

UNUSUAL BLACK-EYED SUSAN

by A. J. Hruska, Gerald, Sask.

In September, 1962, I was informed of an unusual Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta* L., growing in our district in a location soon to be torn up by bulldozers. I checked the plant, dug it up and planted it in the garden for further observation next year.

Britton and Brown in their **Illustrated flora of the Northern States and Canada** (1952), say that this species is sparingly branched and that the rays are rarely darker at the base. Gray's **Manual of Botany** (Fernald, 1950) states that this plant is single-stemmed or branched near the base. The plant we found, with two flowers, the second inflorescence branching off about one-third of the way up the main stem, seems thus to be an unusual aberrant. As seen in the sketch, both the flowers had the same extensive and dark pigmentation on the basal part of their petals which covered about one-third of the petal. We had never seen this branching or such extensive and dark petal coloring.



LATE FALL FLOWERING OF SUMMER SPECIES

by Bill Richards, Saskatoon

Moisture conditions and the late, open fall of 1962 prompted some of our local flora to resume blooming. The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix carried several reports of crocuses in bloom and even lilacs in the city got the urge to put on a full show. There have been many local reports of pussy willows. On October 2, 1962, in a dry pasture bordering Eagle Creek (a few miles east of Kinley) I found several Moss Phlox in bloom as well as one Western Wall-flower. About a week later in the river bank area north of Beaver Creek (up river from Saskatoon) I found a beautiful Harebell in flower. Dandelions in the railway yard were still blooming up to the snow fall in mid-November.

S.N.H.S. RESEARCH GRANTS FUND

A small fund has been established to assist students and amateur members of the Society to do research in Saskatchewan. Awards up to a maximum of \$100.00 will be available each year. This money may be divided, and awards made to one or more persons. Persons interested should write immediately for an application form; applications must be submitted by May 1. Awards will be announced at the June meeting.

To qualify for assistance you must be a member of the Society, making observations in Saskatchewan. Assistance may be given for travel, maintenance, films or other equipment used in conjunction with a project. Sample projects — (1) collecting, mounting and classifying plants; (2) observations of a species of bird or family of birds to determine feeding habits, incubation periods, nesting habits, etc.; (3) collecting and preparing small mammals; (4) collecting, preparing and classifying butterflies or moths. The project must contribute to our knowledge of natural history.

The successful applicant will write up his study and submit it to be considered for publication in the **Blue Jay**. Only work not previously published is acceptable.

Write for application forms to S.N.H.S. Research Grants Fund, c/o E. L. Fox, 3455 Rae St., Regina, Sas