



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
5th Floor, Hunt Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4909 Frew Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Telephone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Web site: [www.huntbotanical.org](http://www.huntbotanical.org)

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

*Usage guidelines*

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

*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.

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, *Chairman*

January 7, 1952

Professor W. W. Ray  
Department of Botany  
The University of Nebraska  
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Professor Ray:

In reply to your interesting letter of December twenty-eighth, I have the following possibilities to suggest:

(1) Dr. R. W. Darland, Department of Biology, University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, Duluth 5, Minnesota. Dr. Darland is doubtless known to you and may not be available because of his increasing responsibilities at Duluth. However, I have the highest respect for his ability to carry on the fine traditions of your department.

(2) Dr. W. D. Billings, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada. This young man has made an enviable record for himself as a teacher and investigator and has an excellent reputation in the profession. Some time ago he was interested in an opportunity to work in a larger institution. Whether he still feels this way, I am not sure, but you could easily find out.

(3) Dr. Loren E. Potter, State College Station, Fargo, North Dakota. Dr. Potter took his Master's degree with me at Oberlin and his Doctorate at the University of Minnesota. He is thoroughly familiar with grass land problems. He is a quiet but effective teacher and a first-rate person.

If I think of any additional names, I shall be glad to let you know.

Very truly yours,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears

PBS:LW

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, *Chairman*

January 15, 1952

Professor W. W. Ray  
Department of Botany  
The University of Nebraska  
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Professor Ray:

Your letter is just at hand. I can well understand the situation so far as Darland is concerned.

Meanwhile, I have learned that a son of <sup>the</sup> distinguished geographer, Carl Sauer, is at the University of Wisconsin and it runs in my mind he has been trained in ecology. I have taken the liberty of making some inquiries, and if I find anything that may interest you, I shall pass the word along. He ought to be good.

Very truly yours,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears

PBS:LW

Enclosure

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, *Chairman*

April 15, 1952

Professor W. W. Ray  
Department of Botany  
The University of Nebraska  
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Professor Ray:

Since our earlier correspondence I have learned to my regret that Dr. Loren Potter has withdrawn his name from consideration of the vacancy at Nebraska. I presume in the meantime you have been able to make a suitable selection. I certainly hope so because I know from experience what a difficult task it is.

However, in case you are still looking for someone, I learn that the following men are disposed to move: Assistant Professor John Merkle, A. and M. College of Texas, College Station, Texas, and Nicholas Polunin, MacDonald Professor of Botany at McGill University, who seems to be on leave at Harvard at the present time.

I knew Merkle when he was a student at Oklahoma and found him very competent. I understand that he has shown considerable development since that time. My colleague, Dr. Reeder, holds him in high regard. I have met Dr. Polunin and shall see him again next week at which occasion I can form some estimate of his personality. He is wellknown in his field and no doubt Karl Sax could tell you more about him.

Very truly yours,

*Paul B. Sears*

Paul B. Sears

PBS:LW

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, *Chairman*

December 9, 1953

Dr. W.W. Ray, Chairman  
Department of Botany  
The University of Nebraska  
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Professor Ray:

Thank you indeed for your cordial letter of December 3. I can think of nothing that would give me greater pleasure than to spent a few days on the campus, if it can be arranged. I find in looking over my schedule that I have to be in Chicago on April 2nd, and possibly might be able to spent a few days either preceding or following that date at Lincoln, if it fits into your schedule.

You might check the University calendar to see if either of these times will be convenient, meanwhile I shall scrutinize my own with a little more care than I have been able to, and make some arrangement which is mutually satisfactory.

With warm regards to you and your colleagues, I remain

Very truly yours,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears

PBS:mjc

# Preparation For Resources Depression Urged

By VIRGIL FALLOON  
Star Staff Writer

While this country has "a tremendous margin of safety" in natural resources, Dr. Paul B. Sears of Yale University says "we need to take advantage of this margin to get our house in shape—for the time when population growth is an even greater depression on natural resources."

As chairman of the conservation program at Yale, Dr. Sears heads a special two-year graduate program on the need of conservation. This broad training is carried by the students, who are specialists in all fields, back into all phases of private industry.

Dr. Sears is delivering this week a series of lectures on the University of Nebraska campus in the Student Convocation Series.

Asked what natural resource presents the greatest conservation program, Dr. Sears said in his opinion it was "water."

You can't do too much about rainfall, said Dr. Sears emphasizing the problem lies in "the run off on land."

Cultivated land is probably the poorest conserver of rainfall, he



Dr. PAUL B. SEARS

said. "Studies show wooded areas retain up to 300 inches a year as compared with about one-fourth that amount for farm land."

In the East, good conservation

practices encourage return to forest marginal land, he said. In the West the natural cover would be prairie grasses which provide about 80 per cent retention of rainfall.

Conflicting interests between small watershed dam backers and high dams-power advocates can be resolved over the conference table, he said.

"A good, sound watershed program should be worked out on a local basis. There's no danger from upland control by itself—it's good practice to prevent silting as well as water conservation."

But the little dams can't control rainfall; the big dam program downstream also has its place, he said.

On the subject of reclaiming land through irrigation, Dr. Sears pointed out this is not always economically sound.

Productivity of long-used farm land can be returned for an investment of \$30 to \$60 an acre as compared with the \$300 to

\$3,000 an acre cost in reclaiming arid land through irrigation. "Supplemental irrigation is the best economics," he said.

Some marginal land needs to be returned to its native vegetation. He pointed to a movement in the Oklahoma dustbowl to get cover back onto the land, even if it's just weeds for the present.

He predicted return of marginal land to its native state will become more and more important locally, or the day may come when the government may take such steps, he said.

Dr. Sears taught at the university from 1920 to 1923 and was a graduate student there from 1913 to 1916.

He is the author of five books, including "Deserts on the March," a book-of-the-month in 1935. A prominent botanist, conservationist, and lecturer, he is also the author of numerous magazine articles and technical monographs.

## Easier Than Ever!

New type foil now makes the Meadow Gold Plastic Milk Carton even easier than ever to open! At Your Food Store.—Adv.

## Television Troubles

Check the Want Ads, classification 38 for a reliable repairman.—Adv.

[SEARS, 9 X 11 1953]

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, *Chairman*

March 15, 1954

Dr. W. W. Ray  
Professor of Botany  
Department of Botany  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I am more or less primed on the following topics and suggest that you feel free to work any or all of them in as seems appropriate.

Ecology and land use:

1. Natural resources - the scientist's dilemma.
2. The living landscape.
3. Man's place in nature.
4. Art, ethics and natural resources.

Climatic history:

5. Climate and vegetation during the Wisconsin glaciation.
6. Climatic change and human cultures.

No. 5 would be the most technical of these lectures but I will try to make it understandable to a lay audience.

As I say, please feel free to select from this list or arrange them in any way that seems most expedient, since it will obviously save some effort if any one of them might be made to do double duty.

I certainly appreciate your offer to arrange reservations but I believe that Mrs. Sears who will be with me has arranged for us to make headquarters at the home of her brother-in-law, Professor Kenneth Forward.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears, *Chairman*  
Conservation Program

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
77 PROSPECT STREET  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

PAUL B. SEARS  
*Chairman*

ALBERT E. BURKE  
*Director of Graduate Studies*

April 12, 1954

Professor W. W. Ray, Chairman  
Department of Botany  
The University of Nebraska  
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Professor Ray:

I have been pretty steadily on  
the go since we parted at the airport,  
so that this is my first chance to tell  
you how much we appreciated your hospital-  
ity and that of your colleagues.

Please convey our greetings to  
Mrs. Ray and other mutual friends.

Sincerely,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears

PBS:ecd

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

5 January, 1963

Prof. W. W. Ray  
Dept. of Botany U of N  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I have had no chance to reply to your letter until today, and did not wish to do so until I had phoned Paul Kramer at Duke, who called attention to the fact that you were least interested in a water specialist. I had misread this part of your letter.

However, we both agree that you would do well to look into Dr. William Jackson, now at Dartmouth and formerly at Yale. You could easily find out if his research plans are sufficiently flexible for your purpose.

When Bill was at Yale I assigned him the job of planning the botany facilities in the Gibbs Research Laboratory. This he did so well that the department, unlike zoology, had no costly afterthoughts. Best of all, when Gaston came later, he was thoroughly satisfied with the plant physiology set-up. Since his field was very different from Bill's, this is a tribute to the latter's versatility.

Jackson is a deceptively quiet and modest chap, but has the kind of personality which I think would go far to insure harmony and cooperation in any department. At any rate, I suggest you look into his qualifications.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

29 January, 1963

Prof. W. W. Ray  
Dept. of Botany, U of N  
Lincoln, Nebr.

Dear Dr. Ray:

If you are continuing your search for a physiologist another man well worth considering is Dr. William Muir, now at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. My only hesitation in naming him is that I would hate to see Carleton lose him.

He is one of the most capable, enthusiastic and likeable young botanists I know. He was trained at Wisconsin and in addition to very effective teaching, is carrying on fine work in tissue culture. Although teaching in a biology department, and a very good one, he has attracted a number of students to botany.

Good luck, and let me know if I can be of any help.

Sincerely yours,



Paul B. Sears