

THE SAMUEL B. PARISH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
AND THE RIVERSIDE BOTANICAL CLUB.

JOHN THOMAS HOWELL

On the evening of February 10, 1928, in the biological laboratory of the Riverside Junior College at Riverside, California, about twenty-five people from the interior counties of southern California, interested in the development of botanical study, met and formed the Samuel B. Parish Botanical Society. The expressed purpose of the society is "to advance the development of, and interest in, Botany, particularly taxonomic and floristic, to aid those interested in such study, and to work for the conservation and protection of our native flora." At the first meeting and the following one held in March, a constitution was drawn up and adopted. This provides for a meeting of the society to be held once each month except during the months of July, August, and September, the meetings being held alternately at Riverside and San Bernardino. Permanent officers have not yet been elected, the officers serving until an election is held are: Mr. J. B. Feudge, chairman, and Mr. M. French Gilman, secretary-treasurer. The program committee consists of these two officers and Mrs. W. D. LaNiece and Miss Mary Alice Smith. Membership is open to any one who is interested in botany and who wishes to join the society. On May 1, 1928 when the list of names of charter members closed, the society had an enrollment of forty-eight members, mostly from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and from the eastern section of Los Angeles County centering at Pomona College, Claremont. There being no large cities in the district represented, the membership is somewhat scattered in small communities from Daggett to Elsinore and from Banning to Claremont. Meetings will be held both as field trips and indoor discussion groups. Before activities ceased at the beginning of summer three field excursions were held in the mountains about the San Bernardino Valley. The April meeting was an excursion to the burnt-over hills south of Devore Station, San Bernardino County, where the abundant spring annuals were observed. The May meeting was held at Rancho Santa Ana, in Santa Ana Cañon, Orange County, where a day was spent in studying the wild shrubs at the propagating plant of the rancho, and the spring flora on the nearby hillsides. The June meeting was held at Wrightwood, at 6200 feet elevation, on the desert slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains.

The Samuel B. Parish Botanical Society comes to fill a place in the botanical life of southern California left vacant by the cessation of activities of the Riverside Botanical Club and a short notice of that organization might not be amiss at this time. The Riverside Botanical Club was organized on July 22, 1903, by a group of people in the vicinity of Riverside who were interested in Botany. The first officers were: president, Mr. Stephen Grout, a botanist from Vermont, vice-president, Prof. E. A. Zumbro, secretary, Mr. Fred M. Reed. Mr. Reed continued in that position during the life of

the organization. On page 129 volume 3 of *Muhlenbergia* Mr. Reed writes: "This club has been working along with a small but steady membership, and has been successful in bringing the local botanists together for study and the mutual friendliness that springs up among people who are interested in the same lines of work and study. The meetings are largely informal, there are no financial obligations, no attempt is made to make the meetings 'popular' or 'entertaining' except to those actually interested. We meet on the Friday evening nearest the full moon for the benefit of members from out of town, from October to June of each year." Mr. S. B. Parish, well-remembered student of the southern California flora, whose memory is honored in the name of the new botanical society, was an honorary member of the organization. The Riverside Botanical Club continued as an active organization until the removal of most of the members from the vicinity of Riverside left too few to carry on the work. The last recorded meeting was held on Mar. 18, 1911. The principal remaining work of this club is a local check list of plants known to occur in the vicinity of Riverside, and, although it exists only in manuscript, this old list is still of very great convenience to local botanists.

The two organizations, the old and the new, have much in common in the spirit which brought them into being. It is interesting that the most striking changes in the nature of activities have not been brought about by developments in the science of Botany but by an external factor—automobile transportation. The automobile has made possible the variety of field trips which will be a prominent part of the activities of the present club and which were mostly lacking in the old days. Whereas in the time of the Riverside Botanical Club Mr. Parish could not be an active member of the club because his home was in San Bernardino, the present club has active members living as distant as Daggett, and Elsinore, and Banning. And now, meetings are not purposely held on moonlight nights to assist the nocturnal movements of the members!

Rancho Santa Ana, Orange Co., November, 1928.

THE BOTANICAL EXPLORERS OF CALIFORNIA—V.

WILLIS LINN JEPSON

Charles Lewis Anderson.

There are some men whose inquiring minds incite them to rove over a wide field in all the natural history sciences rather than to concentrate mainly on one science or a special field in that science. All living things and the earth's surface itself stir them equally. Such a devotee of natural history was Dr. C. L. Anderson. His interests were widely scattered and he may, for this reason, be spoken of as the old-time type of naturalist whose love of outdoors led to an intimate field knowledge of birds, flowers, trees, rocks and streams.

He was born near Salem, Roanoke County, Virginia, September 22, 1827. The family removed to Indiana and the son attended Franklin College. After completing the course there he entered the



Howell, John Thomas. 1929. "THE SAMUEL B. PARISH BOTANICAL SOCIETY AND THE RIVERSIDE BOTANICAL CLUB." *Madroño; a West American journal of botany* 1, 213–214.

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