

10-1941

Bulletin No. 4: The Connecticut Arboretum, Its Tenth Anniversary

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THE CONNECTICUT ARBORETUM

ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

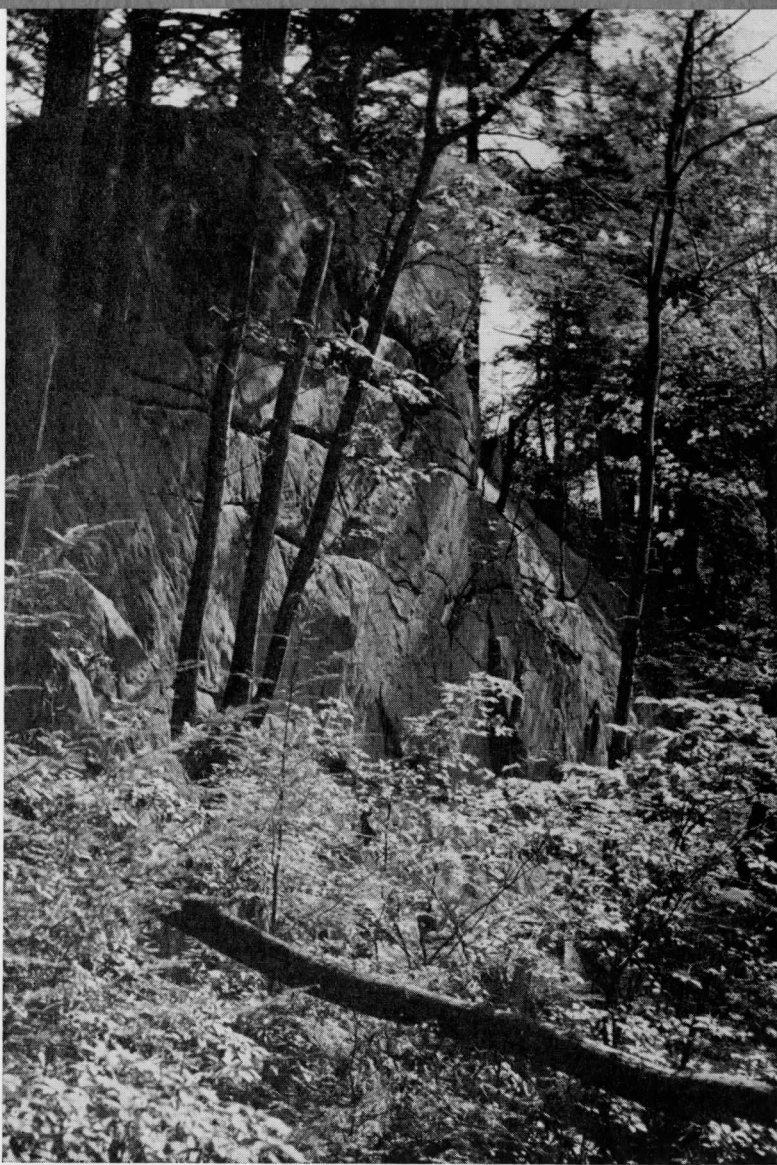
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT



The Connecticut Arboretum

1931-1941

A decade is a short time in the world of growing trees; yet to look around the Arboretum today is to see impressive evidence of the developments many friends have helped to bring about. To you who have had vision and interest in the Arboretum, and to you who are being introduced to it for the first time, it is hoped the achievements of these ten years will be a source of lasting pleasure and a challenge for the years ahead.



Rocky ledges extend for nearly half a mile along the east border of the ravine tract. This rough woodland was acquired by a group of friends and given to the Arboretum in 1936.

The pages that follow will bring you a few glimpses of the Arboretum as it was and as it is. The efforts of the first ten years have involved the conservation of natural beauty as well as the development of useful recreational and scientific facilities.

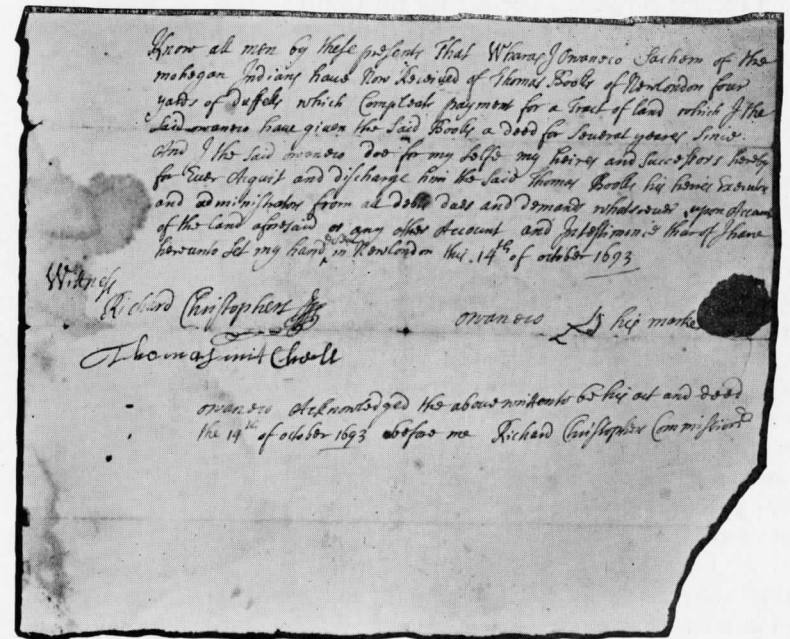
The Arboretum Tract — a Bit of History

The tract of land making up the Connecticut Arboretum includes about 90 acres of woodland. It is unknown to many but of definite interest to all that the Arboretum tract was probably a part of that bought by Thomas Bolles from the Mohegan Sachem, Owaneco, son of Uncas. It is believed that the tract included the 12-acre plot in the western portion of the Arboretum known as "Bolleswood."

Bolleswood was a gift from the poet Anna Hempstead Branch to Connecticut College and it was hers through inheritance from a long line of Bolles forebears in direct descent from Thomas Bolles; it was he who paid Owaneco the four yards of duffels and perhaps other considerations unmentioned in the receipt.

The receipt was formerly in the possession of the late Dr. William P. Bolles of Boston, a cousin of Miss Branch. He bequeathed it to the New England Historic Genealogical Society of Boston of which he was a member, and the society has placed it as a permanent deposit with the Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College. It is on exhibition in the Palmer Memorial Library.

Photograph of the original Owaneco receipt





"... and during the early years it was a favorite hiking and picnicking spot for the students and townspeople..."

The land on which Connecticut College was founded included a tract opposite the Williams Street gate to the College. This land was first used by the College as farm and woodland, and during the early years it was a favorite hiking and picnicking spot for the students and townspeople. Aside from a planting of young pine trees made (though later inadvertently destroyed) in 1916 by Dr. A. H. Graves, then Professor of Botany, little was done to the tract until Mr. Allen B. Lambdin became Business Manager for the College. He had the marshy area, then used for a pig pen, partially cleared, and a concrete dam erected to make the lake. When Dr. Avery joined the botany staff in 1931, it became his task to develop the tract as an arboretum, and the work of the past decade has been done largely under his guidance.

Many friends of the Arboretum felt it desirable for safety's sake to add to the approximately 70-acre tract; neighbors to the west were cutting trees adjacent to the then majestic hemlock grove. The ravine tract of 15 2-3 acres, just west of the former ledge boundary, was purchased late in 1936 by Mr. James M. Graves, acting as agent for Alice Lathrop Allis *et al*, and immediately quit claimed (December 24, 1936) to the people whose gifts made possible its purchase.

The following statement to the College, written by Miss Katharine Matthies, Secretary of the Arboretum Association, accompanied the deed for the ravine tract: "The very first time I visited the Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College some years ago, I felt that the beautiful ravine which borders the hemlocks of Bolleswood should be a part of it. So fine a wooded area, with its running water, is always attractive.

"There were various difficulties in the way of its purchase but these were gradually removed. Finally in the late fall of 1936 a group of interested persons were enabled to buy it. Now this same group takes

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ... Alice Lathrop Allis (L.S.) | ... Madlyn C. Hughes (L.S.) |
| ... F. C. Anderson (L.S.) | ... Frederick H. Dart (L.S.) |
| ... George S. Avery (L.S.) | ... Katharine Matthies (L.S.) |
| ... Virginia K. Avery (L.S.) | ... Annie H. Matthies (L.S.) |
| ... Bailey B. Lambdin (L.S.) | ... Hana M. Kip (L.S.) |
| ... Rachel J. Lambdin (L.S.) | ... Helen Perry Kitchie (L.S.) |
| ... Katharine Beunt (L.S.) | ... Indira C. Wallace (L.S.) |
| ... Edward H. Chapman (L.S.) | ... Miriam Wright Hubbard (L.S.) |
| ... Alfred T. ... (L.S.) | ... John W. Freeman (L.S.) |
| ... James A. Coffey (L.S.) | ... Carl Stamm (L.S.) |
| ... Mary J. Copp (L.S.) | ... Elizabeth S. Stamm (L.S.) |
| ... Pauline H. Eldred (L.S.) | (L.S.) |
| ... Ed. ... (L.S.) | LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL STAFF |
| ... Ruth Bunker Dwinch (L.S.) | BY Daniel Sullivan M.D. (L.S.) |
| ... Clark D. Edgar (L.S.) | NEW LONDON GARDEN CLUB |
| ... Blanche L. Edgar (L.S.) | BY... Madeline S. White (L.S.) |
| ... Cora A. Mark (L.S.) | Its President |
| ... James M. Graves (L.S.) | NEW LONDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY |
| ... Mrs. James Morgan (L.S.) | BY... H. S. Schleich (L.S.) |
| ... Stella C. Mead (L.S.) | Its President |
| ... Edith J. Dewcomb (L.S.) | ... Mary Pulasky (L.S.) |
| ... Harriet M. Newcomb (L.S.) | HARTFORD GARDEN CLUB |
| ... Ruth W. Newcomb (L.S.) | BY... Arquette McLean Robinson (L.S.) |
| | Its President |
| | ... Frederick J. Hughes (L.S.) |

Donors of the Ravine Tract all signed the deed, and on March 22, 1937, the deed conveying the land to Connecticut College was filed for recording in the Town of Waterford.

great pleasure in presenting to President Blunt, for the College, a deed for this land. The names of all donors appear on the deed.

"The ravine enlarges the Arboretum by 15 2-3 acres, and gives additional protection to the majestic hemlock grove known as Bolleswood. It will offer opportunities for water-loving plants along the stream and will open up a new area for people to enjoy.

"It is a pleasure to the donors to know that this delightful area is set aside permanently as a preserve for the plant and animal life native to this region."

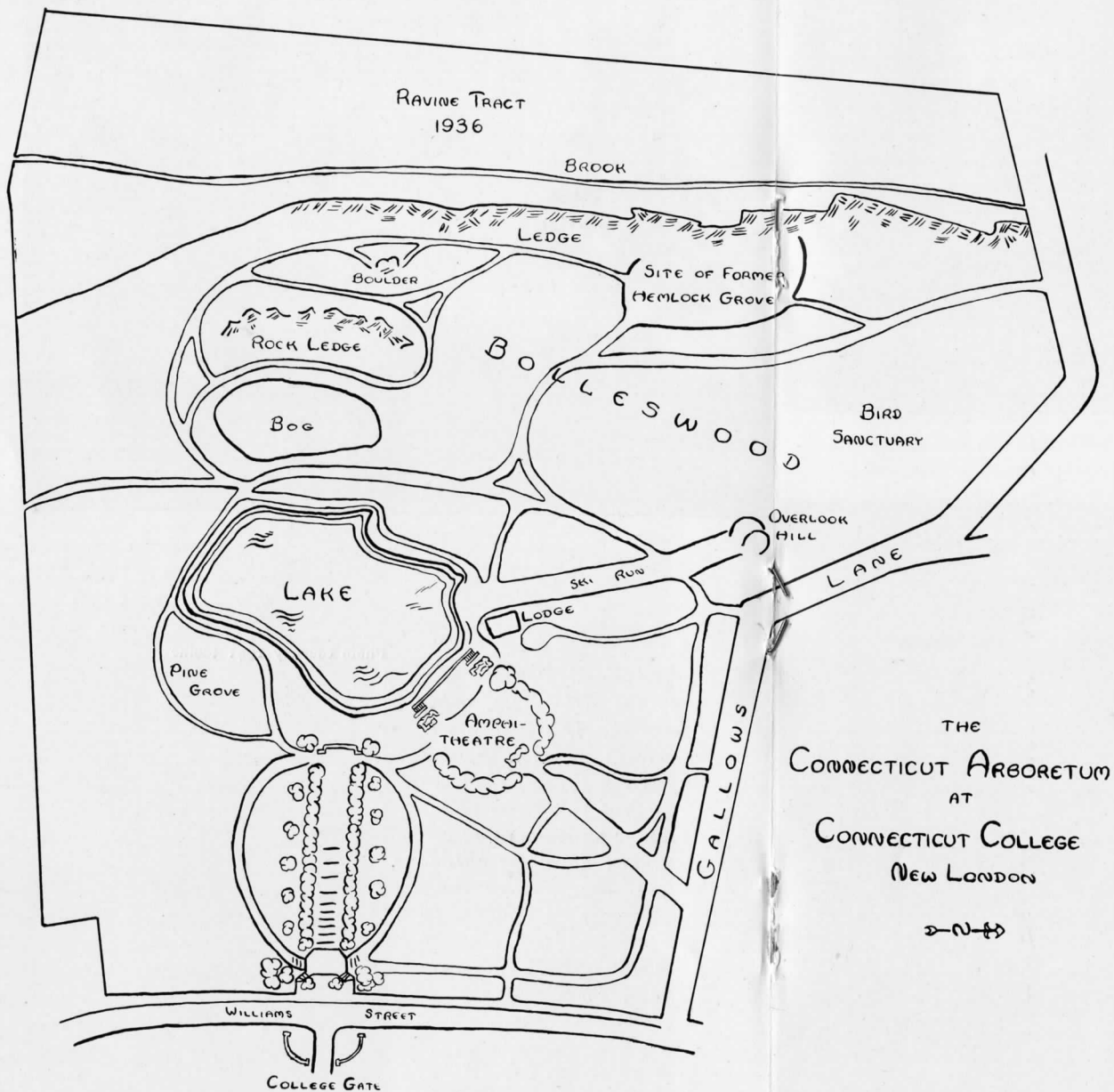
A brook runs through the ravine; the area is still in the wild. Bounding it on the east are granite ledges; steep hillsides lie to the west.



The Washington Entrance to the Arboretum, opposite the Williams Street gate of the College, was given in 1932 by the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. Extending down the hillside from the entrance court are grassy steps flanked by a thousand laurel plants, a thrilling sight in early June. These steps lead to the lake and the Outdoor Theatre. The landscape architect was Mr. A. F. Brinckerhoff.

Photo courtesy 1941 Koine





The Connecticut Arboretum includes some 90 acres, about 20 of which constitute the planted units. The tract offers a variety of habitats for plants—bog, rocky ledges, deep woodland, open hill-sides, stream bed and lake. Since these many haunts provide a natural environment for all the trees and shrubs native to Connecticut, it is not surprising that the Arboretum now contains a specimen of nearly every tree indigenous to the state. There are 1.6 miles of mowed paths, along which are some 200 species of native perennials, gift of the Marsh Botanic Garden at Yale University. Several miles of rough trails also extend through the Arboretum, making the woods an attractive hiking area for students, townspeople, scout troops, and children of the community.



The Lake and adjacent Outdoor Theatre lie in the heart of the Arboretum. Man-made, but of great beauty, the pageant green is the setting for traditional outdoor activities. It is the gift of Frances Buck Taylor (Class of 1932) and her mother.



The Arboretum Association

The Arboretum Association is the organization responsible for the Arboretum and its welfare. Arboretum maintenance and development costs are met in part by funds from the College, and in part by the Arboretum Association. Association membership comprises organizations and individuals interested in wild life and its conservation, who give evidence of this interest by joining the Association.

The Advisory Committee of the Association is the policy determining body. It includes representatives from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and other persons throughout the state who are leaders in conservation.

As you know, Connecticut College is a private institution without state support. It is therefore necessary for a large part of the cost of development of the Arboretum to come from its friends.

Garden clubs and other civic-minded organization-members of the Association may secure "tree dividends" (gifts of young trees and shrubs for civic plantings), and all members may use the Arboretum, and its facilities, receive its bulletins, attend the Summer School of Horticulture, and share in creating landscapes of the future.

Memberships in the Arboretum Association have been arranged as follows:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Any interested person may become a member upon payment of an annual fee of \$2.00. THE BULLETIN will be sent to members without cost. Individuals may become sustaining members upon payment of \$25.00 yearly.

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

Civic and state-minded organizations may become annual members upon payment of \$10.00 yearly, sustaining members upon payment of \$25.00 yearly, and supporting members upon payment of \$100.00 yearly.

Checks should be made payable to the Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College, and mailed to the Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Judge Christopher L. Avery
 Mr. George S. Avery, Jr.
Director of the Arboretum
 Miss Katharine Blunt
 Mr. F. V. Chappell
 Miss Pauline H. Dederer
 Mrs. Malcom J. Edgerton
 Mr. Walter O. Filley
 Mr. Austin F. Hawes

Mrs. Janet Crawford How
 Mrs. George E. Kirsten
 Mrs. Allan B. Kitchel
 Miss Katharine Matthies,
Sec'y of the Arboretum Association
 Mr. Edmund W. Sinnott
 Mr. Frederic C. Walcott
 Mrs. W. Z. White
 Mrs. S. H. Williams

Arboretum Association Members

July 1940 - June 1941

ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

ANNUAL

Branford Garden Club	Hubbard Heights Garden Club
Bridgeport Garden Club	Lyme Garden Club
Cheshire Garden Club	Milford Garden Club
Clinton Garden Club	Mystic Garden Club
Connecticut Valley Garden Club	New Canaan Garden Club
Danbury Garden Club	New Haven Garden Club
East Haddam Garden Club	New Milford Garden Club
Garden Circle of the Meriden Woman's Club	Norwalk Garden Club
Garden Club of Cornwall	Pomperaug Valley Garden Club
Garden Club of Darien	Ridgefield Garden Club
Garden Club of Glenbrook	Riverside Garden Club
Garden Club of Hartford	Roxbury Garden Club
Garden Club of Old Greenwich	Shippan Point Garden Club
Garden Club of Woodbridge	Spring Glen Garden Club
Garden Department of the Woman's Club of Bristol	Stratford Garden Club
Garden Department of the Woman's Club of Stamford	Suffield Garden Club
Greens Farms Garden Club	Waterbury Garden Club
Greenwich Garden Club	Westbrook Garden Club
Greenwich Woman's Club Gardeners	West Hartford Garden Club
Haddam Garden Club	West Haven Garden Club
House and Garden Club of Bridgeport	Westport Garden Club
	Whitneyville Garden Club
	Connecticut Botanical Society
	Lucretia Shaw Chapter, D.A.R.

Sarah Ludlow Chapter, D.A.R.

SUSTAINING

Garden Club of Madison	Fairfield Garden Club
Stamford Garden Club	

SUPPORTING

Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.	New London Garden Club
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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS*

Judge Christopher L. Avery	Miss Cora A. Marsh
Mr. George S. Avery, Jr.	Mrs. Parker McColleston
Miss Bethy Anderson	Miss Ethelyn McKinney
Miss Esther L. Batchelder	Mr. Wm. James Morgan
Miss Katharine Blunt	Mrs. Mary Foulke Morrisson
Miss Mary Bulkeley	Miss Martha W. Norton
Mrs. C. Sanford Bull	Mrs. Edgerton Parsons
Mrs. Rosamond Beebe Cochran	Mr. Clement Scott
Mr. Wilbur L. Cross	Miss Paula W. Seidenburg
Miss Pauline H. Dederer	Mr. and Mrs. Earle W. Stamm
Mr. Walter O. Filley	Mrs. Paul P. Swett
Mr. Harrison B. Freeman	Mrs. Alden H. Vose
Mr. Austin F. Hawes	Mr. Frederic C. Walcott
Miss Louise C. Howe	Miss Miriam Dwight Walker
Miss Katharine Ludington	Mr. Alain White
Miss Katharine Matthies	Miss Marian Whitney

Mrs. S. H. Williams

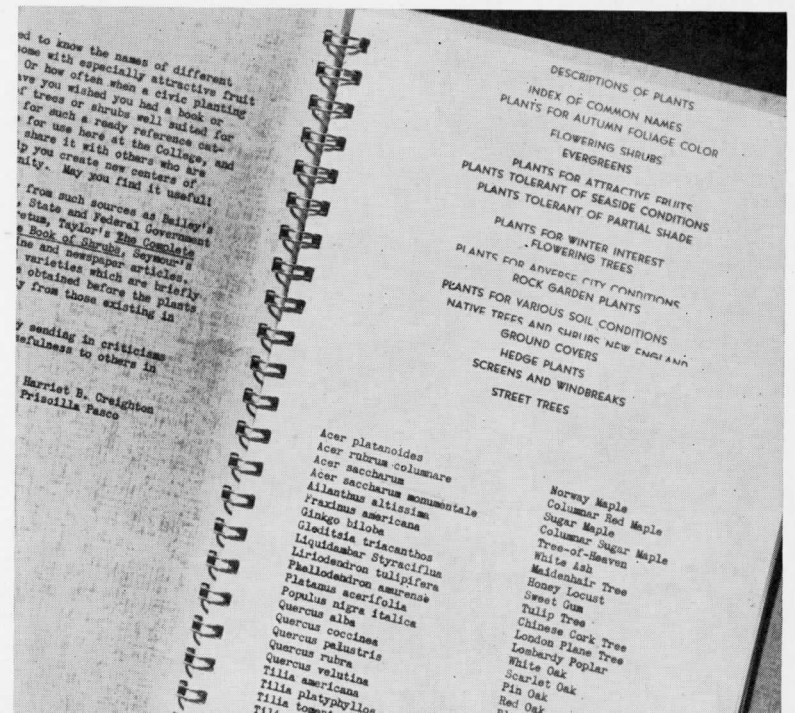
* Several individual members have made supplementary gifts.

Arboretum News

At its October 3, 1941 meeting the Advisory Committee authorized the year 'round employment of a horticulturist. Mr. William C. Peck has been appointed to this position. He holds a diploma in Horticulture from Massachusetts State College, and has already given several years of devoted service to the Arboretum.

The grand old white pine, unofficial seal of the Arboretum, and integral part of the Outdoor Theatre, was badly damaged by the storm of 1938. A recent gift from Mr. and Mrs. Nelson L. Buck of Chicago makes possible (this coming year) the planting of a new but somewhat smaller white pine in its place.

The many inquiries from Arboretum Association members, students, and others about what kinds of trees and shrubs to plant in this or that situation, led to the publication of "A Plant Handbook." It was compiled by Dr. Harriet Creighton and Miss Priscilla Pasco, and was issued in 1940 as Arboretum Bulletin No. 3. The "Plant Handbook" is composed of lists of plants for specific landscape uses. These lists include trees and shrubs with attractive flowers and fruits, plants for autumn foliage color, for street plantings, for seaside conditions, etc. The Handbook also has descriptions of all the plants listed, giving both their scientific and common names. As may be noted from the picture, it is a spirally bound handbook, conveniently indexed. It solves quickly and easily the majority of planting problems.



The Former Hemlock Grove

About a quarter of a mile west of the lodge lies the ravine tract, and bordering it on the east is the granite ledge along which ancient hemlocks grew. The hurricane of September 21, 1938, uprooted or otherwise destroyed all but 18 of the 130 old trees. Subsequent study showed most of the trees to be about 150 years of age; a few were as old as 200 years. By 1940 most of those left standing after the hurricane were dead. The three or four which now remain, if they live, will be the giants of the century to come.

But for those who want to know more details of the study on the fallen hemlocks,* the following may be of interest: Transverse sections were cut from the trunks of uniform-sized trees growing in the ravine and on the ledge, and these sections were brought into the laboratory. With the aid of students, annual growth rings were counted and their widths carefully measured. Rings were consistently wider in the trees growing in the moist and shady ravine than in those growing on the dry rocky ledge. But despite this difference in habitats, both groups of trees showed the same general cyclic fluctuations over long-term periods. This discovery was new to science.

Attempts to correlate ring width with rainfall over the last fifty growing seasons were unsuccessful, but there was a little evidence of cooler seasons favoring greater growth.

* Avery, G. S., Jr., H. B. Creighton, and C. W. Hock. Annual rings in hemlocks and their relation to environmental factors. *American Journal of Botany*, vol. 27, p. 825-831. 1940.

Buck Lodge: a meeting place, picnic spot, field classroom, and Outing Club haunt. The Lodge adds much to student life, and is available to Arboretum Association members. It is the gift of Mr. Nelson L. Buck.



Photo courtesy Miss Edna Leighton Tyler

"... bordering it to the east is the granite ledge along which the ancient hemlocks grew. The hurricane of September 21, 1938, uprooted or otherwise destroyed all but 18 of the 130 old trees ..."



Financial Statement

July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1941

RECEIPTS

Garden Clubs and Organizations	\$574.30	
Individual Members	170.00	
Sale of Handbooks	331.71	
Miscellaneous Receipts	6.06	
College Budget	950.66	\$2,032.73

DISBURSEMENTS

Edwards Bros. (Publishing cost of "A Plant Handbook")	461.41	
Wages	1,372.32	
Supplies, etc.	199.00	\$2,032.73

The Connecticut Arboretum and You

"Where," you ask, "do I count in the Arboretum enterprise? What is my obligation to this project?"

You count tremendously if you like trees, and if you feel that it is important to gather together the plant life of Connecticut in a place where it may flourish for all time. Our collective belief in the urgent need for preservation and making available of our native plants for study . . . the making of new acquaintances with our environment . . . is the essence of the Arboretum undertaking. If you want a partnership, understanding that quiet satisfaction will be the main income from your investment, join the Arboretum Association.