

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary



The Native Plant Reserve in Glenwood Park

**The Martha Crone Years
1933 - 1958**

Historical Notes

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A year-by-year account of
The Martha Crone Years 1933 - 1958

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2023 Revised

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Introduction

This document is not a narrative, but a year-by-year account of the Curator's activities in relation to the development and maintenance of this special area in Glenwood Park, as the area was named in the early years and later named Theodore Wirth Park in 1938 following Wirth's retirement in 1935. The more detailed information here supplements the overview provided in the companion book - *"This Satisfying Pursuit - Martha Crone and the Wild Flower Garden."*

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 Parks Superintendent Theodore Wirth was on a temporary basis *"for such other time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory."* The advisable and satisfactory 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."*

Documents: We would know far less than we do 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 did not write essays about plants and about her activities as Eloise Butler had done, but her Garden Logs, diaries and her annual reports to the Board of Park Commissioners provide much information about daily events. Later when she became editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, she had a vehicle to promote her philosophy of what the Garden should be.

Introduction

Photos: Martha Crone's Kodachrome collection of over 4000 slides was passed from Janet to Martha Hellander who then passed it to The Friends. After sorting and using these slides in lectures over several years, these and other documents were deposited at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1993. These slides were taken between 1948 and 1957 and a number of them are used to illustrate these history years. Other photos are credited to person or entity credited.

Landscape: More detail is known about the layout of the Garden during the Martha Crone years compared to the previous years. Her photographs are helpful, as are the notations she made in her log and in her diaries. In addition, her hand drawn map of the Garden and the text used in her 1952 Self Guided Tour Brochure provide a way to see how the landscape then differs from today.

Her tenure included some large changes in the landscape. First was the fencing of the perimeter of the Garden in 1938, then the abandonment of the Mallard Pool area in the north meadow, followed by the addition of the upland area in 1944, with her final landscape change being the Fern Glen in the northeast corner.

The Friends: The founding of The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1952 was another important event of these years. Both Martha and Clinton Odell believed that the continuing budget restraints faced by the Park Board could eventually result in the loss of the very things that made the Garden so special and valuable to the city of Minneapolis. In addition, the efforts of the Park Board could be supplemented by a group of concerned citizens.

Garden Help: In the early years Martha worked alone, as did Eloise Butler. Sometimes her husband Bill, a dentist, came in to help on busy weekends, to help open the Garden on the first day in the Spring, to help with a special project, or to man the Garden when Martha could not be there. If heavy work was to be done, such as removal of damaged trees, the Park Board maintenance people were usually available. Later she had several workers from the Park Board available to her when needed during the late 1940s 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, included Sam Baker and Bob Clark. Ed Bruckelmyer is in her records in 1948 and 1949 and reappears several years later working with Ken Avery. Finally, in 1954 she again had the services of two employees, one being Ken Avery, who would be her successor as Curator when she retired in January 1959. The other being Ed Bruckelmyer. Mr. Avery was in fact hired by the Park Board as Mrs. Crone's assistant and

Introduction

would be the first person in charge of the Garden who was always an employee of the Park System.

Garden Name: The Garden was originally called the Wild Botanic Garden and then it was more commonly known as the Native Plant Reserve (sometimes Eloise Butler used 'Preserve'). Eloise 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*). In 1929 the Park Board renamed it the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden in the Curator's honor. Martha Crone always referred to it as the Native Plant Reserve or simply as the "Reserve" except in her 1951 history and brochures used as handouts at the Garden. All Park Board correspondence and printed material from 1929 forward use the words "Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden", with "Wild Flower" as two words, up until 1969.

In 1968 the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden petitioned to have "and Bird Sanctuary" added to the name and the Park Board approved in 1969, but made the name "Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary". Letters of correspondence and newspaper articles from that period use that name (with an occasional reversion) until the Fall of 1986 when 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 now the Garden name and the Friends name diverge. In this document I use "wild flower" as two words, as it was used during the time period.

My references to the 'Park Board' refers during these years to the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners, which was renamed the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board in 1970.

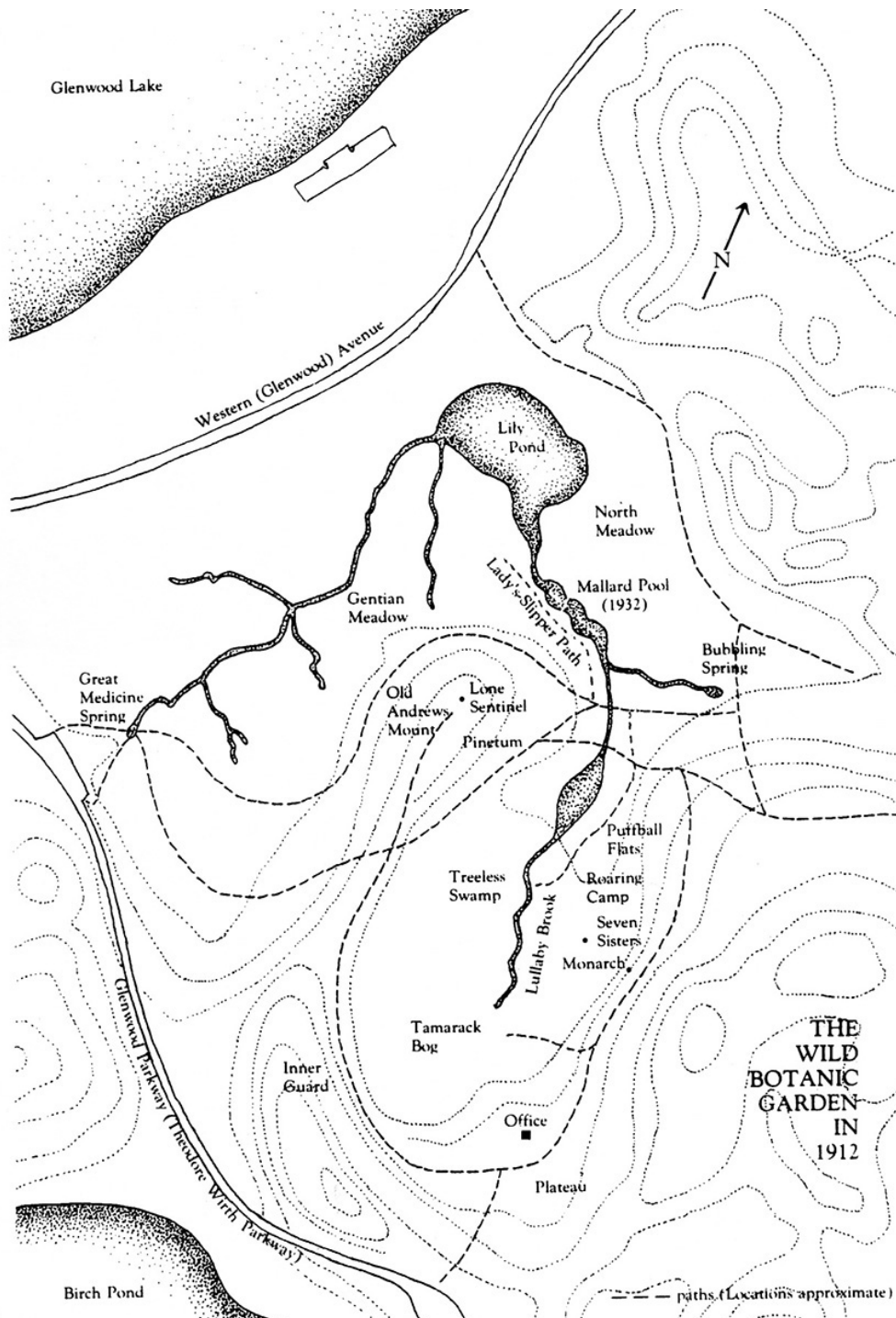
Many of Martha Crone's records and historical records of The Friends are maintained at the Minnesota History Center. Weather data use here, when not from direct sources is from *Historical Climatology of Minneapolis-St. Paul Area* by Charles Fisk.

Gary D. Bebeau
2019

A note on the type: The text is set in Palatino, headings in Baskerville Old Face and Century Schoolbook; captions are in Helvetica.

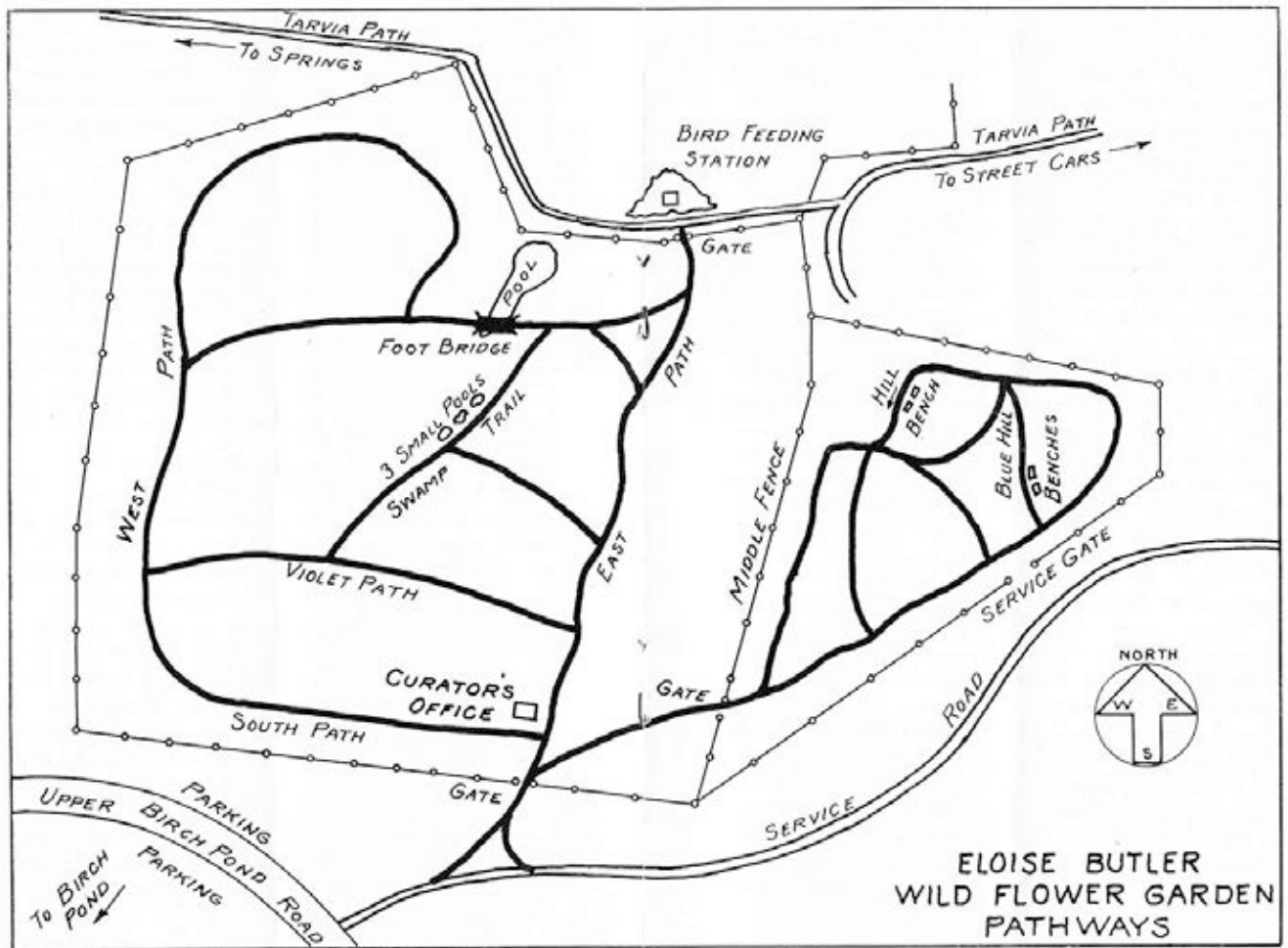
The Wild Botanic Garden in the time of Eloise Butler

The features identified are names given by Eloise Butler. The original space set aside for the Garden was just three acres centering on the Treeless Swamp and Tamarack Bog. Within a few years the surrounding hillsides and the area of the North Meadow had been added resulting in a wild garden of around 20 acres. The existing back fence of the Garden closely follows the dotted line of the old path (later known as the "tarvia path") that leads from Bubbling Spring on the east westward to where that path begins to make a great curve to the south between Gentian Meadow and Old Andrews Mount. (Map courtesy Martha Hellander)



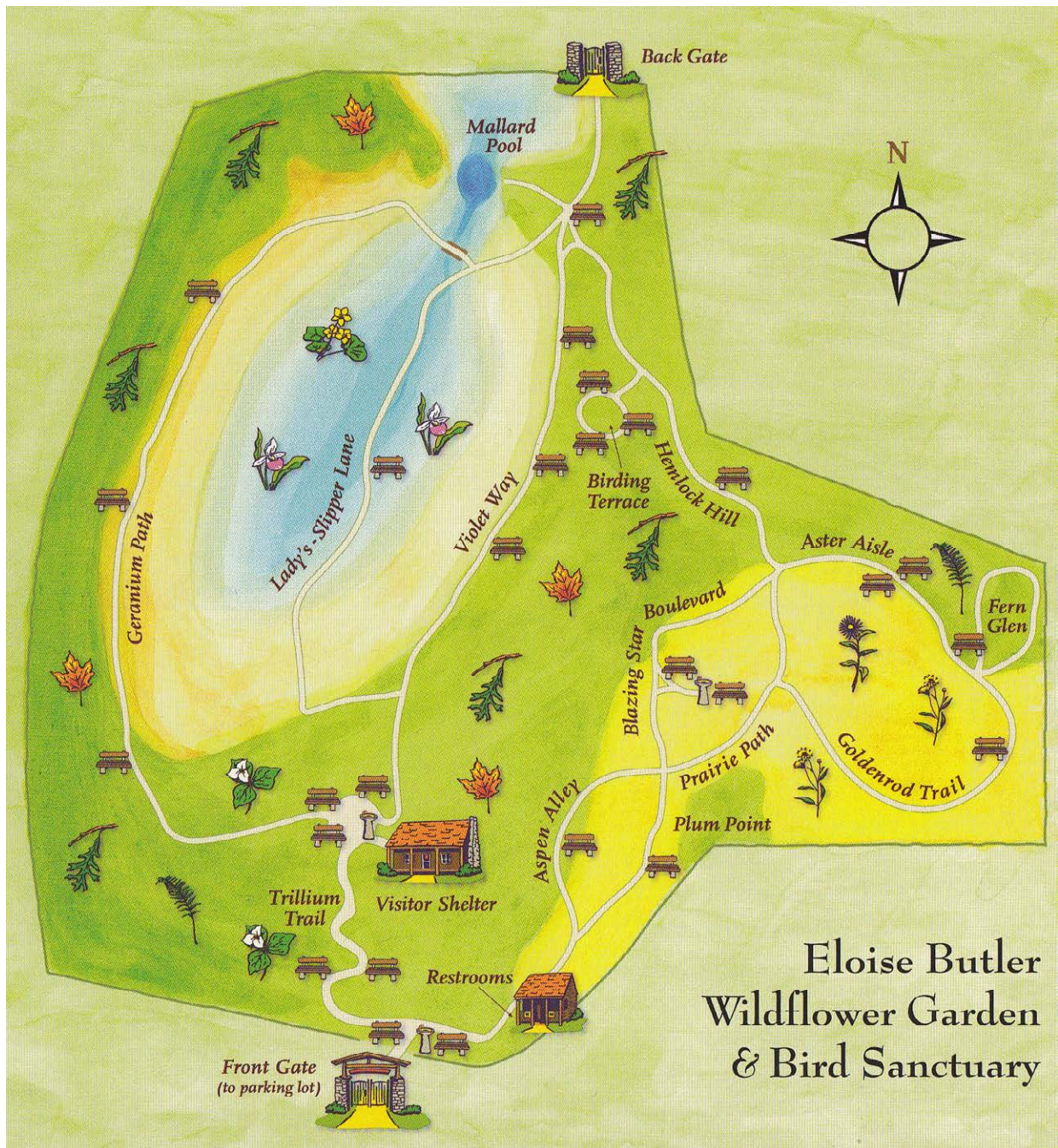
The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden (The Native Plant Reserve) in Martha Crone's time after 1944

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. Futch Collection).



The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden after 1993

This modern map of the Garden shows the current trail configuration and the 1993 addition to the Upland Garden with the reconfiguration of trails there. The Visitor Shelter is the 1970 Martha E Crone Shelter and sits to the right of where the old Garden Office used to be - a site now occupied by the 3 benches. In the area of the back gate, the north fence and the tarvia path were both moved northward in 1992 to straighten the fence line. The remainder of the boundary lines are in the same position as on Martha Crone's 1952 map except for the north fence straightening. The small pool in the Garden has been given the name of the former "Mallard Pool" which was located north of the current boundary. (Map courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.)





1933

Winter 1932/33



"Path through the tamaracks" by E. F. Pabody

1933 was a year of momentous change for the Wild Flower Garden. Its founder would pass away and be replaced by someone she knew - [Martha Crone](#). Martha recalled that she had spent about 15 years helping out in the Garden. She and her husband William, a dentist, lived at 3723 Lyndale Ave. North in Minneapolis. Together, they were avid explorers of plant habitat and especially mushroom habitat.

Martha was secretary of the Minnesota Mycological Society from 1926 to 1943. Considering the need for large numbers of plants for the developing Wildflower 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.

The winter of 1932/33 was all weather and politics. A warmer than average January was followed by a deep cold snap in February. Eloise spent the winter on the East Coast with relatives, as she had since 1911. She would return to a cold late-

March but with most snow gone.

Eloise Butler's last letter to Martha Crone.

Eloise wrote to Martha and Bill Crone on January 11 from Malden, thanking them for the Christmas gift they sent. She discussed some of her other gifts, the weather and her health. There is no indication she is feeling ill or has any other issues. Eloise had also been in contact with a Mrs. Pearl Frazer in regards to the position of Curator at the Garden. She enclosed a copy of a letter from Mrs. Frazer and asks Martha to keep it until she returned when they can discuss the Garden and maybe show the letter to Theodore Wirth. It turned out that Mrs. Frazer was not actually interested in a Curators position but something else. Eloise wrote on January 11:

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. 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? When she left Malden on March 31, Eloise had been unsuccessful in her endeavor of the last few years to find a successor. She returned to her Minneapolis lodgings at the J. W. Babcock house (located just east of the Garden at 227 Xerxes Ave. No.) on April 3 1933. As he usually did, Mr. Babcock notified her Garden

helper Lloyd Teeuwen, that she had returned but Eloise wanted to rest a few days after the long train ride from the east coast as she was “not used to walking a lot yet.”

Several days later Lloyd came to the house and carted down to the Garden office the assortment of books from her library at Babcocks that she wanted in the Garden and also the Garden’s tools which were kept in the Babcock carriage house over the winter. Then they took the first walk of the year through the Garden where Eloise inspected all the areas to see what was what. She walked very slowly so Lloyd kept behind her to not outrun her. Eloise remarked how enthusiastic she was to be back outside where she could do something because in Boston nobody wanted to do anything.

We do not have a copy of Martha's letter to Eloise that Eloise refers to but it evidently concerned the dire straits of Park Board budgets in the Great Depression and what effect that would have on the garden. This is probably the last correspondence between the two and there is no indication in Martha Crone's diary that she ever saw Eloise prior to Eloise's death on April 10. She only notes in her diary on April 11 that she heard from Clara Leavitt about Eloise.

This would be FDR’s first term as president and the beginning of the New Deal.



"Looks like spring in the air." by E. F. Pabody

Martha Crone wrote in her diary: (1)

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

Mar 4, Sat. “Inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt. Radio going all day. Took in parade. Pres in bullet proof case after threatened assassination. All banks in U.S. closed, great excitement.”

A local photographer, Mr. E. F. Pabody, was in the Garden area on March 25th and took these three winter scenes shown above, following a snowfall of 2+ inches. Mr. Pabody had his studio at 1920 Colfax Ave. So., Minneapolis, and frequented the Garden.

Spring 1933

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Martha Crone shown here in the Garden in 1951, *Minneapolis Tribune*

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She only made two entries in her Garden Log in early April. The first noted:

The ground is nearly free from snow and ice. March being cold, the season is later than it was last year. Aments of aspen in evidence, and aments of alder and hazel elongating.

April 8 was her last entry where she noted planting 6 roots of *Lysimachia terrestris* (Yellow Loosestrife) that had been heeled in during the winter. (2)

On the wet morning of April 10, 1933 she attempted to reach the Garden from the house. She apparently suffered a heart attack and made her way back to Babcocks (with some help). A doctor was summoned but nothing could be done and she soon passed away on the couch in the entryway of the house at 3:15 PM. Her funeral was on April 12th, 12:45 PM at the Lakewood Chapel. On May 5th, her ashes were scattered in the Garden as had been her wish. The details of her death, including the long-held mis-belief that she died in the Garden, are covered below. *The Minneapolis Journal* printed a front page notice of her passing. (copy following)

The Garden was closed until April 20th. During that time the Park Board had to find a person to attend to the Garden. Martha Crone, although highly recommended, had not originally been a shoo-in for the job as Eloise had corresponded with Mrs. Frazer about the job, but she was looking for somewhat different work (3) (and see notes in Winter section). With Eloise now gone, Martha Crone met with Parks Superintendent Theodore Wirth at his office on April 13. (1). On the 18th Theodore Wirth wrote to the Board of Park Commissioners that he had appointed Martha temporary Curator during the balance of the season *or such other time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory*, from date to October 1, 1933 at a salary of \$60 per month. [Copy follows. The position would remain temporary until 1940.] The board approved the appointment on the 19th.(4)

On the 19th her husband Bill received a call from Wirth for Martha to be at the Garden the next day, where she met with Wirth, Wirth's assistant C. A. Bossen, Mr. Babcock (Eloise's Landlord who would see that possessions belong to Eloise were sent back to Malden) and Mr. Erickson (Carl - park keeper for Glenwood Park). She opened the office and she and Miss Merkert, Wirth's secretary, began taking inventory. (1) There is a copy of that inventory in the records of the Martha Crone Collection at the Minnesota Historical Society.

On April 21, a Saturday, Martha was in the Garden in the morning, and went home at noon. During these first days of her tenure the Garden was not open for a set time as she arranged her affairs so she could be there as required - every day, except Wednesday, till 5 PM - April 1 through September 30. (1)

On the 23rd Martha noted that there was a steady stream of visitors all day (all the newspapers had reported the death of Eloise Butler) and that there were many fires near the Garden and at 6 PM there was a fire on the west boundary of the Garden and Martha fought 1-1/2 hours to put it out. Dr. Thomas S. Roberts had visited that same day and again on the 30th. (1)



Minneapolis Parks Superintendent
Theodore Wirth, MHS

On the 29th someone brought in the knarl of a red elm. It was “planned to saw it through the center making two tables for the Garden in memory of Miss Butler.”

Back on April 19, Theodore Wirth had sent a [letter](#) to the Park Commissioners notifying them of the death of Eloise Butler, a little about her history, and set May 5, Arbor Day, as the date for a remembrance ceremony at the Garden and also got the ball rolling on the commemorative tablet that was placed one year later. These details were also reported in the newspaper. (4) [Copy follows] It is not unusual that the accomplishments of an individual are more clearly understood after that person has passed on. While certain people are "in-the-know" about what an individual is accomplishing, it is only after death, when congratulations are too late that the rest of world becomes aware of the qualities of the individual whose life is now past. Theodore Wirth was probably the first to craft a brief but informative statement about the role Eloise Butler had taken on and played with such accomplishment. On the 28th he followed up with a memorandum detailing the events of May 5th. [Copy follows] The remembrance ceremony was to be held at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon in the Wild Flower Garden. He stated that he had secured a good specimen of a Pin Oak to be planted and made the suggestion

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.

On May 3rd various Park Commissioners were at the Garden (perhaps the first time for many). That same day Martha sent her letter of acceptance of the position to Wirth. Workmen were in on the 4th, bringing a Pin Oak and a small Honey Locust which were set in the ground but not covered. (1). The commemorative tablet that Wirth mentioned was also reported in the newspaper in an article announcing the upcoming ceremony. The *Minneapolis Tribune* stated on May 4 "Near the little cabin that served as her office the commissioners will stand about and scatter her ashes among the flowers she loved. They will plant a young oak in her memory, knowing that before long her former botany students will have subscribed enough for a bronze tablet to commemorate the occasion and to perpetuate her name." The article reported that the commissioners visited the Garden on Wednesday afternoon (May 3) - "They inspected the growths, the cabin, paused at the bird bath of stone, noted the bird houses, and agreed that the wildflower garden was a place of serene and peaceful beauty." On May 5th a tire was stolen from the Crone's car and Martha arrived a bit stressed. She received her first paycheck (\$22). Superintendent Wirth was in the Garden all morning, and at 4PM the Board of Park Commissioners and about 100 friends of Eloise Butler gathered at the Garden for the remembrance ceremony. (1)



At the 1917 Stone birdbath in the Garden on Wednesday May 3, 1933 are Park Board members (l to r) Alfred F. Pillsbury, president; Lucien C. Miller and Francis A. Gross.



At the entrance to the Garden on May 3 is Superintendent of operations and maintenance of the Park Board Christian A. Bossen.

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

We have gathered here today to do honor to one who was the moving spirit in the establishment and care of this unique and interesting garden. Being a great lover of nature, an 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, a cardboard box 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.



Above: Finalizing the planting of the Pin Oak: (l to r) Alfred F. Pillsbury, President - Board of Park Commissioners; Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; Francis A. Gross, Vice President of the Board. Newspaper photo.

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 preparation to raise the funds necessary for this purpose.

The myth that she died in the Garden: It is frequently misstated that she died in the Garden and some boys found her there. There is the account of one present at her death at the Babcock House where the doctor was attending her and there is also the coroner's report. It is clear from everything that she died at the Babcock's house. We shall try to clear up how she got there. Perhaps this romantic myth has some origin in Theodore Wirth's April 19th letter announcing her death when he stated "(she)...had suddenly died in the park while on her way to her domain." Or perhaps it is a misreading of the reports of her death in the newspapers. For example, the *Minneapolis Journal* reported on April 11th (speaking of woodland flowers) that "Miss Butler died yesterday in their midst." The article further says that "she was found leaning against a stump near a little by-path." That last part is believed to be true, (as Wirth's statement that she died "in the park on her way to her domain" may be partially true) as it is known from witnesses on April 10 that she attempted to go to the Garden. Some newspaper accounts and Martha Hellander's research indicate she was found on her way to the Garden and was helped back. But she did arrive back at Babcock's house. The newspaper incorrectly identifies the Babcock house as J. W. Butler's house.

Testimony of Lloyd Teeuwen: The only eye-witness account of her death by anyone still living was given by Lloyd Teeuwen on May 4, 1988 in a recorded interview with Martha Hellander while Hellander was researching material for her book *The Wild Gardener*. Teeuwen was a Garden helper for Eloise, beginning when he was 13 or 14 years old. It was he who built the rustic bridge on the Mallard Pool in 1932. It was six years later when on the wet morning of April 10th, he came to the Babcock house to help Eloise down to the Garden, as he always did when the paths were wet and muddy. He asked "do you want to go down there and try it." "No" she replied, "I don't think I want to go down there now, maybe a little later if it stops, maybe we can go down there." Lloyd then went down to the

Garden where he was working on some brush. He believes she may have attempted to negotiate the path herself but states *"They didn't find her anywhere, she got to the house herself."* Mrs. Babcock had told Teeuwen that Eloise had gone out but was only gone a short time when she returned. *"She'd come in and Mrs. Babcock says 'She said she didn't feel too good.'"*

When Lloyd returned to Babcocks later she was there and his report of her death is as follows: *"When I came in there, the doctor was there, and she was laying in the Living Room; they had what they call a little entrance way, like a vestibule, and it had a black leather couch in it and she was laying on it. [Hellander - In the Babcocks house?] Yes, you came in the front door - the doctor had come in it - I don't remember his name at all any more - and he was checking her out like that [Hellander - was she still living?] She was still living, but she was, ten minutes later, he says (the doctor), 'she's gone.'"* (5a)

Second: The Minneapolis Coroner's Report: This report states that she left the house at 1 PM and was found around 2:10 PM in the garden near the house. "She was unconscious and carried on a cot into the house by Martin Olson and Walter Ludvig - she breathed deeply - did not regain consciousness and died in one hour later." The doctor present was Dr. Arthur Mann.(5b)

The Coroner's report supports the statement that she was found in the park and brought back. It states she did not regain consciousness. As the doctor was not present for the entire episode it is not possible to negate Teeuwen's testimony about what Mrs. Babcock said. How those two men (or boys?) happened to be around is unknown, nor how they obtained a cot - perhaps from Babcock's?

The conclusion about her death is that she did go down to or toward the Garden and that she died at the Babcock house as both Teeuwen and coroner's report testify. The words that Teeuwen used in speaking to Martha Hellander were from his memory of an event 55 years prior, so some parts of it may not be 100% accurate recall.

In the days following the remembrance ceremony Martha took care of Garden duties, planting the seeds and plants that had accumulated from Eloise Butlers previous arrangements. The Garden looked good - on May 14 she noted *"Mobs at garden in afternoon, trilliums beautiful, also mertensia."*(1)

On the 15th Mrs. Cram (**Gertrude Cram**) was in, then Mrs. Phelps and Miss Leavitt - all friends of Eloise Butler. All three and Martha would be on a committee to provide the script for the memorial tablet for Eloise Butler The organization formed was called 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. A fund raising campaign was initiated with the suggested donation being limited to no more than one dollar. The association 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." The dedication wording recommended by the committee was approved by Martha and all interested others and the bronze tablet was cast, using the design of a Mr. Melchior of Flour City Iron Works and installed in 1934.

On the 18th Theodore Wirth's secretary, Miss Merkert was in to sort out the books in the office that had been the domain of Eloise Butler - the books belonging to Eloise were being sent back to the Butler relatives at Malden MA.

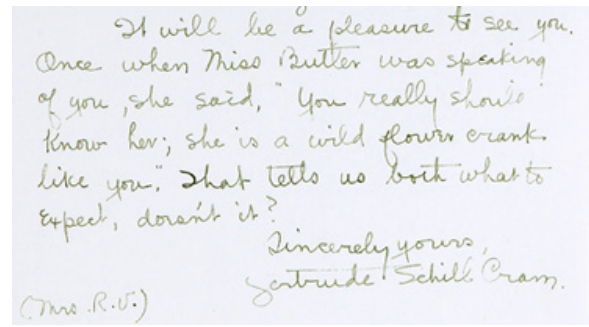
May 20 was not a good day - Bill Crone was driving Martha to the Garden when they were in an accident at Lowry and James. Martha sprained an ankle and skinned an elbow but nevertheless arrived at the Garden by 9:15 AM. Due to the dry spring weather there was a dust storm on the 23rd - no Garden visitors. On the 25th Martha closed the Garden at 3 so as to get down to the main Minneapolis Library for a meeting on the memorial for Eloise.



One of the purposes for plants collected and planted by Martha in 1933 was the completion of the planting around the Mallard Pool area that had been started by Eloise Butler in 1932.

Eloise Butler's design for the pool area had been accomplished and she had started the planting from her list of desired plants. Martha's May and June collecting trips, especially to areas around Anoka were to secure plants needed for the pool area. In that era one could still dig up plants in open areas without much restriction, even on street corners.

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 if permission was necessary; rescue them when the habitat was about to be destroyed; receive donations of plants from friends; and plant seeds for new plants.



It will be a pleasure to see you. Once when Miss Butler was speaking of you, she said, "You really should know her; she is a wild flower crank like you." That tells us both what to expect, doesn't it?

Sincerely yours,
Gertrude Schell Cram.
(Mrs. R.V.)

Portion of Gertrude Cram's letter to Martha Crone

Back on 23rd April Gertrude Cram had send a note of introduction to Martha. Mrs. Cram then ends 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? (6)

Many school groups toured the Garden in late May to early June. (1) May was a rainy month, June turned dry and historically hot.

Summer 1933

The Showy-lady's-slippers always bring visitors to the Garden when they bloom. Mid-June this year was the peak bloom time, although it was 95 degrees on June 17. Many June days were over 100 degrees. June 30 was the 14th day of June over 90 degrees. It was the warmest June in weather history (as of 2020) and very little rain. July and August were very dry also.

Mosquitos were always a problem in the Garden. So bad in early 1933 that Theodore Wirth complained about them to Martha in a letter to her. In her reply (copy following) 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.

Martha's husband Bill frequently came to the Garden with her on Sundays and on July 2nd he cut a new path in the marsh to reach the new Mallard Pool. (1) Eloise wrote in her Mallard Pool essay that she had a plank walk installed at the north end of the pool where the bridge was so we believe the new path approached from the southern end. Martha mentioned this new path in her annual report to the Superintendent. (7)

On July 13, Gertrude Cram came to the Garden with a Mr. Burgess who was a frequent Garden visitor and occasional plant supplier.(1) The water fountain inside the Garden front gate is a memorial to him and his wife, Louise.

Martha applied to Theodore Wirth on July 15 for a 5 day vacation. Time off was granted and it was taken on July 26 to 30. She was on a plant



Swamp Candles,
(*Lysimachia terrestris*), also
called Yellow Loosestrife.

collecting trip to Duluth and the North Shore and noted in her diary on the 31st - “planted many plants we brought from Duluth.” On July 31 and August 1, her log shows 304 plants put in representing 33 species. (2)

This group of plants was supplemented with packages of plants shipped by Mrs. Cram from Isle Royal where she was vacationing in August. She had done this for some years for Eloise Butler and it would continue until 1939. Humorous letters would accompany the plants. Here is an example from a letter posted from Isle Royal August 8, 1933 - Mrs. Cram 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.

Theodore Wirth would visit the Garden several times during the summer months - perhaps to check on how his new Curator was doing.

Autumn 1933

On August 28 Martha and husband Bill gathered cranberries in the Quaking Bog to go into a collection of fruits of the Garden. It is unclear from her diary if this was for the Garden Office or for a State Fair display. She also was gathering mushrooms for the Mycological Societies State Fair exhibit. On September 4 she notes picking up a 15 pound Frondosa and many others out of the Garden for the fair exhibit. (1) 1933 was unusual in that no more mushrooms were found that year.



Polyphorus frondosa, Hen of the Woods mushroom. Photo from a Kodachrome taken by Martha Crone on Sept. 25, 1951

On September 14 at 11:45 at the bath house at Glenwood Lake (now Wirth Beach) she meet Mr. Boeglin (Louis - in charge of forestry and horticulture for the Park Board), 3 men and a truck from the Park Board and they went to Rice Lake at Shakopee to get Lotus. (1) She reported they got 125 good roots and they were back at 5 PM. This was probably to fulfill a request of Theodore Wirth to locate the plants, a request that she referenced in her June 22 reply to his letter (noted above in the Summer section). Rice Lake was the place where Martha and Bill discovered an unknown growth of American Lotus in 1930. Details of that are in the 1930 history. She also picked a few other plants and she noted in the log that they came from Rice Lake. This area must have good for collecting because she noted on September 20, a Wednesday - her day off - that she went back to Shakopee and dug *Aromatic Aster*, *Smooth Aster* and *Ironweed*. (1) These she planted on the 21st (2).

On September 19 the *Tribune* reported that the plans for the Butler Memorial Tablet were in motion with the establishment of a committee and a fund to raise \$200 by November 1. (4) The Garden closed on the last day of September and Martha noted that Mr. Johnson (Ben) came to the Garden to get Garden books, etc, for winter storage. Martha and Bill would frequently return to the Garden after closing in those early years to attend to the birds, helping out with the work of Miss Lulu May Aler. (8) Thus on October 20 she wrote:

Went down in garden to meet Miss Aler and Mrs. Ure at 1:30 put up bird pan and filled bird bath, real cold but sat in office for awhile. (1)

To the Garden again on the 25th where they saw many birds including a wood cock, and she collected seed of **Red Turtlehead**. (1)

In her first annual report to the Parks Superintendent (6) Martha Wrote:

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. During the season many varieties of seeds were sown. 1330 plants were set out, all obtained from their native haunts. They comprise 166 species, representing 108 genera and 48 families.

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.

On November 11 she noted "15th anniversary of the Armistice, very quiet, hardly to be noticed" (1) and on Thanksgiving Day, November 30 "Bill and I to garden to feed birds, warm and rainy." (1) They go several more times in December, including with Miss Aler on December 10.

A Christmas tree cost the Crones 75 cents in 1933. On Christmas Day it was 16 below in morning and 8 below all day. Coldest Christmas since 1890, following what had been the hottest June in recorded weather history for the area. October, November and December had very little precipitation. Snowfall and total precipitation for the year were well under average



Aromatic Aster,
(*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*), planted
in September.

Twenty-seven species were added to the Garden List in 1933 including the following new additions:

- *Epilobium molle* [now *Epilobium strictum*] - Downy Willowherb.
- *Filipendula ulmaria* - Queen of the Meadow
- *Fragaria virginiana* - Virginia Strawberry
- *Ilysanthes gratioloides* [now *Lindernia dubia*] - Long-stalked Pimpernel
- *Listera cordata* - Heartleaf Twayblade
- *Lophocarpus depauperatus* [now *Sagittaria calycina* var. *calycina*] - Hooded Arrowhead
- *Polygala alba* - White Milkwort
- *Spiranthes latifolia* [now *Spiranthes lucida*] - Shining Lady's Tresses
- *Triglochin maritima* - Seaside Arrowgrass

Photo at top of page 8: A collage of Eloise Butler at 4 stages in her life: A young woman, ca1890, Garden Curator 1910-20, mid 1920s and age 80 at her birthday party, August 2, 1931. Photos courtesy Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis Collection, and Minnesota Historical Society.

Notes:

(1) Martha Crone's Diary - 1933

(2) Garden Log - 1933

(3) Letter, Eloise Butler to Mrs. Frazer, September 29, 1932. 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.

(4) *Minneapolis Tribune*, April 20, 1933.

(5a) Interview with Lloyd Teeuwen, May 4, 1988 by Martha Hellander. Tape and transcript in the Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society.

(5b) Written report of the Hennepin County Coroner, April 10, 1933. Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN.

(6) Letter of Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone April 23, 1933.

(7) Annual Report to Parks Superintendent Theodore Wirth dated November 19, 1933.

(8) Lulu May Aler - Miss Aler maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Garden, outside the gate, so she would visit regularly to maintain it. In 1933 Martha would provide some help. More details about Miss Aler are found in our article about the Bird Feeding Stations in Wirth Park.

THIS COPY FOR MRS. W. H. CRONE

April 15, 1933.

To the -

Honorable Board of Park Commissioners,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

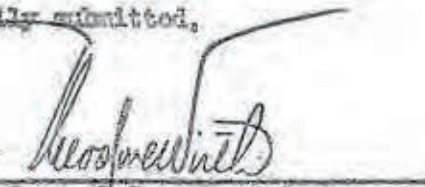
Gentlemen:

The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden needs proper care and attention, if the labors of its late Curator, Miss Eloise Butler, are not to be lost. The work can only be performed by some person with the necessary knowledge of plants and the essential training in their preservation.

For some time Mrs. W. H. Crone had been working with Miss Butler as a quasi-assistant, and for the present at least, Mrs. Crone seems best qualified to carry on Miss Butler's work.

Mrs. Crone is also recommended by close friends of Miss Butler, who are aware of the professional and scientific relations and friendship that existed between the two plant lovers. Mrs. Crone is willing to undertake the work, and I wish to recommend that I be authorized to employ her as temporary Curator for the garden during the balance of the season, or such time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory, - the term of employment to be from date to October 1, 1933, and the compensation \$60.00 per month.

Respectfully submitted,


General Superintendent.

1933

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
325 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 19, 1933.

To the -

Honorable Board of Park Commissioners,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

On the afternoon of April 10, the sad news reached me that Miss Eloise Butler, Curator of the native plant reserve at Glenwood Park, had suddenly died in the park while on her way to her domain, The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden - which the Board so wisely and deservedly named in her honor during the year of 1929.

Miss Butler had faithfully, efficiently, and lovingly devoted her labor and knowledge of plants to the preserve, in the preservation and enlargement of the native plant life, ever since the garden was first established in 1907. In that year, Mr. J. N. Greer, Principal of Central High School, and others, petitioned the Board that a suitable piece of ground in Glenwood Park be set aside as a botanical garden for nature study, for the benefit of interested teachers and students.

In June, 1911, a communication from the Women's Club recommended the appointment of Miss Eloise Butler as Curator for the garden and offered to pay one-half of her salary for that year. The Board took favorable action, and ever since that time until the ripe age of 81 years, Miss Butler has most devotedly and kindly rendered valuable service to the garden and information to large numbers of botany students and friends of nature in general. For a full quarter of a century, her useful life has been spent in a labor of love - not only in the preservation and protection of our native trees and flora, but in the introduction of plants native in other parts of our state and country.

Every plant in her garden, large and small, was her living child, upon whom she bestowed her devotion and care - and her love went to the birds and all other members of the Animal Kingdom who were inhabitants of and attracted to the peaceful, beautifully-wooded glen in which she studiously and untiringly labored for her beloved beings of Dame Nature. I say "beloved" advisedly, for she did not shrink from manual labor in order to protect her treasures from the inexperienced or unthinking hands or feet of visitors or willing helpers. Here was a life of happiness in a kingdom all of her own, and her spirit has not departed from those grounds which have been so

fittingly named for her, and which should for all time in the future be devoted to the purpose for which they were dedicated at her wish and that of her co-workers in nature study.

Miss Butler has left behind her the work she loved so well, and she has directed that all of her records and other useful material, books, etc. pertaining to the continuation of the garden and its purposes become the property of the Board of Park Commissioners for the use of her successors, and has expressed the wish that the ashes of her cremated body be spread to the winds in her beloved garden.

I am sure that your Honorable Board will readily want to grant every wish of a departed co-worker, whom we all held in such high esteem, and I wish to suggest that the Board proceed in a body to the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden on Arbor Day, May 5, and that her ashes be spread as requested and a young oak tree planted as a memorial to the first Curator of the native plant reserve, Miss Eloise Butler, by the members of the Board.

I believe that Miss Butler's many friends, most of whom were her botany students, would be glad to form a committee for the purpose of collecting a suitable memorial fund in order to place a bronze tablet on a boulder near the memorial tree, to commemorate to posterity her good work and the esteem in which Miss Eloise Butler was held by all who knew her.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE WIRTH,
General Superintendent.

Commissioner Anderson -
Moved adoption of the Superintendent's report.
Adopted by rising vote.

I hereby certify that -

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of a portion of the minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Minneapolis of April 19, 1933.

CHAS. E. DOELL,
Secretary, Board of Park
Commissioners, City of
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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 request 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 ceremonies 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 ceremony 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 WIRTH,
General Superintendent.

TW-M

THE MINNEAPOLIS

30 PAGES—HOME EDITION. * * WEATHER Fair to partly cloudy and somewhat warmer tonight and Wednesday.

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1933.

State Solons Urged to Speed Bill For Forests to Give 5,000 Jobs

Forester Conzel Proposes 15 Camps to House 3,000 Men

SEES LASTING BENEFIT TO STATE IN U. S. PLAN

Measure Would Increase Minnesota Wooded Area to 2,500,000 Acres

Passage by the legislature of the bill creating 11 state forests was urged by Grover Conzel, state forester, and E. V. Willard, state drainage commissioner, today as means of providing work for 5,000 men in Minnesota's civilian conservation corps.

The two officials returned today from conferences in Washington, where they discussed a program for work in the state's forests under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's forest employment plan. Both emphasized the fact that Minnesota's participation in the plan would be far greater if the state had more official state forest land to work upon.

The forest bill is an special order, awaiting consideration by the house.

First Recruits for U. S. Forests

Meanwhile, the first contingents of the corps were being assembled from Minneapolis and St. Paul at Fort Snelling. These recruits, however, will be put to work in national forests in Minnesota and will not work in any of the state's forests.

Within the next few days, more men are to be selected throughout the state for the corps through the office of Frank Barig, Jr., state director of relief for the board of control. These men probably also will be put to work in national forests, and Mr. Conzel and Mr. Willard were anxious to get others for work in the state lands.

What form further enrollments for the corps throughout the state would take was unknown today. Mr. Barig, with the plans for the recruiting, was scheduled to arrive late today from Washington, where he obtained final instructions from the directors of the forest scheme.

Barig to Direct Enlistment

The Minneapolis contingent of 275 men for the first Minnesota unit of 600 men have been selected by the public relief department. The 600 men will be the state's share of the first 25,000 men to be enrolled nationally. Mr. Barig will direct further enlistment.

"The federal act," Mr. Willard said today, "provides forestry work must be done on government lands, state forests or other public lands, or on private lands where the work is for a definite public benefit." Minnesota has only about 1,000,000 acres in state forests, but these lands are scattered about throughout the northern country; very little of it is in solid blocks. The new state forests, if established by the legislature will add 2,500,000 acres to the state forests.

State Can Reap Lasting Benefit

"This will put us in fine shape to have work done of a lasting benefit."

Floise Butler Dies at 81 In Woodland She Loved



ELOISE BUTLER IN HER DOMAIN

Shoals Bill Given Senate; Faces Delay

Norris Introduces Measure to Carry Out Roosevelt Project

Washington, April 11.—(P)—A bill to carry out President Roosevelt's vast Tennessee basin project, including government operation of Muscle Shoals for power, nitrate and fertilizer production, was introduced today by Senator George Norris (rep., Neb.).

Designed as the first step in a

Body to Be Cremated and Ashes Strewn in Glenwood Glade

The woodland flowers in Glenwood glade, sheltered and tended for over 15 years by Miss Eloise Butler, will bloom this summer as a monument to her.

Miss Butler died yesterday in their midst. Since 1907 she has been a familiar figure in the "deer runs" of the natural preserve in Glenwood park. She wandered over its trails first as a botany teacher, showing her pupils the miracles of the earth.

So much a part of the growing things did she become that in 1911 the board of park commissioners built her a little toolhouse on the side of the hill; and each year, from the time the first green bud appeared until the last brown leaf had

Continued on page 6

\$10,470,000 Lopped Off State's Bills

Annual Reduction of \$5,000,000 Foreseen if Legislature Stands by Cuts

EDUCATION ALLOWANCE GIVEN HARDEST BLOW

Senators Proud of \$6,400,000 Saving to Motor Vehicle Taxpayers

Today in Legislature

Senate opened income tax argument over proposed constitutional amendment.

House revived unemployment insurance, once killed, sent it to senate.

House voted broad powers to railroad commission to regulate telephone companies, sent bill to senate.

House gave compulsory old age pensions a chance for life, placed bill on special order.

Senate cut out state tourist bureau by denying appropriation, house committee took same action.

Senate committee approved metropolitan sewage bill.

Senate blocked parimutuel horseracing bill.

House voted 30-hour week for public work.

Senate voted special order for bill forcing reductions in local tax levies.

See Legislative Arena, Page 11.

By LEIF H. GILSTAD

Appropriation slashes totalling \$10,470,000 have been made by the state senate finance committee. It was announced today. The cuts are compared with the total allowances made two years ago. If they are carried through to passage of the appropriation bills, they will mean an annual reduction of more than \$5,000,000. The final slash made by the committee was on a big educational bill, which took the heaviest cut of all.

In addition, senators were pointing with pride to the \$6,400,000 saved to motor vehicle taxpayers for the ensuing two years.

The senate delayed its consideration of the income tax today to wrangle over another economy measure, Senator C. H. MacKenzie's bill forcing cuts in local levies. The rules committee recommended a special order on the bill, which was fought by Senator Patrick Farnand, Hibbing.

The roll call showed 44 votes for the special order and 22 against it. It required 45 votes, or two-thirds of the whole senate, so Senator MacKenzie got a motion made on the bill and had the senate put under call to compel a full vote. His bill would require levies for 1934 to be 15 per cent below those for 1931, except debt levies

Rising W In Pock

Survey Urges City Buy Out Gas Company

Citizens Advisory Committee Sets \$9,376,545 as Fair Purchase Price

EXPERT SEES WAY TO \$500,000 RATE CUT

Mayor and Council Asked to Take Steps for Acquisition by 1935

Purchase and operation of the Minneapolis Gas Light Company by the city was recommended today in the final report of Mayor William A. Anderson's citizens advisory committee on public utilities. The "fair purchase value" of the plant was estimated at \$9,376,545.

The report was made as F. T. Mylott, member of the firm of Hine, Goldthwaite and Mylott, New York rate experts, began an accounting study of the books of the company, upon which the city council will base a revised gas rate schedule to go into effect in September. After a preliminary survey, Mr. Mylott said he believed a rate of reduction of at least \$500,000 could be substantiated. He informed the council's special committee on gas rates, which authorized him to start the study, that he would have conclusions ready in about three weeks.

Although the city could not move to purchase the gas company until September 8, 1935, when the first five years of operation under the franchise will end, the advisory committee, in its report to the mayor, urged that preparations for acquisition of the plant be

Continued on page 6

Akron Shock Caused Striking Water

Survivor Gives Inquiry Board Tragedy—Blames D

Lakehurst, N. J., April 11.—(P)—Lieutenant Commander Herbert V. Wiley today told the naval board inquiring into the wreck of the Akron that he now believes the shock caused by "the severe gust of wind" a few seconds before the dirigible crashed was caused by its tail striking the water.

Wiley said he based his opinion on the fact that he had not felt any wind blow through the control car, that the "feel of the shock" was different from any he had ever experienced before, and that he could

TE

A. Mann, Chester A. Marr, T. B. Mouer, William E. MacGregor, W. J. McGaughran, A. J. McGuire, W. T. Middlebrook, Dr. E. G. Norstrom, H. M. Orfield, H. O. J. Pelsch, Oliver Prestholdt, James Quinn, John K. Raglan, Dr. C. M. Roan, Irving H. Robitshek, Louis Sachs, S. A. Stockwell, Roy N. Thorshov and M. E. Williams.

Eloise Butler Dies at 81

Continued from page 1

fallen, she reigned over her little domain as curator.

Yesterday she was found, leaning against a stump near a little by-path. She was 81 years old.

Miss Butler, a descendant of the British duke of Ormond, was born on a little farm in Maine in August, 1851. Her wanderings over the meadows of the farm and through the woods nearby brought her close to the things that grow. But then little was taught of botany and the natural sciences and she was graduated from a Maine normal school to become a teacher of Latin and Greek.

Tree Knowledge Useful

Teaching the dead language didn't stop her from continuing her natural studies in the living things. As the natural sciences began to take a more important place in educational fields, she found her girlhood knowledge of trees and flowers sought by botany instructors in the schools in which she was teaching Latin and Greek.

Finally she left the languages and took extensive post-graduate work at Harvard and the University of Minnesota in the natural sciences. Her studies took her on three trips to the island of Jamaica in the West Indies, where she discovered varieties of plants and flowers unknown to science until that time. She also spent some time on the island of Vancouver, studying the marine algae.

Taught Botany in Schools

She came to Minneapolis as a botany teacher and taught in Central and South high schools. Her natural love for the woods fostered in her a belief that the classroom was too smug for real natural studies. Many days she closed up her classroom and took her students for a long tramp around the sylvan pool in Glenwood park, pointing out to them the great variety of native plants and flowers growing on its banks.

Almost entirely through her efforts, three acres of the park were set aside in 1907 as natural gardens. Many of the native flowers of Minnesota grew there. She

planted and fostered more. As cities began to grow up and lumbering industries swept through the state, she feared for the welfare of the natural things and went again to the park board. In 1911, the three-acre tract was enlarged to 25 acres and Miss Butler was made paid curator of the new development.

Planted Many Rare Flowers

Many rare flowers and plants and trees that would grow in this climate were planted in the preserve under her direction and every growing thing was carefully recorded on her card index. In her index are 1,137 different species of Minnesota plant life, of which she brought 704 to the gardens herself.

So that her domain might not lose its natural beauty, she refused to have artificial pathways cut through it. She personally conducted visiting parties over the winding grassy paths and took great care that fallen logs remained where they fell and trailing vines were not torn from the branches on which they chose to cling.

Almost Lost Life in Swamp

Birds grew to recognize the natural glen as a place of shelter, and through the summer months Miss Butler had as her companions horned owls, whip-poor-wills, crested wood ducks, bitterns, blue herons and all of the more numerous birds.

She almost gave her life to the preserve once before. She was wandering on the edge of a muskeg swamp when she sank to her armpits. Somehow she struggled free—investigation disclosed that the morass was 15 feet deep. It was filled in with gravel.

Miss Butler spent her summers at the home of J. W. Butler, 227 Xerxes avenue N. In the winter she visited relatives in different parts of the country.

As she expressed the wish several times, relatives plan to have her body cremated and the ashes scattered over the gardens.

Giant Hailstones Kill Wild Ducks

Davenport, Iowa, April 11.—Several Davenport residents enjoyed the rare dinner of wild duck in spring today as the result of a terrific hail storm which hit the tricity area last night. Beaten to death by hailstones measuring as great as seven inches in circumference, several ducks were picked up in the yards of local homes.

Donaldson's
Sixth and Seventh Streets at Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis



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*Butler papers in Mpls. Coll.,
Mpls. Pub. Library*

Condensed Report of the Eloise Butler Memorial Association.

This Association was organized on June 8, 1933, at the Minneapolis Public Library to arrange for a bronze tablet to be placed on a boulder in the Eloise Butler Native Plant Reserve. Plans were discussed and a Committee consisting of Clara K. Leavitt, Chairman, Elizabeth Foss, Mrs. Wm. E. Crone, Dr. Frederick Schussler and Gratia Countryman was elected to appoint committees to arrange the details.

The Fund Raising Committee consisted of Mrs. J. B. Phelps, Treasurer, Miss Foss, Mrs. Schussler, Mrs. Crone, Mrs. Healey, Mrs. Armatage, Miss Anna Johnson, Mrs. R. V. Cram, ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Bovey and Mr. Wester. Seventy-five individuals contributed one dollar each, the limit set by the committee. Many more contributed smaller sums. Most of the names of the contributors are appended. The following organizations contributed one dollar or more.

The Art History Club,	\$5.
The Audobon Society	5.
Biology, Botany and General Science Teachers	5.90
The C. E. and L. Society,	2.
Fifth District Federation of Women's Clubs,	10.
Garden Flower Society,	5.
Garden Section of Minneapolis Woman's Club,	8.75
Retired Teachers Club,	3.50
Woman's Alliance Unitarian Church	1.

The Tablet Committee. Dr. Schussler, Mrs. R. V. Cram, and Miss Countryman arranged the wording of the tablet. Mrs. J. B. Phelps arranged with different firms to submit designs and that of Mr. Melcher of the Flour City Iron Works was accepted. The Committee feels that Mr. Melcher has been very successful in expressing the ideas of the Association. Miss Mary Moulton Cheney assisted the Committee as critic.

As a further Memorial for Miss Butler the Committee is planning the preservation of some of Miss Butler's papers and a history of the Native Plant Reserve, to be kept on file in the Minneapolis Library. Twelve dollars has been contributed toward this object.

The Committee has frequently consulted Superintendent Wirth as to details in the project and ~~his~~ most grateful for his wise suggestions and sympathetic interest.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara K. Leavitt.

May 1934

List of Contributors to the Eloise Butler Memorial Tablet.

Mr. W.H. Bovey,	1.
Mrs. W.H. Bovey,	1.
MR. C.A. Andrews,	1.
Miss Janet Andrews,	1.
Miss Caroline Crosby,	1.
Miss Josephine Tilden,	1.
Mrs. Deborah Abrahamson,	1.
Miss Gratia Countryman,	1.
Miss Marie Todd,	1.
Miss Prest,	1.
Library Technical Room,	1.
Hon. Harold R. Ward,	1.
Hon. Lucian C. Miller	1.
Hon. B.B. Sheffield,	1.
Miss Lisbeth Johnson,	1.
Miss Lavina Smith,	.50
Miss Janet Crone,	.50
Miss Cora Groth,	1.
Miss Elsie Edlund,	1.
Central High Botany Club,	4.21
Miss Florence Wales)	
Miss Annette Wales)	
Mrs. Florence Kneit) ---	1.20
Mr. Thomas Morris)	
Mrs. M.L. Healy	1.
Miss Barbara Healy	1.
Miss Mary L. Meeker,	1.
Miss Lillian Mathias,	1.
Miss Anna Cotton,	.50
Miss Mary Byrnes	.50
Miss Anna Strohmeier	.50
Miss Helen Blaisdell	1.
Mr. J.S.V. Fisher,	1.
Miss Harriet Lucas,	1.
Mr. Arthur Wester,	1.
Art History Club,	5.
Audobon Society,	5.
Biology, Botany, General	
Science Teachers	5.90

also -
 " Miss Kaufman
 N.Y. City "
 (note -
 former
 Pres. of
 Argan's
 asso.
 see
 Jan 1927
 Bull.)

Others listed on 5 handwritten pp. attached
 incl. Miss Rose Schussler + Miss Emma Schussler
 (Ch. of Dr. Ott + Mrs. Schussler) ? 263 Retired Teachers Club -
 Woman's Alliance of 1st Unitarian Church -

Group Plans Memorial to Miss Butler

In memory of Eloise Butler, whose ashes lie strewn among the wildflowers she loved.

With that as the theme a little group of men and women gathered in the public library Thursday afternoon and formed the Eloise Butler Memorial association.

The purpose of the organization is to perpetuate the memory of the founder-curator of the wildflower garden at Glenwood Park. It will take the form of a tablet upon a huge boulder to be brought into the wildflower garden and set near the memorial oak planted by the park board May 5 in tribute to Miss Butler.

Miss Jennie Hall was named chairman of the organization, Mrs. Zelma Goldsworthy secretary. Miss Clara K. Leavitt, Mrs. W. H. Crone, successor to Miss Butler, Miss Elizabeth Foss, Dr. Otto F. Schussler, and Miss Gratia Countryman were named as a committee on committees. The committees they will name will inquire into the cost of a proper memorial tablet, determine the character of the tablet and the words to be inscribed on it, and collect the necessary funds.

Others present, all friends of the late curator, pledged every possible assistance for the cause. They included Mrs. S. W. Eden, Mrs. Carl Robert Nelson, Mrs. Robert V. Cram, Miss Anna J. Johnson, Mrs. Schussler, Mrs. Frank Healy, Dr. W. H. Crone.

Sometime during the winter the park authorities under direction of Superintendent Theodore Wirth will slide into the wildflower garden a huge boulder as base for the tablet.

And on Arbor Day, 1934, friends of Miss Butler and friends of the flowers she loved will gather in the garden at Glenwood Park to unveil the tablet that will perpetuate her memory for the generations to come.

May 26, 1933
Minneapolis Tribune



May 5, 1934,
Minneapolis Tribune



Sept. 19, 1933
Minneapolis Tribune



FRIENDS COLLECTING FUNDS FOR TABLET

To honor the memory of Miss Eloise Butler, former curator of the Glenwood park wild flower garden, whose death occurred in April, her friends in the city are creating a fund to erect a bronze tablet in Glenwood park, beside a tree planted for Miss Butler last Arbor day. Mrs. J. B. Phelps of the Hampshire Arms is treasurer of the fund, Miss Gratia Countryman is making the business arrangements and Miss Mary Cheney has been appointed to design the plaque. Mrs. R. V. Cram and Dr. O. F. Schussler are in charge of the wording to be used. Plans are now to erect the memorial and dedicate it next spring. A fund of \$200 by November 1 is the aim of the committee.

Wild Flower Glen Tablet Is Unveiled

Besides the little cabin that holds records of her achievements—among the wild flowers over which her ashes were scattered—friends of Eloise Butler, founder and first curator of the native plant reserve at Glenwood park, gathered Friday afternoon to unveil a tablet to her memory.

Inscribed on the tablet are the words:

"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 (a pin oak planted a year ago) 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."

Miss Jennie Hall, science supervisor of the Minneapolis public schools, opened the program. Sterling Robson and a group of 10 South high school pupils uttered bird calls with which Miss Butler during her garden work had become familiar.

As the bird calls ended Mrs. Florence English Hadden, one of Miss Butler's former pupils, stepped forward to read an original poem in tribute. It was entitled "This Wild Flower Garden," and its words were

*"This glen is now a hallowed spot,
A shrine, where wild flowers meet—
We come as friends, with forest birds,
To render tribute in this wild retreat—"*

*A tribute due to one held dear,
By all the wildings in this glade,
From all the pupils she has taught,
And all the friends she's made—"*

*We all unite with one accord
To sound her praises high,
She surely hears the song above
As these tributes reach the sky.*

*The perfume of these flowers, wild,
Is like wafted incense, rare,
It floats above through "Pearly Gates"
To the Heavenly Gardens, there.*

Then Miss Elizabeth Foss of the North high school faculty, on behalf of Miss Butler's friends—organized as a committee headed by Miss Clara K. Leavitt—made the presentation, and Francis A. Gross, vice president of the park board, accepted the tablet for the city.

2015 So. James, Minneapolis.

September 15, 1933.

My dear Mrs. Crone:- Some of the Committee on wording like like the longer proposed inscription better. We are interested to know how they strike you. Perhaps you can test them by getting as many of your garden visitors as possible to read them and express a preference. We would like to know how the visitors feel toward it. It would help to bring up the subject of the raising of the fund. We must prove to Mr. Wirth and the Park Board that the Reserve has many friends.

We are keeping the names of all who contribute even small sums. One dollar is the maximum.

I envy you if you are planning to study with Dr. Rosen-dahl in the herbarium this winter.

Very cordially yours,

Clara K. Seavitt.

tablet erected by a grateful public

In 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.



1934

Winter 1933/1934

1934 was Martha Crone's 2nd year in charge of the Garden, which now began its 28th year. What the Garden Curator called "an unprecedented drought" in 1933, was to lead to much plant damage in the coming spring of 1934. Although that season was not as stressful as the later 1958-1959 winter it is likely that the lack of snow during the winter of 1933-'34 and the unusually warm January temperatures which caused a day-night freeze -thaw cycle, was the prime cause of the plant loss that was only noticed in the spring. The snow depth in December and January rarely exceeded 4 inches and due to the well above average temperatures in January there was no snow cover in February and March 1934. Martha Crone's position this year would continue be "temporary" Curator of the Garden. (note 1)



Martha Crone in the Garden in 1951, photo
- Martha Crone Collection

Spring 1934

Preliminary notes about plant information on the following history year pages. Native Status: Some of the plants obtained by Eloise Butler in the early years of the Garden were not native to Minnesota or if native, may have been difficult to establish in the Garden. Most of these are no longer present. Martha Crone was somewhat more selective of native plant material, but also brought in many species not native to the State, and many of her

imports have not survived either. The plants illustrated in these pages, so one can see what they looked like, are mostly of the class no longer extant in the Garden. Some of those plants still existed at the time of Martha Crone's 1951 Garden Census and they are identified by the "(M.C.)" following the plant name. As for plants mentioned here that are still present in the Garden today, there may have been numerous re-plantings, and most have a detailed information/photo page on the Friends website and are noted as being extant - these are usually not illustrated in this history. **Botanical classification:** Over the years Botanists have reclassified many plants from the classifications in use at the time Eloise Butler wrote her Garden Log or when Martha Crone prepared her census. I have retained the nomenclature that Eloise Butler or Martha Crone used and then provided the more current classification as used by the major listings in use today, particularly *Flora of North America* and the *Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Minnesota* from the University of Minnesota Herbarium.

Martha opened the Garden on April 1st with 2 inches of snow on the ground. Heavy rain on April 5th washed out the Garden paths and by the 8th the last ice melted in the wetland pools. Snow Trillium bloomed on the 9th. The warmer weather of February and March was not to last into April. The month turned very cold. She reported that all plant growth was retarded due to extreme cold, with ice forming on the ponds each day. On the 21st water froze in the office and again on the 27th, with 1/2 inch of ice on the ponds. In spite of this the Bloodroots bloomed on the 24th. Then the weather abruptly changed. The next day the temperature reached 87 degrees followed by 90 degrees on the 29th.

Martha reported that the unprecedented drought of 1933 had wiped out the entire supply of Showy Orchids, Shooting Star and some varieties of Ferns. She reported however, that other showy plants took their place.

On the 23rd of April a fire occurred on the west boundary where a small wooden building burned. Martha shouted for help from anybody nearby and the damage within the garden itself was limited. Martha logged some replanting later in the season in the fire damaged area "Near the Mayapple" which is curiously close to the area of Eloise Butler's "Pinetum" that was damaged by fire in 1910.

On May 4th a bronze tablet in honor of Eloise Butler was dedicated. Eloise had died the previous spring. It is mounted on a large boulder that sits in front of the current Martha Crone Visitors Shelter. The cost of fabrication was paid by a group of Miss Butler's former pupils and her friends. Details on the tablet and dedication are on the web site and in the book "The Wild Botanic Garden - the Eloise Butler Years."



The Eloise Butler Memorial Tablet, dedicated on May 4, 1934, (dedication photo on prior page) which is mounted on a large boulder that sits in the open area in front of the Martha Crone Visitors Shelter.

The heat wave continued in May. On the day of dedication of the tablet the Garden was very parched. Nationally, this was the dust bowl era. May in Minneapolis was the warmest in history, with a temperature of 106 degrees on May 31st and no rain, dust on everything. The ferns were drying to a crisp. Still, Martha reported that the birds were nesting and laying eggs and she was able to bring in new plants among which were a number of violets and Lady's-slippers, especially the Small White Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) of which she planted 41 from a source at Twin Lake.

Early Plantings with questionable names, some not present today (see notes at top of page)

Symphoricarpos racemosus (now *Symphoricarpos albus*); Common snowberry; (M.C.); Eloise Butler first planted this species in 1907. Native Extant.

Parnassia caroliniana, Grass of Parnassus; (M.C.); The botanical name Martha listed is not native to Minnesota, yet she lists her source as Twin Lake (in the metro area). In 1908 Eloise Butler first noted in her Garden Log the observance of Grass of Parnassus growing in the Garden. She used this same botanical name. We can discount that a species native only to the temperate East Coast would be growing here. It is noted in *Flora of North America* Volume 12, that *P. caroliniana* has been misapplied to *P. glauca* (which is native to this area) in early references such as Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.



Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Viola palmata (most likely *Viola palmata* var. *pedatifida*). Hand-leaf Violet (Prairie Violet); (M.C.); There are a number of varieties of *V. palmata*. Martha does not specify but only lists the common name “hand-leaf” which is not a current term. As her source was Long Lake MN, we suspect that she obtained the Prairie Violet which is native to that area of the state and is the only variety of *V. palmata* listed on the “Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Minnesota.” Extant.

Opuntia rafinesquii (now *Opuntia humifusa*) Prickly Pear (Devil's tongue); (M.C.); planted May 24th and Martha noted beautiful blooms on June 10th. Eloise had planted it in 1927.

Martha also planted species that are still represented in the Garden today, including:

Bloodroot, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Snow Trillium, Woolly Blue Violet, White Trout-lily and Yellow Lady's-slipper and Arrow-leaf Violet; (*Viola sagittata* -now- *Viola sagittata*)



Grass of Parnassas (*Parnassia glauca*)

Summer 1934

Martha Crone reported that the number of bird students visiting the Garden had greatly increased due to the large number of birds that nest here attracted by the natural water supply and food and feeling free from molestation.

Dr. Thomas Roberts (author of *Birds of Minnesota* and for whom the Roberts Bird Sanctuary is named), after he had conducted his bird class through the Garden presented to the Garden a set of colored bird plates for display on the walls of the Garden office (which Martha refers to as a “cabin”). These may have been reproductions of some of the plates used in his 2-volume book, originally published in 1932.

In August, Gertrude Cram was again vacationing on Isle Royal and sent a package of collected plants back to Martha at the Garden, including Fireweed. She wrote:

I found a clump of seedlings of Fireweed of which I dug some. Miss Butler said nothing would ever induce it to grow for her but I thought you might like to make another attempt. I am going to bring a few of the seedlings for my Garden. We'll see who has success, I have tried seeds and plants before and got nothing. (2)

Daily temperatures ran above average during the summer until late August, then there was a pronounced cooling. June 27th was another record breaker at 104 degrees and over July 21 to 23 there were three days above 104 degrees.

Fortunately for the Garden, rains occurred during the summer months and began to end what had been a multi-year period of dryness although Martha reported that the "drinking spring" dried up on July 2nd. This may have been the Great Medicine Spring outside the Garden where people came for water, or the Spring behind the Garden back gate known as the Bubbling Spring."

Early Plantings not present today (see notes on page 27):

Houstonia caerulea; Azure Bluets; (M.C.); this is not native to the State. Her source was Mr. Burgess.

Artemisia absinthium; Common wormwood; (M.C.); This is an introduced plant and naturalized across most of the United States.

Chiogenes hispidula (now *Gaultheria hispidula*); Creeping Snowberry; (M.C.); photo previous page.

Lonicera; Honeysuckle; (M.C.); no species mentioned although two years later she would bring in *Lonicera caerulea*, Blue Honeysuckle.

Coptis trifolia; Threelf goldthread; (M.C.); photo at right. Eloise Butler first planted it in 1908.

Corydalis flavula; Yellow Corydalis (yellow fumewort); this is not native to the State. Her source was Mr. Burgess but we do not know where he obtained it. (3)

Except for the Corydalis, all were previously in the Garden during Eloise Butler's time.

Martha was a great lover of ferns and after 1933 when she assumed the Curator position she included ferns in her plantings. In 1934 she brought these in for the first time in her tenure (four are still extant):



Three-leaf Goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*)
Photo ©Kitty Kohout Wisconsin Flora

Cystopteris bulbifera; Bladder Fern (Bulblet Bladder Fern); (M.C.); Extant. (Photo below.)

Cystopteris fragilis; Brittle Bladder Fern (Fragile Bladder Fern); (M.C.); Extant.

Polystichum acrostichoides; Christmas Fern; (M.C.); This fern is quite rare in the wild and is on the Minnesota "Threatened" list. The only native populations recorded were in Houston and Winona counties. Extant. Her source was Mr. Burgess who got it from the Ferndale Nursery in Askov MN. (Photo at right)

Dicksonia punctilobula; Hay-Scented Fern (Eastern Hay-scented); (M.C.). Not native to Minnesota. Her source was Mr. Burgess. (Photo below.)

Dryopteris marginalis; Marginal Wood Fern (Marginal Shield Fern); (M.C.). Extant. Source - Mr. Burgess.

Camptosorus rhizophyllus (now *Asplenium rhizophyllum*); Walking Fern; (M.C.). Somewhat rare as it is native only to the SE Corner of the State. Obtained by Mr. Burgess at Winona. (Photo below.)

Some of the plants Martha planted during the summer months are still in the Garden today in about the same places. These include:

Blue Jacket, Cardinal flower, Fireweed, Great St. Johnswort, Hepaticas, White Trillium, Queen of the Meadow, Greater Yellow Lady's-slipper, Sweet Fern and Tamaracks (that she obtained from the quaking bog). Pale Corydalis, also planted, is no longer extant.



Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*).



Hay-scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) Photo ©Emmet J. Judziewicz Wisconsin Flora



Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) Photo Martha Crone, Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



Bladder Fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera*) Photo ©G D Bebeau

Autumn 1934

Early Plantings not present today:

Vaccinium pennsylvanicum [this should be "*pensilvanicum*"] (now *Vaccinium angustifolium*). Blueberry (Low-bush Blueberry); (M.C.).

Gentiana crinita (now- *Gentianopsis crinita*); Fringed Gentian; (M.C.). (Photo next page)

Gentiana procera (now *Gentianopsis virgata* ssp. *virgata*). Smaller (Lesser) Fringed Gentian; (M.C.). This is quite rare - It is listed as found in the state by both USDA and the U of M Herbarium, but without notes as to where it was found. (Photo next page)

Habenaria psycodes (now *Platanthera psycodes*. Lesser Purple Fringed Orchid; (M.C.). (Photo at right)

Castalia odorata (now *Nymphaea odorata* ssp. *odorata*). White Water-lily; (M.C.).



Lesser Purple Fringed Orchid
(*Platanthera psycodes*)

The Fringed 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.**" She was going to attempt to germinate seeds the following winter. (Ed. note: The Fringed Gentian has been very difficult to maintain in the Garden. It has been tried a number of times, all unsuccessful in the long run). *Gentiana crinita* became, in later years, an emblem of The Friends of The Wild Flower Garden when The Friends named their newsletter *The Fringed Gentian*TM.

Some of the plants Martha planted during the fall months are still in the Garden today include: Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Blue Aster.

A large *Polyporus fronds* mushroom appeared on September 1st at the base of a large oak and she took it the state fair where it weight 9 lbs. (The following year a 25 pound'er would be produced at the same tree).

Martha's planting in the Garden totaled 996 plants during 1934 including, in October, 36 small Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus canadensis*), obtained from New Ulm. She heeled them in for transplanting the following spring. A number of these trees still are present in the Woodland Garden today. Note: 25 years earlier, Eloise Butler had also planted some Kentucky Coffeetree.

In her Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated November 27, 1934, Martha reported that the total plantings for the year comprised 97 species representing 67 genera and 39 families. Martha closed the Garden on Sunday September 30th amid beautiful weather and bright fall foliage.



Smaller Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis virgata*) Photo ©Hugh H. Iltis Wisconsin Flora



Fringed Gentian (*Gentiana crinita*). Photo by Martha Crone, Sept. 25, 1950

Daily temperatures in October and November were above average, but with good precipitation through the end of the year. Snow depth in December averaged about 6 inches.

Historical photo at top of page 27 - 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; Board of Park Commissioners 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.*

NOTES:

Note 1: Martha was appointed "temporary" Curator in April 1933 to work until October 1st, 1933 for \$60 per month. (Letter of Superintendent Theodore Wirth to the Board of Park Commissioners dated April 18, 1933). This was confirmed in 1936 and 1938 by the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission that her position was "temporary Curator" at the same rate of pay. It was not until April 4, 1940 that the position was confirmed permanent.

2: Letter from Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone posted from Isle Royal, August 1934, Martha Crone collection, Minnesota Historical Society.

3: Mr. Burgess refers to Gerald H. Burgess who was a real friend of the Garden who sourced plants for Martha Crone for a number of years in the 1930s. He was active in many associations and owner of Panama Carbon Co. He passed away on April 29, 1938 and in 1986 a memorial fountain was erected just inside the Garden front gate, in honor of him and his wife Louise. When the Martha Crone Shelter was built, Louise had provided the Friends with the first Book of Memorials that was kept in the Shelter.



1935

Winter 1934/1935

1935 was Martha Crone's 3rd year in charge of the Garden, which now began its 29th year.

While Garden Curator Martha Crone was busy with other things in her life, the Garden was closed for the winter season, but unlike the previous winter, the resting plants were blanketed with snow from December 1st, 1934 until almost the end of February. At the end of December, 1934 there was six inches of snow cover which increased to 15 inches by the end of January, all due to heavy snows in early December and the first half of January. Following the snow there was a deep cold snap in the last half of January with temperatures reaching the minus 20s several days and minus 31 degrees one night. Early February, however, was warmer than average, melting the snow cover, but there were several significant snow falls in March and April with last being three inches on May 1st. The ample precipitation and warmer temperatures would result in an early bloom of the first spring plants in the Garden. Martha's position this year would continue be "temporary" Curator.



Men sitting on the boulder that has the Eloise Butler Memorial Tablet, 1935,

Spring 1935

Martha Crone Opened the Garden for the season on April 1st and noted that many birds were already present in the Garden and the pond was ice free. She found patches of Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*) in bloom with one patch having over 70 blossoms, but it began to snow and soon all were snowed under. By April 4th the pond had 1/2" of ice and it snowed six inches that day. Like many spring seasons, it melted the next day and heavy rains occurred on the 11th with frost at night.

On April 14, she planted 15 Pasque Flowers (*Anemone patens*) that came from a source in Fridley and also noted the presence of Myrtle Warblers in the Garden. The weather was just not cooperative as the temperature plunged 40 degrees that day to a low of 22. But still the Bloodroots bloomed. The next day was bitter cold, 16 degrees, and now there was 3/4" of ice on the pond. The Snow Trilliums didn't mind and were still in bloom.

On the 22nd she transplanted the 36 small Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) that had been acquired the previous fall and heeled in over the winter.

May began with several inches of snow, the last significant snowfall of the spring. By May 4th she noted a bluebird nesting in the nesting box next to the office. Her May plantings included some plants she had not previously planted in the Garden, but Eloise Butler had done so previously:

- *Panax quinquefolius*; American Ginseng "M.C.". (Eloise Butler first planted this in 1907).
- *Sedum purpurem*; (now *Hylotelephium telephium* ssp. *telephium*); Live-forever (Aaron's Rod) "M.C."; Extant. Eloise planted it in 1927 and possibly in 1910. Photo next page.
- *Carya cordiformis*; Bitternut Hickory; "M.C.". Extant. Eloise planted it in 1913.
- *Silene virginica*; Fire Pink; (M.C.). Eloise Butler first planted this in 1910; photo below.
- *Lithospermum canescens*; Hoary Puccoon "M.C." Eloise Butler first planted this in 1910.
- *Valeriana edulis*; Tobacco Root (Tap-rooted Valerian or Edible Valerian) "M.C." Eloise Butler first planted this in 1910. Photo at right.
- *Aspidium cristatum* (now *Dryopteris cristata*). Crested Shield Fern (Crested Wood Fern); "M.C." Extant. Indigenous to the Garden. Photo at right.

All are native to Minnesota except for the Fire Pink and Live-forever. She does not list her source for those two plants, but all the remainder are from local metro area sources.

On June 1st she planted some *Geum triflorum*, which she called Purple Avens - a common name that is sometimes applied to *Geum triflorum* but more correctly belongs to the similar Water Avens, *G. rivale*. We believe she planted *G. triflorum* as Miss Butler had also established some of these plants years earlier. They are not a long-lived species if crowded. (Photo next page).



Tobacco Root (*Valeriana edulis*) Photo © Derek Anderson, Wisconsin Flora



Crested Shield Fern (*Dryopteris cristata*)

There were good rains in May and early June to help the plants along, ending a drought that had persisted during the early 1930s. Large quantities of morel mushrooms were found this spring.



Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)



Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*) Photo
©Kyle Steele, Wisconsin Flora



Live-forever (Aaron's Rod)
(*Hylotelephium telephium* ssp.
telephium)

Summer 1935

In June Martha obtained 24 clumps of Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*). [Old - *Cypripedium calceolus*] to plant on the 8th. Then on June 13, Gertrude Cram brought in 2 plants of Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) and after planting them Martha and Gertrude were held-up at gunpoint at 10:30 AM by two young men who appeared to be students and robbed them of \$7. A photo of Martha appeared in the *Minneapolis Star* newspaper holding her empty purse except for seven cents - just enough for streetcar fare home. The suspects, Carl Nelson of Minneapolis and Clifford Ballard of Montrose were apprehended. (1)

The Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium regina*) heralds the end of spring and beginning of summer and can bloom any time from May 31st to late June depending on the season's weather. Right after the Summer Solstice, Martha planted six new clumps. She did not specify the source. In July Martha secured various other types of plants from Taylor's Falls, the Gunflint Trail, Anoka, Askov Nursery, Stillwater, Marine-on-St. Croix. Included here were two blueberry bushes she planted on July 18th.

Here is a list of plantings for species which are no longer extant in the Garden that Martha planted for the first time in 1935. Most were previously introduced by Eloise except where noted.(all are native to Minnesota except where noted otherwise).

- *Maianthemum canadense*, Canadian Mayflower (False Lily-of-the-valley); "M.C.". New to the Garden. [Photo next page]



- *Arethusa bulbosa*, Dragon's Mouth, "M.C."; this is a most beautiful orchid. [Photo next pages]
- *Oxalis acetosella* (now *Oxalis montana*), Mountain Wood Sorrel (True Wood Sorrel); "M.C." Eloise Butler also planted this as early as 1908. [Photo below]
- *Trientalis americana* (now *Trientalis borealis*. ssp. *borealis*). Starflower; "M.C."; Eloise Butler also planted this as early as 1908. Still extant in the Quaking Bog west of the Garden.
- *Veronica serpyllifolia*, Thyme-leaf Speedwell.
- *Echium vulgare*, Viper's Bugloss (Blue-weed or Blue Devil); "M.C." This is the only non-native plant. It is an introduction to the state that has naturalized. New to the Garden. [Photo next page]



Canadian Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*).

By mid-August Martha noticed birds migrating south already. She saw Grinnell's Water Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Black and White Warbler, all on the 17th; Canada Warblers on the 26th and on September 1st - Chestnut-sided Warblers, Blue-headed Vireos and more Grinnell's Water Thrush (spelled "Grinnell's" in old books, some newer books use "Grinnell's"). Weather during summer was warmer than average with good rains.

Meanwhile, Gertrude Cram was up at Isle Royal collecting plants. Mrs. Cram wrote to Martha in a letter posted 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. [More of her letter in Note #2.]



Mountain Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis montana*); Photo ©Corey Raimond, Wisconsin Flora

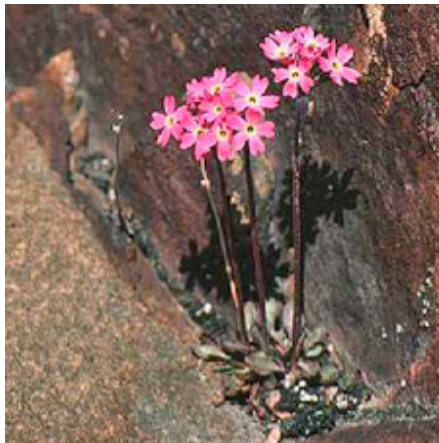
Martha identified the species of *Pinguicula* as *P. vulgaris*, the Common Butterwort. (photo next page). Fragrant fern is *Dryopteris fragrans*. Seven other plant varieties were in the box, none of which survive in the Garden today. These included the following species that Martha planted for the first time in 1935 although Eloise Butler had previously introduced all of them. (all are native to Minnesota except where noted otherwise):

- *Empetrum nigrum*, Black Crowberry
- *Listera convallarioides*, Broad-lipped Twayblade, [Photo next page]
- *Fatsia horrida* (now *Oplopanax horridus*). Devil's Club. Not native to Minnesota, but native to Isle Royal. [See source notes in Cram's letter, page 41]

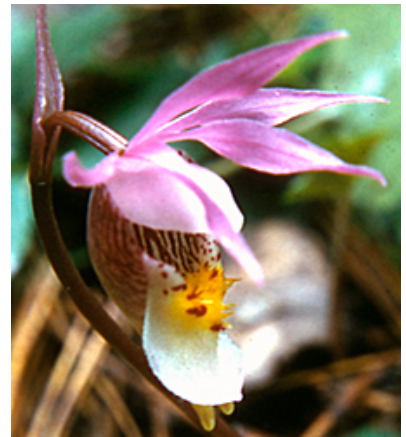
- *Primula mistassinica*. Dwarf Primrose (Mistassini primrose) (Bird's-eye Primrose) (Dwarf Canadian Primrose); "M.C.". [Photo next page]
- *Calypso bulbosa*; Fairy Slipper Orchid, "M.C.". [Photo next page]
- *Habenaria clavellata* (now *Platanthera clavellata*. Small Green Wood Orchis (Little Club-spur Orchis); "M.C.". (



Broad-lipped Twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*) Photo © R. K. Kupfer, Wisconsin Flora



Dwarf Primrose, (*Primula mistassinica*); Photo ©Asa Thoresen, Wisconsin Flora



Fairy Slipper Orchid, (*Calypso bulbosa*); Photo Martha Crone in the Garden Jun 1, 1954.



Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) Photo © Kitty Kohout, Wisconsin Flora



Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*). Emmett J. Judzewicz, Wisconsin Flora.



Dragon's Mouth, (*Arethusa bulbosa*). Photo © R.K. Kupfer, Wisconsin Flora

An earlier box had also arrived from Mrs. Cram. On August 15th Martha noted planting from Isle Royal a number of plants including 10 of the unusual plant - Broad-lipped Twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*). Twayblades are low growing orchids of moist woods and bogs with small flowers growing on a raceme above to egg-shaped leaves the appear midway up the stem. In Minnesota the only reported native population is in Cook county in the far Arrowhead. The plant has not survived in the Garden and in the wild in Minnesota it is listed on the "Special Concern" list of native plants. None of the above plants from Isle Royal are extant in the Garden.

Thus ended the summer adventures in the Garden.

Autumn 1935

As the birds migrated, Martha made planting notes in her log of species that she planted for the first time in 1935, although all were previously in the Garden. (all are native to Minnesota except where noted otherwise):

- *Kuhnia eupatorioides* (now *Brickellia eupatorioides* var. *corymbulosa*). False Boneset; "M.C."; from a source in Jordan, MN.
- *Liparis lilifolia*, Large Twayblade. Eloise Butler had first noted finding this plant in the Garden in 1910.
- *Psoralea argophylla* (now *Pedimelum argophyllum*); Silver-leaf (Silverleaf Indian Breadroot) (Silvery Scurf-pea); "M.C.". From Jordan, MN. Extant in the Garden. [Photo next page]
- *Botrychium virginianum*; Virginia Grape Fern (Rattlesnake Fern); "M.C.". From Askov, MN. [Photo next page]
- *Clintonia borealis*; Yellow Clintonia (Bluebead); "M.C.". From Askov, MN. Eloise Butler planted this numerous times beginning in 1907. [Photo next page]

The Large Twayblade, (*Liparis lilifolia*), planted on September 19th was a gift to the Garden. Unlike the Twayblades planted this past summer, this is a different genus. The main difference is that the leaves are basal instead of mid-stem. It also is native to Minnesota, but not endangered, and is found in the counties bordering the Mississippi river from Hennepin south to the Iowa border.

The big event of the fall was the discovery on September 1st of a large Hen of the Woods mushroom (*Polyphorus frondosus*) on a White Oak. These are edible mushrooms. (Spelling of the genus is found in older references as Martha spelled it and the newer is "Polyporus"). Martha took the specimen to the Mushroom



False Boneset (*Brickellia eupatorioides*)
Photo ©Merle R. Black, Wisconsin Flora



Large Twayblade, (*Liparis lilifolia*) (Photo © Merle R. Black, Wisconsin Flora.

Society meeting on the 23rd where it weighed in at 25 lbs - which is a good size, although they can reach 100 lbs. Martha Crone and her husband were active members of the Minnesota Mycological Society, Martha being Secretary and Dr. Crone being Vice President.

The Garden closed for the season on September 30th with 20 species of Asters in full bloom. Martha summed up the year by stating that

1,019 plants were set out in the reserve, comprising 87 species, representing 68 genera and 34 families. This includes 18 species of ferns. (3) (Ed. note: The Garden was referred to as the "Native Plant Reserve" from the early years of Eloise Butler through Ken Avery's tenure as gardener even though its' official name was "Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden" since 1929.)

Fall weather for the Garden was pleasant. Temperatures, while usually within seasonal averages or slightly above, were matched with adequate rainfall. November was dry but there were snowfalls in December.

At the end of 1935 Parks Superintendent Theodore Wirth retired. His assistant, C. (Christian) A. Bossen becomes Superintendent.



Virginia Grape Fern (Rattlesnake Fern), (*Botrychium virginianum*).
Photo ©Janice Stiefel, Wisconsin Flora



Silver-leaf (Silver Scurf-Pea), (*Pedimelum argophyllum*)



Yellow Clintonia (Bluebead); (*Clintonia borealis*), Photo ©Aaron Carlson, Wisconsin Flora.

Photo top of page 34: The old "office" of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in 1935. The men on the right are sitting on the boulder that has the Memorial Tablet to Eloise Butler. The men on the left are sitting on wooden settees that were replaced in 1960 with the current limestone benches. The area in the photo is now the open patio area in front of the current Martha Crone Visitors Shelter. Photo courtesy Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society.

NOTES:

Note 1: The photo of Martha appeared in the *Minneapolis Star* on June 14, 1935. Information on the suspects was reported on July 2 and July 13 in the same newspaper.

Note 2: Additional text from Gertrude Cram's letters:

I hope you receive the Devil's Club in sufficiently good condition to enable you to recognize it. The package was a flimsy one - there is never a box to be had here without reserving it weeks in advance - and I was not sure it would get through the mail. I put in two young plants in case you want to start a colony in your own yard or in the wild garden! It really is a handsome plant even if it is vicious.

The oxalis gave me a big thrill for I have been hunting it for three or four years. Miss Butler wanted some. We hunted through a mile of unbroken forest searching for it where Cooper lists it, but never set eyes on a single plant. You can imagine how I felt when I stumbled onto it a week ago while I was looking for a stand of Devil's Club which is on the same island. The latter I did not find but felt more than repaid for the search when I saw the other. We took a trip to Passage Island which is four miles out into the lake to get the Devil's Club. The second largest lighthouse on the Great Lakes is there and every now and then Mrs. Farmer goes out with her guests to see it, so I seized the opportunity.

Letter from Gertrude Cram to Mrs. Crone, posted from Rock Harbor Lodge, Isle Royal, Michigan. The Mrs. Farmer mentioned was the hostess of the Lodge.

Note 3: *Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners* dated November 4, 1935, submitted by Martha Crone.



1936

Winter 1935/1936

1936 was Martha Crone's 4th year in charge of the Garden as temporary Curator. The Garden began its 30th year. At the end of 1935 Minneapolis Parks Superintendent Theodore Wirth retired and his assistant, C. (Christian) A. Bossen began his first year as Superintendent. "Bossen Walk" at the Roberts Bird Sanctuary near Lake Harriet is named for him.

The Garden came into the new year with adequate snow cover for the plants and this was followed by large amounts of snow in the first three months of the year. Significant snowfalls included one of seven inches at the end of February and one of 8-1/2 inches at the end of March. Snow depth increased as the winter days waned with up to 16" of snow depth in early March. The temperatures were extremely cold in January and February with 36 consecutive days of sub-zero minimums including one day of -34 F in January. This was no indicator of the historic high temperatures to be reached six months later. The snow depth would begin to succumb to the sun in late March. Curator Martha Crone wrote in her annual report that this snow pack "brought about an ideal condition, resulting in a very fine display of blossoming plants during the spring months."(1)



Above and at top : The Garden "Office" in February 1936. Photo by Martha Crone.

Spring 1936

Martha opened the Garden for the season on a cold April 1st and noted that there was deep snow everywhere, several feet deep on some paths and with six inches covering the area of the Snow Trilliums (*Trillium nivale*). And the Garden remained cold and frozen until the last snow storm of the season passed on April 6th, bringing 2-1/2 inches of new snow. After that things began to warm up.

There was rain on the 8th and by the 10th visitors came to the Garden on the first good warm day when the temperatures reached 45 degrees.

Martha noted many birds arriving at the Garden even with the snow on the ground, including meadowlarks, which are not seen in the city any longer. By April 16th all the snow in the Garden had melted and the paths were drying out and the Snow Trilliums came into bloom.

Bloodroots and Hepaticas began to bloom on April 25th.

Many bird houses were erected in the Garden in 1936 and the process began on April 19th and 20th with the help of a Mr. Yelick. Martha noted what birds were nesting in the various houses and boxes that were scattered around the Garden. Blue birds were nesting near the Office, a Crested Flycatcher was nesting in a box on a Large-toothed Aspen, Wood Thrushes in a Prickly Ash, and young Cardinals were noticed in several places.

On April 14th she gave an instructional tour to a group of 18 Scout leaders. These people would later bring their own groups to the Garden and apparently these visits took a lot of her time as she made mention in her annual report to the Park Board that

the instruction extended to Scout Troops and their leaders has increased to such a great extent as to require much of the Curator's time.(1)



Adam and Eve, (*Aplectrum hyemale*)
Photo ©R\ K Kupfer, Wisconsin Flora

Martha began the year's planting efforts in May by planting Pasque Flowers (*Anemone patens* ssp. *multifida*) Sharplobe Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba* - now *Anemone americana*), [still extant], Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) [still extant], Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) [still extant] and Adam and Eve (*Aplectrum hyemale*) which is a most unusual orchid, so named because it usually has two connecting bulbs. It is native to many counties in the SE Quadrant of MN. (photo above). It is no longer in the Garden. Martha had previously planted it in 1933 and 1935, as did Eloise Butler in 1907, '08, '09 and '10.

Many warblers came through the Garden on the 9th and 10th of May including the Chestnut sided, Cape-May, Pine, Wilson's, Tennessee, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Canada and Blackburnian. Martha had an eye for birds.

Dr. Thomas Roberts (Author of *Birds of Minnesota*, (photo next page), a Dr. Kilgore, and W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the University of Minnesota Natural History Museum, were in the Garden on May 18th to conduct birding classes. Dr. Roberts had been doing this for years now. He was first noted in Eloise Butler's Garden log in 1914.

Martha's May and June plantings included some plants **she had not previously planted** in the Garden:

- *Cypripedium acaule*, Moccasin Flowers (Stemless Lady's-slipper) (M.C.). Native to the state. Eloise Butler planted many of these in the early years of the Garden beginning in 1907. (Photo below). [Not extant]
- *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, Ostrich Fern (M.C.), from her home garden. While this was the first time Martha planted the species, Eloise Butler planted it in the early years of the Garden. (Photo below. [Present in the Garden today]
- *Viola fimbriatula*, Ovate-leaved violet - (M.C.). Three plants from Taylor's Falls. This is the first time Martha used this name for a violet. It is actually the same as the Arrowleaf violet (*Viola sagittata* var. *ovata*) that she first planted in 1934 and 1935. Eloise Butler also planted in 1909 and 1910. [not extant]



University Professor Dr. Thomas S. Roberts (1931 photo). Roberts and other professors frequently brought their classes to the Garden for on-site study. MHS



Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium acaule*).



Ostrich Fern, (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

Martha loved ferns and in May in addition to the Ostrich Fern, she set out five others of the nine species she would plant in 1936 - Rattlesnake, Common Polypody, Purple Cliff Brake, Rusty Woodsia and Hayscented. Other plants put in this month included both Yellow Lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin* and *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*); and Bitternut Hickory trees (*Carya cordiformis*).

June included more plantings with emphasis on bog plants including Pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*), Tamaracks (*Larix laricina*). By mid-June the Blue Birds were nesting again in the same box.

There was adequate rainfall during the spring until the Summer Solstice. Then things would change. Temperatures started to rise above the normal averages in May and except for a few days of coolness in June, the summer would be utterly hot.

Summer 1936

On the first day of summer, the Showy-Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) came into bloom; this is the second latest date of bloom ever noted, matched in 1958. The latest was June 28, 1945. Here is a list of plantings for species no longer extant in the Garden that **Martha planted for the first time** (all are native to Minnesota except where noted otherwise):

- *Juniperus communis*, Ground Junipers (Common Juniper), (M.C.), from Cedar Forest (where Martha visited often and later bought property)
- *Lonicera caerulea* (now *Lonicera villosa*), Blue or Mt. Fly Honeysuckle, (M.C.). No source given - June 18. Photo at right.
- *Mitella nuda*, Naked Mitrewort (M.C.). No source given - June 18. Photo next page.
- *Cypripedium arietinum*, Ramshead Lady's-slippers, (M.C.), 24 plants from the Swamp at Cedar Forest. Photo next page and more about them in 1937 and 1938.
- *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, Small Cranberry, (M.C.), June 13, no source given. In 1908 Eloise Butler noted this plant in the Garden. It is native to Minnesota but there is no reference to it being present in Hennepin County in the later years. Photo at right
- *Habenaria lacera* (now *Platanthera lacera*), Ragged Orchis (Green Fringed Orchid), (M.C.), no source listed. Native to NE Quadrant of State. Photo next page
- *Hudsonia tomentosa*, Woolly Beach Heather (Poverty Grass), (M.C.). Native to scattered counties. On Martha's 1951 census list she names it False Heather. Photo next page.



Mountain Fly Honeysuckle (*Lonicera villosa*); Photo ©Joanne Kline, Wisconsin Flora



Small Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*). Photo ©Susan McDougall, Wisconsin Flora

There was no rain during the summer from mid June until August 15th. July would become the hottest July in local recorded history with the highest temperature in recorded history of 107.8 degrees on July 14th. Altogether there were 14 days of temperatures at 100

degrees and above during July. Martha planted a few species but she noted on July 28th that everything was dried up and yet it would be another 18 days before it would rain. There would be several good rainfalls in August after the half inch on August 15th, but from September through the end of the year, moisture would once again be slight.

By August 16th, Martha noticed birds migrating already. She saw Grinnell's Water Thrush, and the Black and White Warblers passing through the Garden.

Gertrude Cram was once again vacationing on Isle Royal and collecting plants and mailing them to Martha. On August 20th Martha recorded planting the following that she received from Gertrude (all had been planted in the Garden in previous years):

Lesser Rattlesnake Plantain, (*Goodyera repens*);
Downy Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*),
Rattlesnake Plantain, (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)
Twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*),
Creeping Snowberry, (*Gaultheria hispidula*),
American Rock-brake fern (*Cryptogramma acrostichoides*),
Small Green Wood Orchis (*Platanthera clavellata*) and
Calypso (*Calypso Bulbosa*) - this is the Fairy Slipper Orchid, a beautiful orchid that is on the "Threatened" list in Wisconsin. Native to MN in the NE Quadrant.



Woolly Beach Heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*). Photo ©Paul Drobot, Wisconsin Flora.

Later in the month she received from Gertrude - Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) and Dwarf Primrose (*Primula mistassinica*) which is native to Minnesota. The Butterwort was first found on Isle Royal after several years of searching by Gertrude and first sent to Martha in 1935. None of these plants from Isle Royal are extant today.



Naked Miterwort (*Mitella nuda*).
Photo ©Arthur Meeks, Wisconsin Flora.



Ramshead Lady-slipper (*Cypripedium arietinum*) Photo by Martha Crone in the Garden June 9, 1954



Ragged Orchis (Green Fringed Orchid), (*Platanthera lacera*). Photo ©Merle R. Black, Wisconsin Flora.

Additional plants procured in the summer from various sources were Showy Lady's-slipper into a new colony in the lower enclosure (the Mallard Pool area), Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Pale Corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*) and Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*) This is a Catchfly type plant, pretty color. Endangered in Wisconsin.



Obedient Plant, (*Physostegia virginiana*). Photo G D Bebeau



Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*). Photo G D Bebeau



Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*). Photo G D Bebeau

Autumn 1936

On the 15th of September Martha noted the largest Warbler wave that she had ever witnessed. Once again the large White Oak produced a **Hen of the Woods** mushroom (*Polyporus frondosus*), but it was only six pounds, much smaller than the 25 pounder of 1935. These are edible mushrooms.

Martha and her husband Bill were active members of the Minnesota Mycological Society, Martha being Secretary and Dr. Crone being Vice President. In addition to the *Polyporus*, Martha listed nine other mushroom species found in the Garden in 1936.

As the birds migrated, Martha made planting notes in her log of **species that she planted for the first time** (all are native to Minnesota except where noted otherwise):

- *Aster tradescanti* (now *Symphyotrichum ontarionis*), Bottomland aster (Ontario Aster); (M.C.), 3 plants on Oct 14, no source - This and the Crookedstem Aster, below, were the last plantings of the year. [Present in the Garden today]
- *Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*, Crookedstem Aster, (M.C.), (Martha did not list a botanical name). 3 plants, no source listed. Now rare in Minnesota. Known only in 5 SE Corner counties. Photo next page.
- *Gentiana puberulenta*, Downy Gentian (M.C.),. Photo at right.

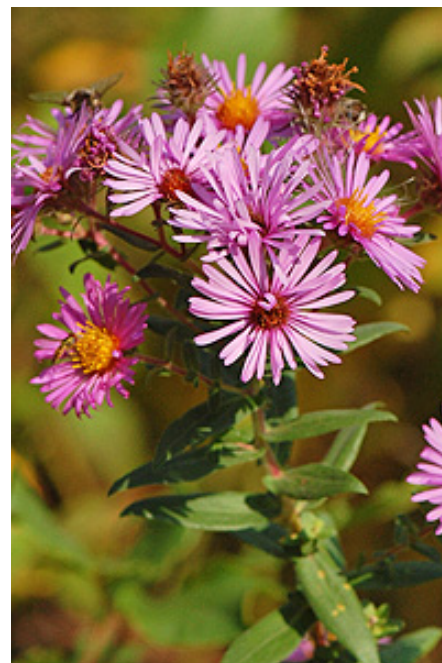


Downy Gentian, (*Gentiana puberulenta*)

- *Aster hirsuticaulis* (now *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum*), Hairy Stemmed Aster - Calico Aster; (M.C.). Native. One plant from Stillwater. [Present in the Garden today]
- *Habenaria blephariglottis* (now *Platanthera blephariglottis* var. *blephariglottis*), White Fringed Orchid. This plant is not considered native to Minnesota by the standard resources but Martha reported finding it growing along Cedar Creek near what became the Crone property at Cedar Swamp. She moved it into the Garden on Sept. 3rd.
- *Dryopteris goldiana*, Goldie's Woodfern. (M.C.). Native to only 9 counties. Considered rare in Minnesota. Largest of the shield ferns. Six plants on Oct. 2nd. Source not listed. Photo below. [Present in the Garden today]

Following the rain in late August, Martha set out a large quantity of plants including Bottle Gentian, Rose colored New England Aster (photo right), Silky Aster (Western Silver Aster), several species of Blazing star, Aromatic Aster, Yews, Tamarack and White Cedar. More ferns were planted bringing the year's species count of ferns to nine.

Her last recorded log entry for 1936 was that she planted seeds of Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*) on October 30th. That would be one of several attempts to establish this plant in the Garden, none successful in the long run. Presumably, the Garden closed on the normal date of September 30th.



New England Aster (rose colored)
(*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*).
Photo G D Bebeau



Goldie's Woodfern, (*Dryopteris goldiana*).



Crookedstem Aster, (*Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*); Photo ©Emmett J. Judziewicz, Wisconsin Flora.



Ontario Aster, (*Symphyotrichum ontarionis*)

Martha summed up the year by stating in her annual report that she set out 682 plants comprising 77 species, representing 54 genera and 27 families. In addition to these, 20 kinds of seeds were sown.

26 bird houses had been set and numerous groups had visited the Garden. She made certain to include a statement on the value of the Garden by writing

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. (1)

Fall weather for the Garden was pleasant. Temperatures were back within seasonal averages but there was little rainfall. November and December were mostly dry and there was no remaining snow cover at the end of year - quite a change from the previous winter and thus ended a year of great temperature contrast between winter and summer. It was not the driest year on record - that record belongs to 1910.

On December 31, 1936 the Crones had completed the purchase of 40 acres of property at Cedar Creek Forrest 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.and they would spend time in 1937 planning the building of a cabin on the property.

Photo top of page 42: The Garden "Office" in February 1936. Photo by Martha Crone

Notes:

Note 1: *Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners* dated November 15, 1936, submitted by Martha Crone



1937

Winter 1936/1937

1937 was Martha Crone's 5th year in charge of the Garden as temporary curator. The Garden began its 31st year.

The Garden came into the new year with adequate snow cover for the plants and this was followed by regular snowfalls in the first three months of the year. Significant snowfalls included one of over five inches at the end of March and one over 3 inches at the beginning of April. Snow depth increased as the winter days waned with up to 13 inches of snow depth in mid February. Unlike the previous year, the temperatures were not extremely cold in January and February and there was a spike up into the '50s in early March.

On December 31, 1936 the Crones had completed the purchase of property at Cedar Creek Forrest near East Bethel, MN and would spend time in 1937 planning the building of a cabin on the property.

Spring 1937

Martha opened the Garden on April 1st, she noted in her log

"Deep snow and ice in sheltered places. Birds lacking." On April 3rd she noted "Heavy snow storm. Garden open all day."

That was last significant snowfall. On April 8th she began to record the appearance of birds starting with goldfinch, fox sparrow, herring gull, ring-billed gull, killdeer, western and eastern meadowlark and yellow-bellied sapsucker. On April 13th, the Snow trillium was in bud ready to open.

On May 1st she began her planting for the season with a dozen Silvery Spleenwort (*Asplenium thelypteroides* - now - *Deparia acrostichoides*) [photo at end of text] and a dozen Adam & Eve orchids (*Aplectrum hyemale*). Birds continue to occupy her notes throughout May. Mid-May was cloudy and rainy but waves of warblers came through. Mr. Yelick put up a new birdhouse for the Crested Flycatcher in a dead poplar on the 9th and on the 10th she recorded the first Mosquito. Many school classes came through the Garden in mid-May.

Below: A group of men, who appear to be Park officials as one is in uniform, in the summer of 1937 on the tarvia path separating the lower or northern enclosure (on the left side) from the southern enclosure. The fencing is of 1924 vintage most of which Eloise Butler had erected that year. The northern enclosure was the north meadow now just beyond the Garden's back fence. At the time it housed Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool and many orchids. The northern enclosure was abandoned by 1944. Photo from Martha Crone Collection at MHS.



Ram's head Lady-slipper
(*Cypripedium arietinum*) Photo from a Kodachrome taken in the Garden by Martha Crone on June 9, 1954.

On May 23, Dr. Roberts (Roberts, Thomas Sadler, 1858-1946, who wrote *Birds of Minnesota*) was in the Garden to examine the clump of 24 Ram's-head Lady-slippers that Martha had transplanted from Cedar Forest the previous summer. The clump had 30 blooms. He noted it the finest clump he had ever seen.

Martha noted in her report to the Board of Park Commissioners (1), the reestablishment of the plant after many years of failed effort. She also mentioned success with Calypso (*Calypso borealis* - usually categorized as *Calypso bulbosa*) and commonly known as the Fairy Slipper Orchid, a most beautiful small orchid. [photo page 50 at top left.]

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. He also took with him a specimen of a crab apple on the west path to be identified. It came back as a hybrid between *Malus prunifolia*, the plum-leaved crab and *Malus baccata*, the Siberian Crab. A copy of his letter is on the website. This could very well be the same crabapple that was listed as a

Minneapolis Heritage Tree by Martha's successor, Ken Avery, and Park Board Foreman of Horticulture, Dan Hasty in 1985. By that time it was 36 feet high with a trunk of 45 inches circumference.

The first hot day of the spring was May 28 with a temperature of 82 degrees. A nest with 15 pheasant eggs was found and 12 hatched on June 17th.

Martha's May and June plantings included two plants she had not previously planted in the Garden:

- *Asplenium augustifolium* (now *Diplazium pycnocarpon*) Glade Fern (Narrow-leaved Spleenwort) photo below
- *Comandra umbellata*, Bastard Toadflax Extant.

Spring weather was finally back into an average seasonal track as to temperature and rainfall after the disastrous summer of 1936.



Silvery Spleenwort (*Deparia acrostichoides*). Photo ©G D Bebeau



Glade Fern (*Asplenium augustifolium*). Photo ©G D Bebeau

Summer 1937

The Showy lady's slipper bloomed on June 17th. Martha Crone recorded the fledging of five bluebirds on July 2 from their nest west of the office. She noted there was only 15 minutes between the first and last leaving the nest and all flew perfectly. By August 15 she was recording warblers showing up for their migration. For Hummingbirds, she set up 3 bottles on the windows of the office filled with sugar water, 8 parts to 1. Today 4 to 1 is usually recommended.

Her sources for plants in the summer were Twin Lake, Cedar Swamp, the North Shore and St. Croix. She planted many species already in the Garden and the following first time plants (First time noted in her garden log):

Lycopodium obscurum, Rare Club Moss, from the North Shore near Knife River

Pyrola asarifolia, Liver-leaf Wintergreen, from the North Shore near Knife River. The plant is indigenous to the Garden.

Neither plant is present today, nor had they survived to the time of her 1951 Garden Census.

In her Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners she tallied the many groups that arrived for tours during the summer, which included school classes, Boy Scouts, Girl

Scouts, Scout Leaders, Garden Clubs and various other Clubs. (1) A lecture was given on July 29 for the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club given at the home of Mrs. Russell Bennett on Lake Minnetonka. On June 10 she gave a tour of the Garden to members of the Minnesota Garden Flower Society following their picnic lunch in Glenwood Park. Back on May 3rd she have given a tour to the Little Garden Club of Minnetonka. (2)

The July 29 talk and the May 3rd tour may have been the introduction to the Wildflower Garden for the two Garden Clubs. In later years they donated to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, first in 1955 both clubs donated for the development of the Fern Glen, then in 1969 the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club donated for the new Garden shelter and made undesigned donations in later year Russell Bennett became a founding director of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in 1952

Office Repairs: During the warm months the Garden office was repainted inside and outside and repairs were made to the roof.(3)

The summer weather was warmer that the seasonal norms but nothing like the summer of 1936, plus there were rains during the summer months, unlike a year previous when there was no rain for two months and record high temperatures.

Autumn 1937

Martha Crone received plants from Mrs. Cram, who was up at Isle Royal, which Martha planted on September 2nd. Ten Calypso (*Calypso bulbosa*) and 8 Menzies Rattlesnake Plantain (*Epipactis decipiens* - now - *Goodyera oblongifolia* - the Western Rattlesnake Plantain). This last plant is native to Isle Royal but not to Minnesota [photo on next page].

On Sept. 12th the Frondosa mushroom was growing but was destroyed by squirrels days later. A Grinnell's Water Thrush was brought in injured, but soon died. The university determined it has a broken breast bone.



Liver-leaf Wintergreen (*Pyrola asarifolia*) Photo ©Arthur Meeks, Wisconsin Flora



Rare Club Moss (*Lycopodium obscurum*); Photo ©Aaron Carlson, Wisconsin Flora.

Fall plantings - Martha's sources for some plants in the fall were Mrs. Cram at Isle Royal and Cedar Swamp, but the source of most plantings was not mentioned.

She planted many species already in the Garden and the following first-time-for-her plants (First time noted in her garden log, but previously in the Garden):

Aster longifolius (now *Symphyotrichum robynsianum*) Long-leaved Smooth Aster. Native. [Photo below]

Aster lowrieanus, Lowries Aster. Her listed species was not considered native and today, not even considered a separate species, but rather the native aster, the Common Blue Wood or Heart-leaved Aster, *Symphyotrichum cordifolium*, and that may be what was planted.

Penstemon laevigatus var. *digitalis* (now *Penstemon digitalis*) White Beard-Tongue (Foxglove Beardtongue). Native. Extant.

Aster divaricatus (now- *Eurybia divaricata*), White Wood Aste. Not native. Eloise Butler has originally planted this species in 1911 from plants from Gillett's Nursery in Southwick, MA. Extant.

Other extant plants added in the fall were:

Winterberry, Cardinal Flower, Sky Blue Aster, Yellow Lady's-slipper, Smooth Aster, Virginia Mountain Mint, Jack-in-the-pulpit.



Menzies (or Western) Rattlesnake Plantain, (*Goodyera oblongifolia*) Photo ©R. A. Kupher. Wisconsin Flora



Long-leaved Aster; (*Symphyotrichum robynsianum*) Photo ©Sue Crispin, Wisconsin Flora

Martha's last noted activity was planting some asters in the first days of October.

During the Garden season, Martha would receive by mail many specimens of plants and mushrooms for her to identify. She would dutifully correspond with the senders of these specimens even though it took up a great deal of her time.

Her report for the year to the Board of Park Commissioners stated that

“922 plants had been set out, comprising 53 species, representing 39 genera and 22 families”.

Her final plea to the Commissioners was for a new fence to enclose the Garden as the old was of little service. In 1938 some new fencing was added by workers of the WPA (Works Progress Administration).

Weather in the fall was a little warmer than average until November when it turned cooler than average. Snowfall was extremely light in November and December, ending the year with minimal snow cover for the plants.

Historical photo at top of page 50: (Left) Calypso, *Calypso bulbosa*, on June 1, 1954. (Right) Ram's-head Lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium arietinum*, on June 9, 1954. Both photos from Kodachromes taken by Martha Crone

Notes:

Note 1: *Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners* dated December 10, 1937, submitted by Martha Crone.

Note 2: Minnetonka Club reported in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* July 31, 1937. Flower Society reported June 5 and 8, 1937, same paper. Little Garden Club tour announcement, April 4, 1937, same paper.

Note 3: *The Story of W.P.A. in the Minneapolis Parks, Parkways and Playgrounds - 1937*



1938

Winter 1937/1938

1938 was Martha Crone's 6th year in charge of the Garden as temporary curator. The Garden began its 32nd year.

The Garden came into the new year with little snow cover for the plants. There were small snowfalls up through mid-March but in early and late February there was little snow cover and after March 10th there were no more snowfalls. Temperatures were above normal from mid-March into early April. The snow trilliums were already blooming in March.

During the winter months Martha Crone was actively involved at the Minneapolis Public Library Science Museum and, with husband William, in the Minnesota Mycological Society. Martha was secretary of the Society from 1926 to 1943. Her position this year at the Garden would continue be "temporary" Curator.



The intersection of Wayzata Blvd. (running l to r) and Glenwood Parkway in 1936 near the Wild Flower Garden. In later years the intersection was modified several times, with I-394 being the last. Photo by Walter Dahlberg.

Spring 1938

Martha Crone opened the Garden on April 1st, she noted in her log:

Turned very cold after three weeks of unusual warm weather, not a trace of ice or snow anywhere. In spite of present cold spell the season is advanced about 10 days.

Many Mourning Cloak Butterflies were noted. She later reported that:

The opening day April 1st found the Dwarf or Snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) in full bloom, carpeting the ground. (Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners) (1)

By April 10 the Hepaticas were in bloom and on the 11th it was warm enough to open the window of the office.

She was a great “birder” and her log is filled with her notes on bird sightings including one of the blue bird building a nest just west of the office. Her report of Virgin’s Bower blooming on May 2nd is an

extremely early date for that plant. Waves of warblers were reported moving through for three days prior to May 20th. By May 30th, the mosquitoes were “vicious” and 2 young owls had appeared on a branch of a large White Oak.

On Thursday morning, May 12 she discovered that the office had been broken into either Wednesday night or Tuesday night. (On Wednesdays the Garden was closed and Martha was not present, as that was her only day of the week off work). Thieves had broken the hasp and taken the police lock but they could not get past a second lock, so they broke a screen, raised a window and got in, taking hatchets, an ax, knife, nails, pliers and miscel. other stuff.

On April 21st Martha began her first planting of the season by putting in 22 Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) near the office. Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) was added on May 23. She actually planted many plants from seed and over 500 obtained elsewhere during the season but most of the planting occurred in

late summer and early autumn.

The 24 Ram's Head Lady's-slippers that Martha transplanted from Cedar Creek to the Garden in 1936, died out this year from an excess of water. This was particularly dis-heartening because in 1937 Martha had noted in her report to the Board of Park Commissioners, the reestablishment of the plant after many years of failed effort. Now, again, a failed effort.

Weather: Aside from the abnormal warm temperatures in March and part of April, May was average with good rains during the spring season.



Snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*).
Historical photo from a Kodachrome
by Martha Crone on April 19, 1952,



Mourning Cloak Butterfly, Photo G D
Bebeau

Summer 1938

The Showy lady's slipper bloomed on June 15th. Martha recorded a male hummingbird doing the "pendulum swing" courtship ritual over several days for a female right near the office. This is an aerial dance where the male bird moves in an arc in front of the female, wings buzzing, to show off his control. She would see this again later in the summer.

Many entries in Martha's summer Garden log concern birds. Back in May the Bluebirds west of the office were feeding their young. On June 8 the young left the nest and on June 27 the adults were building a nest for a second brood. By July 18 they were incubating a second brood which left the nest on Aug. 3. In the mean time the Wood thrushes hatched a brood on June 18. On June 13 she noted a Black-billed Cuckoo. By early August she noticed the first migrants coming through and at the end of August the warblers started arriving.

In her annual report to the Park Board, 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. (1)

In this remark she echoes the thoughts of Eloise Butler 25 years earlier in her annual report to the Park Board.

Her sources for plants in the summer were all from places in Minnesota. She planted many species already in the Garden and the following first-time-for-her plants (First time noted in her garden log). Two are shown here.

- *Spiranthes cernua*, Nodding Lady's Tresses from Rice Street, St. Paul. Native; Eloise Butler first planted it in 1909.
- *Spiranthes beckii* (now *Spiranthes lacera*), Northern Slender Lady's Tresses. Native; from Virginia Minnesota.
- *Liatris pycnostachya*, Prairie Blazing Star. Native, extant; Eloise Butler first planted this in 1907.
- *Allium canadense*, Wild Garlic. Native, extant.

The last two plants are present today, Neither orchid is but *S. cernua* did survive to the time of her 1951 Garden Census.

During the early summer, a representative of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture visited the Garden to collect seeds. Martha received a



Nodding Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*); Photo ©Merle R. Black, Wisconsin Flora



Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*). Photo ©G D Bebeau

thank-you letter from the Lake States Experiment Station for letting them collect tree seeds and they also sent back seeds of the red and white pines with instructions for her on planting them. (2).

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. (1)

Twenty-five years later, Gardener Ken Avery would record in his report to the Park Board (1963) comments about the usefulness of these school visits.

The summer weather was within the seasonal norms with precipitation close to normal. Martha wrote that:

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. (1)

On December 31st, 1936, the Crone's had purchased 40 acres in the area of Cedar Creek Forest. 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 Bethel and then carried them through the swamp to reach the dry land. Log bridges over the wet areas were not finished until 1941. On September 3rd, they discovered the cabin had been broken into and all there inside possessions were stolen.

Autumn 1938

Ever being the bird watcher, many of Curator Martha Crone's log entries for the autumn concerned the bird migration. It is probably well known to us now that the numbers of birds in the city is less than in those earlier years in the Garden, for when she writes about wave after wave of migrating birds, especially warblers, and she can note the time of day of largest wave, we realize that we don't see these large migrations today.



Northern Blazing Star, (*Liatris scariosa*).
Photo ©G D Bebeau



In the center of this photo of Cedar Forest is the knoll where the Crone's had their cabin.

Temperatures in early autumn were well above normal. On September 23 she notes "**Cicadas are still singing since the weather turned warmer. 89 degrees.**" The weather would stay warm and dry until late December when there would be a severe cold snap at the end of the month, but still dry.

During the summer the southern part of the Garden was surrounded by a new fence which was greatly appreciated by Martha and well received by the public. The old fence dated back to 1924 and only contained a portion of the Garden. Martha had made a plea for a new fence in her 1937 report to the Park Board. Although some records state that 1,900 linear feet were installed that is hardly enough to enclose about 5-1/2 acres. 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.(3) The existing wire mesh fence (2020) is presumably the remaining parts of the one erected in 1938. Clinton Odell paid costs to put in the fence. (3a) The two main gates have been replaced with sturdier and more impressive designs in 1990 and 1995 and fencing near the gates replaced with wrought iron.

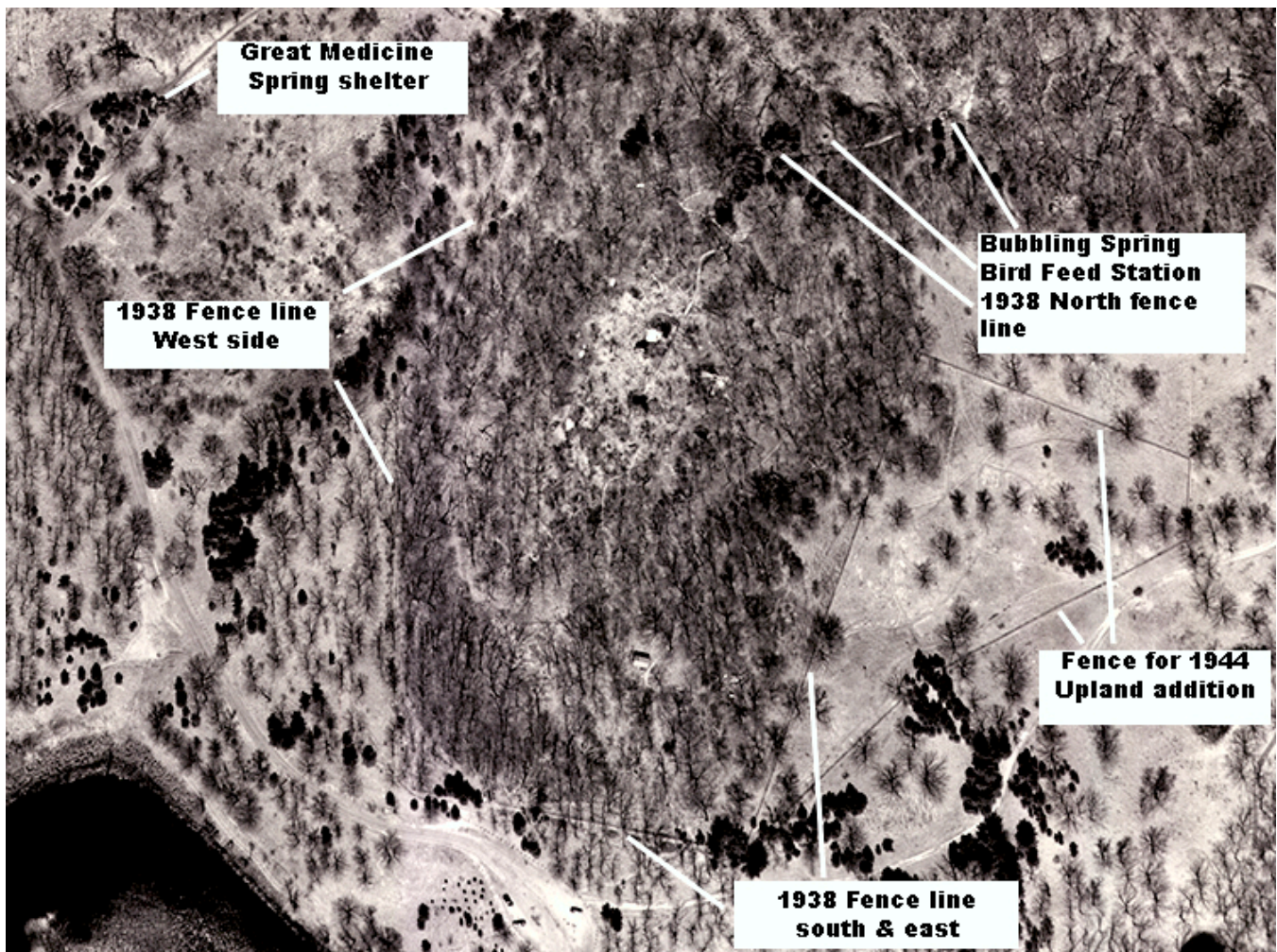


1938 photo of a portion of the completed wire link fence around the Garden. Photo by Walter B. Dahlberg.

Martha noted in January of 1939 (4) 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. The "lower enclosure" would be the same area Eloise Butler called the "north enclosure," as that is the north meadow area of lower elevation. (details about Garden fencing over the years are in the appendix.)

The area covered by the fence is verified by aerial photos from late 1938 which show a new fence, not seen in 1937 photos, highlighted by a snow line, enclosing what was then the Garden Martha Crone tended, about 9 or 10 acres - that is the portion south of the tarvia path - which was the southern part of Eloise Butler's 25 acres which had also included the northern meadow and adjacent areas. (see photos on next page and page 63.)

Below: 1947 aerial photo of the Garden area showing main features of the area and the 1938 fence, the later 1944 upland addition and other key features. North is up. The Garden office is visible in lower center and Birch Pond in the lower left. It is probably April as there is still some ice on Birch Pond and a few cars in the Garden parking lot. Photo Courtesy University of Minnesota.



Martha recorded that:

Hundreds of plants were set out that had been propagated from seed, in addition to 500 plants obtained elsewhere thru efforts of the curator. All plants were labeled during their blooming period. (note 1) (which must have been quite a chore).

Martha planted many species already in the Garden and the following first-time-for-her plants (First time noted in her garden log):

- *Hydrastis canadensis*, Goldenseal ,(M.C.). Native, extant; Eloise Butler had first planted this in 1910 and 1912. (photo next page)
- *Liatris scariosa* (now *Liatris scariosa* var *novae-angliae*), Northern Blazing Star. Not Native, extant; Eloise Butler had planted this numerous times.
- *Carya glabra*, Pignut Hickory. Native, extant.

Other extant plants that she added to stocks already existing were:

Smooth Aster, Panicked Aster, Many-flowered Aster, Sky-blue aster, Silky Aster, Jack-in-the-pulpit and Skunk Cabbage.

The Mushroom Society held a show on September 22 at the Curtis Hotel and Martha brought in a huge puffball, presumably from the Garden, that was pictured in the *Tribune* the following day.

Her last noted activity on September 30, the day the Garden closed, was about how many asters were blooming. She also said the Interrupted Fern hillside looked as beautiful as it did in May. Normally the Interrupted Ferns die back in late summer and the ground is bare. Her final comment in her report for the year to the Board of Park Commissioners stated that:

The Reserve closed September 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 October 15th, so that visitors may enjoy the fall beauties.



Goldenseal, (*Hydrastis canadensis*) Photo
©G D Bebeau

Happily, that request was granted in 1939 and October 15th became the closing date for some years to come until it was further extended to October 31st in 1947.

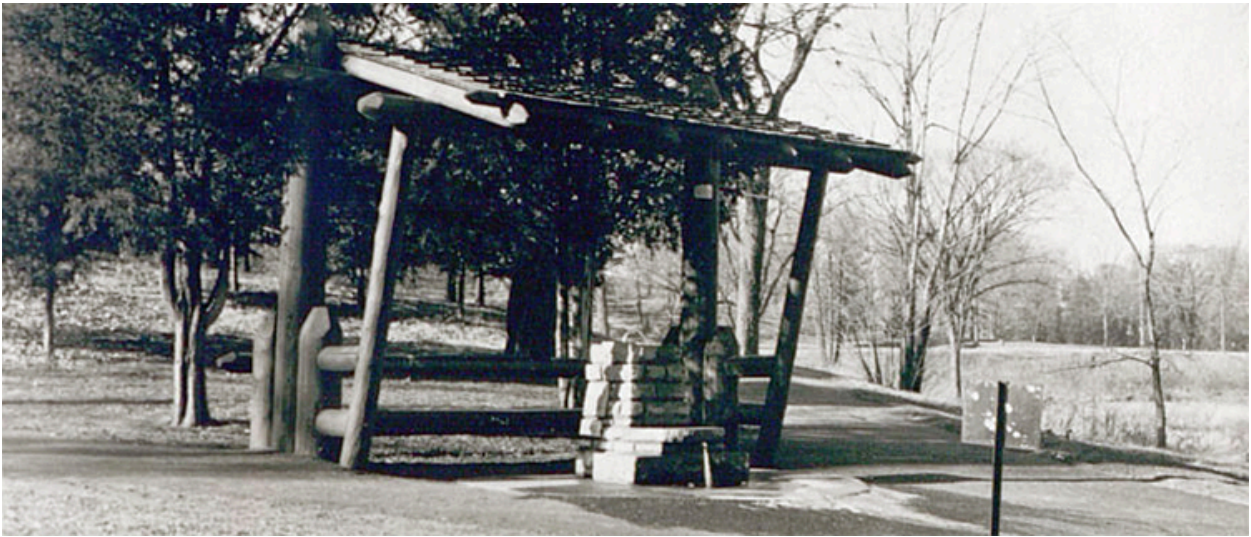
Historical photo at top of page 56: This is Bassett's Creek which flows north and east of the Garden through Glenwood Park (now Wirth Park). The scene is from the summer of 1937 at the site of the old Fruen Mill and shows the rapids and channel retaining walls just completed by a WPA crew. Photo is by Walter Dahlberg from *The Story of W.P.A. in the Minneapolis Parks, Parkways and Playgrounds, for 1938*.

Notes:

- (1) Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated December 10, 1938.
- (2) Letter dated June 14, 1938 from Raphael Zon, director of USDA Lake States Experiment Station
- (3) *The Story of W.P.A. in the Minneapolis Parks, Parkways and Playgrounds, for 1938*, Minneapolis, Minnesota published by the Park Board in 1939
- (3a) *Minneapolis Tribune* May 12, 1949
- (4) Martha Crone's Diary - January 18, 1939.

Below: An overall annotated view of the Garden area in Wirth Park in 1938. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota





1939

Winter 1938/1939

1939 was Martha Crone's 7th year in charge of the Garden as temporary curator. The Garden began its 33rd year.

In 1938 the Crones had constructed a basic cabin on their newly acquired property in the area of Cedar Creek Forest. During the winter months of 1938-39 they went to "the woods" to enjoy the wild area and do what winter work they could on finishing the interior of the cabin, taking along a kerosene stove for heat.

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." (1) This was either a replacement for Eloise Butler's 1924 fence or a supplement. See fencing details in the Fencing Article, page 191.

The weather of late 1938 was warm and dry until late December when there would be a severe cold snap at the end of the month, but still dry. January was above average in temperature and February was below average. There was significant snowfall after the first of the new year, such that snowfall for the winter was right on average.

On March 30, she and husband Bill went to the Garden in late afternoon to check things out. She reported the gate was slightly frozen but they chipped it out. All the snow was gone. Everything else was in good shape and ready for opening day on April 1st. (1)

The Garden was re-named in 1929 as the "Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden," in honor of its first curator. Up until 1938 Martha referred to the Garden as the "Native Plant Reserve," sometimes prefacing it with "Eloise Butler." In 1939 she added the words "and Bird Sanctuary" but then dropped those words in later years. (2)



The WPA signature on the 1939 stonework of Bubbling Spring in the Garden's north meadow.

Martha's (and Eloise Butler's) friend Gertrude Cram was spending the year in Europe at the American School in Athens. This would preclude any more plants coming to Martha in the fall from Isle Royal as was the case in many previous years. But 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?

Another friend of Martha's and a former pupil of Eloise Butler's, Edith Schussler [2nd from left in photo at right], 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." Now as you gather welcoming each other and no doubt pausing a moment in memory of our dear old friend, who loved us all, Mr. Van Wyche, please remember the Schusslers too, gather there in thought.



Edith Schussler is 2nd from left. The others are l to r: Mary Meeker, Martha Crone, Louisa Healy. Photo taken at Eloise Butler's 80th birthday party, Aug. 3, 1931.

Mr. Van Wyche was a source of some plants in the days of the early Garden.

Spring 1939

Martha Crone opened the Garden on April 1st, she noted in her log:

Snow-Trillium and Skunk Cabbage in full bloom. Not a trace of snow or ice to be found, altho 2 weeks earlier several feet of snow covered the ground. Snow melted and drained into the ground, no run off to wash away the soil. This weather was not to last however.

On opening day she cleaned the front room of the office and had the stove going all day so that it was "real comfortable." Mr. Pabody had for many years been one of her first callers when the Garden opened but was too ill to come in this year. (1). [This was E. F. Pabody, Photographer, 1920 Colfax Ave So., Minneapolis. Some of his Garden photos are on pages 8 & 9.]

On the 2nd she fixed a bird house that squirrels ruined and noted that many folks were out to the Garden. Being a great birder, she made of list of 31 birds present and noted that the "owl calls at sharp 4." By the 6th the weather turned much colder and snow began. She had to keep the stove going all day in the small room to keep warm and the owl still called at 4. On the 7th it was still snowing but thousands of juncos passed through at 4 - all singing she reported. The next day it was very cold with heavy ice in the water bucket in the office. (1)

The 9th was Easter Sunday, but Martha had to open the Garden. She noted

still cold and stove going all day. On the 10th it was “still cold. Few people out. Have been coming in Tamarack Trail so car doesn’t need to climb hill. (1). [See Pabody photo page 9]

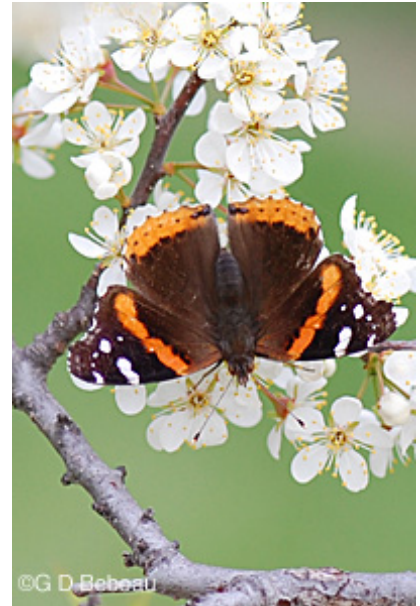
The Crones frequently had winter difficulty with their old car (a Whippet) and the steep hill leading to the front entrance to the Garden was too much for it on cold wintery days.

By April 13th the temperature began to warm and she noted on the 14th that the first Hepatica was out and the Mourning Cloak and Red Admiral butterflies were about. Her husband Bill came in on the 16th to clear out some brush. But once again, the weather turned and on the 17th she noted heavy wet snow falling followed by a gale. Snow was 6 inches deep and drifts in some places so she did not make it to the Garden. On the 18th she noted

Six inches of snow remaining on ground all day. Looks like mid-winter, trees clothed in heavy snow. Went down to the Garden at noon. Snow deep and slushy. Snow Trilliums keep in bloom in spite of heavy snow.

By the 21st she could write

Weather lovely, 1st day of break-up of months of bad weather. Clear after an all day rain of yesterday. Water level very high. A great deal of water in swamp below office. Large stream going over dam.



Red Admiral. Photo G D Bebeau

The “dam” was the concrete structure Eloise Butler had constructed at the north end of the tamarack bog to create a small pool in the Garden. It drained under the tarvia road that bisected the Garden area and into the north meadow where Eloise Butler’s Mallard Pool was located.

Within several days it was real spring, 83 degrees on the 24th, the Hepaticas were in full bloom as was the bloodroot. Men came in to help her carry out brush.

On the 25th she was able to do her first planting of the season - 36 New England Asters (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) brought from her home garden. Carpenters came in to do some fixing and brought in a new cabinet for her plant labels.

On the last day of such a month (a Sunday) she noted

Hepaticas are in full bloom. Crowds in reserve great and had much to do.

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 [The Mankato/New Ulm area a familiar source of plants for her.] Sunday the 7th:

Ideal day - great crowds thru, birds in. Bill conducted Scout leaders thru at 2 - crowds very unruly, glad to close.



Hay-scented Fern, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*. 100 were donated to the Garden. Photo ©Emmett J. Judziewicz, Wisconsin Flora

She found a pheasants nest near the office on the 7th of May with 13 eggs in it. By the 14th it had 16 eggs.

On the 9th she planted 100 Hay-scented ferns (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) that were sent from Askov MN in memory of Gerald Burgess. (photo right) (note 3 on page 33) Sadly, none of the Hay-scented ferns survive.) She doesn't note who made the donation, whether it was his wife Louise or some other person, perhaps the Askov nursery owner.



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.

Parks Superintendent Emeritus Theodore Wirth and Park Board Vice President Francis Gross came to see her - subject of meeting not mentioned. On the 29th Dr's. Roberts, Breckenridge and Kilgore were in the Garden with their classes. This usually happened every year. [These three were University of MN professors. Dr. Roberts was Thomas S. Roberts, author of *Birds of Minnesota* and for whom the Roberts Bird Sanctuary is named. Breckenridge became Director of the University of Minnesota Natural History Museum] By the 30th the temperature reached 95 degrees but Martha noted "many folks in, in spite of mosquitoes."

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.



Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, University of Minnesota. Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

For more details on this area the section on the Garden Pools in the appendix - page 199.

Summer 1939

Summer weather of 1939, like spring, was eventful. 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.” (1). 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.” Lightning had hit a large cottonwood tree on the hillside overlooking Birch Pond.

In midsummer a cold snap occurred. On July 17th Martha noted High of 62 degrees, uncomfortably cold all day, rained 1/2 day. Rains have been well distributed all summer. Very lonesome in Garden. (1)

Summer logs were also full of bird notes. On June 4th Martha noted



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*); Photo ©John Crawley, Utah Birds

Mrs. Ure 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.(3)



Deathcap Mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) Photo ©Fred Stevens

She noted those birds are very rare here. On July 2nd a Mr. Yelick came in and took down the nest after the young had fledged and sent it to Dr. Roberts. at the University. The Showy lady’s-slippers were at their best on June 17th. (3)

On July 25 she found 7 of the deadly *Amanita phalloides* mushroom growing near the Garden Office. (3) In 1927 Martha and husband Bill had gathered over 1000 of these and forwarded them to the University of Minnesota for experimental purposes. [from Newsletter of the Minnesota Mycological Society]

By August 21, when the temperature only reached 76 degrees, Martha noted: “At 10:30 a large warbler wave suddenly arrived.” Migration continued the rest of the month and on the last day of August she 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.” (3)

Visitors to the Garden this summer included a Mr. Macdonald, the curator of the Reserve at Winnipeg along with 4 others from there. Her most frequent visitor all during the Garden season was Miss Lulu May Aler. She was one of the first visitors when the Garden opened in April and Martha would often note in her diary that “Miss Aler in” and sometimes for lunch together. (1)

Friends member J. S. Futch reports that he knew Miss Aler and that she started and then maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Wildflower Garden, outside the gate, so she would visit several times a week to tend it. At this time she was president of the Audubon Society of Minneapolis.

By the early 1950's she had become too old to do the work and Mr. Futch found some neighbor boys who would do it as they were in the Minneapolis Bird Club, which was affiliated with the Minneapolis Audubon Society, which then took over the task from that time on. The feeding table is not maintained today. See other details about Miss Aler and the bird feeding table in the appendix on page 217ff.



New stonework, fountain and shelter at the Great Medicine Spring, built by the WPA crews in 1939. Photo by Walter B. Dahlberg

Another big project during late summer and into fall was the tapping of a spring in the wetland to fill the pool of open water maintained there. On August 22 a group of men came in and began looking for a spring near the pool. While they were there they closed up a hole in the office dug by a woodchuck. On the 28th the men struck the spring on the west side of the pool, they secured the area from their work making it un-noticeable. 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 September 2nd the men came back and



The old Spring at Glenwood and Wirth Parkway in 2015.
Photo G D Bebeau.



New stonework just completed by the WPA crew in 1939 at the corner of Glenwood and what is now Wirth Parkway. Photo by Walter B. Dahlberg.

put in a drain pipe so the pool would drain excess water through a pipe. (1)
It's not known if this was a Park Board crew or the WPA crew that had been placing some masonry work around the other three springs near the Garden, which were the Great Medicine Spring just Northwest of the Garden, the Bubbling Spring just north of the tarvia path (outside the Garden's

current back -north- gate), and the spring on the corner of what is now Glenwood Ave. and Wirth Parkway.

There is a remnant of this work in the Garden today. Former Gardener Cary George states that there is a 4 inch pipe leading to the hillside near the existing Garden pool where this water drained to. There is also an upright pipe in the wetland by a large River Birch. This pipe is probably the site of the spring and in 1939 it would probably have been on the western edge of what was then the garden pool.

A more detailed description of the natural springs in the area of the Garden is in the appendix.



Stonework around the old spring just outside the current North Garden gate, shown here in 2015. Stonework was done in 1939 by a WPA Masonry Crew. Photo G D Bebeau.

Autumn 1939

The fall weather of 1939 continued to be different from normal. The hottest day of the year was on September 18th when 98 degrees was reached with high humidity. Then on September 26 there was an early killing frost, but in October it warmed up with temperatures above average through the end of the year. Martha Crone noted on October 4th the heaviest electrical storm in years but without damage in the Garden. (2)

Also on September 18th, Mr. C. A. Bossen, the Parks Superintendent who succeeded Theodore Wirth in 1936, came to the Garden to tell Martha the Garden should remain open this year until October 15th instead of closing on September 30th as was the custom. (1) Martha had requested this in 1938 with these words:

The Reserve closed Sep. 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.

October opened with

77 degrees, beautiful sunny weather. Great crowds in. Too dry for mushrooms. Asters and goldenrods still lovely. (1)

On the 14th men came in from the Park Board to move out her boxes of material and the typewriter as Martha prepared to closeup the following day, which turned out to be a nice 60 degrees with many visitors and the witch hazel in bloom. (1)

Her Garden Log contains many notes of bird movement in the fall, particularly waves of warblers on September 27 through the 29th, and on October 10th.



Rosinweed, (*Silphium integrifolium*).
Photo ©G D Bebeau

Notable plantings in the fall, while no new species, included six Ohio Buckeye on October 12th, 10 Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) on October 10th (photo next page), and Rosinweed and Prairie Dock on October 14th. Earlier in the year in July she had noted Rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*) blooming in the Garden. This was the first mention of the plant in her logs since becoming Curator; Eloise Butler had planted it in 1926.



Ginseng, (*Panax quinquefolius*) Photo ©Dennis W. Woodland, Wisconsin Flora

After the Garden closed, Martha and husband Bill continued to work on their new cabin at their Cedar Forest property - adding good windows, adding plants, and placing some log bridges over the small streams that ran through the property. When the Garden was closed on Wednesdays, Martha's day off, they would frequently drive up to the property.

As to the benefit of the two-week extension to the Garden's season, Martha had this to say:

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, poplars and birch. May the season be extended again. (2)

Martha noted that on November 30th the temperature was 60 degrees. "Loveliest Thanksgiving I can remember, like mid-summer." (1) [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 on December 17th "53 degrees, beautiful weather, everyone sprinkling lawns, very dry," (1) then on December 19th snow came and remained on the ground through the end of the year.

One of Martha's frequent Garden visitors during the season was Robert Dassett, who in future years would become the seventh president of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

He frequently brought along his bride-to-be, Betty, and they were married in late 1939. Later, on May 18th, 1960, Dassett would write 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. More about Dassett on next page.

Martha's activities in the Mushroom Society continued. On December 8th at the annual meeting, she was elected secretary for the 8th time with 104 votes out of 108 (1). Dr. Crone gave up his position as Vice President this year after holding in since 1929.



Cedar Forest where the Crone's had their cabin. Photo - University of Minnesota

Historical photo at top of page 64: The new stone work and fountain built by a WPA masonry crew in 1939 at the Great Medicine Spring, just outside the west side of the Garden. The Park Board carpenters then constructed the cedar protective cover. Photo by Walter Dahlberg.

Notes:

Note 1: Martha Crones diary - 1939

Note 2: Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated December 12, 1939

Note 3: Garden Log

Robert Dassett

Robert Dassett Jr. joined the Friends Board of Directors in 1970 and remained on the Board until 1982. He was Vice President in 1970 and Friends President 1971 through 1974.

During his tenure on the Board the Friends raised money for the existing Garden restroom building, purchased the first small garden tractor, funded the Witt water fountain, installed display lighting and fireplace doors in the new Martha Crone Shelter and purchased several small items.

Mr. Dassett visited the Wildflower Garden often as a young man as he was an avid birdwatcher. While president of the Friends he wrote in the *Fringed Gentian*TM about his Garden memories:

Miss Butler standing near the old shelter; my first Cardinal, April 1932; a walk down the east path with Dr. Crone [Martha Crone's husband William] to see my first Barred Owl; drowsy August days talking with Martha Crone in the coolness of the old shelter; Mr. Whitney Eastman on a Memorial Day getting in an hour of birding between a morning and afternoon double-header at Nicollet Park; fighting a grass fire with Mr. Clinton Odell in the upper garden when it was still very new; and finally the rather feverish, hectic, but rewarding activity of the past several years when, under the leadership of the human dynamo, Cay Faragher, the new Martha Crone Shelter was planned, built and opened. (*Fringed Gentian* Vol. 19. No.4 Oct. 1971)

When the Friends published in 2004 their 50th Anniversary booklet titled "50 Years of Friends", Bob and Betty Dassett added a few additional notes. Expanding on his 1971 comment, they wrote:

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.

Another tidbit was when Robert and Betty were at the Garden 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.

Mr. Dassett passed away on April 13, 2002.





1940

Winter 1939/1940

Curator Martha Crone noted in her diary that on January 1st she completed her annual report for the year 1939 about the Native Plant Reserve (her favorite term for the Garden). This was due annually to the Board of Park Commissioners at the end of each year. Her position this year at the Garden, her eighth as Curator, would finally cease to be "temporary" Curator when 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. (note below)

Except for her early years as Curator, she would not usually go the Garden during the winter but on February 7th she noted meeting Miss Aler (Lulu May Aler) (1). Miss Aler maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Garden, so she would visit several times a week. During the Garden's open season they would frequently lunch together at the Garden.

During the winter months Martha was actively involved at the Minneapolis Public Library Science Museum and, with husband William, in the Minnesota Mycological Society. Martha was secretary of the Society from 1926 to 1943.

The Crones made numerous visits to the "woods" during the winter months. This term referred to their newly constructed cabin in the area of Cedar Creek Forest east of Bethel MN. Last year they had just completed the interior finishing.

The winter of 1939/1940 had snowfall just above the average of 43 inches. Temperatures swung from above normal in January to below normal in February. Martha reported on March 1st that March "came



The newly remodeled duck and swan house in Glenwood Park in 1940. It was heated and had two pools to separate ducks and swans during the winter months. Photo Walter Dahlberg.



"Path through the Tamaracks", photo by E.F. Pabody. March 25, 1933. Studio at 1920 Colfax Ave. So., Minneapolis.

in like a lamb" and that the first part of March was nice but then turned wintry. On the 13 -14th there was a two-day storm that left 16 inches of snow. The first day of spring, March 20th that year, was 8 degrees in the AM but that "Scilla's were up west of house." Easter was on March 24th and it was -2 degrees in AM with a daily high of 10 degrees and a foot of snow on the ground.

On March 28th Martha met Mrs. Cram (Gertrude Cram - friend of both Eloise Butler and Martha) while attending a program at the "Farm School". [This probably refers to programs offered at the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture]. (1)

On March 30th Martha and husband Bill drove to the Garden with a kerosene stove, walked through the Tamarack Trail and met with Park Keeper Mr. Carl Erickson. Walking was hard due to deep snow and they had to chip out the ice at the gate to get into the Garden, where they found everything in fine condition. (1)

Note: Martha was appointed "temporary" Curator in April 1933 to work *"during the balance of the season, or such other time thereof as seems advisable and satisfactory"* for \$60 per month. (Letter of Superintendent Theodore Wirth to the Board of Park Commissioners dated April 18, 1933). This was re-confirmed in 1936 and 1938 by the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission that her position was "temporary Curator" at the same rate of pay.

Spring 1940

Spring did not come on the equinox in 1940. Throughout April and May the weather swung from very cold to very warm. On opening day, April 1st, Martha recorded:

Beautiful clear day, warm, much snow in Garden. 3 foot drift north of office. Cleaned large room, chipped out upper gate, came in thru tamarack trail, melting snow for scrubbing, everything is fine condition, nothing disturbed. (1)

On April 4th "cold and moist, stove going all day, stay in all day - no one in." The next day, "Frost last night, pond froze over." On April 11:

Men in to take out dead timber, scheduled to come in so arrived at garden at 8:30, temperature only 10 above, coldest on record, dressed very warm- walked outside some, nine men working, stove did not make much impression. In morning could not open upper lock, froze shut, walked around and nearly froze. East lower gate froze but opened west gate. This was followed on the 12th with: "water froze, cold again in office, pond froze over, men in to finish up." (1)



Fringed Milkwort (Gaywings), (*Polygala paucifolia*) Photo ©Aaron Carlson, Wisconsin Flora

But only two days later on the 14th she would record:

"Lovely and warm, 70° Paths still muddy, many folks in." The next day: "Season is 2 weeks late, planted Dwarf Trillium [*Trillium nivale*] that Dr. Britjius brought yesterday from New Ulm. In full bloom" [Dr. Britjius is mentioned a number times over the early years of her tenure as Curator but we have not been able to determine who he was - perhaps associated with the University of Minnesota's botany department.] (1)

By April 28th the temperature was 77 degrees then on the 30th "Rain and bitter cold, 38 degrees in AM, Miss Aler in, very gloomy." The next day the lock on the lower gate was frozen.

The weather turned again on Sunday May 12th when she wrote "91° and very hot and uncomfortable, crowds thru. Bill in Garden with me. Warbler wave through." And then on the 14th "nearly froze in office."

After mid-May things got more seasonal. Miss Aler visited and Mrs. Cram showed up on the 20th for the first time at the Garden in 2 years. Many school classes visited the Garden, she noted the Trilliums, *Mertensia* [Virginia Bluebells] and violets were most beautiful.

Garden Events:

A skunk sprayed near the office on the 16th and the "odor is dreadful."

Sometime or other she offended a visitor because on May 9th:

Mr. Bossen [Parks superintendent after Wirth retired in 1935] in early, brought letter of complaint from woman falsely claiming to be aggrieved. Wrote answer. (1)

During May Martha noted planting these 3 species for the first time: (3)

Mamillaria missouriensis [now *Escobaria missouriensis*] Missouri Foxtail Cactus. A native species and noted since Eloise Butler planted the first one in 1917 (2) . 25 planted.

Polygala paucifolia, Fringed Milkwort (Gaywings). Eloise Butler had introduced it to the Garden in 1908. (2)

Viola pallens [now *Viola macloskeyi* ssp. *pallens*] Smooth White Violet (Northern White Violet). Ken Avery also planted it in 1964 and it is considered indigenous to the garden.



White Violet (Northern White Violet) (*Viola macloskeyi* ssp. *pallens*)

Personal events: (1)

She had an important visitor on April 18th when this note was written:

Dr. A. N. Wilcox in to get our version of conservation at Cedar Bog.

[The Crones had purchased property at Cedar Forest (Bog) in 1936. 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 now-named 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 Bog and

later oversaw transferring care of the land to the University of Minnesota. The Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is a research site in central Minnesota dedicated to research on ecology and the influences of human activity on natural systems. The site is currently owned and operated by the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Minnesota Academy of Science.]

Summer 1940

On June 2, a Sunday, Martha Crone noted (1) "97° hottest day so far. About 100 people thru in spite of mosquitoes." A Connecticut Warbler was in the Garden singing north of the office all morning on the 8th. Mid-summer was very hot. Martha noted in her diary: July 20 - 96 degrees; July 21 - 99 degrees; July 21 - "still hotter, even at night, few in garden, glad when day is over, too hot to be interested in Aquatennial doings." July 23 - 103 degrees; July 24 - 95 degrees.

But by late August it was much different. On August 23 she wore a coat to the Garden, on the 24th she noted "Heater going all day - whole week of cold weather, waves of warblers thru." And on the 26th it was so cold that all performances at Minnesota State Fair were canceled.

A new plant was put in on June 13th when she planted 25 *Corallorhiza corallorhiza* [now *Corallorhiza trifida*] the Yellow Coralroot which is native to Minnesota (3). She also noted on Wednesday June



©Matthew L. Wagner

New Plant: Yellow Coralroot
(*Corallorhiza trifida*). Photo
©Matthew L. Wagner, Wisconsin
Flora



Stemless Lady's-slipper or
Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium*
acaule).

12 that she got 18 *Cypripedium acaule* [Stemless Lady's-slippers or Moccasin Flower] at Cedar Bog and planted them in the Garden (1). Wednesday was her day off and she and husband Bill would usually go their cabin at Cedar Bog and return same day. This orchid was a favorite of all Garden Curators and Gardeners, planted by Martha several times and by Eloise Butler, Ken Avery and Cary George. In 1940 there were six species of Lady's-slippers growing in the Garden. (4)

On June 20th a new trellis was put up at the office by the Park Board workmen. Martha said it "looks very nice." Photos from the period [see one below in the "Autumn" section] show a trellis left of the office door but there were also others around the office so it is not certain which one she is referring to. Workmen were also busy taking down the remains of a nature trail and many dead trees right outside the Garden (caused by a gale on June 5, 1939) including the large cottonwood on the hillside overlooking Birch Pond that had been struck by lightning on June 18 the prior year. On that date Martha had noted:

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. (1)

Martha planted 2 River Birch (*Betula nigra*) [Photo at right] on August 8th. This is her first mention of the species, although Eloise planted it in 1925. There are several large specimens in the Garden today and perhaps the one in the photo was one of those planted that day. (3)

The spring which had been tapped and channeled the previous summer was working well in maintaining uniform water levels in the wetland pool. (see summer 1939).

Theodore Wirth, retired Park Board Superintendent, made a visit on August 13. It was his custom to visit Martha and the Garden several times each season.

The open season of the garden brought many visitors coming for many purposes. Martha summarized it this way:

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.(4)



River Birch (*Betula nigra*). Perhaps this is one of those Martha planted in 1940.

Autumn 1940

September started off on the wrong note for Martha, she noted on 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 September 9 meeting of the Society where members brought “loads of mushrooms.”

Fall weather again was very erratic. There was light frost on the roofs on September 12 with birches having dropped their leaves by the 13th. This was a prelude to the great storm on November 11th. On September 16th she wrote:

Very quiet in garden not a soul in garden all day. Walked over hill east of garden, asters and goldenrods most beautiful there. [this was the site of the future upland garden addition of 1944] (1)

On September 24 she contacted some disorder, reporting that she felt she had “a poisoning of some kind - swelling on face and itchy with welts raised everywhere.” Her doctor was inconclusive but husband Bill had to open and close the Garden for her Sept 26 through 28th, then she went to the garden herself on September 29th with a 102+ degree temperature.



A trellis at the Garden Office as noted above in the summer section. Photo by Martha Crone.

The Garden would again stay open until October 15th, a change Martha had secured in 1939. Since its founding September 30th had always been closing day. On October 14th she wrote:

Men came with boxes and I packed them, later men came to plant an oak tree. Benches taken to warehouse, boxes also. Mr. Lucking, new horticulturist in and we visited. [Mr. Lucking is Greg Lucking, Parks horticulturist from 1940 to 1966] (1)

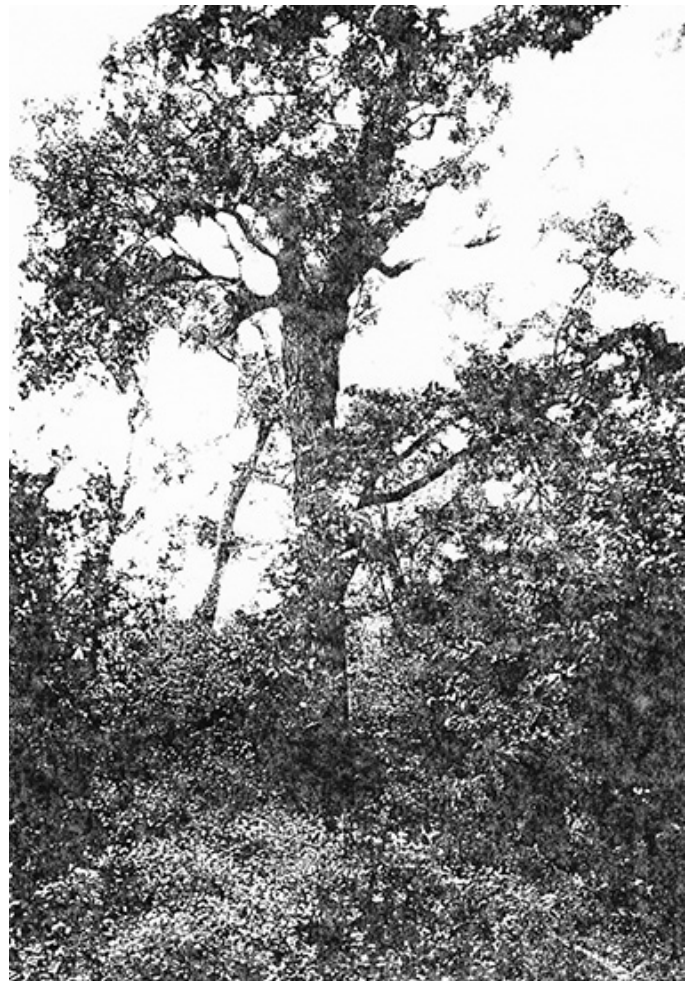
On the last day she noted "Roofs frosted white but plants not frozen yet, not even Jewelweed in garden." She saw a flock of red crossbills. Many visitors but "Finally got everything done."

The next day she could write "my first free day." She and Bill went to the cabin later. A Mr. Ryling and another man come over to solicit for rural electrification - \$3.50 minimum, the Crones were not interested. On October 28th she went back to the 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 great age. 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. (4)

At Right: Newspaper photos of the old White Oak which Eloise Butler named "Monarch." 2nd photo is from the July 24, 1924 *Minneapolis Star*. The 1st 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. It was noted in a 1913 article (5) that the circumference was 10 feet, which would indicate an age of about 290 years based on forest researched tree age tables that are available today.

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 here in 1940 we have Martha Crone's report. 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. Contrary to Eloise, the Park Board Forester, Louis Boeglin, only estimated the tree to be 400 years back in 1923.(6) 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.]



The Armistice Day Blizzard

November 11, 1940 is remembered for 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 November 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." (1)



Twin Cities streetcar stranded in deep snow - Nov. 11, 1940. Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

The storm left almost 17 inches of snow and brought below zero temperatures that matched mid-January earlier in the year. Contrary wise Christmas was the warmest in 18 years - 35 to 41 degrees.

Photo top of page 73: A bed of Large-flowered Trillium. Photo from a Kodachrome by Martha Crone on April 29, 1952

Notes:

1. Martha Crone's Diary - 1940. For Lulu May Aler: See page 72 for more history.
2. *Garden Log - Native Plant Reserve*, Glenwood Park, Minneapolis, MN by Eloise Butler
3. Martha Crone's Garden Log and her 1951 Census of plants in the Garden.
4. Martha Crone's Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated December 11, 1940.
5. The 10 foot circumference is reported in a story about the Wild Botanic Garden that appeared in the May 3, 1913 issue of *The Bellman*.
6. *Minneapolis Tribune* December 13, 1923 "City's Oldest Tree Periled by Flames in Glenwood Park."



1941

Winter 1940/1941

The winter of 1940/1941 is remembered by how it began on November 11, 1940 - Armistice Day. details on that are in the 1940 section. Contrary-wise to the big storm, Christmas was the warmest in 18 years - 35 to 41 degrees. There were several more significant snowfalls before the end of 1940, but then that was it. It was warm and raining on New Years Day (1).

Mild temperatures until mid-February when it became significantly colder than average. Martha noted that on February 12 "weather like spring, raining hard." Then on February 18 - "19 below in the evening, 24 below in AM on February 19." But by March 1 - "Mild weather lamb like, warm and slushy everywhere." On March 16 she noted that there had been a powerful storm with 85 mile per hour winds at Duluth and 81 died.

The Crones made occasional visits to the "woods" during the winter months. This term referred to their newly constructed cabin in the area of Cedar Creek Bog east of Bethel MN.

On March 15 the Crones purchased a 1937 Plymouth for \$345. They kept their old Whippet for several more months (see notes in summer). During the winter months Martha was actively involved at the the Minneapolis Public Library Science Museum and, with husband William, in the Minnesota Mycological Society. Martha was secretary of the Society from 1926 to 1943.

Spring 1941

On March 30 it was time for Martha Crone to prepare for opening the Garden. She noted in her diary:

We (with husband Bill) drove to Garden with stove, much snow and ice everywhere. Mr Erickson chipped out gates. (1)

On April 1, Martha opened the Garden for the season. She wrote:

First day in Garden, beautiful sunshine, had stove going but door open in afternoon. Miss Aler in (2), also Mr. Erickson. (3) Fixed gates. Snow has gone in last few days, altho 18 inch drift north of office and patches in sheltered areas.(1)

She also noted in her Garden Log that the ground was not frozen and moisture soaks into the ground and the paths were in firm condition. (4) Nice weather did not last long. On the 4th she would write: "Cold and raining all day. Stove working poorly so very cold. 2 ladies in to make appointment for scouts" [there was not a telephone in the Garden until 1957]. On the 8th - "Miss Aler in, warm but cloudy, snow in garden melted quickly and soaked in so no run-off and no mud, frost out of ground. Skunk Cabbage in bloom, earliest yet due to no frost in meadow. Snow Trillium in full bloom - 1 week ago nothing showing."

By the 11th the *Hepaticas* were in full bloom and the weather again became unseasonable warm with flowers quickly developing only to have in snow on Sunday morning April 20 followed by rain, then heavy frost on the night of the 24th, then back to warm weather on the 28th when she noticed warblers were starting to come through. On the 17th she -



Hepaticas in bloom on Hepatica Hill on April 16, 1955, from a Kodachrome taken by Martha Crone

Discovered nest of the Hairy Woodpecker freshly made in white oak tree south of upper gate. A shelf mushroom forms a lovely canope [sic - canopy] over the entrance. Very cleverly chosen. (4)

On April 14 she planted 55 Snow Trilliums (*Trillium nivale*) that came from Mankato the day before via Dr. Britjius (a frequent visitor).

She had several visits from her friends, Miss Aler and Mrs. Cram (Gertrude); Ben Johnson from the Park Board would bring out her pay check; and also Theodore Wirth was in with his 3 year old Grandson on the 17th. (5)

May began with beautiful weather as she noted on May 1:

Beautiful weather, ideal May Day. Dasset [Robert] in first time this year. He again working for his grandfather and continuing on at N. [High school] to prepare for teaching. Baby girl was born last July, expect another in September (6)

Like the month of April, May weather fluctuated from-

"Still very warm (81 hi 59 lo) and flowers coming out everywhere, everything at least 2 weeks in advance, like midsummer, many insects and flies out. Violets never so beautiful as well as Trillium and other flowers" on the 3rd of May to "bitter cold all day [49-41] stove going continuously. Miss Aler in, also class but no mosquitoes," on the 8th, followed by "Heat unbearable [88-60] hottest so far." on the 19th.

University professors frequently brought their classes to the Garden for Field Study - on the 19th - that hot day, she noted that "Drs. Roberts, Kilgore, Breckenridge, Prosser and class in." (7)

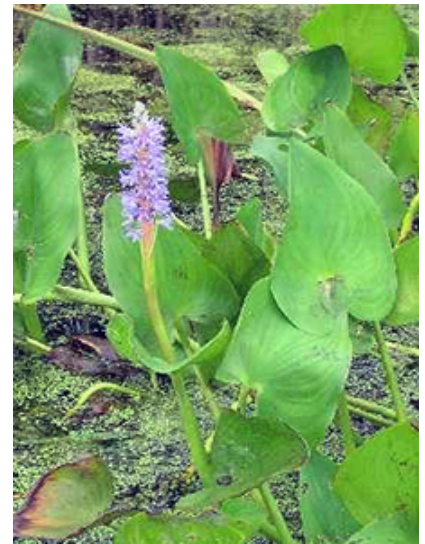


Robert Dasset Jr.

This group was followed on the the 25 by “Mr. Eastman of Archer Daniels in, also Dasset & others.” [Whitney H. Eastman was an executive of Archer Daniels and later a Board member of the Friends.] During May Martha planted some Large Flowered Trilliums and noted on May 6:

Noted west of office a Trillium with 4 petals, 4 sepals, 4 leaves 8 stamens and 4 parted stigma.

Rattlesnake Plantain went in on the 9th and on the 13th Mrs. Cram sent from her garden 6 *Solidago odora*, Anise-scented Goldenrod. 3 *Aster ericoides* [now - *Symphotrichum ericoides*]. That was the first time Martha planted those. Mrs Cram also provided 6 Pickerel-weed (*Pontederia cordata*). Photo right.



Pickerel-weed, (*Pontederia cordata*).
Photo ©Merle R. Black, Wisconsin
Flora.

At the cabin at Cedar Creek the Crones finished installing 30 feet of cedar logs for bridges to bridge water channels on their property so they could access their cabin, which was on an elevated knoll above surrounding marshland, without getting their feet wet. They could only do this on Wednesdays - Martha's only day off from the Garden.

The Showy Lady's-slippers bloomed on June 8 and reached their peak on the 14th.

The weather still fluctuated a lot - the stove in the office would be going for many days in mid-June. Then June turned hot and she made notes on many days like the one on June 25: “Very hot - no one in garden.” (1)

Martha made many birding notes in her log 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.”



Summer 1941

Martha Crone made many notes in her Garden Log and in her diary that provide an interesting picture of the summer of 1941. Here are some highlights.

At the end of June two baby owls were seen in a tree near where the old oak, Monarch, had stood.(1)

On June 26 the Crones finally retired their old car. Martha notes:

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. (1)

On July 19, she wrote -

warmer weather lovely [81-52] Heard music from the "follies" at Glenwood Lake. Wind in right direction.

In 1938 the lake was re-named for Theodore Wirth but Martha still used the older name. The Aquatennial Aqua Follies, a popular Minneapolis Aquatennial event, were held at Wirth Lake from 1940 to 1964. An Olympic swimming pool, complete with diving towers, was installed to showcase the water spectacle at the northeast end of the lake. The Crones tried to get tickets but were not successful.

Mosquitoes and deer flies were bad most days during those years - until the development of effective insecticides - plus there was always poison ivy which she contacted noting "poison ivy so severe, can't write, in greatest misery." (1)

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

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

July 23 [100-74]

July 24 [104-76] "Heat unbearable. Had to get out of cabin at noon and reminded 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." (1)

In August she received permission to make a plant collecting trip to Northern Minnesota, receiving permission to be absent from the Garden by Mr. C. A. Bossen, Parks Superintendent. She writes:

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." (Letter of Bossen dated August 4.)[otherwise husband Bill would babysit the garden]

Aug. 8, Fri "Mr. Lucking [Greg Lucking, Parks horticulturist from 1940 to 1966] 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." (1)

Of the plants she returned with she notes two that she had not planted in the Garden before:

5 *Viola selkirkii*, Selkirk's violet;

10 *Gentiana linearis* - Narrowleaf Gentian [Eloise Butler had planted this in her day, having obtained the plants from the East Coast and that species is not found in Minnesota. What Martha



The Whippet Automobile, similar to the one the Crone's owned for 10 years. It was only produced for a few years, had side curtains instead of glass but came with winter storm inserts to keep the snow out.



Selkirk's Violet, (*Viola selkirkii*). Photo ©Emmett J. Judziewicz, Wisconsin Flora

probably brought back was the species (same common name) that does grow on the north shore - now known as *Gentiana rubricaulis*. Photo below.] (4)

At the cabin at Cedar Creek, the log bridges now extended to 72 feet. (1)

Someone broke into the Garden during August and damaged the lower gate. Men fixed it on August 19 and Mr. Erickson brought in a new lock on the 25th, while Martha and husband Bill removed two white rabbits from the lower section of the Garden. (1)

Fortunately, while the temperatures in summer were quite warm, there was adequate rainfall.

Autumn 1941

September began with this note:

Labor Day and 26th anniversary of wedding. Beautiful mild gentle weather, like spring [85-56](1)

But on September 5 there was a tornado that just missed the Garden (4). It was to be a beautiful fall - she could note in her log on October 6:

"The foliage is most beautiful. The oaks have turned brilliant hues. Purple Finches are still here, Heaviest electric storm of the year with 1.82 inches of rain last night." (4) and on October 12: "Most beautiful day yet, foliage gorgeous and mosquitoes vicious, 1st time in October ever." (1)

On Wednesdays in September the Crones worked on the log bridges at Cedar Creek with the total length reaching 145 1-/2 feet on Sept. 24. (1) The Bird feeding station at the Garden needed replacement and Martha noted on September 23:

"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" (2, 8) She also noted that she updated a pheasant feeding place in the Garden, noting it "real firm and substantial this year." (1) We do not know if the station was modified or simply repaired. Details on the station are in the appendix.

Her last note about the Garden in her log was October 13 when she planted 8 Foam Flower and noted "All windows in office open and too warm to wear a coat." (4) The Garden would close up on the 15th. This was a closing date change Martha had secured in 1939. Since its founding September 30th had always been closing day.

There were some good rainy days in the Autumn and the first heavy frost held off until October 27.



Narrowleaf Gentian, (*Gentiana linearis*). Photo ©Emmett J. Judziewicz, Wisconsin Flora

In her annual report (9) she noted the seasons weather and the pleasant autumn:

Altho the past several years have been gradually returning to normal conditions, this past season far surpassed them. Heavy rains followed by long hours of warm sunshine served to stimulate the season greatly.

The belated frost caused the foliage to ripen naturally and burst forth in colorful beauty, such as is seldom seen. With the absence of insects at this time, many visitors availed themselves of an interesting tour thru the Reserve. [Note: Both Martha and later Ken Avery always referred to the Garden as the 'Reserve' taking the name from one of Eloise Butler's original names for the Garden - "Native Plant Reserve." I find few examples where either of them ever referred it by its official name "The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden" which was designed by the Park Board in 1929, other than on official published documents such as Martha's 1951 history and 1952 Self Conducted Tour Brochure.]



The Garden Office surrounded by fall foliage on October 15, 1950. Photo from a Kodachrome taken by Martha Crone

She also added: "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. (1)

There would be little snowfall going into the end of the year and total precipitation would be just below average for the year.

Thanksgiving was on November 30th (In Minnesota) and the Crones had dinner with friends - no one suspecting what would happen on December 7th.

Photo at top of page 81: The Bird Feeding Station at the Garden in Winter ca1936. Photo by Lulu May Aler.

Notes:

- (1) Martha Crone's Diary - 1941.
- (2) Lulu May Aler - Miss Aler set up and maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Garden, so she would visit several time 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, which then became affiliated with the Minneapolis Audubon society. Details on page 72
- (3) Carl Erickson, - Park Keeper for Glenwood Park.
- (4) Garden Log - 1941
- (5) Parks Superintendent Emeritus Theodore Wirth, who retired in 1935 and for whom Theodore Wirth Park is now named.
- (6) Robert Dassetts would become a member of the Friends and be Friends President 1971-1975.
- (7) Dr. Roberts was Thomas S. Roberts, author of *Birds of Minnesota* and for whom the Roberts Bird Sanctuary is named. Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, Director of the University of Minnesota Natural History Museum; Drs. Kilgore & Prosser - University Professors.
- (8) Ben Johnson was a Park Board Employee who later became Supervisor of Maintenance for the Park Board.
- (9) Annual report to Mr. C. A Bossen, Superintendent of Parks - December 10, 1941



1942

Winter 1941/1942

1942 was a year of variable weather and restricted optimism due to the entrance of the United States into WWII. Rationing began, budgets were restricted, but life in the Garden went on, providing a restful atmosphere to those seeking it.

January had some warm days. When Curator Martha Crone and husband Bill stopped to check on the Garden and walk around some on January 21st it was 46 degrees. (1) There was no snow on the ground in January. Monday, February 9th was the first day of "war time" beginning at 2AM. This was year-round daylight savings time, and it lasted until September 30, 1945.

1942 was Martha Crone's 10th year in charge of the Garden, which began its 36th year.

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 with their newer car - the 1937 Plymouth purchased early last spring. The snow was gone and the ice was off the city lakes. (1)



The Showy Orchis (*Orchis spectabilis*) of the type brought in by Gertrude Cram in the Spring. Photo ©Jeff Hapeman, Wisconsin Flora.

Spring 1942

As April 1 was a Wednesday, a day the Garden was always closed for Martha's day off, April 2 became opening day. She noted that a few Snow Trilliums were in bloom. (2) The weather was warm, flocks of birds, the mildest winter in at least 25 years. Bill helped her down to the office with a pail of water to scrub the place up, which she did, scrubbing the floors and cleaning up the front room of the office. She noted crowds of people came through, along with a Miss James who stopped in to visit. (1)

On April 3, Good Friday, Ben Johnson and a Mr. Hill, both from the Park Board, brought out the Garden's assortment of books, the typewriter and kerosene for the stove. [Ben Johnson later became Supervisor of Maintenance for the Park Board.] The weather was still fine, so the stove was not used much. Miss Aler came in for the first time this season. (3) But it was April, so on the 5th cold temps returned along with a 2-day sleet storm. Everything was coated with ice, the office was cold all day and it was hard to heat the place, but everything looked beautiful with the ice coating.

Gertrude Cram called in on the 10th. It was still 20 degrees on the 11th and then heat arrived. Martha burned leaves, visited with Mrs. Cram and Miss Aler with the Hepaticas and Bloodroots in full bloom. She noted in her log (2) on the 15th:

Heat of today and yesterday extreme. Bloodroots all suddenly came into bloom, also Dutchman's Breeches and everything else advancing very quickly.

On the 17th Mr. McDonald from the Park Board was in with 2 men to clean out brush. Martha worked with the men all day and "got much cleaned up" (1). Theodore Wirth [retired Parks Superintendent] and his driver also visited. On the 23rd it was 81 degrees. Martha found the remains of several fires south of the Garden. Her first 1/2 month check for \$55 arrived with Mr. McDonald. Then Mr. Dahlberg arrived with a reporter for an article on the Garden that was to appear in the Sunday paper. [Mr. Dahlberg is most probably Walter Dahlberg, the person who chronicled the work done for the Park Board by the Works Progress Administration during the 1930s and early 1940s.]

Then at the end of the month, on the 28th, an event occurred which would be strange to us today. A Mr. Milton Thompson [Head of the Science Museum at the Minneapolis Library] was in the Garden and "collected" a male Cooper's Hawk, but couldn't get the female. Martha Crone has asked him to come in and get it (i.e. shoot it) as she was afraid of losing many songbirds. (3 & 5) 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." (1) This is the second note about Mr. Eastman who would later become a director of the Friends; Martha had noted a visit from him in 1941.



Whitney Eastman, ca. 1953

Very little planting occurred in April - some Pasque Flowers on the 19th and some ferns on the 23rd. (2) April was one of the warmest Aprils ever.

On May 4 the Crones registered for their rationed sugar allowance - 1/2 pound per person per week. Mrs. Cram brought in three Showy Orchis for the Garden (*Orchis spectabilis*) [photo prior page] and on the 13th they took her along on a Wednesday visit to their cabin at Cedar Creek.

Robert Dassett Jr. was in on the 16th. He was a young teacher who loved the Garden and birding, later joining the Friends in 1960, becoming a board member in 1969 and President in 1971. The next day he was back with Whitney Eastman to join in the great birding. (1) Birding was the best in May of 1942. Martha wrote on the 19th: (2)

A red letter day. This was record breaking birding. She listed 44 species of birds that day including 19 different warblers.

On the 20th Miss Aler recorded 86 species including 22 warblers, all eating canker worms which were terrible that year, eating all the leaves off the trees. (1) Another future Friends member, board member and officer, showed up on the 23rd - Mrs. Clarence Tolg (Ebba). She would be on the Friends Board from 1953 through 1968. With her was a Miss Cross which was undoubtedly Marion Cross who joined the Friends Board in 1961, staying through 1968. Martha noted that it was Mrs. Tolg's first visit since 1940. She had a large wildflower garden at her home on Meadow Lane, not far from the Garden. Miss Cross grew plants and flowers also and did birding. (1)

On Sunday the 24th, the Sunday *Minneapolis Tribune* ran an almost full page illustrated story about visiting the Garden. It is all in drawings with little vignettes about different aspects of the Garden. Martha noted in her log there were thousands of visitors through due to article. In her diary she wrote:

Millions through, had difficulty to close.

Only the upper section of the page is shown in the photo above. The spread had some interesting comments:

“This has been an early spring and many of the flowers of spring are past their prime.”

“20 acres of secluded beauty, you'll think you are way off from nowhere.” [That included the area that is now north of the current back fence.]

“One of the few civilized touches in the park is this stone setting for one of the four springs”

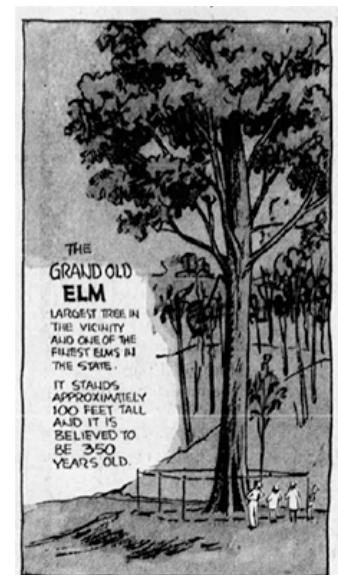


The top section of the May 24th Tribune story on the Garden.

The spring inside what is now the current Woodland Garden was in the wetland and probably not reachable. The spring illustrated with a concrete embankment was outside the Garden on the NW corner of Glenwood and Theodore Wirth Parkway. Strangely, the spring just outside the back gate (Bubbling Spring) was not mentioned. One of the vignettes (right) highlights the large American Elm (girth 16 feet, 4 inches) that stood in the north meadow and was still alive in 1976 when the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden had it treated with Lignasan to prevent Dutch Elm Disease. The fence around the tree was erected by Theodore Wirth when he was Superintendent of Parks.

In the newspaper story the well dressed young lady is reading from the Butler Memorial Tablet and reading “she died while at work here and her ashes are scattered about the Gardens.” The part about the ashes is partially correct, they were scattered only around the Garden office. The part about dying while at work is a perpetuation of an old myth. She actually was stricken in the Garden but died at her lodging in the presence of a doctor. The details are in the 1933 history.

The following Wednesday at Cedar Creek Martha walked to another island and got a clump of 14 Lady's-slippers (apparently the yellow) and



planted then near her cabin - can't do that today.

May 29 - 30th had terrible rain storms. In her log:

Paths washed out and water seeping out of hillside flooding the paths. Several trees down. Glenwood lake has overflowed its banks completely submerging 6th Ave. No., car in center with only the top showing. Picnic grounds flowed over to tennis court and Glenwood Ave. almost under water. A record breaking high water.



Three-leaved Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum trifolium*) of the type Martha Crone brought to the Garden. Photo ©Stephen L. Solheim, Wisconsin Flora.

Bassett Creek was roaring and Martha had water in her basement at home. (1) On June 1st Drs. Kilgore, Roberts and Breckenridge were in from the University. Roberts usually brought in his class for the birding. Martha mentioned on the 4th (1) that someone was in that day to take pictures of the Three-leaved Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum trifolium*) that she said she brought to the Garden from Cedar Creek Bog. This is the first time this plant is mentioned in the Garden logs and she does not reference it again until her 1955 log.



Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher Photo
©John Crawley.

Another big birding event of May and June was the sighting once again of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nesting near Birch Pond - between the Garden parking lot and the pond. Miss Aler found the nest in a White Oak. After the first brood in May, they made another nest. She records the events in both her log and diary. This was a rare bird in Minnesota at that time and had last been seen near the same spot in 1939, and first in 1936. It would be seen again in 1943, then vanish for years.

Summer 1942

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 noted some activities not mentioned in the log. A Mrs. Davidson visited a few times in June. Could this be Marie H. 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?? Or was it Eloise Butler's acquaintance Mrs. Gaylord Davidson who was mentioned several times in Butler's log and in notes to Martha Crone?? Or were they the same person or related?? We do not know.

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. [In this 1931 photo of Eloise Butler's birthday she is 2nd from the left.] July was the 3rd year of the Aqua Follies at Wirth Lake. By July Martha's monthly wage was up another \$10 to \$120. Ebba Tolg was back August 7



and she and Martha drove to Lulu May Aler's for lunch; Martha walked back via Fruen's Mill and Babcock's glen.(1) Boys were fishing for goldfish in Birch Pond and Police officers were frequently around checking on a group of men that were hanging around the Park. By September they had moved on. On August 22 Martha recorded the first wave of warblers migrating through southward, just 3 months after the vast northward migration of May.

Autumn 1942

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].

Very little planting was done in the fall, Martha reported putting in only 400 plants but she did plant thousand of seedlings she raised from seed (4) - an occupation she was very good at as she usually logged planting numerous seeds each year.

The entire year was wet, with an early onset of spring, but with a very early autumn.

September 26th: "Everything covered with several inches of snow followed by frosts" (2)

Sept 28th: "bitter cold with everything frozen."(1)

Then on October 13 she wrote

Weather like summer, all windows open and wearing no wraps." "The season is ending as beautifully as it started in April. No extreme heat has been experienced this summer. The highest temperature was 95 reached only once. Rain has been most abundant. (2)

On October 15, the books were packed for return to storage and the Garden closed. December 1st was the first day of gas rationing for the war. This eliminated many future trips by the Crones to their cabin at Cedar Creek and for botanizing in general. There was no outdoor lighting or decorating for Christmas in 1942 (1).

Photo at top of page 88: The top section of a story about the Garden on May 24, 1942

Notes:

(1) Martha Crone's Diary - 1942

(2) Garden Log - 1942

(3) Miss Lulu May Aler. She was one of the first visitors when the Garden opened in April and Martha would often note in her diary that "Miss Aler in" and sometimes for lunch together. Miss Aler set up and maintained a large bird feeding station at the back side of the Garden, so she would visit several time 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, which then became affiliated with the Minneapolis Audubon society. See page 72 for more on Miss Aler. The feeding table is not maintained today.

(4) Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated January 20, 1943, to Superintendent C A Bossen.

(5) Same source as note 3.



1943

Winter 1942/1943

1943, the second year of WWII for the United States, subdued a number of Garden activities. Garden Curator Martha Crone 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 concerned bird sightings and flower bloom. Most of the information for this year comes from her personal diary.

1943 was Martha Crone's 11th year in charge of the Garden, which began its 37th year. She was 49 years old on January 29th. The month was extremely cold.

On March 29, rationing went into effect for meat, butter, fats and cheese. She noted that by the 27th all stores were sold out of meat. (1)

Spring 1943

April 1st, Garden opening day was cold and snowing hard. The road barricades were still up so she parked at the foot of the trail on the north of the Garden and walked in via Tamarack Trail. After opening the east gate she walked down to her car and found the men had arrived to open the barricade, so she drove the car up and then spent time cleaning the front room of the Garden Office. Mr. Lucking [Park Board Horticulturist] and Mr. Jacobson from the Park Board were in to check on things. They all found that holes had been shot in all the office windows. (1)

The Dutchman's pipe vine that grew on the office trellis had been eaten down by rabbits. The kerosene stove she brought from home was working and the office warmed up in time for Miss Aler and Mrs. Ure to visit. Both were birders and frequent early season visitors.

On the 2nd her books and typewriter were delivered from Park Board storage and 5 gallons of kerosene for the stove were delivered. Audubon was in for a birding walk.

Within a few days the weather warmed and the Snow Trillium and Hepatica were in bloom on the 5th. On the 8th the temperature was 75 degrees, then it snowed all day on the 13th and Martha stayed



Dutchman's Pipe Vine
(*Aristolochia marcophylla*)
Rabbit food in the Winter of
1943. Photo Mark Garland,
USDA-NRCS Plants

home. On the 15th yet, the water in the bird bath was frozen and in all the pails in the office. Theodore Wirth [retired Parks Superintendent] came in that day for his first visit of the year.

Martha's \$60 semi/monthly pay check was subject to deductions of \$1.70 for a "victory tax" and \$8.20 for the pension.

On the 23rd Robert Dasset Jr. was in to visit. He was now teaching high school in Springfield. He was a young teacher who loved the Garden and birding, later joining the Friends in 1960, becoming a board member in 1969 and President in 1971.

The 23rd was also the date the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* published a substantial article about the Garden, Written by Virginia Dustin, it gave a little history, but generally

explained the flowers, the setting and wrote of the Curator. The writer opened with the closeness of the Garden to downtown: "Despite its great accessibility, the Garden remains fresh and untrammelled. There are no formal paths in the Garden, only leafy trails that seem to carry no mark of passing feet." She also said "There are no policemen in the Garden, no FORBIDDEN signs. . . . It is the Curator, really, who makes the Garden. She not only receives the visitors, but keeps the records and does most of the actual gardening." The sign comment reflects back to Eloise Butler who had numerous "NO" and "DO NOT" signs in the Garden. An interesting development was happening in the Cedar Creek area where Martha and Bill Crone had a cabin and land. The University of Minnesota had just purchased over \$2,000 worth of land just north of their property and Bill Crone went to the University Academy of Natural Sciences on the 24th to learn more about the U's project. Years later, the University would purchase the Crone property also.



Martha Crone in the Garden May 1943,
pictured in Tribune May 23 article.

May was a cold month. Martha noted on the 4th "all plants two weeks behind." By the 7th it was 30 degrees and Martha was "dressed for Winter." She noted the first waves of warblers coming through on the 15th. Then the weather started to warm. On the 18th she was "pulling Jewelweeds by the thousands." [Jewelweed is an annual that can be very invasive if not frequently controlled.]

May 20th "First warm day and all windows open." (2) Mrs. Cram was in for a visit that day and after a cold spring Martha could only note on May 28th "most terrible heat set in - 87 degrees." (1)

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 1936 and now, would not be mentioned again until 1955. (2) A plant re-appearance pleased Martha so much that she reported it to the park board:

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. (3)

She does not link these plants to the three that Gertrude Cram brought in the previous spring, so perhaps, these were another cluster.

The last notable event of May was on the 30th when she wrote:

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.(2)

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 in 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 find 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.

Summer 1943

Once again, most of summer's activities are from Martha's diary. Early June saw Martha pulling more Jewelweed: June 4 - "Worked pulling Jewelweed all day. Saw two wood ducks on the pond."

Cold weather again, 44 to 55 degrees on the 6th, with the stove in the office going all day. Another pay raise for Martha - now \$130 per month. Mr. Dasset was in again announcing he was going to work for Northrup King Seed in Texas. We don't know how long he was there, but he eventually returned and became a professor of Spanish at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.

In July the first direction signs leading the way to the Garden north entrance were erected by Martha, Mr. Jacobson and 2 men from the Park Board. Then on August 5th Mr. Erickson of the Park Board arrives with 4 locks the gates. (4) 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.



The Showy Orchis (*Orchis spectabilis*) of the type that made a reappearance in 1943. Photo ©Jeff Haberman, Wisconsin Flora



Example of how Jewelweed can become quite invasive. Contemporary photo of the marsh from 2010. Photo G D Bebeau.

On August 11th Martha gave a radio interview about the Garden on WCCO radio on the "Outdoor Minnesota" program. 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.[transcript follows].

By August 16 and 17th waves of warblers were returning through the Garden and it is interesting that those dates are so similar year to year. Martha always noted the dates.

Autumn 1943

At the State Fair of 1943, wartime activity was most noticeable. Martha wrote:

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.

September was also a cold month. The last hummingbird departed on September 14th. The Garden closed on October 15. Martha wrote:

Last 2 days have been bitter cold after summer-like weather in October. Purple finches still sing. White baneberries still perfect. Black-eyed Susans in front of office still in good bloom. (2)

On December 29 she notes: "I to library to see Mr. Vity in reference to Museum position." On the 31st she was back at the library and spent all day being shown around which means she got the job.

The job refers to the Minneapolis Public Library and its Science Museum. She was a member of the Science Museum Society, which published a small newsletter titled "*Minnesota Naturalist*." During the winter months of early 1944 Martha had a job of "Acting Head," a position she kept until the 1944 Garden season.

At the end of 1943 coffee came off rationing, some of the canned goods but all meat except fowl, remained rationed.

During the year Martha planted only six species that are still in the Garden today - Hepatica triloba (*Anemone acutiloba*); Smooth Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve* var. *laeve*) and Ontario Aster (*Symphyotrichum ontarionis*). She sowed seeds of three others that are still extant - Large Flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*); Tall Bellflower (*Campanulastrum americanum*) and Cardinal Flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

Photo at top of page 93: The east path in the woodland garden approaching the Garden office. Photo by Martha Crone on June 1, 1950.

Notes:

(1) Martha Crone's Diary - 1943

(2) Garden Log - 1943

(3) Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 12, 1944, to Superintendent C A Bossen.

(4) Erickson is Carl Erickson, Park Keeper for Glenwood Park.

OUTDOOR MINNESOTA

Crone

WCCO - Wednesday - August 11, 1943

Interview: Mrs. W. H. Crone

Announcer: Max Karl

Script: Ken Morrison

KARL: 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.

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

KARL: Are all of these species native to Minnesota?

CRONE: 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.

*native
plant*

KARL: 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 Pee 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar and $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of water are fastened by wires to the outside of the windows. The humming birds feed every few minutes and can be closely observed by remaining quietly on the inside.

Crone -4-

KARL: 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 feeders were placed the year before, since I refrain from feeding them until July. They never tire coming until finally rewarded.*

KARL: 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 a situation, a new area is attempted.

KARL: 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 ^{Red} 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.

KARL: How many species of orchids are found in Minnesota?

CRONE: It is interesting to know that of the 18 genera and 68 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 Ferns, the Lady Fern and the Ostrich Fern spread very quickly, thus make 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 particular^y 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* ~~Here~~ *represented* our native trees are ~~located~~ and many of them are labeled, especially those that are near the trails ~~to~~ *through* 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

MORE

XXXXX: part of Theodore Wirth Park there is an elm standing that is
KARL: 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 native
only in Carlton Co. It is very difficult to grow, easily
killed searching in the winter. Those 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 hardiest flower is the Dwarf Trillium.
Shorter and sturdier than its later-blooming brother, the ^{large-flowered} 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.

KARL: 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?

CRONE: 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 living plants in their natural surroundings, since the rapidly growing city was crowding out the wilderness.

This was considered an ideal spot, fulfilling all requirements, interspersed, as it is, with hills, ponds, streams and swamps.

Crone -9-

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.

*well
day off*

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

CRONE: Hundreds of persons visit the garden each month from April ^{to the middle} 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 Butler 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.

Purpose

KARL: Thank you very much, Mrs. ^{W. H.}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

Crone -10-

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.



1944

Winter 1943/1944

We no longer have Martha Crone's diaries available this year, so most information comes from her log (1) and other sources. This year she also abandoned typing the log in favor of hand written entries.

At the beginning of 1944 Martha took on the job acting head of the Minneapolis Public Library's Science Museum. The museum had been closed for five months, perhaps due to wartime personnel shortages. She was also editor of the Museum's newsletter titled "*Minnesota Naturalist*." In a newspaper report it is stated for the first time we know of that she "**worked with Miss Butler for 15 years as unofficial assistant.**"(2a) It was noted in Vol. 3, No.1 of the Museum newsletter for March 30, 1944 and in the daily newspaper(2b) that she would be relinquishing those posts in order to resume her duties at the Wild Flower Garden. Rhoda Green became the new acting curator. (2c)

1944 was Martha Crone's 12th year in charge of the Garden, which began its 38th year.

Spring 1944

April 1st was Garden opening day and it was not nice. Martha records:

Six inches snow covering the ground. Nothing up and still very cold. Heavy snow storm in November followed by mild weather during Dec. Jan. and Feb. March has been cold." On April 2nd "the temperature was 14 above in the morning. Pails of water frozen almost solid in the office. Wood chuck came out today. (1)

Fickle as April can be, the 12th was a beautiful warm sunny day, the icebound lakes gave up their ice on that day only to have the ground covered with snow on the 16th. But, on the 21st, the Snow Trilliums were blooming profusely. On the 27th the first Hepatica was in bloom, and on May 1st the Skunk Cabbage was in bloom. These are late dates. Martha's successor, Ken Avery, kept



The Garden Office on another wintry April day - April 14, 1949. The stove pipe is visible on the roof. Pipe and stove contributed by Clinton Odell in 1944. After this the kerosene stove brought from home is no longer mentioned. Photo by Martha Crone.

detailed records of early and late bloom dates and his successor Cary George maintained the list and their latest date for Skunk Cabbage was April 19 and for Hepatica was April 24; only the Snow Trillium was later on their lists, but only by one day.

Large waves of birds were noted coming through the Garden May 18-21. The Audubon people checked off 100 species. (1) The first Hummingbird was sighted May 12th.

Summer 1944

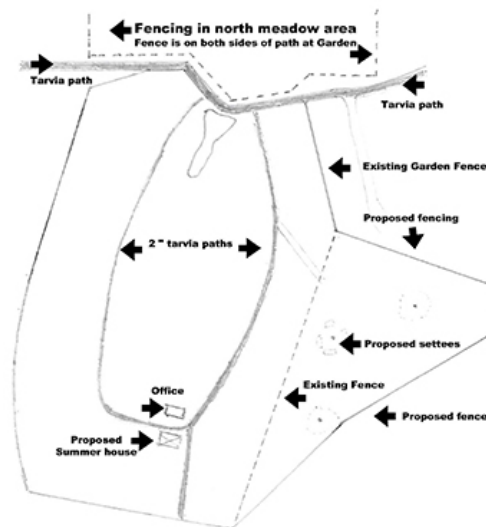
The Upland Garden Addition:

Clinton Odell, President of the Burma-Vita Company, and future founder of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, had offices at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, just blocks from the Garden [photo page 107]. He had been a botany student of Eloise Butler and he frequently spent time in the Garden helping Martha Crone with weeding and planting. In June 1944, Odell wrote to Minneapolis Park Board Superintendent C. A. Bossen, proposing to donate \$3,000 to cover the cost of clearing an upland garden, fencing in the new area, tarvia surfacing the paths both in the lower Garden and the newer portion, positioning settees on the center hill of the new upland and constructing a small summer house near the Garden Office.

At some point during the summer or autumn of 1944 the Park Board felt certain of Odell's requests should be "wait and see" as Mrs. Crone developed the area, in particular the paving of paths and construction of facilities. The paths were left to Martha Crone to complete and there was no surfacing except what Martha could accomplish. Many paths of Wirth Park already traversed that new section and she used many of them.

On August 29, 1944 Clinton Odell wrote to the Board of Park Commissioners in reply to their comments on the project.(3) He noted that he had met with various Park Board staff and those meetings had "resulted in our practical agreement on the various features of the program as outlined in my letter of June 29, 1944 to the board." He added "My thought has always been that the moving of the fence to enclose the upland garden, tarring the paths and other construction features should wait until at least the end of the war in Europe, at which time they should fit nicely into a post war work program."

He noted his donation of a wood stove and stove pipe for the office and that a Park Board truck had picked it up at his home and it was being installed. He referenced that the Park Board architect was working on the design for the upland and for the construction; he requested that Mr. Bossen allow Martha Crone some time off to gather new plant material for the upland; and then outlined his financial commitment and how and what records he wanted to keep track of it. [In terms of purchasing power after inflation the \$3,000 of 1944 is equivalent to \$44,000 in 2020.] At this point the Park Board had not yet given its approval to the entire project as he concluded "I shall await with interest your final action on my proposal as approved by your committee and particularly in the meanwhile I am happy to have Mr. Wirth's enthusiastic approval." [Wirth had retired as Superintendent at the end of 1935, but was obviously still being appraised of events and in fact, was one of people Odell referenced meeting

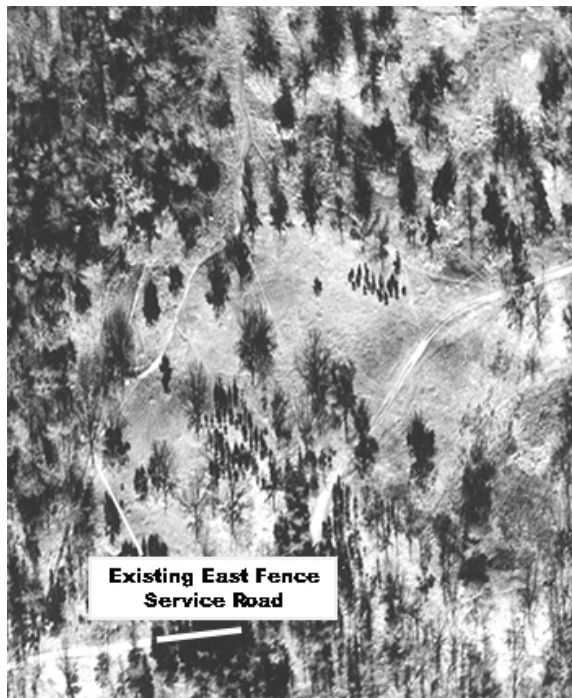


1944 Proposed addition and changes at
Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden.
Accepted by Park Board on Oct. 4, 1944
Hand-drawing based on Park Board Blueprint in Martha
Crone Papers at MHS

Above: Drawing of the Garden, taken from the official blueprint, with proposed changes as proposed by Clinton Odell and approved by the Park Board on Oct. 4, 1944. Some proposals were not implemented. Note the large area of the North Meadow that was fenced at the time.

in his letter of August 29.] Photos below: Before and after aerial views of the upland area. Note the large number of trees removed in the 1947 photo.

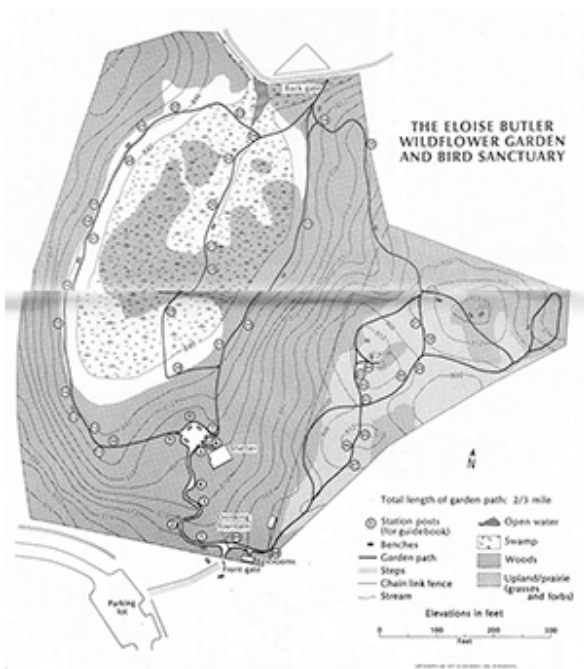
A 1938 aerial view of the area where the new upland addition would be.



A 1947 aerial view of the same area after the upland addition was fenced and trees cleared.



Odell sent an initial check for \$1,500 and in subsequent years between 1944 and 1952 (until The Friends were founded) he reimbursed the Park Board for what they spent, eventually exceeding his original \$3,000 offer by an additional \$4,000.



1987 Garden plan- The Upland Addition to the Garden in 1944 includes the right hand semi-triangular section. Map courtesy MPRB

The following information is from 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 Odell sent another \$1,500. In 1946 the amount for that year totaled \$1,314. Each year the Park Board sent a summary to Odell and he paid any amount due above his \$3,000 deposits. 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.

Martha Crone wrote in her 1945 report to the Park Board that the addition added about 10 acres. Based on what is known about the size of the current woodland garden and wetland area that was

enclosed with a fence in 1938, her acreage number is much too high. [The large north meadow which was part of Eloise Butler's garden had been abandoned by this time.] As the total Garden area prior to the most recent expansion in 1993 was 14 acres, then the upland added area was no more than 4 to 5 acres. Gardener Cary George wrote in 1994 that the one acre 1993 upland addition added 20% to the size of Upland Garden. (*The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 42 No 1).



Clinton Odell

A separate issue raised by Odell in his letter concerned the need for help for Mrs. Crone to remove invasive weeds in the Garden. He wrote "But to appreciate our problem some of you board members should visit the so called wild flower garden. With the exception of a small space near the office the entire area is grown up to a perfectly solid growth of Jewell Weed, nettles, and burrs, shoulder high in many places. Unless some plan is evolved to plant something which will act as a future check on these weeds the situation is hopeless." He then goes on to say that he and Mr. Bossen have devised a plan, which today we are fortunate they did not implement, of heavily planting tamarack and spruces on all the hillsides to "push the weeds north and keep them pushed." This plan would leave the area near the paths for wild flower planting. Perhaps Martha had some say in subduing that idea.

Abandonment of the Mallard Pool

The acreage count given above for the Garden would have then excluded the north meadow where the Mallard Pool had been constructed in 1932. Martha had made no notes in her log about doing anything in the Mallard Pool area after 1939 except for notes later in 1946 and 1947 about removing some plants from that area and transferring them to the current Garden space. We believe the Mallard Pool area was completely abandoned in 1944 for reasons stated in the next paragraph. The fence outline of the woodland and wetland shown on the 1987 map above is the same outline of the Garden at the time of the 1944 proposal and also agrees with Martha's 1952 map (see 1952).

Martha Hellander's research found correspondence between Clinton Odell and the Park Board containing his original idea on adding the upland to the existing garden. He advocated abandoning the northern area because it was swampy and also that it should never have been fenced in. (*The Wild Gardener*, Pg. 104) [Swampy after several very wet years in the early 1940s, but also because it was already a cattail marsh at the time Eloise Butler created the Mallard Pool there in 1932.] Former Gardener Cary George has stated to me that the fence from the northern meadow was removed and used to fence in the new area. It was wartime and steel fencing could not be easily obtained. (Conversation on May 18, 2018). Other notes of Martha Crone in 1939 (diary) indicate some of the fencing in the northern area was installed that year - other parts of it could date to Eloise Butler's 1924 fence. Historical Garden Fencing details are contained in the appendix.

In her Annual Report, Martha Crone Wrote "The proposed extension of the fence enclosure, made possible through the efforts and contributions of Mr. Clinton Odell, to accommodate native upland and prairie plants will fill a long needed want. It is greatly appreciated and further development of this project is looked forward to with great interest." (4)



Purple Loosestrife. Photo G D Bebeau

On July 18 Martha noted “Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) becoming lovely around pool.” Eloise Butler first noticed the plant in the Garden in 1916, Martha noted it blooming in 1939 and even in the 1960s planting of this invasive was still advocated. Martha herself wrote in 1958:

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 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. (5)

She does at least state that it is invasive.

Autumn 1944

In her Annual Report Martha also noted the problems with Jewelweed that Clinton Odell had written about in his August 29 letter. 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. (4)

This was not the first time Jewelweed created problems. Of the two species, Eloise Butler recorded Spotted Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) as indigenous to the Garden and she planted the other species, Pale Jewelweed, (*I. pallida*) in 1916. Back then it also took over the Garden and had to be pulled. Clinton Odell’s daughter Moana, wrote about her and her father pulling Jewelweed for Martha Crone (6). In 1943 Martha noted pulling it by the thousands.

In the autumn months Martha and Park Board maintenance workers began clearing sumac and other unwanted plants from the upland area. In his August 29 letter referenced above, Clinton Odell had noted that “The preparation of the upland garden tract should include the removal of several black oaks of little value and considerable sumac.” Then on about November 9 and again on November 16 he met with Superintendent Bossen at the Garden and apparently made several more requests for plant removal including more oaks. The superintendent wrote in reply on November 17, recounting how Mrs. Crone had met several weeks earlier with the maintenance people and supervisors and they had designated what trees and shrubbery should be removed, and that the work crews were now busy with that work.

The superintendent then says “wait a minute.” Operations were just starting, there was sufficient open space, we should wait until developments tell us what to do. “The oak trees have taken a great many years to grow and they should not be removed until it is found necessary for the proper development and best interests of the garden to do so.

There may be a slight difference of opinion as to what should be done at the present time at the garden in reference to this matter, but I am certain we are all together on the proposition of making our mutual efforts count in rendering the garden project a successful undertaking.” When a large number of oaks in the upland began succumbing to oak wilt in the 1980s and later it was evident that Mr. Bossen's



Spotted Jewelweed Flowers. Photo
G D Bebeau

decision to leave these to maintain an oak savanna was spot on correct otherwise there might be none today. (7)

On September 24, the *Minneapolis Tribune* ran a short article about the wild asters blooming in the Wild Flower Garden - 18 different ones in bloom, plus the beautiful colors of the sumac and the tree leaves. Also noted was that 15,000 persons had visited the Garden since April. The last Hummingbird left the Garden by September 11th. On October 15, closing day, the foliage was beautiful in numerous hues of red, orange and yellow.

Martha was allowed by Mr. Bossen to have 4 field trips to collect plants during the year (3). That usually means time away from the Garden other than her normal Wednesday day off. In 1944 alone, Martha set out 210 new plants in the new upland area (detail below). Within two years she had established 2000 feet of paths, some of which were adapted from existing paths in that part of the park. 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.

Martha listed the first plants that she had set out in the new Upland Garden:

- 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*

Notwithstanding the slow start to spring, the weather the remainder of the season was favorable. In November it was announced that Martha would again rejoin the staff of the Science Museum for the winter months, this time to specialize in making terraria for native bog plants. (8)

Photo at top of page 107: Plant and office of the Burma-vita Company at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, 1941. Photo by Norton and Peel.

Notes:

(1) Garden Log - 1944

(2a) *Minneapolis Star* January 10, 1944.

(2b) *Minneapolis Star* March 29, 1944.

(2c) Papers and Newsletters of the Minneapolis Science Museum Society in the Martha Crone Collection. Minnesota Historical Society.

(3) Letter in the Clinton Odell folder, Martha Crone Papers, Minnesota Historical Society. Copy follows

(4) Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 20, 1945, to Superintendent C A Bossen.

(5) *The Fringed Gentian* TM April 1958, Vol. 6 No. 2

(6) *The Fringed Gentian* TM, Vol. 24, no.1

(7) Letter dated November 17, 1944 from the Board of Park Commissioners to Clinton Odell, signed by C. A. Bossen, Superintendent. Letter in the Clinton Odell folder, Martha Crone Papers, Minnesota Historical Society. Copy follows.

(8) *Minneapolis Star*, November 2, 1944

Hon. Board of Park Commissioners
City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

Referring to my offer to finance certain improvements in the Butler Wild Flower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park.

I have met with your committee which included Mr. Wirth, Mr. Bossen, Mr. Doell, Mr. Berthe, and Mr. Thainin and have had a supplemental conference with Mr. Bossen and Mr. Johnson, your superintendent of maintenance, all of which has resulted in our practical agreement on the various features of the program as outlined in my letter of June 29, 1944 to the board.

My thought has always been that the moving of the fence to enclose the upland garden, tarring the paths and other construction features should wait until at least the end of the war in Europe, at which time they should fit nicely into a post war work program. It is my thought and desire that in the interest of economy and so far as practical the work should be done contract with competitive bidding. I understand your architect will prepare the various plans and specifications and give me an opportunity to pass on each of these before it is put into effect.

For adequately heating the curators office I have donated a small stove and pipe together with 10 bags of Briquettes which your truck has picked up at my home, delivered to the garden office, and which your superintendent is installing there.

A man for some clean up work has been furnished whose salary I understand is not to be charged to our fund. He has gone to work on the broad leaf nettles which Mrs. Crone considers particularly dangerous.

But to appreciate our problem some of you board members should visit the so called wild flower garden. With the exception of a small space near the office the entire area is grown up to a perfectly solid growth of Jewell Weed, nettles, and burrs, shoulder high in many places. Unless some plan is evolved to plant something which will act as a future check on these weeds the situation is hopeless.

August 29, 1944

With this in mind Mr. Bossen and I have devised a plan for planting the entire central area between the east and west paths, up to about 200 feet from the paths, to Tamaracks and native Spruces. This involves a program extending over several years. Beginning at the south line we propose to slowly push the weeds north and keep them pushed, so that ultimately we may have an uninfected space, adjacent to the paths for our wild flowers. The central Tamarack and Spruce area should provide a clear forest floor suitable for several floral varieties indigenous to that kind of an environment. But in any event the board should know that the fight, while perhaps not heavy after our tree plantings get going, is a continuous one and any relaxation therein will ruin our floral plantings in the cleaned up area adjacent to the paths.

The preparation of the upland garden tract should include the removal of several black oaks of little value and considerable sumac.

I have agreed to finance the program up to not exceeding three thousand dollars, your architects estimate, and am enclosing my check payable to the board for \$1000.00 to put our plan into operation, subject of course to the final approval of the board. If I should happen to pass on you've at least got that much. I prefer not to have any charge against my estate in this respect. I suggest that all payments by me be carried in a special account and all proper charges against the fund be recorded therein.

Toilet facilities and a box for storing fuel will be provided by your superintendent.

In conclusion may I add that I shall await with interest your final action on my proposal as approved by your committee, and particularly in the meanwhile I am happy to have Mr. Wirth's enthusiastic approval.

Mrs. Crone tells me that upon your O. K. she will start at once to gather seeds and plants for a test of the possibilities of the upland garden. Mr. Bossen will let her have some time off and otherwise assist her in this work. If and when it starts I shall keep close track of the various features of the program as they progress with the hope that, working together, we may ultimately make the wild flower garden into a place inhabited by all harmless Minnesota upland, meadow and forest flowers, plants and bushes and a show place in our great park system of which all of us may truly be proud.

Most cordially and sincerely yours,

CMO:cs

FRANCIS A. GROSS, PRESIDENT
ALEXANDER A. McRAE, VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTIAN A. BOSSEN, SUPERINTENDENT
THEODORE WIRTH, SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS

CHAS. E. DOELL, SECRETARY AND
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
PAUL J. THOMPSON
ATTORNEY

Board of Park Commissioners

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WASHINGTON YALE

Minneapolis (15)

November 17, 1944

Mr. Clinton M. Odell
c/o Burma-Vita Company
2318 Chestnut
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Odell:

Replying to your letter of November 16 and referring to our conversation of yesterday at Theodore Wirth Park -

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Crone, Curator of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, Mr. Jacobsen, Tree Inspector, Mr. Johnson, Supervisor of Park Maintenance, and the writer spent some time going over the area contained in the new enclosure of the garden with special reference to designating the trees and shrubbery to be eliminated, in order to make the grounds suitable for the start of developments in the new garden. We came to an agreement with Mrs. Crone as to the trees and shrubbery to be removed and I arranged shortly thereafter to have our crew cut down the trees and grub out the shrubbery.

About a week ago, Mr. Doell and I met you at the garden and we discussed among other matters, in reference to the development of the garden, the question of cutting down more oak trees at this time. I suggested to you then that in view of the fact that operations are just starting, it would be advisable, in my opinion, to proceed slowly in the cutting down of additional oak trees until the developments indicate the desirability and necessity for so doing. There appeared to be sufficient open space in various parts of the new garden to readily permit the start of operations in the establishing of the initial plantings.

The oak trees have taken a great many years to grow and they should not be removed until it is found necessary for the proper development and best interests of the garden to do so. As I told Mrs. Crone at the garden when the trees were marked to be cut down, whenever she found it advisable and necessary (after the development of the garden got under way) for her to recommend that additional trees and shrubbery be removed, that her request would receive favorable consideration and action. My position is the same now. After our discussion of yesterday, I am still of the same opinion, and it is my suggestion that for the time being we postpone the cutting down of more trees and review the matter next summer or after one season's development and experience. I think at that time we will be in a better position to determine how many trees should be cut down in the best interests of the garden.

There may be a slight difference of opinion as to what should be done at the present time at the garden in reference to this matter, but I am certain we are all together on the proposition of making our mutual efforts count in rendering the garden project a successful undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS,

C. A. Bossen

C. A. Bossen, Superintendent
of Parks.

CAB-W Copy to Mrs. Crone.



1945

Winter 1944/1945

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 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.

Over 2,000 feet of newly made trails had been graveled and many plantings were along the trails for visitor viewing. She also laid out some new trails in the older part of the Garden and graveled old and new. Jewelweed, so dominant last year, had been mostly removed so there would be little new seed production. (1)

1945 was Martha Crone's 13th year in charge of the Garden, which began its 39th year. Charles E. Doell. became Parks Superintendent following the retirement of C. A. Bossen.

Spring 1945

On March 22, the Snow Trillium was in bloom which is the earliest known date, besting the records kept by her later successors Ken Avery and Cary George. Spring was just the opposite of 1944 when everything was late. Martha was already setting out plants before the Garden opened. Ten Hepatica and 65 Snow Trillium on March 28th.

On opening day, April 1st, the Hepaticas were also in bloom. In the new Upland Garden Martha sowed a quarter of the wildflower seed and other seeds she had saved from the prior year. She brought in 24 Pasque Flowers from Anoka. Considering the early spring, the first Hummingbird knew better and did not show up until May 25. (2) After the early start the temperatures dropped well below normal in April, May and June, with a killing frost on June 5. By the end of May she had planted 921 plants. (2).



Pasque flower - planted almost every year by Martha Crone.
Photo G D Bebeau

Summer 1945

June opened with a killing frost on the 5th, freezing all the tomato plants in home gardens, but Martha could note:

Area mostly free of canker worms which for the last 5 years they have been increasing, practically defoliating the trees.

Weather in 1945 would be known for the early spring, then a cool summer. In counter-balance to the early spring blooms, the Showy Lady's-slipper bloomed on the latest date known - June 28. The Yellow Lady's-slipper had not bloomed until June 11 - probably an all-time late date for that plant that normally blooms before the end of May. (2)

By the end of summer, Martha had planted 2,673 plants. Three were new to the Garden. No source was listed for the plants.

- *Erysimum asperum*, Western Wallflower (Yellow Phlox, Prairie Rocket), native. This was a significant planting, over summer and fall she set out 451 plants and sowed seed on 3 days.
- *Lobelia spicata*, Palespike Lobelia, native
- *Polygala polygama*, Racemed Milkwort, native.

The reason for the large planting of Western Wallflower was explained in a September 16th story in the *Minneapolis Tribune* titled "Wild Flowers Beckon Visitors to Wirth Park." The lead-in was to tell people to visit now as the new prairie area was in peak bloom. The article then explained how Clinton Odell had been the force to create the area and what work Martha Crone had already accomplished. The article concluded with "One of the showplaces planned as part of a three-year development program is a hillside covered with yellow phlox which will face quests entering the Garden." This would be one of the "massed plantings" she references in her annual report. Martha was shown in the Garden in the article, which misstates the size of the 1944 addition as 10 acres whereas it was 4 acres and misstates the original garden size as 20 acres whereas it was 3 acres, 20 came later.



Western Wallflower, planted in large numbers in 1945. Photo G D Bebeau.



Autumn 1945

Most of the fall months were spent with more planting and working on paths in the new Upland Garden. Martha would end the year having planted 4,106 new plants and sowing a quantity of seeds. Two new plants were added to the Garden in the fall:

- *Froelichia* - no species give, must be our only one native in Minnesota - *Froelichia floridana*, Plains Snakecotton, native.

- *Rudbeckia triloba*, Thin-leaf Coneflower, native.

Of species already in the Garden, some significant plantings were:
 Butter & Eggs, (*Linaria vulgaris*) 125 plants
 Large-flowered Penstemon, (*Penstemon grandiflorus*) 141 plants.

The Garden closed for the season on October 15th. Martha would state in her annual report (2):

More than 2,000 feet of newly made trails have been graveled.
 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.

The mention of “massed plantings” is a trait Martha favored, for the reasons she stated. In later years this idea was done away with so the that the Garden more resembled the wild place it originally was, with wildflowers growing among each other.

For a white Christmas, 11.3 inches of snow was provided on December 24/25, the snowiest Christmas on record to the present day.

Photo at top of page 116: Group of Showy Lady’s-slippers. June 10, 1955. Photo from a Kodachrome by Martha Crone in May 1948.

Notes:

- (1) Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated January 30, 1946. First report to new Superintendent Charles E. Doell.
- (2) Garden Log - 1945



Large-flowered Penstemon or Showy Beardtongue, *Penstemon grandiflorus*, planted in quantity in 1945. Photo G D Bebeau



1946

Winter 1945/1946

1946 completes the 40th year of the Garden and Martha Crone's 14th year as Curator. Many new plants set out in 1946 are non-native, apparently an attempt to see what would grow in the new prairie area. Many did not last until the 1951 census. No source was given for any new plants. With the development of the Upland Garden, it is incredible the amount of planting Martha Crone did in 1946 and little wonder that her log is 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 September 24 that "a few Hummingbirds still here." Martha religiously noted the arrival of the first Hummingbird and the departure of the last. On January 25 Martha was honored at a meeting of the Plymouth Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S. chapter 19). She was retiring having served the chapter for 12 years as the *Minneapolis Tribune* announced on January 19. The time frame is rather strange since we have newspaper accounts of her being treasurer of the Chapter already in 1930.

Spring 1946

The first entry in the log was March 28 when she planted 75 Snow Trilliums removed from a site in Mankato. [The Mankato/New Ulm area a familiar source of plants for her.] In the first 15 days of April she planted 130 Pasque Flowers. April 18 saw the introduction of 175 Minnesota Dwarf Trout lily, *Erythronium propullans*, but she did not list the source. This is the first mention of them being planted since Eloise Butler introduced them in 1909. Martha's source must have been Goodhue, Rice or Steel counties where they are native.

May 10 had a heavy frost, followed by a snowstorm on the 11th with temperatures of 26 degrees. Many flowers were frozen.(1)
Two new plants were introduced in the spring without the source being given. (1)

Aconitum napellus, Monkshood, an introduced species and *Adoxa moschatellina*, Muskroot, native.

Martha recommended Monkshood as a plant rabbits would avoid. On May 29 the first new identification stakes were put in the new Upland Garden. These were provided by Clinton Odell.



Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily,
photo from a Kodachrome by
Martha Crone on April 25,
1955.

On May 6 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. It is mostly

historical but contains a few errors of fact as to the size of the Garden, listing it as 30 acres instead of the 14 at the time. The writer added some significant new information about “monarch” which had been taken down in 1940. Those details are included in the text for 1940.

Summer 1946

By the time June came, Martha already had over 3,000 plants in the ground. During the summer months she added another 3,700. Of those summer plants, the following are new to the Garden and we note which ones survived until the 1951 census. "Native" refers to a plant found in the wild in Minnesota, at settlement time.

"Introduced" means the plant is found here but originally imported from somewhere else. "Not native" means the plant has not been found in the wild in Minnesota but is native elsewhere in North America. Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Aster fendleri* [now *Symphotrichum fendleri*], Fendler's Aster, no source, not native. Not extant on 1951 census.
- *Aster meritus*, [now *Eurybia merita*] Subalpine Aster, MC called it Western Aster, extant in 1951.
- *Centaurea maculosa* [*Centaurea stoebe*. subsp. *micranthos*], Spotted Knapweed, M. Crone referred to it as Batchelor's buttons, introduced, invasive, extant in 1951.
- *Gnaphalium macounii* [*Pseudognaphalium macounii*] Macoun's Cudweed. Native - she just listed cudweed, but this is the only one on the 1951 census.
- *Lilium michiganense*, Michigan Lily, assume this species as it is the only one on the 1951 census - native.
- *Lobularia maritima*, Sweet Alyssum, not native, not extant in 1951
- *Mertensia lanceolata*, Prairie Bluebells, possible, but there are several possibilities due to many varieties of the plant and some of those are now listed as varieties of *M. oblongifolia* Western Bluebells or Oblongleaf Bluebells which Eloise Butler planted in 1915 and extant in 1951
- *Myosotis scorpioides*, Forget-me-not, not native, extant in 1951.
- *Orchis blephariglottis*, [*Platanthera blephariglottis*] White Fringed Orchid, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Penstemon angustifolius*, Broadbeard Beardtongue, not native, not extant in 1951
- *Poinsettia dentata* [*Euphorbia dentata*, var. *dentata*], Toothed Spurge, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Viola adunca*, Sandland Violet, Hooked Spur Violet, native, extant in 1951
- *Viola nuttalli*, Nuttall's violet, native, extant in 1951



Spotted Knapweed, planted in 1946 by Martha Crone. Considered an invasive plant today. Photo ©Merle R. Black, Wisconsin Flora.

The last possible new plant was listed as “50 Wild Strawberry” without specifying the species. Both species of Wild Strawberry were listed on the 1951 census, but to this time only the Virginia Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, had been recorded. So it is possible that this is the point at which *Fragaria vesca*, the Woodland Strawberry, enters the Garden.

During the summer a new trail was cut through the wetland, which may approximate the same area as the Lady's-slipper Lane of today, but not necessarily in the exact place. Eloise Butler had side paths leading to certain plantings but not a continuous path through the heart of the wetland and this path may have connected several of her side paths. The trail had a corduroy base. See the 1947 history for a map of that era showing these wetland trails. 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. (2)

One entry in Martha's log this summer was historically significant. On June 11 she wrote "32 Showy Lady's-slipper from lower enclosure to violet path." This was the first time she mentioned removing plants from the north meadow that contained Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool. We believe that area and the pool were abandoned in 1944 and Martha is retrieving some valuable plants. Martha made no entries in her log of planting in that area after 1939.



Upland Garden view - under development, shows aluminum plant labels. Photo from a Kodachrome by Martha Crone on June 5, 1950.

Autumn 1946

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1946 was 8,343. The following plants set out in the autumn are new to the Garden and we note which ones survived until the 1951 census:

- *Hypericum gentianoides*, Orange grass, native.
- *Lewisia rediviva*, Bitter root, not native, extant in 1951.
- *Trillium luteum*, Yellow Trillium, not native, extant in 1951
- *Trillium stylosum* [*Trillium catesbaei*] Rose Trillium, not native, extant in 1951.
- *Viola hastata*, Halberdleaf Yellow Violet, not native, not extant in 1951
-

In addition Martha planted seeds of 33 species. Most seeds were planted in flats near the office where they would overwinter as necessary for germination. Most of October was occupied with the seeds. Her last log entry was on October 25 when she planted the 25 Bitterroot listed above.



Yellow Trillium, first introduced by Martha Crone in 1946. Photo © G D Bebeau

Significant plantings of species already in the Garden:

- Pasque Flowers (*Anemone patens*) - 130 in April and 206 in September, bringing the total of that plant for the year to 336 plants.
- Aromatic Aster, (*Aster oblongifolius* - now *Symphotrichum oblongifolium*) 250 were planted on September 23rd.
- Bird's-foot Violet, (*Viola pedata*) numerous plantings in May and September totaled 1,312 plants. This violet must have been on her favorites as she started planting it in the new Upland Garden in 1946 and 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. [photo on page 143] Such beds were her goal as she stated in 1945: "Numerous mass plantings have been established along the trails, permitting easy access and giving the best effect." (3)

- Marsh Bellflower, (*Campanula americana*) 100 planted on July 11. This is the first planting of the species since Eloise Butler discovered the plant in the Garden in 1913.
- Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*), 300 plants in June through August. She had first planted it in 1945.



Hepatica Hill area of the Garden which Martha Crone began extensively planting in 1946. Photo by Martha on April 16, 1955.

Martha specifically mentions in her annual report (2) the following:

The lower Garden has had many plantings added. In careful imitation of nature's 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 was 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.

In her annual report to the Park Board Martha again thanks Clinton Odell as follows:

The new upland garden altho established only a few years ago, has proven a distinct success. 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.

On September 22 the *Minneapolis Tribune* published an article about Clinton Odell and his business - the Burma-Vita Company, outlining how the company had become successful and giving a good history of Burma Shave.

Martha had two workmen available this year - Clarence Larson and Fred Gau. (4)

Photo at top of page 119: The 1946 path in the marsh, with an open pool visible of the left. Photo by Martha Crone on May 15, 1952.

Notes:

(1) Garden Log - 1946

(2) Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 24, 1947 to Charles E. Doell.

(3) Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated January 30, 1946 First report to new Superintendent Charles E. Doell.

(4) Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.



1947

Winter 1946/1947

1947 completes the 41st year of the Garden and Martha Crones 15th year as Curator.

Many new plants set out in 1947 are, again like 1946, non-native, apparently an attempt to see what would grow in the new prairie area. Many did not last until the 1951 census. The source is given for some of new plants. Martha's Garden log is, like 1946, virtually devoid of mentioning bird activity, which she usually never neglected. Even the warbler migration is not noted. Birds are only mentioned three times - August 1st "Birds still singing," September 14 "Pileated woodpecker was working on the Oak tree on path to north of office" and a note on September 24 that "a few Hummingbirds still here."

Spring 1947

Spring was not agreeable the first two weeks of April. The first entry in the Garden log was April 1: "Garden still snow and ice bound, no sign of green growth." On April 5 & 6: "Heavy snow, paths in muddy condition, impossible to work anywhere." (1)

April 14th found the 1st Snow Trilliums in bud and the Pasque Flowers. On April 17 the paths in the Garden were in fair spring condition but more snow fell.

A large number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in April, all from Henderson's Nursery in Greenburg Indiana. Of those, the following are new to the Garden and we note which ones survived until the 1951 census. "Native" refers to a plant found in the wild in Minnesota, at settlement time. "Introduced" means the plant is found here but originally imported from somewhere else. "Not native" means the plant is native to elsewhere in North America but not Minnesota. Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Delphinium tricornis*, Dwarf Larkspur, native, not extant in 1951.
- *Frasera caroliniensis*, American Columbo, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Ipomoea pandurata*, Man of the Earth, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Ruellia ciliosa* [*Ruellia caroliniensis* var. *cinerascens*] Carolina Wild Petunia, not native, not extant in 1951. [NOTE: Martha did not list a variety name, so it is possible she planted var. *longifolia*, which today is classified as a variety of *R. humilis*, the Fringeleaf Wild Petunia, which is questionably native to the state.]

- *Spigelia marilandica*, Woodland Pinkroot, not native, not extant in 1951
- *Tecoma radicans*, [*Campsis radicans*] Trumpet Creeper, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Viola concolor*, [*Hybanthus concolor*], Green Violet, native but on endangered list, not extant in 1951.

April 30th was the first warm day of spring - 81 degrees. The month had been cold and rainy with 23 days of rain.

On May 3 Martha noted that all the recently planted Hepaticas (she planted the Sharp-lobed almost every year) were doing well and “one clump of Round-lobed Hepatica has 125 blossoms.” (1)

Another large group of plants new to the Garden were planted in May. Some of these do not have the source listed.

- *Agoseris grandiflora*, Large-flowered Agoseris, not native, not 1951.
- *Cimicifuga americana* [*Actaea podocarpa*] American Bugbane (Mountain Bugbane) not native.
- *Erythronium grandiflorum*, Yellow avalanche-lily [Glacier Lily], not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Lilium carolinianum*, [*Lilium michauxii*] Carolina Lily, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Phlox bifida*, Cleft Phlox, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Phlox stolonifera* Sims, Creeping phlox, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Rhododendron carolinia*, Carolina Rhododendron, not native, not extant in 1951 from Kelsey's Nursery.
- *Rhododendron catawbiense*, Mountain Rose Bay, not native, not extant in 1951, from Kelsey's Nursery.
- *Rhododendron maximum*, Rose Bay, not native, extant in 1951, from Kelsey's Nursery.
- *Rubus arcticus*, Arctic Blackberry, native, not extant in 1951.
- *Strophostyles helvola*, Trailing Wild Bean, native, from seeds, extant in 1951. Eloise Butler had also planted seeds in 1932.
- *Vinca minor*, Running Myrtle, introduced, extant in 1951.

May ended with cold and frost on 27th. By the end of May over 2,500 new plants were in the ground.



Carolina Rhododendron planted by Martha Crone in 1947 as part of a group of Rhododendron species to show off the Woodland Garden. Photo ©Smithsonian Institution.



Arctic Blackberry, *Rubus arcticus*, planted by Martha Crone in 1947 and 1950 and subsequently planted by Ken Avery in 1962. Photo ©Joshua A. Horkey, Wisconsin Flora.

Summer 1947

The water system for the Garden that Martha had requested 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. (1) The crew ran out of narrow diameter pipe and the final leg was built with larger diameter pipe, resulting in poor water pressure. Prior to this Martha had to bring water from home when needed for any seedlings if there was little rain and the pool in the Garden was dry. It would be 1964 before the connection would be extended down to the Woodland Garden. (3)

During the summer months she added another 3,700 plants. Of those the following are new to the Garden and we note which ones survived until the 1951 census. Several of these species are questionable as her source is within Minnesota, but these species do not grow here, nor ever been collected here:

- *Anemone sylvestris*, Snowdrop Windflower or Large White Anemone, not native, extant in 1951.
- *Aster alpinus*, Alpine Aster, from Cedar Bog near Askov - not possible, grows nowhere near Minnesota, not extant in 1951.
- *Hemerocallis fulva*, Orange daylily, introduced, extant in 1951.
- *Lithospermum incisum*, Narrowleaf Stoneseed (Narrow-leaved Puccoon) native, extant in 1951.
- Grass of Parnassus from Savage. Must be *Parnassia glauca* as *P. palustris* is not found in the area, yet she only lists *P. palustris* on her 1951 census which had been planted by Eloise Butler several times, as far back as 1924.
- *Viola odorata*, Sweet (English) Violet, not native, extant in 1951.

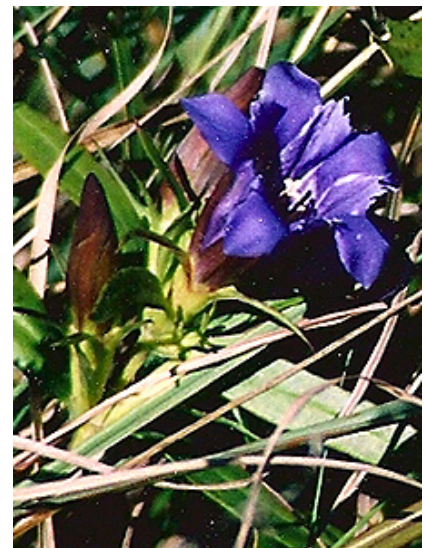
There had always been an open pool of water at the north end of the wetland part of the lower Garden. The pool was created in the first years of the Garden when Eloise Butler constructed a dam across an out-flowing water channel. Martha had three more pools dug out further south in the wetland creating a series of three small pools along the new 1946 trail. The original Butler pool was quite shady, not allowing sun-loving plants to grow. While she did not make a reference to these pools until she wrote her 1947 report we believe they were created in late 1946 since they seem to appear on a 1947 aerial photo next to the new wetland path. (see page 132 and 136 for photos of the new pool) She wrote:

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.(2)

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. A previous entry occurred



Grass of Parnassus, the species *Parnassia glauca*, which is suspected to be what Martha Crone planted in 1947. Photo ©G D Bebeau



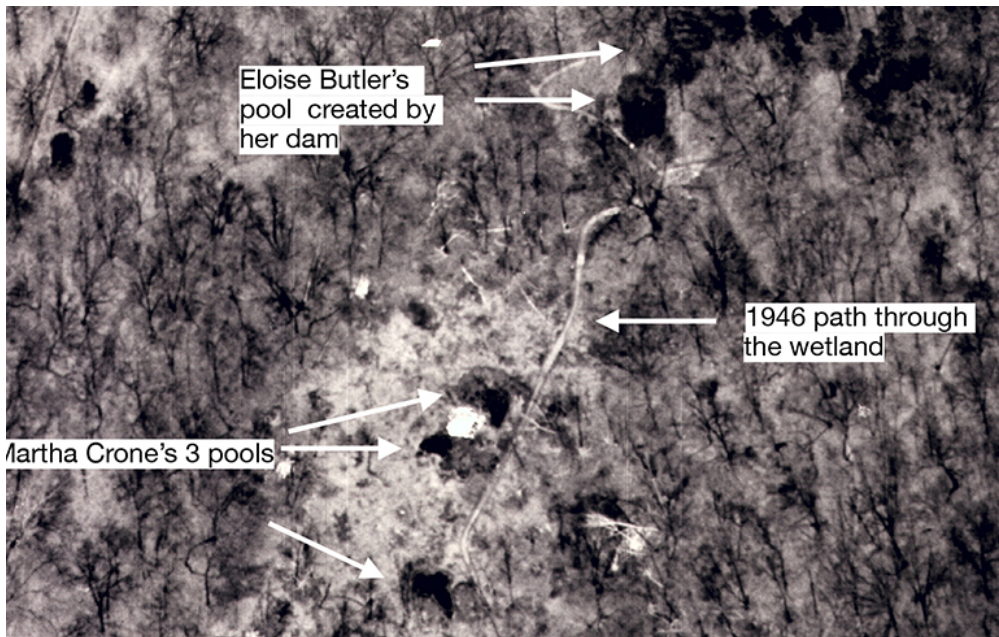
Downy Gentian, *Gentiana puberula*, first introduced by Martha Crone in 1947. Photo G D Bebeau

in the summer of 1946. We believe that northern area and the pool was abandoned by 1944 and Martha is retrieving some plants. Martha made no entries in her log of planting in that area after 1939.

On August 27, the *Minneapolis Tribune* published an article titled “Wild Flowers bring Glint to Male Eyes, Curator Says.” Martha Crone was quoted saying “Men are much more interested in wild flowers than women are. I couldn’t tell you why, but we have many more men visitors, and in recent years the interest seems to have increased.” The article also mentions how helpful Clinton Odell has been and how Martha obtains plants for the Garden, including rescues from building sites. The photo published with the article shows Martha tending a clump of Blazing Star. The same photo was used in 1948 and 1950 in other *Tribune* articles about the Garden.



WILD FLOWER CURATOR—Mrs. Martha Crone cultivates a blazing star bush, one of the more decorative plants in the upland garden, part of the park board's wild flower developments at Glenwood park.



Left: This spring 1947 aerial photo shows the Garden wetland area. Annotated are the 3 new pools along the new wetland path, Eloise Butler's original pool. The white specs in the wetland are defects on the photo negative. North is up. Compare to Martha Crone's 1952 map shown below in the autumn section. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota.

Autumn 1947

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1947 was 8,822. The following plant set out in the autumn was new to the Garden:

- *Gilia rubra*, (*Ipomopsis rubra*), Red Gilia, Standing cypress, not native, planted from seeds, extant in 1951

On October 22 Martha noted “many flowers still in bloom. Robins eating Mt. Ash berries, Temperature 88° October 21.”

In addition Martha planted seeds of 52 species - a list that covers two pages of hand written notes. Most seeds were planted in flats near the office where they would over-winter as necessary for germination.

Her planting continued throughout October and into November. The Garden season had been extended to the end of October for the first time this year. She noted on November 7th: "**Blizzard, starting like Armistice Day Storm.**" Her last work of the year was planting seeds of Downy Gentian (*Gentiana puberula*) on the snow and in flats on November 19th and a large Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) on November 24th that she had received from the "mum show". She noted

Has been snowing every other day since the 7th. Cold & Wintery, altho the ground isn't frozen under the snow.

As in the previous year, there were some existing species that were planted in very large numbers at various times during the year. Rather than list them by season, here is the list for the year of such plants:

Trillium nivale, Snow Trillium, 222 plants

Hepatica acutiloba, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, 1,350. Most of these to Hepatica Hill.

Viola pedata, Bird's-foot Violet, 575

Lobelia cardinalis, Cardinal Flower, 670

Osmunda regalis, Royal Fern, 111

Cleome obliqua, Red Turtlehead, 150

Tiarella cordifolia, Foam Flower, 135

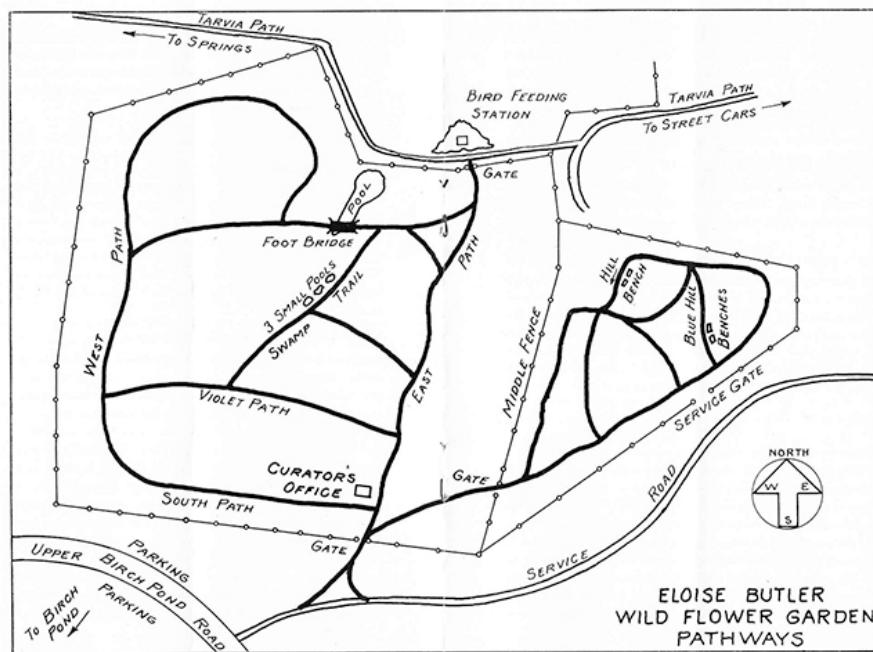
Many of these were seedlings that Martha had seeded in flats the prior year.

In her annual report to the Park Board Martha again thanks 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. (2)
She then reported:

Below: Map of the trails in the Garden as used in the 1952 self-guided brochure. The "swamp trail" was created in 1946. It is believed that the short side paths off of that and possibly part of the "violet path" were the 1947 additions. The position of the 3 new pools is noted. Map is not to scale - the vertical distance is much compressed to fit the brochure.

Map from J. S. Futcher Collection.



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 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. (2)

In 1946 Martha had put in the first trail through the heart of the wetland. Eloise Butler never had a central path going through from south to north, only a loop path on the east and west sides of the wetland. This 1946 path would be in a similar position to the Lady-slipper Lane of today and is labeled "Swamp Trail" on the map at left. The additional

trails she mentions in 1947 are branches off of the 1946 path. It is unclear if the the large loop on the north end of the West Path is new or if the short-cut to the Foot Bridge is new at this time. The map she drew for her 1952 self-guided brochure shows what paths probably were in place after her 1947 work.

She notes that “the four species of Lady’s-slippers were second to none in beauty.”(2)

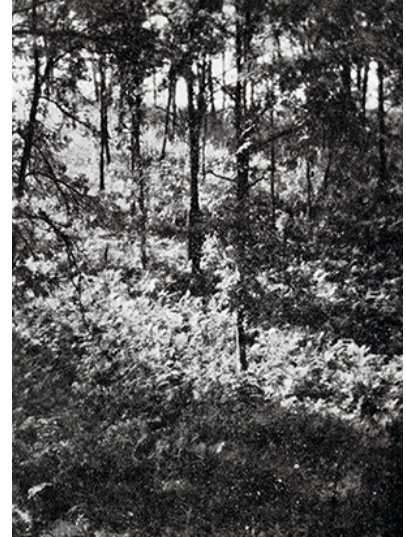
This would eliminate at least one or two species that had been in the Garden. Based on her planting records and log notes it would seem that those still there would be *Cypripedium acaule*, the Stemless; *C. candidum*, the Small White; *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin*, the smaller flowered of the Yellow; and *C. reginae*, the Showy. These had been planted almost every year. The one most probably missing is *C. arietinum*, The Ramshead. That had not been planted since 1937 and was not replanted until 1950.

The second “possibly missing” one is the larger flowered variety of the Yellow, *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*. That had not been planted since 1941, although it is possible she counted both flower sizes as one of the four in existence. The Ramshead was always difficult to grow. Martha planted it again in 1950, ’51 and ’53 and Ken Avery tried again in 1974 but they were always short lived after transplanting.

Her next note is that “the fern glen was a picture of green loveliness the entire season.” As the current Fern Glen was not yet developed, she is referring to Eloise Butler’s ‘fernery’ located on the northeast facing side hill at the south end of the Woodland Garden where the extensive growth of Interrupted Fern is found.

About the extended season, she wrote:

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.(2)



Eloise Butler’s “fernery” as it looked in 1913. from *The Bellman*, May 1913.

Martha had two workmen available this year - Fred Gau and Eddy Subourin (4).

Photo at top of page 123: Yellow Lady Slipper, *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*. Photo by Martha Crone on June 6, 1957.

Notes:

(1) Garden Log - 1947

(2) Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated January 24, 1948 to Charles E. Doell.

(3) *The Fringed Gentian*™, Vol. 26 No.1. Winter 1978, Interview with Martha Crone.

(4) Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.



1948

Winter 1947/1948

1948 is the 42nd year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 16th year as Garden Curator.

Many new plants set out in 1948 are, again like 1946 and '47, non native, apparently an attempt to see what would grow in the new prairie area. Many did not last until the 1951 census. The source is given for some of new plants. Most of this year's history is concerned with the new plants Martha introduced.

Martha's log is again virtually devoid of mentioning bird activity, which she usually never neglected. Even the warbler migration is not noted this year. Birds are only mentioned four times. Martha noted the arrival of the first Hummingbird but this year there is no mention of the departure of the last.

Spring 1948

The first Garden Log entry for the season is on April 1st, opening day:

Not a trace of snow, altho ice on lakes and pools, no plant life anywhere. Paths in good condition except center swamp path.

The Snow Trilliums were in bloom on April 6 and on the 14th the Pasque Flowers, Bloodroot, Hepaticas and Skunk Cabbage were likewise in bloom. Her first planting of the year was on April 13 with 12 Wild Roses, *Rosa blanda*.

On April 18: "Thousands of Hepaticas are in bloom, most gorgeous sight. Bloodroots everywhere." [based on her planting thousands of these in recent years that is not astonishing.]



The west woodland path with the old Garden office in the upper left. photographed in May 1948 by Martha Crone.

That was also the date that the *Minneapolis Tribune* ran a column titled "Springtime in the Wild Flower Garden," written by Martha Crone, discussing the spring flowers. In the article she states "You would scarcely believe that within view of the towering buildings of a busy metropolis there lies a bit of wilderness, the Wild Flower garden at Theodore Wirth Park. This 13 acre fence-enclosed area is a place apart where days are filled with planting and developing the endless possibilities that arise." She also wrote "The narrow trails have been widened into graveled paths that wind gracefully through the glen, swamp and hills." This is different from the trails described in the April 23, 1943 *Tribune* article where there were "no formal paths in the Garden, only leafy trails that seem to carry no mark of passing feet." This change occurred with the Upland Garden development in 1944.



MRS. MARTHA CRONE AND MRS. J. I. LAYMAN
Curator points out choice blooms to wild flower fan

On May 24 a second article appeared, this time in the *Minneapolis Star* titled "Sapling Now a Tree in Wild Flower Garden," which recounts the visit of Mrs. J. I. Layman of Hector MN who visited the Garden to inspect a tree she had planted as a sapling with Eloise Butler back in 1907. The article points out what's blooming, says Martha worked for 20 years for Miss Butler, gives directions to the Garden and as to the poison Ivy, Martha says "we have to keep it, we get hundreds of visitors who want to see what it looks like." This was about the same language she later used in a June 10, 1951 newspaper article. The "20 years" working for Miss Butler is incorrect as Martha herself noted several times that it was 15 years. (1) Image from newspaper at right.

A large number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in the spring. "Native" refers to a plant found in the wild in Minnesota, at settlement time. "Introduced" means the plant is found here but not native. "Not native" means the plant is native to North America but not to Minnesota. If the species survived until the 1951 census it is noted in the list. Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Anemone globosa* [*Anemone multifida*], Pacific Anemone, not native, no source given, not extant in 1951.
- *Aquilegia flavescens*, Yellow Columbine, Seeds, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana, not extant in 1951.
- *Azalea calendulacea* [*Rhododendron calendulaceum*] Flame Azalea, not native, from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, Ashford NC, extant in 1951.
- *Azalea canescens* [*Rhododendron canescens*] Mountain Azalea, not native, from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, extant in 1951.
- *Azalea vaseyi* [*Rhododendron vaseyi*] Pinkshell Azalea, not native, from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, extant in 1951.
- *Azalea viscosa* [*Rhododendron viscosum*] Swamp or White Azalea, not native, from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, extant in 1951.
- *Erigeron concinnus*, Navajo Fleabane, seeds, not native, no source given, not extant in 1951.
- *Gilia aggregata* [*Ipomopsis aggregata*, subsp *aggregata*], Scarlet Gilia, not native, seeds, no source given, not extant in 1951.
- *Ginkgo biloba*, Maidenhair tree, not native, 2 near south entrance, no source given, not extant in 1951.
- *Iris prismatica* - Slender Blue Iris, from Hendersons Nursery, Greenburg Indiana, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Iris pseudacorus*, Yellow Flag Iris, not native, from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, extant in 1951.

- *Mitella staruopetala*, Smallflower Miterwort, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana, not extant in 1951.
- *Penstemon caelestinus* [*Penstemon albertinus*] Alberta Beardtongue, Blue Western Penstemon. not native, from Frank Rose in Montana, extant in 1951.
- *Penstemon ovatus* var *pinetorum* [*Penstemon wilcoxii*] Wilcox's Penstemon, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana, not extant in 1951.
- *Ranunculus glaberrimus*, Sagebrush buttercup, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana, not extant in 1951.
- *Rhodora canadensis* [*Rhodora canadense*] Rhodora, not native, from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery, extant in 1951.
- Sphagnum moss.

Next is a series of plants from Askov MN via Mr. & Mrs. Odell, which must have come from a garden or nursery as none are native and many are herb or ornamental garden plants. The source may have been Ferndale Nurseries which was located in Askov and was a source of plants for Eloise Butler and sometimes by Martha Crone. Some of these plants were still in the Garden at the time of her 1951 census.

- *Astilbe biternata*, Snowplume, extant in 1951. [Note: The name 'Snowplume' is usually assigned to another species of *Astilbe*, but in her 1951 census Martha Crone lists Snowplume as *Astilbe biternata*, which is normally named False Goat's-beard; the plant does show up in later census lists of the Garden and I have a photo of it from 2012.]
- *Draba aizoides*, Yellow Whitlow Grass, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Origanum vulgare*, Oregano or Wild Marjoram, not native, extant in 1951.
- *Thalictrum glauca* - Yellow meadow Rue, not native, extant in 1951.
- *Thymus alba*, [*Thymnus serpyllum*], Creeping Thyme Mother of Thyme, introduced, extant in 1951.
- *Trollius laxus*, American Globe flower, not native, not extant in 1951.
- *Trollius ledebourii*, Globe Flower, not native, extant in 1951.

The first Hummingbird and Oriole arrived on May 17th. By the time June arrived 2,300 plants, including all the above, had been set out.

Summer 1948

The pools Martha had dug in the marsh in 1947, to create a chain of three were enlarged. She wrote:

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. (2).

A photo after the enlargement is on the next page.



A section of the newly developed Upland Garden showing new paths, new plantings and identification stakes; photographed in May 1948 by Martha Crone



The old garden office photographed on June 24, 1948 by Martha Crone.

Again, a large number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in the summer. Only one species survived until the 1951 census - noted in the list. Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Actinea lanata* [unresolved name - usually assigned to *Eriophyllum lanatum*] Common Woolly Sunflower, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Aster integrifolius* [*Eurybia integrifolia*] Stiffstem Aster, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Balsamorhiza sagittata*, Balsam Root, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Colchortus apiculatus*, Pointedtip Mariposa Lily, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Cypripedium montanum*, Mountain Lady's-slipper, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Iris missouriensis*, Rocky Mountain iris, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Mertensia longiflora*, Small Bluebells, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Penstemon flavescens* - High Mountain Penstemon, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Penstemon nitidus*, Waxleaf Penstemon, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Ranunculus montanensis* [*Ranunculus acriformis* var. *montanensis*] Mountain Sharp Buttercup, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Trillium ovatum*, Montana Trillium, Western Trillium, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana, extant in 1951.
- *Tulipa dasystemon*, Tulip variety seeds, no source.
- *Viola bellidifolia* [*Viola adunca* var. *adunca*] Hooked Spur Violet, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Viola linguifolia* [*Viola praemorsa*, supsp. *linguifolia*] Upland yellow violet, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Viola orbiculata*, Western Round-leaved violet, Darkwoods Violet, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.

By the end of summer Martha had set out a total of over 6,400 plants, including all of the above. Her only bird notes during the summer was the sighting of a young Rose-breasted Grosbeak near the office on June 9th and that by August 22, only the Orioles, Meadow Larks and the Red-eyed Vireo were still singing.

Autumn 1948

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1948 was 8,003. The following plants set out in the autumn are new to the Garden and we note which ones survived until the 1951 census, most did not. Updated scientific names are given in [].



Pool #3 in the marsh, created in 1947 and newly enlarged this year, photographed on October 19, 1948 by Martha Crone.



A grouping of Cardinal Flowers and Boneset, photographed in the Garden on August 4, 1948 by Martha Crone.

- *Calochortus macrocarpus*, Sagebrush Mariposa Lily, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Caltha leptosepala* var. *rotundifolia* [*Caltha leptosepala* var *leptosepala*] White Marsh Marigold, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Claytonia megarhiza*, Alpine Spring Beauty, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Clematis columbiana*, Rock Clematis, seeds, not native, no source given.
- *Gentiana romanzovii* [*Gentiana algida*], Whitish Gentian, Arctic Gentian, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Monarda didyma* - American Bee balm, Red Monarda, introduced, no source given, extant in 1951.
- *Muscari armeniacum*, Grape Hyacinth, not native, no source given.
- *Penstemon diphyllus*, Twoleaf Beardtongue, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Penstemon confertus* [*Penstemon procerus*] Western White Penstemon, Littleflower Penstemon, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana [Bloomed June 4 in 1949], extant in 1951.
- *Sagittaria cuneata* - Arumleaf Arrowhead, native, from Frank Rose in Montana.



The entrance path into the Upland Garden, photographed by Martha Crone on October 15, 1948. The paths are in the same position as today, but note the lack of Moonseed and Wild Grape on the fence.



Path in the marsh, photographed by Martha Crone on September 16, 1948.

In addition Martha planted seeds of 63 species - listed on 4 pages of hand written notes. Most seeds were planted in flats near the office where they would over-winter as necessary for germination.

Her planting continued throughout October and into November as late as November 19 when she mentions snow and sleet. The Garden season had been extended to the end of October in 1947.

As in the previous year, there were some existing species that were planted in very large numbers at various times during the year. Rather than list them by season, here is the list for the year of such plants:

Trillium nivale, Snow Trillium, 314 plants.

Hepatica acutiloba, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, 187.

Viola pedata, Bird's-foot Violet, 400.

Trillium grandiflorum, Large-flowered Trillium, 300.

Liatris pycnostachya, Prairie Blazing Star, 190.

Lysimachia nummularia, Moneywort, 105.

Many of these could be seedlings that Martha had seeded in flats the prior year.

She summarized the years activities in her annual report. Here are two additional items.

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.

Just over 16 inches of precipitation the entire year compared to almost 28 inches in an average year, 1948 was the driest since 1910. The month of March was most unusual - with a low of -27 degrees F to a high of 70 degrees F, the largest spread ever (97 degrees) for a single month locally.



View of the marsh and birches, photographed by Martha Crone on October 30, 1948.

Attendance: At some time after the war, perhaps with new Superintendent Charles Doell, 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. Her 1948 report noted:

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.

Martha had several workmen available this year. Fred Gau, Bjorne Herland in April only and then Ed Bruckelmyer from May onwards. He would return in 1949 for the month of April only and then return again in 1958. (3)

Photo at top of page 129: A section of the newly developed Upland Garden showing new paths, new plantings and identification stakes; photographed in May 1948 by Martha Crone.

Notes:

- (1) References to Crone stating she worked with Miss Butler for 15 years are found in a) *Minneapolis Star* Jan 10, 1944; b) *The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 26 no. 1; *The Wild Gardener* by Martha Hellander, page 95; d) Letter to the Friends membership by Cay Faragher, 1969
- (2) Martha Crone's Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 26, 1949 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.
- (3) Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.



1949

Winter 1948/1949

1949 is the 43rd year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 17th year as Garden Curator. Many new plants set out in 1949 are, again like 1946 to '48, non native, apparently an attempt to see what would grow in the new prairie area. Many did not last even until the 1951 census. The source is given for some of new plants. Most of this year's history is concerned with the new plants Martha introduced.

After the furious pace of planting in 1946-1948, in 1949 things slow down. Now it seems, it was more experimental and less of stocking the Garden. And still it seems, that she lost the energy to record bird activity in her log, which was a staple of Garden Logs before the War. Her only entries were about the Hummingbirds in September and the Pileated Woodpecker in Summer.



The old Garden office after the April 14th snow storm; photographed by Martha Crone.

Spring 1949

The first Garden Log entry for the season is on April 1st, opening day:

Opened garden after 10 inch snowfall of 2 days ago. Appearance of midwinter, Nothing out.

This would be a fickle spring. The first Snow Trilliums and the Skunk Cabbage came into bloom on April 10 but then on April 14:

"Heavy snow storm of 9 1/2 inches of snow, again we are in midwinter. Snow Trilliums buried under." The official snow total was 9.3 inches and as of 2021 it is still the 3rd largest single event snowfall in April in local weather history.

On the 21st: "Snow gone and Trilliums look fresh, not at all harmed. Also in bloom Hepatica, Bloodroot, Pasque-flowers, many trees. Planted 60 Walking Ferns."

On the 26th:

"Pasque-flowers and Hepaticas making a wonderful show. Over 50 clumps of Pasque-flowers in bloom. Hepaticas everywhere, 1 plant has 85 blooms."

A large number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in the spring. "Native" refers to a plant found in the wild in Minnesota, at settlement time. "Introduced" means the plant is found here but originally imported from somewhere else. "Not native" means the plant is native to North America but not to Minnesota. If the species survived until the 1951 census it is noted in the list. Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Acer platanoides*, Norway Maple, introduced, extant in 1951 and today.
- *Aquilegia coerulea*, Colorado Blue Columbine, not native, from seeds.
- *Arnica cordifolia*, Heartleaf Arnica, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Clematis ligusticifolia*, Western White Clematis, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Douglasia montana* - Rocky Mountain Dwarf-primrose, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Gentiana rubricaulis*, White Gentian, Narrow-leaved Gentian, Great Lakes Gentian, native, from Askov, MN, extant in 1951.
- *Hemerocallis flava*, Yellow Day Lily, introduced, from Rockmount Nursery Colorado, extant in 1951 and today.
- *Lupinus burkei*, Largeleaf Lupine, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Lupinus lyallii*, Dwarf Mountain Lupine, from seeds, not native.
- *Lupinus texensis*, Texas Blue bonnet, from seeds, not native.
- *Rydbergia grandiflora* [*Tetranneuris grandiflora*] Graylocks four-nerve Daisy, Alpine Sunflower, not native, seeds from Dr. Cooke. ["Flowers 2 to 4 inches on stems 6 inches tall"]
- *Trollium albiflorus* [*Trollis laxus* subsp. *albiflorus*, American Globe Flower, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.



One of the new pools in the marsh that was enlarged in 1948, the mound of fresh excavation surrounding it.. Marsh Marigolds blooming; photographed on May 6, 1949 by Martha Crone

On May 12, the *Minneapolis Tribune* re-published an article from the *Christian Science Monitor* about Clinton Odell. The writer was not given credit but there are hints that journalist Dorothy Binder had some connection with putting this into print. The article reviews Odell's connection to the Wild Flower Garden, beginning with his high school natural science teacher, Eloise Butler. One quote from the article states:

The well-dressed man whom visitors to the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden in Minneapolis see pulling weeds every week-end except in the dead of winter is not the superintendent of parks. Five days a week he is the chairman of the board of the saving cream



Clinton Odell in the Garden.
Photo from *Minneapolis Tribune* May 12, 1949.

company (Burma Shave) which adorns the roadside with jingles designed to discourage traffic accidents and encourage shavers to remove their whiskers with his products." "While fellow businessmen are out digging holes in the turf on their favorite links, Odell is digging holes to plant some choice specimen just received from a distant part of the country.

Another quote from the article helps explain the increasing number of non-native species that Martha Crone was planting. "Every northern wild flower can grow here except mountain flowers, and we are trying out some of them. We've established contacts all over the nation for exchange of seeds and plants."

Another quote refers to Martha Crone's creating mass plantings of certain species: "New specimens are planted in beds so they won't be crowded out by the grass and so we can cover them in winter."

Summer 1949

In June access to the Garden from Wayzata Blvd. was cut off for construction of a new bridge over the boulevard. Martha reported in a news article that attendance was greatly reduced at the Wild Flower Garden because some people could not find it. The *Tribune* on June 5 printed a map with directions for access from Glenwood Avenue.

Again, a number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in the summer. Only one species survived until the 1951 - noted in the list. Updated scientific names are given in []. One is questionable as to what she actually planted.

- *Anthemis cotula*, Dog Fennel, Mayweed, Dog Chamomile, introduced, no source, extant in 1951.
- *Brodiaea douglasii*, [*Triteleia grandiflora* var. *grandiflora*], Largeflower triteleia, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Cypripedium fasciculatum*, Clustered Lady's-slipper, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Fritillaria pudica*, Yellow fritillary, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Houstonia ciliolata* [*Houstonia canadensis*], Canadian Summer Bluet, states from "red stone", not sure where that is, but if in MN it is a mistake as the U of M and DNR report previous reports were misidentified specimens. *H. longifolia* is the only native species.
- *Lepidium virginicum*, Pepper grass, native, no source.
- *Mimulus lewisii*, Purple monkey flower, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Polystichum munitum*, Western Sword Fern, not native from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Potentilla intermedia* - Downy Cinquefoil. from Rum River, Isanti. U of M reports, the only known find in MN was in St. Louis County. This is an introduced plant.



The Garden Office with sundrops in bloom; photographed on June 23, 1949 by Martha Crone

By the end of summer Martha had set out 1,741 plants, including all of the above Her only bird note during the summer was the Pileated Woodpecker nesting in a Basswood tree near the east path in the lower Garden.

Autumn 1949

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1949 2,615, compared to 8,003 in 1948.

The following plants set out in the autumn are new to the Garden and we note which ones survived until the 1951 census, most did not.

Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Aster grandiflorum* [*Symphyotrichum grandiflorum*] not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Erigeron grandiflorus*, Largeflower Fleabane, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Eriophorum angustifolium*, or *E. vaginatum*, Cottongrass, native, from seeds.
- *Eritrichium elongatum* [*Eritrichium nanum* var. *elongatum*, Alpine Forget-me-not, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Eritrichium howardii*, Howard's Alpine Forget-me-not, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Erysimum capitatum*, Sanddune Wallflower (Prairie Rocket), not native, from seeds.
- *Galeopsis tetrahit*, Hemp nettle, seeds, from North Shore Twin Points, introduced.
- *Houstonia serpyllifolia*, Thymeleaf Bluet, Creeping Bluet, not native, no source.
- *Lewisia minima* [*Lewisia pygmaea*] Alpine Lewisia, bulbs "notify Frank Rose if they grow."
- *Linum lewisii*, Lewis Flax, introduced, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Malva moschata*, Musk mallow, from seed, not native.
- *Oxyria digyna*, Alpine Mountain Sorrel, not native, from Frank Rose in Montana.
- *Primula parryi*, Parry's Primrose, not native, no source given.

In addition Martha planted seeds of numerous species - listed on 4 pages of hand written notes. Most seeds were planted in flats near the office where they would over-winter as necessary for germination. Martha had numerous boxes marked alphabetically for seeds in addition to seeding in pots. Her planting continued throughout October and into December to the 6th. The Garden season had been extended to the end of October in 1947.



A grouping of Lupine in bloom in the new Upland Garden; photographed in the Garden in June 1949 by Martha Crone.



Upland Garden. Note the tall pole which has a martin house on it; photographed by Martha Crone on June 28, 1949.

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 November 14th.

Her last entry was December 16:

"Scattered on light blanket of snow in swamp, seeds of White Gentian, *Gentiana rubricaulis*, weather warm 33°." This seed was from one of the new plants obtained in the spring.

As in the previous year, and even with the reduced plant count, there were some existing species that were planted in very large numbers at various times during the year. Rather than list them by season, here is the list for the year of such plants. Many of these could be seedlings that Martha had seeded in flats the prior year.

Trillium nivale, Snow Trillium, 145 plants.

Hepatica acutiloba, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, 212.

Viola pedata, Bird's-foot Violet, 500.



Upland Garden with Evening Primrose and Partridge Pea in bloom; photographed by Martha Crone on July 30, 1949.

The only mention of birds in the autumn log was that the Hummingbirds were still feeding on various days in September. The last note was on the 18th that she still saw a few.

She summarized the years activities in her annual report. Here are two additional items.

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.(1)

This plant 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.

Attendance:

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.(1)

Photo at top of page 135: The Garden Office in the middle of a wide view of the front fence in winter; photographed on December 12, 1948 by Martha Crone.

Notes:

(1) Martha Crone's Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated January 20, 1950 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.



1950

Winter 1949/1950

1950 is the 44th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 18th year as Garden Curator.

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 is experimenting with all these plants when the premise of the Garden was: "Here can be seen in season practically all native flowers of Minnesota." (1)

She would apparently justify her position with a modification summarized in this comment from 1966 after she retired as curator:

The object is to bring together all the native plants hardy in this latitude, also to experiment with plants introduced from other areas.(2)



The old Garden office in Winter photographed by Martha Crone on February 16, 1950.

Many of these imported species did not last even until the 1951 census, let alone later years. The source is given for some of new plants.

Spring 1950

The first Garden Log entry for the season is on April 1st, opening day:

Appearance of midwinter. Deep snow & ice everywhere, also very cold. Gates still locked. Stove keeps office snug and warm.

This would be another fickle spring just like 1949. On April 8, 9, 10 she noted:

More snow, hail, rain and electric storm. Snow melting slowly.

Then between April 14 and 17:

Real warm and springlike. Removed hay in upper garden on the 15th and 17th. Skunk cabbage, Snow Trilliums and Pasque-flower thru the ground. Ice still on lakes.

The hay had been placed on the plantings in the upper Garden to protect them from freeze-thaw cycles. Martha and her successor Ken Avery frequently did this when they were able to work late into the fall season.

The first Snow Trilliums and the Skunk Cabbage came into bloom on April 18 . Her first planting of the season was on the 20th with 170 Snow Trillium from Mankato.

A large number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in the spring. "Native" refers to a plant found in the wild in Minnesota, at settlement time. "Introduced" means the plant is found here but originally imported from somewhere else. "Not native" means the plant has not been found in the wild in Minnesota but is native to elsewhere in North America. If the species survived until the 1951 census it is noted in the list. Updated scientific names are given in [].

On May 28: A number of plants in 5 genus were received from Oscar Will, Bismarck ND. no species listed, non are native, none on 1951 census. Two of the five are new to the Garden.

- Genus *Gloriosa*, Flame Lily
- Genus *Mammillaria*, cactus

On May 29: 17 species from Claude Barr, Southwick SD - "**plants always arrive in fine condition.**" (many are rock garden plants). Only the first listed species shows up on the 1951 census.

- *Astragalus goniatus*, [*Astragalus agrestis*] Purple Milkvetch, Field Milkvetch, Native.
- *Astragalus tridactylus*, Foothill Milkvetch, not native.
- *Dalea enneandra*, Nineanther Prairie Clover, not native.
- *Erigeron caespitosus*. Tufted Fleabane, not native.
- *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, Broom Snakeweed, not native.
- *Leucocrinum montanum*, Common Starlily, not native.
- *Oenothera brachycarpa*, Shortfruit Evening Primrose, not native.
- *Oenothera lavandulifolia* [*Calyophus lavandulifolius*], Lavenderleaf Sundrops, not native.
- *Penstemon glaber*, Sawsepal Penstemon, not native.
- *Penstemon procumbens* 'Claude Barr', not native, USDA does not recognize that name as it is a commercial hybrid - assigns it to *P. caespitosus*. A number of authors take exception.
- *Sideranthus spinulosus*, [*Xanthisma spinulosum* via *Machaeranthera pinnatifida*], Lacy Tansyaster, Cutleaf Ironweed. native - Special Concern list in Minnesota.
- *Townsendia excapa*, Stemless Townsend Daisy, not native.



The east path in the Woodland Garden leading to the office; photographed on June 1, 1950 by Martha Crone.

The last new plant was *Shortia galacifolia*, Oconee Bells, not native, from Lounsberry in Oxford IL. Martha was fond of this plant and wrote about it several times in *The Fringed Gentian*TM.

Only two bird notes were recorded: “Many Fox Sparrows singing” on April 29th and “large warbler waves through” on May 18th.

On May 21st the *Minneapolis 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. The photo and the text are the same as was used in an August 27, 1947 article in the *Tribune*. 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 spread had 10 color photos of plants seen in spring, summer or fall with a description of the plant. Martha made no mention in her log about any increase in visitors that week.



Summer 1950

Three plants new to the Garden were introduced in the summer. two species survived until the 1951 - noted in the list. One is questionable as to what she actually planted.

- *Dianthus deltoides*, Maiden Pink, introduced from Mrs. Solhaug (Hazel).
- *Campanula cervicaria*, Bristly Bellflower, introduced, “growing along road about 10 miles north of Duluth,” extant in 1951 and today. She logged the plant as *Campanula glomerata*, which is also non-native, introduced from Europe, its’ only known habitat in Minnesota outside of gardens is

in St. Louis County near Duluth where it has been collected at the former agricultural test plots. The DNR surveys report that *C. cervicaria* is found in both Lake and St. Louis Counties in the Arrowhead region. Thus it is most probable that Bristly Bellflower is the species she brought in, not *C. glomerata*.

On July 15 she put in *Arethusa bulbosa*, Dragon's Mouth, from Deer River MN, 24 plants. This is a MN native orchid that she wrote about in her annual report. She previously planted it in 1935 as did Eloise Butler in 1928 and '30. It survived for a number of years but is no longer extant.

Late August was cold. Martha's notes: Aug. 20: "Heavy frost, altho some Sensitive Ferns were the only plants destroyed here." Aug. 28: "Cold rain all day - fire in stove entire day."



Large Bird's-foot Violet bed in the Upland Garden; photographed on June 2, 1950 by Martha Crone.

By the end of summer Martha had set out 2,448 plants, including all of the above. There were not any bird notes in the summer months.

Autumn 1950

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1950 was 3,122. All the plants set up in the autumn months were species already found in the Garden.

In late November she only planted a few Pitcher plants and this curiosity on November 20th, her last entry of the year:

Planted 10 Lotus Lily bulbs, also obtained 3 loads of soil from Lake Susan on Mr. Klein's land, 1 mile south of Chanhassen. My pool froze over before soil was filled in, so had it dumped on ice.

[This may explain why Ken Avery had trouble with the water channel silting in the early 60's] Martha always planted Lotus Lily late in the year, sometime by making holes in the ice covered pool and dropping them in. It is also somewhat strange that she brought in soil for the pool, when she had just enlarged the pools in 1948, unless the peaty subsoils were not suitable for the plants she wanted.



The newly developed upland hillside, photo by Martha Crone on June 5, 1950.

As in the previous year, and even with the reduced plant count, there were some existing species that were planted in very large numbers at various times during the year. Rather than list them by season, here is the list for the year of such plants:

Trillium nivale, Snow Trillium, 170 plants.

Viola pedata, Bird's-foot Violet, 500.

Many of these could be seedlings that Martha had seeded in flats the prior year.

She summarized the years activities in her annual report (3). Here are additional items.

"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 planting the species on June 24, 1935 with plants from the Gunflint Trail and Eloise had planted it in 1928 and '30.) (4) 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 Autumn Woodland with the old office, photographed by Martha Crone on October 15, 1950.

The brochure was something she requested in 1949. In 1951 she developed it further by including a Garden history and a plant list. 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.

She actually started taking the images in 1948. In 1951 she would begin to provide 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. [Copy follows]

Photo at top of page 140: The Upland Garden hillside; photographed on July 30, 1950 by Martha Crone.

Notes:

(1) The *Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 19 No. 2 April 1971

(2) The *Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 14 No. 1 January 1966

(3) Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 7, 1951 to Charles E. Doell.

(4) Garden Logs.

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
3 Hand sprays
3 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



1951

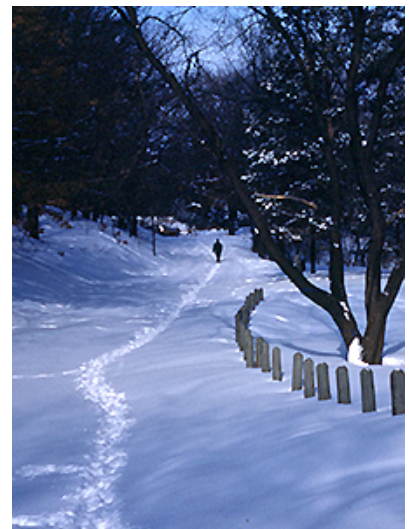
Winter 1950/1951

1951 is the 45th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 19th year as Garden Curator. Her husband William, age 62, passed away on January 2nd. He was a dentist, graduating from the University of Minnesota college of dentistry in 1912. He retired from practice in 1941. Martha remained a widow for 39 years.

Many new plants set out in 1951 are, again like 1946 to '50, non native, apparently an attempt to see what would grow in the new prairie area and in 1966, after she retired as curator she formulated this statement:

The object is to bring together all the native plants hardy in this latitude, also to experiment with plants introduced from other areas.(1)

Eloise Butler did the same, but the theory was contrary to the original concept of the Garden and was reversed by Ken Avery when he became Curator. Many of these imported species did not survive for long. The source is given for some of new plants if she provided it.



Hill and road leading from the Garden down to the parkway, photographed by Martha Crone on January 27, 1951.

Spring 1951

The first entry in the log was April 3 - The Garden did not open April 1st:

Midwinter, snow several feet deep. Parked at foot of hill, hard task to walk up. Climbed over gate. Dug out gate as well as office door. Snow knee deep everywhere. Record year of 88+ inches of snow. Snowbound since early November.

To that date it was the snowiest winter on record, with 40 inches alone in March 1951. In later years the Winters of 81/82 and 83/84 would surpass 50/51. On April 8 she noted:

Snow melting slowly, no sun. Minnesota River highest since 1881. Disastrous floods along river. North Mankato completely flooded.

On April 14:

Skunk Cabbage in bloom early because no frost in ground. Snow gone from exposed areas, much still remains in lower garden. Removed hay covering from plants in upper garden, very moldy. Planted 10 *Liatris spicata* and 6 *Baptisia tinctoria* from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery.

Neither plant was new to Garden, both had been planted extensively.

The hay she mentions had been placed on the plantings in the upper Garden to protect them from freeze-thaw cycles. Martha and her successor Ken Avery frequently did this when they were able to work late into the fall season.

By the 16th she could drive her car to the top of the hill parking area. The next day was the first warm sunny day of spring and new signs were delivered for the Garden entrance. The second warm day did not happen until the 26th when Hepaticas and Snow Trilliums were in bloom, and also Harbinger of Spring, which she had planted in 1947.



The east woodland path leading to the office on May 29, 1951, photographed by Martha Crone.

A large number of plants new to the Garden were introduced in the spring. "Native" refers to a plant found in the wild in Minnesota, at settlement time. "Introduced" means the plant is found here but originally imported from somewhere else. "Not native" means the plant has not been found in the wild in Minnesota but is native to elsewhere in North America. As this is the year she completed a plant census we do not know if these were planted before or after the census, instead, we note whether the plant is extant today, otherwise the species disappeared over the years and if non-native, was not replanted. Updated scientific names are given in [].

- *Actinea simplex* [*Tetaneuris acaulis*] Stemless Four-nerve Daisy, not native, from Claude Barr, Southwick, S. Dakota.
- *Aster nebraskensis* [*Symphyotrichum praealtum* var. *nebraskense*] Nebraska Aster, not native, seeds, no source.
- *Astragalus spatulatus*, Tufted Milkvetch, not native, from Barr.
- *Bellis integrifolia* [*Astranthium integrifolium* subsp. *integrifolium*] Entireleaf Western Daisy, not native, from Barr.
- *Cimicifuga racemosa*, Bugbane, not native, from Blue Ridge Nursery, extant.
- *Hedeoma camporum* [*Hedoma drummondii*] Drummond's False Pennyroyal, not native, from Barr.
- *Magnolia glauca* [*Magnolia virginiana*] SweetBay Magnolia, not native from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery.
- *Nuttallia decapetala*, [*Mentzelia decepetala*] Tenpetal Blazing Star, seeds, not native, no source given.
- *Oenothera oklahomensis* [*Oenothera macrocarpa* subsp. *oklahomensis*] Oklahoma Evening Primrose - seeds, not native, no source.



Horsefly Weed, *Baptisia tinctoria*, planted by Martha Crone in spring 1951, photo ©G D Bebeau

- *Penstemon caespitosus*, Mat Penstemon, not native, seeds, no source.
- *Penstemon eriantherus*, Fuzzytongue Penstemon, not native, from Claude Barr, Southwick, S. Dakota.
- *Phlox alyssifolia*, Alyssumleaf Phlox, not native, from Barr.
- *Sarracenia flava* - Yellow Pitcher plant, not native, from Blue Ridge Nursery.

The only bird note of spring was that the first Hummingbirds arrived on May 14. In addition to the slide lectures Martha gave she also was a speaker at other events. On May 15 the Community Chest Volunteer Service Bureau put on a workshop at Wirth Park. Martha spoke and led a "nature stroll." On June 20 she spoke at a meeting of the Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc. (2)

The *Tribune* even ran an editorial referring to Martha. The May 26 piece requested readers to doff their hats to the gardeners who make the city beautiful and then stated "But the woman to whom we doff our hats with the greatest respect cultivated almost single-handed a garden of some 13 acres. From the time she can push the gates open against the April snowdrifts she works there from 9 to 5 daily. Most of the time she is on her knees doing what other women are doing in their backyards." The article says a few thing about the Garden and ends "Best of all, it belongs to the public. Ever been there?"

Summer 1951

On June 10, 1951 The *Minneapolis Tribune* published an article titled "City Wild Flower Gardener Rescues Plants From Bulldozers." 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 a-ways from the garden path. Mrs. Crone cares for it as tenderly as a wood violet. 'It's educational,' she says.



MRS. MARTHA CRONE, WILD FLOWER EXPERT
Pounds identifying stake in pet patch of blue lupine

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.

Four plants new to the Garden were introduced in the summer. None are extant today.

- *Lilium grayii* [*Lilium grayi*] Gray's Lily, not native, from Lounsberry Gardens, Oxford IL
- *Linum perenne*, Blue Flax, not native, from Highway 100 [Minneapolis], 75 plants.
- *Rumex venosus*, Veiny Dock, not native, from Miss Spracher in Nebraska.
- *Viola rostrata*, Longspur violet, not native from Dumb-bell Lake (unknown source).
-

On June 14 Martha notes this strange event: "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." In 1952, while on her field trips, Martha found 2 near Fletcher, and 10 on 7/31/52 at Red Wing.

By the end of summer Martha had set out 951 plants, including all of the above. There were not any bird notes in the summer months.

Autumn 1951

By the time the Garden closed the total count of plants set out in 1951 was 1,261. All but one the plants set up in the autumn months were species already found in the Garden and the exception may not be an exception:

Aster concinnus [*Symphotrichum laeve*, var. *concinnum*] Narrowleaf Smooth Aster, not considered native as none have ever been collected but Martha reported finding them on the prairie at Kasota MN on Sept. 20th. 15 plants. It may have been a look-a-like species.

The last Hummingbird was noted on September 10th and large waves of warblers were noted passing through on the 28th. Those are the only autumn bird notes.

As late as spring was, the autumn season was extended. She was planting through November 3rd. Here are her last notes of the year.

Good show of asters this fall due to cool season.

Oct. 12: Weather like summer, many asters in full bloom, Lupine still blooms, only light frosts.

Oct. 28 and 29th beautiful weather, 30th storm started and followed by cold weather, 2 above two mornings.

Nov. 8 & 9, turning nice again.

Nov. 3rd & 25th - heavy snows, melted before end of month.

Nov. 29 - packed books, Summer-like weather after 6 below of Nov. 24

Dec. 5 - Ice out of lakes again, frost out of ground, mushy like spring breakup.

Dec. 11 Cold and wintry again.



Lupines in the upper garden, photographed on May 28, 1951 by Martha Crone.

She summarized the years activities in her annual report (3). Here are additional items.

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.

Clinton Odell was again thanked for his assistance. She then reviewed 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.

This is apparently the 4 page April 1951

History of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden

that she wrote, accompanied by the plant listing. Martha sold these for 10 cents to anyone who wanted a complete list of plants. A copy is in the appendix. The plant list was compiled in plant family arrangement, which made the index valuable for non-botanists who might know the common name or even the scientific name, but probably not the plant family. The list contained 787 species of forbs, ferns, shrubs and trees, excluding grasses, sedges, mosses, fungi, etc. This was the first census since the botany teachers original 1907 survey of the Garden and involved a tremendous amount of effort.

She also referenced in her report that the Kodachrome slide collection increased by 500 slides, at her expense and listed 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 requested a telephone for the Garden office, and lists attendance at approximately 50,000. The telephone would finally arrive in 1957.

In the newspapers Al Woodruff and Abe Altowitz give the Garden a plug by writing "watch the facial expressions of youngsters - and oldsters too - when Mrs. Crone, curator, picks up a denatured hornet's nest and explains that it was from the hornet nest that man learned how to make paper out of wood." (4) It was also announced that on November 14, Mrs. Crone would give a talk "Wild Flowers Along the Trail" to the Minnesota Botanical society. (4)

Photo at top of page 146: East path in the woodland leading to the Garden office, photographed on May 29, 1951 by Martha Crone.

Notes:

(1) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 14 No. 1 January 1966

(2) *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 9, 1951 and June 13, 1951.

(3) Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated January 17, 1952 to Charles E. Doell.

(4) *Minneapolis Star*, October 13, 1951. page 13; and *Minneapolis Tribune* November 11, 1951, page 169.



View of the marsh in Winter, photographed on November 8, 1951 by Martha Crone.

City Wild Flower Gardener Rescues Plants From Bulldozers

By JANE THOMAS

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

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 poinsettias growing in New Ulm, Minn., and brought one back to Minneapolis. Since then a building boom has plowed under the New Ulm poinsettias. 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 Eloise Butler, who founded the garden in 1907.

Broad, bright patches of 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 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 hummingbirds' wings," 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 THE HOUSE are shelves of birds nest, wasps nests and winter bouquets. In



MRS. MARTHA CRONE, WILD FLOWER EXPERT
Pounds identifying stake in pet patch of blue lupine

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 trillium 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, whose interest in wild flowers is as faithful as Mrs. Crone's, claims she has a special sixth sense for finding hidden flowers.

"In all my botanizing trips I've never been lost," said Mrs. Crone, but admits she carries a compass in a swamp. "You can't always find a compass flower to guide you," she said, referring to the plant whose leaves point north, east, south and west.

BESIDES RESCUING flowers from steam shovels, Mrs. Crone has saved a lot of human beings from a worse fate. She is one of a few "mushroom experts" who can tell the difference between an edible mushroom and the Death Cup or Destroying

Angel. 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 bat-

MINNEAPOLIS SUNDAY TRIBUNE
June 10, 1951 W 5

ting weeds which could choke the wild flower garden in the short space of two years, Mrs. Crone, now a widow and grandmother, travels an average of 2,000 miles a month. Sometimes she takes color photographs to add to her collection of 2,200 which she uses for wintertime lectures.

Sometimes she digs up plants, 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.

"Wild flowers are my life work," she says. "And they're important. Everything was wild once."

Mid-Summer Festival

Lyngblomsten home for the aged will have its annual mid-summer festival at 3 p.m. next Sunday at the home, 1298 Pascal avenue, St. Paul. The Rev. Henry J. Whiting of the Lutheran Welfare society will speak. Floedegrod will be served.



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1952

Spring 1952

1952 is the 46th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 20th year as Garden Curator. In the *Minneapolis Star* on March 1 columnist Abe Altowitz referenced the new plant list Martha had compiled in 1951. He wrote that you shouldn't let scientific names stump you because Mrs. Crone had completed an index identifying 787 plants at the Garden and that she would be offering the list for 10 cents when the Garden opens.

An entry in the March 30th *Tribune* announced an evening program at Waite Park school where Martha would join Carl Holst from the Minneapolis Rose Garden in presenting a talk on general spring gardening.

The Garden opened about two weeks late due to snows and cold weather. There was a snow storm on March 22 that dropped 15 inches of snow. Snow was still several feet deep in garden on the 1st. April 6 to the 11th was still cold with deep snow. Martha chipped out the ice around the Garden gate on the 9th and opened.(1)(2)

The first Snow Trillium came out on April 14. The week of the 13 to 30 was very warm, and by April 20 the temperature was 80 degrees. Unusually warm for April as these temperatures indicate: 4/26 - 81°, 4/27 - 85°, 4/29 - 91°, 4/30 - 92°. The early plant bloom, delayed by the snow, was then accelerated by the warm weather, as the date on some of her photos indicates.

On April 20, she planted 4 unusual non-native plants that were obtained from Robbins Blue Ridge Nursery in Ashford NC:

- *Liquidambar styraciflua*, Sweetgum, not native.
- *Iris verna*, Dwarf Blue Iris, not native.
- *Clematis crispa*, Swamp Leather Flower, not native.
- *Collinsonia canadensis*, Citronella, Richweed, not native.



Wild Poinsettia, *Euphorbia cyathophora*, Photo by Martha Crone September 5, 1952.



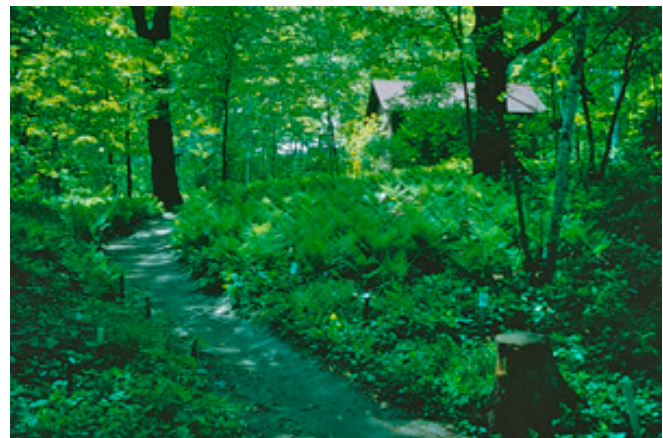
A bed of Large Flowered Trillium *Trillium grandiflorum*, photographed in the Garden on April 29, 1952 by Martha Crone.

As to that last plant - in 1954 she wrote about the Citronella: [*The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 2 No. 2)] Did you know that Citronella (*Collinsonia canadensis*) of the mint family is another plant that has many common names. Its one scientific name definitely identifies it. Some of the common names are Rich-leaf, Stone-root, Knob-root, Knob-grass, Horse-weed, Knob-week, Ox-balm, Horse-balm, and Collinson's-flower. It grows native from Quebec to Ontario south to Florida and westward. This erect branched perennial is well established in the Wild Flower Garden. The yellow, lemon-scented flowers appear in October and bloom until frost. Oil of Citronella is not derived from this plant. On May 19th the Hummingbirds returned to the Garden.

Summer 1952

On June 18th Articles of Incorporation were filled with the State of Minnesota for Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., a non-profit group formed for the purposes of advancing, promoting and furthering the interests of the Municipal Wild Flower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park conducted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Minneapolis. The formation of the group was announced in the *Minneapolis Star* on June 27.

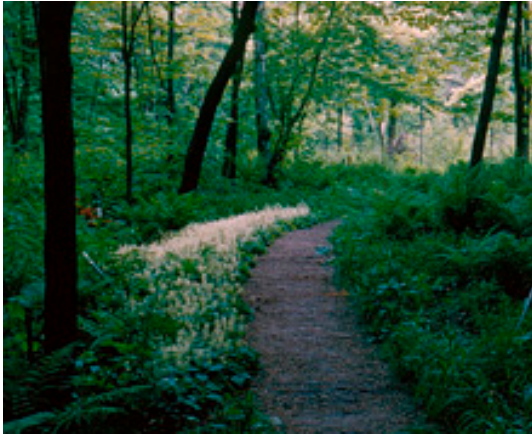
The legal work of creating the articles of incorporation and the bylaws was done by Joseph Colman of the Dorsey Firm. He also handled the filing of non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service and that status was approved in late 1953. The founding directors were Clinton M. Odell, Russell H. Bennett, Dorothy Binder, Martha E. Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Leonard F. Ramberg.



The Woodland Garden with Garden Office atop the hill, photographed on May 15, 1952 by Martha Crone.

Clinton Odell was a student of Eloise Butler and a frequent visitor to the Wild Flower Garden. 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. A more extensive bio is in the appendix.

Martha Crone was Curator of the Wild Flower Garden. Russell H. Bennett was Chairman of the Board of Dunwoody Institute; Dorothy Binder was a Twin Cities journalist; Donald C. Dayton was President of the Dayton Company; Leonard F. Ramberg was affiliated with the American Swedish Institute and Augsburg College where he was later Chairman of the Board of Regents. A detail account of the new directors is in the appendix.



Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) in bloom along the path in the marsh. Photographed in the Garden on May 31, 1952 by Martha Crone.

Clinton Odell wrote letters to many of his business acquaintances inviting them to become a member of The Friends. In an essay he that explained why the organization of The Friends was needed. This was used to solicit support and members. Copy follows.

The Summer was fairly dry and Martha Crone had to use supplemental water.(1) She also added two additional non-native species to the Garden:

- *Thermopsis rhombifolia*, Prairie thermopsis, not native, from Pavek Nursery, White Lake WI
- *Chrysothamnium graveolens* [now *Ericameria nauseosa*] Rubber Rabbitbush, not native, Pavek Nursery.

On of the plant oddities repeated itself this year. Martha located Rue Anemone doubles. Two on May 19 near

Fletcher MN and 10 on July 31 at Red Wing MN. In 1951 she was given one “in coffee can from Mrs. H. S. Olson, 302 So. D. St., Lake Worth, Florida, found at Wacouta near Red Wing in 1923.” (1951 Garden Log)

Autumn 1952

In October of 1952 Martha planted several more exotic species - the first of which is a real pest and has been stubbornly eliminated.

- *Polygonatum cuspidatum*, [now *Fallopia japonica* var. *japonica*, Japanese Knotweed, not native, from Hedby Jones on Hy 101 & 7 in Minnetonka, not native and invasive.
- *Cypripedium passerinum*, Sparrowegg Lady’s-slipper, seeds from Alaska, not native.
- *Linaria macedonica* [*Linaria dalmatica* subsp. *macedonica*] Dalmation Toadflax, introduced to the U.S. Plants from Meyers Nursery. [in 1953, July 24, she planted 2 more ‘from near Duluth’ which is where the DNR has found them in their plant surveys. However, the U of M states that the subspecies found is subsp. *dalmatica*.



The entrance path into the Upland Garden, photographed by Martha Crone on October 17, 1952.

On October 21 Martha wrote:

Witch Hazel on west hill came into bloom. Garden is tinder dry, no rain since last of August. Sprinklers going everywhere. Several killing frosts last week. Water pipes froze in some parks and burst, we kept faucets partly open.

Martha Crone had produced a brochure titled “Self Conducted Tour” thru the Garden and nearly 10,000 were handed out this past year.(1) [image page 156] She estimated attendance at more than 50,000 persons. She also totaled her new plant count at 1,067 of which 231 were purchased and the remained sourced by Martha herself from scrounging around. Some of those plants were the new additions noted

above. 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 31, 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 (photo previous page).

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. (1) Another group was the Minnesota Botanical society meeting held on December 10. In her report to the Park Board, 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.

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

Photo at top of page 152: The Marsh photographed on May 15, 1952 by Martha Crone. Note the open pool of water which was one of the three new pools Martha had excavated in 1947.

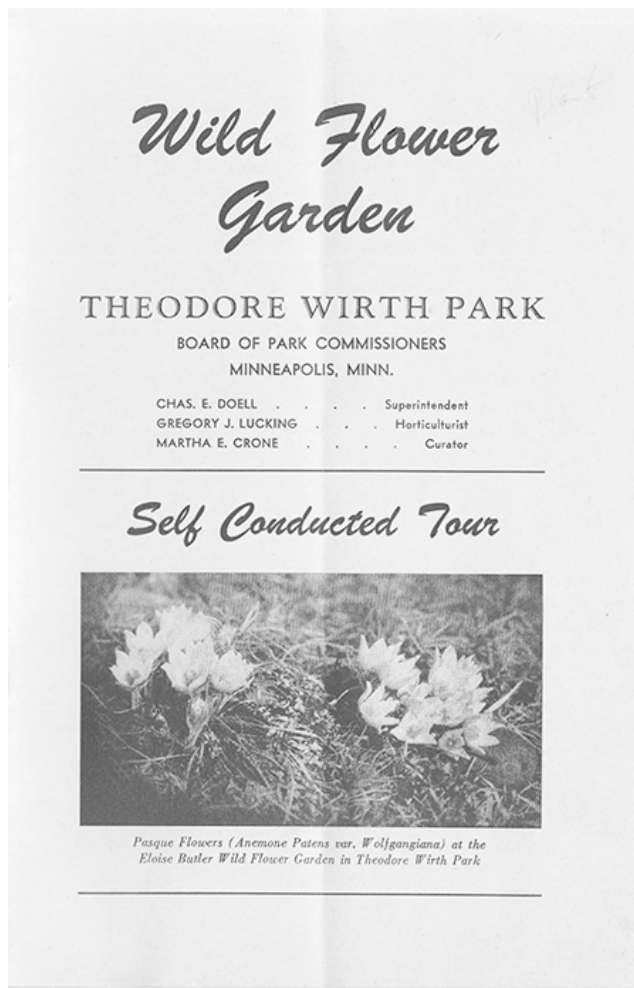
Notes:

(1) Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 4, 1953 to Charles E. Doell.

(2). Garden Log

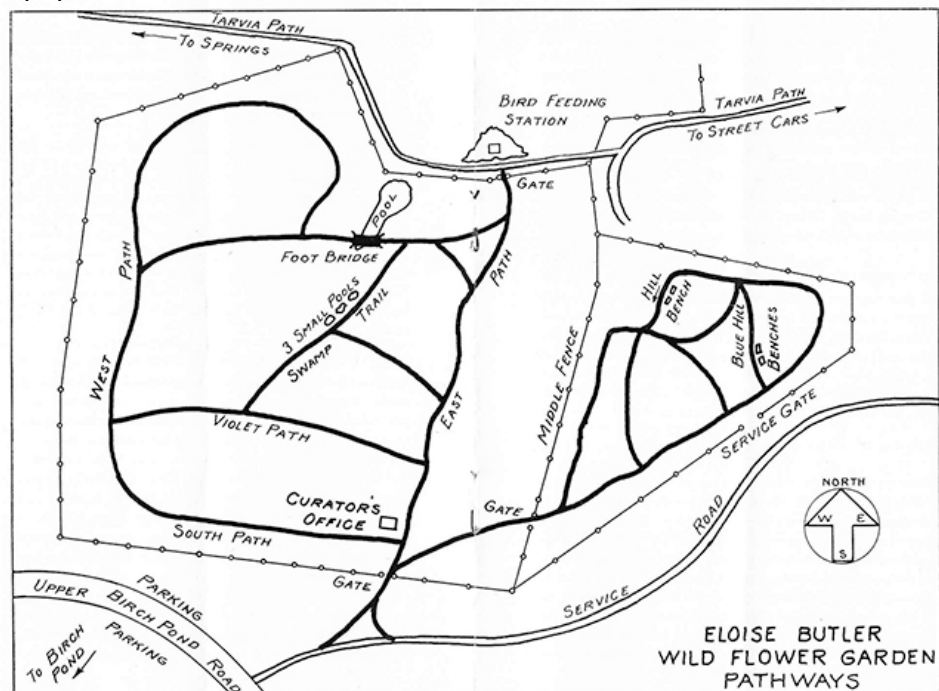


Twin Flower *Linnea borealis*. Photo
©Kitty Kohout, Wisconsin Flora.



Left: The front page of the new Self Conducted Tour brochure. It was eight pages, containing trail descriptions and a map. The map is shown on the next page. An application for membership in The Friends was included. The brochure was printed by the Dayton Company. Donald Dayton, President of Daytons was on the Friends Board of Directors. [Copy of entire brochure in the appendix.]

Below: Martha Crone's 1952 hand-drawn map that was part of the Tour brochure. The scale vertically is much compressed to fit the paper size.



Words from our Founder - Clinton M. Odell

When spring comes over the hill to melt the heavy snow in the woodlands of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park, the first flower to appear is the Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*). This brave little relative of the well-known large flowered trillium, blossoms while the last snow drifts are melting. It is followed closely by the interesting, but not very beautiful bloom of the Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). And so the steady march of the spring, summer and autumn flower procession starts. An almost completely new show is staged every fortnight.

More than 1,000 wild flowers take part in this most instructive and delightful parade.

Like Caesar's Gaul, all of the wild flower garden is divided into three parts: The wooded area, the swamp, and the upland sunny section. Thus a potential habitat is provided for every wild flower that can be made to grow in Minnesota.



Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)
Photo G D Bebeau

There are several wild flower gardens in the U.S. I doubt if any of them has the terrain to provide such complete coverage. It is our goal to create the finest wild flower establishment in the USA.

The Minneapolis Park Board and its efficient superintendent, Charles E. Doell, fully realize the possibilities of the garden, and have established a watering system, gravel paths and other improvements. 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.



Martha Crone, curator of the garden, is the secretary, and editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, its official publication. Mrs. Crone is a talented writer, thoroughly versed in the culture of wild flowers. *The Fringed Gentian*TM with each number having a carefully selected quotation from Thoreau's Journal, is a delightful publication.

Tame flower gardens are beautiful, but mostly all alike. Our wild flower garden, with no tame flowers admitted, is strange and wholly different. It is a source of unending interest to nature enthusiasts and children. Thousands visit it each year.

Who can doubt the value of this garden to our city?

Odell used this essay (without the photos which we have added) in soliciting support and membership for the Friends, principally from his acquaintances in the business community. The Friends published this essay in *The Fringed Gentian*TM Winter 2002, Vol. 50 #1

Flower photo ©G D Bebeau Martha Crone Photo - *Minneapolis Tribune*



1953

Winter 1952/1953

1953 is the 47th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 21st year as Garden Curator. In January the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden put out the first issue of their 4-page newsletter - *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 1 No. 1, January 1953). 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.



Violet Path in the Woodland Garden, photographed on Feb. 18, 1953 by Martha Crone.

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*TM 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.



Woodland Garden with Office in the background, photographed on February 18, 1953 by Martha

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.



The Fringed Gentian, photographed in the Garden on September 24, 1950 by Martha Crone.

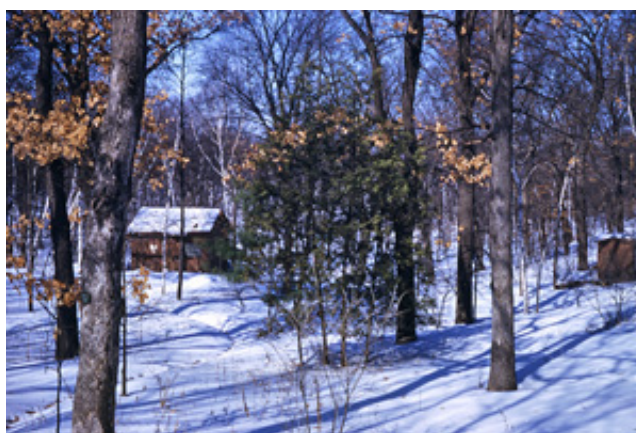
In that same issue Martha then wrote about the Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), the Horse Gentian (*Triosteum perfoliatum*) and a winter brook. A section from Thoreau's journals about Snow Crystals was quoted. And in the first issue, as she would in many

later issues, Martha wrote about the value of the Garden:

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.

Then Martha sent along something else with the mailing: “The enclosed binder was designed for filing of issues of our publication for future reference.” During her 20 year tenure as editor she would continue to send out these binders annually.



The Garden Office in Winter photographed March 9, 1953 by Martha Crone

The first annual meeting of the Friends was held in January at the registered office - that is, the headquarters of Clinton Odell's firm, the Burma-vita Company, at 2318 Chestnut Avenue West, just east of the Garden. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Russell Bennett, Earle Brown (new), Dorothy Binder, Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Clinton Odell, Leonard Ramberg, Mrs. Clarence Tolg.(1)

Friends officers were Clinton Odell President, Donald C. Dayton Vice President, Mrs. Carroll (Dorothy) Binder Vice President, Leonard Ramberg Treasurer, Martha Crone Secretary. Martha Crone was also in charge of membership and was editor of the *Fringed Gentian*TM

Martha's new duties were covered in the *Minneapolis Star's* column "Town Toppers" on March 12. It identified her as the "wild flower lady" and explained her background and what she has accomplished at the Wild Flower Garden. One statement was "In most lives, work is one thing and hobbies are another. In Mrs. Crone's case it's hard to find any dividing line."

Spring 1953

In the Friends' newsletter (Vol. 1 No. 2, April 1953) Martha Crone wrote about Snow Trillium, May Time, Skunk Cabbage, Wafer Ash, Pasque Flower, May Apple, and transplanting wild flowers. She wrote of spring:

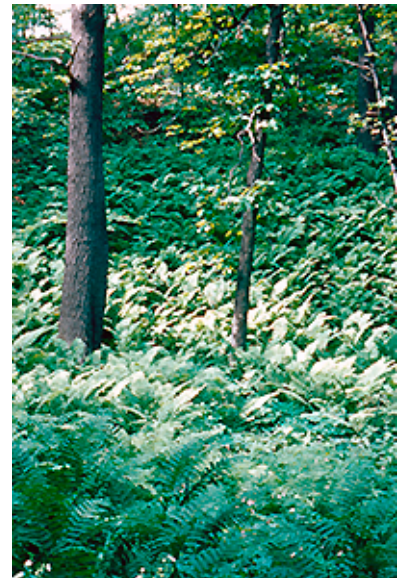
There are few lovelier sights than finding in sheltered nooks where the sun has rested, patches of Hepaticas, Snow Trilliums and Bloodroot, the real harbingers of spring. These often are covered over again with a snowy blanket of recurring blizzards.

Spring weather allowed the Garden to open on April 1st and in the first 4 days of April Martha Crone noted it was lovely warm weather with Snow Trilliums and Hepaticas budding. All the snow was gone as was the frost. On Sunday April 5, large crowds of people came to the Garden. Her crop of Rhododendron, planted a few years ago, weathered the winter in fine shape. On the 9th she commenced her planting program, putting in 100 Snow Trillium, 25 Trout Lilies and 10 Hepaticas. But nice weather was not to last. A thunderstorm on the 14th was followed by a snow storm on the 15th and then cold and wind. Temperatures dropped down to 20 degrees until April 20th. The Snow Trilliums and Hepaticas that were in full bloom were froze stiff, but survived the eventual thawing out.(2)

April 20 must have been the first reasonable day, as Martha planted 12 double snow trilliums (unusual plant) received from Mrs. E. H. Cummings in Preston, MN. The cold weather did cause the entire spring season to be late as cold and rainy weeks followed in May also. The hummingbirds came back to the Garden on May 15. This was a date Martha always noted. On May 18 she gave a tour of the Garden to the members of the Schoolmasters' Wives club.

During the spring months Martha planted the following plants for the first time in the Garden. Many are not native.

- *Aralia spinosa*, Devil's Walking stick, not native, from The Three Laurels Nursery, Marshall NC.
- *Azalea nudiflora*, [*Rhododendron periclymenoides* (older *R. nudiflorum*)] Pink Azalea not native, from Three Laurels.



Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*), photographed in the Garden on June 9, 1953 by Martha Crone. This hillside in the Woodland Garden is still covered with these ferns.

- *Pediocactus simpsonii*, Colorado Snow Cactus, Mountain Ball Cactus, not native, from Rocking Horse Cactus, Phoenix, AZ.
- *Trillium ozarkanum*, [*Trillium pusillum* var. *ozarkanum*] Ozark Wakerobin, not native, from Ruth Mooney, Hi-mountain, MO.

Summer 1953

In the summer newsletter (Vol. 1 No. 3, July 1953), Martha Crone wrote about Snowball Bush, the Ruby Throated Hummingbird which returned to the Garden this year on May 15th, poison sumac, the Showy lady's-slipper, ferns, the nighthawk, and the number of wild orchids found in Minnesota.

Of summer she 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.

The late summer weather was dry and warm; Martha called it a drought. She had additional help from the Park Board in the Garden from May 2 to July 10, but again wished the extra manpower could be extended later in the season. (Garden Log)

On June 18, the Show Lady's-slippers bloomed. This was the third latest date for bloom ever noted, matching the latest date that Ken Avery and Cary George recorded during their tenures; the second latest was June 21st in 1936 and June 28, 1945 is the latest date known.



Cow Parsnip group near the wetland photographed on June 15, 1953 by Martha Crone.

Martha planted one new species in the Garden during the summer:

Mimulus moschatus, Musk flower, not native, from Meyers Nursery.

Autumn 1953

In the fall newsletter (Vol. 1 No. 4, October 1953) Martha Crone wrote about the Jerusalem Artichoke, Indian Pipe, Horsetail, Running Myrtle, Moneywort, Owls, Wild asters, edible wild fruits, and the blooming time of the Gentians. She noted the Friends now had 162 members.

Of autumn she wrote:

September comes as soft twilight after the sultry summer is past. It is the month of ripening fruits and seeds of various plants. The direct and blazing rays of the summer sun now slant, only warmly upon the earth, the cool nights are refreshing and insect annoyances are past. This is colorful October the finest month of the year.

In her Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners Martha Crone termed the fall weather this year a drought. She reported planting during the year 936 plants and 57 varieties of seed. Some of those plants were the new additions noted above. The remainder were species already in the Garden. 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. She also noted thanks to Clinton Odell for his assistance in furthering the interest in the Garden. (2)

In her annual Secretary's report to the Friends Martha Crone 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. (3) 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.(2)



A path into the Upland Garden, photographed by Martha Crone on July 16, 1953.



Tall Blue Bellflower
Campanulastrum americanum. Photo ©G D Bebeau

Once again, even though the Garden closed on October 31 and she was only paid through that date, we find her still working in November.

On November 2nd she reports:

No killing frost yet, Dutchman's Pipe leaves still green. Warm enough without coat, has been 1/2 inch rain during September and October Tufted Titmouse has been feeding several weeks at feeder. (2)

On November 12 she plants *Gentiana saponaria*, Soapwort Gentian or Harvest bells, from seed, not native. Eloise Butler had planted it back in 1929.

Her last entry is on December 2nd where she plants seeds of *Aquilegia coerulea*, Colorado Blue Columbine and Blue Bellflower *Campanulastrum americanum*. Martha was fond of starting plants from seed in the fall and a number of the plants she reported setting out in the Garden in large quantities undoubtedly came from seedlings.

Photo at top of first page of 1953: A path into the Upland Garden, photographed by Martha Crone on July 16, 1953.

Notes:

(1). This immediate expansion of the board brought in Earle Brown who must have been known to Clinton Odell and Mrs. Clarence Tolg was known to Martha Crone for many years prior to this as she appears in Martha's records twice in 1942, stopping in the Garden for a visit. The connection was wildflowers. She was known as "Ebba" and also called Betty. In 1939 she had helped form the Golden Valley Garden Club, gave gardening talks and maintained a good sized wild flower garden at her home on 206 Meadow Lane North in Golden Valley, just a short distance from the Wildflower Garden. She was on the Minneapolis Campfire Girls Council in 1940s. Her husband, Clarence, became well known in the 1960s as "Uncle Fogey" on WCCO radio.

(2). Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 10, 1954 to Charles E. Doell.

(3). Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary's Report - 1953



1954

Winter 1953/1954

1954 is the 48th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 22nd year as Garden Curator.

In The Friends' newsletter (Vol. 2 No. 1, January 1954), Editor Martha Crone wrote about Partridge Berry, Asparagus, winter Bird Study, the need for a non-technical wild flower book, and then she listed some of the introduced plants in the Garden:

In addition to representing as many of our native flowers as possible, others have been introduced from various places to make the garden interesting and more attractive to visitors. The Azalea and Rhododendron plantings regularly arouse widespread interest. The area is splendidly adapted for the purpose of growing them successfully. The following varieties have weathered thru six winters without loss and bloomed beautifully:

- Flame Azalea - *Rhododendron calendulaceum*
- Carolina Rhododendron - *Rhododendron carolinia*
- Mountain Rose Bay - *Rhododendron catawbiense*
- Rose Bay or Great Laurel - *Rhododendron maximum*
- Pinxter Flower - *hododendron nudiflorum*
- Swamp Azalea - *Rhododendron viscosum*

Another interesting introduction is Rhodora (*Rhodora canadense*), a small shrub with attractive pink flowers growing in moist places. A few others are Yellow Trillium (*Trillium luteum*) native in the Smokies, Rose Trillium (*Trillium stylosum*), Painted Trillium (*Trillium undulatum*) [photo next page] from the south, Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) from the west and (*Galax aphylla*) from the south (photo next page).



Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*). Photo G D Bebeau



Galax (*Galax aphylla*)
photographed in the Garden on
June 28, 1956 by Martha Crone

The Friends held their second annual meeting on Tuesday January 5, 1954 at the offices of the Burma Vita Company at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, in Minneapolis.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: Russell H. Bennett, Earle Brown, Dorothy Binder, Elizabeth Carpenter (new), Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Clinton Odell, Leonard F. Ramberg, Carl Rawson (new), Mrs. Clarence (Ebba) Tolg.

Friends officers elected at the board meeting were Clinton Odell, President; Donald C. Dayton, Vice President; Mrs. Carroll (Dorothy) Binder, Vice President; Martha Crone Secretary/Treasurer.

After just 1-1/2 years of organization, Martha Crone takes over the treasurer duties from Leonard Ramberg; she was also in charge of membership and was editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM. Membership at the time was 176.

February 1954 was the warmest February since 1878.

Spring 1954

In the spring newsletter (Vol. 2 No. 2, April 1954) Martha Crone wrote about Red-wing Blackbirds, Citronella, wild flowers to plant from seed, and of spring she wrote:

It seems strange that so many of the first flowers to bloom when there is still danger of frost and snow-are the dainty, fragile varieties. The Dwarf or Snow Trillium which is only a few inches tall and a miniature of the later Large-flowered Trillium blooms first in the sweet seclusion of sheltered glens. Yet a wise precaution is taken by many of the firstlings against the chilly nights by folding up their blossoms when evening shadows fall.

The Garden opened on time on April 1. Martha recorded in her log:

After a warm Feb. and March and very little snow all winter, the opening day was very cold with a light snowfall, 20° high. On the second, still cold, 18° high and the morning of the 3rd 9 above. The 4th up to 40 and on the 5th 63°. The 6th was very warm, paths are muddy, no flowers out yet. (1)

By April 12 the first flowers appeared: Snow Trillium, Bloodroot, Hepatica, Skunk Cabbage, but then a snowstorm occurred on May 1st with a 28 degree temperature, resulting in many frozen plants. (2)

Planting for spring finally began the first week of May. Martha introduced seven new species to the Garden, none of which were native plants: (1)

- *Aristolochia tomentosa*, Woolly Dutchman's Pipe, not native, from Three Laurels Nursery, Marshall NC.
- *Ailanthus glandulosa*, [*Ailanthus altissima*], Tree of heaven, not native, same source.
- *Clintonia umbellulata*, White Clintonia, not native, same source.
- *Disporum lanuginosum*, [*Prosartes lanuginosa*] Yellow Fairybells, not native, same source.
- *Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip tree, not native, same source.
- *Passiflora incarnata*, Purple Passionflower, not native, same source.
- *Taxodium distichum*, Bald Cypress, not native, same source.

Summer 1954

In the summer newsletter (Vol. 2 No. 3, July 1954), Martha Crone wrote about Jack-in-the-Pulpit, the seeds and transplanting of Lady's-slippers, Shooting star, mushrooms, and the joys of summertime. About the newsletter she wrote:

This little publication attempts to save you valuable hours and fleeting opportunities by reminding you from time to time thru out the circle of the year of what is doing in the plant world, lest their brief period pass before you remember that this is their appointed season. Observation without records falls short of its possibilities for both value and enjoyment. Field notes made day by day will prove most valuable and be treasured for the pleasant associations they recall and become precious heirlooms.

On the Wild Flower Garden she writes:

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.

This commentary on the misleading name reminds us that Eloise Butler had reason to change the Garden's name early in her tenure. She wrote in her 1926 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'." Even more interesting here is that Martha Crone frequently referred to the Garden in her notes and reports as the "Reserve" not the "wild flower garden."

On June 27 *Minneapolis Tribune* columnist George Luxton wrote about the lady's-slippers in bloom at the Garden. He quoted Martha: "The wonder of it never wanes. To miss the flowering season seems almost to lose a part of the spring. A visit to the gardens at this time of year should be an adventure long to be remembered." About the Garden space itself Luxton writes: "When you wander through cool glens on soft, mossy paths, shadowed by stately trees, some hundreds of years old, you will find it hard to realize that this unspoiled spot is only three miles from the skyscrapers of Minneapolis, which can be seen from the upland gardens."

Martha planted one new species during the summer - another non-native and probably someone's garden plant: (1)

Aconitum uncinatum, Southern Blue Monkshood, not native, from Hinds, 1214 W. Broadway who got it from the North Shore.



The path in the marsh showing many Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) in bloom; note the corduroy base on the path put in by Bill Crone in 1946; photographed on June 3, 1954 by Martha Crone.

Autumn 1954

In the fall newsletter (Vol. 2 No. 4, October 1954), Martha Crone wrote about plant conservation, Hummingbirds, fall moods, Tulip-tree, Duckweed, Dutchman's Pipe-vine, Jacob's Ladder and the plants that require acid soil. About Autumn she wrote:

September and October days are really more ideal than the rare days in June. They are the two months of transition from one kind of beauty to another. Frost in the morning and cool air in the evening to give it zest, while the days are clear, sunny and warm.

In September she planted one new species, which is native to Minnesota (1):

Aster pringlei [*Symphotrichum pilosum*, var. *pringlei*] Pringle's Aster, Owl Aster, native, no source given.

Later in November she planted another species new to the Garden:

Polemonium caeruleum, Charity, not native, no source given.

She 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. Some of those plants were the new additions noted above. The remainder were species already in the Garden. Another 100 aluminum plant markers went up. (These were provided by Clinton Odell). (2)



The masthead of the early newsletters, from Fall, 1954.

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 completed in May 1917 by Eloise Butler, replacing an earthen dam Eloise had erected earlier to create a small open pool at that end of the Garden. Martha noted having much trouble with muskrats, rabbits and pocket gophers. (2) In her annual Friends 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." (3)

Martha was awarded an Award of Merit for Meritorious service in the promotion of horticulture by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. (3) It was not mentioned in her log, in the Friends newsletter, or in her annual report, but full time help arrived in the Garden this spring, when the Park Board hired Ken Avery to be her assistant. The *Minneapolis Star* got an advance look at the January 1955 Friends newsletter when a December 18 column reported Martha's comments on the necessity of providing food for the wintering birds. It also announced the date for the upcoming Friends Annual Meeting.

Photo at top of page 163: A path into the wetland, photographed by Martha Crone on June 3, 1954.

Notes:

(1). Garden Log

(2). Annual Reports of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 21, 1955 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.

(3). Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary's Report - 1954



1955

Winter 1954/1955

1955 was the 49th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 23rd year as Garden Curator. In the Friends' newsletter (Vol. 3 No. 1, January 1955) Editor Martha Crone wrote about Leatherwood, Rhododendrons, evergreens in Winter, Holly and Devil's Club. About the winter season she wrote:

What a fairyland the woods present after a snowstorm, when every tree is outlined in softest white, and every branch sparkles wherever the sunbeams rest. The new snow muffles the echoes and there is new beauty where only bare bleakness existed before.

During the winter leafless trees make it possible to become familiar with the shapes of the many species, also to distinguish a tree by its bark and twigs. Leaf buds are fascinating to study at this time.

Some background on the Devil's Club:

Here's what Martha wrote in the newsletter:

Devil's Club or Devil's Walking Stick (*Panax horridum* - now *Oplopanax horridus*) is a member of the Ginseng Family. The densely prickly stems grow as tall as 13 feet. Both sides of the large leaves have scattered prickles. This plant often forms extensive dense thickets and because of the sharp prickles these are almost impenetrable. It grows abundantly in the forest of the pacific slope from Oregon to Alaska, and is also found about Lake Superior as well as in Japan. A number of plants are thriving in the Wild Flower Garden.

Eloise Butler originally introduced the plant to the Garden in 1921 with plants from Isle Royal. In 1935 Martha planted more. These also came from Isle Royal via Gertrude Cram. When sending the plant to Martha, Mrs. Cram wrote

I hope you receive the Devil's Club in sufficiently good condition to enable you to recognize it. The package was a flimsy one - there is never a box to be had here without reserving it weeks in advance - and I was not sure it would get through the mail. I put in two young plants in case you want to start a colony in your own yard or in the wild garden! It really is a handsome plant even if it is vicious.



Devil's Club (*Oplopanax horridus*),
Photo ©R.A. Howard, USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database

It is uncertain how long the plants lasted but they are no longer extant.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Tuesday January 4, 1955 at the offices of the Burma Vita Company at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, in Minneapolis. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Russell Bennett, Earle Brown, Dorothy Binder, Elizabeth Carpenter, Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Clinton Odell, Leonard Ramberg, Carl Rawson, Mrs. Clarence (Ebba) Tolg.

Friends officers elected at the board meeting following the annual meeting were Clinton Odell, President; Donald C. Dayton, Vice President; Mrs. Carroll (Dorothy) Binder, Vice President; Martha Crone Secretary / Treasurer. Martha Crone was also in charge of membership and was editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM. Membership at the time was 200. It was voted to give \$500 to the Board of Park Commissioners to assist in maintenance of the Wild Flower Garden.

On February 26, Abe Altowitz in his *Minneapolis Star* column announced that Martha Crone had been named one of 10 winners in the national awards of the Horticultural Travel foundation - nominated by the Minnetonka Men's Garden Flower Club. The award was worth \$100 off a fee for joining the foundation's European Garden Tour in the Spring. That of course, was not practical so she did not participate.

During March the Garden office was broken into with damages being the broken window on the north side of the office, the cut wire that protected the window, and the loss of Martha Crone's rock collection, some of which she found outside the office and in the wetland.

(1, 3)

Spring 1955

In the spring newsletter Vol. 3 No. 2, April 1955, Martha Crone wrote about spring bird migration, how the date of Easter is determined, Kumquat, Regal Lily, the various pests of the Garden and of the 11 Trillium species present at that time, several of which are no longer extant.

On the topic of conservation she wrote:

With the advance of civilization the complete destruction of vast areas of native vegetation is inevitable. That Minnesota may retain more of that primitive beauty, let us use our influence for conservation of native plant life wherever it is still found. It is our heritage. Let us preserve it as we have received it, and pass it on, unspoiled, for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.

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 April 7, the first plants were in bloom: Snow Trillium, Hepatica, Red Maple and Skunk Cabbage. That same day she began her seasonal planting with 20 ferns - 10 Common Polypody and 10 Purple-stemmed Cliff Brake.

In May Friends members received an invitation from Clinton Odell and Dorothy Binder for the first annual picnic and get-together to be held on Saturday May 14. Lunch was provided by The Friends and



Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily
(*Erythronium propullans*)
photographed in the Garden on
April 25, 1955 by Martha Crone.

served at 12:15 at the Park Board shelter across the avenue from Wirth Beach. Following lunch, Martha Crone gave a tour of the Garden. On May 30th Martha Crone was interviewed on WCCO radio by Darragh Aldrick. Martha spoke about the Garden and her slide lectures about which she received many responses.(3) She estimated that 10,000 people came to the Garden each Sunday in May and offered thanks to Friends member Miss Gene Dorman who helped out on busy days(3). Those May visitation estimates seem wrong since her visitor count estimate for the year was 80,000, but her number of 10,000 could seem more reasonable if she meant all the Sundays of May in total.

During the spring Martha planted six species that were noted in her log for the first time and first time in the Garden also. Most are not native.

- *Aster geyeri* [*Symphotrichum laeve* var. *gereri*] Geyer's Aster no source listed, questionable if native, only one plant was ever collected - in Lincoln County in 1891. Possibly what she had was var. *laeve* which is native.
- *Asimina triloba*, Pawpaw, not native, from the Three Laurels Nursery, Marshall NC.
- *Chionanthus virginicus*, White Fringe Tree, not native, same source. Extant.
- *Maianthemum trifolium*, Three-leaved Solomon's Seal, native, no source. While this is the first time she listed the species, but she had remarked in her diary of June 4, 1942 that a man came to the Garden to photograph the Three leaved Solomon's Seal that she brought in from her cabin at Cedar Creek, so this was not really the first planting.
- *Ilex glabra*, Inkberry, from Walter Lehnert, not native.
- *Polypodium polypodioides* [*Pleopeltis polypodioides* subsp. *polypodioides*] Resurrection Fern, not native, from the Three Laurels Nursery, Marshall NC.



Hepatica Hill on April 17, 1955; photo by Martha Crone.

Summer 1955

In the summer newsletter (Vol. 3 No. 3, July 1955) Martha Crone wrote about the summer birds, Moneywort, the Tall Bellflower, what you would find blooming along the woodland paths from spring into summer, and potato seeds. About the value of the Wild Flower Garden she wrote:

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 (sic) 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 nature's own pattern. The irregularities of surface afford differences in light, exposure and moisture, thereby making it ideal for plants of many requirements.

She wrote of summer:

The golden summer when the days are long are here again. The dainty spring flowers have long since passed, and the deeper colors of summer flowers are now noted. Mingled with these are a number of white flowers all too little appreciated. They give us a source of light and restfulness, and serve to intensify the brilliant colors. In nature no colors clash.

On the development of the upland Garden she writes:

When the upland or prairie garden was established ten years ago the area was a ticket of sumac and various other shrubs.

These have been removed and thousands of typical prairie plants of various kinds introduced. Here the sun beats down all day and only the deep-rooted plants of the prairie will thrive. The success in growing these plants is to provide good drainage. However the annuals will not germinate readily during a dry spring and will be greatly lacking. Most perennial deep-rooted plants are best started from seed, since they are difficult to transplant.

The prairie garden becomes colorful in midsummer when the spring flowers have gone and the shade in the woodland is so dense that very few plants will bloom there.

Aside from the graveled trails leading to all parts of the area and a number of settees conveniently placed, it is kept as natural as any native prairie.

Martha gave a list of birds she noted nesting in the Garden:

Indigo Bunting, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird, Robin, Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Blue Jay, Wood Pewee, Phoebe, Crested Flycatcher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Barred Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat, Baltimore Oriole, Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Eastern Green Heron, Wood Duck and Goldfinch.

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. Lulu May Aler wrote that the bird first appeared in the area in 1936; then in 1939 it was seen in the Garden area and it appeared again in Martha's 1942 and 1943 diary notes.

Martha added one new species in the summer:

Asclepias viridiflora, Green Milkweed, native, from the Kasota prairie.



Clumps of Showy Lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium reginae*) in bloom; photographed on June 10, 1955 by Martha Crone.



The Garden Office in the Fall; photographed on October 21, 1955 by Martha Crone.

The summer was very hot and dry and Martha had to make use of the Garden water system extensively. (2)

Autumn 1955

In the fall newsletter (Vol. 3 No. 4, October 1955), Martha Crone wrote about the October flowers, the Ginseng Family, the Spider Flower, the Milkweed Family, and that the Hummingbird left the Garden on September 8th, a week earlier than average.

The most unusual plant she obtained in the fall was:

Cladonia rangiferina, Reindeer moss, no source given, although Eloise had also planted it in 1924 and 1927.

In the *Minneapolis Tribune* on September 11, George Luxton wrote about the fall wildflowers mentioning Martha Crone and the Upland Garden where many could be seen.

Martha reported setting out 1,120 new plants and numerous seedlings and another 100 aluminum plant markers. Some of those 1,120 plants were the new additions noted above. The remainder were species already in the Garden. 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. (2)

In her annual Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary's report (3) Martha stated there were 183 members of the Friends. Also noted was the work being done on the new Fern Garden being developed in an undeveloped part of the new Upland Garden, with funds (\$775) from a gift to the Friends from the Minnetonka Garden Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club.(4)

She estimated over 80,000 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. (3) The year was not extraordinarily dry, but there was just over 21 inches of precipitation whereas almost 28 inches in average. Her helpers in the Garden this year were Ken Avery and Robert Clark. (5)

Photo at top of page 167: The upland Garden photographed by Martha Crone on October 24, 1955. Note the chain link fence that marked the Garden boundary prior to the 1944 upland addition is still in place. A section of the fence was still there in 1993 and was removed and used to fence in the 1993 one acre addition to the Upland Garden.

Notes:

(1). Garden Log

(2). Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 14, 1956 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.

(3). Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary's Report - 1955

(4). That the money was a gift to the Friends was noted in Martha Crone's 1956 Secretary's Report and was also reported on January 8, 1956 in George Luxton's column in the *Minneapolis Tribune*

(5). Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.



1956

Winter 1955/1956

1956 was the 50th year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 24th year as Garden Curator.

In The Friends' newsletter (Vol. 4 No. 1, January 1956), Editor Martha Crone wrote about last fall's activities, winter birds, Cardinal Flower, the Primrose family in the Garden, Kapoc coming from the Silk-cotton Tree, albinos among plants, and the Christmas Rose. About the current winter season she wrote:

November ushered in the winter rather hurriedly this year, even before the close of October, the ground was covered with a blanket of snow. Now this change is a preparation for winter-life and there need be no bleak or desolate aspect.

Nature knows but two distinct changes, putting forth and withdrawing, and between these there is a constant transition. The season of withdrawal then is a fitting interpreter for the season of silence, when Nature's voice is hushed and she is less responsive.



The Garden Office in Feb. 1956, photo by Martha Crone.

She then laid out the plan for the new Fern Glen which was begun last fall with funds (\$775) from a gift to the Friends from the Minnetonka Garden Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden:

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 Natures most beautiful creations.

George Luxton added a note about the new fern garden in his January 8 column in the *Minneapolis Tribune*. He printed some of Martha's comments written in the newsletter to her membership.

The Friends held their annual meeting on Tuesday January 3, 1956 at the offices of the Burma Vita Company at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, in Minneapolis. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Russell Bennett, Earle Brown, Dorothy Binder, Elizabeth Carpenter, Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Clinton Odell, Leonard Ramberg, Carl Rawson, Mrs. Clarence (Ebba) Tolg.

Friends officers elected at the board meeting following the annual meeting were Clinton Odell, President; Donald C. Dayton, Vice President; Mrs. Carroll (Dorothy) Binder, Vice President; Martha Crone Secretary / Treasurer. Martha Crone was also in charge of membership and was editor of *The Fringed Gentian*™.



Friends director Donald Dayton, seated, with his brothers at the new Southdale.

It was voted to give \$500 to the Board of Park Commissioners to assist in maintenance of the Wild Flower Garden.

Spring 1956

The Garden opened on schedule on April 1st but it was not pleasant as Martha made this note in her log:

Snow in garden 12 to 18 inches deep. Fresh snowfall of few days ago added to winter's accumulation. Looks like deep winter.

By April 4 she could state:

Snow all gone except in sheltered areas after thunder storm. No frost in ground, therefore no runoff, all water soaked in. Most satisfactory break-up I have experienced. (1)

Winter was not finished - On the 7th there was snow and cold with blizzards in the northwest part of Minnesota but only a light snow in the Garden. On the 11th she noted Snow trilliums and Hepaticas in bloom and the new fern hill had been "disked and finished," meaning the



The new Fern Glen after some planting, photographed on May 14, 1956 by Martha Crone.

ground was cleared and ready for planting.

Her first plantings of the year occurred on April 12 when she put in Snow Trilliums, Hepatica and Dutchman's Breeches. On April 17 she added a new species to the Garden:

Sarracenia minor, Hooded Pitcher Plant, not native, from Meyers Nursery via a source in Alabama.

Spring was very cool until May 9th when the temperature reached 72 degrees, the warmest since the past October. She could open the windows of the office. On May 16 the Hummingbirds arrived back at the Garden - this was a date she usually tracked. By this time she had planted 1,537 ferns in the new Fern Glen.

Another new species for the Garden arrived on May 28:

Viola pubescens var. *eriocarpa*, Smooth Yellow Violet, not native, from Johnson's Nursery, Mass.

In the spring newsletter (Vol. 4 No. 2, April 1956), Martha wrote about the easier wild flowers to plant in spring, about the Striped Maple, Cineraria, Oleander, and spring mushrooms. About the spring season she wrote:

One of the loveliest sights in the garden after a gentle spring rain is the pushing thru the ground of young fronds of ferns, each rolled up like a miniature fiddle-head. Great numbers of Ostrich Ferns, Royal Ferns, Interrupted Ferns and Cinnamon Ferns (photo) in addition to 35 other varieties are well distributed throughout the garden. The swelling of the Red Maple buds is one of the first evidences of approaching spring and its bright red flowers open even while snow still remains in sheltered areas.



Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), Photo ©G D Bebeau.

Summer 1956

In the summer newsletter (Vol. 4 No. 3, July 1956) Martha wrote about the summer birds, the Minnesota State Flower - the Showy Lady's-slipper (and that the Red Columbine was the runner up), the Blue Columbine of Colorado that she had successfully grown from seed, about Butterwort, and the Ginkgo Tree. About wildflowers she wrote:

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.



The large bed of Bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*) in bloom in the Upland Garden, photographed on June 2, 1950 by Martha Crone.

The summer planting was devoted mostly to putting in numerous plants of species already present in the Garden.

Autumn 1956

In the fall newsletter Vol. 4 No. 4, October 1956, Martha wrote about Bird's foot Violet (*Viola pedata*), fall birds, American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*) [photo below], the twining direction of vines, Galax (*Galax aphylla*) and Oconee Bells (*Shortia galacifolia*). She wrote about the flowers of autumn:

When the summer beauty of the garden is gone, the asters like star showers take over, the fields and woods are literally tangled with asters of white and various shades of blue. The cherry golden color of the golden-rods brightens the autumn garden. The golden-rods in the woods area bloom long after those of the prairie garden have passed. They appear like rods of gold withstanding frost and cold. Various species bloom continuously from July until October.

And then about a late season ramble in the Garden:

The late blooming plants seem to have saved up a great deal of surplus vitality for the grande finale, as tho to compensate for the bleak season ahead. The now shaded slopes where the sun rested in early spring before the trees leafed out and in sheltered glens where bloomed Hepaticas, Trilliums, Trout Lilies, Violets, Azaleas, Rhododendrons and countless others, now are taken over by dense colonies of White Wood Aster, Blue Wood Aster, Arrow-leaved Aster, Crooked-stemmed Aster, Zig-zag Goldenrod and Wreath Goldenrod, since they are all shade loving plants. Many others of the Composite Family - the most prodigious family in the floral world are in evidence.

Follow the winding trail thru the moist meadow and where Lady's-slippers bloomed earlier, and the Blue Bottle Gentian [photo right], Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia, and Red Turtlehead predominate.

Many of the spring plants are now dormant and no trace of them can be found. The red, gold and maroon of the various trees adds the brilliant hues which asters lack. The Bittersweet vine on the border fence is covered with beautiful clusters of orange berries, which finally split open to display the brilliant red globes within.

On open hillsides the clusters of bright red berries of False Spikenard contrast with the blue berries of Giant Solomon's Seal and Cohosh. The ceaseless chant of insects is heard no more, the leaves frost crisped, drop from the trees, soon will the winter be on us, snow-hushed and silent.

Development of the new Fern Glen was proceeding rapidly.



Blue Bottle Gentian, *Gentiana andrewsii*, Photo G D Bebeau



American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), Photo ©G D Bebeau

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.

The total quantity and species count of the Fern Glen is tallied in a separate article about the Fern Glen. But a sampling of what was planted in 1956 shows this:

- Cinnamon Fern 112
- Crested Shield Fern 102
- Interrupted Fern 501
- Lady Fern 209
- Maidenhair Fern 229
- Spreading Wood Fern 102



Bird's-foot Violet bicolor (*Viola pedata*) noted in Martha Crones text. Photo ©Corey Raimond, Wisconsin Flora.

In her annual Secretary's report (2) 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. She believed there would be winter loss on the new plants due to lack of snow so far.

She also noted that a St. Paul newspaper was carrying a weekly column about the Garden which would increase publicity about the Garden.(2)

In her annual report to the Park Board, 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 requested a telephone line for the Garden Office. (3)

On November 14, Martha noted that the Bird's-foot Violet bicolor (*Viola pedata* bicolor type) was still in bloom. [photo above] (1) That was her last log entry of the year.

In the Winter 1956/57 issue of The Friends newsletter (Vol. 5 No. 1, 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.

On October 13, 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.

She had two helpers in the Garden this year - Ken Avery and Robert Clark. (4)

Photo at top of page 172: The hillside of Interrupted Fern on June 9, 1953. This was the site of Eloise Butler's 'fernery' and still exists today. Photo by Martha Crone.

Notes:

- (1). Garden Log
- (2). Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary's Report - 1956
- (3). Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 15, 1957 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.
- (4). Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.



1957

Winter 1956/1957

1957 was the 51st year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 25th year as Garden Curator.

In the Friends' Newsletter (Vol. 5 No. 1, January 1957), Editor Martha Crone wrote about last year's growing season, about the Barred and Great Horned Owl, how bayberry candles were made, the Persimmon Tree, planting our native ferns, Rhododendrons, and the Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*). About the current winter season she wrote:

The greatest joy in winter-time is to think of the beauty of coming spring and summer when sunshine again floods the glens. New green and new spring flowers.

She reviewed the culture of growing ferns and where to plant various types of ferns, all of which species she was currently planting the in the new Fern Glen established the prior year. Friends President Clinton Odell wrote about the Achievement in Horticulture Bronze Medal Martha had received the previous October from the Minnesota Horticultural Society, one of two awarded in 1956.

The Friends held their annual meeting on Wednesday January 2, 1957 at the offices of the Burma Vita Company at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, in Minneapolis.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: Russell Bennett, Earle Brown, Dorothy Binder, Elizabeth Carpenter, Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Clinton Odell, Leonard Ramberg, Carl Rawson, Mrs. Clarence (Ebba) Tolg.

Friends officers elected at the board meeting following the annual meeting were Clinton Odell, President; Donald C. Dayton, Vice President; Mrs. Carroll (Dorothy) Binder, Vice President; Martha Crone Secretary / Treasurer. Martha Crone was also in charge of membership and was editor of *The Fringed Gentian*™.



A rare 4-petaled Snow Trillium, photographed on April 22, 1957 by Martha Crone. The Snow Trillium is usually the first spring flower.

It was voted to give \$500 to the Board of Park Commissioners to assist in maintenance of the Wild Flower Garden.

December of 1956 and January of 1957 were mild as Martha Crone noted in her log (1) and with a lack of snow. she also noted that Sparrows were bathing in pools of water after a rain.

Spring 1957

On April 1 the Garden opened with no snow on the ground but the frost deep into the ground.. After the heavy snow of last November 15 there was little until March 15 this year, but April had three snowfalls. The Snow Trilliums were out on April 18 followed by:

Bloodroot, Pasque-flower, Dutchman's Breeches, etc. Altho Hepatica were beautiful they lasted only a few days due to temperatures of 85 and 88 degrees. They were at their best Apr. 27 and 28.

On April 3 she noted her first planting of the year - 50 white Mertensia in various places from Mrs. Knudsen in Springfield Ill. [photo next page] They were snowed under the next day with 7 inches.

In the spring newsletter (Vol. 5 No. 2, April 1957), Martha wrote about the easier wild flowers to grow from seed, spring birds, suggestions for making bird houses for martins, wrens and bluebirds, Wild Ginger, spring Orchids and a few edible wild plants. About spring she wrote:

Mere words cannot describe the fragrance of the very breath of spring - a mingling of rain soaked soil just warming in the sun, and the early spring flowers. Commencing with the dainty little Snow Trillium, followed by countless others in swift procession. These early flowers are the most, delicate and the most admired for their beauty.

Martha noted the publication of a book by Edith Schussler about early life in Montana - "*Doctors, Dynamite and Dogs.*" Mrs. Schussler was an early pupil and a friend of Eloise Butler. She is pictured in the group photo at Eloise's 80th birthday party in 1931 and she was also of friend of Martha's. A letter to Martha from Edith is noted in the 1939 history.

Writing about the purpose of the Wild Flower Garden, Martha states:

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 view of the path in Marsh with Marsh Marigolds, photographed on May 7, 1957 by Martha Crone.



Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*),
Photo ©G D Bebeau.

A sufficiently simple method of determining plants will be found.

Among other plants put in this spring, the following were planted for the first time in the Garden:

- *Asarum shuttleworthii* [*Hexastylis shuttleworthii* var *shuttleworthii*] Largflower Heartleaf, not native, from Three Laurels Nursery, Marshall NC.
- *Diospyros virginiana*, Common Persimmon, not native, same source. She just listed it as "persimmon" so we assume it was the common variety.
- *Jeffersonia diphylla*, Twinleaf, native, 3 plants. planted south of office which may be the place where they still grow today; from Mr. Johnson of the University of Minnesota. [photo prior page]

Below: White Mertensia, (*Mertensia virginica*). Martha Crone planted 25 of them in 1957. Photo G D Bebeau.



Summer 1957

In the summer newsletter (Vol. 5 No. 3, July 1957), Martha wrote about the progression of plants from spring into summer, how to plant Trilliums, methods of seed dispersal, the 10 showiest wildflowers, Coralroot, Indian Pipe, and again, the usefulness of the Wild Flower Garden. About summer she wrote:

Summer is now singing its noon song, as it dreams of timid spring flowers now past. By the middle of July, midsummer is half-way between the first growth of June and September is ripening. Goldfinches are gathering the ripened thistle down to line their nests. This beautiful bird nests when others have already reared their broods. The parade of flowers that started in the woods has gradually moved out into the meadows, wood edges and open upland gardens. The colors deepen under the summer sun after the youth of spring is done.

Friends President Clinton Odell received an award this past spring and Martha wrote:

Mr. Clinton M. Odell, our president had the distinction of being awarded an honor plaque, for his many years service in conservation. It was presented by Mr. Cox, Past State Forester, in

behalf of and during the 1957 Northwest Sportsman's Show. The Inscription on the plaque reads -

To Clinton M. Odell

Courageous Crusader for Conservation

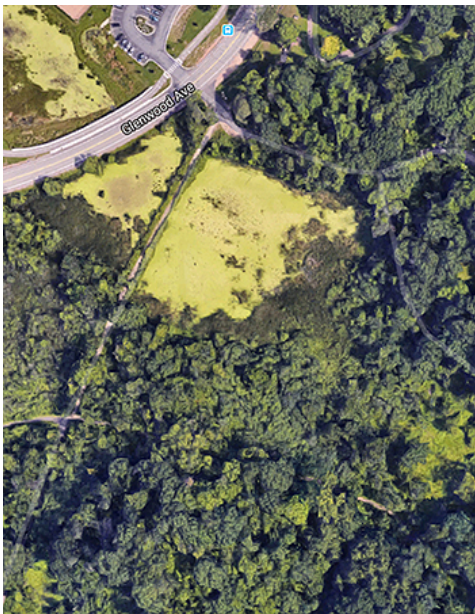
From the 1957 Northwest Sportsman's Show

This honor bestowed upon Mr. Odell is well deserved, for his many contributions to advancement of Conservation in many lines. His vision and enthusiasm have been the nucleus to help preserve our fast disappearing Natural Resources. He has kindled the interest of many in the great out-of-doors.

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 between the picnic grounds and the north side of the Garden, then follows a pathway toward Birch Pond running parallel to the west side of the Garden. The 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 Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*) in bloom in the Garden, photographed on June 6, 1957 by Martha Crone.



(Left:) The northern meadow, site of the old Lily Pond is now bisected by the gravel path covering the large water diversion pipeline from Bassett's Creek to Brownie Lake. Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool was on the far right side of the photo. Photo courtesy Google. (Right:) 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. Photo - Friends.



The Showy Lady-slippers bloomed later than average this summer. In his June 30 column in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, George Luxton wrote that the weekend of the 30th would be the last to see the blooms as recent heavy rains had been hard on them. He quoted Martha Crone as saying "Although they normally grow in swamps and wet woods, they can be grown successfully in gardens. They will persist indefinitely when planted in a congenial situation."

Luxton then listed her criteria for a congenial situation and he ended by saying "If proper conditions cannot be met it is well not to waste the plants, since they would soon disappear." Not mentioned in the planting requirements was anything about symbiotic relationship with certain soil fungus called "mycorrhiza." This was not well understood at that time. He also noted that the collection had about

100 plants which was one of the largest groups in the world and that "it is the pride and joy of Martha Crone, Curator of the gardens."

Autumn 1957

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 1956 was added during the season so the office was no longer the smallest office in Minneapolis without a telephone, but it still did not have electricity. 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 September 23. Back in March she had traveled to Springfield Illinois for a presentation to 200 at the Civic Garden Club. (2)

In the fall newsletter (Vol. 5 No. 4, October 1957), Martha wrote about wildflower conservation, which seeds are poisonous, plants to attract birds, the grouping of ferns and azaleas. She then reported on a plant census taken in a 100 x 200 foot area around the Garden office. It contained 163 different species counting all the trees, vines, shrubs and forest floor plants Her intention was to show how a small area can contain a large number of native plants (although the area around the office was probably one of the most saturated due to its location). She also added this:

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. (2)

It is not known what chemical Martha was using, whether it was DDT or something else, but it would just a few years before "Silent Spring" was published.

She wrote about the flowers of autumn:

Henry Thoreau wrote of autumn sunshine as the glowing embers of summer's fire. A golden blaze has burned brightly for some time this fall, interrupted occasionally by much needed moisture. Nature has again corrected the drouth of the past several years. After this brilliance has passed a frost or heavy wind brings the leaves showering down to carpet the ground. The beauties of nature are an unending source of pleasure. Summer is gone until another year and steps of autumn can be heard.

By the end of the season she had added 880 plants to the Garden. That included 348 ferns, of which 308 went to the new Fern Glen. The other 40 were 15 Walking Fern that were planted elsewhere due to their special habitat needs and 25 Common Polypody that were planted around the 1917 Birdbath. On November 6, her last log entry, she noted the Norway Maple had turned yellow and was shedding leaves (1). She had planted the tree in 1949. A detailed history of the Fern Glen is in the appendix. Martha had two helpers in the Garden this year - Ken Avery and Robert Clark. (3)

Photo at top of page 178: The wetland in Winter, photo by Martha Crone on November 8, 1951.

Notes:

(1). Garden Log

(2). Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 8, 1958 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.

(3). Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.



1958

Winter 1957/1958

1958 was the 52nd year of the Garden and Martha Crone began her 26th and final year as Garden Curator

In the Friends' newsletter (Vol. 6 No. 1, January 1958), Editor Martha Crone wrote about winter birds, the Brazil Nut, Twinflower, well known vegetables in the Mustard family, trees not affected by city pollution, pine nuts, the growth rate of popular trees, an easy way to propagate Large-flowered Trillium, and the difference between yams and sweet potatoes. About the winter season she wrote:

Winter is the most alluring season for a walk in the Wild Flower Garden. Along the silver-clad aisles of the winter woodlands one becomes conscious of the stillness and peacefulness of the white forest. The beauty of tree architecture can now be seen which the foliage concealed in summertime.

In her column on winter birds she noted:

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.



A bed of Large Flowered Trillium. *Trillium grandiflorum*, photographed in the Garden on April 29, 1952 by Martha Crone. She wrote about their propagation in the newsletter.

The Friends held their annual meeting in January at the offices of the Burma Vita Company at 2318 Chestnut Ave. West, in Minneapolis.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: Russell Bennett, Earle Brown, Dorothy Binder, Elizabeth Carpenter, Martha Crone, Donald C. Dayton, Clinton Odell, Leonard Ramberg, Carl Rawson, Mrs. Clarence (Ebba) Tolg.

Friends officers elected at the board meeting following the annual meeting were Clinton Odell, President; Donald C. Dayton, Vice President; Mrs. Carroll (Dorothy) Binder, Vice President; Martha

Crone Secretary/Treasurer. Martha Crone was also in charge of membership and was editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM.

It was voted to give \$500 to the Board of Park Commissioners to assist in maintenance of the Wild Flower Garden, the same amount as in past years since the founding of the Friends in 1952.

Spring 1958

In the spring newsletter, Martha wrote about the joy of spring, birds, Oconee Bells (*Shortia galacilolia*), the ten easiest wild flowers to start a garden with, frogs, and Wild Leek (*Allium tricoccum*). She also wrote about Purple Loosestrife - words which in later years she may have regretted:

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.



To illustrate the invasiveness of Purple Loosestrife, this photo of Birch Pond, just outside the Garden shows extensive growth; photographed on August 5, 1950 by Martha Crone. Yet in 1958 she was still advocating it.

This six-petaled flower has 12 stamens of two different lengths, and the length of the single pistil varies in different flowers; this is termed by botanists as trimorphous. Only pollen from stamens of the same length can pollinate the stigmas, therefore each flower is sterile to its own pollen, thus ensuring the vigor of the race.



A view of the Marsh with Marsh Marigolds and pool, photographed on May 6, 1949 by Martha Crone

She wrote later that:

Spring in the garden was beyond compare with the twelve varieties of Trilliums, the many violets, Mertensia, Hepaticas, Marsh Marigolds and numerous others, it was a spectacular show. The ferns have never been taller or lovelier. The six-foot tall Pink Azalea was a mass of breath-taking bloom being literally sprinkled with flowers of purest pink, fragrant and with long projecting stamens. The glowing patches of orange Flame Azalea followed.

Martha had opened the Garden on April 1st

with the ground free of snow and the Snow Trilliums in bud. There had been heavy snow back in November 1957, but little thereafter. April 5th was a day of rain, turning to snow on Easter Sunday, April 6, leaving 2 inches on the ground. It was sunny the next day but heavy wind during the snow had brought down branches. The juncos were unaffected by the snow and wind. (1)

By April 14th, the Hepaticas were in full bloom. The spring weather was ideal for the two weeks leading up to April 20, the trees were budding, there was no rain, the forests in Northern Minnesota were the driest on record. Then there was a killing frost on the night of April 22nd, and although the flowers seemed to be unharmed the buds on Oaks and Ashes froze. (1)

Later in the spring Martha planted one new species:

May 17 - *Salix caprea*, French Willow, not native, no source given.

She replanted on April 28 - 2 *Ginkgo biloba*, the Ginkgo Tree. The first ones from 1948 must have died.

Summer 1958

In the summer newsletter (Vol. 6 No. 3, July 1958), the death of Clinton Odell was announced. Friends Vice President Dorothy Binder wrote the following:

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.



Clinton Odell, shown with spouse Amy and daughter Moana, in the early 1950s at the Odell's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

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 years destroyed. The challenge now lies with us.

Dorothy Binder took over as president and Leonard Ramberg as Vice-President. Donald C. Dayton left the board at the end of the year.

Martha Crone wrote about the misleading fall foliage of Poison Ivy and Poison Sumac, causing many people to pick the leaves for displays without realizing the toxicity. She also wrote of cloves, Bloodroot, and which wildflowers to avoid trying to plant due to their requirement for acid soil.

In the Garden 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. She planted another 300 Interrupted Ferns (*Osmunda claytoniana*) in the new Fern Glen and July 8th was so cold she had to start a fire in office stove.

Autumn 1958

In the autumn newsletter (Vol. 6 No. 4, October 1958), Martha wrote about the Walking Fern (*Camptosorus rhizophyllus*), White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), fall leaf color, the clearing and planting of the Upland Garden, the value of wilderness spots like the Wild Flower Garden and 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. [in her report to the Park Board after the end of the year she listed 40,999 (2)]

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,



Martha Crone, photo ca1953.

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. (3)

In her report to the Park Board, Martha Crone noted giving 13 illustrated slide lectures to clubs, garden groups, school groups and others. She acknowledged the passing of Clinton Odell 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 (2).

Membership dues for Friends' membership at this time were unchanged from 1952:

Active - \$3

Sustainer - \$10

Sponsor - \$25

Builder - \$100

Founder - \$200

Benefactor - \$500

Martha estimated that there were 80,000 visitors to the Garden this past season. (3)

Her last log entry as for November 14, which noted:

"Warm, sunny, many plants still blooming. Witch Hazel in beautiful bloom yet. No severe frost or snow so far."

Her two helpers in the Garden this year were Ken Avery and Ed Brucklemeyer who had last worked in the Garden in 1949. (4)

1958, with just 16.2 inches of precipitation was the driest year since 1910, but as of 2020, the year 1910 still holds the record with only 11.54 inches of precipitation.

Photo at top of page 183: Images of Martha Crone from various years in her career at the Garden.

Notes:

(1). Garden Log

(2). Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners dated February 27, 1959 to Superintendent Charles E. Doell.

(3). Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Secretary's Report - 1958

(4). Martha Crone records at Minnesota Historical Society.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



Subsequent Events

Martha retained the positions of secretary / treasurer of the Friends 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 15 years of service to Eloise Butler prior to that), she finally retired from all her Friends duties, 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.

Her successor as Curator, Ken Avery, had joined the Friends, was elected to the Board of Directors in 1961, served as President in 1966 and '67, and remained a director until 1986, when he retired from the Garden.

In 1970 the Friends funded the construction of a new Garden Office to replace the old 1915 building that had served three curators. It was named the Martha E. Crone Shelter in her honor.

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, 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. Her obituary was published on Feb. 7, 1989.

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 Janet were her 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. Linda and husband Nicholas and their family attended the Friends May 2002 50th anniversary event at the Wildflower Garden.

More background on her career, relationship with Eloise Butler, her activities after 1958 and with only a summary of the season by season detail presented here will be found in the companion volume "*This Satisfying Pursuit - Martha Crone and the Wild Flower Garden.*"

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



Gertrude Schill Cram 15 Nov. 1888 - 6 Dec. 1961

Eloise Butler and Gertrude Cram

We don't know when the relationship between Eloise Butler and Gertrude Cram began but we know they knew each other quite well and for some time before Eloise's death in 1933. In her Garden Log as early as 1921 Eloise Butler reported planting various plants from Isle Royal. She also received 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. We know from correspondence that Mrs. Cram vacationed on Isle Royal each August, staying at the Rock Harbor Lodge. We do not know when she started staying there.

When Eloise returned to the East Coast after the Garden closed, part of her time there was spent securing plants for the Garden to be delivered the following year. Sometimes she would collect them herself and ship them to Mrs. Cram to be "heeled in" in Gertrude's garden until they could be replanted the following year. It was the last such shipment by Eloise, in the fall of 1932, that provided Mrs. Cram with an introduction to Martha Crone. Eloise had mailed from Malden some plants for Mrs. Cram's garden plus, for the Wildflower Garden, some Stiff Aster, *Aster linariifolius*, and Butter and Eggs and asked Mrs. Cram to heel them in until spring. As the letter below indicates, Eloise also talked to Gertrude about Martha and Bill Crone, whom Eloise referred to in correspondence as "the Cronies."

Martha Crone and Gertrude Cram

Mrs. Cram was never formally introduced to Martha Crone by Eloise Butler but Eloise talked to her about Martha. When Eloise died and Martha was given the job of Temporary Garden Curator, Mrs. Cram wrote in a letter to Martha dated April 23rd, 1933 about the appointment and about the plants she was saving for the Garden, including those she received from Eloise in the fall of 1932, and she also wrote in the same letter:

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. (1)

Mrs. Cram then ended 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?

It will be a pleasure to see you.
Once when Miss Butler was speaking
of you, she said, "You really should
know her; she is a wild flower crank
like you." That tells us both what to
expect, doesn't it?
Sincerely yours,
Gertrude Schill Cram.
(Mrs. R.V.)

Gertrude Cram could be hilarious in her correspondence. Instead of being a “gardener” she refers to herself and other gardeners as “dirt farmers.”

There is correspondence in the Martha Crone files at the Minnesota Historical Society in which Mrs. Cram communicates from Isle Royal that she has sent certain plants back to the Garden. This indicated that the process that had begun with Eloise Butler continued. Here are two examples:

1. In a letter posted from Isle Royal August 8, 1933 she wrote:

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.(2)

2. In a letter posted from Isle Royal August 25, 1935 she wrote to Martha Crone:

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.(3)

The most exciting incident in their relationship must have been on June 13th, 1935; Gertrude had brought over 2 plants of Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) and after planting them, they were held-up at gunpoint at 10:30 AM, by two young men who appeared to be students and robbed them of \$7.

Their relationship was to last for a number of years. Martha noted Mrs. Cram’s visits to the Garden as late as 1943. In May of 1942 she brought in 3 Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) for the Wildflower Garden from her own garden. The Crones took her along on one of their weekly Wednesday visits to their Cabin at Cedar Creek on May 13, 1942 (4). Gertrude Cram passed away in 1961, two years after Martha retired as Garden Curator. She was a Friends member until her death.

References:

Martha Crone Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.

1. Letter April 23, 1933, from Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone.
2. Letter August 8, 1933 from Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone.
3. Letter August 25, 1935 from Gertrude Cram to Martha Crone.
4. Martha Crone’s diary, 1942 and 1943.

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Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Fencing - Historical Details

The 1924 Fence

In order to really secure the Garden from large animals, vandals and people that just wandered in from all directions, it had to be securely fence and equipped with gates that could be locked. Eloise Butler even resorted to the newspaper on two occasions to state her case for a fence.

Ms. Butler's worst menace was "spooners". A headline in the *Minneapolis Tribune* in 1923 read: "*Glenwood Park Wants Wire Fence to Keep Out Spooners.*" The article explained Ms. Butler's thoughts that cats and dogs may leave a trail in the vegetation but spooners were the real problem. The full text read as follows:

It's not the wild, voracious mosquito-
It's not the snooping vagabond dog -
Nor is it the pussy-footing feline -
But it's the demon surreptitious spooner that's brought the need for an encircling barbed wire fence around the wild flower garden in Glenwood Park to save plants of incalculable scientific value from destruction. A stray cat will pitter patter into the garden and leave a narrow trail. A dog seeking food perhaps in the shape of a ribbit (sic) will snoop through and leave a wider wallow -
But the spooning couple -
(Eloise Butler quote) "For destructive properties the army of tussock worms is a piker when compared with the Spooner." (1)



This winter view on Christmas Day 1932 shows part of Eloise Butler's original fence in the hemlock grove. Photo taken by Martha Crone.

In a 1924 newspaper article during an interview Eloise was quoted saying "The fence is needed to keep our the few vandals who destroy in a few minutes the work of years and spoil the garden for the rest of the visitors." Prior to 1924 the Park Board could not allocate funds to add fencing. A fence for the original 3 acres was required by the 1907 Board action creating the Garden. In Martha Hellander's book *The Wild Gardener*, she, at one point says the Garden was unfenced (6, pg. 79) but on another page (6, pg. 85) says there was an original enclosure of 3 acres. Although Hellander gives no reference for her "unfenced" statement, the original 1907 fence around the 3 acres would have been south of the tarvia path (sometimes referred to as a road) in what is now the current Garden space and what was then the original 1907 part of the Garden.

In the Summer of 1924, Eloise contracted herself, at her own expense, to have the fencing completed for a sum of \$696.10. She paid \$400 down, gave a note for \$200 to be paid within a month or when the fence was completed, and the final amount by a note to be paid in the spring of 1925. Eloise wrote that the fence was not completed prior to her annual Winter return to Malden Massachusetts in October. (4)

One set of fences or two?

Written evidence for two fences: Eloise could not afford to fence the entire area of the Garden as it totaled about 25 acres at that time (6, page 155)(10). Based on Butler's log notes, after 1924 she had two

enclosures which she referred to as the North Enclosure and the South Enclosure, the north protecting the wetland orchids, both referenced with a "brook" running through them. These enclosures would have been on the north and south sides of the tarvia path that bisected the area from east to west. (See Garden Pools article for path detail). She writes on July 16, 1924 "*Lady Slipper meadow enclosed today, fence not yet completely braced.*" That meadow was in the northern part of the Garden below the outlet channel for the dam, built by Eloise, that formed a small open pool in the original southern part of the Garden. On July 20 she begins planting near that fence; she writes "*Planted from Glenwood Park, 51 *Aster azureus* near southeast gate of lady slipper enclosure.*" She notes on Aug. 1st planting in the "north enclosure." This would imply that there was another enclosure, more southern, but she does not mention actually planting anything in this "south enclosure" by name until October 8, 1925, although there are numerous entries in the log prior to that of planting "near fence" without stating which fence. (3)

Hellander further states (pg. 85) that Eloise enclosed 5 acres in the north meadow area of the Lady's-slippers in 1924 but she does not give a source for that statement, so we are left with this conclusion: The original 3 acre fence would have been in the southern enclosure, south of the tarvia path that bisected Butler's Garden of 1924. It was only after 1907 that the area of the north meadow was added to the Garden. So, Eloise had two enclosures built in 1924 - the one in the north meadow, north of the tarvia path and one south of the tarvia path - perhaps adding to the original 1907 fence or completely replacing it, but still concentrated in the wetland part of the Garden based on Butler's statement about a brook running through both areas. Further confirmation that there were two Garden areas separated by the tarvia path is contained in Butler's 1926 submission to the bulletin circular of the Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter. This article discussed the trees of the Garden and she states in one section about a Balsam Poplar that "*It is planted near the gate on the south side of the tarvia road that divides the precincts.*"

Photo and map evidence for two fences: Several photos are available from the 1930s and 1940s that show two sets of fences. In addition the site plan blueprint drawn by the Park Board for the addition of the Upland Garden in 1944 clearly outline a fence on both sides of the bisecting tarvia path, the 1944 site plan being the most clear as to where the northern enclosure was positioned. (see site plan adaptation below.



Left: 1936 - The path in the hemlocks with fencing on both sides and the bird feeding station on one side. This path forms the tarvia path seen in the photo above. This is in the same area as the photo on page 1 and indicates that the fencing in the southern enclosure was split by this path from the fencing in the northern enclosure. The bird feeding station is seen here on the northern side of the path. This can be confirmed from the aerial photos shown on the following pages. Photo Martha Crone Papers, MHS.

It would be within the "north enclosure" that the Mallard Pool would be constructed in 1932. She noted in her log on July 7, 1932 "*Mallard Pool completed in north enclosure.*" That places the "north enclosure" north of the current back fence of the Garden in the wetland area that was once part of the Garden and has now grown wild. Back in Malden, Eloise writes to the Crones (Martha and William)

that she had informed Park Superintendent Wirth about what she did and never asked for reimbursement. She was pleasantly surprised to receive a note from him promising a check for the full amount by early December. Thus she says *"You may believe that I am very happy."* (4)

1938 and Later:

Some of the Eloise Butler's 1924 fencing may have been of a temporary nature or just worn out because in 1937 Martha Crone added this to her annual report to the board of park commissioners:

"Greatly lacking is an adequate fence enclosing the reserve, as the present one is so run down and time worn as to be of little service." (Dec. 10, 1937).

In quick response, in 1938 a permanent chain-link fence was built by a WPA crew in the southern part of the Garden. It was stated that 1,900 linear feet was installed which is hardly enough to enclose about 5-1/2 acres.(5) However, aerial photos from 1938 and 1947 show a fence line enclosing what was then the Garden Martha Crone tended, about 9 or 10 acres - that is the portion south of the tarvia path, which was the southern part of Eloise Butler's 25 acres which had also included the northern meadow and adjacent areas. The 1947 photo shows this more clearly. (see photo on following pages) The new fence was six feet high and of wire mesh, with 3 gates for entrance.

Below: The 1938 Fence, just completed, erected by a WPA crew. Photo ©Walter Dahlberg.



As all of what today is the Woodland Garden seems to have been fenced in, the amount of fencing was obviously much more than the 1,900 feet reported. The existing wire mesh fence (2018) is aged and perhaps the same one erected in 1938. There is no record yet found that speaks to a later replacement. On January 18 1939, Martha Crone wrote that the Park Board workers were in putting in a new fence in the "lower enclosure" which would seem to be the "North enclosure" as the North section of the Garden is of lower elevation. (7)

The Upland Garden

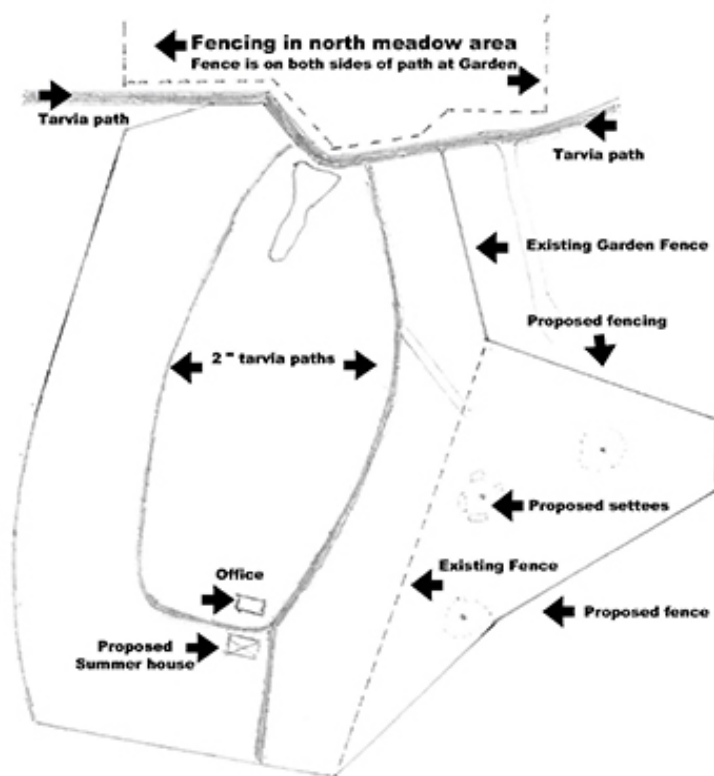
When Clinton Odell proposed to the Park Board in 1944 to add the current upland area to the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, Martha Hellander's research found that Odell said to the Park Board that the northern area (which included the Mallard Pool) should never have been fenced and that it was swampy and should be abandoned in favor of an upland area which the garden did not have at that time (6, page 104).

In her Annual Report to the Park Board for 1944 [Feb. 20, 1945], Martha Crone Wrote

"The proposed extension of the fence enclosure, made possible through the efforts and contributions of Mr. Clinton Odell, to accommodate native upland and prairie plants will fill a long needed want. It is greatly appreciated and further development of this project is looked forward to with great interest."

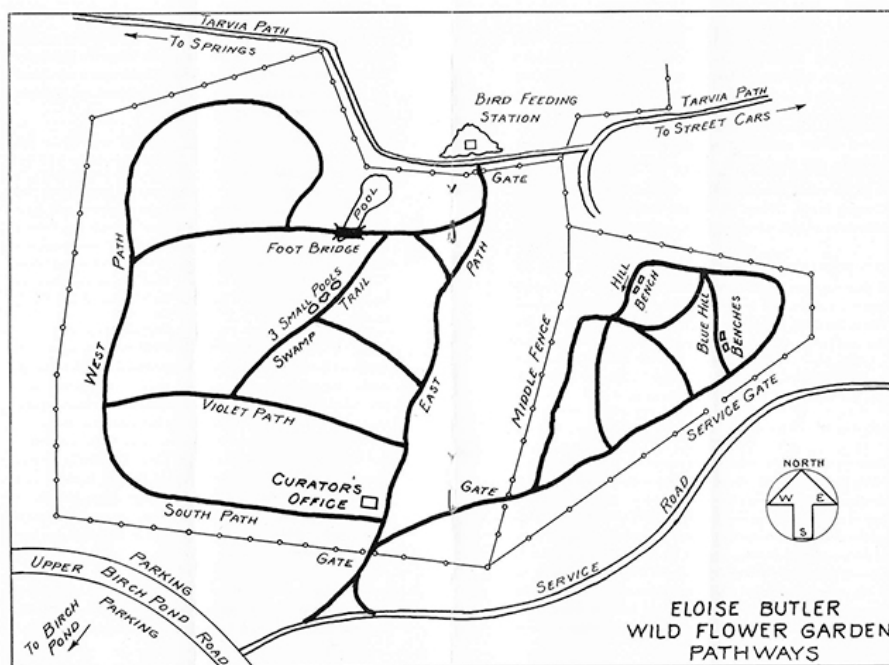
The 1939 fencing in the lower enclosure may be the fence that that is partially shown on Martha Crone's 1952 map that was part of her Self-Conducted Tour brochure (map on next page) and on the 1944 site plan for the addition shown on this page. Her map shows the bird feeding station at the back gate with a fence around it. Some of the fencing of the northern enclosure may have been removed to fence the upland addition. The bird feeding station that was on the north side of a long fence which paralleled the tarvia path (see 1936 photo above and aerial photos below) now becomes separately fenced in. The aerial photo from 1947 shows this arrangement. A person knowledgeable about that bird feeding station and the area in the 1950s, Mr. J. S. Futcher, wrote that the bird feeding station was fenced separately and that there was also a large birch swale in that area that was fenced.(8) Later he states, the birch swale fencing was removed, he believes in the 1950s, leading to the deterioration of the area. We have photos by Martha Crone from 1948 and 1951 showing an extensive grove of birches but we do not know if it is the same swale Mr. Futcher writes of or if they were in the current part of the Garden wetland. The map and drawing indicates he is speaking of the northern area.

Gardener Cary George remembered that at least some of the chain link fencing that was used in the northern enclosure was removed at some point in time and used to fence the new upland addition, because in 1944 wartime shortages of steel precluded new fencing being obtained (Conversation with author on May 18, 2018). Presumably there was a garden record of this, but it may have been related to him by his predecessor Ken Avery who worked for Martha Crone for 4 years before taking over from



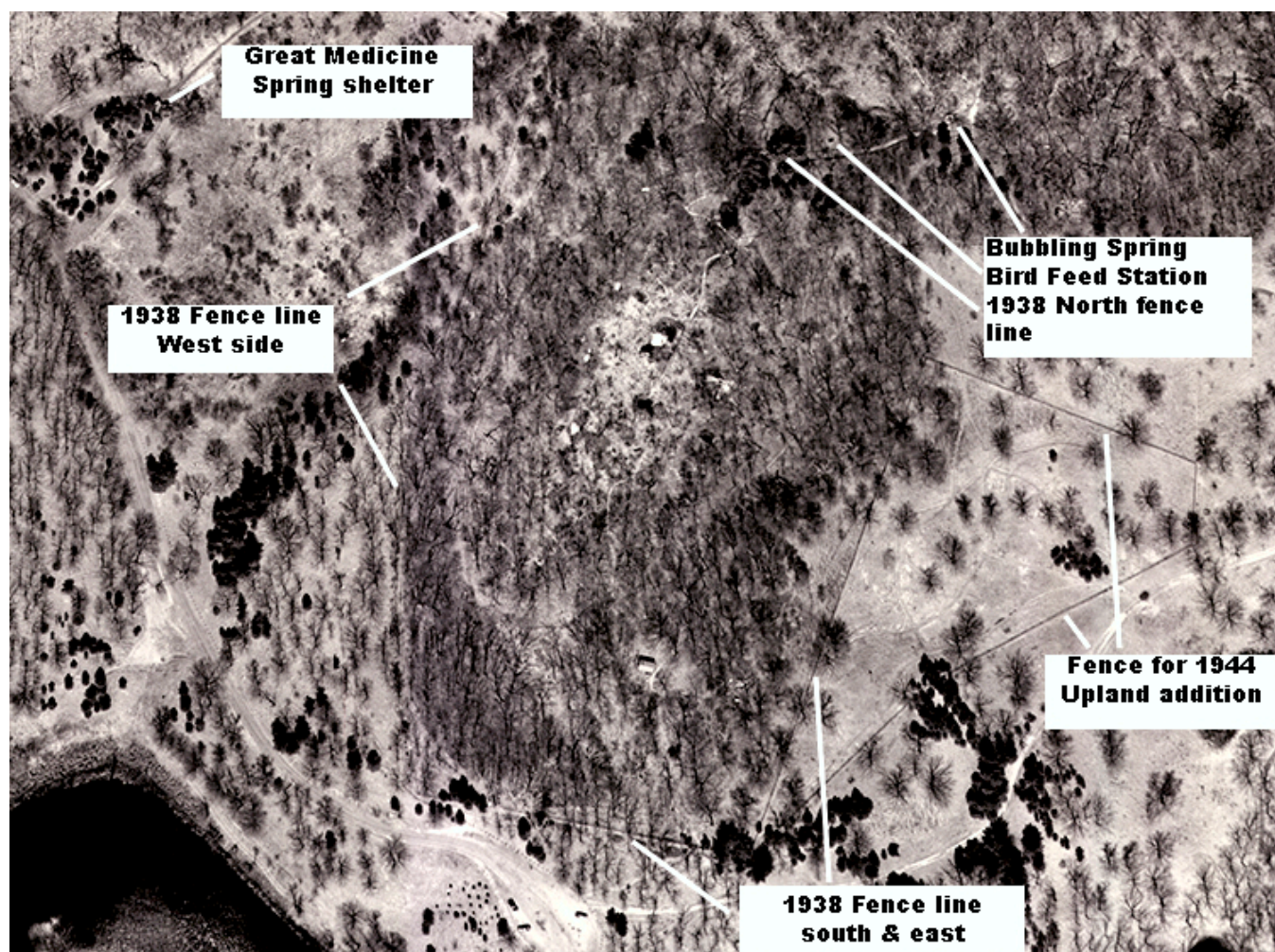
**1944 Proposed addition and changes at
Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden.
Accepted by Park Board on Oct. 4, 1944
Hand-drawing based on Park Board Blueprint in Martha
Crone Papers at MHS**

The drawing is taken from the 1944 Park Board site plan for the proposed Upland Garden addition. Note at that time the northern enclosure still had a fence with the southern part of it paralleling the tarvia path.



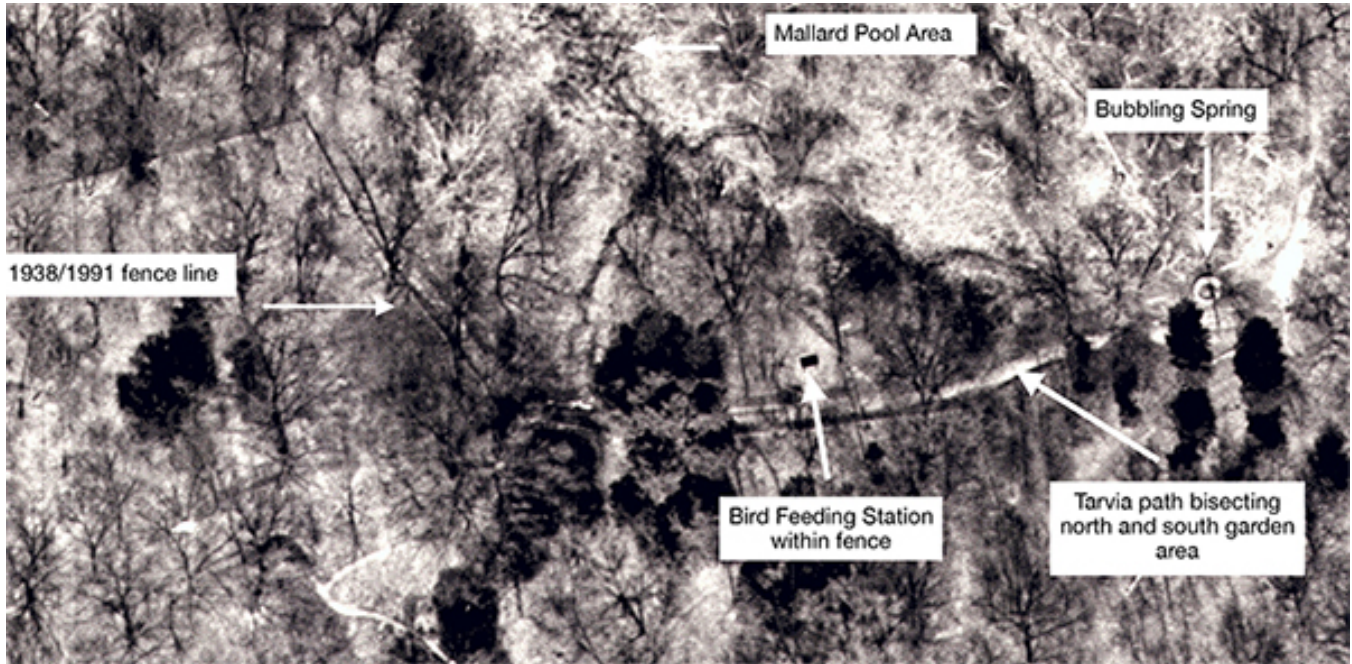
Left: Martha Crone's 1952 map showing the bird feeding station and a partial section of fencing going into the north meadow. Map courtesy J. S. Futcher.

Below: This 1947 Spring aerial photo of the Garden area shows the main features of the area and the fence lines of the 1938 fence and the new Upland Garden fence. Detail of the northern area shown below. North is up in the photo. Photo Courtesy University of Minnesota.



her. It is clear though from Martha Crone's map that some of the fencing was not removed until the early 1950s as Mr. Futchter remembers (see above notes). We do know that no fencing was done in the Upland until after the war in Europe was over in 1945 but by the time of a 1947 aerial photo it was fenced. (see Upland Garden article)

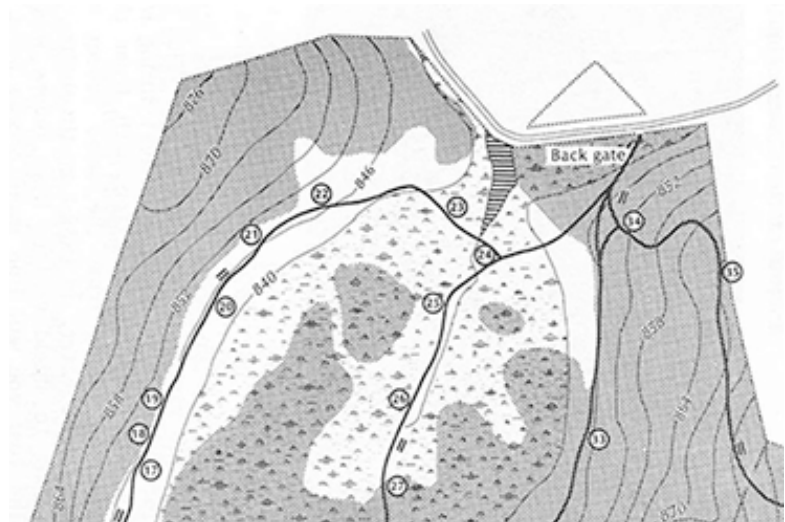
Below: Aerial photo from 1947 showing the fence line at the northern end of the southern enclosure, south of which is the 1947 Garden and north of which is the abandoned Northern Meadow. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota.



Later changes:

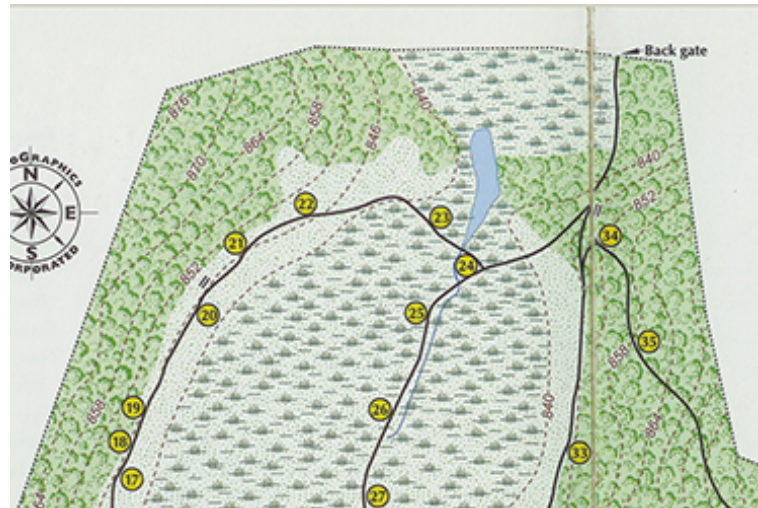
The barbed wire at the top of the current fence was added in 1989 to prevent deer from jumping over. (8) Some of that chain link fencing has been replaced - principally in the area in the front (south) of the Garden where wrought iron fencing was added in 1990 when the front gate was redesigned, then more along the front approach to the gate in 1995. Also when the back gate area was reconstructed between 1991 and 1995, The Friends funded this wrought iron fencing and the construction of the front and back gates.

Right: A 1987 map section of the north end of the Garden detailing features shown in the aerial photo above. Map courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

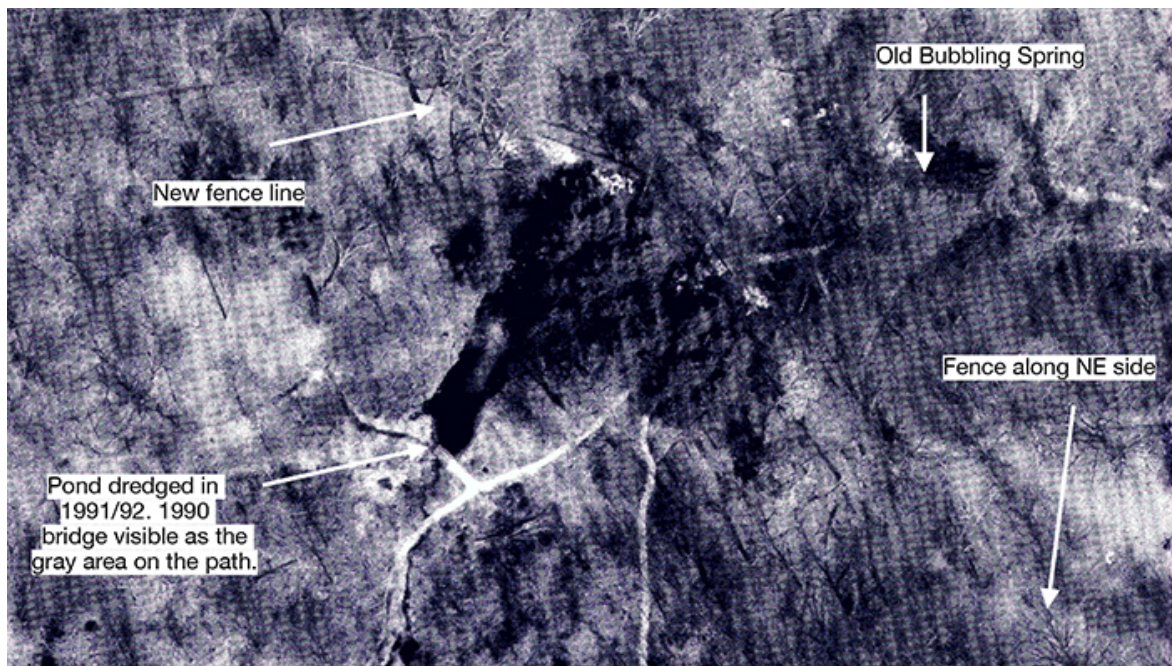


A realignment of the Garden's back fence. was completed in 1992 when a new back gate design was conceived. The two maps on this page and the previous page show the changes at the back of the Garden. In the 1987 map we still see that the old fence angled southward to where the dam was before reaching the back gate. The old tarvia path, going back to Eloise Butler's time, is shown following the fence line. The old dam dating back to Eloise Butler's time was kept in the same place but the old concrete was replaced with a natural looking rock dam.

Right: A 2001 map section of the north end of the Garden showing the realignment of the fence. Compare to the aerial photo below.
Map courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.



Below: This aerial photo from 1993 shows the re-aligned back fence with water in the newly dredged pool. The back gate has not yet been reconstructed to the current configuration - that was done in 1995. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota.



In 1993, the Friends petitioned to have an additional acre added to the Upland Garden. This was approved and enough fencing to enclose that was obtained by removing the old chain link fence that still ran across the hillside forming the separation between the old Garden and new 1944 Upland

addition. (see 1947 photo above) The fence work was done by Able Fence Co, hired by the Friends for a net cost of \$3,695.

The 2001 map shows the fence realignment with the fence moved northward, creating an open area between the dam and the fence. The old path outside the Garden space was moved to follow the new fence line. It is evident from viewing the texture and condition of the current path along the realigned portion of the fence that it is of newer age. Also there is an abrupt directional intersect of the old tarvia path, coming from the northeast toward the back gate, with the newer portion and the difference in pavement age is evident. The bird feeding station now under goes its third iteration - it was removed from the north side of the tarvia path and a new elevated bird feeder was placed inside the Garden fence.

Once the fence was realigned and the the new back gate completed in 1995, some of the same wrought iron fencing was used near the gate and finally the entire back side (north) was replaced with wrought iron in 2005 - all funded by The Friends.

References:

- (1) *Minneapolis Tribune* article, 1923. Minnesota Historical Society, Martha Crone Papers.
 - (2) *Minneapolis Tribune* article, 1924. Minnesota Historical Society, Martha Crone Papers.
 - (3) Eloise Butler's Garden Log.
 - (4) Letter to the Crones, November 29, 1924 from Malden, Massachusetts Also Ken Avery notes April 1973.
 - (5) *The Story of W.P.A. in the Minneapolis Parks, Parkways and Playgrounds* for 1938, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.
 - (6) *The Wild Gardener* by Martha Hellander.
 - (7) Martha Crone's Diary - 1939.
 - (8) J. S. Futch, "A Birdwatcher's Eloise Butler," 1994 in *50 Years of Friends*, published by the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.
 - (9) Report by Cary George on July 20, 1989 at Board meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.
 - (10) *The Wild Botanic Garden - Early History* by Eloise Butler, 1926
- Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. Text by Gary Bebeau

Aquatic Pools in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Including the history of the Mallard Pool.

This study adds additional details to the research on the history of the Wildflower Garden done by Martha Hellander in 1989-91 for her book on Eloise Butler - *The Wild Gardener*.

Sources referenced:

Cary George, former Gardener 1987-2003, conversation May 18, 2018

Eloise Butler's writings - noted as "EB, title". (All found on Friends Website, Garden History Archive.)

Eloise Butler's Garden Log - noted as "EBL, date"

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden website - www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org or www.friendsofeloisebutler.org. Use the archive page to locate articles referenced in the text.

Jepson, Mrs. John H. *Our Native Plant Reserve, Glenwood Park, Minneapolis Minn., Now called "Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden"*. This article was written sometime after 1929 but prior to Eloise Butler's death in 1933 and placed in the Park Board Archives. Mrs. Jepson's husband was a parks commissioner at this time. The text was then published in June 1933 in *The Minnesota Clubwoman*, following the last rites ceremony for Eloise in May and including details of that ceremony. That the article was written no earlier than 1929 is indicated by the subtitle, but part of the text is based on Butler's 1926 "The Wild Botanic Garden - Early History"]

Ken Avery, Gardener 1959 through 1986. Many of his writings about the Garden were published in *The Fringed Gentian* - (All issues are found in Newsletter Archive link on Home Page of Friends Website.) References in the text here refer to articles where he is quoted with specific references in those articles. For generic references to Ken Avery see *Ken Avery*, Friends Website, Garden History Archive. "KAR" with a date refers to his annual report to the board of park commissioners, the date being the year covered by the report.

Martha Crone's Garden Log - noted as "MCL, date"

Martha Crone's Diary - noted as "MCD, date"

Martha Hellander's book *The Wild Gardener* - noted as "WG, page #". Martha Hellander's research was financed by the Friends and by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Petition of 1907 to create a native plant reserve.

The Bellman, May 1913, by W. P. Kirkwood, article is found on Friends Website - Garden History Archive.

Other references will be noted in text.

Martha Crone Photos. From 1948 to 1957 Martha Crone assembled a collection of Kodachrome slides that she took of plants and of landscape of the Wildflower Garden. The assemblage eventually totaled over 4,000 slides. She used these slides to give illustrated lectures about the Garden to various clubs, groups and organizations. Martha Crone was a founding member of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, a director from 1952 to 1972 and an honorary life member thereafter.

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, used them at lectures about the Garden. Some of those images are shown in this study.

Text and documentation by Gary Bebeau
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

Background

How big was the early garden?

We must distinguish the geography of the current Garden layout from that of previous years. The 1907 petition to the Park Board to set aside a wild area in Glenwood Park as a native plant reserve does not give a size or dimension, only a location; but years later Eloise wrote that it was about 3 acres in size, and was located in what is now the wetland, without its surrounding hills. (WG, pg 155)(2) This is the “undrained tamarack swamp” cited in the 1907 petition. The expansion of the Garden northward is documented in a number of references. Martha Hellander’s research states that “Within a year of its founding, the garden was expanded, more than doubling its size.” (WG, pg. 69). Eloise wrote in 1926 that a portion of the wetland was private property in 1907 and the Park Board had to purchase it so it could be added to the native plant reserve and then “meadows to the north and west were also annexed so that the garden now [as she writes in 1926] contains about twenty-five acres.” (WG, pg. 155)(2)

The detailed description of the early Garden given in *The Bellman* article states that it was then (in 1913) “three or four times its original size.” Eloise wrote “Within a space of twenty acres may be seen in an hour what would be impossible to find in traversing the state for several days.” (EB, *Letter to Theodore Wirth, Jan. 1914*), and “My twenty acres of garden within a park of about 600 acres, includes one small tamarack bog, but none of the ponds.” (EB, *Notable Features of My Wild Garden*, March 1915).

The pool in the garden in Eloise Butler’s time.

In that last article Eloise goes on to say “One pond, however, full of lilies, lies not a stones throw off, and the other can be seen from my highest hilltop [Birch pond?]; while a third is distant but a few minutes’ walk [Wirth?]. I have a pool in the garden that was formed by building a dam across a brook and it is proposed to make by excavation a sizable pool in one of my meadows for more aquatic plants. As it is, I have varied conditions of soil, moisture and light exposure that satisfy the needs of all the imported plants from other parts of the state.”

This last statement sets the stage for a chain of development that was to last to the current day. First, she references a pool in the garden that she created by building a dam. This would be the earthen dam referenced in *The Bellman* article which describes the water in the Garden and also an earthen dam that created a pool in the garden: “The pool is formed by a grass and moss covered earthen dam, which has been thrown across a brook’s course. The dam is almost, though not quite, such as beavers would have made, but it is now so covered with things growing at random, as they do in wild places, that it seems the work of nature itself. It is however, the only bit of artificial work in the entire garden.”

Eloise describes her placement of the dam. “A tiny stream threaded the bog and emerged into a depressed area of slimy ooze flanked by low banks. A dam was constructed that converted the depression into a lovely pool” (WG. pg. 155)(2).

Below: The pool in the Garden as illustrated in *The Bellman* article of May 1913.



Secondly, she refers to a pond not too far away [the Lily Pond] and third, she already has the idea for creating a sizable pool in *one of her meadows*. That implies it is the area currently north of the Garden toward the Wirth Park picnic grounds that had been annexed to the reserve. This, as we shall see, was the site of the Mallard Pool.

Eloise then, in 1917, recorded having this earthen dam replaced by a concrete dam. (EBL, May 9, 1917). The location of this dam is fairly clear as outlined above. In her annual reports to the board of park commissioners, Martha Crone requested at the end of 1954 and again at the end of 1955 (February 21, 1955 and February 14, 1956 respectively)(3) that the crumbling concrete dam be replaced as it was causing dangerous conditions *on the tarvia path just outside the Garden*. She does not note when it was replaced, but presumably it was and lasted until 1992 when the current dam was installed. We will see later that by 1955 the Garden boundary configuration was very similar to what it is today except for the realignment of the back fence in 1992, modification of some paths in later years and the addition of an acre to the prairie in 1993.

The location of the tarvia path is given in several places, the most well written was in the Jepson Article (4) where the wording is: “The only other artificial feature of the garden is a broad tarvia walk that cuts through the northern portion and affords convenient access to the park boulevard. On this walk is a dam that forms a small pool in a natural depression and receives the overflow from the swamp. This is a favorite sketching point for artists; but the pool is too shady for water lilies, so it is proposed to form at some time a pond for aquatics by an excavation in an open meadow where two small streams combine that flow from springs in the garden.” (Jepson - this text reads almost the same as (WG pg 155)&(2)

So, in Jepson, no earlier than 1929, we have repeated Eloise's idea of a large aquatic pool to be formed and we also know that the tarvia path bisects part of the garden from east to west. This pathway is a various times called a 'path', a 'road' and a 'walk'. We shall determine later in this paper the point at which the garden was reduced in size to not include that open meadow mentioned in Jepson. Eloise herself confirms there was a north and south section of the Garden and that the tarvia path separated them when she wrote in 1926 about trees in the Garden and she states in one section about a Balsam Poplar that "It is planted near the gate on the south side of the tarvia road that *divides the precincts.*" (EB-"Trees in the Wild Garden," 1926)

Now that we know what is meant by the 'tarvia path', we can see from Eloise Butler's Garden Log that she was actively working in that area north of the path or 'below the dam' that was near the path and that the dam was in place by 1909. Here are just a few references from her log up to 1917:

Sept. 18, 1909 Planted east brookside below dam watercress...

May 15, 1910: Planted from Mahtomedi several yellow water buttercups in brook, below dam.

Sept. 11, 1911: Planted from Park Board Nursery 6 hemlocks on both sides of brook, below dam.

July 10, 1915: planted 7 *Polygala sanguinea*, border of north meadow.

Sept. 23 1916: planted apple moss on moss bank, border of northwest meadow.

A few from 1917 and later:

July 2, 1917: Transferred 3 roots of *Lysimachia nummularia* to side of outflow from pipe below dam.

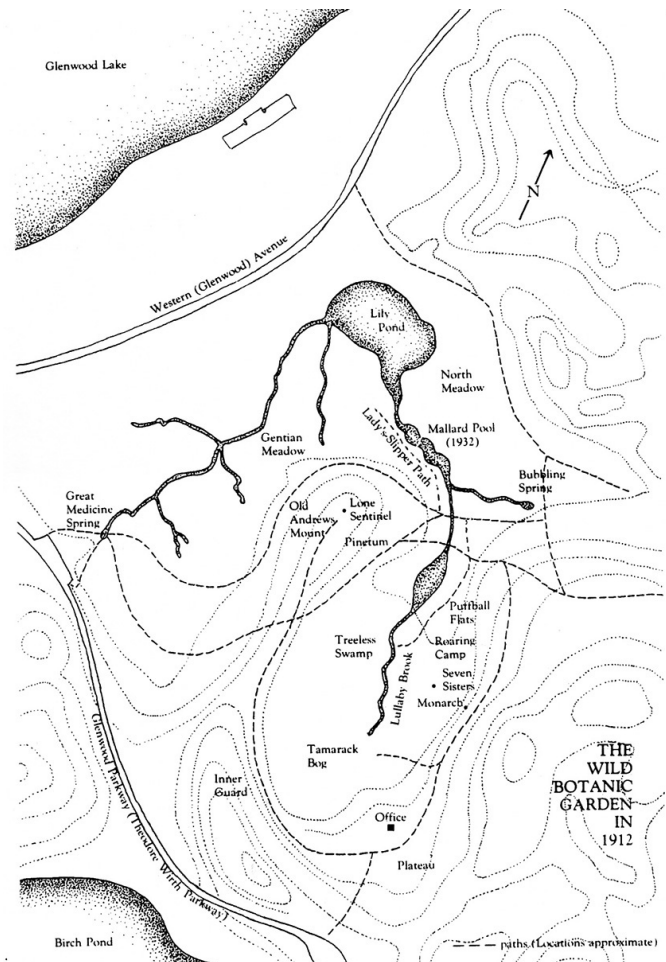
October 5, 1917: ...2 *Hieracium* in sod off north of road

October 6, 19172 *Ilex verticillata* south side of road near east footpath.

June 22, 1918 Noted *Crataegus macracantha*, border of tarvia road.

August 4, 1918 Noted *Teucrium* south of tarvia road.

Here we see in 1917 the first mention of a "road" and in 1918 the first use of "tarvia road."



Martha Hellander's plan map of the old garden. The 'tarvia path' runs near Bubbling Spring and then curves to the west, encircling the outside of the current garden space and reaching the parkway. Larger version attached.

Cary George (5) has said that the path behind the current garden fence followed an old Indian trail through the area. Might 1917, the year of the concrete dam, be the year that the old path was widened to become what Eloise called a “road” and then paved to become a “tarvia road”??

A summary of what was written above: The garden pool is first mentioned in *The Bellman* article cited above and then by Eloise in her 1915 article (EB, *Notable Features of My Wild Garden*, March 1915), when she wrote “I have a pool in the garden that was formed by building a dam across a brook and it is proposed to make by excavation a sizable pool in one of my meadows for more aquatic plants;” and again in 1926 when she wrote the history (2) that is also referenced in Hellander (WG. pg 155). We have also seen that the open meadow north of the garden pool and north of the tarvia path were part of her domain from the very early years.

The Mallard Pool

Forward to 1932: Now we come to how the Mallard Pool was formed and also where. In her letter to The Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter, (Division D) of the Agassiz Association for inclusion in the members circular, she writes in 1932: “Ever since the Native Plant Preserve 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.” (EB, *Mallard Pool*, October 1932).

The location identified.

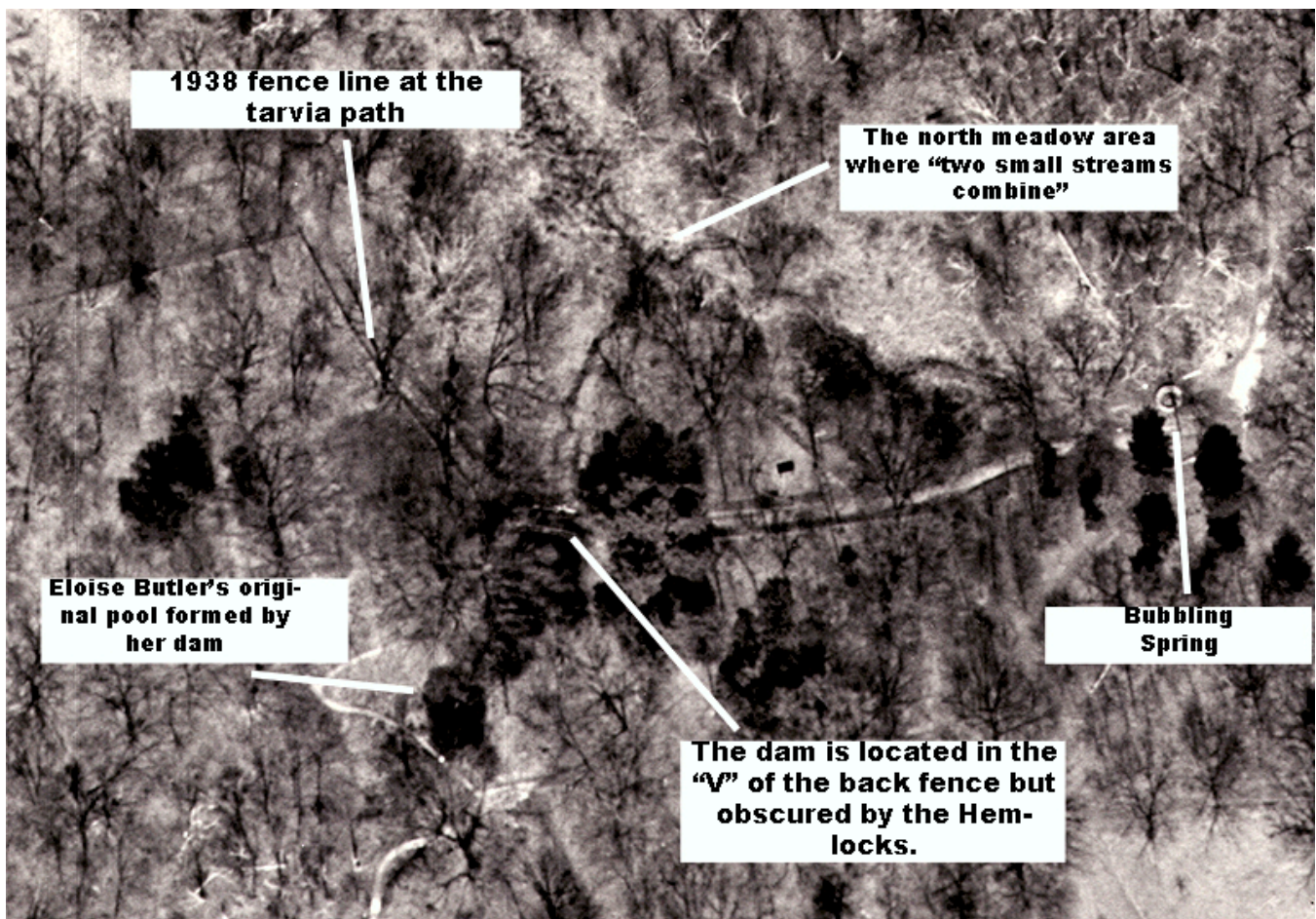
In that last reference Eloise places the pool “where two small streams converge in an open meadow”. The Jepson article cited above states that it is “proposed to form at some time a pond for aquatics by an excavation in an open meadow where two small streams combine that flow from springs in the garden.” The spot where two streams converge is still seen today just north of where the outflow from the garden dam passes under the old tarvia path. The garden outflow is one of the streams and the other comes from the eastern section of that north meadow and today is fed by groundwater near the surface in springtime and rain runoff, but in 1932 it was also continuously fed by



The 1939 basin of the Bubbling Spring, seen here in 2014. Note the water channel running across the upper right.

what was called the “Bubbling Spring” which is located right next to the tarvia path, just east of the current Garden back gate. What remains is the stone catchment basin erected by a WPA masonry crew in 1939. (photo previous page) The spring was last known to flow in the 1950s (*“Springs in and near the Garden”*, Friends Website, Garden History Archive). Cary George related that there was a little flow from time to time in the early years of his tenure.

Below: This aerial photo from 1956 (North is up) is annotated to show the features mentioned in the text. It is still unclear if the Mallard Pool in the North Meadow was just before the combining of the two streams or just on the other side. There appears to be open water just before the junction but the area has many trees close by so the area just beyond that is slightly darker tone, now filling with cattails is most probable as Eloise wanted full sun for the aquatics and wrote that the pool was built in what was a cattail slough already in 1932. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota





Today's view. Above left: The spot where the water flow from the garden dam (coming from the lower right) converges with the water channel from the east (entering top of photo) the the joined streams flow northwestward (upper left in photo). Above right: The area to the east of the convergence with a water channel running westward in the center of the photo. The bubbling spring basin is somewhat obscured by vegetation at left center.

Two additional views of the water channels in 2020

The outflow channel after leaving the Garden and passing under the tarvia path. Photo G D Bebeau



The outflow channel from the area of the bubbling spring (catch basin at bottom of photo) Photo G D Bebeau



So we have two location details - where two small streams converge and an open meadow. That this meadow was north of the dam in the garden and thus, north of the tarvia path is further confirmed by these notes:

1. As the dam formed the small pool in the garden, water had to drain downhill to reach what would be the Mallard Pool. After the pool was constructed Eloise states “*Opposite at the upper end (of the pool) is “The Gurgler”, the water entering gently by a short series of low rapids*” (EB, *Mallard Pool*, October 1932). [The lower end of the pool is where Eloise had Lloyd Teeuwen (7) construct the rustic bridge that she is pictured on in the 1932 photo on the next page.] Low rapids would have been formed from water flowing out of the dam and down into the north meadow which is of lower elevation.

2. Next, we add another descriptive term: We know that the Mallard Pool was in an area that Eloise Butler called the “north enclosure” as Eloise noted that fact on July 7, 1932 in her log: “*Mallard Pool completed in North Enclosure*”. So, what was the “north enclosure”? In 1924 when Eloise Butler had a fence installed, it was in two sections. (See *Garden Fence*, Friends Website, and previous appendix). The first section, finished on July 16, 1924 (EBL), was to protect what she called “lady slipper meadow” and several days later she reports beginning planting within the “north enclosure.” (EBL Aug. 1, 1924) There was thus, a “south enclosure” but she does not specifically name it as such until 1925. [That turns out to be part of where the existing garden is]. The result of two fences was that there was a fence along both sides of the tarvia path as photos from the 1930s show, as does the Park Board blueprint for the Upland expansion in 1944. (See *Garden Fence* article) That numerous lady slippers were located in that north area, can also be gleaned from *The Bellman* article. Eloise reports in her log many times of planting in the north meadow and after July 16, 1924, planting in or near the “north enclosure.” In Martha Crone’s time Martha would sometimes refer to this also and sometimes Martha would call it the “lower enclosure.”



Looking northwest from the convergence of the two streams, the water flows in the direction of the old lily pond into the area that contained the old Mallard Pool.

How long did the Mallard Pool last and why was it abandoned.

We can deduce from Martha Crone’s Garden log that she actively kept up part of that northern meadow at least until 1939. Here are samples - all from her log.

1933: July 2: Bill cut path to Mallard Pool. [We believe this must have been on southern end as Eloise had put in a plank walk on the northern end. Bill is Martha’s husband. From her diary.]

1934, April 9: Woodcock in woods near swamp west of Mallard pool.

1934, May 25: Found nest of Pheasant on edge of Mallard pool containing 11 eggs.

1934, June 17: Found nest containing young of Green Heron, mother bird flew short distance, in Tamarack on north boundary of lower inclosure.

1934, July 2: Drinking spring has gone dry - [This would be the first evidence of trouble with the spring that provided water to the pool]

1934, July 5; planted 18 Christmas fern on east and west border of pool, also at rustic bridge.

1934, July 12: Planted from Stillwater 12 Bladder Fern on east edge of pool and near foot bridge (Although this may be at the small original pool).

1935, April 26: Saw woodcock in lower enclosure.

1936, Aug. 29: Transplanted a number of Showy Lady's Slippers to a new colony in lower enclosure.

1937, July 16: 2 *Habenaria fimbriata* in bloom in lower enclosure near book and High-bush Cran.

1938, May 14: Also Autumn Willow in beautiful yellow color along broad path west of North enclosure.

1938, May 27: Planted 2 Valerian (*Valerian edulis*) in north enclosure below waterfall.

1938, Aug. 30: Warbling Vireo still in song noted near north boundary of lower enclosure.

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

We know that Eloise had part of that northern meadow fenced in 1924 (see notes above). Further fencing, or maybe replacement fencing was done in 1939. In 1938 a Works Progress Administration (WPA) crew erected at least 1,900 linear feet of chain link fence around part of the space that is today's garden. It included 3 gates. (See *Garden Fence*, Friends Website, and previous appendix). On January 18, 1939, Martha Crone reported that the Park Board workers were in putting in a new fence in the "lower enclosure" (MCD, 1939). Whether this replaced the 1924 fence or added additional fencing to enclose more area is unclear, but it would then seem that it was the intent to keep up and protect that area. The fence material is thought to be the same as that used by the WPA. See upland garden notes further below. Based on what happened several years later, it is an interesting question as to why this fence was put in.



Detail of Eloise Butler on the rustic bridge of tamarack poles at Mallard Pool in 1932. There is wire netting used to keep muskrats out. Photo Minnesota Historical Society

1938/1947 images

We have available aerial photos from 1938. One can see from the 1938 photo on the next page that the area where the Mallard Pool was located, and the entire area of the old lily pond has filled in with cattail and other vegetation. The water channel is still visible and in the lower right section would be the Mallard Pool area, now mostly overgrown. The straight diagonal line in the photo where the Mallard Pool was may be the bridge and the plank walkway that Eloise mentions in her 1932 text where she says "at each end of the bridge, a plank walk was laid over the cat-tail slough." The second photo (color) is contemporary showing the changes to that area since then. The old Lily Pond area is now somewhat clear of cattails with open water in the summer. This area was modified in

1957 when the The Park Board put in a large diameter underground pipeline to divert water from Bassett's Creek to Brownie Lake. That line lies beneath the gravel path (of 1975 vintage) that now bisects the area and beyond the pond the pipeline lies under the walking path west of the Garden fence and leads toward Wirth Parkway.

1938 photo courtesy University of Minnesota. Color photo - Google.



1940 and later

From this point forward, the north meadow area containing the Mallard Pool apparently became more and more neglected and there are no further plantings noted for the area in Martha Crone's log after 1939. We do know she removed some plants from the area and transferred them to the current garden space. These two log notes refer to that:

1946, June 11: 32 Showy Lady's Slipper from lower enclosure to violet path.

1947, July 17: 4 Willow Herb from lower enclosure.

By these dates some of the 1939 fence had been removed. When Clinton Odell proposed to the Park Board in 1944 to add the current upland area to the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, Martha Hellander's research 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 (WG pg. 104). In an exchange of letters in 1944 to Odell from Park Board Secretary Charles Doell and from Superintendent C. A. Bossen, the Park Board agreed with parts of his proposal, including the funding that he proposed.(more details in *The Upland Addition to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden*, Friends Website, Garden History Archive).

Former Gardener Cary George (1987-2003) remembered that the chain link fencing that was used in the northern enclosure was removed and used to fence the new upland addition, because in 1944 wartime shortages of steel precluded new fencing being

obtained. Presumably there was a garden record of this, but it may have been related to him by Ken Avery (1954 - 1986).

So here we have this conclusion: The Mallard Pool area was still being somewhat attended to by Martha Crone until about 1940, then abandoned by 1944. The Bubbling Spring dried up more or less permanently by 1959 (*"Springs in and near the Garden,"* Friends Website, and following appendix). The area reverted to the wild area we have today, EXCEPT that in 1964 the Garden was expanded to four times its size by the inclusion of the "wild" area west to the Parkway, north to Glenwood Avenue and east to the picnic grounds (shaded boundary on map at right). (8). This idea was never fully carried out as staffing was insufficient to care for that large area and by 1967 it was back to 13 acres and the Mallard Pool area was once again left to grow wild as Eloise Butler had found it in 1907, except that it became the basis of a buffer zone around the garden in later years.



Area of Wirth Park around the Garden. The area within the gray outline was added to Garden control in 1964.

Other pools in the Garden, from 1913 down to today.

We have seen from the above that there was very early on a pool in the garden formed by that original earthen dam and based on the descriptions in *The Bellman* article of May 1913, and Eloise Butler's 1926 writing (WG pg. 155)(2) it was in the current location, but probably larger. *The Bellman* article states that you passed the pool on the way to Puffball Flats and Roaring Camp (see Hellander map). So that was the pool of Eloise Butler's day prior to her creating the Mallard Pool in the northern meadow area.

When Martha Crone became Curator in 1933 several other pool events happened. In 1939 she had a spring inside the wetland on the western side of the pool tapped and a pipe installed to provide water to the small pool (after the 1930s drought years) (*"Springs in and near the Garden,"* Friends Website, and following appendix).

According to Cary George, the pipe she had installed is the one still visible near the large River Birch just south of the boardwalk and west from the boardwalk bridge (photo above). In 1946 she had a new corduroy lined path laid through the wetland from north to south. Previously, there were only short stub paths leading into the wetland. In late 1946 she had three additional pools excavated in a more sunny location for purposes of



This appears to be the old spring pipe in the garden wetland

displaying aquatic plants. These were close to each other and more in the middle of the wetland and next to the new path. Although she did not mention these pools until 1947, I say 1946 because they appear on a 1947 aerial photo taken early in that year.



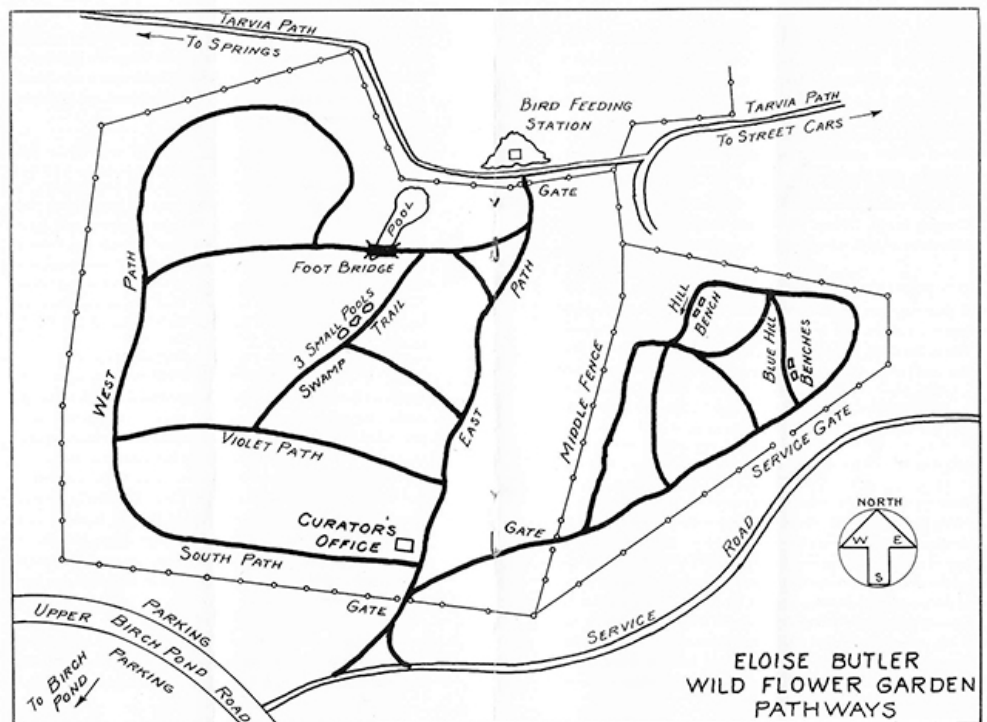
Pool #3, originally excavated in 1947, shown here on October 19, 1948 after enlargement. Photo Martha Crone. More pool photos in the attachments.

Ken Avery wrote that he and his helper Ed Brucklemeyer dredged them out several times, as they always silted in. They did the first excavation in 1961, removing swamp grass and digging out to a depth of 18 inches. (KAR 1961) The pools were not connected and if rainfall was not sufficient, the pools would be filled with a hose run from the city water supply in the upland Garden, one pool at a time. So when Ken and Ed dug out the pools they created a channel from one to the other so that filling one would cause the others to fill also. By 1965 the pools were only 6 inches deep so Ken dug them out again, this time to

a depth of two feet. (KAR 1965) By 1979 the pool channel was also silted in and it and the pools had to be dug out once more. Eventually Ken just let them silt in. (9) They still exist, but probably heavily silted in and with cattails and all, do not maintain visible water. Cary George stated that he would put waders on and periodically clean them and that water lilies still bloomed during part of his tenure. One was still so deep that it came over his waders.

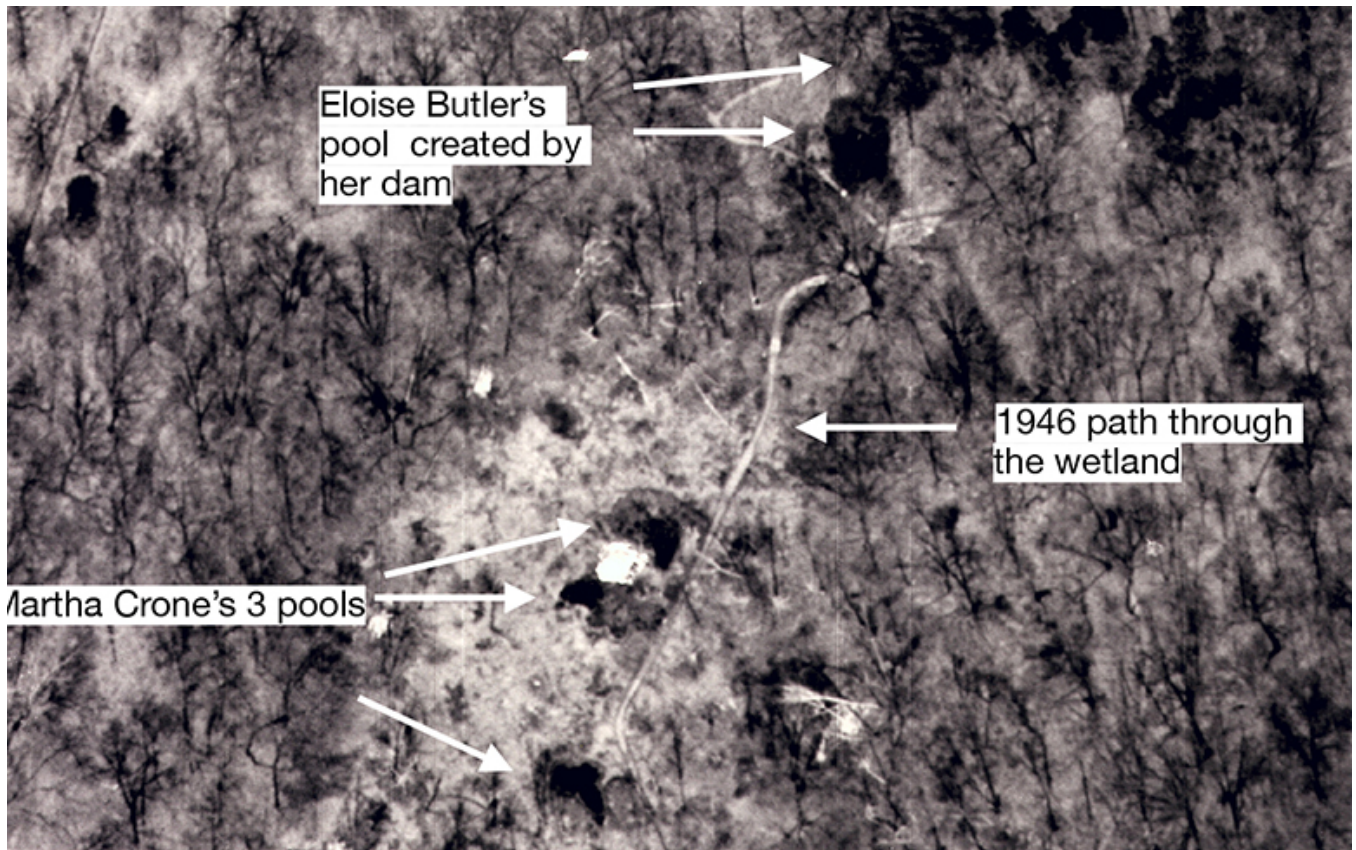
Martha Crone's 1952 Map:

Here we see the layout of the Garden and the paths in 1952. It is not to scale, the north-south vertical distance is much fore-shortened to accommodate the paper size of her Self-conducted Tour Brochure. The fence outline is much the same as today except for the renovation at the back gate and the 1993 addition to the Upland Garden. The



paths are somewhat different. The original pool is shown with a bridge on the footpath. The three new small pools are shown on the "Swamp Trail." The side paths in the wetland no longer exist, except that the path labeled "Violet Path" retains the eastward portion from the Swamp Trail to the East Path. The loop in upper left is also gone. The East and West path and the path through the wetland are fairly close to today's arrangement. The upper Garden is also different; the two side paths framing "Blue Hill" are not there and the addition of 1993 modified the paths to the east. We also see that Martha depicted a fence line going into the old north meadow, but there is no longer a fence lining both sides of the Tarvia Path. The Bubbling Spring is just off the Tarvia path next to that fence line.

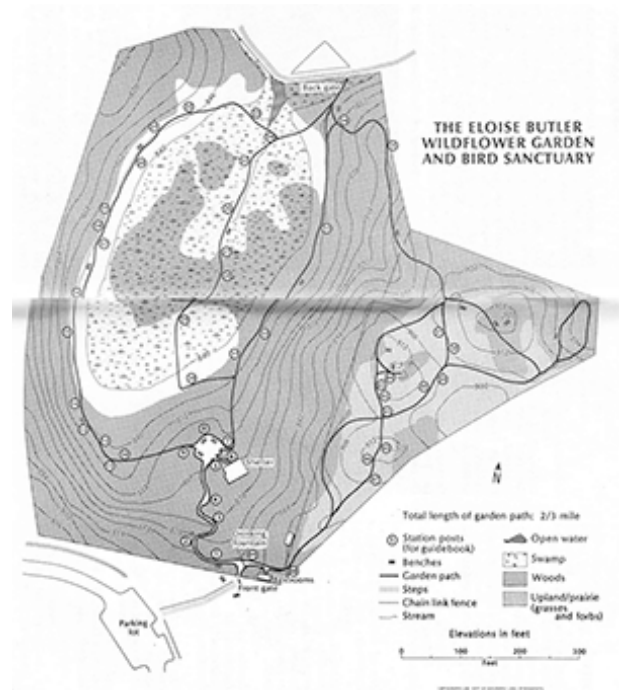
Below: This aerial view from 1947 shows what appear to be the 3 pools Martha Crone had created along the new wetland path. The white specs are photo defects. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota.



The current Garden pool:

The dry summers, particularly 1988, silting up, etc., leads me to conclude that there was not much open water area in the current pool area, (the remnant of the original garden pool) if any, at the time it was re-done in 1991/92, at which time it may have acquired the current name of Mallard Pool. The Garden guidebook issued as late as 1988 does not mention a pool but does include a drawing of the Garden showing a pool in the original position of Eloise's Butlers Garden pool, and also shows the old fence line. Cary George remembers it being called Mallard Pool, but that may have been after the 1991/92 renovation.

In 1992 the current back gate was rebuilt and the back fence was realigned, moving the fence and path northward. We have four diagrams that show the location of the back fence prior to 1992. They were drawings used in the 1981 Garden Guidebook and the 1987 Garden Guidebook, Martha Crone's 1952 map for her Self Conducted Tour brochure and the 1944 Park Board blueprint showing the boundary lines of the Garden and the proposed upland addition (see 1944 addition). All show the fence in the same position with only the 1981 map not showing the path. All four drawings would place the old position of the Garden fence very close to the dam for the Garden pool. In addition, aerial photos from 1938, 1947, 1956, 1961, 1974, 1974, 1978 and 1983 confirm the location. That the old tarvia path was moved with the fence in 1992 is fairly clear from the difference in age of the sections and that visually, the old path from the NE leading to the gate is abruptly interrupted by the newer section.



Map for the 1987 Garden guidebook - the replacement for the 1981 edition. This shows the pool at the back of the Garden with the fence line right at the dam

The bird feeder that is now just inside the fence was, prior to 1991/92, a feeding table area outside the garden fence (indicated by the triangle outline on the 1987 map above). The table location was on the north side of the fence lining the tarvia path which, before the fence was moved in 1992, followed the old fence line to the dam. This was the Audubon bird feeding station, the one begun by Miss Lulu May Aler who tended it for years into the 1950s before the Minneapolis Bird Club, then Audubon and Ken Avery took over tending it. (various references but see *Bird Feeding Stations*, Friends website, and this appendix)

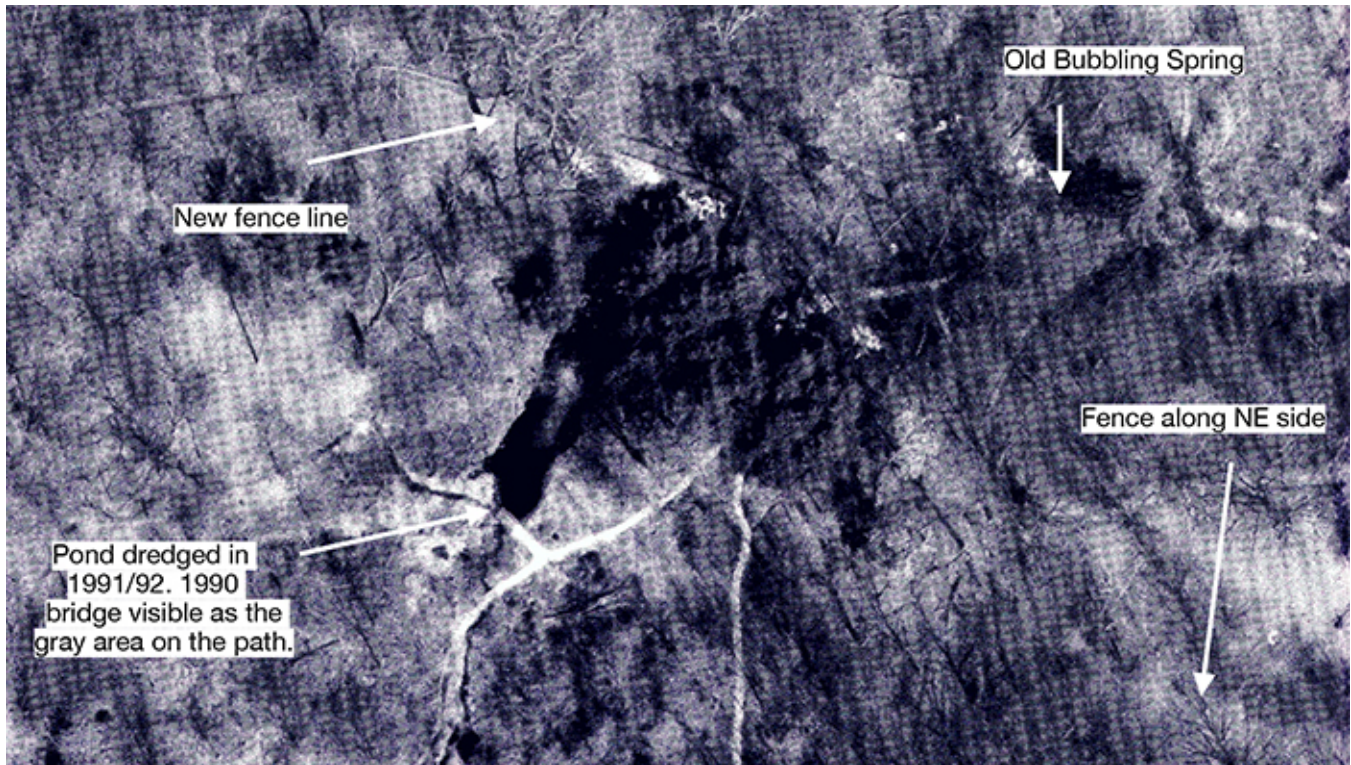
For the 1991/92 renovation of the pool space, Sandra Welsh of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board secured an Open Space Habitat Improvement Grant to realign the walking path, dredge the pond, and create a rock outcropping and waterfall in the water channel. That 'rock outcropping' was probably in the same place as the older concrete dam that Martha Crone asked to have repaired in 1955 and that Eloise Butler had built in 1917.



The existing rock outcropping dam installed in 1991/92.

Bridges: The water channel that flowed into the garden pool, had several channels within the wetland (at least one man-made) (10), but a bridge over a channel at the top of the garden pool seems to have been in place for some time. Eloise does not mention any bridge except the one built in 1932 at the bottom end of Mallard Pool in the northern meadow.

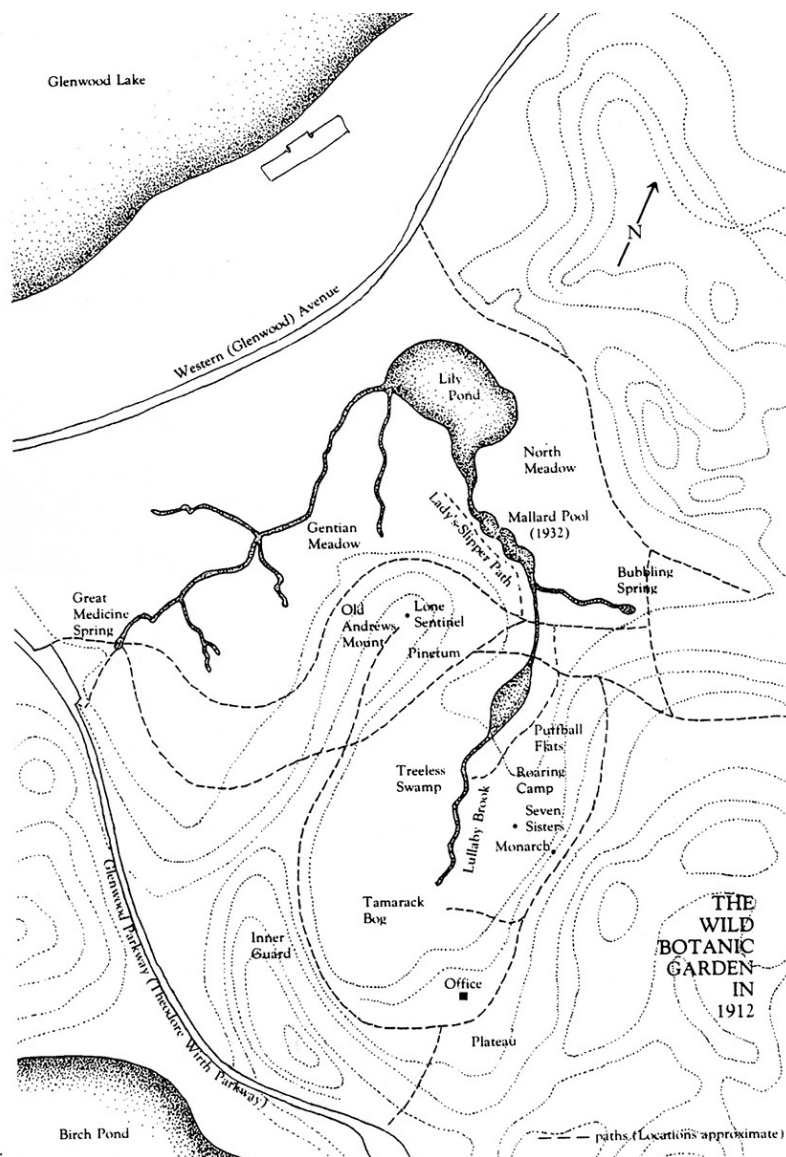
Below: An aerial photo from 1993 shows the newly re-aligned back fence, water in the newly dredged pool and the 1990 cedar bridge. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota



Martha Crone references a bridge at the garden pool, and includes it on her 1952 map. Examples from her garden log:

1934, July 31: Planted from near Duluth ...24 twin flower near feeding st., near foot bridge and in swamp. 36 Creeping Snowberry near feeding st., foot bridge and swamp.
1934, Aug. 23: planted from Isle Royal .. 12 American Rock-brake near the the bridge .
1935, June 6: Planted from Stillwater 25 walking ferns near bridge in south enclosure.

Only the last entry and the 1952 map are definitive of a bridge being in the current garden area and thus near the current pool. It is not until we get to the placement of a new cedar bridge in 1990 that we learn of it replacing an old wood dock that had been there to cross the water channel. How old the dock was is unknown, but it may have been Martha Crone's bridge. (*History year 1991*, Friends Website, Garden History Archive.) We of course know, that the cedar bridge was replaced by the current boardwalk in 2015.



Martha Hellander's plan map of old garden features. Map courtesy Martha Hellander and North Star Press.

Was open water important?

All the garden curators referred to in this article from Eloise Butler through Cary George wanted some open water, not just to display plants, but also, as Cary George said, people like to see water, and especially moving water. And if you have water, then aquatic plants come into the picture. One can only marvel at the work that was done completing these various pools and laugh at the way Ken Avery explains how he made a floating bog of Sphagnum Moss to place in one of the garden pools so he could display aquatic plants (*Ken Avery History*, Friends Website, Garden History Archive). Maybe some day, the original garden pool can be resurrected. It would be less of a project than re-establishing Mallard Pool.

References:

1. Martha Hellander's book *The Wild Gardener* - noted with page #. Martha Hellander's research was financed by the Friends and by the Minnesota Historical Society.
2. "The Wild Botanic Garden - Early History" 1926, Eloise Butler. This is the text that Hellander references.
3. Annual Reports to the Board of Park Commissioners, by Martha Crone.
4. Jepson, see note on page 1.
5. Cary George, former Gardener 1987-2003, conversation with author, May 18, 2018.
6. Agassiz Association : See notes on next page.
7. Lloyd Teeuwen 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 administering to Eloise and was present when she died. Reference in "1" above.
8. Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners dated March 12, 1965.
9. The 1961 work is noted in the Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, March 5, 1962 ; the 1965 work is noted in the Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, March 4, 1966. The channel work comment is found in *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 27 No 4.
10. Ken Avery, Gardener 1959 through 1986. Many of his writings about the Garden were published in *The Fringed Gentian* - (All issues are found in Newsletter Archive link on the website Home Page).



Above and below: Pool #3 (one of the 3 on the Swamp Trail) soon October 19, 1948 after enlargement. Below on May 6, 1949. Both photos by Martha Crone.





Additional views of the pool#3 from two different perspectives. Both on May 27, 1950. Photos by Martha Crone.



Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden - Historical Bird Feeding Stations.

On Thanksgiving Day 1932, the first of several bird feeding stations were established in Glenwood Park, with one principal station near the grove of hemlocks at the Wild Flower Garden. The first was a simple tray tied between two trees and protected by a lattice roof of cattails. This was the work of a local birding enthusiast - Lulu May Aler and a birding friend (perhaps Charles Yelick). Miss Aler wrote "*We put our suet on the proffered tray. Chickadees came at once, not daunted by eight onlookers. Nuthatch likewise. Everyone stopped and watched, amazed at little wild birds being so friendly and unafraid.*"(1) Another station was a platform for feeding pheasants. The principal station was on the north side of the path by the hemlocks that was referred to by Eloise Butler as the "tarvia path" that ran east/ west through parts of Glenwood park and which also bisected the north and south parts of the Garden at that time. [Glenwood Park was renamed to Theodore Wirth Park in 1938] On the south side of this path was the southern enclosure of the Garden - containing the Woodland Garden space that we know today and on the north side of the path was the northern or "lower" enclosure that was a more open meadow of lady-slippers, birches and beginning in 1932- Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool. That northern part of the Garden was abandoned in 1944. [see article on Garden Pools.] The fact that it was near the hemlock grove is evidenced by Miss Lulu May Aler's correspondence with Eloise Butler.(1)

It cannot be precisely known from the photo where along this path the station was located. Instead we need the aerial photo from 1947 and Martha Crone's 1952 map, both showing the location, which in both of those years placed it outside the back gate of the Garden. The original simple tray was replaced several years later by a permanent roofed enclosure, shown in the photographs below. (1a) Other information confirms that Miss Aler filled bird feeders in the Wild Flower Garden prior to the 1932 development and was well acquainted with Miss Butler. (1c)



Both sides of the hemlock grove path and the tarvia path as it crossed the Garden's space had a fence, first erected by Eloise Butler in 1924 and then replaced in 1938.39. For details of this fencing arrangement see separate article.

Photos: The top photo at right shows the bird feeding station on the northern side of Eloise Butler's 1924 fences near the hemlock grove. The structure in the background is a storage shed. There is an access gate between the two. Photo by Lulu May Aler, 1936 in the Martha Crone Papers, MHS.

Miss Aler would walk to the park several times a week, if not daily, to maintain it. When Martha Crone, another avid birder, became Curator in 1933, Miss Aler would visit frequently and many times they would have lunch together.(2) Martha and Bill Crone would frequently return to the Garden after closing in those early years to attend to the birds, helping out Miss Aler. For example on October 20 Martha Crone wrote in her diary: "*went down in garden to meet Miss Aler and Mrs. Ure at 1:30 put up bird pan and filled bird bath, real cold but sat in office for awhile.*" Friends member Mr. J. S. Futcher knew Miss Aler and wrote this: Outside the back gate, fenced separately, was a large, open, old bird-feeding table. I became acquainted with the lady who for many years maintained that feeder, a Ms. Lulu May Aler. During the 1950-51 feeding season Ms. Aler told me she was getting too old to continue this volunteer task next season. Would I happen to know of anyone who could take over for her? Well, it just so happened that I did. There were four boys in the Minneapolis Bird Club who lived in the Homewood



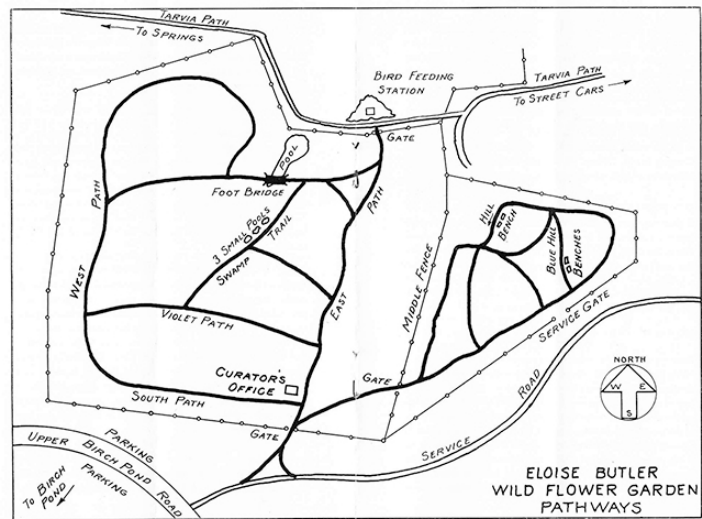
Detail of the Bird Feeding station in 1936. Photo by Lulu May Aler in Martha Crone Collection.

district not too far from the Garden. Yes, they eagerly took on that job. The Minneapolis Bird Club was affiliated with the Minneapolis Audubon Society and took over from that time on. (3)

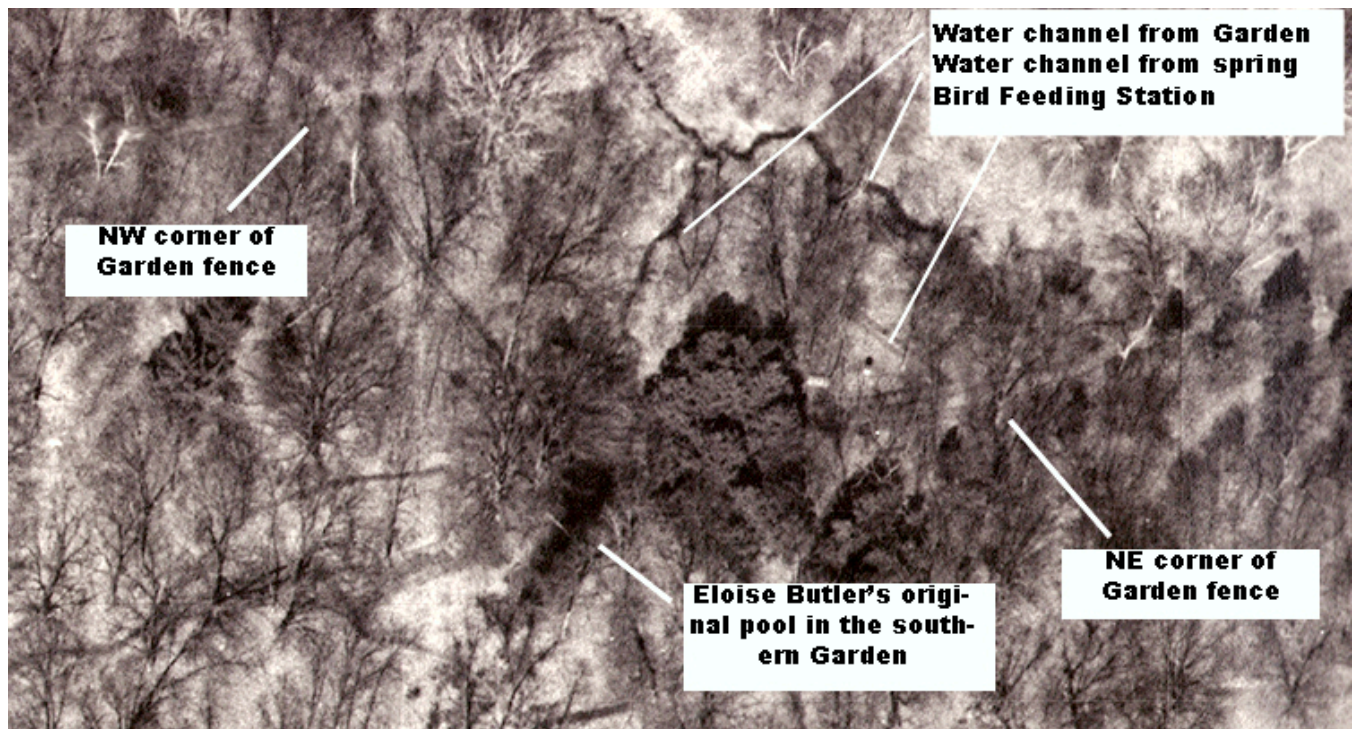
More history about Lulu May Aler is given at the end of this article.

By 1941 something was wrong with the station and repairs were needed. Martha Crone wrote in her diary on September 23 "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.] We do not know if the station was modified from the what the 1936 photo shows or if it was just repaired.

A depiction of the separate fencing in the 1950s for the bird feeding station is shown on two maps and a photo. First is Martha Crone's hand-drawn (not to scale) map used in her 1952 Self Conducted Tour Brochure. It shows the feeding station, still on the northern side of the tarvia path but now surrounded by its own fence and the fence formerly on the paths north side mostly removed. Map courtesy of J. S. Futcher.



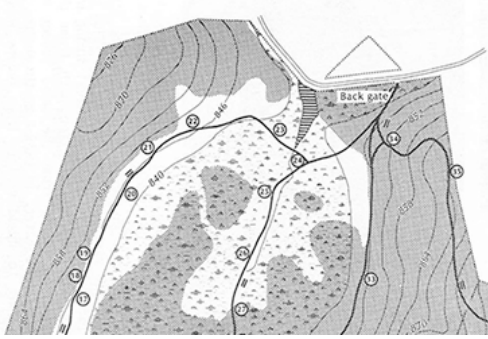
Below: This aerial photo shows the features in the area of the back fence in 1956. The area remains this way until the next re-configuration of 1991/95 as explained in the next section. The two water channels that are shown meeting at the top of the photo mark the area where Eloise Butler created her Mallard Pool in 1932.



Martha Crone wrote in 1958 "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.”(4)

Next is the 1987 map section, of the north end of the Garden, that was used in the Garden Guidebook. This map is to scale and shows the same bird feeding placement as Crone's 1952 map. Maps below courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.



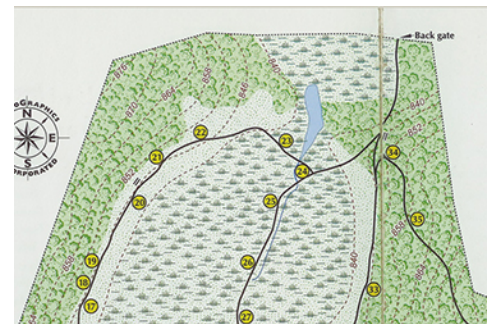
Care of the bird feeding station changed when Ken Avery took over from Martha Crone in 1959. There was a bird feeder on a pole at the front of the Garden (south end) and Ken tended both. He occasionally made written comments about tending the feeders. In 1974 expressed his concern for the increased activity in the area of the Garden - and what may be the affect on the Winter birds?

“Today, January 1, 1974, as I write this it is -30°. We have broken the record for low readings three days in a row and it is supposed to be

cold again tomorrow. Last Sunday when it was about 0, my wife and I went to the Garden to fill the bird feeders. Since it was so cold we parked at the south end, rather than at the Spring, to make a quick trip of it. One car was parked at the gate when we arrived there. As we left our car another car pulled up with two young men with skis. When we left, just thirty minutes later, there were four other cars in the parking spot. At the top of the hill there was a family skiing; while I was filling the feeder some skiers went by; we met two skiers at the back of the Garden, two skiers coming down the hill from the hayfield, and two more skiers as we left the hayfield. (Skiers seem to run in packs of two.) [Ed note: The 'hayfield' would appear to be the open grassy area to the north-east side of the Garden which descends quickly to the level of the wetland behind the Garden]. I can't help but compare this with the first few years that I had the Garden. In those days you could spend hours in the park during the winter and never meet anyone. Starting about 1965 a few people started discovering how beautiful the Park was in the winter and with the rise in popularity of Cross-Country Skiing in the last few years, the winter seclusion of the area has almost vanished.” (5)

It is unclear when Ken Avery had stopped tending the feeders. He apparently did this throughout his tenure but may have passed the job onto Cary George in 1987.

A realignment of the Garden's back fence was completed in 1992 when a new back gate design was conceived. The color 2001 map shown below shows the fence realignment with the fence moved northward, creating an open area between the pool dam and the fence. The old path outside the Garden space was moved to follow the new fence line.



With the 1992 realignment, the bird feeding station now under goes its third iteration - it was removed from the north side of the tarvia path and a new elevated bird feeder was placed inside the Garden fence. Park Board carpenters built a new rough-cedar bird feeder for both the front and back gates and Audubon had agreed to continue winter feeding as they had done in earlier years before Ken Avery took them over when he became curator.

In the early 2000's those 1992 feeders were replaced with a larger model shown below which had a filler tube on the top of the roof, looking like a little chimney. But Bird feeding at both the front and back gate feeders was soon discontinued. Cary George stopped using the back gate feeder prior to 2003. Susan Wilkins, succeeding Cary in 2004, continued to use the front feeder for a few years but stopped after a few years. It was on a tall pole and access was awkward.(6) However with the wild turkey population expanding rapidly in Wirth Park, feeding would have stopped anyway as the feeders attracted them into the Garden where they created



The 1992 bird feeder. Photo G D Bebeau.

much damage. A few small feeders were still in use near the visitors shelter but those are periodically removed when turkeys come into the Garden.



Back gate bird feeder - latest model. Photo G D Bebeau.



Front gate bird feeder - latest model. Photo G D Bebeau.

Ref:

- (1) Three sources: a) Letter of Eloise Butler to Lulu May Aler, Friends archives (also, notes in *The Wild Gardener* by Martha Hellander, page 98. The 1936 date is confirmed by correspondence between Miss Aler and Mr. J. S. Futcher, dated Christmas 1951. Hennepin History Museum. b). *An All-Winter Thanksgiving* by Lulu May Aler, published in *Nature*, December 1941. c) Commentary by Lloyd Teeuwen on audio tape interview May 4, 1988 by Martha Hellander while researching her book on Butler *The Wild Gardener* Tape and transcript in the Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society.
- (2) Martha Crone's Diaries- 1933 - 1943.
- (3) J. S. Futcher, "A Birdwatcher's Eloise Butler," 1994 in "50 Years of Friends," published by the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. The four high-schoolers were Jeremy and Julian Berman, Burton Guttman and Gary Filerman.
- (4) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 6 No. 1, January 1958
- (5) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 22 No.1 January 1974)
- (6) Notes from Curator Susan Wilkins - 2019.

Lulu May Aler

The following supplements the information on Miss Aler that is given in the previous pages of this article.

Birding and Audubon

A good summary of Miss Aler's bird activities was summarized by Virginia Stafford in her column in the *Minneapolis Star* on Nov. 27, 1941

Bird feeding time will soon be here, along with the first flurry of snow. But Lulu May Aler, president of the Minneapolis Audubon society, reports they have had their feeding boards up in the Theodore Wirth Park sanctuary for 10 days. Lulu May personally sees that the chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, etc., get their special diets. Every day last winter she walked a mile from her home to put out the feed, donated by Garden clubs, Audubon members and other individuals. She missed on the day of the Armistice blizzard, but shoveled her way through the following day. She thinks it's very nice so many people have saved their squash, cantaloupe and sunflower seeds this summer to contribute in the winter feeding. An article by her on bird feeding is appearing in the current "Nature" magazine. (see note 1 in first section above).

Her home was at 301 Newton Avenue North in the Minneapolis Harrison neighborhood, adjacent to Bryn Mawr on the east side. Miss Aler was involved with Audubon for some time and, based on the Stafford article above, was president of the society in the early 1940s. Examples:

- 1: On the 24th of April 1941 she gave a talk on birds to the sponsors and guardians of Camp Fire Girls.(1)
- 2: On 21 November 1944 she spoke about the birds that came to the feeding station in Wirth Park. This talk was at the science museum of the Minneapolis Public Library - where incidentally - Martha Crone was involved.(2)



3: In the 1940s she gave Friday morning bird walks in Wirth Park for the Minneapolis Audubon society. These resumed on April 1 of each year, beginning at 9 am. She would meet those interested at the end of the Glenwood streetcar line and walk through the park.(3)

A year earlier on November 21, 1940 the *Star* had published one of her photos of a robin sticking around to partake of the food table. She was an accomplished bird photographer, maintaining that you did not need a telephoto lens, just enough patience to allow a bird to be comfortable with you being close.(4) She was also an associate member of the Wilson Ornithological Club.(5) In November of 1940 Wilson held their annual meeting in Minneapolis. Miss Aler was a member of the local committee, chaired by Thomas S. Roberts of the Natural History Museum.

Sometime after she turned over the maintenance to the feeding stations to the Minneapolis Bird Club, she moved to Indiana and married Charles Yelick(6) . Mr. Yelick is mentioned in Martha Crone's logs in 1936, 1937 and 1939 in conjunction with birding notes. One such note was in 1939 after the rare sighting of a Blue-gray gnatcatcher, he took down the nest after the young had fledged and sent it to Dr. Thomas Roberts at the History Museum. Miss Aler's article on the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Glenwood Park was published in October 1942 issue of *Flicker*, journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

She died in Indiana on January 20, 1967, but was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus Ohio, near her hometown of Zalesville Ohio.

Community work

Miss Aler was active in community enterprises such as district 21 of the Community Fund which was organized as the fund-raising division of the Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies that eventually became the local United Way.(7)

Her main community work was done as Superintendent of the Minneapolis Maternity Hospital which was located at 2215 Western Ave. (now Glenwood Ave.). We do not know how long she held this position but it began in 1924 and lasted for certain through 1937. That hospital was a direct offshoot of the facility begun in the 1890s by Dr. Martha Ripley. The facility closed in 1956.(8)

Miss Aler was also involved with the Minneapolis Hospital Council and was president of that council in 1933. One of the most interesting endeavors during her time as Council President was a plan for group hospitalization where individuals paying 75 cents per month would be entitled to 21 days a year of free hospitalization, operating room expenses and anesthetics. The plan was to be approved also by various medical society members and it is believed it never went any further.(9)

Ref:

(1) *Minneapolis Star*, April 14, 1940 pg. 53

(2) *Minneapolis Star*, 20 November 1944 pg. 11

(3) *Minneapolis Tribune*, April 1, 1946

(4) *Minneapolis Star*, November 21, 1940

(5) *Wilson Bulletin*, December 1941, Vol 53 #4.

(6) The information about Miss Aler moving to Indiana and then marrying Charles Yelick in was supplied by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

(7) *Minneapolis Star*, October 28, 1936

(8) *Minneapolis Star*, various examples: May 5, 1927; January 21, 1930; January 18, 1933; January 16, 1935, January 20, 1937; January 18, 1938

(9) *Minneapolis Star*, January 29, 1933.

Text and research by Gary Bebeau, photos as credited.

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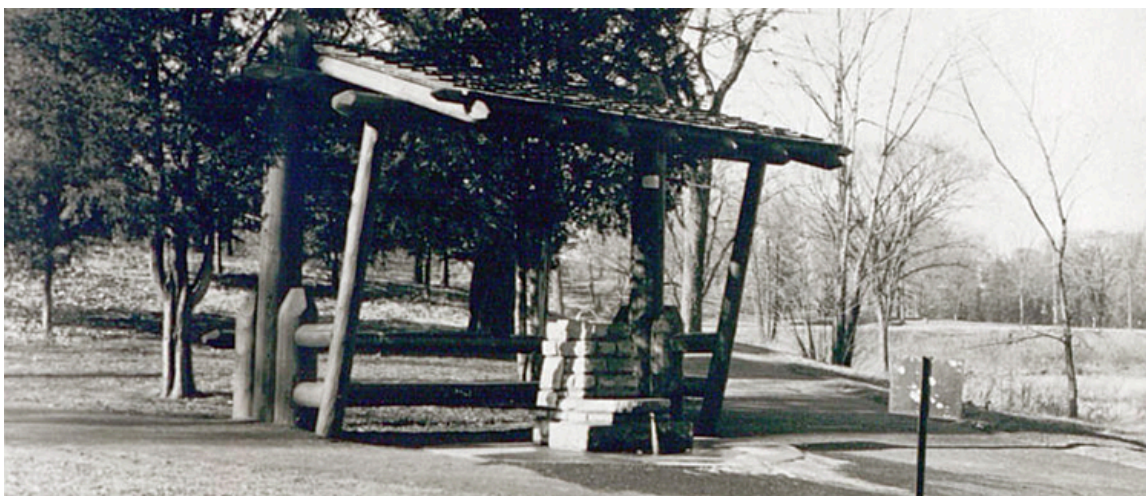
Minneapolis Maternity Hospital in 1925



Maternity Hospital in 2021. It is signed above the entrance - "Ripley Memorial Hospital."

Notes on old Springs in and Around the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

This document features a series of first-hand accounts concerning the activity of four natural springs in the area of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis, covering the time period 1916 to the present.



Great Medicine Spring

During his tenure as Gardener at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden [1959-1986], Ken Avery wrote about the springs in and near the Garden. He provided considerable detail on their activity or lack of activity. His successor as Gardener, Cary George, also made a few notes. Sometimes Mr. Avery's description of what spring he is talking about raises some confusion due to the words he used to describe the location but we can clear that up with another source. In almost all cases his notes refer to the Great Medicine Spring. First - here is Ken's earliest recollection:

The first time I remember seeing the spring was in 1951 when I went through the Garden with a class from the University. At that time there were four springs in the area that were running - - There was one at the lower end of the Garden, one just outside the Garden toward the picnic ground (where, I'm told, people used to have parties on spring water and gin), and there was one kitty-corner to the present spring at Glenwood Avenue and Glenwood Parkway.

By the time I started in the Garden in 1954, all had dried up except for the present spring, but the water level there was some five feet higher than it is now, and there was a fountain there at that time. There was also the tiniest trickle of water coming from the spring in the Garden.

The next year the trickle in the Garden was gone and the plumbers didn't replace the fountain. [The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 23 No.1 January 1975 and also Vol. 26 No. 2 Spring 1978]



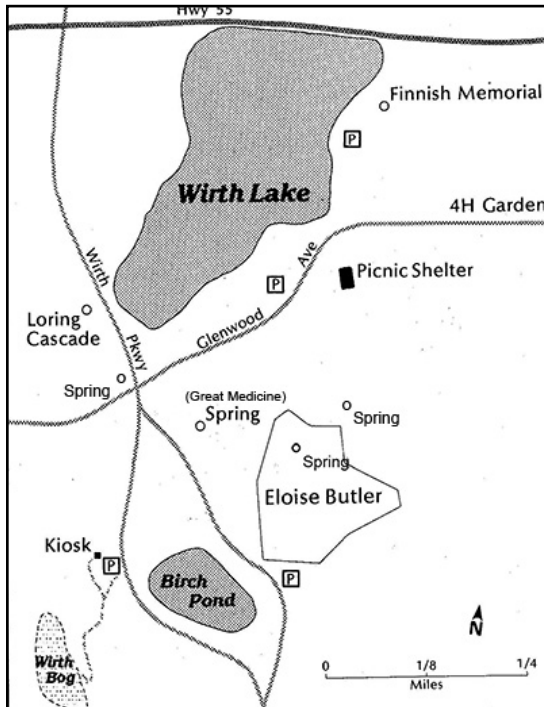
Gardener Ken Avery

Except for the spring at the lower end of the Garden, which we shall deal with later in Martha Crones notes, his use of the term 'the present spring' can, years later, be a bit confusing to us as to location. We can clarify that with the following statement by long-time Friends member J. S. Futch who wrote in 1992:

When I was a kid, all three of the springs [ed. outside the Garden] were running and available for people to come with their jugs and take the water. Besides the main one, there was the one on the

northwestern corner of Glenwood Avenue and Theodore Wirth Parkway, and the one to the east of the back gate. [50 Years of Friends, published by The Friends in 1992]

Below: Map of South Wirth Park around the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden showing the locations of four springs mentioned in the text. Map from 1987 Garden Guide, updated by G D Bebeau



The one Mr. Futchter calls ‘on the northwestern corner of Glenwood and Wirth Parkway’ is the one Avery calls ‘kitty-corner to the present spring’ and what Mr. Futchter calls the one ‘east of the back gate’ is the one Avery calls ‘just outside the Garden toward the picnic ground.’ Mr. Futchter’s directions are exact as to where those other two springs are. The only one Mr. Futchter does not mention is the one inside the Garden that Martha Crone had work done on in 1939 and where Ken Avery states (above) “there was also the tiniest trickle of water . . . Thus, Mr. Futchter’s ‘main one’ is Mr. Avery’s ‘present spring’ - in other words - The Great Medicine Spring.

With that explanation, let’s read what Ken Avery wrote in the 1970’s:

Finally, some of you might be interested in knowing that the spring (located in the bog just behind the Garden) has dried up just as it did last year. It had done this before but only after prolonged drought periods. Last year it dried up after a short dry spell and this year it did so before the drought started. I'm afraid our spring is gone.” [The *Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 19 No. 4 October 1971]

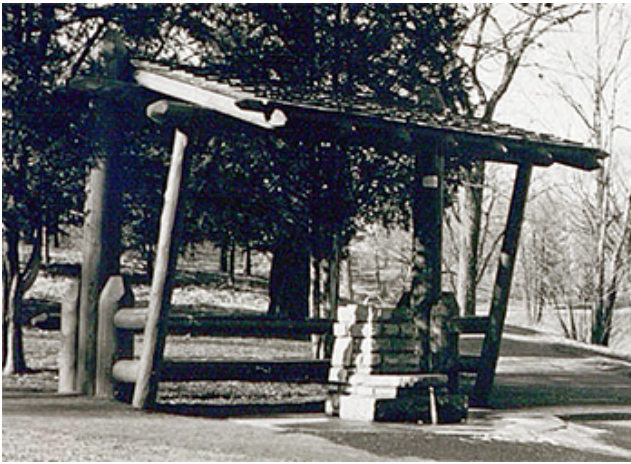
Part of what makes his location description confusing is “located in the bog just behind the Garden”. There is a boggy area on three sides of the location of the spring, but the spring itself is on raised ground.

If you remember last year, [1970] the spring dried up in midsummer and then started to flow again in mid-November. This year [1971] it also dried up in midsummer and this fall I kept a faithful vigil to see when it would run again. It was not yet running when we left the Garden on December 1. At that time, however, I found by pushing a stick into the pipe that the water was less than two inches from the top. On December 5, my wife and I stopped at the Park to fill the bird feeders there and found a



The new fountain on the Great Medicine Spring, installed by a WPA masonry crew in 1939. Photo by Walter Dalhberg, 1939. The fountain was permanently removed at the end of 1954.

trickle of water coming from the pipe at the spring. By Christmas Day the trickle had increased to a significant little stream. It seems obvious that the area's water table has become progressively lower for the last decade or two, but it has remained quite constant for the last year or two so it may have reached, or at least be approaching, its lowest point. [The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 20 No.1 January 1972]



The new canopy over the new fountain on the Great Medicine Spring. Canopy built by Park Board carpenters and installed after the WPA masonry crew finished the fountain in 1939.
Photo by Walter Dalhberg, 1939.

[Avery continues] One physical phenomenon, which I have written of in the past and which seems to have been eliminated now, is the spring which ran from the time Minneapolis was first found until now ~ I'm afraid that we have finally managed to bring an end to this faithful servant as we have to so many before it. I have checked the water level and it is still well below the the original present surface of of the ground (which is eighteen inches below the original contour of the earth). It may run again for short periods of time but I'm afraid it should no longer be called a spring anymore than we should call a puddle a lake. [The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol 21. No.1 January 1973]

I'm afraid that this will be my last word on the spring which I have mentioned in my past reports. It remained dry all winter this year. I left town for a week and when I returned on March 17, I notice that someone had capped the spring. On my first day back in the Garden, (the 19th) I removed the cap and about one cup of water rushed out and then it was over; and I'm afraid it is over forever. Our spring has gone the way of the Passenger Pigeon and for somewhat the same reason. [Fringed GentianTM Vol. 21 No 2 April 1973]

Guess What - - the spring is running again! The spring which I declared officially deceased in my report of March 1973 is running again. Actually I was wrong when I made my pronouncement as it never was completely dead, and even that year of 1973 it rose but it did so so late that I had already decided on its demise and had written its obituary. I think that the annual fluctuations of the spring are interesting and, assuming you will find them of some interest too, I will go back over its history. [The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 23 No.1 January 1975]

That history he speaks of is the 1951 and 1954 comments given at the start of this article -
He then continues:

During the next fifteen years the spring flowed at different rates depending on the rains and on the season. It dried up two or three times during droughts and each year the average level of the water was lower than the year before. Then in 1970 it dried up in mid-summer during a little drought as it had done in the past, but it was establishing a new cycle. That year it didn't come back until mid-November.

Then the next July, just as it had the previous year, it dried up. This time we hadn't even had a good dry spell, and it didn't come back until the first week in December. The next year it ran a little less and then in 1973 it didn't return until mid-April after I had declared it dead. Last spring it came back equally late but it lasted a little later into the summer before it dried up. Now it's back running again. I found the first trickle of water coming from it on the 5th of December and it is running fairly well now. Until this year my feeling that the area was slowly drying up explained all but its actions this last

year have me puzzled. I guess I can add that to that book I'm compiling of natural phenomena that I can't explain. [The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 23 No.1 January 1975]

For those of you who are waiting breathlessly for news of the Garden spring. It is flowing stronger than it has for at least 10 years. [The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 27 No.1 Spring 1979]

The spring obviously ran periodically and sporadically in the years after 1979 as that is when Steve and Sally Pundt remember getting spring water along with others. But at a meeting of the Friends Board of Directors on April 15, 1989, Gardener Cary George stated that the spring outside the Garden had dried up. He noted again in 1990 that since 1987 the flow from the Great Medicine Spring had been minimal; former Gardener Ken Avery suggested that perhaps a hand pump could be used to still obtain water.

It is also obvious from Ken Avery's notes that the water table was lowering long before the I-394 construction occurred. While the dewatering for the freeway construction cannot be said to cause the drying up of the springs in the area, it is probably contributing to water levels not rising again.

The Great Medicine Spring became part of the history of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden when the Friends agreed to fund a new well to try to reactivate the spring. In the spring of 2000 Friends President Steve Pundt wrote about the history of that involvement. Subsequent events which led to the virtual abandonment of the old spring are also reported below. Saratoga Springs was the original name of the area within which Wirth Park (originally Glenwood Park) was created, and, as the name suggests, there was a time when the area's water table was much higher and springs and seeps were everywhere.

Gardener Cary George wrote in 1998 in *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 46 No. 3:

The spring lies on an ancient Indian trail used by the Dakota Indians. They believed all of nature was endowed with "medicine." In 1851 the Dakota tribes ceded land that included the Great Medicine Spring to the United States government. The new well will be drilled to a depth of 240 feet. This is the same depth as the Glenwood-Englewood Springs just to the east of The Great Medicine Springs and lies within the same aquifer. [See note at end of text]

In the spring of 2000 Friends President Steve Pundt wrote in *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 48 No. 2:

In her carefully researched biography of Eloise Butler, Martha Hellander wrote that the spring located southeast of the intersection of Wirth Parkway and Glenwood Avenue was apparently the Great Medicine Spring which had been described in 1880s articles and books about Minnesota geology and history. It was reported that Indians traveled great distances to drink from the spring because of the medicinal properties of its water. [also, see notes on last page.]

When Sally [Mrs. Pundt] and I first discovered the Garden over 20 years ago, we also came across the old spring. We stood in line with others who were filling bottles and jugs. I remember one elderly man who claimed he drank nothing other than water from this spring! The water was cold, clear, and tasted great. It is a true spring - the water flows from the earth on its own, but the strength of the flow has always varied considerably. The flow decreased substantially, and stayed low, after the construction of the Highway 100/394 intersection. The quality has declined too. [A process called 'de-watering' was used to lower groundwater during the construction and following construction it continued due to the depression of the roadbed below the normal grade.]

To increase the water flow and quality, the Friends' Board hired Renner Well Company to drill a well at the site of the spring. [The well was completed on January 29, 1999] The result was disappointing. The water was no better. It turned yellow and tasted bad, not all what we remembered. The Renner Well people have been great to work with. At a special Board meeting in February [2000], they explained that the "spring water" we remembered was probably from a shallow well, primarily fed by rainwater. The old well pipe is only about 30 feet down, based on Renner's information about the Park Board wells which date to 1906-1912.



The catch basin and pump of the Great Medicine Spring, not functional, as seen in 2008. It is unclear when the existing rectangular stone catch basin was put in, perhaps when the fountain was permanently removed in the 1950s, but it is just downhill from the pump on the spring and predates the work done by the Friends in 1999/2000.

Other wells in the park system are much deeper, 300-450 feet, into the Shakopee-Jordan aquifer. When drilling our well, Renner hit a strong flow of water at only 135 feet down. Drilling all the way down to the aquifer would have required double casing and would be very expensive. Renner recommended pumping out a large quantity of water to try and clean the spring water. This was done at the end of March [2000]. The results were good. Taste and clarity were improved.

To improve the flow of the water Renner is to install a hand pump. To improve the appearance of the area and the spring, the Park Board landscape architect is designing a site plan. To educate the public about the historic significance of the spring, the Friends will fund interpretive signage. Our long-term vision is to upgrade the entire entrance area off Wirth Parkway with improved landscaping and signage.

From *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 48 No. 2. Text in [] has been added for clarification of events.

[See additional note at end of text]

This summary was the state of affairs in the spring of 2000.

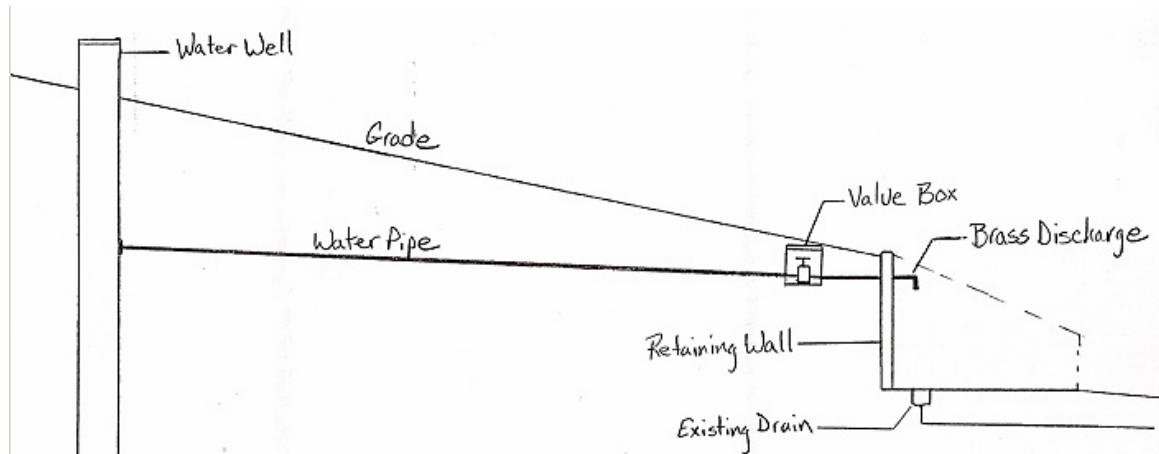
Subsequent Events 2000 - 2020

There were new developments in 2000. The spring did not flow at the previous rate. A report dated February 15, 2000. was received by the Friends from Renner & Sons. They addressed the reduction in flow from the spring. During the winter of 1999-2000 the well had been allowed to flow freely (as Steve Pundt mentioned in his article) to prevent freezing and now a hand pump was discussed as the practical option to install.

Renner's report stated

We originally anticipated a flow rate of 5 to 7 gallons per minute, which would prevent freezing, and hoped that a hand pump would not be needed. The well initially produced this volume. However the flow quickly diminished, over the next couple of days, to its current rate (approx. 1 gallon per minute). The Well has flowed through the winter which makes us very optimistic that it will not freeze as long as we allow it to continue. With the current configuration (see diagram) a hand pump could be installed and we would not expect any alteration in the flow rate of the well.

Below: The configuration of the new well placement with its connection to the old spring drainage basin. Diagram by E. H. Renner & Sons.



The hand pump was installed in the summer of 2000 but water flow declined even more from the initial good flow and the purity of the water was in question. In addition, landscape work around the new well construction site still had to be finished.

Eventually, public access to the spring was discouraged, first by the Park Board removing signage about the spring from the parking lot area along the entrance road to the Garden and then several years later by removing the spring parking area entirely. The landscaping completed around the well and drainage basin is shown in the photo above as it was 2008.

On May 22nd, 2011 a powerful tornado began its destructive path near Glenwood Ave and Theodore Wirth Parkway, just west of the old spring. There was damage within Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, but the heaviest damage was just to the north, including the area of the old spring. The photos below the condition of the site 14 months later on July 25, 2012. Gone are the trees and the appearance of previous landscaping. Water still drips from the pipe outlet of the spring, but all is abandoned and nature begins her reclaiming process.





In 2014 the hand pump handle was removed so that people could not attempt to pump water as testing indicated the well had contaminant issues. In 2018 the contaminants of bacteria and arsenic exceeded maximum allowed levels so the site was closed off and the well capped. The 1st photo below shows the pump in the Summer of 2014. The second photo shows the scene after the pump, well pipe, concrete pad and valve box were removed on June 25, 2018 and the well capped. Only the catchment basin retaining wall remains.



The Natural Spring at Glenwood Ave. and Wirth Parkway



Each day hundreds of people drive by the intersection of Wirth Parkway and Glenwood Ave., perhaps on their way to or from the Wildflower Garden just around the corner on Wirth Parkway. Most probably never pay any attention to this ragged group of shrubbery on the NW corner of the intersection, but therein lies one of the four natural springs in the immediate area of the Wildflower Garden.

In the text above the location of this spring is identified by both former Eloise Butler gardener Ken Avery and by Friends member J.S. Futcher. Mr. Avery states that in 1951 the spring was still running. It was one of three running springs in the immediate vicinity of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, plus the spring in the Garden, but that by 1954 it had dried up.

There remains today a capped metal pipe sticking out of the ground and the crumbling semi-circle of stonework. In 1939 a WPA masonry crew installed that stone work and a catch basin. They came back in 1941 and installed concrete steps leading from the Parkway down to the spring. Today, nature has taken over, the staircase is gone, but the traces of history are there.



As seen today: The catch basin of the old spring at the corner of Glenwood Ave and Theodore Wirth Parkway with old capped pipe showing. Photo - 2016, G D Bebeau



The old catch basin of the spring just prior to 1939 WPA concrete work. Photo by Walter B. Dahlberg.



New stonework just completed by the WPA crew in 1939 at the corner of Glenwood and what is now Wirth Parkway. Photo by Walter B. Dahlberg.



In 1941 a WPA masonry crew added these concrete steps leading off Glenwood Parkway down to the spring basin. Photo by Walter B. Dahlberg.

The Spring outside the Garden Back Gate

The 1939 semi-circular stonework around the spring on Glenwood and the one outside the back gate of the Garden are identical whereas the 1939 stonework of the Great Medicine Spring was removed when the fountain was dismantled.



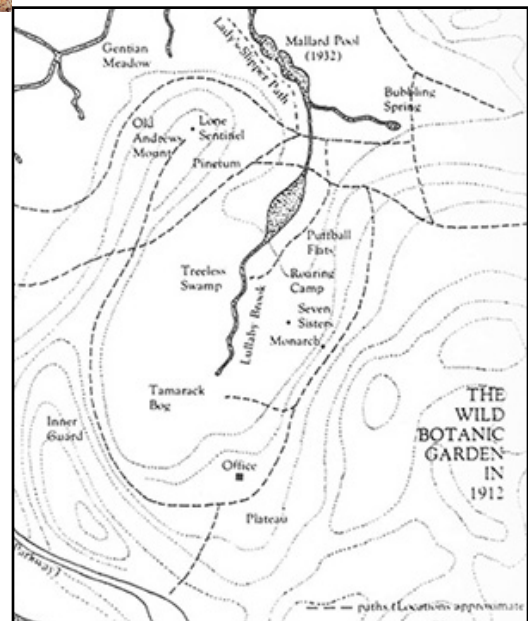
The catch basin of the old spring just outside and east of the Garden's back gate, 1939 construction. The run-off channel is seen in the upper right of the photo - water there flows northwestward to join with the outflow from the Garden and then into to area of Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool. Photo - 2015 G D Bebeau.

This spring contributes to the history of Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool, which lay in what is now a wild area north of the Garden's back gate. Eloise stated she placed her pool just below where two streams combine in the north meadow. One of those streams is the runoff from the Wildflower Garden and the other moves water from the east, incorporating any runoff for the spring, and then joins

the Garden runoff stream and the combination flow north toward Wirth Lake.

In the previous text of this document, Mr. Futcher states that the spring was running when he was a kid (i.e. 1940s). Although in 1934 Martha Crone noted in log on July 2 that the 'drinking spring' had dried up. Based on the text below, we believe this is the spring she was referring to. Thus, the events of later years were already foreshadowed in the 1930s.

This is the spring that Ken Avery referred to in the



A plan Map of the early Wildflower Garden with Eloise Butler's place names. Note the "bubbling spring." Map courtesy Martha Hellander.

text above “where, I’m told, people used to have parties on spring water and gin.” The name "Bubbling Spring" came about in 1916. On September 24 that year the *Minneapolis Tribune* announced that the Park Board would open that week a hiking trail traversing the length of Glenwood Park from Superior Blvd. (now I-394) to Western Avenue (now Glenwood). Along the rolling hills were to be dozens of camp sites for "the hiker to stop and kindle a small fire." The Park Board was planning to erect a series of stone fireplaces along the trail.

The natural amphitheater at the northeast edge of the Garden was mentioned along with the mammoth elm the stood there, referred to as the "patriarch of Glenwood" and at the base of the hill was a natural spring that had now, to prevent contamination, been forced to run through a bubbling fountain. Here is the origin of the name "bubbling spring" used often in the future.

Martha Crone’s notes on the Spring in the Garden.

Martha Crone was Curator of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden from 1933 through 1958, succeeding Eloise Butler. During that time an open area of water existed in the wetland area of the Garden. Excess water in the wetland from rainwater and from the general level of ground water drained northward out of the wetland. Spring water was also known to exist.

A small pool had been created at the north end of this wetland by a dam Eloise Butler installed in the first years of the Garden's existence. It was an earthen dam at first, replaced by a concrete dam in 1917 and then a rock dam in 1992. Overflow from the dam drained into the meadow north of

the Garden's current back fence, where in 1932 Eloise Butler created her Mallard Pool

The 1930s were mostly dry years and water levels fluctuated considerable. In 1939 during late summer and into fall Martha started a project of tapping a spring in the marsh to fill the pool of open water maintained there. [This is the spring the Ken Avery refers to in his notes as being reduced to a trickle in 1954.]



This pipe in the wetland appears to be a cap for the spring that was tapped in 1939. Photo G D Bebeau.



Martha Crone in the Upland Garden in June 1951, from an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune*.

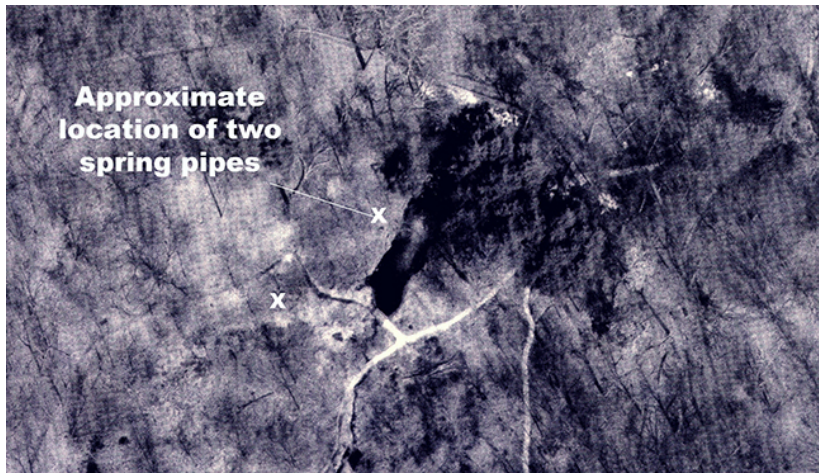
On August 22, 1939 a group of men came in and began

looking for a spring near the pool. While they were there they closed up a hole in the office dug by a woodchuck. On the 28th the men struck the spring on the west side of the pool, they secured the area from their work making it un-noticeable. 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 September 2nd the men came back and put in a drain pipe so the pool would drain excess water through a pipe.

It's not clear from Crone's notes as to where this pipe went or why it was necessary as all excess water drained northward where it could flow over the dam and out of the Garden. The drain pipe may have been necessary to prevent washout of the northward flowing water channel that drained the wetland. The pipe would have led to the dam area where the excess water could then drain.

In a conversation this writer had with former Gardener Cary George [May 18, 2018] he said that when the current small pool was dredged in 1990/91 there was a 4 inch pipe coming out in the hillside by the existing pool. During Martha Hellander's research work for her book on Eloise Butler, she met with Ken Avery. Her notes [in possession of this writer] state that Ken told her that this pipe was about 3 to 5 feet up the hillside on the west side on the Garden pool and that there had been two springs in the wetland. This hillside pipe was about 50 from the other spring in the wetland. That spring now also has an upright pipe which is near a large River Birch and about 20 feet from the current wetland boardwalk path. This is the one pictured in the photo inserted into this text. When he retired, one of the pipes had started to drip water - the first time in 30 years. The pipe in the wetland [furthest from the hillside] Avery told Hellander ran water up to about 1953, the year before he came to the Garden, which ties in with his statement in 1975 that "there was also the tiniest trickle of water coming from the spring in the Garden." [*The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 23 No.1 January 1975] Both pipes were at some time capped but it is unclear when. It also unclear who put them in but it would appear to have been the 1939 crew. Dan Hasty, MPRB Foreman of Horticulture for the Park Board at the time, told Hellander he tried but could not get the cap off the one in wetland.

The 1939 crew that worked on that Garden spring may have been a Park Board work crew or the same WPA masonry crew had been placing new masonry work around the other springs near the Garden, of which there were the three mentioned above - the one behind the Garden back gate, the Great Medicine Spring and the one on the Northwest corner of Theodore Wirth Parkway and Glenwood Ave.



Left: The approximate location of the two spring pipes referred to above. The photo is a 1993 aerial of the back section of the wetland after the back fence had been moved northward (up) and the pool dredged. University of Minnesota photo.

[The 1939 notes are from Martha Crone's diary, 1939, Martha Crone Collection, Minnesota Historical Society.]

The issues of the the Friends newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian*TM that are referenced in the text are the volume and issue numbers as they are archived on the Friend website archive of past issues.

Notes to the text on Native American activity and whether this is the Great Medicine Spring: The statements in the text above of Cary George and of Steve Pundt, referring to Martha Hellander's research, about the path to the Great Medicine Spring being an old Native American path can be associated with statements made in earlier years such as the following:

The Great Medicine spring, an old resort of the Indians, is situated a few miles west of Minneapolis. It is chalybeate, as shown by its taste, and by iron coating formed by the water on the surface over which it runs....

From Volume 2, Hennepin County Chapter of *The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota*, Pioneer Press Co. 1888, page 311, by N. H. Winchell.

From *Minneapolis Tribune*, September 26, 1874.

The people of Minneapolis will perhaps be interested in knowing that they have one of the finest mineral springs in the country right handy to the city; one that in its way was famous long ago. The spring alluded to is situated about two miles from the city on Western Avenue, on the land of Mr Wales, and is said by Col. John H. Stevens and other of the first settlers, to have been largely frequented by the Indians, who came hundreds of miles to get the benefit of its medicinal qualities in cases particularly of consumption and kindred complaints. The water is strong chalybeate, and is esteemed especially as a tonic and as latterly large number of persons are daily visiting it.

Is this the site?: The land owned by Mr. Wales was the south half of the SW quarter of Section 20, Township 29 of what is now Hennepin County. That land is directly north of the East half of the NW quarter of Section 29, land where Martha Hellander's research verified includes the present Wildflower Garden. It was owned by Samuel and Susan D. Gale who had acquired it in 1866/67. The Gales owned it until 1885 after which it was platted for houses but then acquired by the Park Board to create Saratoga Park, which then became Glenwood Park in 1889. That the spring on Mr. Wales land would have been the Great Medicine Spring can be deduced from this: The south boundary of Section 20 (and therefore north boundary of Section 29) later became Chestnut Avenue. If Chestnut Avenue were extended west of its current terminus at Xerxes Avenue, it would run just south of the spring we call the Great Medicine Spring. It has been noted in another reference that the spring on the NW corner of Glenwood and Wirth Parkway was the Great Medicine Spring. While that site was also on the land of Mr. Wales, it seems the site nearer the Garden, with all the infrastructure lavished on it by the Park Board in the 1930s and later, and with its longevity, would be the best candidate and is more likely based on information in the next paragraph

Also in that research of Hellander were notes of conversations with Jean Rohrbaugh, that John Babcock, owner of the property at 227 Xerxes Avenue where Eloise Butler roomed until her death, had found Indian relics such as arrowheads, a smooth grinding bowl and pounding stick such as would make a mortar and pestle around the spring in the park.

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



SHOWY LADY'S-SLIPPER
MINNESOTA STATE FLOWER

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chas. E. Doell, Superintendent
of Parks

Gregory J. Lucking,
Horticulturist

HISTORY
of the
ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN

By Martha Crone

April 1951

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 19, 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 4 of the following year, the bronze tablet was placed and dedicated, reading as follows:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
E L O I S E B U T L E R
1851 - 1933

TEACHER OF BOTANY IN MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOLS
FOUNDER AND FIRST CURATOR OF THIS
N A T I V E P L A N T R E S E R V E

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 had 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 azalea, 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 space for prairie and upland plants. This need was finally fulfilled in 1944 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.

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, puccoon, 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 crowfoot, purple avens, 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.

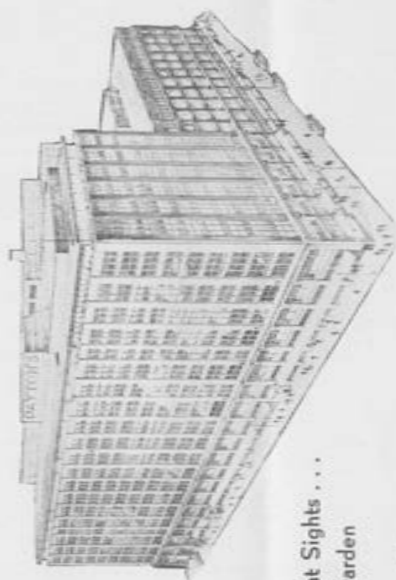
In addition to the plants native to Minnesota, a number representative of other states have been introduced and are flourishing, such as the bitter-root from Montana, a number of species of penstemon from various parts of the west, and many others.

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 1947, 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.



Two of Minneapolis' Great Sights . . .
The Wild Flower Garden
and
The Northwest's Great Store

The Dayton Company.

J. S. F.
*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



*Pasque Flowers (Anemone Patens var. Wolfgiana) 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 Breeches, 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 Hepatica 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, Bloodroot, Foam Flower, Crested Iris, Wild Geranium, Lady Fern, Silvery Spleenwort, etc. Continue on this trail past the massive White Elm, Ohio Buck-eye, 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 Skunk Cabbage blooms when the ice and snow are barely gone. Here also is Brookline, Arrow-head, 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 Avenas. Along the shore is an attractive planting of Red Turtle-head and Obedient Plant, both blooming in the fall.

Side Trails

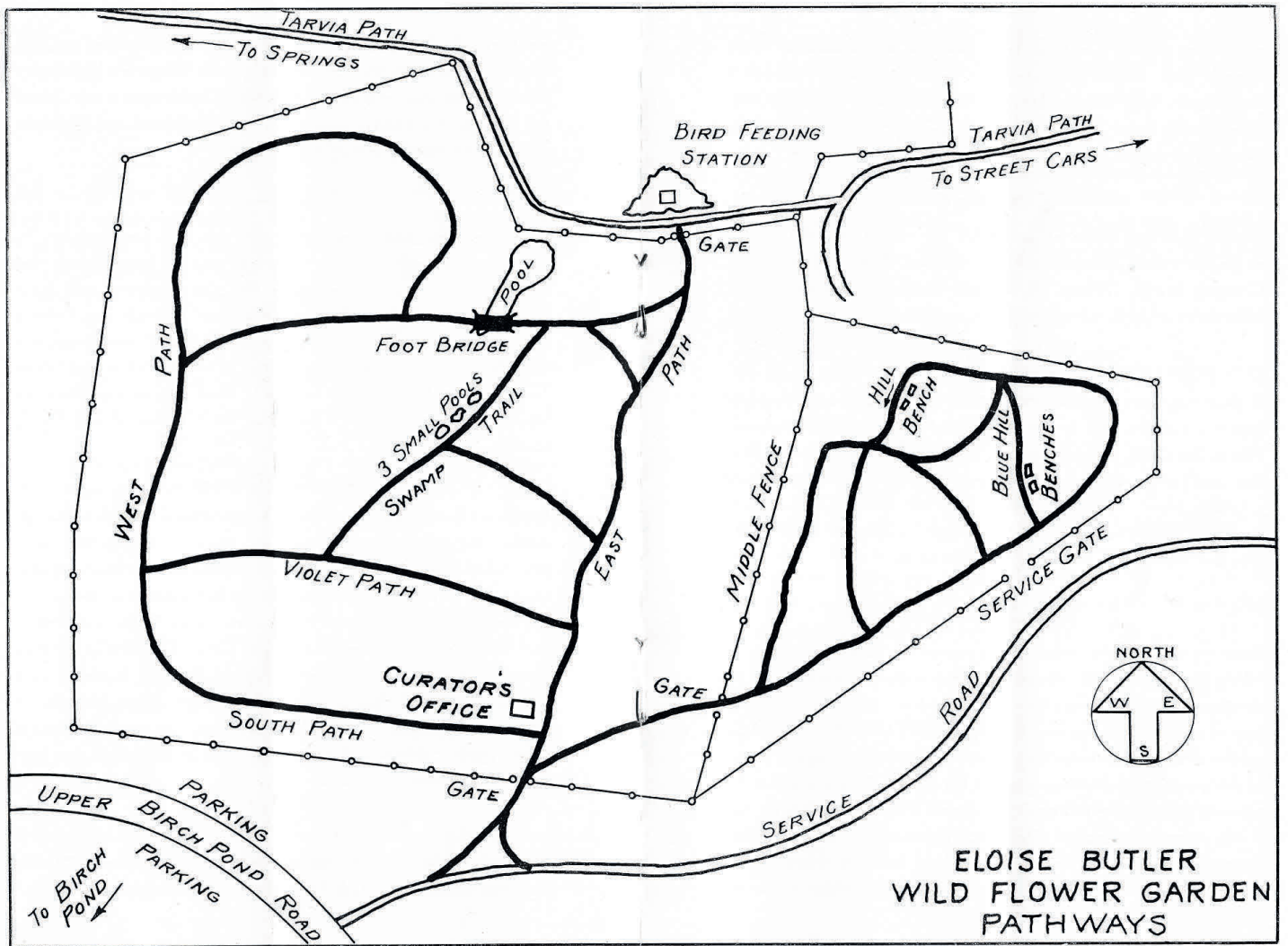
After continuing across the foot-bridge, side trails may be taken. To the left a trail leads to the north gate. Beyond the gate a tarvia trail leads west to the large springs. To the east a winding trail leads to the picnic grounds, shelter, bath house and streetcar line. Retrace steps to the side trails. 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 shorelines contain 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 Canada Yew. The trail leading to the east path is fringed with plantings of Royal Fern, Gold-thread, Creeping Dalibarda, 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 Loosestrife, Creeping Myrtle, Trilliums, Asters, and Golden-rods. 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 Stripped 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-rods.

Rare Flowers

Some of the rare and unusual flowers well established in the Upland Garden are—Montana Bitter root, Wild Poinsettia, Western Penstemon, Western Evening Primrose, Yellow Indigo, False Fragrant Indigo, various Cacti Prairie Talinum, 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 tarvia 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. Crone, 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	\$800.00
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. Crone
3723 Lyndale Ave. No.
Minneapolis 12, Minn.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



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 are in the Odell article



Clinton Odell with spouse Any and daughter Moana, early 1950s,

Martha Crone

Martha Crone was the curator of the Eloise Butler Wildflower 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.



Martha Crone in the Garden, 1951

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 December 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 December 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 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:

Mrs. Carroll Binder, past president of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, has maintained her active interest in the "Garden" since its inception. A long letter from her brings us up to date. Mrs. Binder, with daughter, Debby moved to Oakland, Calif., in 1971, where she has successfully battled her Parkinson's disease with the magic drug EeDopa. In spite of other problems plus a cataract operation, she has been finishing her husband's "papers" as well as those of her father for the Minnesota Historical Society. Her daughter Mary Kelsey and husband are in

Oakland, and their four grown children are a great source of pleasure with their brilliant careers. The highlight of this year was a fall trip to Washington, D.C., to see son Dave and family, just the returned from six years in Germany with New York Times. After some moving about, Mrs. Binder is now settled at the Mark Twain Retirement Center, 2438 35th Ave. Oakland California 94601

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. She passed away on June 14, 1980 at age 86 in a hospital in nearby San Leandro CA. Her papers are included with her husbands at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Donald C. Dayton

Donald Chadwick Dayton was born on August 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.



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

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.

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.



Leonard F. Ramberg, 1972 photo.

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 October 22, 1988.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



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.

Clinton M. Odell: 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. (1949 article follows text)

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

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

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

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.

In April 1926 the Company, of which Clinton Odell was now president, leased 17,000 sq. ft. of new space at 2019 East Lake Street, moving from 2533 Hennepin Ave. They had so much business over the



Offices and plant of the Burma-vita Company. The building was constructed in 1940. Bassett's Creek flows in front with a rail line (now abandoned) between the creek and the building. The building still exists in the same form, but with a wood exterior. Photo from 1941 by Norton and Peel

years that in 1940 they built a new factory at 2318 Chestnut Avenue West, just west of Penn Avenue, in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood of south Minneapolis, abandoning the old quarters at 2019 East Lake Street. [More details are in the article from the September 22 1946 *Minneapolis Tribune*].

Martha Crone.

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. After 1940 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. [See May 12 1949 *Tribune* article].

One of Martha Crone's recollections of Odell was that in early



Clinton Odell in the Garden. Photo from *Minneapolis Tribune* May 12, 1949.

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 a separate article - The Upland Garden Addition].

Odell made two \$1,500 deposits and made annual contributions thereafter when the amounts exceeded the initial \$3,000 eventually paying \$4,000 more than his initial pledge. (details Ref. 1 below).

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." 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 created this sketch of the old office at the Garden and titled it "Early Spring in the Garden." Undated but circa late 1940s - early 1950s. Image courtesy of the Martha Crone Collection, MHS.

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.(2) 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*TM that Odell was awarded an honor plaque, for his many years service in conservation. It was presented by Mr. Cox, Past State Forester, in behalf of the Minnesota Conservation Commission during the 1957 Northwest Sportsman's Show. (Odell had been on the State Board of Forestry.) 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*TM.

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. 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*TM. Odell insisted that each issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM 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 memorial.

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.

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.



Odell bench dedication from a group of his friends.

Contributors to the Odell Bench were: Elizabeth Carpenter, John T. Magaw, Ebba Tolg, Dorothy Binder, Wm. H. Hale, Mr. & Mrs. R. Leuthold, Mrs. C. S. Hoyt, George Luxton, Earle Brown, Mr. R. E. Cole, Mr. S. W. Dwinnell, Martha Crone

Martha Crone wrote this Memorial for Clinton Odell. Published in *The Fringed Gentian*TM, 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.



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. (Photo courtesy Odell Family)

In 1960, a pair of benches of Kasota Limestone were placed in the Woodland Garden in his honor by his daughter, Moana Odell Beim (Mrs. Raymond N. Beim). The benches were located near the Garden Office where it was situated at that time. They replaced a pair of wooden settees. When the office was removed and replaced by the current Martha Crone Shelter, the benches remained where they were installed and are now just off the flat patio area in front of the new shelter. Together with a limestone birdbath dedicated to Amy Odell, Clinton's wife, they form a nice quiet resting place just off the walking path to the shelter.

References:

(1). On October 4, 1944, the Park Board, in a letter to Odell from Park Board Secretary Charles Doell, approved Odell's request for the upland addition to the Garden. His initial check to them was for \$1,500 and he would send more of the \$3,000 he pledged as they spent it. Odell wanted the Park Board to clear a number of oak trees from the area but the Board disagreed and in a letter to Odell from Superintendent C. A. Bossen dated Nov. 17, 1944, he stated that such action should be "wait and see" as

to what may be needed as Martha Crone proceeded with development of the area.

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. 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. Once the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was formed in 1952, the Friends made that contribution. The hard surfacing of the paths and the building of a summer house as originally proposed was never accomplished. Many of his annual donations were reported in the Minneapolis newspapers. Full details of the addition plan are in the "Upland Garden" article.

In 1951 Odell requested toilet facilities and mosquito control. (letter to C. E. Doell dated May 22, 1951). Odell had been to Tucson and visited a garden there that had modern toilet facilities and said if a small city like that could provide facilities certain Minneapolis could "go them one better." These were not provided either. Mosquitoes were always a problem. Martha Crone once replied to Theodore Wirth "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" (letter June 22, 1933). The Park Board was already hesitant of using DDT.

Above from documents in the files of Clinton Odell in the Martha Crone Collection at the Minnesota History Center.

(2) Minutes - Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, June 4, 1977

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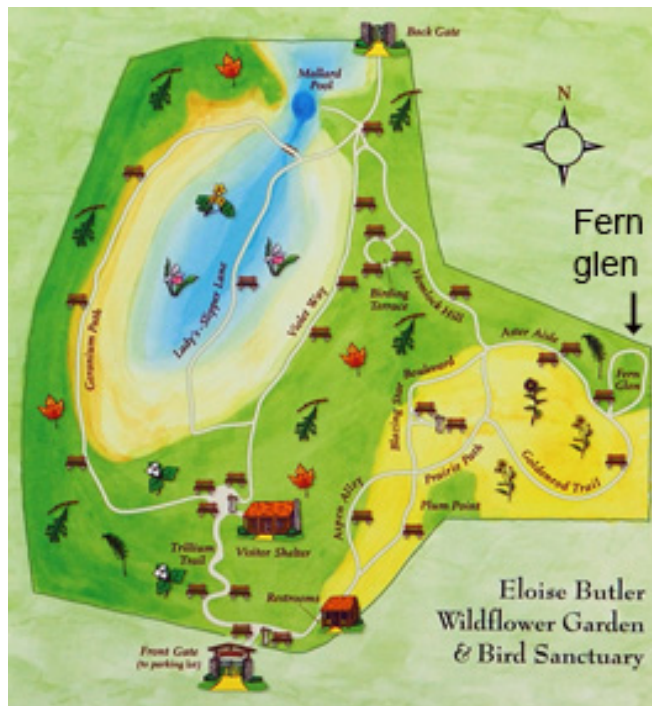
The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



Development of the Fern Glen Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

In late 1955, while Martha Crone was Garden Curator, the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden received a gift from the Minnetonka Garden Club of \$750, along with a gift of \$25 from The Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club for purposes of establishing an entire new Fern Hill in an undeveloped portion of the Garden.(1) It is not entirely clear from Martha Crone's records whether that purpose was specifically designated by the donors or whether Martha specifically suggested such a plan for funding, but the latter is most likely. Contact between the Clubs and Martha may have come from a Friends member or from one of Martha's slide lectures about the Garden given every year in the 1950s, but her earliest contacts with the clubs seems to be when she gave a lecture about the Garden at a Lake

Minnetonka Garden Club meeting on July 29, 1937 at the home of Mrs. Russell Bennett and a May 3, 1937 Garden tour to the Little Garden Club of Minnetonka.(2) Russell Bennett became a Friends founding director in 1952.



Plan map of the Garden. Map courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Nevertheless, work began. The area of what is now called the 'Fern Glen' is at the far northeastern section of the upland addition that had been added to the Garden proper in 1944 through the efforts of Clinton Odell, the founder of the Friends. This area, when added in 1944, required extensive development as it was wild and covered with sumac and thistle. The area of the Fern Glen is naturally separated from the remainder of the upland Garden by a ridge line and on the northeastern side of the ridge, the land forms a natural bowl. Some large trees were undoubtedly in place and were left in place in the area as ferns need a fair amount of shade.

The only photograph we have of the development shows mostly open ground on the hillside with plant labels marking new ferns, but that is only a portion of the area. Today there are a number of trees in the glen, most of which have grown up since the glen was developed - many are fast growing green ash. In fact, a number of these were culled out in the winter of 2013/14 by current Garden Curator Susan Wilkins.



A portion of the new Fern Hill with new plants put in. Photo from a Kodachrome taken by Martha Crone on May 14, 1956.

Martha wrote this about her plan for the new Fern Hill

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. (3)

On April 11, 1956 she noted in her Garden Log (4) that the "Fern hill was disked and finished," indicating she brought in mechanical help to prepare some of the ground. On April 26 she noted planting the first ferns. By early fall of 1956 development of the new Fern Garden was proceeding



A view of one path in the Fern Glen in Summer 2012.

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.

(4)

She had actually acquired 2,161 ferns and the last ones were planted by late October. In her log she tallied the first year ferns and their sources as she planted them. The list totals 23 species of ferns.

In her annual report she wrote that she still had \$251 to spend on more ferns. She believed there would be winter loss on the new plants due to lack of snow so far.

(5)



Ferns emerging in spring in a section of the Fern Glen. This area is a portion of the hillside shown in the Crone photo on page 2.

During 1957 she added another 308 ferns to the new Fern Hill, bringing the total to 2,468 and still had \$138 of the original grant of \$775 to spend. (6) Only one new species was added in 1957 - Goldie's Woodfern, *Dryopteris goldiana*.

In 1958 a total of 375 Interrupted Ferns went into the Fern Grove bringing 3 year total of plants to 2,844. Here is the complete list with quantities and her source [shown in brackets]. The most recent botanical name is used for each species.

- Berry Bladder Fern, *Cystopteris bulbifera*, 158 [58 local, 100 from Orchid Gardens, Grand Rapids MN]
- Bracken Fern, *Pteridium aquilinum* 36 [Grand Rapids]
- Braun's Holly Fern, *Polystichum braunii*, 25 [Johnson's Nursery MA]
- Brittle Bladder Fern, *Cystopteris fragilis*, 33 [Grand Rapids]
- Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, 85 [The Three Laurels, Marshall NC]
- Cinnamon Fern, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, 112 [Orchid Gardens, Grand Rapids]
- Clintons Fern, *Dryopteris clintoniana*, 20 [Johnson's Nursery MA]
- Crested Shield Fern, *Dryopteris cristata*, 102 [Orchid Gardens]
- False Silvery Spleenwort, *Deparia acrostichoides*, 50 [Henderson's Nursery]
- Goldie's Woodfern, *Dryopteris goldiana*, 13, [The Three Laurels]
- Hay-scented Fern, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, 85 [50 Grand Rapids, 35 The Three Laurels]
- Interrupted Fern, *Osmunda claytoniana*, 1,086 [265 local, 236 Grand Rapids, 585 no source]
- Lady Fern, *Athyrium filix-femina*, 209 [106 Orchid Gardens, Grand Rapids, 10 Daniels Nursery, 57 local, 36 no source]
- Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, 229 [129 Orchid Gardens, Grand Rapids, 100 no source]
- Male Fern, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, 30 -[The Three Laurels]
- Marginal shield Fern, *Dryopteris marginalis*, 55 [The Three Laurels]
- Narrow (Long) Beech Fern, *Phegopteris connectilis*, 55 [Orchid Gardens]

- Glade Fern (Narrow-leaved Spleenwort) , *Diplazium pycnocarpon*, 20 [The Three Laurels]
- New York Fern, *Thelypteris noveboracensis*, 10 [Johnson's Nursery, MA]
- Western Oak Fern, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, 2 [GrandRapids]
- Ostrich Fern, *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, 165 [159 Orchid Gardens, Grand Rapids, 9 no source]
- Rattlesnake Fern, *Botrychium virginianum*, 52 [Grand Rapids]



The Fern Glen in Summer 2012

- Royal Fern, *Osmunda regalis*, 55 [The Three laurels]
- Spinulose Wood Fern, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, 55 [The Three Laurels]
- Spreading Wood Fern, *Dryopteris expansa*, 102 [Orchid Gardens]

At the end of 1958 Martha Crone retired as Garden Curator, after 26 years as Curator and 15 years of working with Eloise Butler prior to that. Ken Avery became Curator and in 1960 he added 250 additional ferns to the Fern Glen, comprised of 75 Ostrich Ferns, 150 Interrupted ferns and 25 Lady Ferns. That brings the total count of ferns planted to 3,094. Of course, a number succumbed to winter kill, drought, rodents, and other

calamities, but the total number of plants is impressive. If the entire budget of \$775 was spent, the 3,094 plants cost only 25 cents each - remarkable today, but that was the 1950s when gasoline was 29 cents per gallon.

To winter protect the fragile young ferns Ken had the area heavily covered with oak leaves for a number of years to build up some mulch and organic base. Moth crystals were spread to discourage the mice.

With the exception of the Hay-scented and New York Ferns, all are native to Minnesota. One can see from the list that 40% of the plants were Interrupted Fern, a total of 1,236 planted (including those in 1960). It is long-lived, grows well in the Garden habitat and was well established elsewhere in the Garden. It also tolerates sunlight, thus it and the Lady Fern were planted on the steepest part of the hill exposed to sun. (7)

The only other area of the Wild Flower Garden that would have such a gathering of ferns would be Eloise Butler's "fernery" in the Woodland Garden that was based around the native northeast facing hillside of Interrupted Fern.

At the end of 1963 Martha Crone wrote:

The weedy, brush covered area in the upland garden which was turned into an interesting Fern Hill, under the sponsorship of the Minnetonka Garden Club is reaching a stage of fine development.

A great deal of satisfaction is derived from watching the progress of this lovely addition. Great appreciation is extended to the members of the Minnetonka Garden Club.(8)

The Fern Glen Today

Over the years since the early 1960s many changes have occurred in this area. The elms that provided some shade died out from Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s; Oak Wilt took out any Red Oak that were there. Gardener Cary George reported that as a result of the drought in 1988, he felt the Fern Glen had a

25% mortality rate with Maidenhair and Royal ferns the hardest hit. (9) These two species require moisture and a certain amount of shade.

Given the opportunity, certain weedy plants such as Buckthorn and Green Ash move in and further degrade the conditions needed by the ferns. A number of Green Ash were removed in 2014, Buckthorn was removed earlier, but there are still a large number of trees in the area to provide shade as the photos above indicate, plus a large number of ferns, but fewer species. Many spring wildflowers are found there also, such as Bloodroot, Jacob's Ladder, Wild Blue Phlox, Jack-in-the-pulpit and Sprengel's Sedge.

Below: The lay of the land - photos of the Fern Glen in spring before plant growth starts.



The photo at the top of the page is taken from the entrance path to the Fern Glen (2012)

References:

- (1) a) Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 14, 1956. b) That the money was a gift to the Friends was noted in Martha Crone's 1956 Secretary's Report and was also reported on January 8, 1956 in George Luxton's column in the *Minneapolis Tribune*.
- (2) Minnetonka Club reported in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* July 31, 1937. Little Garden Club tour announcement, April 4, 1937, same paper.
- (3) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, newsletter of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. Vol. 4 # 1, January, 1956, Martha Crone, Editor
- (4) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 4 # 4, October 1956, Martha Crone, Editor
- (5) Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 15, 1957
- (6) Annual Report of the Garden Curator to the Board of Park Commissioners - dated February 8, 1958
- (7) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 9, # 4, Autumn, 1961, Martha Crone, Editor
- (8) *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Vol. 11, # 4, Autumn, 1963, Martha Crone, Editor
- (9) *The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 37, # 4, September 1989

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