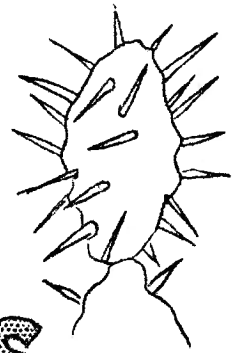


ESPINAS

Y

FLORES



May-1967

Publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

WORKING WITH THORNY PLANTS? WEAR GLOVES

A fungus that grows widely in the soil and on many kinds of plants and trees is capable of producing a little known but apparently widespread disease known as sporotrichosis. The fungus can enter the body through such a minor wound as a small scrape or prick of a thorn. When it does, it produces a low-grade, chronic, long-lasting infection.

The first evidence of the disease is the presence of a raw, tender nodule that eventually assumes a bluish tint and forms an abscess or ulcer. At first it may go unnoticed or be considered just a pimple; a connection rarely is made because the injury was so slight and the disease incubates for periods from several weeks to several months, appearing long after the wound has been healed. But soon after the ulcer forms, red streaks extend upward as the infection spreads along the lymphatics, which become thickened and cordlike in nature. New nodules appear as typical, chronic ulcers, which may exude pus, become covered with crusts, or simply form draining abscesses.

In rare cases, the infection is spread by the blood stream. When this happens, nodules appear all over the body at the same time and the patient becomes gravely ill. Most of these cases have appeared in France; they are very rare in this country.

Quite often the fungal infection is accompanied by a bacterial infection caused by staphylococcus or streptococcus. If this specific infection is not cured with suitable medication, usually antibiotics, the fungal infection treatment won't work.

Though the disease may occur anywhere and at any age, it appears most often among adult males, with its highest incidence among farmers, laborers, miners, horticulturists, and veterinarians. It is very common among the gold miners of South Africa, as the fungus grows luxuriantly on the

MAY MEETING

Saturday May 6th 2pm
Floral Assoc. Building

Balboa Park
FILM ABOUT KELP
Our Friend from the Sea

COLORED SLIDES

Birthday Party & Car-a-van

Exchange & Sale Table

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOCIETY- May starts our 7th year.....

Look to this day!

For it is life, the very life of life...

For yesterday is already a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision; But today, well lived, makes every yesterday

A dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

.....from the Sanskrit

(Con't next page)

Uninfected animals may carry the fungus on their pores and teeth. Horticultural workers are exposed to the fungus on a variety of plants, most notably spagnum moss, which is used widely as a mulch and potting medium. Direct transmission from man to man has not been known to occur. And, curiously, the disease does not affect the general well-being of an individual, aside from the annoyance and unpleasant appearance of the condition.

The best treatment is the administration of potassium iodide orally in gradually increasing doses, the treatment must continue long after the lesions disappear, for recurrence is possible if the medication is discontinued too soon. However, another treatment, sodium iodide, may produce considerable gastric upset and an allergic reaction in the skin. If the upset is too severe, the drug is given intravenously. X-ray treatment is used mainly in cases resistant to iodide therapy.

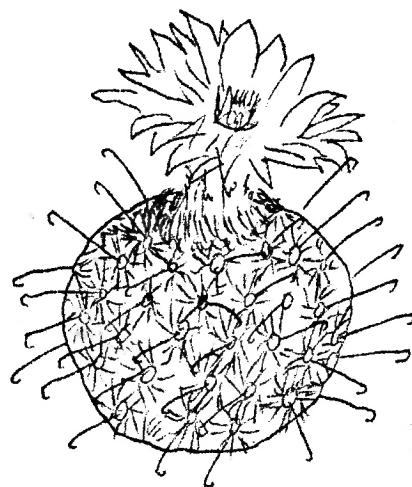
The only prevention is the avoidance of minor skin injuries in areas where the presence of the fungus is likely. Thorough washing while working is advised, but it is doubtful this can help once the infection occurs. The best method seems simply to wear heavy gloves around thorny plants.

-- John Henderson, M.D.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Looking back from these quiet reserve times to the early 1900's, the world seemed almost mad with its desire to accomplish something. Marconi was perfecting his wireless to bind continents together, Ford was putting a nation on wheels, the Wright brothers were giving man wings to reach the sky, Perry was first to reach the North Pole, Scott desperately raced the Norwegians to be first to the South, the first flight across the Channel, the first long distance phone call, the first ship to pass through Panama Canal, and Old Rosebud was first in the Kentucky Derby in a record time of 2:03 2/5.

In this madcap background the venerable Britton and Rose were busy trying to establish Botanical order out of chaos. Word reached this pair from high in the mountains of the Northern Provinces of the Argentine, about a small globular plant that was causing a great deal of excitement and concern. Dr. C. Hicken, a professor at the University of Buenos Aires, had found and described this stunning little gem then and they promptly named it *Hickenia* in his honor. Unfortunately the tenacious Kurt Backeberg was on hand trying to effect his own changes in the Botanical order of an ever increasing number of supposed prior listings. As so often is the case when the two principals are having a "man to man", a dark horse longshot comes in on the outside. Such was the case; Dr. Spegazzini, chief assistant to almost everyone, was named the official claimant, and had the plant named for his old pal, Dr. L.R. Parodi of Buenos Aires.

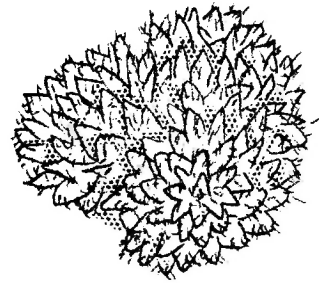


Unless you've been to San Antonio, you'll never know what all the fuss over Texas was all about; likewise, until you've seen *PARODIA AUR-EISPINA*, our Plant of the Month, it will be difficult to understand its somewhat tainted history.

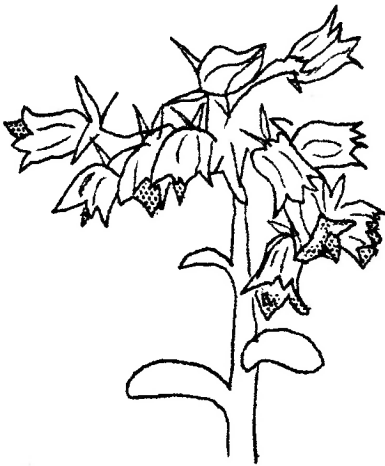
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PLANT OF THE MONTH (con;t) *Parodia aureispina* (Pa-ró-dia) is one of about 30 species; all are small bodied plants known for their bright spines and large abundant flowers. (aureispina means golden spine) The plant has a light green body about 3 inches in diameter & height with small low tubercles, like a baby *Mammillaria*, arranged in a slight spiral manner. At the tip of each tubercle is a wooly areole bearing 30 radial spines of unequal length, and seven stout golden yellow central spines about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch longer; one or more being hooked at the tip.

Groups of lustrous golden yellow flowers $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across are borne from a wooly mass at the top of the plant. The blooming period is from early Spring to early Summer. This is a rare and very pretty species from the province of Salta, Argentina. It is perfectly hardy in our area and requires no special care, coming from arid regions at altitudes of 8,000 feet. A soil mix of 75% sand to 25% organic, moderate watering year round, and a sunny location is all that is needed.



In the United States we celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks, thus it is fitting that we help our Mexican neighbors celebrate their National holiday, "Cinco de Mayo", with the "Mexican Firecracker", *Echeveria setosa*. *Echeveria* (Ech-e-ve-ria) is named in honor of Mexican botanist A. Echeverria; setosa is from setose meaning beset with bristles. This beautiful and easily grown species is a conspicuous cluster of succulent deep green leaves, bluntly pointed and covered with bristly white hairs, forming dense rosettes up to 5 inches across at the tips of short stout fleshy stems. It freely pups near the base to form large wooly masses that sparkle in the sun.



Bright red, yellow mouthed, bell shaped flowers are produced on slender arching spikes from Spring to Summer. As all *Echeverias*, setosa is considered half hardy, and a minimum winter temperature of 40° should be maintained. Soil mix can be quite rich, up to 50/50 sand to organic. Water generously during summer and just enough in the winter to keep the leaves from shriveling. It is good in almost any gardening situation from greenhouse to rock garden; it is especially easy to grow from seed, offsets, or leaf cuttings.

BOOKS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS FROM THE SAN DIEGO C&S SOCIETY LIBRARY----

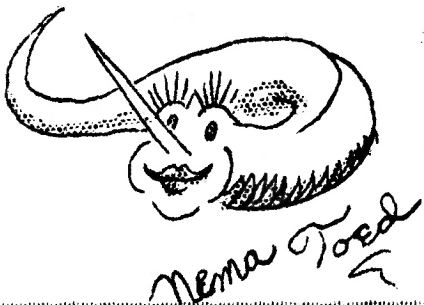
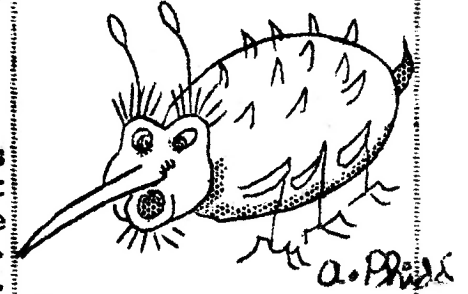
- Cacti---Borg; The Cactaceae (4 volumes)---Britton and Rose; Cactus and Succulent Journal (Bound Editions)---U.S. Society; Unusual Plants (photographs---Brown; Morphology of Cacti (3 sections)---Buxbaum; The Flowering Cactus---Carlson; Cacti and Other Succulents---Chidamain; *Mammillaria* Handbook---Craig; Cactus Guide---Gutak; Cacti of California ---Dawson; Cacti of the Southwest---Earle; Exotica III---Graf; Cacti and Succulents---Haage; American Rock Gardens---Hamblin; Cacti for the Amateur---Haselton; Cactus and Succulents and How to Grow Them---Haselton; *Epiphyllum* Handbook---Haselton; Succulents for the Amateur---Haselton; Desert Plant Collection---Hertrich; Cacti for Decoration---Higgins; The Study of Cacti---Higgins; *Crassulas* in Cultivation---Higgins; A Handbook of Succulent Plants--(3 volumes)---Jacobson; Cacti---Kupper & Roshardt; Cacti and Other Succulents (4 volumes)---Lamb; *Mammillarias* ---Marsden; Cactaceae---Marshall & Dock; Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms---Marshall & Wood; Flowering Cacti & Other Succulents---Rose;

(con't next page)

BOOK LIST (con't) Vegetation and Flora of the Sonoran Desert (2 volumes) ---Streve & Wiggins; The Succulent Euphorbieae (2 volumes)---White, Dyer, Sloane; The Stapelieae (3 volumes)---White & Sloane; Bromeliads in Cultivation (vol #1)---Wilson; plus various pamphlets, booklets, Society publications, periodicals, and the California Garden. All these books, etc. are available to members at no charge; the only requirement is that you check them out properly with Librarian, Ruth Nelson.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor: In your February issue of Espinas y Flores you listed the names of staff members. You included the names of your exofficio columnists--A. Phidd and Nema Toed, that's us. Since you admit our existence and positions; we believe we have proved our worth and demand recognition and side benefits. Therefore, we respectfully request, if you please, that you print our pictures; a first for EyF. To facilitate this we have gone to the trouble of having our portraits taken. You must certainly appreciate how difficult it is for us to pose for a camera--and to smile? We did our very best--as always. Our autographed photos are inclosed. The signatures attest to our degree of literacy. Please note my dainty, effeminate backhand and the strength of character of AP's signature. Note how meticulous he is; he even dots the "i".



The side benefits we refer to are carrots, one per issue. AP will be content with the tops, and I just love the root. If our request is denied, we do not believe we would have the strength to continue the exhausting pace and pressure necessary in the publication of this paper.

We shall look forward eagerly to see our pictures in an early issue. Of course you will agree with us, that it is important for the readers of

Espinas Y Flores associate our faces with our literary efforts. We trust you will react reasonably in this matter and that you will make a mental note of our facial weaponry, spines and glochids. We hope you don not force us to use any weapons in our cause other than paper and pencil. We cannot bow low to you, since our physical construction does not permit such a maneuver--so we come crawling. Respectfully, Nema Toed & A. Phidd

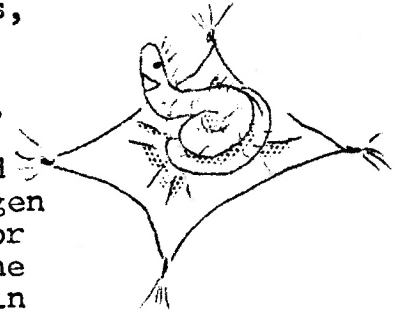
MESSAGE FROM GARCIA

Dear Mr. Stalsonburg: You asked for comments covering a small garden. After those slides of mine were shown at the last meeting I can only quote the Chinese that a "picture is worth a thousand words". Possibly the following may be of some help.

I garden in containers and the containers are in the ground, mostly, in a raised bed. To protect the plants, the bed is of sand as I suffer from an overactive watering can, being an easterner. The chief requisite, really, is good drainage. For pots I use plastic bleach containers of various sizes with slashed sides and well slashed bottoms. To cut down on the frequency of watering, I double pot. The larger outside pot does not have the slashed sides, just slashed bottom. The space between the two pots is filled with sand, peat moss, crushed stone, limestone pebbles, ground eggshell and the like. It all depends on the plant and what I have available. The roots are thus able to get out through the slashed sides, if they must, and wander about in the space between and have an altogether frustrating time of it. This makes it simple to move plants about as the
(con't next pad)

MESSAGE FROM GARCIA (con't) need arises and the fancy strikes. Tender plants are taken up and kept in a little cold frame for the winter. Thus, when I lift the plants, to save space, I remove the outer pot and rub off the roots that wandered outside.

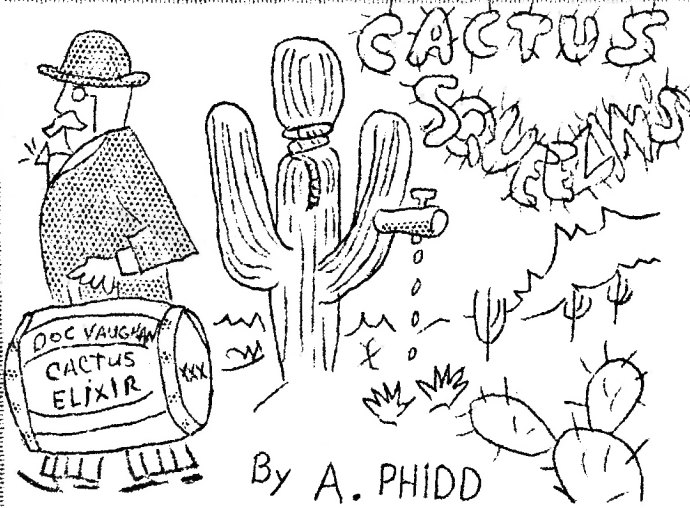
Because of lack of space, I underpot and overwater. I rarely water with just plain water, always adding a little very VERY highly diluted fertilizer, using a watering can or else, water with a hose first and the watering can thereafter. The fertilizer varies, steer or dairy infusion or a complete concentrated fertilizer. When potting I also add bits of the various organic fertilizers, even crushed charcoal, eggshell, oyster shell, varying the mess with the plant needs and my fertile imagination. It is good to vary the fertilizer with one having a low nitrogen content for bloom and spine growth, particularly for pushing bloom. A good dose of wood ashes having the natural crushed charcoal is a superb perker-upper in very early spring.



I PREFER A RUB DOWN

I keep my plants small, compact; pinch out, using taller plants for background accent, generally. There are so many fine plants having attractive leaf, stem and spine color, different shades of red, green and white that flowers are only an extra bonus.

I spray regularly and manage to keep insects under control. Would I could do as well about the passing small fry. Being on an unfenced public alley near a school, I am at the mercy of footballs, bicycles, running feet, dogs, cats and people. Guess they like pretty places, too. Yet in spite of all of the above I seem to grow a modest few fairly attractive specimen plants. Oh, and in closing, I always hold appropriate services (i.e. uncouth remarks) when I lose a plant and go on from there. Amen. I cannot be lucky all the time, can I? I have no more skill than anyone else. The plants have to have a deep desire for survival to counteract my gardening efforts. Sincerely, HELEN HEGYI



DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN- we're not entirely sure, but "much reading is like much eating-wholly useless without digestion"...another great month passes as the Society fairly vibrates with enthusiasm... EMILY PARK says it more aptly-"When exposed to ideas, Cactus & Succulent people respond"... The ordinary business at April's meeting was put aside in favor of JENNIE NEAN'S celebration of the greatest hundred years of her life...a gathering of relatives distant & close, members of the Society, representatives of other garden clubs, distinguished members

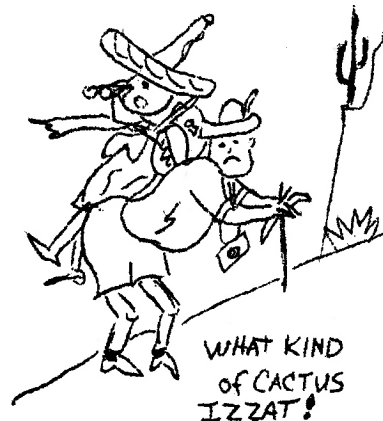
of the press, and NELLIE'S epic culinary achievement made a happy occasion for the bright-eyed lady, all bedecked in queenly robe & crown, who attributes her longevity to the association with good people.

From her throne and flowered canopy the "Queen for the Day" received many gifts and tokens of affection, as "Doc" read the letter from President Johnson and some of the number of congratulatory messages...Many thanks to RUTH, HAZEL, and BEA for the outstanding arrangements...ROBERT LAMB, superintendent of Floriculture exhibits at the County Fair, was on

(con't next page)

CACTUS SQUEEZ'INS (con't) hand to give details on the up coming fete...Fair dates, June 23 to July 4...Bob also announced that a special Feature exhibit is being proposed for San Diego's 200th anniversary ...possibly a joint venture between our Society and Palomar should be considered to quest for over \$500 in premiums.

The Bragging Table awards were swept again by HAZEL SCOTT...this time with Graptopetalum paraguayense in a "supplent" hanging basket... and repeater JOAN FLEER with an unnamed Epiphyllum Hybrid in full bloom...be sure to bring in all the slides and pictures taken at the Birthday party and the Cactus Car-a-van...a projector will be on hand...here's one for you to think about-"A root is a flower that disdains fame."-Gibran...it was the first clear night we have had in two months for the Board Meeting and hardly anyone showed...must have been a good one to get out among'em...Welcome to the club BOB HAFFENDEN, GILBERT VOSS, BARRY SHAW, HELEN MC CABE, MR. & MRS. ROBERT H. FLETCHER, & MRS. O.J. ST. ONGE...we've got to have a first name there for both you misseses!.our tel#465-6661.



April 22, 9:00am, as if by devine command, Scotty uttered the magic words-"Rain, Rain, go away, da da dee, da da day!"...the skies did clear and the members assembled...thirty-one in all donned helmets and goggles, climbed into the cockpits of thirteen cars, and raced off "over hill, over dale; through brush, through brier; over park, over pale; through flood, through fire;" the Cactus Car-a-van was on the march in full attire...after meeting at WALTER & HAZEL SCOTT'S artful haven of horticultural imminense, the throng proceeded to the first of two delightful displays of Green Thumbary cared for by JOAN FLEER, which featured a cactus bound together by a "band-aid"and literally blooming its little head off...next the Car-a-van moved on to C.L.Benbow's natural greenhouse. containing specimens from 30 years of collecting; then on to the flower filled bungalow of JENNIE MEANS, bulging at the seams with Cacti & flora.

Only fifteen minutes behind the Wagonmaster's tentative schedule(owing principally to a couple of missed turns by FRANK MOUSSEAU & HELEN HEGYI) the merry little band arrived at BOB HAFFENDEN'S mystic maze of over 1,000 of the finest field collected plants Mexico and distant ports of call could offer...Next was the arbored harbor of WALT and MABEL GREENWOOD...it was a neat and airy garden with the fabled sanctum sanctorum lath house where the Bragging Table items are kept.



A poolside lunch repast was taken at JIM STALSONBURG'S youthful arboretum...coffee and pastries served by hosts HARRY & EVE WARN...at TONY & MRS. REINBOLDT'S the group was treated to what could be done in a small area...Tony's hand painted desert background to a varied and extensive collection

truly gave one the feeling he was in our vast back-country...Ever-smiling BERTHA SANDERS was waiting to greet the travelers on her herbaceous hillside...the breath taking view was only surpassed by the dazzling arrangements of contrasting color in leaf and flower...A slight deviation and a stop light caused the separation of a small group from the main flock... the clandestine crew lead by FRANK MOUSSEAU (who else) proceeded to the Tainadge Fern Nursery and on to JACK & SHIRLEY WARD'S prodigious assem- (con't next page)

CACTUS SQUEEZIN'S (con't) blage of potted spines and flowers, where the main body finally arrived eager with accounts of their stop at the unique & legended Cactus Nursery of HELEN MC CABE..located at 6721 Imperial Ave. in the Encanto area for those of you who missed it.

As the sun slowly settled into the bank of storm clouds waiting patiently in the wings, the hungry, excited, pleased, and very bushed group of fellow travelers put the lid on a pleasurable and memorable day, by tying the feed bag on the "old Bay" and cutting a large generous hunk from the upper quarter of Sir George's best...as someone at the table said, "it's not the amount of meat that makes the feast enjoyable; it's the company!"-Amen-.....A. Phidd

.....
CARE & CULTURE OF EPIPHYLLUMS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE-by Taggart Spinks

Epiphyllums, commercially known as Orchid Cactus can be easily raised in this area. They thrive on well calculated neglect and resent excesses. They can be easily damaged by: too much water, too much fertilizer, too much sun, too much cold (sustained periods under thirty one degrees).

The plants or cuttings should be placed into a small pot containing a coarse, rapidly draining mix with a large proportion of rapidly drying humus. Peat will not do as it holds moisture too long and is difficult to moisten when dry.

Watering practices varies according to the condition of the plant, pot size and atmospheric conditions. More plants die from too much water than any other reason. Water sparingly, but do not allow the lower roots to dry out completely. During the summer months, misting can help maintain air humidity. Small pots can be watered more often than large pots because they dry more rapidly.



Epiphyllums resent full sun or very dark shade. Two satisfactory locations would be well inside a patio overhang with a South or West exposure, or a n East exposure or underneath an evergreen tree. A tree such as an Orange tree tends to humidify the air through leaf evaporation

These plants are fairly heavy feeders. However, only fertilize them when they are hungry, that is when they are growing quite well. Fertilize will not stimulate a sick plant into recovery, but will probably only further damage the roots. Use organic nitrogen and material with a high content of phosphorus. Feed often, but not with heavy doses.

"DEAR NEMA";

.....
Speaking of strange, unidentified objects...How have YOU been? It might interest the Ladies of the Cactus Society to know that the secret of Lady Peel's great beauty was that she used the moisture extracted from the Cactus. This juice was an abluent and a skin food known to the ancient Egyptians, strange as it seems. In the mortuaries of the royalty are found this Cactus plant.

The ancients knew that the juice of Cactus assuaged pain, aided healing of severe burns. For these Cactus plants they gave the Mexicans the art of tattoo, embalming. The bodies of nobility were encased in bees-wax and wrapped in linen. From this we derive the words cerement, cemetery, cerecloth, ceremony and create, which is a face-wax used by the ladies fair even unto this day. You might ask: How did the Egyptians get the Cactus plants? The answer is: How did the Aztecs learn about cerating the dead--mummification--eviscerating? I will be delighted to answer any questions submitted thru your delightful publication..just direct the mail to HARRY CHIN.....answer, next page

DEAR NEMA: (con't)

Dear Harry, it's always nice to hear from a "newcomer"; it's obvious that you have first hand information...we will certainly ask our readers to direct questions to you...we presume on any subject,O'kay???

DEAR NEMA; Ever hear of Zebulon Pike? There's a spectacular mountain peak in Colorado named after him, but Pike's name will go down in history more for the fact that in a moment of weakness, having himself failed to scale the peak, stated "Yonder peak will never be scaled by mortal man." The year was 1806.

There has for many years been an auto road to near the top of the peak, and looking back, it seems incredible that such a remark could have been made. Perhaps today we have come to expect that anything is possible--round trips to the moon, discovery of the secret of life--nameit, and not many will scoff.

It seems to me, however, that in this massive group effort to overcome the impossible, the individual has lost the sense of what is possible for him AS AN INDIVIDUAL. In assessing your own potentialities, keep in mind that your accomplishments are limited only by your own vision into the future and by the intensity of your desire to carry them out. Sincerely, NORMAN MORRIS

Dear Norm, You are 100% on this score...all too often many of us fail to use what talents we possess; never realizing how silent the woods would be if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

DEAR NEMA: It might be of interest to you or some of the members should it be possible to attend the Epiphyllum Society of America 8th annual flower show on May 7th at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia, Calif.

Entries are restricted to members of the Epiphyllum Society. The admission is free. The hours are from 12 noon to 5:30pm. The variation of extra-ordinary color and blossom type displayed is most rewarding.

Taggart Spinks, president of the Epiphyllum Society of America is also a member of our Howard E. Gates Memorial Cactus & Succulent Soc'ty. We have enjoyed Mr. Spinks' programs of culture and his color slides. He has been kind enough to list a few of the most important procedures of care and culture which I am enclosing. I intend to attend the show and will look forward to saying 'Hello'..Sincerely,Art Montague,Pres.

Dear Art; Thanks, we certainly hope some of the gang can go."How much a dunce that has been sent to roam excels a dunce that that has been kept at home!"

DEAR NEMA; the following is a list of books taken from the library without proper checkout...please run in EyF and have members notify me as to who has them-Thank you-Ruth Nelson: "Desert Plant Collection"-by Wm. Hertrich; "Cacti of Southwest"-W.Hubert Earle; "Cactus & Succulents and How to Grow Them"-Scott Haselton; "Cacti & Succulents"-Walter Haage; "Cacti for Decoration"-Vera Higgins.

Right Ruth; we'll do our best from here to see that this isn't a continuing story.."next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books." Repeat purchases notwithstanding, please...

DEAR NEMA; Tell the members that BERNICE STERLING is recovering from an eye operation and wish her well from all of us-Sunshine Hostess

Sunshine;"Happiness is the only good...the place to be happy is here, the time to be happy is now...the way to be happy is to help make others so".....NEMA TOED