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## Richard W. Pohl: Distinguished Botanist

Marjorie Conley Pohl

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# Richard W. Pohl: Distinguished Botanist

## A Biography

by

Marjorie Conley Pohl

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Richard Walter Pohl was born May 21, 1916, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the home of his parents, Florabel Marie Philipp Pohl and John Hermann Pohl. The date and place of his birth would be significant factors in his botanical development.

Starting in the 1840's, waves of immigrants from Germany, Ireland and the Scandinavian countries came to the Milwaukee area, and by 1916 the city had become Wisconsin's largest, with a population of about half a million. Its citizenry enjoyed many educational, religious and cultural advantages, and Richard Pohl would never forget his birth city. He always spoke highly of it and would enjoy frequent visits "back home".

It was into a world of change and conflict that Richard Pohl was born. He would achieve in his 77 years such a unique balance between the forces of his heredity and those of his environment that he was always in control of his life. He knew what he wanted, and he achieved his goals. He wanted to be a botanist and he became a master botanist.

Richard Pohl felt that the world of nature was his to enjoy, to study, to explain, to explore, to question and about which to educate others. This sense of ownership would carry with it, in his thinking, a great sense of responsibility for the world of nature in regard to safeguarding it and making sure it was preserved for those to follow.

### THE SEED IS PLANTED: THE FORMATIVE YEARS, 1916-1947

Richard Pohl's mother commented years later that his birthdate in late May seemed to instill in her son a great love of nature in all its glory.

It seems plausible that the character traits and life interests which Richard Pohl developed can be traced in part to those of his ancestors, however, tracing ancestral lines was not of great concern to him. Not much is known about either his father's or his mother's lines, except that both were of German extraction.

#### Ancestors

Richard's mother's family, the Philipp's, were originally from Huguenot stock. They had left their birthplace in France in 1685 to settle in Berlin, Germany. Around 1880 some of them decided to emigrate to America, specifically to Wisconsin, near the town of Mayfield. By trade they were highly skilled artisans, making furniture and sleighs from Wisconsin wood. There were August Philipp, a poet of some merit, and Hogarth Philipp, an artist who did landscapes of the Milwaukee area before it was settled; both were his

mother's grand uncles. Richard Philipp, one of his mother's uncles, became a well known Milwaukee architect in the early years of the 20th century. Richard Pohl was named for this uncle, and Richard would later recall stories his mother told him about his forebears.

Dr. Pohl's paternal grandfather, George Oliver Cromwell Pohl, was a mining engineer who sailed the seas to reach areas where his services were needed. He married by proxy Johanna Marie Dahlstrom of Swedish and Danish extraction on November 29, 1863, in the Church of St. George in Hamburg, Germany. She then went by ship to meet her husband, who was in Hong Kong. Many of their married years were spent on ships, but strangely enough, their six children were all born in California, near a settlement known as Nortonville.

After an earthquake in California, George Oliver decided in 1876 to take his family back to Germany to settle in Blankenese, where friends lived. He decided to go on one more voyage in 1884. His ship struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic, near Newfoundland, and all on board were lost at sea.

The widowed Johanna decided to emigrate to America, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where other friends had previously gone. Her two older sons, Walter and Gustav, found employment to support their mother and the other children. Walter found work as an architect, and Gustav became a greenhouse assistant. In time he would own his own greenhouse. Two daughters had died earlier in California from diphtheria. John Hermann (Richard's father) and Mimi rounded out the family.

After a rather cheerless boyhood, John took odd jobs and had schooling only through the 6th grade. He too had to help support the family. Just how John met his future wife, Florabel, is not known for sure. Perhaps they met at the meetings of Die Freie Gemeinde, a German society existing at the time in Milwaukee. The small, blue-eyed blonde fell deeply in love with the tall, brown-eyed John Hermann Pohl, and they were married by the leader of the Society June 19, 1904. Florabel had worked in a downtown Milwaukee hat shop as a designer. Eventually the family would have three children: Rudolph Philipp born in 1906, Gertrude Marie born in 1910, and Richard Walter born in 1916.

#### Boyhood

As young Richard grew, he learned his father's skills and acquired his interest in photography, which Richard would later incorporate with remarkable success into his teaching with slides and recording other aspects of nature. Richard's father also took excellent pictures and did his own developing and printing.

Another interest acquired from his father was classical music and



Fig. 1. The young Richard W. Pohl with his dog, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, date unknown.

artists, especially Caruso, Madame Schuman-Heink, Bach and Beethoven. John Pohl invested in an Edison phonograph player and used it exclusively on Sunday afternoons.

From his mother, Richard inherited a love of gardening. Florabel was an excellent gardener with a good eye for color and arrangement of plants, and she was also an expert cook. Her hat-designing days gave way to making clothes, which she designed for herself.

As John Pohl prospered as a traveling salesman, the family purchased in 1912 a home on Kenyon Avenue in Wauwatosa, a Milwaukee suburb of some 2,000 inhabitants at the time. Their remodeled farmhouse was surrounded by fine old trees and had a large backyard for Florabel's garden. Once the garden was designed, Richard assisted in all aspects of garden care, from planting and weeding to harvesting and cleanup. In fact, the Kenyon Avenue garden would later be duplicated at Richard's home in Ames, Iowa. He preferred, as had his mother, a mix of annuals and perennials across the width of the lot, which hid rows of vegetables planted behind the floral splendor.

Richard's childhood was happy but also rather lonely. He was the only little boy in his neighborhood. His neighbors delighted in his visits, which he would make when they were at home after work. Florabel doted on this quiet, obedient, curious boy, who was also an excellent student. When his older brother gave him some tropical fish, Florabel allowed Richard to keep them in "her" dining room, but she put her foot down about keeping the stray dog which adopted the family in the house (Fig. 1).

At the end of Kenyon Avenue were some steps leading down to a large parklike area located in the Menomonee River valley. Here Richard spent many happy hours exploring the area at all times of the year. It was here that he first made intimate acquaintance with wildflowers, rock formations, trees, birds and other aspects of the natural world. He was particularly attracted to a small creek, which ran the length of the valley; one day in late March he fell into its turbulent waters and almost drowned. He received a scolding from his mother and promised to be more careful in the future.

Saturday afternoons were very special times for Richard. That was

the time when his father, home from work, would take his young son to places like the Milwaukee Public Museum in the downtown area or to his brother Gustav's Milwaukee greenhouse. It was at this time and during these excursions that Richard developed his special interest in nature.

Richard later related that at one time during the weeding of the family garden, he came across a tiny weed which he did not recognize; neither did his mother. The next time Richard and his father visited the museum he took this weed to Albert Fuller, the botany curator, who was a graduate of Marquette University. Fuller's research was in native orchids, blackberries and the wild roses of Wisconsin. Although Fuller could not identify the weed, this encounter led to a long friendship between the two. Later Richard would claim that Albert Fuller led him to his chosen field. Indeed, it was Fuller who arranged for Richard to do volunteer work in botany at the museum by leading expeditions for interested citizens and visitors on forays to collect specimens of blackberries. This may have led L. H. Bailey to name a new blackberry, which Richard had found, *Rubus pohlii*.

Albert Fuller also gave young Richard small tasks in the museum's herbarium and started him working on a taxonomic revision of the grape family in Wisconsin. Years later this early research provided Richard a foundation for his undergraduate thesis for graduation from Marquette University—a study of the Rhamnales published in 1940 by the Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Richard attended elementary, junior high and high school in Wauwatosa. These were happy years. He had a zest for learning and brought home grade reports full of A's. His parents were naturally proud of him. During his junior high days, a group of students in the Science Club decided to do a natural history survey of the Menomonee River valley, a most ambitious project. To assist them in identifying plants, Richard borrowed a copy of the 7th edition of Gray's *Manual of Botany* from the club sponsor.

In high school he was the favorite of both the science and English teachers. May Crosby, his English teacher, in time would give him a framed copy of a print of Dürer's "Bit of Earth," which might have encouraged his interest in grasses. The high school yearbook, *Cardinal Pennant*, showed Richard to be a solemn, bespectacled youth who was listed as playing the tuba. He also had the distinction of being elected to the National Honor Society because his grades averaged 90 or above during his high school years. During this time he developed a friendship with the Newton family, especially their older son, Baxter, who would always speak highly of his friend, "Richy." Baxter Newton wrote in his yearbook, "To Richy, the guy with all the brains, ambition and sex appeal." A teacher inscribed it, "I know we will be hearing of you some day in the future."

The most painful experience in Richard's young life occurred in March of 1933 when he was 17 years old, as a result of appendicitis. This would have long repercussions on his health. His parents did not understand the nature of the severe abdominal pain which he suffered, but his sister Gertrude did. She was in nurse's training at the time and realized that her parents had better get Richard to a hospital right away. His appendix ruptured, and he was not expected to live. There were no antibiotics then, and he endured four torturous operations to get rid of the infection. Peritonitis developed, but Richard had a strong constitution and will to live. He was hospitalized for four months, and it took his parents three years to pay the surgeon's and the hospital's bills. During this time they, too, were experiencing the effects of a worldwide depression, and Richard's father lost his job.

By the fall of 1933 it became evident that Richard could not return to school, so the school authorities arranged that he would receive at-home tutoring, largely through the direction of Miss Crosby. He took the courses necessary for graduation one at a time. His



Fig. 2. Richard W. Pohl in his late teens, place and date unknown.

ordeal caused him to graduate a year later than the rest of his class, but he finally did receive his diploma in 1935.

Richard's father, although happy to see that his son had recovered, thought the time had come for him to get a job and assist the family. However, Dr. John R. Koch, a neighbor, thought that Richard had a brilliant future ahead of him and advised his parents to permit Richard to attend college. Dr. Koch was at the time head of Marquette University's Organic and Physical Chemistry Department, and he promised financial help if Richard would enroll there. Albert Fuller also urged Richard's parents to permit their son to attend college and they finally agreed.

#### College Years

Richard enrolled at Marquette University in downtown Milwaukee in September 1935. Dr. Koch furnished transportation back and forth from the university and saw to it that Richard received student employment to pay his tuition, books and other necessary expenses. His mother packed his lunches for four years and occasionally gave him bus fare. While he confessed that he wanted to major in botany, he didn't know what he would "do" with it. She was thrilled about her son's college opportunity and approved of his major.

Botany proved to be an excellent choice. Being out-of-doors was like therapy for Richard, regardless of weather conditions (Fig. 2), and he truly enjoyed the beauty of nature, its changes and challenges. The miracle of growth would always intrigue him.

For four years from the age of 19, Richard supported himself and had little time left for dating or other activities. His picture in the 1939 Marquette University *Hilltop* yearbook shows his serious countenance and lists him as being a member of Phi Sigma, a national honor society for biologists. He was also honored by the university for high grades and awarded a gold key for scholarship. In June of 1939, he graduated *summa cum laude*. He had earned all A's with the one exception of a C in freshman English.

In his four years, Richard had both cleric and lay teachers. Father Gross insisted that students in his English class demonstrate their skills in composition by writing a paragraph during class. His geometry teacher, Father Wilschewski, thought Richard was a good

student because he was so adept at using the slide rule and logarithm tables. But a required course on Thomist philosophy irritated him because of the teacher's view of woman's subordinate position in society.

Of all his teachers at Marquette University, Eugene S. McDonough (Mac) was his favorite. Mac, an associate professor at Marquette, had received his Ph.D. in botany from Iowa State College in Ames in 1936, under the guidance of John Sass. Mac did research in the cytology of fungi, polyploidy, human heredity and the host-parasite relation of plants and their diseases. He also directed Richard's graduation thesis on the flora of Wisconsin, which was published in 1940 as "Preliminary Reports on the Flora of Wisconsin XXX. Rhamnales."

Richard dated one woman, Hildegard, during his college years. She was a voice major at a local teachers' college who apparently wanted a definite commitment from him for the future, but he wasn't ready for this. Thus she became a part of his past.

Employment was a serious problem for him during the summer vacation periods, and he had to be employed to continue in college. In the summer of 1936, Richard took a job with the local Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), part of President Roosevelt's relief agencies for college students. Richard's job was a sub-professional one that paid his room, board, medical care, clothing and thirty dollars monthly in addition.

As a new CCC recruit, he was sent to Interstate Park, a Wisconsin state park at St. Croix on the shores of the St. Croix River, 50 miles north of Minneapolis. The park superintendent asked Richard what he wanted to do as his project. He replied that he wanted to make a checklist of the flora of the park, and he was instructed to proceed. Richard then wrote to Albert Fuller in Milwaukee for supplies, including Hitchcock's *New Manual of the Grasses of the U.S.* and a copy of Agnes Chase's *First Book on Grasses*. With these two manuals, he taught himself how to identify grasses. He would later admit that it was an agonizing task for a beginner, but he kept at it. He was by then captivated by the grasses. Richard returned home late that summer with \$80 saved from his earnings. Later Richard came to believe that his experience that summer led to his definite choice of botany as his life's work.

In the summer of 1937, Richard worked at his brother's TV-appliance store. During the summer of 1938, Richard's father got him a job with a wholesale drug company in downtown Milwaukee, where he worked as a "short order buyer," earning \$12 a week.

Like many college students, Richard had little idea of what he would do after graduation, except that he knew he wanted a job. Continuing in graduate school was not a possibility, but Dr. Koch and Dr. McDonough both advised him to apply for graduate work, believing that he would have a bright future in botany. Richard sent resumes to several universities. The best offer came from Dr. Jacob R. Schramm, then head of the Botany Department at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In fact Dr. Schramm traveled to Milwaukee to interview Richard. He was much impressed and offered the young man an appointment as an assistant instructor in the University of Pennsylvania Botany Department with a salary of \$1,000 for nine months each year, to begin September 1939. Richard accepted on the spot.

On the morning of his departure for the east, his father awakened him with the news that the Germans had invaded Poland and that, in his opinion, World War II was about to begin. Young Richard left Milwaukee later that same day, with a heavy heart, but with great joy in the possibilities of his future as a botanist. His stay in the Quaker City would bring many changes to his life.

#### The University of Pennsylvania

Richard arrived in Philadelphia on September 12, his life savings of \$125 in his pocket. He decided to walk the thirty blocks from

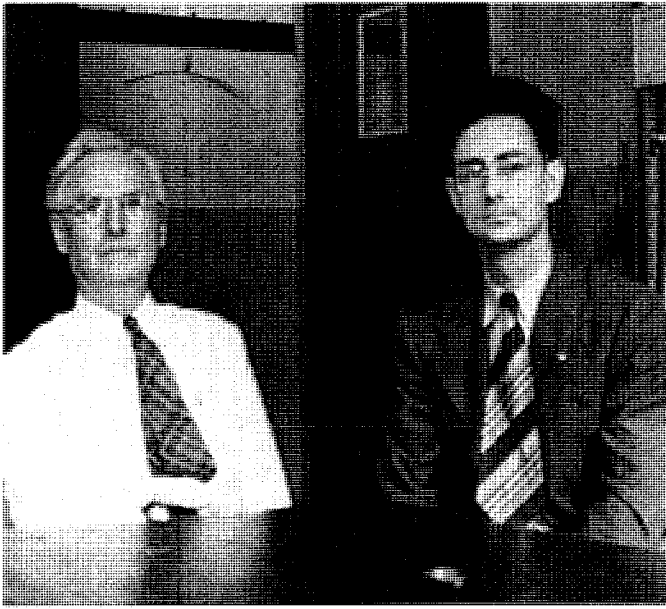


Fig. 3. Richard W. Pohl with Professor J. R. Schramm, University of Pennsylvania, ca. 1939–1940.

the city's 30th St. railroad station west to the university area. He recalled later that he was shocked by what he saw. The area was full of row houses, block after block, which he called "wall to wall" housing.

After arriving on campus he soon discovered that the university dormitories were far too expensive for him to consider, but he managed to find housing in a large boarding house several blocks west of the campus area. Some medical students living there clued him in on tips to get along in the big city, and he also took his meals at the lodging.

The University of Pennsylvania was a municipal institution, embedded in the heart of west Philadelphia. The Botany Department was housed in an old brick building on the main axis of the campus known as Hamilton Walk. Behind the brick edifice was a small botanical garden with nearby greenhouses. The main building was known as McFarlane Hall, behind which the laboratory of Dr. William Seifríz sat in solemn splendor. Seifríz was a plant physiologist who worked on slime mold protoplasm. Richard had heard of his work and soon became acquainted with the older botanist. The department herbarium was located in the basement of the nearby Zoology Department, as was the botany library. Botanical facilities were rather minimal and much of the equipment was obsolete. However, the department did have an excellent arboretum located in nearby Chestnut Hill, the Morris Arboretum.

Dr. Schramm soon entrusted his new employee to the able hands of Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., a taxonomist, who had obtained his doctorate with M. L. Fernald at Harvard University (Fig. 3). Dr. Fogg was working on the flora of Pennsylvania, and he became Richard's advisor.

There were few other graduate students in botany at the time. This surprised Richard, but he soon found one, Robert Whittenberg. The two of them did all the planning for the undergraduate courses and did all the laboratory training involved. This was excellent training for Richard, though it seemed to him that the older department members should have shown more interest in the botany majors.

Richard quickly grew accustomed to life in Philadelphia. Before long he had made another new friend, Marjorie Conley, who worked

as an assistant in the botany library. Neither was impressed by the other at first meeting. However, both Richard and Marjorie joined the Naturalists' Field Club, which visited nearby places of botanical interest such as the Appalachian Mountain ranges, the New Jersey sea coast, and the New Jersey pine barrens. A warm friendship began to develop. Marjorie, although a native of Norfolk, Virginia, preferred to call herself a Philadelphian. After graduating from Germantown High School, she received a four-year, full tuition scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in English and minored in German and social studies. She was also active in several campus organizations and would, in time, graduate with major honors and distinction.

While working part-time in the botany library, she could not help but notice the "newcomer" who would often rush down the library steps whistling various operatic tunes. He was definitely not a Philadelphian, but she found him pleasing nevertheless. The friendship continued through the school year. Many earnest conversations were held in the back stacks of the library. Then in the spring of 1940, Dr. Wherry of the Botany Department asked Richard to travel throughout the western states with him, as his assistant for the summer, searching for native species of phlox. Richard accepted, but kept in touch with Marjorie by sending frequent postcards whenever the opportunity presented itself. Meanwhile, Marjorie worked as a counselor at a girls' camp in Pennsylvania. In the fall, Richard and Marjorie began dating. Marjorie had returned to the university to pursue a graduate degree in the School of Education, hoping eventually to teach college level English. She and Richard collaborated on one of Marjorie's papers, "The botanical references in the poetry of William Wordsworth."

Romance bloomed as Richard studied the grasses of Pennsylvania, and Marjorie grew accustomed to going specimen collecting on dates. On May 4, 1941 Richard popped the question, presenting her with an engagement ring. They were married in a small private ceremony at Marjorie's Methodist church on August 15, 1941 and took a honeymoon trip to visit Richard's family in Wisconsin. She liked what she saw, but there were too many relatives all at once. They, in turn, liked her, but Richard's mother later confessed that she thought Richard would never find a girl who totally pleased him.

Back in Philadelphia, the newlyweds moved into a \$35 per month rented house on the university campus. The house had four bedrooms, two fireplaces, and a big basement, which they soon furnished with odds and ends of furniture and miscellany given them by Marjorie's grandfather, who was in the process of selling his home. Along with the furniture came a 21-year-old dog, a family pet.

Soon afterward several botany graduate students moved into the Pohls' house as renters, taking their meals elsewhere. The house soon became a meeting place for all the botany students.

Marjorie found employment in the university library as a clerk; then, after a few months, she decided to try something else. She took a job in Gimbels Department Store in downtown Philadelphia, first selling neckties and then working as an assistant in the store's book department. She worked closely with the agent of one of the book clubs which rented space in the book department. Marjorie's job was to read the book selections and talk to people about signing up as members of the club.

Just when things seemed to be working out for the young couple, December 7, 1941 brought the news, interrupting the radio broadcast of the New York Philharmonic, that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor with much loss of life. Fearing that he would soon be drafted, Richard transferred his draft registration to Milwaukee, and he also decided he would try to seek employment in an area which the army might consider important in the U. S. war effort. He took civil service examinations and was offered a job as a Range Conser-

vationist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Colorado City, Texas, a town of about 2,000 in Mitchell County.

### Range Conservationist

Richard sold the family car for sixty dollars and bought a Ford panel truck to transport them and some household possessions to west Texas. They left Philadelphia early in 1942, not too sure of what the future would hold for them.

Colorado City was located in the arid, west Texas area near the Colorado River, and there were few stores to serve its 2,000 inhabitants. There was an oil refinery and three school systems: Mexican, black, and white. Richard and Marjorie also found some friendly persons in the Soil Service and settled in Colorado City, surrounded by mesquite range lands and red soil farms. They moved into a small furnished apartment and Marjorie found employment as a teacher in the city's school system, working as librarian and teacher of art and English. They traveled extensively throughout Texas in vacation periods, being much impressed by the grandeur and size of their new state.

### Army Days

As it turned out, the Philadelphia draft board wanted Richard in the army in spite of his work on the Texas range lands, even though he had officially transferred his draft status to his home town in Wisconsin. After the Philadelphia officials finally accepted this transfer, Richard then received a draft notice from Wisconsin, so once more the young Pohls packed up and moved to Wisconsin.

Richard was inducted into the U. S. Army in February of 1943 and was sent to Ft. Sheridan in Illinois for basic training. He was then transferred to Camp Stewart in the pinelands of Georgia where a coastal artillery unit was located, and Marjorie returned to her job in Texas.

Richard's army days were not happy. He did not want to be trained in the skills that would eventually lead to the death of other persons. He thought that because he was in an artillery unit, he would have to stay there, and he confided to his sergeant that he would like to be transferred to another branch of the army. Upon examining his records, the artillery commander decided that because of his high IQ, in the genius range, Private Pohl might be more useful in another branch of the service. Pohl finally chose meteorology, was transferred to the Air Force and sent to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where he would receive training at Kenyon College in nearby Gambier.

As soon as she could, Marjorie followed and found lodging and employment in a department store in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. But by 1944, Richard's physical condition had deteriorated so much, due to the strain and stress of army life, that the army decided to discharge him.

### University of Pennsylvania: Completing Degree Requirements

Once again the Pohl's packed and left Ohio to celebrate Christmas in Milwaukee with Richard's family. Needing money immediately, both took jobs in a local department store and, after festive yule activities, left once again for Texas. The Conservation Service rehired Richard as did the school system of Colorado City for Marjorie. Richard applied for readmission to the University of Pennsylvania for the following September and was reinstated.

In the early spring of 1944, Richard resumed his work as range examiner of some of the large ranches in the area. He surveyed grasslands for possibilities of cattle feeding, and he taught himself the "point density" method of estimating the plant cover on the ranches,

notably Spade Ranch with its 225 square miles of pasture. He was becoming a grass botanist, although unbeknownst to himself at the time.

When the end of World War II hostilities were announced in August 1945, the Pohls rejoiced. They could return to the University of Pennsylvania and, thereby, get on with their lives. Richard had been readmitted as a graduate student, and for this segment of his education, he would receive aid from the GI Bill of Rights for veterans which Congress had passed. Once more the Pohls packed up and left for Pennsylvania. They managed to find an apartment within walking distance of the university and unpacked their possessions to set up housekeeping in yet another place. Richard settled in with his routine of classes and some instruction activities for the department. Marjorie found employment as a catalog-classifier in the Sullivan Library of Temple University.

In the fall of 1946, Richard realized that he would probably receive his doctorate within six months, possibly by mid-1947. He began to survey the job market and registered to attend the Christmas meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which would be held in December of 1946 in Boston, Massachusetts. He thought that he might make a job-contact, and this is exactly what happened. He prepared a paper to read at the meetings, describing his work in west Texas with regard to grassland surveying.

At these Boston meetings Richard met Dr. Joseph C. Gilman, then acting Head of Botany and Plant Pathology at Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in Ames, Iowa. Richard's professor at Marquette, Dr. McDonough, had received his doctorate at Ames and informed Richard that a job was available there in taxonomy. Dr. Gilman seemed impressed both with Richard and his paper, but no immediate job offer came from Ames.

Richard returned to Philadelphia and, with Marjorie, talked about their future. They also discussed possible names for their first child, due in early April on the very day that Richard's dissertation was due. As it turned out, both thesis and baby were a few days late.

An offer finally came from Ames. Dr. Gilman wanted to know if Richard would accept a position as assistant professor of botany for a salary of \$3,600 for an eleven month academic year, to begin in the early summer of 1947. It seemed like a fortune! Richard accepted in due time.

On April 10, the Pohls became the proud parents of a daughter named Katharine Elisabeth, the first female Pohl to be born in 38 years. Two more children would be born, in 1948 and 1951.

Richard passed his final exams with ease; his dissertation was accepted and would be published the following November in the *American Midland Naturalist*, Vol. 18, No. 3. It was titled "A Taxonomic Study on the Grasses of Pennsylvania." Richard was now on the threshold of being a certified botanist. His parents traveled to Philadelphia for his graduation and to attend the christening of their seventh grandchild. They were awed by the immensity of the University's graduation procedures and very proud of their son, Richard Walter.

Richard sent his wife and their child home with his parents to Wisconsin while he remained in Philadelphia to tend to odds and ends such as packing up possessions. He left the city of brotherly love in late July for Ames and his future. He was equipped to face the botanical world and to begin his life as a botanist.

### GROWTH AND DIFFERENTIATION: THE UNIVERSITY YEARS, 1947-1986

The Department of Botany and Plant Pathology of Iowa State College was housed in Botany Hall in 1947. Built in 1892, it had been used as housing for other academic divisions of the college in

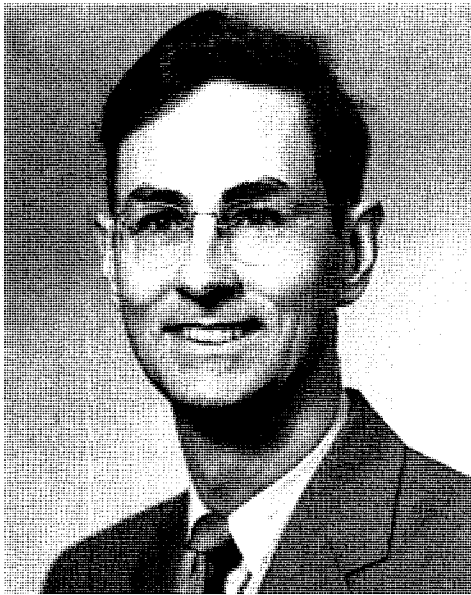


Fig. 4. Dr. Richard W. Pohl at the start of his career at Iowa State University, late 1940's.

years past and was mostly unsuited to the needs of a botany department. Richard was given an office in a corner of the balcony, above the so-called "Rotunda" at the back end of the building where the herbarium was located. His graduate students in the years to come would have makeshift office space on a mezzanine floor just below the main floor. When they arrived, he would provide them with some sheetrock, some 2 x 4's, and some nails and tell them to build their own offices. They did just that.

In 1947, the college had a student population of about 9,000, which increased in the fall of that year by the influx of G. I.'s enrolling to use their "bill of rights" in pursuit of a college education. Many would be attracted to botany as a major.

Joseph C. Gilman was acting department head in 1947, and the department was comprised of several botanical disciplines, including taxonomy, plant pathology, physiology, dendrology, ecology and morphology. Botany was one of the four original professorships mentioned in the charter granted to the college in 1858. Its scope included, as listed in the charter: fruit growing, horticulture, forestry, vegetable anatomy, and general botany.

Dr. Pohl was hired in 1947 as an assistant professor to be in charge of taxonomy, although the department had two other taxonomists at the time: Ada Hayden and Duane Isely. Dr. Hayden, who in 1947 was in charge of the herbarium and did field work on aquatic plants, had received her doctorate in 1918 under the guidance of L. H. Pammel. The first head of the botany department from 1889 to 1930, Pammel was an important figure in Iowa botany as he helped establish the Iowa state parks system and was the "father" of the Iowa conservation movement. Dr. Isely was the other taxonomist. However, in 1947, he was connected with the Seed Laboratory. He and Dr. Pohl became good friends as well as colleagues.

In 1947, Dr. Pohl was 31 years old, with curly black hair, intense blue eyes and a ready smile (Fig. 4). He would make a good impression on his students in his career as a teacher, and he attracted hundreds of them to botany because of his enthusiasm and devotion to botany. His hand lens was always in place around his neck for quick identification of botanical items. (His graduate students often joked that he even showered with it on.)

The years of Dr. Pohl's life from 1947 to 1986, the year of his

retirement, would be those of tremendous achievement and productivity.

#### The First Years: 1947, 1948, 1949

Richard Pohl arrived at Iowa State College in the early summer of 1947 in time to teach a summer session course in plant taxonomy, a course which was a new venture for him. When next offered in the spring of 1948, the course had an enrollment of 225 students.

His wife and baby daughter, with whom he had parted when he obtained his doctorate, joined him in the fall of 1947 at their first home in Ames, 225 Pammel Court, converted World War II barracks moved up from Oklahoma in 1946. They shared this duplex with a rather quarrelsome couple in its other end. When it became known that another baby would join the family, it became necessary for the Pohls to move from Pammel Court to off-campus housing. With a severe post-war housing shortage at hand, Ada Hayden helped them find a rental house on South Hyland Avenue. This was a large Victorian house with four bedrooms; two of these were soon rented out to young college men. Richard Wilson Pohl, their second child, was born shortly after the family moved, October 4, 1948. Richard Pohl had two "homes" in his life: his home (wherever it was), and the botany building (wherever it was).

In 1949, another botanical area attracted Dr. Pohl's attention. This was poisonous plants. In the spirit of cooperation between university departments, he decided to give a course in poisonous plants for the third year veterinary medicine college students to familiarize them with plants growing in Iowa where farm animals would graze. He went after both specimens of the plants and information regarding their toxic properties. The course was a popular one and led to his being asked to give programs on the local television station about poisonous plants. He continued with his work on the poisonous plants course from 1949 to 1967, at which time it was discontinued due to scheduling difficulties.

The remaining years of the forties saw the publication of five papers, the beginning of his many years of publications which lasted throughout his botanical career. Eventually he would write articles for *The Americana Encyclopedia* and *The World Book*, as well as dictionary definitions.

#### The Decade of the Fifties

During this period Dr. Pohl was busy not only with teaching duties, but also with research and resulting papers, ten in all plus a book. He was named associate professor in 1951 and professor in 1956. His first book, copyrighted in 1954, was *How to Know the Grasses*. It was published by W. C. Brown in Dubuque, Iowa, one in a series known as the *How to Know...* books, and Dr. Pohl even did some of its illustrations. This book went through several revisions and is still in use.

The year 1950 was a significant one in his botanical development as he became director of the departmental herbarium at Dr. Hayden's death; he would hold this position until his retirement in 1986. During this time, he contributed approximately 15,000 specimens to the herbarium, of which almost half were in tropical groups.

In 1954, the Pohls staged a migration to Berkeley, California because Richard had received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to use at the University of California at Berkeley. He purchased a one-wheeled trailer to move personal possessions of five family members, which now included three small children, 2, 5, and 6 years old. They found the scenery in the western states to be quite awe-inspiring as they traveled, but the trip was also quite tiring at times. To keep the youngsters interested, Richard told various tales he remembered from his childhood as well as some of Aesop's Fables.

When they arrived at their pre-rented house in Berkeley, they

couldn't get in because the owner had failed to leave the key with a neighbor. What to do? Richard phoned the local police who soon sent a man out to help them. The officer jimmied open a kitchen window, climbed in and opened the front door for the tired Pohls.

California proved to be a land of enchantment for the Pohls. The children enjoyed the public parks, full of equipment to attract the young. The family would visit historic places, museums and other attractions. Richard stayed home on Thursdays so his wife could have an off-duty day each week.

Richard had planned to use his fellowship at the university to learn how to teach a plant geography course, but found the instructor so dull that he changed directions and took instructions from G. L. Stebbins, a geneticist at the Davis campus of the university, who was in Berkeley two days a week to give a course in plant evolution.

One contact at Berkeley developed into a lasting international friendship for Dr. Pohl. Rafael Lucas Rodrigues Caballero, from San José, Costa Rica was in Berkeley for a doctorate in botany. Rafael was already a dedicated scientist and a gifted artist, and the two became friends. In time Rafael, from a prominent family, would return to his native Costa Rica where he would discover approximately 1,200 new orchid species which he named and placed into over 165 genera.

Sadly the Pohl family said their farewells to California and returned to Iowa in the summer of 1954. Upon arrival their first chore was to purchase a home for their growing family. Altogether they looked at 39 different possibilities and finally found one that appealed to both Marjorie and Richard. The main attraction was that the home was fairly new and it also had a large backyard. Richard wanted a home garden for flowers and vegetables.

In time Richard would plant sycamores, four kinds of fruit trees, redbuds, five magnolias, and bushes of many varieties. Under the redbud trees he spread transplanted wildflowers, taken from places in the county where new roads were being laid. This wildflower sanctuary grew over the years to help form a beautiful carpet of color and beauty. In the spring, the Pohl backyard was a visual delight of pastel color which passersby would stop to admire.

Richard's work as a home gardener was never completed. He could always find room for any growing botanical item that the department or a friend would contribute. One year in order to surprise his wife on the occasion of her birthday, he planted 200 bulbs, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils. He also found room for a grove of hardy bamboos on the south side of the house.

Inside their home, Richard and Marjorie worked together on their houseplants. These averaged about 30, most of which were orchids grown from seed, gardenias, hibiscus and other favorites.

Shortly after settling in their new home, Richard decided to resume a former hobby of his which he greatly enjoyed in his youth, tropical fish. This included not only care and maintenance of tanks and fish, but also their breeding, with angel fish and neons being his favorites. It was difficult to find space for this hobby. He finally decided to erect two rooms in the basement, with a larger room for his tropical fish and a smaller as a study for Marjorie's literary work. The tropical fish room became a mecca for the neighborhood children and their parents who shared Richard's interests in tropical fish. In fact, when their young son, also named Richard, was asked what did his daddy "do", he replied, "He works in our basement with tropical fish."

In connection with his tropical fish hobby, Richard Pohl wrote, in 1957, a small guide titled "Tropical Fish" for others so interested. It was mimeographed by the Botany Department. In its six pages he discussed containers, water temperatures, aquatic plants, fish food, and the kinds of tropical fish with which he was familiar. He also listed important references for tropical fish enthusiasts. This publication is not listed with his other publications in Appendix II.



Fig. 5. Dr. Pohl collecting in an Iowa prairie, date unknown, probably 1950's.

### Interest in the Gramineae

In the fifties, Richard found his academic botanical interests turning to grasses. But why? To many persons, grasses "in the wild" were simply weeds. But not to Richard's eye. Grasses for him would hold a lifelong fascination. He stated this fascination in the preface to *How to Know the Grasses*: "Of all the world's flowering plants, the grasses are undoubtedly the most important to man. They contribute tremendously to the earth's green mantle of vegetation; they are a source of food for man and the domesticated animals. Without grasses, agriculture would virtually be impossible: grains, sugar, syrup, spice, paper, and a thousand other items of daily use are the products of various grasses. They hold the hills, plains and mountains against erosion by wind and water. In the end, they form the sod that covers the sleeping dead."

Strangely enough, he had grasses thrust upon him for his dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania. Almost as strangely, Richard's job took him to Iowa with its great prairies (Fig. 5). It has been estimated that nine-tenths of Iowa's surface was originally covered with grasses. Books and papers following his growing interest in grasses would lead to his becoming an agrostologist, or grass specialist, of the first class.

The decade of the fifties was a busy one for Richard in regard to publications. Ten papers were derived from his research and he had produced his first book on grasses. His academic stature was recognized with his promotion to professor.

### The Spectrum of His Interests

His 39 years as a botany department professor went quickly for him in regard to classes, graduate students, herbarium development, promotions, papers, special recognitions and service to the university (Appendix I; Fig. 6). His record shows that he served his university as chairman of its Science and Humanities Leave and Foreign Travel Grants Committee, member of the All-University Committee on Leave and Foreign Travel Grants, and as a member of the Graduate Council. Throughout his years in academia, he taught these courses: Plant Taxonomy, Field Botany, Phytogeography, Agrostology, Advanced Plant Taxonomy, Poisonous Plants, and special seminar and research courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

### Vacations

Vacations for the Pohl family found them driving to various places where botanical societies were holding summer meetings, usually in August. The family would sleep in tents and prepare meals with





Fig. 6. Dr. Pohl at his microscope, Old Botany Hall, date unknown, late 1950's to mid-1960's.

their trusted Coleman cooking stove. In addition to equipment needed for such traveling would be botanical field presses for specimens collected enroute.

A vacation in 1959 was memorable for the family. They packed up and drove first to visit family members in Philadelphia. From there, they drove to Montreal, Canada, where the International Botanical Congress was in session. As the children grew older and wished to spend their vacation time at camps or in jobs, the family vacations ceased.

#### Graduate Students

Students would always be one of Richard's top priorities. They delighted him and he them. They were his "botanical children." He very much enjoyed introducing young minds to the glories of botany. His first graduate student was Charles Gilly, who was waiting for him when Richard arrived in 1947. Three other students studied with Richard during the 1950's and an additional 28 followed during Richard's career (Appendix V). Most of his graduate students would choose grasses for their research (Fig. 7), and many would travel with him to Costa Rica for their thesis material. Gerrit Davidse, Kay Klier, and Mark Gabel share their perspectives on working with Richard in the Author's Notes section.

#### The Sixties: Costa Rica

Richard discovered Costa Rica in 1966, and in the following 26 years he would make 19 trips to that beautiful country, with both students and family. He enjoyed every aspect of Costa Rica: its people, cuisine, climate, customs, scenery, and botanical opportunities, which he saw as almost unlimited, in both exploration and discovery.

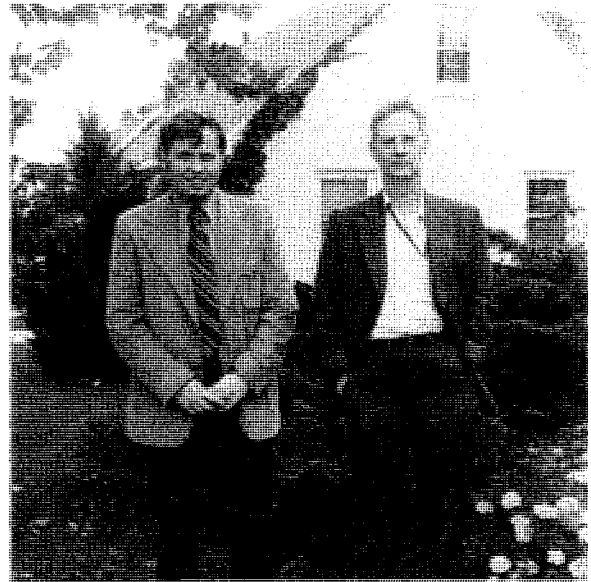


Fig. 7. Graduate student Gerrit Davidse and Dr. Pohl, October 1972.

In time he would collect 5,000 plants for the botany department's herbarium or to be grown in its greenhouses.

Richard's love of Costa Rica started in 1965 when he was working on the grass genus *Muhlenbergia* at the National Herbarium in Washington, D.C. There he met Tom Soderstrom and Cleofé Calderón. Tom was then early in his career as the grass curator at the National Herbarium, and by the time of his death in 1986 he was an internationally recognized expert in bamboos. Cleo was an Argentinian botanist who had studied grasses with Lorenzo Parodi, the leading South American agrostologist. Cleo had agreed to teach a course in tropical grasses for the newly organized Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS) the following year (1966). OTS was a consortium of North American universities interested in introducing North American college students to the biology of the tropics, in Costa Rica. Cleo talked to Richard while they were in the Smithsonian herbarium and was impressed with the scope of his interest in grasses. She asked him to assist her with the course in Costa Rica. He later recalled that it took him only a second to consider the offer and his reply was a hearty "yes," but he also admitted that he was not sure where Costa Rica was at the time.

During Easter vacation of 1966, Cleo, Richard and others were in Costa Rica on a scouting expedition to find places to take their expected students. He was enchanted with what he saw. Later that year Richard returned to Costa Rica to teach the course with Cleo. Richard's family joined the group later in the summer for their introduction to Costa Rica.

During that summer in Costa Rica, Richard renewed his friendship with Rafael Rodrigues, whom he had met at the University of California. "Rafe" had achieved much recognition in botany from his country and was overjoyed to have Richard as a friend once again.

The Pohls returned to Ames in the late summer with mixed reactions to Costa Rica. Richard wanted to return for further botanical development, but he did not know how to finance such an undertaking. He decided that in case he did figure it out and could return, he had better learn Spanish, so he enrolled in beginning Spanish at Iowa State University. He eventually became quite fluent in this his third "foreign" language; in time he would teach a botany course in Spanish in Colombia.

By chance, Richard found out that the Field Museum in Chicago

was starting to work on the flora of Costa Rica. He phoned his friend at the museum and asked if he could collaborate with the museum in their project by doing the grass family. Dr. Louis Williams agreed and suggested to Richard that he might get financial help from the National Science Foundation. Richard applied and funds were granted for two years of research. He then applied to Iowa State for a Faculty Improvement leave to take him to Costa Rica, which would pay for six months of his annual salary. The Faculty Improvement leave was also granted. Thus, in June 1968, Richard and some graduate students left Ames in a large station wagon which also carried household equipment and botanical necessities to Costa Rica. His family would follow in the fall when daughter Ann Marie had completed her 12th grade work in summer school sessions so she could graduate with her class. The Pohls' son and other daughter, who were in college in the States, joined their parents for the 1968 Christmas vacation in Costa Rica.

Things went as planned and Marjorie and Ann Marie joined Richard in a furnished apartment which he had obtained. Most of his neighbors were North Americans, in Costa Rica to attend a Spanish-language school to work in various missionary efforts in Central America. The Pohls decided that Ann Marie should attend this school also and, at age 17, she became their star pupil; she would eventually be a Spanish major when she attended college.

Marjorie found a job as a substitute English teacher in a school, then took a permanent job in the Country Day School where instruction was in English to assist students who would eventually attend college in the States. For a salary of \$50 per week, Marjorie taught fifth grade geography and seventh and eighth grade English. She also performed as librarian, was sponsor of the school newspaper and did noon hour hall duty.

Dr. Rodrigues allowed Richard and his students to use a laboratory at the University of Costa Rica where they could make chromosome counts of their grasses and also anatomical slides. They additionally secured a room at OTS headquarters for the drying and sorting of their collected grasses.

They were fortunate also in obtaining use of a jeep owned by the Field Museum of Chicago, but kept in Costa Rica. They had brought with them in Dr. Pohl's vehicle, a portable plant dryer, and two catalytic heaters which burned kerosene and made heat without flames.

After the children departed for Ames, life continued for Richard and Marjorie in Costa Rica but in April the time arrived for the Pohls also to return. Marjorie's classes, all of them, gave her parties and parting gifts to express their warm feelings toward her. Richard sold his station wagon, and all returned by air to the States.

Richard earlier had made a trade with his friend, Rafael Rodrigues. In return for Richard's use of the University of Costa Rica facilities, he had agreed to help one of Rafe's graduate students, Mayra Montiel, who was working on her licenciado degree (M. S. approximately). Richard thought it appropriate for Mayra to study the anatomy of a local Costa Rican grass. She finished her work before he left for the States, and thus became his first international graduate student and also a good friend.

After this remarkable first year, Richard made almost yearly excursions to Costa Rica to botanize. Grants from the National Science Foundation and the American Bamboo Society helped finance the cost of travel and living expenses, and gradually, Richard enlarged his "collecting" area to include Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In the 1960s, another event was of great importance to Richard. After much planning and anticipation, a new botany building at Iowa State University was built. This had long been desired by faculty and staff as botany needs and numbers were increasing. Dr. Fred Smith, then botany head, was in charge of the procedures. Richard oversaw the design of the herbarium and the purchasing of new cases

and equipment. Metal cabinets replaced the old wooden ones which Dr. Pammel had provided. The new building was officially dedicated in 1967, and Richard moved into room 339 across the hall from the herbarium.

There had been much discussion in the department as to the choice of a name for the new building. Several suggestions were considered, and Richard prepared a document proposing the name of Charles E. Bessey, who had been in Ames from 1870 to 1884 before leaving for the University of Nebraska. There was much discussion following his proposal, with some dissension, but in the end the new building was named Bessey Hall.

The sixties had been a time of great development and expansion of botanical efforts for Richard. He published 16 journal articles and a second edition of his first book. So many new avenues of endeavor had opened up for him, including greatly increased renown stemming from his international botanical forays.

### The Decade of the Seventies

On one collecting trip to Honduras in the early 1970s, Richard stopped overnight at the guest quarters of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana (Panamerican School of Agriculture) in Honduras. The senior student who volunteered to carry his luggage to the guest house was José Heinrich, a third year student from Costa Rica, and one of the top achievers scholastically. José received a scholarship for study in the States to obtain his bachelor's degree. Richard was so impressed with José that he offered to help José meet his expenses, including transportation to and from Costa Rica, if José studied at Iowa State University. José and his family agreed that he should pursue this opportunity for study in the U. S., in spite of the fact that his father was seriously ill. Accordingly José made the long air journey to Iowa where Richard met him at the airport.

Thus began another long and satisfying friendship on the international level. The Heinrich farm in Costa Rica became a home for the Pohls when they were away from home, and they assisted Richard in many ways in his botanical endeavors in their country. One excellent gift was the use of a jeep.

The Heinrichs also invited the Pohls to social events at their charming ranch house. Many of these events had multi-lingual guests so the conversation often went back and forth from English to Spanish to German to French, depending upon who was present at the time. At one of these social events, Peter and Erika Mitchell were present. Mitchell was a civil engineer from North America who had retired to Costa Rica and built a ranch house with guest quarters near Heredia. In future visits, Marjorie and Richard would be guests of the Mitchells; this friendship continued through the 90's.

Meanwhile José did well at Iowa State, carried three jobs to support himself and still graduated with honors. He received a graduate fellowship from an eastern university which would enable him to receive another degree. But back home José's father died, and he was needed there. He thanked the Pohl's for furnishing him with living quarters while he was a student at Iowa State.

In the seventies, the Pohl children were beginning to "flee the nest." Kathy graduated from Iowa State with a double major in physics and German, and she married Larry McMillin, a doctoral student in earth science. Upon obtaining their degrees, Kathy's was a master's, they moved to Washington, D.C. In time, they would give the Pohls their first grandchild.

Dick, after graduating in psychology from Iowa State, enlisted in the army and served in Vietnam. Upon his discharge, he studied for and received a doctorate in psychology from the University of Minnesota, and he eventually assumed a position as professor of psychology at the Oregon Institute of Technology.

Ann Marie also graduated from Iowa State with a double major

in Spanish and German. Upon graduating she married John Ullman, a metallurgical engineer. Ann and John added two more grandchildren for the Pohls. Ann also received a graduate degree from Akron University in Ohio.

It was a good decade for Marjorie also. She enjoyed life in Ames and her various officerships in clubs and organizations, and she had found employment as a substitute school teacher in several of Story County's high schools. Her book reviews were published in the local newspaper, and her poetry appeared in several publications. However, her aim was something bigger, a novel perhaps.

Richard and Marjorie were finally free to leave Ames and travel. Richard was then in his fifties and in fairly good health.

### Europe at Last

In the spring of 1975, Richard's second book, *Key to the Vascular Plants of Iowa* was published, and later that year he would be named a Distinguished Professor of Sciences and Humanities. This honor pleased him immensely. Thereupon he decided it was time he and Marjorie made a trip to Europe. He had several goals. One wish was to visit parts of Germany from where his ancestors had come. He also wanted to do further botanical study in other locations, but he did promise Marjorie "no collecting."

Together they made plans to pay for a Volkswagon in Ames which they would then pick up in Luxembourg. They traveled in this vehicle throughout France, Germany, Lichtenstein, Denmark, Holland and Belgium.

When in Germany they made contact with a Frau Leinweber of Waldorf (a suburb of Hamburg). Frau Leinweber's husband had been a judge in Hamburg and was a distant cousin of Richard's father. Although her husband was dead, Frau Leinweber invited the Americans to her house, and she introduced Richard to others as "my natural history teacher nephew from America." Her home seemed like a wonderful small castle to the Pohls. Frau Leinweber had furnished her home with oriental rugs, beautifully tiled stoves, bookcases loaded with volumes, and massive wooden furniture above which hung oil paintings. There was a grand piano, and both the kitchen and bathroom had ornate appliances. A widowed cousin living with Frau Leinweber had similar rooms on the 3rd and 4th floors, with a separate entrance.

One disappointment was that the famed Hamburg rhododendron gardens were closed for the summer. Reluctantly the Pohls bid farewell and prepared for their return to the States, leaving their car in Bremen for shipment to Toledo, Ohio where Richard planned to pick it up. The Pohls arrived back in Ames in early September, just as their backyard garden was putting on its annual autumnal show of colors. Richard had designed the garden so that something was always blooming from late March to first frost.

Richard resumed his responsibilities at the university and greeted several new students. One of his first assignments included a fall tour of the prairie near Ames High School (Fig. 8). The prairie, one of the few remaining pieces in Story County, was under the sponsorship of The Nature Conservancy. This prairie was a veritable living botanical museum of what had been original to the area and it also provided a lesson in wildflower recognition.

### The Pammel Biography

One day in 1977 Richard said to his wife, "There is a biography waiting to be written, that of Louis H. Pammel. There is a wealth of material in the library archives section. Why not have a go at it?"

Marjorie's first reaction was that not only was she *not* attracted to such a project, but also that she had no botanical background for reference. But she desperately wanted to succeed as a published author. She thought, why not? Perhaps Richard will help me with the

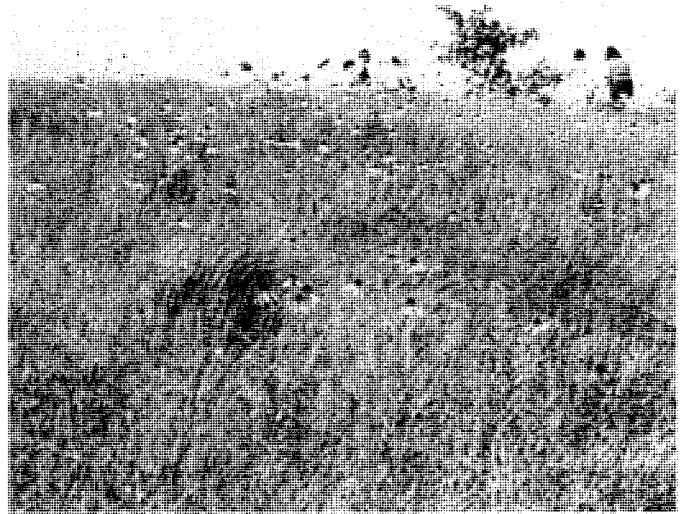


Fig. 8. Ames High School Prairie, 4 July 1967. This prairie was recently designated as a state preserve, and will be dedicated as a memorial to Dr. Pohl.

botanical part. She proceeded down the avenues of biographical research in regard to Pammel's life and became more intrigued as she delved more deeply. This effort did turn out as a published work, for it was accepted for publication by the Iowa Academy of Science, and it appeared in 1985.

Nearing the end of the decade of the seventies in April of 1979, Richard had a mild heart attack, a myocardial infarction. This involved periods of despair for Richard and Marjorie, hospitalization, new medications and recovery time, but he had resolved that he would recover. He felt that the time had not come for his departure from this world, so he became a good patient and made a splendid recovery with no damage evident to his heart, and he continued with all his activities.

### The Later Years: The Eighties

Richard continued with his writing and publishing. His publications in the 1960's numbered 16; 17 more, including a book, were added in the 70's; and another 26 (including another book) appeared in the 1980's (Appendix II). These later years also meant more grass collection activity, which would include eventually 5,000 specimens. By the end of this period, Richard was considered the ranking expert on Central American grasses, which led to his being named Honorary Curator of Grasses at the National Museum of Costa Rica in San José. In 1980, Richard's third book, a treatment of the grasses for the Flora of Costa Rica, was published by the Field Museum of Natural History.

He was not totally in a retirement mood in the early eighties, but he knew the time would come for it when he became 70 years old. He pursued his days with his usual vigor (Fig. 9).

### The Wilton Park Conference

Early in 1983 Dr. Pohl received word from the Dean's office that he had been elected to attend a Wilton Park Conference to be held in Sussex, England that summer. He was thrilled and resolved that Marjorie would also attend. He immediately started making plans as they would be away from Ames for almost a month from September 8 to October 3.

The goal of this prestigious series of conferences, supported by the British government and industry, was to gather international



Fig. 9. Dr. Pohl in a bamboo grove, Caldas, Colombia, August 1981.

experts for discussion of major world problems. Each conference lasted one week, with representatives from many countries in attendance. The sessions took place in Winston House, a 16th century manor house (with 20th century amenities) located about 15 miles from Brighton, in Sussex.

The theme of the conference which the Pohls attended focused on the problems of Central American countries. There were 31 people in all, including two wives of American delegates. Meals and sessions were both held in the luxurious setting of Winston House. Wednesday of that week the conferees were taken by motor car into London to attend a reception at Canning House and a dinner in one of the dining areas of the Houses of Parliament.

When the conference adjourned, the Pohls said goodbye to their new friends and decided to relax at nearby Brighton. They went there by taxi and checked into a bed and breakfast establishment located just a block from the Dover Channel. They also spent a week in London in another bed and breakfast near the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. The herbarium at Kew held 6 million botanical specimens, one of the largest collections in the world, where Richard reviewed their holdings of grasses. The Pohls also took a day off from botanical endeavors to visit Harrod's Department Store and the British Museum. Before leaving, they purchased an oil painting of bamboo by a Chinese artist in London's Green Park.

Within a few months Richard would celebrate his 69th birthday, which meant for him retirement at 70. The Pohls talked it over, and it was decided that after retirement, he would continue as before, including trips to Costa Rica. Marjorie protested, stating that she would like to return to Germany and also make trips to Hawaii and Alaska. Richard smiled, but made no promises. Costa Rica and its grasses were still on his mind.

In early 1985, Richard received word that he had received a Fulbright Teaching Award for use in Medellín, Colombia, at the University of Antioquia. Prior to leaving for Colombia in 1986, the botany department honored Richard with a retirement dinner on May 30, a few days after his 70th birthday. The Pohls' daughters

and husbands and grandchildren, at that time three in number, also attended. In honor of the occasion, it was revealed that Gerrit Davids, a former graduate student and now Curator of Grasses at the Missouri Botanical Garden, had been instrumental in naming a new genus of grass from Panama as *Pohlidium*. Richard was greeted as the "dean" of American agrostology, renowned teacher, renowned specialist in Central American grasses and "valued friend." Also as part of his retirement package, he was named Emeritus Distinguished Professor.

#### MATURATION AND DEATH: THE RETIREMENT YEARS, 1986-1993

In his retirement years, Richard would return with his wife to Costa Rica for more botanizing and collecting. Costa Rica would remain a beautiful botanical haven for him. He later would receive another Fulbright Fellowship to study bamboos at the University of Costa Rica. Besides yearly trips to Central America, he deepened his interest in bamboos. He also served as an expert witness for the identification of marijuana in the courts of law in Iowa, both federal and state. Lawyers recognized his expertise in plant identification and used him in trial procedures. Furthermore in his retirement years, Dr. Pohl remained active botanically as a writer and teacher. He wrote and had published 14 papers and guided six graduate students in the completion of their degrees.

In these later years he came to realize that bamboos were the most versatile and elegant of the grasses. He also believed that they could be quite valuable in construction in many areas of Central and South America where hardwood forests were being rapidly destroyed for the needs of burgeoning populations. Bamboos were also used in certain culinary efforts and for furniture. To his way of thinking, bamboos were also musical. He recorded their sounds as the wind moved through bamboo groves making a "clack-clack" sound with definite rhythms. He made several recordings of bamboo music both on the University of Costa Rica campus and at the University of Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia.

A few months after his retirement festivities, the Pohls were on their way to Medellín, Colombia, where Richard spent three months assisting the botany department at the University of Antioquia in building up its herbarium. He was also called upon to work with their graduate students, teaching in Spanish and making field trips with them.

Living in Colombia was an eye-opening experience for both Richard and Marjorie, and it was rather difficult for the Pohls because Colombians were not fond of North Americans at the time. Local English-speaking people in the department at Antioquia assisted them in adjusting as did a Medellín family whose son had studied at Iowa State. Richard made many field trips to collect grasses, and Marjorie found temporary employment as a teacher of English as a second language in Antioquia's foreign language department. She was given the title "Profesora Marjorie."

During this South American sojourn, the Pohls also enjoyed several months at the University of Caldas, in Manizales. However, in early November they returned to the States to welcome another grandchild, John Richard Ullman, son of their daughter Ann Marie and her husband John.

The following year, 1987, found the Pohls once more in Costa Rica where they were guests in the home of Erika and Peter Mitchell in Heredia. More grasses were collected for the Iowa State herbarium, and bamboo colonies were checked in many areas. Later in 1987, the Pohls visited relatives in Tacoma and attended the wedding of their son Richard to Lynh Nguyen Vanquay in Klamath Falls, Oregon (Fig. 10).

The year 1988 was almost a repeat of 1987. The Pohls were again



Fig. 10. The Pohl family, Klamath Falls, Oregon, June 1987. Seated, left to right: Ann Marie, Richard Jr., and Katharine; standing, Dr. and Mrs. Pohl.

in Costa Rica, and 1989 was another repeat year. Richard had received a Fulbright Grant to lecture in the Department of Agronomy of the University of Costa Rica and to study grasses. For this service he was presented with a large silver platter, inscribed in Spanish, for excellence and abundant work in his investigation of the grasses of Costa Rica.

In mid-December of 1989, after returning from Costa Rica, Richard received another honor in recognition of his devotion to the Botany Department at Iowa State. His colleagues, as well as the university administration, renamed the greenhouse facility in his honor. Henceforth, it would be known as the Richard W. Pohl Conservatory. He had worked to build up this unique rooftop facility as soon as the building had been erected. By 1989, it was divided into 17 individual houses for plant research with 3 temperature zones, and it contained over 800 species of plants, which staff and students found very useful in their pursuit of botanical projects. Richard remarked to Dr. Patricia Swan, vice-provost, who represented the university administration, that he owed most of the "beginnings" of his own interest in greenhouses to his many visits made to the commercial greenhouse of his uncle in Milwaukee. There he picked up much knowledge, even as a child, which he would incorporate in his management of the department greenhouse facility. Richard was deeply honored by this recognition.

The Pohls greeted the decade of the nineties with enthusiasm and

plans for yet another visit to Costa Rica, this time with another Fulbright, to explore the world of bamboos. They were fortunate in obtaining lodging with a faculty family across the street from the university campus. Exciting news reached them announcing the birth of Philipp Pohl, the first child of their son and his wife, their fifth grandchild and fourth grandson.

Early 1991, the Pohls traveled again to Costa Rica, not only to escape the harsh winter in Iowa but also to consult with that country's Bamboo Institute. Richard discussed the possible use of large-sized bamboo logs for house construction in the country's "Homes for the Homeless" project. He pointed out that due to the depletion of the country's hardwood forests over the years that wood for building purposes would in time become scarce and that soon none would be available at all. He also said that it would take time and devotion for bamboo seedlings to grow enough to be used in building and that they should get started as soon as possible.

Richard accompanied the Institute authorities in their quest for a suitable site for their bamboo garden. One was finally found that would provide maximum growth potential for the seedlings; it had both sun and shade with adequate water drainage. Richard instructed them in the planting and cultivation of the seedlings.

Preparations for their fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration occupied the Pohls' spare time in the early months of 1991. They decided that the celebration would be in the nature of a family

reunion for the children and grandchildren who were now located in Oregon, Indiana, and Maryland. Family members and a few close friends gathered for a candlelight supper at a local Ames restaurant on August 15, 1991.

Following the celebration in Ames of their wedding anniversary, the Pohls attended the annual meeting of the American Bamboo Society in Seattle. The society had made financial contributions to his work in Costa Rica on bamboos, and he spoke briefly about his projects in Costa Rica.

Tragedy and the unexpected characterized the remaining two years of Richard's life. In 1992, Richard and Marjorie again traveled to Costa Rica for collecting, checking of bamboo colonies, and enjoying a mild winter. They were again guests of the Mitchells in Heredia, and shortly after their arrival they received a telegram informing them of the birth of their sixth grandchild, Ellie, daughter of their son and his wife.

On the 1992 trip Richard decided to search a new and remote area for his bamboos. This was located off the main highway on the road to Limón, Costa Rica's eastern sea port. Richard parked the jeep and went happily off in his quest. Marjorie always remained in their various vehicles on such missions to await his return, but on this particular day in 1992, he was unduly late in returning. He finally emerged, grinning and holding a new bamboo for her to see. "I found it!" he cried happily. While reaching for this bamboo, he had overreached, possibly, and slipped on some rocks and apparently knocked himself out. He awoke, returned to the jeep, and drove back to the Mitchell's without further ado, but he was experiencing muscular aches, especially in his back.

Within a few days he began experiencing terrible pain and also became disoriented. He didn't know where he was or who he was, but he demanded to be taken to a hospital. The Mitchells took both Richard and Marjorie to the closest hospital, in San José, where extensive examinations were made by local specialists. They claimed nothing was wrong but suggested he return to the States for further tests.

The Mitchells assisted the Pohls in making hasty preparations for their departure. When they arrived at the San José airport and were waiting for their plane, Richard said to Marjorie that his pains were so great that he didn't think he could make the return trip. But with the help of airport personnel and medication, he boarded the plane and fell asleep. Getting through customs at Miami posed additional problems, but once again with the help of airport personnel, Marjorie got through customs, answering as best she could their many queries as to what their shipment of plants included. A friend met them at the Des Moines airport for their return to Ames.

As soon as Richard had rested, he consulted with local physicians who surmised that in his fall he had thrown his vertebrae out of alignment, but because of Richard's age and general condition they decided they could not operate.

In June the Pohls drove to Granger, Indiana to visit their daughter Ann Marie and family. Richard had developed painful sciatica over the previous ten years, although with the help of local doctors he lived comfortably enough so that he could sustain himself in his many interests. In the early months of autumn, however, severe sciatica pains returned. He received new and heavier doses of painkillers and managed to get to Bessey Hall every day to check on his tropical chambers in the university's greenhouses (Fig. 11), but he did not want to give up his yearly trip to Costa Rica.

Practically living on pain medication, Richard decided to visit the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota during the fall of 1992, and he made three visits there to seek advice and help. They too were reluctant to try surgery, but after much consultation they notified Richard by Christmas that they would try and that he should plan to arrive in Rochester in early January 1993 to have a laminectomy

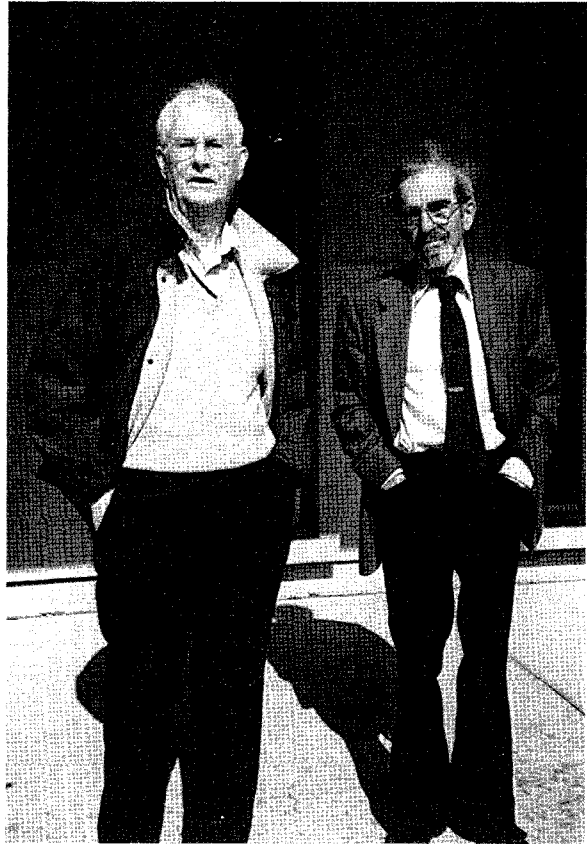


Fig. 11. Dr. Richard W. Pohl and Dr. Duane Isely outside of Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, early 1990's.

(removal of the posterior arch of a vertebra) on his spinal column. With Marjorie by his side, he got through the five hours of surgery with bravery and flying colors. He seemingly had recovered when he suffered a stroke which left him paralyzed on the entire left side of his body. After a month in which he showed no signs of improvement with therapy, Marjorie arranged to have him brought back to central Iowa by ambulance. He would spend the remaining seven months of his life in several hospital facilities in and near Ames, where Marjorie visited him almost daily as did many friends and colleagues, bringing best wishes and even botanical items to capture his attention.

In early September, Richard's physician remarked to Marjorie that her husband was deteriorating. Richard died mid-morning on September 3, 1993, with family members in attendance, just a few months past his 77th birthday.

For his funeral Marjorie chose a passage from Richard's favorite Bible chapter—I Corinthians 13:13, "These are the great three, faith, hope and love, and the greatest of them is love." Memorial services were held at the Collegiate United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 7. A botany department friend, Dr. George Knaphus, eulogized Richard. Richard's daughter Kathy sang a solo, and his son also offered some comments about his father's life.

Dr. Knaphus closed his remarks with a remarkable incident in Richard Pohl's saga. Many times he had looked for one of his bamboo plants to bloom in the departmental greenhouse, but never found one in that state. Dr. Lynn Clark, one of his former graduate students, upon looking at the bamboos in the tropical chambers of the greenhouse, found that one of the native Costa Rican species so loved

by Richard was blooming. As is typical for bamboos, these plants had grown in the vegetative state for many years without ever showing any sign of flowering. But because the plants of this species were nearing the end of their life cycle, all of the individuals of that species came into bloom synchronously, even though separated by thousands of miles from the plants in Costa Rica. The plants, as Dr. Pohl himself, had accomplished their life's tasks and were ready to end their botanical life because after a bamboo blooms, it dies.

Dr. Knapfus concluded his remarks, after summarizing Dr. Pohl's many achievements, honors, etc., by saying, "His record speaks clearly and well. This was a giant in our midst, a man of intellect, curiosity and scholarly drive, Richard W. Pohl" (Fig. 12).

## AUTHOR'S NOTES

### Afterword

This biography has been prepared as a tribute to my beloved husband, Richard W. Pohl. I used no reference books in this writing. I depended on my own deepseated memories and also on his own notes to me. Throughout his last years he prepared a series of autobiographical sketches which I fortunately kept. Therefore, it can be truly stated that this is a joint effort on both our parts.

The author wishes to thank Dennis Anderson, Lynn Clark, and Deborah Lewis, Ada Hayden Herbarium curator, for their generous help and encouragement during the preparation of this manuscript. Also thanks to the Botany Department clerical staff without whose help this biography would never have taken shape.

### An Assessment

Distinguished Professor and botanist Richard W. Pohl gave 46 years of service to his university and to the world (Appendix I). He wrote 79 journal articles, five books, and several abstracts, book reviews, and encyclopedia articles (Appendix II). Richard's fourth and fifth book contributions were published after his death. In the early 1990's he had contributed most of the manuscript for the Family Poaceae for Volume 6 of *Flora Mesoamericana*, a joint venture of the National University of Mexico, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Natural History Museum (London). This was scheduled for publication in 1993, the year of his death. He never saw the final book, but did help with page proofing in this final botanical undertaking. Adding to his posthumous credits, Dr. Pohl, during the closing years of his life, assisted with the revision of Agnes Chase's *First Book of Grasses*, working with his former Ph.D. student, Lynn G. Clark. The book was published in March 1996 by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

He went on 25 field expeditions to Central and South America (Appendix III). As a plant discoverer, his name now appears as author of 24 new species and varieties of grasses (Appendix IV). Five plant taxa, including the genus *Poblidium*, are commemorative, named to especially honor him. Richard W. Pohl was a world-class grass systematist in the eyes of his colleagues. His signature, which appears on so many herbarium sheets, is shown in Figure 13.

Richard Pohl served as major professor for 32 graduate students (Appendix V). They came from many parts of the U.S. as well as from South and Central America to study with him. He took an almost paternalistic interest in each. They saw him as serious, kindly, knowledgeable, and humorous. Many of these graduate students would eventually find positions in various colleges and universities. Four became involved in government and academic administrative positions. Another went on to earn a degree in law. Yet another succeeded him in a professorship at Iowa State.

How did Richard Pohl measure up as a human being? He was a loving and devoted son, husband, father and grandfather. He was a

capable linguist, being fluent in Spanish, French and German. He had well developed skills as a photographer, gardener, artist and poet.

What about his personality? To some he seemed gruff; but to others he was warm and receptive to them and their differing points of view. He was optimistic. He was a diligent worker, regardless of what the task was. He had the drive to go on, in spite of what circumstances seemed to indicate. He was intense in his application to duty and responsibility.

Richard Walter Pohl was a precious human being. He also was a distinguished scientist who made major contributions in his chosen field. The world of nature was truly his to explore, to enjoy, to explain, to teach others about. In one sense there is no death. It seems that the life of a soul on earth lasts beyond his departure from it. He lives on in the lives of all who knew him. Richard Walter Pohl was truly a giant in our midst.

### The Graduate Student Perspective

"I will always have very fond memories of Dr. Pohl, and I continue to be very thankful for the many opportunities he provided which enabled me to pursue a career in tropical botany. I think it is very appropriate that his name will be forever linked to some of the tropical American grasses that he loved so well, namely, *Poblidium petiolatum*, *Chusquea pohlii*, and *Lasiacis rugelii* var. *pohlii*, as well as through some of those that he described and named himself, such as *Aulonemia patriae*, *Pariana parvispica*, and *Poa talamancae*, to cite just a few."

Gerrit Davide, Missouri Botanical Garden (Fig. 7)

and

"Dr. Pohl's plant taxonomy course opened the world of plants to me. No longer were they the faceless green blobs on the landscape, but recognizable, keyable entities. And though my initial tasks at the herbarium were a bit mundane (sacking PDB for herbarium cases and gluing annotation labels on for Gerrit Davide), I progressed to mounting, strapping, filing, and hanging over Judy LaMotte's shoulders as she did illustrations for Dr. Pohl's Costa Rican grasses. . ."

Kay Klier

and

"It seems that whenever a few taxonomists gather, and someone learns you're from Iowa State, the Pohl stories begin. . . The time when James Payne Smith announced he smelled smoke, and Dr. Pohl took off on a dead run to check the herbarium. His fire instructions to me: Grab all the type specimens you can and get out! Mailing popcorn to him in Costa Rica. . . Peanut butter and triscuits, the all-purpose field lunch. . . Lettuce to Pohl was 'expensive water.' The BAMBOOZLED t-shirt. . . , the drunken undergrad who called one night to threaten Dr. Pohl if he didn't pass the course he would 'water the greenhouse Welwitschias.'"

Kay Klier

and

"On my first experience with Dr. Pohl in Latin America, we flew. . . to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. After a very short night, we went back to the airport for the weekly DC-3 flight to the small coastal community of Brus Laguna. The Brus Laguna "airport," which was located one km from town, consisted of a small cleared strip of grass and mud, and a palm-thatched roof supported by four poles. I was shocked to find that the boat that was to take



Fig. 12. Dr. Pohl with students, Horticulture Garden, Iowa State University, 1976. Photo by Susan Smith. Reprinted with permission of the Ames Daily Tribune.

us to the smaller fishing village up the coast was a dugout canoe with a small motor (locally known as a "tuk-tuk"). I was even more shocked when I realized that we were headed out into the breakers of the Atlantic Ocean in this small craft. . .with no more than three or four inches of freeboard, and no lifejackets. . .I was exhausted from our two days of almost continuous travel, and I'm sure that Dr. Pohl was too, but he did not show it. It was a grand experience, and I grew to have an intense admiration for Central America, as well as the mentor who introduced me to the region."

Mark L. Gabel, Black Hills State University

Fig. 13. Dr. Pohl's signature.



## APPENDIX I: PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Membership in professional societies: Botanical Society of America, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, American Institute of Biological Sciences, Iowa Academy of Science, The Nature Conservancy, and International Association of Plant Taxonomists  
 Honorary Societies: Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Zeta  
 Listed: Who's Who in America, American Men and Women of Science  
 MASUA Honor Lecturer: University of Oklahoma, 17 November 1980; University of Nebraska at Omaha, 13 February 1981  
 Local Honor Lecturer: Sigma Xi, Iowa State University, 15 January 1980  
 Participant, Primer Simposio Latinoamericana de Bambú, Manizales, Colombia, 1981  
 Participant, Segundo Simposio Latinoamericana de Bambú, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 1982  
 Participant, Symposium on Mesoamerican Biogeography, Merida, Yucatán, Mexico, October 1984  
 Fulbright Research Grant, Costa Rica, 6 months, 1982  
 Fulbright Teaching Grant, Universidad de Antioquia and Universidad de Caldas, Colombia, 3 months, 1986  
 Lecturer, University of Costa Rica, April 1989  
 Fulbright Research Grant, University of Costa Rica, 1 February–30 April 1990  
 Nonacademic leadership or service since 1970:  
 Research Associate in Botany, Field Museum, Chicago  
 Research Associate in Botany, Milwaukee Public Museum  
 Member of Council, American Soc. Plant Taxonomists, 1965–72  
 President, American Soc. Plant Taxonomists, 1973  
 Honorary Curator of Grasses, National Museum of Costa Rica  
 Awards received for teaching, service, or research:  
 Distinguished Fellow, Iowa Academy of Science, 1982

## APPENDIX II: PUBLICATIONS

## Books

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## APPENDIX III: FIELD TRIPS

Prepared by D. Q. Lewis from Dr. Pohl's collecting notebooks. Localities in parentheses indicate side trips or only minimal collecting.

COLLECTION NOS.	DATES	LOCALITIES
1500-1722, 2260-4292, 4431-4451, 5225-6566	September 1939, May 1940, September-October 1940, April-November 1941, June 1942, April-November 1946	PA (NJ, WI)
1800-2255	May-July 1940	VA, WV, OH, IL, MO, KS, CO, UT, NM, AZ, NV, CA, OR, WA, ID, WY
4300-4430, 4453-5224	September-November 1942, February 1944-September 1945	TX (NM, OK)
6567-7197	August 1947-July 1952	IA (WY, CO, NE, SD, IL, IN, OH)
7198-7284	September 1952-July 1953	CA (OR, NM, TX, KS, NE)
7285-7497, 7680-8082, 8106-8217, 9301-9587, 9684-9752	1957-July 1967	UT, NE, IN, IL, OH, KY, MN, WI, Canada, MI, ME, VT, NY, SD, MT, AZ, CA, OR, ID, WY, VA, NC, PA, MA)
7498-7666, 8100-8105, 9100-9300, 9600-9683, 9800-9820	June 1957, July 1960, April-June 1962, May-June 1964, August 1965	FL (MO, MS, AL, GA, TN, LA, TX, OK, AR, SC, NC)
9800-9841, 9900-10392	April 1966, June-August 1966	Costa Rica (with C. Calderón)
10393-10429	September 1966-May 1967	IA, MO, AR, OK
10500-11793	June 1968-April 1969	Costa Rica (with G. Davidse)
11794-11799, 12465-12478, 12546-12559, 12775-12779, 12800	August-September 1970, June 1971, September-October 1971	
11800-11821, 12461-12464	May-June, August 1970	Mexico (TX) (with Gerrit Davidse)
11822-11907	June 1970	El Salvador
11908-12190, 12379-12460	June-July 1970	Honduras
12191-12378	July 1970	Nicaragua
12480-12536	November 1970	Honduras
12537-12545	November-December 1970	Costa Rica
12560-12593	July 1971	El Salvador (with Larry Erickson)
12594-12615, 12716-12770	July & August 1971	Honduras
12616-12621, 12674-12715	July & August 1971	Nicaragua
12622-12673	July 1971	Costa Rica
12780-12799	April 1972	Costa Rica
12810-12968	May-June 1973	Costa Rica
12970-12989, 13160-13180, 13308-13313, 13667-13668, 13871-13911	August-October 1973, June-October 1974, August 1975, September 1976-November 1977, September 1978, March 1979-February 1980	IA, CO, WI, OR, KS, MO, FL (IL)
12990-13156	December 1974-January 1975	Costa Rica (with M. Lucas)
13181-13307	June 1976	Costa Rica (with R. Pinette)
13320-13538	December 1977-January 1978	Honduras (with M. Gabel)
13545-13580	May-June 1978	Costa Rica (with M. Gabel)
13581-13666	June 1978	El Salvador
13670-13736	December 1978	Costa Rica (with M. Gabel)
13737-13870	December 1978-January 1979	Honduras
13912-13934	May-June 1980	Costa Rica (with Lynn Clark)
13935-14022	June 1980	Honduras
14023-14035, 14043-14050, 14056-14057, 14500-14510	July 1980, February-October 1981, June-September 1983	IA, CA, OR, WA (OK)
14035-14042	March 1981	Mexico
14051-14055	August 1981	Colombia
14060-14209	June-November 1982	Costa Rica
14511-14523	September 1983	England
14524-14540, 14628-14632, 15623-15649, 15664-15668	October 1983-July 1984, July 1985-April 1986, February-December 1987, August 1988-January 1989	IA, AZ, MN (WI), OR, WA, CA

## APPENDIX III: Continued.

COLLECTION NOS.	DATES	LOCALITIES
14541-14575	October-November 1984	Mexico
14577-14627	December 1984-January 1985	Costa Rica (with Lynn Clark)
15363-15622	August-October 1986	Colombia
15650-15663	January 1988	Costa Rica
15669-15694	January-February 1989	Costa Rica
15697-15703	April 1989	Costa Rica
15705-15771	January-April 1990	Costa Rica
15773-15794	January-February 1991	Costa Rica
15797-15807	January-February 1992	Costa Rica

## APPENDIX IV: SPECIES NAMED BY OR FOR RICHARD W. POHL

This list of taxa named for or by Dr. Pohl is all grasses except *Rubus pohlii* L. H. Bailey, which is in the rose family.

## Commemorative Taxa

- Chusquea pohlii* L. G. Clark, Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 72:866. 1985.  
*Lasiacis rugelii* (Griseb.) Hitchc. var. *pohlii* Davidse, Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 64:375. 1978.  
*Nassella pohlii* J.R. Thomasson, Kansas Geological Survey Bulletin 218. 1979.  
*Pohlidium* Davidse, Soderstr. & Ellis, Systematic Botany 11:131. 1986.  
*Rubus pohlii* L. H. Bailey, Gentes Herbarum 7:3, 279. 1947.

## Taxa Authored by Pohl

- Andropogon gerardii* var. *hondurensis* R. Pohl, Novon 2:108. 1992.  
*Arthrostylidium merostachyoides* R. Pohl, Novon 2:83. 1992.  
*Aulonemia clarkiae* Davidse & Pohl, Novon 2:84. 1992.  
*Aulonemia patriae* R. Pohl, Fieldiana (Botany), n. s. 4:68. 1980.  
*Digitaria breedlovei* R. Pohl & Davidse, Novon 2:106. 1992.  
*Digitaria clavitricha* R. Pohl, Novon 2:108. 1992.  
*Digitaria costaricensis* R. Pohl, Fieldiana (Botany) 38:5. 1976.

- Eragrostis hondurensis* R. Pohl, Iowa State Journal of Research 54: 319. 1980.  
*Guadua macclurei* R. Pohl & Davidse, Novon 2:92. 1992.  
*Merostachys latifolia* R. Pohl, Novon 2:88. 1992.  
*Muhlenbergia bushii* R. Pohl, American Midland Naturalist 82:534. 1969.  
*Pariana parvispica* R. Pohl, Iowa State Journal of Research 47:73. 1972.  
*Paspalum turriforme* R. Pohl, Fieldiana (Botany) n.s. 4:455. 1980.  
*Paspalum uyucensis* R. Pohl, Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 73:501. 1986.  
*Pennisetum tempisqueense* R. Pohl, Fieldiana (Botany) 38:6. 1976.  
*Pereilema diandrum* R. Pohl, Novon 2:102. 1992.  
*Poa chirripoensis* R. Pohl, Fieldiana (Botany) 38:10. 1976.  
*Poa talamancae* R. Pohl, Fieldiana (Botany) 38:8. 1976.  
*Rhipidocladum clarkiae* R. Pohl, Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 72:272. 1985.  
*Rhipidocladum martinezii* Davidse & R. Pohl, Novon 2:90. 1992.  
*Rhipidocladum pacuarensis* R. Pohl, Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 72:273. 1985.  
*Rhipidocladum panamense* R. Pohl, Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 72:275. 1985.  
*Sporobolus distichovaginatus* R. Pohl, Novon 2:325. 1992.  
*Triplasis purpurea* (Walt.) Chapm. var. *caribensis* R. Pohl, Iowa State Journal of Research 7:76. 1972.

## APPENDIX V: GRADUATE STUDENTS (1950–1989)

Ph.D.	Yr./Degree	M.S.	Yr./Degree
Charles L. Gilly	1950	Shirley Sparling	1951
David G. Mobberley	1953	Paul Monson	1952
Paul Monson	1959	Dennis Anderson	1958
Dennis Anderson	1960	Gladys Santos	1968
Donald DeLisle	1962	John F. Jebens	1971
William W. Mitchell	1962	Steven B. Selva	1974
Grant L. Pyrah	1962	Margarita S. Mondrus	1977
James R. Watson, Jr.	1963	Mark A. Lucas	1978
Kimball S. Erdman	1964	Ying Yong Paisooksantivatana	1978
Michael D. Lelong	1965	Robert J. Pinette	1979
Robert W. Freckman	1967	Mark L. Gabel	1979
James Payne Smith, Jr.	1968	Clarence Mertins	1979
Charlotte Ann Schwab	1972	Flavia D. Escalona	1981
Gerrit Davidse	1973	Beatriz M. Garófalo	1988
Joseph R. Thomasson	1976		
Mark L. Gabel	1982		
Lynn G. Clark	1986		
Patricia D. Dávila A.	1988		
Flavia D. Escalona	1988		
Kay E. Klier	1988		
David N. Smirh	1988		
Timothy J. Killeen	1989		