

The Flaming Sword

If you ever traveled in the southwest and see a tall desert shrub with scarlet flowers, beware! It may be the Flaming Sword, a plant of striking beauty, but with terrible thorns.

The sharp, stiff spines are often hard to see, too. Hiding them is a thick coat of small leaves. The foliage makes the waving plant look harmless but a painful surprise awaits the hand that grasps the stalks.

Even if the Flaming Sword had no protection its blossoms would be hard to reach. According to the



©National Wildlife Federation
Flaming Sword

National Wildlife federation, the shrub grows to be from six to 20 feet tall.

It looks even taller during a long dry spell, when it has no leaves and flowers. Then the plant consists of a clump of giant stems or wands—straight, stiff and quite thorny. They are so brown and

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parched that one might think they were dead.

Just after a good rain soaks the soil, though, bright green leaves spring forth to mask the thorns. At the end of each wand there comes a brilliant cluster of flowers. Waving to and fro in the wind, the flower-tipped wands look like blazing torches held up high in the air. Their beauty lasts while the ground is moist, but quickly disappears when drought sets in.

Several sets of leaves and flowers may come and go each year, because the Flaming Sword makes the most of every rain. Its roots grow over a wide area near the surface of the ground, where they can readily and greedily soak up water from the lightest showers which may fall.

Sometimes the wait between rains is a long one, for the Flaming Sword grows on the parched hills and deserts of our southwestern states and northern Mexico. The Indians often plant it in rows when they want a tall, forbidding hedge. Thought it is thorny and thrives in the deserts the Flaming Sword is not a cactus. The National Wildlife Federation also points out that it is known by other names. Among them are Ortotillo and Candle Flower.

The Dolphin

It is a thrilling sight, on a deep sea fishing trip to watch a Dolphin in a three-way race with a flying fish or a giant marlin. At the start, the flying fish is in the lead, gracefully leaping up into the air. Holding second place is the swift Dolphin, and not far behind the marlin cuts through the water.

All three are fast swimmers, so the outcome is in doubt. But there is a good change that the Dolphin will win a double victory. His first triumph comes when he catches and eats the flying fish. His second victory is won when he speeds away from the jaws of the hungry marlin.

When chasing his favorite food, the Dolphin clings close to the water, burrowing through the waves. At other times, he hurdles through the air in short leaps.

From these quick glimpses, it can be seen that the Dolphin is a



©National Wildlife Federation
Dolphin

fish of changing colors. The National Wildlife Federation says that the main ones are green, yellow or blue.

There are times when the yellow and green form a background for patches of blue, purple, and green spots. At other moments, the Dolphin appears to be dark blue with silvery splashes. The many changes in color make it one of the most beautiful of all fish.

The Dolphin's shape is attractive, too. Its head is high, and its body tapers toward the tail. Just back of its head is the beginning of a long fin that starts out tall and slopes to a narrow point near the tail. Underneath its body is another fin which is about the same shape and length. The average Dolphin weighs 25

Many Present At Store Opening

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. "Bud" Phetteplace, and Miss Ruth Tuttle, of Par Stores, which opened in the Goetz building last Saturday, were more than pleasantly surprised by the response of the community, they told the Pilot, Monday. About 450 adults and many children were in the store throughout the day.

Pleasing the owners more than they were able to express, were the floral offerings from the other businesses of town, which made

pounds and the largest one ever caught on light tackle tipped the scales at 67½ pounds. So among game fish of the ocean, it ranks as a small variety.

The National Wildlife Federation reports that Dolphin are found in the Atlantic Ocean from New England to Brazil and in the Gulf of Mexico. On the Pacific side, they range from Oregon to Peru around the Hawaiian Islands, too.

a festive display of the opening.

Mrs. E. C. Matson of Harbor, received a 32-piece set of dishes as door prize; R. D. Chambers, also of Harbor, a Sessions electric clock and Arlene Higgenbotham, a coffee maker.

Each lady who entered the new store received a vegetable peeler, and there were treats for the children.

The new owners stated that they were adding holiday merchandise which will be featured in the next four weeks.

Card of Thanks

I wish to express my appreciation to all the merchants who were so generous in their donations to our bazaar, for benefit of the new Star of the Sea Church, also to the Barbershoppers for their grand entertainment.

Father Don Denman.

Eagles Convention

Members of the local Aerie of Fraternal Order of Eagles are urged not to forget the district convention billed for Brookings

Sunday.

Those having candidates should have them present at 12:30. A buffet dinner will be served.

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