

Just In Passing

Tourists learn the darnedest things. A Chicagoan who has been a Tucson winter visitor sent us a postcard from Wyoming this week. It describes Evanston, Wyo., as "The City of Western Hospitality" and it bears a color picture of a desert scene with a magnificent stand of saguaro cacti.

Arizona is the only state in the union where the saguaro cactus grows. And the giant saguaro is Arizona's official state flower.

Our correspondent suggests this promotional misuse of much-admired emblem might start a war between Arizona and Wyoming. Seriously, though, we wonder if the national Chamber of Commerce doesn't have an ethical practices committee to cope with a problem such as this.

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This reminds us that Arizona's official bird, which hangs around in saguaros a lot, is the spunky, sweet-singing cactus wren. Because the governor of Arizona has used the roadrunner as his battle emblem in his political wars, many Arizonans mistakenly believe he is identifying himself with the state's official bird.

The roadrunner, however, is the official state bird of New Mexico and owes no allegiance to Arizona or its governor. It is, incidentally, a member of the cuckoo family.

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Some Republican candidates are saying the biggest campaign issue is the high cost of Lyndon. We can't deny that the man in the White House is living beyond our means.

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Dr. James McDonald, U of A physicist, says flying saucers are real. Until now, we thought they were taxpayers blowing their tops.

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