

OBITUARY

ANNETTA MARY CARTER
(1907-1991)

On 28 June 1991, southern California was rattled by the 6.0 Sierra Madre earthquake, exactly 84 years after Annetta Mary Carter was born in the town for which the quake was named, the town founded by her grandfather and where her ashes had recently been laid to rest in the family cemetery. The next day, following the earthquake, numerous of her friends and relatives gathered in the University of California Botanical Garden to remember and reflect on the life of a person whose warmth, generosity, and indomitable spirit had touched so many.

Annetta Carter was born and raised in Sierra Madre, now part of Greater Los Angeles suburbia, at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. Much of Annetta's lifelong love of the out-of-doors reflects the interests of and her close ties with her father, Arthur N. Carter, who would often take his family to the mountains for the summer when he worked as a fire guard.

Her mother unfortunately died when Annetta was 11, but she had the good fortune to have several excellent women role models in Pasadena High School/Pasadena Junior College, including the botany teacher. Their influence encouraged her to come to the University of California in Berkeley in 1928 to study botany. She received her A.B. in botany in 1930 with 7 other women; no men. One of her classmates at both Pasadena and Berkeley was Mary L. Bowerman, who attained her own fame as the authority on the flora of Mount Diablo.

Carter entered the Master's program and did an experimental morphology study of the floating liverwort *Riccia fluitans* ("Carter's little liverworts"), under the supervision of W. A. Setchell. She received her M.A. in 1932, at which time her intention of finding a teaching position was stymied by the Depression. Instead, Carter continued to work in the University Herbarium, where she had initially obtained a position as plant moulder during her senior year. She eventually was in charge of all the day-to-day operations of the herbarium, retiring in 1968 with the title of Principal Herbarium Botanist. She continued as Research Associate for the rest of her life, for an unbroken span of 61 years of association with the herbarium!

During the first 16 years of her career, Carter collected plants extensively throughout California, retaining her interest in cryptogams in addition to vascular plants. She had a diversity of field companions on these pursuits, including Helen Sharsmith, Ethel Crum, and Edward Lee. During this period she made nearly 1850 collections, often with enormous numbers of duplicates for exchange. Many of these collections remained unprocessed upon her death, because in 1947 she was invited on an expedition that totally changed and set the pattern for the rest of her life.

Annie Alexander, heiress of a Hawaiian sugar cane fortune, had a strong interest in natural history. She explored extensively with her life-long travelling companion and friend Louise Kellogg (whose niece-by-marriage, Alice Howard, became Carter's successor in the herbarium). Alexander had previously founded and endowed both the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the Museum of Paleontology on the Berkeley campus; in her later years, plants were added to her interests. In October 1947, as Carter was getting disgruntled from helping several other botanists prepare for faraway field trips without going on any herself, Alexander invited her on a 3-month expedition to Baja California. Carter was 40 at the time; Alexander would celebrate her 80th birthday while on the trip. Driving the length of Baja California with Alexander and Kellogg, at a time when a high clearance vehicle was essential, left a deep impression on Carter, to the extent that she made a New Year's vow to return every year, a vow she very nearly kept.

Even a summary of Carter's 40 years in Baja California justifies a separate publication, and anyone undertaking a biographical study will have a wealth of details available as a result of her meticulously kept logs. These logs, although unpublished,

were typed, duplicated and made available in several herbaria, including the University of California. The logs, beginning in 1962, include detailed descriptions of itineraries, commentaries on happenings, and maps. Later logs of trips also contain photographs, selected from a vast number taken and accumulated by Carter. Also of interest are taped interviews with ranchers and residents of Loreto.

One anecdote illustrating the exploratory nature of these expeditions is related in a commemorative letter written by George Lindsay (25 June 1971), a long-time associate and supporter of Carter's work. "Once, in 1950, I packed into the Sierra Laguna south of La Paz, thinking I was really exploring. When we got down off the mountains to our vaquero's ranch he brought out an old photograph, wrapped in buckskin, of Annetta and Miss Alexander and Miss Kellogg who he had guided to the peak years before."

Alexander, who died in 1950, was on only the first of Carter's trips. Kellogg continued going on and funding many subsequent trips before her own death in 1967. Other field companions over the years included Roxana Ferris, Helen Sharsmith, Reid Moran, and Mario Sousa S. The guide most frequently mentioned in her logs is Franco Murillo; other guides include Carlos Rubio, Pancho Romero, and Juan Mesa. She frequently recounted the story of how the guide on one of her early trips, Marcos Fuerte O., exasperatedly told her either she was going to have to learn Spanish or he was going to have to learn English. Her success in the former endeavor was such that she would sometimes lapse into Spanish during the last weeks of her life.

After 1959, at least the major trips to Baja California were funded by the Belvedere Scientific Fund out of the California Academy of Sciences. These funds allowed occasional cooperative expeditions with Mexican botanists. Starting in 1971, Carter also led several natural history tours to Baja California under the auspices of the California Academy of Sciences.

After several trips to the mountains of the Cape Region, where her ribs were cracked in a rock-fall, Carter's interest eventually focused on the Sierra de la Giganta, a 200-mile-long rugged volcanic range between La Paz and Loreto. She had climbed the highest point, Cerro Giganta, on her first trip with Alexander, but failed to make it to the top of Cerro Muchado, suffering a broken arm on the third attempt when her horse stumbled and fell (on the 25th anniversary of her first trip to Baja California). In addition to these major injuries, there were the numerous inevitable logistical problems, assorted ailments, and car break-downs.

Reminiscences of Carter's journeys frequently include fond memories of the old panel truck that she inherited from her father. It withstood the rigors of numerous field trips, both to Baja California and with the California Botanical Society, before succumbing to a sand storm in Baja California.

In preparation for her retirement, Annetta and her brother Robert dug a well and built a small one-room brick bungalow with a thatched roof on a hectare of land leased near Loreto. It had a large front porch with the roof supported by two palm tree trunks and was named "Las Lomas de Anita." Carter used the "casita" as a base for much of her continued exploration of the Sierra de la Giganta and intended the land to become a native vegetation park. Tragically, she arrived in April 1978 to find the place being bulldozed by the government as part of proposed tourism development. Ironically, the plans called for a park, which never came into being.

As a result of her years in Baja California, Carter made over 5000 collections, the last in 1986 being additional material of the lovely rubiaceous shrub *Carterella alexandrae* (Carter) Terrell. This genus was named for Carter in 1987, based on a species she herself had named in honor of Alexander in 1955. Other plants named after Carter include the *Eupatorium* segregate *Carterothamnus anomalochaeta* R. M. King in 1967, *Abronia carterae* Ferris in 1950, *Abutilon carterae* Kearney in 1953, *Galium carterae* Dempster in 1970, *Amauria carterae* Powell in 1972, and *Viguiera carterae* Schilling in 1990.

Carter described several new species herself based on her collections, including *Acacia kelloggiana*, and published numerous other articles. *Acacia* and other legumes

drew her attention, as did the genus *Alvordia* in the Compositae. She also became an authority on the history, biogeography, ethnobotany, and economic botany of the Sierra de la Giganta, and occasionally collected bulk samples for pharmaceutical analysis. She published numerous articles and gave talks at meetings of various Mexican botanical societies. Apparently she did not plan to publish a flora of the Sierra de la Giganta, at least not after I. Wiggins' *Flora of Baja California* was published in 1980. She was, however, working with R. Thorne to compile a list of additions to Wiggins' flora.

Until her retirement in 1968, Carter's trips to Baja California were "the ice cream and cake" sandwiched among her responsibilities for the curation and administration of the herbarium. She effectively set the standards for this vocation, such that when New York Botanical Garden was looking for a person to fill an equivalent position in 1967, Art Cronquist wrote to C. L. Hitchcock asking if he had a student who could be the "Annetta Carter" for New York (P. K. Holmgren, personal communication, who was hired to fill the position). Carter's talents in herbarium curation had previously been "borrowed" by the University of Michigan when it needed to process the collections amassed by H. Bartlett, former director of their botanic garden. She was in Michigan for two 6-month periods: April–October 1957 and July 1958–January 1959.

The Bartlett herbarium included the collections of Mary Clemens, the wife of an army chaplain stationed in the Philippines, Borneo, and New Guinea. Carter eventually published an article on Clemens, and also became an authority on I. G. Voznesenskii, a Russian naturalist who collected in Baja California in the winter of 1841–1842, as part of a salt-collecting expedition. Carter's interest in botanical history was further expressed in her pride in possessing the desk and bookcase that formerly belonged to T. S. Brandegee. His significant western North American (including Baja California) collections and library were donated to the University Herbarium in 1906, where he worked until his death in 1925.

As if these interests and responsibilities were not a sufficient demand on her time and energies, Carter was also heavily involved in numerous organizations and other activities. She had a long commitment to the California Botanical Society and was secretary of the editorial board of its journal *Madroño* for 20 years, from 1943 until 1963. Although Dr. H. Mason was editor, the bulk of getting issues ready for press fell on the secretary's shoulders. Carter was then elected president for 1965, continued as an active member, and served on the council from 1985 to 1988. Volume 18 of *Madroño*, in 1966, was dedicated to her, with a lovely dedication written (at least in part) by Lincoln Constance.

In 1974 Carter joined The Society of Woman Geographers, an international organization. She was co-chair of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter from 1978 to 1984 and afterwards remained involved with student fellowship awards. At the 1984 triennial meeting in Washington, D.C., she was invited to speak on "Plants and man in the Sierra de la Giganta." Her dedication to the group was demonstrated by her regular attendance, up to several months before her death. Along with her faithful visits to Baja California, her foreign travel also included three trips to the Yucatan Peninsula and trips to Europe in 1954, 1969, and 1972.

In the 1970's, Carter became one of the first female members of the Biosystematists, an informal gathering of systematic biologists centered in the San Francisco Bay area. The group began in the 1930's, at a time when the famous Clausen, Keck, and Hiesey transplant experiments of the Carnegie Institute of Washington were at their peak. The purpose was to encourage no-holds-barred arguments in the new field of biosystematics; women (and graduate students) were excluded for many years for fear that their presence would inhibit such rough-and-tumble discussions.

Carter was a long-standing member of the Sociedad Botánica de México, and attended almost every three-year congress. She was awarded a life membership at the 6th Congress in 1975, and was further distinguished with a highly prestigious honorary membership at the 10th Congress in 1987. Other memberships included

Sigma Xi, San Diego Society of Natural History, California Native Plant Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomy, and American Bryological and Lichenological Society. She also attended Botanical Congresses at Seattle, Leningrad, and Sydney, participating in field trips offered at each.

The significance of Carter's contributions to California and Mexican botany did not go unrecognized. In addition to the aforementioned honors from the California Botanical Society and the Sociedad Botanica de Mexico, she was elected a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences in 1957. Further recognition came in 1985, when she was selected as one of the first women to be interviewed as part of a series on "California Women in Botany" by the Regional Oral History Office of The Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley. There are plans to name the herbarium in La Paz and a street in Loreto after Carter, and to dedicate an issue of *Acta Botanica Mexicana* to her. These honors accurately reflect the depth of the respect and affection that was held for "Señorita Anita" south of the border.

Carter retained her vigor until the age of 80, even participating in a tour to China around that time. Unfortunately, her health began to decline not long after, and she was eventually diagnosed as having an atypical form of multiple myeloma. Dialysis failed to halt the steady decline, and after a prolonged hospitalization she chose to discontinue the treatments. She died at home, attended by friends, on the morning of 8 May 1991, 1½ months before her 84th birthday.

News of her passing elicited condolence letters from as far away as Australia, Argentina, Japan, and Spain—a reflection of the diversity of people around the world who had experienced her hospitality at Berkeley. During Carter's tenure, the Berkeley herbarium had a reputation for being an exceptionally warm, friendly place, a herbarium where visitors truly felt welcome. Carter's urge to care for and assist others was legendary, even at the expense of her own research and other obligations. Many visitors (including the author when she first arrived in Berkeley) stayed in the apartment in the basement of the house which Carter shared with her companion of many years, Florence Little. Little, a professional librarian and long-standing participant in the Guild for Psychological Studies, accompanied Carter on several of her trips.

The dedication written for Annetta Carter in *Madroño* Vol. 18, remains as appropriate as when it was written in 1966:

During your long association with the University Herbarium, from student assistant to Principal Museum Scientist, you have been the trusted advisor of faculty and administrative officers, a generous counselor and confidante of successive generations of grateful students, and an esteemed friend to your associates and herbarium visitors.

Champion of human rights and friend of the friendless; intrepid field botanist and indefatigable collector and interpreter of the plants of the remote ranges of Baja California, especially of the Sierra de la Giganta, gracious ambassador to our Mexican botanical friends—you have shown in all your broad and varied responsibilities over the years an unflinching skill and competence which is overshadowed only by your personal warmth and outstanding human spirit.

—BARBARA ERTER.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS BY ANNETTA CARTER

1935. *Riccia fluitans* L.—a composite species. Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 62:33–42.
1939. Two new species of *Ranunculus S. flammula*. American Journal of Botany 26: 555–557. [With L. Benson.]
1955. Observaciones sobre los encinos de Baja California. Boletín de la Sociedad Botánica de Mexico 18:39–42.

1955. A new species of *Bouvardia* (Rubiaceae) from Baja California, Mexico. *Madroño* 13:140-144.
1964. The genus *Alvordia* (Compositae) of Baja California, Mexico. *Proceedings of the California Academy of Science* 30:157-174.
1966. Una forma nueva de *Lophocereus* en Baja California, Mexico. *Cactaceas y Suculentas Mexicanas* 11:13-17.
1970. Some ethnobotanical notes on the plants of the Sierra de la Giganta, Baja California Sur. *Pacific Coast Archeological Survey Quarterly* 6(1):29-33.
1974. Evidence for the hybrid origin of *Cercidium sonorae* (Leguminosae: Caesalpinoideae) of northwestern Mexico. *Madroño* 22:266-272.
1974. The genus *Cercidium* (Leguminosae: Caesalpinoideae) in the Sonoran Desert of Mexico and the United States. *Proceedings of the California Academy of Science* 40:17-57.
1974. Pollen studies in relation to hybridization in *Cercidium* and *Parkinsonia* (Leguminosae: Caesalpinoideae). *Madroño* 22:303-311. [With N. Rem.]
1975. The Ynez Mexia collections and N. Floy (Mrs. H. P.) Bracelin. *Madroño* 23:163-164.
1976. Notas el el genero *Cercidium* (Caesalpinoideae) en Sud America. *Darwiniana* 20:305-311. [With A. Burkhart.]
1979. I. G. Voznesenskii, early naturalist in Baja California, Mexico. *Taxon* 28:27-33.
1980. Edward Lee [obituary]. *Madroño* 27:143.
1981. A new species of *Acacia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) from Baja California Sur, Mexico. *Madroño* 28:220-225. [With V. Rudd.]
1982. Lectotypification of *Cercidium floridum* (Leguminosae: Caesalpinoideae). *Taxon* 31:333-335.
1982. The itinerary of Mary Strong Clemens in Queensland, Australia. *Contributions, University of Michigan Herbarium* 15:163-169.
1983. *Acacia pacensis* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae), a new species from Baja California Sur, Mexico. *Madroño* 30:176-180.
1986. Aspectos generales de la flora de Baja California. *Cactaceas y Suculentas Mexicanas* 31:79-96.
1986. Vesta Florence Hesse [obituary]. *Madroño* 33:307.

APPENDIX II.

BOOK REVIEWS AND INTRODUCTIONS

1965. "A selected guide to the literature on the flowering plants of Mexico," by I. K. Langman. *Madroño* 18:126.
1973. "The prairie, swell and swale," by T. Korling. *Pacific Discovery* 26:32.
1974. "Historia natural y cronica de la Antigua California," by M. del Barco. *Pacific Discovery* 27(6):32.
1979. "The agaves of Baja California," by H. S. Gentry. *Madroño* 26:193.
1980. "Flora of Baja California," by I. L. Wiggins. *Fremontia* 8(3):26-29.
1982. Foreword for republication of "Flora of the Mount Hamilton Range of California," by H. Sharsmith.
1982. "The California islands: proceedings of a multidisciplinary symposium," edited by D. M. Power. *Madroño* 29:64.
1983. "Imágenes de la Flora Quintanarroense," by O. Telez Valdes and M. Sousa S. *Madroño* 30:198-199.
1983. Editor for appendix "Plants of the Cape Region." Pp. 328--358 in A. Zwinger, *A desert country near the sea, a natural history of the Cape Region of Baja California*. Harper & Row.
1986. "Manual de herbario, administracion y manejo de colecciones, tecnicas de recoleccion y preparacion de ejemplares botanicos," by A. Lot and F. Chang. *Madroño* 33:232-233.

1987. "Xantus, the letters of John Xantus to Spencer Fullerton Baird from San Francisco and Cabo San Lucas, 1854-1861," by A. Zwinger. *Madroño* 34: 269-271.
1988. "Atlas cultural de Mexico. Flora," by J. Rzedowski and M. Equihua. *Madroño* 35:75-76.

NOTE

The California Botanical Society has established an Annetta Carter Memorial Fund for doing field work on the botany of Baja California. The core of the fund is a generous donation by Florence Little. If you wish to honor Annetta Carter by donating to this fund, please send your check to Treasurer, California Botanical Society, % University Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

OBITUARY

BAKI KASAPLIGIL

1918-1992

Baki Kasapligil, a structural botanist and professor emeritus at Mills College, Oakland, California, and a research associate in the University Herbarium, University of California at Berkeley, died April 22nd in his home in Berkeley. He was 73 years old and died of cancer.

Born on 13 November, 1918, in Çankaca, Turkey, and raised in Istanbul, he received his B.Sc. from the University of Istanbul in 1941, served in the Turkish army from 1941 to 1944, was an assistant botanist at the Higher Institute of Agriculture, Ankara, from 1944 to 1946, and attended the University of California, Berkeley, from 1947 to 1950, where he received his Ph.D.

From 1950 to 1954 he held botanical positions at the University of Ankara, which awarded him a post-doctoral habilitation degree in 1953. While serving in 1954 to 1956 as a forest botanist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Dr. Kasapligil headed an ecological and vegetational mapping survey of forest and grazing lands in Jordan.

In 1956 Dr. Kasapligil assumed Howard Earnest McMinn's (1891--1963) position at Mills College and remained there until his retirement in 1984. At Mills he taught courses in basic biology, basic botany, economic botany, and plant taxonomy. One of the most popular professors on campus, and affectionately known as "Dr. K," he maintained even through his retirement years at the University Herbarium at Berkeley an active correspondence and contact with many colleagues and former students.

Dr. Kasapligil is the author of several monographs and numerous botanical papers on fossils, anatomy, morphology, and taxonomy. He also contributed to *Hortus Third* (1976) and other horticultural publications. His doctoral thesis done at Berkeley is now regarded as a classic piece of work and was on the structure and development of the vegetative and reproductive organs of California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) and European bay (*Laurus nobilis*), both members of the laurel family. He also wrote on such diverse plant groups as the pines (*Pinus*), oaks (*Fagus*), filberts (*Corylus*), as well as on past and present floras of Asia Minor.

Dr. Kasapligil is survived by two sons, David and Danyal, his brother Vehbi Kasapligil, and sister Şahika Ozon, both of Istanbul, Turkey.

—RUDOLF SCHMID.