

Thru.

National City Cal.

Mr. Frank P. Allen Jr.

Aug 12th 1913.

Director of Parks:

Dear Sir:

I received your note of Aug. 7th asking about the Snow Plant. I have never seen it growing. My brother said he found it under pine trees, in the shade, the snow was gone then, but there had been snow there. The altitude of Idlevild is about 5,500 ft. As he only collected it in passing, he could not give me any idea of its time of growing, he said there were several small ones near the one he got (only a few inches ^{out} of the ground.)

I have been interested in transplanting Cal. wild flowers and had good success in growing them. when I can find useful or interesting items have clipped them. I looked through my box of Botanical clippings and find these items in regard to the

Snow Plant.

"Of Cal. wild flowers the most curious of all is the snow plant. It grows only in the high mountains, in the edge of a bank of melting snow. It does not look like a plant at all, has neither stalk or leaves, as called. The whole plant is bright blood red, and looks like a long slim horn set up on end. The leaves are mere scales on the plant, and the blossoms are little bells set in rows up and down the plant.

In an article (written by Prof. Edward ^(Mrs E. H. King, Royalty) Green of the University of California) explaining why the Eschscholtzia was chosen as California's State Flower I read. "The snow plant of the Sierra - stem, leaves, flowers and all of the richest crimson - is peculiar to California and the subject of universal and unbounded admiration. But the State flower must be that of a plant more generally disseminated throughout our commonwealth, more conspicuous in a word, and more popular than any of these

The sarcodes or snow plant gorgeously beautiful though it be, is limited to the woods of the upper Sierras, where in its native vigor and freshness, perhaps not more than one in a thousand ~~of us~~ ^{among us} will ever behold it. And it steadily refuses to be cultivated; moreover, it is after all only a splendid parasite, and California is not a parasitic State."

I remember reading that it had been cultivated (but I did not have the right to cut it out, so can not give information about it). If I am not mistaken it was at some greenhouse in San Francisco. I understand there is a law made against taking it from Yosemite, so thinking it rare I thought of sending you the seeds.

Yours respectfully
Laura F. Kimball

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San Diego Co.
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P. O. Box 12,