

40 Murray Hill Road  
Malden, Mass.

6 November, 1923

My dear Mrs. Crone, --

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 wormy ones. *Q. bicolor* has been reported from Groveland 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 Rook, 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,

*Elvise Butler*

MISS ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

29 November, 1924

Dr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Crone, --

Dear Friends,

I can't resist telling you at once the latest history of the fencing around the "Crone 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 \$696.10, 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 completed, 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 condition. We can hardly hope, at his age, for his recovery. 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 <sup>the</sup> the exceptionately 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,

*Elvise Butler*

Part IV - Appendix VIII

MISS ELOISE 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,

*Eloise Butler*

Part IV - Appendix VIII

MISS ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

3 November, 1925

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,

*Eloise 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.

Part IV - Appendix VIII

MISS ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

11 January, 1926

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 basquet 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 <sup>been</sup> 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,

*Eloise Butler*

Part IV - Appendix VIII

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 1885 with more snow. Rain alternate 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,

*Eloise 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.

Part IV - Appendix VIII

MISS ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, 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 <sup>how many</sup> 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 fagots, 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 grands 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 supposedly 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, rousing 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,

*Elvise Butler*

Part IV - Appendix VIII

MISS ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

23 January, 1929

Dear Cronies,--

The unique teepee with a big red lobster crowned my heap of 50 Xmas gifts in front of the fireplace Christmas morning. I have been "long time acknowledging it, have I not? But it is not from lack of appreciation, I assure. 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 Vapex 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*

MISS ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

27 November, 1929

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 sown 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 Janeth,

Very truly, your friend,

*Eloise Butler*

In my annual report I mentioned the "Crone 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 <sup>her case</sup> 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, as you can plainly see.

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

Very truly your friend,

*Eloise Butler*

*Mild weather here - Raining today*

Murray Hill Road, Malden, Mass.

New Year's Day, 1901

Dear Cronies,

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,

*Elvise Butler*

ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

January 11, 1932

Dear Cronies,--

I hope that you are having lots of "the beautiful" this winter, but I hae me 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 ~~xxxx~~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*

My need of a new type ribbon is very evident.

ELOISE BUTLER  
20 MURRAY HILL ROAD  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

January 11, 1933

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 wild flower 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 2# by Major Allan Brooks who continued the work after Fuertes' death; and a book entitled "WAH'KON-TAH", on the history of the Osage Indians, and written by a native Osage. In it you breath the very air of the western plains.

I hope that you have escaped the prev-

alent 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,

*Eloise Butler*

*Attached with  
this letter were  
Pearl Heath Foye's  
2 letters in 1932  
+ 33 to EB.  
(now in mix. corresp.)*