



BUS TRIP !

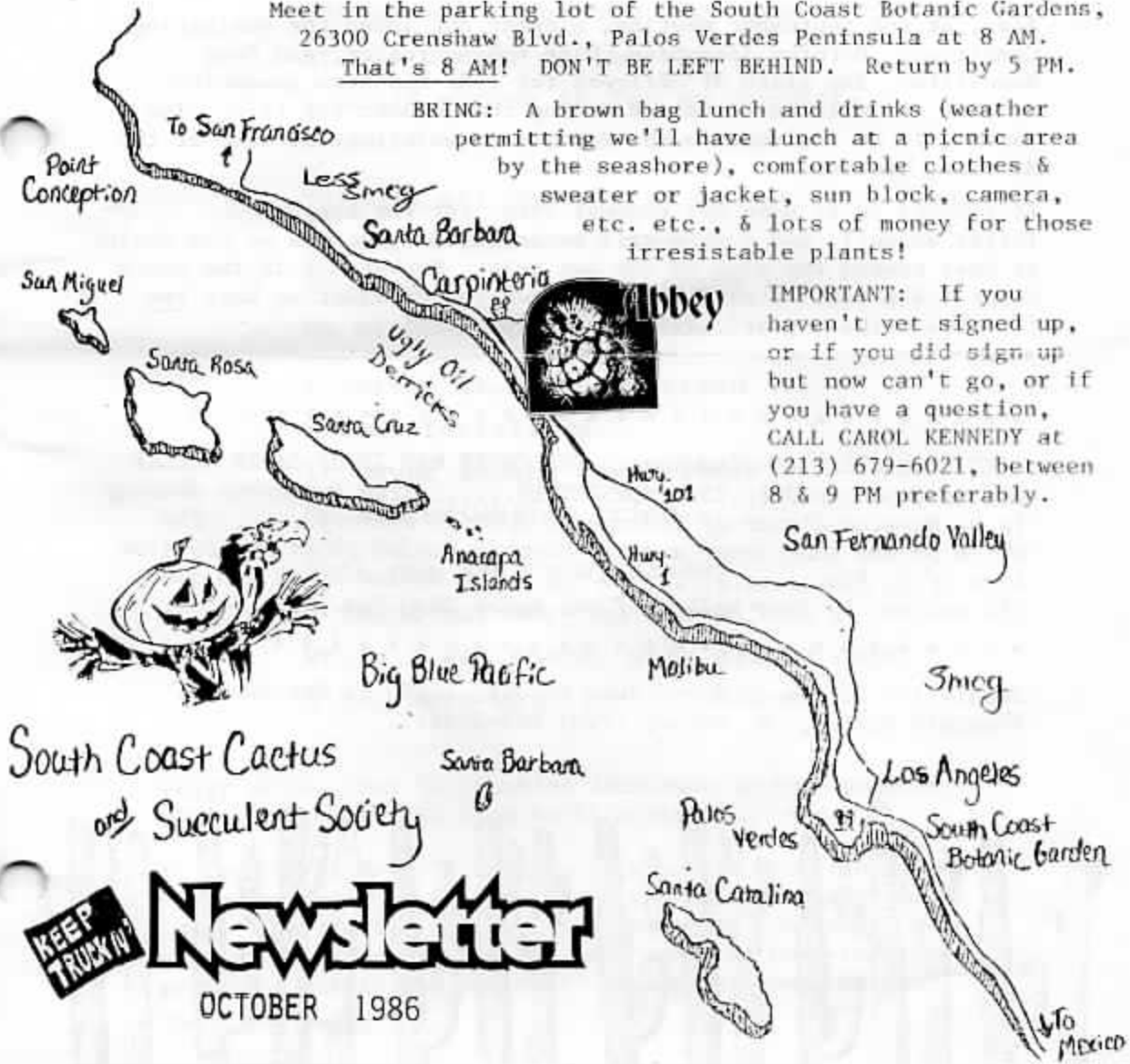
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 8 AM SHARP

VISITING ABBEY GARDEN & DARRYL COOMBS' EXOTIC PLANT NURSERY

Meet in the parking lot of the South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula at 8 AM. That's 8 AM! DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND. Return by 5 PM.

BRING: A brown bag lunch and drinks (weather permitting we'll have lunch at a picnic area by the seashore), comfortable clothes & sweater or jacket, sun block, camera, etc. etc., & lots of money for those irresistible plants!

IMPORTANT: If you haven't yet signed up, or if you did sign up but now can't go, or if you have a question, CALL CAROL KENNEDY at (213) 679-6021, between 8 & 9 PM preferably.



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

Newsletter

OCTOBER 1986



1986 OFFICERS:

President Eleanor Barker, 679-3506
First V.P. Carol Kennedy, 679-6021
Second V.P. Jim Hanna, 920-3046
Secretary Dorothy McArthur, 547-5401
Treasurer Virginia Russell, 378-3536
Membership Norma Holley, 212-6130

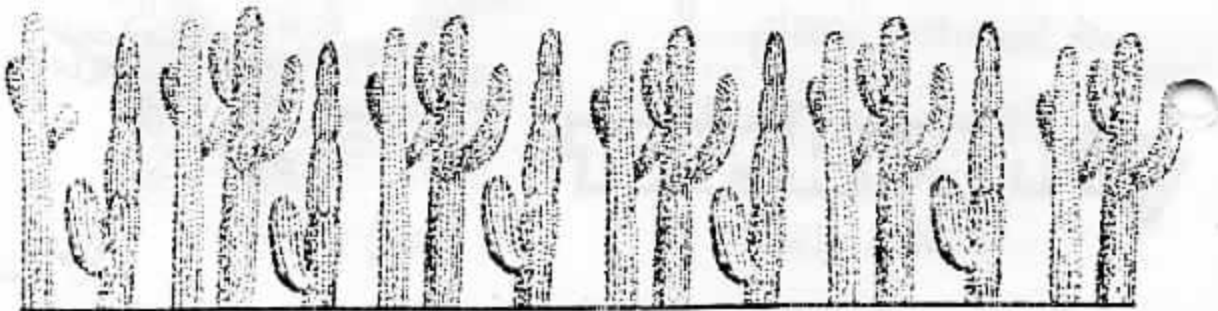
Because he's away at college, Sean Fleming had to resign as 1st VP. Carol Kennedy was elected in his place.

Also, at the September meeting, Eleanor appointed the Nominating Committee: Dorothy Yakoubian, Dick Kohlschreiber, and Doug Rawcliffe. The slate of officers for 1987 has been assembled by them and will be presented during the October bus trip. The names will be included in the November newsletter. We vote at the November meeting.

It's hoped we'll have all renewal info. set for the November newsletter as well, and a form will be included. Perhaps we can decide if dues remain the same on our bus trip. Membership in the South Coast C & S Soc. is really a deal when you consider we have two free bus trips a year! Plus everything else!

CREDITS not listed elsewhere: THE COVER MAP IS BY KAREN HOLLEY and is from our Oct. 1980 NEWSLETTER.....The Euphorbia drawing is by Hermine Stover of Endangered Species Nursery.....The Witch on the back cover and the pumpkin-headed ghost are by Alex Lima of S. Fla.....and the Spiny Cactus House and also the Bus are by Jane Walker of the Henry Shaw Soc., St. Louis.

Newsletter Editor is Carol Anne Wajcik, 10860 El Mar Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, (714) 963-3146.



A CACTOPHILE'S LAMENT

- by Jack Cody

I went out through my garden,
To the cacti in the back.
The cacti plants were blooming,
I smiled as I went back.
But one stood at the back fence,
At the corner of the row.
I would choose it for my project;
I would grow it for the show.
Through all the years, and all the tears,
It never seemed to grow.
It grew no spines to stick you,
No blossom could it show.
I nursed it, then I cursed it;
I even fertilized.
It never looked any better
No matter what I tried.
Then one day to my dismay
I found out why "No Bloom."
While I was there, with all my care,
I had been watering the Broom!

Peggy writes that her husband Jack made up this poem in about 5 minutes! We hope he'll write us another!

At the top of Peggy's notepaper is an old Scottish saying: "Lang may your Lum Reek." She writes that "Lang" means long, "Lum" is for chimney, and "Reek" is for smoke. the phrase means "May you always have money to keep the fires going for warmth and cooking!" "Lang may your Lum Reek!"
Thank you Peggy!

LETTER FROM SEAN

Everybody:

I'm sorry but I must resign as Vice President at this time. I have really enjoyed knowing you in the Club. I am now at Humboldt University studying Botany.

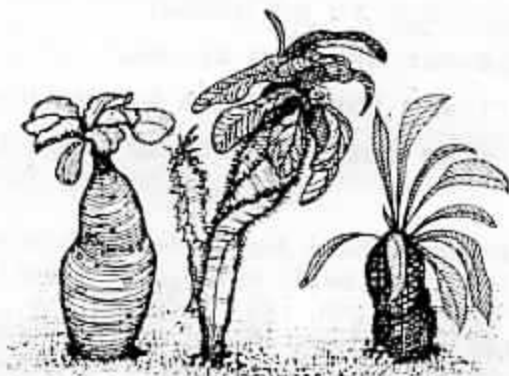
My address is:
M. Sean Fleming
305 Chinquapin Hall
Humboldt State U.
Arcata, CA 95521

I would like to hear from you.

Thank you!

With regrets,

Sean Fleming



E. PRIMULAEFOLIA E. LOPHOGONA E. BUPLEURIFOLIA

To Sean

Dear Sean,

O.K. we give up. How do you say "Chinquapin"? Did learning all those cactus names help?

Did you take any cacti to school with you? Does your roommate care? Will you be known forever as the "Cactus Kid!"?

If you didn't take your babies with you, do you need a care package? Maybe some Notos and Lithops? Lithops ought to be good. Nobody will know they're plants. Nobody will know they're alive until they flower. On the other hand people may wonder why you have those ugly blobs in dirt on your windowsill. They'll wonder even more when you water them. You can become known right off as a campus eccentric.

Anyhow we hope you study botany good. Then in a few years you can wow us at the Huntington Symposiums with all kinds of complicated slides and theories and things. And lots of botanical words like "geophyte."

And don't let the profs talk you into majoring in orchids or lichens or fungi. Remember who cares about ya kid!

All the South Coasters!

P.S. Why not write another letter for the newsletter. You can practice up on the big words and tell us how to pronounce Chinquapin!

- Carol Wujcik

Fall is the time for Ariocarpus to flower; the shorter hours of the sun trigger the relatively large, delicate-appearing flowers (white through all shades of pink to yellow for trigonus). In Fountain Valley they are all blooming now, as if they had all gotten together and decided on the date. But they are responding to the sun.

In Ohio when I grew them (successfully!) under fluorescent lights, they flowered in the fall as expected just about the time I brought them indoors from a summer outdoors. Once all my cacti were back under the tubes (4 4' tubes per group of cacti, $\frac{1}{2}$ GroLux Wide Spectrum & $\frac{1}{2}$ cool white, 4 - 6" from the tubes) I compensated for the lowered light intensity with not only new tubes, but I lengthened their "daylight" hours. It's like baking something in the oven. If your temperature is lower, you bake longer. Anyway, once the cacti went back outdoors each spring, their actual hours of daylight "decreased" despite the higher intensity. Most of the Ariocarpus therefore flowered again! I always wondered if this would have affected their life expectancy, but fortunately for us all, we moved to Florida and then California before I could find out. Although who knows how long an Ariocarpus ought to live? Does anyone know? They all look so old, but with only reasonable care they grow as fast as many other cacti. That they are always slow and difficult is an old wives' tale.

Culture: A deep pot is needed to accommodate the large root of the Ariocarpus. Many of mine are group planted in bowls which taper into a deep center - good drainage. Use a regular porous cactus mix in the bottom of the pot and around the "working roots." This way you can water as for the other cacti. I just use large gravel around the rest of the root storage area - the caudex. Or like Bob Causey has done with his prize-winning *A. kotschoubeyanus*, you can raise the plant for a caudiciform look. Woody Minnich says that if the caudex is raised, your Ariocarpus may be more likely to offset. Normally these plants are solitary. Give good light, but they may enjoy a little noon shade. One other note, Ariocarpus will bleed something that looks and feels like rubber cement or clear glue if wounded. They're not quite as "rocky" as they look.

Among the various species of these living rocks, *Ariocarpus retusus* may be the most accommodating. It can usually take winter rain, and a collection of the different forms of this plant can be very interesting. Tubercles vary greatly. The flowers are usually white with a pink blush. Very beautiful.

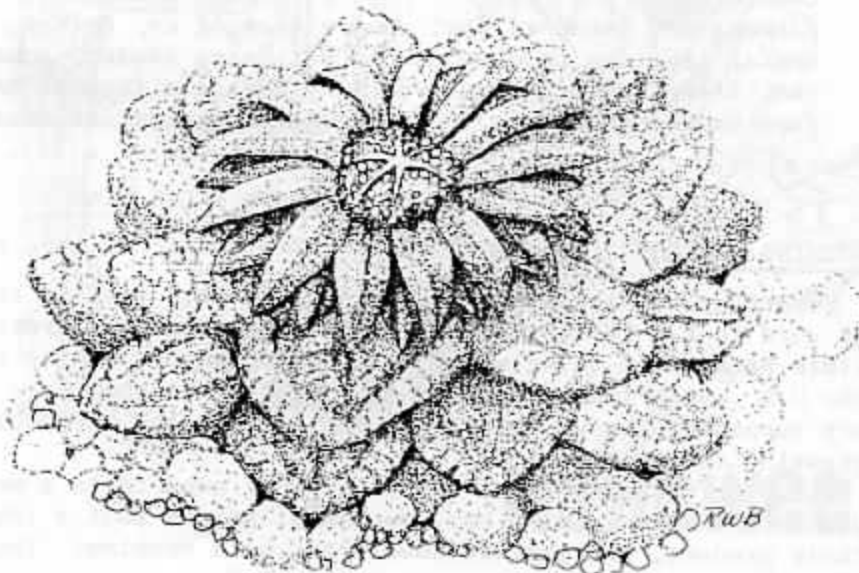
More difficult may be A. trigonus, which may rot under winter rain. This one may resent too much sun too. It's best to keep an eye on it. This way you won't miss the wonderful yellow flowers against the yellow-green textured body.

Ariocarpus agavoides and A. kotschoubeyanus are small gems with flowers which may cover the bodies - though they're no larger than other Ariocarpus flowers.

Ariocarpus scapharostrus is one of those plants only a cactus mother or papa could love (we have a lot of these plants). It has long rubbery tubercles and looks a little dead. Mine has never flowered. (Maybe it is dead! Nah, I gotta have faith).

Ariocarpus fissuratus has several forms and one variety, A. fissuratus v. lloydii. This last is the one I personally have the most trouble with. It tends to mummify on me. Do I keep it too dry? Too hot? Do I not repot it enough? Ah well.

The drawing below is by Bill Barnett of A. fissuratus for the # 4 1982 issue of CSIE, editor Grace Rollerson. She writes (from Canada) that "Ariocarpus species flower in late summer and autumn, and fairly generous watering at this time seems to be necessary." Ariocarpus come from Mexico and the S.W. U.S.





The information below comes from the June 1986 CACTUS DIGEST, bulletin of the Henry Shaw Soc. in St. Louis. Betty Cordes is the editor. (Cool temps. will help your holiday cactus bud up, but...)

And to the right, we have our Halloween CENTERFOLD, representing Halloween in Bromeland. This cover illustration is from Stan Oleson's S. Bay Brom. Associates' INFLORESCENCE, which is the newsletter for the brom. soc. which meets at S. Coast. I considered doctoring it up so that our Centerfold is stirring up a brew of cacti, but drawing cooked cacti is a bit beyond my artistic capabilities. Besides I'd rather not think about it!

TIP -
Why Holiday Cactus Colors Change

We sometimes hear of a Christmas cactus supposed to be white, that blooms pink; or one supposed to be yellow that comes out creamy-pink. The problem is in conditions, not in the plant itself. If temperature drops below 55 degrees after buds form, pinkish tints may develop in white or yellow varieties. Light also results in similar coloration. If your Christmas cactus has flowered with a color different from what you thought it should be, see that prior to its next bloom time, it receives bright light and temperatures above 60 degrees.

Courtesy Greenlife Gardens

Taken from Stuck-Up News, Tulsa C&S, March '86

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Bugs can sneak into your home by hiding in the foliage of a brand-new plant, laying low as an egg in potting soil, tracking in on your guests' shoes, riding the coattails of your jacket, flying in with the breeze, thumbing a ride from outdoor flowers and branches that you've brought in, cutting in with some often used pruning tools, reviving in a once-used pot being reused, pouring in from your dirty watering can, traveling with your visiting cousin's luggage and, according to reliable sources from around the world, by spontaneous generation, when you least expect it!

* * * *

TRUE HAZARD OR FALSE SCARE?

IS NOTHING SACRED? (from Cactus Corner News, Jan-Feb '86, Fresno C&S Soc.) via DesMoines

Report on vermiculite: Some of us use this product in some of our soil mixes. Now comes word that a TV station in Virginia has done an investigative report on the possible hazards of using vermiculite. The report claims that the vermiculite mined in the U.S. comes from ground contaminated with asbestos. The Environmental Protection Agency supposedly knows about this but has not let the public know - perhaps is even suppressing the information.

The W.R. Grace Company, which has what amounts to a monopoly on the U.S. vermiculite (all mined near Libby, Montana), admits that a low level of asbestos is present in their product, but that it should not be a problem. The TV report counters with the fact that EPA has not set a safe level for asbestos.

WHAT TO BELIEVE?

* * * *

Handwritten note: Cactus in flower

Vertical handwritten note: ...

*The
South Bay Bromeliad
Associates'*

Inflorance



Vol. IV No. 10

October 1983

The following has been around awhile in various forms, but good things bear repeating. This version is adapted from a reprint from THE OFFSET, newsletter of the Atlanta Bromeliad Society.

MURPHY'S LAWS OF PLANTS

In the beginning, there were the Universal Laws — principles that attempted to define some aspect of reality. But soon man realized the error of his ways, and people like Edsel Murphy began to write laws which reflect the real world. A world dominated not by nature but by inanimate objects and capricious human behavior. Below are a few Laws by Murphy and his friends as they apply to plants, plant people, and plant shows:

MURPHY'S LAW - The limb always falls on the most perfect plant, the day before the show.

BUTTERED SIDE DOWN LAW - Any plant knocked from a shelf will fall so as to do the most possible damage to itself and all plants below it.

CAROL'S COROLLARY: If you value the pot more than the plant, the pot will hit the ground first and break, and the plant will be fine. And vice versa. But if you value plant & pot equally, then both will be damaged beyond salvation.

TSK TSK LAW - No matter what your plants do, there is always someone who knew they would.

HYBRIDIZER'S HYPOTHESIS - The most undesirable traits of the parents always manifest themselves in the hybrid, years later. (This may also be true of people).

GREEN-THUMB POSTULATE - Experience gained is directly proportional to plants rotted, ruined, or otherwise sent to the compost heap.

SHOW CHAIRMAN'S LAW - Nothing is impossible for the person who doesn't have to do it. (This law has wide application).

PARKINSON'S LAW - Plant collections expand to exceed the space available (no matter how large the space to fill).

PLACEMENT PRINCIPLE - Show placement chairmen always place show plants with the fault in the most visible place.

PHYLLOTRON LAW - Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of light, temperature, and humidity, the plant will do as it damn well pleases.

THE FOLLOWING FROM PATSY REFERS PRIMARILY TO TRADITIONAL BONSAI SUBJECTS. YOU WILL NEED TO ADAPT THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCCULENT BONSAI, OF WHICH PATSY ALSO HAS AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION.

CARE OF BONSAI

by Patsy Wade



WATERING: Check to see if bonsai need water frequently. The best way is the "poke and feel" method. Poke your finger into the soil and feel if the soil is dry or wet. If dry, water thoroughly until water comes out the drain hole in the pot. Then let soil dry till top of soil is dry, but don't let dry out more than $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the surface. Don't keep soil saturated all the time. Depending on weather and other conditions, they can need water from 2 times a week to twice a day. When watering wash down foliage too.

FERTILIZER: Fertilize from April to the end of September during the growing season. Use half strength. I like a fertilizer with moderate or low nitrogen, such as 10-10-10 or 5-10-5 that has all the trace minerals included. Now I'm using houseplant Spoonit for the 1st month, then a 3 - 4 month timed release GroPower - $\frac{1}{2}$ strength for succulents and $\frac{2}{3}$ strength for traditional bonsai.

LIGHT: Most bonsai are outdoor plants. Some will grow indoors. When outdoors most bonsai need shade, especially during mid-day, the hottest part of the day. They like early morning and late afternoon sun.

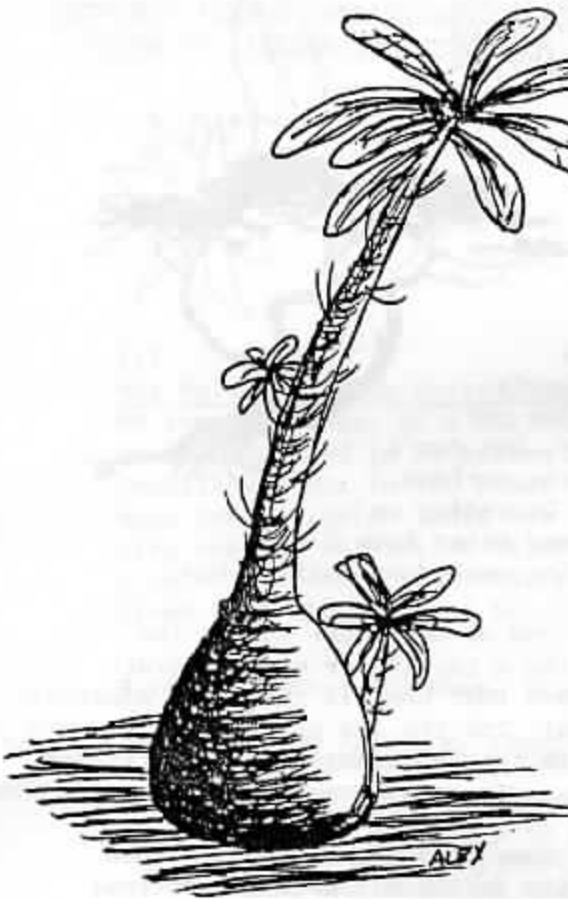
REPOTTING: Bonsai will need repotting. Frequency depends on how fast the plant grows. Junipers and pines need it less often than the leafy kinds. When repotting it is necessary to cut the roots back as well as the branches. Usually you try to cut the roots the same amount as leaves and branches; if you cut $\frac{1}{3}$ off the top, cut $\frac{1}{3}$ off the roots. If you leave too much on the top there aren't enough roots to support the leaves. Always water with a transplant shock solution immediately after repotting - such as SuperThrive. Put bonsai in all-day shade for at least 2 weeks after repotting.

SOIL: Use a well-drained, moisture retentive soil. A good mix to start with is $\frac{1}{3}$ redwood compost, $\frac{1}{3}$ drainage (coarse sand or pumice), $\frac{1}{3}$ good topsoil.

The Sunset Bonsai book is a good reference book.

Patsy Wade - (123) 454-1455
Bonsai and Succulent Sales
(Many in unusual containers).

The Pachypodium drawing and notes below are by Alex Lima, and the Pachy Cartoon below right is by Roni Altschuler, both from the October 1985 CEREUS CHATTERER of the S. Fla. Cactus & S. Soc.



PACHYPODIUM SUCCULENTUM

Pachypodium succulentum is indeed a very exotic plant. This beautiful species has a large, rather long, caudex, most of which remains under the ground, only showing the top of it. From the caudex may appear one or more stems of a brown-greyish color, somewhat thorny, covered with rather thin leaves, of a glossy deep green color.

The jasmin-like flowers, although usually white, can range from white to deep pink.

This plant is native to South Africa, North of Cape Province; where it was discovered in the late 1700's.

FORTY WINKS

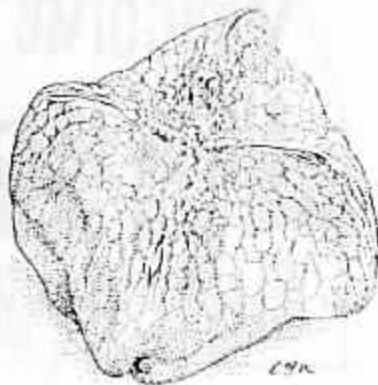
Many of your succulents are beginning to think about their winter dormancy. Some will drop all leaves and sleep deep and long; others will stop growing, drop a few leaves and doze awhile. During this time, you will want to keep your sleepers on the dry side, but it may be best to keep root hairs from drying off completely. One way to do this is to plant a winter dormant plant with a leaf succulent such as Echeveria. You still must water lightly or less often, but matters will be less critical as your Echeveria will take up most or all of the excess.

Plants about to sleep are the Pachypodiums pictured here (how deep the sleep, will depend on the species and whether or not you have a warm greenhouse), Cyphostemmas, Adenias, many of your viny caudiciforms, and others. Also some Begonias...



However, your Tylecodens are waking up and leafing out as are your Senecios, your Pelargoniums and other winter growers. Oh yes, and your Dudleyas too. Many of the Crassulaceae enjoy our winter.

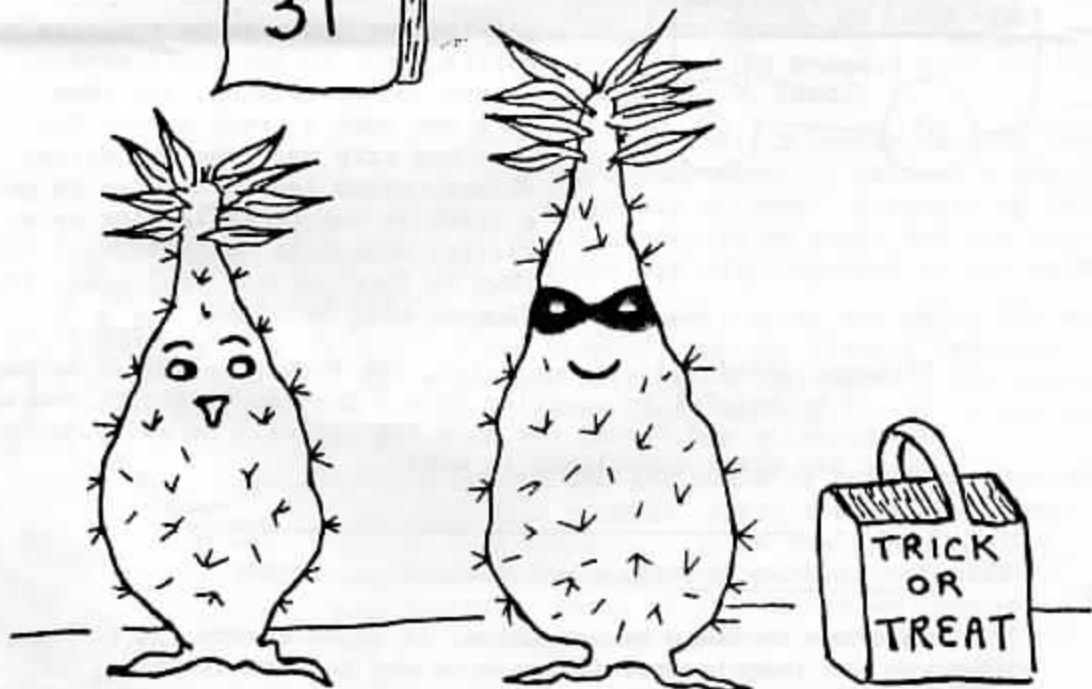
To the right is a drawing of *Pseudolithos*, a wonderful rare succulent from Somalia. Mature plants can be seen and we hope photographed at Abbey Garden; the plants are in the private collection of Frank Horwood, who is at present recovering from surgery on one lung.



The drawing is by Christabel King and is from the February 1982 issue of THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN.



PACHY'S WORLD - By Roni



"WHAT A SWELL COSTUME... I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU."

Welcome NEW Members

We welcome new member:

Adelia Catterlin
4033 W. 161 Street
Lanndale, CA 90260
phone 321-4751

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Also, please change your rosters so that Sean Fleming's temp. address is 305 Chinquapin Hall, Humboldt State U., Arcata, CA 95521.

WORRIED ABOUT BUS TRIP BLAHS?

Remember when you were a kid and your folks tried to keep you occupied on trips by telling you to count cows? I got so I could tell a Guernsey from a Holstein at 60 mph.

Looking for Dudleyas on roadside cliffs isn't so very different... Unless you're driving, and then it's not such a great idea. But on a bus trip only the bus driver drives, which leaves us free to get a crick in our necks looking up at cliffs, searching searching... I know they're there! & With real luck, the windows will be clean.



Although dried and without color, the flower spikes of Dudleyas should be helpful in spotting them. Besides Dudleyas, you will see Opuntias and Yuccas for sure (or you will be asleep). Are there any other succulents to see?

From The Benchley Roundup (Dell Publishing, 1954):

In order to laugh at something, it is necessary (1) to know what you are laughing at, (2) to know why you are laughing, (3) to ask some people why they think you are laughing, (4) to jot down a few notes, (5) to laugh. Even then, the thing may not be cleared up for days.

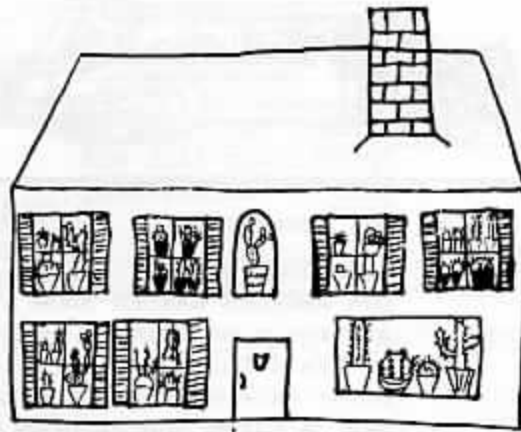
- from "Why We Laugh--or Do We?"

GET WELL SOON!

Roberta Hanna is wearing a neck brace after suffering an auto accident in which several cars slammed into hers in chain reaction!

And Eve Workman is having cataract surgery, which in a way is good news, but no fun for her while she is going through it!

We hope everyone is feeling as good as new soon.



GARDEN NEWS

The most exciting thing about our S. Coast Garden may be what it's sitting on. The "brew below" has done lots of things to the plants and landscape above ground. Most recently Carol Kennedy reports a growing fissure next to the Opuntia mound!

On Sept. 21, a Sunday, it was venting a steamy smoke — perhaps a gas, but there was no odor. Attempts to fill the fissure did no good, and our potential volcano was duly reported to the garden.

As of last week, after the rain, the steam had stopped; but the fissure remained... perhaps waiting for Halloween! Who knows what's down there, waiting.....!

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE BRAVE OF HEART, GO FEARLESSLY AND WEED YOUR MOUNDS! Carol reports weeds and leaves need removing. If we don't do it, Ed & Doug have threatened to have it done by MOUND MERCENARIES! Think of it! Mound mercenaries may get carried away & uproot who-knows-what with the spurge, and feed them to the smoking fissure wherein lurks the evil MOUND MONSTER, or whatever! DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR MOUND!

WEED!!!!!!



A HOUSE FULL OF THOSE SPINY THINGS WOULD SCARE ANY GHOST!

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29
30	31			



Oct. 12, Sunday, 8AM - 5PM OUR
SOUTH COAST FALL BUS
TRIP TO CARPENTERTIA,
see cover page.

Oct. 17 - 26, 10AM to 6PM, THE
LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW & SALE at the
Arboretum on Baldwin in Arcadia. The theme
is "Fall Fantasies." This is a big general
plant sale & show. Cactus Ranchito always
has a sales booth, plus the Plant Place, etc.



Oct. 25, Before going to bed, set your clocks back
one hour. Time to "fall back."

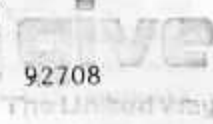
Oct. 26, Sunday, Daylight Savings is over. Your clocks should have
"fallen back" last night.

Oct. 26, Sunday, the Long Beach Cactus Club's 3rd ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
at the Iacoboni Library, 5020 Clark Ave., Lakewood, 1:00 PM.
There have always been fine plants auctioned at this event.
Refreshments.

Oct. 31, HAPPY HALLOWEEN, GOBLINS AND GOBLETTES! Ghosts & Ghostettes?

SOUTH COAST CACTUS &
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

10860 El Mar Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS



FIRST CLASS

Norma Holley
2971 Toledo Street #220
Torrance, CA 90503-7340