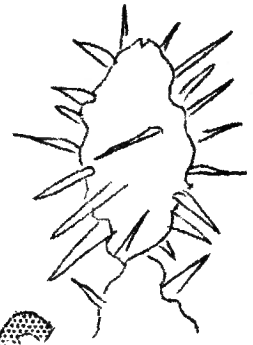


# ESPINAS

Y

# FLORES



OCT., 1968.

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## CACTIVITIES

are planning spine-tostii cactivities to keep them warm.

WHEN other Cactophiles are stacking wood for winter fires, San Diego Cactimates

The first of these epic affairs comes on the 26th of October - a field trip to the world of "Baja". We'll meet at Bob Taylor's Elysian fields of spines and flowers at the early hour of 7:30, earlier, if you're a fancier of the night blooming varieties, of which there surely will be several specimens in profusion. It is imperative that we get underway at 8:00 a.m., so that we can make the complete trip comfortably in one day.

First off a stop in Tecate at the pottery factory, then to Las Palmas Valley, where a forest of rare Ferocactus Orcutti grow in huge mounds, and the landscape is covered with native flora of many varieties. There will be small mammillaria to try to find like an egg hunt on Easter morning, as well as charming and interesting succulents, possibly, as yet, unnamed. From there we will head South and West to a spot around Ensenada where great stands of Machaerocereus Gummosus and Gergerocactus Emorys are enjoying the view of placid blue Pacific waters. Again it will be Easter time to

find elusive little rock dwellers and crested forms. As the sun gently starts for its daily swim, we will make our last Port of Call at La Mission, where the Arroya Homar and Martinez join together, and the Dudleya Brittoni cover the steep canyon walls like a "Haight-Asbury" collage.

Hiking boots or the like are a must, a camera for the sightseers, small hand picks or grubbing hoes for the collectors, and a picnic lunch for all are some of the necessary ingredients to bring along. We

(Continued next page)

### OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday, Oct. 5th, 2 p.m..

Floral Assoc. Building  
Balboa Park

EVOLUTION OF DESERT PLANTS  
by

Esther W. Neskin

EXCHANGE TABLE

BRAGGIN' TABLE

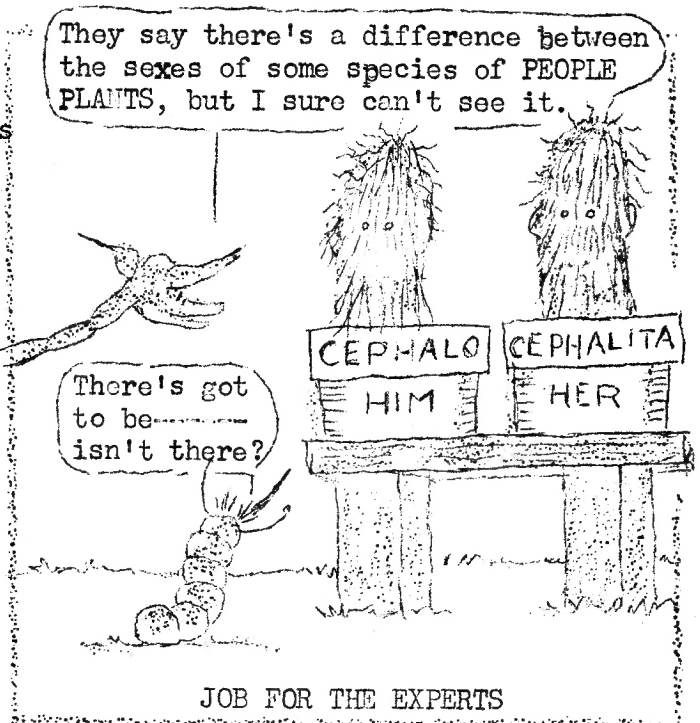
Refreshments

## CACTIVITIES (CONT.)

will make the trip in private automobiles, and we'll adjust the load limits at Taylor's so that the Car-a-Van doesn't become too large for good travelling. Plants can be collected up to 12 inches in height; they must be thoroughly cleaned and de-rooted; and depending on the number, and other legal regulations, will be brought back across the border for inspection and fumigation under the auspices of Bob Taylor's Importer's Permit.

For the young at heart, a wonderful "Carne Asoda" dinner at Victor's, preceded by the most temptifying, lip-smacking margaritas, and best crackling, crisp, finger-licking-good "especial" salad that grandma ever made.

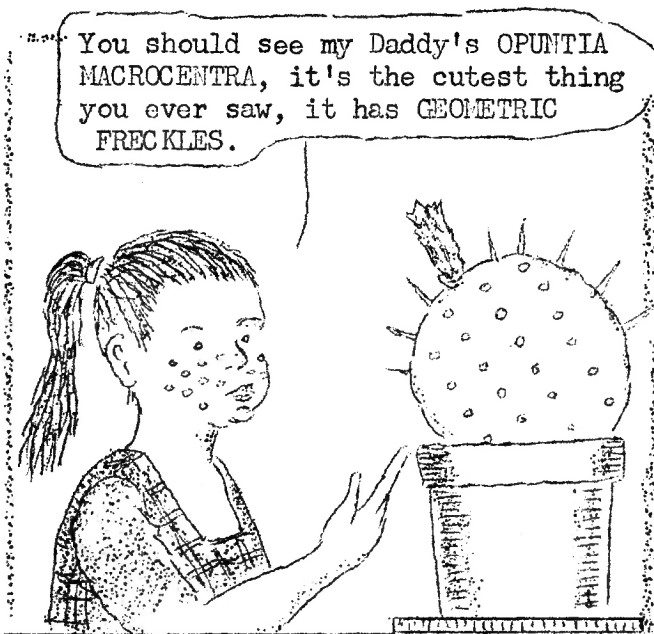
Next up will be an "Autumn Leaves" bus trip Nov. 16; leaving Playa de Panama, Balboa Park at between 8:00 and 8:30, bound for the Laguna Mountains and through the Cuyamacas with trees in colored splendor, with softly sonant streams cutting cold blue ribbons in deep green meadows, and bleached white, fern encrusted boulders; down through the mighty stands of oak and whispering pine, down to Vallecito, the cactus playground; the Agua Caliente Springs; the old Overland Stage Station; callus mountains, to the sea level floor of the desert, in winter dress trying to hide its arid austerity. Then in a bee line through the fertile fields of the Imperial Valley, choked with celery and lettuce readying for harvest to the "Carrot Capital" of Holtville, where we will join with our El Centro Cactimates in a Western Bar-B-Q at the



Rancho de Juliana Rice, among the palms and cactus of her "Jordin de San Diego" which exemplifies the diversity of our trip from sub-tropical shores over pine-covered peaks to sandy wastes.

After a program of "Youthful Reflections on a Sticky Theme", the long trip home will be shortened by the melodic refrain of Georgine and her "howling herd" of dreamy eyed, pleasantly exhausted, cactobuddies. For insomniacs, it is the greatest going.

(Continued next page)



# CACTIVITIES (CONT)

Thirdly, on the 15th of December, your Editor is having a "Cactrisening" Party at his youthful arboretum of thistle-down to give appellation to many anonymous wonders brought back from field trips in the hinterlands. Hamburgers from the grille, "cold ones" from the cooler, and esoteric conversations on the benefits of cacti in a garden for all seasons. 3s

Please note a change of address- Joan Fleer  
1924 33rd S.D. 92102

Welcome to the club-  
Mary Mc Dowell, sur'n  
a touch of green goes well  
with our Golden Spines...  
to Esther Nesbin, when good-  
natured people leave us we  
look forward with extra  
pleasure to their return..  
Le Roy Phelps, it is nice  
to see a trim beard for a change.



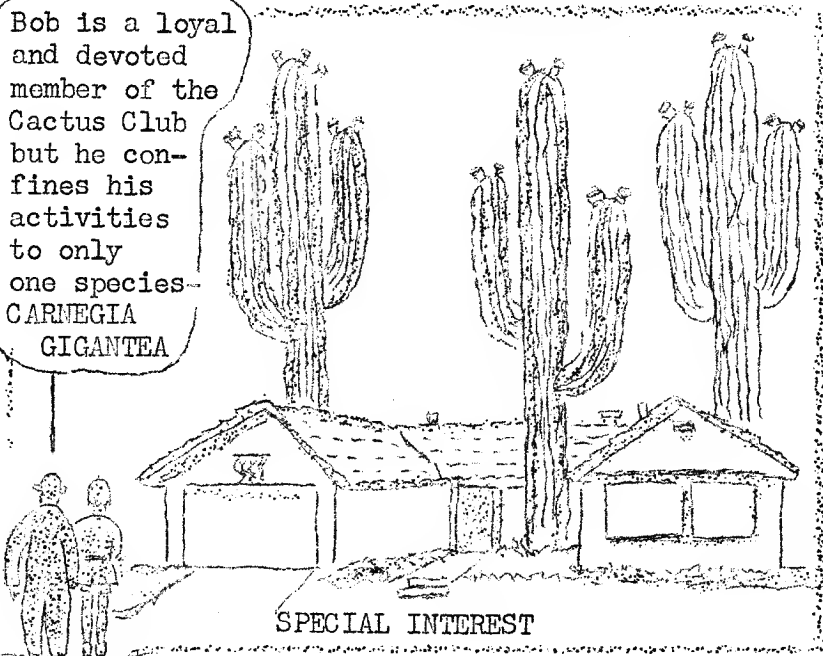
J.S.

The above was reproduced from a photograph in the "California Garden" magazine, showing Jim Stalsonburg receiving the Grand Award for the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society for making the best over-all contribution to the Southern California Expo Flower Show. The Society has participated in the show for 7 years. This is the first Grand Award they have won.

This is our first attempt at doing this sort of reproduction in the magazine, but we hope

to use more of it. If any member has photos of the proper quality, please contact the Editor, and we will be happy to make use of them...experiments in color will be next..all calculated to keep you in suspense and add new dimension to our little home spun paper..however, miracles sometimes occur, but one has to work darn hard for them... -Nema

Bob is a loyal and devoted member of the Cactus Club but he confines his activities to only one species-  
**CARNEGIA GIGANTEA**

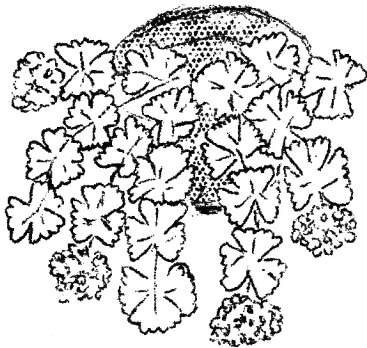
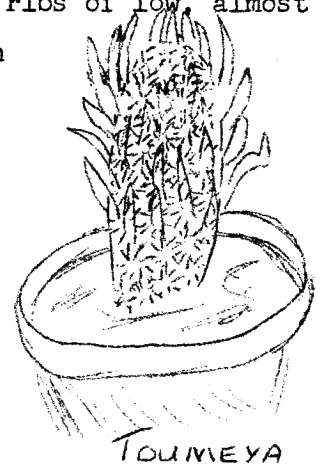


SPECIAL INTEREST

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

TIME AFTER TIME collectors have returned from field trips to New Mexico and Arizona, exasperated and out of sorts, expressing

that the *TOUMEYA PAPYRACANTHA* (too-ne-a pa-pi-ra-kan-tha) was as hard to find as hen's teeth. We think you will find, as legend has it, that hen's tooth are as hard to find as Toumeya. This is a mono type genus whose principal known whereabouts is in the low foothills around Santa Fe, New Mexico. However, little colonies have been found, widely scattered, into Arizona and Utah. Not only are the colonies small in number, but the plants themselves are very diminutive, being about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height. Rarely do they branch or pup, except when grafted. Most any cereus stock is satisfactory, and the plant will grow to sizeable proportions suitable for display. The body is composed of obliquely arranged ribs of low, almost flat, tubercles, which bear round areoles of whitish fuzz when young, but become naked with age. Usually, 5 to 8 radiating white spines emanate from the margins of the areoles, with 3 thin, papery, pale brown central spines pointing upwards over the top of the plant. This gives the plant a very striking appearance, but also aids in camouflaging when looked for in the wild. The flowers appear from the newer areoles near the crown of the plant. They are silky white and form a funnel shape about 2 inches long; the outer petals are striped with a brown mid rib, and when fully opened, the flower is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch across.



*Sedum sieboldii*

This genus has been kicked around between mamillaria and echinocactus for many years, but finally it was named as Toumeya by Britton and Rose in honor of James W. Toumey, collector and student of Cactiflora. The specific name is a combination of two words meaning papery spines. It has been reported that this plant has been found as far West as Cali-

ifornia, but we do not have a confirmed report or locality. It is important to realize that small plants like these may have a much broader range than given credit for, simply because of their size, they are easily overlooked by collectors in areas where they are not expected.

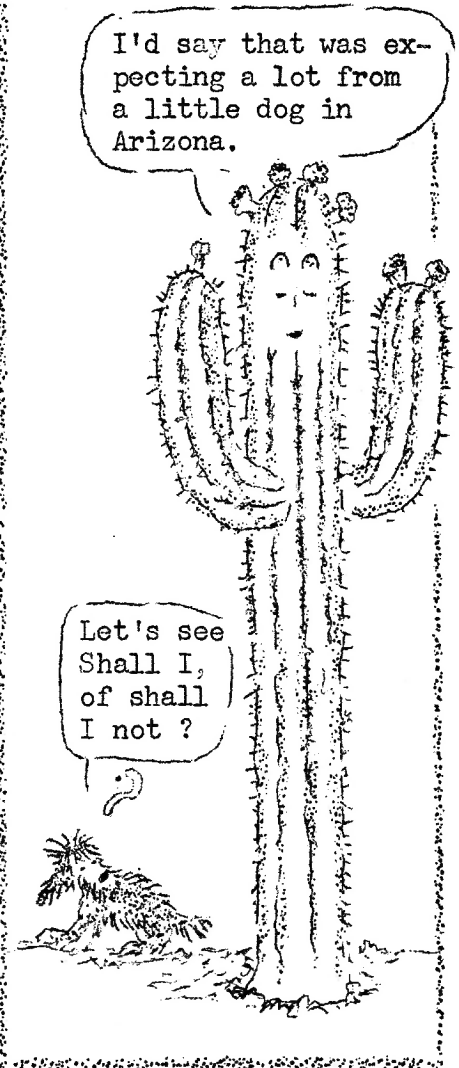
Toumeya can be propagated easily from seed, and grow well with moderate watering in sandy soil. Even at best, it is a difficult plant to display, which may

(Continued next page)

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont.

largely account for its rarely being included in collections. However, as we mentioned before, on a graft or in a miniature display, it will take on wonderful accent proportions, and be a delightful addition to any collection.

Sometimes we choose a plant from a genus that is just bewildering with an array of words and species to play and counterplay in an effort to clarify the particular plant of the month. *SEDUM* (see-dum) is the genus; *SIEBOLDII* (se-bold-i) is the species. Sedum is a member of the very large crassula family, and is found in most every corner of the world. There are over 500 known species, and because they hybridize so easily, at this very moment a new and completely different variety may be poking its tender cotyledons above the ground for the very first time. Many of these plants are of interest only to a botanist; but in the main the best known and most interesting are the fleshy sedums of Mexico, (*S. Praealtum*, *Pachyphyllum*, *Guatamalense*, *Adolphi*, *Allantoides*, and the like.)



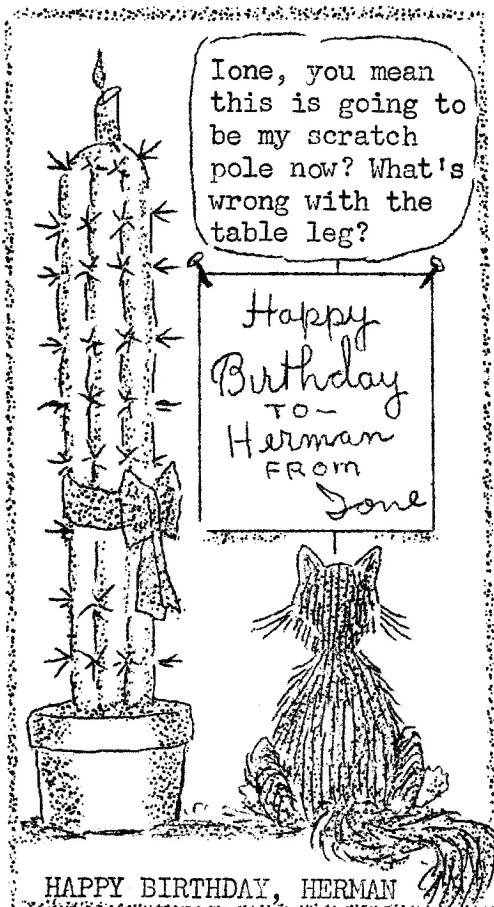
They are often mistaken

for plants in other groups, such as *Graptopetulum*, *Pachyphytum*. A life time could be spent in fascinating study of *Sedum*, which has a full range of horticultural habits.

Sedums are good plants for poor soil, in fact the poorer the soil, seemingly the more colorful the leaves. *Sedum* comes from the word *sedo*, which means to sit, and refers to the manner in which the plants attach themselves or grow from tiny crevices in walls and rocky cliffs. Their varied habits of growth offer unlimited possibilities to make novel and unusual planting arrangements. Contrary to some "purists'" opinions, they are complimentary in a cactus mound, especially when your cacti are not of specimen size.

Our Plant of the Month, *S. Sieboldii* is a beautiful species that hails from Japan. It was intro-

(Continued next page)



PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont.

duced to Europe in 1836, and has been a favorite for window box and hanging baskets ever since. It has arching, reddish stems up to 9 inches in length, the leaves are flattish, rounded wedges of glaucous green with wavy, notched, pinkish margins, and are arranged in whorls of three along the stem. The bouquets of rosy-purple flowers occur in September and October, and are an exquisite sight billowing over a window box or hanging basket.

Shortly after blooming the plant becomes deciduous, and dies back to the root stock, to regenerate itself for another show of glory next spring. There is another variety of *S. Sieboldii* with a large golden splash in the center of the leaf. It too is an excellent plant for showy hangers, but it is a little less hardy to cold. Both grow to optimum in medium rich, well drained soil. Water freely during the growing season, but withhold it almost entirely while dormant.

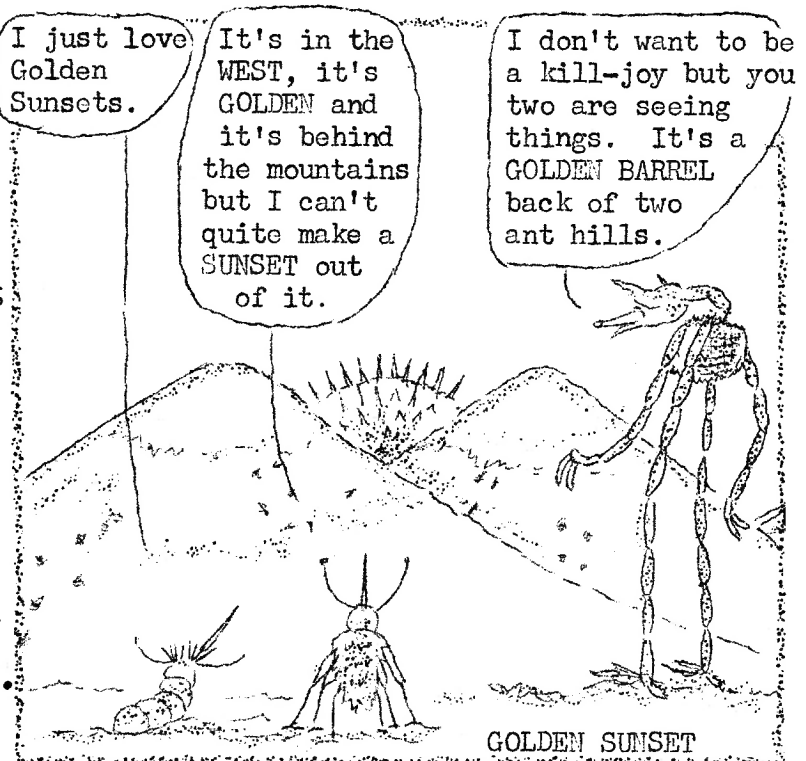
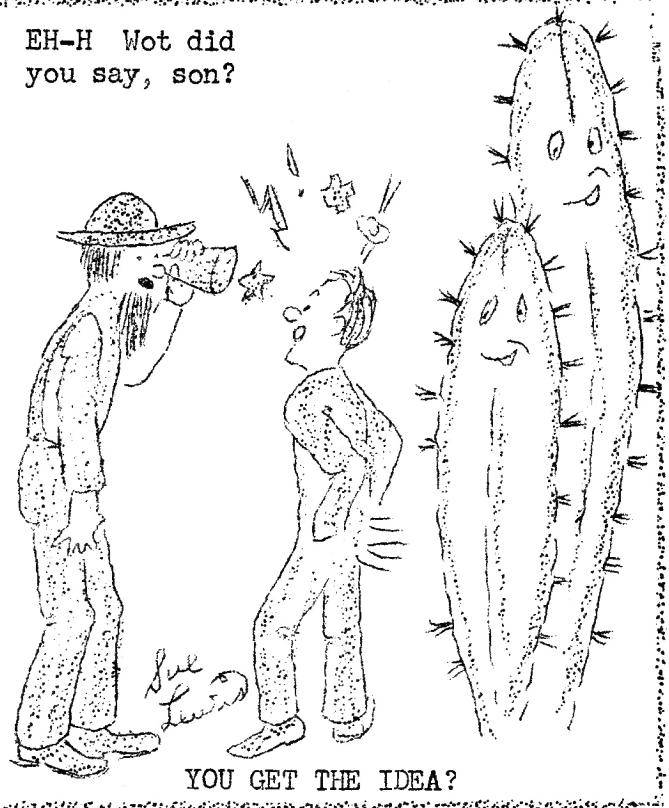
AMATEURS

We cannot all be professionals,  
this I know,

But are we not all amateurs  
As through this world we go?  
In infancy, we had to learn  
to laugh and cry  
And childhood brought new  
things- we had to try.  
Then youth & romance came along  
Life was a grand, sweet song.  
Later years bring lessons  
to be learned  
On this stage, we play, we earn  
Just when we're getting good,  
The Master calls, He's understood;  
so in life beyond we'll see.  
Amateurs, we still will be.

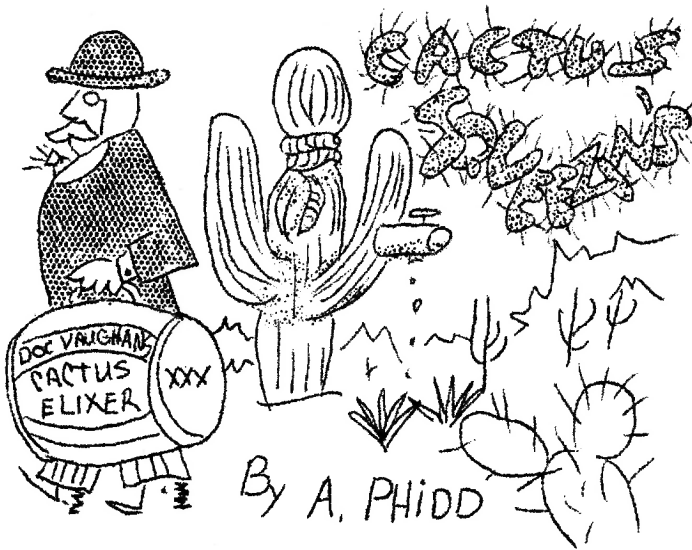
B.E. Thomas

EH-H Wot did  
you say, son?



GOLDEN SUNSET

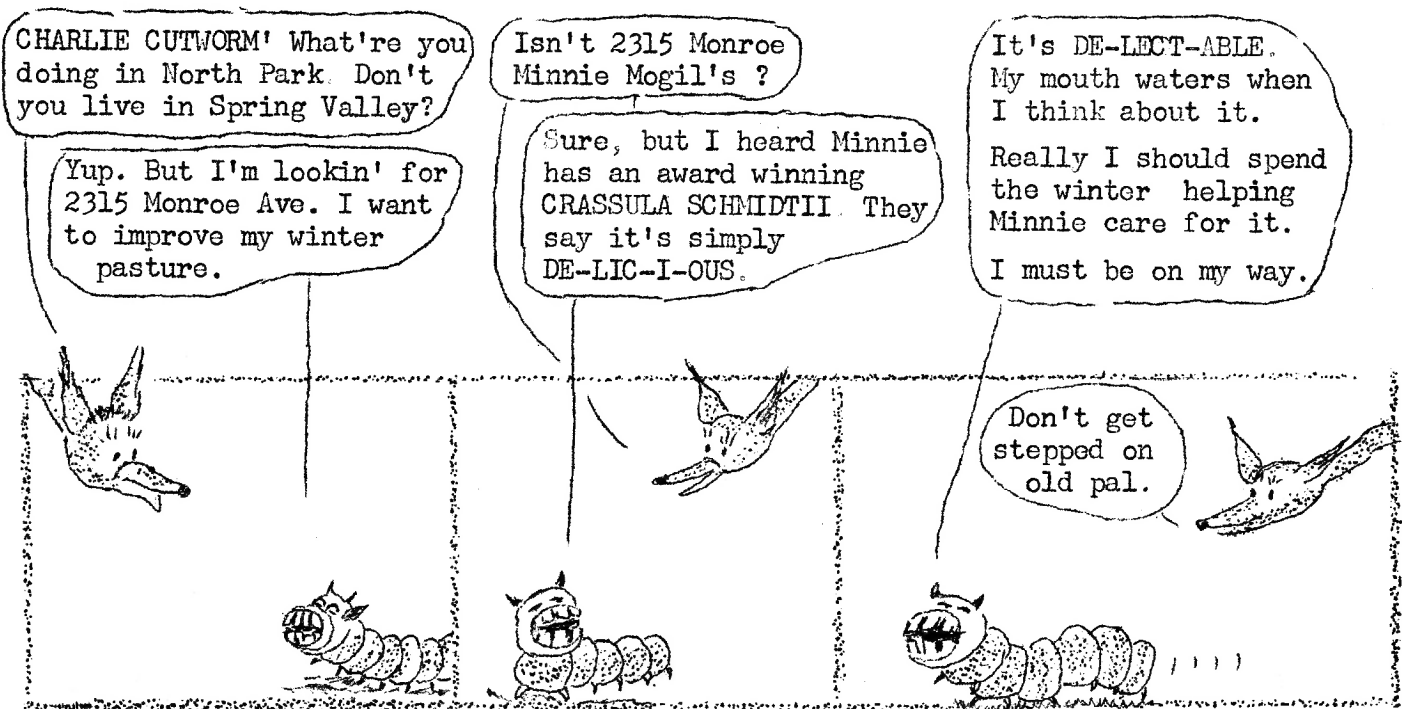




OCTOBER IS THE MONTH for cleaning up the garden, preparing plants for a dormant season, and harvesting the bounty of another good season.... "And when the silver habit of clouds comes down upon the Autumn sun, and with a sobered gladness, the old year takes up his bright inheritance of golden fruits, a pomp and pageant fill the splendid scene"... (H. W. Longfellow).. But cactus are for all seasons and

follow in endless cycles of showy promenades.... Speaking of endless promenades, WALT GREENWOOD continues to adorn the Braggin' Table with plants of significant ostentation.... However, the competition gets tougher each month.... MINNIE MOGIL stepped right up and gave him a little nudge, as did BOB TAYLOR, with the finest specimen of Solisia Pectinata we have ever seen growing on its own roots.... Some fifty odd years old was a fair estimate.....

The ole carpenter, TONY REINBOLDT brought in a 12 penny nail and threatened to drop it into the punch.... but EVELYN CHATHAM said she preferred Kamchatka in 4-penny strength.... Over coffee and cake SOPHIA LOYLAND related a conversation overheard by her husband OLIVER at a local induction center between a clerk and a recruit.... "Did you go to elementary school?" "Yes," answered the recruit, "not only elementary, but I attended St. Paul's at Concord, Harvard at Cambridge... took my Master's at Princeton, my first Ph.D. at Oxford, and my second at the University of Michigan.".... The clerk nodded, reached for a rubber stamp, and stamped the application form with one word: "Literate".... (Continued next page)



at our local athletic palace.... "As a nation, we are dedicated to keeping physically fit, and parking as close to the stadium as possible.".... Speaking of the same individual, he misplaced his travel diary, and had to shoot from the hip for last month's program.... "Years make all of us old, and very few of us wise.".... SCOTTY loves to tell the story of when he was working in the police lab and sent out pictures of an escaped convict in 6 different poses.... A few days later he received a wire from the town constable of Goldfield, Nevada, "Have captured 5 of them and am on the trail of the 6th"....

A lovely lady with "Apple Cheeks", broad smile, and a funny little hat, pressed this note into our hand at the last meeting and asked to have the message shared with all our friends:

"Just saying that "I love you" doesn't mean a thing at all;  
For loving words fly like the birds when they hear winter's call.  
Love is a thing that proves itself a thousand times a day;  
In the simple little things you do and little things you say...  
Love is a thing called sacrifice, a tonic when you're blue;  
Love is the joy of doing things for someone dear to You"....

See you at the meeting, and remember, what you wear on the outside may make a good impression, but what you are on the inside makes a more lasting impression; and you don't have to change as often.

- - - A. Phidd

WHEN THE GRAFTING season is over and you are wondering what to do with all the new Opuntia ficus-indica pads that are still forming, try cutting the small pads from the plant, remove the spines with a knife by peeling off the outer layer. Cut in cubes and place in salted water to cover. Allow to come to a full boil. The water will become foamy. Drain off and repeat until the water remains clear, usually two to three times.

It is then ready to fold into scrambled eggs, serve as a hot dish, with butter and desired condiments, or in a delightful salad of diced onion, tomatoes and cucumbers, served with a tart vinegar and oil dressing. Or on third thought, figure out a recipe of merit and crafty culinary conquest from this basic dish, and submit it to ByF for the First Annual Cactus Cookoff...PRIZES, FUN, and GAMES (in case of duplicate entries, the one bearing the earliest postmark shall be honored-entries become the property of the Editor for personal consumption) - Js.