter added. Reasonably dry conditions should prevail, and a sunny location is best. She is difficult to grow from seed, but cuttings root freely and do well on grafts.

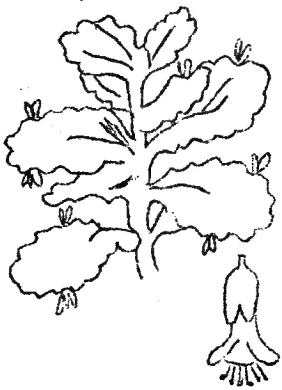
KALANCHOE-CAMPANULATA-FEDTSCHENKOWI-BLOSSFELDIANA- February is the month of hearts and flowers-well, we've given you the heart, and now the flowers. If ever we have started into something that's more than we can handle in a few choice words; this is it....

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PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)

Kalanchoe (kal-an-ko-e) comes from an ancient Chinese word meaning one of a kind. Exactly what is meant by this is somewhat in doubt, but as far as I'm concerned it means chaos. There are over 200 species in this genus and many many varieties of each of them; Hybrids and the like. There are a lot of monumental works which devote a considerable effort to clarify the understanding or misunderstanding of this collective genus. I quote from one of these sources, "Kalanchoideae is a very large group of plants, much confused in their naming, is usually split into three separate divisions: *Bryophyllum*, *Kalanchoe*, and *Kitchingia*; but sometimes they are all found under the one name *Kalanchoe*".

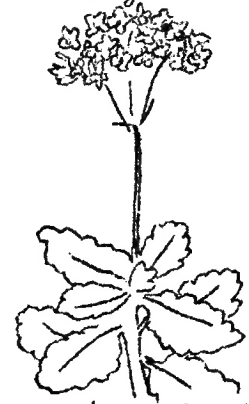
The various species are scattered from Tropical America to the mainland of China with a goodly population the Tropical Islands of the mid-Asian beltline (Africa, Arabia, India, Ceylon, Java, Indochina, Formosa, etc.). Most of the species are straggly and weedy-like in appearance and only of botanical interest. The plants in the three divisions of *Kalanchoideae*—*Bryophyllum* (meaning sprouting leaf) an upright sub-shrub with pendulous flowers, and fleshy leaves which give rise to tiny plantlets along the crevations of the leaf margin; *Kalanchoe* (one of a kind) an upright sub-shrub with erect flowers or inflorescence with hairy or felt-like leaves, sometimes paniculate or smooth surfaced; *Kitchingia* (meaning unknown) a drooping mostly epiphytic, pendent inflorescence, and smooth fleshy leaves—have one thing in "common" a four-parted tubular flower with the petals "united" except at the tips. With emphasis on common and united and a little imagination, we can possibly realize the meaning of "one of a kind". *K. campanulata* (*Kitchingia* Sect.) is from central eastern Madagascar and has slender stems up to 3ft. long and coarsely toothed leaves that clasp the stem without petiole; which are light green with a slightly dusty white overly, and flecked with reddish-brown. Bright red bell shaped flowers on a long weeping inflorescence bloom in the winter months. *K. fedeschenkoi* (*Bryophyllum* Sect.) from central Madagascar is a many branched erect shrub to 12 inches in height, crowded with petioled oval leaves about 3/4 of an inch long, bluish-green in color with faint red tinge along margin indentations, which bear tiny plantlets. The flowers are yellowish-brown with purplish-red calyces or connectors to the stem.



K. blossfeldiana (*Kalanchoe* Sect.) from the Mont Tsaratanana region of Madagascar is a dwarf compact plant to about 10 inches in height, and has glossy deep green ovate leaves with wavy margin crenations sometimes tinged with red, that connect with the stem

PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't) floral color is available in the various Hybrids.

The name *campanulata* comes from the Latin *campana* meaning bell and eludes to the shape of the flower. *Fedeschenkoi* and *blossfeldiana* were probably named for a couple of Turkish paunbroker in Calcutta. All the *Kalanchoideae* may be culturally treated the same, and they all do well in pots. As a group they like the sun, but are more lush if not exposed to it the entire day. Light loamy soil with about 25% organic matter is sufficient for healthy growth. *Kalanchoideae* weather well in San Diego either outside or inside, and when temperatures range between 50 and 75 they bloom bright in the winter months when other flowers are scarce. Moderate watering throughout the year; when potted be careful not to allow plant to become too dry for any length of time, because the bottom leaves do have a tendency to wither and drop. This causes a leggy and taddy appearance. One or all, you'll have a ball with these in your Succulent Zodiac.



DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN -- by A. Phidd -- However clever is the thing we do; However beautiful our craft or art; Our busy lives must have their background too; Yes, back of every hand must be a heart... WELCOME, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Loyland and Mr. and Mrs. George Chatham, first time visitors to the Jan. meeting, we hope you enjoy your fledgling plants and come back to see us real soon... Also welcome to Bill Waite, who took time out from his *Nasturtium* pruning to join with the brothers and the sisters... Bill is confronted with a small problem, maybe one of us might help... some few years back he planted a small insignificant *Agave* (species unknown at this writing) in front of his home on Point Loma... and it grew... and grew; till now it's move the house or move the *Agave*... a quick look through the "yellow pages" revealed that it is easy to have a house moved... "Keep the faith, Baby" and bring in some of those seeds and plants that won you all the ribbons at the Fair... Mother Goose would be so proud... "Bill and

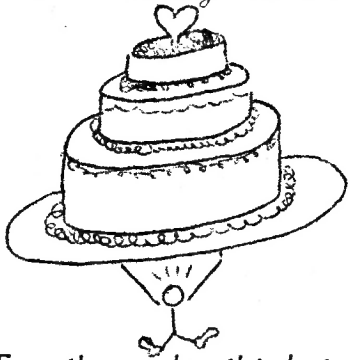


the *Agave Stalk*"... anything goes here today - I might be the 1st; but I'll tell you one thing that won't go... a car without gas... and the Freeway is no place to prove the point, Ione... however, we forgive you... found out that you had to wait 15 minutes at Pearl Sullivan's while the *Vo5* was drying... next time call for "Wanda the Witch"... Which leads us to the most wonderful manifestation of the prodigious art of bountifulness that has been our pleasure to see... the Board of Directors presented our immediate past officers with a Plant of the Month, and to "Doc", our Pres., a Lazy Susan Cactus tray complete with 9 potted plants, all named and nicknamed appropriately... the presentation was filled with care and thoughtfulness, right down to the cane for the

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DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN --(con't) "Old Man Cactus" and a golden pot for the "Rainbow"... Scotty, you out did yourself on this one...and thanks for the signs... You know there's an old adage about "TRUTH WILL OUT"...there has been a lot of talk lately about the grandness of the cookies and cakes at our refreshment table...after a little investigation, we found that Nellie Kennet is taking a course in cake baking and decorating...and won't you be surprised to learn that for her final exam she has to bake a wedding cake for 200 people...which will be done just in time for the next Cactus meeting...there won't be a wedding, but we'll celebrate anyway, Nellie, with us you've already made the grade...The Society is looking for the white metal signs about 10 x 15 inches with our name printed in black that are used to mark the Fair displays...if you should find them or know of their whereabouts get in touch with Bill Nelson.

For those who think travel is too broadening...we'll furnish the Metracal...get in touch with Walter Scott and arrange to take the Cactus Car-a-van Feb 18th...as an ancient and honorable Chinese philosopher once said, "It does not take much strength to do things, but it requires a great deal to decide on what to do"..... A. Phidd



-- by Nema Toed It is amazing what little things like a birthday card, a get-well wish or a note of congratulations can do. Often they're the biggest thing in another person's day. And it is better to remember others--instead of just wishing you had. Our Hospitality Hostess, Perlso Lewis, is always ready to send a little ray of sunshine to one of our members or friends; so get in touch, if the occasion should arise. Along the same line, we here at this distant outpost appreciate the notes and letters you have been sending; keep them coming it's all the reward we need. Now, we would like to acknowledge a few in order to keep current:

Dear Nema; I have a *Faucaria Tigrina*, better known as Tiger Jaws, and I am concerned about the condition and future prospects of its teeth. They remind me of two rows of boiled anemic spaghetti. My question is do you think it would do any good to drench them with fluoridated water -- Charlie Cutworm

Dear Charlie; According to the Council on Dental Therapeutics - American Dental Association - Crest has been shown to be an effective dentifrice, and we also recommend two check-ups a year with your gardener.

To G. Stanley, San Francisco, This is the third issue of *Espinaz y Flores*; subscription is one dollar. Thank you for your check; this also includes membership in the San Diego Cactus Society-the Friendly Society. The last issue of *Cactus y Suculentos* was Sept. (Vol 2 #9). A request is being made to the membership to see if there is anyone who has any available copies. Thank you for your interest and drop us another line soon. NT

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LITTLE THINGS (con't) -- Dear Nema; Last month I visited my friend Helen Todd in El Cajon. Her Cactus garden was so green and succulent, I was green with envy. She says she waters weekly all year and even more often in the Summer. When I water more often than once a month the ground in my garden never seems to dry and many plants either burst open or rot away. Also what were those adorneable little plants brought by the Escondido lady at the Dec. meeting? -- Scarlet Sage

Dear Scarlet; Next month we will start a "sage" series of articles on Soils and Fertilizers. I hope you will find them interesting and informative...your problem is too complexed to solve here. Mrs. Hegyi brought the plants you mentioned; they were *Crassula teres* (Rattlesnake *Crassula*) and *Crassula mesembrellopsa* (Shaving Brush).

Dear Nema; I am very, VERY concerned about something I read in the Jan issue of *Espinaz y Flores* on page 5. It involves the well-being of two of our esteemed and respected members. You wrote, "Ruth Nelson has her husband Bill deposit his smelly old cigar butts in a gallon jug to which she adds water and from which they make a nicotine base all purpose garden spray. This scares me--and I will tell you why.

I spent a long time studing, investigating and working with the behavior and foibles of human beings, particularly from a laboratory angle. So right away when I read your article I got the jitters. I dug out my old reference books, my slide rule, my Pharmacopiea, my chemical dictionary, my glassware and balance, my book of formulas, and I brushed up on my multiplication and division tables. I took a pencil and lots of paper and started to research.



But first let me explain that as a result of my training and experience as an investigator, I learned there is always at least two sides to every problem, and I always seek out the "other" side. So, I look on the back side of page 5 and I don't find a thing--it's a blank. This problem has only one side, all on the front of page 5. Almost an open and shut case. I proceeded with my inquiry, paraphernalia, formuli & pencil. Now back to Ruth and Bill. Bill puts approximately 20 cigar butts into a gallon jar, then Ruth fills it with H₂O. Please check my assumptions, calculations, and conclusions as we proceed. Let us assume (1) cigars are made of the same stuff from end to end, and it makes no difference at which end Bill starts to smoke. (2) A butt constitutes 1/5th of a cigar, and (3) Bill smokes or consumes the other 4/5ths.

Bill weighs 144lbs. and a gallon of water weighs 8lbs. Divide Bill's weight by 8, and you should get 18. Thus Bill is equivalent to 18 gallons of H₂O. If my assumptions and figures are correct to this point, I find that as soon as Bill smokes 90 cigars consuming 4/5ths of each he will have consumed the equivalent of 360 butts. Divide 360 by 18 and you get 20; that's the nicotine concentration or butts to the
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LITTLE THINGS (con't) gallon of water in Nelson's formula. Bill should effervesce about now on as Doc Vaughan said at the meeting, become a supernatant. At which point Ruth should be able to use him as an all purpose garden spray good for everything from ants to wireworms.

Now I think Bill has effervesced on occasions, but I think this thing about turning into a supernatant will be something foreign to him and I don't know how he is going to react to it, as the chemistry book says. The Super part sounds fine, but the part about natant doesn't sound too good. This story does have a brighter side tho; like they say about clouds and the kind of lining they have. So maybe all of us can stand around and make book on the exact day, hour, etc when Bill will be transmuted into a Supernatant---a nicotine base garden spray.--- Marge I. Nata

Dear Marge; it is interesting to realize that not all the people who have transmuted for an absurd idea lived an absurd life. A good cigar is as great a comfort to a man as a good cry is to a woman; and a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke.....open the windows, please ---- Nema Toed

FOR THE RECORD

The Officers for the San Diego Society for 1967 are:

President: R.V. Doc Vaughan-1041 Leroy St. San Diego, Cal. 92106 #223-7629
Vice-Pres: Frank Mousseau-5955 Lauretta St. San Diego, Cal. 92110 #295-9596
Sect: Ione Hubner-231 W. Park Av. El Cajon, Cal. 92020 #444-3439
Treas-Walter Greenwood-4085 49th St. San Diego, Cal. 92115 #281-5011
Librarian-Ruth Nelson-4253 Maryland St. San Diego, Cal. 92103 #298-3349

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William Nelson 4253 Maryland St. San Diego, Cal. 92103 #298-3349
Walter Scott 3430 Wilshire Terr. San Diego, Cal. 92104 #296-6022

VITALOGY -- Snake-Weed (*Euphorbia pilulifera*)

Part Used - the herb A common roadside herb of Australia, regarded as an infallible remedy for coughs, colds, bronchial affections and all diseases of the respiratory tract, but more especially esteemed for the prompt and complete relief it is said to give to sufferers from asthma. Of an infusion prepared by diluting one fluid ounce of the extract, in fifteen ounces of water, take thirty drops for dose. Procure at drug stores (source-Wood & Ruddock "Encyclopedia of Health and Home").

For the common cold: dilute one ounce of fluid extract in fifteen ounces of warm water and three ounces of Rye whiskey, juice from $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, two Bufferin, and a Contac capsul.... (source-The Editor's Handbook)