



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.



Theriacal to Steeple

My dear Dr. Otto & Ira: I was pleased with what you wrote about my loved
one Carl. No one knows how I miss Carl & Nina. Carl used to say so many
times "Tern we are on top of the world so long as we 3 can be together." I
had one of my off days yesterday so could not feel up to writing. It seems
to me the Botany department of the museum could have written a
short thank you for all of Carl's work there. I sent them \$75. Not
so long ago when they had a money drive for expenses. I don't receive
their paper any more so which came until I sent them money. Maybe
it wasn't enough. The salaries have gone up so much I can see why
they need money for their stuff. They did much for Carl while he was
alive & he did for the museum. I may send some more money later. Perhaps you could get some
one to help you write this all about Carl. Someone who could condense it
down some. I think it is just about perfect as it is. I'm just not able
to do it. My line was music & I still play many pieces or numbers from memory.
Was asked to play ^{recently} at our large women's club but declined as it would
make me too nervous and I don't get much time to study keeping well
balanced meals seem^s to take time ^{just as much as for} and some days I have to clean up
around here although it is very clean around here with no one living too

close and we are far away from the factory district. They have taken a long time to settle my Estate of course the lawyer etc. got plenty. The car is still in Carl's name & will have to go through probate. Lawyers here get \$25 an hr. I had quite a busy summer as you know - mostly to keep my spirits up. I know I could help financially if you need any money to have the most of this printed. It seems you might be able to condense it down a little. I've had some one help you. I could talk all night about my Carl & I wish he were here. There was a long flock of those who had contributed \$3.00 dollars in money or otherwise being in the museum & I believe I was there. Carl had still been there. I'll call them to recite the next day as long as he was teaching. No other teacher could do this in the college. The typewriter didn't catch all the words correctly but this is only a copy & effort. He got rid of our paper in a side from the cabin you know. It is not close & I have a good widow there. This makes her 5th yr. & she gets a very cheap rent, pays for the utilities. Property is awful for the owner when rented. I think you should sell it. Hope to hear from you soon. Going to the doctor on the 1st here & over to Dr. Rapskin on the 7th. Will leave 4 days. Glad to see your father is better. Hope to see you in Jan. '68. My very best, Fern.

Mon. Feb 27th '67

Dear Friends:- I have wished to write
to you too for sometime. I find my days
go by too fast. There are many details that
rest on my shoulders now. I never realized
how much Carl had to do and how much he
helped me until his departure with no
return which is such a terrible loss for me.
I have many letters to write but gave myself
a vacation from writing for awhile. I have
been down to Bloomington, Ill twice this
winter. Was taken down there & back to attend
Founder's Day on the 8th of Feb. From Mon.
Tues. and came back Friday. Stayed at the
President of the University's home as before.
The President's wife is a charming person.
It was a strenuous good time. Founder's
Day program was wonderful in the large
gymnasium & the luncheon at noon for
certain invited guests was interesting.
Just one busy time & I was tired out &
considered how I
I seem to have mislaid your last letter
but I'll find it. I didn't destroy it.
I think as far as I know there hasn't
been any write up about Carl's life
work. I'm afraid few know that my

Earl is not living. Articles come quite often
and I give them to the Hb. Wesleyan to be
in the library of the Science Bldg. Just this
month literature was sent here telling
about the Botanical Society of America's
next meeting next summer etc. - I'm having
a friend come up from Ft. Myers, Fla. She
is in Chicago now & just called me & will
be coming by train from Chicago Mon. &
a friend and I shall meet her in Battle
Creek. She lived ~~was~~ ^{with us} for a yr. in Chicago
& we have been trying to get her to come
for several yrs. but she had a very good posi-
tion and was slow in making up her mind.
Good nt. will finish this in the morning
I have not been feeling well to day & I'm
tired and it is late. I have trouble sleeping.
many nts. I'm here again. We have had an
unusual winter, more snow than I have
ever seen before. On the 26th of Jan. it started
snowing about 9 A.M. Friends started for
Fla. about that time & were unable to
get to Kalamazoo 2000. Friends who were
going north then had their trailer & they were
warm & comfortable for the nt. & by a round
about route came back home the next day
They finally made it to Fla. later. Of course
Chicago has much more snow than we
had (32 inches) & it was colder. They had

suffered a relapse but not as bad as the
1st storm. While Fattin was in Chicago
they had a blizzard of an hr. or so which
was terrific. You are lucky. Well I
must finish ^{this} and help get dinner.
It is a chore to sort Carl's clothing & give
them away & a sad time for me. Nearly
all has been disposed of. Took some in
fact all of Miner's clothing & some of
Carl's to Pine Rest. (The reformed Christian
Hospital) where Miner was & I gave them
a donation of \$100.00 dollars. The two
wheel chairs are over there now too.
It all has been heart breaking for
me. We are having sunny weather
but cold.

My very best wishes.

Most Sincerely,

Gertrude P. Sherff.

June 15th 67

Dear Dr. and Mrs. DeGeme:-

I have been too long in answering your interesting letter. I have had company some of my time. A friend was here from Ft. Myers, Fla. from the 26th of Feb. until the 13th of Apr. She helped a great deal with the work so I reimbursed her very well. She lived with us for a yr. in Chicago & we have kept a friendship all these yrs. Her husband died 3 yrs. ago & she expects to re-marry in the fall. She took a leave of absence from the Title & Abstract Co. where she has worked for many yrs. I have found it very difficult to find any one to come to live here & now I'm not trying. I have a very comfortable home with air-conditioning etc. I'm making good use of it this afternoon for it is warm outside. Most people prefer to work in the factories and you can't get anyone for love or money. The air has been humid and we have had so much rain with electrical storms usually. Dr. & Mrs. Aborn ^(Geo. & Betty) were here for a short visit last month & Dr. Aborn was here twice in May. They are helping me to get my affairs taken care of so I if not have so much to take so much of my time. They, Dr. Aborn & Mrs. Aborn are from Bloomington Ill. I have a dear friend who has helped me to get over to Gr. Rapids and places I wish to go to. Wish you two were here. I have not very

6/15/19
so well lately. I mourned so much & was so lonely & then we had such a long cold spring. In fact we didn't have any spring
& just went into summer abruptly from cold, damp weather. Of course I'm getting older by the minute.
I'm keeping the car for the time being at least. I'm getting new captive air tires the same as we have on the car
but they are worse than. Yesterday the battery went to sleep & that was taken away to see if it will come to
life again. I have thought of you two every day and hope I say you are not having any more trouble
after the operation. I had or have a very good friend who when she had a check up found she had a lump
in ~~her~~ breast. The operation proved on the tests rather afterwards gave her absolutely nothing to worry about.
I'm very sad at times but I try to be brave. Earl and Miner are better off than any of us. They are in a very
nice location in the cemetery. I made me feel very sad when I found someone had decorated with
poinsettias (plants) at Xmas & they lasted through all the snows were there when I had a chance this spring
to visit the cemetery. Can't find out who it was. A sweet lady who brought Miner delicious cookies at Xmas
said she didn't but wish she had. Had two containers put at the graves & Dr. Olson took a plant for each
head stone. I wish I could get up there more often. The flowers were kept watered very well last summer.
I was reading a short letter from old Mr. Munro yesterday. Geo. C. Munro from Honolulu he was a grand
old man from what I heard Earl say. I must close this letter with many well wishes for always
and I sincerely hope I can see you sometime before long. I hope to get up & into Canada sometime this
in '67. Mr. Teuscher wrote me a very nice letter not so long ago. He said, "the worst time in all his life was when
his 2 sons just ready to get their D's degrees were drowned in Lake Mich. in that silly little sail boat"
I like his wife too. We used to enjoy having them over to dinner and going for the day to their home when he was
botanist at Morton Arboretum. Have pictures of Eric & Peter when they were little that Carl took.

Thanks for your letter,

Very sincerely, Fern P. Shuff



50-1

LETTER-HEAD

Gibson

© 1914

Dear Dr. ^{Otto and Mrs. Degener} June 3rd. '66

I received your kind letter but have been ill and not able to do what I wished to do. I'm keeping up and have to. This was such a terrible shock. On Wed. A.M. the alarm rang off at 6 o'clock. (The date was May 11th) and Carl didn't get up. I called him & I received no response. I went over to him and poor Carl had gotten his legs partly out of the bed. He was not able to speak and never could again.

The Dr. came & of course he was taken to the hospital. I was there 3 times that day. One time that day he was conscience enough when I asked him if he knew me & that I was Fern & was right there with him & would he squeeze my hand. He got ^{up} as far as his chin & I know he was trying to get ^{it} up to ~~my~~ his mouth to kiss my hand but he couldn't. He never had any more reactions whatsoever!

Dr. said 48 hrs. would tell but he didn't give me
any encouragement. He was in ^{coma}. He had many
many flowers which surprised me for his funeral
because he didn't join any organizations here
but I found out people loved him and they
have been so very kind. I have so much to
take care of now. I was fortunate in having
some one here during his operation & during
his last sickness. The operation was very suc-
cessful but the 8 wks. were not over so he
could lift anything. He enjoyed that stay
at the hospital. He had friends there.
The funeral was very well attended and he
looked handsome. I thought in a beautiful
casket. It was the last I could do for him.

The Presbyterian Church set ^{on Thurs. the day of the funeral.} a luncheon
for ^{myself &} out of town guests. Expense mistaken
I'm just a week. Friends brought a
great lot of delicious food to my home.

The flowers after the funeral I had
sent to the Medical Facility & I got a
very nice note from there. They divided
them up and took them to the different
sick rooms. Some of the flowers were
sent to friends who had helped me & I
kept a few. Our florist sent me a beauti-
ful arrangement in a bronze beautiful contain-
er. Now Miner and I must go to bed.
Earl nearly always showed me your letters
and both of you were a great part of his life.
My best to you in my terrible
sorrow. Fern P. Sherff-



of the Medical Faculty. The women's club built on this

Dec. 3rd, '87

Dear Dr. Degener & Mrs. Degener - Hello and so:- I have been ill this past wk.
& I'm still very short of breath. I managed to get to the wonderful Xmas party at the
beautiful Sharp Hall Friday & then walked to the Parish House just across the St.
of the Episcopal Church & was so out of breath I could scarcely talk for sometime.
Our Garden Club was ~~putting~~ ^{on a green sale for} ~~putting~~ ^{for the music tonight} ~~on a green sale for~~ ^{to give what money they}
earned to the landscaping project they have been promoting for sometime. It is
expensive & I understand they made a very good sum. Yesterday I went &
started to go out to the mail box & was on the ^{stone} walk going to the driveway.
I had been in the house all the time & didn't know it was so slippery &
down I went hitting the lower part of my back & got pretty well shook up.
It was a shock & I couldn't sleep until I took sleeping tablets at 11:30.
Then some dear friends who are going to Florida for the winter. Thursday had invited
them out to Sybil's fine restaurant for dinner. So day so I was duty bound to
go. We had a delicious meal. When they brought me home I just rested
on the davenport all the rest of the afternoon aside from a caller for a short
time who brought me a ^{napoleon} ~~loaf~~ of honey. She is a retired principal of a school
here & a very well loved person here. Earl used to enjoy her coming here.
She buys the bread from a lady she knows who bakes bread & it is very

immature Xmas the club is
on every ^{year} giving each one a present. I happened
to get a name who wanted a hair brush. Two of my
friends took me & I took them to dinner & offered to pay
for the gasoline but they said, the car was filled up
& they wouldn't have any of my money. ^{My hair done}
Thurs. & Wed. I was making 8 dozen little cookies
for the club Xmas wonderful party for
so guess I'm tired out. Things are an effort
when you get old & brittle. Earl always said I
didn't look as old as I am. You two are young.
Well I hope this picture reaches you. I
have one like it framed. Xmas doesn't mean
anything to me. Last yr. I didn't put any
decorations up. Miner liked them. Mrs.
Abner Johnson gave me a beautiful blue candle
last yr. & I used that. Earl always put
the outside lights on & Miner liked them
too. He died the 18th of Nov. Mrs. Johnson
who is a very wealthy woman in the
millions sent me a lovely ^{big} chrysanthemum
in Nov. Hope I haven't tired you out with
this lengthy letter. I have plenty of cookies left over &
if you were here. My best & love from
I would give you Fire
some. I play my piano
but haven't been feeling
well enough the last
wk. or so. This Emphysema!

Aug. 20th '66

8-20/66
79/16

Dear friends:-

Pardon my not writing before but I had 4 wks. here with no help. I have had a lady who comes by the hr. She had company come from Biloxi, Mississippi. A state I would not wish to be in now & they were at her home nearly 4 wks. Some days she can't be here at all. She plays the organ in a Baptist Church & is not here on Sat. or Sun. She usually comes at 10 A.M. & leaves at 3 or 4 o'clock. It is almost impossible to find any one to come & make a home of it & receive ample compensation. One ^{foreign} lady might have come but she didn't wish to get up early. Carl always used to get the breakfast while I got Minee ready for breakfast. Carl was such a help in carrying for Minee. I know he had to write so many, many letters and was still doing some research. Now I wish

he could have taken life more easy. Bob was always so happy that he had accomplished
so much and had lived long enough to finish some of his life work. I'm very lonely
I phoned down to the Hastings Banner Office & asked if they had any papers
left of that date & the lady said, she would look. I told her what you wanted
and she called back later and said, she had been unable to find it. In the
afternoon Mr. Young one of the main executives came & brought 2 photostat copies.
They are poor. I thanked him & asked him how much they would cost &
he said, "absolutely nothing". I'll send you the last printed ^{extra} one I have because
Earl got busy one day & put all the printed articles about our little life in
Hastings ^{in a scrap book} several days before he went to the hospital. I never wished to
think that Earl was failing physically but sometimes I would hear him
breathing so shortly in the nt. & he didn't look well but was so active but we
both ^{of us} would tire out too easily. Earl suffered with severe headaches in the nt.
at times this yr. and he would get up and take something to relieve his pain &
then go back to sleep again. No I think he didn't have cancer. He did have some
trouble with his stomach now & then. Men always complain more than women.
I think he wished you to know he just couldn't keep up with too much research.
There were certain things he just couldn't eat. Dr. Rasmussen at Blodgett
Hospital when he was treating his lungs, he said, "boy you have trouble"
but he didn't find any cancer. This Dr. is very blunt he had me thinking
I couldn't live very long but I have hung on for about 3 yrs. since he exam-
ed me. I wish you lived near. My heart was all O.K. There when I was at the Dr's
lungs clear & perfect blood pressure but I don't feel well. He said, you have
very little emphysema but I know I have it. I'll try to get this photostat off to you
by mon. I have not suffered with the heat with this air conditioning & I can

control it so it isn't too cold. We are hav-
ing delightful weather. I'm invited to go
out to dinner with friends tomorrow &
then take a drive down to a scenic
place where there are literally thousands
of Loose-strif ^{spelling? Little stream} growing by a bubbling stream.
Earl in his driving found this beautif-
ful spot on a wild narrow road. I told
the Garden Club women about it
& they didn't seem to ^{know} anything about
it. Now they know where to find
something "out of this world." I always
want there about this time of the
yr. I must ring off & get busy.

Best wishes,

most sincerely,

Fern.

Miner seems to keep well. He is
heavy & it is too much for me to
do all I have to do. Too many people
~~that~~ don't wish to work with this
give system & any ^{one can} work if she wishes
to but people don't like house work
even though well paid.

FIELD MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY

December 7, 1967

Dr. Otto Degener
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener:

I am pleased to send you a copy of a portrait of Dr. Sherff which I had our photographers make in 1961. To me it is an absolute personification of Dr. Sherff as I knew him during his last years.

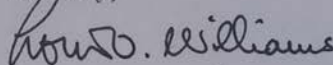
So far as I know this portrait has not been published unless it was the one used in the Hastings news paper. I certainly would have given Dr. Sherff copies and it may well be the one Mrs. Sherff gave the press.

I have no photographs showing Mrs. Sherff. In fact, it was never my pleasure to have met her.

I do hope that Halemaumau put on a show for you. - Mrs. Williams and I will be taking off for Guatemala late in January and should see an active volcano or two.

The Season's Greetings,

Sincerely,



Louis O. Williams
Chief Curator
Department of Botany

LOW:vc
Enc.

Hastings' Noted Botanist Dies Early Monday

Funeral services for Dr. Earl E. Sherff, 79, 1203 S. Church, a noted botanist who died early Monday, May 18, at Pennox Hospital, are to be held at 1:30 p.m. this Thursday at the Leonard-Osgood Funeral Home.

The Rev. Willard H. Curtis is to officiate and burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Dr. Sherff was hospitalized Wednesday of last week after he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage at his home.

He was born in Flint on May 18, 1886, the son of John and Linda (McHenry) Sherff. He attended high school at Flint. He was graduated from Albion College and the University of Chicago where he earned the S.M. and Ph.D. degrees, magna cum laude.

He was signally honored in June of 1963 when the new science building at Illinois Wesleyan University was named in his honor.

The large structure is called The Earl Edward Sherff Hall of Science. The announcement was made at the commencement exercises at Bloomington at which Dr. and Mrs. Sherff were honored guests.

The honor was given to Dr. Sherff because of the great interest he and his wife had shown in the school and in its programs of music and sciences.

Please See MORE ABOUT:
DR. SHERFF, Page 8.

Continued from Page One

Dr. Sherff earned his world reputation in the field of systemic botany. He also had 45 years experience as a teacher and administrator at high school, college and university levels in Michigan and Illinois.

He was an instructor of botany at Chicago Teachers College starting in 1923 and head of the department of science there from 1929 until his retirement.

As an educator, he had been listed and given extensive biographical accounts in recent editions of Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, the Encyclopedia Britannica and International Blue Book of World Notables.

Because of his scientific work, he had been included in the Dictionary of American Men in Science and Leaders in American Science. He had held many positions in educational and scientific organizations.

Dr. Sherff took an active and special interest in deaf, oral, mentally handicapped and various retarded types of children, and in the effective consideration of their special problems in the conduct of the schools.

He had been associated with a variety of businesses. When he retired in June, 1951, Herold C. Hunt, one-time on the Hastings school staff and then general superintendent of schools in Chicago, signed a certificate from the Chicago Board of Education expressing "deep appreciation of Dr. Sherff's long and distinguished service to the girls and boys. May we convey our sincere wishes for happiness and satisfaction."

The Chicago Teachers College department of natural science created a Dr. Earl E. Sherff award given annually to the outstanding freshman biology student.

He married Fern Rosette Seeley and they celebrated their golden anniversary on June 19, 1960.

He had been a contributing member and honorary research associate in systematic botany, Chicago Natural History Museum; was on the editorial board of Britannica; a Fellow, A.A.A.S.; was a member of Sigma Xi

member of American Society of Naturalists; member of Botanical Society of America; Inc.; Mu Beta Phi, and the author of botanical bulletins.

• He is survived by his wife; one son, Miner at home, and a brother, Fred of Flint.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FORMERLY CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605

June 23, 1966

Mrs. Earl E. Sherff
1203 S. Church Street
Hastings, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Sherff:

I wonder if anyone has written to say he is preparing an account of Dr. Sherff for Taxon, the journal for the International Association of Plant Taxonomy. This should be done, for certainly Dr. Sherff was one of the better known American botanists.

I have a fair knowledge of Dr. Sherff's works and could prepare an account for Taxon if no one else is doing it. Fortunately I had a portrait made of him while he was working here a year or so ago.

Dr. Degener in Hawaii perhaps knew Dr. Sherff better than I and has worked with him for years. If Dr. Degener might care to write for Taxon, we should be more than pleased to provide a copy of the portrait.

Should you wish me to prepare an account for Taxon, I would be happy to do so and might hope that you could provide me with data not available to me here.

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

Louis O. Williams
Chief Curator
Department of Botany

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Degener:-

LOW:vc

I'm sending this letter on to you. It seems to me that you knew Earl as well or more, than most botanists and Dr. Williams has implied that in this letter. I shall be thankful if someone does write an article for Taxon and you could do it so very well.

This has been such a difficult time for me. Earl was such a great help to me & with all he managed to do so much research in that study room of his. He called it his office. I adored him & it is hard to find a suitable person to stay & make the home of it. There a woman

96791

Nov. 29, 1967.

Dear Prof. Williams:

I wrote a necrology of Dr. Earl E. Sherff, with bibliography, but lack a good, unpublished photograph of him. I really wanted to publish one of Dr. & Mrs. Sherff together, knowing Earl would have greatly approved. Unfortunately the print from which the Hastings newspaper gave a reproduction has been destroyed. As an afterthought, it may be just as well as it was not particularly good - I just looked at the clipping again.

In your letter of June 23 of last year you wrote Mrs. Sherff you had taken a photo of her husband recently. Has this been published before and, if not, could I use it? I know Dr. Walter Hodge has one of him but, here again, I don't know if countless readers have already seen it. There is of course a splendid one in Lo. Soc. Hort. Res. 2. 1962, that I might use made at the Field Museum Nov. 20, 1961. Is this perhaps yours after all?

We hope to be back at our mountain house within a mile of Kilauaea for Xmas, and expect Halemauau to put on a volcanic show for us.

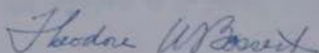
Aloha,

Otto Degener - 6 November 1967

Needless to say we appreciate very much your help in enlarging our collection here with regard to both portraits and information.

Thank you very much and with best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Theodore W. Bossert
Curator of Portraits

TWB-hlj



The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want:
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me: thy rod and
thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil:
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

In Memory of

DR. EARL E. SHERFF

Date of Birth

MAY 18, 1886

Date of Death

MAY 16, 1966

Services from

LEONARD - OSGOOD FUNERAL HOME

MAY 19, 1966

1:30 P. M.

Clergyman Officiating

REV. WILLARD H. CURTIS
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of HASTINGS

Interment

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

*Dr. Lloyd
Mc
Barthol
for services of Dr.
Willard H.*

Mr. Earl Edward Sherff

CHICAGO TEACHERS COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

Chicago, Illinois

Oct 15th 1967

Dear Dr. Dagnier & Lea:-

I find I'm kept busy most of my time but I never realized what a great help Carl was. He helped me so much and he would say so often. "We are on top of the world so long as we three can be together." He was a perfectionist in his life work and helped to correct other people's writings & was greatly appreciated for it. I was so busy in my little world with Minnie that I didn't try to remember. He would read the thanks he would get from people he helped. I know he helped several & would write recommendations for ones who wished to get or obtain a better position. After their promotion to what they desired he would never hear from them. At least most of them were that way. I'm afraid I can't help very much. He worked in humane work in Chicago and belonged to the ^{Chicago} Humane Education Society for several yrs. He contributed to Humane work as long as I can remember. He gave a very fine address over the radio and received much praise for it. One letter said, it was a masterpiece. This was way back in '32. I remember he felt so badly when one woman a Mrs. Charlotte Hunt, a very wealthy woman who gave so much time to humane work finally suffered and died with cancer. Whatever Carl did he gave much thought to & I was proud of him and miss him more than anyone can know. (I have been ill today so I couldn't do anything about this letter.) This is Sun. Oct. 15th. "The coloring is still beautiful but is at its height on the 15th," as Carl would say. I dream

to have mislaid my pen. The 1st. Wesleyan U. sent me this last pen on a tablet
feel marble top but I like the other kind best. I feel a little better to-day.
I think it was a stomach upset yesterday. I get along quite well but
I'm never up to par. Keep up the same activities for this yr. I hope.
It is just impossible to get help I find. — One thing Carl was
very proud of. He was chosen to be in the American Society of
Naturalists. He wrote so many articles for different scientific
and had such a remarkable memory up to his last illness.
He would read his students in his room at the college at the
beginning of the semester & the next day to the surprise of
the students he would call them by name to recite. No
other teacher in the college could do that and the students
would be more than surprised. Of course you know he
studied in the East for several summers & in Europe &
took many photographs of plants ^{in many museums in Europe.} He took a course in photography
at Albion College extra. He was always marked for teach-
ing in Chicago Superior. The department of
Biological Science established an annual award in the
name of Carl to an outstanding student in biology at the
college. You know he was one of the contributors for this studies
of Dahlias ^{in the encyclopedia Britannica}. He was appointed by the trustees of Field Museum
to be a position on their staff as research Associate in Systematics
Botany & his name is on a large blackboard with those who had
contributed 3,000 dollars ^{in different groups.} Prof. Barr wrote for a recommenda-
tion for Carl's first position after graduating from Albion College.
Mich. Mr. Sherff is one of the very best students that I have had
in the nineteen yrs. of my teaching. He is by far the best read
student I have ever had and has really an extraordinary
range of information for a young man of his age & experience. He
is a constant worker & lets nothing stand in the way of his work.
He is a sound thinker & assimilates what he takes in. As my
assistant in the laboratory he has given complete satisfac-
tion not only to me but to the class. He not only helps in the
laboratory itself but lectures to the class alternately with me.

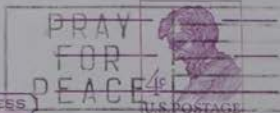
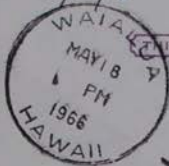
thus giving it a fresh ~~new~~ ³ point of view - & I give him the full-
est liberty in his methods of treatment. He is of the very highest
character and stands consistently for the best and highest in
all affairs of life. He is a man of great maturity of mind.
Etc. We all know he was full of earnest enthusiasm &
was of a contagious kind not self-contained (as a scholar
said here.) He led many ^{students} into more studies, and many stu-
dents went on further to obtain higher degrees in the Universities.
He received many letters from students thanking him for
his high degree of help in their studies. He taught several
different subjects. He taught Chemistry in Egin before we
were married & Zoology in Highland Park did a lot of
work in Pokkie marsh in Ecology & of course we know
he was a Latin Scholar & was a great critic in the
way people wrote & spoke but never offended anyone.
He was a wonderful companion & I learned much from
Carl. — I have been on the Circle Tour of Lake
Superior. I left here on the 12th of Sept. & was gone 1
wk. The trip was very enjoyable. The Larsens from
Worth, ^{old} friends took me in my car & I furnished all the
transportation and some besides. We were congenial &
everything turned out satisfactory even the weather. The
scenery was grand & the coloring had well started. Cabins
& hotels were many. I have had company off & on. The
summer was cool but we really have had an Indian sum-
mer this Oct. I'm keeping the lots we bought so it is
much as it was when you were here Otto aside from our
house. Glad you could go to Europe & visit your father on
his birth ^{anniversary} which has been a great time

Earl was pres. of the Biology Round Table
for many yrs. in Chicago & he selected very
fine speakers for the meetings. I can't remember
all his activities & I don't know whether I can
help you Otto in any way but at least I
hope I have -

I meant to tell you that Carl was one of the
Charter members of the Systematic Botanists of
America & helped formulate the bylaws of the
Society with Dr. LeRoy Abrams, Norman C. Fassett
St. E. Gleason, Allworth P. Killip, W. R. Maxon
P. A. Munz, F. W. Pennell & yourself, Carl
E. Sherff. It has grown to be a big aggregation
now. What a full life Carl had & he was my
companion for which I'm so thankful. But it
is almost unendurable at times this loss for me.
Carl was chairman of this ~~(So long)~~ part of ^{the} ~~the~~ biologists
when they met in Chicago & had everything in order.
He was afterward made president of the Society.
I need my glasses changed. So long again.
Fern. (over)

1203 S. Church St
Hartings, Mich

49078



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Degener
Hialeah
Oahu
Hawaii.
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Ha 96785

My dear friends:-
Carl
suffered a serious
stroke Tue. A.M. & is
not improving. I'm
just heart sick. He
was so happy & well
Mon. When I called
him as the alarm was
ringing at 6 A.M.
there was no response.
It was a terrible
shock to me.

Yours most
sincerely,

Fri. the 13th of Fern. P. Sheriff
May. '66.

He was taken to the hospital very
soon that morning.

Dr. Louis O. Williams

Field Museum of Natural History
Roosevelt Rd. and Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, Illinois 60605



Dr. Otto Degner
~~Wai'alua~~, Oahu
Hawaii 96791

P.O. BOX 154
Volcano, HI 96785

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NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED

DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

FORMERLY FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

May 17, 1966

Dr. Otto Degner
Waialua, Oahu
Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degner:

It is with a great deal of sorrow that I tell you that Dr. Scherff passed away yesterday morning at his home in Hastings, Michigan. I am sure that you may wish to write Mrs. Scherff a note.

There is in Dr. Scherff's room here in the Museum a package which you had mailed to him. We advised Dr. Scherff of its arrival and he told us to leave it till he came down. The package is here unopened and we shall do with it whatever you may instruct.

With my regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

Louis O. Williams
Chief Curator
Department of Botany

LOW:vc

Sorry - new Secretary

July 1, 1966.

Dear Dr. Williams:

Mrs. Sheriff forwarded to me your letter of June 23 to her.

I published Miss Marie C. Neel's obituary with my wife for Taxon recently. She was botanist at the local Bishop Museum, published relatively little and that only in the Hawaiian Islands. Mrs. Degener & I were able to unearth her complete bibliography in the local library.

Dr. Sheriff was a botanist of international renown and it would be absolutely impossible for us here in the middle of the Pacific to prepare his bibliography. He monographed World-wide genera, and we are absolutely lost when it involves any genera or species outside our little world, &

the Hawaiian Islands. Mrs. Degener & I both feel it were much more appropriate that you, a member of the important Museum where he worked so many years, be the author of his biography rather than I, a more or less glorified beach-comber in far off Hawaii (and 30 miles distant from the local Museum).

Mrs. Degener & I feel that Dr. Sheriff is so outstanding that it should not be logically a question at all whether you or I write the biography. His influence on Taxonomy is so wide that you should write the biography from a World-wide viewpoint, with complete bibliography for Taxon; I should write a somewhat more intimate one concentrating on his Haw. contributions, even omitting the Haw. bibliography as this would normally appear in Taxon.

About two weeks ago, I sent Dr. van Steenis of the Eriksherberium a three-paragraph note about Dr. Sheriff's passing which I presume he will publish in the Bulletin of the Flora Malesiana. I am also working on his biography, but only so far as the Haw. Islands are concerned. In fact, I wrote Theodore W. Bossert of Pittsburgh's Hunt Bot. Library whether he had any information about Dr. Sheriff. He replied June 16 that he had none except what is listed in "American Men of Science." What you and the Field Museum should note is that Bossert states: "Incidentally, this library has just received a huge amount of Dr. Sheriff's correspondence, about 1200 pieces, but it has arrived only recently, and we have not been able to even start going through it." It is a mystery to me from where these letters came. Could it have been the Field Museum?

Aloha,

- ✓ SHERFF, EARL EDWARD. A new species of *Coreocarpus* [*C. cronquistii*] (Compositae: Coreopsidinae) from Guerrero, Mexico. *Brittonia* 16: 433, 434. 2 Nov 1964.

- ✓ SHERFF, EARL EDWARDS. Notes on varieties of *Bidens connata* and a hybrid with *B. cernua*. *Rhodora* 67: 50-62. 31 Mar 1965.

- Sherff, Earl Edward. Some recently collected dicotyledonous plants from the Hawaiian Islands and Mexico. *Occ. Pap. Bishop Mus.* 23: 121-127. 15 Jun 1964. ✓



Dear friends: - We never had
any pictures of STEFFEN's mother
any pictures of WAY HOUSE

Home of Fine Food, Friendly Atmosphere, on Scenic
North Shore of Lake Superior, between Sault Ste. Marie
Lighthouse and the Taconite Capital of the World.

51.0 Miles from Duluth on HWY. 101 N. 101 E.

one that was North Shore Drive taken for the
print in our Beaver Bay, Minn. Local paper

called up for that one & it had
been destroyed. Wish I had one for
you. Hope all is well with you two.

I have been just So So. Think I'm not
quite as well in the winter. Have had
much trouble on the furnace from Astor's
May. Their temperature was 40 outside

to-day. Have X-rays & will see my
Dr. in Gr. Rapids on the 17th. Dread

the X-rays for Fin, who was in the winter
the X-rays for over 3 yrs. Miss
Harris had X-rays, that was a bad one
did on the 18th of Nov. I sent a large
X-ray on bearing. A friend sent a large
Chrysanthemum plant last, Gen.

1203 S. Church
Hastings Mich.
49055

PRAY
FOR
PEACE
Post Card



P. r. Mr. Otto Degener
Wahila, Oahu,
Hawaii

Dear Otto & Lisa: - Friday 10/23
Sent the
manuscript back yesterday air
mail. My name Sealey is
spelled with 3 s's. You
are right about working
on rental units. We need
to do a lot of work in Chi-
cago & I wish we hadn't. We
were fortunate in having
good tenants, who were with
us for a long time but had
one that we had to have the
exterminators & I'm glad they
didn't stay long & our
money when they left for
Fla. & we never got it.
My best wishes,
Frey.