

from the laboratory, but an annual report giving full summaries of work carried on at the Station is prepared. Copies of these reports may be borrowed for a limited time on request to the Department of Zoology.

The Station can be reached only by car over a graveled forestry road 20 miles from

the nearest town, Turner Valley, Alberta. The nearest airport and main line railway station are at Calgary. Addresses: May to September—Alberta Biological Station, Turner Valley, Alberta. October to April—Alberta Biological Station, Department of Zoology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.



William Chambers Coker Building of Highlands Biological Station

### THE HIGHLANDS BIOLOGICAL STATION, INC.

THELMA HOWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The parent organization of the Highlands Biological Station, Inc., was the Highlands Museum of Natural History, founded August 14, 1927, by a group of laymen. Prompted by a number of biologists from the southeastern part of the United States who had suffered from the lack of a biological station in the area, the Founders saw the magnificent opportunity for the establishment of a biological station in the Southern Appalachians. On recommendation of fifteen scientists, representing thirteen important institutions, the organization was incorporated on July 21, 1930, as the Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory. On September 30, 1949, the charter of the corporation was amended and the name of the organiza-

tion changed to the Highlands Biological Station.

The primary objective was to provide a regional research station where competent investigators may be brought together in mutually helpful relations. The emphasis at the Station has always been on research.

The corporate powers of the Station are vested in a Board of Trustees. An Executive Committee of seven members acts for the Board of Trustees in the formulation and execution of plans and policies approved by the Board.

A new research laboratory, made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation, was completed in May 1958, and named for the late distinguished botanist, William Chambers Coker, a former

corporation president and director of the laboratory. The Coker building contains research cubicles for 18 investigators; the Reinke Library, named for the late Edwin E. Reinke, first director of the laboratory; executive offices; storeroom; and photographic darkroom. Central heating permits use of the building throughout the year.

The original research laboratory, built in 1931 and named the Sam T. Weyman Building, was remodeled in 1958 and converted into a dining hall-kitchen. The dining hall seats 50 people, and is operated from June 1-August 31.

Four cottages are available for housing.

The Highlands Biological Station is in the southern section of the Blue Ridge Province, commonly called the Southern Appalachians. The region is one of great antiquity, for the Appalachians represent an ancient land mass repeatedly raised into mountains and continuously eroded before the newer Appalachians were born. While other areas of the continent were glaciated, submerged, and exposed to great climatic changes, the Southern Appalachians offered a refuge for many species of plants and animals.

Important studies have been made in several areas of the Southern Appalachians, notably in the Great Smoky Mountains, to (a) determine patterns of forest distribution, (b) look for clues to the question of how forests developed, and (c) study the animal communities and associations and account for their distribution. Although biologists have long known that phyto-geographically important relict populations of liverworts and mosses and vascular plants were present in the gorges of the southeastern escarpment of the Blue Ridge Mountains, no extensive studies have been made to determine the role of a headwater escarpment complex in regional animal and plant distribution.

Near the Highlands area, the southeastern region of the Blue Ridge escarpment (located in southern Transylvania, Jackson, and Macon Counties, North Carolina, and northern Pickens and Oconee Counties, South Carolina) offers a unique area

for the study of the distinctive nature of a whole complex of gorges. The gorges constitute an altitudinal transition between the flora and fauna of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain provinces on the one hand and the mountains on the other. A study of the ecology of these gorges is currently supported by an NSF grant.

The program consists of studies involving two phases, the first being inventory and descriptive and the second analytical and experimental. In addition to floral and faunal surveys, the research to date has included studies of significant marginal, transitional, and isolated populations.

The research program in the gorges provides support for independent investigators, both post-doctoral and pre-doctoral, whose research programs are concerned with the biota of the gorge areas and which require the facilities of the Highlands Biological Station as a base of operations.

In addition to the research program in the gorges, the National Science Foundation has made it possible for the Station to support other research projects of independent investigators.

Institutions and agencies which render financial support to the Highlands Biological Station are: Champion Paper and Fibre Company, Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Asheville, Duke University, Emory University, Florida State University, National Science Foundation, North Carolina State College, State of North Carolina, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina, University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, Wesleyan College (Georgia), and the Wm. C. Brown Company.

US Highway #64 passes through the town of Highlands. The nearest train service is Seneca, South Carolina; nearest bus service Franklin, North Carolina; nearest airports Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina.

Requests for use of the facilities, for grants and for information should be addressed to the Executive Director, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands, North Carolina.