

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson), June 25, 1994, B1, B2

Desert Museum expansion dooms 6 large saguaros

By Keith Bagwell
The Arizona Daily Star

Chain saws are felling giant saguaro cacti outside the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum to make way for a parking lot expansion.

But the museum is saving as many saguaros, other desert cacti and trees as possible, museum Deputy Director Nancy Laney said yesterday.

Only six saguaros were felled and 89 are being saved, but the fate of another six to eight saguaros remains in question this weekend, she said, adding that parking lot construction begins Monday.

"We had to take down six large saguaros that were in the way and were either too big to be moved or unhealthy."

Nancy Laney
Desert Museum deputy director

"Plant salvage has been under way for several weeks," Laney said. "But we had to take down six large saguaros that were in the way and were either too big to be moved or unhealthy."

She said 11 large saguaros have been

moved and another will be. Two of the stately giant cacti will be left in place and protected from cars with planter boxes, she said.

Another 75 small saguaros were moved, she said. All the cacti moved are being replanted on the museum's grounds, she added.

During peak visitation times in the winter, the 315-space parking lot on 6.6 acres of land is inadequate, leading to overflow parking on Kinney Road, which leads to the museum in the Tucson Mountains next to Saguaro National Monument, Laney said.

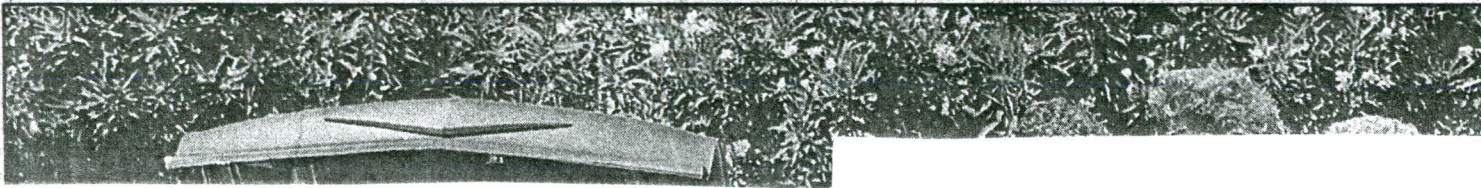
The lot is being expanded to 557 spaces on 10.8 acres, she said.

In addition, spaces for vehicles carrying handicapped people will be increased from seven to 22 and spaces for buses and recreational vehicles will increase from 11 to 37, she said.

Saguaro cacti are not the only plants that the expansion is affecting, Laney said. The museum also has boxed 122 large palo verde trees and jojoba bushes that will be replanted within the parking area, she said.

Museum employees have moved more

See SAGUARO, Page 2B



This is on 1B above article.

2B



David Sanders, The Arizona Daily S

Succumbing to mankind

Chain saws succeeded where countless years of desert heat couldn't and felled this giant saguaro on the grounds of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

The museum is making an effort to save as many cacti as possible as it clears land for an expansion of its parking lot. Story, Page 1B.

p. 2B

use, Gov.
a bill in
ative par-
birth fan-
ns within
ce of the
ays of an

One window was smashed and another was cracked. Co-owner Dennis Kenney said it appeared the cross had been placed against one of the windows and the heat from the flames had broken the glass.

Damage was estimated at \$1,000.

effect in

because it specializes in Jewish deli food.

"If they are trying to make a point, they missed the point," he said. "We are multiracial and multicultural here."

Kenney told police he has had no problems with current or former employees or customers.

Saguaro

Continued from Page 1B

Marilyn and
rt and Pam-
ia E. and Al-
orma G. and
Roland and
i. and Jeffrey
Maria M. and

than 100 ocotillo, more than 50 barrel and hundreds of hedgehog, pincushion, prickly pear, cholla and other cacti to other sites on the grounds, she said.

"Some plants - like creosote and acacia - will be lost because they are easier to grow from seed stock," Laney said. "But another part of our salvage effort involves rocks from around the

plants."

She said the rocks will be replaced around cacti and trees, in planters and at replanting sites.

"A lot of time and effort is going into the plant and rock salvage," she said.

The parking lot project will cost the museum more than \$500,000 - about \$100,000 of which is going to plant-salvage contractors, Laney said.

Construction will take place in three phases and is scheduled for completion in October, she said.

FHS

are from Tuc-
erwise noted.