

Aan de Malilans,

K'ham 19 Augustus 1985  
afte wel 45 jaar + 1 dag.

Dulays, lieke botanici, knipte ik het bijge-  
sloten artikel uit over de Venus Fly Trap  
om jullie wat achtergrond informatie te  
verschaffen. Jammer vind ik dat de  
mens etende plant echt niet schijnt te bestaan  
volgens het artikel. Het merendeel van  
de mensen zijn planten omdat ze planten  
hebben met de planten dat ze niet eten.  
Ze vreten, ze worden gemanipteerd.  
Deze (mens) planten maken wel mensen  
dood maar eten ze niet op.

Ook staat er in dat <sup>artikel</sup> "one essential ingredient  
to keep the plants alive is a type of moss  
called Sphagnum. Our Sphagnum is  
 aardappelen? En mocht je het willen  
lebenspreken wat is dan jullie essential  
ingredient to keep you alive?

Ook wil jullie nog eens bedanken voor alle  
goede jare te gelegenheid van mijn jaardag.  
Voordat de ene mens een ander iets preeft, moet  
er een aanleiding zijn. Zo'n aanleiding in  
sociaal/mantschappelijk verkeer is de jaardag.

Ik zelf heb als motief om alleen dan te  
leven



wanneer ik iemand anders er. . . blij mee  
kan maken en dat moeten dan ook momenten  
zijn dat het mij kan verrijkt. (in heren  
aan de spontaniteit).

Ik las eens het aforisme: Bij de geboorte  
krijgt een ieder levenslang. Een paardag  
heeft voor mij aan dat mijn levenslang  
ten minste 45 jaar is geweest.

Mijn familie liet gewend aan het viere-  
van mijn paardag, kon hun programma  
niet meer aanpassen, toen ik plotseling  
aankondigde het dit jaar wel te viere.  
Hun "act of presence" werd gekenmerkt  
door hun afwezigheid.

Ik hoop dat jullie kunnen hebben  
zelf ook

Die avond en je niet alleen door jullie  
aanwezigheid in dienst gesteld van (en  
daarvoor meer luister tot avond bijzet  
hebben) — de prijs

weet je wat? Als Hendrik Jan  
45<sup>\*</sup> wordt, zal ik die avond er  
ook zijn.

Veel liefs + praten  
van de ex-prijs-  
Cadeu

\* H.J. is een jaar ouder  
dan Gaeje. Op 19 nov 1985  
werd H.J. 46 jaar.



# 2 Brothers Snared by Venus's-Flytrap

By Charles Hillinger  
Los Angeles Times Service

**G**REEN SWAMP, North Carolina — The two brothers gingerly made their way through the forest of moss-covered trees and dense underbrush, shrubs and wild plants, alert for rattlesnakes, water moccasins, copperheads, alligators and patches of squishy marsh.

They were covered with ticks, buzzed by testy flies and mosquitoes. An alligator surfaced nearby, then disappeared.

But Stanley (Fly Trap) Rehder, 63, and his brother, Henry, 74, did not mind. They enjoy the hostile environment.

They get out in it as often as they can, as they have ever since they were small boys taken into the woods and swamps of North Carolina by their father.

Stanley is a leading authority on the Venus's-flytrap, a plant that Charles Darwin described as the most unusual he had ever encountered.

The only place Venus's-flytraps grow naturally is on the edge of swamps within a radius of 100 miles (160 kilometers) of Wilmington, North Carolina.

He believes he has the only personalized license plate in the country that says FLY TRAP. "I don't know why anyone else would want it," said his brother.

Henry is known by botanists for his work with pitcher plants, a carnivorous plant of the family *Sarraceniacae*. One of the insect-eating plants he discovered and identified carries his name — *Sarracenia rehderi*.

There are five families of carnivorous plants, so called because the plants trap and digest insects and small animals such as frogs and lizards. The other three carnivorous plants are sundews, butterworts and bladderworts.

The widest selection of these rare and unusual plants in the United States is in the swamps of Wilmington.

"Science writers have written many stories over the years about man-eating plants in places like the Philippines killing and swallowing humans. Not true," Stanley said. "But my father took a picture of a Venus's-flytrap in the Green Swamp eating a frog, that appeared in Life magazine years ago. And that was true."



Henry Rehder (left) and his brother, Stanley, in a field of insect-eating pitcher plants. Inset: Venus's-flytrap.

The 14,000-acre (5,650-hectare) Green Swamp, 20 miles west of Wilmington, is protected as a sanctuary for black bears and carnivorous plants. Venus's-flytraps harvested on the edge of the swamps are sold throughout the world. "You can buy them in stores all across America," Stanley said. "It's really a shame. There's a danger of overharvesting flytraps. They were on the endangered species list until 1979." He is urging the North Carolina legislature to get the plants back on the list.

There is some element in the local soil that is essential for the growth of the plants and, so far, it

has been impossible to transplant them. One essential ingredient to keep the plants alive is a type of moss called *Sphagnum*, said Stanley. When he goes into the swamps to locate and study the Venus's-flytraps in their native habitat he looks for *Sphagnum*.

"One rather exotic explanation as to why flytraps are found here and nowhere else is that millions of years ago this part of the country was hit by a meteorite shower," Stanley observed. "Some believe the plants originated in outer space. After all, they are named after a planet."

Stanley led his brother to a lush garden of Venus's-flytraps. In

June the plants blossom, with a cluster of small white flowers at the tip of an erect stem 8 to 12 inches tall (20 to 30 centimeters). Each leaf on the flytrap has two jaw-like lobes hinged along a midline. The tops of the lobes are covered with teeth that mesh when closed. On each lobe are three super-sensitive hairs. When two of the hairs are brushed by a moving insect, the leaf snaps, trapping its prey.

For 24 to 36 hours, the glands on the leaf secrete red sap that digests the protein from the body. Then the lobes open again, waiting for the next meal.

Within minutes the two men came upon hundreds of hollow tubular leaves shaped like trumpets growing out of the swamp. These were pitcher plants, revered and studied for 65 years by Henry Rehder.

"Smell them," he instructed. "Detect the sweet aroma? Note the bright colors. The aroma and color is designed to attract nectar-seeking insects. Once inside the mouth of the pitcher plant, the insects plunge into the throat, which contains thousands of tiny hairs, all pointed downward. The insects struggle for freedom, but there is no escape. And at the bottom is a well of liquid substance, a mixture of digestive enzymes and rainwater, where protein from the insects is consumed."

Henry operates a florist shop in Wilmington founded by the brothers' great-grandmother, Johanna Rehder, in 1860. Their father, Will Rehder, spent his lifetime studying the strange plants growing in or near the local swamps.

The two sons give lectures to horticultural societies, universities and other groups, and work closely with scientists.

Stanley was a partner in the family business for 30 years. Now he is a Wilmington realtor. He was one of 800 survivors on the troop transport *Leopoldville*, carrying American soldiers from England to France on Christmas Eve, 1944; half the troops drowned when the ship was sunk by a Nazi sub. Henry is famous in Wilmington for his homemade pickled figs as well as for his work with pitcher plants.