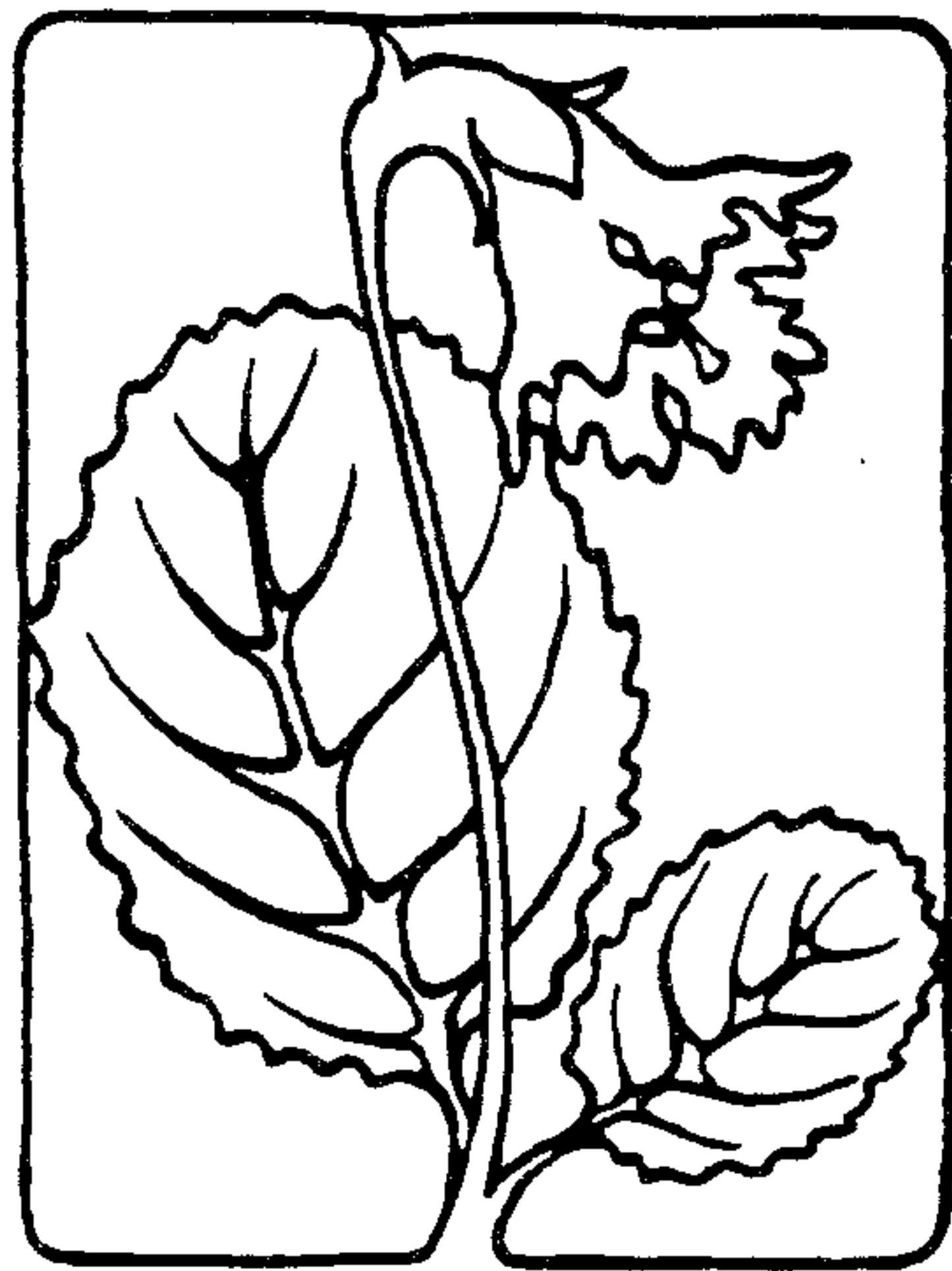


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 1994-95



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS
Editors

WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

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

A COUPLE OF FAREWELLS Dorothy Rathmann

As some of you already know, I have resigned as president of WCBC for health reasons. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve for the past year and a half. My thanks to every one of you for your support and encouragement. I expect to continue as an active member for I treasure the friendships I've made within the club and the stimulus that comes from being with you on the trails, learning more about the flora of this area.

With no warning, Don Herrman took over my duties quickly and easily two months ago and will be continuing as president. I'm sure he will get your support as I did.

Work has started on the Program/Schedule for next spring with the goal of distributing it in January. This is probably the most time-consuming and challenging task within WCBC -- and the most important because the field trips and indoor meetings are the club's reason for being. We need more field trip leaders -- so volunteer or say "yes" if you're asked.

This time, the scheduling has been made particularly difficult by the absence of **Bill Verduin** -- the gentle leader, mentor and teacher who seemingly knows every trail in the area and has a particular love for those in the Smokies. Yet, he has been constantly exploring to find new trails for our trips. As a good teacher he's prodded us to use the keys in our field guides to identify plants for ourselves rather than merely depending on the "experts" to call out the names. In this, he's always willing to share his own knowledge, quietly and enthusiastically.

Bill, we're going to miss you! We wish you and Evelyn many years of happiness in your new home:

Bill and Evelyn Verduin
3108 Lake Village Drive
Richmond, VA 23235

Do come back to visit us, often!

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 1995.

President	Donald Herrman	Secretary	Laverne Pearson
Vice-president	Dean Crawford	Treasurer	Elaine Montgomery

HARRY LOGAN -- A TRIBUTE

Jan. 21 1906 - Sept. 8, 1994

Those who knew him remember a man--gentle, kind, sensitive, generous, thoughtful and one who could be exasperating at times in his eagerness to share an abundant knowledge and love of plants. You never left Harry's house without a generous gift from his garden. He was a founding father of the Western Carolina Botanical Club and participated extensively in its activities until a few days before his death.

He requested that the Botanical Club spread his ashes on Roan Mountain, an area close to his heart. Appropriately, this quote from Wordsworth was read as part of a brief ceremony on the mountain.

For I have learned
To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue. And I have felt
A presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man:
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still
A lover of the meadows and the woods,
And mountains.

—Wordsworth.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

Stolle, William & Mollie Rt. 1. Box 307A Clyde, NC 28721 (704) 627-0111. Love of the mountains drew them to this area 2 years ago from Orlando, FL. Mollie's desire to know plants stems from an interest in herbal medicine. They found the WCBC through member Peggy Ellis.



In spite of the rainy, humid summer, with a major flood in mid August, most of the field trips were held as scheduled. The Frying Pan Gap trip on August 5 and the Whiteside Mountain trip on October 14 were cancelled because of rain. On October 28 the McCall Cemetary Loop trip was cancelled because floods had blocked access. There were several outstanding trips in August (all of which I missed). The August 12 trip along Sky Valley road (previously called Pinnacle Mountain) was held on a beautiful day and approximately 50 species of flowers were identified including the rarely seen pencil flower (Stylosanthes biflora), fame flower (Talinum teretifolium) and orange grass or pinweed (Hypericum gentianoides). Two very interesting and informative non-flower trips were held in August--Elton's insect walk and a mushroom walk and talk given by Roman Stanley of the Asheville Mushroom Club. The September 9 trip to the Clemson Experimental Forest exposed us to southern piedmont species which we seldom see. A trip to Camp Harry Straus (Ecusta Park in Brevard) was substituted for the inaccessible Butter Gap trail. Many flowers were seen. (Hopefully, Ecusta will sell the property to someone who wishes to keep it in its natural state.) On Oct. 21 a very wet and slippery Jones Gap Trail produced very few flowering plants. Unfortunately, one of our members slipped and took a fall which resulted in numerous bruises and a head wound that required stitches.

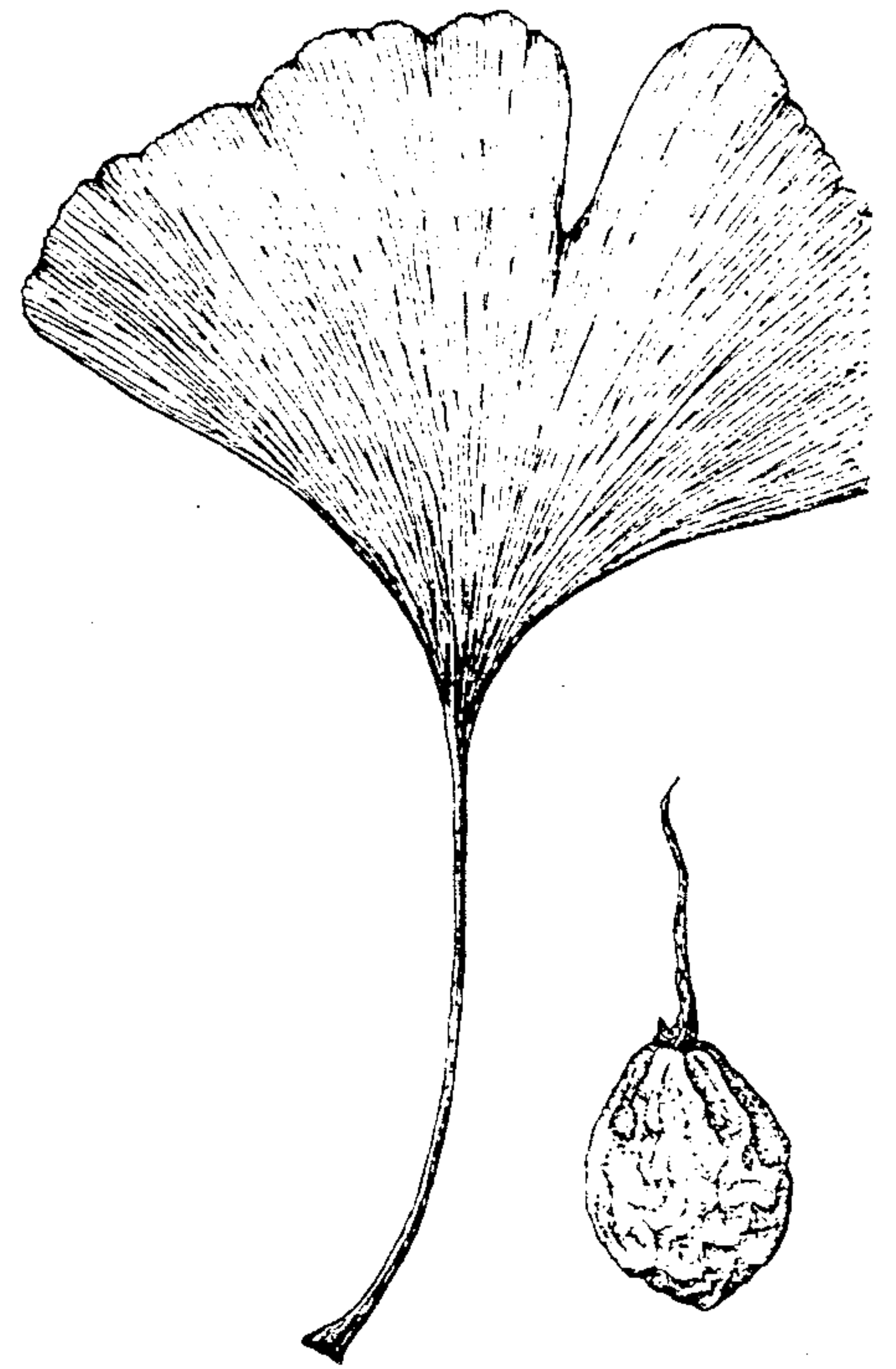
As a result of the accident I will get on my soap box and promote the carrying of hiking staffs on our field trips. As we get older or because of a physical disability, we all get a bit more unsteady on our feet. I was advised by my doctor to continue hiking but carry a hiking staff. The staff is especially helpful in tough terrain and I know that it has stopped me from falling several times. If you are tired a staff makes a great "post" to lean on!! Add a wrist strap to the staff and you can hang on to the staff and write a plant list at the same time.

I will close with a few words about Bill and Evelyn Verduin. We will be sorry to lose them to Richmond, Virginia. Bill, especially, will be missed, because of his dedication to the WCBC. His tremendous knowledge of the flowers and the best places to find them, and his cheerful and helpful disposition were and still are an inspiration to us all. Best wishes for many happy years in Virginia is our wish for Bill and Evelyn!!

NEW BOOK Swanson, Robt. E. A Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of the Southern Appalachians. 1994 Johns Hopkins Press.

THE GINKGO TREE.....MILLIE PEARSON

The Ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) is a most unusual and beautiful tree. My first acquaintance with this tree was in Washington, D.C. where there are numerous plantings. Many other Asian ornamental trees are planted in Washington including the impressive and lovely Japanese cherry trees. Among all of them I find the ginkgo to be the most interesting. It is a tall, sparsely branched, truly prehistoric looking tree. The branches are upright on the young trees but the crown spreads out with age. The ginkgo, possibly the oldest living tree species on earth, has no close relatives. It has remained almost unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs, one hundred twenty-five million years ago. The ginkgo has high resistance to disease and insect pests which helped it outlast the dinosaurs and make it especially suitable for city parks and gardens. Native to eastern China, the tree has long been cultivated in Japan and in many parts of the world, including the Western Hemisphere.



The interesting shape of the ginkgo leaf has suggested many things to many cultures. The Chinese name for the tree, "ya chio" means "duck's foot". Because the leaf resembles the maidenhair fern, one common name is "maidenhair tree". The leaves are fan-shaped, leathery, with numerous thin parallel veins that give the ribbed-look. In autumn ginkgos turn a brilliant glossy yellow.

The male and female flowers are on separate trees; the male, showy yellow, in thick heavy clusters; the female, like a small acorn on a long stalk. The fruits, of course, are only borne by female trees and are round, pulpy, about an inch in diameter, smooth and green, becoming yellow and wrinkled when "ripe". The fruit rots on the ground in the fall and has an unpleasant odor. Nurseries try to propagate male trees only. They often fail for only older female trees produce fruit. Often gardeners are surprised when their trees purchased as "male" trees after decades of fruitlessness suddenly begin to produce very odorous fruits.

If you wish to see ginkgo trees locally several beautiful specimens grow in the yard of "Connemara" the Carl Sandburg home in Flat Rock.

"All those who love Nature she loves in return, and will richly reward, not perhaps with the good things as they are commonly called, but the best things of this world - - not with money and titles, horses and carriages, but with bright and happy thoughts, contentment and peace of mind" --(John Lubbock)

Contributed by Millie Pearson. How often have you heard her speak of "bright and happy thoughts"?

FOREST TREESALINE HANSENS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE !!

Match common with scientific names.

1 American beech	___ <i>Abies fraseri</i>	PINACEAE
2 Black gum	___ <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	PINACEAE
3 Black locust	___ <i>Juglans nigra</i>	JUGLANDACEAE
4 Black walnut	___ <i>Carya ovata</i>	JUGLANDACEAE
5 Chestnut oak	___ <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	CORYLACEAE
6 Flowering dogwood	___ <i>Betula nigra</i>	CORYLACEAE
7 Fraser fir	___ <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	FAGACEAE
8 Fraser magnolia	___ <i>Quercus prinus</i>	FAGACEAE
9 Hemlock	___ <i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	MAGNOLIACEAE
10 Mountain maple	___ <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	MAGNOLIACEAE
11 Redbud	___ <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	LAURACEAE
12 River birch	___ <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	HAMAMELIDACEAE
13 Pignut hickory	___ <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	PLATANACEAE
14 Sassafras	___ <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	ROSACEAE
15 Serviceberry	___ <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	FABACEAE
16 Silverbell	___ <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	FABACEAE
17 Sourwood	___ <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	ACERACEAE
18 Striped maple	___ <i>Acer spicatum</i>	ACERACEAE
19 Sweetgum	___ <i>Aesculus octandra</i>	HIPPOCASTANACEAE
20 Sycamore	___ <i>Tilia heterophylla</i>	TILIACEAE
21 Tulip tree	___ <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	NYSSACEAE
22 White ash	___ <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	ERICACEAE
23 White basswood	___ <i>Halesia carolina</i>	STYRACACEAE
24 Yellow birch	___ <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	OLEACEAE
25 Yellow buckeye	___ <i>Cornus florida</i>	CORNACEAE

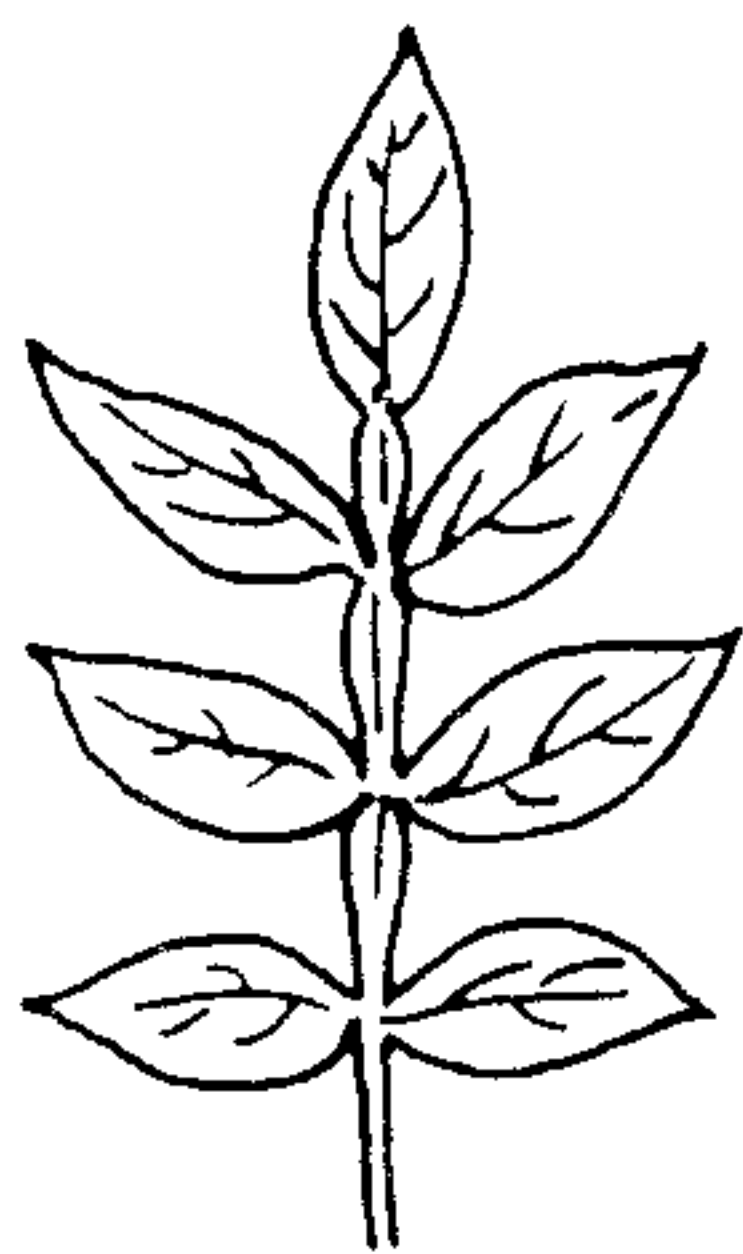
LOOK AGAIN !

Most of us are aware that Poison Sumac (Toxicodendron vernix) contains oils that can cause a severe skin rash upon contact. We tend to be especially apprehensive about this species--even though Poison Ivy (T. radicans) and Poison Oak (T. toxicarium) pose the same threat--perhaps because we so often find ourselves in close proximity to plants that go by the name of Sumac without knowing which is which.



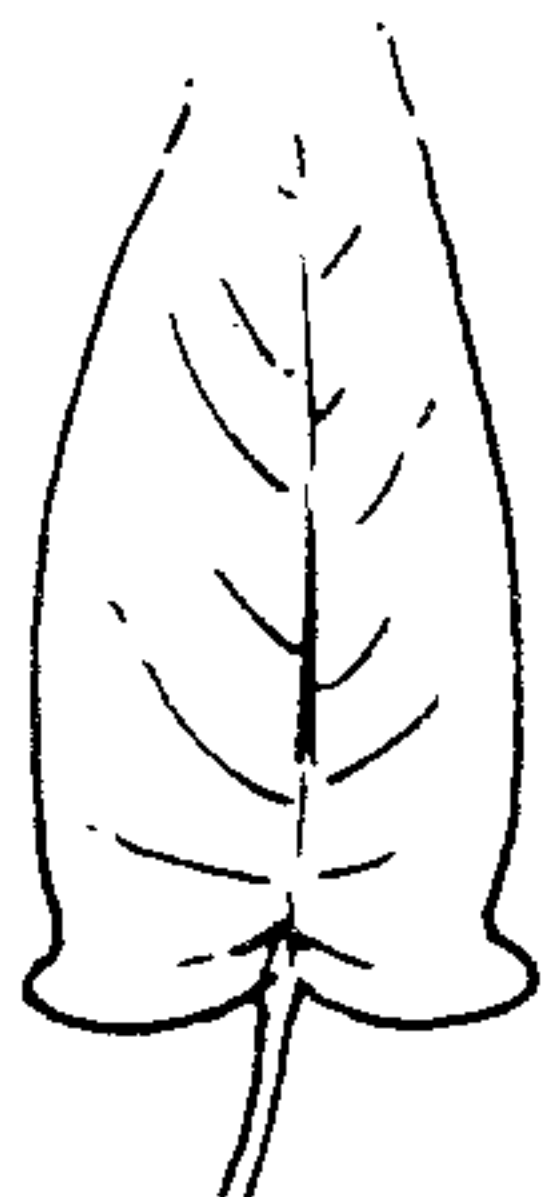
TOXICODENDRON VERNIX

Poison Sumac is a shrub or small tree with numerous pinnate leaflets, but it is the only one of several similar-appearing plants in our area that is toxic. Of this group, the true Sumacs, which are harmless, are in the genus Rhus, and together they differ in having dense terminal flower clusters followed by red fruits, whereas Poison Sumac has loose axillary panicles of flowers, and its fruits are whitish.



RHUS COPALLINA

Smooth Sumac (R. glabra) and Staghorn Sumac (R. typhina) are generally similar, and both may have as many as 31 sharply toothed leaflets. However, the younger branches are smooth and glaucous on the former and densely velvety with soft brown hairs on the latter. R. copallina, known as Winged Sumac, is finely hairy, has fewer leaflets (and they are mostly entire), and the leafstalks are prominently winged between the pairs of leaflets.



AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA

Frequently mistaken for a Sumac is the unrelated Ailanthus altissima, the indomitable Tree of Heaven celebrated in the novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Its leaflets are even more numerous, and the margins are entire except for two or more gland-bearing teeth near the base. The fruits are dry samaras with a seed in the center.

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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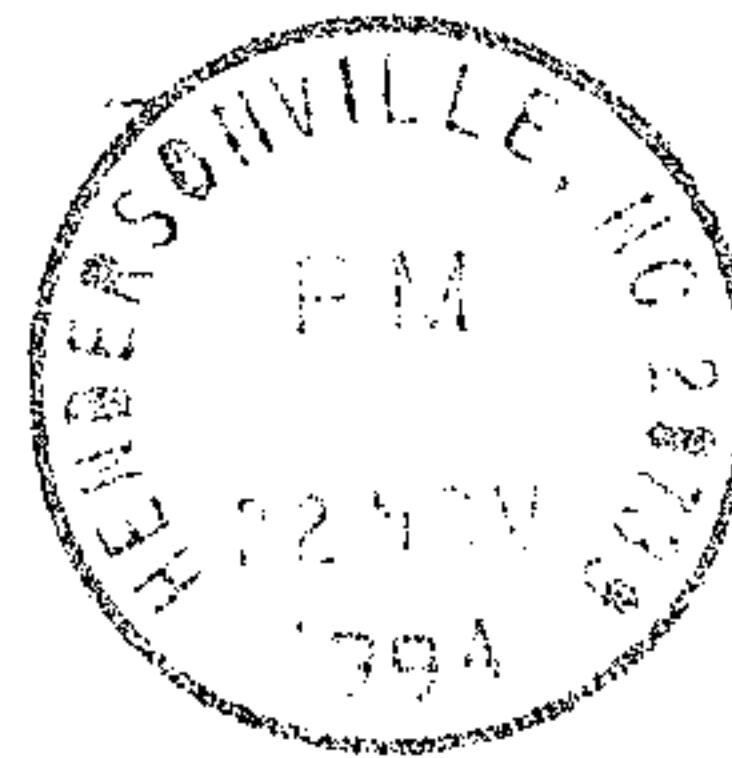
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Please submit contributions (articles, letters, notes, etc.) for the next issue by February 15, 1995 to Elton Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (Tel. (704) 277-7486).

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