

Bek Mt. News - 22 Sept 1983

Ode to a Saguaro

My Saguaro — My Friend
(struck by lightning Aug. 7, 1983)

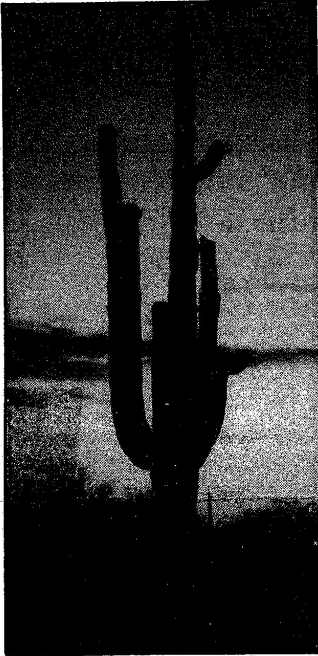
You are dying, my friend, and my heart aches to have you leave. As I stand here tonight I reflect on the fullness of your life and pray that mine could mean so much — to so many.

For two hundred plus years you have stood for all to admire but more than that, you have sown the worth of your life by providing shelter to the many, many birds who have nested in your arms; following your beautiful blossoms, heralding the coming of summer, you have given of your fruit to those in need; and you have fed the souls of man with your beauty and strength as he stood and looked skyward towards your crown.

Even tonight, though you have lost some of your limbs, you stand silhouetted against the sunset with two arms stretched upward, still showing strength to this poor mortal. Pray God I had one portion of this strength and beauty, not of body but of soul.

Slightly southward stands a "youngster" perhaps fifty years old, a grandson we humans would say. May this young saguaro observe the grace and grandeur of your passing and, having watched you throughout his youth, carry on for future generations with the same watchfulness and caring, always being there to offer shelter and food to those in need, and especially with his stance feed and bring peace to the souls of the weary and troubled.

— Edith Page



Edith Page lives in the Saguaro West area. When lightning destroyed her largest and favorite saguaro during a storm last Aug. 7, she was moved to put her feelings into words. An amateur astronomer, she has lived in this area since 1978. The Cave Creek Improvement Association welcomes such contributions from citizens of the community.