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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

GREETINGS

TO

DR. LE ROY ABRAMS

EDWIN BINGHAM COPELAND
1902 EDGEMOOR AVENUE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

September 23, 1954.
GREETINGS

to

Dr. Le Roy Abrams
D R. L E R O Y A B R A M S

Stamps
on the occasion of his

Dear Abrams:
EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY *pleasure*

T his is the first time
that you lag so little behind me in
our race for years. I will check off
81 stamps before you reach 80.
from

VARIOUS FRIENDS, FORMER STUDENTS, and COLLEAGUES

Herbert, I tried in vain to see
October one, Nineteen hundred fifty-four
you a while ago, and hope for better
luck some day.

Sincerely,

E. B. Copeland

EDWIN BINGHAM COPELAND
1322 EUCLID AVENUE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

September 23, 1954.

Dr. L. Roy Abrams,
Stanford.

Dear Abrams:
This is to express my pleasure
that you lag so little behind me in
our race for years. I will check off
81 the day before you score 80.

Herbert and I tried in vain to see
you a while ago, and hope for better
luck some day.

Sincerely,
E. B. Copeland

HERBERT F. COPELAND
2925-27TH STREET
SACRAMENTO 18, CALIF.

October 1, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams,

The occasion of your birthday gives me the happiness of expressing a deep feeling of obligation to you. Putting a person through to his degree is no small thing. Ten years before you did that for me, in your sophomore course in field botany, you gave me my foundation in the main interest of my life.

Yours with all respect and affection,
Herbert F. Copeland

Helen Lewis Dudley
Ernest Dudley

ERNEST G. DUDLEY
1710 WAVERLEY STREET
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

October 1st 1954

Dear Roy:

There are few here at your birthday party who have known you longer than I. When I landed on the campus in the fall of 1899, you were my Uncle's prize senior student. That fall I was ^{ti} initiated into hikes over the hills by Uncle Will, Walter Fisher and yourself.

After graduation if I remember rightly you spent a year at Columbia and when you returned or soon after had a room with My Uncle and I at the then No. 9 Alvarado house. We saw more or less of each other in the years following until I left for Yale in 1908, and with my Uncle's sickness and death I well remember how pleased I was that you took over the department.

Helen and I often discussed this situation, for we were married a couple of years previously, and we well realized that you were endowed with the same gentle manner of teaching that made my uncle so outstanding, and we have been very proud ever since that you carried on his work in the same general manner he would have wished.

Helen, Josephine Randle and Margaret Ozier Wynne must have made life miserable for you when they continually watched you leave the Laboratory for the Library every afternoon at a certain time, and on your return made you blush by asking if you found the book you were looking for.

"e all know that you did, for you and Letitia were married March 29 1909 to prove it.

With best wishes for you and Letitia from Helen and I

we are sincerely yours

Helen Lewis Dudley
Ernest G. Dudley

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

JEPSON HERBARIUM
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

September 28, 1954

My dear Dr. Abrams,

On this, the occasion of your eightieth birthday, I can only express to you what is uppermost and most spontaneously in my consciousness - - - a deep feeling of devotion and fondness to and for you personally - - of gratitude that it was my good fortune to have you as friend and teacher and that it was you who taught me the lore and the mechanics of my profession so ably and so thoroughly - and withal, so subtly and skilfully, it hardly seemed like learning. In my better moments, I am conscious of a deep sense of wanting to emulate your forbearance and generosity where others, even the most trying, are concerned, and of a wish that I might be able to express my consternation with the reserve that has been so characteristically and becomingly yours.

These and many other sentiments crowd upon me for expression, but I must forbear, and close with the sincere wish that many more years of health and contentment may be the lot of both you and Mrs. Abrams, of whom I can hardly think as apart from you, so closely have you been bound during life's journey.

Earnestly,

Bacigalupi

Rimo Bacigalupi, Curator
Jepson Herbarium, Dept. of Botany

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
POMONA COLLEGE
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

CLASSROOMS AND LABORATORIES
CROOKSHANK HALL
100 BLOCK, WEST SIXTH STREET
TELEPHONE, LYCOMING 5-1211
EXTENSION 229

LYMAN BENSON
SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

EDWIN A. PHILLIPS
ECOLOGY AND PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

HERBARIUM OF POMONA COLLEGE
RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC
GARDEN BUILDING
1500 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE
TELEPHONE, LYCOMING 5-3922

September 16, 1954

Dr. L. R. Abrams
Director Emeritus
The Natural History Museum
Stanford University, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

It is a pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of your 80th birthday and to send my very best wishes to Mrs. Abrams too. Mrs. Benson and I enjoyed very much our visit at your home a year ago, and it was a pleasure to see both of you.

On this occasion I wish to express my appreciation to you for the inspiration, guidance, and above all, patience which you gave me from the time in the spring of 1927, when as a bewildered freshman I jumped into the third quarter of the year's sequence in Botany without having had the other two, until finally I emerged with a Ph.D. in the subject. In particular I am grateful for the numberless hours you devoted to the discussion of taxonomic problems when I was doing my first research on Ranunculus as a junior and senior with a master's thesis in view. Those of us who were your students have not only a deep thankfulness for your excellent training and the broad outlook which you have encouraged, but also an appreciation of the outstanding character of your own taxonomic research work which has stood as a model for all of us. It has served as a goal for us, and it has given us the hope that some day we might be able ourselves to turn out some little piece of work which might approach it in quality.

With best wishes from both Mrs. Benson and me,

Sincerely yours,

Lyman Benson
Lyman Benson

LB:ah

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Dudley Herbarium

Sept. 27, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams:

Ferry and I sent
a "Happy Birthday" and best wishes to
you on your birthday and best wishes
to Mrs Abrams, too, though October 1st is
your day.

Affairs at the Herbarium are booming along.
We have ^{now} someone to mount specimens who is really
a wonder. So there is a great deal of material
going into the collections. Ira and Dick Holm
and the graduate students are busy on their
many projects and Barbara Law our
secretary, is especially busy typing
up all the results. However she
still has plenty of time for typing

Volume IV of the Illustrated Flora which
will be turned over to the Press one of
these days.

Again our best wishes.

Affectionately

Roxy
Ferry (9.7.76)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
APPLIED BOTANY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

24th Sept 54

Dear Mr. Abrams
And a happy
birthday to you!
May the years ahead
be as rich and
productive as
those in the past.
As I blow out

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

a candle on your
birthday cake my
wish for you is
that I may have
the privilege of
sending you a
greeting ten years
from now

Sincerely
Margaret Alice Byrne

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

24th Sept 54

Dear Dr. Abrams,

Just a line to wish you a happy
birthday & many happy returns.

Stanford has grown since 1925
when I came South - too bad that
growth involved paved highways
instead of dirt roads & fields - and
plants that I'd never seen in Scotland!

See too suffer from growing
pains - I used to collect *Ricinus*
communis from the arroyo in
front of bar building. Now, alas,
Ricinus is segregated in the botany
garden.

With kindest regards &
again best wishes

Yours sincerely

Scotty

(J. Murray Scott)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

September 28, 1954

Dr. L. R. Abrams
Department of Botany
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

I just learned that you are about to celebrate your 80th birthday, so I would like to join with many others in wishing you health and happiness. I would much prefer to do this in person but that is not possible this year. I hope that next summer I may again be on the West Coast and that my uncle and I may again call on you and Mrs. Abrams as we did the last time I was in California.

I have been trying to remember when I took my first course with you and as nearly as I can figure it out it must have been in the spring quarter of 1920, almost 35 years ago. The following year I remember I undertook to draw up a key to the grasses of the Santa Cruz Peninsula as a special problem under your guidance. I also recall going on a several-day collecting trip with you in San Benito County, probably in the late spring or early summer of 1921. Records in the herbarium will give the exact date, because I learned many years later that you had listed me as co-collector of everything you gathered on that trip. By so doing, I think you gave me far more credit than I deserved and in one instance I learned that it led a young man, who had been working with that collection, into the error of assuming that I must be a taxonomist.

Although I didn't become a taxonomist, I look back on my work with you with much satisfaction. Those days were very pleasant ones for me and they were made so in large measure by the friendliness and patience of men like you, Dr. Peirce, Dr. Burlingame, Dr. Campbell and Mr. McMurphy in Botany and a similar group in Zoology.

I am sorry that I cannot drop in to help you celebrate your birthday, but I shall be thinking of you and wishing you the best of everything. Please give my best regards to Mrs. Abrams and sometime next summer I hope to be able to deliver my greetings in person.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry A. Borthwick

H. A. Borthwick

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

September 23, 1954

Dear Professor Abrams,

It is a real pleasure to have this opportunity of joining with your many friends, associates, and former students in wishing you a happy birthday.

I shall always remember with sincere appreciation your kindnesses to me some twenty years ago, when I was attempting to cut my professional teeth at Pullman. Since that time I have always been made to feel as much at home in Palo Alto as I do in Berkeley. Much of the friendly atmosphere that envelops the botanists of Stanford University and the University of California owes, I know, to your kindly spirit and influence. It is an enviable heritage that we shall all do our best to transmit intact.

May I express my hope that you and Mrs. Abrams will enjoy many years of quiet contentment.

Cordially,

Luciola Constantine

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN
OF THE NATIVE PLANTS OF CALIFORNIA

(Founded in 1927 by Susanna Bixby Bryant)
1500 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

September 23, 1954

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Dr. LeRoy Abrams
Dudley Herbarium
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

I cannot believe that the first of October will witness your eightieth birthday. You have always seemed to me so very much younger than this would indicate. I trust your health is holding up well. I know that you and Mrs. Abrams' many friends rejoice with me in your attaining this milestone.

In working on a new manual of the plants of California with Dave Keck, I am constantly using your writing. I wish that when I come to the retirement period I could leave behind me half as much contribution to the understanding of western plants as you have done. Time after time I find in your Illustrated Flora, and particularly in the parts that you have written yourself, corrections in nomenclature and a new understanding of the species described which I consider very remarkable.

Our staff who know you join with me in extending to you our heartiest congratulations and our best wishes to you and Mrs. Abrams for many years of happiness and fulfillment.

Sincerely yours,

Philip A. Munz
Philip A. Munz

PAM gc

CHESTER S. BENSON
11639 S. W. RIVERWOOD ROAD
PORTLAND 1, OREGON

September 27, 1954

Dr. LeRoy Abrams
Stanford
California

My dear Dr. Abrams,

Recently, it came to my attention that you will celebrate your eightieth birthday on the first of October. The love and respect that my brother, Gilbert, held for you, gave me the opportunity to know you and to enjoy your friendship through these years. Mrs. Benson joins me in wishing you great happiness and good health.

Our kindest regards,

Chester S. Benson

281 EMBARCADERO ROAD
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

September 27, 1954

My dear student, fellow-student,
and colleague!

How few of us there are who met for the first time in August 1897, but in the Dudley Herbarium and its caretakers and in the University as a whole you and I can be confident and happy. We have earned our way and we have shared in the preparation of good products.

May you and your life's companion have increasing comfort together.

Faithfully yours,

Pierce

ARTHUR D. NILES
WHISPERING WILLOWS FARM
LOLETA, CALIF.

September 25, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams,

"Happy Birthday" My family want to add their "Happy Birthday to You", too. We talk so often about our last visit to you and we still cherish the bamboo you gave the children that afternoon.

In my backyard, I have recently had built a small house that we call my Bookhouse. There I have my books and plants and my father's piano. So now inbetween the chores with the calves and cows, I can occasionally find time to keep up with my botany.

This year I am working with the County Office of the Superintendent of Schools to help with the plants. It is such a pleasure to me and there is never a time but that your name comes up to help me now just as you have always done since my Stanford Days.

And, as always, too, Mrs. Abrams, is in the picture to make my Stanford Days and my present days the best I have ever had.

Yours Sincerely,

Donis Kildale Niles

My children want to add their names, too.

Malcolm A. Niles,

Katey Niles

James Niles

Margaret Niles

North st., R. F. D. 1
Greenwich, Conn.
October 1, 1954

Dear Doctor Abrams:

One by one we old timers get laid away on the shelf, and there we stay the rest of our lives, some of us soon forgotten, and others, like yourself, always remembered because of their impact on taxonomy. Still, it is a constant source of surprise to each of us to learn that the others are growing old also, and that the dashing young man of fifty years ago is now the veteran of eighty.

It is surprising how little personal contact we have had during this long time, but this is explained by the three thousand miles that lay between us. I still remember with pleasure my visit to Stanford in 1916, when you entertained Mrs. Gleason and me so hospitably, and also the dinner at the Pittsburg meeting, more than twenty years ago, which was the inception of the Taxonomy Society.

With my very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Gleason

H. A. Gleason

128 S. Washington Ave.
Whittier, California
September 22, 1954

Dr. Le Roy Abrams
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

It is a very real pleasure for me to write these lines to you at this time. It brings back to me nostalgic memories of the past, when I was associated with you in certain activities.

I recall vividly the several courses in systemic^{at} botany that I pursued under your sympathetic direction, which aroused in me a very strong liking for that branch of science. Nor can I forget the \$30. per month that you arranged for me to receive in return for herbarium work over a period of time. That stipend was a real Godsend to me at the time !

I was greatly honored when you invited me to accompany you on the collecting trip in the summer of 1908. Often have I recalled the many incidents in which we jointly participated during the progress of that 500-plus miles of travel in So. California. The purchase of the burros; learning to tie the "diamond cinch"; our snow-bath on Mt. Pinus; the sale of "Outlaw" to the teacher near Neenach; our utter disappointment in finding the all-important spring in the desert be-fouled with dead rodents; the life-saving bottle of cold beer near Mojave; the kitten vs. rattlesnake incident at our mid-desert camp; the climb to the top of Mt. San Gorgonio; and the final good bye to our faithful little burros at Redlands.

That trip was one of the highlights of my life. From you, I learned the art of collecting botanical specimens, which implanted within me a desire to collect and identify plants ~~specimens~~ - this desire remaining potent for many years. Throughout the trip our relationships were always friendly, and I have ever since recalled you as a completely fair, ethical, and congenial leader and friend.

I should not conclude without recalling the day as we re-crossed the Mojave Desert. The temperature was about 125°F.; no breeze; little water; burros plodding dejectedly. Perhaps our minds had become addled, and hypnotized by the monotonous profusion of a certain composite, for we began chanting - to the tune of "Little Grey Goose":-

"Hy - men - o - clea
Hy - men - o - clea
Hy - men - o - clea
Sal - so - l - a"

over

All levity aside, Dr. Abrams, my botanical studies under your direction, aroused in me a real love of that science and, had I not felt that the financial outlook in entomology was more promising, I would have much preferred to follow systematic botany as my life work.

May your 80th birthday be most pleasant, and may your memories, including those pertaining to your outstanding accomplishments in botany, be as happy as they so richly deserve to be.

Your loyal ex-student and friend,

Ernest A. McGregor

Ernest A. McGregor

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

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September 24, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams:

Dr. Wiggins has alerted me to the fact that you are celebrating your eightieth birthday on the first of October, and Marjorie and I wish to send you our very best greetings for that important day. We also send you our best wishes for your good health and many more birthdays in the future. In these greetings and wishes we do wish to include Mrs. Abrams also.

It is very pleasant to hear of your splendid recovery from an operation, and I trust you will never have to go through another siege of that sort.

Much of my time seems to be taken up with administrative duties of one sort or another, but whenever I can I turn to the manuscript on the groups of Compositae that I am doing for the Illustrated Flora and for the work that Munz and I are slowly writing. I am fairly well along with the material for your volume four and believe I can turn it over to Mrs. Ferris before she sends out her last call.

The three volumes of Illustrated Flora on my desk are in constant use, and that monumental work assures your immortality in botanical literature. It is splendid!

I enjoyed very much seeing you and Mrs. Abrams in the summer of 1953. You live on a most beautiful hilltop.

Cordially yours,

David A. Beck

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

September 23, 1954

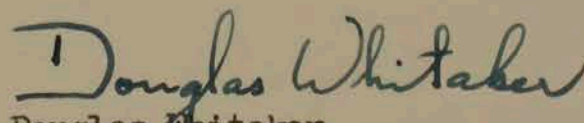
Dr. LeRoy Abrams
Professor Emeritus of Botany
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

Edith and I extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of your eightieth birthday and wish you many happy returns. We often think of you and Mrs. Abrams and hope that you are both well.

As a Stanford biologist and as one of your many former students, I take great pride in your extensive and very great contributions to our knowledge of the flora of California. Your pioneering work will be carried on at Stanford in the Natural History Museum.

Sincerely yours,


Douglas Whitaker
Provost

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
EUGENE, OREGON

HERBARIUM

October 1, 1954

Dr. LeRoy Abrams
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

May I offer you today, on your eightieth birthday, my hearty congratulations on your having attained this point in a life which has been so full of useful service, and which I am sure has been filled with satisfaction and happiness in all that you have accomplished.

I count myself very fortunate to be among the number of those botanists who have been students of yours in past years. We derived a great deal of inspiration from our contacts with you, whether in your classes or just working in the herbarium or elsewhere on the campus. Personally, I regret that I have not been able to see you more often since leaving Stanford.

My best wishes go with you for improved health and for many more years of happiness.

Sincerely yours,

LeRoy E. Detling

LeRoy E. Detling

Dear Dr. Abrams:

Congratulations to you!! a very grand and happy birthday, and many more of 'em !!

Carl joins me in wishing you the best of everything, in the years to come.

He's thought of you so often — and I'm glad of the opportunity to "get it in writing." (No law against writing any time, I realize — but, alas, I'm getting to be a poor correspondent.)

The construction business (which Carl's been in for 6 years now) surely "moves us around." He sees a lot of country, and he likes it. . . . Florida, (which, except for the water — lakes, rivers, Keys, etc. — you can have !!) — New Mexico (for 2 years) which he loved and hated to leave — Kansas City, which you can also have! — Coachella — the Pinto Basin near Desert Center, which in many ways was the loveliest spot he ever lived in, as well as possessing the most fascinating surroundings — and now, Ridgecrest.

He's had occasion, many times since living here, to go through

Red Rock Canyon, - and I always think
of you - every time.

You've been on so many field trips
that you've probably forgotten that one -
but I have it!! There were 2 or 3 cars
of us - Pei, the Chinese lad was along -
and Gilbert Benson, and a lad with a
German name ("can't think of it right
now") - & Roky - I forget who else -
we camped south of Bakersfield in a
field the first night (no "fields"
there now!) - just north of Mojave
the 2nd night (I'll never forget that
cold wind - nor the wonderful view
of the constellation Scorpio) - & at
Hobo Hot Springs the 3rd night.

But why I'll always think
of you, in Red Rock Canyon, was that
simply magnificent dish of breakfast
food you were holding, and it was
topped with a big heap of luscious
fresh strawberries! And the ^(smug!) ~~smug~~
and satisfied smile on your face, as
you contemplated it! Someone took
a picture - I have a copy - and
it brings a chuckle - every time
I see it! (This all was in 1927!!)

(No one else "rated" any
strawberries, I remember - they
were all for "the boss" - but we

didn't begrudge them, I assure you!

(You wouldn't recognize
Hobo Hot Springs, either!! It's a
young village now - stores, cabins,
gas stations, fancy bath house. Ah!
Progress! (or is it!?)

Carl and I have become
avid (though amateur) archaeologists -
It was quite by accident - while
living in Pinto Basin last winter -
he discovered that we were living
in the "type locality" of the old (and
I do mean "old") Pinto culture -
"early man in North America" - from
4 to 10,000 years old. (2 schools
of thought - most favor the 10,000 -
but it's an honest difference of opinion.)

But it's a real thrill - and
in the course of living there the few
months we did, we hunted and found
a small but really lovely collection
of dart points and scrapers - It
took "doing," too. The old campsites
were strung out for six miles along
both "shores" of the former river -
(now, of course, only a dry wash, in

the present arid climate.) And they are ^{the artifacts}
few & far between, too — for the site
has been known (and thoroughly
combed) for twenty years.

But living there gave us the
"archaeological bug," for sure — and it
gets worse instead of better. It's
a fascinating hobby.

I've chattered long enough —
better sign off.

Very best regards to Ursula
Abrams.

And again — "Happy Birthday!"
with sincere regard and
affection,

Jeanne Janish.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Room 461 E

September 25, 1954

Dr. L. R. Abrams
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

It is a very great pleasure to congratulate you on your eightieth birthday!

With your permission I will be happy to give you welcome to the Four-Score-and-More Club of which I have been a member several years. And may the additional years bring you added enjoyment!

I recall with interest the years that you and I, of the Class of '99, with others had courses in "botany" which you met and conquered, and which you finally carried on long with great success.

And may I confess that your following me as Fellow at Columbia was certainly fortunate for Stanford's reputation at that University!

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Cannon

W. A. Cannon
Lecturer in Botany

WAC:gz

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

22 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Abrams:

May I be permitted to greet and congratulate you upon the occasion of your eightieth birthday. From the vantage point you now hold, you may pridefully survey your many contributions to botany and to science generally. Your scientific achievements have been great and lasting and it is a high tribute that you have faithfully recorded the results of your research activity for the benefit of us all.

I take great pleasure in recalling your warm friendliness to students and colleagues over the years. I feel especially privileged to have been among those who benefited from your kindly interest and helpfulness.

With kind greetings and sincere good wishes from all here at the Gray Herbarium.

Cordially yours,

Reed C. Rollins
Reed C. Rollins

Dr. Le Roy Abrams
Stanford University
California

DUTTON ASBESTOS & SUPPLY

Care Natural History Museum
Stanford, California
September 23, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams,

The pleasure I have had in knowing you in recent years often has made me wish I had experienced earlier the inspiration of your friendship.

Now at eighty you must count yourself as rarely successful in the kindly and effectively helpful interest you have taken in your many grateful students.

I welcome this opportunity to record my own appreciation of your understanding during and after my mother's illness.

Sincerely yours,

James Machily

DUTTON ASBESTOS & SUPPLY

Inter-Office Memorandum

TO: Dr. Le Roy Abrams

DATE: Sept 17/54.

FROM: Harry Dutton

SUBJECT: "Bull".

Dear old Abe:-

Word has been getting around that you are dangerously near 80 years of age, and that something should be done about it! But, like Mark Twain says, about the weather, no one every does anything about it. So, just cross your fingers, look everybody in the eye, and tell 'em to go to hell if you don't like 'em.

We are pulling out shortly for Oaxaca, Mexico, to spend our usual 6 months there, and to celebrate my 82nd birthday with an early, (6 A.M.) "Mananita" - or birthday song by six pretty Zapotec Indian girls under my window. I think that Dr. Ira J. Condit will be in Oaxaca also. Last year there were four botanists there.

On behalf of Mrs. Dutton and myself, I extend to you our very best congratulations for having attained a ripe age, acquired honors, kept out of jail, and paid your income Tax.

Cordially,

Harry Dutton

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

September 27, 1954

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Dr. L. R. Abrams
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

As a second generation student of yours, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to send my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your eightieth birthday. Mother was always very proud of the fact that she had had a course from you; and the several that I took have been a great help to me through the years, and especially so now that I am teaching again.

It is good to hear that you are feeling better after your siege in the hospital.

Many happy returns of the day.

Sincerely,

John Poindexter

John Poindexter

JP:nc

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

27 September 1954

Professor LeRoy R. Abrams
Dudley Herbarium
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Professor Abrams:

I write to congratulate you on your 80th birthday. Yours has been an especially full and productive life as you moved toward completion of the gigantic task of the Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States, and as you have had a hand in shaping the background for the careers of your many students. Being one of them I know first hand what this has meant for them; and also as one of them I wish to take this opportunity of telling you something of what it has meant to me personally and of expressing my appreciation to you for it.

Entirely apart from the many facts of botany that you either placed before me or showed me how to find in the literature or how to discover for myself, standing at this present distance, I can now see in clearer perspective countless other things that were not apparent at the time. Among these are such matters as the values of a healthy skepticism; that the scientific method is not merely the collection of data gathered with meticulous care, for unless that data is interpreted it is of little significance; that there is a place for the trivialities of nomenclature, but they must not be permitted to displace the more constructive problems of taxonomy in our time or in our thinking; that the relationship between the professor and his student is a human relationship and is most effective of results when it permits the "give and take" so essential to human relations; that research without teaching can be very sterile of inspirational values, for often it is the observing student that raises the problems and generates the enthusiasm that inspires; and there are many more. Not a day passes but that I encounter some problem of botany that brings you and your teaching to mind. Not a student comes to me for council but what I am reminded of how you would have met the situation that I face.

As I now write I am reminded that I as a student was undoubtedly the source of many trials and tribulations to my professors, yet throughout these somehow I knew that you had faith in me, and it has meant much to me. I want you to know that I appreciated it.

Sincerely,

Herbert

Herbert L. Mason
Professor of Botany and
Director of the Herbarium

HLM:sk

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK
SAN FRANCISCO, 18, CALIFORNIA

September 24, 1954

Dr. LeRoy Abrams,
Stanford University, California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

Congratulations and all best wishes on your
eightieth birthday. I was a little ahead of you, having
celebrated my attainment of the status of octogenerian
last June.

I remember vividly first knowing you at the
National Herbarium and at the Columbia Apartments in
Washington. Little did I dream then that in a few years
you would become an outstanding authority on the flora
of California and the whole Pacific Coast.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Thomas H. Kearney

Sept. 24, 1954.

Dr. Le Roy Abrams
Stanford University
California

Dear Dr. Abrams:

Honor and congratulations to you on your eightieth birthday!

From yucca groves and cactus gardens in the Desert, from sagebrush scrub of the Basin and coniferous woodland of Coast and Sierra, from alpine meadows beside perpetual snowfields in the Cascades: from your own far-flung floristic domain comes the wreath of flowers — sertulum Abramsianum — to do you honor on this anniversary.

With kindest regards and all good wishes,
I am,

Sincerely and respectfully,

John Thomas Howell

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

REEDS LAND AND WATER COMPANY

September 27, 1954

Sept. 28, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams,
Congratulations on your 80th birthday. I am sure that as you look back on a life of botanical work that you will be proud of what you have accomplished. I do not think you could have done this without the help of many people, but you have done it and I am sure you will be proud of what you have accomplished.

Dear Abe:

In the game of golf as a man's game improves his score gets better and better. It is a big event when a golfer has reached the point where he first "breaks eighty". In the game of life you have reached the point where you have broken eighty. Congratulations on joining the select group who have done this.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Smith

I had the pleasure of meeting you at the Santa Cruz Hotel in 1937, during the course of my studies of the general botany of the Santa Cruz Mountains. I do not think I have ever seen you since that occasion. I am sure you are still a very active and successful botanist. I am sure you will be proud of what you have accomplished. I do not think you could have done this without the help of many people, but you have done it and I am sure you will be proud of what you have accomplished. I do not think you could have done this without the help of many people, but you have done it and I am sure you will be proud of what you have accomplished. I do not think you could have done this without the help of many people, but you have done it and I am sure you will be proud of what you have accomplished.

SESPE LAND AND WATER COMPANY

INCORPORATED APRIL, 1886

FILLMORE, VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

September 27, 1954.

Dear Dr. Abrams,

Congratulations on your 80th birthday. I am sure that as you look back over your many years of botanical work that you derive a great deal of satisfaction in what you have accomplished. Many of the areas of Southern California are now so thickly populated and changed that it is doubtful if anyone could re-collect specimens which you obtained in the early 1900's. However, there is one area which is still nearly as primitive and inaccessible as in your early day explorations. I refer to the mountainous region of Ventura County between Santa Paula and Mt. Piros. If it were possible for you to retrace your trip into the Topa Topa mts. you would, no doubt, be able to recognize many of the exact spots where your important collections were obtained. Scarcely a day goes by that I do not look up to the Topa Topas from my home in Fillmore and think of you.

My years of studying under your guidance were a great source of inspiration and I am particularly grateful for the way in which you taught me to appreciate learning botany out-of-doors.

In 1937, during the course of my studies of the genus *Cupressus* I had the pleasure of having you go with me to a stand of cypresses near Bonnie Doon in the Santa Cruz mts. on that occasion you carefully examined the living trees and finally said, "Carl, I think you have a species here." Later it was my pleasure to describe those trees as a new species under the name of *Cupressus abramsiana*. Subsequent studies of these trees by other botanists have confirmed the conclusion that they constituted a valid species. It is, therefore, a great pleasure for me to have been able to associate your name with a genus of plants with which you had had a great interest over many years. In fact, one of the most beautiful of all cypresses, *Cupressus nevadensis* was named by you from the mountains of Kern Co. many years ago.

I could go on almost indefinitely recounting pleasant field trips with you such as Lake Co. in 1927, Santa Barbara Co. 1928, the Mojave Desert in 1941 and many others but space does not permit. However, I do hope that at least in a small way some of those trips recall to you pleasant memories.

I wish it were possible to be present in person to extend my good wishes to you on your birthday, but since I can't, I again say congratulations.

Yours
Carl.

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
SALEM, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

September 27, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams,

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I send you my congratulations and best wishes for the celebration of your forthcoming birthday, and wish you to know that I will be thinking of you on that day. I have been so sorry to miss seeing you the last few times I have been in Palo Alto or Stanford, and sincerely hope your health is improving.

The years I spent in Michigan, Indiana, and Connecticut were enjoyable and profitable, but I was certainly glad to get back to the part of the country in which it is possible to use your "Flora," and, indeed, I do use it a great deal. This is my eighth year at Willamette University.

Again, my best wishes to you and Mrs. Abrams, and may you enjoy your remaining years in health and happiness.

Most sincerely,

Martha C. Springer

Pasadena 2, California
September 29, 1954

Professor Le Roy Abrams,
Stanford University, Cal.

My dear Dr Abrams:

It is now some 40 odd years since I first began to understand in part the labor required to critically survey the varied flora of a region like California, and my guide and counsellor in those early years was yourself. I can still recall the very pleasant association you permitted me to enjoy in the laboratory and herbarium. Your unflinching courtesy and good humor in answering questions and clearing up problems in taxonomy and nomenclature made the work of your students not only easier but revealed a friendly kindly spirit which never seemed to flag.

It has not been feasible for me for many years past to again visit Stanford and renew the associations which are still vivid in my memory. It is a pleasure indeed to know that you have recovered so well from your recent illness: your old students will one and all hope that the author of the monumental Pacific Flora will long survive as an inspiration to them. It is a fitting consummation of a life-time spent in analyzing the vegetation of the Coast, truly an herculean task magnificently accomplished.

I most sincerely hope that you and Mrs Abrams have many years of health and happiness in prospect.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Smiley

1930 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, California.
October 1st, 1954.

My dear Dr. Abrams:

Congratulations!

May your new year be filled with happiness and satisfaction, and with the knowledge of a job well done.

Often we know little about the many channels through which our influence travels, and so I am going to tell you about one of the rather unusual channels through which your influence has been traveling over the past twenty eight years.

Some of the most interesting and the happiest days of my life were spent in the Botany Department at Stanford University with Professor Dudley and with you. I wanted to share the knowledge which you gave me with others who did not have the opportunity of going to a university. And I wanted to inspire in the children of San Francisco

an interest in all our Natural Resources
and a love of Mother Nature, as I had been
inspired many years before.

And so, in the heart of San Francisco,
on a beautiful fifteen-acre rocky peak, we
built a Junior Museum at a cost of about
a half a million dollars; a Center where
children can become acquainted with the
trees, the flowers, the animals, the insects,
and all the various phenomenon of Nature.

Your influence is channeling through to
thousands of children - our next generation of
citizens - with amazing results. Juvenile
delinquency is of no interest to those attending
the museum; there are too many other interesting
things to do.

And so, Dr. Abrams, you are growing by
leaps and bounds, and may well be proud of
the results of your influence, started out on its
road through a student of yours, some forty years ago.

My best of wishes to you for a very
Happy Birthday.

Most sincerely,

Josephine Randall.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Dudley Herbarium

October 1, 1954

Dear Dr. Abrams:

As you look forward to following your way serenely through your next "Five Year Span" and attaining your eighty-fifth year at its end, I'm sure you must feel a glow of satisfaction over your accomplishments of the past eight decades. May I congratulate you upon your achievements and upon this occasion, one that is accorded comparatively few men and women during these days of hectic rush and tension. May this birthday be a very happy one and serve as the forerunner of many more just as pleasant and satisfying to you and Mrs. Abrams.

The many years of our close association in the Dudley Herbarium were never, to my knowledge, marred by friction or disagreement between us. Your kindly tolerance of the impatience of youth and your splendid sense of humor were largely responsible for the serenity of the atmosphere at the Herbarium. Your method of teaching by example extended beyond the field of systematic botany into that of human relations and made a deep and lasting imprint on the lives and characters of all who studied and worked with you.

I prize most highly the memories of those days, weeks and years with you in the Herbarium, and of the numerous field trips we took to various parts of the state. It is my hope that much of your spirit of kindness, helpfulness, and of your high standards in botanical research will always be evident around the Dudley Herbarium, the Natural History Museum, and Stanford University. Truly, you have played a splendid role in building all three to the honored position they hold today.

Dorothy and I rejoice with you in your happiness on your eightieth birthday and wish you and Mrs. Abrams many additional years of good health and joy.

Affectionately yours,

Ira L. Higgins