

caryotoid species other than *Caryota mitis*. One example of *Wallichia caryotoides*, a single-stem palm, put forth an inflorescence two months after being freeze-killed in January, 1977, and now in August as this is written, nearly eight months after the freeze, small fruits are appearing even though doomed not to develop to maturity. This *Wallichia* is now an odd spectacle consisting only of a leafless trunk about eighteen feet tall, with a pennant of small green fruits incongruously hanging from a topmost leaf axil. Another example of flowering after freeze-shock occurred in the same garden shortly after the disastrous freeze of 1962, in this case involving a wrecked *Caryota urens* which soon collapsed and fell apart.

It may not be generally known that most multiple-stem palms, that is, the suckering or cespitose kinds, will again rise from the roots after total destruction above ground level, provided of course that the ground itself has not been frozen and consequently not the roots. Conversely no single-stem palm after destruction ever erects a new stem from its roots. The cespitose kinds might well be termed "resurrection palms," for even such tender ones as pinangas after total destruction above ground commonly put forth new growth from the roots.

From past experience with hard freezes the writer knows that *Caryota mitis* will again rise from the dead, and in fifteen years of normal winter weather will attain to the same size and number of stems it had before the killing freeze.

DENT SMITH
Daytona Beach, Florida

LETTERS

The following is extracted from a letter to Mr. Sten Bergman from Ms. Anne Roebelen:

"I am delighted to know of your interest in the *Phoenix roebelenii* palm

which my uncle, Carl Roebelen, found in Laos on the banks of the Mekong River, Indochina, on the 22nd parallel in the spring of 1889.

"Carl Roebelen was born January 1855 in Geislingen, Germany. After finishing his education, he served his apprenticeship at the summer castle in the King's Garden, Friedrichshafen, Germany and at the Koenigsgarten, Stuttgart, Germany. From there he went to London and was employed by Frederick Sanders, the well-known orchid king of St. Albans.

"Sanders sent him on many expeditions to the Far East in search of rare orchids. When a regular mail service was established between London and the Philippines, among other employees of Sanders, he was chosen to go to the Philippines in search of rare orchids. On one of these trips, while going through the mountains, he discovered the famous *Vanda sanderana* (1883), from which many hybrids have been made.

"After several years with Sanders, he became a freelance collector and made his home in Bangkok, Siam (now Thailand) and married a Siamese woman. They had one son, whom he educated in Switzerland.

"Carl Roebelen never traveled alone, always taking natives with him. On one occasion, they went by foot for 22 days to the northern section of Siam and crossed the Mekong River to Laos, where he discovered the palm. He dug up two plants and with a shipment of newly found orchids went to London. One of these palms he sold at the market to Sanders and the other one he gave to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Here the palm was compared with many other palms and it was verified by James O'Brien that it was a new palm. It was named *Phoenix roebelenii*.

"Carl Roebelen went for the seeds of *Phoenix roebelenii* annually, having to be there at the right time when they were ripe, otherwise the monkeys would eat the seeds and sometimes a flood would wash them away. He sent them all over the world. He sent some to the USA and my father distributed them.

"In 1914 when World War I was declared Siam entered the war against Germany. He being a German citizen, his holding were taken from him and he was interned in India as a prisoner of war for the duration. After the Armistice was signed he returned to Germany but he was not happy there. He returned to Bangkok and resumed his regular expeditions.

"In December, 1927, while going to Laos in search of *Phoenix roebelenii* seeds he contracted cholera and died. He was buried in the jungle by the natives he had with him."

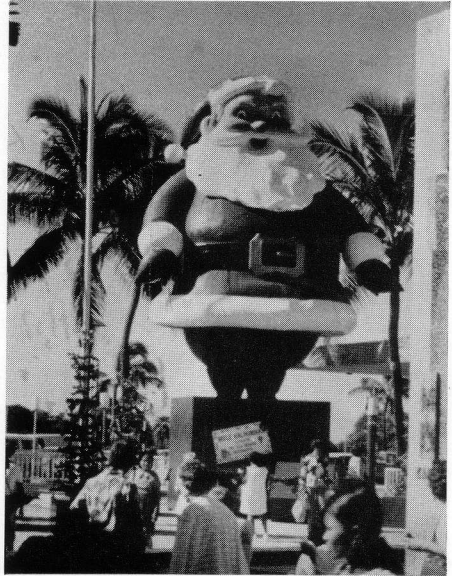
Seed Bank Notes

Seeds labelled as *Ptychosperma palauensis* were distributed by the seed bank in August 1975. It has recently been determined that these seeds are not *Ptychosperma* but *Pinanga insignis*. Members who have plants from this seed lot should note this change.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

A newspaper clipping from the Chillicothe, Ohio Gazette tells about one of our members there. For those who live in colder climates John Brandenburg sets an interesting example. He has been growing various tropical plants in containers for years, the oldest palm among them being a *Sabal palmetto* he brought from Florida in 1968. He says he spends about five hours daily tending his plants; most of the care consists of watering them. The plants are grown

PHOTO GALLERY



Santa Claus appeared amidst coconut palms at the Honolulu City shopping center during the 1975 Christmas season. Photo by T. A. Davis.

outdoors in summer, indoors in winter. "When they are inside I can be assured they are getting a normal amount of light," he is quoted as saying. The three largest plants are in 20-inch redwood tubs which he has mounted on wheels so he can move them easily. His queen palm (*Arecastrum romanzoffianum*) was bought at a local department store; it grew an 8-foot leaf this summer. Outdoors, near the house, he has planted a cabbage palm which he covers with plastic in winter and it wasn't even damaged by this winter's sub-zero cold. His house looks as if it had been transplanted from somewhere in Florida with all the lovely palms, hibiscus, and other tropical plants enhancing it.

News from Texas

On September 8, 1977 the Houston Chapter held a meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. Heine. Bob Maurice,