

pear in periodicals and in book form. His *Life Histories of Manitoba Mammals* was published by him as Naturalist for the Province. The writings were well received and he was able to purchase a nice estate near Greenwich, Conn., U.S.A. where he set up his collections of sketches, paintings, skins and photographs. From here he ranged over the continent, his travels including a long trip to Aylmer Lake north of the Peace River country. He also made another visit to Saskatchewan with respect to the conservation of the antelope and of wild life in general.

As a raconteur he was unexcelled and his lectures were always well attended. Perhaps one remembered most the personal anecdotes which

he used to illustrate some natural law that he had learned or some gem of information which he had collected in his travels.

Some of his contemporaries endeavoured to say that he was merely a writer of nursery stories but the publication of his *Life Histories* silenced his critics and brought him great acclaim.

Seton always called himself an artist naturalist. As an artist he received his training in England and France, as a naturalist his basic training in Canada. He never failed to mention how kind the west had been to him in material.

He died at Seton Village near Santa Fe, on the last ramparts of the Rockies where the Buffalo wind was always blowing.

## An Interesting and Beautiful Native Plant

By W. C. McCALLA, Calgary

On August 10th 1923 I was botanizing in the Lethbridge area, and in tramping up and down the steep slopes I saw a plant new to me. The large white flower buds, 2 inches long, caught the eye first, then, in strong contrast, the harsh foliage very rough to the touch and clinging to one's clothes quite readily. Several times during the day I came across this same species but saw no open flowers.

After an early dinner I went back and saw to my delight that the splendid flowers were beginning to open showing the numerous yellow stamens. As I watched, the flowers continued to expand until some of them were  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches across. The light was failing and I wanted a close-up photograph of the flowers, one that would record in proper tone the yellow stamens, and in those days that meant using a filter thus lengthening the exposure—and the wind was blowing!

I selected and cut off a good flowering stem, put it into my collecting case and hurried to my hotel room. The flowers came out of the case in perfect condition. I placed the stem near the window with a grey card as a background, consulted the

light meter, and gave an exposure of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, F16, Isos 2 filter Com. Ortho film. Such a long exposure might make the eyebrows of some of my readers go up now that fast panchromatic film and flash bulbs are common place. The accompanying illustration is reproduced from the photograph taken that evening.

I am writing of course of *Menzelium decapetala* (Pursh) Urban & Gilg. Of its common names Evening Star is most appropriate as the flowers open only in the evening. From my limited experience I cannot give exact times but they seem to start open about 6 p.m. and to close at 7 p.m. or earlier.

As I have found them the petals are almost white with only a faint suggestion of cream colour. In spite of careful handling mine turned brown in the press.

A good description of this plant is given in A. C. Budd's *Flora of the Canadian Prairies*.

Gray's Manual, 8th edition, gives its range as "N. W. Ia. to Sask. Alta., to Okla., Tex. and Nev." In Canada it is found across the southern part of the prairies but it is not common.





Photo by W. C. McCalla

**EVENING STAR**

*Mentzelia decapetala* (Pursh) Urban and Gilg ( $\frac{3}{5}$  nat. size)