

THE CARRION CLARION

APRIL 1984

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

12th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

EVERYONE! Bring finger food for feasting!
(Sandwiches, veggie munchis, chips & dip, desserts etc.)

APRIL MEETING: Sunday April 8 at 1:30 PM at the South Coast Botanic Garden 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: It's with great pleasure that we welcome Guy Wrinkle of EXOTIC PLANTS. Guy will tell us all about South Africa, The Place the The Plants! And if you have any Haworthia questions, this is the man to ask!

PLANT OF THE MONTH & BRAGGING TABLE: Due to the Birthday Bash, there will be no official plant of the month nor will there be a bragging table presentation, BUT BRING YOUR BLOOMERS AND S. AFRICAN SUCCULENTS to brighten the festivities.

SALE PLANTS: Jim Hanna reports there will be succulents for sale to members.

GUESTS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

IT'S PARTY TIME!

The Carrion Clarion searches for the pungent truth! See the following features and editorial! TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Your Veldt-View Editorial p.5

Shocking Expose: Gluttony in the Desert! p.5+6

Plants Turned to Living Stones Before Your Very Eyes! p.4

Advertisements p.9

In the Beginning....p.2

Mealy Menace p.7

Show Biz p.4

Recipe for Success! p.8

** Asclep-who? Aizo-what? p.10
** Put a Sibbettii in Your Life. p.10
** Joining the Ranks: Roster Revision 3

Editor: Carol "A-Nose-For-News" Wuicik

IN THE BEGINNING:

Way back in 1972 Stan Oleson gathered signatures of potential cactophiles at South Coast's Fiesta - about 150 signed up. Bob Causey sent cards to these people announcing the first meeting of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society in the old building at the Garden. The Club was good-sized right from the beginning, and boasted about 40 members, including:

- MaryBelle Wallenhorst
- Eleanor Barker
- Stu Bedwell
- Verna McCarty
- Ed Hancock and
- Stan and Bob!

During the first year the members put on their first show under the guidance of President Oleson. The South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society was off and running!

CW

GOOD NEWS: Gladys Axcell just had a pacemaker put in. Carol Kennedy recently saw Gladys at a yard sale and reports she looks well and is doing very well!

CALENDAR:

April 20, 21 and 22 San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the Arboretum on Baldwin Ave. from 9 to 4:30. The pre-sale is Thursday night at 7:30 PM. Use the entrance behind the Exhibition Hall.

Pre-Sale April 19:

May 15: Talk by Joe Clements - "Caudiciforms: Plants with Middle-age Spread" at Huntington Botanical Garden, Overseers' Room, 2:30 PM Tuesday.



With Deep regret we report that Howard Wise died March 19, 1984 in an auto accident. Howard was a cactus nurseryman in San Bernardino who specialized in S. American cacti including the Copiapos.

Among the succulents from S. Africa are species of:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Mesembryanthemaceae | Kalanchoe |
| Stapelia. | Kedostris |
| Kinepetalum (What's that?) | Melothria |
| Luckhoffia | Dioscoreaceae |
| Pectinaria | Aloe |
| Stultitia | Bowiea |
| Brachystelma | Gasteria and |
| Senecio | Haworthia! |
| Othonna | |

Norma Holley asks that you donate those extra SLIDES FOR THE CACTUS CLUB FILM LIBRARY. Please include any information about them so that Norma can place them with the others in their proper place. THANK YOU! And:

Supplement to the 1984 Roster

Allen, Barbara 1

Ceropegia
Euphorbia
Mammillaria
Sansevieria

Bedwell, Stuart (Stu)

Bromeliads
Gen. Cacti
& Succulents

Bernardin, Juanita..

& Esther Reeves (Sisters)

Euphorbia
Sansevieria
06 Portulacaria
Zygocactus

Elliott, C. W.

Gen. Cacti
& Succulents

Gonzalez, Beatrice..

Gen. Cacti
& Succulents

Herrera, Dorothy...

Gen. Cacti
& Succulents
Tillandia

Hulett, Richard (Dick)
& Lupe

Gen. Cacti
& Succulents

Kloss, Barbara...

Gen. Cacti
(service) & Succulents

Kunishige, Dora..

Gen. Cacti
& Succulents

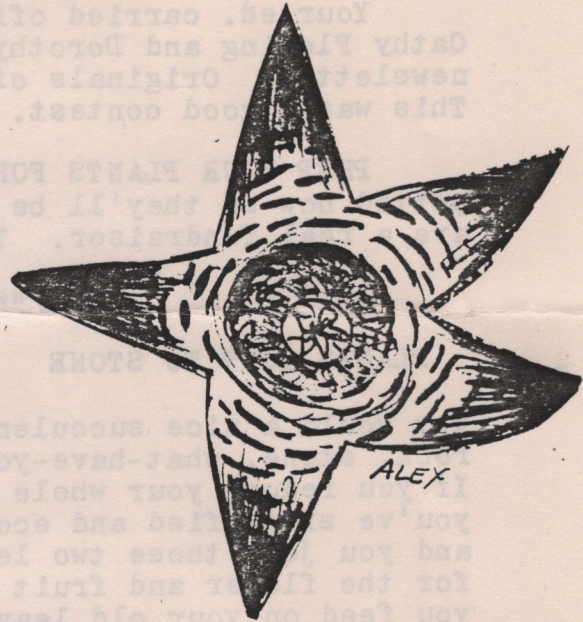
McNeel, Virginia..

Agave
Aloe
70274 Euphorbia

Miller, Robert

Sulkin, Maury...

Gen. Cacti
& Succulents
Photography



SHOW BIZ

The Winner of the DRAWING CONTEST for our show flyer was Dorothy McArthur. Congratulations! The Mystery Prize will be awarded this meeting. Even your editor doesn't know what the prize is.

The winning drawing was a bold line drawing which will be easily seen from a distance. It's an attention-getter!

Your ed. carried off the runner-up drawings by Nancy Birnbaum, Cathy Fleming and Dorothy McArthur to reproduce for later issues of the newsletter. Originals of these will be returned Sunday. THANK YOU! This was a good contest.

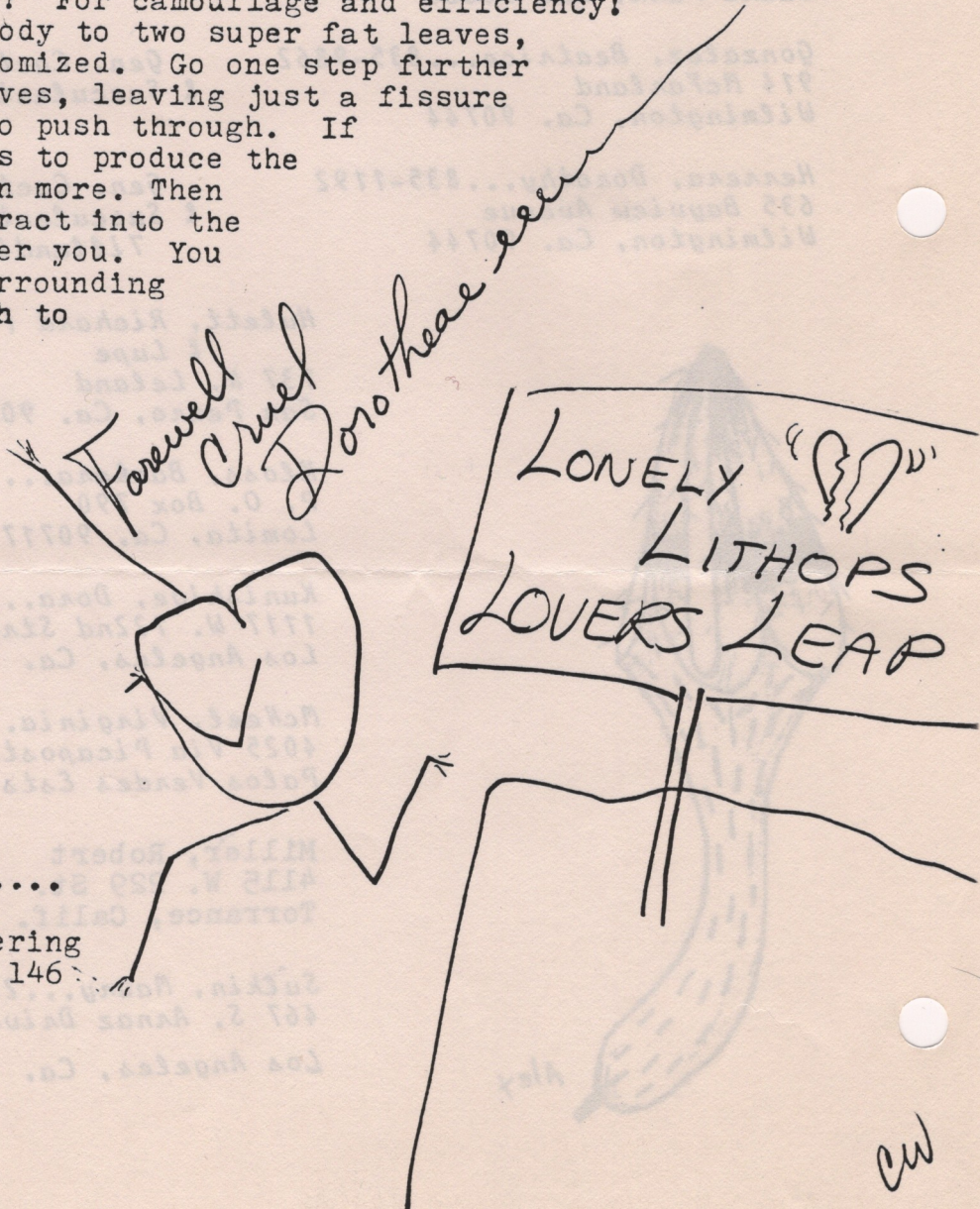
PREP YOUR PLANTS FOR DONATION! Divisions and extras should be potted now so they'll be established at show time. These donations are a real fundraiser. Thank you in advance for all the effort.

PLANTS TURN TO STONE

Why would a nice succulent plant want to become a pebble, rock, stone, what-have-you? For camouflage and efficiency! If you reduce your whole body to two super fat leaves, you've simplified and economized. Go one step further and you join those two leaves, leaving just a fissure for the flower and fruit to push through. If you feed on your old leaves to produce the new, you've economized even more. Then during lean times you contract into the soil, letting grit wash over you. You color yourself like the surrounding stone yet let light through to the inside of your leaves. You follow the seasons nestled close to the soil. You look like the earth. You are a living stone! You are a Lithops.

CW

Rowley in his Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents, says "Conophytums in nature are lithophytes: plants growing in rock chinks and cliffs with a minimum of soil and water..... Yet they adapt well to pot culture if the correct watering ritual is observed...." P. 146 Crown Publishers, 1978.



AN EDITORIAL

CSSA RESEARCH GRANTS

The following is quoted from the CSSA Newsletter, V. XX, # 1, 1984 p. 19, Eleanor Barker, Editor.

"FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....."

"It is extremely interesting to us that the clubs that could least afford it gave us the most for research...."

"There are two types of research. Applied research is that research that will give us some immediate, significant return (this could be anything from a new species for our collections, cultivation information, population locations of rare species

to some tax advantage, hope of a learned talk before our club meetings or to see one's name in print. Basic research is that research that has no obvious, immediate use to anyone. It is knowledge for knowledge's sake; however, in the long run, this type of research is the most rewarding to everyone whether they supported it or not....."

Dr. R.E. Monroe, President

Your editor is in favor of our Club's donating money for CSSA research grants. I realize our major work will be in connection with the South Coast Botanic Garden in its effort to educate the public through our C & S Garden and other things. Although charity begins at home, it doesn't have to end there. Other clubs have donated from \$25 to \$500 to help out with cactus research; why not South Coast? Let's go for it!

CW

Drawings with the name "Alex" on them were done by Alex Lima of Miami, Florida, for the South Florida Cactus and Succulent Newsletter, April 1982 and June 1982.

SOUTH AFRICA: 1982

- by Steve Hammer -

Gluttony in the Desert

I HAVE ALWAYS ATTEMPTED to raise my succulents in a natural manner. Until recently, I thought that this meant a very lean manner indeed. My first trip to South Africa - in 1980, near the end of a long severe drought - reinforced my theories. Most of the plants were living in very dry conditions and most seemed to tolerate this well enough, though I did

see plant colonies which had struggled unsuccessfully.

In July 1982 I made a second trip to South Africa, in the middle of an exceptionally wet winter. This time my impressions were radically different and I have had to revise my ideas about what is natural and desirable in succulent plant culture. Our plants are, after all, succulent - juicy, fleshy storage vessels; I know now how they can expand.

Some statistics for the skeptical: in the Little Karoo I saw *Muiria hortenseae*, with bodies 55 mm across: in the Richterveldt, bilobed conophytums 80 mm tall, and *Lithops meyeri* protruding 60 mm above soil surface: in the Bushmanland, *Conophytum subrisum*, with heads nearly 70 mm broad! These are extremes, but everywhere the impression was one of abundance, of lushness.

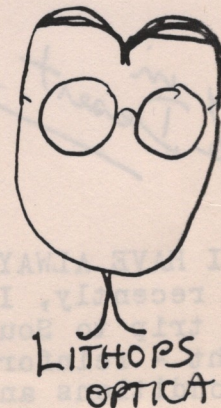
East of Steinkopp I saw a plateau spilling over with succulents - in a square metre, dozens of creeping *anacampseros*, blue-ish white cheiridopsis, fat green *ophthalmophyllums* forming nests, towering *crassulas*, bilobed conos.....near the edge of the plateau, on the shaded cliff face, grew many more conophytums - those which favour a vertical life; and a few excess *ophthalmophyllums* also ventured away from the horizontal..... I cannot recall seeing any ruptured plants in South Africa, however fat they were. The only exception to this was a plant of *Gibbaeum pilosulum*; but was in bud, a process which can create great internal pressure. Otherwise the plants seemed to expand gratefully; perhaps they have a skin tougher and yet more elastic than that of our tender greenhouse plants.

In the future, I'll be a more generous waterer, particularly with seedlings, now that I've seen how rapidly these can grow in nature. The aesthetics of minimalism no longer move me, though I was once highly influenced by Schwantes' glottophyllum formula: tiny pot, no food, little water. Such culture produces an interesting plant, highly coloured; but is it 'authentic'? Even in 1980 the glottophyllums in the Little Karoo surprised me with their amplitude; in 1982 they had an unbelievable fatness, and yet they were as natural as the wild flowers which crowded round them.

A word about food. Near many conophytum colonies I saw masses of another sort of sphere; dung, piles and piles of it. Dung decomposes only slowly in the South African semi-desert; but nutrients leach from the piles, nourishing nearby conophytums. I saw some absolutely enormous specimens of *Conophytum areolatum* growing a few inches from a heap of rabbit droppings. The conos had that Rubenesque look which might not suit all tastes, but they seemed very content. As it happens, I've raised rabbits for years, composting their droppings for my carrot patch. Now I realize that nature intended my rabbit productions for a higher purpose! I'll report on the results, perhaps my plants will multiply like.....

Taken from the Xerophyte, Vol. 6, No. 1, Spring 1983.

And retyped from the South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter, Sept. 1983.





ABOUT DEXOL SYSTEMIC GRANULES AND SAFER AGRO-CHEM'S INSECTICIDAL SOAP

Our Club sells two insecticides: the Dexol Systemic Granules and Safer's Insecticidal Soap. The soap is less strong and less toxic and only promises control. Both carry instructions for use on their containers. "Read the ENTIRE label for the safety of your plant and yourself!"

The above quote is from Eleanor Barker and the following notes are from a phone conversation between Eleanor and your editor. Eleanor knows about these things and your editor doesn't.

DEXOL SYSTEMIC GRANULES: Contains a restricted, dangerous material, very toxic, which can only be sold to the public in very dilute form - ie. the Dexol granules. Remember the active chemical - DI-SYSTON - is dangerous. USE IT OUTSIDE ONLY. Don't bring any treated plant inside until you can't smell the treatment anymore.

The run-off from this systemic insecticide will be toxic over the life of the granules. (Your ed. mentions this as one of her dogs likes to drink from run-off despite at least two water bowls.)

Eleanor finds Dexol usually doesn't work on scale - though it should. However, it works very well on Mealies - though it takes time. While waiting for the Dexol to work, Safer's Insecticidal Soap will begin treatment (although the two don't have to be used in conjunction).

SAFER AGRO-CHEM'S INSECTICIDAL SOAP: This material has the same dangers as any strong soap. It can be toxic if you drink it and it can burn the eyes.

Also, don't spray too hard and too close to your succulent or it will dissolve its waxy coat. The plant can blister. It will dissolve pruinose foliage - actually not the leaf itself, just the nifty whitish dust or bloom we like so much.

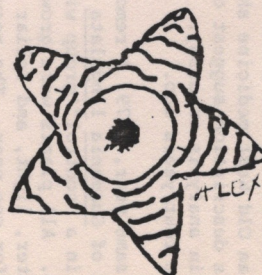
Put treated plant in the shade until dry.

Use 1/2 strength on all genera of the Crassulaceae, ie. Echeveria, Sedum, etc.

Safer's Soap will work on soft scale and crawlers but not the tough stuff. For scale on cactus you can also use Cygon, Malathion, or Orthene. For Crassulaceae, Orthene at 1/2 strength can be used. Read all of the labels.

NOTE: Pesticides cannot be kept long. They have a short shelf life. Buy what you need only.

MORE QUESTIONS? Ask Eleanor Sunday!



ON SUPERTHRIVE

Nelson R.E. Redfern, M.D.

I was recently asked to write about my experience with SUPERTHRIVE, a vitamin-hormone solution produced by the Vitamin Institute in California. Mixed in solution, at a phenomenal ratio of one drop to the gallon, it is not advertised to be a fertilizer nor should it be used in place of fertilizers. The product's composition is known only to its inventor, biochemist-nutritionist, John Thompson, Ph. D., in California.

The product's packaging and presentation, I believe to be somewhat distracting. The labels and amber bottles look like old-fashioned tonic bottles from an Old West medicine show or circus side-show. The labeling and content's description suggest obscure vitamins and hormones but are not specific in analysis or assay. I was skeptical when I purchased my first pint bottle four years ago.

That same year, 1979, I removed six offsets, all the same size, from a plant of *Guzmania lingulata* minor cv. Red Lantern. Three offsets I then grew in a "control" group with the other three offsets in the SUPERTHRIVE group. All plants were grown in the same area and received the same amounts of water, light, and foliar feedings with Miller's 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer for one year. The results were unequivocal. The SUPERTHRIVE group uniformly were larger plants with more leaves, better root structure and presented with larger blooms than did the control group. I am convinced that this product delivers and promotes plant growth, stature and development. I have since found other growers who have discovered the virtues of growing with SUPERTHRIVE, stretching the gamut from orchid growers, to those involved with cacti and succulents, to bonsai devotees. I have not merely written a testimonial here.

Dr. Thompson's philosophy is a sound one. Plant growth is a combination of genetic potential and environmental and nutritional influences. He has created the ultimate in a solution that enhances all plants' utilization of light and nutrients. The secret vitamins and hormones contained in SUPERTHRIVE are nutrients that are basic to plant growth. Dr. Thompson clearly states that all these nutrients are ones which plants can synthesize on their own and use, but that often growing conditions do not enhance this normal process--a gap that SUPERTHRIVE fulfills by making these nutrients bioavailable through the roots and leaf stomata when used in solution.

I use the product for everyday maintenance watering at a ratio of one drop to the gallon in conjunction with soluble fertilizers (e.g., Miller's or Peter's soluble fertilizer). Mixing instructions for large quantity/bulk use are on the labeling for delivery through sprinkling or Syphonex systems, for example. For plants in offset transplantation, or for plants "in shock" I use the product in a concentration of ten drops to the gallon. I believe that the higher dosages also have a stabilizing effect on plants subjected to extremes in temperature. Because most of its constituents are high molecular weight organic molecules, it is degraded by the ultraviolet and heat. Keep SUPERTHRIVE in its amber bottle in a cool, dark storage place and use it up when mixed each time. If used in this fashion, its shelf life is long -- perhaps years. It is sold in quantities from 1 ounce to 1 gallon.

The product appears to be absorbed by both the root system of plants and the leaf stomata and exchange trichomes, I believe. I use SUPERTHRIVE on all plants -- bromeliads, orchids, palms, cycads, ferns and succulents-- which make up my collection. I have not found it to be toxic at any concentration. I believe the product's safety and efficacy on a wide range of plants support Dr. Thompson's hypothesis that plants physiologically have many "common denominator" requirements though their needs for water, light, humidity and temperature may vary because of biologic selection and adaptation.

The development of SUPERTHRIVE since its introduction in the 1930's is an interesting one. Today's product is a far cry from its original composition. Dr. Thompson's original formulation has undergone many changes as nutritional and biochemical research reveal more efficacious agents and their roles. Today's product is a secret formulation of 12 vitamins and 20 hormones -- most of which are known to plant physiologists and biochemists. SUPERTHRIVE today has evolved into a product with wide accepted use among growers in the western United States and is now reaching an international market.

The product attracted the attention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Division, and the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) in 1972. Since SUPERTHRIVE was a product of interstate trade, its constituency by analysis and assay should be made known on the labeling, the E.P.A. alleged. In attempting to maintain his rights to the secrecy of his formulation, Dr. Thompson threatened to withdraw SUPERTHRIVE from the market and sought public support to protest the E.P.A. charges to remove the product. Unless the labeling was changed. Research revealed SUPERTHRIVE to be non-toxic even if swallowed full-strength; and the public and media response of support was overwhelming. Shortly thereafter, the E.P.A. dropped its allegations. Interestingly, SUPERTHRIVE use has been adopted by the U.S. Forest Service. Dr. Thompson feels that patenting the formulation would not only invite future less efficacious imitations but would not permit him to continually be allowed to change the formulations as research breakthroughs advanced the state of knowledge of enhancing plant hormones and vitamins.

In my discussions with Dr. Thompson, he has continually emphasized that SUPERTHRIVE is not a fertilizer but must be used in a judicious program of fertilization and watering. SUPERTHRIVE is less effective if fertilizer is not used. Its constituents allow the plant to actively utilize the fertilizer's components of nitrogen, potash, potassium and rare and trace elements. These constituents are ones that are all normal to the plant's physiology. They are constituents that under natural conditions may be unavailable or rare to a plant in cultivation -- captured in a bottle (as unattractive as the packaging may be) and when used, allow the plant to thrive -- SUPERTHRIVE!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above is reprinted from the Advisory of the Bromeliad Society of S. Florida, July 1983, V. 25 #7. Your Ed. found a 2 oz. bottle of SUPERTHRIVE at Gemco! Orange County Farm Supply also carries it, plus lots of other things.

p. 8



PSYCHOLOGY
for
PLANTS AND PLANT FANATICS

FOCUSING THIS MONTH ON -
Living Rock and Carrion
Flower Afficionados - and
Other Strange People.

ARE YOU:

Burdened by Psammophora Psychosis
or Milkweed Mania?

Overwhelmed by Huernia Hysteria?

DO YOU:

Need to cure your "Split Rocks"?

IS YOUR:

Nananthus Neurotic?

HAVE YOU:

Got a Tiger by the Jaw?
Got Glottiphyllum Grief?
Pleiospilos Panic?

HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY *
CALL Orbea 1 - 1111.

CURE OF THE WEEK: To rid yourself
forever of OPTICA RUBRA PHOBIA, water
over and over and over, and wait.
Your troubles will mush away!

Rock STAR
PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

THE NEW RELEASES:

on the Living Rocker Label -

SPLIT ROCK BLUES

by the Bolusii Brothers
BE MY BABY TOES TONIGHT!

the Mesemb Crooners

TIGER JAWS RAG

with Toothy Fissure and
the Good Time Boys

and on the Punk Carrion Label -

STARFISH STOMP

with Stinky Senilis

DUVALIA GOES DISCO

Velutina & the Sulcatas

HOYA HOP

Bella and the Milkweeds

LOVE YOUR ORBEA ORBS!

by The Unmentionables

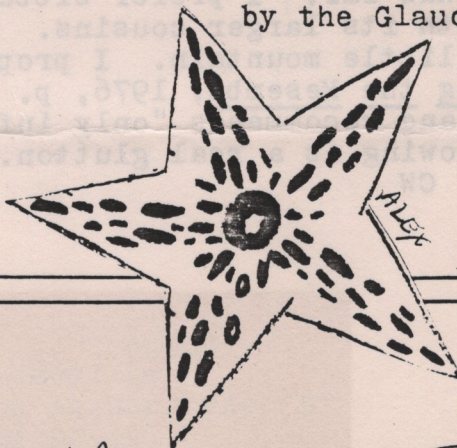
and for the discriminating...

THE SCHOONEESII SYMPHONY

the Aloinopsis Quartette

CHEIRIDOPSIS LOVE SONGS

by the Glaucous Seven



Read The RUSCHIA
REVIEW

The RR follows the exploits of that
ever popular ever lovin' RUSCHIEAE TRIBE!
- from Acrodon to Vanzijlia!

Who (or What) is Vanzijlia?, You say.
Aha! Buy the Ruschia Review today!

