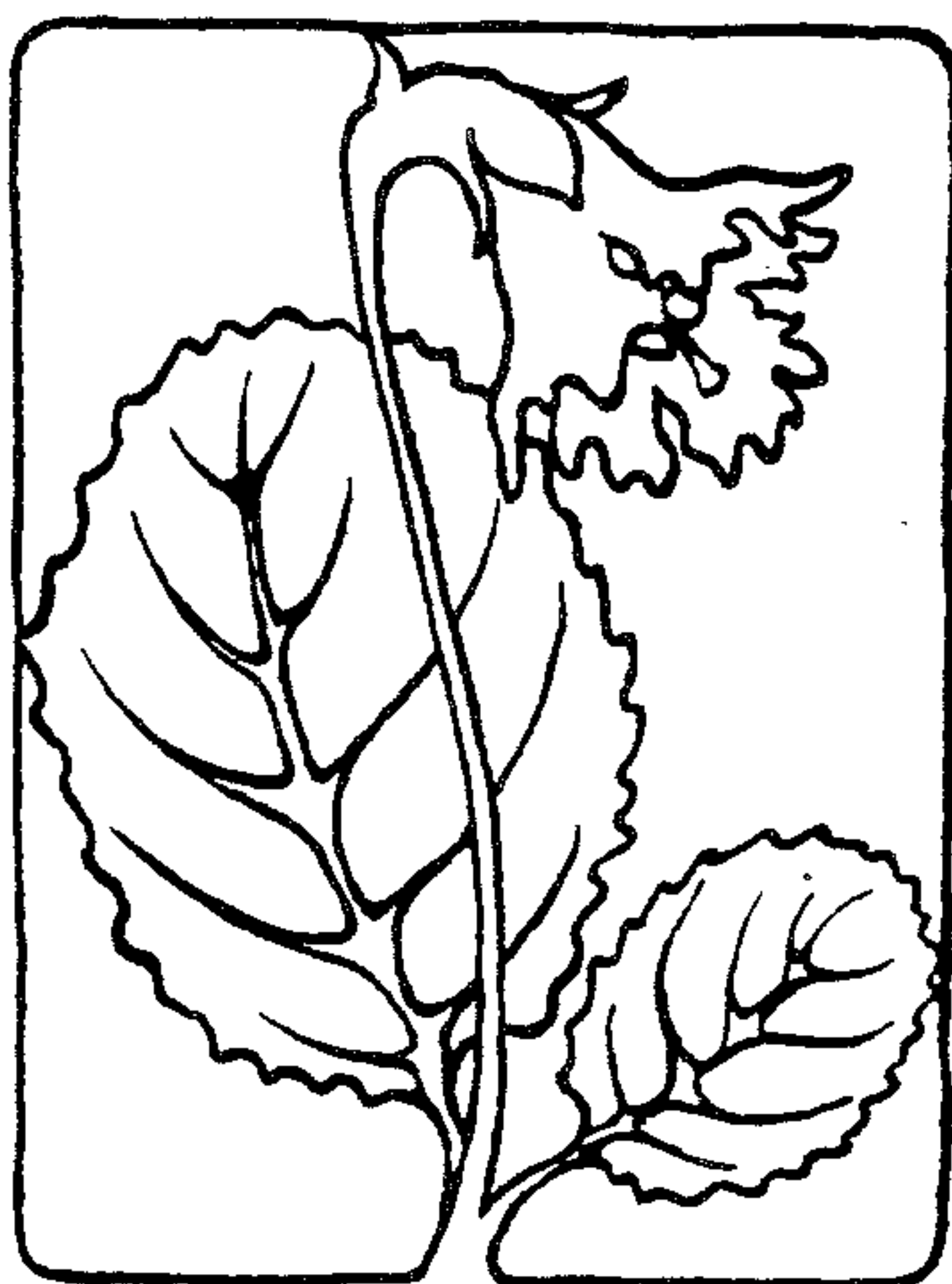


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1986



HELEN TURNER, Editor

OFFICERS

President: Elton J. Hansens      Treasurer: Margaret Kuhn  
Vice President: Millie Blaha      Historian: Anne Ulinski  
Secretary: Ruth Mack

If you were at the Annual Meeting you know....

Tom Hallowell was awarded the Second Wind Hall of Fame. We all know how well you deserve it and congratulate you, Tom.

Harry Logan, who has been active in the WCBC since its start, was made an Honorary Member. We are happy for him and he writes:

Dear friends and members of the Western Carolina Botanical Club:  
All of my life plants and gardens have been my chief interest, my occupation, my principal pastime. My happiest days have been when botanizing, sometimes alone, but often with companions, members of horticultural or botanical clubs.

I take great pride in our Botanical Club and deeply appreciate the honor you have bestowed in granting me Life Membership. Without the Botanical Club my years in Hendersonville would have been lonely, far less interesting and worthwhile. So long as my health will permit, I expect to take part in our activities, but always I shall be interested.

Sincerely and gratefully,  
Harry Logan

Dick Smith has been appointed Chairman of the Education Committee of University Botanic Gardens at Asheville and continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

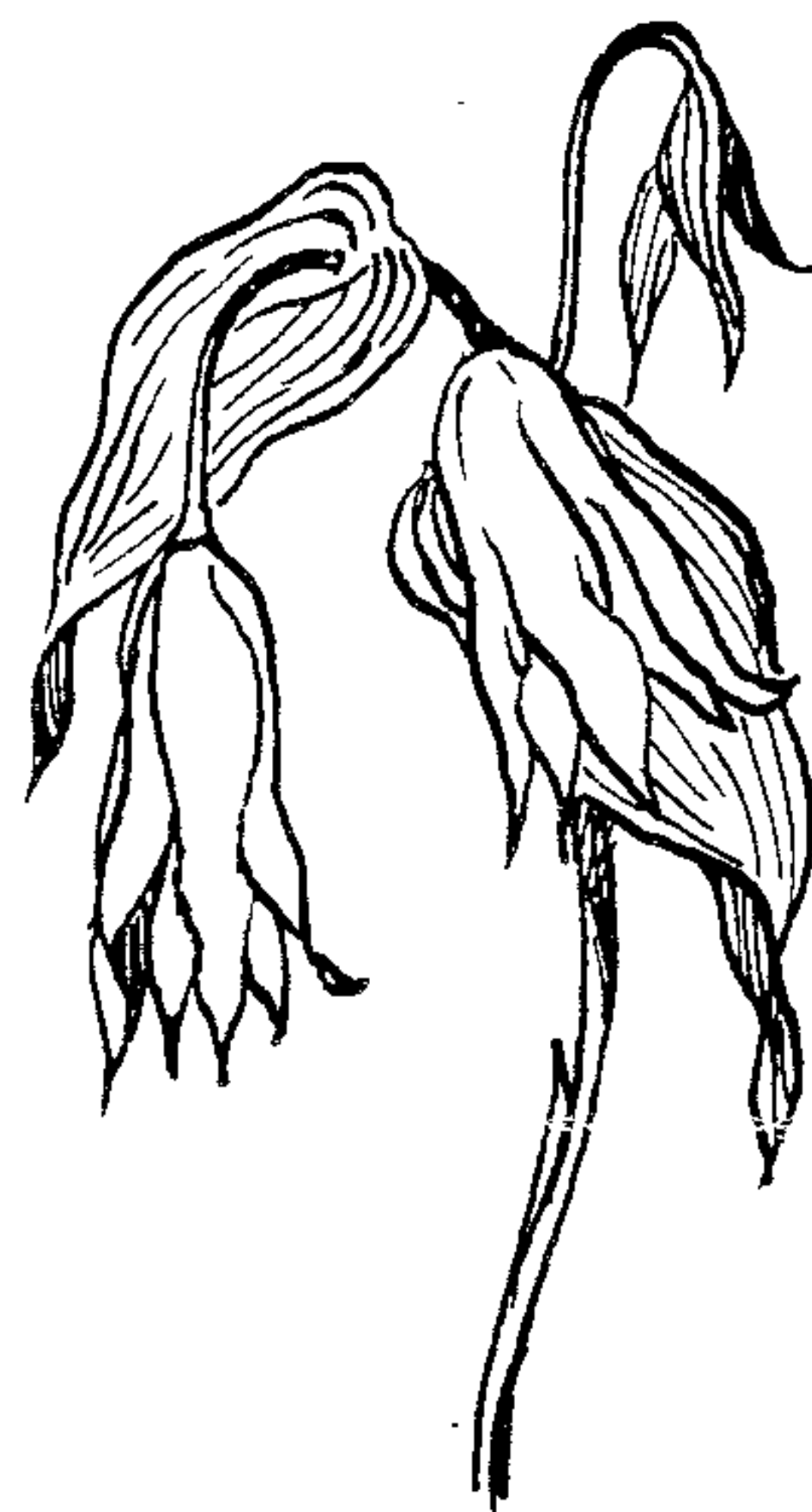
WELCOME -- NEW MEMBERS  
Hendersonville unless otherwise stated

Beerbower, Bruce & Rebekah, 1059 Fifth Ave. N. W.  
Hickory, NC 28601 .....  
Billingsley, Pat, 535 Willow St. .... 692-4881  
Deckard, Paul & Viola, 3850 Haywood Rd. .... 891-8054  
Gilkey, Wallace & Thelma, 442 Deerhaven Lane .... 891-9701  
Gray, George & Virginia, PO Box 1140, Tryon, NC 28782 .... 859-6041  
Ligon, Betty T., PO Box 1511 (29793) .... 693-6607  
Moor, John W. & Marian, 218 S. Hillandale Dr.  
East Flat Rock, NC 28726..... 697-7118  
Schmalstick, Arren & Doris, 515 Timberlane  
Etowah, NC 28729 ..... 891-3642

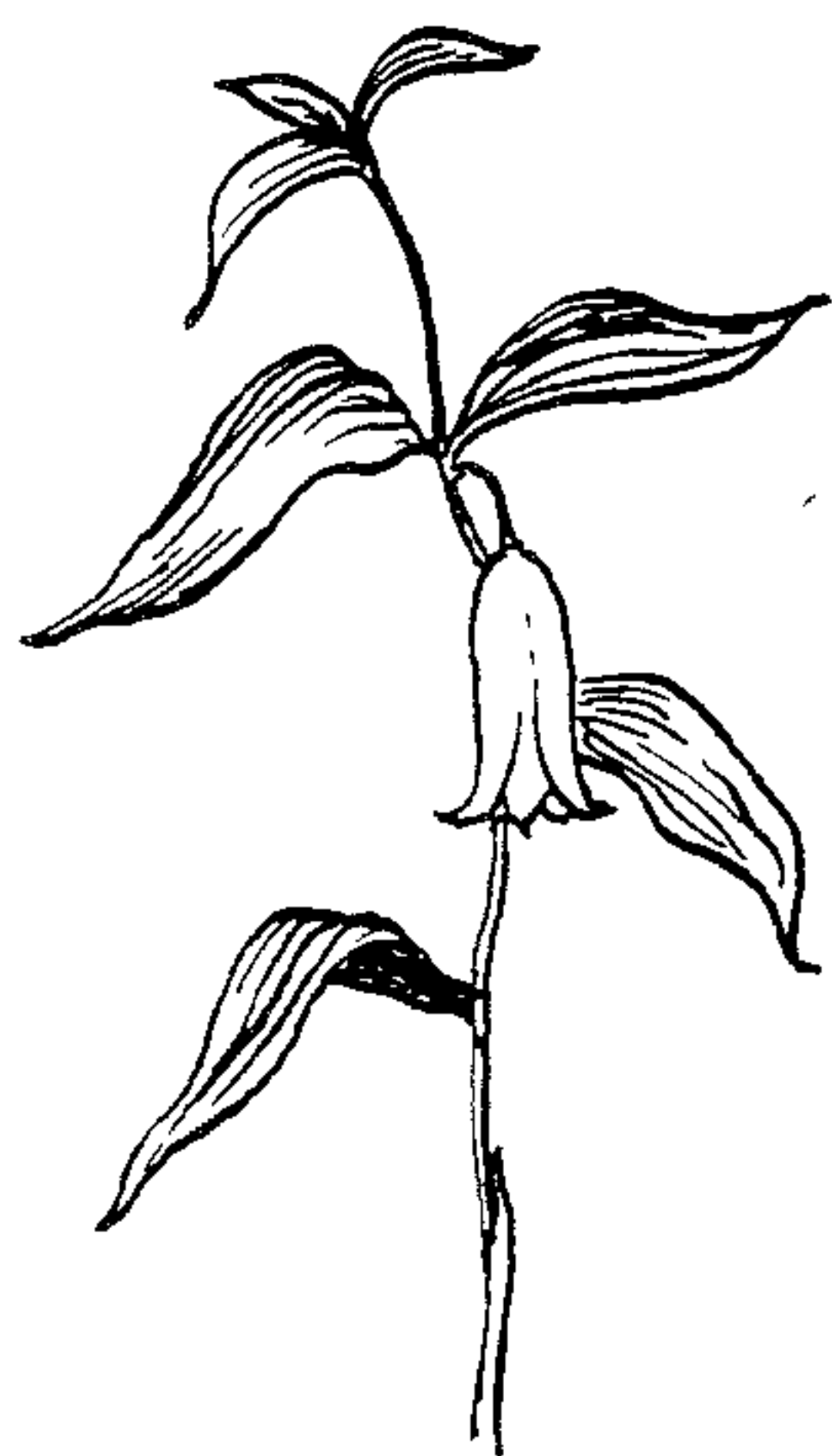
# LOOK AGAIN !

Whoever devised the name "Bellwort" for the Uvularias can hardly be accused of having overworked his imagination. There are at least a dozen other genera in the Liliaceae which also have flowers that suggest the shape of a bell, to say nothing of scores in other plant families. The specific names also are descriptive--as they should be--but in a genus which consists of only five species one has the feeling that labels could have been chosen which would serve to more narrowly distinguish one from another.

Uvularia perfoliata, for example, is only one of two species in which the stem appears to pierce the leaves (actually, the basal leaf lobes surround the stem and coalesce). Its flowers are light yellow with conspicuous orange papillose glands on the inner surface of the perianth segments, or tepals. The other "perfoliate" species, U. grandiflora, lacks these glands and, as the name implies, produces slightly larger flowers. Much more obvious, though, are the deep butter-yellow color and the fact that the tepals are curiously twisted, which gives the flowers a limp, wilted aspect even when fresh. In the South, the Large-flowered Bellwort is confined entirely to the mountains.



U. GRANDIFLORA



U. PUDICA

The other three species have leaves that are merely stalkless, but only one of these--U. pudica, or Mountain Bellwort--is common in our area. It is a slender plant with bright green, lustrous foliage, and bears pale yellow flowers.

U. sessilifolia, also known as Wild Oats, is similar but is almost exclusively limited to the piedmont province. Its leaves are dull, and light beneath, and the flowers are a pale straw color. Finally, U. floridana occurs only on the coastal plain from South Carolina southward. A leafy bract just behind each flower-stalk is its field mark.

Dick Smith

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The annual meeting of our club is always a gala occasion and the 1985 meeting (held January 24, 1986) was no exception. About 75 members and guests enjoyed the usual delicious and bountiful covered-dish luncheon and enjoyed fellowship and the reports at the annual business meeting.

Officers elected were Elton Hansens, President; Millie Blaha, Vice President; Ruth Mack, Secretary; Margaret Kuhn, Treasurer; and Anne Ulinski, Historian. Margaret Canfield as Secretary and Louise Foresman as Historian were applauded for their several years of service.

We ended the year with a balance of \$325.26 in the treasury. The annual dues were continued at \$8.00. Our membership is now 114. The Historian reported a total of 42 hikes (average attendance 21) and 17 indoor meetings (average attendance 50). Lists of flora identified on hikes have been entered in the permanent record book.

The President reported for the Executive Board, highlighting the work of the Program Committee who produced two detailed schedules. Various members of the Committee also lead more than half of the indoor presentations and three-quarters of the hikes. Helen Turner was thanked for her editorial work in producing four fine issues of SHORTIA. We need volunteers to write news items and feature stories.

The Community Action Committee, chaired by Larry Kenyon, recommended our continued support of the Western Carolina Botanical Garden at Asheville, the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, the Southern Appalachian Conservancy (Roan Mountain), and Friends of the Horsepasture. The Committee also gave consideration to several other requests for assistance or funds; they encouraged litter pick-up from trails as we hike and increased liaison with schools and other groups.

Two major service projects were instituted in 1985. Millie Blaha impressed us with the immense amount of data she and her committee accumulated on weekly visits to Holmes State Forest detailing the flora in bloom on selected habitat areas. The project will be continued in 1986 and perhaps expanded. Dick Smith detailed the progress on the nature trail on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Pisgah Inn. The trail is now designated the Buck Spring Lodge Nature Trail. Our goal is to have the trail laid out and a preliminary brochure ready for public use in the spring of 1987.

Our President completed his presentation with words of appreciation to all of the committees for their work and to the membership in general for their fine support.

Bess Sinish, chairman of the Honors Committee, surprised Tom Hallowell by reading a citation naming him to the Second Wind Hall of Fame. The Committee also completed a second assignment -- to develop criteria for Honorary Life Membership. Harry Logan was named our third Life Member (the first under these criteria).

Frances Gadd and Estelle Donnell volunteered to collate, staple and distribute the schedules and SHORTIA, relieving the Treasurer of this responsibility. The arrangements Committee (Aline Hansens, Chairman) was thanked for a smooth running annual meeting. The meeting was closed with announcements relative to future activities.

#### RAMBLINGS -- PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PLACES

Hark back to the time before Christmas -- already it seems so remote, but yet we did have some hikes way back then. The JONES GAP trail is a very pleasant one along the creek -- a lovely warm day and the mosses seemed to be at their peak -- identified for us by Millie Blaha and Anne Ulinski. TREES AND SHRUBS IN WINTER hike had to be cancelled because of heavy rains. We had all looked forward to Lowell Orbison's expertise in identifying trees and shrubs by the bark and twigs and shape of the tree. He did, however, present an indoor program a week later on THE FLOWERS OF TREES -- beautiful slides and most interesting commentary -- 70 persons were present. A departure from the usual indoor programs was BOTANICAL FOLK SONGS AND OTHER BALLADS presented by Cindy Carpenter. Everyone enjoyed the varied range of unusual folk songs and we all sang a Christmas song with her. Afterwards, holiday punch was served along with cookies brought by the members -- such a variety of goodies. There was talk of making this an annual affair -- 54 persons present.

We started out the New Year with SNOWBIRD REVISITED -- 55 persons enjoyed this beautiful slide program presented by Elton and Aline Hansens. The lovely bird songs in the background had been recorded near the Lodge by Aline. This took us back to our Club trip there in April '85 and surely made all of us want to return this Spring of '86. Dr. Creech presented a program on FOOD PLANTS OF THE WORLD -- how, by fostering genetic diversity and taking into account preferential differences, the entire world could be better fed -- interesting and informative -- 70 persons present. NEW VARIETIES AND HOW WE GET THEM pertained to azaleas and rhododendrons around the world, a slide program presented by August Kehr -- 35 persons attended.

Seventy three persons took part in the ANNUAL MEETING at St. John In-The-Wilderness church. The long tables and Speaker's table were festive looking -- special kudos to Millie Blaha and Sidney Holmes for gathering the greens, making the decorations and decorating the tables. Details of the meeting appear elsewhere in this issue of SHORTIA.

A double screen slide presentation on a SOUTH PACIFIC ADVENTURE revealed lovely and interesting slides of Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, and New Guinea taken on a 1972 trip by the Hansens. We all felt we'd had a trip to that part of the world -- 48 persons attended. In the absence of Harry Logan who has been ill, John Kuhn presented a program on BOG PLANTS and at the end included slides of Disneyland in Florida which all seemed to enjoy -- 28 persons present.

Louise Foresman

## THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM

So we now have a regional arboretum in western North Carolina. This is a development that has been a long time in coming and it should be particularly exciting to the Western C Botanical Club. This region is steeped in botanical history and if one wants to learn more about it, read "A Species of Eternity" by Joseph Kastner. The new arboretum can be a tribute to the enthusiastic contributions to the eternal stream of naturalists who were attracted to this area and the members of the WCBC can be the contemporary counterparts of those early plantsmen. The one significant difference being that our natural heritage will be gathered here instead of being shipped off to foreign gardens.

An arboretum is a living repository of plants in which native and exotic species are cultivated either in their natural variability or through ennoblement by man. The arrangement of the collections, purposes of the arboretum, and administration are as varied as the number of such institutions. But it seems to me that the WNCA should reflect its mountain environment with the collections so incorporated into the ecological niche (some 300 acres) that the visitor has the opportunity to both gain new plant knowledge and yet does not lose awareness of the natural richness. There is a place in this arboretum for cultivation of both our native species, their Oriental counterparts, and those plants which have been improved and are useful in this region for the nurseryman and homeowner. This is a pretty big order and while a successful arboretum depends on the quality of the professional and gardening staff, it most certainly requires the active support of local organizations and individuals motivated by the same dedication to the plant world around us.

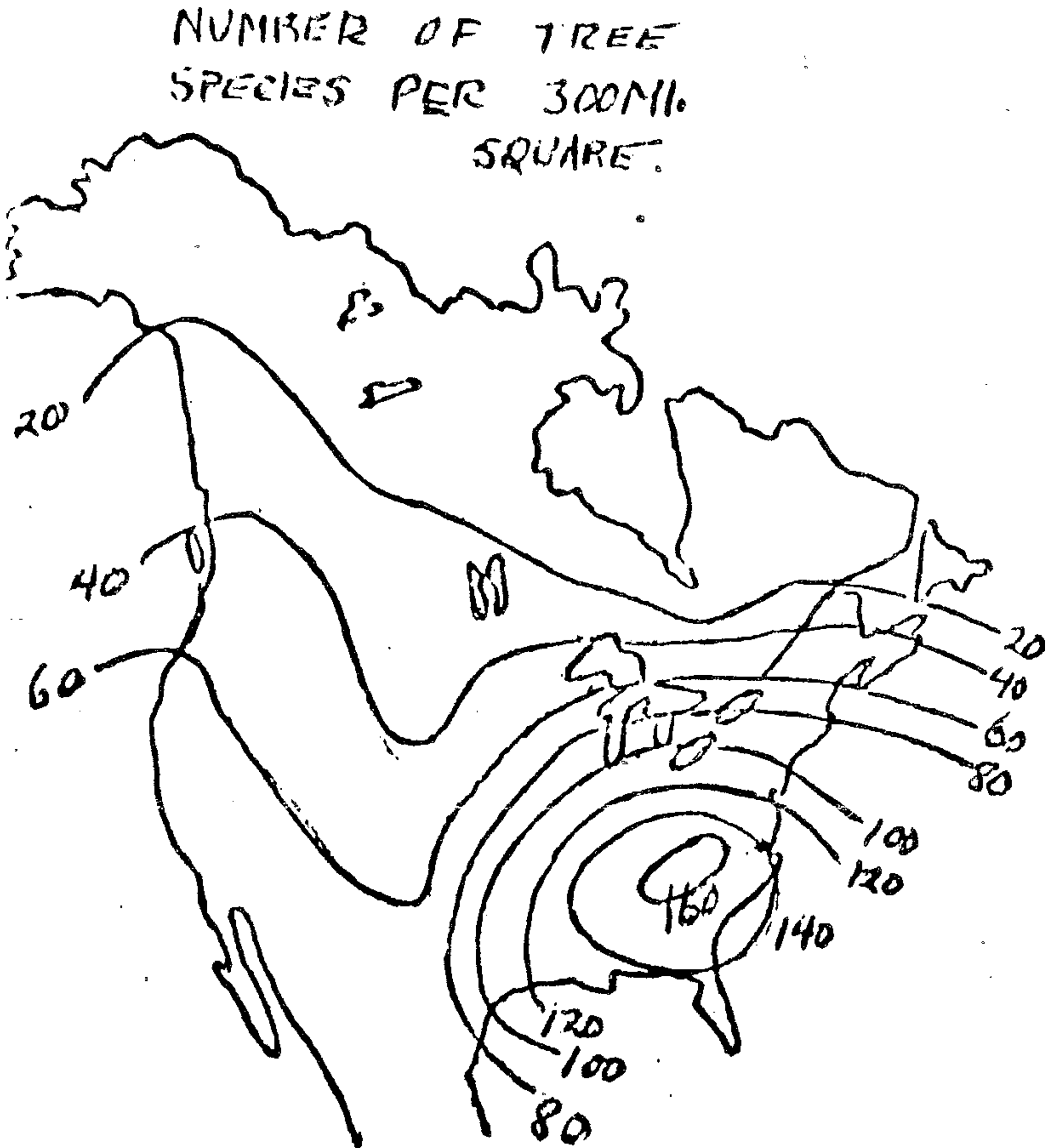
The Benk Creek site like any location has its advantages and drawbacks but the latter are so few in comparison to sites of many of our leading aboretums that we can move ahead rapidly with its development. I was surprised when I was at the site last Sunday (Feb. 3) to find a considerable number of families taking advantage of the natural beauty. We are indebted to the US Forest Service for the contribution of the Bent Creek site and the remarkable ease with which it was transferred. You know, of course, that this great forest reserve was given by Vanderbilt and that the famous Landscape Architect Olmsted had envisioned an Arboretum to be associated with the estate. It took almost a hundred years but the arboretum has finally arrived.

PS: The book by Kastner is out of print but is in our area libraries.

Dr. John L. Creech  
Horticultural Consultant

## DISTRIBUTION OF TREES OF NORTH AMERICA

Western North Carolina -- we love it here! So do trees. More than a hundred species grow in just the limited area of the Great Smokies Park -- and that is more than anywhere else in America -- and more than in all of Europe. How much this great variety adds to the pleasure of our hikes.



John MacArthur, a nephew of Helen Turner, recently did an interesting study of tree distribution which he shared with Helen and she with us. Using a grid of 110 squares, each 300 miles on a side, he plotted the distribution of all the trees shown in the GOLDEN BOOK OF TREES OF NORTH AMERICA. The resulting map shows very graphically just where the center of tree population is. Fascinating!

John writes: "I have asked several experts what they think it signifies, and the usual answer is that it is probably the combined result of several factors: rainfall, topography, soil, history, temperature and probably others."

He also suggests the WCBC might enjoy making a composite list of all the trees we identify on our hikes during one year, just to see how high the number really is. Anybody interested?

Willard Verduin

## BUCK SPRING LODGE NATURE TRAIL PROJECT

You will recall that late in 1984 the Club proposed that the one-mile northernmost segment of the Buck Spring Trail be developed into a self-guiding nature trail, and that the National Park Service responded to this suggestion very enthusiastically. The commencement of work on this project was delayed by the closing of that part of the Blue Ridge Parkway for tunnel repairs, but after a late start we were able to achieve what we consider to be very satisfactory progress during the remainder of the year.

Teams of volunteers from our Club made 23 separate surveys of the trail. In addition, we toured the entire route with the Assistant Superintendent of the Parkway together with several members of his staff, and as a result of this and other consultations with them the following decisions were arrived at:

1. The trail will be formally designated the "Buck Spring Lodge Nature Trail".
2. Several minor modifications in the trail configuration were agreed upon.
3. Approximately 30 stations will be established along the trail, each indicated by a numbered post. These numbers will correspond to descriptions in a pamphlet of selected flora at each location.

A final decision has not yet been made by the Park Service as to whether additional identification labels will be provided for other plants, or whether a comprehensive list of species will be made available for those who desire it.

We have inventoried substantially all of the species of flowering plants along the trailsides, and have noted 145 kinds of trees, shrubs and forbs. This figure does not include ferns, mosses, club-mosses and lichens, of which there are many. As a result of this field work, we have tentatively selected 27 plant species to be represented by numbered stations and described in the brochure, and the first draft has been submitted to the Park Service for review.

Although a total of 243 hours were logged on this project, this represents the efforts of only a few individuals, the reason being that the nature of work -- surveying and recording -- was such that it could not very well be spread over a large group. This year, however, we will be recruiting a number of you who have offered to help. Among the things we will need to do are:

1. Check each of the 27 species at flowering or fruiting time, and pinpoint the best location along the trail for each one.
2. Secure help of knowledgeable members in confirming or correcting identification where there is uncertainty.
3. Monitor the installation of the numbered posts and other signs by the Park Service crew.
4. Revise the text of the booklet and check the illustrations.

As you can imagine, this work will be spread out over the coming spring, summer and fall. The goal is to have the brochure printed and ready for testing when the trail is opened to the public in the spring of 1987. On the basis of that year's experience, the Park Service will then arrange for the printing of a more attractive, and perhaps an expanded, pamphlet for permanent use.

Richard M. Smith



The North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society will be holding its Spring meeting in Asheville, May 2-4, 1986, in conjunction with the UNC-Asheville Botanical Garden's annual Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage. On Saturday evening May 3 the Wild Flower Preservation Society will honor Tom Shinn as part of the 8:00 PM program to be held at the Botany Center of the UNC-Asheville Botanical Gardens. Several of our members are being invited to participate in paying tribute to Tom Shinn. Please mark the dates of May 2-4 on your calendar and plan to attend this event.

\* \* \* \* \*

An invitation from Frank D. Bell of Green Cove Woods:

1. I believe the Club is coming to see us on April 21. I request a favor. We have a surplus of hamburgers -- some of it still on the hoof! We hope all guests (non-vegetarians) will bring a cooperative appetite. We'll provide burgers, buns, fixings -- you bring supplements, as last year.
2. We still have a surplus of trees -- white pines, hemlocks, a few silver bells and magnolias. They will thrive with proper luck and attention. Also, some red hot pokers. They cost the digging. Call 692-3241 if interested. They are forest, not nursery, grown and pruned.

\* \* \* \* \*

Looking for a summer week doing something different, comfortable, challenging, for all ages, worthwhile, fun, and related to nature and conservation? A National Wildlife Federation Summit is just the thing, with classes, field trips, programs, walks, discussions, good food, and great people. The 1986 NWF Summits are in Maine, Colorado, and -- we're so lucky -- at nearby Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC! Sorry -- the Maine one is filled with 550 people signed up. The Blue Ridge Summit is June 21-27; Colorado June 29-July 5. For information, write: Conservation Summits, NWF, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036, or call Barbara Hallowell (692-4316). A number of Botanical Club members have taken advantage of these, some repeatedly, and have glowing reports.

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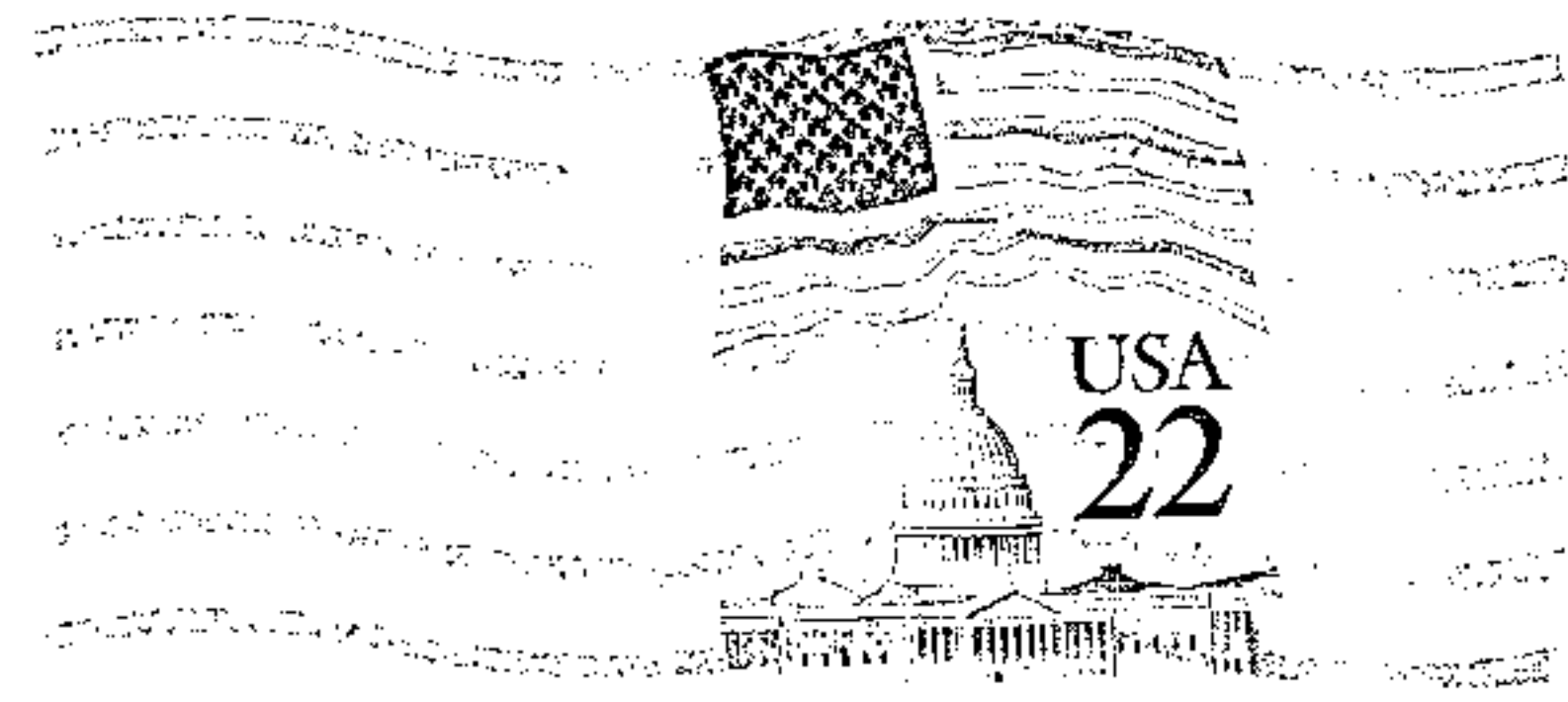
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Please submit contributions for next issue by May 15, 1986

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