During the 1930's and '40's, Lewis Walmsley and his wife Faye managed Soledad Gardens, a cactus and succulent nursery. A large one, it featured a wide array of plants, some of which were Lewis' hybrids. This journal has but a single reference to Walmsley and his nursery (7[7]:102, January 1936). To preserve Walmsley's memory for posterity, Jack Catlin, La Cañada, California, jotted down these reminiscences.

"Soledad Gardens was very impressive, extending over acres of rolling meadow and hills north above Mission Bay and San Diego. The extensive collections of aloes, other succulents and cacti were mostly field grown since that area is frost free. Some of Walmsley's well-known creations still exist, isolated here and there, although forgotten and lost by most. One of these was an aloe, small and prolific, known as 'Walmsley's Blue'. An echeveria, 'Soledad', was most likely a spontaneous seedling that originated there; it is very similar to Echeveria 'Victor', mentioned and pictured in Walther's monograph, page 45. One 1945 recollection of a visit to his nursery was fascinating, and at first a shock to me. Walmsley was sitting in the nursery tearing up Haworthia attenuata, defoliating flat after flat for propagation. Any and all could be sold, even half grown. Help was scarce and production limited. The ready market was there then and all through the WWII years. I would have liked to have stayed on to help, although being in uniform forestalled that. Later, he sold the nursery and moved to Costa Rica to grow other things."

Larry W. Mitich

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The CSSA Color Fund is a new tax-deductible fund to increase the number of color photos and paintings in the Journal. We gratefully acknowledge the donations of the following members who have so far contributed to the Fund during 1993. Future donors will be listed in the Nov/Dec issue of each year. Those tagged with an asterisk contributed specifically for "Cacti & Succulents for the Amateur”.