



Feb 89

# CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

**NEXT MEETING:** Feb. 26, 1989, Board Meeting 1 p.m.; General Meeting 2 p.m.

Speaker will be Dr. Bob Breunig. His topic will be "DBG-Past, Present, and Future". This is an outstanding opportunity to hear about DBG's beginnings, and what is in store for the future. If anyone has looked at the artist's renditions on the walls of Webster, I'm sure there is a lot of curiosity about the future.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

The cactus for the month is ASTROPHYTUM, all 4 species; all 15 varieties. Astrophytum means "Star Cactus" and they are native to Mexico. Two species-myriostigma & asterious-have no discernable thorns; the other two-ornatum & capricorne do have thorns. Myriostigma's with 4 ribs are commonly called "Bishops Cap" cactus, although in older age they may have more than 4 ribs. Flowers of all species are yellow and up to 6 cm. in diameter. The yellows vary from silky to bright and shiny. Some have red throats. They can be grown in the ground in the Phoenix area, but need protection for the western (afternoon) sun and on nights that dip below freezing they appreciate a cardboard box cover.

The succulent for the month is EUPHORBIA HORRIDA, all varieties. The family Euphorbiaceae is the most diverse of all plant families with regard to growth, shape, and flowers. With over 3,000 species, one could make this family alone a lifetime hobby. Euphorbias occur world-wide, and share a milky sap in common. A few, including Horrida, mimic cactus so well, that they are sometimes mistaken for cactus by the uninitiated. Horrida is native to South Africa. Its bloom is typically Euphorbiaceae-a bright yellow cyathium (false flower).

Please bring any examples of the Plant of the Month you have in your collection, so that we may compare and discuss different growing techniques and results. Let Frank Hennessey know if there are any plants you wish to have as P.O.M.

## TEST RESULTS

There were some errors inserted in the last newsletter and the Member's Roster as a test. To see how you scored, the following are the correct answers: Lew's last name is correctly spelled STRICHMAN; Henry's last name is correctly spelled TRIESLER; there were 6 board members at the special board meeting; and as a result of being the Junior Past President, poor ol' Fred Kaspar has to work this year as a Board Member. As applied to yours truly, the term SECRETARY merely indicates one of position, not necessarily typing or note taking skills. Congratulations to those who successfully passed this test. There will be more in the future-if we get good enough perhaps we could apply for affiliation with the Mensa Society.

## ROSTER UPDATE

### ADD/CHANGE PHONE NUMBERS

### !!! WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Dottie O'Rourke	381-0660	Judy Bustoz	Jack Heller
Tom Faires	990-2621	2105 W. Shawnee	1550 N. Stapley #131
		Chandler, Az. 85224	Mesa, Az. 85203
		899-1954	844-7448

## JANUARY MEETING

**BOARD MEETING:** Treasurer's report for 1988 submitted, showing a 12/31/88 balance of \$2,583.30. Details are available from Lew Steichman. Seven Board Members attended. All topics discussed were brought to the membership during the General Meeting.

**GENERAL MEETING:** First topic was our guest speaker, Mary Wilkins, Curator of Exotic succulents for the DBG. Mary had a slide presentation of her trip to southern Africa in August of 1988. The purpose of the trip was two-fold--to attend and represent the Gardens at two international succulent plant congresses in Zimbabwe; and to study and collect plants in the Karoo sub-desert. It is interesting to note that she was the ONLY representative from a United States garden. The Karoo Desert is very close to the environment found here in Arizona. She was able to increase the DBG's collection by over 200 plants, and her success rate so far has been "pretty good" (hope that's much better than MY "pretty good" success). She discussed the difficulties in obtaining official permission to collect plants, and ship them to the U.S.-it's not as easy as going to your favorite nursery! Of cultural interest, the Great Ditch (not their version of the CAP Canal) area has a high magnesium content in the soil. Plants from there, such as Aloe Orthalopa should have some epsom salts added to the potting mix. Also, winter growers there are winter growers here-it is the actual season that matters, not when it occurs in the Southern vs Northern Hemisphere. One must be careful to observe the natural rainy season in habitat and observe that season when watering plants in cultivation.

During the General Meeting, it was proposed by the Board and accepted by the Membership to cancel our plans for a show this

year due to the financial burden it would place on the Society. The Board has suggested that we look into incorporation to limit the liability of individual members in case of any lawsuits. Jim Oravetz is to look into this, as well as draft a set of by-laws for the CACASS. Jim is also going to look into the availability of blanket insurance through CASSA. We will add a PLANT OF THE MONTH discussion to our meetings. It was suggested that member's hold open gardens during the cooler months of the year. Debora Korobkin volunteered to co-ordinate this effort. Attached to this newsletter is a form to be used to volunteer your garden. Delores Gott volunteered to help with the plant sales table. In attendance were 27 members and 3 guests, two of which joined.

**!!!!!!ROAD TRIP!!!!!!      !!!!!!!ROAD TRIP!!!!!!**

Our March Meeting will be March 19th, and will be a bus trip to Tucson to visit Arid Lands and Gene Josephs'. Arid Lands specializes in Euphorbias, and usually has some unusual goodies that are too limited in number to be advertised; Gene Joseph has the Ed Storms collection of Lithops, and they will be available for sale. The cost for the bus is \$10 per person, please make your reservations with Lew Steichman. We will meet at Thomas Mall, 44th St. & Thomas, and the bus will pull out at 7 a.m. We expect to return about 6 p.m. There will be coolers available to put your pop and picnic lunches into and water will be available on the bus. There is also a restroom on the bus so you don't have to be shy about drinking water (or pop) en route. We will visit Arid Lands first, then have lunch at one of the parks, and finish off the day at Gene Josephs. NO alcoholic beverages are to be brought on the trip. The bus company would have to increase the fare to offset their added costs of insurance premiums if alcohol is to be consumed during the trip.

**COMING UP**

April 2, 1989 is the annual bash at Boyce Thompson.

The first open garden will be at Ken & Marge Jantz' on April 23, 1989. In addition to cactus & succulents the Jantz' also grow orchids in a greenhouse. This is planned to be an open garden for both the Cactus and Orchid Societies, come and meet some new friends. Hours and a map will be in next month's newsletter.

**COLLECTIABLES AVAILABLE**

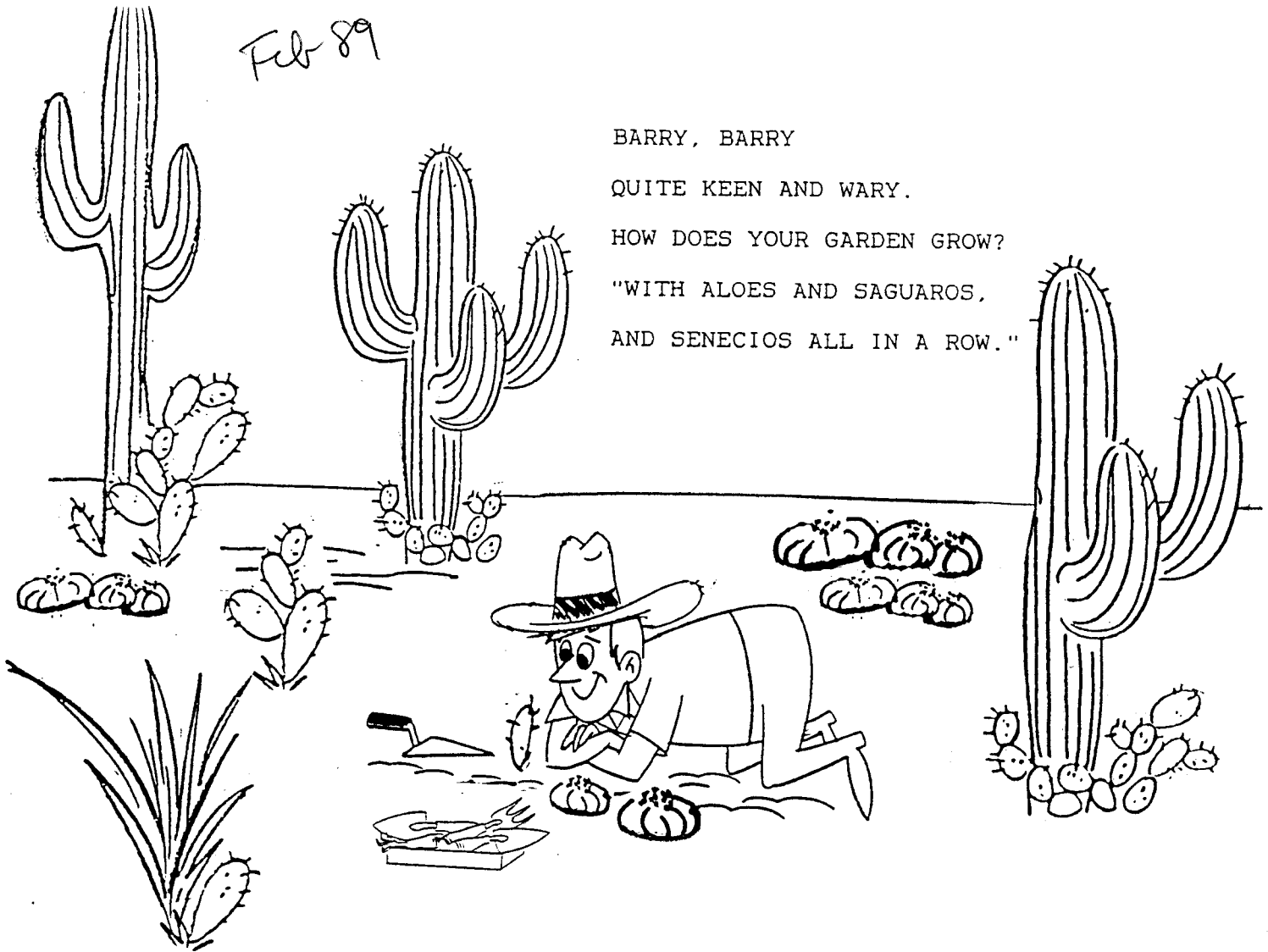
There are still some T-shirts and pins from the CASSA '87 Convention held in Tempe. The shirts are available from Mike Gallagher, and the pins from Jim Oravetz. Just think of how proud some child or grandchild would be to inherit one of these some day--how can you resist?

**HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP**

Warner Dodd needs input from the membership as to what they would like for meeting programs. Nail him! and let him know what you want--don't be kind, don't be gentle, don't let him off the hook.

Ken Jantz,  
Secretary

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BARRY, BARRY

QUITE KEEN AND WARY.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

"WITH ALOES AND SAGUAROS,

AND SENECIOS ALL IN A ROW."

Members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society are opening their gardens for visits. How about YOU?

I can sponsor a visit

Month of \_\_\_\_\_ 1989 or 90?

Choice of dates 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(w) \_\_\_\_\_

Some special features of my collection are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please include a map to your home when you return this sheet. Return to Debra Korobkin  
1801 N. 83rd Avenue #1007  
Phoenix, Az 85035  
873-6089