



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
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

May 27, 1931.

Mr. H. F. Parks,
Care Joseph P. Tracy,
Eureka, Calif.

My dear Parks:

I have been looking forward with much pleasure to joining you and Mr. Tracy for a few days in the Northwest, but am reluctantly obliged to give up the hope and the plan.

I was tied quite closely here in helping to get Prof. May off to Washington for his conference, and some contacts I wished him to make for me. Then I have been working nights, Saturday afternoons and Sundays trying to save in the best condition possible the tons of material you have been sending in by mail, much of it coming on Saturday and completely wrecking any holiday outing for anyone here.

I feel strongly now that it was a grave mistake to plan on 50 sets of the willows. When that was agreed upon I had no idea that material was to be sent from the field in long distances and large quantities without pressing or even arranging in final form in the papers. The result is fifty sets of rather poor material when we might have had 20 sets of first class specimens. Foreign herbariums, with few exceptions, are not interested in large sets of American material in willows, especially from one state, and they will be even less interested if the material is in poor condition. On the other hand, American herbariums would have been interested in sets of critical material in good condition, on which specialists could have worked with pleasure. We have sacrificed quality to quantity, and quality counts when one is diagnosing species.

Have spent so much time trying to salvage your specimens that I have had no time to study them taxonomically but there seem to be many hybrids or other wise aberrant collections. Wish I could have seen them in the field, as I believe that would have been worth much more to American salicology in the end than a lot of poorly prepared specimens. But its no use crying over spilled milk- only I do not expect to spill any more.

Most cordially,

Carleton R. Ball,
Research Associate.

July 18, 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Parks,
Bishop Pine Lodge, ^{RECEIVED JULY 21 1932}
San Juan, Trinidad, California.

My dear Harold and Priscilla:

Just a sudden note, in which may get mentioned, but not purposely, of course. We already have received sets 270 to 513 from Dr. and Mrs. Setchell, and there doubtless is 'murder yet to come'. He had been where he was gwine and was back at Tenana or somewhere in mid-Alaska.

He had about 18 or 19 species and half as many varieties to that date. All except one variety had been known from Alaska before but he has stretch the ranges and established new stations for many. He got *S. interior* and its variety, *pedicellata*, at one or two points, and enough to distribute. They had been collected before but not distributed.

His most important find was a specimen of *niphoclada* so glabrate and glaucous that it aroused my suspicion. On examination of a cotype of *S. desertorum* Richardson, a species practically unknown for 107 years, I am sure that is what he has, and what he got last year and which I identified as *S. niphoclada* Rydberg. "Just whether that last species goes out altogether or persists as a variety remains to be determined. Up to date, Dr. S had not located *S. candida* in Alaska. But here's hoping.

Mrs. Bracelin has not heard from Joe. Tracy and as it is desirable to move the 1931 collections I am writing him this mail about it. Annetta is arranging and counting the specimens. Herbert C. is away for ten days again. The U.C. set is all in the herbarium, which has been greatly expanded. I am cleaning up a lot of accumulated grief and acquiring more, as, for instance, *S. desertorum*.

An expedition to Lassen is being organized for this week end, and I hope to come back with that supposed new species from about 7000 feet.

My little girl (22 and 5 ft., 8 in.) is in hospital following an operation for appendicitis. It was not acute and she is coming along well. The app. was 5 inches long, about the same length as the operation. She should have gone home today.

Weather has been cold and hot, and both. Nearly rained again. Schoolma'ams about same as before. Professors slightly worse.

Must desist and finish up my paper. Hope both of you-all will pop in here some of these days. I have not been on your den floor but have heard no suspicious noises up there.

Best love and good wishes to you and friends,

"The gum-chewing girl and the cud-chewing cow
Appear much the same yet differ somehow.
The difference, what is it? Ah, I see it now.
It's the mere thoughtful look on the face of the cow".

Parks

Easter Sunday, April 1, 1934.

Dear Harold and Susan:

If I had written every time I have thought of you, there would have been a large increase in the postal business. In reality I have written few letters in the past two months. A little flu, a little politics, a little work, and each day was gone.

✓ Haven't even worked on willows much, so you see the same total of my deparavity has been large. Got the two new vars. of *S. scouleriana* published in the Wash. Acad. Sci., after withdrawing from the U.C. Press and will send you a copy separately. Have brief note on teratology in willows in last Madrono, and if I can get a few copies will send one also.

Finally got the material we gather in 1932 worked up, label copy made, and then Univ. was out of funds to print. Waited a long while on hope some was to be released and then had labels printed at my expense. We distributed the plants into sets and then found the Univ. has no money to pay postage on them. If you are coming down presently, call and get yours at the Herbarium. If you are not, I will ship it up, as you ought to have it there for use.

We still have the material from Lassen Park and a few lots from the south end of the State undistributed. This last lot included the few recent sets you and Tracy, individually and collectively, sent in.

Mason told me recently that Dr. Jepson is resigning from the Presidency (and dictatorship) of the Calif. Bot. Society and that it is to be reorganized and an appeal made to a larger group of persons.

By the way, the April meeting of the Society is at Stanford on Saturday the 14th. They meet there in the morning, drive to the Big Basin for the day, back to the Stanford U. for a night meeting, and then home. Why not come down, stop with us, go to the meeting, come back to us, and let's have a real visit? When ever you come, we want you to park (2 Parks) with us.

Glad indeed to hear that you located Wendell. I know just how he felt and can sympathize with both sides.

I am having a lot of fun in trying to get nominated for Congress from this district. Never saw people so interested in public affairs or so eager to discuss questions. They stay from 1 to 2 hours for discussion. But I doubt if I can get anywhere in the race, as I have neither money for advertising nor much party backing. The old-time politicians have both and they talk louder than words. It's too bad that some one who knows something about government and about social and economic problems, should not have money and backing. The other kind got us into this hole.

With love and good wishes, in which Mrs. Bell joins heartily,

As ever, Cordially,

Sept. 8, 1934.

Mr. Harold E. Parks,
Trinidad, Calif.

My dear Harold (and Priscilla)

This is a hurry-most note to tell you that I have received from Dr. Hitchcock the determinations on some 25 grasses I have collected here and there in the last three years, and now have them all labeled.

If I remember correctly, you said you were interested in grasses and I want to send you the most complete set if that is right.

Please let me know 'muy pronto' by enclosed postal card, as I want to clean out all miscellaneous material right away quick.

Got my first copy of the paper with new willow species yesterday, and expect a supply soon. Will send you some with the grasses.

The grasses are mostly from Gaylor Lakes, Mt. Lassen, and the Trinity River.

We went to Mrs. Setchell's funeral on Tuesday. I do not know details because we have had visitors and not much time. She looked very peaceful in her last sleep.

Dr. Hoagland is the new Chairman of the Dept. Botany but I understand that he is still in Agriculture and that it does not mean that Plant Nutrition is combined with Botany.

Mrs. Mexia has just sailed for South America with some financial help from Foreign Plant Introduction, in order to get them various plants they want.

Outside of this I have not heard much news or gossip. I wish we knew how you all are. Occasional vague reports through the Gregory's is all I have heard (and you never answered my last letter).

With all good wishes, In which Mrs. Ball joins,

Carleton R. Ball

1st page lost
W. A. Archer

Jan 5, 1935

I would like very much to have you look over our Willow situation now. So peculiar is our weather that even *Lasiandra* is sending out new foliage according to Joe Tracy. *Sorubiana* is in flower up to 3000 feet on Berry's Mt and in that region. The thing interesting to me is the way certain trees follow in succession in stead of a general bloom at one time. It is as though there were many strains or varieties each blooming at a slightly different time.

I trust that all goes well and that I will be seeing you soon now.

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Sincerely yours

Harold E. Parks.