



JOHN CARL HOPFINGER (1888 - 1961)

June 7, 1961, marked the end of the road for one of America's best known collectors, JOHN HOPFINGER of Brewster, Washington. He was born March 30, 1888, at Kastin, Austria, and came to the United States in 1906. Here he worked at various jobs until 1910 when he made his way along a pioneer wagon road to Brewster, the town he was to know as home for his remaining 51 years. In the year 1916 he did go to Texas for five years. While there he met and married MARY STEINMEYER. The couple returned in 1921 to Brewster, where they have since resided without interruption. During JOHN's lifetime as a resident of Brewster he was in the orchard business, and also worked as a carpenter. In the more recent years of his life he built a new Cape Cod home, which with the aid of his wife's "green thumb" was one of the loveliest homes in the area. Because he was so well known, and because people were always calling to see his collection, he converted his double garage into a private museum in which was housed not only his butterfly collection, but also his geological specimens, for he was also in later years, an avid "rock hound". He also acquired a stamp collection of goodly size.

For the present, Mrs. HOPFINGER intends to retain the Lepidoptera collection, of about 20,000 specimens, and museum intact. A specialty is the *Erebia* section, with 900 specimens from Eurasia and North America.

HOPFINGER started collecting butterflies as a small boy and was one of the greatest of what is sometimes referred to as the "old school". He collected butterflies because of his love of them, and not usually for some scientific purpose. However, he was never too busy to collect specific groups for the specialist or scientist, or to help some tyro collector on his way with a gift of a couple hundred specimens. The amount of material in private collections, as well as museums and other scientific institutions, collected by this man is amazing. With his demise not only did lepidopterology lose a champion, but serious collectors and collections in all parts of the world lost one of the most prolific sources of North American specimens. Anyone expressing a desire for something in particular could be assured that he would do his level best to obtain it. With approximately 50 years of collecting at the edge of the little known Cascade Range, and his many field observations, it was small wonder that his stature as a field collector was so great, or that his contributions were so many and varied. Perhaps his most famous record is his 1956 capture of the only known U.S. specimens of *Boloria astarte*. He was also the first collector to take *Ceneis beani* in the U.S.A. Specialists, seeking to pay homage to his collecting prowess, have honored him by naming many species and subspecies in his honor. Among these are *Erebia epipsodea hopfingeri* (Ehrlich) and *Euphydryas anicia hopfingeri* (Gunder).

Not only do my personal recollections of JOHN include thirty-odd years of correspondence and fruitful exchanges, but also memorable visits to the HOPFINGER household; once with a fever of 103° and a severe case of tonsillitis; once when I mentioned that I had never had my fill of Bing Cherries so he took a 3 gallon pail and we went across the road and picked enough that I could never make the same claim again; and the most memorable of all, the 27th of June 1943! On that day JOHN and his wife MARY took my wife and me collecting on Gold Creek near the site of a former C.C.C. camp. Here a broken irrigation ditch had spilled some water unto a large, flat, sandy area. *Papilio* had congregated here by the hundreds, or maybe even thousands. While our wives rested comfortably in the shade of nearby trees and operated the cyanide jars, JOHN and I cautiously circled the sipping *Papilio* and as they arose in what at times was a virtual cloud, selected the ones we most desired, netted them and returned to the ladies and the cyanide jars. By the time the netted specimens were cared for, the disturbed butterflies would

be settled and we would repeat the process, until we had all that we wanted. Never had either of us seen such a sight, either before or after that, and I never expect to again.

Surviving JOHN HOPFINGER are his widow, MARY, of Brewster, two daughters, BARBARA SHORT of Grand Junction, Colorado, and BETTY CORNELIOUS of Aurora, Colorado, and four grandchildren.

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### ON LOCALITIES OF HOPFINGER SPECIMENS

Among the several institutions for which JOHN C. HOPFINGER collected large research series of Lepidoptera is the Peabody Museum of Yale University. A few years ago I called Mr. HOPFINGER's attention to the fact that he has used the locality "Brewster" on very many specimens which my own experience in the field as his guest made me certain were actually taken at much higher altitudes. It turned out that, like many collectors, he had regularly used the nearest town to his home as the locality for specimens taken anywhere near. He provided me with a checklist of the butterfly species of his area, with notes on the true localities. We have used it to correct the data labels on many of our HOPFINGER specimens.

The purpose of this note is to record the fact that "Brewster, Washington" on HOPFINGER material should be construed to mean "Brewster, Washington, region". Brewster, HOPFINGER's postal address, is a small town on the north bank of the Columbia River in southern Okanagan County. The HOPFINGER home tract is on the south bank a few miles eastward. This is an arid locality with few native trees and with *Artemisia dracunculoides* abundant (the food of the hundreds of *Papilio oregonia* taken by HOPFINGER over the years). The following is HOPFINGER's list of his principal collecting localities in Okanagan County, with elevations above sea level:

Brewster, 900'	Hart's Pass, 6,197'
Black Canyon, approx. 1,200'	Tiffany Lake, approx. 7,000'
Alta Lake, 1,210'	Crater Lake, approx. 7,000'
Camp Gilbert, 3,527'	Slate Peak, 7,480'
Salmon Meadows, 5,400'	Cooney Mt., 8,200'
Twisp Pass, 6,066'	Tiffany Mt., 8,275'