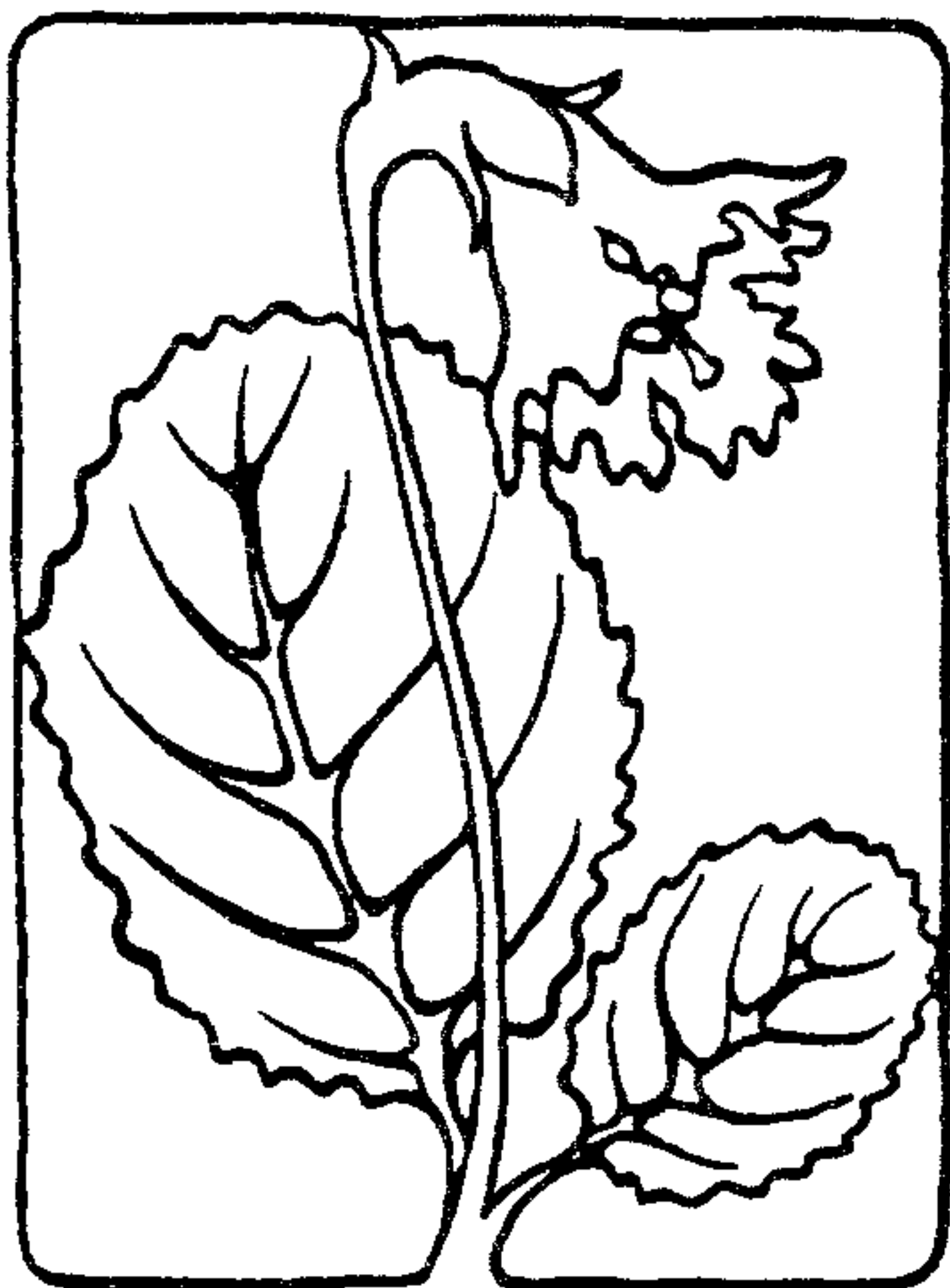


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

AUTUMN 1987



MILLIE BLAHA, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....Millie Blaha

✿ Dr. Jim Perry, UNC at Asheville, has sent a letter of appreciation expressing his thanks to those who served as guides at Shinn's Gardens during the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Elton Hansens was responsible for coordinating the volunteers from the Botany Club.

The dates for the Sixteenth Pilgrimage are May 6-8, 1988. Please put these dates on your calendar so that you will be available to help with this project.

✿ Elton Hansens and Jane Blackstone who served as nature guides for children from the Venable School when they visited Bent Creek Forest area in May reported that this was a most rewarding experience. They could have used the help of at least six more volunteers on that day!

Please mark your calendar for June 1, 1988 so that you may assist as a volunteer in introducing the children from this school to the world of nature.

✿ Our thanks to Grace Rice, chairman, Louise Foresman and Charlotte Carman for the beautiful display featuring the Botany Club at the Hendersonville Library during the month of May. Their assignment truly was a challenge because the committees responsible for this effort in preceding years have done such an excellent job. We are proud of and grateful for the talents of these three ladies.

✿ COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

The Holmes Educational State Forest Plant Study is continuing for the third year. The study area being focused on is the second half of the Forest Demonstration Trail. The committee consisting of Charlotte Carman, Louise Foresman, Don Prentice, Grace Rice, Anne Ulinski and Millie Blaha has been spending one day a week recording the plants that are in bloom on that day. Eventually this information, along with the data compiled for the preceding two years, will be compiled and put into a report.

Dick Smith reports that progress on the Shut-In Trail on the Blue Ridge Parkway has been taken over by events. Damage resulting from last winter's devastating ice storm as well as announced construction of personnel headquarters for the Parkway have put the committee's work on hold. The trail however, is still open. If, in the course of visits to the trail, anyone finds plants that are unusual, please let Dick Smith know (885-2530) so that he can add them to the trail's plant list.



✿ WELCOME -- NEW MEMBERS

Hendersonville (28739) unless otherwise indicated

- Flanagan, Betty (Mrs. John V.), P.O. Box 265, Flat Rock NC 28731..... 693-3113
- Florence, Dr. Thomas J. & Glenna, P.O. Box 32, Gerton, NC 28735.....704/625-4401
- Lovick, Robert & Dorothy, 2608 Kanuga Pines Drive ..... 697-6614
- Menotti, Amel R. & Mary, 302 Browning..... 891-4211
- Taylor, Fred & Charlene, Box 566, Flat Rock NC 28731..... 693-8400

Change of address

Hoogstra, Donald & Lois, Carolina Village, 24 Larks Spur

RECORDER'S REPORT.....Anne Ulinski

In May 16 members of the WNC Botanical Club drove to Cullowhee, N.C. for a two-day program planned for us by Dr. J. Dan Pittillo, Professor of Botany at Western Carolina University. We arrived early enough on a Thursday to tour the Mountain Heritage Center at the University, then back to our motel for dinner and a slide presentation by Dr. Pittillo describing some of his studies in paleoecology in the Balsam Mountains.\* The following day we made an early morning visit to view the large hybrid collection of rhododendrons at the University gardens and then drove to the Nantahala area where we walked the Wasilik Trail. Among many plants identified, we saw the Wasilik Champion Poplar, yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) and Goldie's fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*).

Later in May we drove to Lake Issaqueena in the Clemson Experimental Forest. Dick Smith, Don Prentice and Anne Ulinski had scouted the area the day before so they already knew that a little walking and some stop and go along the road would introduce us to a wealth of plants, including some species new to our group. We saw arrow arum and spatterdock at the Lake. We saw the oldest living chestnut tree in S.C., the beautiful Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia obovata*) and 75 other plants. Walking back into the woods we counted over 50 pink lady slippers in one small area.

Ice storm damage caused us to cancel our hike to Big Butt but following Marge Little's suggestion, we successfully substituted a new area, Bear Pen Gap trail at Mile Post 427.6. The trail follows an old road under birch and beech trees to a large open meadow. Along the wooded section we saw an unusual stand of umbrella leaf in bloom and for a good botany lesson, we found growing almost next to each other a mountain maple and a striped maple, both in bloom.


In June Elton and Aline Hansens took a group to the Franklin area. Perry's Water Garden was visited and the lush Albert Rufus Morgan Trail was hiked. There was a day to hike to the tower at Wayah Bald and the group returned with a list of 55 wildflowers identified.

As always there was "THE PARKWAY". We went south with Dick Smith in May, south again in June with Bill Verduin, north with Miles Peelle in July. We saw pink shell azalea, saxifrage, violets, Canada mayflowers, purple fringed orchids, fire pink, nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*), liatris, bearsfoot (*Polymnia uvedalia*) alumroot, and many others.

During this same period we had outings to Pilot Mountain, Daniel Creek, Roan Mountain, and hiked the Buck Springs Lodge Trail and the Shut-In Trail where we made the usual detour to see the Turk's-cap lilies.

The last outing covered in this report is of the August Soco Gap to Heintooga trip led by Bill Verduin. It was cool! We had a nice group of 19. We saw the very infrequent Rugel's ragwort (*Senecio rugelia*) at Round Bottom Road. After lunch at Heintooga we drove to an open meadow near the Masonic Monument. Here we saw many flowers in bloom--beebalm, basil balm, sunflowers, lilies (Turk's-cap and Carolina), starry campion, spiderwort, and many more. Bill led us to a nearby area where we saw a large display of orange fringed-orchids (*Habenaria ciliaris*). We left reluctantly to return to the "lowlands" and the heat.

\*The following papers are on file with the recorder: "Comparison of contemporary vegetation and pollen assemblages, an altitudinal transect in the Balsam Mountains, Blue Ridge Province, western North Carolina, USA" by Hazel R. Delcourt and J. Dan Pittillo; "Phytogeography of the Balsam Mountains and Pisgah Ridge, Southern Appalachian Mountains", by J. Dan Pittillo and Garrett A. Smathers; and "Flat Laurel Gap Bog, Pisgah Ridge, North Carolina: Late Holocene Development of a High-Elevation Heath Bald", by David S. Shafer. Anyone wishing to see these papers, or make copies for their own files, please contact Anne Ulinski.

 WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Millie Blaha

To many persons the scientific name of a plant (also referred to as botanical or technical) is bewildering, difficult to remember and difficult to pronounce. Such a name should not be frightening.

A scientific name is not a string of meaningless syllables. It consists of two parts - the genus and species. This binomial nomenclature, begun with Linnaeus' SPECIES PLANTARUM in 1753, not only names the plant but places it in a system. It is the means by which plants are known by peoples throughout the world.

Oftentimes the generic or first part of a binomial honors some person. Some of these names were given to a plant when our Continent was being explored and its botanical treasures were being sent or brought back to England and Europe to be studied and added to the growing record there of American flora. Others commemorate the lives of naturalists, botanists, entomologists, explorers and other persons whose lives are recorded in the chapters of history.

Listed below are the genus names of some plants which you may have seen in bloom during the summer months with the names of the persons whom they honor.

- BOEHMERIA - False nettle - honors George Rudolph Boemer (1723-1823), German scientist and professor at Wittenberg University
- COLLINSONIA - Horse balm, richweed - honors Peter Collinson (1694-1768), English botanist who corresponded widely with such men as Linnaeus, John Bartram and John Clayton
- DIERVILLA - Bush honeysuckle - honors Dr. N. Diereville, a French surgeon and traveler who carried this plant from Canada to the botanist Joseph Pitton de Tournefort in 1699
- EUPATORIUM - Joe-pye-weed, boneset, thoroughwort, white snakeroot, etc. - honors Mithridates Eupator (132-63 BC), king of Pontus, who is said to have used a species of this genus in medicine
- GALINSOGA - Peruvian daisy - honors Mariano Martinez Galinsoga, Spanish physician and botanist of the 18th century
- GENTIANA - Gentians - Named for Gentius, king of Illyria who, according to Pliny, discovered the medicinal value of this family of plants
- GERARDIA - Gerardia - named for John Gerard (1545-1612), an English botanist, barber-surgeon, and garden superintendent to Lord Burghley, Minister to Queen Elizabeth I. He grew many exotic plants in his garden but is best known for his HERBALL, first published in 1597 with many subsequent additions
- GOODYERA - Rattlesnake plantain orchid - honors John Goodyer (1592-1664), English botanist, who assisted a Mr. Johnson in his edition of Gerard's HERBALL
- HEUCHERA - Alum-root - honors Johann Heinrich von Heucher (1677-1747), German botanist and Professor of Medicine at Wittenberg University.
- HOUSTONIA - bluets - named for Dr. William Houston (1695-1733), Scottish botanist who collected and wrote about plants in Mexico and the West Indies
- LAPORTEA - Wood nettle - named for Francois L. de Laporte, (1810-1880), Count of Castelnau, French entomologist
- LOBELIA - Lobelia - honors Matthias de L'Obel (1538-1616), Flemish botanist and physician to James I of England

- MONARDA - bee-balm - named for Nicholas Monardes (1493-1588), Spanish physician and botanist; author of many tracts upon medicinal and other useful plants, especially those of the New World
- RUDBECKIA - coneflower - honors Olaf Rudbeck (1630-1740) and his son, Olaf (1660-1740). The elder Olaf was a Swedish anatomist and botanist who discovered the lymphatic system
- SABATIA - Rose pink, bitter-bloom - named for Liberato Sabbati, Italian botanist and author of the 18th century
- TOVARA - Jumpseed - honors Simon a Tovar, Spanish physician of the 16th century
- TRADESCANTIA - named for John Tradescant (1570-1638) and his son John (1608-1662). John, the Elder, was gardener to Charles I of England. John, the Younger, was said to have introduced to England the tuliptree, red maple, sycamore, black walnut, butternut, bald cypress and hackberry.
- TRAUTVETTERIA - Black cohosh, false bugbane - honors Ernest Rudolph von Trautvetter (1809-1889), a Russian botanist.
- VERNONIA - Ironweed - named for William Vernon, (16? - 1711) English botanist who traveled in North America



 NEW BOOKS

BERRY FINDER by Dorcas S. Miller; illustrated by Cherie Hunter Day

This pocket-sized guide to native plants with fleshy fruits one inch in diameter or smaller will be especially useful at this time of the year. The scope of its coverage is the Eastern United States.

This guide is a part of the series which includes the FERN FINDER by Barbara Hallowell and her daughter Anne. Although this booklet with a bright red cover is not a guide to edible plants, it marks with a danger sign those berries that are known to be POISONOUS.

As in all the other pocket guides in this series, the BERRY FINDER has excellent drawings and illustrations of terms and symbols used in it.

Look for this guide at your book store.



 HOPE FOR THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT?

Miles Peelle

New research on the "yellow killer", fungus *Endothica parasitica* or Chestnut Blight, rekindles hope to eventually restore the Chestnut. In northwest Michigan, near Cadillac, over 600 mature trees, planted in the early 1850's, are being studied, as some are just showing blight symptoms. Others, including sprouts are with blight but are still growing and leaves are not dying as these "sick" trees also have a white spore infection. An amateur naturalist of Rockford, MI sent bark of these trees to a Connecticut Research Lab and it was discovered that a white spore fungus H.V. type was attacking the yellow spore killer, *Endothica parasitica*. In past studies (1950), a white spore fungus was found in Italy that suppressed the blight of chestnuts growing on farm lands. Testing this "parasitic" white form in New England was unsuccessful as the white spores did not spread to trees - probably due to climatic and ecological factors. So, when white spores H.V. types were found in Michigan, hope was rekindled. Maybe this H.V. type in Michigan would spread widely and allow young trees growing from cut stumps in Southern regions to reach maturity???



WILDFLOWERS ALONG NORTH CAROLINA HIGHWAYS

Dorothy Rathmann

As you traveled along North Carolina highways this spring and summer, have you noticed the special plantings of cornflowers, calliopsis, annual phlox and California poppies? These non-natives were planted by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, along with the seeds of such native plants as black-eyed Susan, lance-leaved coreopsis and butterfly weed whose seeds take two or more years to become established. Eventually these native perennials will replace the instant color of the exotic annuals. Mowing schedules are to be restricted in these areas in order to encourage seed production of the desired perennial wild flowers and to discourage invading successional woody species.

Building on the results of test plots set out across the State in 1986, the DOT sowed seed mixes appropriate for the specific regions of the State. For example, seeds of coastal area type plants were not sowed in the mountain areas.

According to Ken Moore of the North Carolina Botanical Gardens at Chapel Hill, establishment and maintenance of wild flowers along roadsides is still a relatively young and not well understood discipline. Management techniques will be altered as determined by the successes and failures of each year's activities. It is a credit to North Carolina that this large scale wild flower program has been adopted by the DOT as a long term project to determine the best practical procedures for increasing wild flowers along our roadsides.

If you like - or dislike - the efforts toward maintaining natural wild flower displays along our State's highways, please write to

Bill Johnson, State Landscape Engineer  
and Harold Ritter, State Horticulturist  
North Carolina Dept. of Transportation  
P.O. Box 25201  
Raleigh, NC 27611



WILDFLOWER SEEDS AVAILABLE

Growing native plants in your own garden from seeds or spores is satisfying and economical. The New England Wild Flower Society is offering for sale more than 150 varieties of wild flowers or ferns in their 1988 Seed List. Requests for this list must be received by March 1, 1988. Seed sales close March 15. Send a self-addressed \$.39-stamped envelope (#10 business size) to SEEDS, New England Wild Flower Society/Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701 for a seed list.



A BOTANICAL TIDBIT

Miles Peelle

The gypsy moth is denuding oak trees and is moving in the direction of North Carolina. The pesticides Sevin and Dilox are minor controls. Now comes the following: Southern Pennsylvania State research has found a plant, Bacillus thuringiensis (BT) that feeds only on gypsy moth larvae, killing most and slowing down remaining larvae which allows parasitic wasps a chance to further control of the gypsy cycle. Latest reports indicate that this is better control than pesticides.

**DEADLINE for next issue is November 15, 1987**

# LOOK AGAIN !

I used to love my garden,  
 But now my love is dead;  
 I found a Bachelor's Button  
 In my Black-eyed Susan's bed.

--Unknown

Nurtured in a flower garden or rampant in a summer meadow, Black-eyed Susan certainly is one of our favorites. We think of it as a native, although actually it is an introduced species here, having hitched a ride with other seeds from the West. And, as with any old friend, we recognize it on sight. Or do we?

The most familiar species is Rudbeckia hirta (R. serotina of some authors), and most of the time our identification will be right, but there are other attractive "coneflowers" which we might miss getting to know if we are too sure of ourselves.

The very similar R. fulgida is known as Orange Coneflower because the yellow ray flowers are often tinged with that color at the base; it is more common in the piedmont, less so in the mountains. Then there is the Thin-leaved Coneflower (R. triloba), which at a distance may look like a slightly smaller Black-eyed Susan. Its rays are proportionately wider and a deeper shade of yellow. Most distinctive, though, is the fact that some of the lower leaves have a pair of basal lobes, and this sets it apart from the others.



R. HIRTA



R. TRILOBA

No discussion of the genus should omit mention of the tall, handsome Green-headed Coneflower (R. laciniata), although there is no mistaking it because of its disk, which is yellowish-green instead of brown, its drooping rays, and its pinnately-cut foliage.

*Dick Smith*

S H O R T I A

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Editor: Millie Blaha

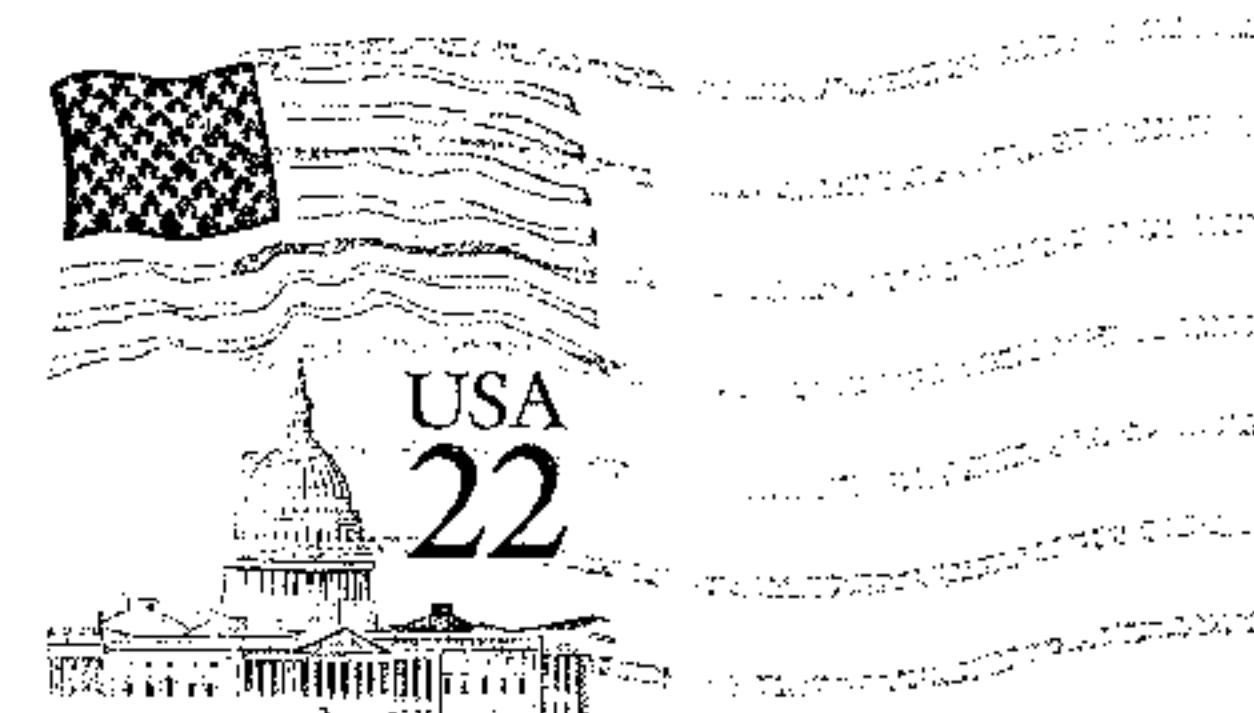
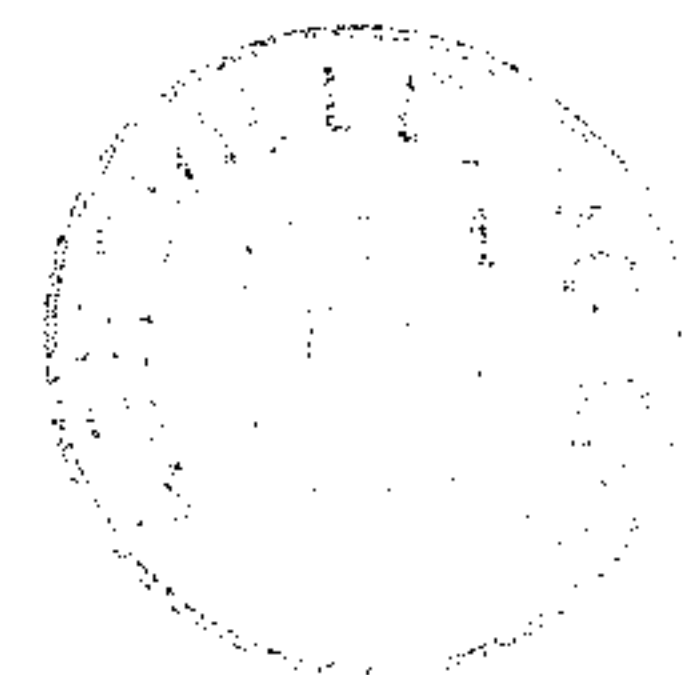
Distribution: Frances Gadd

Please submit contributions for the next issue by November 15, 1987 to:

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**FIRST CLASS**

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