“This satisfying pursuit”

Martha Crone

and the Wild Flower Garden

Gary D. Bebeau
The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden
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Minneapolis, MN
Martha Crone succeeded Eloise Butler as Curator of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden on April 18, 1933, following Miss Butler’s death on April 10. Her appointment by Park Board Superintendent Theodore Wirth was on a temporary basis “for such other time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory.” The advisable and necessary time would last for 26 years.

Martha had been providing various kinds of assistance to Miss Butler for 15 years previously. When Martha retired as Curator at the beginning of 1959 she continued advocating for the Garden in her position of Secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, which was formed in 1952, until her retirement from those positions in 1971. In total, her years of service and support of the Garden totaled 53. She could say at the end “I have devoted my life to what I consider this satisfying pursuit.”

We would know far less than we do about Eloise Butler, the early years of the Wild Flower Garden and about Martha Crone and her activities if not for the diligent work of Martha Hellander. In the late 1980s she began research into the life of Eloise Butler, which culminated in the publication of her book *The Wild Gardener* in 1992. As part of her research she had an opportunity to visit a number of times with Martha Crone while Mrs. Crone was in a nursing home in Minneapolis.

When Martha Crone passed away, her daughter Janet was selling the house and Martha Hellander was invited to review the hoard of documents that Martha Crone had stored away. It was here she found all the notes made for Martha’s newsletter issues, her diaries, correspondence between her and Eloise Butler, some of Miss Butler’s diaries and Miss Butler’s long lost Garden Logs. The circumstances could not have been more fortuitous for this history as Janet was killed in a car accident four months after her mother’s death. Martha Crone’s Kodachrome slide collection was passed from Janet to Martha Hellander who then passed it to The Friends. Most of this material is now at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.
Martha Crone’s connection to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and to her assistance in founding The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden are linked back to her innate loving response to wild things and their place in the environment. Like most people who devote a passionate lifetime to the pursuit of a certain subject or hobby, she was largely self-taught about wild plants and birds. Her first contact with the Garden was as an inquisitive and persistent visitor, extracting information from Eloise Butler and in turn bringing in specimens and providing assistance to Eloise.

Martha was 39 years old when she became Curator following the death of Eloise Butler in 1933. She recalled that she had spent about 15 years helping out in the Garden which would put the start of her volunteer time around 1918 when she would have been 24 years old - she was born on January 29, 1894. She and her husband William, a dentist, lived at 3723 Lyndale Ave. North in Minneapolis. There was room for a garden in the back yard. They had been married on Sept. 1, 1915. Dr. Crone had his dental office in the house but frequently spent a day doing dental work in small communities outside Minneapolis. Together the Crones were avid explorers of plant habitat and especially mushroom habitat as both were involved with the Minnesota Mycological Society.

Considering the need for large numbers of plants for the developing Wild Flower Garden, the Crones were able to provide good assistance to Eloise Butler in finding sources for wild plants and for rescuing plants from areas where the native habitat was soon to be overrun with development.

Most of the correspondence we have between Eloise and the Crones takes place while Eloise is in Malden MA for the Winter months as was her custom every year. This is usually of a more personal nature. It is unfortunate that this correspondence is one-sided as Martha kept the notes from Eloise but we have no copies of her letters, so sometimes a little inference is needed to catch the drift of the topic. Copies of these letters are in appendix VIII.

The earliest letter we have is dated November 16, 1923, in which Eloise writes that she is sending two species of Oak for an exhibit Martha is planning.

In a letter of November 29, 1924 she writes of her brother’s illness and what was in the plum pudding they had for Thanksgiving. This is the same letter where she discloses the details of
how she had a fence erected around parts of the Garden using her own funds.

On January 24, 1925 she says she has been transformed into a housekeeper as her brother is still sick, her sister is feeble and she is caring for a household of eight, including a dog and three cats, but they had a jolly Christmas. It is more or less the same circumstances in the following Fall when on November 3, 1925 she speaks about her sister Cora being very feeble. Cora was to die in 1928. Eloise had arrived in Malden in her cousin’s automobile, traveling from Indianapolis where she visited relatives for four days. The weather was so nice that she has time to “snoop” for plant material for the Garden and has mailed the material to Martha. Then she gives a recipe for Quince and Cranberry Jam.

After the turn of the year on January 11, 1926 she writes a note of thanks for the Christmas presents the Crones sent. A year later on January 9, 1927, the greetings said it was a wonderful Christmas in Malden even though Cora was “gradually failing.” She notes that Theodore Wirth had written to her and how “I am longing to be in Minneapolis again where I can be out of doors all day.”

We then have an interval until November 16, 1928 when she writes of some plants sent and how her niece is very sick. In between these two letters Eloise’s sister Cora died on February 29, 1928, but we have no correspondence referring to that event.

On January 2, 1929 there are more Christmas greetings and thank you’s, especially for the gift of a pedometer, which Eloise would use the following Summer and duly record her number of footsteps in the Garden each month. This was followed on the 23rd of January with another letter with more details of life in Malden.

Back in Malden after the Summer at the Garden she writes on November 27, 1929 of sending some fringed gentian seeds to Martha for Martha to plant in an over-wintering small box. In this letter she speaks about the severe burns she received earlier in the year when a heating pad caught fire. She lets the Crones know that she has mentioned the “Crone Plantations” in her annual report to Park Board and “how much the Reserve was indebted to you.”

It appears that the term “Crone Plantations” refers to planting areas in the Garden that were stocked with plants primarily provided by Bill and Martha and the term applies specifically to one event of 1930 about the planting of American Lotus in and near the Garden. Details in Section II - Plant Collecting. She refers to this event in her letter of January 1, 1931 along with reference to the Crone’s Christmas gifts and her niece and brother-in-law’s medical issues.

By January 11, 1932 she only has time to refer to the heavy snow in Malden and her brother-in-law’s medical problems but ends with “Spring will be here before we know it and I am looking forward to the old tramping ground.”

The final letter is dated January 11, 1933 and she discusses the Christmas presents once again, especially the “magic slicer.” With this letter came copies of correspondence Eloise had with Theodore Wirth and a person who may have been interested in replacing Eloise at the Garden, as Eloise wanted to retire. The details of that are in the next section. As far as we can determine this letter was the last correspondence between Eloise and the Crones and there is no indication in any other documents that they ever saw her again before she passed away on April 10, 1933.
Above we see a group of friends gathered on August 3, 1931 for Eloise Butler's 80th birthday. Eloise is in the middle with the basket, Martha Crone's husband, William, is directly behind Eloise and Martha is 2nd from the right. Photo - Minn. Historical Society, Martha Crone Papers. Identification of the others: From l to r: Miss Alma Johnson, frequenter of the Garden; Mrs John Hadden, a former pupil; Mrs. J. W. Babcock, in whose house Eloise lodged while in Minneapolis; Miss Clara K. Leavitt, fellow teacher; Eloise Butler; Dr. W. H. Crone (behind Eloise); Miss Elizabeth Foss, botany teacher at North H.S.; Miss Mary K. Meeker, former pupil; Mrs. O. F. Schussler, former pupil; Mrs Crane (Martha); Mrs. Louisa Healy, former pupil. When Eloise sent a copy of this photo to Martha Crone see noted "Its too bad Dr. Crone is obscured by the tree!"

Notes:
1. *The Fringed Gentian*, Winter 1978, Vol. 26, No 1. Interview with Martha Crone by Friends’ newsletter editor Pat Dewesse. The first reference to this was in an article in the Minneapolis Star on Jan. 10, 1944. The article was about her position at the Minneapolis Library Science Museum.
2. Letters between Eloise Butler and the Crones are in appendix VIII
3. Mary Meeker was “the photographer of the Garden” as Eloise called her. She made all the photographs for the 1911 newspaper series of articles and for other print as Eloise needed.
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**Working Conditions**

**The Curator Position**

An inference may be drawn that since Martha Crone was helping Eloise Butler in the Garden for those 15 years prior to her being appointed temporary Curator that the transition was preordained and automatic. That is far from the case. For example: It is evident from a letter written by Eloise Butler to a Mrs. Pearl Frazer in Grand Forks, North Dakota, that Eloise was ready to retire, but was having great difficulty in finding someone to replace her. Mrs. Frazer had been in correspondence with Mr. Wirth about a position in the park system and Mr Wirth, believing she was referring the the Curator position asked Eloise to write to her.

Mrs. Frazer’s correspondence about this with Eloise Butler was included in the last letter that Eloise send to the Crones from her winter home in Malden Massachusetts on Jan 11, 1933.

[Appendix VII - EB letter to Martha and EB letter to Mrs. Frazer] In this Jan. 11th letter the wording Eloise uses may indicate she really wanted Martha to take the job and perhaps wanted to put the proposition to her directly in the Spring: “I want also to thank you especially, Mrs. Crone, for what you wrote about the continuance of the wild garden. There’s too much of truth in what you say, but I will soon be able to talk with you about the matter in detail.”

On April 11 Martha receives a phone call from Clara Leavitt that Eloise had passed away the previous day. The funeral service would be at the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel.

On April 23, 1933, following the death of Eloise and the appointment of Martha as temporary Curator Gertrude S. Cram, longtime friend of Eloise Butler, writes to Martha Crone that “I have heard so much of you from Miss Butler that you seem like an old acquaintance. I am so glad to hear that you are to be in her beloved garden in her stead. - I trust for more than temporarily - for I am sure it is what she would have desired.” The wording about “temporary” indicates what happened.
"For such other time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory"

The appointment was indeed, temporary. Martha did not receive written confirmation that her appointment was permanent until 1940 (details below). However, once Eloise had died, the filling of the position went quickly as these notes from Martha’s diary indicate:³

April 13 - "went down to see Theo Wirth."
April 19: "Bill received call from Theo Wirth for me to be at garden tomorrow."
April 20 - "Met Wirth, others, at garden, opened office, started taking inventory of everything."

[The others were Wirth’s assistant C. A. Bossen, Mr. Babcock (Eloise’s Landlord) and Mr. Erickson from the Park Board Staff. Miss Merkert, who was Wirth’s secretary, helped take the inventory. There is a copy of that inventory in the records of the Martha Crone Collection at the Minnesota Historical Society. Mr. Babcock was there because most of the books in the Garden office belonged to Eloise and he intended to send them back to the family in Malden.]

May 3 - "Sent letter of acceptance to Wirth."
May 5 - "Received first check $22.00."

Details of Martha Crone’s temporary employment:
In a letter to the Board of Park Commissioners dated April 18, 1933 (five days after his meeting with Martha) Theodore Wirth writes of his appointment of Martha as temporary curator of the Garden “during the balance of the season, or such other time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory, the term of employment to be from date to Oct. 1, 1933...pay to be $60 per month.”⁴ Sixty dollars a month was the same pay as Eloise Butler was receiving. On May 20th, she again met Wirth and his secretary Miss Merkert (among others) at the Garden. The Secretary brought time cards. Some days later Martha received a letter from Miss Merkert explaining how and when to complete the time sheets (twice monthly) and who to give them to. The "or such other time as seems advisable and satisfactory" was to last a long time.

In the documents of the Martha Crone Collection of papers at the Minnesota Historical Society are copies of the notifications to the Park Board from the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission confirming that Martha Crone is eligible for the position of curator on a temporary basis. i.e. the one dated March 28, 1936 confirms her salary as $60 per month. It is only the certification dated April 4, 1940 that lists the position as “permanent” at $100 per month for a six month term.

Martha had never been a Park Board employee until her appointment as Curator was made permanent. The Curator position was unique within the park system, and very seasonal, and thus, was never “highly paid” in terms of salary. For example, even after becoming a Park Board employee Martha’s net pay after taxes and after a pension deduction was $56.42 for the last half of October, 1946. She was expected to be around every day the Garden was open, which was every day except Wednesdays - that was her day off and the gates were locked.⁵
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The Curator’s Garden Assistants

As Eloise Butler had without doubt realized, the task of caring for such a special place was more than could be accomplished by one person, especially considering that plants do not live forever and must be constantly replaced. Martha states in her History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden ⁶ that up to 1951 she herself had set out some 42,500 plants. In that history she stated that the garden contained over 1,000 species not including mosses, algae and fungi. She attached a census to her history listing 787 individual species of plants and shrubs. All tools used in the Garden were hand tools, no power equipment, no electrical equipment, nothing but muscle power. [Appendix XIV]

While Eloise had not been able to secure any paid park staff helpers, she did make use of some local boys for assistance, [including Lloyd Teeuwen who helped her with the Mallard Pool and was present when she died]. Martha had several workers from the Park Board available to her when needed during the late 1940s. There are references in various writings, such as Friends of the Wild Flower Garden President Mrs. Faragher’s April 25, 1969 letter that Martha worked virtually alone.⁷

But while that may be true in the early years, there were periods when Park Board help was available. For example: Time records in the Crone files indicate that two workmen were usually available for continuous help in the Garden from 1946 through early 1949. Of those known are Clarence Larson, Eddy Subourin, Bjorne Herland and one, Fred Gau, being continuously employed through 1948. Others later, and with longer terms, were Sam Baker; Bob Clark in 1955, ’56, and ’57; Ed Bruckelmyer in 1948 and ’49 and reappearing from 1958 to ’70.

Clinton Odell, the future founder of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, made donations to the Park Board, beginning in 1945 and for several years thereafter, to partially cover the cost of one workman, while the Park Board paid for the other.⁸

There is then a period from May 1949 onward, when she apparently lost continuous help, perhaps due to Park board funding restrictions. She references in her 1953 annual report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 15, 1954 of how help is really needed and that she had only received some additional garden help for 50 days in early summer.

Finally, in 1954 she again had the services of employees, one being Ken Avery, who would be her successor as Curator when she retired in January 1959. The other being Robert Clark from 1955 into the 1958 season. Mr. Avery was in fact hired by the Park Board as Mrs. Crone’s assistant. Ken Avery would have similar experiences. In the beginning of his tenure he had two assistants working for him, but
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eventually it became one assistant and then no assistants. Ed Brucklemeyer returned in 1958 and retired in 1970, at which time Sam Baker reappeared and worked until his retirement in 1976.

The smallest office in Minneapolis.

The only place of protection in the Garden from storms or other adversities was the small office structure that was originally constructed in 1915 to Eloise Butler’s specifications. A small tool shed that had been moved into the Garden in 1912 was located just east of the office.

The office was sited on a flat area in what is now called the Woodland Garden. Eloise Butler named this area the "plateau," a natural terrace, about one-half acre in size, half way down to the wetland from the South entrance.9

It was at first unheated but a small wood stove was added in 1944 and on cold days Martha Crone would report that water froze in the watering buckets, stove or no stove. Prior to the wood stove, Martha would bring a portable kerosene stove from her home to provide heat and the Park Board furnished the kerosene.

The building was divided into two sections, one part serving as a tool room and the other served as office, visitor center, shelter and all other purposes until 1970 when the current shelter was completed and dedicated to Martha Crone, long after her retirement as Curator. The office was frequently referred to either as "the little cabin" or as the "garden office" and originally sported a sign that read "Office of Curator - Wild Botanic Garden;" shortly thereafter the Garden’s name was changed to “Native Plant Reserve” but the sign was not changed until later when "Wild Botanic" was changed to "Wild Flower" in 1929.

Eloise Butler wrote in 1916 - “It was soon found that the term “Wild Botanic Garden” was misleading to the popular fancy, so the name was changed to “Native Plant Reserve.”10 In 1929 the Park Board changed the name to the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. Then in 1970 the Park Board started using ‘wildflower’ instead of the original ‘wild flower.’ When the Martha Crone Shelter

Above: Ken Avery who came to the Garden in 1954 as Martha Crone’s assistant.

Upon her retirement as Curator, Martha made an appeal in the January 1959 issue of The Friends’ newsletter The Fringed Gentian™ (Vol. 7 No.1):

There must be greater support to protect this bit of wild area and keep it in its natural condition. It is really a challenge to keep this Wild Flower Garden since we and the next generation need the beauty of our natural flowers, many of which are disappearing in advance of our civilization.
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was complete, the old "office" was moved to near the back gate where, it remained for a number of years.¹¹

Over time several trellis were added to the outside, the most expansive, finished on June 8, 1922 incorporated a pergola. Eloise Butler had many plant species placed around and on the pergola and trellis. She frequently referenced this planting in her Garden Log and in a 1926 essay¹², she described the collection in some detail. Martha would continue to add or renew the plants around the cabin.

On June 10, 1951 The Minneapolis Tribune published an article on Martha Crone titled “City Wild Flower Gardener Rescues Plants From Bulldozers.” [appendix XVI] Here’s an interesting quote about the garden office:

A tiny house stands in the center of the woods. In this ‘once upon a time’ atmosphere children might well expect the house to have a candy roof and be surrounded by gingerbread people. Actually it is not fairy-tale hut, but one of the smallest office buildings in town - - possibly the only one without electricity or a telephone.

There were several break-ins over the years during the winter months when no one was around, but no serious damage was ever done; theft of tools was the usual result. Electricity was never added, but a telephone made its appearance in 1957.
April Weather

Snow and ice in the Garden in early April was a frequent occurrence. The little cabin, without electricity and without a wood stove in the early years, provided a trying environment in April’s fickle weather. Even with the various methods of heat, on cold days the office did not get warm and at times Martha would run up and down the path a few times to warm up.13

Those of us who have lived in the metro area for many years you know it is not unusual for winter to delay the Garden’s spring season. That is actually more common than an early spring. These quotes about opening day and the weather from Martha Crone’s log and her diary give some perspective:

- 1934: ----- April 1, “Two inches of snow on the ground.” April 5, “paths washed out by heavy rain.”
- 1935: ----- April 1, “Patch of Snow Trillium in bloom. 70 blossoms in 1 patch. Snowing all day, Snow trilliums snowed under.” April 4, “1/2 inch ice on pond. Snowing all day until 6 inches fell. Every branch and twig beautifully ridged with snow.” April 15, “Bitter cold all day, 16 above, 3/4 inch ice on pond, pail of water frozen solid in office. Snow Trilliums still in bloom.” May 1, “Rain turning to snow, Several inches fell breaking down branches and flowers.” May 16, “First warm spring day, many parties thru garden.”
- 1936: ----- April 1, “Cold and deep snow everywhere, several feet deep on paths and 6 inches covering location of snow trilliums.” April 5, “Bitter cold, garden frozen fast.” April 6, “Very cold and snow storm.” April 10, “First warm day, 45 degrees. Many visitors thru.”
- 1938: ----- April 1, “Turned very cold after 3 weeks of unusual warm weather, not a trace of ice or snow anywhere. Season advanced about 10 days.”
- 1939: ----- April 1, “Snow Trillium and Skunk Cabbage in full bloom. Not a trace of snow or ice to be found.” April 7, “Snowing and cold. At 4, thousands of Juncos passed thru all singing.” April 17, “Heavy wet snow falling followed by gale.” April 18, “Six inches of snow remaining on ground all day. Snow Trilliums keep in bloom in spite of the heavy snow.”
- 1940: ----- April 1, “Deep snow everywhere and nothing up.”
- 1941: ----- April 1, “patches of snow remain in many areas, altho ground not frozen and moisture soaks into ground.”
- 1942: ----- April 2, “A few snow trilliums in bloom. Weather very warm. No snow or ice anywhere. This has been the mildest winter in at least 25 years.” April 15, “Heat of today and yesterday extreme. Everything advancing very quickly.”
- 1943: ----- April 5, “Snow Trillium and Hepatica in bloom.”
- 1944: ----- April 1, “Six inches snow covering the ground. Nothing up and very cold.” April 6, “Each day has been cold. April 2nd the temperature was 14 above in the morning. Pails of water frozen solid in the office.” April 12, “First beautiful warm sunny day. Lakes still ice bound in morning but disappearing during the day.” April 16, “Ground covered with snow. Sheet of ice on water.”
- 1945: ----- March 22, “Snow Trillium in bloom.”
- 1946: ----- March 28, “Planted 75 snow trilliums from Mankato.”
- 1947: ----- April 1, “Garden still snow and ice bound, no sign of green growth.” April 5 & 6, “Heavy snow, Impossible to work anywhere.” April 14, “Found first snow
trilliums in bud.” May 1, “Cold and rainy. 23 days in April it rained.”

1948: ----- April 1, “Not a trace of snow, altho ice on lakes and ponds. No plant life anywhere.” April 6, “Snow Trilliums in fine bloom.”

1949: ----- April 1, “Opened garden after 10 inch snowfall of 2 days ago. Appearance of midwinter, nothing out.” April 10, “First snow trilliums are out, also skunk cabbage in bloom.” April 14, “Heavy snow storm of 9-1/2 inches of snow, again we are in midwinter. Snow Trilliums buried under.”


1952: ----- April 1, “Snow storm March 22. 15 inches of snow. Several feet deep in garden on the 1st.”

April 6 to 11, “Still deep snow and cold, chopped out gate on the 9th. First trillium came out April 14.”

1953: ----- April 1 - 4, “Lovely warm weather. Snow trilliums and Hepaticas budding. Snow gone, no frost heave.” April 14, “Thunder storm followed on the 15th by snow, cold and strong wind. Temperature down to 20 until April 20. Snow Trilliums and Hepaticas were in full bloom, froze stiff but came to nicely after thawing out.”

1954: ----- April 1, “After a warm Feb & Mar and very little snow all winter, the opening day was very cold with a light snowfall, 20º high.” April 12, “First flowers out, Snow Trillium, bloodroot, Hepatica and skunk cabbage.” May 1-2, “Heavy snow storm, covering of several inches. 28º. Few plants frozen.”

1955: ----- April 1, “Office broken into last week.” April 7, “Snow Trillium and Hepatica in bloom, also red maple, skunk cabbage.”

1956: ----- April 1, “Snow in Garden 12 to 18” deep. Fresh snowfall of few days ago added to winters accumulation. Looks like deep winter.” April 4, “Snow all gone except in sheltered areas after thunderstorm.” April 11, “Snow Trillium and Hepaticas in bloom.”
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- 1957: April 1, “No snow on ground, frost deep.”
- 1958: April 1, “Ground free of snow, Snow Trilliums are budding.”

Several times acquaintances who were away from the state would send greetings about the April weather. Whether Martha found these humorous or not we do not know.

Another friend of Martha’s and a former pupil of Eloise Butler’s, Edith Schussler sent a note dated March 25, 1939 from Tempe AZ, telling Martha and friends all about the warm weather and what plants were flowering, but she also was reminded of the Garden opening when she wrote:

> All hail to you on April 1st as you gather in the little office for the first day of the season...we feel a homesick twinge for the bloodroot, hepatica and spring beauty now struggling so valiantly to be ready for the ‘great day.’

**Insects**

Canker worms were only an occasional problem but they occurred sporadically. 1942 was an especially bad year for them even though it was a record year for the varieties of birds coming through the Garden, the worms were still “eating all the leaves off the trees.” The annual pest was the mosquito. Martha’s first test of what to do about them came in her first month as Curator.

Theodore Wirth complained about them to Martha in a letter to her following the memorial program for Eloise Butler held in the Garden on May 5, 1933. In her reply dated June 22 she wrote:

> I wish to offer my apologies for the ill manner of my mosquitoes, they are rather difficult to train as each one lives only a short time. [Copy - Appendix X]

In 1939 Martha’s (and Eloise Butler’s) friend Gertrude Cram was spending the year in Europe at the American School in Athens and in a letter to Martha dated March 4, 1939, postmarked from Athens she made the comment:

> You will be thinking of opening your sanctuary when this reaches you, though it may arrive in a blizzard. I still remember some of the “spring days” you lived through in that exposed place. Has anything yet been done to your office to make it more livable?

In 1957 she wrote:

> Much has been said for and against mosquito spraying. It has been proven in the garden after several years of spraying, mosquitoes are kept under control without harm to birds, honey bees, yellow jackets, dragon-flies and various other insects. It is to be regretted that spraying doesn’t control gnats.
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It is not known what chemical Martha was using, whether it was DDT or something else, but DDT was the choice insecticide until the 1960s. In 1957 it would just a few years before Rachael Carson's “Silent Spring” was published.

It is known that the Park Board was already wary of using DDT by 1950. In 1949 Superintendent of Parks Charles Doell, communicated with Clinton Odell, (founder of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden), about the "matter of mosquitoes" which Odell felt hindered visitors' enjoyment of the Garden. In a letter to Odell of June 23, 1949, Superintendent Doell outlined his prophetic concerns about DDT:

I know the matter of mosquitoes in the Wild Flower Garden has been a problem for many years ... Frankly, I am a bit afraid of the extensive use of DDT as yet. I have been following the results of it in various parts of the county, and especially in park affairs, and caution seems to be the lesson which is learned from all of these uses. Extensive use of DDT can of course eliminate mosquitoes. It also eliminates any other insects, including the beneficial ones. In an area such as a wild flower garden, it has the effect of unbalancing Nature’s equilibrium, probably to the very detrimental effect on song birds which, as you know, is one of the attractions there. There is also some rather concrete evidence that the extensive use of DDT actually kills some trees and other plant-life ... Beyond this, medical authorities are still not satisfied that all humans can withstand the effect of DDT without some distressing results. All of these things point up to 'caution' as I see it.

DDT was officially banned for general use in the United States in 1972.
Notes
1. Letter from Eloise Butler to the Crones dated January 11, 1933 included a copy of this letter. Pearl Frazer was the daughter of Fanny Heath of North Dakota. Mrs. Heath was a wildflower expert and correspondence friend of Eloise Butler. See *The Wild Gardener*, by Martha Hellander, pgs. 94ff.
2. Letter of Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone dated April 23, 1933.
3. Martha Crone’s diary. Clara Leavitt was a “best friend” and fellow retired teacher of Eloise Butler. This diary is in the Martha Crone Collection of papers at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS).
4. Letter in the Martha Crone Collection, MHS. In this document I use terms that were in use during the time period. References to ‘the Park Board’ refer to the Board of Park Commissioners which was the official name of the body that controlled the Minneapolis Parks System. The Board was renamed in 1969 to ‘Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.’
5. Transcript of a radio broadcast for “Outdoor Minnesota” on August 11, 1943 (A Wednesday, Martha’s day off at the garden).
6. The 4-page 1951 History was published with a census on the Garden’s plants. The complete document is in Appendix XII.
7. Letter of Catherine Faragher, President of the Friends, to the Membership April 25, 1969, Friends Archives.
9. The “plateau” is described in an essay written by Eloise Butler in 1926 as part of her unpublished *Annals of the Wild Life Reserve*. It can be found on the Friends Website in the Garden History Archive.
14. Martha Crone’s Diary, 1942, in Martha Crone Collection, MHS.
**Plant Collecting**

When Eloise Butler was curator, she typically returned to Malden, Massachusetts each fall after the Garden closed to stay with relatives. Martha would be the direct recipient of plant packages from Eloise while she was back in Malden. In a letter of 3 November 1925, Eloise writes to Martha that “I took advantage of the weather to ‘Shop’ around the neighborhood a bit, and am mailing you a box of the ‘finds.’” Seeds could be stored but for the plants sent to her, Martha was expected to heel them in until Spring when Eloise would return.¹

Mrs. Cram, in a letter dated April 23, 1933 and previously referenced in the Working Conditions section, writes about certain plants that Eloise had sent to her for heeling in into her garden until Eloise could return to Minneapolis in the Spring of 1933. These included New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), Stiff Aster (*Aster linariifolius* now classified as *Ionactis linariifolius*) and Butter and Eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*). Mrs. Cram brought the asters to the Garden on May 15th, 1933.²

Below: Letter from Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone, April 23, 1933

Mrs. Cram then ends her letter with this comment about Martha: “She (Eloise) said ‘you really should know her; she is a wild flower crank like you.’ That tells us both what to expect, doesn’t it?”

Martha was well known in the area for her plant collecting efforts. She did what Eloise had done - search the wild for suitable specimens and get permission to retrieve them; rescue them when the habitat was about to be destroyed; receive donations of plants from friends; and plant seeds for new plants. Over her years as curator, Martha set out large quantities of plants she had grown from seed. Her Garden Logs for the 1950s sometimes run to several hand-written pages of species of seed planted.

In the early years of Martha’s tenure as Curator the Park Board allotted $100 a year for plant purchases and so, throughout her tenure, she personally collected plants from a number of sources.³ Wednesdays were prime days for botanizing as Wednesday was her only day off from the Garden. The gates would be locked. These sources may have been ‘in the wild’ or a rescue of plants about to be destroyed by development. Examples of plant sources are:

- She maintained a large wild flower garden at her home and frequently brought in plants from there.
- The Crone property at Cedar Creek Forrest produced a large number of marsh plants, such as 24 Ramshead Lady’s-slippers (*Cypripedium arietinum*) in 1936. (detail on Cedar - Part III).
- The New Ulm/Mankato area was a frequent source for rescued plants. In the late 1940s they rescued several Wild Poinsettia plants from a new building site. This rescue was mentioned in a June 10, 1951 *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* article by Jane Thomas. In 1939 Martha obtained 325 Snow Trillium from there in similar circumstances.

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¹ Below: Letter from Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone, April 23, 1933

² Mrs. Cram then ends her letter with this comment about Martha: “She (Eloise) said ‘you really should know her; she is a wild flower crank like you.’ That tells us both what to expect, doesn’t it?”

³ In the early years of Martha’s tenure as Curator the Park Board allotted $100 a year for plant purchases and so, throughout her tenure, she personally collected plants from a number of sources.
That June 10, 1951 *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* article highlighted Martha’s plant collecting. It included this tidbit:

Mrs. Crone travels an average of 2,000 miles a month. Sometimes she digs up plants and sets them in moist moss and brings them back in the extra big trunk of her car. Often when she returns home late, she plants her wild flowers after dark. One whole bed of violets was planted one night by the light of the moon and a lantern propped in the path.

The Crone Plantations

Eloise Butler refers to the “Crone Plantations” in her annual report to Park Board for 1929. When she wrote to the Crones from Malden on November 27, 1929, she told them what she had written and that she had added “how much the Reserve was indebted to you.” What selections of plants in the Garden that were provided by the Crones that this term refers to is uncertain, perhaps from their trips to Northern Minnesota and elsewhere, but one instance is well documented.

In an essay titled *The Wild Garden in 1930* sent to The Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter, (Division D) of the Agassiz Association, of which Eloise was a member, Eloise wrote this:

Since I left Minneapolis this fall, an interesting discovery was made. A wild duck was given to a pair of ardent nature lovers [Martha and Bill Crone]. In dressing the bird, some undigested seeds of American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) were found in the gizzard. This was enough to start an investigation, for the lotus has been nearly exterminated in the vicinity of Minneapolis. The duck was shot near the neighboring town of Stillwater. [actually Shakopee].

My friends thought that they knew every square rod of the territory. But a vigorous search revealed much to their delight a large tract of lotus that had been concealed in blossoming time by a rank growth of tall grasses. A quantity of seeds were collected and encased in balls of clay to serve as sinkers. The ponds around my garden were bombarded with these balls, and a quantity of seeds were sent to me to distribute in Massachusetts, I have sent some to the director of Harvard’s botanic garden, and some will be planted in the cemetery where my sister, Mrs. Cora E. Pease, lies buried.

In a letter to Martha and Bill Crone dated October 28, 1930, Eloise writes to them about the Lotus seed discovery:
I never heard of such a wonderful snoopin’! It reads like a fairy tale or a story out of Arabian Nights. I shall rehearse it for my botanical correspondence club [and she did as quoted above]. I left Minneapolis the 17th, the day after your bombardment, in such a hurry that I did not have time to telephone to any one.

More followup on the lotus seeds was forwarded to the Crones on January 1, 1931 when Eloise wrote them that she had received some of the lotus seeds from them and added:

I expect to have “Crone Plantations” in all the ponds hereabout where protection can be guaranteed. I have written to the Director of Harvard Botanic Gardens to ask if he wishes any seeds for his gardens and the Arboretum. What a wonderful discovery you made! I embodied in my annual report to Mr. Wirth your account of the bombardment of Birch Pond. I want your work to be appreciated at headquarters.

Apparently this episode got to the attention of Theodore Wirth because on June 22, 1933, Martha writes to him about obtaining some of those Lotus seeds for him. She fills in some detail, including the mistake Eloise Butler made in giving the source as near Stillwater. The letter has several other interesting details as well.  

[Copy - Appendix X] Another area of the Garden that was a separate creation of Martha Crone was a rocky cactus garden and a sand garden referred to as “little Sahara.” Late in life, Martha remembered the Cactus Garden as being from 1930.5

It appears that all these terms are from an earlier time. In her Garden Log as early as April 30, 1924 Eloise refers to doing some planting near the “cactus plantation.” The log for 1925 has references to the “Cactus Rockery” on April 2, April 16, May 2, and September 11. The years 1927, 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 also have references.

The term “sand garden,” (the “little Sahara,”) appears in the log for the first time on June 2, 1930 when Eloise noted “Planted from New Ulm 2 large clumps of Opuntia fragilis in sand garden near south boundary.” (Little Prickly Pear) “New Ulm” would have been a clue that the plants were from the Crones. On October 10, 1932 her log states “Sowed seeds of Corydalis aurea from Isle Royal in Sand Garden.” That “little Sahara” is of an earlier time is also indicated in her letter to “the Cronies” of January 11, 1926. She refers to receiving from the Crones certain Christmas gifts including “the account of our little Sahara.” So even though the term is not used in the log until 1930 there are log references to planting things in sand much earlier.

The “Crone Plantations” are first mentioned in Butler’s letter to the Crones dated November 29, 1924 (Appendix VIII) when she writes about the Garden fence she has just paid for:

I can’t resist telling you at once the latest history of the fencing around the “Crone Plantations” et al, . . .

Above: Little Prickly Pear cactus . The type the Crones provided to Eloise Butler in 1930. Photo G D Bebeau.
Gertrude Cram

In her Garden Log after 1930 Eloise Butler would report planting various plants from Isle Royal. In prior years she would receive plants from the “vicinity of Lake Superior.” The ones from Isle Royal and perhaps some of those from the Lake Superior north shore would have come from Gertrude Cram. Mrs. Cram vacationed on Isle Royal each August, staying at the Rock Harbor Lodge. It was that last plant shipment of Eloise Butler’s from Malden in the Winter of 1932/33 referred to earlier that provided Mrs. Cram with an introduction to Martha Crone.

Now that Martha was Curator, Mrs. Cram continued her plant collecting. In a letter to Martha posted from Isle Royal August 8, 1933 she writes:

> By the Wednesday boat I am sending you a box of things, a funny one. It contains a sample of a number of plants of which you may or may not want more. ... This is what Miss Butler used to call a ‘surprise’ package, I am sure. The tall yellow things on top of the box is (sic), I think, Lysimachia terrestris, (Swamp Candles) which Miss Butler asked for last year. The roots go to China. I don’t think I got much, for as I was groveling in the muck among sticks and roots I couldn’t seem to feel the ends of the ones I was blindly following.  

In another letter of August 25th, 1935 from Rock Harbor, Isle Royal:

> There will be a box for you in this mail containing the Pinguicula and the Fragrant Fern. I have found the latter in only one place and not much of it so I had to be careful about robbing the treasury. It is not listed as rare so maybe in time I’ll find more of it, although I have been looking for other places for two years.

One of the plants in the box was 10 of the unusual Broad-lipped twayblade (Listera convallarioides). Twayblades are low growing orchids of moist woods and bogs with small flowers growing on a raceme above two egg-shaped leaves the appear midway up the stem. In Minnesota the only reported native population is in Cook county in the far Arrowhead. Eloise Butler had been the first to plant this species in the Garden on August 27, 1931. Her plants also came from Isle Royal, courtesy of Gertrude Cram.

Nurseries and other sources

The $100 allotment for plant purchases that Martha Crone had in her early years as Curator is not as little as it sounds in current times. Plants were inexpensive compared to other commodities. Even as late as 1961 Ken Avery attached to his 1961 annual report (dated March 5, 1962 ) to the Park Superintendent a list detailing that he was able to purchase Oakferns for 29 cents each, Three-leaved Solomon’s Seal for 20 cents each and even Moccasin Flowers for $2.50 each. In the 1930s and 40s prices would have been even less.

In her early years as Curator Martha rarely listed a nursery source for plant material, most of her new additions were self-found or from contributors such as Gertrude Cram. One nearby source was the Park Board Nursery, located adjacent to the Garden at Glenwood Lake until 1940. It had moved there in 1909 from Lyndale Farmstead. Eloise Butler sourced at the Nursery often but Martha never mentions it in her log, although it would have been a logical source. Martha was never as diligent in listing a plants source as Eloise was in her log. After World War II nursery sources begin to regularly show up in her log.

Eloise Butler had a number of nursery sources for plants, many on the East Coast. Martha was not very familiar with all of them but there are several in her logs that were also used by Eloise.
One that was a long-term source for Eloise was Kelsey’s Nursery in Southwick MA. In 1951 Martha obtained from them some Rhododendron species. Three others show up in the logs of Eloise Butler’s later years and Martha used them also: Ferndale Nurseries, Askov MN; Henderson’s Nursery, Greenburg IN; and Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, Ashford, NC.

Other sources that Martha developed include:
- Claude Barr, Southwick SD
- Frank Rose in Montana
- Johnson’s Nursery, MA
- Orchard Gardens, Grand Rapids, MN
- Rockmount Nursery, CO
- The Three Laurels, Marshall NC

There were a few odd sources reported as well. In her Garden Log of June 14, 1951 Martha notes this receipt of plant material: “Rue anemone double, in coffee can from Mrs H. S, Olson, 302 So. D. St., Lake Worth, Florida, found at Wacouta near Red Wing in 1923.” Martha then must have gone hunting for them because in 1952, while on her field trips, Martha found 2 near Fletcher MN and 10 on July 31 1952 at Red Wing, just a few miles from Wacouta.

Notes:
1. Letter of Eloise Butler to Martha Crone, November 3, 1925.
2. Martha Crone’s Diary, 1933. In the Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society (MHS).
4. Same as note 3.
5. Interview with Martha Crone on May 27, 1988 by Martha Hellander as recorded in her book The Wild Gardener.
6. Letters from Gertrude Cram are in the Martha Crone Collection, MHS.
Martha Crone was self-taught on birding and was a careful observer of bird activity. Her Garden Log always contained references to bird activity, to the coming and going of the hummingbirds and the warblers. The issues of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian™*, when she was editor, always had a section on birds.

Bird feeders were maintained at the Garden. One of the frequent Garden visitors was Lulu May Aler. Miss Aler had set up and maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Garden, in the hemlock grove near where the asphalt path bisected the north meadow from the southern section of the Garden (the current Garden space is that southern section), so she would visit several times a week to maintain it. In later years when Miss Aler was too old to do it, the station was maintained by the Minneapolis Bird Club, then by Audubon.

Above: Professor Thomas S. Roberts. University of Minnesota.

The Garden became so well known for bird activity the Dr. Thomas S. Roberts brought his University of Minnesota classes to the Garden for outings. Roberts published his 2 volume *Birds of Minnesota* in 1932 and contributed some copies of the illustrations for display in the Garden Office. The Roberts Bird Sanctuary at Lake Harriet is named for him.

The official name for the Garden includes “and Bird Sanctuary” and that has its own unique history. The Garden was re-named in 1929 from “Native Plant Reserve” to “Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden” in honor of its first curator. Up until 1948 Martha referred to the Garden as the “Eloise Butler Native Plant Reserve” and usually just as “the Reserve.” Eloise sometimes called it the “Preserve.” In 1939 she added the words “and Bird Sanctuary” but then dropped those words in later years.¹

In 1968 The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden suggested that the Garden name be changed to add “and Bird Sanctuary.” The suggestion was presented to the Park Board. It was approved in early 1969 but in the transition when the name was officially changed to add that phrase the first part - ‘Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden’ - became ‘Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary’. After 1972 the names were mixed up. The 1969 name was still official but there came into use ‘Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary’ but with the two words ‘Wild Flower’ condensed to ‘Wildflower.’ A more detailed review of the names is covered on page 28. In this document the older name forms are used in the years when they were official.

**Martha’s Notes about Birds.**

For the flavor of what Martha wrote about regarding birds, here are some extracts from her writings.

1938: In her annual report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated Dec. 10, 1938, Martha remarks that “The protection of the birds is being encouraged (sic), because they constitute the main
check against the reproduction of insects. The opportunity for bird study here is unlimited.” In this remark she echoes the thoughts of Eloise Butler 25 years earlier in her annual report to the Park Board of 1914 when she wrote that “more and more birds felt attracted to the protection of the Garden.”

1939: Martha made many bird notes in her log during May and concluded the May bird notes on the 28th with this:

Reserve filled with bird song such as Oriole, Red-breasted Grosbeak, Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Crested Fly-catcher, Veery, and Cuckoo. Followed two Connecticut warblers about for some time, they were singing their beecher, beecher, beecher, be song, somewhat like an Oven bird yet on one level instead of ascending. Hummingbird performed the pendulum swing.

[Note: The pendulum swing is an aerial dance where the male bird moves in an arc in front of the female, wings buzzing, to show off his control.]

Log June 4, 1939:

Mrs. Ure [a birder] found a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers building a nest in a white oak tree on hill near SW corner of Reserve, about 20 feet from ground, beautifully constructed similar to a Humming-birds nest, but a little larger and thicker.

Martha noted those birds are very rare here.

Log July 2, 1939: A Mr. Yelick came in and took down the Gnatcatcher nest after the young had fledged and sent it to Dr. Roberts at the University. On the last day of August Martha wrote:

A blue-winged warbler flew up to the N.E. window while I closely observed it. It was hanging upside down on the leaves of the Dutchman’s pipe vine. It was a splendid opportunity to note it in detail being only a few inches from me.

1941: Martha made many birding notes in her log this year but this one about the chickadees is particularly interesting:

June 3: “Chickadee pair inspecting the unpainted cheese box house east of office.”
June 5: “At noon the Chickadees started to build in the house. Both very busy.”
June 8: “Chickadees still come to the bird house every day.”
June 14: “No sign of the Chickadees since a week ago yesterday, so proceeded to open the box to check against Cowbird intrusion, when out flew the female Chickadee, no doubt she is incubating. Later both were noted, he feeding her, a rare performance.”
July 8: “Chickadees still feeding, the young clamoring loudly. Young Chickadees come begging for food, but receive none. Apparently they are of the first brood.”
July 16: “Chickadees left the house this morning before I arrived, The adults came back several times as tho making sure that all were out.”

Above: Chickadee on the Odell bird bath in the Garden.

The bird feeding station at the Garden needed replacement and Martha noted on Sept. 23, 1939: “Ben Johnson early and he came in to get orders for replacing Miss Aler’s bird feeding station and chest for storing food. Had a nice visit” Ben Johnson was a Park Board Employee who later became
Supervisor of Maintenance for the Park Board. She also noted that she updated a pheasant feeding place in the Garden, noting it “real firm and substantial this year.”

“record breaking birding”

1942: At the end of April, on the 28th, an event occurred which would be strange to us today. A Mr. Milton Thompson was in the Garden and “collected” a male Cooper’s Hawk, but couldn’t get the female. On the 30th there was a thunderstorm, very quiet in the Garden and Mr. Whitney Eastman left a card saying “they had collected the female hawk and found 2 eggs in the nest, thereby establishing an early record for the State.”

This is the second note about Mr. Eastman who would later become a director of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden; Martha had noted a visit from him in 1941.

Robert Dasse Jr. was in on the 16th of May. He was a young teacher who loved the Garden and birding, later joining the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1960, becoming a board member in 1970 and President in 1971. The next day he was back with Whitney Eastman to join in the great birding.

Birding was the best in May of 1942. Martha wrote on the 19th:

A red letter day. The birds have been here 7 days now feasting upon the many Canker worms. Noted Towhee, 4 thrushes Olive-backed, Gray-cheeked, Wood and Veery. Oven-bird, Oriole, Grosbeak, both Cuckoos, Indigo, Tanager, Wren, Whip-poor-will, Gnatcatcher, Verios - Red-eye, Warbling and Yel-throated. Warblers - Golden-wings, Parula, Canada, Caye May, Mourning, Yellow-throat, Blk-throated green, Blackburian, Red Start, Magnolia, Blk & White, Wilsons, Tenn, Nashville, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Bay-breasted, and Connecticut which was singing beautifully all day north of office. The Olive-backed thrush sings much like veery, except that it goes up and is thinner than the veery, it was singing everywhere. Also heard the tiny song of the Canada and the weal little peep of the Bay-breasted. The Tenn. came down on the Clematis within a few feet of me. Also noted Phoebe, Least Fly-catcher and crested Fly-catcher, Wht.-throated sparrow and both kinglets. This was record breaking birding. Came across 2 pheasant nests not far from path.

A day later Miss Aler records 86 species including 22 warblers, all eating canker worms which were terrible that year, eating all the leaves off the trees. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was again sighted nesting near Birch Pond during May and June.

1943: During May the elusive and rare Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was sighted again, this time in the Garden on the West Path. It was first seen in the area in 1939.

The last notable event of May 1943 was on the 30th when she wrote in her log:

Many birds noted, also a most unusual find, a “western tanager” discovered by Mr. Whitney Eastman, south of upper gate just west of deep hole. We observed it a long while. It was traveling with a number of scarlet tanagers.
Mr. Eastman later joined the board of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1961. When he was invited back to the 25th Annual Meeting of the Friends on June 4, 1977 he told the story about that tanager - as reported in the Friends Minutes:

He believed he was alone in the Garden when he spotted a Western Tanager which had no business in this area. He looked around excitedly to fine someone to vouch for his identification and called to a man who appeared nearby --Western tanager! Western Tanager!! The man disappeared hurriedly and Mr. Eastman didn't know whether the man was an escapee from Stillwater [State Prison] or thought he was.

1944: Large waves of birds were noted coming through the Garden May 18-21. The Audubon people checked off 100 species. The first Hummingbird was sighted May 12th.

1953: Martha wrote:

The singing of the birds reached its climax during June, the sweetest month of the year. In July it has almost ceased and by August they are mostly silent, the season of nesting is over and they are no longer inspired to sing.

1955: The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was again seen adjacent to the garden where it nested some years ago. It had not been noted in this locality for many years. Her first report about the bird occurred in 1939. It appeared again in her 1942 diary notes and 1943 log.

1958: Martha writes of Winter birds:

The mess-tables are in full operation in the Wild Flower Garden. The feeders are filled with sunflower seeds every day. Beef suet is hung nearby and peanut butter placed in convenient places. Millet seeds and crushed grain are placed on the ground in sheltered places for the Juncos. Save the seeds of Zinnias left over in the garden, the Goldfinches are very fond of them.

1968: One hundred years ago, the Northern Cardinal was unknown in most of Minnesota. Martha made this observation from her cabin on the North Shore:

It was most interesting to observe a male cardinal the last week in October feeding in the drive of our cabin along the shore of Lake Superior, a mere 15 miles south of the border of Canada. He was in company with an immature female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and many Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, Fox Sparrows and various other sparrows. The Cardinal, the State bird of Kentucky, has been extending its range northward and westward. Records of its appearance in the north have been few until recent years these occurrences have increased.

About 35 years ago it was confined as a resident bird to the southeastern portion of Minnesota. At that time it was considered a newcomer into Minnesota, and still is an object of special interest. At first it seemed to have met with little success in its attempts at nesting in the north and hopes for its survival were given up. Yet slowly they adjusted to a cooler climate and changed source of food. In the Wild Flower Garden they eagerly feed on sunflower seeds when the insects are gone but it was noted that these seeds were ignored by those in the north and they took only an assortment of smaller seeds.

Since cardinals are friendly, choosing by preference cultivated lands and coming freely into your yard, it perhaps has a better chance for survival. They are likely to be year-round residents and many depressing winter days are brightened by their presence. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a relative of the Cardinal which originally had lived in the deep forests, today is completely at home among the shade trees of towns and really seems to enjoy his contact with mankind. But he doesn't like cold weather and, in the winter, travels south to Central America and parts of South America. The observation of bird life is a delightful pastime and is certain to increase rapidly.
Notes:
1. Martha Crone’s Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, dated December 12, 1939.
2. Martha Crone’s Diary, 1941, in the Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society (MHS).
3. Diary, October 3, 1941.
4. Diary, April 28, 1942. Milton Thompson was head of the Science Museum at the Minneapolis Library. Martha had asked him to come in and get it as she was afraid of losing many songbirds. “Collected” is taken to mean “shot.”
5. Diary, May 16, 1942.
7. Garden Log, May 9, 1943.
8. Garden Log, May 12, 1944.
The Garden

The Purpose of the Garden

A Wild Garden: It was the plan of Eloise Butler that one part of the park system should be left in its natural condition and devoted to the wild flowers and birds of the state. The original 1907 petition to the Park Board stated “We desire to preserve intact all the wild and natural features of the place and to avoid all appearance of artificial treatment.”

Eloise Butler wrote in 1926:

It was planned from the beginning to make the garden a living museum of the flora of Minnesota and to preserve strictly the wild appearance of the place. There were to be no formal beds. Plants were to be allowed to grow according to their own sweet will and not as humans might wish them to grow, and without any restraint except what could be essential for health and mutual well-being. Each plant introduced to the garden is provided with an environment similar to its original one and then left to take care of itself as in the wild open, with only the natural fertilizers such as decaying wood and leaves. No watering is done after the plants are firmly established. Plants growing in excess and pestilent weeds are removed to make room for more desirable newcomers.

Martha Crone believed the Garden was a necessary place, as these comments indicate, from 1933, her first year as curator:

Many [Garden visitors] appreciating what a few far seeing people have provided in such a plant and bird sanctuary, not only for future generations, but for ourselves as well. It is indeed an effort well repaid to visit this beautiful spot where the abundance of our native flora has been made still more beautiful and interesting by plantings of other Minnesota wild flowers that are fast becoming exterminated elsewhere.

1943:

It [The Garden] has been a powerful factor in building an appreciation of Minnesota’s native wild flowers. The garden teaches people to observe flowers and enjoy them in their natural environment. It has lessened the tendency to pick flowers and take them home where they wilt in a few short hours. We invite many more of our citizens to come to know the relaxation and contentment and beauty that can be found just 10 minutes from downtown Minneapolis.

1954:

Perhaps the title of “Wild Flower Garden” is a misnomer and greatly misleading. It would be more appropriate to call it “Wild Flower Sanctuary.” Many visitors expect to find a formal garden laid out in neatly trimmed beds and borders, with Rock Gardens rising up out of a mowed lawn, rather than a place where wild flowers are planted in beautiful natural surroundings to imitate their native habitats, where there is no fixed or formal order. They must have an environment suited to their being if they are to survive. The charm of a wild flower is found mostly in its natural setting. Here in this 13 acre tract of wilderness we endeavor to grow most wild flowers native to Minnesota as well as many from other States, where they are safe and can be enjoyed by interested patrons and where with care they can thrive for generations to come.


She echoed those thoughts a year later:
Part I - The Garden

1955:
The propagation of wild flowers or in other words the flowers that were here originally when white man came, is a worthwhile service to the community. Only a few varieties of wild flowers are normally found growing in any one locality. Rarely are there more than a few different sorts at anyone time in wild areas. Here is the Wild Flower Garden - in an area of only 13 acres, there is a greater variety of vegetation than can only be found in greatly scattered territories. This is the result of the introduction of hundreds of native varieties as well as many from other states which offer real advantage to the garden.

In spite of the close proximity of plants which is necessitated by the endless varieties, the garden is being kept a place of beauty and wonder after natures own pattern. The irregularities of surface afford differences in light, exposure and moisture, thereby making it ideal for plants of many requirements.5

1956:
A mistaken idea prevails that wild plants are scraggly and unattractive, but if relieved of the intense competition that prevails in the wilds and given room to develop in a congenial location, they quickly make luxurious growth, becoming compact and produce better flowers in great profusion. Outstanding examples are Hepaticas, Bellworts, Columbine, Lady’s-slippers, Lobelias, Lupine, and various violets especially the Bird’s-foot Violet.6

1957:
One of the primary purposes of the garden is to help awaken an interest in the out-of-doors, among those who may not yet fully appreciate it. In the garden in a short time, first hand knowledge of wild flowers can be obtained in a relatively small area. Set in a picturesque wooded area, flowers are growing in as nearly a natural environment as can be created. A sufficiently simple method of determining plants will be found.7

What grows in the Garden

That 1954 quotation, repeated in 1955, contained another slight deviation from the original plan. When she says “we endeavor to grow most wild flowers native to Minnesota as well as many from other States” we have moved away from the original concept of “the garden as a living museum of the flora of Minnesota.” But Eloise herself deviated from the plan. Some of the plants she obtained in the early years of the Garden were not native to Minnesota. Many of the non-native ones are no longer present. Martha Crone was more selective of native plant material in her early years as curator but after 1944 she did the same as Eloise. Martha’s definition of native was not that it was originally present in the area of the Garden, or native to the state but that it was in the same climatic area and thus could have grown there. Her log includes adding over 100 such species from 1945 to 1958. She wrote in the Jan. 1954 issue of The Friends newsletter that non-native plants were used “to make the Garden interesting and more attractive to visitors.”

From the tenure of her successor, Ken Avery, to the present, plants selected are those that once were historically present in the Garden area or most broadly - native to the state. At the time Ken Avery took over, the University of Minnesota’s Landscape Arboretum in Chaska had opened and there was no longer a need for the Garden to be a demonstration place for all the plants that might grow here.

1943:
Once the plants have been introduced and have become established, they are disturbed as little as possible and are not watered or cultivated. If they are crowded out by weeds or other plants, it is just too bad. We believe in keeping our wild flower sanctuary as wild as possible. If we were to attempt to control the flowers carefully, it would mean that the wild aspect of the area would disappear.8
This echoes the words of Eloise Butler quoted above. By the time Martha wrote her brief *History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden* in 1951 [Appendix XII] her attitude had changed. Easy growing plants and invasive plants could rapidly spread and shade out more desirable plants. Some control was needed. She wrote in that 1951 history:

The original plan of allowing plants to grow at will after they were once established, and without restraint, soon proved disastrous. Several easy-growing varieties spread very rapidly and soon shaded out some of the more desirable plants. An attempt was made to check them, but with limited help, this proved to be a problem.

**Invasive plants:**

Like Eloise before her, Martha tolerated certain plants in the Garden that were known to be invasive already at that time. Jewelweed gave her no end of trouble.

Martha had noted in her diary on May 18, 1943 “pulling Jewelweed by the thousands” and again on June 4 “worked pulling jewelweed all day.”

In her Annual Report for 1944 Martha noted more problems with Jewelweed. She wrote:

> The later flowers found difficult competition in the abundant growth of jewel-weed and nettle. The seedlings of the jewel-weed appearing in such great numbers as to take complete possession of the garden. The program for their removal will greatly aid the establishment of desirable plants.9

The “program for their removal” would have to be of her own design and execution and in 1945 pulling more Jewelweed began.

The entire episode with Jewelweed would need to be repeated in future years and it all began with Eloise Butler. Moana Beim recalled an argument that her father, Clinton Odell, had with Eloise Butler about planting and retaining Jewelweed.10

At the time Odell (the future founder of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden) was a student of Butler’s and a frequent Garden visitor and helper. Eloise believed everything wild had a place in the Garden. She believed that what were called “weeds” should not be so called. The argument was whether Jewelweed should be maintained and planted when necessary. She won the argument.

Odell reported in his journal “The first year Jewelweed marched through the bog . . . the second year it started up the hill. The third year it went up and over the hill and something is darn well going to be done!” Workers were brought in and they pulled Jewelweed for days. Moana also remembered many hours spent with her dad in later years pulling Jewelweed, particularly in 1945 when Curator Martha Crone reported her major effort to reduce the quantity of the plant.

But one invasive plant that Eloise had introduced in 1916 was still being championed by Martha in 1958:
Altho the Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is not a native, it is a good plant to grow along streams, margins of ponds or in wet meadows. Especially where the competition is too severe for less aggressive plants to grow. The plant is a long-lived perennial, 4 to 6 feet tall and produces graceful spikes of purple or pink flowers. They bloom during July and August. When once established it is hard to eradicate and will crowd out other weaker growing plants. It can also be grown in garden borders where it remains smaller and does not readily spread.\(^{11}\)

**Who visited the Garden?**

1938: In her annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners she wrote about the visitor traffic at the Garden and particularly pointed out the school visits:

> Among the large groups conducted thru the Reserve were the daily bus loads of children from the public schools under the supervision of Mr. Minty of the Board of Education. The object of these tours was that with the instruction of children in nature study, sure results can be reached in social betterment, and that an early implanted knowledge and love of birds, flowers and nature in general are the most potent factors in making useful citizens.\(^{14}\)

Twenty-five years later, Gardener Ken Avery would record in his report to the Park Board comments about the usefulness of school visit:

> In the past year the Minneapolis Schools in particular, have made greater use of the area as a living museum of our native flora and fauna. I was asked to give tours to 27 grade school classes as well as 7 women’s clubs and many Scouts, Brownies, etc., and even groups from settlement houses during the past spring. The area was also extensively used by high school and college classes.\(^{15}\)

1940:

> Visitors again have been numerous, including large groups of school children, Girl scouts, Boy scouts and various clubs. Many visitors have found the Reserve a haven of rest and peace for troubled souls. Bird students are ever increasing, finding here ideal conditions for leisurely making observations of the myriads of birds sheltered and protected to all desiring it.\(^{16}\)

In Eloise Butler’s Garden log she noted University of Minnesota classes coming to the Garden with Dr. Roberts. He shows up frequently in Martha’s Log and Diary such as on a very hot 19th of April 1941 when she noted
Part I - The Garden

1953: In the first issue of the new newsletter of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, with Martha as editor, she wrote, as she would in many later issues, about the value of the Garden, stressing how membership in the Friends would help:

 Thousands of people have enjoyed the facilities of the Wild Flower Garden, either for pleasure or study. Much remains to be done to fully develop the garden. It requires sufficient funds, help and material to do justice to such a unique garden, which is conducted for the preservation of herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees.

The value of the work being done in this Wild Flower Garden cannot be too strongly stressed, since the rapid advance of civilization is causing most of the remaining wild land to disappear. This natural heritage is worthy of perpetual preservation for the generations to follow. Help us to grow and prosper by inviting an acquaintance who is interested in wild flowers to membership.18

Sometime during her tenure she wrote an essay titled Early Spring in the Wild Flower Garden, wherein she ended with this:

Here, in this garden you are surrounded with the most entrancing wonders of nature created to bring infinite peace and happiness, and may we pass it on unspoiled for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.19

Her description in the essay of the progression of Spring plants is reminiscent of essays written years earlier by Eloise Butler.

Garden Names

The Garden was originally called the Wild Botanic Garden and then it was more commonly known as the Native Plant Reserve (sometimes ‘Preserve’). Eloise Butler wrote in her early history “It was soon found that the term ‘Wild Botanic Garden’ was misleading to the popular fancy, so the name was changed to ‘Native Plant Reserve’.” (EB 1926 - The Wild Botanic Garden - Early History). Martha Crone and Ken Avery always referred to it as the Native Plant Reserve. In 1929 the Park Board re-named it the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. All Park Board correspondence and printed material that I have seen has “Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden”, with “Wild Flower” as two words, up until 1968.

In 1968 the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden petitioned to have “and Bird Sanctuary” added and make the name “Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary” dropping the word ‘Garden.’ The Park Board approved in 1969. Several letters of correspondence and newspaper articles from that period use that name. Example - Mpls Employees Newsletter from 1971. Ken Avery wrote in The Fringed Gentian™ that by sometime in 1972 the name “Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary” came into use with ‘garden’ back in but with the two words “Wild Flower” condensed to “Wildflower”. An article about the Garden and Ken Avery from the Minneapolis Star dated August 29, 1978 using the current terminology but with Wildflower as two words - Wild Flower. The official change occurred in the Fall of 1986. Mary Maguire Lerman, Coordinator of Horticulture wrote a memo about recent Garden activities to Friends President Gloria Miller, dated May 29, 1987, in which she states “PPS: The MPRB action taken last fall changes the Garden’s name to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.” Meanwhile, The Friends had adopted Wild Flower in 1952 as part of their name and thus the two now diverge.20
Notes:
2. Martha Crone’s Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, dated November 19, 1933.
3. Transcript of a radio broadcast for "Outdoor Minnesota" on August 11, 1943. See Appd. XI.
8. same as note 3.
9. Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, February 20, 1945, to Superintendent C. A. Bossen.
14. Martha Crone’s Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, dated December 10, 1938.
16. Martha Crone’s Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, dated December 11, 1940.
17. Dr. Roberts, was Thomas S. Roberts, University Professor, author of *Birds of Minnesota*, 1932. Dr. Breckenridge, (Walter J.) was director of the University of Minnesota Natural History Museum. Kilgore and Prosser was also University Professors.

Text in Appendix VI and on The Friends Website in the Garden History Archive.
20. The initials ‘MPRB’ refer to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board which was the new name that was adopted in 1969 and came into use in 1970 for the old Board of Park Commissioners. After 1970 text references to ‘the Park Board’ in this document refer to the MPRB.
Garden Years 1933 to 1944

A chronological sequence of years noting some of the more important activities and events without extensively detailing what plants were planted and when. Those details are found in Martha Crone’s Garden Log, in the individual Garden history year archives on The Friends website and in the companion book The Native Plant Reserve - 1933-1958. These ‘Garden Highlights’ are taken from Martha Crone’s Annual Reports to the Superintendent of Parks, her Garden Log and her diaries that were available for certain years. Footnotes are included when the source is different or when more extensive explanations are in order. Some events of these years are found in other sections of this document.

1933: This year would be FDR’s first term as president and the beginning of the New Deal. Martha Crone was excited and wrote in her diary:

Mar. 2, Thursday “looking forward to Inauguration of Pres. with great hope, everyone excited, expecting him to perform miracles, weather still lovely.”

A local photographer, Mr. E. F. Pabody, was in the Garden area on March 25th and took three winter scenes, following a snowfall of 2+ inches. Mr. Pabody had his studio at 1920 Colfax Ave. So., Minneapolis, and frequented the Garden. In later years Martha would remark when he did not show up.

On April 10, Eloise Butler died. What happened in days following is covered in Part I - ‘The Curator Position’. Now it was time to plan a memorial ceremony.

On April 28 Theodore Wirth notifies the Park Commissioners of the planned memorial service on May 5. [appendix IX]

May 4 - Workmen were in the Garden bringing a Pin Oak and a small Honey Locust to be planted the next day. [diary]

May 5 was the most important day of the year. This was the day for the memorial ceremony for Eloise Butler at the Garden. The day started however, with a tire stolen from the Crone’s car delaying Martha in reaching the Garden. Superintendent Wirth was in the Garden all morning, and at 4PM the Board of Park Commissioners and about 100 friends of Eloise Butler gathered for her remembrance ceremony.

Park Board President A. F. Pillsbury opened the ceremony with these words:

Friends and Associates of Miss Eloise Butler: We have gathered here today to do honor to
Part II - The Garden Years 1933 to 1944

one who was the moving spirit in the establishment and care of this unique and interesting garden. Being a great lover of nature, and especially of wild flowers and plant life, it was her desire that one part of our park system should be left in its natural condition and devoted to the wild flowers and birds of our state. Under her loving care for many years, this garden has become famous and given pleasure to many. In the presence of friends and to her memory we have planted this rare tree, and in accordance with her wishes we now, with respect and admiration, distribute the ashes of Miss Eloise Butler over the ground she loved so well.  

President Pillsbury was then given by Martha Crone the container holding the ashes of Miss Butler and he then began to spread the ashes first around the base of the tree and then in the area on all sides of the little office building. Some of the ash was wafted farther by the breeze. The audience looked on in silence. The only sound was that of Mr. Pillsbury moving through the growths.

Martha Crone and Theodore Wirth spoke last. Martha Crone read Eloise Butler’s last report to the Park Board.

General Superintendent Wirth in a few brief remarks called attention to the fact that the pin oak had long been a favorite of Miss Butler’s and for this reason had been chosen as the tree to be dedicated in her services. He suggested that a year from today this same group of friends gather to place a bronze tablet on a boulder near the tree to perpetuate the dedication, and those friends then made arrangement to raise the funds necessary for this purpose.

During the Summer Martha completed the work started by Eloise Butler of planting the area around the Mallard Pool which was located in the north meadow just north of the current back fence of the Garden.

1934: April was a cold month with ice on the ponds yet on the 27th. The dedication of the Eloise Butler memorial tablet took place on May 4, Arbor Day.

At the end of the path from the front gate of the garden to the Garden office was placed a large granite boulder in front of the Pin Oak tree that was planted in her memory on May 5, 1933. On the boulder was mounted a bronze tablet. The oak is no longer there, but the boulder is now sheltered by a large Leatherwood shrub.

The tablet was planned, created and presented by some of her friends and some of her former pupils from her years as a botany teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools. A committee of these persons, headed by Clara Leavitt, had been formed at the suggestion of Theodore Wirth the prior year. The committee was known as the Eloise Butler Memorial Association. There were several suggested dedications which were submitted to Martha Crone for her approval and for her to sample the preferences of garden visitors as to the wording.

Above: Finalizing planting the Pin Oak: (l to r) Alfred F. Pillsbury, President of the Park Board; Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; Francis A. Gross, Vice President of the Board.
A fund raising campaign was initiated with the suggested donation being limited to no more than one dollar. The committee felt that they must raise the funds independently so as to “prove to Mr. Wirth and the Park Board that the Reserve (The Wild Flower Garden) has many friends.” Martha and all interested others approved wording and the bronze tablet was cast, using the design of a Mr. Melchior of Flour City Iron Works.

On April 30th Superintendent Theodore Wirth sent a brief memo to the Board of Park Commissioners that on Arbor Day, May 4, the dedication ceremony would be held and that the Memorial Association had invited the Board and its officers to attend. The program outline was that Miss Elizabeth Foss (North High teacher) would present the tablet; an original poem would be recited by Mrs Florence Hadden (former pupil); Miss Jennie Hall and several children would do some bird calls; and Francis Gross, Vice President of the Board of Park Commissioners would accept the tablet.

The text of the dedication tablet reads as follows:

In loving memory of Eloise Butler (1851-1933), teacher of botany in Minneapolis Schools, Founder and first curator of this native plant reserve. This oak has been planted and this tablet erected by a grateful public.

To this sequestered glen Miss Butler brought beautiful native plants from all sections of our state and tended them with patient care. This priceless garden is our heritage from her and its continued preservation a living testimony of our appreciation. Here her ashes are scattered and here her protective spirit lingers.

Dedicated Arbor Day 1934.

Perhaps this poem which was found in Martha Crone’s notebook in her historical papers was the poem read by Mrs. Hadden:

Above: At the dedication of the memorial tablet are (l. to r.) Miss Elizabeth Foss, Botany teacher at North High School (She made the presentation of the tablet); Clara Leavitt, fellow teacher of Eloise; Minneapolis Parks Superintendent Theodore Wirth; Audrey Kelly; Parks Vice President Frances A. Gross (who accepted on behalf of the Park Board); Dolores Hoiby and Jennie Hall, Science Supervisor of the Minneapolis Public Schools. Kelly and Hoiby are shown lifting away the green boughs which covered the tablet before the unveiling. Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society, Martha Crone Collection.
Part II - The Garden Years 1933 to 1944

Dust we are, and now to dust again
But gently blown throughout the glen
Which was your alter and your shrine
Wherein you gave a life of tenderness all thine
In every nook your footsteps trod
The plants you loved belong to God
And in his keeping they are ours
The trees, the shrubs, the blessed flowers
And still your soul, on guard, will stand
Against the touch of vandal hand.

For the remainder of the season, Martha reports a large increase in the number of bird students visiting the Garden as the Garden was becoming known as a sanctuary for birds which was “due to the large number of birds that nest here attracted by the natural water supply and food and feeling free from molestation.” Also Dr. Thomas S. Roberts (author of the two volume 1932 work Birds of Minnesota) donated a set of colored bird engravings which Martha displayed on the walls of the “cabin.” These were a hit with visitors. She brought in a large number of Fringed Gentian (Gentianopsis crinita) and was experimenting with growing them from seed as the plant is biennial. The Gentians were obtained in September, some from a source in Ramsey County and some from Turtle Lake. This plant she called “one of the wildest, as well as one of the most charming wildlings.” Back in 1929 Eloise Butler has sent some seeds of them to Martha from Malden MA. In Eloise’s letter to Martha of November 29, she asked Martha to plant them in an outdoor box to give them the needed cold storage period for germination.

1935: A year of ample moisture after the long drought of the early 1930s. Martha planted 36 small Kentucky Coffee Trees. A number of these still grow along the paths of the Woodland Garden. A total of 1,019 plants were set in. Martha and Gertrude Cram were held-up at gunpoint at 10:30 AM by two young men who appeared to be students and robbed them of $7.

Theodore Wirth retired as Parks Superintendent at the end of the year.

1936: C. A. Bossen is the new Parks Superintendent. Theodore Wirth becomes Superintendent Emeritus. There was deep snow on opening day and drought returned in the summer. No rain from mid June to Aug. 15. July was the hottest July in recorded history with the highest temperature in recorded history to this day of 107.8 degrees on July 14th. Altogether there were 14 days of temperatures at 100 degrees and above during July. Twenty six bird houses were set out plus 682 plants despite the heat and her annual report of the year, dated Nov. 15, included

All visitors expressed their sincere appreciation in having ready access to the one wild spot in our city limits, bringing to them a breath of the the wilderness.

On Dec. 31, the Crones purchase 40 acres of property in the Cedar Creek Forrest area near
East Bethel MN. This was an area where they had sourced plants for a number of years. On Martha’s day off - Wednesday - they made many visits to this property. Details in Part III.

1937: A year of adequate moisture. Martha sets out close to 1,000 new plants to replace those lost to drought. A large clump of 24 rare Ram’s-head Lady’s-Slipper (Cypripedium arietinum), transplanted by Martha in 1936 from Cedar Creek, bloomed beautifully. On May 23, Dr. Roberts was in the Garden to examine them. The clump had 30 blooms. He noted it the finest he had ever seen. In her annual report dated Dec. 10, she requests a new fence: “Greatly lacking is an adequate fence enclosing the reserve, as the present one is so run down and time worn as to render it of little service.” The fence was the one Eloise Butler had erected in 1924.

Below: A portion of the 1938 WPA fence showing the front gate. Photo - Walter B. Dalberg.

1938: Annual report dated Dec. 10: This year reached a point of perfection largely due to the abundant precipitation and ideal temperature. The moisture being conserved by the luxuriant forest growth, and the natural drainage into the bog and the pool formed by the dam makes certain a continued supply for the entire season.

This was true of course only in a year with adequate rainfall. The dam was a small structure that held back water flowing from the wetland into the north meadow where the Mallard Pool was located. Eloise Butler had originally placed an earthen dam at this spot when the Garden space was first set aside. She had it replaced with concrete in 1917.

During the summer the southern part of the Garden [excluding the north meadow where the Mallard Pool was located] was surrounded by a new fence which was greatly appreciated by Martha and well received by the public. The old
Part II - The Garden Years 1933 to 1944

fence dated back to 1924 and Martha had made a plea for a new fence in her 1937 report to the Park Board, and this is certainly an instance of bureaucracy responding rapidly. The fence, reported to be at least 1,900 feet of it, was constructed by workers of the WPA (Works Progress Administration). It was six feet high and of wire mesh, with 3 gates for entrance.

The existing wire mesh fence is presumably the same one erected in 1938 except for the barbed wire on top which was added much later to keep deer out. The two main gates were replaced in the 1970s, then again in 1990 and 1995 with studier and more impressive designs.

Large groups of school children are bused in from the public schools this year. Her final comment in her report for the year to the Board of Park Commissioners stated that:

The Reserve closed Sept 30th with a greater profusion of plants still in bloom and the foliage just starting to turn to beautiful hues. There has been an increasing request for the Reserve to remain open until at least Oct. 15th, so that visitors may enjoy the fall beauties.

1939: In January the Park Board maintenance workers were in the Garden working on a new fence in the area Martha referred to as the “lower enclosure” which would be the north meadow where the Mallard Pool was located. Restoration work by a WPA crew was done on The Great Medicine Spring, just outside the Garden, and on the Bubbling Spring in the north meadow and the one on the corner of Glenwood and the Parkway.

On May 28, Parks Superintendent Emeritus Theodore Wirth and Park Board Vice President Francis Gross came to see her - subject of meeting not mentioned. Wirth is frequently mentioned in her diary and Garden Log as dropping in for a visit, usually with his driver and sometimes with his grandson.

Early May saw warm weather, 88 degrees on the 5th. On the 6th she noted “crowds great but interrupted by showers, Scouts out, Trilliums beautiful.” And on that same day she had time to plant 325 Dwarf Trillium (Trillium nivale) obtained from Mankato [Martha’s husband Bill was from the Mankato/New Ulm area, so their visits would acquaint them with plant collection opportunities].

Sunday the 7th: “Ideal day - great crowds thru, birds in. Bill conducted Scout leaders thru at 2 - crowds very unruly, glad to close.”

Above: The Dwarf or Snow Trillium - the type transplanted from Mankato by the Crones. Photo - Martha Crone April 19, 1952.

1939 was the last year that Martha Crone references any planting activity in the northern section of the garden where the Mallard Pool was located, except for actually removing some plants in the 1940s. Here are her last two log entries about the area:

1939, May 19: Planted 10 American Dog Violet from Cedar swamp in lower enclosure below dam.
1939, May 25: In bloom . . . . Blue Delphinium near west gate of lower enclosure.

On Wednesday, June 7 Martha recorded “Worst June gale at 5 AM - a lot of split trees down everywhere.” Wednesday was her day off and the Garden would be closed, but the next day she noted “Found a mess of trees and branches in Garden after storm. Will need help to complete.” The 2nd largest elm, near the large one in the Garden, was snapped off 25 feet from the base and completely destroyed. This was followed on Sunday, the 18th with this note: “Thunderstorm at 3. Lightning struck on hill at 4. Shock rooted us to the ground. 3 others in office. Tornado at Champlin and Anoka at 3:20 - much damage, 10 dead.” The lightning had hit a large cottonwood tree on the hillside overlooking Birch Pond.

In August, for a continuous flow of water to the pool in the wetland of the Garden, Martha had a spring tapped on the west shore of the pool. The spring had a large flow and within 24 hours had noticeably put water in the pool. By the 31st, the pool was running over so on Sept. 2nd the men came back and put in a drain pipe so the pool would drain excess water through a pipe. It is not clear who the crew was, but most likely Park Board workers.

In answer to her request in 1938, on Sept. 18th, Mr. C. A. Bossen, the Parks Superintendent who succeeded Theodore Wirth, came to the Garden to tell Martha the Garden should remain open this year until October 15th instead of closing on Sept. 30th as was the custom. Martha noted in her annual report dated Dec. 12:

Following popular request the season in the Reserve was extended two weeks, this included three Sundays of beautiful weather. Scores of visitors availed themselves of this opportunity to view and enjoy the fall foliage of wondrous hues, for Autumn the scene is of surpassing loveliness, with the beautiful groups of maples, oaks, populars and birch. May the season be extended again.

A diary entry noted that on November 30th the temperature was 60 degrees. “Loveliest Thanksgiving I can remember, like mid-summer.” [Note: In 1939 Minnesota had not yet opted to adopt the 4th Thursday of November as Thanksgiving.] This dry warm weather continued with Martha noting in her diary on Dec. 17th “53 degrees, beautiful weather, everyone sprinkling lawns, very dry.”

1940: This was the year her position at the Garden, her eighth as Curator, would finally cease to be "temporary" Curator. On April 4th she received confirmation of the position being made permanent at a salary of $100 per month, April through October 15, Wednesdays as the only day off.

Martha reports that six varieties of Lady's-slipper bloomed in the Garden.

September started off on the wrong note for Martha, she noted on the 1st that when she went home from the Garden “lost house key so locked out, went thru basement window.” It was a good year for mushrooms however and this was important to Martha, being secretary of the Minnesota Mycological Society. She noted the Garden had great quantities of the black Horns of Plenty. She gathered a few species in the Garden for the Sept. 9 meeting of the Society where members brought “loads of mushrooms.”

On Oct. 28th she went back to the closed Garden to direct some workers on which trees to cut. She met Mr. Lucking there. One of the trees removed was the old giant white oak called “Monarch” that Eloise Butler had estimated to have the great age of 700 years. Martha wrote:

It is with deep regret that I record the passing of the oldest inhabitant of the Reserve, the Giant White Oak, estimated age 700 years. It
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had become a hazard to passers-by, therefore it was removed in October.

[Details on Monarch in Appendix II]

Above: The old White Oak which Eloise Butler named ‘Monarch’. This photo is from 1926, the year after the June 1925 tornado tore off many branches and forced out some of the concrete that Eloise had inserted into the trunk in 1912 to stabilize the tree.

1940 is the year of the Armistice Day Blizzard, the deadly unexpected storm that came on a day that had temperatures above 50 degrees in the early afternoon. Martha’s daughter Janet was in medical residency training in Mankato but up in the cities on Nov. 11th and was to return to Mankato. After having dinner together Janet went to the Minneapolis hospital where she had received her local training - Martha records in her diary:

Nov. 11 - A little later Janet could not get home, no cars running [streetcars] or cabs. Jan had dreadful time to finally get to depot, nearly frozen, train left at 8:30, arrived at 2 AM, walked to office, slept there, Crowds everywhere.

Nov. 12 - Turned bitter cold. A dreadful night to live thru yesterday, worry about Janet, could not get long distance call through. Worst storm of history, 50 people killed in Minn., most frozen, we slowly digging out heavy drifts in yard. People stayed downtown & slept everywhere in depots, stores, factories, etc, drifts 20 feet in some places, slow in getting dug out. Janet weathered storm alright without getting cold.

1941: On March 15 the Crones purchased a 1937 Plymouth for $345. They kept their old Whippet for several more months. On June 26 they finally retired the old car. Martha notes in the diary: “Men got Whippet this morning. Has gone 143,008 miles, remarkable. It was 27,000 miles when we got it. Had it 10 years 3 months.” Whippets were only manufactured for several years in the late 1920s.

July 1941 became very hot. Here are some of her notes:

July 22 - Heat dreadful, Miss Aler brought her sister and husband from Indianapolis to call. They walked around and were fairly cooked. 98-70 [hi and lo temp]

July 23 - 100-74

July 24 - 104-76 Heat unbearable. Had to get out of cabin at noon and remained out till 5, fortunately bugs weren’t bad after spraying. Our car stalled on top of hill due to heat causing a vapor lock in gas line. Remedied by blowing into gas tank. We were the hot spot of the nation with 104.

In August she received from Mr. C. A. Bossen, Parks Superintendent, permission to be absent from the Garden to make a plant collecting trip to Northern Minnesota. Her diary entries read:

Aug 7, Thurs. - Mr Bossen in, said I could go on trip and they would allow my expenses, also will place a man here, so Bill can go on trip with us. [otherwise husband Bill would babysit the garden]
Aug. 8, Fri. - Mr. Lucking came in with Mr.
Jacobson who will stay in my place while I am
gone. Mr. Jacobson brought my check.
Aug. 11, Mon. - Left at 4 am for a trip to the
North Shore. Back at home on Sat. Aug 16th to
work next day.

In her annual report of Dec. 10, 1941: “I deeply
appreciate the opportunity that was extended to me,
to personally make a collection of precious and very
desirable plants in various parts of northern
Minnesota. Including these, 600 plants were set out
in congenial locations, where with some protection
they quickly made good growth.” [This was the
second time that she had such time off, the first
being in 1933, July 26-30, when she collected 285
plants, 30 varieties including 5 ferns.]

Martha and Bill were still active in the Minnesota
Mycological Society, Martha being Secretary,
and on October 20 the Society met at the Curtis
Hotel in Minneapolis for a show that had many
tables and more than 1000 persons viewing.
Martha took over 4 bushels to the show.

1942: Martha received notice on March 26 from
the Civil Service that her pay would be raised to
$110 per month. On the 31st she and Bill took the
kerosene stove out to the office at the Garden
and for the 1st time in many years were able to
drive right to the top of the hill near the south
entrance. The snow was gone and the ice was off
the city lakes. Also because the new Plymouth
worked better - the old Whippet had a devil of a
time in cold and snow and instead of side
windows it had detachable snow curtains.

On April 17 she noted in her diary that Mr.
McDonald of the Park Board and two men were
in to clean out brush and she worked with them
all day, taking time out, presumably, to visit
with Theodore Wirth and his driver who came
visiting the same day.

On May 4 the Crones registered for their
wartime rationed sugar allowance - 1/2 pound
per person per week. Mrs. Cram bought in three
Showy Orchis for the Garden (Orchis spectabilis)
and on the 13th the Crones take her along on a
Wednesday visit to their cabin at Cedar Creek.

Below: The upper half of the May 24th Tribune Spread.
The Summer of 1942 was one of the quietest periods of Martha Crone’s tenure as Curator. There were no festive activities at the Garden, plantings were few and far between. Most of her log is devoted to bird sightings and which plants are in bloom. In her diary she notes some activities not mentioned in the log. A Mrs. Davidson visits a few times in June. Could this be Marie Davidson who was on the Friends of the Wild Flower Board in 1974? She held various positions for a few years - Secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor until ill health forced her to step down in the summer of 1975.

Dr. O. F. and Mrs. Schussler (Edith) came in on July 10, the first time since 1938. Edith was a pupil of Eloise Butler and well known to Martha. She is pictured in the 1931 photo of Eloise Butler’s birthday party seen in Part I. July was the 3rd year of the Aqua Follies at Glenwood Lake [now Wirth Lake]. By July Martha’s monthly wage is up another $10 to $120. Edda Tolg is back visiting, [Edda was later a director of the Friends 1953-1968] boys are fishing for goldfish in Birch Pond and Police officers are frequently around checking on a group of men that were hanging around the Park. By September they had moved on.

The big event of the Fall in Minnesota is the State Fair, but in 1942, it was the first in wartime and Martha noted that many exhibits were missing, there were no samples, and no machinery on Machinery Hill at all. [factories all converted to war production, not domestic equipment].

1943: The second year of WWII for the United States subdued a number of Garden activities. The Garden Curator did very little planting compared to other years. Rationing was increased in scope and even plants were difficult to obtain. People did come to the Garden for the respite it brought. Martha’s Garden log was quite sparse this year, most notations concerning bird sightings and flower bloom. Most of the information for this year comes from her personal diary.

On the 15th of April, the water in the bird bath was frozen and in all the pails in the office. Parks Superintendent Emeritus Theodore Wirth came in that day for his first visit of the year. This is the last notation on Wirth visiting the Garden in Martha’s records. In 1945 he moved to San Diego California for his health. Martha’s $60 semi/monthly pay check was subject to deductions of $1.70 for a “victory tax” and $8.20 for the pension.

A plant re-appearance pleased Martha so much that she reported it in her annual report to the Park Board dated Feb. 12, 1944:

The reappearance of the beautiful and rare Showy Orchis (Orchis spectabilis). It completely disappeared 10 years ago during the drought, being unable to adapt itself to dry conditions. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to reestablish it. This season 9 plants reappeared and hopes are held for many more next spring.

These must be different plants from the three that Gertrude Cram brought in a year earlier.

In July the first direction signs leading the way to the Garden North entrance were erected by Martha, Mr. Jacobson and 2 other men from the Park Board. Then on August 5th Mr. Erickson of the Park Board arrives with four locks for the gates. Martha writes: “I will not leave them on the fence now, very deserted in the Garden.” The old locks were obviously stolen by some one while the gates were unlocked.

On August 11th Martha gave a radio interview about the Garden on WCCO radio on the “Outdoor Minnesota” program. [Appendix XI] In the interview she explained what the Garden was, how many plants, what types and her philosophy for operating the Garden. This interview was pre-recorded because she notes
that it was broadcast on a Wednesday when she was at the cabin at Cedar Creek and she went to a neighbor to hear the broadcast on the radio and “was amazed at my voice.” This is typical reaction of anyone hearing their recorded voice for the first time.

The State Fair of 1943 was more subdued than the one in 1942; wartime activity was most noticeable. Martha wrote in her diary: “Horticulture Bldg. most desolate sight. Closed for duration and full of tools. All bldgs. below the state log cabin [sounds like the DNR building] taken over for plane propeller manufacture.”

1944 was historically significant for two reasons: First was the addition of an upland area to the east of the existing Garden. Second, it marked the end of the time when the Garden included the meadow between the current back gate and the Wirth Picnic Grounds. Eloise Butler has tended this area for years and it was here that her Mallard Pool was created in 1932. Martha worked in the area until 1939 and when fencing was needed for this upland addition, the fence in the north meadow was removed and used in the upland. Clinton Odell had convinced the Park Board that the area had become just too swampy to maintain and that it should be abandoned. Details in the next section.

Superintendent C. A. Bossen retires and Charles Doell becomes Superintendent in 1945. “Bosser Lane” at the Roberts Bird Sanctuary is named or him.

The later flowers found difficult competition in the abundant growth of jewel-weed and nettle. The seedlings of the jewel-weed appearing in such great numbers as to take complete possession of the garden. The program for their removal will greatly aid the establishment of desirable plants. [More details are in Part I, Invasive Plants.]

1944: She notes in her annual report dated Jan. 30, 1945, what a pest Jewelweed has become and that a program for removal has to be started.
Notes:
1. Text in the Martha Crone Collection of papers at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS).
2. The Mallard Pool was a creation of Eloise Butler in the North Meadow, north of what is now the Garden’s back fence. Details in appendix I.
3. Letter to Martha Crone from Clara Leavitt (fellow teacher of Eloise Butler’s) dated September 15, 1933. Martha Crone Collection, MHS.
4. Cedar Creek Swamp in later years became a University of Minnesota Research Station. Details in Part III - Other Activities. Martha referred to the area as a ‘swamp,’ its official name at the time was Cedar Creek Forrest.
5. Greg Lucking, Parks Horticulturist from 1940 to 1966.
6. Lulu May Aler. Miss Aler had set up and maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Garden, where the asphalt path bisected the north meadow from the southern section of the Garden (the current Garden space is that southern section), so she would visit several times a week to maintain it. In later years when Miss Aler was too old to do it, the station was maintained by the Minneapolis Bird Club, then by Audubon.
7. Letter from C. A. Bossen, Superintendent of Parks, to Martha Crone, August 4, 1941, Martha Crone Collection, MHS.
8. In 1942 there were four active springs in the Garden area. The 1939 spring near the Garden pool, the Bubbling Spring, the Great Medicine and the spring on the northwest corner of Glenwood Ave. and the Parkway. Details on these can be found on The Friends website in the Garden History Archive.
The Upland Garden Addition and Clinton Odell

A large change in the Garden occurred in 1944 when most of what is now the Upland Garden was added to the Wild Flower Garden and fenced in, through the assistance of Clinton Odell. [Appendix V gives more background on Odell]

In June 1944, Odell wrote to Board of Park Commissioners Superintendent C. A. Bossen, proposing to donate $3,000 to cover the cost of clearing an upland garden, fencing in the new area, surfacing the paths, and constructing a small summer house. The Park Board felt certain of his requests should be “wait and see” as Mrs. Crone developed the area. Thus the upland garden was created.¹

When Clinton Odell proposed to the Park Board to add the current upland area his request incorporated an historic event. In Eloise Butler’s time the garden space included most of the open meadow that is between the current Garden back gate and the Wirth Park Picnic area. It was in this area that Eloise created her Mallard Pool in 1932. When Eloise died Martha Crone finished the planting around the pool the next year and tended the area, including adding plants, up until the end of 1939 and made no notes of working the area after 1939.

The dry years of the 1930s caused moisture issues in all parts of the Garden and probably lessened the effectiveness of the Mallard Pool for displaying aquatic plants. The early 1940s were however, very wet and the area was swampy once again. Details on the Mallard Pool are found in Appendix I.

Martha Hellander’s research for her book on Eloise Butler found that Odell said to the Park Board that the northern area (which included the Mallard Pool) should never have been fenced and that it was swampy and should be abandoned in favor of an upland area which the garden did not have at that time.²

So 1944 sets the time when the Mallard Pool was abandoned, although Martha Crone had recorded doing no work in the area after 1939.

Odell sent an initial check for $1,000 and in subsequent years between 1944 and 1952 (when The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was founded) he reimbursed the Park Board for what they spent, eventually exceeding his original $3,000 offer by over $4,000.³

Several aspects of Odell’s offer were not implemented. There was to be no summer house and the paths were left to Martha Crone to complete and there was no surfacing except what Martha could accomplish. It was wartime and new steel fencing was not available so fencing from the north meadow was removed and reused to enclose the new space. The new space added the equivalent of 1/4 of the old southern Garden area, bring the total enclosed space to just under 14 acres.

Martha now had a garden for all seasons. As she states in her History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden:

> During mid-summer when the spring flowers have gone and the shade of the woodland is so
dense that few plants bloom there, then it is that the prairie and upland garden comes into its own. This tract consists of gently rolling hills and prairie, and is fully 75 feet higher than the woodland garden. The contrast is all the more striking between the upland and the woodland gardens, since they are so closely allied.  

Martha began work immediately in the new addition. Besides doing whatever clearing work was required on the new land, (removing excess trees and sumac for which she had Park Board maintenance assistance) she set out 210 newplants in the area in 1944. 

Below: In this map of 1952, drawn by Martha Crone we see Garden space reduced to 14 acres. The area of the North Meadow has been abandoned with the north fence line following the old tarvia path. The Bubbling Spring now lies outside the Garden fence. The upland addition of 1944 is on the right with the “middle fence” denoting the old from the new parts of the Garden. The map is not to scale as the north/south distance is considerably foreshortened to fit into the brochure Martha Crone used. The East Path and West Path are more or less similar to Eloise Butler’s time and to today. The “Swamp Trail” is the 1946 path laid out by Bill Crone. Some of the side paths in the wetland and the large loop on the West Path no longer exist. The paths in the upland have similarly been altered and a further one acre addition was incorporated on the east side in 1993 (Map courtesy J. S. Futcher Collection)
Martha listed the species she planted in the new addition:

- Bottle Gentian, *Gentiana andrewsii*
- Penstemon - not determined was species.
- Jerusalem Artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*
- Downy Gentian, *Gentiana puberulenta*
- Pasque Flowers, *Anemone patens*
- Fringed Gentian, *Gentianopsis crinita*
- New England Aster, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
- Aromatic Aster, *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
- Silky Aster, *Symphyotrichum sericeum*
- Smooth Aster, *Symphyotrichum laeve*
- Savory Leaved Aster. [Flaxleaf whitetop aster], *Ionactis Linariifolius*

That she was allowed 4 field trips to collect plants during the year was unusual. She came back with 30 different species. This may imply time away from the Garden other than her normal Wednesday day off. Some of the new Prairie plants would have come from seedlings. Martha planted seeds each fall. In 1944 alone she planted seeds of 29 species. In 1945 she set out another 4,000 plants, again from field trip collections and from the assistance of others. In some instances she reports that native soil was also brought in for certain plants. She also established 2,000 feet of trails that year, some of which were existing paths in that part of the park. For the next several years she set out new marker labels for plants (250 alone in 1946) that were obtained courtesy of Clinton Odell.

The addition of another acre to the Upland Garden in 1993 brought the Garden to its current configuration.
Notes:
1. Letters dated October 4, 1944 to Clinton Odell from Park Board Secretary Charles Doell and November 17, 1944 to Odell from Superintendent C. A. Bossen.
3. Invoices and letters between the Park Board and Clinton Odell in the files of the Martha Crone Collection at Minnesota Historical Society. In 1944 the Board spent $1,009 on this project; in 1945 the amount was $1,116 and in 1946 the amount totaled $1,314. Each year the Park Board sent a summary to Odell and he paid the amount due above his initial $1,000. In addition to this in 1945 he paid for the wages of a second man to help Martha Crone, a Mr. John Schulte. In 1946 he did likewise but had to dismiss Schulte early for the reason stated as “they did not agree” and he was looking for a replacement. In 1947 he simply sent the Park Board $1,000 for the purpose of paying for help and in the subsequent years of 1948, through 1951 he sent $500.
4. History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, 1951 by Martha Crone. Copy in Appendix XII.
5. Martha Crone’s Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 20, 1945, addressed to Superintendent C. A. Bossen.
Garden Years 1945 to 1959

A chronological sequence of years noting some of the more important activities and events without extensively detailing what plants were planted and when. Those details are found in Martha Crone’s Garden Log, in the individual Garden history year archives on The Friends website and in the companion book The Native Plant Reserve - 1933-1958. These ‘Garden Highlights’ are taken from Martha Crone’s Annual Reports to the Superintendent of Parks, her Garden Log and her diaries that were available for certain years. Footnotes are included when the source is different or when more extensive explanations are in order. Some other events of these years are found in other sections of this document.

1945: After several years of little planting during the war years, the upland addition to the Garden led to lots of planting in 1945. In her Annual Report dated Jan. 30, 1946, Martha noted setting out more than 4,000 plants in the new Upland Garden area, many collected in the wild by interested persons and most were already present in the older parts of the Garden. Sometimes native soil was brought in to accommodate certain plants. She wrote:

More than 2,000 feet of newly made trails have been gravelled. The trails winding gracefully to all parts of the Garden. Numerous mass plantings have been established along the trails, permitting easy access and giving the best effect. An extensive program is being undertaken to re-establish some of the more elusive plants, among them the Fringed Gentian, Trailing Arbutus and various orchids.

Jewelweed, so dominant in 1943 and 1944, was much reduced by a concentrated program of pulling it out so that there would be little new seed production. [More details on the Jewelweed problem in Part I - The Purpose of the Garden - Invasive Plants.]

1946: With the development of the Upland Garden, it is incredible the amount of planting Martha Crone did in 1946 and later years - and little wonder that her log is now virtually devoid of mentioning bird activity, which she usually never neglected. Even the warbler migration is not noted. Birds are only mentioned twice - August 1st “Birds still singing” and a note on Sept. 24 that “a few Hummingbirds still here.” Martha usually religiously noted the arrival of the first Hummingbird and the departure of the last. By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1946 was 8,343. A large number of these were not native to the state. She did however, have the help of several workmen this year and in the next few years.

Above: On April 18, 1946, Martha planted 175 of the rare Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily. She did not give a source but they are only found in Goodhue, Rice and Steel counties. This is the first planting of them since Eloise Butler’s planting in 1909. Photo - Martha Crone
During the Summer Bill Crone made a new trail through the wetland, which would approximate the current Lady’s-slipper Lane of today. Martha noted in her report:

A new trail has been constructed through the swamp winding gracefully, along which many plantings of swamp loving plants are being made, such as the Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia and many others.

The mention of ‘mass plantings’ in her 1945 Annual Report is a trait Martha favored, for the reasons she stated. One example of this occurs in 1946 - Bird’s-foot Violet, (*Viola pedata*). This violet must have been one of her favorites as she started planting it in the new Upland Garden in 1946 with numerous plantings in May and September which totaled 1,312 plants, and she continued planting it in most years in the future, which accounted for the large bed of them in the Garden that she was so proud of. In later years this idea was done away with so that the Garden more resembled the wild place it originally was, with wildflowers growing among each other.

Another mass planting is noted in her annual report dated Feb. 24, 1947:

The lower Garden has had many plantings added. In careful imitation of natures way, 550 Sharp-lobed Hepaticas and 225 Large-flower Trilliums were set out on a hillside sloping to the east. This is to be an outstanding display when in bloom. Here also saplings were thinned out to allow some sunshine to filter through the larger trees.

This would be what came to be known as Hepatica Hill. It was the same area or near the same area that Eloise Butler had made similar plantings.

The phrase “lower Garden” has a different meaning after 1944. Now it referred to the wetland and the hillsides surrounding the wetland, which was of lower elevation than the new ‘upland Garden.’ Prior to 1944, it would have referred to the old North Meadow where the Mallard Pool was located. A term frequently used by Martha and Eloise Butler for the north area was “lower enclosure.”

Martha again adds thanks to Clinton Odell as follows:

The new upland garden altho established only a few years ago, has proven a distinct success.
Part II - Garden Years 1945 to 1959

No small thanks and appreciation is due to Mr. C. M. Odell, for his untiring efforts in furthering the Garden. Plants in the new Garden have been marked with new labels, total of 250 were distributed, all of which were contributed by Mr. Odell. They are attractive and easily read, using only the common names of plants. Technical terms having been avoided, since they too often cause confusion for many visitors, also are too lengthy.

1947: The water system for the Garden that Martha had requested for years was installed into the Upland Garden at the close of the season. The connection to the city water supply was made Northeast of the Garden at Xerxes Ave. and Chestnut Street. The crew ran out of narrow diameter pipe and the final leg was built with larger diameter pipe, resulting in poor water pressure.¹

The droughts of the 1930s had been disastrous for a number of plants in the Woodland Garden, and now with the expansion into the Upland Garden, Martha believed that there were just too many special plants to allow the water supply to rely on chancy rainfall in the hot months. Prior to this Martha had to bring water from home when needed for any seedlings if there was little rain and the Garden pool was dry. It would be 1964 before the connection would be extended down to the Woodland Garden.

That Garden pool was an open pool of water in the wetland part of the lower Garden backed up from the dam that had originally been put in by Eloise Butler at the beginning of the Garden’s existence.²

In 1947 Martha had three more pools dug out in the middle of the wetland. [See appendix XVII for location] She adds to her annual report:

A new item of interest added to the garden is a series of pools wherein are planted water lilies, pickerel-weed, lotus lily and water crowfoot.

These pools are situated along the swamp trail where an intimate view of them may be had when in bloom.

One entry in Martha’s log this summer was historically significant. On July 17 she wrote “4 Willow herb from lower enclosure.” This is the last time she mentions removing plants from the north meadow that contained Eloise Butler’s Mallard Pool and the last time she mentions the area. After that the area is left to go wild.

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1947 was 8,822. In her annual report to the Park Board Martha again gives thanks to Clinton Odell as follows:

I again express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Clinton M. Odell for the splendid assistance rendered, also for the 150 plant markers added to the large number already contributed the previous year.

She then reports:

Appreciation of the beauty of wild flowers is steadily growing as evidenced by the attendance having increased to 38,000 this season. More trails have been established through the swamp which permit easy access to heretofore...
Part II - Garden Years 1945 to 1959

unused territory. These trails stimulate an interest in, and an appreciation of our wild flora as well as stirring a vital urge for visitors to come again.

See appendix XVII for the location of the trails.

About the extended season, she writes:

The Garden’s extended season made it possible to properly mulch plants for winter protection, which must be delayed until after freezing. A great deal of dead timber was also removed at this time. It is hope that this extension will be carried on.

Attendance: At some time after the war, perhaps with new Superintendent Charles Doell taking over in 1945, Martha must have been asked to include attendance figures in her report as they become a staple of reports from that time up through the reports submitted by Ken Avery in the 1960s.

1948: The incredible the amount of planting continues and again; her log is virtually devoid of mentioning bird activity, which she usually never neglected. The warbler migration is not noted this year. Birds are only mentioned four times.

She writes in her annual report dated February 26, 1948:

The pools along swamp trail (established last year) were enlarged and have been well stocked with water lilies, both white and yellow, lotus lily, pickerel-weed and other water loving plants.

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1948 was 8,003. Two additional items in her report were:

The water system installed in the Fall of 1947 proved very beneficial. The Spring and Summer proved to be one of the driest, without water the loss would have been immeasurable. The upward trend in attendance attests to an ever increasing interest in our wild flowers, also the nature-loving public taking advantage of increased facilities. Approximately 43,000 patrons visited the garden during the season.

1949: By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1949 2,615, compared to 8,003 in 1948. Cold weather came late in 1949. There was no snow to speak of until December, so the buildings at the Garden were painted on November 2nd and the water to the Upper Garden was not shut off until Nov. 14th.

Her last log entry was Dec. 16: “Scattered on light blanket of snow in swamp, seeds of White Gentian, Gentiana rubricaulis, weather warm 33°.”

She summarized the years planting activities in her annual report dated January 20, 1950, adding the following:

Many of rarer species which formerly were unable to adapt themselves to varying environmental condition have been encouraged, with great success, such as the beautiful Yellow Trillium (Trillium luteum) which has its home only in the Smokies, has been firmly established, as well as many others.

The pools Martha had dug in the wetland in 1947, to create a chain of three were enlarged.

Part II - Garden Years 1945 to 1959

The attendance was somewhat curtailed during the later part of the Summer due to the mosquito scourge. Much time was spent spraying but with little effect. Approximately 42,000 patrons visited the garden during the season.

Yellow Trillium was first brought in by Martha in 1946, planted again in 1949, and she would add more in the 1950s.

She writes that numerous requests were made by Garden visitors and by mail for some brochure type information about the Garden. She and the Park Board would introduce such a brochure in 1950.

1950: Many new plants set out in 1950 are, again like 1946 to ’49, non-native, apparently an attempt to see what would grow in the new prairie area and one has to question why Martha persists in experimenting with all these plants which had a hard time surviving. The original premise of the Wild Flower Garden was: “It was planned from the beginning to make the garden a living museum of the flora of Minnesota.”

She would modify that statement with this from 1966: “The object is to bring together all the native plants hardy in this latitude, also to experiment with plants introduced from other areas.”

Many of these imported species did not last even until the 1951 census, let alone later years. Eloise Butler had done the same, but the theory was contrary to the original concept of the Garden and was reversed by Ken Avery when he became Curator.

On May 21st the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune ran a double page spread in their Picture Magazine about the Garden. The text was short, with a photo of Martha Crone in the Garden, in her usual slacks and tam-o-shanter. Besides speaking of Eloise Butler and Martha Crone, it highlights the efforts of Clinton Odell:

Another who has had a big hand in the garden’s development is Clinton M. Odell, chairman of the board of Burma Shave Co. Besides giving financial help, he sometimes has pitched in with the planting and weeding. He visits the garden frequently.

The Tribune spread had 10 color photos of plants seen in Spring, Summer or Fall with a
description of the plant. [Appendix XV] Martha made no mention in her log about any increase in visitors that week.

She summarized the year’s activities in her annual report dated Feb. 7, 1951, including “Among the plants added is one that has never been introduced before altho native to Minnesota. It is the rare orchid Arethusa.” (Arethusa bulbosa). Martha evidently did not check her records as she clearly listed in her log planting the species on June 24, 1935 with plants from the Gunflint Trail and Eloise had planted it in 1929.

It is hoped that it will become firmly established. After many years of effort success has been gained with such elusive plants as the lovely Fringed Gentian, Trailing Arbutus and various orchids.

The mimeographed brochure proved a great success and filled a much needed want.

The brochure was something she requested in 1949. In 1951 she develops the concept further by including a Garden history and a plant list. [Appendix XII] She estimated the attendance at 48,000, then announced that she was putting together the following: “A complete collection of Kodachrome slides is being made of the flora of the garden. These were shown with lectures on the Wild Flower Garden to Organizations during the Winter.” In 1951 she would begin attaching to her annual report listings of slide showings and attendance at them.

Martha completed a tool inventory of the garden in November 1950. How strange today to not see anything with an electric motor, a battery, or a gas engine. [Appendix XIV] By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1950 was 3,122.

1951: Sadly for Martha, Bill Crone passed away on January 2. They had been married for 36 years. She would be a widow for the next 38 years.

On June 10, 1951 The Minneapolis Tribune published an article titled “City Wild Flower Gardener Rescues Plants From Bulldozers.” [Appendix XVI] Several interesting quotes come from the article. About the garden office:

A tiny house stands in the center of the woods. In this ‘once upon a time’ atmosphere children might well expect the house to have a candy roof and be surrounded by gingerbread people. Actually it is not fairy-tale hut, but one of the smallest office buildings in town - - possibly the only one without electricity or a telephone.

There is even a bold clump of poison ivy, set back away from the garden path. Mrs. Crone cares for it as tenderly as a wood violet. ‘It’s educational,’ she says.

Clinton Odell is also mentioned:

Clinton Odell, the “motivating spirit” of the garden, whose interest in wild flowers is as faithful as Mrs. Crone’s claims she has a special sixth sense for finding hidden flowers.
Martha summarized the years activities in her annual report dated January 15, 1952 and added these notes:

In spite of a greatly retarded spring, the season proved to be one of the most beneficial and successful. Artificial watering was not needed at any time, since precipitation was well distributed during the season. The temperature was most favorable for seed germination and small seedlings. The garden luckily escaped damage from the several storms of the season. It is gratifying to find that Azaleas and Rhododendron have weathered five winters and bloomed beautifully. They are planted where the forested slopes protect them from strong winds and excessive heat. Yellow Trilliums, rose trilliums, painted trillium and Montana Bitterroot have been planted experimentally and are thriving.

1,261 new plants were set out, 194 of which were purchased and the balance obtained by the Curator. 37 varieties of seeds were gathered, dried and prepared for sowing.

The Azaleas and Rhododendrons had been brought in during 1947 and were not native. None survive today. Clinton Odell was again thanked for his assistance. She then reviews the new brochure that was started in 1950:

The mimeographed brochures, descriptive of the garden were very useful and filled a much needed want. The history of the garden including a list of plants growing within the garden was also well received. It was suggested that an alphabetically arranged index be added, since the plants are grouped by families only making them difficult to locate. It is hoped that these suggestions can be carried out next season.

Martha sold this history and census for 10 cents. Appendix XII includes the index that she requested.

She references that the Kodachrome slide collection increased by 500 slides, at her expense and lists 11 groups, representing 629 attendees, that she made presentations to, the largest being the Leaders of Camp Fire Girls Annual Meeting of 170 persons. She requests a telephone for the Garden office, and lists attendance at approximately 50,000. The telephone would finally arrive in 1957.

1952: On June 18th Articles of Incorporation were filled with the State of Minnesota for The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., a non-profit group formed for educational purposes. [With the current-day mission of enhancing public appreciation for and understanding of Minnesota’s native plants and their natural environments; of safeguarding the integrity of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and of aiding in its support with both financial and volunteer assistance.]

Clinton Odell was the driving force. He felt it imperative there always be a group of citizens who would work for the best interests of the Garden. He was concerned the Garden could become expendable if the Park Board had to cut costs. A more complete story is presented in Part III

Martha Crone produced a new brochure titled “Self Conducted Tour thru the Garden” (Appendix XVII) and nearly 10,000 were handed out this past year. She estimated attendance at more than 50,000 persons. She also totaled her new plant
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count at 1,067 of which 231 were purchased and all the others sourced by Martha herself from some scrounging around. Some of those plants were new additions and the remainder were species already in the Garden. Martha was fond of starting plants from seed in the fall and a number of the plants she reports setting out in the Garden in large quantities undoubtedly came from seedlings.

Even though the Garden closed on October 15, Martha was still busy planting in November. Her last entry in her log was on Nov. 17, when she logged planting 25 Twinflower, *Linnea borealis*, along the marsh path.

She was still in the process of completing a slide library for group talks and during the year she gave 27 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others totaling over 1,600 persons this year. The two largest groups were the Woman’s Club and the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

In her annual report to the Park Board, dated February 4, 1953, Martha also acknowledged the founding of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden and that it is composed of “public spirited citizens for the furtherance of making the garden an outstanding institution. It is a non-profit corporation, no officers of which can draw any salaries. The official publication of this group is called the “Fringed Gentian” and is issued quarterly. Timely articles and items of interest to the members will be published there-in.” She did not state that she would be the editor and also the Secretary of The Friends.

During the year Clinton Odell provided the funds for another 100 aluminum plant labels, adding to those he had provided in previous years.

1953: In January the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden put out the first issue of their 4-page newsletter - *The Fringed Gentian™*.


What to expect of the newsletter was explained by Friends President Clinton Odell this way:

This is the first issue of our Wild Flower Publication - begun in a small, inexpensive way. Let no one be misled by its size - good things frequently come in small packages. Martha Crone, our editor, is a talented writer. One of our Minneapolis newspapers several years ago ran a number of her contributions to “Museum Notes” on its editorial page. She has also been well received as a lecturer on wild flowers, having given over thirty talks, before various clubs and gatherings during the year just past, illustrated by beautiful Kodachrome slides taken by her in the Wild Flower Garden. In addition to telling you about wild flowers and how to raise them, Mrs. Crone will write about birds visiting the garden. You will find nothing herein about business or politics, war or sports - so in your home, read it by your fireside and become relaxed for a
few minutes, in an atmosphere of wild flowers, birds and Thoreausian beauty.

And why that title? - Martha explains:

_The Fringed Gentian™_ was chosen as the title for this publication because this flower is considered one of the choicest of American wild flowers. It was once proposed as our National flower.

This very beautiful and elusive gentian blooms during September and October, really an after-bloom of Autumn days - last yet loved the best. It will always be associated in one's mind with the charming lines written by the poet William Cullen Bryant -

-Thou waitest late and cometh alone,
When woods are bare and birds are flown,
And frosts and shortening days portend
The aged year is near his end.

The delicate violet-blue corolla, open only in sunshine, is a vase-like tube with four rounded and spreading lobes, finely fringed around the top. They close with a twisting gesture at night or on dull days. It is fast disappearing due to the increased cultivation of wild land. As the population increases the wild flowers decrease.

Among other rare flowers the Fringed Gentian is being successfully grown in the Wild Flower Garden. With a thorough understanding of its habits and requirements it can be propagated. It requires low moist meadows or bogs.

In her Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 10, 1954, Martha termed this year a drought. She reported planting during the year 936 plants and 57 varieties of seed. She set out 100 new aluminum plant markers. The brochures she had developed for a “Self Conducted Tour Thru the Garden” she estimated helped 50,000 visitors. In addition she had Garden plant lists for sale at 10 cents each - her 1951 creation. She also noted thanks to Clinton Odell for his assistance in furthering the interest in the Garden. She also purchased a mosquito sprayer, various seeds and bulbs and other items that her normal budget did not provide for, with funds from the Friends.

In her annual Secretary’s report to The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Board of Directors Martha stated she gave 25 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others - reaching 1,512 persons. The largest group was the Duluth Garden Flower Society.

1954: Permanent help arrived this year. Ken Avery joined the Park Board staff in the Spring as Martha’s assistant. Martha gave 16 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others, totaling over 1,000 persons, the largest group being 300 at the Farm School Horticultural Short Course at the University of Minnesota. Her slide library now numbered 4,000. During the year she set out 902 new plants and many seeds were sown. Another 100 aluminum plant markers went up. These were provided by Clinton Odell.
Martha also noted that the dam across the water channel in the back of the wetland was in serious need of repair causing damage to the tarvia path outside the Garden. This dam was made of concrete and had been changed from earth to concrete in May 1917. She noted having much trouble with muskrats, rabbits and pocket gophers. All of the above was detailed in her Annual Report to the Park Board dated February 21, 1955.

In her annual Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary’s report Martha Crone stated there were 192 members of the Friends and that her method of reaching new members was to award a book to all new members. The books were *Wildlife in Color* and *Wild Flowers for your Garden*.

Martha was awarded an Award of Merit for Meritorious service in the promotion of horticulture by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

1955: During March the Garden office was broken into with damage to one of the windows on the north side of the office, and to the cut wire that protected the window, and the loss of Martha Crone’s personal rock collection, some of which she found outside the office and in the marsh.5

Clinton Odell noted that Martha would have two helpers in the Garden in 1955, many new seeds and plants were on order and that over 100 additional aluminum plant labels were being added. On May 30th Martha Crone was interviewed on WCCO radio by Darragh Aldrick.

Martha reported setting out 1,120 new plants and numerous seedlings and another 100 aluminum plant markers. She gave 24 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others, totaling over 1,300 persons with the largest group being 350 for an In Service Training Course at the Park Board. The dam she complained about last year at the end of the Pool was still not fixed and finally this plea - “The Comfort Station facilities of the garden have been most deplorable for many years, becoming more so with the ever increasing attendance. The situation has been looked over and it is earnestly hoped that it will be improved this season.” The ‘comfort station’ referred to what were basically outhouses.

Today, those visitation estimates seem high, but her number of 10,000 could seem more reasonable if she meant all the Sundays of May in total.

In her annual Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary’s report for 1955 Martha Crone stated there were 183 members of the Friends. Both of her reports note the work being done on the new Fern Glen being developed in an undeveloped part of the new Upland Garden, with funds ($775) from a gift to the Friends by the Minnetonka Garden Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club.
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She estimated over 75,000 visited the Garden, with mosquitoes being absent due to her new sprayer provided by the Friends and the fact that the weather was hot with extended dry spells. The year was not extraordinarily dry, but there was just over 21 inches of precipitation whereas almost 28 inches is average.

1956: In the Friends’ Newsletter Martha laid out the plan for the new Fern Glen which was begun last fall with funds from a gift of the Minnetonka Garden Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club:

The making of such a garden will be a most delightful experience. An intensive program has been planned to establish many varieties of ferns, including some of the more elusive ones, which so often grow where no eyes can see them. The area consists of a gentle slope and some low land, being splendidly adapted to accommodate many varieties of ferns. There will be ferns for shade and sun, for dry soil and moist locations. Evergreen wood ferns and Christmas fern. The large graceful Ostrich fern, sometimes called Palm of the North, the dainty maidenhair and a score of others.

The preparation of the area was started this fall (1955) but the early arrival of Winter has delayed completion until spring. Trails are planned to lead among the ferns, so they can be enjoyed at close range. This is a most fascinating undertaking and surely should help stimulate true appreciation of Nature’s most beautiful creations.

Development of the new Fern Glen proceeded rapidly. Martha wrote:

A total of 1,630 various kinds of ferns have been planted with utmost care in the new Fern Garden. Many varieties could not be obtained until fall and they will be set out before cold weather closes the season, while still others are to be planted next Spring. The full result of such a planting cannot be realized until they become firmly established. This new project has greatly stimulated both scientific and popular interest and encouraged other groups to undertake conservation plantings.

In her annual Secretary’s report to the board of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Martha Crone stated that 4,509 new plants were set out. By the time she wrote this report at the end of the year, she had set in 2,161 ferns (included in the 4,509 total above). Of the $775 gift from the Minnetonka Garden Club and Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club, she still had $251 to spend on more ferns, which is an indication of the price levels in 1956. She believed there would be Winter loss on the new plants due to lack of snow so far.

She also added that a St. Paul newspaper was carrying a weekly column about the Garden which would increase publicity about the Garden.

In her annual report to the Park Board dated Feb. 15, 1957, she noted giving 14 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others, totaling over 700 persons with the largest group the Big Lake Garden Club and Public School (200). Also noted was the work being done on the new Fern Glen being developed in an undeveloped part of the new Upland Garden. Another 100 plant markers were...
set out and she again requested a telephone line for the Garden Office.
In the Friends Newsletter of January, 1957 she summed up the past season with this:

One of the longest growing seasons has been experienced. There were no killing frosts after the first part of April and none until the middle of November. The early spring blooming plants remained in bloom unusually long since the spring was continually cool, and the late fall flowers had ample time to fully mature seeds before frost.8

Once again, Martha was honored by the Minnesota Horticultural Society where, at their 90th Annual Meeting, she received the Bronze Medal for achievement in horticulture. She had received an award of merit in 1954.

1957: During the Summer, just outside the Garden, the Park Board built a water diversion pipeline that ran from Bassett's Creek to Brownie Lake and was to be used to add water to the Chain of Lakes when necessary. Pumping began immediately in 1958. The line bisects that boggy area of the old North Meadow Lily Pond between the picnic grounds and the west side of the Garden, and then proceeds toward Birch Pond - all on the west side of where the Garden is. The current gravel path through that boggy area was put in during the winter of 1975 when crews had to get in heavy equipment to remove diseased American Elms. The adjacent part of the pipeline heading toward Birch Pond now has a paved path on top of it.

Above: The northern meadow, site of the old Lily Pond and Eloise Butler’s Mallard Pool, is now bisected by the gravel path covering the large water diversion pipeline from Bassett’s Creek to Brownie Lake. Photo courtesy Google.

6

Above: That gravel path in the early years could get very soggy during spring melt. In more recent years it has been built up a little better.

During the Autumn Martha Crone added another 308 ferns to the new Fern Glen, begun the prior year, bringing the total to 2,468 and still
had $138 of the original grant of $775 to spend. The telephone she requested in 1951 and 1956 was added during the season. She gave 15 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others, totaling almost 1,200 persons with the largest group being the American Institute of Park Executives at the Leamington Hotel on Sept. 23. Back in March she had traveled to Springfield Illinois for a presentation to 200 at the Civic Garden Club.

By the end of the season her Garden Log noted that she had added 880 plants to the Garden. That included 348 ferns, of which 308 went to the new Fern Glen.9

1958: In her last year as Curator, her Garden Log is extremely sparse. She noted the Showy-Lady’s-slippers in bloom on June 21, tying 1936 for a late bloom date, only exceeded by 1945 when they bloomed on June 28.

In the Friends’ Newsletter10 she wrote about the value of wilderness spots like the Wild Flower Garden and about Fall birds. Since she was retiring as Curator at the end of the year, she summarized her planting work of recent years in the Garden:

Plants of many varieties have been purchased and given a start in the garden. Many more have been transplanted from wild areas that have been disturbed or cleared for building expansion, agricultural purposes or swamp draining.

More specimens of those already established are added regularly, since mass plantings add greatly to the attractiveness of the garden. In the last twelve years 38,650 plants have been set out. [This is in variance with the report below.]

Some rare plants have been encouraged and are doing well, such as Galax, Oconee Bells, unusual Trilliums and various Orchids.

Many notable successes are evident, among them the spreading of the Bloodroot and the Large-flowered Trilliums producing patches of gleaming white in the early spring. The many Hepaticas, Anemones, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, various Lady’s-slippers, Spring Beauty, Violets, Foam Flower and Running Myrtle are outstanding.

The Blooming of the Azaleas and Rhododendrons was the center of attraction in spring as well as the Showy Lady’s-slipper, the Minnesota State Flower. All this abundance markedly contrasting with the preceding years when many aggressive weeds had the upper hand.

Included in those plants numbered above were 2,843 ferns that had now been placed in the new Fern Grove, 375 (all Interrupted Fern) just this past season.

In her report to the Park Board dated Feb. 27, 1959, Martha noted giving 13 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others. She acknowledged the passing of Clinton Odell on June 4th and the contributions of The Friends. Although this would be her last year as Curator and her last report, she made no mention in the report to the Park Board of retiring - presumably it was well known.

Martha estimated that there were 80,000 visitors to the Garden this past season. Her tally on plants set out in the Garden during the last 12 years is 40,999. Lectures were given to 13 groups in 1958.

1959: As a memorial to Clinton Odell, Martha purchased a memorial "setee" from the Mankato Stone Company with funds contributed by friends of Clinton Odell. The bench, of native Mankato Dolomite, with memorial plaque, was placed on the central hill of the Upland Garden in 1959. In addition, there is a pair of benches made of Kasota stone (limestone) dedicated to Clinton Odell, that sit just off the patio area in
front of the Martha Crone Visitors Shelter. These were given by his daughter, Moana Odell Beim in 1960.

Above: Clinton Odell who passed away on June 4, 1958. With him are his spouse Amy and daughter Moana who would later become President of The Friends. Photo from the early 1950s at the Odell's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Above: At the dedication of the memorial bench to Clinton Odell, 1959. Photo: As published in the Minneapolis Tribune. Mrs. Binder became president of The Friends when Clinton Odell died.

Above: The dedication plaque on the Odell Bench.
Notes:


3. Same as note 2.


5. This break-in is mentioned both in her Garden Log and in the Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners.

6. *The Fringed Gentian™*, January 1956, Vol. 4, No. 1. That the gift from the Garden Clubs was to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was reported by George Luxton in an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* on Jan. 8, 1956.


9. The plant count was also reported in her Annual Report to Board of Park Commissioners dated February 8, 1958.

Martha's Other Activities

Martha took part in activities at the Minneapolis Public Library’s Science Museum. She was a member of the Science Museum Society from about 1940 to 1954. The Society published a small newsletter titled “Minnesota Naturalist.” She took on different projects there as needed.

Friends’ member J. S. Futcher remembers that as it was the only time he ever saw Martha in a dress. At the Garden she would always be in green or brown slacks and wearing that green beret. Futcher later had the same night overseer position that Martha had.

In January 1944 Martha became Acting Director of the Museum and editor of the newsletter and it was noted in Volume 3, #1 that as of March 30, 1944 she would relinquish those posts in order to take up her duties at the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. 2, 3, 4

The Cabin at Cedar Creek Forrest

There is an interesting connection between Martha Crone, wild plants and the University of Minnesota. Martha and her husband Dr. William Crone became interested in a parcel of land in Anoka County, in the area of East Bethel, as a source for plant observation and collecting. The area, then known as Cedar Creek Forest, was swamp and bog with upland areas of dense woodland. In her log of plantings at Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, this is the area referred to when she writes of plants obtained from "Cedar" or "Cedar Swamp" or "North of Anoka," or simply "the woods." On July 1, 1936 Martha recorded digging up 24 Ramshead Lady’s-slipppers (Cypripedium arietinum) and 3 Ground Junipers (Juniperus communis) and transplanting them in Eloise Butler. The Ramshead’s had 30 blooms the following year. Martha noted in her report to the Board of Park Commissioners, (December 10, 1937) the reestablishment of the plant after many years of failed effort.
On May 23, 1937 Dr. Roberts (Thomas Sadler Roberts, 1858-1946, who wrote *Birds of Minnesota*) was in the Garden to examine the clump. He noted it the finest clump he had ever seen. On May 25th W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota, was in the Garden to look at the Ram’s-heads. He later sent Martha a photo of them and noted what a fine clump it was.


On December 31st, 1936, the Crone’s purchased 40 acres of this area for a total price of $375 with $10 down payment. Within this parcel of land there was dry upland that resembled an island elevated above the swampland. Here they built a cabin in 1938, completing the structure on June 29th and then began the interior finishing work and moving in things necessary for daily living. They carried the building materials in their car from East Bethel and then carried them through the swamp to reach the dry land. It was not until 1941 that Bill Crone finished 145 feet of what could be called a causeway, using cedar logs, that reached the “island” without getting one’s feet wet. The cabin area became known to the locals as “Crone’s Island.” On September 3rd, 1938, they discovered that the cabin had been broken into and all there inside possessions were stolen. The county Sheriff was notified and the Crones proceeded to secure the cabin more tightly and over the next year completed the finishing touches.5

The Crone’s would drive up there on Tuesday evening and stay all day Wednesday to do their work. Wednesday was Martha’s day off and the Wild Flower Garden was closed up with the gates locked. Even in the Winter months they would go there when the weather was tolerable, taking along a portable kerosene stove.

On April 18th 1940, Martha noted in her diary that she had a visitor while she was at the Wild Flower Garden: “Dr. A. N. Wilcox in to get our version of conservation at Cedar Bog.” She is referring to Arthur N. Wilcox, University of Minnesota & director of the Cedar Creek Science Reserve. He was President of the Minnesota Academy of Science in 1950, and was a driving force behind the founding of the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. As the Chair of the Committee for Preservation of Natural Conditions, Wilcox raised enough funds to purchase large tracts of land in the Cedar Creek Forrest and later oversaw transferring care of the land to the University of Minnesota. In 1943 the University purchased over $2,000 worth of land just north of the Crone property.
Part III - Martha’s Other Activities

Above: The area of Cedar Creek containing the original Crone property. The view is NE across Norris woods, Crone knoll (in the center of the photo), & Cedar Bog Lake just left of center. Photo by Donald Lawrence, 1966, University of Minnesota.

This swampy bog area was of great interest to those in the botany profession. The first recorded research interest in the area dates back to 1929 when an aerial survey first disclosed the significance of the habitat. In 1947 a large “Study Area” was outlined by the University of Minnesota - the area included the Crone’s land. The purpose of the Study Area was for students of botany and professionals to be able to observe and study the habitat of a natural swamp and bog. On Sept. 14, 1957 the University of Minnesota dedicated the Cedar Creek Forest Laboratory. Martha was invited to attend. (William had passed away in 1951). Access to the lab area was via the Crone land and that of several other property owners.

On May 24, 1961, the University, by letter from University attorney R. Joel Tierney, offered to purchase her land if University funding could be obtained. At that point in time Martha was retired from the position of Curator at Eloise Butler. There is not a record in her papers as to the date of sale but it was sold. On Oct. 20, 1961 she had paid to have the abstract updated at the Anoka County Abstract Co.

The Study Area is now known as Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve with an area of about 2,200 hectares (5,400 acres, or about nine square miles). It is important as a relatively undisturbed area where three biomes meet (tall grass prairie, eastern deciduous forest and boreal coniferous forest), supporting 51 species of mammals and 238 species of birds. It is a nationally and internationally famous research center, recognized as a Registered Natural Landmark in 1975. The land where Martha’s cabin was situated is now known as the Crone Knoll.  

The Cabin on the upper North Shore of Lake Superior

With the land and cabin at Cedar Creek sold, sometime in the fall of 1963 or winter of 1963/64 Martha acquired some land with a pleasant cabin on the North Shore of Lake Superior about 15 miles from Canada, at Hoveland.

She wrote in the Friends newsletter:

In this world of tension, what a pleasant relief to come to this refuge away from the city noise and bustle. Here is found solace in silence. Having searched for many years for a place where can be seen sunrises and sunsets across the lake. Northern lights, clear cold water and a rock-bound coast similar to the coast of Maine. This was it. The cabin is built on a shelf of rock above the water’s edge, high enough to be safe from the waves. Surrounded by the beauty of sky, water and forest which can be seen from every window of the cabin, also looking across the lake toward the south can be seen the islands stretching away into purple distances. From this, one never tires.  

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

On June 18th 1952 Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Minnesota for The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., a non-profit group formed for for educational purposes. [With the current-day mission of enhancing public appreciation for and understanding of Minnesota’s native plants and their natural
environs; of safeguarding the integrity of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and of aiding in its support with both financial and volunteer assistance.

When Martha Crone became curator he provided assistance to her. He felt it imperative there always be a group of citizens who would work for the best interests of the Garden. He was concerned the Garden could become expendable if the Park Board had to cut costs. He wrote that the Park Board recognized the possibilities of the garden -

...however much remains to be done and to supplement the Park Board’s efforts, we have started Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. This non-profit corporation has a perpetual charter. None of its officers can draw any salary, or derive any pecuniary benefit from its operation. Its annual dues range from $3 to $500. Many of our business and professional leaders, also a number from outside our city, have taken up memberships.⁸

Martha Crone was thus, a founding member of The Friends. From the beginning she was Secretary of the Friends, membership secretary and also editor of the Friend’s newsletter, The Fringed Gentian™, the first issue of which came out in January 1953. She became treasurer in 1954 succeeding Leonard Ramberg and continued as Secretary/Treasurer and membership secretary and newsletter editor until May 1971, having, as editor, written and produced 78 4-page issues over 19-1/2 years. She continued to serve on the Friends Board of Directors through 1972.

Martha used the newsletter to provide informative short articles on plants, birds, and the environment. Rarely did she mention what was going on in the Garden that she cared for. You will rarely learn anything about her daily activities and the state of the Garden. She must not have thought that the membership would be interested in that. Future editors would follow a different course.

But she did use the newsletter as her pulpit to promote the need for wild places, for

⁸
Part III - Martha’s Other Activities

preservation of native flora and for the public to support preservation of both. This quotation from 1964 after she retired as Curator is typical:

The Garden has existed for many years and is prospering and with combined efforts can be further developed. The time to preserve this bit of remaining wilderness is now or it would be gone forever. If we fail to secure these natural features and suffer them to be destroyed, no power on earth can restore them. Conservation cannot take a holiday. It is too vital an issue. We have every reason to be proud of this little section set aside to show in years to come what our native area looked like. It is only fitting that we should increase our efforts toward bigger and better accomplishments.9

The Formation of The Friends sometimes allowed Martha to obtain some volunteer help on busy days at the Garden. In addition, The Friends provided certain funds to obtain items she needed in the Garden, such as a mosquito sprayer, seeds, bulbs, etc. The mosquito sprayer and a later mist sprayer acquired by Ken Avery were quite beneficial as the Garden was heaven on earth for mosquitoes.

From 1955 until 1968 while Martha was Secretary and Treasurer the Friends donated $500 annually to the Park Board for the maintenance of the Garden. In 1968 through 1970 the Friends constructed the new Garden Shelter for a cost of $25,169.

The New Martha E. Crone Shelter
It would be without doubt that many people probably visualized over the years, and for various reasons, a replacement for the little "garden office." The Friend’s Board of Directors must have been discussing it because Martha Crone wrote in her annual secretary’s report for the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1967:
Part III - Martha’s Other Activities

We look forward to some day having an administration building housing an office, Museum and Herbarium of specimens.

She wrote again in the Spring 1968 newsletter to the Friends membership:

A hope was again expressed that a more adequate building could be obtained for this lovely setting housing an office, Museum and Herbarium of specimens. We need places to teach the love of Nature, for he who loves the land will keep the nation strong.\(^{10}\)

Soon, a project committee of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was formed in 1968 to develop ideas for a plan for a new shelter, to replace the deteriorating current office. These ideas were presented to the Parks Superintendent Mr. Robert Ruhe and his staff. The idea being that the Park Board would provide for the funding and construction of the Shelter.\(^ {11}\)

Friends Project Committee Members were: Catherine Faragher, Friends’ President; Martha Crone, Secretary-Treasurer, editor of *The Fringed Gentian™* and former Curator; Kenneth Avery, Curator; Mr. Alvin Witt, building fund; Mr. Wilbur H. Tusler, building chair; Mr. Harry Thorn; Mr. Robert Dasseet.

At this time the Park Board turned down the request of the Parks Superintendent to provide funds for the shelter improvement, at least not before 1976. It was then suggested by Mr. Ruhe and staff that the Friends produce a design of their own, submit it for approval and raise the money.\(^ {12}\)

Mr. Tusler, chair of the building committee, was a well known Minneapolis architect and he hired Hiram H. Livingston, to be the shelter Architect.\(^ {13}\)

Wilbur Tusler.

The construction plans drawn by Mr. Livingston for the shelter were approved by the Park Board Superintendent Mr. Robert Ruhe on March 25, 1969. It was agreed at that time upon request from the Friends that lavatory basins be installed in the restrooms and that water be run to them when water was run to the shelter. Shutters on the shelter were added in order to deter vandals. Also at the plans presentation meeting the Friends requested a name change to the Garden by adding the words “and Bird Sanctuary”. This was approved by the Park Board.\(^ {14}\)

**Construction:**

Construction responsibilities were as follows: The site excavation for the concrete slab was done by Park Board maintenance staff. The foundation footings were dug and laid by the Friends’ contractor, Joe Peterson Construction.

Running electricity and water to the Shelter (water also to rest rooms) by Park Board and NSP. The concrete slab was poured by Park Board maintenance staff. All structure construction was done by the Friends’ contractor.
Part III - Martha’s Other Activities

Construction began in September 1969. By mid October the foundation and slab were completed so that building construction could begin. Funds needed for the project were not yet all in hand. There were pitfalls and miracles. Labor and lumber prices increased such that an additional $4,000 had to be raised. A large gift ($3,500) came in from Mr. H. J. Neils, former president of Flour City Ornamental Iron Co., and the Friends now had $23,260 for the shelter construction to be completed.

Friends President Cay Faragher wrote to the membership:

Put a circle around Thursday October 23, 1969. That morning at 10 o’clock Martha Crone will be hammering in a golden nail from the old building and Barbara Flanagan will be there with her photographers.\(^{15}\)

On that date, Martha Crone did hammer the “golden” nail and Barbara Flanagan was there from the *Star* with photographers. When construction was complete in February 1970, the old structure was moved to a spot near the back gate.

Mrs. Faragher reported in February 1970 when construction was virtually complete, that there were 256 contributors. She had earlier reported that at the time of approval of the plans from the Park Board, the Friends had only $4,000 available. The remainder had to be raised. There were only 200 Friends members at the time, but funds also came from outsiders.\(^{16}\)

The Shelter was dedicated on May 13, 1970 and named the Martha E. Crone Shelter. Leonard C. Odell, son of Clinton Odell, was master of ceremonies.

Friends board member Betty Bridgman wrote a poem for the occasion of the dedication.

[Appendix IV]

Martha Crone wrote a thank you to the Friends in July 1970. She said:

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation and extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members and friends who made possible the beautiful shelter building in the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.
and dedicated it to me. I am most grateful to those who have given of their time and effort to make it such a success. This is really the culmination of many years of my life devoted to the Garden.

Slide collection and Herbarium.

From 1948 to 1957 Martha Crone assembled a collection of Kodachrome slides that she took of plants and landscape of the Wild Flower Garden and some plants from other gardens. The assemblage eventually totaled over 4,000 slides. As Secretary of The Friends she used these slides to give illustrated lectures about the Garden to various clubs, groups and organizations, eventually logging over 300 groups. She also reported these educational activities in her annual report to the Board of Park Commissioners and also in her Secretary’s Annual Report to the Friends Board of Directors.

After her death in 1989 her daughter Janet, passed the collection to the Friends via Friends member Martha Hellander who was in the process of researching a book about Eloise Butler. The Friends sorted the collection and then for a short time beginning in 1993 used them at lectures about the Garden, then later deposited the collection at the Minnesota Historical Society.

As noted in the text on the new shelter, Martha Crone wrote about the need for a new building at the Garden that could be used for “housing an office, Museum and Herbarium of specimens.” The herbarium was another of her creations. Martha Hellander’s research indicated there were over 1,000 mounted specimens already by 1937 but they were not ever placed in the new shelter. Hellander indicates they may have gone to the University of Minnesota Herbarium.\textsuperscript{17}

O.E.S.

For much of her adult life while living in Minneapolis, Martha was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.). Her diary prior to becoming Curator of the Garden has many activities related to the charitable group, particularly Thimble Bees - which were group sewing get-togethers where the finished items were provided to needy persons by the O.E.S., or they held rummage sales to raise funds for the same purposes. Her local group was the Plymouth Chapter, No. 19 of the O.E.S., of which she served as an officer - we know she was treasurer in 1930 - but Curator duties after 1933 undoubtedly curtailed her work there.

Notes:
2. Martha Crone’s Diary 1943. The Acting Director position was explained in an article in the Minneapolis Star on Jan. 10, 1944.
3. Martha Hellander’s research at the Minneapolis Public Library for her book on Eloise Butler, indicates that Martha actually began working at the museum as early as 1939. The Wild Gardener, pg. 107 note 5.
5. Details of the work at Cedar Creek are found throughout Martha Crone’s diaries after 1936.
6. Documents from the Martha Crone Collection at MHS. Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve has a website with details of their work.
13. Wilbur H. Tusler was a principal in the firm of Magney, Tusler & Setters. Principal works included Swedish, Abbott, Northwestern and Deaconess hospitals and the Prudential Insurance Building in Golden Valley, MN.
16. Friend’s President Mrs. Reginald (Catherine) Faragher letter to the membership, April 25, 1969.
17. Same as note 3.
Retirement

Martha retained the positions of secretary/treasurer and *The Fringed Gentian™* editor until mid-1971, when after about 53 years of service to the Garden and the Friends (38 years after being appointed Curator in 1933 and about 15 years of service to Eloise Butler prior to that), she finally retired from all her Friends positions, turning them over to Mildred Olson.

On the occasion of her leaving the Friends Board a year later Martha was given a life membership in the Friends on May 12, 1973 to which she responded:

"Please extend to the members of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, my sincere appreciation for being named Honorary Life Member. It means a great deal to me. It has been worth hanging onto this wonderful Reserve, sometimes against great odds. As time goes on its value becomes more apparent. A priceless heritage to leave to those to follow."¹

**Martha's summation of her life's work.**

The following quote is the last that she wrote to members of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

Spring is Alive. Once again the awaking of Spring, coming after a long time of waiting. How fortunate to have this lovely Reserve to enjoy where Springtime’s beauty unfolds in every flower. Flowers are eager to answer the call of the warming sun, even while patches of snow remain. They must make the most of the sunlight before the forest deepens and veils the woodland.

How delightful to hear the first songs of the returning birds. Wildflower and bird sanctuaries that have been established will greatly benefit future generations. How fortunate that this native area was added while still in it’s unspoiled state.

It’s most necessary to meet the demands of our expanding population. I have devoted my life to what I consider this satisfying pursuit.²

Her summation reaches back to her first year as curator in 1933 when she wrote these words to Theodore Wirth:

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served in the Native Plant Reserve this past season and I wish to thank you for the privilege.³

In the Summer of 1988 Martha was moved to a nursing home - the Camden Care Center in North Minneapolis. The Camden area is just north of where she lived. The family put the house at 3723 Lyndale Ave. N up for sale and donated the wild flowers from her yard to the Garden. These included some rare trilliums and ferns. Martha Crone was born on January 29, 1894; she died in Minneapolis on February 5, 1989, at age 95. Her husband, William had passed away many years previously on January 2, 1951. Both are buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN. Her obituary was published on Feb. 7, 1989. [Appendix XIII]

Martha and Bill Crone had one daughter, Janet, born June 16, 1917. Janet only survived Martha by four months. Janet (Prevey) was killed in a car accident in Canada on May 27, hit by drunk driver. Surviving her were two daughters Linda Prevey Wander and Judy Prevey. A son, David had died previously in a car accident at age 17 on December 14, 1962. Judy died in 1995 and Linda in 2010.

Notes:
3. Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, dated November 19, 1933.
Memories

Various Friends have provided some comments on their association with Martha Crone. Here are a few:

Moana Odell Beim:
"Well, I grew up, and soon had a family of my own. Before long I became a Girl Scout Leader and loved bringing my troop of eager-to-learn girls out here to Martha Crone. Her love of the Garden and keen interest in teaching was a great inspiration to us all. As birds too were of special interest to her she had, in the fall and winter months, collected a wide variety of bird nests which she kept on display in the little cabin. What joy it was to see her gently cradle the tiny hummingbird nest in her hand, explaining its structure to the children. And then the wonder of seeing the tiny creatures themselves! They arrived promptly each May 15th and Martha kept a vial of sugar water outside the cabin window so all could watch them feed close at hand."

J.S. Futcher:
"As a young birdwatcher, I became acquainted with the Garden and Mrs. Crone while I was in the eighth and ninth grades in 1946 and 1947. At first I would walk from our home at 14th and Girard Avenues North to the Theodore Wirth golf course and explore the hills, woods and Bassett’s Creek. At the same time I started going to the Science Museum on the fourth floor of the old downtown public library. There, in case after case, were all the mounted bird specimens. I started going on nature field trips led from there by the museum director, Milton D. Thompson. It was at this time that I became acquainted with Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. Here Thompson would introduce Mrs. Crone to us, and she would give us an update as to what was occurring in the Garden, plant-wise and bird-wise.

Mrs. Crone seemed so approachable that in my following high school years, while birding by myself in the Garden, I felt bold enough to knock on her cottage door. That was a brown, vine-covered wooden house, or what I called a shack. She could always tell me what birds were in the Garden that day.

One autumn day in the Garden, I remember her telling me where to look for a Winter Wren. I went to that spot, and sure enough, it was still there. That was my first look at a Winter Wren. Mrs. Crone always seemed to be wearing a green woolly beret, or as Hellander in The Wild Gardener calls it, a tam-o’-shanter. And always she seemed to be wearing a green or brown slacks outfit. The first time I saw her in a dress was at the Science Museum, where I would attend the Minneapolis Bird Club evening meetings. During the winter months she worked there as the night overseer -- the same job I was to have several years later while attending the University.

Once, after I started to teach school, I made my usual stop at her cottage. In the course of the conversation, she asked whether I was a member of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. "Noooo," I answered. Empathetically she replied, "Well, you should be!" But I remember I didn’t fill out the form on the spot."
In those early years of my teaching career, I had great plans to grow some ginseng as a money crop on a wooded plot up north. So, I asked Mrs. Crone where I could buy some. She said I didn’t need to buy it and proceeded to dig up a clump for me, then added a goldenseal plant for good measure.

While courting my wife, I brought her into the Garden, and, of course, we ran into Mrs. Crone. I introduced them. Mrs. Crone became the first of my nature friends to find out that I was soon to be married.”

Robert and Betty Dassett:
After school at West High, in the mid to late ‘30s, Robert would ride out to the Garden on his bike to talk to Martha Crone, early in her tenure as Curator.

The Dassetts both loved the woods and wild places, and Robert had some pals who were very fond of the Garden, too. He liked to remember his friend Whitney Eastman, “a real bird man” and a great baseball fan during the Millers’ era. Whitney had his own version of a double-header, Robert recalled; he’d watch the first game, bike to the Garden to eat his sandwich and talk to Martha, and then bike back to see most of the second game.

Robert and Betty were frequent visitors to the Garden during the Martha Crone years. He talked about helping her and Mr. Odell put out a prairie fire before the shelter was built. Once, Robert and Betty were there when Martha’s husband Bill discovered a barred owl perched rather close on a tree branch. All four went to gaze at it, and the owl just sat and stared back at them, seemingly curious and unafraid.

On May 18, 1960, Robert wrote to Martha:

Enclosed is a check for $5 to enroll me as a Friend. A thousand dollars couldn’t even begin to repay for the wonderful hours spent in the Garden. I’ll cherish forever those moments spent on the paths in the Garden and also in your little cabin chatting about all sorts of wonderful things, but mostly about birds and flowers.

Notes:
1. Published in The Fringed Gentian™, Spring 1982, Vol. 30, No. 2. Mrs. Beim was the daughter of Clinton Odell and was Friends’ President in 1975.
3. Martha Crone’s Diary 1943.
4. Letter in Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). Mr. Dassett was Friends’ President 1971 - 1974.
Martha Crone’s Garden

The large slide collection that Martha Crone assembled from 1948 through 1957 allows us to visualize what the Garden looked like during the later years of her tenure as Curator. Visitors today will see some similarities and some vast differences.

The tree canopy is completely different. Paper Birch trees in the wetland have given way to other species. The American Elms that provided the upper canopy to protect more sensitive plants below are all gone, victims of Dutch Elm disease. Trees remaining are much larger. Grasses are more prevalent. The Red Oaks that were the core of the upland Oak Savanna mostly succumbed to Oak Wilt. The entire plant community of the upland area has changed to more grasses and plants of greater height. The wetland is less wet and the open pool of water is affected by silting.

The Wetland

The path through the wetland created in 1946 is shown here on September 16, 1948.

One year after Martha Crone had the new 1947 pools enlarged, we see open water and Marsh Marigolds in bloom on May 6, 1949.
Another view of marsh with birches, marsh marigolds, open water and the path running across the lower section of the photo - May 15, 1952.

The wetland in Winter showing the extensive stand of White Birch that was present at that time. The majority of them are not present today. Photo from November 8, 1951.

This more intimate view of the wetland path is from May 7, 1957. Marsh Marigold are in bloom. The scene is further south from the photo at the top.
Woodland Garden surrounding the Wetland

The northeast side of the office with birches in fine fall color. October 21, 1955.

The east path leading to the Office. Some of Martha’s plant markers are visible as is the Martin house near the trunk of the large tree in upper left. The stump of that tree exists today. The Martha Crone Shelter is now just to the left of the Martin house.

Violet Path on February 18, 1953, looking south toward where the office would be.
The first image we have of the new Upland Garden taken in May 1948 just as Martha began to accumulate slides for her presentations. Paths are laid out, some planting has occurred.

Left: This view is two years later on June 5, 1950 with more plants and a change in the paths evident.

Below we see the trees separating the upland from the woodland in full fall color on October 24, 1955.
This view of the entrance path to the Upland Garden is July 29, 1950. The Martin house is on the first hillside and the White Oak on the center hill is seen behind the bird house.

Right: A similar view but earlier, October 15, 1948.

Below: The trees of the hillside separating the Upland from the Woodland on October 24, 1955. The fence was the former Garden boundary, now removed and re-used to enclose the 1993 addition to the Garden.
The earliest view to be seen here is from the Summer of 1935. The people on the right are sitting on the boulder holding the memorial tablet for Eloise Butler. The men on the left are sitting on wooden settees that were replaced in 1960 with the Limestone benches currently in the Garden. The cabin roof lacks a chimney as there was no stove.

Below we see the office on April 14, 1949 following a 9-1/2 inch snowfall. Sometime in 1944 a wood stove was added and the chimney is evident on the right side of the roof. This view is from the rear of the cabin.
Above: The office in February 1956. This is the last photo Martha Crone took of the Building. The stack is visible on the roof for the wood stove that was added in 1944. No further additions of trellis or pergola are known to have been made before the office was replaced in 1970.
Garden Plants

Below left: The grouping of Ostrich Fern along Violet Path on June 9, 1950. The area today is still filled with them. Right: A field of Lupine in the Upland Garden on May 31, 1949 - one of Martha’s mass plantings.

Below left: Pitcher Plant on May 31, 1951. These were frequently planted by Martha Crone, some came from the Quaking Bog in Wirth Park. Right: Wild Poinsettia on July 30, 1949. The original plants were rescued from a building site in New Ulm, MN.
Below left: Snow or Dwarf Trillium on April 19, 1952. Below right: Another view of the large Lupine bed on May 28, 1951.

Below left: The hillside of Interrupted Fern in the lower Garden that Eloise Butler called “the most spectacular features of the garden.” Below right: A clump of Yellow Lady’s-slipper.
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Additional History

The Native Plant Reserve in Glenwood Park.
The Martha Crone Years 1933-1958

This is a companion volume to this book and contains the detailed histories of each of years of Martha
Crone’s tenure as Curator, rather than the summaries presented here. These histories include planting
notes on new species added to the Garden each year with illustrations of some of the plants. 224 pages,
available as a high resolution (49mb) or lo resolution (17mb) downloadable pdf file. 8 1/2 x 11 inch
format.

A note on the type
The type face used in this book is Palatino Linotype for the text and Baskerville Old Face for photo
captions.
I - The Mallard Pool

The Mallard Pool was a creation of Eloise Butler. Her description of it is contained in an article sent to The Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter, (Division D) of the Agassiz Association for inclusion in the members circular. The Agassiz Association was founded in the late 1800’s to be an association of local chapters that would combine the like interests of individuals and organizations in the study of Nature. Only the Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter to which Eloise belonged, was still active. First we have Eloise describing the pool.

Eloise Butler's text

Ever since the Native Plant Preserve [Eloise’s word] was started I have wished to have a pool constructed where two small streams converge in an open meadow, the only pool in the Preserve being too shady for aquatics. The hard times gave this joy to me, for a jobless expert did the work for a sum that could be afforded by the Park Commissioners. The pool is about 35 feet long, several feet narrower, and of irregular outline. Indeed, the contour is beautiful. The excavation was made in a dense growth of cat-tails. While digging, the workman saw a mallard duck wending its way through the meadow with a train of four little ones. Hence the name of the pool, as this duck had never been listed before in the Garden.

The voracious muskrat was also observed, and I began to fear that the roots of my water lilies would be gobbled up. It was thought that stout wire netting at the top and bottom of the pool would prevent the muskrats from entering, but my adviser knew little of their predatory habits. Some white water lilies were planted in the pool. In two days only a fragment of the leaves could be found. Then it was decided to encircle the pool with the netting sinking it two feet in the ground. Before this work was completed, a muskrat preempted the pool with two little ones. We thought we could trap them inside and throw them over the fence but before the circuit was complete, they left on their own accord, probably in search of more food, and the gap was closed against them. It is possible that they will burrow under the fence. Traps must be set next spring.

A rustic fence [and bridge] of unpeeled tamarack poles has been built across the narrow lower end of the pool. Here one at advantage the pool and the border [sic - as written]. Opposite at the upper end, is “The Gurgler,” the water entering gently by a short series of low rapids. Here my ingenious bridge-builder will insert a water-wheel made of galvanized tin and about five inches in diameter, designed to throw a mist-like spray over plants like Pinguicula that flourish on dripping rock. We call the place Atlantic City because, at each end of the bridge, a plank walk was laid over the cat-tail slough.

The remainder of her text is a long listing of the plants that she planted around the pool.
The little water wheel (to be removed during the winter lest the paddles be bent by ice) has been inserted in “The Gurgler,” but the name has been changed to “The Jolly Spindrift.” It chugs around so merrily, the spray splashing in the sunlight, that everyone smiles audibly when he sees it. I gave it the name at first sight, to find afterward that it is a new coinage, the compound not being in the dictionary. Below the rustic bridge another excavation has been made, continuous with the first, but more like a little pond, while the first is like a winding river emptying into it, increasing the length of the water area to fifty feet. I needed the “pond” for the display of the aquatic buttercup -- white and yellow -- which I hope the muskrats will find too bitter to eat. Otherwise, the pond must be fenced. Some yews, “ground hemlock,” have just been contributed to the border,
whose bright green foliage will greatly add to the toute ensemble. Gratiola continued to blossom for some time after planting and marsh marigold began to bloom for the second time on the border. Even now, at the beginning of work, the place with its setting is truly enchanting and I have to tear myself away from it. I shall dream of it all winter and conjure up the futurity of the plantings.

**Future Events**

During the summer of 1938 the southern part of the Garden was surrounded by a new fence which was greatly appreciated by Curator Martha Crone and well received by the public. The old fence dated back to 1924 and Martha Crone had made a plea for a new fence in her 1937 report to the Park Board. The fence, at least 1,900 feet of it, was constructed by workers of the WPA (Works Progress Administration). It was six feet high and of wire mesh, with 3 gates for entrance. Parts of the existing wire mesh fence are presumably of the one erected in 1938. Martha noted in her diary on January 18, 1939 that Park Board maintenance workers were in working on new fencing in the "lower enclosure," which must have been an area excluded in the 1938 project. Eloise had written in the 1932 article of the possible need for a fence. The "lower enclosure" would seem to be the same area Eloise Butler called the "north enclosure," as that is an area of lower elevation. This all ties in with what happened in 1944.

When the Upland Garden area was added in 1944, Martha Crone said in her 1945 report to the Park Board that the addition added about 10 acres. This is too high a number. The total acreage before the most recent addition in 1993 was 14 acres. We know that over the years from 1907 to 1993 certain areas expanded from the original 3 acres, including adding in the north meadow and the area of the Bubbling Spring. Eloise wrote in 1926 that the entire area was 25 acres at that time including the North Meadow and the Bubbling Spring. We are also fairly certain that the northern meadow area was abandoned by the early 1940s and by 1944 for certain leaving a much smaller area.

Martha had made no notes in her log about doing anything in the Mallard Pool area after 1939 except for notes in 1946 and 1947 about removing some plants from that area and transferring them to the current Garden space.

**Exactly where was the location of the Pool?**

On the previous page is the plan of the Wild Botanic Garden ca. 1912. Features noted are names given by Eloise Butler. The location of Mallard Pool, added in 1932, is noted. This spot is within what Eloise Butler called the "north enclosure" - the name she gave to one of two areas that were fenced in during 1924. Eloise noted in her log on July 7, 1932 "Mallard Pool completed in north enclosure." The bridge she writes about was completed July 29 [Log] and would be at the northern end of Mallard Pool. The bridge was made by Lloyd Teeuwen who was her helper in the Garden and was with her at the Babcock house just before she went to the Garden on April 10, 1933 and suffered a heart attack. Lloyd returned to the Babcock house as the doctor was administrating to Eloise and was present when she died.

Today, the location of the pool, Bubbling Spring, the North Meadow and the Lily Pond lay outside the North Garden boundary, just north of the back fence. Beyond the Lily Pond to the North is the Wirth Park picnic area and across Glenwood Avenue is the present Wirth Beach area. The dotted line of the path that intersects Lady’s-slipper Path, running from near Bubbling Spring westward toward Gentian Meadow, is the approximate location of the existing paved path just outside the back fence of the Garden and the location of what Eloise called "the tarvia road." The dam, crossing the stream from the
Garden, that created the small pool in the Garden was next to this path. A difference today is that prior to 1992 the path and back fence were more to the south and next to the dam. The fence and path were moved northward in a 1991/92 renovation of that part of the Garden. This path (the tarvia road as Eloise called it), bisected the Garden in Eloise Butler's time into the southern portion (today's garden) and the northern portion where the Mallard Pool was located.

At the time the Upland Garden was established in 1944, requiring much development work by Martha and the one person she had for help at that time, the Park Board agreed with Clinton Odell that the northern meadow should never have been fenced, it was swampy, and it should be abandoned.

In a strange turn of events all the area that had earlier been abandoned, including the Mallard Pool area, were added back to the control of the Garden staff in 1964. The Park Board had approved the expansion of the area under the Gardener's control. Outside of the fenced area of the Garden proper, this new area was the surrounding wild area west to the Parkway, north to Glenwood Ave. and east to the picnic grounds. Gardener Ken Avery was in favor of this change. In fact he considered it an important milestone -

"...one rivaling, if not exceeding, in importance that of the addition of the Prairie Garden in 1944."

He added -

This quadrupled the area we have to work with and makes it possible to treat the entire area as one integrated unit. We of the Wild Flower Garden are eager to assume this task.....we have always felt that the chief value of this area was for the study and appreciation of nature. Now that the Board has passed the motion dedicating it to this end, we are planning to adjust all maintenance activities toward this goal. It will not require any great change but just that all activities be paced to show greater respect for the ecological relationship of the area and to exploit all of its possibilities as a natural area. (Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners for 1964)

This now includes (or re-includes) that “north enclosure” area where the Mallard Pool was located. It did not last long however, as the Park Board budget did not allow Ken to have sufficient staff to care for such a large area and by 1967 it was back to 14 acres and the Mallard Pool area was once again left to grow wild as Eloise Butler had found it.

The wetland area opposite Wirth Beach parking lot in 1938. Where there was once some open water is now filled with cattail and other vegetation. The diagonal line across the lower right cattails may well be the plank walkway Eloise Butler wrote about. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota.
II - Monarch

A Notable Feature of the Wild Botanic Garden:
Eloise Butler wrote in 1915:

One of my white birches on a hillside has eight bolls, while opposite in the meadow a yellow birch rejoices with seven. Between them “Monarch,” the largest white oak in Minneapolis, lifts his aged head and rules the landscape.

Monarch in 1926. Due to age and accumulated storm damage, the tree was taken down in 1940.

It is reported that Eloise measured the circumference at 10 feet and always stated that the tree was over 700 years old. The age is wildly overestimated but tree growth factor charts produced from field studies were not available in her day. (details in note 1) These studies have produced tree age calculation tables which for a white oak of that size would indicate an age of 290 years for trees growing in perfect environment but perhaps older for a typical forest tree of the White Oak species. [note 2] But there is no doubt that Monarch was old and decaying.

On April 4, 1912, tree surgeons were brought it. Eloise noted in her log “Monarch treated surgically today.” Dead limbs were removed and concrete was used to reinforce the rotting trunk. The rotting trunk may be the reason that the base of tree usually produced a mushroom, *Polyporus frondosus* [Hen of the Woods], often of large size - 25 pounds in 1935.

In an essay she wrote in 1926 [*Trees in the Wild Garden* note 3], Eloise gave some details about that surgical operations and subsequent events.

‘Monarch,’ as we call him, was slowly dying atop. So, in obedience to the scriptural injunction, his dead limbs were cut off and cast away, and decayed portions of his “heart” - not essential as with humans for circulation - were taken out and replaced with concrete. Thus, lopped and reinforced, he bade fair for many more years to hold sway. Alack and alas! In the tornado of June [1925], large chunks of
concrete were belched out and all the limbs torn off. How long will he yet stand without his crown?

Her question would be answered by her successor, Martha Crone, in 1940. On Oct. 28th 1940 she went back to the Garden (the Garden closed October 15 in those days) to direct some workers on which trees to cut. She met Mr. Lucking there. One of the trees removed was the old giant white oak. [Greg Lucking, Parks horticulturist from 1940 to 1966]. In her annual report to the Board of Park Commissioners (December. 11, 1940) Martha wrote:

It is with deep regret that I record the passing of the oldest inhabitant of the Reserve, the Giant White Oak, estimated age 700 years. It had become a hazard to passers-by, therefore it was removed in October.

NOTE 1: The 10 foot circumference is reported in a description of the Wild Botanic Garden that appeared in the May 3, 1913 issue of The Bellman. Field studies done by the Morton Arboretum in Chicago resulted in an age calculation for White Oaks. Referencing that data yields the age of 290 years. Some new information came to light when on May 6 1946 the Minneapolis Tribune in Ruth Thompson’s Minnesota Memories column published a look-back at Eloise Butler under the theme that the Garden was a memorial to the former teacher. The writer states Monarch was taken down in 1942, but in 1940 we have Martha Crone’s report of the correct date. The size of the tree in the article is given as 4 feet in diameter and 14 feet in circumference and the age of 700 years is given which is a repeat of what is stated in many references of the time. The only previous reference to the actual size of the tree is Eloise Butler’s measurement written in the 1913 article. Since Martha Crone had the tree taken down and was there at the time, perhaps this new reported size comes from what was seen in 1940, in which case if we use the circumference of 14 feet we have an average diameter of 53 inches and the tree growth tables tell us the tree could have been about 400 years old, still well short of Eloise Butlers proudly proclaimed age of 700 years - but she did not have researched tree growth factor tables in her day.

NOTE 2: Other examples: An example of a White Oak that can attain an age of 240 years is an old White Oak recently taken down in the forest at St. John’s Abbey in Stearns County Minnesota. Tree ring count indicated it started as an acorn around 1776.

The largest known white oak today in Minnesota is in Scott County and is 5.8 feet in diameter and that still falls well short of 700 years. The only known white oak in North America of that age is the National Champion located in Virginia, having a circumference of 331 inches (27.6 feet - 8.8 feet in diameter), which yields an age approaching 800 years. [The Morton Arboretum studies state the growth factor for white oaks is 7.6, which is multiplied times the diameter in inches to attain the average age.]

NOTE 3: This text is available on The Friends website in the Garden History Archive and in Martha Hellander’s book The Wild Gardener.
III - Founding Directors of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was founded on June 18, 1952. There were six founding directors - Clinton Odell, Russell H. Bennett, Mrs. Carroll Binder, Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, and Leonard F. Ramberg.

Clinton Odell
Clinton M. Odell, as most readers familiar with the Friends will know, was the instigator of the whole affair. He was a botany student of Eloise Butler, visitor and sometime helper to her in the Garden. His business, the Burma-Vita Company was located just blocks away on Chestnut Avenue. He was also on the State Board of Forestry and a director of the McPhail School of Music. He provided financial assistance to the Garden while Martha Crone was curator prior to founding The Friends. He was President and a director of The Friends until his death in 1958. The others were all acquaintances of Mr. Odell. More details on Odell in appendix V.

Martha Crone
Martha Crone was the Curator of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden at that time, having succeeded Eloise Butler upon her death in 1933. She became Secretary of The Friends with membership and newsletter duties, adding treasurer duties in 1954. She served in those roles until 1971, remaining a director until 1973. She retired as Garden Curator in 1959. The Martha E. Crone Visitors Shelter in the Garden is named in her honor.

Russell H. Bennett
Russell Hoadley Bennett II was born on November 30, 1896. His father was a mining engineer and Mr. Bennett began the same career in 1922 as mine surveyor with the Meriden Iron Company. He held a number of positions in the mining industry including the positions of Chairman of Electro Manganese Corp in Knoxville, TN and of Placer Development Ltd. of Vancouver, BC. He wrote a book well known in mining circles in 1979 - *Quest for Ore*. For his entrepreneurial and engineering accomplishments in the finding and development of challenging mineral enterprises throughout the world and his dedication to his fellow man, he was awarded in 1978 the AIME William Lawrence Saunders Gold Medal by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers.

In the Minneapolis area he was at one time the Mayor of Deephaven, MN, President of Dunwoody Institute from 1937 - 1948 and was
Chairman of the Board of Dunwoody 1953 - 1957.

Russell H. Bennett, 1978 photo.

In 1932 he realized a long-cherished dream and bought a ranch in southern Alberta Canada. From his experiences of becoming a rancher he wrote the book *The Complete Rancher* in 1965.

Mr. Bennett was a founding director of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1952 and remained a director of The Friends until 1968 and was an honorary director until 1980. He and other long-time directors were invited to attend the 1977 25th Annual Meeting of the Friends and say a few words but he was unable to attend as he was on his way to his ranch in Alberta. He then attended the Annual Meeting the following year on May 20, 1978 at which he made a few comments indicating his pleasure at the progress being made in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. This was his last meeting with the Friends. He passed away on Dec. 16, 1981 and is buried at Lakewood Cemetery.

**Dorothy Walton Binder**

Dorothy Walton married Carroll Binder on May 24, 1920, the couple having met while they were serving in the Red Cross, working with Belgian refugees during WWI. They both pursued journalism as a career, and after a few short stints at different newspapers, including the *Minneapolis Daily Star*, they ended up in Chicago in the 1920s where Dorothy wrote articles for *The New Majority*, a labor newspaper and Carroll worked for the *Chicago Daily News* under Frank Knox. One of Dorothy’s articles “The Stockwells of Minnesota” appeared in the *New Republic* on Dec. 22, 1937. Dorothy was especially active in the National Council of Jewish Women, of which she was president (1932-1937).

Dorothy Walton Binder (left) with just retired Garden Curator Martha Crone, at the dedication of a memorial in the Wildflower Garden to Clinton Odell. 1959 newspaper photo.

The Binders had four children. Their eldest son Lt. Carroll Binder Jr. died in WWII, lost at sea when his B-17, on which he was navigator, crashed in the English Channel when returning from a Berlin raid. The family was unable to verify his demise for months causing great trauma for the family. After the war it was found that his body had been recovered by a German
Part IV - Appendix III Founding Directors of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

fisherman and buried in France by the German authorities.

There were three other children, daughter Mary Kelsey Binder, born in 1923 and twins David and Debby born in 1931, in London where the Binders were working for the Daily News. They returned to Chicago in late 1931 but after the Daily News changed ownership in 1944 with the death of Frank Knox (who was Secretary of the Navy at the time), the Binders moved to Minneapolis in 1945 to work for the Minneapolis Tribune, Carroll becoming editorial page editor. Dorothy was a founding Director of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1952 and remained on the Board until 1964 after which she was an ex-officio honorary director until 1976. During her tenure she was Vice-President from 1952 until the death of Clinton Odell in June 1958, when she became President, serving in that role until January 1962.

In 1974 Friends Past President Cay Faragher received a letter from Dorothy and she informed the Friends as follows:

In 1978, when she was 84, the Friends were still receiving donations from her from California. That is the last record we have of her. Her papers are included with her husbands at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Donald C. Dayton

Donald Chadwick Dayton was born on Aug. 13, 1914, one of six sons of George N. Dayton and Grace Bliss Dayton.

He suffered from polio as a child, and later helped found the Sister Kenny Institute, which did pioneering work in the rehabilitation of polio victims and those with other disabling conditions.

Mr. Dayton, was a 1937 graduate of Yale University, joined Dayton’s Department Stores as a stockboy shortly after graduation. He held positions as buyer, merchandising manager and general manager, and in 1950 was named president. In 1960 he was elected chief executive officer and when he retired in 1968 he was chairman of the board.

Donald Dayton (right) with Southdale architect Victor Gruen, 1952.

He was a member of the National Alliance of Businessmen, the Urban Coalition and the Metropolitan Council.
Donald Dayton was a founding Director of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1952 and remained on the Board until 1959. He also held the office of Vice-President, along with Dorothy Binder, from 1953 to 1959. At the time of the founding of the Friends he was working with architect Victor Gruen on the design of the nation’s first enclosed shopping mall - Southdale Center in Edina MN.

Donald’s mother, Grace Bliss Dayton was a member of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden and when she passed away in April 1966, Friends Secretary and Newsletter editor Martha Crone wrote: “Among her many activities she was a staunch supporter of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. Her interest and enthusiasm in furthering the Garden will be greatly missed.”

Donald Dayton died of Cancer on June 22, 1989.

Leonard F. Ramberg
Leonard F. Ramberg was born on January 10, 1906. His career was centered on business and civic affairs. He was elected a Minneapolis Public Schools director in 1948, a City Council Alderman from 1945 to 1949; he was Minneapolis Postmaster 1954 - 57; a founder and President of the Citizens League of Minneapolis and Hennepin County; and at various times Chairman of the Minneapolis YMCA General Board; President of the American Swedish Institute; Chairman of the Augsburg College Board of Regents from 1966 - 1972.

In 1988 he received the Minneapolis Rotary “Service above Self” award, even though he was not a member.

In business he was at times Corporate Secretary of the Glenwood-Inglewood Water Company, Treasurer of the Burma-Vita Company and then made a career at Northwestern National Bank from which he retired as Senior Vice President in 1971.

He was a founding Director of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1952 and remained on the Board until 1972 after which he was an honorary director until 1976. Mr. Ramberg also served as the Friends Treasurer during the first two years of our organization and as Vice-President in 1960 and 1961. He and other long-time directors were invited to attend the 1977 25th Annual Meeting of the Friends (June 4) and say a few words. Mr. Ramberg stated he became interested in the garden through Mr. Clinton Odell. He stated that the garden was a tribute to the interest and work of Mr. Odell who really believed in the need for it. Mr. Ramberg then expressed his appreciation for the invitation to be with us on this occasion.

That was his last known meeting with the Friends. He passed away on Oct. 22, 1988.
IV - Shelter Dedication Poem

A letter of thanks from the Eloise Butler
Wildflower Garden on the occasion
of the dedication of the Martha Crone Shelter
on May 13, 1970
by Betty Bridgman (1915 - 1999)
Published in The Fringed Gentian™, Summer 1970

You are good people. You mean well.
You kept the houses off my hill.
You saved my elm and tamarack.
You love this place, which loves you back.
Thank you for sixty years’ restraint
of urge to tidy up and paint,
to straighten rows or trim a tree.
Neatness doesn’t count to me.
I feel no pressure to look pretty
or be your refuge from the city.
I can’t consider it my aim
to furnish every flower-name.
I have reasons to exist,
though not the ones that you would list.
It took eleven thousand years
to make this place as it appears.
When the glacier last withdrew,
the land it left was brown and blue,
a lifeless, gravelly moraine. . . .
and I have turned it all to green.
The seeds that came by floating, flying,
I coaxed to root her and keep trying.
Leaf and husk and stalk would perish
and give me crumbs of loam to cherish.
Shrub and moss were my recruits;
my hillsides twine their reaching roots.
I have protected all I could
from winter wind and summer flood.
My oak tree is a calendar,
how wet the years, how dry they were.
I am a widely known location
on maps the birds use in migration,
recalled, as seasons come again,
by warbler, hermit thrush and wren.
A bird’s egg, passive in a nest–
a time bomb under feathered breast–
bursts into appetite, raw forces,
pressure on my thin resources.
From top of ridge to soggy hollow,
vine and fern, ground cover, mallow,
where you think is “peace and quiet,”
is power-play, impending riot,
and here the competitions rage,
elbowing for center stage,
for drop of water, patch of sun–
barely enough for everyone.
The towering tree is level-laid. . .
Saplings are rescued from the shade. . .
You are shocked and question why
that “lonesome place against the sky.”
We solve our problems, left alone,
and never miss you when you’re gone,
yet cowslip, bloodroot, bellwort, fern,
we thank you for your kind concern.
Now when you leave here, as you must,
don’t take your cars but let them rust.
I can cope with, on the trail,
Carbon dioxide you exhale,
but in your love for the machine,
consider how to keep me green.
I shall survive, at all events,
but meanwhile, thank you for that fence.
V - Clinton Odell

Clinton M. Odell and Burma-Shave. The Story of the 'First Friend'

The story of the Friends is about the influence a teacher had on one of her students. It is also about Burma-Shave. Eloise Butler taught science in Minneapolis high schools from about 1874 to 1911. One of the students in her botany class at Central High School in the mid-1890s was Clinton Odell. Butler was known for taking her students on field trips to the woods, swamps, and bogs at the edge of Minneapolis. (At the time, woods and swamps stretched from near Cedar Lake to Lake Minnetonka.) These botanizing expeditions made a lasting impression on Odell. Years later, in an article that appeared in the Christian Science Monitor in 1949, Odell recalled how Eloise Butler and a few other teachers used an area in Glenwood Park (now Wirth Park) for their own special wild garden. "They used to go out there in their spare time and collect plant specimens. I just got interested in going out there in the spring to see what came up." The spot frequented by Eloise Butler and her fellow teacher-botanizers would become the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. The interest in nature Butler sparked in Clinton Odell would lead to Odell becoming a benefactor of the Garden, and to his founding the Friends of the Garden in 1952.

Now for the Burma-Shave part of our story. Clinton Odell's father was a lawyer and a tinkerer. He had a side business, the Burma-Vita Company, selling a liniment product. Clinton also practiced law for six years, then formed an insurance agency, White and Odell, an agency of Northwestern National Life, but his doctor advised him to find a less stressful line of work. In 1924 he joined the Burma-Vita Company and With the help of a chemist friend, Odell developed the family liniment recipe into a formula for a brushless shaving cream, a product popular in England at the time. Thus, Burma-Shave was born. But the product was hardly an overnight success.

Odell's two sons, Allan and Leonard, sold the product door to door and to pharmacies in the upper Midwest. As the story goes, when Allan was on a sales trip in rural Illinois in 1925, he saw a series of roadside signs advertising a gas station. Each sign pitched a single product, culminating in a sign pointing toward the gas station itself. Allan thought it could work to sell Burma-Shave. He convinced his skeptical father to spend $200 to try the idea. Allan cut and painted boards, wrote a simple three-phrase jingle, and erected the first Burma-Shave signs on Highway 35 between Minneapolis and Albert Lea. After the Odell's had put up a dozen sets of signs, orders started pouring in. They had so much business they built a new factory at 2318 Chestnut Avenue West, just west of Penn Avenue, in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood of south Minneapolis.

Burma-Shave signs
Listen birds
these signs cost money
so roost awhile
but don't get funny
Burma-Shave

Don't take a curve
at 60 per
we hate to lose
a customer
Burma-Shave
Part IV - Appendix V - Clinton Odell

The wolf
is shaved
so neat and trim
Red Riding Hood
is chasing him
Burma-Shave

Round the corner
lickety split
beautiful car
wasn't it
Burma-Shave

Meanwhile at the Garden, Martha Crone became a regular volunteer assistant to Eloise Butler. When Eloise Butler died in 1933, Martha Crone took over sole responsibility for maintaining the Garden. Odell’s Burma-Shave plant was a short walk from the Garden at 2318 Chestnut Avenue West. As he stated in a letter, he found his “interest in the Wild Flower Garden revived.”

Odell became a regular hands-on volunteer, helping Crone pull weeds, transplant flowers, and manage the Garden. He became a familiar sight to visitors, digging in the dirt while dressed in suit and tie.

One of Martha Crone’s recollections of Odell was that in early evening would take a chair into the lower garden and sit there and test various mosquito repellants that his company was developing. In a damp year she said, we can all appreciate what an excellent testing ground this would have been.

Clinton Odell became the Garden’s benefactor, paying for materials and labor out of his own pocket. In June 1944, Odell wrote to the Minneapolis Park Board superintendent, proposing to donate $3,000 to cover the cost of clearing an upland garden, fencing in the new area, surfacing the paths, and constructing a small summer house. The Park Board gratefully accepted his offer but with reservations about what should be done, but at least the upland garden was partitioned off from the rest of Wirth Park and added to the Garden. There is more detail in Part II - The Upland Garden Addition.

He was mentioned in several newspaper articles on the Garden. On May 21, 1950, the Minneapolis Tribune ran a double page spread in their Picture Magazine about the Garden and said this about Odell:

Another who has had a big hand in the garden’s development is Clinton M. Odell, chairman of the board of Burma Shave Co. Besides giving financial help, he sometimes has pitched in with the planting and weeding. He visits the garden frequently.

On June 10, 1951 The Minneapolis Tribune published an article titled “City Wild Flower Gardener Rescues Plants From Bulldozers.” (Appendix XVI) The article included this:

Clinton Odell, the “motivating spirit” of the garden, whose interest in wild flowers is as faithful as Mrs. Crone’s claims she has a special sixth sense for finding hidden flowers.
Clinton Odell was truly the first 'Friend of the Garden.' He felt it imperative there always be a group of citizens who would work for the best interests of the Garden. He was concerned the Garden could become expendable if the Park Board had to cut costs. In an article written by journalist Dorothy Binder in 1949 (Odell would later recruit her to be a founding Director of the Friends), Binder said Odell worried "...what would happen if a depression came along. With no backing from private citizens...would the Wild Flower Garden be considered an unnecessary luxury and lopped off the budget?"

In her remarks to the Friends Board in 1977, Martha Crone recalled there were some on the Park Board in the late 1940s who definitely wanted to phase out the Garden. Odell felt that an organization of concerned citizens could help. He wrote an essay about why he founded the Friends and of the importance of the Wild Flower Garden.

Odell was the founder of the Minnesota Game Protective League. Martha Crone also reported in the July 1957 issue of The Fringed Gentian™ that Odell was presented with an honor plaque by the Minnesota Conservation Commission during the spring Sportsman’s Show. The plaque read: "To Clinton Odell, Courageous Crusader for Conservation. From the 1957 Northwest Sportsman’s Show." He was a man of many interests - a member of the Rotary Club, he served on the State Forestry Board and was a director of the McPhail School of Music.

Founding of the Friends and The Fringed Gentian™

In 1952, Clinton Odell asked an attorney friend (Joseph Colman) at the Dorsey Law Firm to draw up the papers incorporating the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. Odell recruited friends, prominent citizens and businessmen to serve as the original Directors [Appendix III]. Odell wrote many letters recruiting friends to join the new organization. The Friends started to pay for plants, seeds, and other items for which there was no money in the Park Board budget.

According to Odell’s daughter, Moana Beim, Odell came up with the name for the newsletter, The Fringed Gentian™. Odell insisted that each issue of The Fringed Gentian™ contain a quote by Henry David Thoreau. (Dorothy Binder wrote that Odell was a proponent of Thoreau and had read all of Thoreau’s works.) The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden grew and prospered with new members and more funds to help Martha Crone in the Garden.

Odell served as President of the Friends until his death on June 4, 1958 at age 80. Friends founding member Dorothy Binder wrote this memoriam.

With the death of Mr. Clinton M. Odell June 4th at the age of 80, the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden have lost their founder, their president and their most devoted and enthusiastic member.

All his life Mr. Odell had been concerned with conservation. He was awarded the plaque of the Minnesota Conservation Commission April 1957 in recognition of his many contributions. His interest in the Wild Flower Garden began in his high school days for Eloise Butler was his botany teacher.

For many years Mr. Odell contributed privately to the Park Board’s limited funds for maintenance of the garden. He was responsible for development of the Upper Garden, for the fence surrounding this garden and for the employment of extra manpower. Often Mr. Odell could be found in the Wild Flower
Garden in his spare time digging weeds and helping Mrs. Crone the Curator with new plantings. He preferred this to playing golf with his friends.

With the future of the garden in mind Mr. Odell was instrumental in organizing the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in the summer of 1952. He was its president until his death. It was his dearest wish that the Friends would guarantee the continuance of the garden in the event of his death. Membership fees and donations would supplement the allocations of the Park Board and would continue the unique contribution the Wild Flower Garden makes to Minneapolis.

The future of the Wild Flower Garden now lies with the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. The memorial which would mean most to the man who gave so much of this time, his devotion and his money to the development of the Wild Flower Garden as a sanctuary and an educational project for Minneapolis is its continuance. Two or three years of neglect because of insufficient maintenance and the garden would be an overgrown mass of weeds, its significance lost, the labor of year destroyed. The challenge now lies with us.

Martha Crone wrote this Memorial for Clinton Odell. Published in The Fringed Gentian™, Vol. 7 #3, July 1959.

The citizens of this great metropolis owe a debt of gratitude to the late Mr. Clinton Odell, for his contributions to the growth and development of the garden. In so many ways he contributed most generously so that the future generations might benefit.

It was thru his effort that the upland or prairie garden was established in 1944, an addition to the already existing garden. For many years such an addition had been envisioned for a concentration of prairie plants. A large portion of native Minnesota plants grow on the prairie, where the sun shines the entire day.

We pause to pay tribute to his many deeds of kindness and in recognition of this his friends have placed in this prairie garden, a native stone settee and bronze marker in his memory.

In 1959, a group of his friends placed a stone bench, made of Mankato Dolomite, in the Upland Garden to honor Clinton Odell, Benefactor and First Friend of the Garden. The bench sits on the central hill near a large oak.

Portions of this section were originally written by past Friends President Steve Pundt and published in The Fringed Gentian™ Vol 50. No. 1, 2002.
On their 50th Wedding Anniversary Amy and Clinton Odell pose for a family photo, ca 1950s:
L to r: Allen Odell (eldest son), Grace Odell, his spouse; Raymond N. Beim and spouse Moana Odell Beim; parents Amy Hamley Odell and Clinton MacDougall Odell; Barbara Odell Coleman and spouse James Coleman; Betty Odell; Leonard Odell.
The longer days of spring with their additional warm sunlight and mellow south winds are warming the moist earth and again stirring life anew. It is due to the uplift this magic season gives to the human spirit after a long winter, that the first wild flowers are so treasured. Who does not love the sweet fragrance of rain-wet leaf mold, mosses and green growing things in the spring?

The first blossom to appear is that of the dainty Snow Trillium (Trillium nivale) a miniature of the later blooming Large-flowered Trillium, altho the plant is barely a few inches tall the blossoms are several inches across. They bloom and bring beauty and cheer even while patches of snow still remain in sheltered areas where the winters sun never penetrated. While in the bog the interesting, yet unpleasantly scented Skunk Cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) is one of the first bold adventurers above ground, sometimes pushing through snow and ice. This lowly plant is related to our beautiful Calla Lily. These are soon followed by number of our best loved flowers of spring, such as Bloodroot, Spring Beauty, Dutchman’s-breeches, Bellwort, Anemone, and others. The sunny side of the marsh is a mass of clusters of golden Marsh Marigold. The lovely blue, pink, lavender, and white of Hepaticas last but a short time as do many other early spring flowers, yet they make a beautiful tapestry of color on the west hillside.

A never failing delight is Violet Trail which is fringed with a profusion of yellow, blue, and white violets. Here later bloom five species of Lady’s-slippers (Cypripedium) including the Showy Lady’s-slipper, the Minnesota State Flower, the glory of all the Cypripediums. An extensive bed presents an almost tropical appearance. In a sheltered nook are a number of shrubs that have been naturalized in the Garden. Mountain Laurel, Azalea and Rhododendron of the Heath family. They have faired well for five years so there is scant reason why they should not continue to thrive.

Other notable spring flowers to bloom in the forest intent on making the most of the sunshine before the leafy canopy blots it out are Trout lily, Jacob’s Ladder, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Geranium, Columbine, Clintonia, Ginger, Mandrake, Foam-flower, Ginseng, Mertensia, Trailing Arbutus and ten species of Trillium,

One of the loveliest sights in the garden after a gently spring rain is the pushing through the ground of young fronds of fern, each rolled up like a miniature fiddle-head, Great numbers of Ostrich Ferns, Royal Ferns, Interrupted Ferns and Cinnamon Ferns in addition to 35 other species of ferns are well distributed throughout the garden.

A few years ago the garden area was greatly expanded by the addition of a much needed upland or prairie garden. The making of this entire new portion of the garden has been a delightful experience. The first flower to appear is the Pasque-flower (Anemone patens) of the Crowfoot family. The frost is still in the ground when this brave little flower pokes through the ground, thickly covered with silky wool as if to
keep itself warm. They are closely followed by Prairie Crowfoot, Ground Plum, Puccoon, Prairie Potato, Prairie Rocket, Avens, Phlox and an entire hillside covered with the attractive Lupine. Nearby, a dense mat of creeping Pink Phlox forms a brilliant ground cover. Birds-foot Violet (*Viola pedata*) the largest of our violets and sometimes called wild pansy covers another hillside with varied colored blossoms.

Soon the spring arrivals give way to the myriad’s of summer flowers which steadily progress through the summer and fall. Each day new patterns and new color combinations appear. Here, in this garden you are surrounded with the most entrancing wonders of nature created to bring infinite peace and happiness, and may we pass it on unspoiled for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.

[Martha’s comment about the Azalea and Rhododendrons faring well for five years places a date of 1953 or 1954 on this essay, as the ones referred to were planted in 1948.]
Dear Cronies,—

I have been trying in vain for a long time to write to you. The enclosed letter from the aspirant for a position in the wild garden is self-explanatory. Please keep it for me until I see you, for I may wish to show it to Mr. Wirth. I want also to thank you especially, Mrs. Crone, for what you wrote me about the continuance of the wild garden. There's too much of truth in what you say, but I will soon be able to talk with you about the matter in detail. In this time of depression nothing can be done except to hang on by the skin of one's teeth. And what, if there hain't no skin?

I must tell you how much I am pleased with the Crony Xmas package and what a surprise it was. I have found the Magic Slicer a great convenience in preparing salads, the apron just matches a new dress, the Almanac is packed with valuable information, and the lotus seeds came just in time for distribution here, although I have kept some for experiments in Minneapolis. I gave some to one who came to me for advice in starting a large wildflower sanctuary not far from Boston.

Among other gifts I had two books that I would like to share with you,—colored plates of the birds of New England, 86 of them by the noted Fuertes and 22 by Major Allan Brooks who continued the work after Fuertes' death; and a book entitled "WAH'XON-TAH," on the history of the Osage Indians, and written by a native Osage. "n it you breath the very air of the western plains.

I hope that you have escaped the prevalent flu. We have so far, but I am touching wood! The weather is mild here and sunny, for the most part. There has been snow, but it quickly melted away.

Wishing you the happiest of New Years,

Very truly your friend,

[Signature]

Attached with this letter were Pearl Heath Rogers' 2 letters in 1932, 133 to 28.

[Inscrption: Rn't mix. Can't]
My dear Mrs. Fraser:

At the request of Mr. Wirth, Superintendent of Parks, of Minneapolis, I am answering your letter to him.

For several years I have been trying in vain to find an understudy for the Native Plant Preserve, as I have fully realized that I would not always be able to carry on. A year ago I thought I had found the solution of the problem, but I was confronted by an impasse which I still hope can be broken down. I recently wrote for advice to my friend Mrs. C.L. Hutchinson, who is director of a large bird and flower sanctuary on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. I am anxiously awaiting her reply, for I greatly rely upon her wisdom. My aims are only to secure the preservation and perpetuity of The Preserve, as well as its helpfulness to students of Botany and lovers of wild life. When these aims are assured, I am ready to fade out of the picture and will promise that not even my ghost will return to haunt the premises.

On the first of October The Preserve is closed until the following April. I realize how valuable your assistance might be, but it would be a waste of time and a needless expense unless you could continue an curator; for my successor would require at least one season’s training. Are you willing to accept this position for your life work? My salary is $60.00 a month from April to October. This is not a year’s living wage, but I have been able to get along comfortably with the addition of my teacher’s pension. Pardon my brutal frankness. You have a child to care for. You are young. If you are a widow, you may marry again, however firmly any present determination not to do so. In that case what would be the fate of the Preserve? The hours are long. The place is open Saturdays and Sundays, because then the general public is most free to visit it. Saturday is my off day. Working by yourself in the woods, far from a telephone, you might not be able to endure the loneliness. Guarding the property from the depredations of the thoughtless or lawless is disagreeable duty. The park in which the Preserve lies, comprises nearly 700 acres. It has but one police officer and I seldom see him, as his services are usually needed elsewhere. The product of years of experiment may be destroyed at one fell swoop. Through all the years I have practiced rigid economy, the chief outlays, outside of my salary, being the building of the office, fencing and repairs. I have done a man’s work on the place, although the Park Commissioners have always readily given me all the help that I have asked for.

Of course my successor, subject to the approval of the Superintendent, would carry out his own ideas as to the proper management of the place, but long usage has given to the public certain rights and privileges.

The office equipment, reference library, photographs, lantern slides, etc. (now my personal property) would be turned over to the Park Commissioners for the use of my successor. From the very first I have kept a Garden Log and a card catalogue of the plants both indigenous and introduced. If you and Mr. Wirth come to an agreement, he has suggested that I correspond with you during the winter and inform you more fully of the work.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Eloise Butler
Murray Hill Road
Malden, Mass.
8 November, 1923

ty dear Mrs. Crane,—

I am mailing you two species of oak for your exhibit next fall:

Black Oak, Quercus velutina
Swamp White Oak, Quercus bicolor

The former is found only in the southeastern corner of Minnesota, although it is the most common oak here; and the latter is very rare in the northwest. Its acorn resembles somewhat our common white oak, but it has a long stalk. Last year these acorns were very abundant here. This must be the off season. I could barely find two or three worthy ones. Q. bicolor has been reported from Croveland Park on the edge of St. Paul. Perhaps, as you "snoop around" you may recognize it from the shape of the leaves and the long-stalked acorns.

On my way East I stopped a few days at Indianapolis. There the interesting fruit of the teasel was much in evidence. I sent some to Mrs. M. Dee Rock, a member of our Conservation Society, for her painted bouquets, and told her to lay aside a few for
you, if you care to have them. Perhaps she can leave them for you at some convenient place down town. Her 'phone number is Dupont 3717.

Teasel pods are used in the old country for raising the nap on woolen cloth. In fuller's teasel the spines on the pods have stout hooks.

I was sorry to miss the Doctor's talk on mushrooms.

With kindest regards to you and yours,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Elvira Butler
MISS ELOISE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
MADISON, NEW JERSEY
29 November, 1924

Dr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Croon—
Dear Friends,

I can't resist telling you at once the
latest history of the fencing around the "Croon Plantations" et al., as I had told you about the beginning.

You know that I left in a hurry, with the
fence not quite completed. Indeed, I do not know if
it is yet finished. The bill amounted to $696.40, for
which I gave a check for $400.00, a note for $200.00,
to be paid within a month, or when the fence was com-
pleted, and another note for the remainder to be paid
next spring, after Mr. Wirth and I had inspected the
fence and pronounced it satisfactory.

I was unable to get Mr. Wirth on the 'phone
before I left, but I wrote him the particulars of the
transaction. Yesterday, I received a letter from him,
promising a check for the full amount by the 3rd of
December. You may believe that I am very happy. We
must have a celebration when I return.

I did not expect a reimbursement, if any
at all, so soon, and would never have asked for it.

My brother remains in about the same con-
dition. We can hardly hope, at his age, for his re-
covery. The doctor is non-committal, but is positive
that his disease is not tuberculosis, as we feared from the hemorrhages that followed his apparent recovery from bronchial pneumonia.

Since I arrived, my brother-in-law and niece were both, for a few days, acutely ill; but recovered in time to enjoy a splendid Thanksgiving dinner, which we did not have to cook ourselves, as we were invited out. You will be interested perhaps, Mrs. Crone, to know that the exceptionally nice plum pudding contained, with other ingredients, a half cupful of finely chopped carrots.

I am wondering about the weather in Minnesota. We have had but a few days below freezing, and it is warm for the most part.

I wish you all good health and a comfortable winter. Love to Janeth.

Very truly your friend,

[Signature]
MISS ELIGE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

24 January, 1925

My dear Cronies,—

I was so pleased (although you may not think so from my long-delayed acknowledgment) to see the print of Janeth's smiling face and the ingenious egg-slicer so convenient for the housekeeper into which I am transformed during the winter months.

I have been more than busy since Christmas with some special work for my sick brother who is merely holding his own. He sits up two or three hours each day, and can walk across the floor without help. If we can keep him through the winter, he may become stronger. My sister is very feeble. My brother-in-law and niece are ill at intervals, and I find the duties of housekeeping somewhat heavy with a family of eight, including a dog and three cats.

We had a very jolly Christmas, nevertheless, with a good many jokes. I wish you could have had some of my two lobsters that were given me. Tell Janeth that the dog had in her Christmas stocking a gingerbread Father Christmas decked with colored sandies, a box of raisins, a big bone, and a toy horse, while the cats had all the catnip they could roll in.

With much haste,

Very sincerely,

Elise Butler
Dear Mrs. Crone,—

Arrived here Sunday evening, after a pleasant visit of four days in Indianapolis. Every one in usual health, although my sister continues to be very feeble. Had no opportunity to recover anything on my insurance policy. It snowed every night in Indianapolis and melted during the way, but my cousin's automobile didn't skid over a precipice, as I thought it might. October has been a disagreeable month all along the line. It is warm and sunny here at present. I took advantage of the weather to "snoop" around the neighborhood a bit, and am mailing you a box of the "finds", some of which—perhaps the acorns—you may wish to use in next season's exhibit, as you are not likely to find them.

The black oak acorns are inferior specimens. You might try to sprout two or three of the swamp white oak by planting them in a little spot sunk in the ground, and if you will kindly "heel in" for the winter in the adjacent vacant lot whatever you do not care to cultivate in your garden, you will greatly oblige me. You will find Aster linariifolius very desirable as a late bloomer, and I am well stocked with it in the Reserve

I hope you will have yet an Indian summer to shorten the winter ahead of you.

With kindest regards to Janeth and Dr. Crone,

Very truly your friend,

Elvira Butler

Am about to make some prize-winning jam that we all like particularly well: Quince & Cranberry Jam. Equal parts of cooked cranberry run through a sieve and ground pineapple with water added to make it of the same consistency as the cranberry. Cook together about 15 minutes with an equal measure of sugar.
Dear Cronies,—

Many, many thanks for everything!—the account of our little Sahara, the magnifier with protective case, the bag of Minneapolis flour (disguised emery?), the basin of fruit, the valuable recipes in box-holder. I took hold of the little ring protruding from the basket, by which I intended to hang the basket on the wall, when lo and behold! a tape-measure shot out. I have looking for one on a reel for years, because they always get tangled and knotted up in a work basket, but I never expected to find one so decorative and reminiscent of our jolly snoopings. I have already used two of the recipes, and I shall type on the blank cards all the tested recipes that are favored by my family. You may be interested in looking them over, and perhaps may wish to copy some of them.

In the midst of our strenuous work and many anxieties, we managed to have a glorious Christmas—oodles and oodles of lovely presents, and I enjoyed the others' gifts as much as I did my own. Among them was a wonderful book that I will lend to you—"America's Greatest Garden", the Arnold Arboretum, profusely illustrated. The author is "Chinese Wilson", the noted plant collector and assistant director of the Arboretum.

Winter is half over, and the predicted severe weather has not yet arrived, perhaps it may come in the spring.

I hope this will find you well and happy.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

MISS ELOISE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS
11 January, 1926
MISS Eloise Butler
20 Murray Hill Road
Malden, Massachusetts
9 January, 1927

Dear Cronies,--

I am deluged with correspondence and frightfully in arrears. I am trying to clear it up at the rate of one letter a day, but the last three days have not had time for even that.

We had a wonderful Christmas, and my sister, although gradually failing, was able to enjoy it with us. Among the many gifts none was more lovely than the Song of the Cardinal with its touching message and beautiful illustrations. And those daintily embroidered holders and the case are certainly the last word of the sort. All are much admired.

Mr. Wirth writes that you are having beautiful winter weather--the ground well covered with snow. It is cold here for Massachusetts, December having the coldest average since 1855 with more snow. Rain alternates with snow, so the snow lies in patches, and the walks are icy. I am longing to be in Minneapolis again where I can be out of doors all day. Our new big sun parlor (which I will tell you about sometime) although very nice, isn't equal to the great open.

I hope you are all well and happy.

With sincerest regards,

Very truly your friend,

Miss Elise Butler
20 Murray Hill Road, Malden, Mass.

3 November, 1927

Dear Mrs. Crone,

I mailed you yesterday a box of Malden plants. Help yourself to anything you like besides what I marked especially for you, and kindly heel in your adjacent vacant lot the remainder, which I will replant in The Reserve next spring.

Hottest Nov. 2nd for 51 years in Boston. Temperature 75 deg. at 1 P.M. I am wondering about the weather in Minneapolis.

Regards to Janeth and Dr. Crone.

Affectionately, E.B.

MISS ELOISE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

16 November, 1928

Dear Mrs. Crone,

I mailed you a few days ago a box of plants which I hope will not give you too much trouble to care for. I judge that the ground is not frozen hard yet, for here the weather is warm and sunny with only slight frosts at night.

I am alarmed at the appearance of my niece who is apparently slowly gaining ground after eight months of invalidism. She is gradually resuming her work, but we never allow her to go out alone. My hands are more than full, and I can write only a brief note.

But I must add that I am glad to be this winter in one of the few states that supported Governor Smith-- never known to go democratic before.

Yours as ever, E.B.

Regards to all. Hope that you will keep well.
MISS ELOISE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
MAIDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

2 January, 1929

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Crone,—

You have exemplified in your gift to me of a pedometer, a remark that I have often made: "If I wish for anything hard enough, I always get it!" Now I shall know how many miles I traverse daily in the Reserve and during the season. Many, many thanks, and also for the dainty hand-wrought handkerchief.

I had several other gifts for garden use— a big, light, collapsible basket imported from England, just the thing for holding earth, plants, and faggots, just grand for collecting; a splendid strongly constructed bird-feeding box covered with birch bark; a marker in the form of a cardinal bird in color, (which reminds of my last year's Christmas book and also that Mrs. Davidson writes that she saw this fall the cardinal in Glenwood Park close by the wild garden which of course he had also visited); a nemo-pad for my office desk, and a toy bulldog for a "protector" My London visitor sent me a very interesting print of henbane taken from an old herbal written in English about 1100 A.D. and now preserved in the famous Bodleian Library at Oxford. The print was made by the University Oxford Press.

Perhaps I told you that my niece was converting the cellar into a music studio. The studio
is now finished. I have three different views of it and one of the sun porch which you may like to see. Just after thanksgiving my brother-in-law entertained his fellow past grans of Oddfellows and their families. We had a musicale and a "progressive" supper for them. Bouillon was served in the sun porch when they entered. Thence they passed into the dining room where they had ham & spaghetti with bread and butter sandwiches. Then a gong summoned them up two flights to the attic studio where they ate "jewel salad" and pretzel sticks to the accompaniment of music. (It took me two solid days to make enough ham & spaghetti and salad for the crowd.) They were then called down to the living room to partake of ice cream, cake, and coffee, to the guests supposably the end of the entertainment. But to their surprise a deep-toned bell directed them to the cellar. I stood where I could see them come in through the cellar door and nearly died laughing to see the expression on their faces--eyes and mouths wide open and heads twisting from side to side. Here, as befitted the place, the old-time refreshments, cider, apples, doughnuts, and cheese were served, and the musical program was continued, interspersed with much fun, roving songs, and witty speeches.

We had warm weather and no snow at Christmas. The Babcocks sent me a snap shot of their house surrounded by great snow banks. I hope that you and Janeth are well and happy.

Very truly your friend,

[Signature]
MISS ELOISE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

23 January, 1929

Dear Grones,—

The unique teepee with a big red lobster
crowned my heap of 50 Xmas gifts in front of the fire-
place Christmas morning. I have been long time acknowled-
ging it, have I not? But it is not from lack of ap-
preciation, I assure you. I suspect that it was a trophy
from the North. I shall place it where I can see it every
day in my perambulations in the wild garden. Among the
Xmas books was "The Poetry Cure," an anthology for "such
troubles as fear, swollen ego, ingrowing ugliness, the
blues, pettiness, impatience, insomnia, torpid imagination,
sorrow, hardening of the heart, sluggish blood, myopic
vision of the inner eye, and other common ailments." I
shall take much pleasure sharing this with you, if you
are not familiar with it. Another book was "Mother India"
One can't say with Browning, "All's right with the world!
when he reads it. Indeed, it's too, too revolting to
read. I want to go on a Crusade to India to stop the
awful cruelties that are practised there.

Everything is going on well here at present.
(I'm touching wood!) My niece seems to be improving,
but very slowly. We have to be very careful. Her heart
is not normal and her digestion is weak.

We have escaped the 'flu so far, (although
it is all about us,) and I hope that you have. I hear
that it has been very bad in Minneapolis. We inhale
Vapox every time we sneeze, gargle with Listerine, anoint
our throats with Spunoint, etc., etc. On the principle
that "an ounce of Prevention is worth a pound of Cure."

I am longing for spring and the garden. I
hope that affairs can be adjusted here, so that I shall
feel free to return at the usual time.

Very truly your friend, Eloise Butler
Dear Cronies,—

I am writing to ask another favor of you. A Mrs. Davidson of St. Paul has sent me some seeds of fringed gentian collected in Manitoba. Of course they may not germinate, but I think that they ought to be down now. If you could slightly firm them in in some earth in a small box, set them out of doors with a mulch of leaves, I would consider it a great favor. You know that the first season's growth is very tiny.

My invalid niece is slightly better. As for myself, neuritis and burns are still rampant in bad weather, although the former is easing off. Our osteopath says that my burns are not covered with true skin, but scar tissue, and may always be uncomfortable. To relieve the condition, this tissue is sometimes cut around. I have not yet concluded to try this remedy.

We have had one cold day for this region and a flurry of snow that has now disappeared. Now the weather is warm and bright.

with love to Janet,

Very truly your friend,

[Signature]

In my annual report I mentioned the "Crona Plantations" and how much The Reserve was indebted to you.
20 Murray Hill Road,
Malden, Mass., 3 January, 1930

Dear Cronies,--

How the years fly! It seems so weird to write 1930. My Xmas acknowledgments have been delayed by a brief bout with influenza. We will hope that this is the last whack for awhile. Old Santa heaped upon us many useful and beautiful gifts. Among them I especially enjoyed those from the Cronies—the photo, the pretty corsage bouquet, and the wonderful triplet shredder. As housekeeper, I particularly appreciate all the aids to lessening labor.

I hear that you have had disagreeable weather. It is not cold here, but we have had much rainy weather and less sunshine than usual.

I hope that you are all well and will continue to be so. I am looking forward to our reunion in the spring when we will make the welkin ring with joy over the burgeoning of the Crone Plantations.

A Happy New Year from your friend,

Elvire Butler
20 Murray Hill Road, Malden, Mass.,
28 October, 1930

Dear Cronies,—

I never heard of such a wonderful snoopin'! It reads like a fairy tale or a story out of Arabian Nights. I shall rehearse it for my botanical correspondence club. My prayers are added to yours for the germination of the seed.

I left Minneapolis the 17th, the day after your bombardment, in such a hurry that I did not have time to telephone to any one.

I found my brother-in-law convalescing and he is gaining daily. He still has day and night nurses, lest he might have a relapse. The doctor, a pneumonia expert, has had the surprise of his life. He had given his patient but 48 hours to live. Never knew a patient of Curtis's age to pull through from such a bad case. The miracle is due to osteopathic treatment, but the doctor would never forgive us, if he knew, such are the hide-bound prejudices of the "regulars."

A year ago it was distressing to see my niece, she looked so ghastly. Now that she has gained over 40 pounds and looks like her former self, I can't keep my eyes off from her. She has a new doctor to replace the dead miracle worker, who seems to understand his case, and she is looking forward to full recovery.

I cannot express my gratitude for all that you have done to promote the Wild Garden, hence will not try to do so.

My typewriter is rather wobbly from the effects of its journey, so you can plainly see.

Best wishes and a prosperous winter to the "Cronies!"

Very truly your friend,

Elsie Britter

Wild weather here. Raining today.
Murray Hill Road, Malden, Mass.

New Year's Day

Dear Croniss,

I am writing to you my first letter in the New Year. We have been under terrible anxiety of late. While my brother-in-law was convalescing my niece had two bad attacks of acute indigestion and it was decided that a gall-bladder operation was necessary while she had stamina enough to endure it. So she went to the hospital, which is close by, a few days before Christmas to be "under observation." She was allowed to come home Christmas Eve and stayed with us Christmas day, then went back to the hospital and was operated on the Monday morning following. The operation proved to be necessary and is said to be a complete success. Four specialists stood by and she had an experienced nurse who was an intimate friend. At present all seems to be going on well and we do not apprehend any set-backs. We have had over the holidays two visitors--friends who have been a comfort to us, but it has been an extra care for me, the chief housekeeper, although we have a very efficient woman who comes every day except Sundays to help.

I can't express how much delighted I was with the exquisite plaque of Christmas roses and violets. Have you ever tried Christmas roses in your garden? They thrive in Massachusetts. And then the bounteous supply of lotus seeds! I expect to have "Crone Plantations" in all the ponds hereabout where protection can be guaranteed. I have written to the Director of Harvard Botanic Gardens to ask if he wishes any seeds for his gardens and the Arboretum. What a wonderful discovery you made! I embodied in my annual report to Mr. Wirth your account of the bombardment of Birch Pond. I want your work to be appreciated at headquarters.

I hope that you will have a nice winter and be hale in health.

With joyful anticipation of the spring resurrection,

Very truly your friend,

[Signature]

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Dear Cronies,—

I hope that you are having lots of "the beautiful" this winter, but I have no doots. The first of ours to any extent fell Saturday eve and all the trees and bushes are weighted with white wool. The children here have had no coasting and only one day of skating.

I am writing to tell you how much I am enjoying the almanacs (how did you know that I have a weakness for them?) and the handsome and convenient writing tablet. Old Santa was particularly generous this Xmas. I have counted up 36 gifts, some of them not units and, as you can imagine, I have many letters to write, so this must be only a brief note.

We are all pretty well at present. Brother-in-law has apparently recovered from his terrible fall. The gash on his head having been sewed up with finest horsehair is not very noticeable.

Spring will be here before we know it and I am looking forward to the old tramping-ground.

Very truly your friend,

ELOISE BUTLER
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD
Malden, Massachusetts

January 11, 1932

My need of a new type ribbon is very evident.
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
325 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 28, 1933.

To the -

Honorable Board of Park Commissioners,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

The Board, having decided to comply with the last re-
quest of Miss Eloise Butler, our late Curator of the Eloise Butler
Wild Flower Garden at Glenwood Park, to spread her ashes in the
garden, and to plant a tree in her memory with appropriate cere-
monies on Arbor Day, I would like to make the following suggestions:

1. That the Board meet at 3:30 P.M. at the offices of the Board
on Friday, May 5, and proceed to the garden in a body.

2. That a Pin Oak be planted, of which I have secured a very
good specimen, which will be all ready for the ceremonies
when the Board arrives at the location where it is to be
planted close to the office of the curator in the garden.

3. That every member of the Board participate in the planting
of the tree, and that the President of the Board perform
the rite of spreading the ashes.

A good many friends of Miss Butler, former students of
her botany classes and nature lovers have suggested that the cere-
mony take place at 4:00 P.M., since they would like to be present
and some of them could not do so if the ceremonies took place earlier
in the day.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE WIRCH,
General Superintendent.
Mr. Theodore Wirth,
325 City Hall,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

Your letter of June 15th at hand and I wish to offer my apologies for the ill manners of my mosquitoes, they are rather difficult to train as each one lives only a short time. Last week was a very busy one, the Lady's Slippers being in full bloom therefore crowds in constantly to view them. The extreme hot dry spell shortened the blooming period somewhat.

I delivered Miss Pease's letter to Mr. Babcock Sunday. The chair mentioned surely was shipped but perhaps became separated from the other articles. The medicinal herb book I do not recall ever seeing altho Miss Butler mentioned it to us a number of times and asked if I would like to borrow it, I did not do so for my interest did not run in that line. I can offer a few suggestions. Miss Butler often loaned her books to different people especially during the winter months. I remember her loaning this book to a Herb Doctor with whom she was dealing, but I don't know his name. He lives in South Minneapolis. Perhaps Mr. Babcock has heard of him from Miss Butler.

I am enjoying the chine story immensely but at least we did not take a chance of letting anything escape.

I shall be very happy to help you obtain Lotus Plants at any time. The lake mentioned in the annual of 1930 is near Shakopee just a short distance from Highway No.5. Miss Butler formed the opinion that it was at Stillwater and it was difficult to correct. I go down there several times a year and obtain large quantities of seeds and still planting them. I am now treating them with acid. The plants bloom at their best the first part of August and it is a beautiful sight to behold the entire lake covered with these blossoms. I have located a number of other lakes where they grow but this has the most.

Miss Babcock called here at the office before she left for California and took with her the microscope and one of the wicker baskets, so these two articles are not in my care any longer.

I enjoyed a pleasant morning planting 55 bulbs of the Trillium grandiflorum, which I dug up Wednesday at Stanchfield, Minn. This will add a little to the 400 that are in the garden already.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. W. H. Crone.)
Outdoor Minnesota presented by the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

Did you know that just ten minutes from the Minneapolis loop is a serene undisturbed woodland sanctuary that is so wild that it might easily be mistaken for a segment of Minnesota’s great northern wilderness. Great numbers of wild flowers grow in profusion and birds rare to the city—such as the Green Heron and Woodcock—nest there. Is this idyllic sanctuary hard to find? Not at all—the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden lies in the center of Theodore Wirth Park. Tonight we have in the studio Mrs. W. H. Crone, the curator of the wild flower garden. About how many different species of plants are found in the wild flower garden.

We probably have over 1,000 species of plants in our 20 acres reserve.

Are all of these species native to Minnesota?

Yes, Max. All plants in the Butler Wild Flower Garden are native to this state. About half of these are indigenous to the area and the rest have been established there.

The term "garden" may be a little confusing to some of our listeners. Does that mean that you have to water and cultivate the wild flowers in the garden?
CRONE: No, Max, once the plants have been introduced and have become established, they are disturbed as little as possible and are not watered or cultivated.

KARL: In other words, your wild flowers have to fend for themselves.

CRONE: If they are crowded out by weeds or other plants, it is just too bad. We believe in keeping our wild flower sanctuary as wild as possible. If we were to attempt to control the flowers carefully, it would mean that the wild aspect of the area would disappear. I have had visitors tell me that our woodland is as wild as anything they have seen, even along the Gunflint Trail.

KARL: Could you give us a little preview, Mrs. Crone, of what the visitor to the Butler Wild Flower Garden may expect to see at this time of the year?

CRONE: This is not the best time of the year to see flowers in profusion. Spring is, of course, our rush season at the sanctuary. However, there is much to see even now. The Purple Loose-Strife is in bloom and adds a beautiful touch of color to the landscape. It is the most attractive and showy of the flowers that are blooming at the present time.

KARL: What about the fall flowers? Aren't they due to put in an appearance pretty soon?

CRONE: Yes, Max. The fall asters, golden rod and sunflowers are coming now and will last until frost.

KARL: Your sanctuary is noted for birds as well as flowers. Isn't it?

CRONE: The wild garden has been a favorite haunt of bird watchers for many years. Some enthusiasts, such as Miss Aler, keep a daily record of birds observed in the Theodore Wirth Park.
KARL: Aren't the birds more or less quiet in August?

CRONE: This is the quiet season for birds all right. Some of them are still feeding their young and others travel about in small groups feeding as they go. It is the pause before migration. But some of the birds are still singing. For example, the Wood Pea Wee, Indigo Bunting and Song Sparrow.

KARL: What would be the largest number of species of birds recorded in your garden during a single day?

CRONE: More than 90 species have been recorded in the area during the course of one day. This record, of course, was established during the spring migration.

KARL: When I visited your curator's cabin in the Butler Garden the other day, I was particularly interested in the Humming Birds that visited your artificial feeders every few minutes during my stay. I wonder if you would describe these feeders and tell us what you used to attract the birds and how often they visit your feeders.

CRONE: Small bottles ornamented with red cloth to represent petals of a flower and filled with a liquid made by boiling 4 cups sugar and 1/2 cup of water. A thin wire is twisted to the outside of the windows. The humming birds feed every few minutes and can be closely observed by spacing.
Earl: I believe you mentioned that when the humming birds return in the spring they look for your feeders even before they have been put out.

Crone: When the humming birds return in May they constantly hover near the place where the bottle was placed the year before, since I have come from feeding them until July. They never the coming until finally rewarded.

Earl: Getting back to the flowers again, how do you know where the various species are located in the garden?

Crone: During the 11 years that I have been curator of the wild flower garden I have come to know every inch of the area.
(tell about your card file system)

An indexed card system is kept of the names of plants and where planted, if they do not thrive in the situation, a new area is attempted.

Earl: Do you have any personal favorites in the flower line?

Crone: I can't say that I have, Max. As each flower blooms, it seems to be a favorite with me. Naturally, of course, the rarer and more elusive flowers receive the greatest amount of attention. The Rams-horn Lady Slipper is a particularly beautiful flower but then so are all of the members of the orchid family which, unfortunately, are diminishing in this state.

Earl: How many species of orchids are found in Minnesota?
CRONE: It is interesting to know that of the 18 genera and 63 species of orchids listed for the whole range of Gray's Manual, 15 genera and 44 species occur native in Minnesota. You might be interested to know of the 77 species of violets found on this continent at least 20 are known to grow in Minnesota. Other groups in which the number of species native to Minnesota runs high are the lily, the buttercup, the heath, and milkweed families.

KARL: I was particularly impressed by the many different species of ferns found in the wild flower garden.

CRONE: Our fern banks are outstanding at this time. About 45 different species of ferns occur in the garden. (give any interesting sidelight on the ferns) Some, such as the Interrupted Fern, the Lady Fern, and the Ostrich Fern spread very quickly, thus making a compact mass while others spread more slowly.

KARL: I suppose that your established plants have to be checked over each season and many new ones set out.

CRONE: That's right, Max. And of course we have to select a place that matches the particularly environment that is suitable to the plant. For example, our aquatic plants go down near the swamp or the pool at the lower end of the garden. The sun-loving plants are set out on the slope of the hill.
KARL: I don't suppose you bother with such things as raking leaves or carting out fallen logs?

CRONE: When the leaves drop in the fall, they are not raked up but are allowed to form a winter cover for the plants and eventually go back to the soil. When trees fall the logs are placed in the swampy part of the garden in hopes of attracting birds that might not ordinarily nest there.

KARL: Do you have any trouble with weeds crowding out the wild flowers?

CRONE: Yes, that is quite a problem. The jewel weed is the most striking example. (Tell about the introduction of the weed and its present abundance.) It was introduced some years ago, being an annual whose seeds germinate readily, it would crowd out other plants unless checked.

KARL: I was interested in the amazing representation of native trees to be found in the Butler Wild Flower Garden.

CRONE: Practically all of our native trees are located and many of them are labeled, especially those that are near the trails in the garden. I remember that you showed particular interest in the partial stump of a white oak that was 700 years old when we had to remove it because of the danger of its falling. In another
Part IV - Appendix XI

Crone: -7-

**Karl:** part of Theodore Wirth Park there is an elm standing that is 350 years old. I have wanted for sometime to see a hemlock and was amazed to find that you have a healthy stand of them at the lower end of the enclosure near the pool.

Crone: (give any pertinent information about the hemlock - where they made their last stand - are there any others in southern Minnesota?)

The hemlock barely reaches Minn., occurring naturally only in Carlton Co. It is very difficult to grow, rarely seen searching in the Winter. These in the garden are well established, having been there well over 30 years.

**Karl:** Could you give us a short review of the wild flower season? What is the earliest flower that appears in the garden?

Crone: The earliest and hardest flower is the Dwarf Trillium. Shorter and sturdier than its later-blooming brother, the painted-trillium, it appears even before the snow is gone - this year on the second of April. Close on its heels come hepaticas, bloodroots, anemones, jack-in-the-pulpits, to be followed all season long by a succession of bloom. Starting with the pale hepatica, the colors become more and more vivid, ending just before frost with a riot of yellow, blue and magenta.
Croner

KAEL: I believe you told me that one of the questions most commonly asked of you is when was this place established and how could it have been here so long without my knowing about it?

CONE: Yes, Max. Most people are surprised to find that the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Preserve was established in 1907. (tell about Miss Butler and how the reserve happened to be established)

The idea arose from the difficulties experienced by the teachers of botany in familiarizing their students with wild plants in their natural surroundings, since the rapidly growing city was sprawling out the wilderness.

This was considered an ideal spot, fulfilling all requirements, uninhabited, as it is, with hills, ponds, streams, and swamps.
KARL: I think, Mrs. Crone that our listeners would be interested in knowing just when they can visit the Wild Flower sanctuary.

CRONE: There are no **forbidden** signs on the reserve and although an iron fence marks the boundaries, the gates are open everyday in the week except Wednesday which is my day off. There are small placards telling the location and names of the many flowers along the trail and, of course, I am there to answer any questions that the visitors may have.

KARL: I imagine that your visitors are many, Mrs. Crone.

CRONE: Hundreds of persons visit the garden each month from April through October. Small children, hikers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, bird enthusiasts, botany students, ordinary citizens, all bound together by one common tie - love of the out of doors and particularly, of woodland flowers.

KARL: What objective would you say the Bitler Wild Flower Garden has accomplished?

CRONE: I think it has been a powerful factor in building an appreciation of Minnesota's native wild flowers. The garden teaches people to observe flowers and enjoy them in their natural environment. It has lessened the tendency to pick flowers and take them home where they wilt in a few short hours. We invite many more of our citizens to come to know the relaxation and contentment and beauty that can be found just 10 minutes from downtown Minneapolis.

KARL: Thank you very much, Mrs. Crone for this radio tour through Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden which is part of the Theodore Wirth Park and is maintained by the Minneapolis Park Board.

MORE
KARL: Mrs. Crone is curator of the Wild Flower Reserve. Outdoor Minnesota is presented each Wednesday at 6:45 P.M. by the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

Max Karl Speaking. This is the Columbia Broadcasting System.
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

HISTORY
OF THE
ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN
THEODORE WIRTH PARK

By MARTHA E. CRONE
Curator of the Garden
The idea of the wild flower garden arose from the difficulties experienced by the teachers of botany in familiarizing their students with living plants growing in their natural surroundings. Long journeys had been made with their classes, only to find but few scattered plants, which perhaps by the next season were exterminated by the needs of a rapidly-growing city. Thus was gradually evolved the plan of obtaining before it was too late a plot of land that could support the greater share of our Minnesota flora.

An ideal spot, fulfilling all requirements, was found in Theodore Wirth Park (then known as Glenwood Park), the largest park area in Minneapolis, and one interspersed with hills and valleys and possessed of great natural beauty. To the original tract comprising about three acres, additional area was added from time to time, until at present the garden totals thirteen acres.

Early in April 1907, the wild flower garden was installed without any ceremony, except the taking of a census of the indigenous flora and the introducing at once of a number of varieties.

Until 1911, the garden was cared for by the botany teachers as a labor of love, without compensation. In 1911 Miss Eloise Butler, upon retiring as botany teacher in our public schools, was made full-time curator, a position she occupied until April 10, 1933, at which time she passed away in her beloved garden.

On June 29, 1929, the wild flower reserve was named "The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden" in recognition of Miss Butler’s efforts to create the garden and of her service as its first curator.

Upon Miss Butler’s passing in 1933 at the age of 82 years, Mrs. Martha Crone became curator, a position she still fills at this writing (1951). She was quite familiar with the garden and its service to the community, having assisted Miss Butler in her duties some fifteen years or more.

On May 5, 1933, members of the Board of Park Commissioners, together with approximately a hundred friends and former students of Miss Butler, gathered at the Wild Flower Garden to pay tribute to the memory of its founder. The Honorable Alfred F. Pillsbury, President of the Board at that time, was the principal speaker. An oak tree was planted in memory of Miss Butler and her ashes were strewn upon the area nearby. Theodore Wirth, General Superintendent of Parks, suggested that a year hence a bronze tablet, to be contributed by her friends, be placed on a boulder near the tree to perpetuate the dedication.

On May 1 of the following year, the bronze tablet was placed and dedicated, reading as follows:
History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden -

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ELOISE BUTLER
1851 - 1933

TEACHER OF BOTANY IN MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOLS
FOUNDER AND FIRST CURATOR OF THIS
NATIVE PLANT RESERVE

This oak has been planted and this
tablet erected by a grateful public

To this sequestered glen Miss Butler gathered from all sections of
our state specimens of its beautiful native plants and tended them with
patient care. This priceless garden is our heritage from her and its
continued preservation a living testimony of our appreciation. Here her
ashes are scattered and here her protective spirit lingers.

The ups and downs of the garden have been many. The cyclones of 1926
and 1927 left great destruction. It was during these storms that the majestic
white oak, often estimated to be 700 years old, was destroyed, and most of the
tamaracks were uprooted.

During the unprecedented drought of 1934 and 1935, a large percentage of
the plants disappeared, so that in the years following a complete re-establishment
of much of the flora was necessary. Up to 1951, the present curator, Martha Crone,
has set out in the garden some 42,500 plants.

The original plan of the garden has been greatly changed. When it was
established in 1907, the population of Minneapolis was only 300,000. Large attend-
ance was not encouraged, since only two narrow footpaths led through the garden,
which could accommodate very few -- and it has always been deemed inadvisable for
visitors to roam at will. Now that the city has more than doubled its population,
it was found necessary to widen the trails considerably, to gravel them, and extend
the walks to all parts of the garden, winding gracefully through the glen, the
swamp, and over the hills.

The original plan of allowing plants to grow at will after they were once
established, and without restraint, soon proved disastrous. Several easy-growing
varieties spread very rapidly and soon shaded out some of the more desirable plants.
An attempt was made to check them, but with limited help, this proved to be a
problem.

On a knoll above the swamp and near the south entrance, there is a small
building used as an office by the curator, and there are also several smaller
shelters for storage of tools and supplies.

In 1917 a huge boulder was hauled into the garden and the top chiseled
out on four levels for a bird-bath, and here great numbers of birds congregate.

In 1926 the garden area was surrounded by a fence, to give better pro-
tection against vandalism. This fence was replaced by a more permanent installation
in 1939.
Minnesota has a flora of wide range, the state extending 600 miles from the Canadian border on the north to Iowa on the south, and 300 miles from the Dakota border on the west to Wisconsin on the east. Included are plants from the forests, the prairies, as well as the Alpine region. Varying soil conditions with moisture and light exposure to satisfy the most fastidious can be met with in the garden to provide the needs of all of these plants.

The admirable location of the garden and the topography of the area, consisting of morainic hills commanding widespread views with intervening valleys, ponds, and bogs, are ideal. Three sizable pools were created by excavation in one of the bogs. A spring drains into another pool which was formed by a dam across a brook. Aquatic plants of various types have been introduced into the pools.

Exclusive of mosses, algae, and fungi, the garden now contains over 1,000 species. Ten species of ferns were indigenous; now there are fifty. Even if a plant lives and thrives, it must be remembered that the life of each individual plant is limited. The span of life for some is very short, others many years. It is therefore quite understandable why a constant replanting must be carried on year after year to maintain a sufficient supply of native plants for educational purposes, to preserve the indigenous flora, and to introduce flora from other regions for the benefit of students of botany and lovers of wild life.

The small percentage of plants that have refused to flourish are faithfully planted again and again until success is finally reached. One of these is the very elusive fringed gentian (Gentiana crinita and procera) which is one of the last to bloom in late fall; and another is the trailing arbutus (Epigaea repens) considered the loveliest flower of early spring and one of exquisite fragrance. Both are extremely difficult to cultivate, but after much painstaking effort over a period of at least fifteen years, they have been brought under successful cultivation.

A novel plan undertaken several years ago has proven very successful — that of experimenting with plants such as azaleas, rhododendron, mountain laurel, and various trilliums. The yellow trillium, which is at home only in the Smokies, is not only well established, but is spreading freely. The others have survived four winters and have bloomed beautifully.

THE UPLAND GARDEN

For many years a real need was felt for more scope for prairie and upland plants. This need was finally fulfilled in 1914 when, through the generous assistance of a friend of the garden, Mr. C. M. Odell, a tract east of the garden was enclosed with a fence similar to the one already in existence. During mid-summer when the spring flowers have gone and the shade of the woodland is so dense that few plants bloom there, then it is that the prairie and upland garden comes into its own. This tract consists of gently rolling hills and prairie, and is fully 75 feet higher than the woodland garden. The contrast is all the more striking between the upland and the woodland gardens, since they are so closely allied.
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History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden - Page 4

It was first necessary to remove the thick growth of sumac which covered the greater portion of this new addition, and several years of persistent digging and cutting were required for its ultimate extermination. Quack grass and ragweed were two other pests that had infested the area.

Further development consisted of laying out, grading, and graveling the trails that extend to all parts of the garden for fully a half mile, winding gracefully around and over the hills — around the hills for those who do not wish to ascend the slopes.

The over-all plan of development for the upland garden was designed so as to include all of the flora of prairie and upland hills. Here has been brought together vegetation which varies markedly from that of the woodland and bog. In this upland area, plants thrive best which require full sunshine, such as lupine, cactus, penstemon, ground plum, pruceon, bird's-foot violets, coneflowers, and others.

From early spring to freeze-up time in the late fall, a pageant of flowers passes into view. The pasque-flower opens the season, closely followed by prairie crocuses, purple avena, various violets, and many others. The goldenrods and blue and white asters close the season with a dramatic harmony of contrasting colors, rendering the garden to fairly glow with loveliness. The beauty of the landscape is enhanced by a few scattered, wide-spreading oak trees, both white and red that vie with each other in producing glorious autumnal foliage.

In addition to the plants native to Minnesota, a number representative of other states have been introduced and are flourishing, such as the bitter-root from Montana, a number of species of penstemon from various parts of the west, and many others.

The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden is famed for the great number of wild flowers flourishing in so small an area. Nowhere else of equal accessibility has Nature provided the necessary combination of rich woods soil in the woodland area, moisture in the bog, and sand and loam in the sunny prairie garden.

The undertaking in establishing the garden was a real challenge, inspiring a great determination to succeed, for in the cultivation of wild plants, many problems are met, some of which respond satisfactorily, while others require considerable patience and intelligent care in handling. To offset the years of drought, a steady supply of water is most essential. This was realized and a water system installed in 1917, connecting with the main on Chestnut and Xerxes Avenue North.

This bit of wilderness where the beauty of Nature's touch is everywhere, is well worth visiting. It is conveniently reached by automobile, as well as by public transportation, and is less than ten minutes drive from the city. A fine view of the towering buildings of a busy metropolis can be had from the upland garden.

A list of plants that grow in the garden is attached.
FLOWERING PLANTS, TREES, SHRUBS, AND FERNS
GROWING IN THE
SLEICE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN
AT THEODORE WIRTH PARK
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIOLET FAMILY</th>
<th>LILY FAMILY (Continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. American Dog Violet (Viola conspersa)</td>
<td>38. Yellow Day-Lily (Hemerocallis flava)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Arrow-leaved Violet (Viola sagittata)</td>
<td>39. Orange Day-Lily (Hemerocallis fulva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bird's foot Violet (Viola pedata)</td>
<td>40. False Lily-of-the-Valley (Maianthemum canadense)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bird's foot Violet (Viola pedata bicolor)</td>
<td>41. Sessile-leaved Bellwort (Uvularia sessilifolia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Canada Violet (Viola canadensis)</td>
<td>42. Large-flowered Bellwort (Uvularia grandiflora)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Downy Yellow Violet (Viola pubescens)</td>
<td>43. Giant Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum canaliculatum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Fringed Violet (Viola fimbriata)</td>
<td>44. Hairy Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum pubescens)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hand-leaf Violet (Viola palmata)</td>
<td>45. False Solomon's Seal (Smilacina racemosa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Hooded Blue Violet (Viola papilionacea)</td>
<td>46. Star-flowered Solomon's Seal (Smilacina stellata)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Hooked Violet (Viola arvensis)</td>
<td>47. Three-leaved Solomon's Seal (Smilacina trifolia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Kidney-leaved Violet (Viola renifolia)</td>
<td>48. Carrion-flower (Sailax eurhrhata)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Lance-leaved Violet (Viola lanceolata)</td>
<td>49. Frickly Green Brier (Smilax hispida)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Marsh Blue Violet (Viola cucullata)</td>
<td>50. Twisted-stalk (Struthopteris amplogi- folius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Missouri Violet (Viola missouriensis)</td>
<td>51. Sessile-leaved Twisted-stalk (Struthopteris longipes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Northern White Violet (Viola papula)</td>
<td>52. Death Camass (Zigadenus elegans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Prairie Violet (Viola pedatifida)</td>
<td>53. White Camass (Zigadenus glaucum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Prince's-leaved Violet (Viola primulifolia)</td>
<td>54. Meadow Garlic (Allium canadense)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Round-leaved Yellow Violet (Viola rotundifolia)</td>
<td>55. Wild Leek (Allium tricoccum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Sweet White Violet (Viola blanda)</td>
<td>57. Wild Onion (Allium cornum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Tall-stemmed White Violet (Viola rugosa)</td>
<td>58. Asparagus (Asparagus officinalis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Woolly Blue Violet (Viola sororia)</td>
<td>59. Yellow Clintonia (Clintonia borealis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Yellow Prairie Violet (Viola nutallii)</td>
<td>60. Trout-lily, White (Erythronium albidum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LILY FAMILY</td>
<td>61. Yellow Trout-lily (Erythronium americanum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Dropping Trillium (Trillium flexipes)</td>
<td>62. Minnesota Trout-lily (Erythronium propullans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Large-flowered Trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LILY FAMILY (Continued)
63. Indian Cucumber-root (Medeola Virginiana)
64. False Hellebore (Veratrum viride)
65. Grape-Hyacinth (Muscari Botryoides)
66. Wild Hyacinth (Quenaria esculenta)

AMARYLLIS FAMILY
67. Yellow Star Grass (Hypoxis hirsuta)

YAM FAMILY
68. Wild Yam-root (Dioscorea villosa)

IRIS FAMILY
69. Yellow Flag (Iris pseudacorus)
70. Blue Flag (Iris versicolor)
71. Crested Iris (Iris cristata)
72. Stout Blue-eyed Grass (Sisyrinchium angustifolium)
73. Prairie Blue-eyed Grass (Sisyrinchium campestre)

ORCHID FAMILY
74. Adam-and-Eve (Aplectrum hysmalae)
75. Arethusa (Arethusa bulbosa)
76. Grass Pink (Calopogon pulchellus)
77. Fairy Slipper (Cypripedium bulbosa)
78. Spotted Coral Root (Corallorhiza maculata)
79. Early Coral Root (Corallorhiza trifida)
80. Stemless Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium acaule)
81. Ram's-head Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium arietinum)
82. Small Yellow Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium Calceolus var.purpurascens)
83. Large Yellow Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium Calceolus var.pubescens)
84. White Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium candidum)
85. Showy Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium reginae)
86. Downy Rattlesnake Plantain (Goodyera pubescens)
87. Lesser Rattlesnake Plantain (Goodyera pubescens)

MULBERRY FAMILY
101. Hemp (Cannabis sativa)
102. American Hops-vine (Humulus americana)

NETTLE FAMILY
103. Wood Nettle (Laportea canadensis)
104. Rushmilk (Pilea pumila)
105. Slender Wild Nettle (Urtica gracilis)
106. Stinging Nettle (Urtica dioica)

SANDALWOOD FAMILY
107. Northern Comandra (Comandra livida)
108. Bastard Toad-flax (Comandra umbellata)

BIRTHWORT FAMILY
109. Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense)
110. Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia macrophylla)

ORCHID FAMILY (Continued)
88. Tall Leafy Green Orchis (Habenaria hyperbores)
89. Racketed Orchis (Habenaria lactera)
90. Purple Fringed Orchis (Habenaria psychodes)
91. Yellow Fringed Orchis (Habenaria ciliaris)
92. Little Club-spur Orchis (Habenaria Clavellata)
93. Two-leafed (Liparis Laxa)
94. Green Adder's Mouth; Fans Orchis (Malaxis unifolia)
95. Showy Orchis (Orchis spectabilis)
96. Rose Pogonia (Pogonia ophioglossoides)
97. Nodding Ladies' Tresses (Spiranthes cernua)
98. Hooded Ladies' Tresses (Spiranthes Reamnzelliana)
99. Sweet Fern (Comptonia peregrina)
100. Sweet Gale (Myrica Gale)

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MULBERRY FAMILY
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110. Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia macrophylla)
BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

111. Coast Jointweed (Polygonella articulata)
112. Halberd-leaved Tear-thumb (Polygonum arifolium)
113. Common Knotweed (Polygonum aviculare)
114. Black Bindweed (Polygonum Convulvulus)
115. Water Pepper (Polygonum Hydropiper)
116. Dock-leaved Sandweed (Polygonum Lapathifolium)
117. Lady’s Thumb (Polygonum Persicaria)
118. Arrow-leaved Tear-thumb (Polygonum sagittatum)
119. Climbing False Buckwheat (Polygonum scandens)
120. Sheep Sorrel (Rumex Acetosella)
121. Curled Dock (Rumex crispus)
122. Great Water Dock (Rumex orbiculatus)

GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

123. Lamb’s Quarters (Chenopodium album)
124. Strawberry Blite (Chenopodium capitatum)
125. Maple-leaved Goosefoot (Chenopodium giganteum)
126. Winged Pigweed (Cyloloma striplicifolium)

AMARANTH FAMILY

127. Tumbleweed (Amaranthus albus)
128. Prairie Proelochia (Proelochia floridan)

FOUR-O’CLOCK FAMILY

129. Hairy Umbrella-wort (Allionia hirsuta)
130. Heart-leaved Umbrella-wort (Allionia nyctaginosa)

CARPET-WEED FAMILY

131. Carpet-Weed (Mollugo verticillata)

PURSLANE FAMILY

132. Spring Beauty, Carolina (Claytonia caroliniana)
133. Virginia Spring Beauty (Claytonia virginica)
134. Purslane (Portulaca oleracea)

PURSLANE FAMILY (Continued)

135. Small-flowered Talinum (Talinum parviflorum)
136. Prairie Talinum (Talinum rugospermum)
137. Bitterroot (Leuisia rediviva)

PINK FAMILY

138. Corn Cockle (Agrostemma Githago)
139. Thyme-leaved Sandwort ( Arenaria serpyllifolia)
140. Blunt-leaved Sandwort (Arenaria interflora)
141. Field Chickweed (Erasea arvense)
142. Larger Mouse-ear Chickweed (Erasea vulgatum)
143. Low Gypsophila (Gypsophila murals)
144. White Campion (Lychnis alba)
145. Maltaose Cross (Lychnis chalcendorica)
146. Bouncing Bot (Saponaria officinalis)
147. Starry Campion (Silene stellata)
148. Bladder Campion (Silene latifolia)
149. Fire Pink (Silene Virginica)
150. Sleepy Catchfly (Silene antirrhina)

WATER LILY FAMILY

151. American Lotus (Nelumbo pentapetala)
152. Sweet-scented White Water Lily (Nymphaea odorata)

HORNWORT FAMILY

153. Large Yellow Pond Lily (Nuphar variegatum)
154. Large Water Lily (Nymphaea tuberosa)
155. Small Yellow Pond Lily (Nuphar microphyllum)
156. Hornwort; Coontail ( Ceratophyllum demersum)

CROWFOOT FAMILY

157. White Baneberry (Actaea alba)
CROWFOOT FAMILY (Continued)

158. Red Barberry (Berberis rubra)
159. Canada Anemone (Anemone canadensis)
160. Carolina Anemone (Anemone caroliniana)
161. Long-fruited Anemone; Thimble Weed
   (Anemone cylindrica)
162. Wood Anemone (Anemone quinquefolia)
163. Pasque-flower (Anemone patens)
164. Large White Anemone (Anemone cylindrica)
165. Rue Anemone (Anemonella thalictroides)
166. Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
167. Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris)
168. Purple Virgin's Bower (Clematis
   verticillaris)
169. Virginia Virgin's Bower (Clematis
   virginiana)
170. Goldthread (Coptis groenlandica)
171. Prairie Larkspur (Delphinium
   virescens)
172. Sharp-lobed Hepatica (Hepatica
   acutiloba)
173. Round-lobed Hepatica (Hepatica
   americana)
174. Golden Seal (Hydrastis canadensis)
175. False Rue Anemone (Isopyrum
   biternatum)
176. Globe-flower (Troilus luteus)
177. Tall Meadow Rue (Thalictrum
dasyphyllum)
178. Early Meadow Rue (Thalictrum
ciocium)
179. Yellow Meadow Rue (Thalictrum
   glaucum)
180. Small-flowered Buttercup (Ranunculus
   abortivus)
181. Tall Buttercup (Ranunculus arvensis)
182. Early Buttercup (Ranunculus fascicularis)
183. Yellow Water Crowfoot (Ranunculus
   fibrillosus)
184. Prairie Crowfoot (Ranunculus rhombo-
deous)
185. Marsh Buttercup (Ranunculus septen-
   trionalis)

BARBERRY FAMILY

186. Blue Cohosh (Caulophyllum thalic-
   troides)
187. May Apple (Podophyllum peltatum)

MOUSEBEARD FAMILY

188. Canada Mousewood (Monsperrum cana-
   densis)

POPPY FAMILY

189. Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)

FUMITORY FAMILY

190. Golden Corydalis (Corydalis aurea)
191. Pink Corydalis (Corydalis sempervirens)
192. Squirrel Corn (Dianthus canadensis)
193. Dutchman's Breeches (Dianthus
   cuaillera)

MUSTARD FAMILY

194. Lyre-leaved Rock Cress (Arabis lyrata)
195. Yellow Rocket (Barbarea vulgaris)
196. Hoary Alyssum (Berteroa incana)
197. Black Mustard (Brassica nigra)
198. Shepherd's Purse (Capsella Bursa-
   pastoris)
199. Bulbous Cress (Cardamine bulbosa)
200. Cut-leaved Toothwort (Dentaria
   laciniosa)
201. Two-leaved Toothwort (Dentaria
   diphylla)
202. Whitlow-grass (Draba azoides)
203. Prairie Rocket; Yellow Phlox (Erysi-
   num asperum)
204. Dame's Rocket (Hesperis matronalis)
205. Water Cress (Nasturtium officinale)

CAPER FAMILY

206. Cressywood (Polanisia graveolens)
207. Pitcher Plant (Sarracenia purpurea)
208. Round-leaved Sundew (Drosophila
   rotundifolia)

CRIFINE FAMILY

209. Crpine; Lipo-forver (Sedum teleph-
   ium)

SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

210. Alum Root (Heuchera americana)
211. Two-leaved Bishop's Cap (Mitella
   diphylla)
Part IV - Appendix XII

**SAXIFRAGE FAMILY (Continued)**

212. Naked Bishop’s Cap (Mitella nudicaulis)
213. Marsh Grass of Parnassus (Parnassia palustris)
214. Snowplume (Astillbe biternata)
215. Swamp Saxifrage (Saxifraga pennsylvanica)
216. Foam-flower (Tiarella cordifolia)

**WITCH HAZEL FAMILY**

217. Witch Hazel (Hamamelis virginiana)

**ROSE FAMILY**

218. Tall Hairy Agrimony (Agrimonia gryposepala)
219. Meadow-Queen (Filipendula Ulmaria)
220. American Wood Strawberry (Fragaria Americana)
221. Virginia Strawberry (Fragaria virginiana)
222. Long-plumed Purple Avens (Geum triflorum)
223. White Avens (Geum canadense)
224. Yellow Avens (Geum strictum)
225. Water Avens (purple) (Geum rivale)
226. Silvery Cinquefoil (Potentilla argentea)
227. Silverweed (Potentilla Anserina)
228. Branched Cinquefoil (Potentilla officinalis)
229. Shrubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla fruticosa)
230. Rough Cinquefoil (Potentilla hirsuta)
231. Bushy Cinquefoil (Potentilla paradoxa)
232. Rough-fruited Cinquefoil (Potentilla recta)
233. Diffuse Cinquefoil (Potentilla rivalis)
234. Decumbent Five-finger (Potentilla simplex)
235. Three-toothed Cinquefoil (Potentilla tridentata)
236. Common Cinquefoil (Potentilla canadensis)
237. Narrow-leaved Meadow Sweet (Spiraea alba)
238. Hardhack; Steeple Bush (Spiraea tentaculosa)

**PULSE FAMILY**

239. Lead-plant (Amorpha canescens)
240. Fragrant False Indigo (Amorpha canescens)
241. Hog Pea-nut (Amphicarpus bracteatus)
242. Wild Bean; Groundnut (Apios americana)
243. Ground Plum (Estragulus cassinus)
244. Flexible Milk Vetch (Astragalus flexuosus)
245. Purple Milk Vetch (Astragalus greggiatus)
246. Large White Wild Indigo (Baptisia leucantha)
247. Yellow Wild Indigo (Baptisia tinctoria)
248. Blue Wild Indigo (Baptisia australis)
249. Partridge Pea (Cassia fasciculata)
250. Rattle-box (Crotalaria sagittalis)
251. Large-tracted Tick-trefoil (Desmodium bracteatum)
252. Canadian Tick-trefoil (Desmodium canadense)
253. Pointed-leaved Tick-trefoil (Desmodium glutinosum)
254. Pale Vetchling (Lathyrus ochroleucus)
255. Round-headed Bushclover (Lespedeza capitata)
256. Prairie Bird’s-foot Trefoil (Lotus americanus)
257. Lupine (Lupinus perennis)
258. Hop Clover (Medicago lupulina)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PULSE FAMILY</th>
<th>SPURGE FAMILY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>259. White Sweet Clover (Mollelotus alba)</td>
<td>284. Three-seeded Mercurv (Calypha rhamnoides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>260. Yellow Sweet Clover (Mollelotus officinalis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>261. White Prairie Clover (Petalostemon candidum)</td>
<td>285. Flowering Spurge (Euphorbia caroliana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>262. Purple Prairie Clover (Petalostemon purpureum)</td>
<td>286. Geyer's Spurge (Euphorbia Geyeri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>263. Pink Prairie Clover (Petalostemon filicium)</td>
<td>287. Wild Poinsettia (Poinsettia heterophylla)</td>
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<tr>
<td>264. Silver-leaved Pscorlea (Pscorlea argophylla)</td>
<td>JEWELWEED FAMILY</td>
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<tr>
<td>265. Prairie Turnip (Pscorlea ascalenta)</td>
<td>288. Spotted Touch-me-not (Impatiens biflora)</td>
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<tr>
<td>266. Trailing Wild Bean (Strophostyles helvola)</td>
<td>289. Pale Touch-me-not (Impatiens pallida)</td>
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<tr>
<td>267. Rabbit-Foot Clover (Trifolium arvense)</td>
<td>BUCKTHORN FAMILY</td>
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<tr>
<td>268. Alaska Clover (Trifolium hybridum)</td>
<td>290. New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>269. Red Clover (Trifolium pratense)</td>
<td>MALLOW FAMILY</td>
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<tr>
<td>270. White Clover (Trifolium repens)</td>
<td>291. Flower-of-an-hour (Hibiscus Trionum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>271. American Vetch (Vicia americana)</td>
<td>292. Common Mallow; Cheeses (Malva rotundifolia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272. Common Vetch (Vicia sativa)</td>
<td>ST. JOHN'S-WORT FAMILY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERANIUM FAMILY</td>
<td>273. Great St. John's-wort (Hypericum ascyron)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>273. Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum)</td>
<td>274. Common St. John's-wort (Hypericum perforatum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOOD-SORREL FAMILY</td>
<td>275. Marsh St. John's-wort (Hypericum virginicum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274. Violet Wood-sorrel (Oxalis violacea)</td>
<td>276. Orange Grass (Hypericum gentianoides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>275. Yellow Wood-sorrel (Oxalis bushii)</td>
<td>277. Shrubby St. John's-wort (Hypericum spathulatum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>276. Upright Yellow Wood-sorrel (Oxalis stricta)</td>
<td>FOCK-ROSE FAMILY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>277. True Wood-sorrel (Oxalis acetosella)</td>
<td>298. Frostweed (Helianthemum canadense)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILKWORT FAMILY</td>
<td>299. False Heather (Hudsonia tomentosa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>278. Cross-leaved Milkwort (Polygala cruciata)</td>
<td>300. Prairie Pinweed (Lechea stricta)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>279. Fringed Milkwort (Polygala paucifolia)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### CACTUS FAMILY
- 301. Nipple Cactus (Mammillaria vivipara)
- 302. Prickly Pear (Opuntia ficus-indica)
- 303. Western Prickly Pear (Opuntia humifusa)

### LOOSESTRIFE FAMILY
- 304. Swamp Willow-herb (Decodon verticillatus)
- 305. Wing-angled Loosestrife (Lythrum alatum)
- 306. Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum Salicaria)

### EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY
- 307. Small Enchanter's Nightshade (Circaea alpina)
- 308. Enchanter's Nightshade (Circaea canadensis)
- 309. Fireweed (Epilobium augustifolium)
- 310. Marsh Willow-herb (Epilobium palustre)
- 311. Downy Willow-herb (Epilobium strigatum)
- 312. Common Evening-primrose (Oenothera biennis)
- 313. Rhabdia Evening Primrose (Oenothera rhabdipetala)
- 314. Western Evening Primrose (Oenothera cespitosa)
- 315. Meadow Sundrops (Oenothera pratensis)

### WATER-MILFOIL FAMILY
- 316. Hair's-tail (Hypopitys vulgare)
- 317. Loose-flowered Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum alterniflorum)
- 318. Whorled Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum verticillatum)

### GINSENG FAMILY
- 319. Bristly Sarsaparilla (Aralia hispida)
- 320. Wild Sarsaparilla (Aralia nudicaulis)
- 321. American Spikenard (Aralia racemosa)
- 322. Sénéga (Panax quinquefolium)
- 323. Dwarf Ginseng (Panax trifolium)

### PARSLEY FAMILY
- 324. Harbinger-of-Spring (Erigonum bulbosum)
- 325. Hairy Angelica (Angelica atropurpurea)
- 326. Water Hemlock (Cicuta maculata)
- 327. Honewort (Cryptotaenia canadensis)
- 328. Wild Carrot (Daucus Carota)
- 329. Rattlesnake-mastor (Eryngium yucciforme)
- 330. Cow Parsnip (Heracleum lanatum)
- 331. Wildly Sweet Cicely (Osmorhiza claytoni)
- 332. Smooth Sweet Cicely (Osmorhiza longistyloides)
- 333. Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa)
- 334. Black Snakercot (Sanicula marilandica)
- 335. Short-styled Snakercot (Sanicula canadensis)
- 336. Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea)
- 337. Heart-leaved Alexanders (Zizia octona)

### SHIN-LEAF FAMILY
- 338. Prince's Pine; Ppisissowa (Chimaphila umbellata)
- 339. One-flowered Pyrola (Pyrola uniflora)
- 340. Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora)
- 341. American Round-leaved Pyrola (Pyrola rotundifolia var. americana)
- 342. Pink-flowered Pyrola (Pyrola asperifolia)
- 343. One-sided Pyrola (Pyrola acutifolia)
- 344. Shin-leaf (Pyrola elliptica)

### HEATH FAMILY
- 345. Bog Rosemary (Andromeda glaucophylla)
- 346. Bearberry (Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi)
- 347. Leather-leaf (Chamaedaphne calyculata)
HEATH FAMILY (Continued)

348. Creeping Snowberry (Chiogenes hispidula)
349. Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea repens)
350. Aromatic Wintergreen (Gaultheria procumbens)
351. Huckleberry (Gaylussacia baccata)
352. Swamp Laurel (Kalmia polifolia)
353. Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia)
354. Labrador Tea (Ledum groenlandicum)
355. Large Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon)
356. Small Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccus)
357. Mountain Cranberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea)
358. Canadian Blueberry (Vaccinium canadense)
359. Early or Low-bush Blueberry (Vaccinium augustinolium)

DOGbane FAMILY

375. Spreading Dogbane (Apocynum androsaemifolium)
376. Creeping Myrtle (Vinca minor)

MILKWEEED FAMILY

377. Woolly Milkweed (Asclepias linariifolia)
378. Blunt-leafed Milkweed (Asclepias amplexicaulis)
379. Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)
380. Pogo Milkweed (Asclepias phryganea)
381. Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca)
382. Whorled Milkweed (Asclepias verticillata)
383. Butterfly-weed (Asclepias tuberosa)

MORNING-GlORY FAMILY

384. Small Birdweed (Convolvulus arvensis)
385. Great Birdweed (Convolvulus sepium)
386. Upright Birdweed (Convolvulus thunbergii)
387. Smartweed Dodder (Cuscuta polygona)
388. American Dodder (Cuscuta americana)
389. Ivy-leaved Morning-glory (Ipomoea hederacea)
390. Bush Morning-glory (Ipomoea leptophylla)

PHLOX FAMILY

391. Red Rocket (Gillies rubra)
392. Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricata)
393. Wild Sweet William (Phlox maculata)
394. Prairie Phlox; Downy Phlox (Phlox pilosa)
395. Moss Pink (Phlox subulata)
396. Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium reptans)
397. American Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium coeruleum)

WATER-LEAF FAMILY

398. Virginia Water-leaf (Hydrophyllum virginianum)
399. Franklin's Phacelia (Phacelia franklinii)
BORAGE FAMILY

100. Hound's-tongue (Cynoglossum officinale)
101. Blue Weed (Echium vulgare)
102. Virginia Stickseed (Hackelia virginiana)
103. Nodding Stickseed (Hackelia americana)
104. European Stickseed (Lappula echinata)
105. Hoary Puccoon (Lithospermum canescens)
106. Narrow-leaved Puccoon (Lithospermum incisum)
107. Hairy Puccoon (Lithospermum carolinense)
108. American Gromwell (Lithospermum latifolium)
109. Virginia Bluebells (Mertensia virginica)
110. Tall Lungwort (Mertensia paniculata)
111. Western Bluebells (Mertensia oblongifolia)
112. Forget-me-not (Myosotis scrophularioides)

VERVAIN FAMILY

113. Blue Vervain (Verbena hastata)
114. Hoary Vervain (Verbena stricta)
115. White Vervain (Verbena urticifolia)

MINT FAMILY

116. Fragrant Giant Hyssop (Agastache scrophulariifolia)
117. Catnip Giant Hyssop (Agastache nepetoides)
118. Figwort Giant Hyssop (Agastache scrophulariifolia)
119. American Pennyroyal (Hedeoma pulegioides)
120. False Pennyroyal (Isanthus trachelus)
121. Motherwort (Leonurus cardiaca)
122. Bugle Weed (Lycolpus virginicus)
123. Northern Bugle Weed (Lycolpus uniflorus)

MINT FAMILY (Continued)

124. Cut-leaved Water Horehound (Lycolpus americanus)
125. Common Horehound (Marrubium vulgare)
126. American Wild Mint (Mentha canadensis)
127. Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)
128. American Bee Balm (Monarda didyma)
129. Horse Mint (Monarda punctata)
130. Ground Ivy (Nepeta hederacea)
131. Obedient Plant (Physostegia virginiana)
132. Heal-all (Prunella vulgaris)
133. Virginia Mountain Mint (Pycnanthemum virginianum)
134. Creeping Thyme (Thymus serpyllum)
135. Wild Marjoram (Origanum vulgare)
136. Marsh Skullcap (Scutellaria epilobiifolia)
136a. Mad-dog Skullcap (Scutellaria lateriflora)
137. Small Skullcap (Scutellaria parvula)
138. Rough Hodge Nettle (Stachys aspera)
139. American Germander or Wood Sage (Teucrium canadense)
140. Matrimony-vine (Lycium halimifolium)

POCATE FAMILY

141. Prairie Ground Cherry (Physalis lanceolata)
142. Clammy Ground Cherry (Physalis heterophylla)
143. Virginia Ground Cherry (Physalis virginiana)
144. Black Nightshade (Solanum nigrum)

FIGWORT FAMILY

145. Indian Paint-brush (Castilleja coccinea)
146. Lance-leaved Painted Cup (Castilleja pallida)
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<td>474. Northern Bedstraw (Galium boreale)</td>
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<td>448. Red Turtlehead (Chelone obliqua)</td>
<td>475. shining Bedstraw (Galium cuneatum)</td>
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<td>449. Large Purple Gerardia (Gerardia purpurea)</td>
<td>476. Small Bedstraw (Galium trifidum)</td>
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<td>450. Slender Gerardia (Gerardia tenuifolia)</td>
<td>477. Long-leaved Houstonia (Houstonia longifolia)</td>
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<td>452. Monkey Flower (Mimulus ringens)</td>
<td><strong>HONEYSSKEL FAMILY</strong></td>
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<td>453. Wood Betony (Pedicularis canadensis)</td>
<td>479. Bush Honeysuckle (Diervenia Lonicera)</td>
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<td>454. Swamp Loosewort (Pedicularis lanceolata)</td>
<td>480. Twir-flower (Linnaea borealis var. americana)</td>
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<td>455. Large-flowered Beard-tongue (Penstemon grandiflorus)</td>
<td>481. American Fly-honeysuckle (Lonicera canadensis)</td>
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<td>456. Slender Beard-tongue (Penstemon gracilis)</td>
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<td>457. Western White Penstemon (Penstemon confortus)</td>
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<td>458. Blue Western Penstemon (Penstemon Ceanoestinus)</td>
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<td>459. Figwort (Scrophularia lanceolata)</td>
<td>485. Mountain Fly-honeysuckle (Lonicera villosa)</td>
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<td>460. Bull Syrphus (Synphyris Bullii)</td>
<td>486. Scarlet-fruited Horse-gentian (Trag-ceaeum aurantiacum)</td>
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<td>461. Great Kuhlein (Kuhleocum Thapsus)</td>
<td><strong>MOSCHATEL FAMILY</strong></td>
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<td>462. American Brooklime (Veronica americana)</td>
<td>487. Adoxa; Moschateol (Adoxa Moschatellina)</td>
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<td>463. Marsh Speedwell (Veronica acutellata)</td>
<td><strong>VALERIAN FAMILY</strong></td>
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<td>464. Culver's Root (Veronicastrum virginicum)</td>
<td>488. Edible Valerian (Valeriana edulis)</td>
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<td><strong>Gourd FAMILY</strong></td>
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<td>465. Common Butterwort (Pinguicula vulgaris)</td>
<td>489. Wild Cucumber (Echinocystis Lobata)</td>
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<td>466. Greater Bladderwort (Utricularia vulgaris var. americana)</td>
<td>490. Star Cucumber (Sicyos angulatus)</td>
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<td>467. Lopseed (Phryma leptostachya)</td>
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<td><strong>TRUMPET - CREEPER FAMILY</strong></td>
<td>492. Marsh Bellflower (Campanula aparindior)</td>
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<td>468. Trumpet-flower (Bigensia radicans)</td>
<td>493. Clustered Bellflower (Campanula glomerata)</td>
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<td><strong>PLANTAIN FAMILY</strong></td>
<td>494. European Bellflower (Campanula rapunculoides)</td>
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<td>469. Common Plantain (Plantago major)</td>
<td>495. Harebell (Campanula rotundifolia)</td>
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<td>470. Pursh's Plantain (Plantago Purshii)</td>
<td>496. Blue Marsh Bellflower (Campanula uliginosa)</td>
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<td><strong>MADDER FAMILY</strong></td>
<td>497. Venus' Locking-glass (Specularia perfoliata)</td>
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<td>471. Partridge Berry (Mitchella repens)</td>
<td><strong>LOBELIA FAMILY</strong></td>
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<td>472. Cleavers (Galium Aparine)</td>
<td>498. Cardinal Flower (Lobelia Cardinalis)</td>
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<td>473. Rough Bedstraw (Galium asperllum)</td>
<td>499. Great Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica)</td>
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<td>500. Pale Spiked Lobelia (Lobelia spicata)</td>
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<td>501. Woolly Yarrow (Achillea lanulosa)</td>
<td>541. Lowrie's Aster (Aster Lowrieanus)</td>
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<td>502. Yarrow; Milfoil (Achillea Millefolium)</td>
<td>542. White Feather Aster (Aster multiflorus)</td>
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<td>503. Prairie False Dandelion (Agoseris cuspidata)</td>
<td>543. Alpine Aster (Aster Alpinus)</td>
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<td>504. Common Ragweed (Ambrosia elatior)</td>
<td>544. Western Aster (Aster merrius)</td>
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<tr>
<td>505. Great Ragweed (Ambrosia trifida)</td>
<td>545. Nodding Bur Marigold (Bidens cernua)</td>
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<td>506. Pearly Everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea)</td>
<td>546. Swamp Beggar-ticks (Bidens cernua)</td>
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<td>507. Canadian Everlasting (Antennaria canadensis)</td>
<td>547. Boltonia (Boltonia lateriflora)</td>
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<td>508. Plantain-leaved everlasting (Antennaria plantaginea)</td>
<td>548. Pink Boltonia (Boltonia sp.)</td>
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<td>509. Prairie Everlasting (Antennaria canadensis)</td>
<td>549. Narrow-leaved Purple Cone-flower (Braunia angustifolia)</td>
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<td>510. Dog Fennel (Anthemis Cota)</td>
<td>550. Purple Cone-flower (Braunia purpurea)</td>
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<td>511. Common Burdock (Arctium minus)</td>
<td>551. Bachelor's Button; Knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)</td>
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<td>512. Tall Wormwood (Artemisia caudata)</td>
<td>552. Hairy Golden Aster (Chrysopsis villosa)</td>
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<td>513. Silky Wormwood (Artemisia glauca)</td>
<td>553. Chicory (Cichorium intybus)</td>
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<td>514. Wormwood Sage (Artemisia frigida)</td>
<td>554. Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense)</td>
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<td>515. Common Wormwood; Absinth (Artemisia Absinthium)</td>
<td>555. Field Thistle (Cirsium discolor)</td>
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<td>516. Dark-leaved Mugwort (Artemisia ludoviciana)</td>
<td>556. Bull Thistle (Cirsium lanceolatum)</td>
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<td>517. Common Mugwort (Artemisia vulgaris)</td>
<td>557. Swamp Thistle (Cirsium muticum)</td>
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<td>518. Sky-blue Aster (Aster azureus)</td>
<td>558. Hill's Thistle (Cirsium hillii)</td>
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<td>519. Lindley's Aster (Aster ciliolatus)</td>
<td>559. Stiff Tickseed (Coreopsis palmata)</td>
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<td>520. Blue Wood Aster (Aster cordifolius)</td>
<td>560. Fire-weed, White (Erechtites hieracifolia)</td>
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<td>521. Drummond's Aster (Aster Drummondii)</td>
<td>561. Daisy Fleabane (Erigeron annuus)</td>
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<td>522. White Heath Aster (Aster ericoides)</td>
<td>562. Horse-weed Erigeron canadensis)</td>
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<td>523. Rush Aster (Aster junceus)</td>
<td>563. Rough Erigeron (Erigeron glabellus)</td>
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<td>524. Smooth Aster (Aster laevis)</td>
<td>564. Philadelphia Fleabane (Erigeron philadelphicus)</td>
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<td>525. Calico Aster; Hair-stemmed Aster (Aster lamaricola)</td>
<td>565. Hotin's Plantain (Erigeron pulchellus)</td>
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<td>526. Large-leaved Aster (Aster macrophyllus)</td>
<td>566. Blue or Bitter Fleabane (Erigeron acris)</td>
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<td>527. Great Northern Aster (Aster modestus)</td>
<td>567. Joe-Pye Weed (Eupatorium maculatum)</td>
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<td>529. Aromatic Aster (Aster oblongifolius)</td>
<td>569. White Snakeroot (Eupatorium rugosum)</td>
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<td>530. Panicled Aster (Aster pardinus)</td>
<td>570. Great-flowered Gaillardia (Gaillardia aristata)</td>
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<td>531. Crooked-stemmed Aster (Aster prenunius)</td>
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<td>532. Upland White Aster (Aster ptarmicola)</td>
<td>572. Clamyd Cuweed (Gnaphalium macounii)</td>
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<td>533. Purple-stemmed Aster (Aster puniceus)</td>
<td>573. Gum-plant (Grindelia squarrosa)</td>
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<td>534. Arrow-leaved Aster (Aster sagittifolius)</td>
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<td>535. Silky Aster (Aster sericeus)</td>
<td>575. Common Sunflower (Helianthus annuus)</td>
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<td>537. Travessant's Aster (Aster Travessanii)</td>
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<td>538. Pringle's Aster (Aster Fringens)</td>
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<td>539. Long-leaved Aster (Aster longifolius)</td>
<td>579. Stiff-hairied Sunflower (Helianthus hirsutus)</td>
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<td><strong>COMPOSITE FAMILY</strong> (Continued)</td>
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<td>579. Maximilian's Sunflower (Helianthus Maximilian)</td>
<td>613. Tall Goldenrod (Solidago altissima)</td>
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<td>580. Prairie Sunflower (Helianthus petiolaris)</td>
<td>614. Canada Goldenrod (Solidago canadensis)</td>
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<td>581. Stiff Sunflower (Helianthus rigidus)</td>
<td>615. Zig-Zag Goldenrod (Solidago flexicaulis)</td>
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<td>582. Jerusalem Artichoke (Helianthus tuberosus)</td>
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<td>583. Rough or Woodland Sunflower (Helianthus divaricatus)</td>
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<td>584. Throatwort Sunflower (Helianthus tracheliifolius)</td>
<td>618. Velvet Goldenrod (Solidago mollis)</td>
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<td>585. Sweet Ox-eye (Heliopsis scabra)</td>
<td>619. Gray Goldenrod (Solidago nemoralis)</td>
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<td>586. Canada Hawkweed (Hieracium canadense)</td>
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<td>587. Long-bearded Hawkweed (Hieracium longipilum)</td>
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<td>594. Prairie Blazing Star (Liatris pycnostachya)</td>
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<td>598. Blazing Star (Liatris intermedia)</td>
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<td>599. Rush-like Lygodesmia (Lygodesmia juncea)</td>
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<td>609. Golden Ragwort (Scorzonera aureus)</td>
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<td>610. Compass-plant (Silphium laciniatum)</td>
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<td>611. Cup-plant (Silphium perfoliatum)</td>
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<td>612. Prairie Dock (Silphium terebinthinaceum)</td>
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**FERNS**

**ADJUVIS-TONGUE FAMILY**

632. Leastery Grape Fern (Botrychium multifidum)

633. Rattlesnake Fern (Botrychium virginianum)

634. Ternate Grape Fern (Botrychium dissectum t. obliquum)

**CINNAMON FERN FAMILY**

635. Cinnamon Fern (Osmunda cinnamomea)

636. Interrupted Fern (Osmunda Claytonia)

637. Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis)

**FERNS FAMILY**

638. Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum pedatum)

639. Maidenhair Spleenwort (Asplenium trichomanes)

640. Ebony Spleenwort (Asplenium platyneuron)

641. Lady Fern (Athyrium augustum)
Part IV - Appendix XII

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**FERN FAMILY** (Continued)

642. Narrow-leaved Spleenwort (Athyrium pycnocarpon)
643. Silvery Spleenwort (Athyrium thelypteroides)
644. Walking Fern (Carpitosorus rhizophyllus)
645. Bulblet Bladder Fern (Cystopteris bulbifera)
646. Brittle Fern (Cystopteris fragilis)
647. Crested Shield Fern (Dryopteris cristata)
648. Clinton's Shield Fern (Dryopteris var. Clintoniana)
649. Northern Oak Fern (Dryopteris Robertiana)
650. Fragrant Fern (Dryopteris fragrans)
651. Goldie's Fern (Dryopteris Goldiana)
652. Broad Beech Fern (Dryopteris hexagonoptera)
653. Long Beech Fern (Dryopteris Phegopteris)
654. Spinulose Shield Fern (Dryopteris spinulosa)
655. Marsh Fern (Dryopteris Thelypteris)
656. Marginal Shield Fern (Dryopteris Marginalis)
657. New York Fern (Dryopteris noveboracensis)
658. Male Fern (Dryopteris Felix-mas)
659. Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis)
660. Purple-stemmed Cliff Brake (Pellaea atruparupurea)
661. Common Polyody (Polyodium virginianum)
662. Ostrich Fern (Pteretis pennsylvania)
663. Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum)
664. Smooth Woodia (Woodia glabella)
665. Rusty Woodia (Woodia ilvensis)
666. Blunt-lobed Woodia (Woodia obtusa)
667. Christmas Fern (Polystichum acrostichoides)
668. Braun's Holly Fern (Polystichum Braunii)
669. Hay-scented Fern (Dennstaedtia panstilobula)
670. Chain-Fern (Woodwardia virginica)

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**TREES AND SHRUBS**

**YEW FAMILY**

671. American Yew (Taxus canadensis)

**GINKGO FAMILY**

672. Maiden-hair Tree (Ginkgo biloba)

**PINE FAMILY**

673. Balsam Fir (Abies balsamea)
674. Tamarack (Larix laricina)
675. White Spruce (Picea glauca)
676. Black Spruce (Picea mariana)
677. White Pine (Pinus Strobus)
678. Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)

**CYPRUS FAMILY**

679. Prostrate Juniper (Juniperus communis)
680. Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana)
681. White Cedar: Arbor Vitae (Thuja occidentalis)

**WILLLOW FAMILY**

682. Balsam Poplar (Populus balsamifera)
683. Balm of Gilead (Populus candicans)
684. Cottonwood (Populus deltoides)
685. Large-toothed Aspen (Populus grandidentata)
686. Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides)
687. Peach-leaved Willow (Salix amygdaloides)
688. Pussy Willow (Salix discolor)
689. Prairie Willow (Salix humilis)

**WALNUT FAMILY**

690. Butternut Hickory (Carya cordiformis)
691. Shag-bark Hickory (Carya ovata)
692. Butternut (Juglans cinera)
693. Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)

**BIRCH FAMILY**

694. Speckled Alder (Alnus rugosa)
695. Yellow Birch (Betula lutea)
696. Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera)
697. Bog Birch (Betula pusilla)
BIRCH FAMILY (Continued)

698. Blue Beech (Carpinus caroliniana)
699. Hazelnut (Corylus americana)
700. Beaked Hazelnut (Corylus cornuta)
701. Ironwood (Ostrya virginiana)

BEECH FAMILY

702. White Oak (Quercus alba)
703. Northern Red Oak (Quercus borealis)
704. Northern Pin Oak (Quercus ellipsoidalis)
705. Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)

ELM FAMILY

706. Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis)
707. American Elm (Ulmus americana)
708. Red Elm (Ulmus rubra)

SALICIFAGE FAMILY

709. Wild Black Currant (Ribes americanum)
710. Prickly Gooseberry (Ribes cynosbati)
711. Swamp Black Currant (Ribes lacustre)
712. Smooth Gooseberry (Ribes oxyacanthoides)

WITCH HAZEL FAMILY

713. Witch Hazel (Hamamelis virginiana)

ROSE FAMILY

714. Juneberry (Amelanchier alnifolia)
715. Juneberry (Amelanchier canadensis)
716. Black Chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa)
717. Hawthorn (Crataegus macrocarpa)
718. Large-fruited Hawthorn (Crataegus pumila)
719. Downy Hawthorn (Crataegus willisii)
720. Wild Crab (Malus pumila)
721. Narrow-leaved Crab (Malus coronaria)
722. Nine-bark (Physocarpus opulifolius)
723. Wild Plum (Prunus americana)
724. Pin Cherry (Prunus pennsylvanica)
725. Sand Cherry (Prunus eminula)
726. Black Cherry (Prunus serotina)
727. choke Cherry (Prunus virginiana)
728. Prickly Wild Rose (Rosa acicularis)
729. Prairie Wild Rose (Rosa arkansana)
730. Smooth Wild Rose (Rosa blanda)

731. Tall Blackberry (Rubus argutus)
732. Black-cap Raspberry (Rubus occidentalis)
733. Dwarf Red Blackberry (Rubus pubescens)
734. Mountain Ash (Sorbus americana)
735. Meadow Sweet (Spiraea alba)
736. Steeple Bush (Spiraea tomentosa)
737. May Day Tree (Prunus Padus communis)

PULSE FAMILY

738. Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos)
739. Kentucky Coffee-tree (Gymnocladus dioica)

RUB FAMILY

740. Prickly Ash (Zanthoxylum americanum)

SUMAC FAMILY

741. Smooth Sumac (Rhus glabra)
742. Staghorn Sumac (Rhus typhina)
743. Aromatic Sumac (Rhus aromaticus)

HOLLY FAMILY

744. Northern Holly (Ilex verticillata)
745. Mountain Holly (Ilex monnosa)

BITTERSWEET FAMILY

746. Bittersweet (Celastrus scandens)
747. Burning Bush; Wahoo (Burnus atropurpurea)

BLADDERNUT FAMILY

748. Bladdernut (Staphylea trifolia)

MAPLE FAMILY

749. Box Elder (Acer Negundo)
750. Black Sugar Maple (Acer nigrum)
751. Soft Maple; Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum)
752. Hard Maple; Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)
753. Mountain Maple (Acer spicatum)
754. Striped Maple (Acer pennsylvanicum)
BUCKTHORN FAMILY
755. Dwarf Alder (Rhamnus alnifolia)
756. Buckthorn (Rhamnus Frangula)

GRAPE FAMILY
757. Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)
758. Frost Grape (Vitis riparia)

LINDEN FAMILY
759. Basswood (Tilia americana)

HEZERBUN FAMILY
760. Leatherwood; moosewood (Dirca palustris)

DOGWOOD FAMILY
761. Dwarf Cornel (Cornus canadensis)
762. Alternate-leaved Dogwood (Cornus alternifolia)
763. Panicled Dogwood (Cornus racemosa)
764. Round-leaved Dogwood (Cornus rugosa)
765. Red-osier Dogwood (Cornus stolonifera)
766. Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)

OLIVE FAMILY
767. White Ash (Fraxinus americana)
768. Black Ash (Fraxinus nigra)
769. Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica)

MADDER FAMILY
770. Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)

HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY
771. Common Elder (Sambucus canadensis)
772. Red-berried Elder (Sambucus pubens)
773. Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus)
774. Wolfberry (Symphoricarpos occidentalis)
775. Black Haw (Viburnum lentago)
776. Withered (Viburnum cassianides)
777. High-bush Cranberry (Viburnum trilobum)
778. Arrow-wood (Viburnum dentatum)
779. Maple-leaved Arrow-wood (Viburnum acerifolium)

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780. Rhodora (Rhodora canadensis)
781. Rhododendron (Rhododendron maximum)
782. Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia)
783. Flame Azalea (Azalea calendulacea)
784. Mountain Azalea canescens
785. Pink Azalea varieg.
786. White Azalea (viscosa)

SERRA FAMILY
787. Red-bud (Cercis caradensis)
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Flowering plants, trees, shrubs, and ferns growing in the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden at Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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Obituaries

LOVERS OF THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN OWE A GREAT DEBT TO MARTHA CRONE

‘Wildflower Lady’ Martha Crone dies; made Butler Garden grow

By Ted Jones
Staff Writer

Dry flower stalks are crowned with puffs of snow... and the green of pines and hemlocks are sternly etched against a clear blue sky....

The description of a garden in winter was written more than 30 years ago by Martha Crone, Minneapolis’ self-taught “Wildflower Lady,” who died Sunday in Minneapolis after a short illness. She was 95.

Crone was an award-winning curator, or head gardener and administrator, at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden at Theodore Wirth Park from 1933 until 1959. She was editor of the “Fringed Gentian,” a newsletter for the Friends of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, from which the quote is taken.

During Crone’s tenure, the Butler garden (named after botanist Eloise Butler, who headed the garden from 1911 to 1933) grew to encompass 13 acres and hundreds of species of wildflowers that Crone transplanted.

In 1969, the wildflower garden society donated the garden shelter and named it in Crone’s honor.

“She did tremendous work saving flowers from spots in Minnesota that were about to be plowed under,” said Kenneth Avery, who followed her as head gardener in 1959.

Crone, who was born in Minneapolis, quit school after the eighth grade to work. Friends and associates say she was largely self-taught in botany, horticulture and writing.

“Gardening was always an interest of hers, fostered from the times when she and my grandfather would take the streetcar out to Anoka and walk back so they could see what was growing alongside the road,” said Judith Prevey, Crone’s granddaughter. “Her interest was expanded after she met Eloise Butler in 1921.” From that point, Prevey said, her grandmother was Butler’s first assistant in the garden. Crone, who always wore her trademark tam-o’-shanter while gardening, replaced Butler when she died in 1933.

Crone’s achievements included the addition of wild ferns and orchids into the garden, and the transplanting of one of Minnesota’s wild poinsettias shortly before the last patch was destroyed near New Ulm in the late 1940s.

“She always had her tools and gunny sacks for transplanting in the car,” Prevey said.

Crone’s gardening season began each year in March, about a month before the garden opened. She oversaw repair to walkways, transplanted species and planted seeds. Once the garden was open, she was on hand for day-to-day operations, led groups through the garden and answered questions.

When snow covered the garden in winter, Crone worked at the Minneapolis Public Library and gave lectures.

Crone was active with the Cook County Historical Society and was an officer of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Besides her granddaughter, Judith, of Minneapolis, Crone is survived by her daughter, Janet C. Prevey, of Mankato, Minn.; granddaughter, Lynda Wander of New Brighton, three great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

At her request, no services will be held. Private burial will be held at Crystal lake Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Martha Crone was born on January 29, 1894, to parents Edward and Amalia Eberlein in Minneapolis; she died in Minneapolis on February 5, 1989, at age 95. Her husband, William has passed away many years previously on January 2, 1951 at age 67. She had one older brother, Richard, who died in 1967 at age 76 and one sister, Henrietta who died in 1918 at age 20. Martha and William are buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN.
Inventory of tools in the Wild Flower Garden

November 1950

11 Lengths of hose
3 Sprinklers
1 Wheelbarrow
1 10 ft. ladder
1 Roller
2 Screw drivers
1 Wrench
4 Files
1 Pole saw
2 Sprinkling cans
1 Grub hoe
1 Sledge hammer
2 Rakes
4 Shovels
2 Spading forks
5 Hand sprays
5 Axes
1 Hudson Sprayer
1 pr. Hip boots
1 pr. Knee boots
2 Grass hooks
1 Hedge clipper
2 Pruning saws
2 Hand pruners
2 Grass Shears
1 Hammer
1 Scythe
1 Two-man saw
1 Pliers
1 Hoe
2 Hand cultivators

Martha Crone
City Wild Flower Gardener
Rescues Plants From Bulldozers

By JANE THOMAS

For 34 years, Mrs. Martha Crone has been a one-woman rescue squad.

Armed with a garden trowel, she saves Minnesota's precious wild flowers from tractor treads and the teeth of steam shovels.

A few years ago, she found a spot of wild poineettias growing in New Ulm, Minn., and brought one back to Minneapolis. Since then a building boom has plowed under the New Ulm poineettias. Hers is the only one left in the state. It blooms securely with other "rescued" plants in the wild flower garden in Theodore Wirth park.

MRS. CRONE has been curator of the wild flower garden for 15 years. Before that she was assistant—rewarded only by the joy of gardening—to Elsie Butler, who founded the garden in 1907.

Broad, bright patches of a 1,000 kinds of wild plants native to Minnesota grow in the 13-acre garden—either in the dell around four small ponds or in the upland garden started in 1944 for prairie flowers. Mrs. Crone, who has possibly the greenest thumbs in the state, has coaxed foreigners to bloom there, too—the Great Yellow lily from Montana and azaleas from North Carolina.

There is even a bold clump of poison ivy, set back a ways from the garden path. Mrs. Crone cares for it as tenderly as a wood violet.

"It's educational," she says.

This PRETTY piece of wilderness is just one block off highway 12. An original trail between-the-lakes Indian trail runs through it, and the original hush of the woods hangs over it.

"It's quiet enough sometimes to hear the humming birds fly," says Mrs. Crone, "and the mosquitoes." Troops of people touring the garden—2,000 come some Sundays—seem quiet, too, except for the children who shout to hear their echoes. Mrs. Crone herself, with her graceful voice and calm eyes, seems to have caught some of the peace of the place.

A tiny house stands in the center of the woods. In this "once upon a time" atmosphere, children might well expect the house to have a candy roof and be surrounded by gingerbread people. Actually it is no fairy tale hut, but one of the smallest office buildings in town—possibly the only office without electricity or a telephone.

INSIDE is a shelf of birds nest, wren, and other nesting materials. In one corner stands a wood stove for cold days. Mrs. Crone, who lives at 3723 Lyndale avenue N., arrives at the garden in early April with the first snow trout and stays until November when the witch hazel blooms.

Mrs. Crone, considered by plant experts as one of the country's most talented botanists, can remember as a child of four making a home in a vegetable garden for a rue anemone she found in the woods. Clinton Odell, the "motivating spirit" of the garden, who is interested in wild flowers, is as faithful as Mrs. Crone's, claims he has a special sixth sense for finding hidden flowers.

"In all my botanizing trips I've never even lost," said Mrs. Crone, but admits she carries a compass in a swamp. "You can't always find a compass to guide you," she said, referring to true plant whose leaves point north, west, south and west.

MRS. MARTHA CRONE, WILD FLOWER EXPERT

Found wild mushrooms in pot patch of blue lupine

Angie. Long ago she disproved the old wife's tale about boiling a questionable mushroom with a dime in the pan to see if the dime turned black.

As well as conducting daily tours in the garden, doing all the necessary planting and bulb...
Two of Minneapolis' Great Sights... The Wild Flower Garden and The Northwest's Great Store.

Wild Flower Garden
THEODORE WIRTH PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
CHAS. E. DOELL... Superintendent
GREGORY J. LUCKING... Horticulturist
MARThA E. CRONE... Curator

Self Conducted Tour

Purpure Flowers (Anemone Pavia, Wolgangiana) at the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park.
The tour begins in the lower garden at the office building. Follow the trail to the right of the building which is the south trail. Here will be found various Ferns, Trilliums, Violets, Dutchman’s Brooches, and Blue Phlox.

Violet Path

Turn to the left at the marker "Violet Path." Along this trail in season will be found many species of Violets, Mayapples, various Trilliums, four species of Lady’s-Slipper, Baneberry, False Solomon’s Seal, Spring Beauty, Ostrich Fern and Rusty Woodsia. Azaleas and Rhododendrons flourish in this sheltered area.

West Path

Follow Violet Path to the marker "West Path." Turn to the right, and leisurely stroll along this trail where many interesting plants will be found. In the early spring there is the delightful Hyacinth display where hundreds of plants form a tapestry of color in various shades of blue, purple, pink, and white. They are followed by the Large-flowered Trillium, Yellow Trillium, Shooting Star, Blue Cohosh, Blue Phlox, Blood-root, Foam Flower, Crested Iris, Wild Geranium, Lady Fern, Silvery Spleenwort, etc. Continue on this trail past the massive White Elm, Ohio Buckeye, Black Walnut, and Butternut trees.

To The Bog

On arriving at the marker "To Bog" turn to the right and along this winding foot path will be found many spring flowers such as Wild Ginger, False Rue Anemone, Pepper-root, Golden Seal, Meadow Rue, and others.

Foot-Bridge

Progress to the wooden foot-bridge where on the right side Slunk Cabbage blooms when the ice and snow are barely gone. Here also is Brooklime, Arrowhead, Meadow Queen, and Cow Parsnip. On the left hand side of the bridge is a pool fed by several springs and held back by a dam across the outlet. Here in shallow water is a fine display of Wild Calla Lily, Forget-me-not, Buckbean and Water Avens. Along the shore is an attractive planting of Red Turtle-head and Obedient Plant, both blooming in the fall.

Side Trails

After continuing across the foot-bridge, side trails may be taken. To the left a trail leads to the north gate. Beyond the gate a tervie trail leads west to the large springs. To the east a winding trail leads to the picnic grounds, shelter, bath house and streetcar line. Retrace steps to the side trails. Here is a ground cover of Yellow Violets and Canada Violets blooming in the spring, as well as Yellow and White Trout Lily and the very rare Minnesota Trout Lily, also quantities of Mertensia, Great Solomon’s Seal, Blue Phlox, Bloodroot and Spring Beauty.

The Bog Garden

Return to the beginning of Swamp Trail. This corduroy trail leads through the center of a wet peat bog. Three small pools have been established along the west side of the trail to accommodate aquatic plants. The first pool is given over to the lovely American Lotus Lily, the second has Pickerel-weed in the more shallow water, with Yellow and White Water Lilies in the deeper water. The slightly elevated shoreline contains the very elusive Fringed Gentian, Purple Fringed Orchids, Green Orchids, Showy Lady’s-Slipper, Grass Pink, Sweet Flag, Yellow and Blue Iris, and Cardinal Flower. The meadow adjacent to the pools is golden with Marsh Marigolds in the spring, and here also is found Swamp Saxifrage.

Fork In Swamp Path

Just beyond the pools the trail divides, one leading back to Violet Path, the other to East Path. The former leads through a wet wooded
area where abound Cinnamon Fern, Goldie's, and Maidenhair Fern, Bishop's Cap, Foam Flower, Yellow Trillium, Bunch-berry, Blueberry and Carada Yew. The trail leading to the east path is fringed with plantings of Royal Fern, Gold-thread, Creeping Daisilbade, Twin Flower, and various Asters.

**East Path**

On East Path turn to the left and follow the winding trail which ends at the north gate. Along the trail will be found Creeping Loosstrife, Creeping Myrtle, Trilliums, Asters, and Golden-rod. Return to the office.

**South Path**

A short trail from the office toward the west is bordered with many interesting plants, such as Rue Anemone; Putty-root; Snow, Painted, Purple, Rose and Large-flowered Trilliums; Clintonia; Bellwort; Fire Pink; and Turk's-cap Lily. A luxuriant growth of Interrupted Fern covers a hillside. Here also are interesting trees and shrubs, Leatherwood, Dogwood, Bladdernut, Mountain and Striped Maple, Ironwood, Oaks, Elms and Paper Birch. Return again to the office.

**Upland Garden**

From the office, south, at the top of a small hill, turn to the left and follow the winding trails through this prairie garden which is still in development stage, having been established in 1944. From the summits of several hills a fine view may be had of a busy Metropolis. This garden overlooks the lower garden and is fully 75 feet higher. Some of the outstanding plantings here are the Pasque-flowers, the first to bloom in the spring. A hillside of Blue Lupine is later taken over by the vividly colored Red Rocket. Bird's-foot Violets carpet a hillside. The Large-flowered Penstemon takes over here later on. Honeysuckle covers a portion of the fence. Five species of Blazing Star bloom at various times. Also along the trails will be found Partridge Pea, Bottle and White Gentian, Coreopsis, Black-eyed Susans, Sweet Ox-eye, and many Asters and Golden-rod.

**Rare Flowers**

Some of the rare and unusual flowers well established in the Upland Garden are—Montana Bitter root, Wild Pinnettia, Western Penstemon, Western Evening Primrose, Yellow Indigo, False Fragrant Indigo, various Cacti, Prairie Tallum, Prairie Downy Gentian, Primula, and Bluets.

A complete list of plants growing in the garden may be obtained at the Curator's office.

This bit of wilderness (13 acres in extent) is well worth visiting, where the beauty of Nature's touch is everywhere.

**How To Reach The Garden**

By walking west one block from the end of the Glenwood Streetcar line, then turning to the left and following the taxi trail south to the spring, and turning right for about 100 feet to entrance gate. In driving, it is located half way between Glenwood Avenue and Wayzata Boulevard, over the hill from Birch Pond.

The garden is open from April 1 to November 1.

**Hours**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Monday through Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Sundays

Mrs. Martha E. Crane, Curator of the Garden
Thousands of people are enjoying the facilities of the Wild Flower Garden every year. The value of the work being done in this garden cannot be too strongly stressed.

This natural heritage is worthy of perpetual preservation for the generations to follow.

Help us to grow and prosper by becoming a member of "Friends of the Wild Flower Garden," Inc., an organization of public spirited citizens for the furtherance of making the garden an outstanding institution.

The official publication of this group is called "The Fringed Gentian," issued quarterly and is included with membership.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.

(a non-profit corporation)

Sponsoring

Minneapolis Park Board’s Municipal Wild Flower Garden

in Theodore Wirth Park

I desire to become a member of the above society

I enclose $____________________

Name________________________

Address_______________________

Annual Membership Fees

Benefactor $500.00

Founder 200.00

Builder 100.00

Sponsor 25.00

Sustainer 10.00

Active 3.00

Make remittance payable to: Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.

2318 Chestnut Ave.

Minneapolis 5, Minn.

For further information write to:

Mrs. Martha E. Crane

3723 Lyndale Ave. No.

Minneapolis 12, Minn.
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