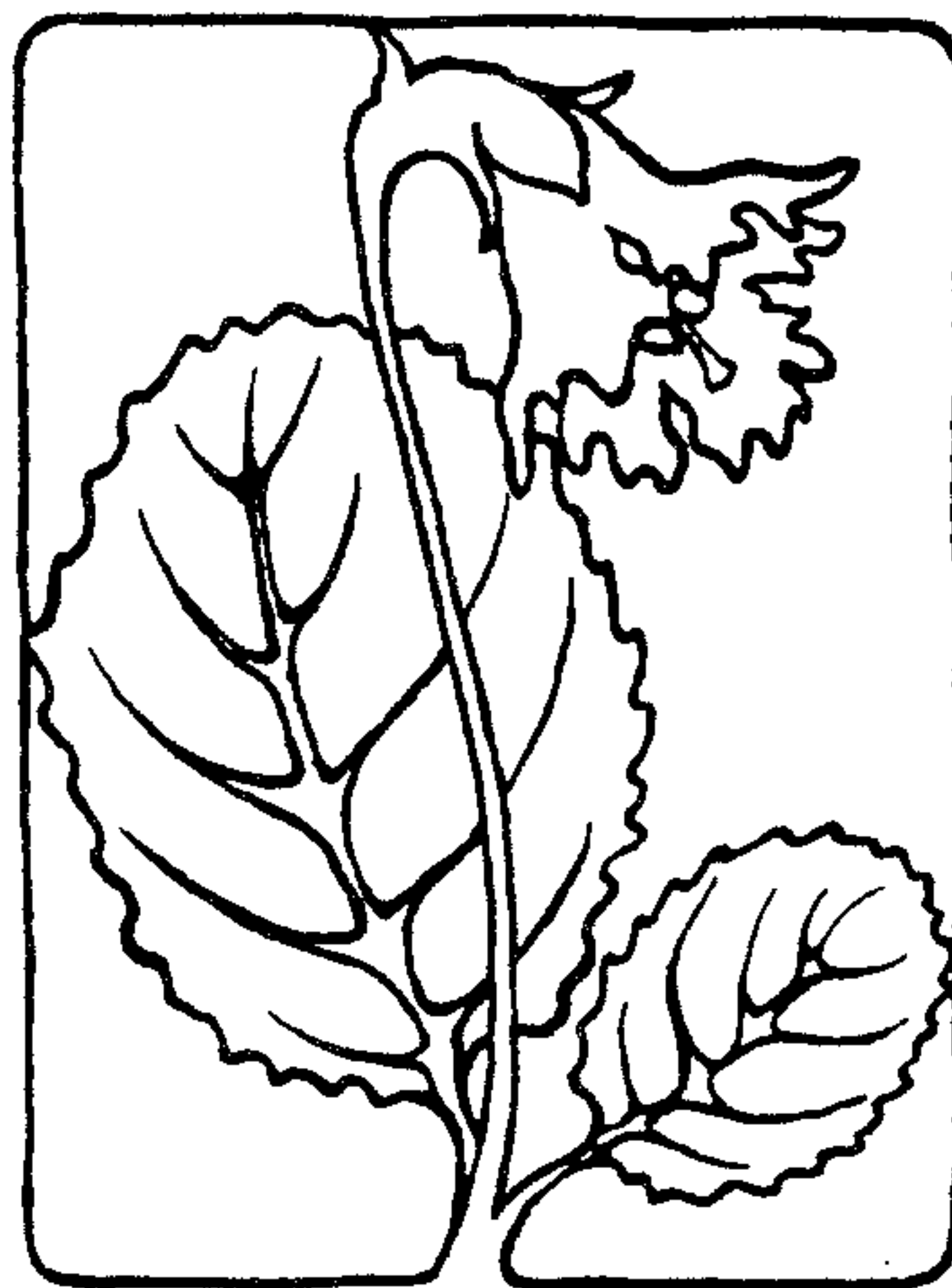


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1994



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

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**WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB**

President:	Dorothy Rathmann	Treasurer:	Elaine Montgomery
Vice President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Secretary:	Jane Blackstone	Historian:	Louise Foresman

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Dorothy Rathmann**

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

The February-June issue has some new artwork -- bloodroot and Indian pipe -- drawn by (who else?) Aline Hansens. Thanks, Aline!

Please make a few corrections:

April 15 and 29 and June 27 -- Elton Hansens' phone 704-277-7486  
March 4 -- Elton Hansens will be local contact (not me)

Note that reservations should be made for the following trips:

April 4-6 -- Forty Acre Rock/Carolina Sandhills Refuge  
April 25 -- Bat Cave  
April 26-27 -- Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
May 9 -- Travis Tracks

With luck we'll not have as many weather-caused cancellations as last year. I'm eager to see wildflowers again -- as I hope you are.

**WHAT'S THIS PLANT?**

Do you want to increase your skills in using the Plant Key found in field guides, such as the Locator Key in "Newcomb"? Then stay close to Bill Verduin on field trips. He's offered to share his expertise -- and he's a GOOD teacher. Be sure to bring your wildflower book and a hand lens or small magnifying glass.

**DUES -- AND HOW THEY'RE USED**

At the Annual Meeting on January 21, Treasurer Elaine Montgomery reported that the year-end balance was \$594, down from \$850 at the end of '92. Obviously, expenses exceeded income from dues. We spent \$8.78/member.

The major expenditure of \$780 was for printing and distributing 4 issues of SHORTIA, 2 Program Schedules, a Membership List/Roster, and Plant lists for the field trips. Contributions totalling \$225 were made to 4 organizations: University Botanical Gardens at Asheville, NCSU Arboretum, Duke University Gardens, and NC Totten Arboretum.

Dues are \$8.00/member or family. If you've not already done so, please send a check payable to the Western Carolina Botanical Club to Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739. The Roster goes to press February 28 and will list only paid-up members.

## HONORS

At the Annual Meeting **Millie Blaha** was given the Second Wind Hall of Fame Award for her activities as teacher, photographer and newspaper column writer; for her part in the development of two education programs for Holmes Educational State Forest; and for her efforts in getting the Mud Creek and Jackson Park wetlands listed in the NC Registry of Natural Areas. Congratulations and thanks, Millie!

**Dick Smith** was made an Honorary Life Member of WCBC for past and present leadership. Before Dick left for Costa Rica, Bill Verduin gave him a sealed envelope to be opened on January 21. On January 24 Dick wrote from Costa Rica: "When I told you I would be away during the Club's Annual Meeting, I had no idea that I would also be missing the opportunity of thanking everyone concerned for the very special honor that was to have been extended to me. It was particularly thoughtful to see that I received a copy of the citation before taking off and I obediently refrained from opening the envelope until the day of the meeting. On that morning we were indeed in the jungle -- specifically in the remote Tortuguero National Forest on the Atlantic side of Costa Rica, and were awakened by howler monkeys and a nesting flock of Montezuma oropendulas. More to the point (and ironically) I was in the midst of an incredibly rich rain forest flora, and I must confess that except for just a few species I had virtually no idea of what we were seeing. It would be a sobering experience for anyone who imagines having a handle on botany -- and the message certainly was not lost on me! ...."

We also sang "Happy Birthday" to **Harry Logan** -- his 88th.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The '93 Officers were unanimously reelected for another year. So the Executive Committee remains unchanged. We'll do our best for the WCBC this year.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The Committee chairpersons are the same as last year (they're doing a good job and I don't want to lose the momentum):

**Distribution of Publications:** Ruth Hoerich

**Historian:** Louise Foresman

**Honors:** Dean Crawford

**Membership:** Ruth Hoerich, Elaine Montgomery, John Saby

**Program Schedule:** Dorothy Rathmann

**Recorder:** Erika Parmi

**SHORTIA:** Elton and Aline Hansens

**Typist for Schedule:** Harriet Kuster

Although members of these committees will be essentially the same as last year we'll be involving some newer Club members and asking them to participate more actively in Club affairs. If you have a particular interest or talent you'd like to share, please let me know.

**RECORDER'S REPORT - THE YEAR 1993.....ERIKA S. PARM**

A total of 42 field trips and 2 overnights were scheduled for the year 1993. Six of these trips were cancelled due to weather conditions and the overnight to Beidler Forest was cancelled because the drought conditions had interfered with normal growth of plants we had hoped to see.

The cold, rainy spring and the summer of heat and drought gave us a less than glorious season of flower-watching. Anne Ulinski summed it up quite nicely in one of the trip reports, "Although spring flowers are scarce this year, we appreciated every one." Perhaps the greatest effect of the drought was noted at Sugarloaf where the meadow at the top of the mountain almost completely dried up. In spite of this Sugarloaf remained at the top of the list for the number of species seen. Two of our other meadow trips did not disappoint us, Bee Tree Gap and Haywood Gap, so the season was not a total loss.

On 13 of our trips over 40 species were seen with the top 5 trips being Sugarloaf and University Botanical Gardens each at 75, Soco/Heintooga at 60, Tanbark Tunnel at 59 and the spring Parkway West trip at 50. Two of our field trips attracted over 30 members, 14 trips over 20 members and all trips had more than 10 participants except for Roan Mountain and the late fall trip to Jones Gap.

In closing I would like to like to thank the members of the Recorder's Committee, Louise Foresman, Elton Hansens, Grace Rice, Bessie Sinish, Anne Ulinski and Bill Verduin for their good work. I would like to add a special note of thanks to Jane Blackstone for her outstanding plant lists and trip reports.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS**

**Hollis, Dorothy:** Box 1934, Brevard, NC 28712, (704) 885-8366. Moved here from Georgia 7 yrs. ago. Is a homecare nurse with an avid interest in birds and plants.

**Polchow, Peggy** Rt. 13, Box 280, H'ville, NC 28739 (704) 692-0703. winter address: 307 Bells Drive, Metairie, LA 70005. (504) 834-8127. Peggy vacations in H'ville and looks forward to participating in the summer trips.

**Russell, Reed and Irene (Mackum)** 95 Flat Top Mt. Rd., Fairview, NC 28730. Both are full time teachers at UNCA and Warren Wilson College and look forward to summer club trips when they will be free to participate.

**Shelly, Lorrie** 222 Park Lane, H'ville, NC 28739. (704)891-8502. Moved here from Rochester, NY ten years ago after early retirement. An active community volunteer, she pursues an interest in nature as a hobby and looks forward to increasing her knowledge of plants.



## GET A HANDLE ON PRONOUNCING SCIENTIFIC NAMES

by Larry Mellichamp

UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens, Biology Department, Charlotte, NC 28223

Whythesolongnames? Whatever your reaction to the preceding "word" is probably your reaction to Latin names of plants. Did you try and figure it out, or did you just take one look and say: "not for me!"

Scientific names can, of course, be difficult to pronounce and understand, especially if you don't use them every day. You probably accept that the two-part name of each plant—a genus and a species name—is a necessary component of botanical science and that they are widely used and understood by professionals; but you hesitate to use a name when you want to talk with someone because you're afraid you'll say it wrong. Take heart, you are not alone. Just remember, Linnaeus began using this binomial nomenclature in 1753, not because he wanted to make things harder for you, but because Latin was the language of science and medicine (as well as religion and other fields) at the time. Believe me, his two-part name for each species was a great simplification over the multi-word phrase names used earlier (sometimes involving a dozen or more Latin words, literally a mini-description of the plant). Today, Latin allows knowledgeable people around the world to communicate about plants, no matter what their native tongue, and without the confusion of common names.

Actually Latin names are not as difficult to pronounce as you might think. After all, most of the vowel sounds are similar to those in English words (that is, with long i and e); and you can think back to Latin names you already know when trying to say a new one, such as the familiar *Rosa*, *Tulipa*, *Astilbe*, *Geranium*, *Hosta*, *Spiraea* (remember this one for later!), *Salvia*, *Sedum*, *Lobelia*, *Cyclamen*, *Crocus*, and many more. There are long or short "a's," "u's," etc., and enunciation is controlled by these sounds. The other thing you can do is break the word into syllables, just as you would an English word, putting a vowel between two consonants and trying to sound them out. English has a great many difficult words and pronunciations, so we shouldn't let the fact that a Latin word looks different give us the notion that it is more troublesome to pronounce. I get more variations on "Mellichamp" than most Latin names I hear people try to pronounce.

Latin names still give us problems, just because they are usually so unfamiliar. How do you learn to correctly pronounce a strange scientific plant name? That question is analogous to asking someone how to get to Chapel Hill. You ask three different people and you'll get three different answers. It all depends on where you are coming from, how well you can remember details, your past experience, how much time you have, and whether you can practice. My advice is that you ask three experienced people, and take the best two out of three pronunciations. Much of the way people say Latin names depends on their experience—how they first heard it pronounced. You can apply various rules of Latin pronunciation, but there will always be variations and differences of personal preference. There are two ways of pronouncing Latin: the so-called original Roman way, practiced by Latin scholars; and the modern adaptation more-or-less to the speech people use today. We tend to "Englishize" Latin words to make them easier for us to pronounce; and since not all scientific names originally come from Latin, we have to "Latinize" these words to fit our way of talking. For example, the genus name for pine is *Pinus*. In strictly correct Latin you would say *PEA-noose*; whereas, we tend to say *PIE-nus*. The latter is certainly easier to remember. [In this article, capitalizing a syllable indicates it's the one to stress.]

I encountered frustration as an undergraduate student taking my first systematic botany course where we had to identify wild species using the "Guide to the Flora of the Carolinas" in the late sixties at UNC Charlotte. I had not paid much attention to pronouncing scientific names before, but I did not hesitate to try. As usual, you learn more from your mistakes; and I learned a lot! My first eager effort was to pronounce *Cardamine* (spring cress) as "CARD-amine," by referring back

to the more familiar word "histamine." You wouldn't think of saying "hist-AM-in-ee," but that's exactly how you pronounce *Cardamine*. One of the rules of Latin is to pronounce as many syllables as you can, by pronouncing every vowel. So that extra "e" on the end gets pronounced. There are significant exceptions, as we'll see, but that's a good rule to start with. Practice on: *Silene*, *Chelone*, *Anemone*.

The second rule of pronunciation requires you to break the word into syllables, which can be a feat in itself, and then to enunciate the third from the last (the antepenultimate) syllable, unless you know better. That is, you have to decide which syllable to put the emphasis on. Thus, *Cardamine* would be pronounced "car-DAM-in-ee," not "car-da-ME-knee." There are many familiar examples you can recall, such as kris-ANTH-e-mum (*Chrysanthemum*), LIL-e-um (*Lilium*), ah-NEM-on-ee (*Anemone*), de-FIN-ee-um (*Delphinium*), PRIM-you-la (*Primula*), ger-AIN-ee-um (*Geranium*) and cam-PAN-you-la (*Campanula*). See how funny they would sound if you put the emphasis on the second-from-last syllable. There are plenty of exceptions to this rule, though, both familiar and unfamiliar. Try *Rho-do-DEN-dron*, *Cor-e-OP-sis*, *Hi-BIS-cus*, *Ver-BE-na*, and *Por-tu-LA-ca*. See how these would sound if you tried to enunciate the **third** from last syllable. The rules are: There are as many syllables as vowels; words of two syllables are stressed on the first; of three or more syllables, on the next-to-the-last (penultimate) if the vowel in this syllable is long; if this vowel is short, accent may be on the third from last (antepenultimate). How many of the above names follow the rules?

So, how do you know which is the correct way on an unfamiliar name? You don't, until you hear someone pronounce it and then accept it for yourself as sounding right. Take the evening primrose genus for example, *Oenothera*. I learned to pronounce it "een-oh-THEAR-ah," but was shocked to later hear a British botanist say "ee-NOTH-er-ah." Which is correct? The third from the last syllable would be in keeping with the rules, but here in America most experts emphasize the second from last in this case. There are many examples of this. Is it just tradition, or what? Perhaps it has to do with making the words sound most like they would as ordinary English words. I recently worked with a high school student on tree identification. He had taken three years of Latin and he pronounced plant names somewhat differently from me; he was applying rules that I didn't even know. We almost had a breakdown in communication.

Two examples of mispronunciation that hurt my ears the most involve *Crassula* and *Clematis*. These are very common generic names, and frequently used. The "correct" way is to emphasize the antepenultimate syllable in both: CRASS-you-la (not crass-OO-la) and CLEM-a-tiss (not cle-MA-tiss). Think about it.

Before we get too far away from the British style, let me point out another difference upheld by the Atlantic Ocean (but often heard in Canada). It is the pronunciation of "ch" as a hard "k" versus a soft "ch" as in "church." Americans tend to prefer the hard sound. Thus in Britain you will hear *Chionanthus* (fringe tree), *Cheilanthes* (hairy lip fern), and *Chenopodium* (pigweed) with a "ch" sound as in "chutney"; while we in the States would be more familiar with "ch" as in "chiropractor." But, then we tend to say *Chaptalia* (sun bonnets) and *Chelone* (turtle head) with a soft "ch" (as in chapstick and cheese). Where is consistency? Makes things harder, doesn't it.

*Dr. Mellichamp is head of the Biology Department at UNC Charlotte, Professor of Botany, and distinguished lecturer.*

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## THREE GRASSES.....SAM CHILDS

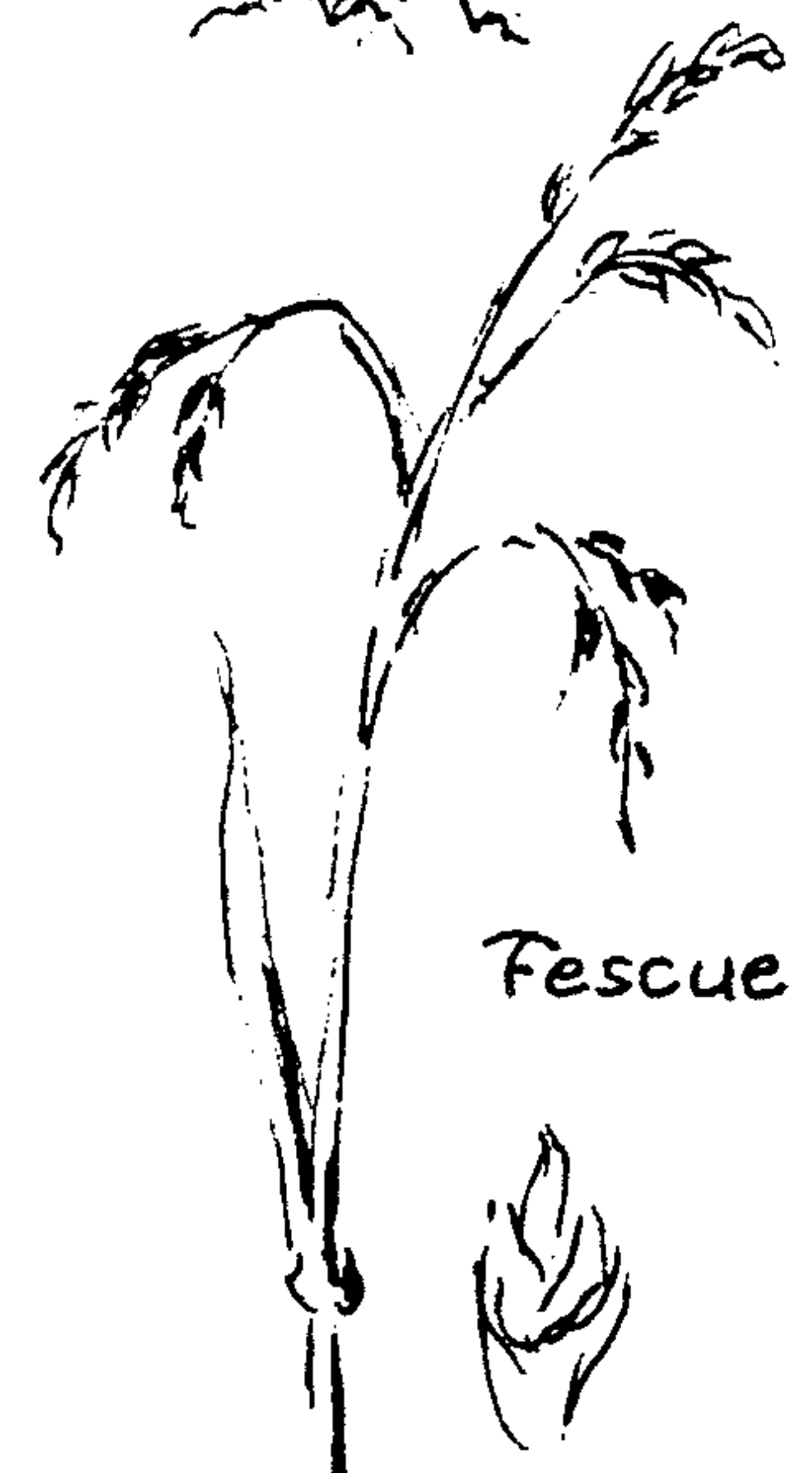
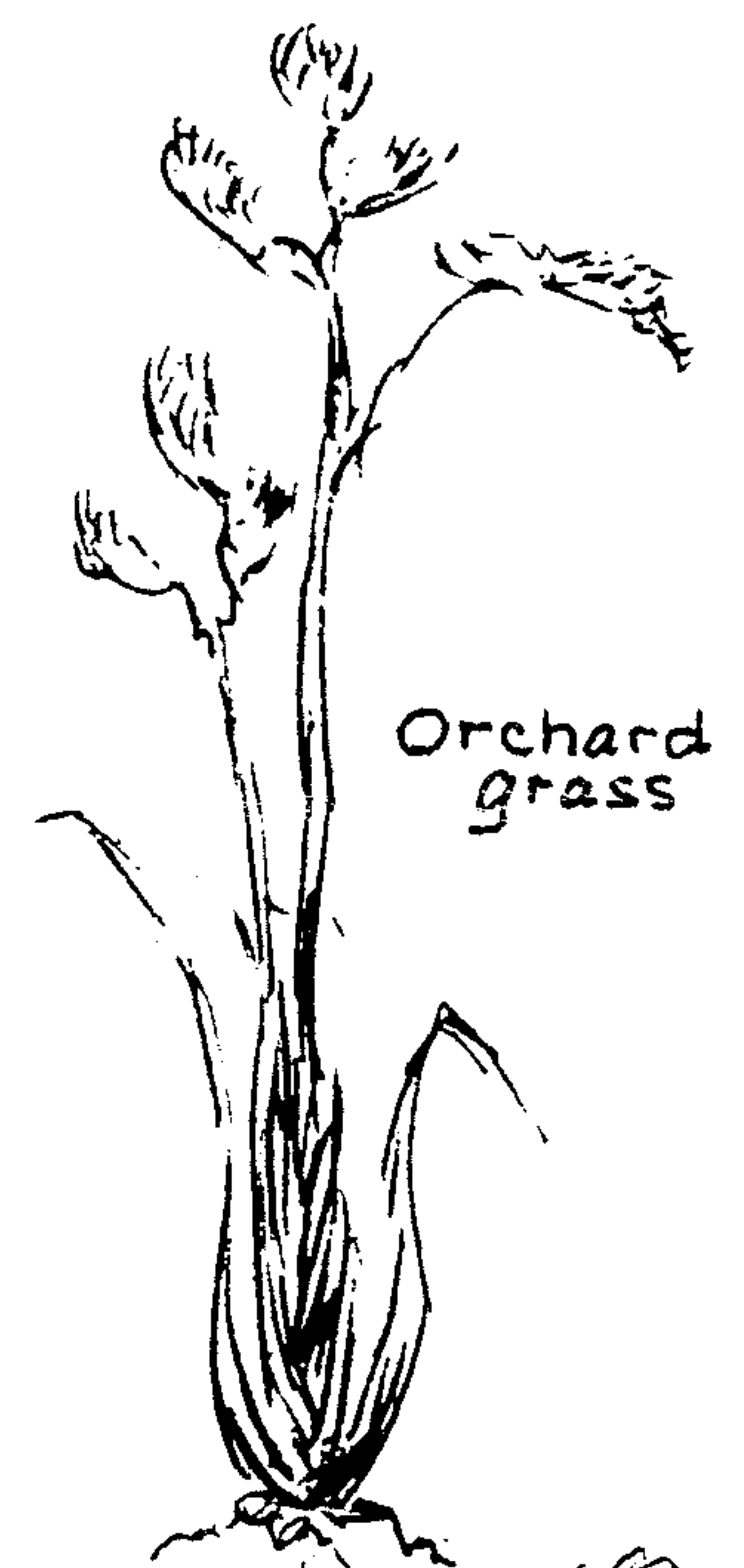
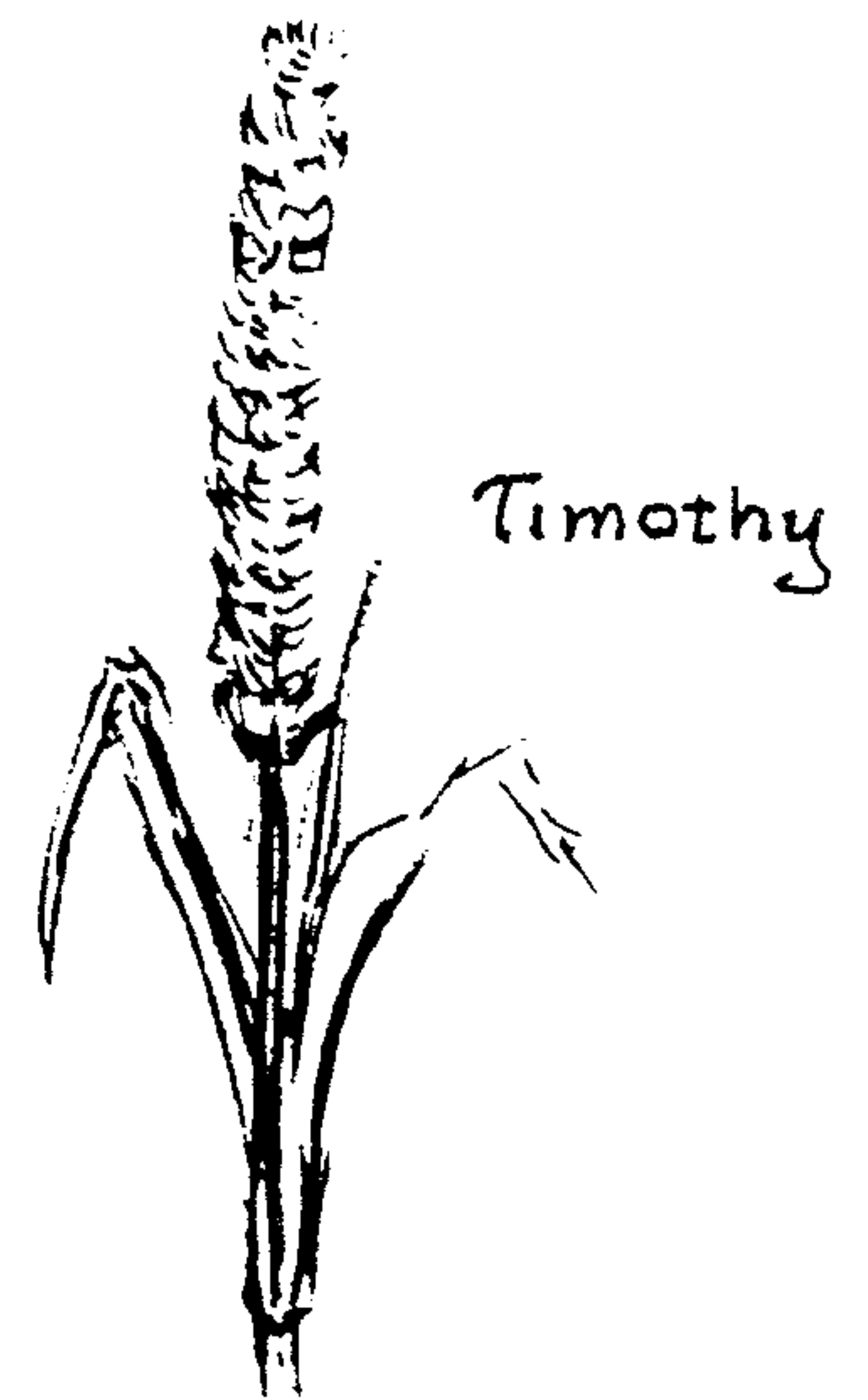
Surely identification of grasses is complicated and difficult but three species which commonly cross or parallel our trails can be learned without great difficulty. All 3 are perennials of european origin and escaped from cultivation or were planted for soil control.

Timothy (Phleum pratense) can be spotted by the straight 2' to 3' stem and narrow cylindrical inflorescence. This grass was first called Herd's grass when noticed in New Hampshire. Later (1747) Timothy Hanson brought the grass to Maryland, hence the name. By 1807 timothy was the most important hay crop in America; then from crop land seeds escaped to grow on roadsides, fields and paths.

Orchard grass (Dactylis glomerata) was introduced in 1760 and was noted in the writings of George Washington. The grass can readily be identified by the bunch-like irregular round clusters on the inflorescence. The plant base is clump-like with a tussock form of growth. (This gives space between clumps for other grasses and clover mixtures). Shade and heat tolerance allows wide-spread use for hay, grazing, and erosion control.

The Fescues: meadow fescue (Festuca elatior) and tall fescue (Festuca elatior var. arundinacea).

About 100 fescue species grow in temperate zones but the above two are most likely to be observed on our trails. Similar in details except for the obvious 2' and 4' in height respectively, these grasses are more resistant to cold, heat, poorly drained soils and drought than most cultivars. In our region these qualities are appreciated where the seeds are sown for stabilizing slopes, water-ways, and reed banks. At these places fescue can be noticed as one of the "greens" of mid-winter.



**HANS PETER KNAPP WRITES A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO LARRY KENYON, DEC. '93.**

Many of us will remember this jovial bearded man, teacher and botanist. (Typed as written).

"It's chilly and cold in the hills of St. Gallen. The landscape is covered with snow, lovely sunshine, a harsh wind is blowing. From the top of Freudenberg you can see the frontmountains of the Helvetic Alps, the region of the Santis. It is really marvelous view you should see together with me. I'm just coming back from a nice walk with my Italian dog Capo, back in my house to the warm tiled stove and listening nice Christmas music "On Yoolis night" -- medieval carols and motets.

I think it is the time I have to write a "Christmas letter" to give my friends a sign of life in MY best English. Maybe you enjoy listening something--at least a part of it.

1993 was for me a really fascinating year, my first CHINA-experience. After I had started to plant the small Arboretum Tognano in the Southern Lake District in the Italian speaking part of Switzerland 1986 ... after my journey to the Appalachian mountains with the lovely Botanic Club of Western Carolina and the Expedition of the Black-Bear Projekt with Roger Powell, I had decided to go to Sichuan to see the famous vegetation in the summer of 1993 \*\*\* It was the experience of my life to see a lot the wonderful plants which China-Wilson, Przewalzky and other excellent biologists and botanists had discovered long time ago. And reading now the different reports of these scientists it's really great to realise again: Here on this point was discovered the lampshade poppy or the scarlet poppy or Lilium regale. \*\*\*

I had to learn first different things about chinese life and chinese journeys: how to buy a ticket, how to find chinese hotels, how travel around by chinese bus (not in the rather expensiv taxis) and I met a lot of very friendly Chinese.

After all it was a good experience but travelling alone in China can be very strenuous: After a flight from Xi'an to Nanking I was without any luggage and I had to be very, very steadfast to receive back my luggage which had made a journey to Canton. Also I had some rather hard journeys to Tunxi by train \*\*\* first to receive a train-ticket, than to go by hard seat in a overcrowded train, to stay there , not to be welcome \*\*\* in chinese local trains it isn't always to easy: It seems that not every chinese poeple loves European people.

I met in Tunxi some very nice friends from Australia, some American people, and again chinese guides (their English was very difficult to understand also for the Australians and the Americans) but it was easier during the time in Tunxi in Anhui to find a way together with the chinese guides, than traveling alone \*\*\* but not so easy to find par example a topographic map of the area of Huang-shan mountains or to understand the chinese "information system". With some young chinese people it was quite nice to have a conversation but the English pronunciation of the leader was too difficult to understand. He has learned it from the dictionary (I think so) and had no experience of conversation. \*\*\*

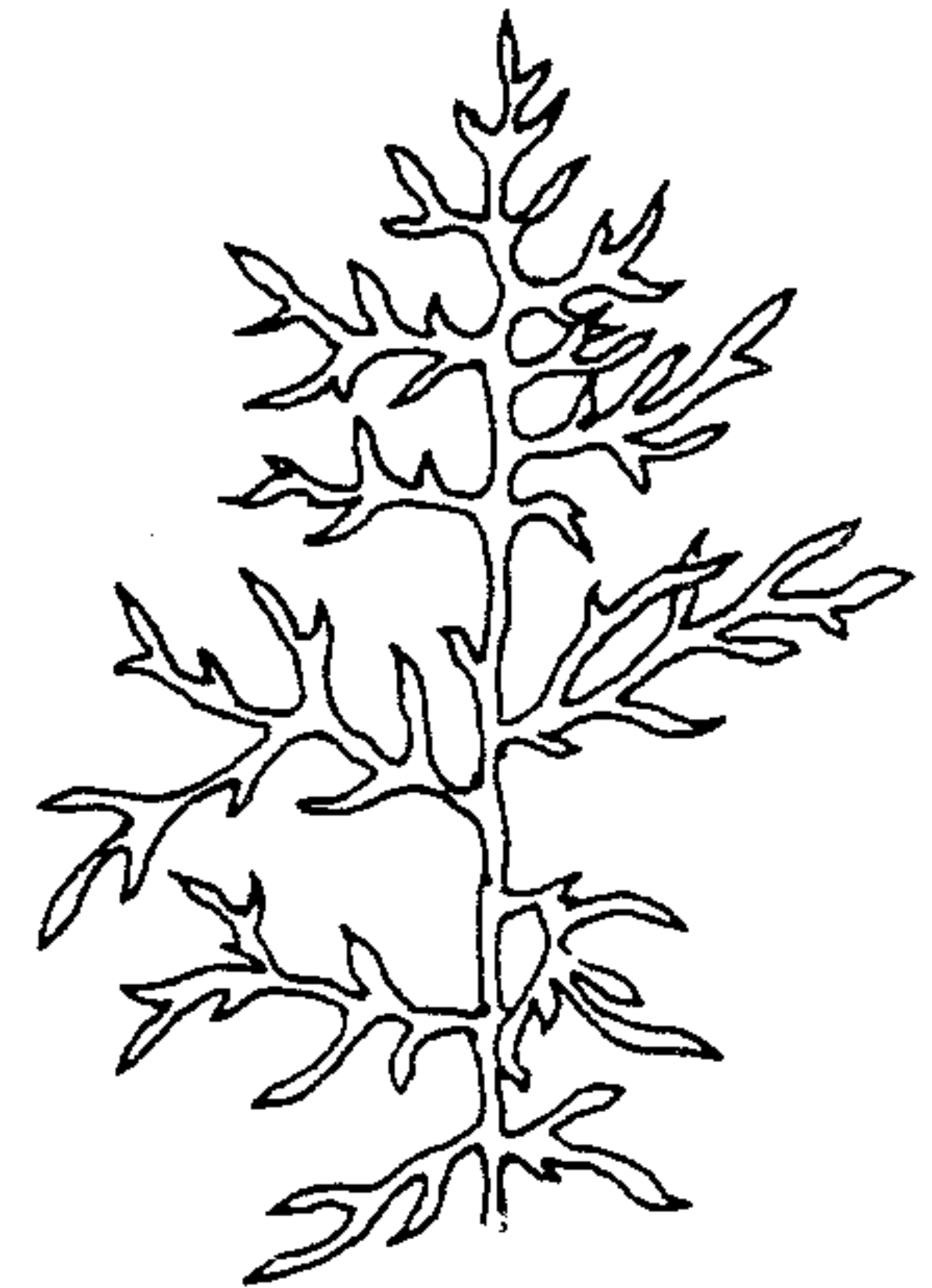
Now we start to fire our oven to make a pizza. If you like to come to drink with us a bottle of Italian vine and to eat some Italian food. We will start in half an hour. Welcome...but you have to hurry up. \*\*\* Hans Peter (S).



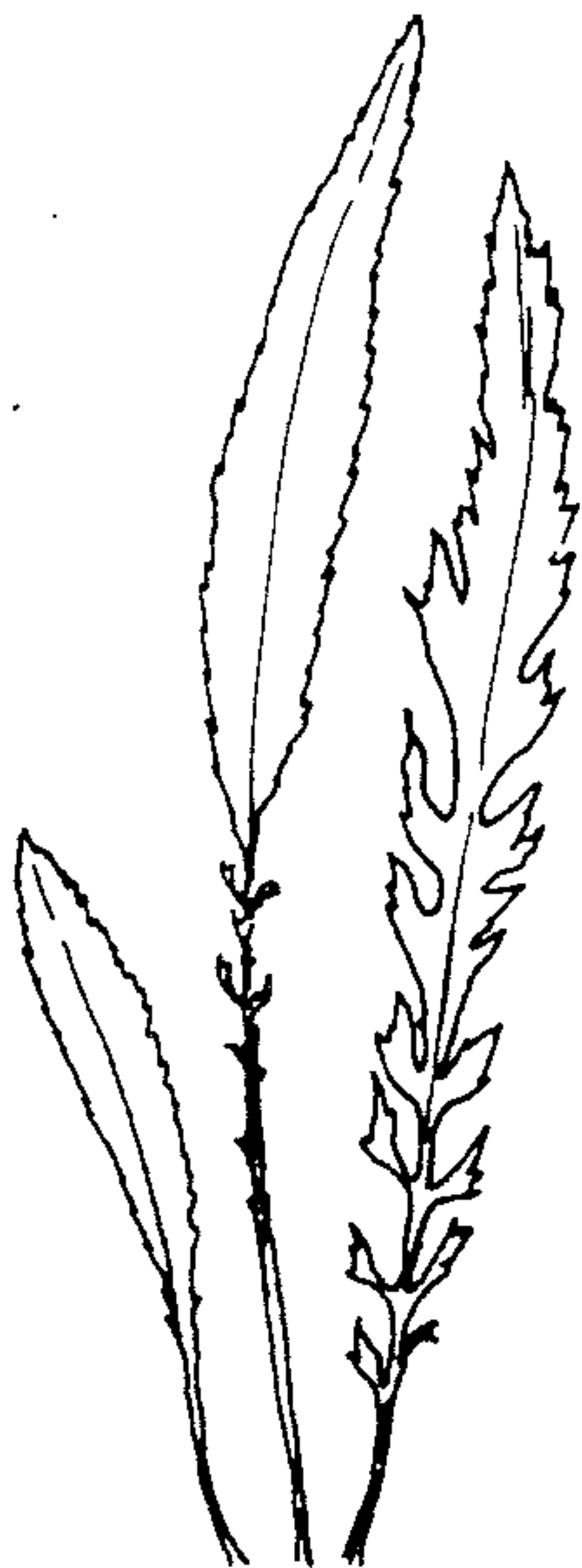
# LOOK AGAIN !

One of the earliest and brightest of our spring composites is the ubiquitous Golden Ragwort (Senecio aureus), with its deep yellow-orange flower heads and vegetative parts that are often suffused with purple. The lower leaves are round or heart-shaped, while those on the stem may appear more fernlike.

Scarcely less familiar is the one that follows on its heels--Small's Ragwort (formerly S. smallii, now S. anonymus). In this common species the general aspect is yellowish green rather than purplish, and the basal leaves have lanceolate blades that are variously toothed or lobed. In some plants these leaves are seen to be finely dissected, and this can lead to the assumption that they are specimens of the Southern Appalachian endemic S. millefolium, but this is the case only if none of the segments of the basal leaves is as much as 3 mm wide.



S. MILLEFOLIUM



S. ANONYMUS

The confusion is caused by the hybridization of these two species, which sometimes grow in close proximity. This produces S. x memmingeri, in which the leaves exhibit a wide variety of intermediate forms. This tendency also raises the possibility that some populations of the already rare S. millefolium might be eliminated.

*Dick Smith*

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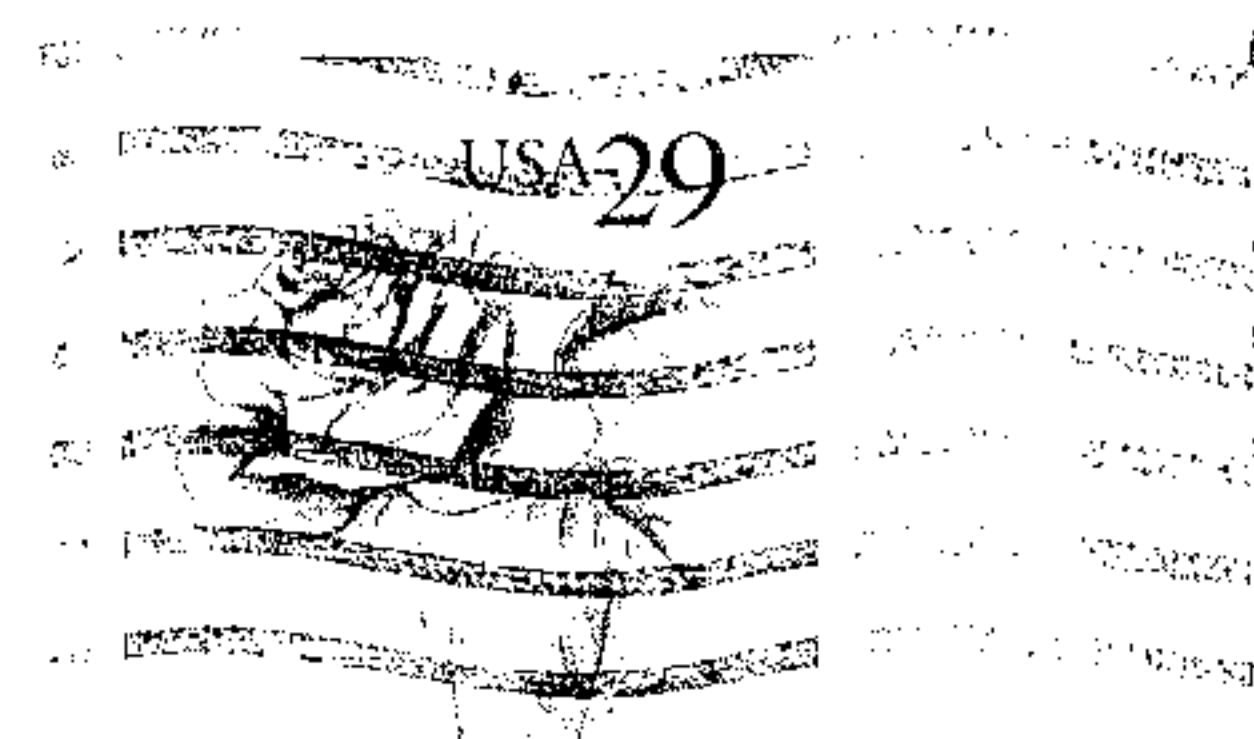
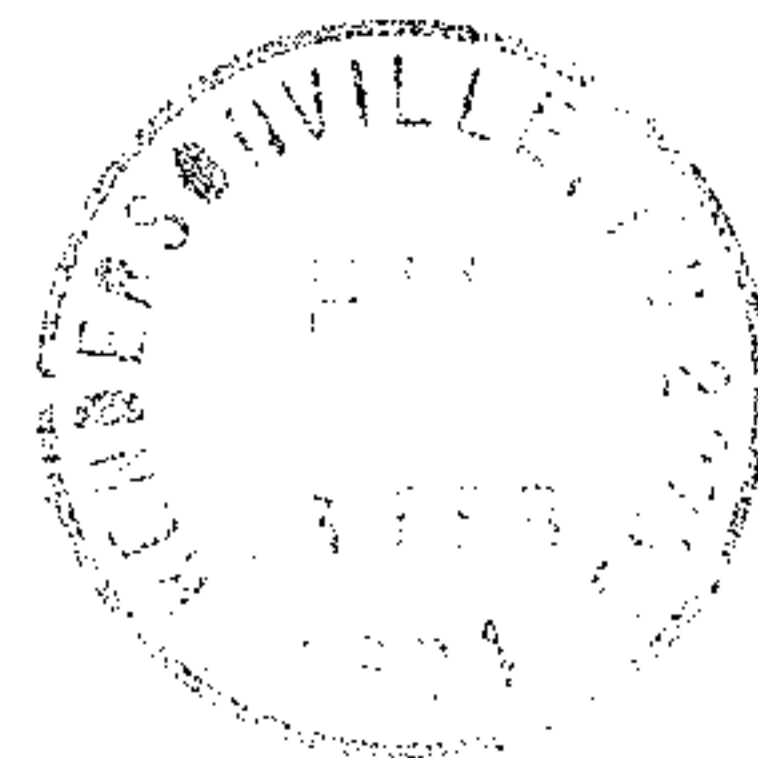
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REMINDER 1994 CLUB DUES OF \$8.00 are to be paid to the treasurer, Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

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