Joseph Manuel “Manny” Singer was born in Bronx, New York, on June 10, 1919, and died on September 19, 1993, at age 74. His family lived across the street from the Bronx Botanical Garden, which Manny often visited with his father; there he developed his love for plants. Bertha (Bert) and Manny were married on September 14, 1942, and became the parents of two children: Lili, now a horticulturist who teaches extension courses at UC Los Angeles and is co-editor of the *The Southern California Gardener*, and Clay Allen, an archeologist who does environmental studies in California.

Over the years Manny was involved in many activities, including growing and selling tropical fish, ornithology, and polishing and selling semiprecious stones. He was engaged in electrical and mechanical work—everything else was a hobby. After meeting Ed and Betty Gay in 1962, he became very interested in succulents. They taught him a great deal about growing succulents and introduced him to Baja California, which became his favorite vacation place.

The Singers joined the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society and Manny served as its president from 1970 to 1972. They were also members of the CSSA and served on the Board of Directors for several years when Bill Lockwood was president.

The Singers lived in Reseda for 28 years, just two blocks from Abbey Gardens, and spent considerable time with Charles Glass and Robert Foster, working in the nursery in their spare time. There Manny developed a real fondness for caudiciform plants and euphorbias. In 1976, thanks to Charlie Glass, Manny started Singers’ Growing Things and devoted full time to growing succulents. Bert worked in the nursery in various capacities. At one time, Manny had the largest collection of euphorbias in the U.S. He was an avid reader and researcher and cheerfully shared his knowledge with anyone who wanted to know how to grow a particular plant. The Singers retired from the nursery business on September 1, 1992, and sold all their stock to Northridge Gardens.

During the past few years, Manny acquired a new hobby. He had always treasured all kinds of wood and had a large collection for turning on the lathe. He made hundreds of bowls, selling none of them, but he gave some away to very special friends.

Manny had a tremendous love for people, animals and plants. He loved to see plants in habitat and fulfilled one wish—sleeping among the welwitschias in Namibia. The Singers visited South Africa twice, and Brazil, Mexico and Baja California several times.

Larry W. Mitich

**BOOK REVIEW**


A major publication on hoyas (members of the Asclepiad family) has finally been written. Primarily a guide for the grower and collector, this book combines basic writing on the culture and care of most hoyas with 140 color photographs depicting the different types available today. Tips and suggestions for growing specific varieties are also included as well as thorough descriptions of 30 favorite species. The book concludes with a very large question-and-answer chapter to aid the grower. Drawbacks in this publication are: a very short glossary; a confusing table of contents for locating specific hoyas in the book; a lack of a published list of all hoyas. Overall, a very worthwhile publication with a lot of excellent color photos! Contact your favorite mailorder book dealer for availability.

Chuck Everson