NEWSLETTER OF TUCSON CACTUS AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY Affiliate of

Cactus and succulent Society of America, Inc.
Subscriptions \$2.50 Membership \$4.00 (includes Chatter)
VOLUME XV 1982 No. 1

EDITOR: Dorothy Christensen Associate Editor: Dan Birt

"Continually striving to expand our horizons and content in the interest of Cactophiles everywhere." Address: %Clarke Insurance, 2800 E. Fort Lowell Tucson, Arizona 85716

I would like to repeat Josephine, s creed published on the first page of the last Chatter.

LET US PLEDGE OURSELVES TO THIS FINE CREED OF REPONS_IBLE HUMANS. LET US ASSUME OUR SHARE OF MAN'S STEW_ARDSHIP OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

I pledge myself, as a responsible human, to assume my share of man's stewardship of our natural resources.

I will use my share with gratitude, without greed or waste.

I will support the sound management of the resources we use, the restoration of the resources we have depleted, and the safekeeping of significant resources for posterity.

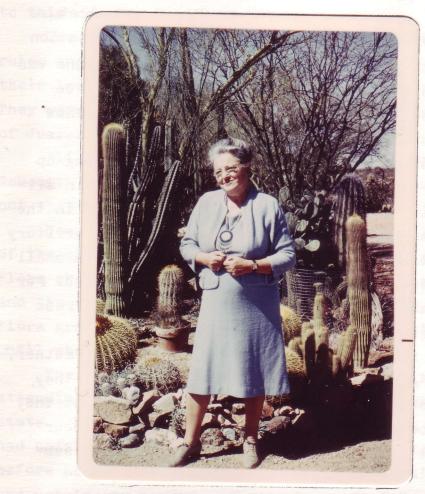
I will never forget that life and beauty, wealth and progress, depend on how wisely man uses these girts... the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life, and the wild-life.

from National Wildlife Lederation Creed

IN MEMORY OF

JOSEPHINE KANEN SHELBY

Born in Willcox, Arizona, June 29, 1904



DIED
Tucson, Arizona
August 24, 1979

I expect to pass through this world but once.
Any good thing therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

by Stephen Grellet

I believe Josephine would like this quotation at the beginning of the story of her life. She was a most unusual person and I feel that we may be more able to understand her abilities if we know more about her life.

Even though she lived most of her growing-up years in El Paso, Texas, Josephine was born in willcox, Arizona. Her father was working there in the Nicholson Drug Store. Arizona was still a territory at that time. He would often go to work in a small town somewhere, but always returned to El Paso. For this reason, the family always considered El Paso their home.

The family consisted of the father, the mother, and four girls. The parents had a rule that they should not gossip around the dinner table, but they talked about current events and historical occurences. A good book would also be a suitable subject.

Their father was a brilliant man who insisted that all the girls learn to read, write and speak Spanish. He did court dictation in Spanish and could transcribe it as rapidly in Spanish as in English.

Of the whole family Josephine was the only one who didn't like living in El Paso. She never told anyone why, she just didn't like it.

Josephine's maiden name was Kanen which had been changed from Koehnen when her grandfather came to this country from Germany.

The parents were strict Germans who made many rules and insisted on obedience. They had to get their lessons before they could do anything else. They were unable to stay outside at night because of Juarez.

All four girls graduated from the El Paso High School. Then all four girls went their own way, but that was on to college.

Now might be the best time to give the lineup of the girls. Josephine, Irene, Genevieve, and Flora are their names. Josephine was the oldest and the others follow in order. All of them but Flora graduated from college and Irene continued until she received her MA.

The entire family had the unique privilege of attending the ceremony when New Mexico became a state. He worked in the office of engineers and had obtained admission for them all. The night before he made sure they were to sit up straight and not to say a word. The state song of New Mexico was introduced that day. It was written by Elizabeth Garrett who was a good friend of theirs.

None of them would ever forget that day.

From the time she was in High School, Josephine developed her love for the outdoors. She would much rather be with somebody outdoors than indoors. She had an exceptionally fine memory. Once she learned something, she never forgot it. She was interested in Indian and Mexian cooking and collected recipes through the years.

Josephine was an outstanding student in High School. She took journalism courses and worked on the school paper. She graduated with honors. She was voted the most popular girl and the most likely to succeed in her High School.

During her college years, Josephine made many friends that were to last till she was gone. She also became interested in activities that held her interest for years to come.

At the University of Arizona she became a friend of Thamar Richey. In the early twenties Thamar had become interested in the Yaqui Indians. She and the Indians built a rude building of scraps where her school met. When Mr. Rose saw it, he persuaded the School Board to construct a building of adobe. Josephine became a teacher in this little school. When Miss Richey became ill, Josephine took on more and more of the responsibility. She stayed on for some time after the death of Miss Richey in 1937. Josephine was also one of a group of First Methodist young people who would walk to Old Pascua Village every Sunday and assist in teaching Sunday

School. It was a distance of several miles and Josephine often remarked about how the students of today would consider it an impossible distance to walk just to teach Sunday School.

At the University of Arizona she was outstanding in sports. She won her letter A as a marksman. She broke all the records of that time and even beat the men. She was also very good in Soccer and basketball.

Josephine graduated from the University of Arizona in the class of 1928. She continued her interest in the Yaqui Indians, especially the children. She was influential in obtaining hot lunches for the children and getting vitamins to them so they would grow up more healthy.

After graduation she went to Scottsdale and taught Spanish in the public schools there. She lived in Scottsdale for about ten years and then returned to Tucson.

Josephine met her husband to be about this time. He was Ward E. Shelby. Mr. Shelby was a fine journalist and editor. He would often accompany scientists from the University on their expeditions to do the writing. He was the editor of the magazine that was the for-runner of the Arizona Highways. Josephine had copies of them all from the beginning. After her death they were given to his three children from a previous marriage.

After they were married the Shelby's home was in Tucson. They had many friends from the University,

They also had friends from the community outside the University. They were not joiners of groups, but enjoyed having friends in for stimulating conversations and good food from Josephine's collection of recipes.

Ward and Josephine enjoyed each others company in a very special way. They were both inquisitive and open minded. They enjoyed a good conversation with a friend. They enjoyed going to Mexico, walking the beaches and collecting shells. They kept notes about the shells and where they were collected and took pictures of the site.

One can only speculate on the development of their lives if Ward had not died in 1959.

Widowhood can be devastating to many women but not to woman of great spirit and understanding like Josephine Shelby.

In 1960 she was a charter member of the Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society. She was a member of the first board of directors of that society. To round out her achievements in that organization, she was the founder of CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER and its only director until I decided to attempt to follow in her giant footsteps.

In 1971 she became Affiliate Director. In this office she was the official link between the Society and the national organization. As a part of her duties she represented the Society at meetings in various parts of the country. She also communicated

with people all over the world. The North and South Poles are the only place she had no friends.

In 1974 Josephine was appointed a member of the Governor's Commission on Arizona Environment. They met every few months in various cities around the state. She enjoyed working on this commission and was very proud to have been appointed a member.

She was an excellent choice for the commission as her interest that began in High School had grown and matured from then on. It was only logical that as her interest in nature grew, she became also upset with the desecration of Arizona environment by road building and subdivisions.

Josephine had an intense love for people. She loved to travel, particularly in Mexico. When she did travel she enjoyed talking with the people on the street or in their homes. She wanted to know how they thought. Age didn't matter one bit as she was as at home with a very old person as a young child.

Some time after Mr. Shelby died, Josephine moved to Oracle which is about twenty five miles north of Tucson and at a higher elevation. It enabled her to enjoy the summers more as the heat in Tucson bothered her.

Right away she became involved with the community and its problems. She began to pressure for a clean-up in Oracle and walked all over passing out plastic bags to put the litter in.

Josephine was a very organized person and kept papers and books in her file. She had a wonderful shell collection that was kept in a tall file with the shells organized according to their names and where they were collected. One afternoon we stopped to see her and she spent over an hour describing her shells and where they were picked up. We were very impressed with her knowledge as we were unaware of her interest in them.

She had a large Republican Party file and was active in the party in various ways.

Being the editor of the Chatter was a good outlet for her talent as a writer and her interest in conservation. She spent many hours collecting material for use, both now and in the future. This was all filed so she could find it at the proper time.

Josephine was a prolific letter writer and enjoyed every minute she spent with her correspondence. People wrote to her from all over the world, aften about cacti or conservation. Some clubs would write to her about a problem and if she couldn't solve it herself, she would bring it to the attention of the Cactus Club. Usually the problem was solved to the benefit of everyone, Josephine, the club and the club with the problem.

Josephine's mother was very close to Josephine as she was the last married. Besides they were very much alike, genuine, real people. They did many things together. They wove and hooked rugs, many

of which Josephine had around her home. They had looms to weave on and also braided them. They cut the fabric in strips and made their own designs and copied from books. They also sewed, making clothing and things useful around the house.

Josephine was very talented artistically. She took lessons in water color painting and painted most of her life. She worked with plastic making placques and ash trays using shells and weeds. She also made wind chimes out of shells. Many of us have notes from her written on paper she made using wax paper and wild flowers. At Christmas she used to take a fern and put sequins on it and make paper out of it. She wrote her greetings on this paper.

She became intersted in the Boojams when she was introduced to them by her friend Dr. Humphrey. This is a very unusual plant that grows in Baja California. She asked me to read Dr. Humphrey's book about Boojams and became interested too.

Josephine was proud to be a bus leader when we had the National Cactus and Succulent Convention here in Tucson. She assisted the committees in any way possible. With her large number of friends she was able to be of much help.

The last trip Josephine was able to take was to Pasadena on the Huntington Sale Safari sponsored by the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. She had a wonderful time making friends on the bus, visiting the famous cactus growers in Vista and enjoying the beauties of nature in the Huntington Garden and the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

By the time of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the national organization, Josephine was too ill to attend. Those attending all wore name tags that also gave the name of their club. When those sitting near us saw where we were from they would ask where Josephine was. At that time we did not know her illness was terminal so we just said she was ill.

We (my husband and I) visited with Josephine many times after she had to leave her home and live with her sister Irene and her husband Earle. It was good to see her wrapped in their love and devotion. Each time she would say, "I must get to work on Chatter, will you help me." And with tears in my heart I would promise to help.

Finally she had to be placed in the Desert
Life Center. She wanted to be with those she loved
and on her birthday less than a month before she
died she had her wish. The whole family gathered
and spent much of the day in the home with her.
Carl Horst and his wife brought a cake and ice cream.
Her family gave her yellow roses. John Taylor from
Oracle came to the party. He had been a very good
friend and hiking partner. She looked after his
house when he was away.

It might help to know that she didn't suffer any pain as her tumor was in such a place on her brain that there were no nerves to carry pain.

She was a most wonderful person and Tucson and Oracle is a little less friendly as no one can fill the nitch she left vacant.