

"STUMP" FROGS

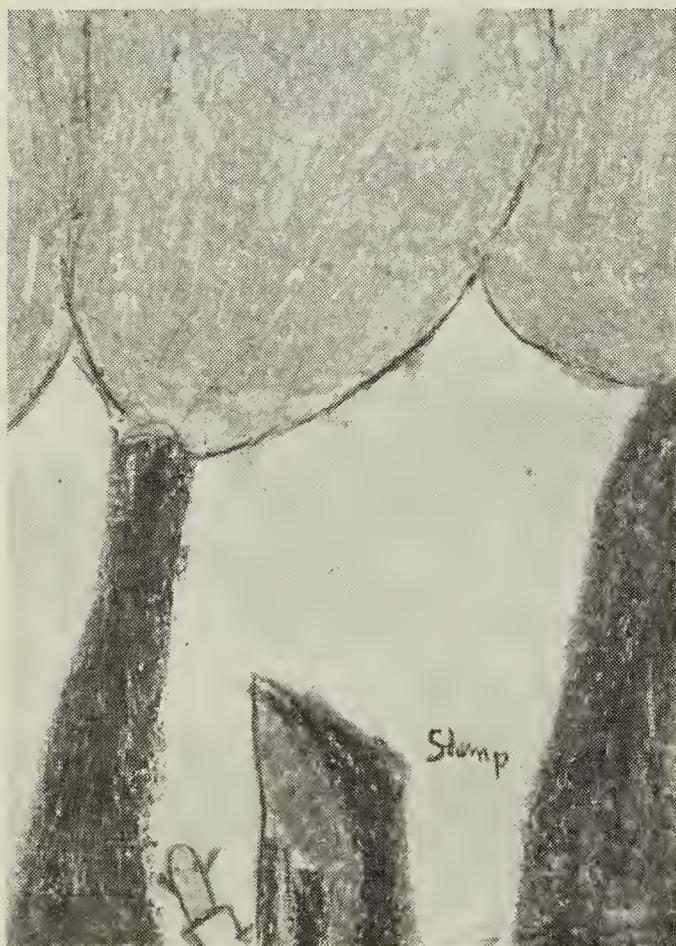
by **Douglas Cross**, age 7,
Hazel Valley School

One afternoon this fall our teacher took us on a nature science hike on September 17. We found this old tree stump that looked like an ant hill. I kicked it and it was rotten and full of ant tunnels. Then a frog hopped out. We caught it and we started to dig. We found four that day.

The next day we boys went back. We took the hatchet and chopped and dug. We found twenty-three more frogs. All told we got twenty-seven frogs. We brought them back to school and then we let them go in a muddy slough.

We wondered if these frogs were getting ready to hibernate in the tunnels of the stump. There was no water near. The stump was very wet inside. Some frogs were green and some brown. They were all the same size, about two inches long. There were only a few ants. We wondered if the frogs had eaten the rest.

Editor's Note: Douglas has raised some interesting questions. Perhaps some of our readers can enlighten him further.



"STUMP" FROG

Drawing by **Brad Lawrence**, grade 2,
Hazel Valley School

THREE-FLOWERED AVENS OBSERVATIONS 1964

Note—The following is part of Brian Irving's entry in the plant study contest.

When I found this plant it was the only green thing near. On April 28 the snow had just gone on the old road allowance and since this plant is a perennial it was green when most other plants had not come up. This particular clump was approximately two feet square and most of the leaves were about two inches long. They were still rather curled up and one was just starting to show.

By the fifth, the one that was starting on the earlier visit had grown larger and another had started. On May 10 one more had matured and one had been broken or bitten off, possibly by a Richardson's Ground Squirrel. During the following week the flowering stems had shown up. There were two of them, each having three buds, although one was farther advanced than the other. Soon the former one was almost out, then it froze on June 1. It took a few days to reveal the damage but the flowers never opened. These stems remained standing until between the 22nd and 27th of June when they finally broke off.

On the 17th of June it had eleven leaves in good condition and one dried and brownish. After this it didn't gain much foliage since old leaves died as new ones came. During this time I noticed the leaves seemed to come in twos and threes. Over a period of 44 days 16 new leaves developed.

Before I made this survey I thought that the same leaves stayed on the plant throughout the entire season but I found this is not so.

This plant was growing on the roadside. When the wind was from the west a thin layer of dust was blown on the plant. All parts of the plant were covered with sticky hairs. This hair would catch and hold the dust and I thought possibly this would hinder the breathing of the plant.

On my last visit on September 5 the foliage had decreased with only a few small leaves showing.