

The Sedoña Cactus



The Sedoña Cactus, located at Benwick's Truck Stop on I-17 north of Phoenix, was famous for the unusual blooms it produced during each summer's monsoon rains. Sometimes they resembled well-known people, sometimes animals, and sometimes even complex quadratic equations, which New Age philosophers contended gave new meaning to the meaning of life. But without a doubt, the strangest blossom the plant ever yielded was a spitting image of a 1989 Ford Country Squire station wagon, complete with an Oregon license plate. It was so lifelike that the windows even rolled up and down! People came from all over the West to have their picture taken with it, often while they sat behind the wheel. Only then did they learn that even the most innocuous looking parts of cacti are covered with sharp spines. Ben Klondike, Benwick's owner, thought he could drum up a little business by submitting a photo of the blossoming plant to The Guinness Book of World Records and having it officially recognized. Guinness representatives were indeed interested, claiming it qualified as World's Largest Flower in the Shape of an Internal Combustion Engine (new to the 2001 edition). Unfortunately, by the time they arrived two weeks later – they were sidetracked tracking down the World's Only Car to Run on Fat – the rains had stopped, the weather turned hot and dry, and the Sedoña Cactus' bloom had thoroughly desiccated. What bad timing!