

YUKON

Wild Flowers

by

Martha Louise Black, F.R.G.S.

With 100 Illustrations from Original Photographs by
Hon. George Black, K.C., M.P. for Yukon



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~~PRICE \$1.00~~

*Small but nice
with best wishes to
Off. handling
Martha Louise Black
Anderson,
1941*

Published by

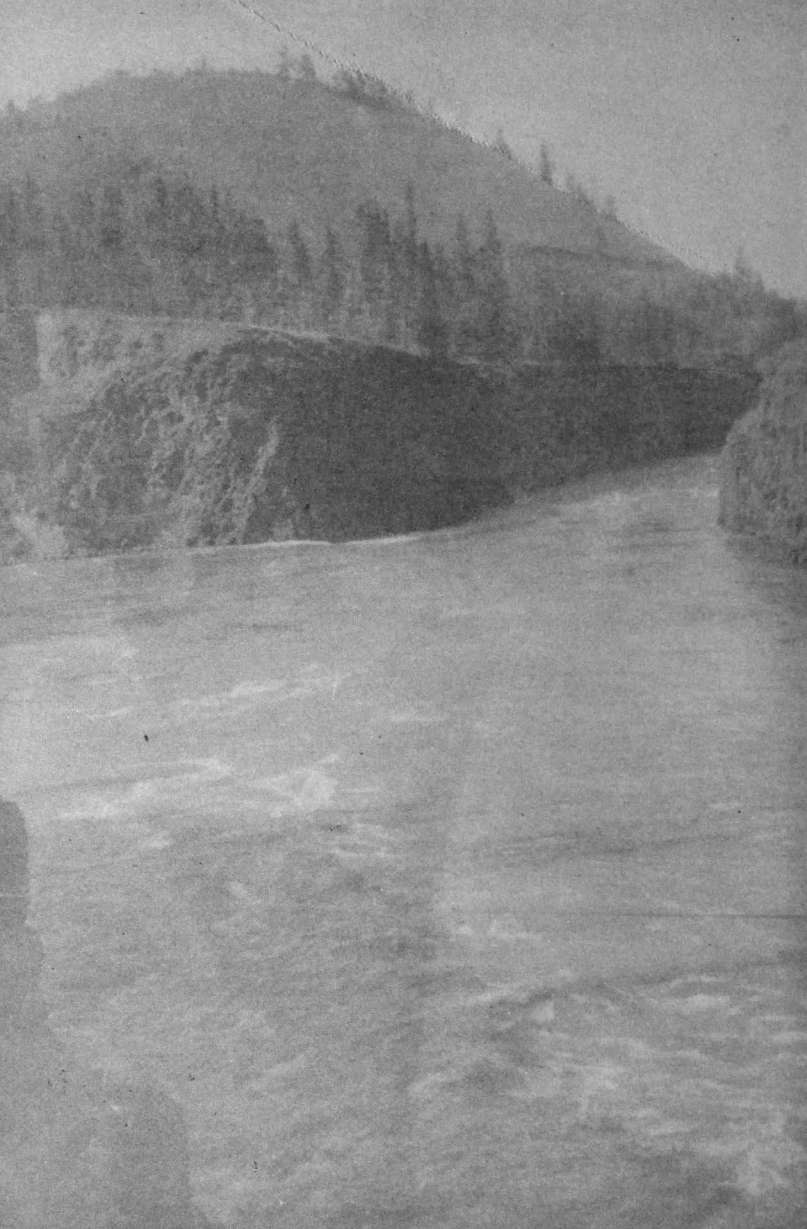
PRICE, TEMPLETON SYNDICATE

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

•
Martha Louise Black, F.R.G.S.

. . . This picture of the author was taken near Ottawa in June, 1940, by the Hon. George Black, during a Sunday interlude in parliamentary sessions. The armful of Marsh Marigolds brought back Yukon memories, for these lovely flowers grow in the Yukon, too!





Foreword

TO TELL the complete story of Yukon Wild Flowers, it would be necessary to draw a pen picture which would tax the credulity of those who have not seen. In this little book, with the aid of my husband's patient camera, I have endeavored to give an idea of the amazing floral beauty of the North.

I would like to take you with me in spirit on a Wild Flower quest, along the banks of our golden creeks, which were the mecca of fortune seekers during the mad gold rush days of '98. Walk with me while we discover clumps of blue wood-violets, their timid, modest growth suggestive of the cloister and in marked contrast to their brazen yellow sisters, who seem to scoff at prayers and beads as they flaunt themselves in the breeze. Along the trail let us pick some of the myriads of wild Forget-me-nots, shy, yet bold enough to let their presence be known. See the dainty Harebells in their God-given beauty, turning their delicate heads from side to side, fairly singing with the sheer joy of living.

Within twenty minutes walk of the heart of Dawson even a fairly careless observer of Nature's handiwork may gather at least a hundred varieties of flowers, ferns and mosses.

From the beginning of March, "when the days begin to lengthen and the sun begins to strengthen," we Yukoners are alert to discover the first sign of the Pasque flower or Northern Crocus thrusting its furry nose through the thawing ground, often still covered with snow or ice. These brave flowers vary in shade from

deepest purple to mauves and pinks, with an occasional "sport" of purest white. Of the anemonies or "wind-flowers" there are numerous varieties, ranging from this Pasque flower, to the tiny yellow Water Crowfoot common in our sluggish streams.

The brilliant cerise shooting stars, the saucy Dutchman's breeches, the wild Bleeding Heart—a tiny prototype of the cultivated variety we all knew in our grandmother's gardens—all these and many more are upon us in bewildering array as soon as summer sets in with its 24 hours of continuous sunlight.



The floral colours of the North are largely pink, blue and magenta with generous splashes of the yellow of the Arnica, Shrubby Cinqufoil, Marsh Marigold, Pond Lily, Arctic Poppy, Mustard, Golden Corydalis, yellow Violets, Vetch, Drummond's dryas, Loco weed, Stonecrop, Ragwort, Hawkweed, Monkey Flower, the eastern Buttercup and the Dandelion—seeds of the latter probably having been brought into Yukon with bales of hay.

In all my rambles throughout the Territory, I have seldom found a genuinely scarlet flower. The Indian paint brush which, on the prairies and in the Rockies, ranges in colour from a brick red to a beautiful cherry, is in Yukon either a sickly lemon or homely magenta.

Acres of ground may be seen covered with the purplely-blue lupine, the wild Arctic poppy, the shrinking Penguicula (frequently mistakenly called mountain violets) or the Jacob's ladder, sometimes most unkindly called "skunkweed" because of its disagreeable odor.

The Pyrolas, or shin plants, are wonderful in their waxen beauty, the single star-shaped blossom giving forth an almost intoxicating fragrance. The tiny Twin-flower, the favourite of Linnaeus, the Father of Botany, carpets our woods and perfumes our air.

During the drowsy summer days when tiny midges swarm through the air, the Sundew (a close relative of the Venus flytrap) will give plenty of amusement. The small flat leaves of the plant are thickly coated with long sticky hairs which reach forth and gather in the tiny flies, sucking the life fluid from the unfortunate insects. The leaves actually bloat during the banquet. Truly a floral cannibal!

And orchids, too! In great variety. The most common is the Siberian Orchid, a large purplish pink blossom with white spots. There is an occasional White Orchid, a beautiful single flower surrounded by long, acute bright green leaves — a rare find, even for the most experienced botanist. The sweet Bog Orchid, the dainty Calypso, said to be fed from tears shed by the beautiful goddess over the departure of that valiant warrior, Ulysses, is not so rare. The Fly-spotted Orchid, the little coral root and the small White Orchid with the overhanging green lip, all grow beneath the "slide" near Dawson, around which so many mystic tales are woven for our welcome visitors.



I have a confession to make. I am NOT a botanist—merely a lover of flowers. If perchance some scientist should read this book let him not be too critical. While at school I became the despair of my teachers, especially of dear old Sister Sophia of the Holy Cross who tried so hard to teach me the scientific side of botany. Finally finding it hopeless she suggested the making of a herbarium which she thought would be a work of pleasure instead of a hardship. Like a pebble cast into a still pond, the idea implanted in my youthful mind broadened and enlarged itself until today the greatest pleasure I have is following out that work which, for want of a better name, I call "Artistic Botany."

Although the lure of gold took me over the trail of '98, the difficulties, hardships and disappointments of those early years were many times forgotten when a tramp in the woods or along an old trail opened out before me a vista of fairy-like beauty.

My husband, the Hon. George Black, too, is a lover of the great out-of-doors. His hobby for years has been amateur photography. Together we have tramped the Yukon trails and paddled the Yukon streams, he with his camera slung over his shoulder. Over the years he has taken literally hundreds of pictures of Yukon wild life, animal and floral. The majority of the pictures used to illustrate this book were taken by him, originally with no thought of publication but merely so that we would have a permanent record of discoveries made on happy trips together.

So that our friends and others may share with us some of the gorgeous glory of the myriads of Yukon wild flowers we have, together, published this little book.

Every picture is a memory.

MARTHA LOUISE BLACK.



YUKON CROCUS or PASQUE FLOWER

(*Anemone pulsatilla*.) The Yukon Territory floral emblem. The picture to the right is of Pasque flower buds growing at the foot of a Dawson snow bank. The Pasque flower is always associated with the Easter or paschal season. Their furry purple heads push through the ground almost with the first thaw and soon carpet the hills as winter turns to spring.



BLUE VIOLET

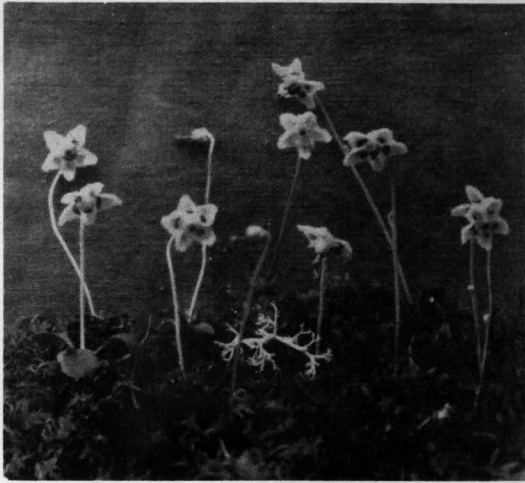
(*Viola odorata*.) The small blue violet is found in the Keno district as well as in west Dawson. In Yukon I have also found the white violet, this small blue violet, a long stemmed blue violet, as well as the common yellow violet. On the twenty-fourth of May we usually gathered enough violets and young leaves to make a fresh salad.

Photo by Schillinger.



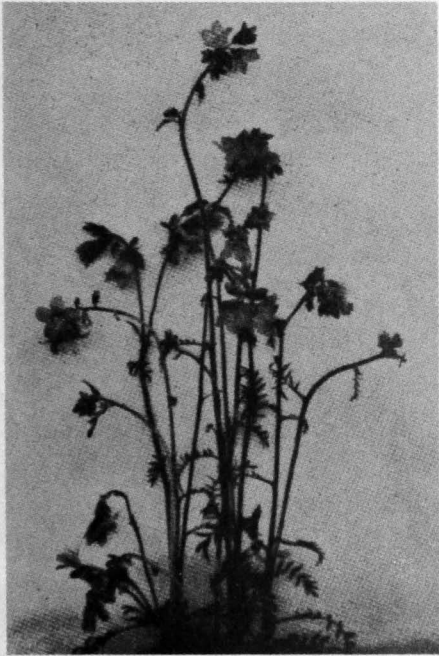
INDIAN PAINT BRUSH

(*Castilleja coccinea*.) In Yukon it is much paler than its vivid scarlet sister of the Rockies and Prairies. The bracts are frequently a greenish yellow and generally imperfect. Named for a Spanish botanist. The Paint Brush grows profusely on sandy, dry sunny land. Very often in the same district will be found the scarlet, salmon pink and greenish-yellow specimens.



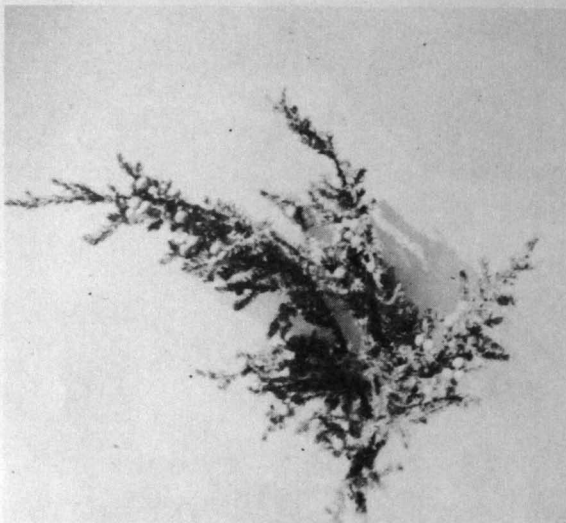
PYROLA

(*Pyrola Moneses uniflora*.) The single flowered Pyrola grows in the Whitehorse, Mayo and Dakson districts. Each waxen flower exhales an almost intoxicating fragrance. Belongs to the wintergreen family. Frequently called shin-plants because of the legend that ancients macerated the leaves to use on bruises. The names are from the Greek meaning *one delight*, and I have heard the small blossom called "Delight."



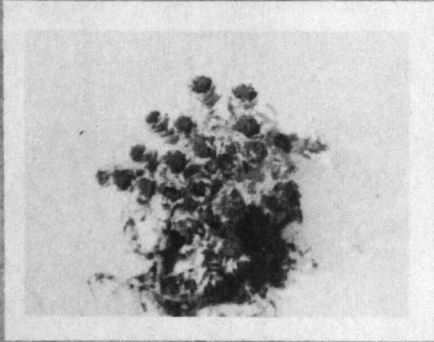
JACOB'S LADDER

(*Polemonium boreale*.) Sometimes called "skunk-weed" because of the unpleasant odor when flowers are brought into the house. Common throughout Yukon from Carcross to Forty Mile during June and July.



BLUE JUNIPER

(*Juniperus communis*.) Grows freely on the dry rocky mountain hillsides in Yukon. This shrub has numerous prostrate branches bearing small blue berries, sweetish with a slight taste of turpentine. Juniper berries are used in making gin but I never heard of them being used for that purpose in Yukon, though we have been known to make "home brew."



STONE CROP

(*Sedum*.) Sometimes called Ice Plant because of fleshy dew-spotted leaves. Plants grow on bare rocks as though sitting there, hence name "Stone Crop." Juices are astringent, sometimes being used as a drink.



WILD HELIOTROPE

(*Valerian.*) Named for King Valerius, a patron and friend of botanists. Common throughout Yukon, flowers in thickly crowded heads either pale purple or white. The true Valerian of the shops used in hysteria, epilepsy is a product of *Valerian officinalis*. The spikenard of old valued as a perfume and stimulant was from the Valerian.



RED WINDFLOWER

(*Anemone multifida*.) One of the many members of the crowfoot family; is common throughout Yukon in June, July and August. Graceful, as are all the wind flowers, growing in open, rocky spots where it bends and bows to each wanton breeze.



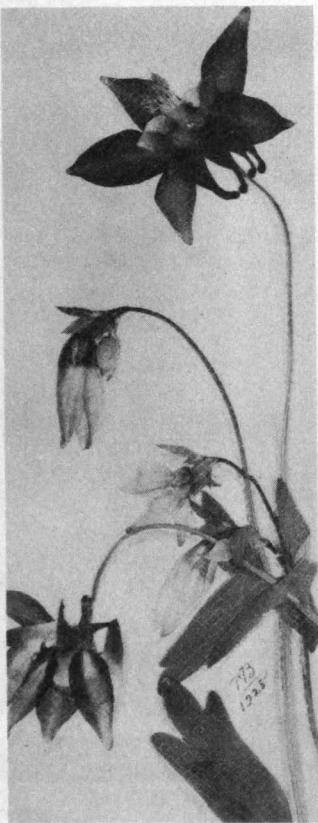
PURPLE SPOTTED ORCHIS

(*Cypripedium*.) Magenta with white spots, outside of cap white. Grows profusely throughout Yukon from the middle of June to early July. Is at home on sunny exposed slopes as well as in shady marshy spots.



WILD COLUMBINE

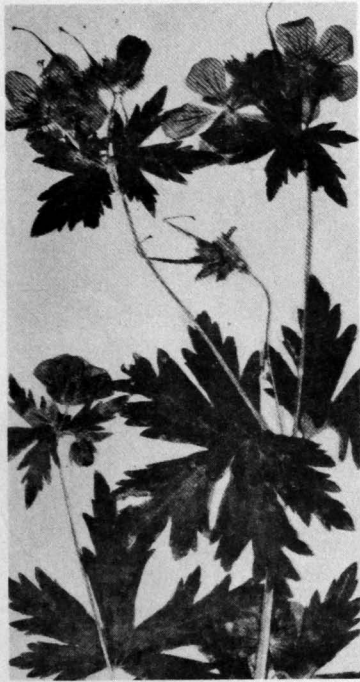
(*Aquilegia Canadensis*, from "Aquila," the eagle. The spurred petals resemble the talons of a bird of prey.) Wild Columbine grows in profusion on the rocky slopes of Yukon, coming into full bloom June and July. In southern Yukon the flowers are striking in their glorious reds and yellows, in the northern part of the territory are blue or pale lemon flecked with white.





ARCTIC LUPINE

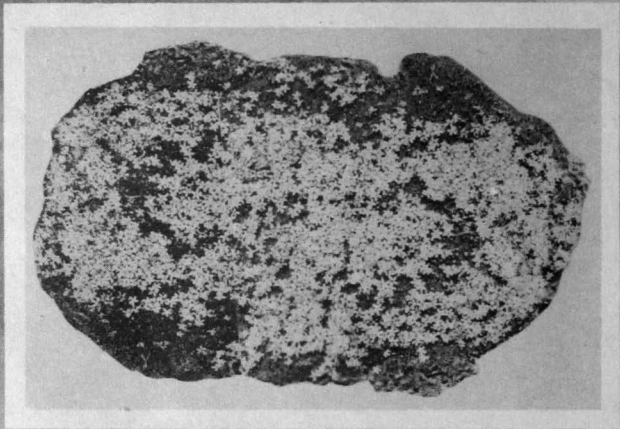
(*Lupinus Arcticus*.) Yukon Indians call it the Moose Bean, but down in Texas where it is the state flower it is called the Blue Bonnet. Occasionally it is also called the Sun Dial, as the ray-like leaves droop at night. Its Latin name comes from "lupus" the wolf, as it overruns fields devouring their fertility. Many Yukon hillsides are covered by lupin in late June and July.



CRANE'S BILL

Wild Geranium or Herb Robert.

(*Geranium Maculatum.*) Flower, deep magenta pink. The name derived from the shape of the seed pods resembling a crane's bill. Also called St. Robert's flower, as it usually blooms on the saint's day, April 29th. In Yukon a smaller variety known as the Alpine Geranium is found, it being distinguished by small whitish flowers and white spotted leaves. The root stock is one of the most desirable astringents called Alum Root.



MOSSY CAMPION

(*Silenus acaulus*.) Grows in beautiful cushions that, during the short flowering season, are covered with tiny brilliant pink flowers. Found on the mountain side in interior Yukon. Botanical name from Silenus, a drunken divinity of the Greeks covered with slaver as are these plants with a viscid secretion.



NORTHERN ANEMONAE

(*Anemone parviflora.*) Name from the Greek, meaning wind. One of the many anemonaes found in the north, on the mountains and even on sandy river and lake beaches.



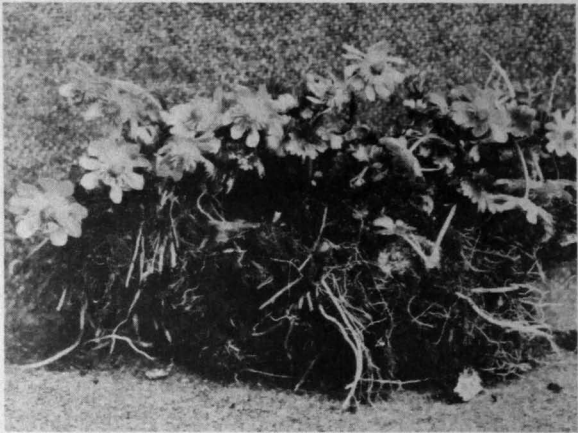
SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL

(*Shrubby Cinquefoil*.) Belongs to the Rose family, is a *Potentilla* (from the Latin meaning "power" in allusion to its supposed potency in medicine.) An attractive little shrub covered with bright yellow rose-like blossoms during June and July, common throughout the territory. Floral meaning—Maternal affection.



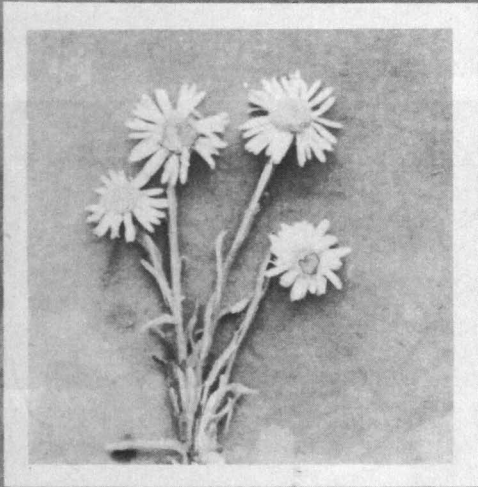
BLEEDING HEART

Sometimes called Ear Drops. (*Dicentra Formosa*.) The wild bleeding heart is a less showy species than the flowers we knew in our grandmother's garden. As children we often used the single hearts for ear-rings. The wild flowers are a subdued pinkish purple, very common in the Keno district of Yukon.



PLUME ANEMONEAE

(*Ranunculus Cooleya*.) We found these flowers for the first time in Yukon last summer. Mr. Porsild of the Dominion botanical staff, tells me this plant is entirely new to the Yukon. The name Plume Anemoneae comes from the beautifully plume like arrangement of the stamens. The flower is ivory white, the stamens lemon yellow, the pistils a deeper yellow. Skelly, a prospector friend at Carcross, first brought our attention to this newcomer. I must here pay a tribute to that friend who has often helped us in our search for local wild flowers.



ASTER

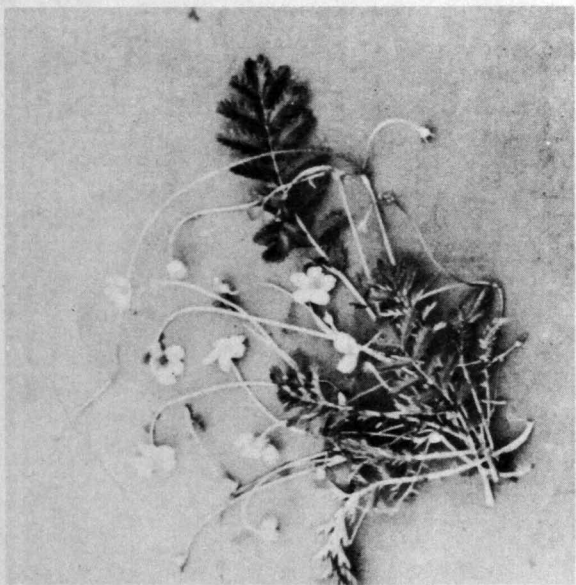
(*Aster.*) From the Greek, a star. One of the composites of which there are over nine thousand species. This specimen came from the Keno hill district, Yukon. A very lovely pink in colour. Wood says that in the northern part of the world the compositeae are universally herbaceous, toward the tropics they gradually become frutescent and even trees.



WHITE HEATH

(*Cassiope Mertensiana*.) Although botanists claim there are more than four hundred members of the Heath family growing in America, yet none is the true heather that covers the moorlands of England and Scotland. Several varieties of Heath cover the mountain slopes in Yukon in June and July.

Photo by Schillinger.



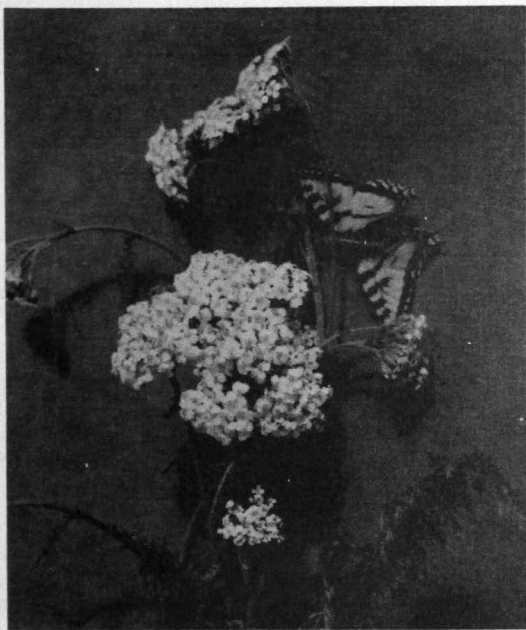
SILVER LEAF

(*Potentilla anserina*.) The underside of the leaf is a soft silvery grey, hence its common name. It grows on the banks of sluggish streams and its pretty yellow flower comes into bloom in July and August.



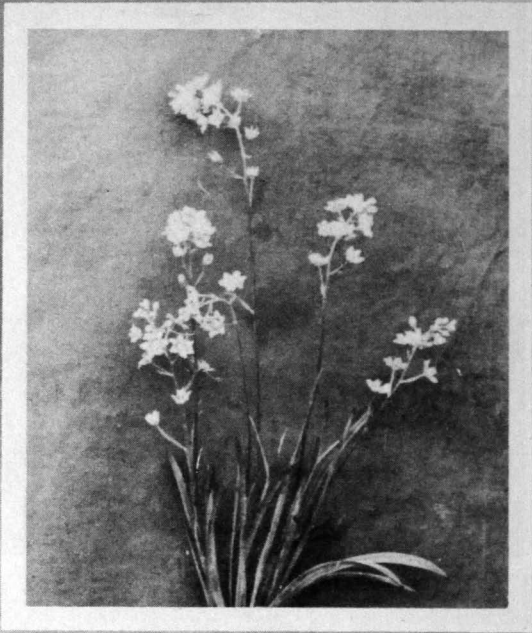
FRANKLIN ORCHIS

(*Cypripedium passerinum*.) Pure white sac, white anthers, but overhanging cap green. Is at home on sunny exposed slopes as well as in shady marshy spots, growing profusely throughout Yukon from the middle of June to early July.



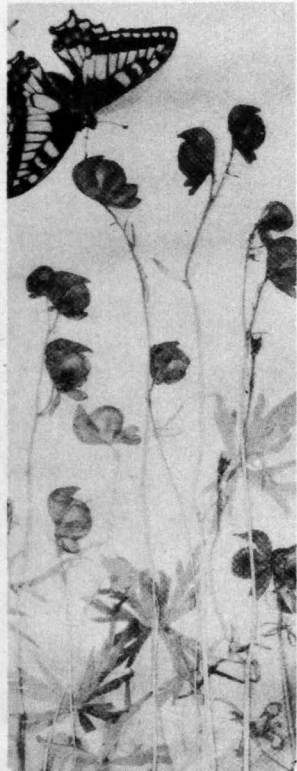
YARROW or MILFOIL

(*Achillea Borealis*.) Frequently called "Old man's pepper," probably because of the pungent odor and taste. Grows commonly throughout the Territory; flowers usually white or pale pink, but occasionally the flower heads are a deep rosy-purple. The plant must be of ancient heritage, as it was from the bruised leaves Achilles made the ointment to heal his wounds after the battle of Troy.



DEATH CAMAS

(*Zygadenus elegans*.) Common in northern Yukon, its pale greenish white flowers give out a sickly odor which may account for the name. The leaves and particularly the bulbs are poisonous to animals.



MONKSHOOD

(*Aconitum delphinifolium*.) Its cowl-like sepal gives it its name. The blossom is a beautiful dark blue, the plant growing throughout northern Yukon on rocky slopes. It is a deadly poison and so powerful that the natives of East India are said to use its juice on their spears when hunting tigers. It is a curious fact that it is fertilized only by bumblebees.



PEARLY EVERLASTING

(*Antennaria margaritacea*.) Sometimes called "Moonshine." Common throughout Territory during June, July and August. When dried the flowers are used for decorative purposes in Klondyke cabins during the long winter months, frequently dipped in pink, yellow or blue dye.



SMALL FLOWERING GENTIAN

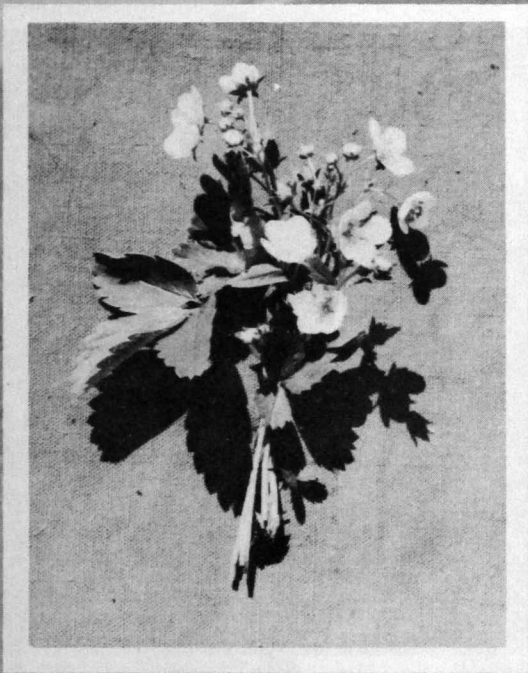
(*Gentiana propinqua*.) Its attractive blue flowers are to be found on the higher moist meadows above Carcross as well as Keno. The taller larger closed Gentian is common near Dawson. Gentius King of Illyria claimed to have been cured of malaria by the bitter tonic made from the juice of the plants, hence the name.

Photo by Schillenger.



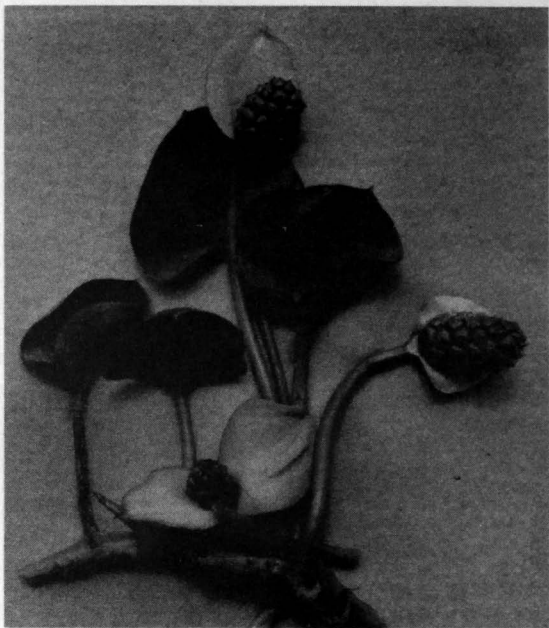
NORTHERN BEDSTRAW

(*Galium Boreale*.) Common throughout Yukon in the late summer. It has a dusty odor and some contend it induces a form of hay fever. In England the flowers of the bedstraw are used to curdle milk.



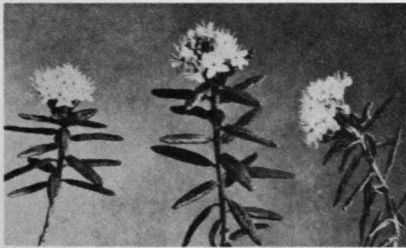
WILD STRAWBERRY

(*Fragaria glauca*.) I first found the berries in the widely separated Tagish and Twelve-Mile districts, but they are rapidly becoming more plentiful. Garden strawberries, cultivated descendents of the wild strawberry, are now raised to perfection in Dawson gardens. I believe they were first introduced into the lower Yukon by Prof. Georgeson, United States Alaskan agriculturist. In the language of flowers strawberry blossoms mean "foresight."



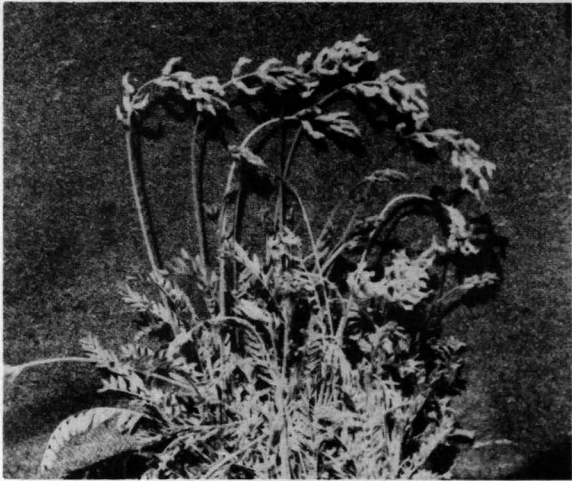
WATER ARUM

(*Calla palustris*.) Frequently called Wild Calla. The flowers are tiny as in the Bunch Berry, surrounded by an ivory white spathe, while the seeds are a brilliant scarlet. The lower flower is a freak specimen with two white spathes. It blooms in June and July and is found in stagnant pools in Mayo and Dawson districts. The roots are sometimes ground up by the Indians and used as flour.



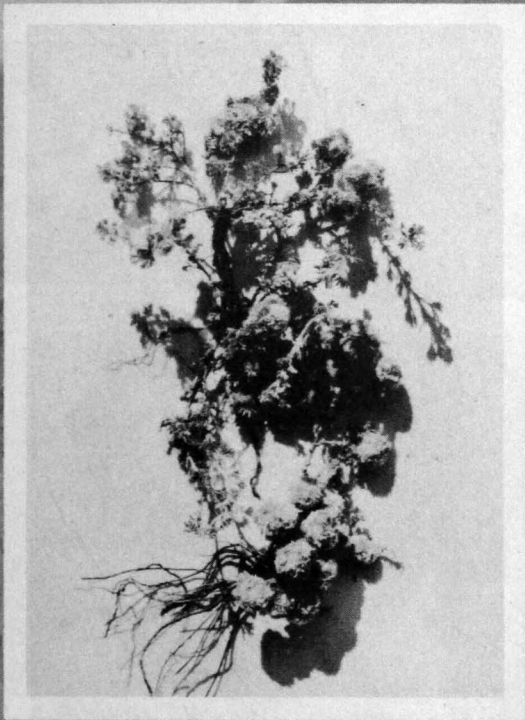
HUDSON'S BAY or LABRADOR TEA

(*Ledum Groenlandicum.*) Its common name probably comes from the shape of its leaves rather than from its taste. Grows abundantly throughout Yukon in bogs and swamps and comes into flower in middle and late June. Flowers in close white corymbs. Member of heath family.



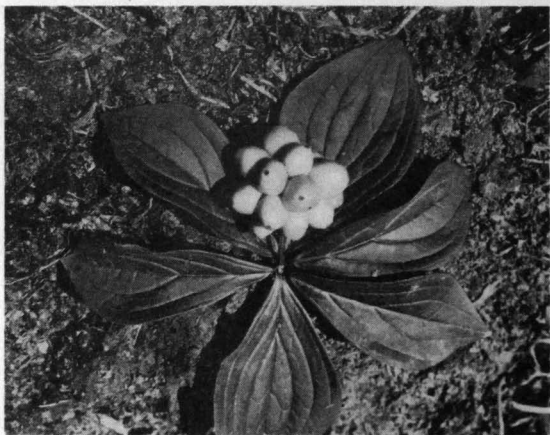
BRILLIANT VETCH

(*Oxytropis viscidules*.) Grows in profusion along the banks of the Yukon during July and August. At a distance the colouring is similar to that of the fire weed. The seeds that fall from the pea-like pods are favorites with small birds.



WILD SAGE

(*Salvia boreale*.) The Yukon wild sage which grows so profusely on the rocky, sunny hillside above Dawson, is a diminutive member of the *Salvia* or mint family. Gathered and dried it is better for seasoning than the tinned powdered sage. Latin name means "to be in health," probably from its salutary qualities.



BUNCH BERRY or SQUAW BERRY

(*Cornus Canadensis*.) It also boasts other local names such as Dwarf Cornel and Ground Dogwood. It is common in Yukon, carpeting the cool forests throughout the territory. Its seeds are a vivid scarlet, insipid to taste.



STINKING WILLY

(*Senecia vulgaris*.) Also known as Groundsel and Ragwort. Its common name indicates the lack of regard in which it is held. It grows in waste wet ground and its flowers are an unattractive yellow. Latin name *Senecia* comes from "senes"—an old man.



GOLDEN CORYDALIS

(*Corydalis aurea.*) This native herb grows on gravelly soils along the Yukon river. Several varieties of this species formerly were used as medicinal tonics or when crushed, as remedies for skin diseases.



BEAR BERRY or SOOPOLALLIE

(*Shepherdia Canadensis*.) Named in honor of John Shepherd, former curator of the Liverpool Botanical Gardens. Its berry is a clear bright scarlet, sweetish to the taste. It is common in Yukon through June and July. In the late fall the bears strip any and all bushes, or vines, of their berries.



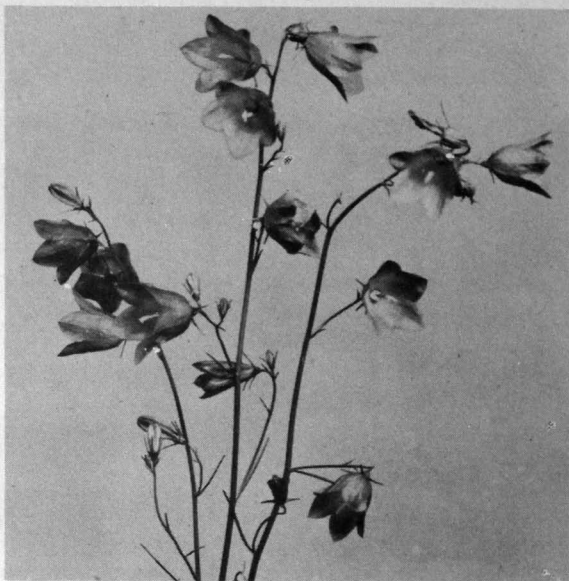
MORNING GROUNDSEL

(*Senecia lugens*.) Mary Vaux Wolcott says the name commemorates a massacre at Bloody Falls on the Coppermine river in Yukon, within the Arctic Circle, where a party of Eskimos were destroyed by northern Indians under the explorer Hearne. Richardson, during the Franklin expedition first found this plant at Bloody Falls and named it "lugens" from *lugio*—"I mourn."



YELLOW POND LILY

(*Nymphaea*)—the Greek nymph or Naiad of the waters. The Yellow Pond Lily is fairly common in Yukon in sluggish streams and muddy ponds. Has no odor to speak of. The roots have a powerful astringent quality which is removed by repeated washing. It is said that during former years of famine Yukon Indians used the roots for food. I have not yet found a white pond lily in the territory.



HAREBELL

(*Campanula rotundifolia*.) The Dawson Harebell or "Bluebells of Scotland" grows to a height of about twelve inches. I have picked many a bunch growing in the ditches in Dawson; the dwarf Alpine Harebells seem to be identical except for the very short stems, only an inch or so in length. The latter are native to the Keno-Wernicke mountain district. The meaning of Harebell—in the language of flowers—is "submission to grief," so that this flower might well be made the floral emblem of France instead of the Iris, which means "flame".



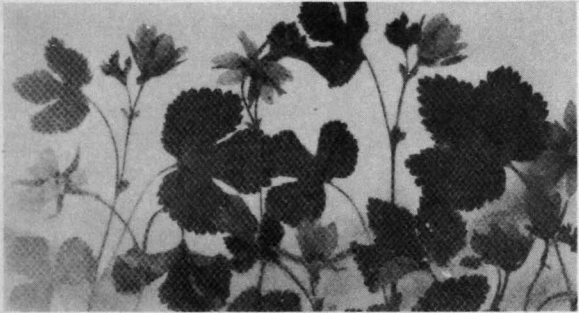
DAISY FLEABANE

(*Erigeron*.) From two Greek words—spring and old man; because the blossom is soon hoary, cottony. Ray-like flowers of pink, purple, occasionally white. Common throughout the territory.



WILD ROSE

(*Rosa woodsii*.) The wild rose blooms in beautiful profusion throughout the Yukon in June, tinting the hillsides and ranging in color from palest pink to a deep crimson pink. The hedge around our Dawson home is of wild rose bushes that we had transplanted.



ARCTIC ROSEBERRY

(*Rubus Arcticus*, Celtic. From the Celtic "red," the colour of the fruit.) Grows extensively throughout Yukon in cool, mossy thickets and swamps. Usually but one white blossom, bearing fruit much like a raspberry with a delicate wine-like taste.



MOUNTAIN ASH

(*Pyrus Americana*.) A lovely tree growing in the Squaw Creek district, Yukon. The only locality in which this tree has been found in Yukon to my knowledge. My husband saw a number of these small trees in 1938.



BOUNCING BET

(*Saponaria.*) One of the several soapworts. The plant has a bitter taste; used with water forms a lather. It grows in sandy wastes in June and July.



DEVIL'S BIT

I have called this plant Devil's Bit, though possibly mistakenly. I believe this one of the *Teaselworts*, order *Dipsaceae*. It has only within the last few years appeared in the Dawson district, so has probably been brought in by birds or bales of hay. The flowers are beautifully shaded from light green to deep purple, the petals toothed and prickly.



TWIN-FLOWER

(*Linnaea borealis*.) A beautifully tiny, fragrant flower dedicated to Carl von Linne. It is said that the family have incorporated the linnaea in their family crest. The linnaea grows profusely throughout Yukon in moist shady woods, a tiny pink bell-like blossom more conspicuous by the fragrance than by the flower. The linnaea grows from latitude 39° to the Arctic.



AMERICAN BLUEBELL

(*Mertensia maritima*.) Named for the German botanist of Bremen, Germany, Prof. Mertens. Very similar to *Mertensia Virginica*. Flowers cerulean blue frequently shading to deep pink. In June this bluebell often grows near the wild rosebushes and the combination of pinks and blues form a dazzling bit of beauty.



WILD RHUBARB

(*Polygonium alpinum.*) Grows profusely in Dawson district in late June and early July. In the rush days of the gold camps the stewed juice from stems and leaves was used as a tonic against scurvy. It derives its name from the river Rha or Volga, upon whose banks the plants are said to be native.



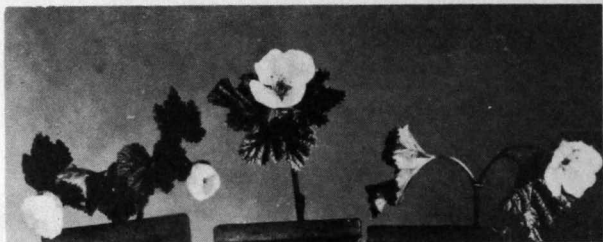
MOUNTAIN AVENS

(*Dryas octopetala.*) A very lovely white rose-like flower growing close to the ground, prefers rocky, sandy soil. The seed pod is much like that of the Pasque flower on a smaller scale. Both the white and the yellow *Dryas*, or Mountain Avens, are to be found in profusion back of St. Mary's Hospital in Dawson as well as elsewhere in Yukon.



MARSH BUTTERCUPS

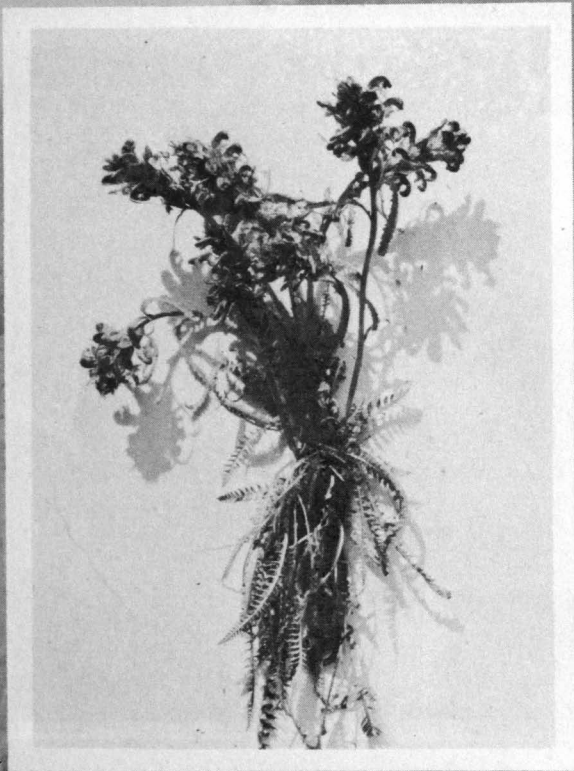
(*Ranunculus*.) Undoubtedly our buttercups have been imported with bales of hay or by birds. These have been found in abandoned rather swampy barnyards in and around Dawson, as well as out at Dominion.



DWARF SALMON-BERRY

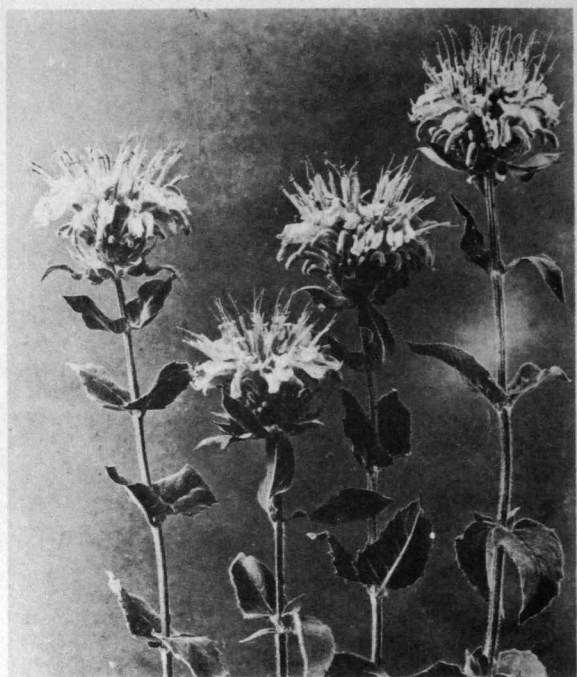
Sometimes called Cloudberry. Belongs to the order *Rosaceae*. An Alpine species, single large white flower, fruit delicate amber in color, sweet and juicy, ripens in August. Common on higher moist places. These specimens from Keno district.

Photo by Schillinger.



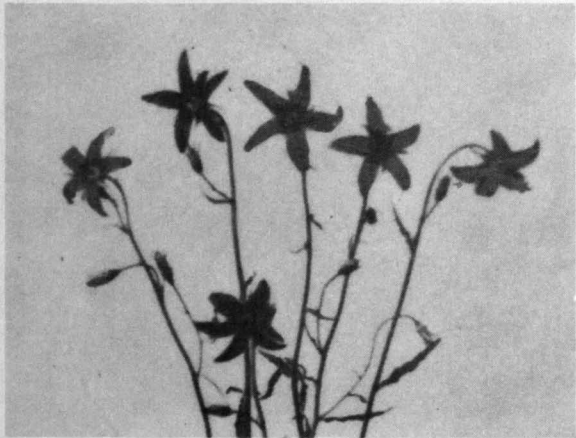
LOUSEWORT or BEEFSTEAK PLANT

(*Pedicularis sudetica*.) Botanical name comes from Latin "pediculous" meaning a "louse," either from its efficacy in destroying that insect or because its hairy leaves and spikes might make a good nest for them. It has dense spikes of reddish-purple or yellowish flowers with foetid odor and is common in Yukon during June and July.



MOUNTAIN or HORSEMINT

(*Monarda mollis*.) Named in honor of Monardus, a Spanish botanist of the 16th century. It grows quite profusely on rocky sandy ground in the neighborhood of Lake Bennett. Its flowers are in bold purplish heads. Supposed to have been brought into the country with civilization.



ADDER'S TONGUE

Botanists tell me that we mistakenly called it "Adder's Tongue" and that it is really a *Campanula aurita*, peculiar to Yukon territory and Liard river district. It has a very blue star-shaped flower, and is common in the low swampy districts where literally millions of mosquitoes rise in waves—and they do sting like adders!



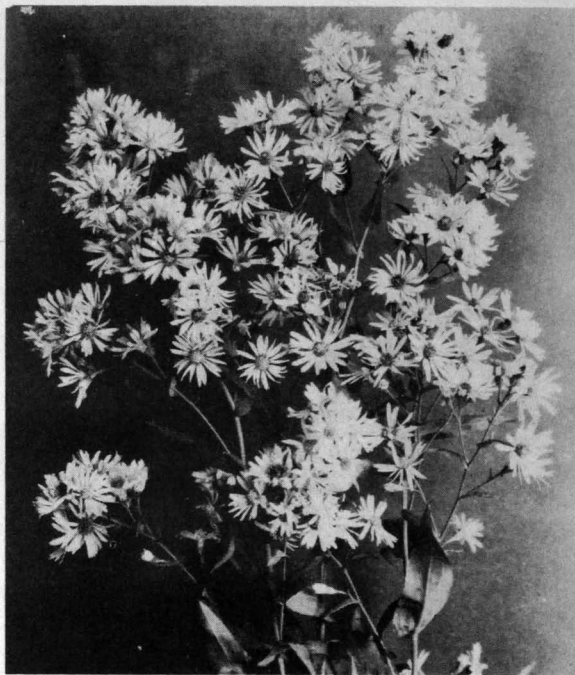
CASSIOPE

(*Cassiope Stelleriana*.) In Grecian mythology Cassiope was the mother of Andromeda. Found on higher mountain slopes in the interior of Yukon, this specimen came from the Little Twelve Mile. It clings in rock shelters and comes into full bloom in midsummer. It has small umbri-cated leaves and its nodding flowers are white or pink.



TUFTED VETCH

(*Vicia Cracca*.) Said to have been introduced into the Yukon, which is very likely as it is generally found about the more settled parts of the territory. The flowers are usually dark blue or purple with the tendrils and long graceful stalks making an effective decoration.



SMALL BLUE ASTER

(*Aster Lindleyanus.*) Along the Yukon river late in July and August the small blue aster tints the banks. The Aster family is one of the largest in botany, there being about 10,000 species. The Yukon aster is blue with a yellow centre. The word aster comes from the Greek, meaning "star." This is one of the numerous asters found in Yukon.



MOUNTAIN PHLOX

(Cruciferae.) This is an important order as from it we have the cabbage, turnips, cauliflower, mustard, etc. It is also remarkable for containing more nitrogen than other vegetables, as ammonia is evolved from their putrefaction. None is really poisonous, though very acrid. Grows abundantly in the Keno district.



AUTUMN LEAVES and GRASSES

Merely a fanciful picture, one of several illustrations copied from my "artistic botany" studies. Hard Maple leaves (several attempts have been made to raise the Hard Maples in Yukon but after a year or two the trees have not survived.) Wild Oats, many flowered Cotton Grass, cultivated Rattle grass and wild Red Top.



LARGER BLUE IRIS

(*Flower-de Luce* from the Greek signifying Rainbow on account of the varied color of the flowers.) This snapshot was taken in the Dyea, Alaska district. I have seen acres covered with the cerulean blue of this lovely flower on the mountain side, at the river's edge, on both dry and swampy land. The only place in Yukon where my husband found the Iris was in the Squaw creek district.

—*Photo by Mrs. Yorke Wilson.*



WHITE DAISY

One of the many varieties of composites growing in Yukon. This little plant is so like a garden daisy that one wonders if it is an import. It grows freely near many of the settlements, is usually creamy white but occasionally has a pinkish tinge.



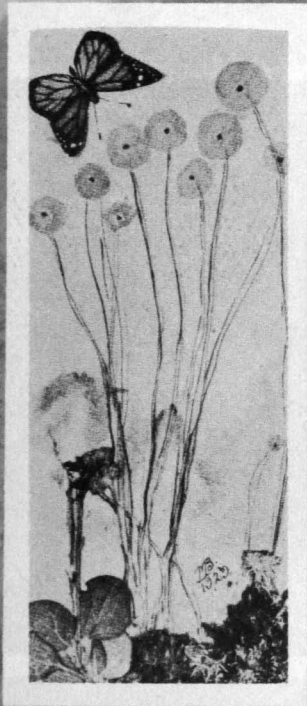
HAIR OF PARNASSUS

Sometimes called "Grass of Parnassus." Named from Mount Parnassus, the abode of the Muses and Graces. The one flower on the very tip of a long stalk is usually erect but occasionally drooping gracefully. Especially plentiful in the Dawson district.



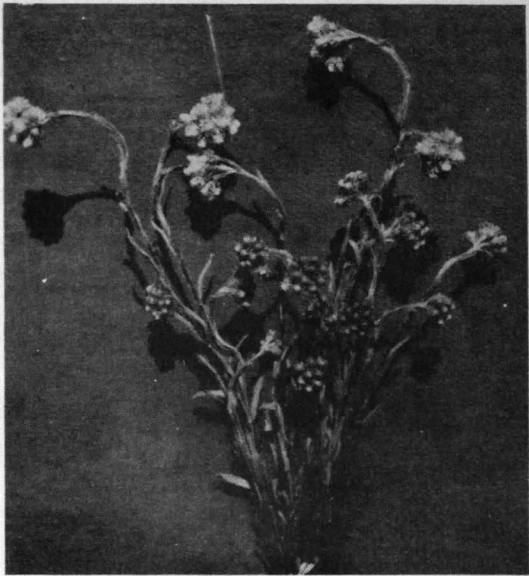
SWEET AVENS

(*Geum Rivale*, from Greek, "to taste well.") The botanical name alludes to the taste of the roots, which are both aromatic and astringent. The flowers are negligible but the plumose seed heads bear a striking resemblance to the Pasque flower.



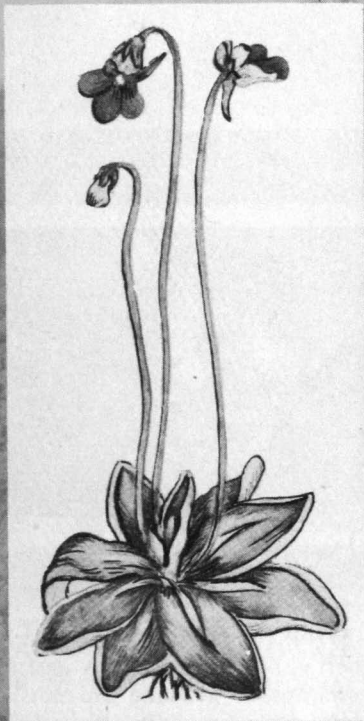
POPPY MOSS

Commonly so called because of a seeming resemblance to the dainty Arctic Poppy. (*Splachnum luteum*.) This specimen brought by plane from within the Arctic Circle by Livingston Wernecke, who although a hard-headed mining engineer, is a considerable authority on the flowers and mosses of Yukon and Alaska. I have also found the moss on the shores of Mayo Lake.



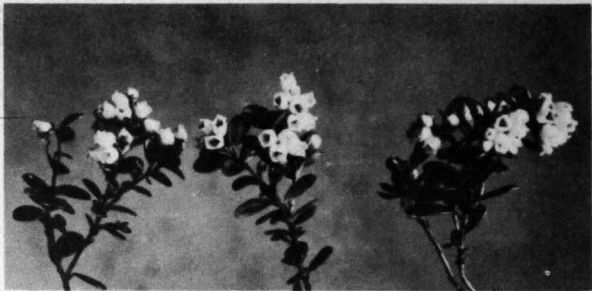
PUSSY PAWS

(*Antenaria rosea*.) Usually a lovely rose colour, but occasionally creamy white. Grows profusely throughout Yukon late in June and July. One of the daintiest of the everlastings, the blossoms soft and downy like a pussy paw, thus the name.



BUTTERWORT

(*Lentibulariaceae Pinguicula vulgaris.*) This interesting little plant is found in wet mossy places, being common on the upper slopes above Keno. Its broad fleshy leaves secrete a greasy substance and insects are captured by the turning inward of the margins of the leaves. Its tiny dark blue flowers are suggestive of violets. Its family name is from the Latin meaning "fat," referring to the greasy appearance of the leaves.



NORTHERN BLUEBERRY

Or huckleberry. (*Vaccinaceae*.) A delicious berry found in swamps or growing on moist hillsides. The berries make a fine wine or cordial but Yukoners usually freeze and keep them for winter. During my early winters in the Klondyke my wild huckleberry jam was particularly popular among the men folk. In fact they used to say I was "famous" for it, but you see I had little competition!

—*Photo by Schillinger.*



MOUNTAIN BUTTERCUP

(*Ranunculus Montanus.*) The Crowfoot family is well represented in the Yukon but I have found this dwarf buttercup only in the Wernecke-Keno district. The flowers are a brilliant yellow, the juice from the stems is not as acrid as in many of this order. In gathering flowers, ferns, mushrooms and even what we call toad-stools in Yukon I have *tasted* every specimen and either found nothing poisonous or am immune.

—*Photo by Schillinger.*



ROBIN'S PLANTAIN

(*Erigeron eriophorum*.) Botanists will dispute the right of Yukoners to call this a *Plantain*; rather it apparently is a member of the big *Aster* family which is so common in Yukon. The "*eriophorum*" part of the name is from the Greek meaning "to bear wool" as both stems and leaves are covered with a thick hairy fuzz. Its flowers are of numerous petal-like rays surrounded by the closely packed corumb. Color: usually purple or white but this specimen, gathered at Carmacks, was a beautiful pink.



ARNICA

(*Aster helianthus*, from the Greek words: sun, flower.) The Arnica is another of the many composites which grow so profusely in Yukon. Its bright yellow rays surround a greenish yellow disk. The Arnica has a bitter, acrid taste. Tincture of Arnica made from the roots, stems and leaves is a well-known household remedy for cuts, bruises and sprains.



THIN-LEAFED BILBERRY

Also known as Deerberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus boreale*). This is another of the native berries upon which the wild life of the north feasts during the early fall and winter but which humans discovered and adapted to their use. The genuine Bilberry fruit is dark blue and edible but the Deerberry fruit is greenish white and bitter to the taste. It grows particularly profusely in the Keno hill district.

—Photo by Schillinger.



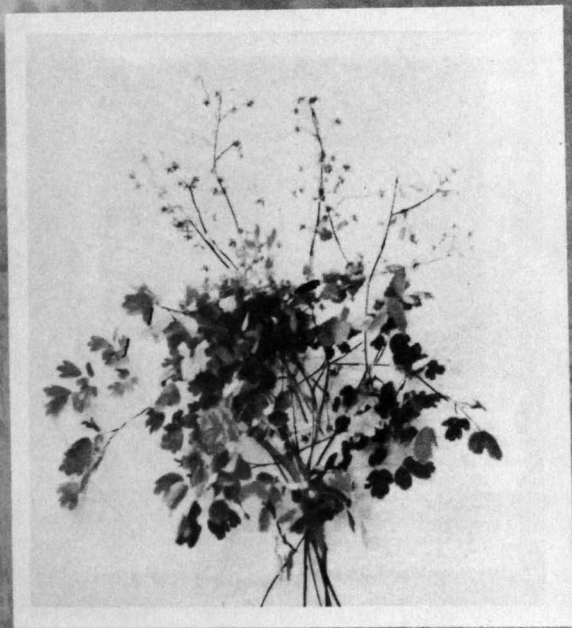
SMOOTH BEARDTONGUE

(*Penstemon.*) Blue to purple flowers, stems some times from three to four feet in height. Grows throughout Yukon on sandy, sunny slopes. A smaller relative of the Foxglove-Beardtongue.



WILD BLACK CURRANT

(*Ribes floridum*.) Grows fairly freely in both Dawson and Mayo district and like the garden black currant is much liked as a preserve to serve with lamb or mutton. Soothsayers tell us that to dream of currants denotes happiness in life, success in one's undertakings, while to the farmer and tradesman, riches.



EARLY MEADOW RUE

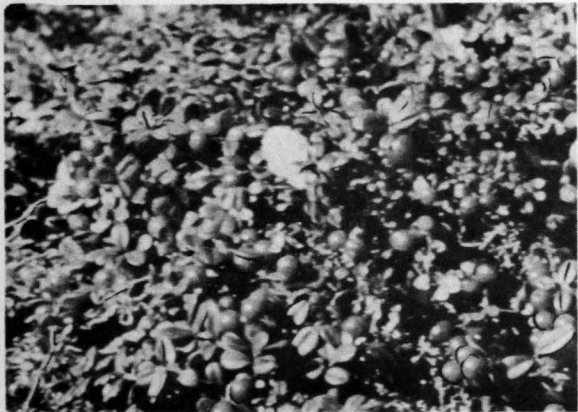
(*Ranunculus*.) Flowers small, greenish, seed pods like four pointed stars. Leaves much like the maiden hair fern. Grows in shady moist places We gathered this in the woods back of Mayo Lake and have been told that the plant is not native to Yukon.



DWARF MOUNTAIN ARNICA

(*Helianthus.*) Grows quite profusely on the higher hills in the Keno district. I am not sure how closely related it is to the more common arnica found in the lower levels, but it is at least a distant cousin.

—*Photo by Schillinger.*



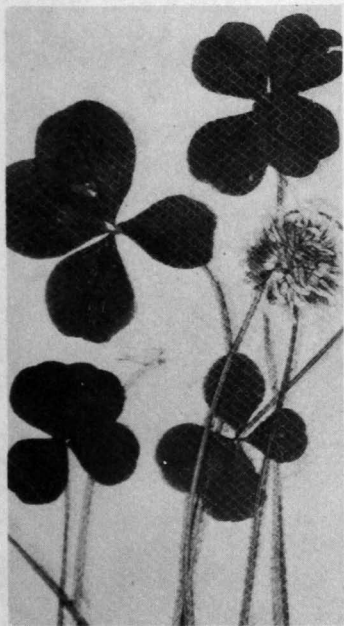
ALPINE CRANBERRY

(*Vaccinium.*) Very pretty tiny pink blossoms growing in bunches of six to twelve at the end of the vines. Berries, not so large as the Cape Cod variety, are scarlet and make fine jelly or sauce for winter use. We frequently use one-third sour apples to two-thirds berries for jelly. The plants are to be found throughout Yukon in bogs, on spruce covered ground and in sandy soil. Fable says that Cranberry is a cure for heartache but far more prosaically the sauce wards off scurvy.



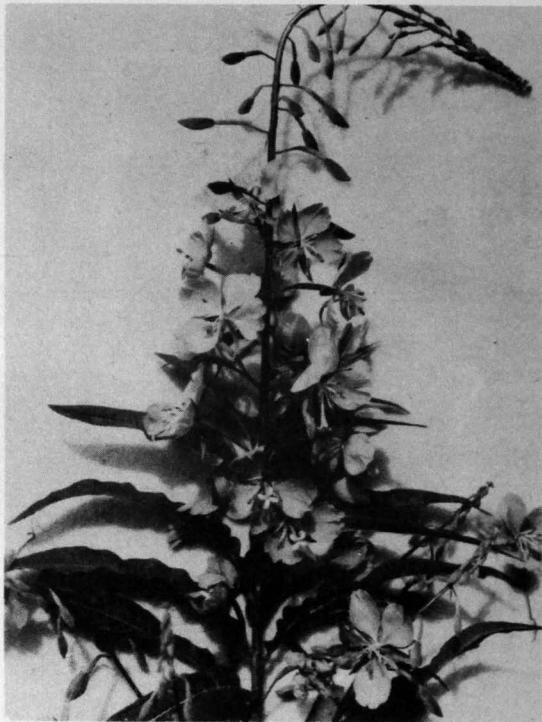
ALPINE FORGET-ME-NOT

(*Myosotis alpestris*.) Alpine Forget-me-not. This beautiful Forget-me-not grows freely in the Keno district. There is another variety, the Bur-Forget-me-not growing in Yukon, the tiny flowers equally pretty but when in seed the flowers produce small burs which stick to clothes and stockings.



FOUR LEAF CLOVER

Found in Dawson in great profusion during the latter part of the summer. In the early days many a prospector took it as an omen of good luck to find one. The Indians of Virginia claim that "the Red Clover was coloured from the blood of the Redmen slain in battle."



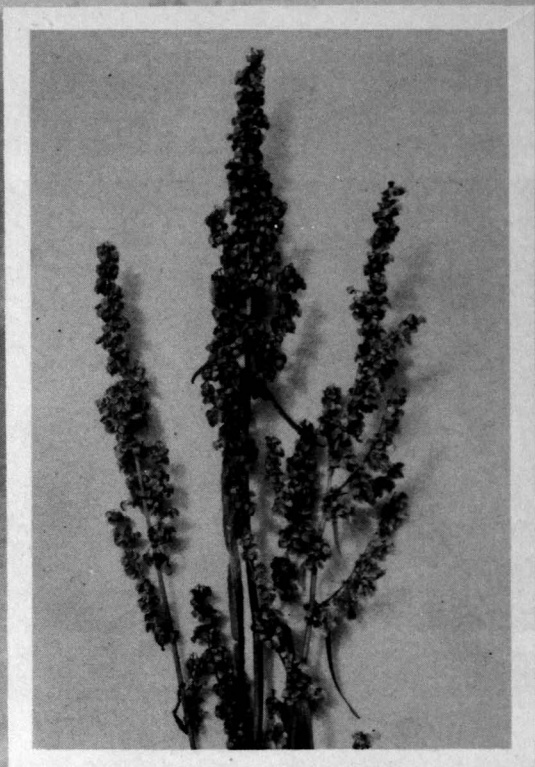
FIREWEED or GREAT WILLOW HERB

(*Epilobium Augustifolium.*) Grows in profusion throughout Yukon, coming into bloom in late summer. Its common name, Fireweed, comes from the fact it grows so rankly on fireswept land. Usually a deep magenta color, occasionally a rose-pink and sometimes purest white.



DWARF WILLOW HERB

(*Epilobium Alpinum.*) (Name from the Greek meaning "a violet growing upon a pod.") Dwarf plants growing on wet, shady hillsides throughout Yukon, rosy-purple color. Sometimes it is called Dwarf Fireweed.



DOCK

(*Rumex Articus.*) Commonly seen around the older settlements in Yukon and Sourdoughs believe that the seed must have been brought in with feed hay and oats in the early days. Color: Green, changing to soft reds in fall.



STRAWBERRY BLITE

(*Chenopodium capitatum*.) Sometimes called Goose Foot from the shape of the leaves. The seeds resemble the scarlet, juicy fruit of ripe strawberries. Yukon Indians use juices extracted from the fruit in dyeing.



BROME GRASS

A flowering grass with very graceful tiny yellow flowers. The name comes from the Greek "bromus," meaning food, and was anciently applied to oats. Brome Grass was probably brought into Yukon in the early days and has spread rapidly.



SHEATHED SWAMP or COTTON GRASS

(Eriophorum.) From the Greek words "wool" and "to bear", having reference to the copious fluffy bristles of the head. I have seldom found the light beige color in Yukon, but beyond Juneau, Alaska, there are large fields of the lovely waving grass. In Yukon the pure white Cotton Grass borders the trails and covers swampy fields with "summer snow."

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESSING and MOUNTING FLOWERS

THE HOBBY which I have pursued for a number of years and which for lack of a better name I have called "Artistic Botany," is one which can be followed with great enjoyment and with very little expense by any lover of flowers in any part of the world.

The mounted flowers not only are decorative and attractive but have the virtue of bringing back memories of the quest for them whenever they are looked upon in future years.

As a pursuit for children and young people whose inherent love of nature seeks expression I know of no more enjoyable pastime.

I have catalogued the methods which I have developed over the years and listed the required materials and the *modus operandi* which I have found successful.



1. PATIENCE.
2. Fresh flowers.
3. Absorbent cotton, second grade.
4. Absorbent or blotting paper, any size most convenient for work individual concerned wishes to do.
5. Upper and lower stiff boards shade larger than absorbent papers used.
6. On lower board place sheet of absorbent paper, on paper a layer of the cotton, then a second layer of cotton, absorbent paper and repeat as often as desired depending on work to be done.

7. Place flowers between the layers of cotton.
8. In case of many petalled flowers tuck tiny wisps of cotton between each petal.
9. When all flowers are between cotton press under medium weight.
10. Open in ten or twelve hours to see that flowers are in good shape. If very moist replace upper layer of cotton with fresh. Press again lightly until quite dry.
11. When flowers are quite dry take from cotton, remove all threads with moist finger and thumb, with *great* care, as dried flowers are fragile and break easily.
12. Reds and yellows retain their colors better than blues and pinks.
13. When pressing Lady Slippers stuff pouch with tiny wad of cotton.
14. When preparing to mount flowers sweep in background of suitable coloring on water-color paper.
15. Study your flowers and use colors that will best bring out the natural color of the flowers.
16. Paste flowers on card with paste made from flour, to which may be added one-fifth mucilage and liberal dose of salt.
17. Wash in shadows to make flowers stand out.
18. Cover all with maline pink, white or yellow, and your "artistic flower" plate will be ready for the mat and frame.
19. In making score, or place cards, the maline is unnecessary, but narrow, bright colored ribbons will add to the effect and general beauty.
20. Again I would say, PATIENCE, LOVE OF THE WORK AND STUDY will take any student along the road to final success.

MILES CANYON

... The scenic background used throughout this booklet is a view of **MILES CANYON**, whose treacherous waters cost the lives of many Chechakos on the trail of '98.

The Spell of the Yukon . . .

"It's the great, big broad land way up yonder,
It's the forests where silence has lease;
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,
It's the stillness that fills me with peace."

Robert W. Service

