PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Larry never missed a deadline, not even the one the day before he died. This posthumous column will be his last in To The Point. Not only has Larry done a lot for the CSSA and the hobby, he was a good friend and writing this note and the announcement on the front page is one of the hardest jobs I've had as Editor. Mac

Lloyd Brinson, a CSSA President and a Friend of Cactus and Succulent Hobbyists

Easygoing, humble, and affable, Lloyd Cecil Brinson was a true friend of cactus and succulent hobbyists. The hobby had been very good to him and he took pains to share with fellow hobbyist the information he had accumulated over many years in growing succulent plants. Lloyd was born on 19 May 1913 in Lyons, Indiana. He graduated from the Lincoln High School, Vincennes, Indiana, in 1931. His vocation was a mechanic—both automotive and aircraft, except for the seven years he spent in Saudi Arabia.

Lloyd immigrated to California for his health in the late 1930s and lived with an aunt who resided in San Bruno. His health improved rapidly and he took a job working for Standard Oil Company at their main service station in Palo Alto. In 1939 he was sent to Saudi Arabia by Aramco (Arabian American Oil) and worked in the "stores" (supplies) department. He did not serve in the military during World War II because he was part of the crew kept in Arabia to supply oil for the services. He became a United Airlines mechanic in 1956 and retired on 1 June 1978 after 22 years of employment.

Lloyd's love of cacti and succulents was a very important part of his life. While in his teens, Lloyd became interested in these plants. He began with a single plant purchased from Woolworth's Dime Store.

When he settled in a home where he could accommodate and care for the plants, his interest expanded and he began propagating plants from seed and by grafting. He always was happy to share, and felt fortunate to receive gift plants from world-travelling hobbyists and botanists. John Lavranos, for example, sent him many new plants. At his San Carlos home he grew magnificent specimens of Oreocereus in redwood tubs on his patio. He enjoyed growing plants from seeds and often propagated rare ones and distributed them to hobbyist who would appreciate them.

Lloyd met Harriett G. Heavenridge in Indianapolis, Indiana, while he was on vacation from Saudi Arabia. Later Harriett moved to Santa Barbara and was working there when Lloyd came home again on vacation. They were married on 31 August 1946. Their only child, Jane G. Brinson, Menlo Park, California, was born on 28 April 1952. On 1 February 1957, the Brinsons settled in San Carlos, California, which was to be Lloyd's home for the rest of his life. Commented Harriett, "When we married, one of the few things he had kept from his 'bachelor days' was a paperback book written by Scott Haselton."

Lloyd joined the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) and served as its secretary in 1982. He became a CSSA Member shortly after moving to San Carlos. He and Harriett met a member of the San Jose Cactus and Succulent Society and were invited to the club's meetings. It was then that he learned of the CSSA and became a Member. In 1981 he became a Life Member, paying $200!

In 1979 Lillian Pickoff persuaded Lloyd to run for a CSSA Board of Directors' position. He served on the Board until elected Vice President. He became President during 1984-1985 when President Ronald

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When Lloyd became ill he could no longer care for his plants. He gave most of them to the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley. At that time, both Sean Hogan and Kurt Zadnik were working at the Garden and they made numerous trips to San Carlos to get the plants. The remaining plants were given to friends. Lloyd died 28 September 1992 at 79 after a short bout with leukemia.

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Lloyd appreciated succulent plant books. A few of them were gifts from friends while he purchased others. He especially enjoyed re-reading the CSSA journals, which he had bound to preserve them. He had a photographic memory that served him well in researching plant information. For quite sometime, Lloyd was an associate editor of the CSSA journal. He helped editor Charlie Glass by looking over and re-writing letters to the editor to make them suitable for publishing in the journal. He worked to keep the original "flavor" of the letters—most of which were from foreign countries.

Lloyd's hobbies all pertained to growing plants—mainly cacti. But he also grew orchids, tuberous begonias, and bonsais. He encouraged many people in the hobby and had many worldwide friends. Many of them visited the Brinsons and Lloyd was very accommodating in taking them to places that they wanted to go.

I had corresponded with Lloyd for several years. In a 22 December 1982 letter he wrote, "I am reminded of all the help I have received along the way from so many friends and generously given. Advice. New plant discoveries. Answers from busy people that were not too busy to answer my endless questions. All that and much more. Taken all together, they have so generously contributed to my knowledge and to my collection. I think I would be very selfish indeed if I were not to pass along those countless favors I have received. I do want to pass them along. In short, this hobby has been good to me. Very good! I would like to think I can be good to the hobby."