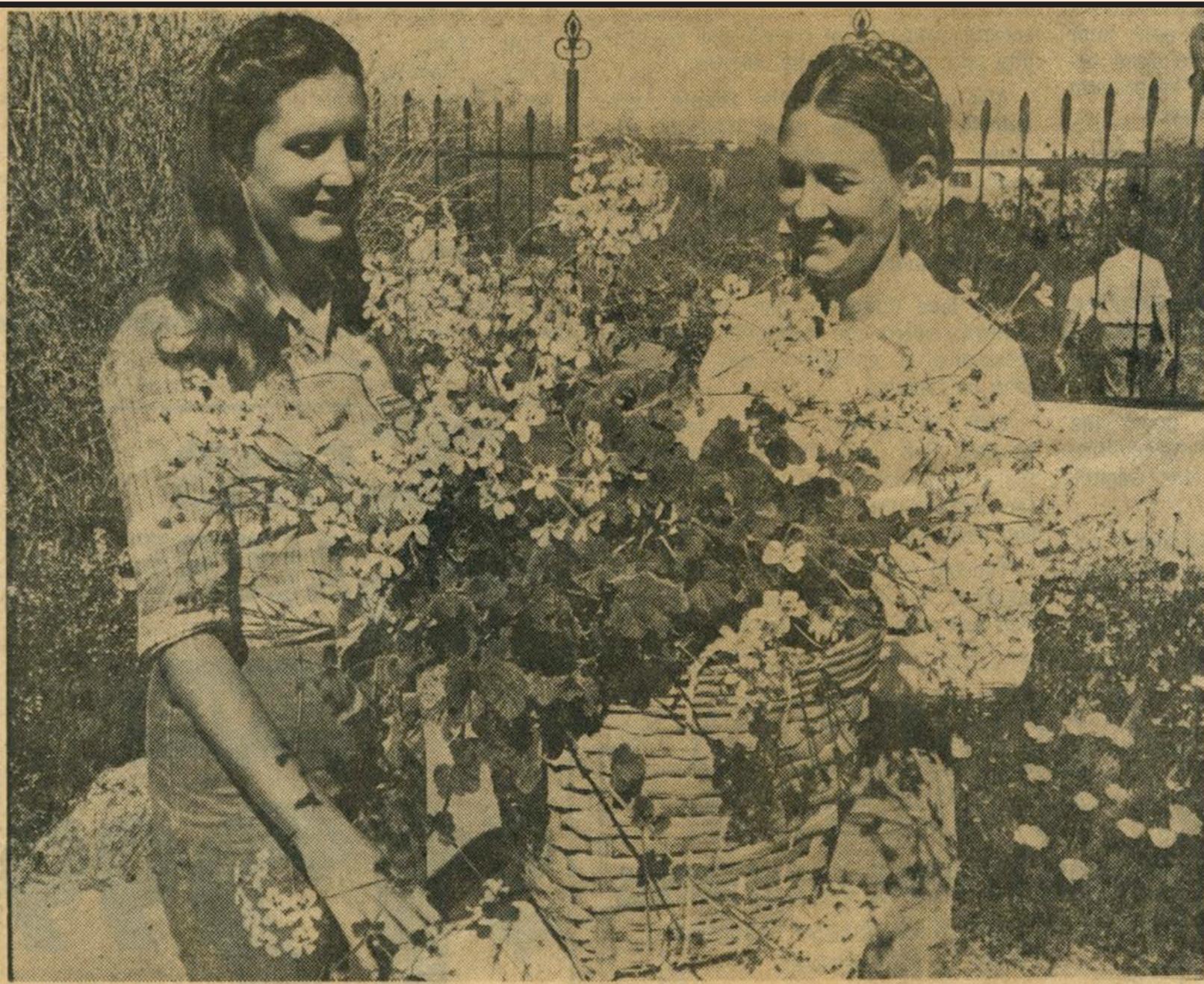


CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



Gazette Staff Photo

Chris Dezelsky (left) and Sherry Krummen examine prize winning Pelargonium Tetragonum a wild geranium plant belonging to Margaret Caldwell on display at the Desert Botanical Garden 1978 Cactus

Show. The exhibit includes cacti, succulents, native and desert plants, more than 1,000 exhibits in all. The show, sponsored by The Phoenix Gazette, runs through Sunday, with daily hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

March 16, 1978 | Paradise Valley News

APRIL 1973 · DECEMBER 1979

**Central Arizona Cactus And Succulent Society
Notes From The Records
April 1973 - December 1979**

Information compiled by Lois Schneberger.
Editorial help and moral support provided by Sue Hakala



*Henry P. Treisler, Jr., Founding member, 1st President.
Photo by Virgina Walters, 1992*



Frank & Philomina Hennessy; Frank held position of club's 1st Secretary and many positions after that.

On Friday April 13, 1973, 7:30 p.m. a dozen or so individuals met at the home of Henry Treisler and voted to form a local chapter of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA), Inc., a national organization. It was decided to meet for now on the last Sunday of each month, from 2-4 p.m. Quote from the invitation from Henry that was sent to prospective members: "Our programs and speakers will be selected to help the serious grower become more proficient and knowledgeable. Our only purpose will be to enable our members to derive greater satisfaction and enjoyment from our fascinating hobby."

In the May 29, 1977 issue of the Society's newsletter, The Central Spine, Lee Tolleson recalls, "The very first and very informal meeting of what would evolve, without too many birth pangs, into the CACSS happened at the place that Henry Triesler shares with his plants.

I don't think any of us knew very much about the others in attendance, except that we were all interested in cacti and other succulents. There were differences of opinion on important questions, such as whether Warner Dodd should be allowed to smoke. Once these monumental questions were settled or allowed to die from neglect, we did agree that there was a need for an organization such as the CACSS, and that we were to be it.

When Henry was finally able to silence Genevieve's enthusiastic conversation, he proclaimed the dichotomous birth of his and Bob's (Robert J. Moulis) brainchild, the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society."

[See the issue of The Central Spine for more information on the founding of CACSS.]

The following text describes activities and events in the history of CACSS as found in the records of the Society, i.e., minutes of the Board and general meetings, newsletters, correspondence, etc., and cited as found in the records whenever possible.

May 1973 - June 1974

May 27, 1973 Meeting at the Home of Robert Moulis

Bylaws: The first order of business was the adoption of a set of bylaws.

CACSS: The name as established in the bylaws: Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society.

Officers: Following the adoption of the bylaws, election of officers for the first year was in order. The following officers were elected unanimously by the members present.

President - Henry P. Treisler, Jr.; Vice-President - Robert Moulis; Secretary - Frank Hennessey; Treasurer - Lewis Bremer III; and CSSA Affiliate Director - Warner Dodd.

Fiscal Year: With the election of officers, it was decided that the fiscal year for the Society would be from July 1 - June 30.

Dues: From the *Bylaws: Article III. A.*: The annual dues of the Society shall be \$10 per single person or \$11 per married couple, including a subscription to the publication of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's journal.

Treasury: A bank account was established at the Valley National Bank.

June 24, 1973 General Meeting

Membership: It was announced that as of June 24, we had 22 charter members. July 1 was to be the cutoff date for charter membership. [However, a membership list dated June 24 and revised July 7 increases the number to 17.] The first membership list was created.

Charter members: Doris Boyce, Lewis III and Barcia Bremer, Margaret Caldwell, William and Martha Chester, Belle Cooper, Warner and Beverly Dodd, Hubert and Lucille Earle, J. Whitman Evans, Sharon Fairchild, Frank and Philomena Hennessey, John and Nevelyn Hopkins, Roderick McGill, Robert and Elaine Moulis, Kent Newland, Chester and Genevieve Oppen, Robert and Clara Pribbenow, Lee and Frances Tolleson, and Henry Triesler, Jr.

July 29, 1973 Board Meeting

Bylaws: Under discussion were the proposed alterations of our bylaws, as proposed by the CSSA for our affiliation with them. It was decided to alter our present bylaws with regard to classes of membership to conform to those of the national society. It was also decided to retain our present fiscal year of July 1 to June 30, rather than to adopt the January 1 to December 31 of CSSA, since they were able to work out the mechanics of the subscriptions to the national publication.

General Meeting: A motion by Bob Moulis to set the meeting date as the LAST Sunday of each month, to prevent confusion when a month has five Sundays passed.

July 29, 1973 General Meeting

Arizona State Fair: The Society was invited to participate in the Arizona State Fair.

August 25, 1973 Board Meeting

Bylaws: The continuing problems or requirements for affiliation with CSSA were discussed at length, as well as the best way to change our bylaws to conform to the requirements of CSSA. It was decided to change the bylaws as follows: Article III. D. Dues.: The fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30. Active members joining after July 1 will receive the CSSA Journal from January 1. Still to be worked out by the Board of Directors will be the manner of collecting for the necessary subscription costs and the manner of reimbursing the charter members who have had prior subscriptions.

August 29, 1973 Correspondence to Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Bylaws: Frank Hennessey "Enclosed please find a copy of our revised Bylaws. I hope that will make the grade this time and that we will finally become affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America."

September 5, 1973 Correspondence from CSSA

Bylaws: The president of CSSA writes, "I am certainly pleased to welcome the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society into affiliation with the CSSA, to represent the "heart of the cactus country." Your Certificate of Affiliation will follow as soon as all details are completed. Our Executive Board wishes you all success in your operation as a 100% Membership Club."

September 30, 1973 General Meeting

Arizona State Fair: The Board of Directors has accepted an invitation to submit a club exhibit in the Arizona State Fair. Warner Dodd was appointed chair to put the exhibit together.

October 28, 1973 Field Trip and General Meeting

Field Trip: The first field trip for the Society was to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Arizona State Fair: Warner Dodd and his committee were congratulated on winning first prize for our club exhibit at the Arizona State Fair.

November 26, 1973 Board and General Meetings

DBG: This was the first time the Society met at the Desert Botanical Garden s(DBG) for Board and general meetings.

Name Badges: Frank Hennessey showed two types of possible name badges. One was selected and he was instructed to proceed with securing them.

December 30, 1973 Board and General Meetings (*Home of the Director of the DBG, Hubert Earle and his wife*)

DBG Cactus Show: It was decided not to have a February meeting, since it would fall during the Cactus and Succulent Show at the DBG. Instead, members are urged to exhibit in the show and to offer their assistance to Hubert Earle in putting on the show.

Plant Sale at Meeting: A raffle of plants donated by members was held, netting \$13.

January 27, 1974 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: The possibility of a permanent meeting place was discussed. Members

of the Board were assigned possible locations to check out.

Maricopa County Extension Service: Henry Treisler had an invitation for the Society to participate in its Garden Fair sponsored by the Extension Service at Encanto Park. The Board of Directors decided to accept the invitation.

March 31, 1974 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: The secretary reported there is extreme difficulty in securing a meeting place on our limited budget, especially on Sunday afternoons. A suggestion was made that a meeting place was available at a local restaurant, provided the members purchased a meal. The subject was to be brought up at the regular meeting to get the members' reaction.

CSSA: The affiliate representative reported that our Society has now received its plaque as an affiliated club in the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

March 31, 1974 General Meeting

DBG Cactus Show: Henry gave a resume of the members of our Society who were winners at the recent cactus and succulent show held at the DBG. Our members took many ribbons and trophies, as well as the sweepstakes in both cactus and succulents categories. In the cactus judging, only four points separated the top four contenders for sweepstakes and all were Society members. Our members also took best cactus, best succulent and best dish garden.

Meeting Location: The subject of a meeting place was discussed at length, with the final consensus of the members being that we should continue to meet at member's homes, so that we can continue to be able to see the member's collections. It was pointed out that attendance is now about 35 and still growing.

April 28, 1974 General Meeting

Plant Sale at Meeting: An announcement was made that a plant auction/sale would be held at the May general meeting.

May 26, 1974 General Meeting

Plant Sale at Meeting: The sale netted \$16.50.

June 30, 1974 General Meeting

Officers: A motion was made and seconded to re-elect the current officers for the next year. It was determined to be out of order and not in accordance with the Society's Bylaws.

Treasury: Cash balance on June 30, 1974: \$249.33.

July 1974 - June 1975

Officers and Directors: *President - Henry Triesler, Jr.; Vice-President - Bob Moulis; Secretary - Frank Hennessey; Treasurer - Lewis Bremer*

CSSA Affiliate Representative - Warner Dodd

July 28, 1974 Board Meeting at DBG

Arizona State Fair: The Society has been asked to participate in the Arizona State Fair again this year. The Board agreed to participate in the "Demonstration Gardens" division.

Membership: The Board agreed to drop the names of those who have not renewed their dues within one month after renewal date.

August 25, 1974 Board Meeting at DBG

Field Trip: The Board discussed the possibility of a bus trip to Tucson for our next meeting. It was decided to bring this up at the regular meeting to see if it meets with the members' approval.

Arizona State Fair: Margaret Caldwell and Warner Dodd were appointed as co-chairs for the exhibit at the Arizona State Fair.

August 25, 1974 General Meeting

Field Trip: A show of hands was asked of those who would be interested in a bus trip to Tucson for the September meeting to visit some of the private gardens and some of the commercial growers. Cost of the trip will be \$7.

September 29, 1974 General Meeting on Field Trip

Field Trip: The meeting was held on the bus going to Tucson for a field trip. Thirty-one members and guests were present. Two nurseries and two private gardens were visited. Probably 250 plants came back to Phoenix aboard the bus.

DBG: It was announced that the DBG would become our permanent meeting place, whenever we are not meeting at someone's home or on a field trip.

October 27, 1974 Board Meeting

CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show: The possibility of a cactus show in the future was discussed, with no conclusions being reached.

Propagation: Henry asked the Board's approval to devote a portion of each meeting to plant culture. It was agreed that this was the main purpose for our Society, and the Board whole-heartedly agreed with the plan.

October 27, 1974 General Meeting

Cactus Smasher: Kent Newland reported that a device to be attached to off road vehicles for smashing cactus plants is being manufactured and advertised by a California company. Such a device would be illegal in Arizona. A motion by Kent and seconded by the membership present to protest the manufacture of such a device was passed unanimously.

November 24, 1974 Board Meeting

Treasury: Lew Bremer reported a total of \$378 in the treasury.

Dues: The subject of dues was brought up, because of the increases in the subscription rate of the Cactus and Succulent Journal. A motion made by Frank Hennessey, seconded by Bob Moulis, that dues be increased to \$12 for single members and \$13 for couples was passed unanimously.

Cactus Smasher: Kent Newland read a resolution that he intended to present to the general meeting, as a follow up to his motion that was passed at the October meeting, protesting the manufacture of a "cactus smasher" attachment for off-road vehicles by a California company. He asked that the Board permit the Society to send copies of the resolution to other persons and organizations who might be interested in stopping the manufacture of this item, if the resolution passed at the general meeting. The Board agreed to such a procedure and a partial list of those to be circularized was given to the secretary.

November 24, 1974 General Meeting

Arizona State Fair: A discussion was held about our exhibit at the State Fair, in which our Society was awarded an honorable mention.

Cactus Smasher: A resolution by Kent Newland, seconded by Frank Hennessey vigorously protesting the advertising, sale and use of a device known as a "cactus smasher," and that copies of the resolution be sent to the manufacturer of this device, as well as other parties, agencies and organizations who are interested in the conservation of desert flora was passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution, with the signatures of those voting for it, is a part of these minutes.

December 29, 1974 Board Meeting

Treasury: Lew Bremer reported a balance of \$150.20 in the bank, with all journal subscriptions and affiliate dues paid.

Cactus Smasher: Secretary Frank Hennessey reported that he had made 25 mailings of our resolution, protesting the "cactus smasher" to people and organizations that might help us block the promotion of this item.

CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show: Henry Triesler agreed to chair a committee to look into the possibility of putting on a cactus and succulent show in April at a shopping center.

December 14, 1974 General Meeting and Holiday Party

DBG Seed Project: Rodney Engard discussed a seed project that he envisioned for the Society and the DBG. The DBG has accumulated seed of many types of cactus and would like help from the membership of the Society in propagating them for the Garden. Warner Dodd moved and Kent Newland seconded a motion that the Society gives all of its support and help to the DBG for the project. Motion passed.

Plant Sale at Meeting: Following the program, there was a plant sale of plants donated by the members. A total of \$32 was raised for the Society.

December 1974 and January 1975 Correspondence

Cactus Smasher: Copies of the resolution, correspondence to the manufacturer of the device, members of Congress, organizations, etc. and a cartoon from a local newspaper are in the records.

January 26, 1975 Board Meeting

Maricopa County Extension Service: Warner Dodd reported that the CACSS has been

invited to participate in the Extension Service's Garden Fair to be held in Encanto Park on Sunday, February 9. Mr. Triesler has requested shade for the Society's exhibit, since last year several succulents were sunburned.

Treasury: Payment of a bill for \$17.50, covering supplies for the December holiday meeting, was approved.

CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show: Mr. Triesler has requested that Fran Tolleson report on the proposed cacti and succulent show at one of the local shopping centers.

January 26, 1975 General Meeting

CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show: Fran Tolleson reported that Park Central Mall would like to have the CACSS present an exhibit in their shopping center from April 23 - 27, 1975. She expressed concern about the openness of the mall and the possibility of vandalism. She also mentioned that merchants in the center, who were selling plants, were not enthusiastic about the Society selling plants, although a sale had not been vetoed by Park Central. She also mentioned other activities that were being held in the comparable period, which might interfere with members being able to help in this project. She suggested that other localities, such as Christown or Metrocenter might be contacted because of better security in these malls. It was decided that there were too many other events taking place during this period and since the idea had been conceived as moneymaking venture for the Society (and the merchants at Park Central apparently disapproved of such a sale), that this matter should be deferred for the time being.

DBG Director: Mr. Pribbenow stated that he felt the Society did not do enough to publicize the Society's hobby and work, and that we should exhibit more physical emphasis concerning CACSS. He said that Mr. Hubert Earle as director of the Desert Botanical Garden was the worst offender, and asked him to come forward. Mr. Pribbenow then presented Mr. Earle with a beautiful bolo tie that had been handcrafted from dead cactus wood, so that he might present visible proof of his interest in cacti to all whom he met. The presentation was very cleverly made.

February 18 – 23, 1975

DBG Cactus Show: The report and the award winners of the 28th annual show were published in the SaguaroLand Bulletin Vol.29:3 March 1975.

March 23, 1975 Field Trip

Tucson Cactus and Botanical Society: The Tucson society has been invited to participate in the field trip to the Southwest Arboretum and our meeting. This is the first time for a joint meeting.

May 26, 1975 Board Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: A discussion of possible assistance for the convention in Tucson 1977 was held. Nothing was decided.

DBG Seed Project: Charles Merbs inquired about the seed-growing project to assist the DBG. Alice Feffer said that Rodney Engard had been ill, so that the project was temporarily held up; but on his return, it would move forward.

June 20, 1975 General Meeting

Treasury: Cash in the bank on June 30, 1975: \$429.84.

July 1975 - June 1976

Officers and Directors: President - Charles Merbs; Vice-President - Rodney Engard; Secretary - Genevieve Oppen; Treasurer - William Tucker

CSSA Affiliate Representative: Kent Newland.

Appointments for 1976: Newsletter Editor: Henry Triesler; Welcome Committee: Dottie O'Rourke, Chairperson, William & Sylvia Garcia, Elaine Moulis, Richard Kreischer and Annie Nicosia; Newsletter Name Contest: Martha Chester, Chairperson, Berdie Stevens and Lewis Steichman; Garden Project: Robert Moulis, Chairperson, Warner Dodd, Rodney Engard, Emmy LeTempa, Genevieve Oppen, Ingrid Swenson, and Fran Tolleson.

July 27, 1975 Board Meeting

Plant Sale at Meeting: Charles Merbs tossed in the idea of a plant sale at the general meetings with the owner keeping a percentage of the sale. The Board decided to hold the sale at the August meeting with 50% of the sale going to the seller. (For additional information on this topic, refer to the minutes of the general membership meeting of the same date.)

Door Prizes and Plants for Speakers: Charles reported on a wholesaler in Vista, California, who charged only \$1.50 for each fine plant. It was agreed that, at such prices, we could afford to buy plants for guest speakers and door prizes.

Bylaws: Henry brought up the appointment of a committee to revise the bylaws and three members were appointed.

Newsletter: Another innovative suggestion from Charles Merbs was for a newsletter reporting on the activities of various club members.

Treasury: Cash in the bank on July 1, 1975: \$429.84.

July 27, 1975 General Meeting

Plant Sale at Meeting: At the August meeting there will be a plant sale that, if it works, might become a frequent practice. Members are to bring some of their better plants, of which they have duplicates, to price and label and to keep 50% of the sale price with the other 50% going to the Society. Each interested buyer will draw a number to determine the order of purchase. Anyone can donate plants. To implement this plan, a committee was appointed.

August 31, 1975 Board Meeting

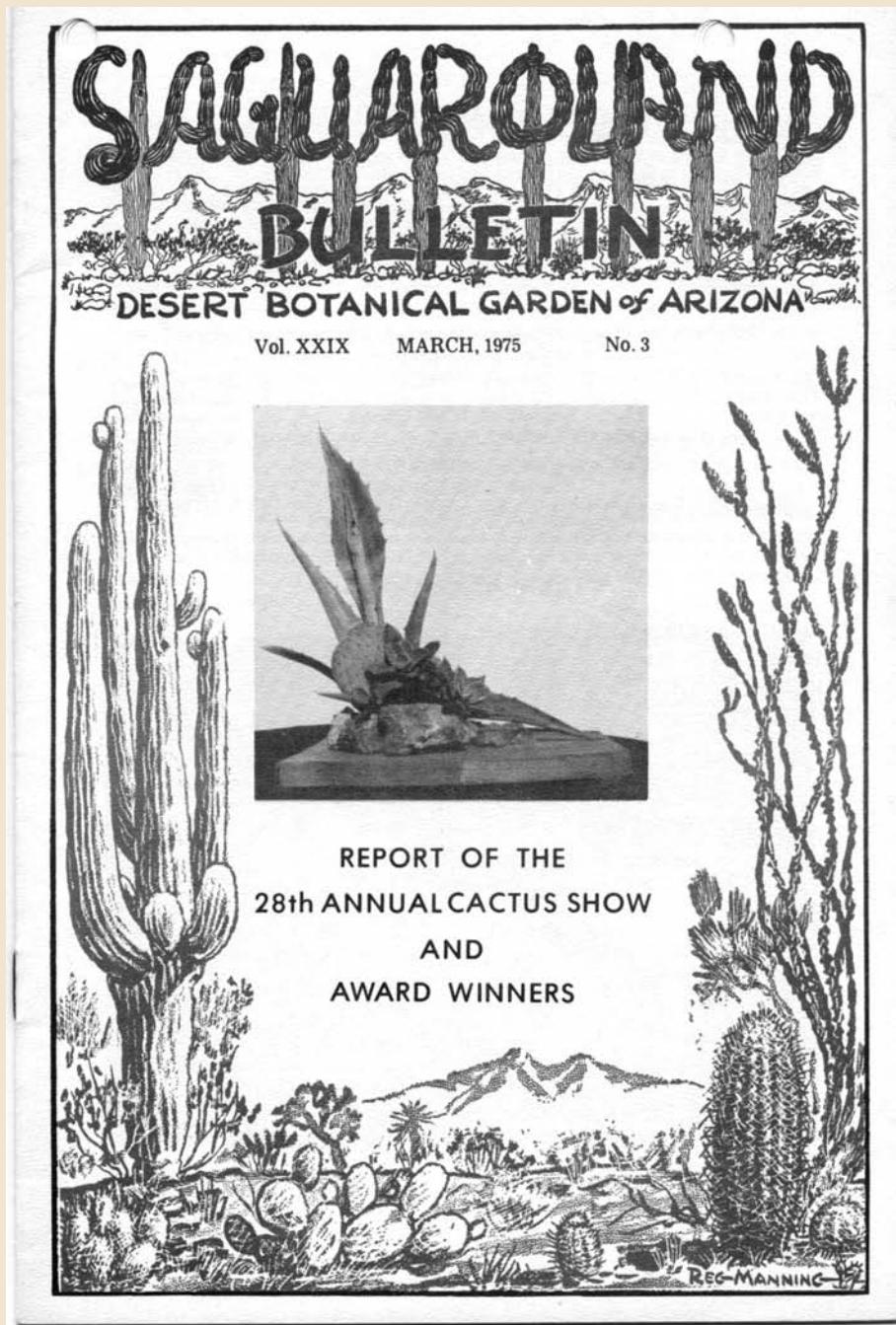
Newsletter: Charles said that he would try to get the newsletter started and that he would continue to edit it until it is established.

Smithsonian Resolution: Kent reported that the national CSSA Board and many local ones have passed resolutions supporting the Smithsonian one, "Endangered and Threatened

Species of the United States." Charles asked Kent to author a resolution for our Society.

August 31, 1975 General Meeting

Smithsonian Resolution: Kent Newland discussed the Smithsonian resolution on endangered and threatened plants. Lyman Benson wrote the Cactaceae section. Some Arizona plants were mentioned: a Mammillaria and a Ferocactus. The national CSSA Board is urging support of the Smithsonian recommendations, as they want immediate action instead of waiting five years for the politicians and Department of Interior to protect the vanishing species.



Plant Sale at Meeting: We had a lot of fun with the plant sale. The bidding was noisy and exciting. Thanks to everyone, the sale was a financial success. The gross was \$191.75, the net was \$115.75.

September 28, 1975 Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, Volume 1 #1

Newsletter: The first issue of four pages contained eleven articles of varying lengths and 4 line drawings on the left side of the first page.

September 28, 1975 Board Meeting

Speaker Reimbursement: It was recommended that we reimburse Jim Robbins for the gasoline used for his roundtrip between Sierra Vista and Phoenix since he was the speaker at our August meeting.

September 28, 1975 General Meeting

CACSS Newsletter: The newsletter, put together by Charles Merbs, was handed out before the meeting. It was full of interesting articles written by our members, has an impressive heading and attractive drawings of potted succulents. Charles promised to edit two issues, then plans to use his chair's prerogative to assign someone else to carry on. We are proud of the *Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter, Volume 1, Number 1*. Newsletter: Charles suggested two contests: one to find a clever name for the newsletter and another to design a logo for our Society.

Smithsonian Resolution: Kent Newland read the CACSS resolution supporting the Smithsonian recommendations for preserving endangered and threatened plants. There was a lively discussion between those believing in national control and those opting for state regulation. It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. The motion carried. Those in favor signed the petition. A copy of the resolution, a list of names and addresses to which the resolution was sent are in the records.

October 26, 1975 Board Meeting

Newsletter: It was agreed to appoint judges and to award a plant as a prize for the newsletter name and logo contests. The frequency of publication was discussed and the consensus was that it should come out bi-monthly when sufficient material has been submitted.

DBG Project: All agreed that our Society should adopt an effective project at the Desert Botanical Garden, something amenable to the staff, and that we ask Mr. Earle for suggestions.

Plant Sale at Meeting: There will be a sale at the Christmas party with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the profit going to the donor and $\frac{1}{4}$ to the Society. It is hoped that the prices will be lower than at the last sale.

October 26, 1975 General Meeting

Newsletter: Margaret Caldwell praised the newsletter as a credit to the Society and for elevating it to a more academic level than just a group of buyers and collectors. Mrs. Chester was appointed coordinator of plans for the newsletter name and logo contest.

DBG: It was noted that there are now four CACSS members on the DBG Board of Directors: Alice Feller, Margaret Caldwell, Henry Triesler and William Chester. Margaret said that they hope to be a liaison between our Society and the Garden Board.

November 23, 1975 General Meeting

Field Trip: The field trip to Tucson served as the meeting.

December 28, Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter, Volume 1 #3

Propagation: "Flying Fertilizers" by Martha Passwater, p. 1.

Agave: "From Pumila to Atrovirens" by Kent C. Newland, p. 1

Coryphantha: "The Coryphantha Trail in Mexico" by Barcia W. Bremer, p. 1-2.

Mesembryanthemaceae: "Mesembryanthemceae L. (Aizoaceae, Ficoidaceae) Part I, by James A. Robbins, p. 3-4.

CACSS Profiles: "Rodney G. Engard" by C. F. Merbs, p. 5.

December 28, 1975 Board Meeting

Treasury: Balance on hand as of December 29: \$282.56.

Newsletter: Charles Merbs had planned to bring newsletter number two to the December meeting, but his office duplicating machine ground up the script to pulp. Copies will be mailed to members as soon as the machine is repaired.

DBG Project: Mr. Earle has selected a plot of ground for our project garden. Bob Moulis will head the project committee.

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Henry reminded us that the Society would sponsor a banquet at the 1977 CSSA Convention in Tucson. We will be responsible for table decorations and favors. The Board agreed that members should contribute plants in four-inch pots, planting them soon so that they will be of good size by convention time.

December 28, 1975 General Meeting

DBG Cactus Show: With the announcements out about the 29th Annual Cactus and Succulent Show, members were invited to enter plants and urged to help before and during the show.

Plant Sale at Meeting: Charles Merbs explained the procedure for the plant sale: each member will have a number, when that number is called a plant is selected, then pay Barbara Merbs, draw a new number, repeating until the plants are gone.

Treasury: Balance on hand December 28, 1975: \$282.56.

December 29, 1975 Phoenix Gazette

Member Recognition: "Stuck on Cactus" an article with a picture of Mrs. Martha Chester who hosted the CACSS sale at her house.

January 25, 1976 Board Meeting

Dues: Some time was spent examining the proposed schedule for the payment of dues submitted by past and present treasurers. The Board adopted a plan which pro-rates

payments during the fiscal year change interval, as well as payments for all new members.

January 25, 1976 General Meeting

Newsletter: Charles Merbs explained another Newsletter fiasco. The copy machine developed a ripple and once again modern technology triumphed. Since he had agreed to edit only three issues, Charles appointed Henry Triesler as editor.

DBG Cactus Show: Rodney Engard asked for volunteers to help with the Cactus Show, especially on Friday evening.

Bylaws: Work was started on the bylaws with Article I and Section A and B of Article II passed. In an opinion vote, members decided against making the affiliate representative an appointive office, as it is nationally.

Field Trip: If the group approves, the April meeting may be a field trip to the Ajo area.

Member Recognition: Charles commended Fran Tolleson's appearance on a recent 'Gardening for Fun' television program as "very good, an excellent job".

January 28, 1976 Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter, Volume 1 #3

DBG: "The Desert Botanical Garden" by Hubert Earle, p.1

Mesembryantehemaceae: "Mesembryantehemaceae L. (Aizoaceae, Ficoidaceae Part Two: Cultivation of Some Individual Genera of the Mesembryantehemaceae: by James A. Robbins, p.2-4.

Euphorbia: "Rooting Euphorbia Leaves" by Kent C. Newland, p.4.

DBG Cactus Show: "Cactus Show Pointers" by Rodney C. Engard, p.5.

Importing Plants: "Bringing Plants into the Country" by Barcia W. Bremer, p. 5-6.

Horticulture: "Frost on the Cactus" by Kent C. Newland, p. 6-7.

DBG Cactus Show: "New Classifications and Rules for the Cactus Show" by Rodney G. Engard, p. 7-8.

February 24, 1976 Phoenix Gazette

Member Recognition: "Mrs. Tolleson Wins Top Cactus Prize" in the 29th annual Cactus and Succulent Show co-sponsored by the DBG and the Phoenix Gazette".

March 28, 1976 Board Meeting

Officers: The Board voted that the officers who will be elected in June 1976 will serve for a year and a half (through December 1977). Beginning in January, our fiscal year pattern will conform to that of CSSA.

DBG Project: Bob Moulis asked for suggestions for the DBG project, and it was decided to introduce this subject in the general meeting.

March 28, 1976 General Meeting

DBG Project: Bob Moulis, as chair of the garden project, asked members for suggestions. The group voted to work on some project that the Garden needs rather than to plant a CACSS garden.

Field Trip: On Sunday, May 9th, at 7:00 A. M. we will pool our cars, energies and gas to make a successful trip and will expect the cacti to bloom on schedule, according to Charles Merbs.

Society Logo: Mrs. Chester reported that our committee was still looking for a logo for our Society. Please submit your ideas or drawings.

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Henry Triesler spoke about the national convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Arizona to be held in Tucson, May 10-16, 1977. Frank Hennessey was appointed chairman of a committee to decide on favors for the banquet which our group is to sponsor.

April 25, 1976 Board Meeting

Bylaws: Henry Triesler agreed to present the revised bylaws at the general meeting.

DBG Project: Rodney Engard reported that Mr. Earle is pleased with our plan to help build a frost protection cover over the aloe garden.

April 25, 1976 General Meeting

Field Trip: Interested members signed up for the field trip to the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument [Ajo], May 9th.

DBG Project: Rodney Engard agreed to draw up plans for a frost protective canopy of Saran screen supported by pipe to shelter the two aloe beds next winter. Henry Triesler volunteered to help him with the financial estimates. John Hopkins made a motion that we donate \$100 for the project and this motion carried.

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Frank Hennessey, Chairman of the 1977 CSSA Convention dinner favor committee gave a report on his first meeting with the committee.... Their plan is to buy 400 one inch plants of three or four Arizona cactus varieties in 2 ¾ inch pots.

DBG: Charles Merbs remarked that he hoped all CACSS members were also members of the Desert Botanical Garden since we make great use of the Garden facilities and are very close to it.

Membership Brochure: Margaret Caldwell suggested that we print a brochure explaining the purpose and function of the CACSS to prospective members.

Bylaws: Henry Triesler read the proposed changes to the bylaws and Bill made a motion that they be adopted. The motion was 2nd and passed. The Bylaws were passed out to members at the June 27 meeting printed on green paper. [Copy not in the records.]

June 27, 1976 Central Arizona Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, Volume 1 #4

Propagation: "Stocks for Grafting Cacti in the Desert" by Bob Moulis, p. 1-3.

June 27, 1976 Board Meeting

Newsletter: There have been several requests for our newsletter from various organizations and individuals. The Board decided that a year's subscription should cost \$2 for "outsiders." Henry recommended exchanging newsletters with all CSSA affiliates if interested.

June 27, 1976 General Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Henry Triesler reported on the distribution of plants to various members who were to grow them for favors at the Tucson CSSA Convention banquet. Nine or ten members have already planted about 800 Lemaireocereus thurberii seedlings. Lew Steichman brought the remaining seedlings to the meeting for distribution to other members.

DBG Donation: Charles Merbs presented Mr. Earle with a check for \$100 from the Society to be used for winter protection of the aloe garden.

Treasury: Cash in bank on June 30: \$406.10.

July 1976 - December 1977

Officers and Directors: President - Henry Triesler; Vice-President - Kent Newland; Secretary - Barcia Bremer; Treasurer - Lew Bremer; Directors: Bob Moulis and Rodney Engard

CSSA Affiliate Representative: Warner Dodd

Appointments: Newsletter Editor - Charles Merbs; Assistant Editor and Circulation Manager - Genevieve Oppen; Librarian - Elaine Moulis; Membership Committee - Lew Steichman; Hospitality Committee - Dorothy O'Rourke; Plant Show Table Coordinators - Fran and Lee Tolleson.

July 25, 1976 Board Meeting

Plant of the Month: Kent Newland would like members to become more involved in programs. He suggested that members might be invited to bring favorite plants in a particular genus (for example, mammillaria) for discussion as to cultivation, propagation, etc.

Open Garden: Henry Triesler would like to institute open gardens at member's homes. When the Society was smaller, meetings were held in member's homes. Because of the growth of the organization, this is no longer possible. His suggestion was that on a Sunday (other than a regular meeting date) gardens in a particular geographical area could be open for members to visit during certain hours. Members would be able to visit and tour the gardens as they wished during the stated hours, and thus see two to three gardens in an afternoon. Henry will present this at the Society's meeting for the member's reaction.

Study Group: Kent Newland suggested the funds collected for the Study Group be given to Henry Triesler to cover the costs incurred in duplicating the materials for the sessions.

Newsletter: Chuck Merbs reported that he committee had selected the name for the CACSS Newsletter—"The Central Spine" – suggested by Hubert Earle [DBG Director]. The name was approved. Chuck suggested that the logo might follow the name, and he designed from a spine cluster, perhaps that of a native Arizona plant. Since the name has now been selected, it was decided that members might wish to provide additional logo design in line with "The Central Spine".

July 25, 1976 General Meeting

Open Garden: Henry Triesler asked for the member's reaction to the institution of open garden tours, as discussed in the Board meeting. The member's response was an overwhelming "in favor" of the proposal.

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Frank Hennessey reported that his convention committee had met the previous Friday evening. It appears that the "organ pipes" are growing well under the volunteer nurserypersons and that we shall have sufficient plant favors for all who will be attending the banquet. Discussion is now taking place on the 50 centerpieces that will be required. Some committee members had thought planters would be nice, but others felt that planters did not have the "flavor" that arrangements would have. It was suggested that opuntia pads would provide the height for arrangements, and would be easily put together.

Study Group: Henry explained the study group project that had been discussed at the Board meeting. Twelve of those present indicated they would be interested in this extra-curricular activity.

Treasury: It was announced by Henry that Lew Steichman had made a financial statement to the Board, and the Society is solvent. Lew's report of receipts, disbursements will be communicated to the membership.

August 29, 1976 Board Meeting

Membership Survey: Henry Triesler reported that a questionnaire survey would be sent to members of the CACSS with the August minutes.

General Meeting Program: Barcia Bremer reported she had received a suggestion that the report on each month's program might be included in the newsletter, rather than in the minutes. It was decided that the report on each month's program should continue to be contained in the minutes, since the minutes are sent to the national organization, and because the newsletter is to be published only three to four times each year.

Budget: Lew Steichman suggested that the CACSS should prepare a budget, particularly since there will be expenses in connection with the convention in Tucson.

August 29, 1976 General Meeting

Membership Survey: Henry Triesler reported that members would be receiving a questionnaire with these minutes, and requested that everyone fill it out. The purpose of the questionnaire is to find out why members joined, the type of programs most desired, and other matters of interest to the membership.

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Charlene Hart showed a proposed centerpiece to be used for the convention tables next May. She reported she had received assistance in this project from Harper's Nursery and the Desert Botanical Garden. However, most of the credit must go to Charlene, who with the aid of various tools, produced a beautiful centerpiece composed of opuntia pads, agave and aloe leaves, and yucca seeds.

August 31, 1975 Arizona Republic [?]

Member Recognition: "Looking for the Pot of Cactus at the End of the Rainbow." An article

on Charles Merbs and CACSS.

September 26, 1976 Board Meeting

Field Trip: Following discussion, it was decided that the November Meeting would be a trip to Tucson, providing this met with the wishes of the members of CACSS.

DBG Director: Henry Triesler reported that members of the DBG had been notified of Mr. Hubert Earle's retirement as director of the Garden, effective October 1, 1976.

Newsletter: Charles Merbs reported that he had received some suggestions with regard to the logo for The Central Spine, but that no sketches had been provided. Lew Bremer said that he would be willing to discuss the possibility of having a student from ASU (who has done botanical drawings for a number of people) provide a logo sketch, perhaps of the spine cluster of a plant with a broad central spine which would provide a distinctive touch. Charles Merbs said that Tom Caldwell had provided a suggestion for a spine cluster with a very long central spine.

Budget: Lew Bremer presented a suggested budget for the balance of the current year and for the entire year of 1977. He pointed out that of the \$12 dues, only \$4 remains with the local chapter.

September 26, 1976 General Meeting

Field Trip: Members were asked if they wished the November meeting to be a trip to Tucson, and the response was "Yes.". [Additional information was mailed to members with the minutes of the September meeting.]

Boyce Thompson Arboretum: Lew Steichman reported that the Arboretum now had a commercial nursery, and that interested people could purchase plants and trees not found in the usual plant nurseries.

Library: Elaine Moulis reported that the CACSS library was ready for operation. Cards have been prepared by Elaine, and materials in the collection may be checked out at the close of each meeting. At future meetings, Elaine will be prepared to check out materials, both before and after the meetings.

DBG Director: In introducing our speaker, Henry Triesler noted that over three years ago when he conceived the idea of starting the CACSS, he received invaluable help from Mr. W. Herbert Earle. Mr. Earle encouraged him in every way, providing him with names of people he thought would be interested in the more serious side of our hobby, and Mr. and Mrs. Earle became charter members of the Society. As Henry stated, all members are aware that Mr. Earle is retiring as director of the Desert Botanical Garden after 29 years of devoted service, and all of us owe him a great debt of gratitude, both for his work with the Garden and his assistance with CACSS.

Succulent Enthusiast: Bob Pribbenow reported that some months ago he had met a remarkable woman. She is an arthritic confined to bed, but is raising cacti and succulents. She would like very much to learn more about taxonomy, and would welcome visitors with whom she can share her hobby, and from whom she can learn about her collection.

October 31, 1976 Board Meeting

Membership Survey: Henry Triesler reported on his tabulation of the survey results. Results are reported in these minutes on a separate page. In response to a question, Henry said that the function of the Membership Committee was to provide an application form for perspective members, to encourage people to join the CACSS, etc. Rodney Engard reported that the DBG received inquiries from persons visiting the Garden, and that they would like to have such an application form available.

October 31, 1976 General Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Warner Dodd has received some preliminary information.

DBG Cactus Show: Henry Triesler announced there would be an organizational meeting on November 10, 1976 at 7 p.m. in the library of the Desert Botanical Garden to make preliminary plans for the annual show.

November 1976 Newspaper Articles

Cactus Theft: Articles in three California newspapers have been published concerning California native cactus being dug up and sold in Arizona.

November 21, 1976

Field Trip: A lunch stop was made at the new Tucson Botanical Garden. An informal meeting of the CSSA was called to order by President Henry Triesler at 1:30 in the patio of the Tucson Botanical Garden. Members for the most part stood in a circle, or sat on "soft" rocks. Pockets were considerably lighter on the return to Phoenix. In addition to the plants brought "on Board" the bus in the overhead racks, it was necessary to open both sides of the bus in order for all the purchases to be stored for there to individual homes in the Valley of the Sun. Our trip had been the third for this particular bus driver to Tucson in the space of one week. He was heard to remark at the end of our trip, that he had enjoyed the day – this trip had been nice, and different – the other two trips had been made with normal people! [32 members took the trip]

Study Group: We have talked of having study groups since first organizing the CACSS, and now they will take place. Kent Newland will conduct the first sessions, covering identification of cactus genera and species. Each class will last for two hours, on a monthly basis for four or five months. The first study session will be held in the Desert Botanical Garden's Webster Auditorium at 2 p.m. on January 9, 1977. Thirty-four signed up for the sessions.

DBG Cactus Show: Henry Triesler reported on some changes in the rules for the DBG's February show. No plant will be accepted for the show on Saturday except from people living one hundred miles (or more) from the DBG. A more controversial change, which will be tried for this year and then reviewed, is that of allowing plants that had won a first place in the 1976 show to be shown again in the 1977 show.

December 19, 1976 The Central Spine Volume 2, Number 1.

DBG Director: "Herbert Earle Retires" (an interview) by Dottie O'Rourke, p. 1-2

Newsletter: This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society to sport its new name, *The Central Spine*. The Society has Herbert Earle to thank for coming up with this exciting new name.

Agaves: "Growing Agaves From Seeds" by Charles F. Merbs, p. 2-3.

Member Recognition: "C.A.C.S.S. Profiles – Whitman Evans" by C. F. Merbs p. 3-4.

Cats: "Cats and Cacti" by Genevieve Oppen, p. 4.

December 19, 1976 Board Meeting

Membership Brochure: Lew Steichman suggested again that a membership application form [brochure] be prepared for people interested in joining the CACSS. Henry Triesler said he would meet with the Membership Committee chair, and that a form would be prepared by the January meeting.

Open Garden: The first open garden will be on Sunday, January 16, 1977, at the home of Phil and Frank Hennessey.

December 19, 1976 Holiday Party

Field Trip: Henry Triesler reported that the November bus trip to Tucson was a rousing success. Many plants were purchased at Tanque Verde Greenhouse, and they reciprocated by providing three door prizes of plants to members. Henry recently received a letter from Louis Fedora. It appears that members purchased \$330 worth of plants at his place, and he was so pleased that he sent a check to the Society for \$30 to be applied in any way the Society wished. It appears that Mr. Fedora was much impressed by the group who visited him, and felt they were "terrific." The check might have been larger if members had been allowed to purchase all they desired! It takes much effort to get Mr. Fedora to part with his beloved plants.

Treasury: Cash in the bank on December 30, 1976: \$539.52.

January 1977 Letter from Rodney Engard to Exhibitors

DBG Cactus Show: Information for exhibitors in the 30th annual show.

January 1977

Study Group: Kent Newland prepared a handout for Study Group # 1. "A Taxonomic and Generic Recognition Survey of the Cactaceae or Everything You Have Always Wanted to Know About the Cactus Family But Were Afraid to Ask," 86 pages. Thirty-four members attended the class.

January 30, 1977 Board Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Lew Steichman purchased the pots that will be used for the favors at the convention in May. He was able to purchase 1,000 for \$55 or 5 1/2 cents each. The Board agreed that Lew should be reimbursed for the \$55. It was further agreed that the 500 pots not needed for the favors would be made available to the members of the CACSS for 6 cents each.

Dues: With the increase in the subscription price for the CSSA Journal that became

effective January 1, 1977, the subject of CACSS' dues was discussed. It was agreed that the Board would recommend to the membership, in accordance with the Bylaws, that dues be increased to \$14.50 for the active member, and remain at \$1 for an associate member residing in the same household, who is a close family member.

January 30 1977 General Meeting

Dues: The Board's recommendation that the dues be increased to \$14 was presented to the membership. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

DBG Cactus Show: Henry Triesler led a short discussion on the Garden's annual show to be held in February in Webster Auditorium. Several members of the CACSS were members of a committee that decided on some rule changes for this year's show. The show committee has recommended that better show ribbons be given. The Phoenix Gazette will give a sweepstakes prize to one person and two other sweepstakes awards at a lower level: one for cacti and one for succulents. An effort is being made to obtain more publicity for the show.

Study Group: Margaret Caldwell complimented Kent Newland on his presentation to the study group, which represented an enormous amount of work and time on his part. It was a well balanced program, and others attending the study session joined in expressing their appreciation to Kent. While Kent would like more "discussion", it appeared that those attending liked the lecture format of the first meeting.

March 27 1977 Board Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Frank Hennessey suggested that the CACSS secure centerpieces for the banquet to be sponsored by our chapter at the 17th bi-annual CSSA convention to be held in Tucson on Wednesday, May 18, 1977. Mrs. Diane Bach has agreed that she would make such centerpieces. The Board voted to set aside the sum of \$250 to cover the cost of these centerpieces, subject to approval of the membership at its meeting.

March 27 1977 General Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: The suggestion that \$250 be appropriated from the treasury to purchase centerpieces for the banquet to be sponsored by the CACSS on May 18, 1977 in Tucson was approved by the membership.

April 24 1977 Board Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Henry Triesler reported that around 400 people are expected to attend the convention in Tucson. Frank Hennessey reported that his committee had distributed 1,084 organ pipe cacti for tender, loving care as individual favors at the banquet to be sponsored by CACSS, and the latest count of acceptable plants for this purpose was 487.

May 29 1977 The Central Spine, Volume 2, Number 2

Society History: "A Birthday Celebration" by Genevieve Oppen, p. 1-3'

Propagation: "On the Watering of Cacti" by Lewis Steichman, p.4.

May 29, 1977 Board Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: Cost of the centerpieces exceeded the amount appropriated by \$375. The membership will be asked to approve payment to Tanque Verde Greenhouse for the additional amount.

May 29, 1977 General Meeting

CSSA National Convention in Tucson: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the treasurer should reimburse Tanque Verde Greenhouse \$375 for the cost of the centerpieces.

Study Groups: There was discussion as to whether members within the Society would be interested in forming small study groups outside regular meetings on specific genera or subjects of interest. It was agreed to present this as a suggestion to the members to see if there is sufficient interest among them to proceed with appointing a coordinator.

Library: Bob Moulis was appointed as the first librarian. All the appointments were approved.

June 26, 1977 Board Meeting

DBG Donation: Frank Hennessey reported that the Convention Committee would like to recommend that the excess organ pipe cacti be donated to the DBG. This was approved by the Board.

Membership Brochure: Barcia asked if anyone knew the status of the membership application, and Warner reported that Henry told him the brochure was being designed. Lew Bremer said that if a logo were holding up the preparation of the form, he would be willing to ask Wendy Hodgson to prepare a "central spine" drawing from a Ferocactus.

Membership: We now have 53 members and 21 associate members.

July 31, 1977 Board Meeting

Membership Brochure: Henry reported that the membership form had been completed with the exception of artwork. He suggested that Lew proceed with his offer to have Wendy Hodgson prepare a "central spine" drawing.

July 31, 1977 General Meeting

CSSA National Show: Joan Skirvin provided some remarks on their impression of the show in Arcadia, California. Stan said, "Except in the area of advanced and professional, we are better here, and should feel pretty damned proud of our show."

August 28, 1977 Board Meeting

Field Trip: It was decided that the October meeting would be a field trip to the Southwest Arboretum [BTA]

Plant Sale at Meeting: Since the CACSS has not had a money-raising project for some time, Chuck Merbs suggested that members might bring surplus plants to a meeting in the near future for sale to other members.

Membership Brochure: Henry reported that the membership brochure has been completed, and that we would not wait for a logo to be selected before having it printed.

Newsletter: Lew Bremer presented a drawing that Tom Caldwell had prepared as a logo for The Central Spine. The drawing represented the central spine of Ferocactus nobilis, which has a flattened central spine. Henry said that Christina Delinsky was also preparing a drawing for consideration. Chuck Merbs said that he had prepared a number of drawings of various Arizona cactus plant's central spines. It was decided that the various drawings would be presented to members at the September meeting, and that members would vote on the selection of the logo at the October meeting.

Maricopa County Extension Service: Henry reported that the Extension Service would hold its annual event at Encanto Park on September 24-25. The CACSS will have shaded space for members to show plants and discuss them with interested people.

Treasury: Lew Bremer reported that the current balance of the CACSS is \$191.10. The check from the national convention, to cover our participation in that event, has not been received. Warner reported that disbursements from the convention are being held up because they have not straightened out the theft of plants that occurred.

October 2, 1977 Board Meeting (*Rescheduled September 8th meeting*)

Membership Brochure: Henry Triesler provided Kent Newland with a supply of the newly prepared applications for the CACSS.

Newsletter: It was decided to send the latest issue of The Central Spine to the other affiliate societies, together with a form letter asking which societies had newsletters, and whether or not they would like to exchange with the CACSS. The Board agreed to pay for the costs of reproduction and postage for this experimental mailing.

Plant Sale at Meeting: Chuck Merbs recommended that the CACSS hold two plant sales a year. As pointed out by Kent Newland, after paying the national dues, there is very little money left for Society activities. It had been reported that the CACSS will receive approximately \$300 for its participation in the national convention last May, but the check has not been received. It was suggested that the CACSS appoint a permanent committee to handle such plant sales. The committee could contact members to see who would be willing to propagate plants for the sales. The Board decided there would be a plant sale at the December meeting with 75% of the proceeds going to the members bringing the plants and 25% going to the CACSS. It was felt that the 75% portion going to the member would help reimburse the member for the soil mixture used, the pot, and the TLC given to the plant by its previous owner. Of course, donated plants with all proceeds going to the CACSS will be gratefully received.

October 2, 1977 General Meeting (*Rescheduled September 8th meeting*)

Plant Sale at Meeting: There was discussion at the Board meeting about having regularly scheduled plant sales in order to augment the treasury. Members willing to serve on this committee are asked to contact one of the Board members.

Alcohol: Kent reported that the Arboretum is now cooperating with the plant breeder at

the University of Arizona in the development of big-padded opuntia, which is to be grown, harvested, and used for the making of alcohol. This is a pilot program with the Energy Branch of the U of A. If anyone has super big opuntia pads--anything with pads larger than O. robusta--Kent would like to have them. Taxon in such pads is not required.

Newsletter: Chuck Merbs showed transparencies of the logo sketches that have been submitted for The Central Spine. It was pointed out that the various sketches have been done with differing artistic skill. However, members were reminded that it is the overall effect that we are to look for. Henry has arranged for Wendy Hodgson, a professional botanical artist, to produce the final logo. Be prepared to vote on the logo in October.

November 18, 1977 General Meeting & Field Trip

Field Trip: A field trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum was held as well as the meeting.

December 18, 1977 Social and Meeting

CSSA National Convention: According to Henry Triesler, the CACSS has received a check from the Tucson club for \$320. This was in recognition of the CACSS's participation in convention activities. Henry thanked Warner Dodd for his efforts in facilitating the receipt of the check.

January - December 1978

Officers and Directors: President - Kent Newland; Vice-President and Program Chair - Frank Hennessey; Secretary - Joan Skirvin; Treasurer; Directors: Fran Tolleson and John Graham

CSSA Affiliate Representative: Genevieve Oppen [*January – August*], Robert Moulis [*September – December*]

Appointments: Newsletter Editor - Charles Merbs; Librarian - Chris Dezelsky; Hospitality - Emmy LaTempa, Plant Sale/Door Prizes - Warner Dodd; Show and Tell Plant Table - Kathy Corbett; and Conservation - Kent Newland.

January 22, 1978 General Meeting

Treasury: Cash balance on December 31, 1977: \$708.79.

Cactomaniacs: Henry Triesler announced that a questionnaire would be mailed to 600 members of the Desert Botanical Garden regarding the Cactomaniacs. Henry asks that we respond to this questionnaire regarding our interest in the Cactomaniacs, a social group that meets at the Garden. Due to declining membership, it is feared this group may be disbanded.

February 26, 1978 Board Meeting

Door Prizes and Plants for Speakers: A motion was made and seconded that Warner Dodd be authorized to purchase door prizes for the Society meetings at a cost averaging \$10 per meeting.

February 26, 1978 General Meeting

Propagation: Phil Hennessey discussed agricultural pumice. The Hennessey's had written

to American Pumice Products, Inc. after reading an article in the November-December 1977 issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal. A local supplier is Greenworld at a cost of \$32.50 per yard. This pumice is from the California desert and has a neutral pH.

Plant Sale At Meetings: Members are encouraged to bring plants for sale. Remember 25% to the Society Treasury and 75% to the grower.

March 15, 1978 Phoenix Gazette

DBG Cactus Show: "Essence of Spring Pervades Cactus Show", p. 1.

Essence Of Spring Pervades Cactus Show

The sweet, clean fragrance of springtime abounds these sunny days at the Desert Botanical Garden in Papago Park.

Bright wildflowers beckon thousands of visitors daily to this 150-acre preserve encompassing the largest collection of desert plants and cactus in the Western Hemisphere.

But the big attraction this week is the 31st annual Cactus Show — a fascinating panorama of hundreds upon hundreds of cacti, aloes and succulents—the largest exhibition of its kind in all America.

In Webster Auditorium you'll see rare and fanciful exhibits from cute, liltful exhibits from cute little others big as barrels. Most are spiny, but some are completely spineless; others are covered with soft, white down resem-

bling old folks. And names such as bunny ears, pin cushions, bishop's caps and prickly pear are most appropriate.

Outdoors you'll see the stately saguaros, a picturesque stand of organ-pipe, the largest of its kind outside the Organ Pipe National Monument along the Mexican border.

Vying for attention, too, are ocotillos, shortly to flaunt their crimson torches aloft; agaves, prickly cholla, beaver tails, mesquite, ironwood, flowering acacias, and countless others — all native to the arid lands of this earth of ours.

Already more than 5,000 persons have strolled through the gardens since Sunday — when inclement weather cut attendance to a trickle.

The garden is open from 9 a.m. to sundown daily. It may be reached via McDowell Road or Van Buren Street, 6400 east. Ample parking is available. Admission fee to the show is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children.

If one is interested in acquiring any cactuses or succulents there is a special shop set up for this purpose. Most popular offerings are pincushions, old man of the desert and exotic aloes. All have been raised from seed or propagated from roots or cuttings. They are modestly priced, and all proceeds are em-

ployed to improve and maintain the garden, which is operated as a non-profit educational organization.

Sweepstakes awards winners in the annual show which attracted more than 500 entries are: Cactus section, Fran Tolleson, Phoenix; Succulents, Kathy McCombs, Phoenix; Arrangements, Joan Gossman, Phoenix; and Phoenix Gazette award (most blue ribbons in show) Fran Tolleson.

Other top awards include: Best Cactus, Judi Gaston, Tucson; Most Succulents, Kathy McCombs; Best Seedling, Ernest Gunnell, Phoenix;

Best Euphorbia, Fran Tolleson; Best Caudiciform, Ernest Gunnell; Best Planter, Martha Passwater, Phoenix; Best Cactus Collection, Joan Skirvin, Scottsdale; Best Succulent Collection, Katry Corbett, Phoenix; Best Mammillaria (pincushion), Alan Blackburn, Tucson; Best Crested Cactus, Dan Birt, Tucson; Best Large Arrangement, Joan Smith, Phoenix; and Best Small Arrangement, Joan Gossman.

Special Awards, Richard Wiedhopf, Tucson; Genevieve Oppen, Phoenix, and Richard F. Gibbons, Phoenix.

The Phoenix Gazette

Thursday, March 16, 1978

Section C

Pages 1 to 12

April 19, 1978 Paradise Valley News

Member Recognition: "Cacti Expert" Picture of Joan Skirvin sitting among the 400 plants in her home.

April 30 1978 Meeting & Spring Picnic

Field Trip: A spring picnic at Lost Dutchman State Park . Henry Triesler has the cactus design fabric for the shirts which some of us are interested in. Ann Fellers will sew the shirts for those desiring. If you said you wanted a shirt made or the fabric to make your own, please call Henry Triesler or Ann.

May 29, 1978 Board Meeting

DBG Superintendent: Rodney Engard announced informally that it is his personal preference to return to the University to further his career as a botanist. He would be resigning as director of the Desert Botanical Garden in January 1979.



Photos by Frosty Taylor

Cacti expert

Joan Skirin of Paradise Valley sits among the 400 desert plants in her home. She won 11 ribbons with 16 entries in a recent Cactus Show at Desert Botanical Gardens. Last year

she won four ribbons with five entries. Each of the 400 plants is labeled and bears flowers during the year. She moved to the area from Ohio in 1969. She also paints for a hobby.

Wednesday April 19, 1978 | Paradise Valley News

May 29, 1978 General Meeting

Member Recognition: Congratulations to Lewis Bremer on the publication of his *Coryphantha* species article in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*.

June 25, 1978 General Meeting

Valley National Bank Exhibit: Henry Triesler announced that the Society has been invited to participate in an exhibition at the Valley National Bank Center Atrium, November 13 - 17, 1978, along with the Bonsai Society. Kent Newland and John Graham have volunteered to

head a committee for this event.

Equipment: Stan Skirvin has made inquiries and reported to the Board that a slide projector suitable for the Society's needs would cost \$200 - \$250. A motion was made at the meeting and passed to purchase a slide projector.

July 30, 1978 General Meeting

Valley National Bank Exhibit: John Graham contacted Vivian Case of the VNB for further details of this show and found the Bank Center extremely interested in having a good exhibition.

Plant of the Month: A handout on Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon and Sulcorebutia was provided to those attending the meeting.

September 24, 1978 General Meeting

Valley National Bank Exhibit: Emmy LaTempa and Chris Dezelsky selected the theme, "Exotic Cacti and Other Succulents Around the World" for the November exhibition. Chris designed the layout which will be plants displayed on pedestals in front of maps of the continents of their origins. It is estimated that there will be needed 50 large and 100 medium to small size plants. Fran Tolleson and Henry Triesler will try to choose the plants from those offered for the exhibition. However, if you have something that looks very nice at just that time, please bring it.

October 29, 1978 General Meeting

Valley National Bank Exhibit: From what Stan and I [Stan & Joan Skirvin] could see when we took our plants in on Sunday, the effort had brought forth a great exhibition of beautiful specimen plants in an exceptionally informative and attractive arrangement. We hope our members were able to see this show.

November 26, 1978 General Meeting

Valley National Bank Exhibit: Kent Newland described the exhibition at the VNB Center as a terrific job showing cactus as works of art. Because of the show, we have four new members.

Dues: Must be paid in December and sent to the CASS of America by the end of December or there is a \$2.50 penalty. Dues are \$14.50.

December 17, 1978 General (Holiday) Meeting

Membership: According to Margaret Caldwell, our membership as of January 1979 is 44 active and 18 associate members.

January - December 1979

Officers and Directors: President - Kent Newland; Vice-President - Frank Hennessey; Secretary - Emmy La Tempa; Treasurer - Martha Passwater; Directors: Fran Tolleson, and John Graham

CSSA Affiliate Representatie: Robert Moulis.

Appointments: Newsletter Editor - Charles Merbs [for January issue] and Sylvia Forbes [for the remainder of the year]; Librarian - Christina Dezelsky; Hospitality Chairman - Anne Fellers.

January 7, 1979 The Central Spine, Volume 2, Number

Society Logo: "Society Logo" by Charles F. Merbs, p. 1.

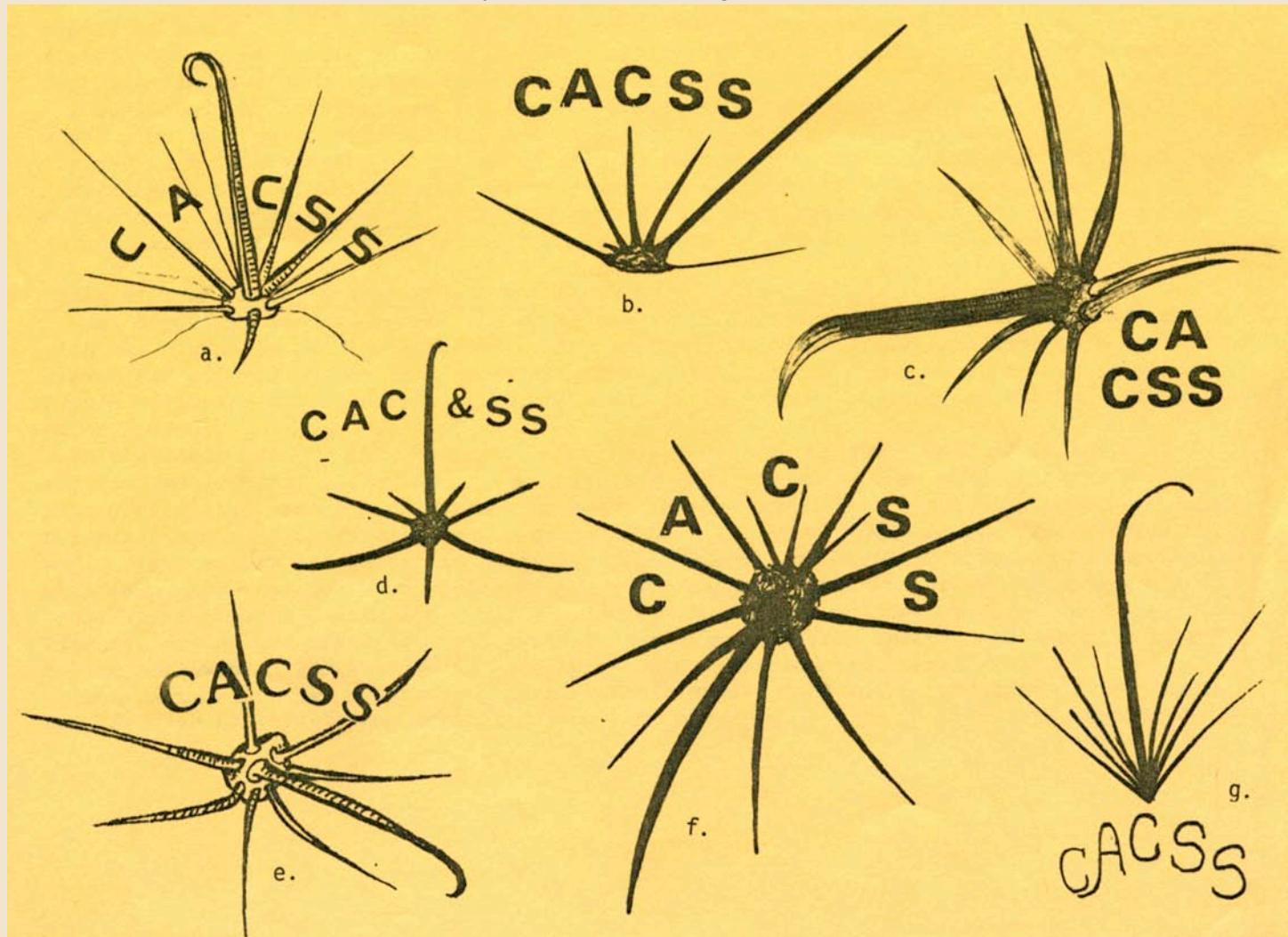
DBG: "Early History of the Desert Botanical Garden" by W. Hubert Earle, p. 2-5.

Founding Member: "CACSS Member Profile: Henry C. Treisler Jr., " by C. F. Merbs, p 5.

Note: 1979 minutes for the Board and general meetings were often incorporated into the newsletter. The newsletters were published in a pamphlet format, folded in half and stapled. A new feature of the newsletter was the "The Cactophile File" column by Calliandra. "The purpose of this column will be to report and comment on my visits to various nurseries in the Valley that sell cacti and other succulents to the public, and to impart other information gathered from these visits that may be of interest to cacti and succulent enthusiasts" The January minutes were in the February newsletter, etc.

January 21, 1979 Board Meeting

Membership Brochure: The redesigning of the membership application was discussed. It was decided to let the secretary and treasurer design a new form.



January 21, 1979 General Meeting

Treasury: Cash in the bank on January 21, 1979: \$595.85.

Society Logo: The next order of business was to choose a logo, at long last!. The winner at long last, drawn by Tom Caldwell, now graces the front page of our newsletter.

DBG Cactus and Succulent Show: A new edition of the show rules was published.

February 1979 The Central Spine [new logo in the masthead]

CSSA Code of Conduct: "C.S.S.A. Code of Conduct for the Conservation of Succulent Plants adopted January 20, 1979."

Ceropegiae: "Ceropegiae and Ceropedia dichotoma" by unknown author.

E. R. A.: "E. R. A. in Cacti" by Kent Newland with saguaro cartoon.

March 25, 1979 General Meeting and Picnic

Field Trip: The general meeting was held at Picacho Peak State Park. The Board did not meet this month.

April 1979 The Central Spine

Silent Auction: Something new is on the agenda for our June meeting. Instead of our regular plant sale, we will have a silent auction of plants. We are asking everyone to donate at least one plant to the auction. The plant or plants you bring can be of any type—houseplants, landscape plants, or, of course, cacti or succulents. If you decide to bring cuttings or offshoots, please get them rooting now, so that all plants will be rooted by the latter part of June. All proceeds of the silent auction will go to CACSS, instead of the usual split between CACSS and the donor.

Soil Medium: "Our Latest Potting Mix" by Frank and Phil Hennessey.

Poem: "Love That Cactus" by A. Glochid.

April 29, 1979 Board Meeting

Nametags: Frank Hennessey suggested that we reinstate the use of nametags at meetings. Emmy La Tempa volunteered to look into the price of nametags.

May 27, 1979 Board Meeting

Silent Auction: The June 24 meeting was designated as the date for the silent auction, with Emmy La Tempa as chair, assisted by Warner Dodd and any other members that Emmy may need.

Men's Garden Club Show at Metrocenter: The Board agreed to participate in the Men's Garden Club Show at Metrocenter on Nov. 10 - 11. Frank Hennessey was appointed as chair, to decide what type of participation it would be. He will ask other members to help as needed.

July 29, 1979 Board Meeting

Mini Botany Course: The Board discussed the possibility of having a basic lesson in botany at each meeting, so that members who do not know the parts and functions of the

basic parts of plants may learn them. It was agreed that this should be done, and will start shortly as part of the meeting.

July 29, 1979 General Meeting

Soil Medium: A number of members discussed using pumice in their plant mix and seed growing medium with results from good to fabulous. (See the related article in the Cactus and Succulent Journal, November - December 1977.)

DBG Superintendent: Henry Triesler announced to the members that Rodney Engard was leaving the DBG as director on August 15, 1979 to return to school to prepare for his masters and doctorate. A new director, Dr. Charles Huckins from the St. Louis Botanical Garden has been selected

August 26, 1979 General Meeting

Mini Botany Course: Kent Newland explained the vegetative structures of cacti. "Terms Related to the Morphology of the Cactus Family,"

September 1979 The Central Spine

Cactus Theft: "Plants Threatened: Germans Stop Cactus Caper" [Article from a un-named newspaper]

September 23, 1979 Board Meeting

Plant Purchase: Kent Newland suggested that we allot more money for the purchase of plants at the Huntington Botanical Garden plant sale. The Board agreed to increase the amount to \$100.

DBG Director: Henry Triesler introduced Dr. Charles Huckins, the new director of the DBG, to the Society. Dr. Huckins said in his previous position at the Missouri Botanical Garden, that the plant society did the real work for the show (not the staff as is done here). [The secretary added in the minutes, "Look out, CACSS!"]

September 23, 1979 General Meeting

DBG Donation: Henry Triesler stated, that in light of the fact that CACSS has been meeting at the DBG free of charge, and, were we meeting in other place we would surely pay for use of the facilities, that the Society make some type of donation to the Garden. He suggested purchasing benches to be placed along the paths as a possibility. Emmy La Tempa suggested that we get a list of items that the Garden needs and work from there. It was suggested that we settle on a dollar amount and then choose from the possibilities in that price range. The matter will be pursued at the next meeting.

CSSA Affiliate Organizations: Emmy La Tempa recommended that we renew correspondence with other cactus and succulent organizations in the southwest. Currently, we correspond only with the Tucson group.

October 27, 1979 Field Trip and General Meeting to Tucson

Field Trip: The morning was spent at Dan Bach's and Arid Lands. We saw and bought many nice things. We then went to Randolph Park for lunch and a meeting.

Dues: Martha Passwater brought up the subject of dues for 1980. Since the CSSA raised the dues back in March, we must raise ours for 1980. She suggested \$16.40 for regular members and \$2.50 for associate members. It was so moved, seconded and passed.

November 18, 1979 Board Meeting

DBG Cactus Show: The Cactus and Succulent Show was discussed. La Tempa suggested a more organized effort be made by the Society in helping the Garden in preparation and execution of the show. She was appointed by Newland to be a liaison person with the Garden for that purpose.

November 18, 1979 General Meeting

DBG Luminaria: Emmy La Tampa stated the Garden's second annual Luminaria Night will be held Tuesday, December 18, 7-9 p.m. The Garden needs volunteers in a variety of capacities for the event, including cookie baking.

Mini Botany Course: Kent Newland gave a mini course in botany, "Window Leaved Succulents."

1979 The Central Spine Christmas Issue

Newsletter: The new logo, a central spine, was featured with a Christmas ornament hanging from the main spine in the masthead.

Dues: Dues increased from \$16.50 to \$19.50 effective January 1, 1980.

Cactus Pests: "Slugs" by Lew Steichman. Author's note: No better control is known here in the Valley of the Sun and it is the best use can of beer that I know of.

Euphorbias: "Useful Euphorbias" by unknown author.

Addenda: A stapled packet was found in the records. The packet had no date or author or for what purpose it was created. In the packet there were separate short articles with titles: "The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society", "Boyce Thompson Arboretum", "Cacti and Other Succulents of the World", "Southwestern United States", "Mexico", "South America", "Africa". The assumption is made that this information was prepared by Kent Newland for one of the study group sessions that he taught.