



Stuart Kimball Harris outside of Lake of Clouds Hut of Appalachian Mountain Club on Spring Flower Walks, June 1967. Photograph taken by Wesley N. Tiffney. The peruvian type headgear was made by Dr. Harris.

STUART KIMBALL HARRIS

Again the New England Botanical Club has lost one of its most active members. Stuart Kimball Harris died July 30, 1969, after a sickness of several months. The Club misses a comrade and friend who was always willing to help, and a fellow-worker in its many different activities. He is survived by his wife, Calista Crane Harris, a daughter, Sally, a son, Kimball, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Harris was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, the son of Hayden B. and Vina Harris. After High School he went to Boston University from which he received three degrees, a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1927, Bachelor of Science in 1930, and Master of Arts in 1932. Evidently his life-interest began to assert itself and he earned at Harvard University an M.A. and under Prof. Fernald a Ph.D. in 1936 in the field of Botany.

He wrote more than forty botanical papers, earlier on lichens, and later on the flowering plants. Several of these professional papers he edited and they were later published by the Appalachian Mountain Club as the principal text of the book, "Mountain Flowers of New England" in 1964. Through his careful proof-reading and editing, the revision of Prof. Pease's "Flora of Northern New Hampshire" was published in 1964. Since its publication Dr. Harris had collected extensively in northern New Hampshire to add new localities to those which Prof. Pease had, as well as species not before listed in the area.

For many years he had been collecting data to add to a revision of Robinson's "Flora of Essex County, Massachusetts" which material was practically ready for publication. Another of his botanical projects was a check-list of the plants of Rockingham County, New Hampshire, giving the species, where and when it was found and by whom.

Dr. Harris had been a member of the New England Botanical Club since 1930 and spent many hours in the study and identification of plants not only from New England but from all over the United States and even some

from Honduras and Mexico. He travelled extensively and always brought back a good lot of plants to be worked over. He was repeatedly in California and other western states. One fruitful trip was to the Big Bend area in Texas. In 1944 he joined a scientific expedition to Alaska by the Alcan Highway where he served as cook.

He was a Member of the Plant Distribution Committee of the New England Botanical Club whose reports appear in *Rhodora* from time to time. He was for thirty three years an Associate Editor of *Rhodora*, the publication of the New England Botanical Club. He personally contributed plants both to the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club and to the Gray Herbarium, and supervised their identification. He was also Recording Secretary of the Club from 1935 to 1964 and was President at the time of his death.

Dr. Harris was for 36 years a member of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University where he taught courses in Biology but was happiest and at his best in the botany courses, especially with the upper class men and the graduate students where his stimulating and enthusiastic teaching was greatly appreciated. He was always ready and willing to help and advise students outside the classroom.

As already indicated, Dr. Harris was far from what some scientists disparagingly called "a closet botanist." His interest and energy were evident in his years of association with the Appalachian Mountain Club. From the beginning as hutman at Lake of the Clouds, he went on to become the Club Naturalist and for a number of years he led the annual Spring Flower Tours in the Presidential Range. In all his walks and tours he remained enthusiastic and tireless.

Another phase of his interest in Natural History until his last illness was the study and identification of birds. He revised the most recent edition of the "Field List of the Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts". During his active membership in the Essex County Ornithological Club he held various offices including the presidency. For over

thirty years he joined in the annual Club canoe trip on the Ipswich River. He belonged to the Nuttall Club of Cambridge, the oldest ornithological club in the United States, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. For a number of years he made a Christmas bird count in the vicinity of his camp in northern New Hampshire, which was published by the National Audubon Society. This count was made whatever the weather conditions. Also on most days when he was at home he took an extensive bird walk before he drove to Boston. All this led him to take an active interest in the Ipswich River Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society where he served on the Development Committee. He was a member and past chairman of the Conservation Commission in the town of Boxford where he made his home. There he worked to preserve the beauty of the woods, fields, ponds and streams.

As if these activities were not enough to make use of his leisure time, he had other interests to which he gave real thought and careful planning. He was an enthusiastic silversmith and also did worthwhile work in weaving. Even in the last weeks before he had to give up much activity, he came to the Gray Herbarium and worked on the identification of his last summer's collections.

He will be sorely missed in many places and by many friends. His work for the New England Botanical Club must command the greatest respect. There are many who enjoy one avocation but Dr. Harris was interested and active in many phases of Natural History beside Botany.

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