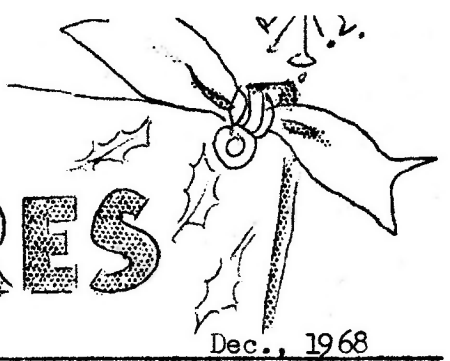


ESPINAS

Y

FLORES



Dec., 1968

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

REMEMBER ?

WHO COULD FORGET the golden oak, the spectrum of fire and magenta of the liquid amber, the parchment and umber toned poplar, and the lemon-butter and jaundiced sycamore scratching out a place on the hillsides, among the unperturbable pine, to show their autumn wares; or how they gather in the creek beds and washes with the blazened Koelreuteria, and en masse, like Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, wind their way through the fallow meadows towards the craggy escarpment of the Llagunas?

Who could forget how you strained to peer through your own breath hanging motionless in the morning air, trying to get a glimpse of warm bright desert below, and how your eye was distracted by the abundant red-berried Toyon hanging on the steep inclines amid huge rounded lichen green boulders, the stately grey-green Arizona cypress pointing to the crystal blue sky through the ragged and rolling bulk of imposing white.

Who could forget the icy lime green foliage of the Manzanita perched atop twisted fingers of reddish bronze, and the puffs of ash grey Eriogonum along the roadside, like patches of melting snow, as we descend along the raw, red scar of a new roadway to the skeletal bloom stocks of the Yucca, proud sentinels of the placid playground, where rich, red Ferocactus bask on the warm sands of Vallicito in bizarre splendor, surrounded by lush green of Agave and Nolina, the spritely clumps of cool green Lycum,

wine and amber wild flowers, and wizened Acacia and Ironwood.

Who could forget that we owe so much to nature, and who could forget that our annual dues of \$2.00 per person, or \$3.00 per family are due January 1st, and who could forget that our treasurer is Olivia Fletcher, 4351 Alden Drive, San Diego, California, 92116...

DECEMBER MEETING

Saturday, December 7, 1968, 2pm
 Floral Association Building
 Balboa Park

Election of Officers for 1969

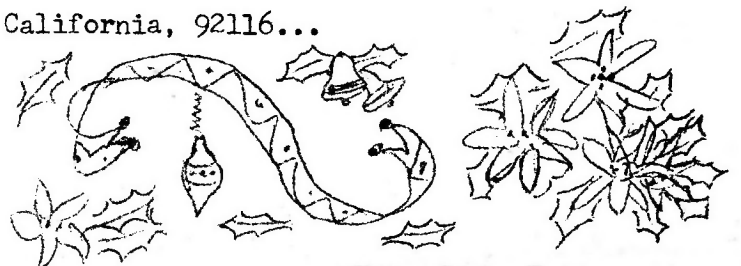
CHRISTMAS PARTY - Gift

Exchange - up to \$1.00

Something Cute, Crazy, or Cactussy

REFRESHMENTS - a la Kennett

"HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER PROJECT"
 Bring old clothes and canned goods
 for the Taylor's - PLEASE.....



HOLTVILLE '68

BRIGHT AND RATHER EARLY on the 16th of November a fine representation of our club congregated at the parking lot behind the Spreckels

Organ in Balboa Park. The day looked promising with only a few scattered clouds, and the weatherman's prediction of clear weather.

As the passenger group increased with time, the hum of conversation increased likewise, but since we were all anxious to get underway, the vocal exercise was hardly noticeable. The loading of passengers was by our usual method, first paid, first seated, which pleased the crowd. As is usually the case, there were a few who failed to get the word, so after a few twists and turns around the park, plus probably some psychic intuition, we managed to get the bus loaded and headed toward the "Polite City of El Cajon".

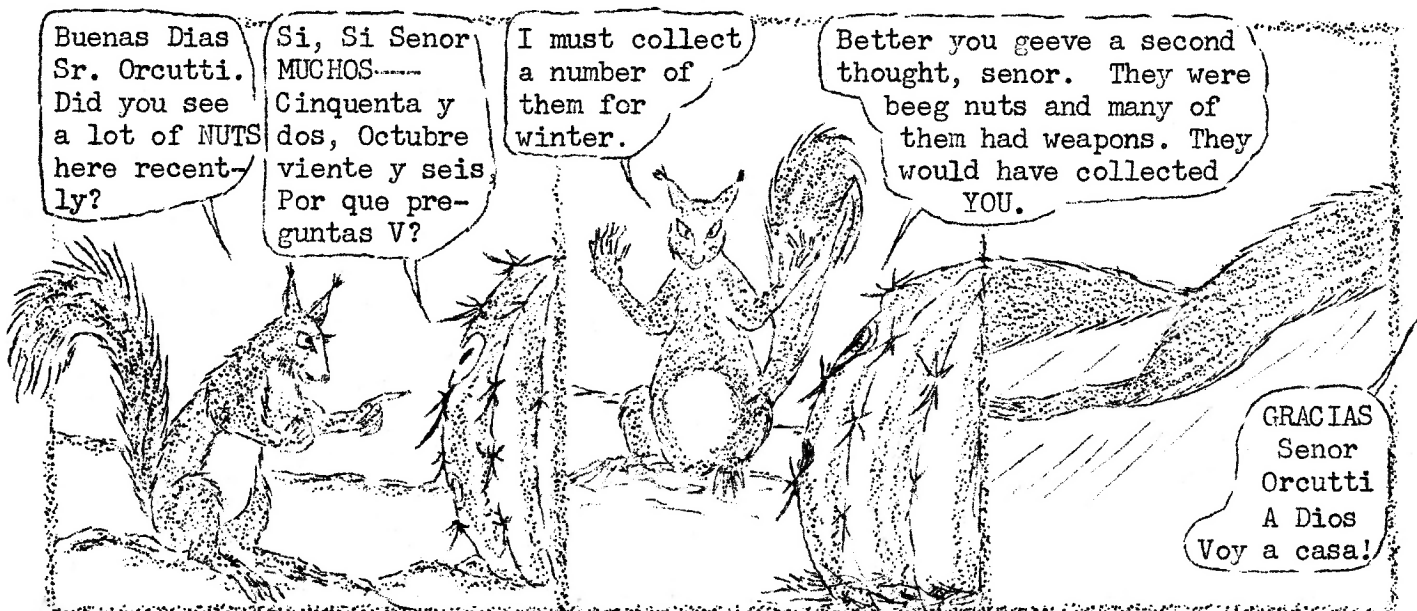
Our ever helpful director of these wonderful trips assumed the microphone and kept us well informed on the various spots of interest, as they came into view. As we passed the relocated Merry-Go-Round, there was much evidence of gardening activities by the city, which have made quite an improvement.

Our first stop was in La Mesa to observe a very crowded, but well kept cactus display garden, the project of John Cirrito, at 8430 La Mesa Blvd. As we approached El Cajon, the weather made an abrupt change, and for a while, it looked as though we would have to make the rest of the trip by instruments, due to fog and low lying clouds. Within a few miles the sun reappeared, and remained with us for the rest of the day.

As we drove through the mountainous section between Ramona and Santa Ysabel, the Fall season was apparent in the lovely shades of red and yellow marking the leaves of the deciduous trees. A stop was made at Dudley's Bakery for some unnecessary pastry nourishment, after which we drove through the Santa Ysabel Indian Mission Grounds, where our President gave us an historical description of the Mission.

Our next stop was Julian, where a committee had made arrangements for us to visit the local museum. They had antiques of every variety on the ceiling, on walls, on floors, in boxes and even on mannequins, representing the days before and after the Gold Rush. There was a wagon of pretty good shape in the front yard, anchored to cement blocks with 1/4" chain. Can't imagine the need for chaining the cart, because it didn't look strong enough to hold together for ten feet. Before we had an opportunity to see many of the relics, we were asked to board the bus, and headed down Banner Grade for the desert.

Looking at some of the desert growth, as we sped along, made many of us wish we had time to stop for an investigation, with thoughts of wonderful cacti discoveries. (Cont).



HOLTVILLE TRIP - Continued

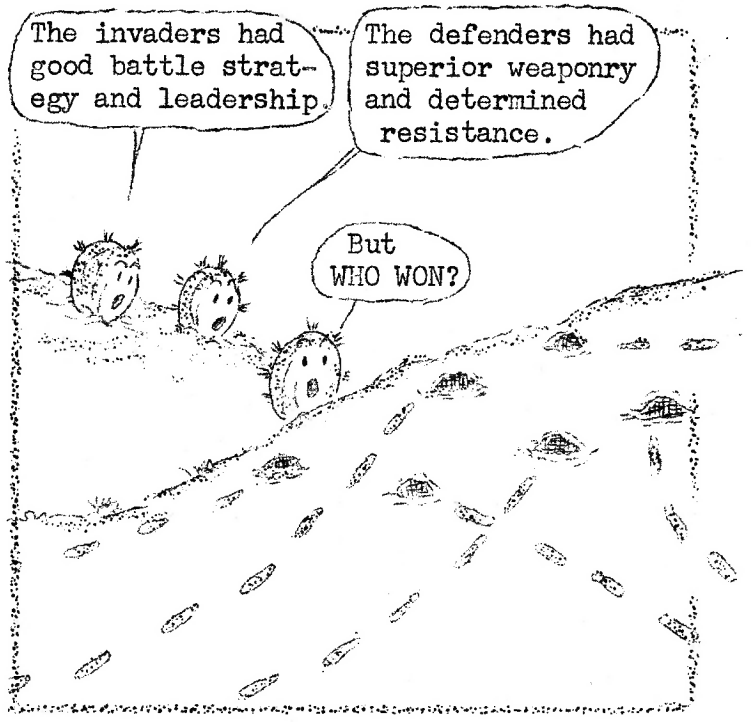
Many Ocotillo, Ferocactus, plus other cacti and succulents were observed, and this may be a place to have a looksee at some future date.

One spot we passed had a large sign, "My Place", which was a trailer court. Out that far, who else would want it? Another very noticeable sight was small square sheds dotting the desert, interspersed with signs advertising fancy lots and ranchos. What a temptation for a true cactophyle, with all the sand he could ever use at his disposal.

On arriving at El Centro we stopped at Kennerson's Nursery, where our members could only utter Oh's and Ah's, while looking over the specimens, which were in evidence in all sizes and locations. Most of us could have spent much more time there, investigating the possibilities of loading down our bus with some nice looking plants.

As the hour was getting late, and everyone was in poor shape, due to undernourishment, we headed for Holtville and the ranch of our hostess, Julianne Rice, where a delicious Bar-B-Q Dinner with loads of trimmings was awaiting us. Since we were only partly famished it was decided to let us inspect the various gardens around the house, so that when we sat down we could really do justice to such a grand feast. While no one passed out from want of food, it was noticed that several were pretty slow getting into the chow line, whereas usually they hit the front of the line without much trouble. Our hostess and her willing helpers are to be congratulated for the ease with which the large group was handled.

The program was a talk by Jim Kennerson detailing a trip through the cactus sections of Texas and Mexico, covering some several thousand miles. His talk was very interesting and instructive, and showed that while age improves many things, it takes the stamina and knowledge of today's youth to carry out these missions. In addition to a loud round of applause, let us once again congratulate him on his presentation.



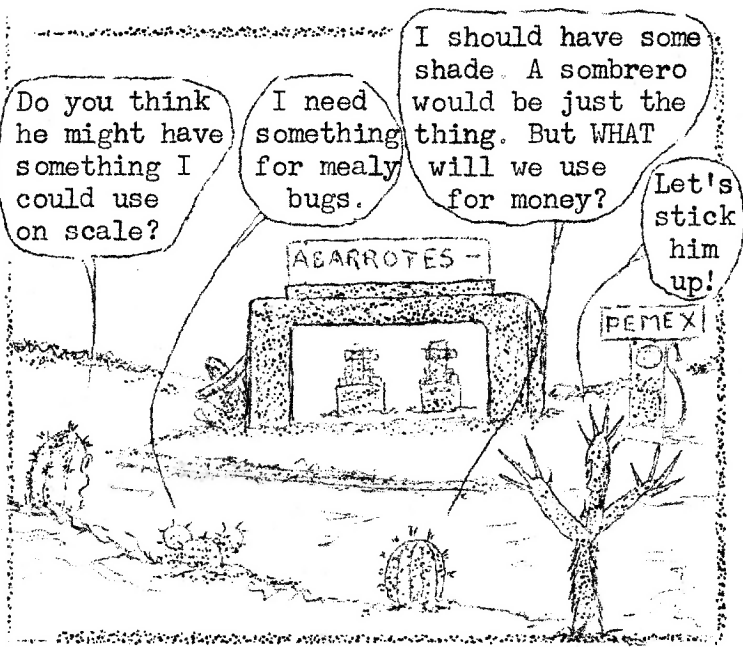
CLUSTERS' LAST STAND or BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIG THORNS

To put a fine finish to the afternoon, a drawing was held for many fine specimens, which sent many home with a new variety to add to their gardens. All in all, the Imperial Valley Club can be assured that the San Diego visitors had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Observations on the return trip were uneventful, due to the early hour of darkness, and the splendid piloting of our bus driver.

Each succeeding trip seems to be more entertaining and profitable plant-wise. With such wonderful hosts it is hard to find a better way to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of culture.

-- Walt.



SUPPLY AND DEMAND GAP

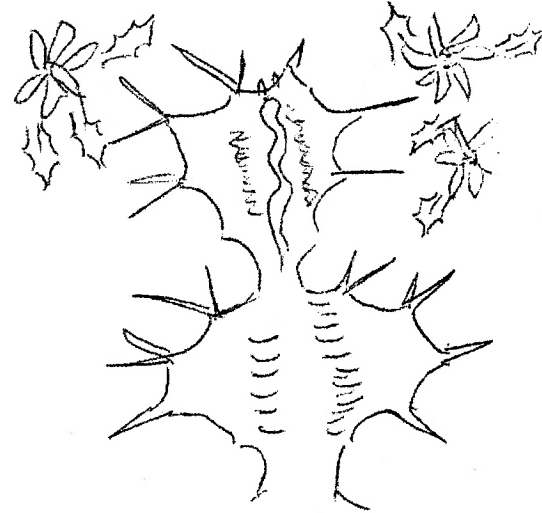
PLANT OF THE MONTH

KING JUBA II of Mauretania married the daughter of Anthony and Cleopatra - and still had time to collect and write a treatise on the family of our Succulent of the Month, the EUPHORBIACEAE (eu-four-bi-ay-see-ee). "Well fed", jibed Juba, noting the appearance of *E. Resinifera*, which he discovered growing on the sunny slopes of Mt. Atlas, and so he named the genus after his portly physician, Euphorbas,

With 2,000 in the family, including the poinsettia and snow-on-the-mountain, the succulent members alone number well over 200. Widely distributed and varying greatly in size and shape - in unabashed imitation of baseballs and corncobs, pineapples and trees, the study can be exhaustive.

Resembling cacti more closely than any other succulent, Euphorbias are to the old world what the cacti are to the new. Pointing to the similarities, we find *E. Pseudocactus*, *E. Opuntioides*, *E. Cereiformis*, and even *E. Mammillaris*.

But Euphorbias have distinctive features: (1) Their milky sap or latex which varies from that of *E. Esculenta* which is edible enough for animal fodder, to varieties with potency to stun fish for easier catching, and others used by the native of Africa in their poison-arrow activities. (2) The spines emerge directly from the stem itself as Euphorbias lack areoles, the spine-bearing organs of cacti. (3) The flowers are small but complicated, delightfully intricate and many times inconspicuous - trot out your magnifying glass, the better to enjoy them. True the bracts can be brilliant, in contrast to the single showy cacti bloom. (4) The fruit is a three-lobed capsule with only a single seed to each lobe, popping explosively when ripe - instead of a profusion of seeds scattered helter-skelter arranged hit-or-miss in a single berry.



FEROCACTUS LATISPINUS

Culture is relatively easy, especially in our dry, warm climate. Warning: Combination of cold and moisture can be fatal! Equal parts humus, top soil and sand, or decomposed granite will make them comfortable in any sunny spot.

Cuttings are best made at the beginning of the growing season to be well rooted before cold weather. Caution - Avoid the touch of the milky sap to either skin or plant, as it's caustic properties "burn". Cuttings should be exposed to air until hardened.

Principal pest enemy is the nematode - which can always be controlled with Espines y Flores.

The finest species is *E. Grandicornis* - our succulent of the month. And *Grandicornis* is one of the most decorative with the branches rising in whorls, ascending tier upon tier, resembling in nature a grandiose candelabra, the broadly winged angles undulating along green at first, but later graying with stout spines in pairs to two inches long. How, now, can you call this stately specimen by its common name, "Cow's Horns"? A well grown specimen measures about three feet, but they can become tree-like with age. Native to Natal, Tanganyika and Kenya.

E. Grandicornis is not easily confused, although *E. Angularis* somewhat resembles it but has noticeably fewer and shorter spines, and is of a more triangular outline.

Nibby

(Continued next page).

CACTUS-OF-THE MONTH - FEROCACTUS LATISPINUS - from the Latin "wild or fierce" and descriptively "broad-spined". Two out of three sources give Fero a long e but the third authority used the more familiar pronunciation. F. Latispinus is one of some 30 species native to the U.S., (including our own San Diego canyons), and Mexico, the majority of which were previously classified Echinocactus, and are loosely known as Barrel Cacti.

About the barrel bit - no less an authority than Haage clings to the legend of the thirsty traveler tapping into a barrel cactus, which is great if you like your drinks mucilaginous. Otherwise, follow the lead of the Mexicans who use the hooked spines for fish hooks or titillate the tourist's palate with cactus candy.

You can even settle for growing them. They are moderate in their cultural requirements. The mineral components are more important than humus, and warmth more vital than water - in fact, it can hardly be too sunny for them in cultivation.

In general, the family is one of large growing, very spiny plants of deeply ribbed, globular form (sometimes cylindrical), and collected by connoisseurs of cacti - practically a status symbol. (If status symbols are OUT, Ferocactus, like the Mams, are IN). The large, bell-shaped (?) red or yellow flowers are produced from the young areoles.

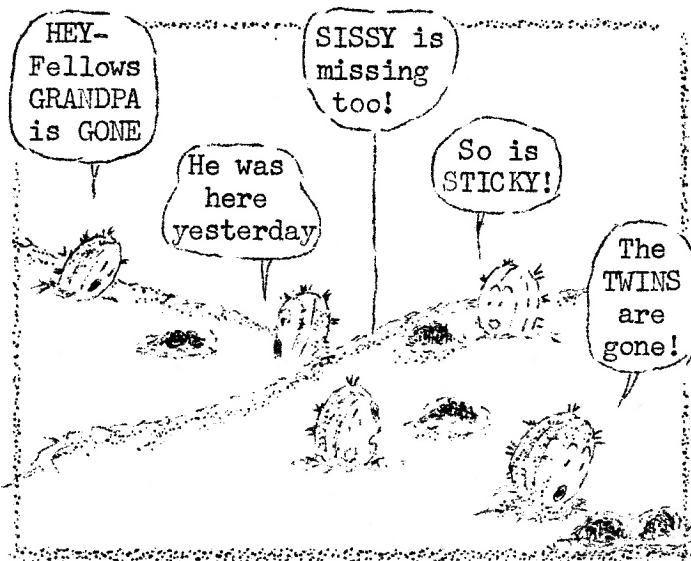
The type species is F. Wislizevii, "Fish Hook Barrel", with white, pink, or red spines, and red or yellow flowers.

F. Latispinus has about 20 ribs at maturity, with intertwined clusters of formidable spines from white to red, with the lowest of the four central spines over an inch long, almost a quarter of an inch broad, hooked and transversely grooved, from which the common name of "Devil's Tongue Cactus" has been derived. The large, notched areoles are distinguished by greyish wool.

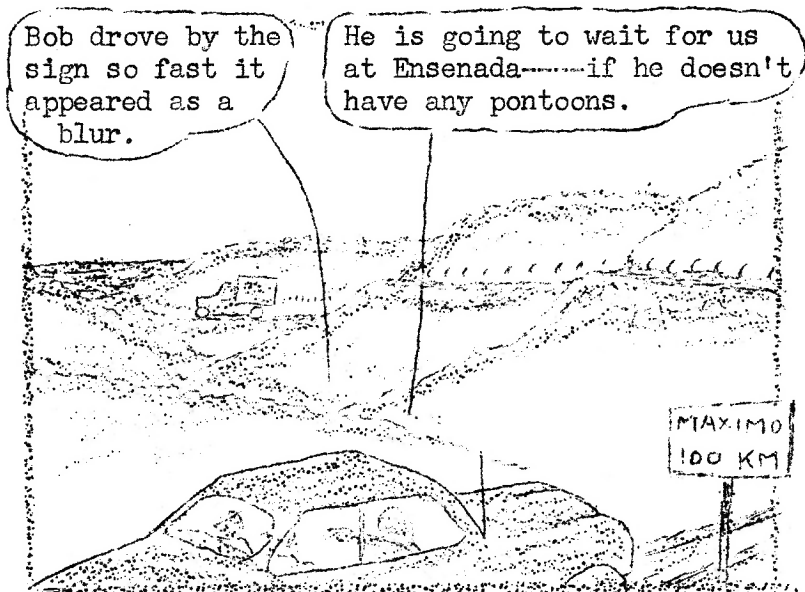
Native to Eastern and Central Mexico, F. Latispinus has flowers of pink to purple maturing into oblong fruit which is very scaly, and is reportedly easily raised from seed.

F. Macrodiscus is a look-alike with the same 20 sharp ribs, but has yellow spines, contrasting beautifully with the bluish-green plant body. Bluish-grey, but flatter is the "Eagle Claw Cactus", sub-tribe Echinocactus Horizontalenius, whose inward-pointing, pale yellow spines do not hook.

F. Recurvas has 14 ribs, with 8 spines, shy carmine flowers with dark stripes, and is found in New Mexico.



GONE TO A BETTER LAND---I KNOW



BOB---THE WINNER---NO CONTEST

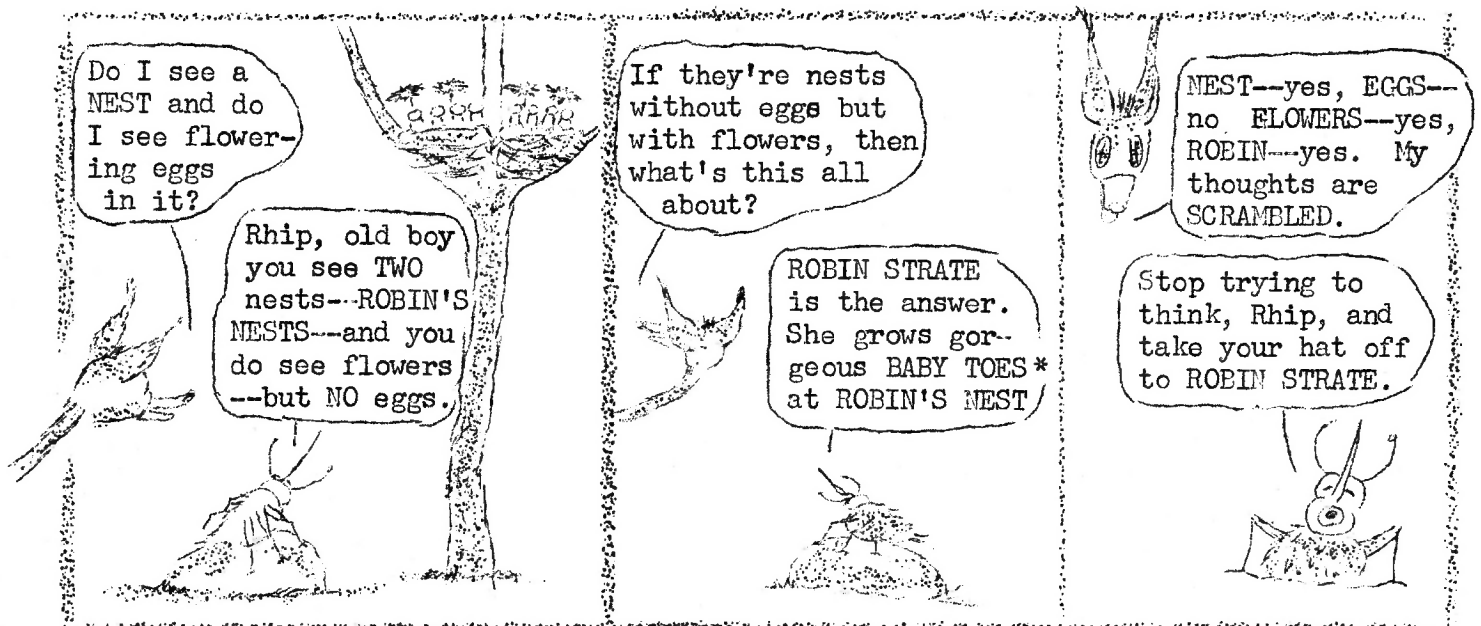


FOGGY MORNINGS and crisp mountain winds tell us that December is here somewhat less subtle reminders take form in the multi-colored lights and tinsel adorning the temples of emporia.... Autumn to winter, winter into spring, spring into summer, summer into fall... so rolls the changing year, and so we change; motion so swift, we know not that we move at all.... At a recent meet, three gorgeous *Sedum Sieboldii* were displayed at the Braggin' Table, all with a different hue in the leaf coloration..... HAZEL SCOTT explained that it was due to their varying exposure to sun, shade and moonlite..... ROBIN STRATE boasted over her elegant specimen of "Baby Toes", in doing so, she explained the difference between a male and female plant was the fragrance.... and all the time TOM thought it was the fertilizer.

A note from PHIL CORLISS in London.... he's off to the sunny Mediterranean and Black Sea.... a letter from PROF. PLESNICK in

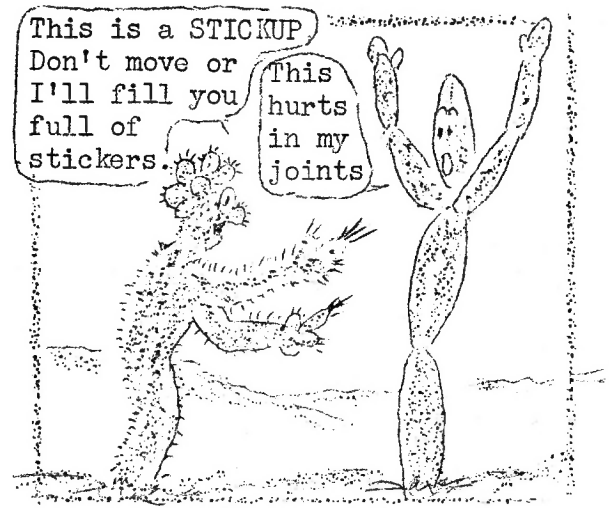
Czechoslovakia, says that in America, crowded as we are with turmoil and frustrations, we have a lot to be thankful for in this "season of bounty" HELEN HEGYI, reminiscent of Johnny Appleseed, brought in some annual *Mesemb.* seed.... (please check this - *Dasyanthus*?), and gave a laconic talk on her legendary two-pot planting process... with all due respect, Helen, you give a better program each month than most of the "paid" pros. The City Park Bond issues passed at the last election.... be surprised, if you will, but the San Diego Park system, as we know it, should increase in size by some 40% by 1970.. ought to be room for some small cactus plot somewhere.... the Exchange Table has been looking like a "cornucopia" of late.... BOB FLETCHER didn't know whether to sit down with a knife and fork or put a flower between his teeth and hope LIVI drew the right number.... little did they know that in his excitement he had put both ends of the raffle ticket back into the box.....

ROY PHELPS plucked up the prize plant on the "table" for his unusually fine grafted *Zygocactus* variety in full flower.... simply scrumptious..... BILL NELSON added a nice plant to RUTH'S collection for Braggin' about his floriferous *Stapelia Gigantia*.... and
(Continued Next Page)



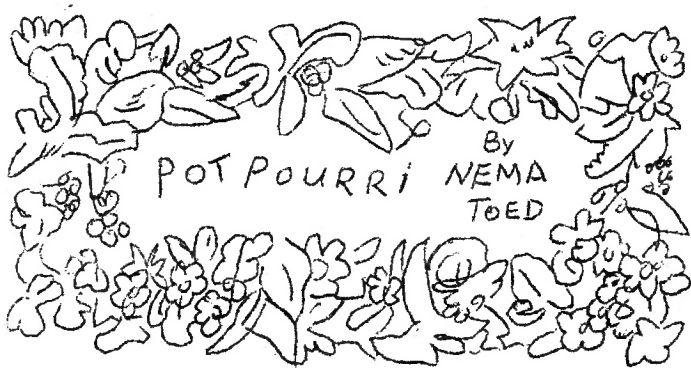
* FENESTRARIA RHOPALOPHYLLA and F. AURANTIACA

breathing easier too, because DOC CORLISS wasn't in town to challenge..... It is heartening to point out that some of the children of our members, notably, SUE LEWIS and BEN KLINEFELTER are contributing to these epic efforts, and the presence of MIKE BUCKNER and EYDIE KEMP with expansive enthusiasm at our activities all form a bulwark against the musty triumphs of our archaism..... Witness, the warm, genuine response of 15-year JIM KENNERSON, at the Holtville meeting, when he outlined his trip with his father and BILL SEABORN to Mexico.... it is true, that if we do not plant knowledge when young, it will give us no shade when we are old, .. it is up to us to provide a fertile garden plot, and thus in reinvigorating the earth, we rejuvenate ourselves.....



ARMED AND UNARMED

-- A. Phidd

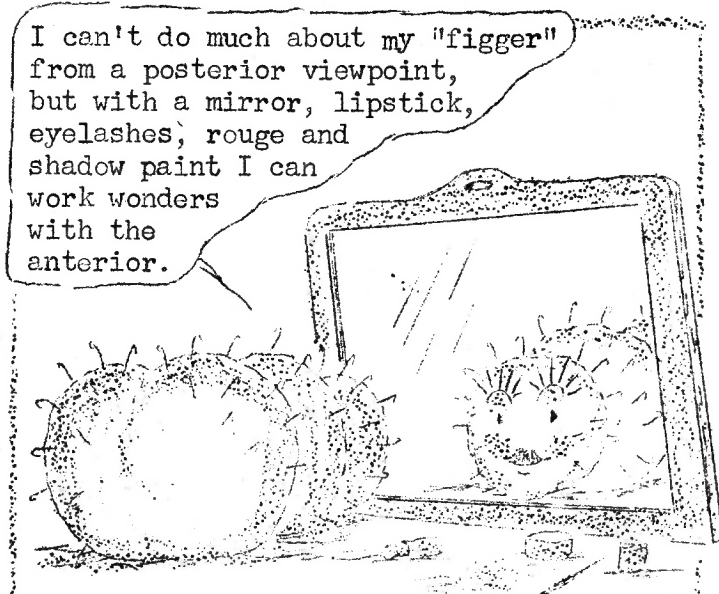


DEAR NEMA: I would like to get something to curl up with next to the fire. Where can I get a list of available literature on cacti and other succulents? Also, do you have any information on the magazine, "Frontiers", which deals with the many facets of natural science and history? Uninformed.

Dear Uninformed: Worthy books are not companions, they are solitudes, we lose ourselves in them, and all our cares.... Write

to Johnson Cactus Gardens, Box 458, Paramount, Calif. 90723 or Abbey Press, Box 167, Reseda, Calif. 91335.... The "Frontiers" is published by the Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and Parkway, Philadelphia, Pa., 19163 - \$2.50/yr.... excellent for children, as well as adults. N.T.

It's time again for the exciting 4-wheel-drive tours through beautiful Baja. Great for the collector, outstanding for the camera-bug, and magnanimous for the curious - Baja Tours, PO Box 411, Escondido, Calif. 92025.



MIRACLE WITH MAKEUP
MAMMILLARIA DIOICA CRISTATA

DEAR NEMA: Many times the specific names of plants gives an indication of the principle characteristic.... we are very often confused about Marmorata, Maculata, and Marginata. Please define. Clara Fye.

DEAR CLARA: The great art to learn much is to undertake a little at a time. Marmorata - marbled or patterned (Kalenchoe Marmorata) Maculata - spotted or stained (Gasteria Maculata); Marginata - having a distinct border or margin (Lemoireocereus Marginatus). - N.T.

A diplomat is a person who knows how far to go, before he goes too far.... A cactophile doesn't have that worry, ..(Cont. next page)

POTPOURRI - Continued

he knows..... so does MIKE BUCKNER when the car runs out of gas.... Like WARREN always says, "The modern parent has to spare the rod, so his son can use it on weekends".....

WANTED: Copies of January, 1967, "Espinas y Flores" for the library. Also, any spare issues of "Cactos & Succulentos".

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, JENNY - our centenarian now is at Paradise Valley Manor, Room 220, 2575 E. 8th Street, National City, 92050. We miss your garden smile.....

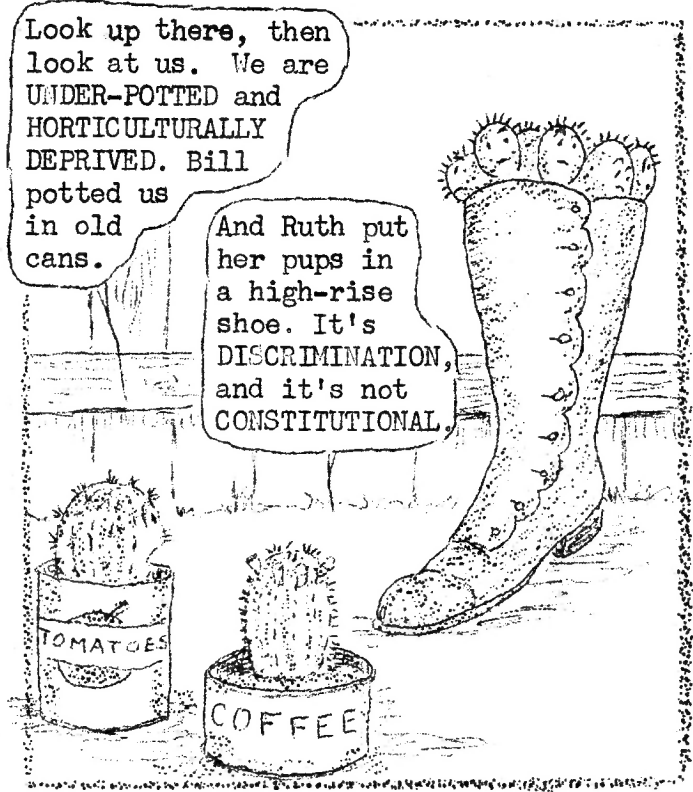
AUGIE PFEIFFER was saying at the last meeting, that most women are exhilarated by the purchase of new clothes, but it's Scally Pop who gets a "charge" out of it.

DEAR NEMA: I had a Chinese plate that I valued very much. One day it fell and cracked down the middle. I ordered six more, and to insure the exact pattern, I sent the broken plate as a copy. When I received the package from China six months later, much to my astonishment, I found the Chinese craftsman had so faithfully followed the copy that each new plate had a crack right down the middle. What do you make of that?

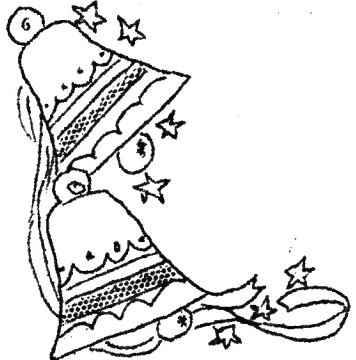
-- Befuddled.

DEAR BEFUDDLED: If we imitate even the best of men, we are bound to follow some of their imperfections....

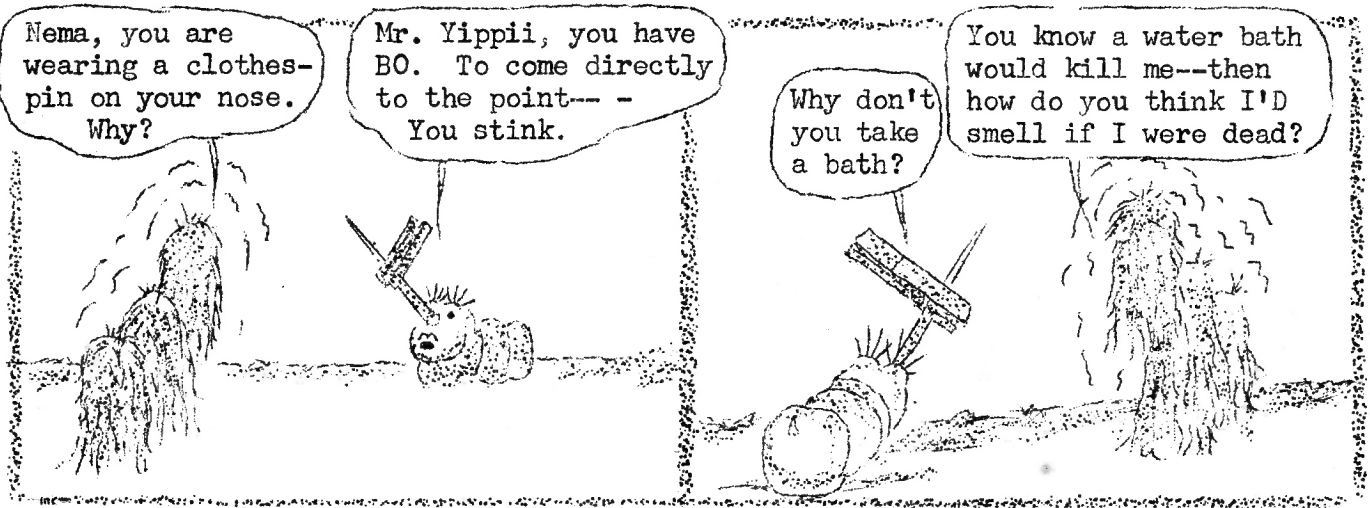
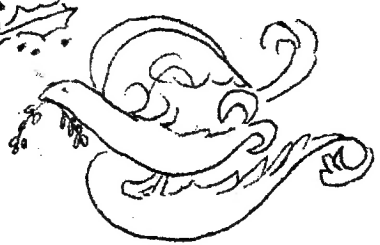
-- NEMA TOED.



LUXURY LIVING



HAPPY Holidays
to All ~



Nema, you are wearing a clothespin on your nose. Why?

Mr. Yippii, you have BO. To come directly to the point-- - You stink.

Why don't you take a bath?

You know a water bath would kill me--then how do you think I'D smell if I were dead?