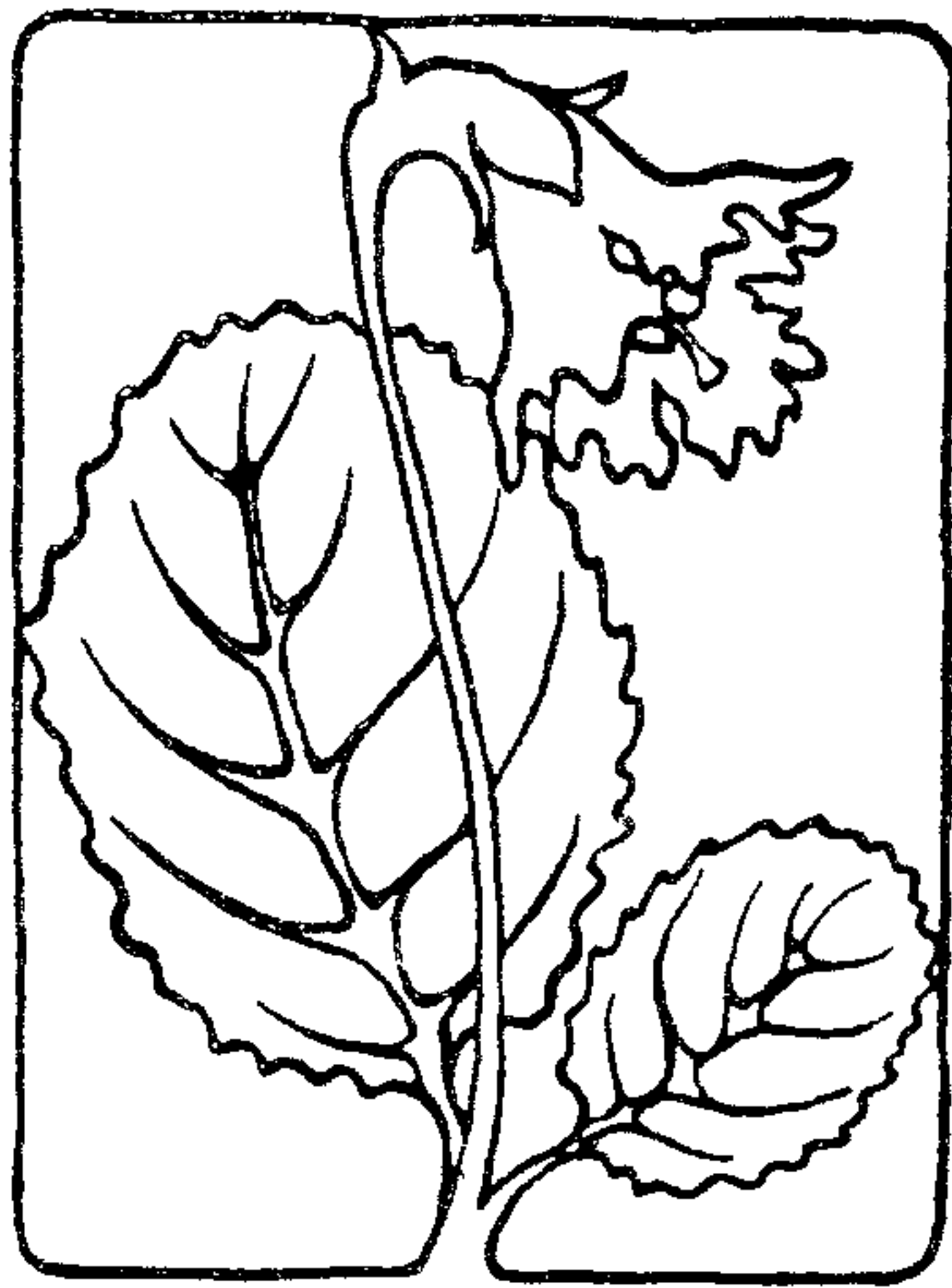


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 1990



DOROTHY RATHMANN, Editor

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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Bill Verduin

I've known the Indian Cucumber Root for many years and always give it a friendly greeting as I pass a small colony. But just the other day as I was admiring some especially tall ones in full bloom, I realized I had never really looked carefully at the individual flower. Sure, they aren't spectacular, certainly not in the league with Fire Pink, but they definitely are worth a good, long look.

First off, the six petals -- or are those three sepals and three petals? -- called immediately to mind Dick Smith's presentation on the Monocotyledons. Look again -- six stamens and three stigmas -- three very prominent long, dark "receiving lines" nicely recurved at the ends. And in this species, the ovary is clearly visible and obviously superior. So, you see, it is in the Lily family, a thought I must admit had never occurred to me. No Turk's Cap to be sure, but beautiful in its own way.

By chance, that very same evening, I picked up a treasured book by John Burroughs, one of the truly great American nature writers. My bookmark directed me to Chapter 14 where the first words to meet my eyes were:

The casual glances or the admiring glances that we cast upon nature do not go very far in making us acquainted with her real ways. Only long and close scrutiny can reveal these to us. The look of appreciation is not enough; the eye must become critical and analytical if we would know the exact truth. Close scrutiny of an object in nature will nearly always yield some significant fact that our admiring gaze did not take in.

Isn't this what the Botanical Club is all about? Dick Smith's "Look Again!", a regular feature in SHORTIA, and Elton Hansens' "A Closer Look" invite us to dig in just a bit deeper than an admiring glance. And our field trips, likewise, give us opportunities to scrutinize the parts that make up the whole. Some may think that detracts somehow from the beauty of the whole. I think not -- quite the opposite. Just take a good close look at the Indian Cucumber Root the next time you meet one.

PS: A Challenge -- Have you ever really seen the flower on the Indian Paintbrush?

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GIFT TO LIBRARY

The WCBC Executive Committee has authorized donation of a copy of Dick Smith's "Wild Plants of America -- A Select Guide for the Naturalist and Traveler" to the Henderson County Library as a gift from the Club.

WHENCE PLANT NAMES? Part I -- The Common Names Lowell Orbison

Plants and animals have lived together on earth for millions of years in a symbiotic relationship. Plants have provided food and oxygen for animals, and animals in turn have contributed carbon dioxide for plants and have helped in pollination and dispersal of seeds. Though many animals, and perhaps all, can recognize specific plants for their own use, only man has developed a language which allows him to give names to plants and thus communicate with others about a specific plant.

For thousands of years the common names of plants have been used in communication and continue in daily use even today. The great value of the common names is that the words are those of the language of the country or region, hence widely understood, and are usually descriptive. The difficulties are that the names differ in different regions and in different languages -- nor have there been any rules by which names were devised. Hence, several plants may have the same name and one plant may have several names. In spite of these limitations, the common names of plants are very useful in daily conversation and often have a descriptive charm.

Examination of the common names of plants in the English language, and more specifically in American English, reveals many interesting origins and derivations. Since our present-day English arose from many sources, we find the common names of plants reflecting these diverse origins.

Most common names are descriptive of some feature of the plant, for example:

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Shapes: Arrowhead, Arrowwood, Aster, Bell Flower, Bladdernut, Blue Curls, Buckeye, Butterfly Pea, Cat-tail, Doll's-eyes, Dutchman's Pipe, Fairy Slippers, Fairy-wand, Goosefoot, Indian Pipe, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Moccasin Flower, Monkey Flower, Monkshood, Pussy Toes, Squaw Corn, Turkey-beard, Wingstem.

Uses: Boneset, Canoe-birch, Chickweed, Colic-root, Cucumber-root, Duck-potato, Horse-balm, Horse-sugar, Paper-birch, Post-oak, Shingle-oak, Teasel (for teasing the nap on wool), Whitlow-wort (for treating infections around the finger and toe nails).

Colors: Black Cherry, Black Locust, Black Oak, Black Walnut, Bluets, Butter and Eggs, Buttercup, Cardinal Flower, Fire Pink, Golden Club, Goldenrod, Indian Pink, Red Oak, Silverrod, Snowberry, Sundrops, Swamp Pink, White Oak, White Walnut.

Habitats: Loblolly (mud puddle) Pine, Marsh Marigold, Mountain Ash, Mountain Magnolia, River Birch, Rock Cress, Sand Myrtle, Swamp Pink, Water-lily.

Odors and Tastes: Bitter-weed, Honey-locust, Honeysuckle, Skunk Cabbage, Sour-grass, Sugar Maple, Sweet Birch, Sweetleaf, Sweet Pepperbush, Sweet-shrub.

Textures: Cottonwood, Dogwood (Daggerwood because the hard wood allowed a sharp point), Hornbeam, Ironweed, Leather Flower, Leatherwood, Velvet-leaf.

Effects: Bindweed, Bugbane, Catchfly, Cowbane, Deadly Nightshade, Dogbane, Dog-hobble, Feverfew (relief of fever), Fleabane, Fly-poison, Heal-all, Hobblebush, Lambkill, Loosestrife (to free from trouble), Poison Ivy/Oak/Sumac, Sneezeweed, Sowbane, Stinging Nettle, Tear-thumb, Toothwort.

Time: Flower-of-an-hour, Juneberry, Live-forever, May Apple, Morning-glory, Prim(early)rose, Spring-beauty.

If we turn now to names originating in the Teutonic languages, we find they usually entered English through the Anglo-Saxon. The common names of many of our trees have this origin: Ash, Apple, Beech, Birch, Dogwood, Elm, Fir, Hackberry (Hag[witch]berry), Hawthorn, Hazel, Hemlock, Holly, Maple, Oak, Linden, Walnut (Foreign Nut), and Willow. Even Hop and Ivy came from the Teutonic as did a considerable number of the names of herbs: Baneberry, Clover, Foxglove, Honeysuckle, Nightshade, Strawberry, Stonecrop, Teasel, Thistle, and Yarrow.

Many names came into English from the Greek and Latin, often through the French. Examples are: Aspen, Arbor-vitae, Azalea, Alder, Agrimony, Bee-balm, Betony, Chestnut, Cypress, Dandelion (Lion's Teeth), Grape, Mullein, Magnolia, Marsh Marigold, Orchid, Onion, Peach, Pear, Periwinkle, Pine, Poplar, Poppy, Rose, Rue, Spruce, Sorrel, Sycamore and Tansy.

Into American English came names from the various Indian languages. Presumably the early settlers found plants with which they were not familiar and accepted the Indian names, such as, Chinquapin, Hickory, Pecan, Persimmon, Tupelo (Swamp Tree), Wahoo, Poke, Pipsissewa and Puccoon (Bloodroot).

Scattered throughout our language are a few names from many other sources. A few examples are: Arabic gives us Senna and Sumac, Spanish provides Pawpaw, Sassafras and Tobacco, Chinese gives us Ginseng and Ginkgo, and Persian gives us Lilac.

So our common names come to us from a variety of sources, all adding to the beauty and charm of our language.

RECORDER'S REPORT.....Elton Hansens

The winter program included a wide range of subjects presented as slide shows, lectures, workshops and group presentations. The meetings were well attended. Programs emphasized a broader look at the plant kingdom and interrelationships between plants and their environmental and physical factors.

February 23 marked the beginning of this field season when eleven hikers walked a portion of the Long Branch Trail in spite of threatening skies and a forecast of rain. By the next field trip on March 19 at Pearson's Falls, many early spring flowers were already in bloom and the falls, too, was especially beautiful. Through April and May our trips continued to emphasize habitats and plant successions. Geographically field trips extended from Congaree and Four Holes Swamp habitats in South Carolina to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and from the Experimental Forest of Clemson University to favorite trips on the Blue Ridge Parkway and in the National Forests.

Since the WCBC began lists have been kept of the flowers in bloom on each trip. Thus, we have a variety of lists from different locations and dates. Anne Ulinski computerized much of this information so it could be used more easily by the Program Committee. In the 1989 Recorder Report, Bess Sinish detailed a scheme for field trip records which would emphasize habitats and study of plant successions by repeat visits. The 1990 committee has decided to maintain 3 types of records for each site, namely 1. Field Location Profile, 2. Field Trip Report and 3. List of Flora in Bloom by Month. Each type of report is detailed below.

1. Field Location Profile.

Name of Location _____ miles (round trip)
Detailed direction for the trip. _____ Nature of the terrain and difficulty. Hiking distance. Elevation. Ecology, special botanical features, etc. Any special hazards to be encountered (fording streams, etc. The report is to be general and not specific to one time of year.

2. Field Trip Report

Date _____ No. of Hikers _____ Leader _____
Co-Leader _____

This report will include special environmental features not in the Profile--weather, special botanical features including non-flowering plants, unusual and/or uncommon plants, plants that are especially abundant or spectacular. This short narrative will give highlights and interesting happenings on a specific trip.

3. Monthly List of Plants in Bloom.

A separate list will be prepared for each field trip location for each month when it is visited. Once a list has been established when revisited finds of new plants will be added to that list. Eventually we will have month by month lists of flowers in bloom at each site.

On the next page is a sample monthly list--Pearson's Woods in April.

LIST OF FLORA IN BLOOM

PLACE PEARSON'S WOODS MONTH APRIL

4-11-86
4-8-88
4-14-89
4-6-90

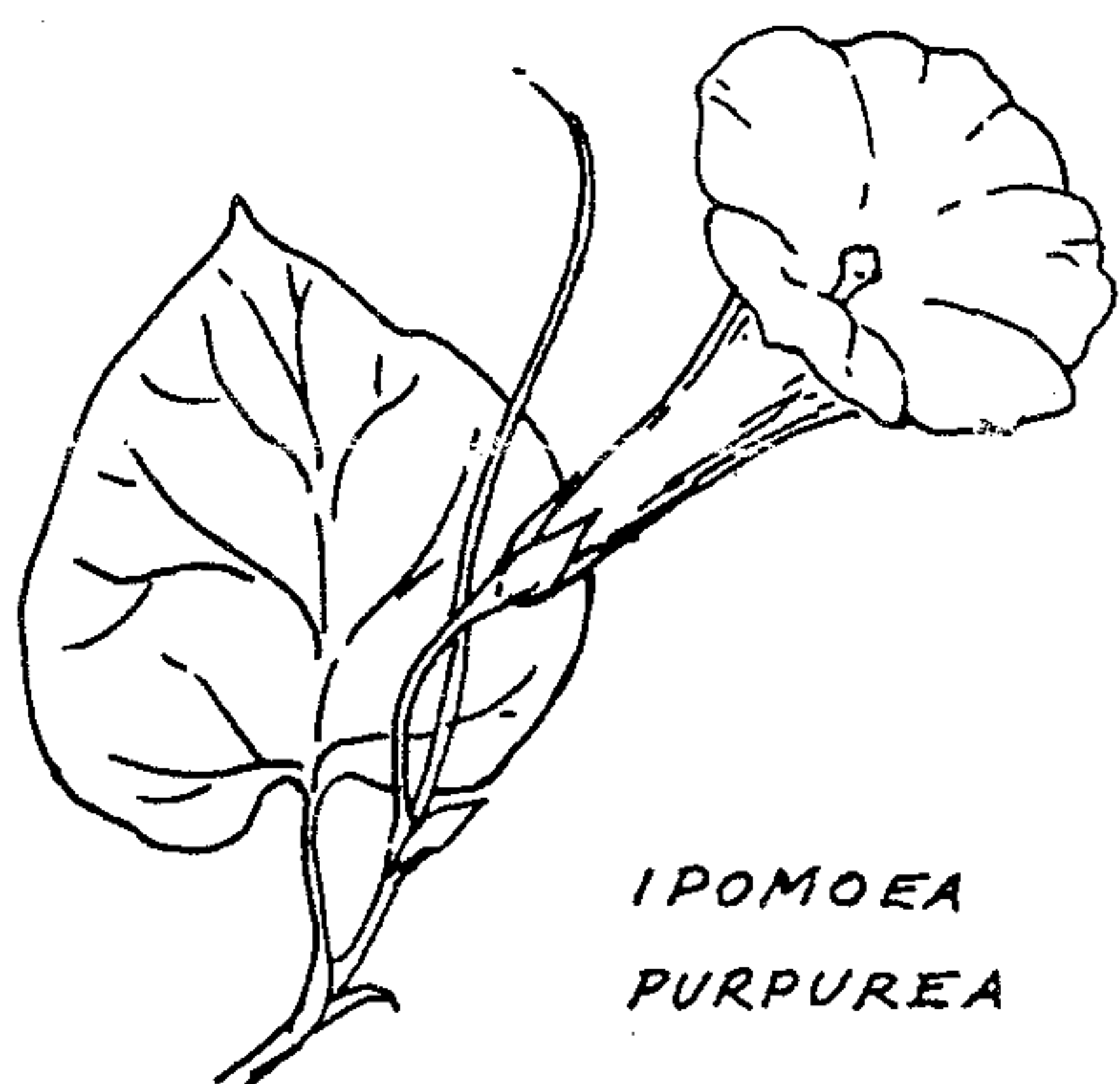
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	blue star				
<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	wood anemone		X	X	X
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	jack-in-the-pulpit	X	X	X	
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	wild ginger	X	X	X	X
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	sweet shrub	X		X	C
<i>Cardamine clematitis</i>	bittercress	X	X	X	
<i>Cardamine concatenata</i>	toothwort	X	X		G
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	blue cohosh	X	X	X	X
<i>Cerastium holosteoides vulgare</i>	mouse-ear chickweed		X	X	X
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	redbud				G
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	spring beauty	X	X	X	X
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood	X	X	X	X
<i>Corylus sp.</i>	hazelnut		X		
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	dutchman's breeches	X	X		X
<i>Disporum lanuginosum</i>	yellow mandarin	X	X	X	C
<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	robin's plantain	X	X		
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	trout lily	X	X	X	G
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	wild strawberry				X
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	gill-over-the-ground	X	X	X	A
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	silverbell	X	X	X	X
<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	sharp-leaved hepatica	X	X		
<i>Hybanthus concolor</i>	green violet	X	X	X	X
<i>Iris cristata</i>	crested iris	X		X	C
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	henbit	X	X		X
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	X			
<i>Luzula sp.</i>	woodrush		X	X	X
<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	Fraser's magnolia		X		
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells		X	X	
<i>Obolaria virginica</i>	pennywort				X
<i>Orchis spectabilis</i>	showy orchis	X	X	X	X
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	mayapple			X	X
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's seal		X	X	X
<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i>	kidney-leaved buttercup		X	X	X
<i>Sanguinarius canadensis</i>	bloodroot	X	X		G
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras		X		
<i>Saxifraga virginiana</i>	early saxifrage	X	X	X	
<i>Shortia galacifolia (in yard)</i>	shortia			X	
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	false Solomon's seal			X	
<i>Stellaria pubera</i>	giant chickweed	X	X	X	X
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	X	X	X	X
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	early meadow rue	X	X		X
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	foam flower	X	X	X	C
<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>	toadshade	X	X	X	G
<i>Trillium cuneatum luteum</i>	yellow trillium	X		X	X
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	wake robin		X	X	X
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	slippery elm	X			
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	large-flowered bellwort	X	X	X	X
<i>Viola blanda</i>	sweet white violet	X		X	G
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canada violet	X	X	X	A
<i>Viola eriocarpa eriocarpa</i>	smooth yellow violet	X	X	X	X
<i>Viola hastata</i>	halberd-leaved violet	X	X	X	
<i>Viola palmata</i>	early blue or wood v.	X			
<i>Viola papilionacea</i>	common blue violet	X	X	X	X
<i>Viola papilionacea priceana</i>	confederate violet	X	X		X
<i>Viola rafensquii</i>	wild pansy (in yard)		X	X	X
etc. (3 additional spp.)					

Code to Use X Blooming, A Abundant, S Spectacular, C Coming, G Going.

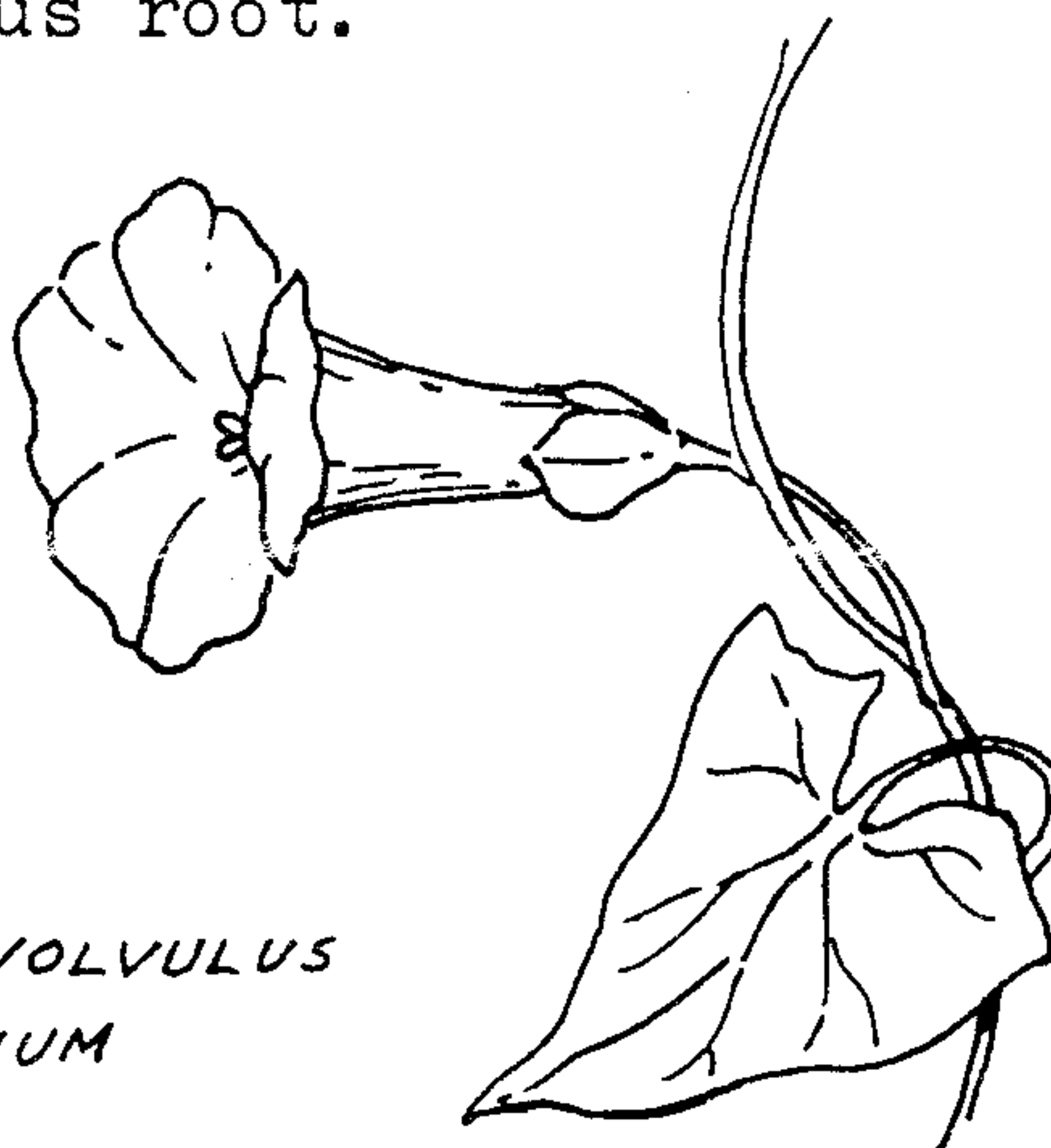
LOOK AGAIN !

Most of us have had a long acquaintance with Morning Glories and feel we know them as well as any other flower. It comes as a surprise, then, to learn that we may have been applying the name to some vines to which it does not properly belong.

All of the true Morning Glories are in the genus Ipomoea, and an outstanding representative is the Common Morning Glory (I. purpurea). This has heart-shaped leaves and large, handsome funnel-shaped flowers which, despite the specific name, may range from white through many shades of pink and red to blue and purple. Another Morning Glory has even bigger blossoms--white with bright purple rays radiating from the throat. This one is I. pandurata, and among its common names are Wild Potato Vine and Man-of-the-Earth, the latter because of its enormous root.



*IPOMOEA
PURPUREA*



*CONVOLVULUS
SEPIUM*

Plants in the genus Convolvulus are known as Bindweeds. Hedge Bindweed (C. sepium), which comes in pink or white, bears a striking resemblance to the large Morning Glories. Differences may be seen in the pair of large outer bracts which cover the calyx (these are absent in Ipomoea), the two stigmas (Ipomoea has one), and the basal lobes of the leaves, which are pointed rather than rounded.

Two other large-flowered species, much less common in our region, are C. sericatus, which is downy, and C. spithameus, an erect, non-twining plant.

Note; Some authors have placed the Bindweeds (except the small-flowered Field Bindweed, Convolvulus arvensis) in the genus Calystegia.

Dick Smith

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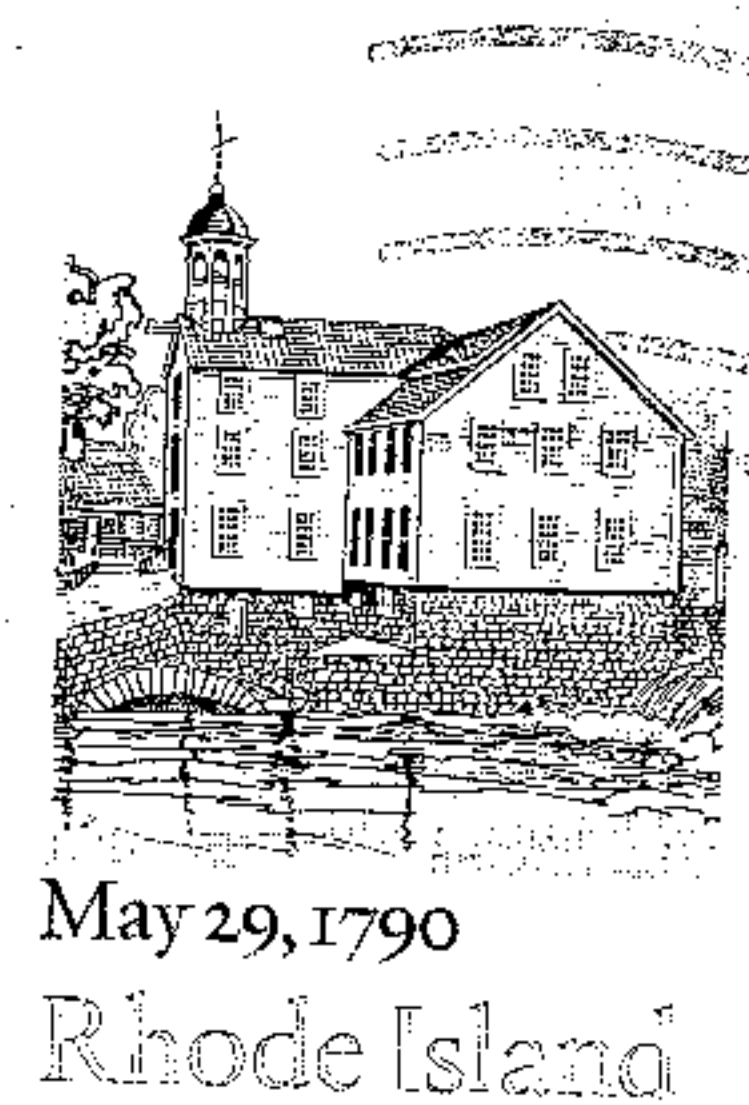
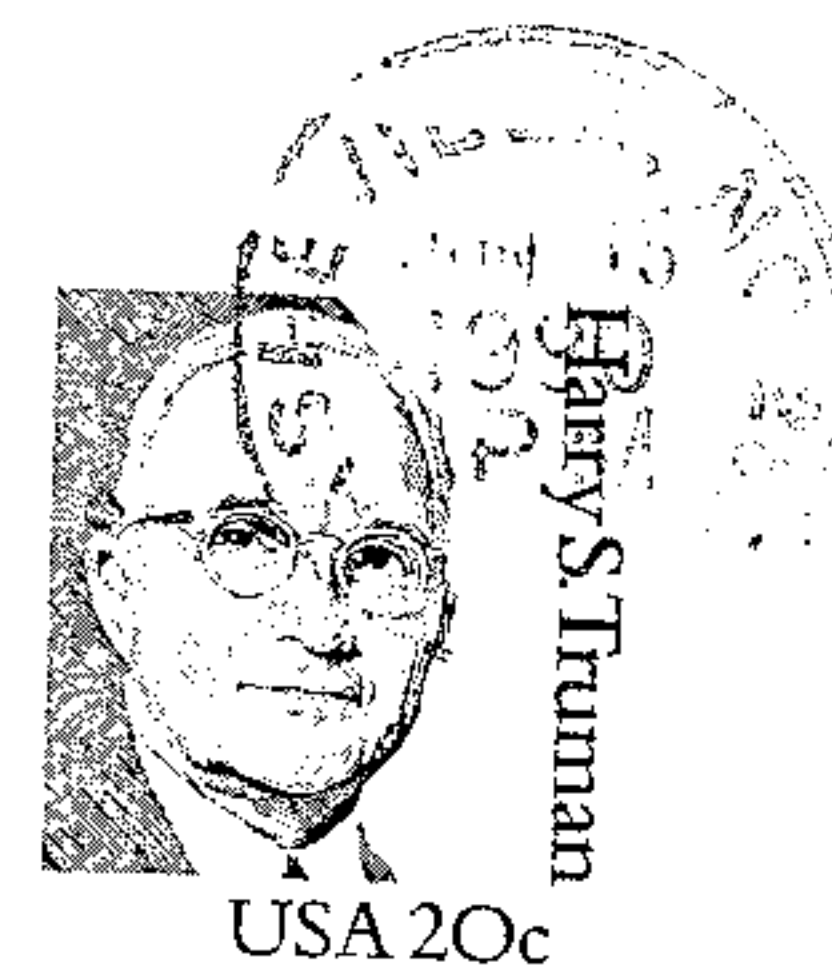
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