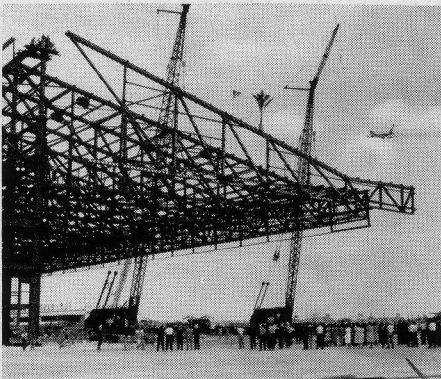


delay did not arrive in the proper office until the 2nd.

The weekend has been filled with figuring sizes, mounting once again the now precious photographs and planning the arrangement of the current issue.

Your Editor will now figuratively "hold his breath" until word is received from Miami that the final and complete copy has been received.

This incident sets the stage for an impassioned plea for copy, copy, copy. If copy were at hand for one issue in advance, the job of producing the magazine would be much easier. Since the Editor will be on sabbatic leave from October, 1963, through April, 1964, Dent Smith has agreed to edit PRINCIPES for January and April, 1964. The present Editor would be happy to be able to hand over copy for the two issues if he gets enough in advance.



29. *Roystonea elata* in a 55-gallon drum, used as a topping-off tree on completion of the steelwork for a hangar at Eastern Airlines, Miami, Florida.

LETTERS

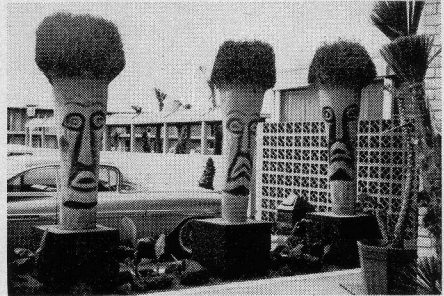
AUSTIN, TEXAS

July 26, 1962

Enclosed is a photograph of faces carved out of trunks of *Washingtonia robusta*. This is one use for dead palm trees which some society members might like to try, especially those hit by hard

freezes this past winter. These are used ornamentally at the Las Vegas Motor Hotel in Houston, Texas.

KEITH CHUNN, JR.



30. Carved trunks of *Washingtonia robusta*.

Randolph Fuller, Naples, Fla., writes: "The *Copernicia hospita* seeds which you sent last month I germinated in four to seven days, using the water soaking method. Here was a case of how useful back issues of PRINCIPES can be, as I remembered an article on germination of *Copernicia* seeds, and read it carefully when the seeds came. I have eight other species of *Copernicia* and find them slow as molasses in January when small, but fairly quick-growing when a few years old. The Society's seeds distribution program is highly appreciated, as I now have over 250 species and it is getting harder and harder to add to my collection."

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Nephrosperma (nef roe spér ma), a compound made up of the Greek words *nephros* (kidney) and *sperma* (seed), was created by Balfour in allusion to the kidney-shaped seed of the *N. Van-Houtteanum*, the sole species constituting the genus as currently understood. This solitary pinnate palm is native to the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. Confusion as to the gender of those technical names terminating in -sperma is rather widespread. Modern generic compounds assume the gender of their last component word, and -sperma is cor-

rectly a New Latin neuter singular form. Within the Palmae we have such properly constructed binomials as: *Dictyosperma album*, *Oncosperma fasciculatum*, *Didymosperma nanum*, etc.

* * *

Hyophorbe (high oh fór beh) is a genus erected by Joseph Gaertner who combined the Greek words *hys*, *hyos* (pig, sow) and *phorbe* (food, fodder) in reference to the fruits which are foraged by the swine introduced by European settlers on Mauritius, one of the Mascarene Islands where the palms are native. The so-called pignut palms embrace but two species as now understood, the *H. indica* and the *H. Vaughnii*, neither of which is well known in cultivation. The former *H. amaricaulis* and *H. Verschaffeltii* have been transferred to the genus *Mascarena* and are now known respectively as *Mascarena lagenicaulis* (bottle palm) and *Mascarena Verschaffeltii* (spindle palm).

* * *

Thrinax (thry nacks), a genus of approximately 10 species, is the Greek

word designating a trident or 3-pronged fork, famed as the symbol of authority of Poseidon and Neptune, the Greek and Roman gods of the sea respectively. The error that *thrinax* means "fan" in Greek is well on the way to perpetuation, and the fact that the plants in our genus are indeed "fan" palms does not help matters. (Yes, the Greeks had a word for it; it was *liknon*.) The leaf segments of these palms terminate in pointed tips which, in turn, are again slightly divided. Since the tines of tridents and 3-pronged forks invariably come to a sharp point—impaling wayward subjects was a sport of the sea gods—the allusion is hardly an abstruse one. Only recently Dr. Richard A. Howard of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum pointed out that the genus *Thrinax* was first established in 1788 by the Swedish botanist Olof Swartz on a Jamaican species, *T. parviflora*, the first species described. (See *Principes*, October, 1960, p. 133.) The term was previously believed to have been the creation of the younger Linnaeus in 1791.

Classified Section

RATES: 5c per word, payable when the ad is submitted. Please send in your copy and payment six weeks ahead of publication date to THE PALM SOCIETY, 7229 S.W. 54th Ave., Miami 43, Fla.

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