PLANT TAXONOMY

Chairman: FAY KENOYER DAILY, Botany Department, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

GERALD GASTONY, Department of Botany, Indiana University, Bloomington 47401, was elected Chairman for 1972

ABSTRACTS

The Computerization of the Edward Lee Greene Herbarium (NDG) at Notre Dame. THEODORE J. CROVELLO, Department of Biology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.—Edward Lee Greene (1843-1915) is a fascinating and important figure in American botany. Throughout his career he was an active field botanist and named over 4,400 genera, species and subspecies new to science. The University of Notre Dame possesses his herbarium of 70,000 specimens. Label and other data are being captured on punched paper tape and input into a computer. The procedures, biological value and types of output being produced were discussed. Because Greene left no collection notebooks, it is only from a computerized rearrangement of his specimen label data that his itinerary can be obtained. Also, he often did not indicate which specimens were type specimens. The specimen data and the data on what species he named can be used to pinpoint some type specimens and to generate a list of missing type specimens. The computer is seen as a valuable tool in assisting the taxonomist in his information retrieval problems and as a means to enhance the value of this Indiana resource.

The Origin of Seed Planting. CHARLES B. HEISER, JR., Department of Botany, Indiana University, Bloomington 47401.——Recent archaeological investigations have revealed a great deal about the origin of agriculture, but the question as to why man ever changed his mode of subsistence remains unanswered. A religious motive has been suggested for the origin of animal domestication, and in a little known paper published in 1897 Grant Allen postulated that the sowing of seeds for crops began as an adjunct to the primitive burial system. While Allen's proposal has some merit, I am more inclined to look for the origin of seed planting as a consequence of the "first fruits" or "last sheaf" ceremonies of primitive seed collectors. Primitive man believed that spirits existed in plants and as a propitiation to the spirit the first fruits were returned to the fields. This magico-religious act would make the seeds safe for mortals to eat and at the same time assure a beautiful harvest in future seasons. Such a hypothesis would also offer a possible explanation for the rapid improvement of the early cultivated plants, in that man would return some of the best seeds to the field instead of eating them. Thus one might postulate that artificial selection began to operate with the offering of seeds to the spirits of the plants.

Wild Flowers of Franklin County and Indiana. LLOYD and ADELE BEESLEY, Cedar Grove, Indiana.——In the *Flora of Indiana* by Charles C. Deam,

two species of *Chelone*, Turtlehead, are listed with variants. We have found and photographed the following:

1) *Chelone oblique* var. *speciosa* Pennell and Wherry. Rose Turtlehead. Grows in wet woods and less frequently in springy places in woodlands.

2) *Chelone glabra* var. *typica* Pennell. White Turtlehead. Five varieties of this species are cited for Indiana which grow in wet woods, springy places about lakes, along streams and in marshes. However, we do not have all of them at this time.