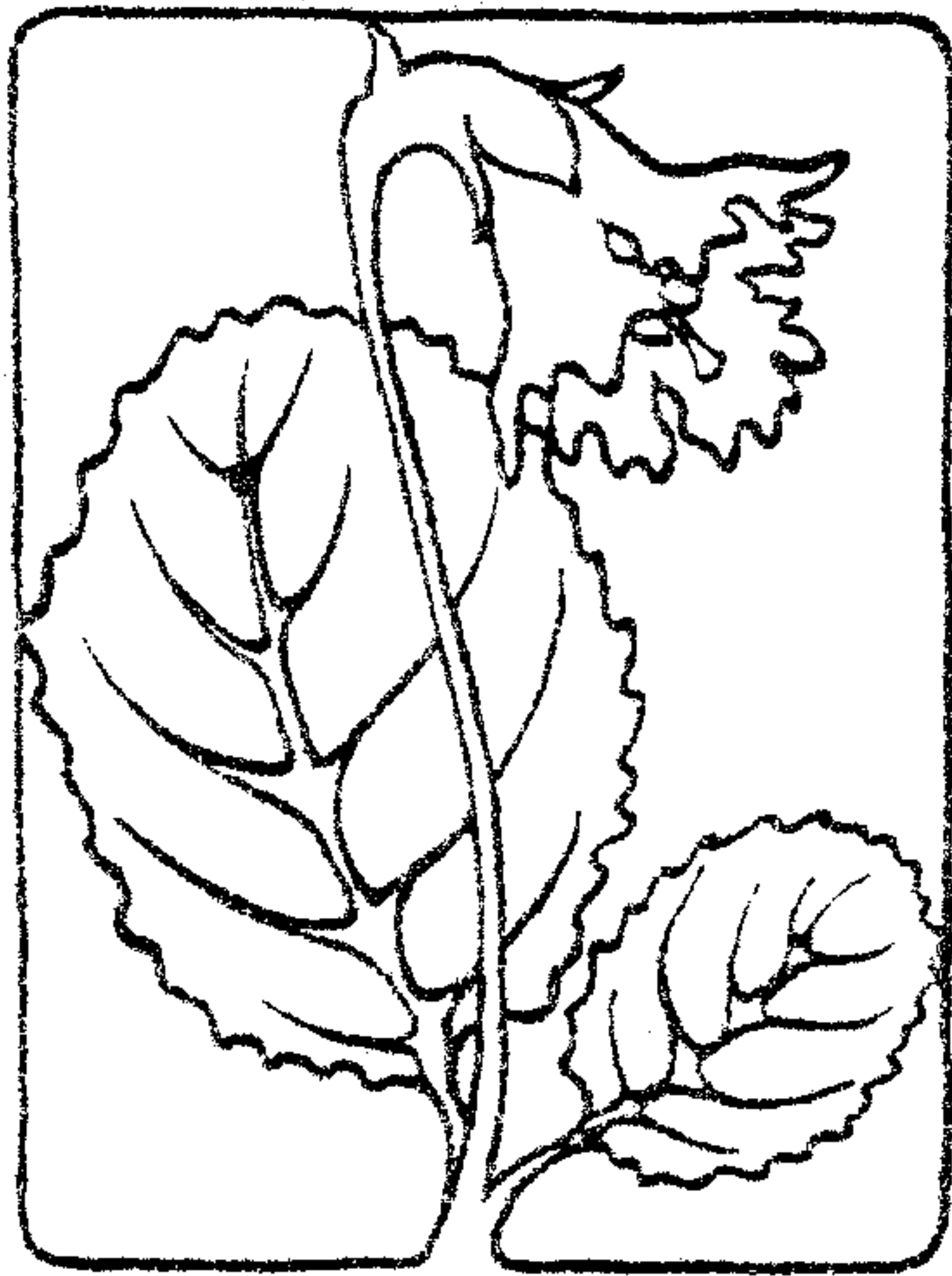


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 1984-85



HELEN TURNER, Editor

OFFICERS

President: Dick Smith Treasurer: Margaret Kuhn
Vice President: Elton Hansens Historian: Louise Foresman
Secretary: Margaret Canfield

DID YOU KNOW

. . . . that Bruce Leech Chuck Snow Dwight Allen and Phil Babcock have been working every Monday on the Shut-in Trail, which is part of the Mountain to the Sea Trail. They are now working near Buck Springs Gap. They are cutting out a new trail on the Silvermine Bald.

* * *

. . . . that Harry Logan received the Second Wind Hall of Fame awarded by the Men's Garden Club. Congratulations, Harry! You deserve it.

* * *

. . . . that Augie Kehr had 35 entries in the seventh annual North Carolina Chrysanthemum Show at East Flat Rock on Oct. 20-21. He had 16 entries in the regular classes and 19 in the novice class. A novice is a person who enters material for the first time and has never won a blue ribbon in any American Chrysanthemum Society Show.

We are proud to announce our Augie won 14 blue, 9 red, and 6 yellow ribbons. He won "Best in Show" in the novice class, for which he was given a silver tray, and he was awarded a silver bowl for "Sweepstakes in the Novice Class".

* * *

. . . . that Harry Logan is in charge of the landscaping of the grounds at Opportunity House? The grass, some trees and shrubs are already established. That it will be beautiful goes without saying.

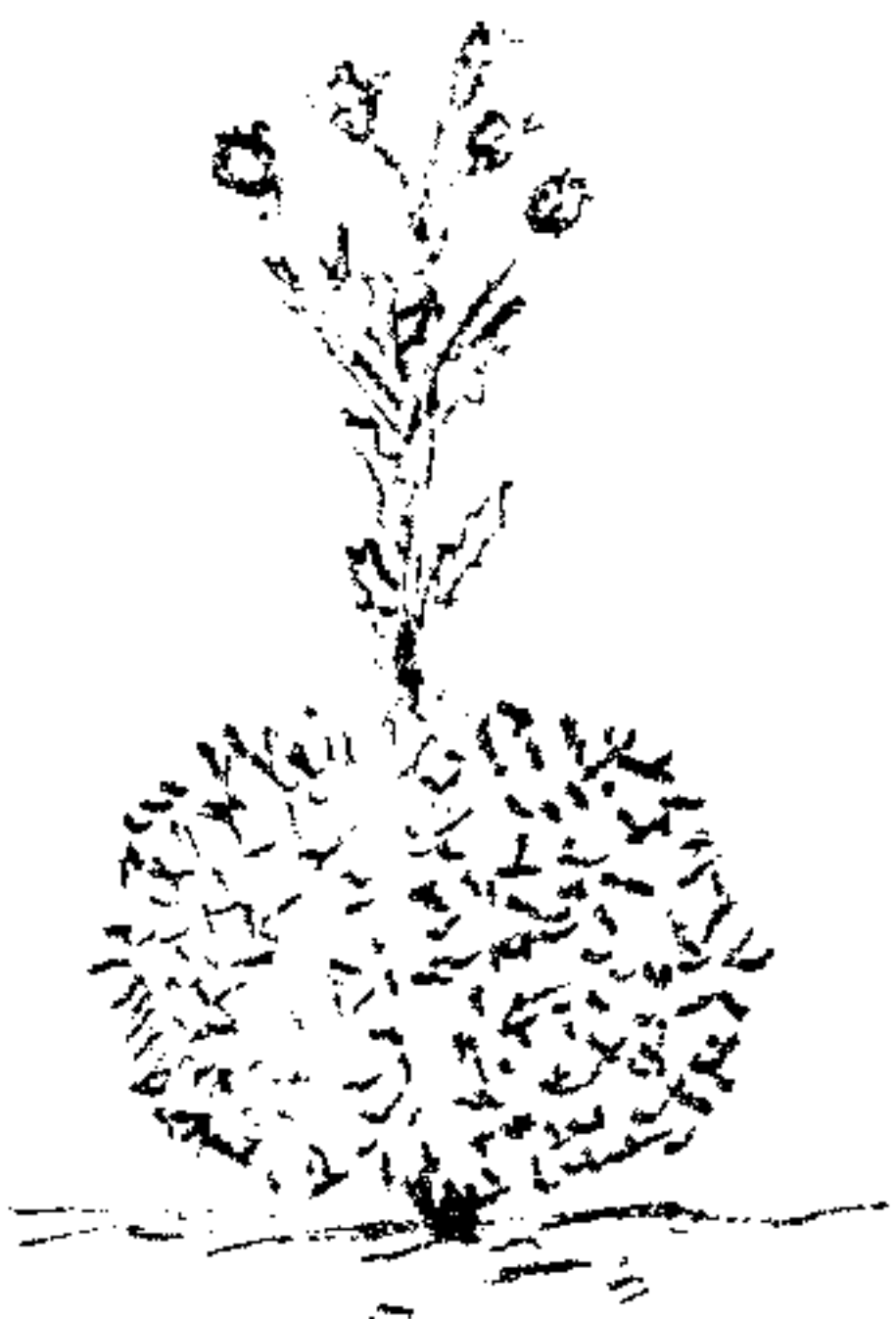
* * *

Miles and Eleanor Peelle's winter address is:

151 Buckeye Terrace
Haines City, Florida 33844

WELCOME -- NEW MEMBERS

Hillegass, Herman H. and Bette L., Rte. 9, Box 361, H'ville. .685-7090



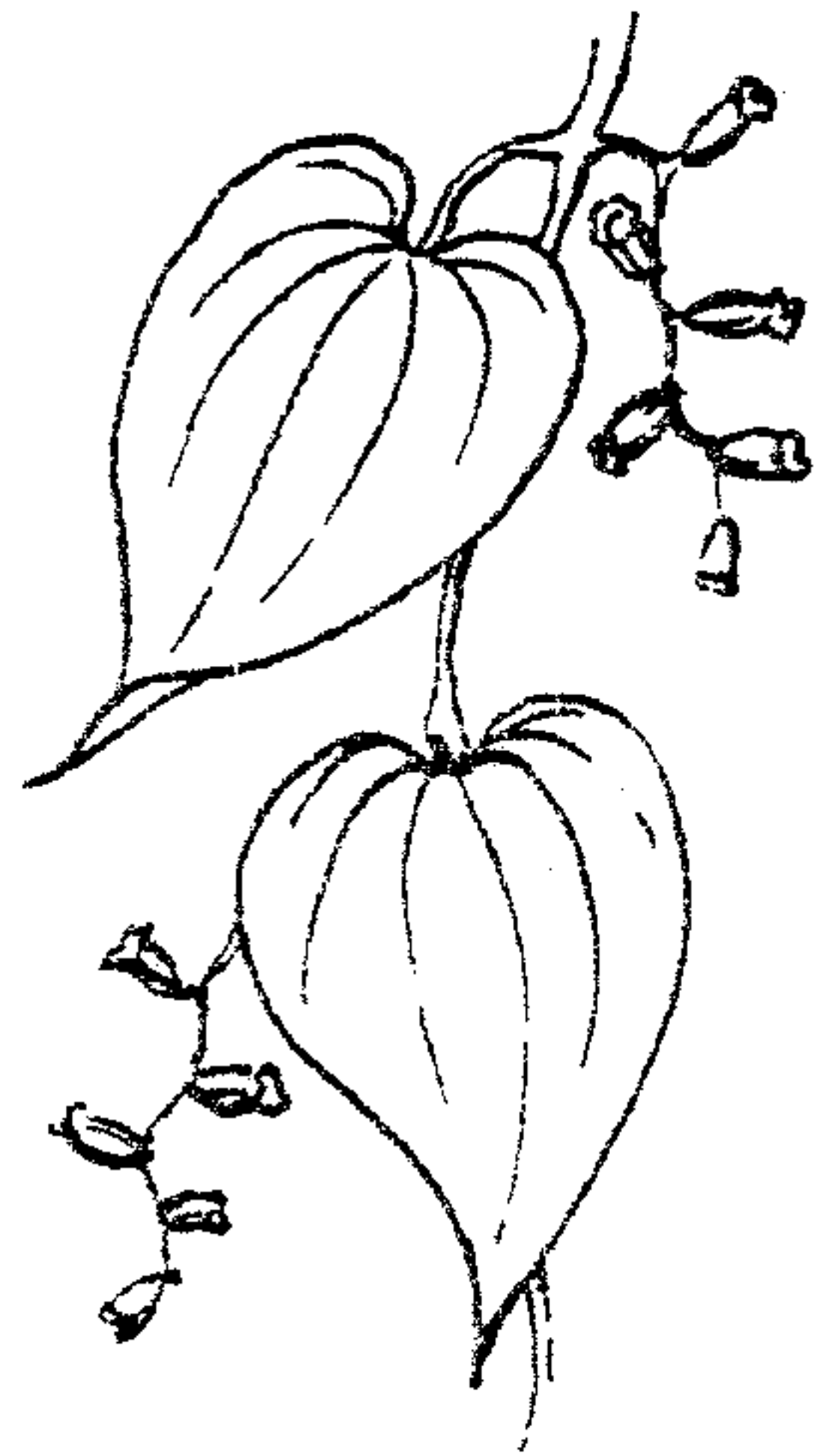
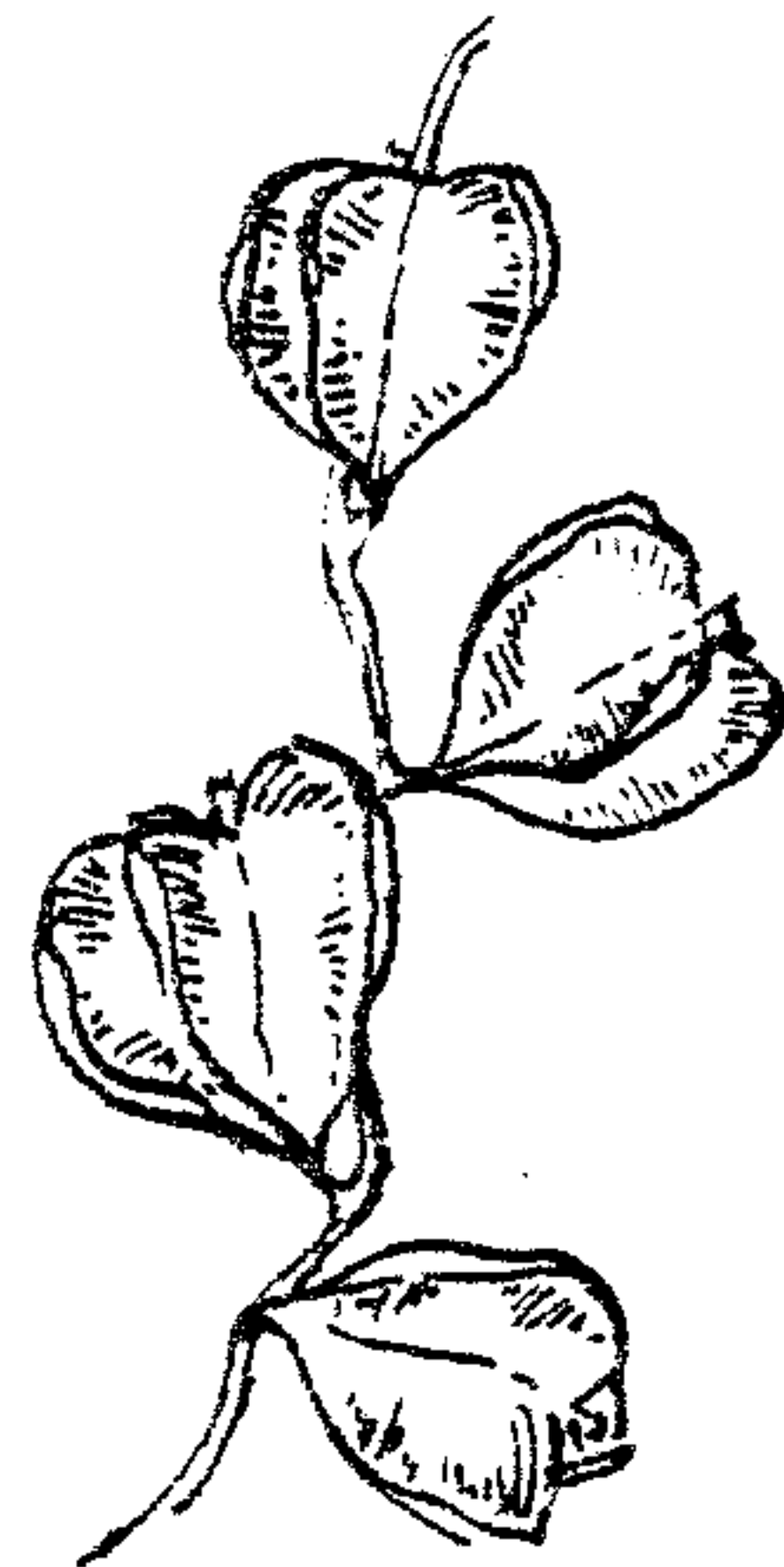
In the Butler's garden, here at Carolina village, there was a most peculiar plant this year, They had pruned a white pine tree into a hedge size, four-foot ball. Up the middle of it grew a thistle, so tall that I couldn't touch the flowering heads.

Would you call it Pinus Thistleonia?

H.T.

LOOK AGAIN !

Many of our climbing vines have fleshy, perishable fruits, but the tawny brown three-winged parchment-like capsules of the native Wild Yam, Dioscorea villosa, persist long after splitting and releasing their seeds and are a familiar sight in the open woods and along roadsides all through the winter. They are about three-quarters of an inch long, the product of tiny yellowish green spindle-shaped pistillate flowers which, like the more numerous but equally small staminate flowers, are pretty much overwhelmed by the attractive heart-shaped leaves and can easily be missed.



D. VILLOSA

Although D. villosa is the prevalent species, there are times when we might actually be looking at a related plant which was brought to the United States from China as an ornamental and has become widely naturalized -- D. batatas, known as Cinnamon Vine. If capsules are present there is no problem, as this species apparently does not fruit in our area but instead bears tubers in the leaf axils. These look like little silvery gray potatoes, and are most evident in the fall when the rest of the plant has turned pale gold. From spring until autumn a clue can be

found in the leaves, many of which are halberd-shaped with the sides concave just above the flared base.

Another distinctive and probably unexpected characteristic of D. batatas is that it twines about its support counter-clockwise as we look down on it, while D. villosa goes in the opposite direction.



D. BATATAS

Dick Smith

LET'S BE SAFE

Safety on the trail should be a prime consideration of all of us, but often we are careless and court disaster. My purpose is to stimulate more thought of safety on our hikes. Let me begin by citing the case of the jogger in California who set forth in his jogging outfit and suffered a sudden fatal heart attack. His identity was learned several hours later when his wife reported to the police that he had not returned home.

How about your identity in case of a serious emergency? Do you always carry an identification? I'm quite sure that some of our ladies leave their purses (and identification) in the car. Many of us carry identification in our packs and leave them behind when carrying a lunch is unnecessary. Generally the men carry identification in their billfolds on their persons. But does your identification include name, address, and phone number of whom to notify in case of an emergency? Identification bracelets are one way to always carry vital information.

How about special health needs? Those highly allergic to bee and wasp stings should carry an emergency kit including directions for use. Possibly you carry emergency heart stimulants. Does someone on the hike know of your needs and how to administer the medication? And do you carry a list of chronic medications for emergency use in a hospital?

How about first aid kits? Some hikers carry a few first aid supplies in their pack and have larger kits in their car. I use mine so seldom that I wonder if I would remember it in a real emergency. Nonetheless, emergency items should be with us.

How about an extra leg? A walking stick can avert many a fall and can also be used to assist others to ford a stream or climb a steep place.

Perhaps there are other ways to improve our personal safety. These are a few thoughts to consider.

Elton Hansens

BOTANICAL TIDBIT

In 1896 David Fairchild observed in Sumatra Corypha umbraculifera, the Talipot Palm, in full bloom. Later he introduced the tree into the Fairchild Palm Garden in Coral Gables, Florida. This year it bloomed for the first and only time. The inflorescence was 25 feet long and consisted of over 60,000,000 flowers. As it set seeds in late March the 25-foot long leaves dropped off and the normal life span of some 50 years was completed.

In the tropics only one bloom for each life span is the normal mode of life. Such was the case in Florida as well.

M. L. Peelle

RAMBLINGS - PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PLACES

We have been hiking steadily these past three months, and here 'tis nearly Thanksgiving, and Christmas not far ahead. Do return to summer and remember the lovely SHUT-IN TRAIL up off the Parkway. Twenty-six of us saw many other flowers blooming along the way (bunchflower, hairy angelica, and white avens among them) before we ever came upon the hundreds of turk's cap lilies, the false sunflowers (*Heliopsis Helianthoides*) and joe-pye weed all blooming together in a great profusion of color. However, we were a little past the peak this year as the lily leaves were already brown--the blossoms were beautiful! The CAMP ALICE-MT. MITCHELL hike, always a favorite, interested 15 persons who saw many (39) wildflowers blooming. We enjoyed a lovely, sunny day after a very cloudy morning start. SYCAMORE FLATS, a hike along the Davidson River in Pisgah Forest, is an easy, leisurely hike displaying a profusion of blooms (66). Seventeen of us were happy to see monkey flower, elephant's foot, lance-leaved loosestrife, large yellow wood sorrel, three-seeded mercury and skullcap, among others.

TRESTLE GAP is a hike most looked forward to; however, this year we all missed Peggy Camenzind and Nan Morrow. For the first time in memory they could not lead 20 of us over Balsam Mt and/or along the road, all to meet as usual at the big rocks for lunch. Some 30 flowers were noted, and we found the sundews again! Berries were at their peak. We all picked up and down the hillsides in sun and shade, meanwhile dreaming of blueberry muffins, pancakes, and jams. It was so pleasant, no one wanted to start home.

Another COVERED-DISH at Holmes State Forest brought out 43 persons in all--some 24 on the short and long hikes. Many flowers were blooming, so there was much color along the trails. The food was delicious, as always, and the companionship much enjoyed by all. A profusion of flowers up on the BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY-WEST including, as always, the gentians, turtleheads, and Grass-of-Parnassus, which were especially beautiful. Twenty-two of us enjoyed this popular walk, since there were just so many flowers to see.

The SHERWOOD FOREST-MUSHROOMS hike, in which 16 persons participated, provided a good display of both mushrooms and flowers. GRAVEYARD FIELDS is always a lovely fall hike, and again it was a sunny, warm day. There was a great display of colors on the mountainsides, precursing the peak display to come. Nineteen of us had lunch at the Upper Yellowstone Falls as we watched the climbers rappelling down the rocks. Suddenly we saw Jeanne Smith and others waving to us from the top of the falls - real climbers they!!! There were many flowers blooming along the trail.

A beautiful fall day for one of our favorite hikes to OGLE MEADOW on Coxcomb Mt., up there out of Barnardsville. Again whole meadows of gentians, (mostly stiff, but also closed or bottle and striped), asters and goldenrods. Blueberries were numerous, so again we picked, with visions of their use in our thoughts and conversation. The views from the top of the balds were spectacular, as always - and Ben, no snow this year!

The SHORTOFF MT. trip was cancelled. It seems that two long drives for one hike after the other (Barnardsville, then the Linville area) proved to be too much. The indoor slide presentation "FLOWERS AND BIRDS IN TROPICS" was thoroughly enjoyed; the colors so lovely, and Miles Peelle's commentary so interesting. He added recent slides of his and Eleanor's trip to Iceland, which were fascinating and made one wish to travel there.

Twenty persons, on a beautiful fall day, bushwacked up the mountainside of TUMBLE CREEK (LITTLE HUNGRY CREEK AREA) in lieu of a trail. The old persimmon tree is still there. On return down through the meadows, an untoward, scary incident happened - a run into a nest of yellow jackets, and a number of persons were stung, some several times. One person was wounded by a branch, so, in all, not a pleasant ending to a hike which, though strenuous in parts, was otherwise enjoyed. Some 23 flowers were still blooming.

Twenty persons took the hike to RAVEN CLIFF FALLS OVERLOOK, Caesar's Head State Park, S. C. which, though somewhat strenuous, is well worth a view of the spectacular falls. A few flowers were still blooming. Frank Bell, the host and guide at GREEN COVE CAMP, always makes this an interesting trip. As usual, he and his wife Calla invited the eleven persons into their home and served refreshments while he talked to the group. Frank led a short hike, after which lunch was eaten in the yard near the house. It was a warm, sunny day and Green Cove is a most beautiful place to be. Six persons toured the UNC BOTANICAL GARDENS with Lowell Orbison to note the trees he has tagged (some 100) and to hear his interesting and informative comments about each. Persons felt they would like to return sometime and at their leisure, study those trees so marked. Eight persons attempted the long, rather strenuous hike up LOOKING GLASS ROCK and were rewarded with a wide-ranging view at the top.

Sixteen down in the past 3 months and 2 more hikes to go, plus 2 indoor gatherings, and then 1984 will have slipped by; but there are always interesting hikes and programs ahead to look forward to. See you on the trails soon!

Louise Foresman, Historian

FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION - 1985 PROGRAM

To help you plan for early January --

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan. 4, 2:00 p.m. | Carolina Village. ALASKA
Elton & Aline Hansens |
| Jan. 11, 2:00 p.m. | 1st Federal Savings and Loan
GRAND CANYON - DOWN, UP, & THROUGH
Tom & Barbara Hallowell |

You need to respond to the following for a successful program:

Feb. 1 LEARN AND SHARE
Hallowell residence, 2600 Kanuga Pines Dr.
Notify Barbara of your topic and/or your intent to come.

LEARN AND SHARE was a successful program at Nan Morrow's, Aug. 15, 1983. For Session II select a topic you would like to know more about, look up the answer, collect data in the field, ask friends, notify Barbara of your topic, be prepared to report for 1 to 10 minutes. Examples of subjects: What causes a morning glory and an evening primrose? How do plants heal wounds? What happens to pitcher plants when the bog dries up? Which direction do tendrils curve? Who was Louis Agassiz? Plan now to attend. Bring a lunch.

Mar. 15 1st Federal Savings and Loan
WHAT IS IT?

Unknown plants or unique and interesting botanical photos languish in most of our collections. Bring them to this meeting for identification or to stump the experts. Slides are not limited as to geographical area or botanical subject -- trees, flowers, ferns, fungi, mosses. What would you like identified?

April 25-26 SNOWBIRD MOUNTAIN LODGE AND JOYCE KILMER FOREST

The Kilmer Forest is a special place. Many spring flowers will be in bloom in profusion along the trails here and in nearby areas. In 1984 Dick Smith, Miles Peelle and Elton Hansens each served as resident naturalists at Snowbird for a week. All three have been invited back in 1985. Dick will begin his week the afternoon of April 26 when the regular season begins. Anyone wishing to stay beyond Friday noon will need to make arrangements directly with the lodge.

By special arrangement, Snowbird Mountain Lodge will be available to us before the regular season. Snowbird Lodge, located in the Nantahala National Forest just 2 miles from the Joyce Kilmer/Slick Rock Wilderness, is in a beautiful setting. Bob and Connie Rhudy are gracious hosts. All of their facilities will be available to us. The meals are excellent.

We will need at least 20 persons for this pre-season arrangement. Make reservations as soon as possible with Elton Hansens, 692-7245, to assure space. A room with bath for 2 people and including 3 delicious meals will cost \$87.00 plus tax and 10% gratuity. A deposit of \$20.00 per person will be necessary for a firm reservation. Brochures and further details on travel and the two-day schedule will be available at our Annual Meeting in January, '85.

Elton Hansens

S H O R T I A

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Please submit contributions for next issue by February 15, 1985
