



CACTUS
CAPITAL
CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF TUCSON CACTUS
AND
BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Affiliate of the Cactus
and Succulent Society of
America, Inc.

P.O. BOX 3723 COLLEGE STATION
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85722



This issue of CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER is dedicated to the memory of Eva Copenhaver who, with Marjorie Spring, was co-editor of CHATTER during 1965, its founding year. CHATTER Volume I Number I explains that on the evening of January 8, 1965 "the bud burst forth. About February 1, the blossom opened, revealing the first issue of the quarterly bulletin of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, called the CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER." Eva drew the saguaro for the masthead; Hugh Copenhaver, president of the Society in 1965, made the three C's and the name. They decided that it was desirable for the Society to have a publication, after they had received many such from other cactus clubs.

Eva Copenhaver died this year in her Las Vegas, Nevada home. She was buried in Bonner's Ferry, Washington.

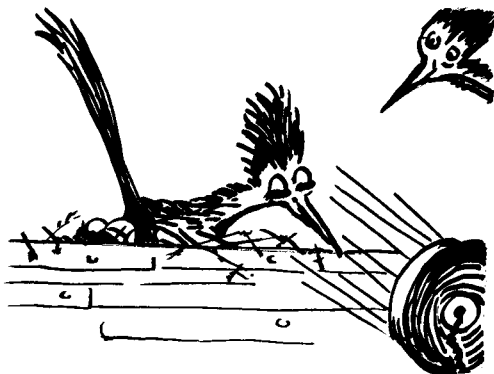
VOL. VII 1972 No. 4

EDITOR: JOSEPHINE SHELBY

ASK YOURSELF.... Am I doing things for this cactus society that are stated in our By-Laws? ARTICLE I Section 2: "The purpose of this Corporation shall be to function continuously in the study of cacti and native flora, and to further the protection of cacti and native flora of Arizona. Also, to sponsor a botanical garden in Pima County near Tucson, Arizona, and to plant cacti and native flora in other suitable places."

Our society is composed of beginners and semi-advanced collectors (those who have collected for a few years and have obtained some rather difficult plants to cultivate). If you are a beginner, are you afraid to ask questions because someone might look down his nose at you? Don't hesitate to ask; everyone learns by asking questions. Even the oldest of pros the world over started by asking many questions. In most cases, you will find the more knowledgeable persons most willing to reach out and help. If you are a more advanced collector, won't you reach out and help the new member? Show him that he joined the right society, by extending your hand, your patience and your knowledge.

.....Quoted from STAR TO STAR 10/72. Vol. IV No. 10
Corpus Christi, Texas



ARIZONA MOTHER ROADRUNNER
RATES AN AIR-COOLED NEST

Devotees of "Senor Paisano" ---long-necked, long-tailed, long-legged cuckoo of the desert, the Roadrunner---are his willing slaves! They feed him ground lean beef; they offer him housing in their gardens, patios, and carport rafters; they photograph him frantically. But--do you know that one Mother Roadrunner so completely captivated a friend of our that he air-

conditioned her nest in his yard this spring. An electric fan positioned to lave her sweltering body with a cooling current of air did the trick. Ask Alan Blackburn about this deal!

PRESIDENT HORST'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

For the second time, it becomes necessary to write a farewell note as the President of Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society, Inc. It is with some degree of humility and considerable misgiving that this problem is approached. However, there are a few things which stand out and can be expressed. They mostly involve human characteristics. At the start of the year 1972 we attempted to shame the membership into being more active. This is like knocking down a tree with a tack hammer; no luck. Further, as in all organizations, the inevitable disagreements and contentions presented themselves. Some of this type of thing is unavoidable and, in fact, healthy for an organization because it keeps everybody on his toes, but tempers are apt to flare, and it is most difficult to stay pleasant and retain composure. In fact, sometimes criticism is evoked when one does not respond to irritations, but character and personality are improved. This, we suppose is true in life as a whole, and is not limited to organizations or groups as such. It is people.

As mentioned in the former farewell note, it is interesting to study the people in an organization. The last time, we divided memberships into groups: the active (and useful), and the inactive or just belongers. This time we will treat the group as a whole. People, you know, are a peculiar form of animal. In general, they have much more information or knowledge than other animals but have much less intelligence as defined by Webster, i.e. ability and willingness to use knowledge. Further, the pressures of life cause him to develop psychoses, phobias, etc. so that his behavior becomes odd or even illogical sometimes. This is reflected in an organization. At virtually every meeting, the presiding officer or officers will be forced to make suggestions to the membership and ask for comment, for volunteers to carry out duties or for motions from the floor. Almost without exception the response is predictable—nothing. This is very frustrating and forces officers to select, appoint or carry out projects unilaterally.

Now comes the response. Those who did not favor the project gripe. Those selected, as on committees, normally are responsible to their duties and carry out their appointments very well, while those who would like to have been selected (but would not volunteer) gripe again. Others show no reaction. At no time can an executive please the majority of the group except by accident because the group will not make its total wishes known. Even in voting, the vote is either unanimous, non-existent or perhaps represents half of the persons present. This is confusing and unnecessary. It appears to be either a "don't give a damn" attitude, fear of opinion of other members, stage or mike fright or a defeatist complex. We wonder. Perhaps it shows how poor we are as leaders, but it is common to many organizations and might show how unconcerned or how timid the general membership really is. So much for executive gripes.

Another interesting phase is the financial angle. When an organization is very careful to avoid spending excess funds, the money on hand just simply slowly vanishes. When little attention is paid, the funds available gradually increase. The membership votes down spending when money is available and urges purchases or parties when it is scarce. This gives treasurers, secretaries and other executives a bad case of heartburn or worse unless they adopt the "so what" attitude, and then it is fun. One can sit back, watch and enjoy himself over the unpredictability of the finances and can amuse himself with the problems of the next administration. It is fun if

this degree of detachment can be achieved.

Then there are the programs. It seems that people feel there must be a speaker at each meeting, and speakers are hard to come by. But, either there is a lot of work to get each speaker, or speakers fall in your lap and some must be denied. Unfortunately, the hard-to-get speaker is the general rule, and then he changes his plans and cannot come at all. This is another source of indigestion---which usually turns out as fun when the program finally comes into being.

This has been a lot palaver about reactions of an executive in a small organization. It must be much more trying for people in a large group or a nation. However, this is really intended to show that the plurality of headaches of an executive are not really causes to worry, but are an interesting study in psychology, of the executives of the group and of the human race. In short, this whole article negates itself and, although we shudder to think of each new problem, in the end, it has been fun. Fun again which we are not anxious to repeat.

There are a few reasons for pleasure and gratitude. One is the feeling of relief when one realizes that, more or less independently of the officers, the year is closing without complete deletion of the treasury. Another is the cooperation of other officers, even when faced with serious personal problems, and the completion of duties assigned. Then there is loyalty and the service rendered by helpers. We must remember those who obtained speakers, publicity; talked to prospective and actual new members; obtained and handled refreshments and gave moral and actual help.

Circumstances were such, as pointed out above, that much of this work was done by the president's wife and others not actual society members. We suppose that there are those few gems in most organizations, and it is a sure thing that they are the actual heart of accomplishments. We wish that the percentage of such people were higher than it actually is.

-----Carl O. Horst.

AN ACTIVE AND INTERESTED 33% OF CACTUS CLUB MEMBERS RESPOND! Lately, CHATTER Editor mailed to all of our members a simple Questionnaire. This was done in order that we might consider objectively the value of CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER, our quarterly newsletter, and other activities in relation to all of our members. Hence, the complete cooperation of our membership was sought! A segment of 34 cooperating individuals reacted by answering it!! (Par for the course). 92 members did otherwise. Col. and Mrs. W. M. Young mailed us their answers from faraway Fairbanks, Alaska. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Busch sent us theirs from distant Saskatchewan, Canada. 17 of us admit to being novices in cactus culture. 17 others consider themselves as being reasonably experienced. 29 collect both cacti and other succulents. 2 do not collect. Most of us grow our plants outdoors in the ground. Many use pots and planters outdoors. 4 members use lath houses or greenhouses. These 34 members have been collecting plants in a time period ranging from 60 years ago to 40, to 34, to 20, 10, and down to 1 year. Answers express URGENT REQUESTS to 1973 PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM CHAIRMAN AND CHATTER EDITOR for the following kinds of useful practical information:

Ecology of Desert Plants. How Cactus Society can actively function in saving our beautiful desert habitats for plant and animal life. All the technical knowledge that we can get. Reports on field trips on cacti collected during the 1960's. An ORGANIZED plant-exchange program with our members. Cactus education preferably from seeing and comparing living plants, rather

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 than entirely from books. General information in understandable form. How to use desert plants other than cacti in home landscaping. Plantings around a home. Which plants take sun? Which take shade? Take 1 cactus each month. Tell where it comes from. How to maintain it. Give practical information on growing plants. Culture of other than native species. Proper time to transplant cacti and all other desert flora. Suitable soil for all of them. Soil mixes for potting plants and seed growing. Care and growing of cacti. Diseases of cacti and their treatment. Control of fungus diseases on seedlings. Cacti reforestation. Identification of plants. Cacti of Mexico. Information on the Saguaro. Interesting news about our members. Write-ups on new members.

 DES MOINES, IOWA'S VERY SUCCESSFUL CACTUS SOCIETY
 OR
 THE STORY OF TUCSON'S MEMBER---VIRGINIA WICKLIFF

The Des Moines Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. was formed in 1938 at the home of Mrs. Virginia Wickliff in Des Moines, Iowa. Five women who shared an interest in Cacti and who had dug up various plants on western trips, (it was not illegal in those days) met to discuss raising and learning the names etc. of these plants which were strangers to Iowa. They decided to form a club for the purpose of studying all aspects of cactus and succulent life. By-laws were drawn, setting forth rules such as limiting membership to 25 members, for at that time, meetings were held in private homes. Later they continued to draw interest, and applied to the City Fathers for permission to hold their meetings in the City Greenhouse. This was immediately accomplished, and one whole house was set aside for the group. In turn, they agreed to serve as hostesses at the annual Fall Mum Show. Besides studying the Cactus tree with its many branches of families, their peculiarities etc., they decided to promote the value of using cactus and succulent material in flower arrangements. They asked and obtained space and classifications for cactus and succulents in Garden clubs throughout the state and at the Iowa State Fair. Their members possess many blue ribbons to show for their efforts.

We built gardens in the greenhouse, saw that all the plants were properly named so that school children and the public could visit and learn botanical names and common names together. They wrote to many dealers throughout the country who were happy to send many cartons of plants to further their exploitation of Cacti. On their tenth anniversary they were given considerable publicity as they had never taken a backward step. Ladislav Cutak of the St. Louis Botanical Gardens made a special trip to Des Moines to formally dedicate their garden of many hundred plants. Another thing they required of their members, was that they present some sort of paper at their meetings, of their own study. They continue to limit the membership. They want only those persons desiring to learn instead of just being "joiners".

My own collection started with a group of ten small plants and it mushroomed to over 400. Yes, these had to be taken up every fall and removed to our basement as they could not stand Iowa climate. I left them on shelves, roots exposed all winter and replaced them in April after all chance of frost was passed. They were placed in a raised garden with good drainage. Names were placed on the plants. Once a year, the garden was open to the public, as were many other gardens of members. We enjoy our annual plant exchange; also a plant exchange for members only. When I left Des Moines, I turned over most of my plants to the City Greenhouse. Des Moines is also starting to build a new Botanical Garden and our club has

assisted in this matter financially.....Virginia Wickliff

NATIVE FLOWERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME OF OCTOBER MEETING

W. H. Earle, Director of Desert Botanical Garden in Papago Park, Phoenix, Arizona, for many years had wanted to be in Australia during its spring-time. He wanted to photograph the tremendous explosion of flowers indigenous to that continent, and to Western Australia in particular. In September 1971, he was so fortunate as to be able to photograph 120 species around Perth, Western Australia. At the same time, he had a permit to collect the flowers which he photographed. He collected 3 plants of each species, to be given to: (1). The Herbarium of Western Australia. (2) The Herbarium of Kings Park of Perth. (3). Desert Botanical Garden, Arizona. At the October 8 meeting of T.C. & B. S., Mr. Earle gave a slide show and talk about these experiences.

A Very CEREUS Story

The Sound and the Fury? You worried about the pronunciation of botanical names? Read the following story aloud. It goes along only by sound, not by the true meaning of the words. IF the story makes sense to you, then you are doing all right. Never mind the meaning of the WORDS! Hildegard Nase will get you on that the next time.

One WINTERIANA evening, the sky was AZUREUS. FERDINANDSIS and OTTONIS were talking about their SOUTH-AMERICANA trip. They had been in ARGENTINENSIS, BRASILIENSIS, PERUVIANUS and BOLIVII. In the PARKINSONI, the GAERTNERI was cutting the GRAESSONI when the first GASTERIAS arrived. Mr. Harrisia MC DONALDI was dressed very ELEGANS, wearing a STETSONIA and a DIADEMATA in PLATENSIS setting on his Lady finger. He was accompanied by Miss HILDEGARDII SCHMIDTII, a fine DAMSI. The maid, Miss SCHULZII, switched on the ELECTRACANTHAE CANDELABRUM while a BEGUINI mized the MARTINIIS and served SALM - on MARGINATUS buttered toast. For DESERTII, they had APRICUS-TORTUOSUS and ZUCCZAIANA MELO (n) FORMIS. Professor SPEGAZZINII started to play an EUPHORBIE by STELLA DESTEMATA. Miss BAUMI MEDUSAE accompanied him on the TRIANGULARIS, and the CANARIENSIS sang in his cage. The men sat under the PALMERI after dinner and TRUNKATUM a lot of beer. OTTONIS told a CRUSSONII story about a TIGRINUM hunt with ELEPHANTIDENS in INGENS: also how he killed a SERPENTINUS with a BOMBYCINA in the SANTA RITA MONTANAS. Mr. MC DONALDI said the music was GRANDICORNIS. That made the professor very WILDII. He took a METALLICA CRUZIGERA off the wall and hit MC DONALDI on the PLUMOSA, but he was very ROBUSTA, got up and said with GRACILIS: "so-LONGI-MAMA."Hildegard Nase.

BOTANICAL INTEREST OF SOME OF OUR MEMBERS

B. N. Smith has collected cacti for 10 years. His main interest is saguaro. He had 100 desert plants over 2 years old, growing on 7 acres. Dr. W. G. McGinnies, founding president of Tucson Cactus Club, has 100 plants over 2 years old, growing on 3 acres in Soffolk Hills. He has specialized knowledge and experience in ecology of desert plants. He is searching for ecological relationships of desert plants. Edward V. Mace has collected cacti since 1938, his main interest being in Arizona-Sonora cerei. He experiments with cereus seeds. He would like more information on control of fungi diseases on seedlings, and growing techniques for them. Emma Walk Finney, native Tucsonan, has had native desert plants around her all of her life as did her mother. She has collected them all of her adult life, 60 years more or less. She grows her plants on 1-1/2 acres which have never been denuded of desert flora. She is working at transplanting creosote bushes from one spot to another on her acre. She says: "People should be encouraged to grow the creosote bush in their yards." H. Scott Thomas in 15 years of collect-

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ing has 400 plants over 2 years old. He would like to hear about cacti collected on field trips during the 1960's. May Watrous is an outstanding conservationist of southern Arizona, and she wants our Cactus Club to actively function to help save our beautiful desert habitat and its flora and fauna. Louise Coan in 6 years' collecting has 140 plants over 2 years old. She would like to learn about cacti by seeing and comparing living plants rather than from printed information only. Harrison Yocum, a collector for 32 years, grows his plants outdoors in rock gardens--approximately 1000 of them. He is interested in new innovations, including layouts of cacti and other succulents in landscape design and their aesthetic and therapeutic effects. He is experienced in planting and growing plants.

 BENEFITS WE RECEIVE THROUGH OUR AFFILIATION WITH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

What is an Affiliate? It is a member club that has fulfilled certain requirements, such as: paying the Affiliate fee and the Journal subscription fee; presenting the Club's Constitution and By-Laws, for the consideration of the Executive Board; appointing an Affiliate Director. The Affiliation fee goes to C.S.S.A., primarily to help finance national conventions. It is almost the only source of revenue for supporting the services of the National Society to the Affiliate. Hence it is of vital importance that member clubs maintain their affiliation and also encourage other clubs to become affiliated. We are eligible to borrow the 35 mm color slides of C.S.S.A. (a number of subjects are available). We can send to the Research Board for answers to questions. The Affiliate Reporter put out by the national Affiliate Chairman gives us news of the various affiliates plus National Society news. Delegates representing the various affiliates meet at each convention to discuss the location of the next Convention where one or more of the Affiliates act as host. Each Affiliate has an Affiliate Director who keeps the Affiliate Chairman of C.S.S.A. fully informed of its own activities. The Membership cards which you have received, signed by your Affiliate Chairman and the Affiliate Director, are a good thing to wear at all National Events. They identify you as to name and society.

The CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, is the world's largest Botanical Organization devoted to Cacti and the Other Succulents.

AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

TRADE SOUTH AMERICAN CACTI FOR ARIZONA CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS. Senor

Miguel A. Muriel of the Universal Cactus Garden in Montevideo, Uruguay, South America, has learned of the existence of Tucson Cactus & Botanical Society. This came about because we are an Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. We quote from his recent letter written entirely in Spanish which CHATTER editor translated:

" M. Josephine Shelby De mi mayor consideracion: Con la esperanza de poder cultivar nuevas amistades y mejorar mi coleccion de cactus y otras suculentas, me dirijo a Ud., y siempre que no haya inconvenients, para que tenga a bien notificar o consultar a lo miembros y amigos de ese club, si tienen interes en inter cambiar semillas o plantas de mi pais o de otro pais Sudamericano."

This is Sr. Muriel's inquiry. He would like to form new friendships while improving his collection of cacti and other succulents. He asks me to announce to, or talk with, our members about doing this. He would like to exchange seeds and/or plants and other succulents of Uruguay or of other South American countries, for the same from Arizona. Now you are informed. If you should want to write him, this is his address: Sr. Miguel A. Muriel, Universal Cactus Garden, Capitan Tula 5089, Montevideo, Uruguay, South America.

KAKTOPHILES -- WORLD-WIDE -- CALL ON US! Your Affiliate Director has also received letters from: Hamilton, New Zealand; New South Wales, Australia; Perth, Western Australia; West Germany; Belgium; Czechoslovakia; Rhodesia, Africa.

BUILDING A DIFFERENT ROCK GARDEN

Harrison G. Yocum

Being interested in desert plants, I decided to become acquainted with persons of similar interest, upon moving to El Paso from Pennsylvania eleven years ago. Consequently, affiliation with the El Paso Cactus & Rock Club was to have a profound influence in the course of events. Visits to beautiful cactus and rock gardens led to my participation in collecting trips to the desert and mountains around El Paso. Enjoyable and invigorating experiences, and admiration of the magnificent scenery on all trips contributed to my becoming an enthusiastic "rockhound." This new hobby was to alter the course of my activities and give a new purpose of life.

After moving to Tucson, I acquired property which permitted a new landscaping project, incorporating the use of rocks with cacti in a modified version seen in El Paso. Instead of building the rocks up a few feet and then leveling for a flat cactus bed, the rocks are literally piled up resembling miniature mountains. About half of my half-acre property is being developed this way. The need for more rocks necessitates trips to old mine dumps, where mineralized specimens and rocks of unusual shape and color are found. When enough trips are made and various types of rocks are on hand, construction of the garden can begin. Much time and patience are required to assemble and arrange the rocks.

Starting at one edge (or corner), the larger rocks are placed in line to fit together naturally as possible, keeping in mind the artistic effects as one proceeds. When enough rocks are set in place (being buried no more than 1/3 their height), rocky desert soil is added behind the rocks. It is best to use large sized stones to serve as wedges behind the row of attractive specimens. They will provide strong support as the garden is being built horizontally and vertically. Large rocks that can be easily handled are gradually added across the width of the garden, the coarse and rocky desert soil then being dumped on top of them. This fill, as it is called, can be dumped prior to arranging the exterior rocks. When enough of the fill is added, it should be well watered to allow for settling. When dry, it is good to repeat the process. Then, more rocks can be placed and more fill added, and watered, repeatedly upward and horizontally to the periphery for the desired shape until the ultimate effect is achieved. As the garden increases in height, the rocks will, of necessity, become smaller in size. Selection of rocks is important.

When the rocks and soil are all placed and settled in position, and the construction phase completed, cacti are planted among the crevices of the rocks. Smaller types, especially low clumping forms like the Hedgehog Cacti (*Echinocereus*) work best. The rocks give a very attractive setting to the plants, and afford a good climatic protection. Also, the showy flowers of the cacti are enhanced in this setting. The question is often asked, "Is concrete used in holding the rocks together?" While this is possible, and more expensive, it is not done because it would destroy the natural effect and impair the drainage. Building the garden mostly upwards, and outwards only to accommodate the height, gives an important space-saving advantage.

I N M E M O R I A M

Mrs. Marta Patton, a member of long standing in T.C. & B.S. passed away in September. She had often served as hostess at the social hour. She was a good friend of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Mollison and accompanied them to our meetings.

Mr. Herbert Stehulka, husband of our member, Kay Stehulka, passed away in October. We extend our sincere sympathy to Kay who is a long-time member and a very active one.

1972 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER ADDENDA: Jeanne Burbank, 1921 Magic Place, Tucson 85704 Phone 297-3687. Joan Gaillar, 1921 Magic Place, Tucson 85704 Phone 297-3687. Miriam Dilatush, 810 S. Kolb Rd. #23 85710 Tucson. Change of address: George F. Snyder, P. O. Box 1646 Tucson 85702.

Mrs. Lois Clarke, treasurer of T.C. & B. S., and her daughter, Nancy, a former president of it, departed on October 14 for a 3 weeks trip to the Orient. Their itinerary includes Tokyo and other points in Japan; Manila, P.I.: Taiwan; Bangkok in Thailand; Singapore; Hong Kong.

MEMBERSHIP DUES !!! Pay yours in early January 1973 when Cactus Club's year begins. If you want a 1973 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER printed in CHATTER early in 1973 as a useful reference, PAY YOUR DUES IN JANUARY 1973-----early.

Mrs. Stella McDonald who was an active member of Tucson Cactus Club for many years, now makes her home in California. Her many Tucson friends may write to her as follows: Mrs. Stella McDonald, The Timbers Apartment 7, 23333 Ridge Route Drive, El Toro, California 92650.

Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society, Inc. has become an affiliate of the Tucson Botanical Garden, by the unanimous vote of its Board of Directors.

1973 CONVENTION OF NATIONAL CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Plans are going forward for this convention to be held May 14-18 at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Convention Chairmen are asking affiliate societies to contribute a program; door prizes; a Hospitality Room exhibit--as they choose.

ARIZONA NATIVE PLANTS OF COCHISE COUNTY: Jim Robbins, a former president of T.C.B.S. now living in Sierra Vista, Cochise County, Arizona, writes us about some of the native plants of that area which he and his son, John, have discovered and identified. He writes: "Growing near us is the desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), and a small colony of the lovely Agave parryi, variety huachucensis, as well as yuccas and Dasyliron and other xerophytic plants. Cacti are here but well hidden in the grass or under shrubs. This is prairie grassland country with reddish soil. Some cacti that we have found here or near here are: *Echinomastus* (*Neolloydia*) *intertexta*; *Mammillaria wrightii*; *Mammillaria heyderi*; *Coryphantha aggregata* and several *Opuntias* (both prickly pear and cholla)."



The Season's Greetings

WITH BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

