collectors that are the most distressing. In this respect, when we look at ourselves, we find much to criticize. We dug out plants for our private collection for many years, certainly in small numbers, but nonetheless contributing to the depletion of plant populations. We once showed rare plant sites in Mexico to a U.S. collector. This friend collected small quantities of plants and later smuggled them across the border (quite independently of us). He was later apprehended and we were then accused by the U.S. government as being conspirators to an act of smuggling. That turned our world upside down! While private collecting is long behind us (and our collection donated to a Mexican botanical garden), we can understand the enthusiasm that leads collectors into the field without proper permission. Now, however, we condemn the practice. To quote David Hunt again, referring to our past conduct and upon the occasion of one of our complaints about illegal collecting, “sometimes the poacher makes the best gamekeeper.” Jerry Barad, Past President of CSSA, has observed that “The ’90’s are different”, this in regard to his visiting Madagascar without collecting. We believe it is quite true—the ’90’s are indeed different and the practice of illegally collecting “only a few” plants from their native habitats should no longer be acceptable to anyone. We have been pleased to have a number of European cactophiles visit us in recent years; with many days spent studying plants in habitat, they did no collecting.

There is an underlying arrogance in the many arguments put forth by collectors for bypassing the laws about collecting wild plants in Mexico. The essence of the rationale is that Mexico is a third-world country, underdeveloped and unrealistic in its laws. One of our correspondents from abroad complained of the wanton destruction of plants permitted in Mexico. He noted the new highways, the huge dams, expanded agriculture and other expansion concomitant to a burgeoning economy, all allowed to proceed without regard to the native flora. At the same time he bemoaned the expense and the support of scientific institution which is now required to obtain a legal collecting permit in Mexico. Summed up, these arguments say that if one disagrees with the laws of a country, claiming them to be illogical or even inconsistent, one then has the right to ignore them, particularly in the case of a third-world country. In fact, the Mexican government is making progress in overhauling the laws related to the collecting of native plants, in requiring ecological studies prior to new land-uses and in arranging for threatened flora to be rescued ahead of the plow, the bulldozer or the rising waters.

Poor *Mammillaria schwarzii*, once so safe in a rocky retreat, what have we done to you?

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**COMPRAR PARA CONSERVAR**

CANTE, A.C. is pleased to announce the finalizing of the purchase of 5 hectares (12.5 acres) near Pozos, Guanajuato, which encompasses the majority of the known distribution of *Mammillaria herrerae* var. *albiflora* as well as other rare and uncommon cacti, such as *Ancistrocactus crassihamatus* and *Mam. perbella*. The terrain was up for sale for agricultural or mining purposes, but now comes under the direct protection of our botanic garden, El Charco del Ingenio. We have initiated populational and ecological studies at this site. This purchase was made possible largely through contributions by members of this society. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your support and invite additional tax-deductible contributions to this same good cause. Contributions should be made in the form of checks in dollars to the San Miguel Educational Foundation, % CANTE, A.C., Mesones 71, San Miguel de Allende 37700, Gto., México.

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**JOYCE TATE**

**1909–1994**

Joyce Lenore Tate, grand lady of the cactus and succulent world, died January 30, 1994, of a stroke at Loma Linda [California] Community Hospital. She was 84. Joyce was born in Dallas, Texas, September 28, 1909, and lived in the Colton-Grand Terrace, California, area for 13 years. She also had lived in Canyon Crest and Sunnymead. Joyce had an unfaltering interest in the hobby, having become a collector in the early 1930’s, and in the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, where she became a member early on and served on the board of directors for 25 years. She was presented the Society’s Special Service Award in 1987 in recognition of this feat and for other accomplishments. Joyce was a dedicated researcher and crafts-person. In acknowledgement for this and for her work on the economic uses of cacti and succulents and as editor of *Cactus Cook Book*, now in its fourth edition and fifth printing, she was named a CSSA Fellow in 1979. Joyce is survived by her husband, Harry, an iris specialist; a son, Donald, of Palm Bay, Florida; and four grandchildren. For an illustrated biography on Joyce Tate, see “A Succulent Odyssey,” this journal, 59(3):97–101, 1987.

Larry W. Mitich