

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

FEBRUARY

1992



FEBRUARY MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 10, at 8 P.M. - at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

Mark Remcheck, Extension Urban Forester, Penn State, will present the program --

"Site Preparation and Species Selection for the Urban Forest"



DR. MARY JOY HAYWOOD

Our president, Dr. Haywood, has won the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

To be expected!!!



MARY L. WEBER

In October, the Buhl Foundation had a banquet at the Hilton to honor the Buhl Scholars of yesteryears. I was pleasantly surprised to find a Botanical Society member seated beside me at the table - Mary L. Weber.



GOING UNDERGROUND - UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

My first position after graduating from Slippery Rock was teaching girls' health & physical education at Elder's Ridge High School. This was an appropriate name as the school was located along the top of a narrow, long hill. My brother took me up there for an interview & told the board members that he had to be home by 5:30 to milk the cows. This information could have had something to do with me being hired because most of the people up on the Ridge were dairy farmers or miners. I boarded with an older couple who lived within walking distance of the school - I didn't have a car then. This couple had their little "house garden" across the road & I was happy to pick the beans, beets or other vegetables for our supper. Another teacher was living across the road at the Manse - beside a rather large Methodist (if I remember correctly) church. She & I used to walk the country roads and it was then that I had the time & inclination to start naming & studying the wild flowers growing along the roads. There was absolutely nothing else to do - nearest town was Indiana - miles away. On one of these jaunts we came across a small one miner & a mule coal operation. These were the good old days - when most people seemed to be decent - so we asked him if we could go down on his little cart with him to see the inside of a coal mine. He seemed happy to have us along & was a very good teacher - explaining & showing us exactly how coal was mined on a small scale. It must have been a lonely & could have been a dangerous operation.

The only time I ever sat in a church choir was when I went home with the other young teacher one weekend. She sang in the church choir - so I did too - at least I sat with her. Every time I hear Tom Burdett sing on the radio - I feel a kinship with him!

There was another teacher boarding at the same place as me. She was some years older than I and engaged and not too subtly let me know that we did not have much in common. That was a relief!

Another thing I surely remember was awakening in the night to hear the rats (maybe they were mice) gnawing away under the stairs to the second floor. I put some foot powder down the hole but doubt if it did much good.

I had very nice girls in my gym & health classes - the only problem was that they simply loved basketball - & of all the sports that was the one that I thoroughly disliked - but we managed somehow - even to tournaments.

Another incident that I surely remember was when one of my students came hustling up the four steps to

Robert F. Bahl, Sec.
401 Clearview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 921-1797

TRIFOLIUM REPENS

This illustration of White Clover was made by Sister Constance Bahl at Touchstone -- her first attempt at nature printing.



LUCY LAFITTE

The *National Geographic* December issue carried the much heralded story on the city of Pittsburgh. The first celebrity to be named in the article was Mayor Sophie Masloff. The second was a Botanical Society member, Lucy Lafitte. Lucy is the director of the Frick Park Nature Center.

my office & put her fists right through the window of my door. I yelled for the principal & between the two of us we got her out to the principal's car & took her several miles down the road to the Dr. at the coal mine town. I was watching him stitch her up and the next thing I knew I was laying on the floor by the wall. Only time I ever fainted! She was a tall, thin lanky girl & really tough. By that I mean she took things as they came & never let anything bother her much. That incident was sort of embarrassing!

I didn't get home very much - & when I did on Sun. nite, after I got off bus- I had to walk up to the Ridge - at night - about three miles - & if my memory serves me right - it was straight up. Once in awhile a friend met me on Sun. eve. along the road & took me in his car up to my boarding house. One other thing - I don't ever remember being afraid when I was out walking at night.

There was a roller skating rink down at Clarksburg & sometimes I would skate there. I first took up roller skating while I was at Slippery Rock - they had a skating rink several miles down the road too. I was doing the waltz, two-step & even splits by the time I left SR. I really enjoyed skating - took up ice skating later.

I still have the hand mirror from the brush & comb set one of my students gave me as a Christmas present one year.

Everything seemed so much slower and simpler. I was at the Ridge when Pearl Harbor occurred & the following year I took a job in Pgh. & stayed home. My brother was in the Army - one sister in the Waves - & our world had changed.

- Ede Mock



1992 DUES ARE DUE

No dues statements are mailed out, so if you haven't paid your 1992 dues yet, send your check to:

Walter J. Gardill, Treasurer
P. O. Box 226 Grosick Rd.
Ingomar, PA 15127

Membership: Single - \$5, Family - \$8, Student - \$2.50.

