

# Editorial

Editing and publishing *Desert Plants* has been chosen by the College of Agriculture of the University of Arizona as an appropriate activity for it to engage in under the tripartite program at the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum. It is an outgrowth of an idea first suggested by Dr. R. P. Upchurch, head of the Department of Plant Sciences, and later developed during a series of work-sessions sponsored by the Environmental Horticulture Group on the University campus at Tucson.

Without support from the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, Inc., and without cooperation from the Arizona State Parks Board, it would have been difficult for the University to initiate this venture because of inadequate funding and manpower. As the management of the public aspects of the Arboretum passes from the University to the Parks Board, the University has the opportunity to channel its efforts more directly to academic and research activities at the Arboretum.

*Desert Plants* is intended to be a semi-technical journal of interest to layman and professional alike. It is hoped that it will faithfully chronicle the academic and research activities at the Arboretum while serving as an effective medium of information exchange among individuals and institutions with an interest in similar activities. It is anticipated that a truly international exchange will eventually

develop through this journal, since information generated at one desert station may be applicable at another. Articles are solicited regardless of geographic region, the criterion for acceptance being that they deal effectively and usefully with some aspect of desert plants. Articles may deal with any phase of arid land plant science—horticulture, landscape architecture, taxonomy, morphology, ecology, physiology, weed-science, phytogeography and re-vegetation. Also included will be contributions to history of plant science in desert regions and biographies of desert plant scientists.

While the journal is one of the first tangible products to come from the University's new program at the Arboretum, it is not the only new area of Arboretum commitment for the University, nor is it the greatest. Other areas of active involvement are the isolation of plant growth regulators from native plants, the development of a computerized information-retrieval system for cultivated desert plants, an international seed-exchange program, the development of a master research collection of desert plants, the screening and testing of desert landscaping plants, studies of endangered species, as well as taxonomy and distribution of the ornamental genus *Penstemon*. With this wide range of inter-related activities, the years ahead promise to be both challenging and productive.