

9503 Meadowbrook Lane
Philadelphia 18, Pa.
February 17, 1951

{ Mr. Don Hurford
40 Howe's Lane
Falmouth, Mass

Dear Don,

Several months ago I wrote you about the possibility that my friend, Ed McTague, and I might promote the distribution and sale of seeds for miniature "Lady Gardens" similar to the Bell Tower garden at Woods Hole, which we visited together last August. In accordance with my request made at that time, you forwarded to me the name and address of the Bell Tower donor, Mrs. Lillie, and you also passed on to me the information that the printed list of names of flowers in the garden had been "worn away by the weather". Also you mentioned that you would look through the old Enterprise files to see if you could find if anything had been written on the subject, and that you would get in touch with the caretaker when the opportunity presented itself.

Since then, and especially during the last week or so, Ed and I have developed much enthusiasm for going through with this project. On the basis of our own research in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society library in Philadelphia we were able to compile a list of 31 flowers formerly named in honor of our Lady, as well as a wealth of background material on Christian floral symbolism, prayers, etc.. Today, in answer to a letter written to Mrs. Lillie (and followed up by a phone call), I received several copies of Mrs. Lillie's "active" list of 45 flowers honoring our Lady, as well as 31 others honoring various saints. At the bottom of the list is written:

This is a small list of the flowers named after Our Lady and the Saints, and plants of various religious significance. They were made from English sources, because of course Catholic England inspired the interest. We found about five hundred plants named after Her, three hundred and fifty after the Saints, and about one hundred others. All the names listed are not in the garden, but from the adjoining plan what is there can be found.

CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH, WOODS HOLE, MASS., THE SUMMER OF 1937

This immediately raises the question: who has the list of the 500 etc. flowers and the research documentation, etc.? As you didn't mention the source of your previous information, I wonder if you were actually in touch with the pastor of the Church of Saint Joseph. Is the same pastor there now who was there when the garden was built (the tower was dedicated in the summer of 1933 - for your information in checking the Enterprise files), or when the list was printed (1937)? If he isn't, where is he? Can he be reached, etc.?

I would appreciate receiving at your earliest convenience any further information on this subject which you can give me.

In XP,

J.S.

9503 Meadowbrook Lane
Philadelphia 18, Pa.
March 27, 1961

Dear Don,

I was sorry that circumstances prevented us from seeing you in Philadelphia on Easter weekend. In addition to all the other matters we have to talk about, I would like to have told you first hand about the progress of Our Lady's Garden.

In regard to the garden, I have one additional request to make of you. Ed and I would like to have actual confirmation from the Recorder of Deeds as to the ownership of the Lillie Tower and Garden. In Philadelphia, for example, property deeds are considered public property, and the book of deeds is available to anyone who inquires at the office of the Recorder of Deeds. If the set-up is the same in Massachusetts you should be able (especially as a reporter) to obtain access to the Book of Deeds in Falmouth (assuming Falmouth is the County Seat) and make actual notes of the transaction, such as date, circumstances of ownership etc.. I don't doubt that St. Joseph's Parish (viz. the Bishop of the Diocese) owns the Tower and Garden as you say, but we'd like to know the exact circumstances before taking any steps to make use of it in our Garden promotion.

Thanks in advance for any inconvenience to which you may be put in obtaining this information.

As ever, in XP,

COPY

9503 Meadowbrook Lane
Philadelphia 18, Pa.
April 4, 1951

Rev. James J. Galvin
Perpetual Help
Esopus, N. Y.

Dear Father Galvin,

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to learn from your note in reply to my recent inquiry as to the availability of the August, 1946, issue of Perpetual Help, that the Editor of Perpetual Help and the author of the article, "Lillie Tower" was one and the same person.

The immediate reason for my inquiry was to ascertain whether or not the reprint of "Lillie Tower" appearing in the October, 1946, issue of Our Lady's Digest was in any way rewritten or condensed. The ultimate purpose was to inquire as to on what basis I could obtain permission to reprint this article in leaflet form.

My wish to reprint "Lillie Tower" has arisen in connection with an apostolic garden project undertaken by myself and a friend, Edward A. McTague, also of Philadelphia, - a project which received its initial inspiration from your article, as it appeared in Our Lady's Digest.

Although your article immediately appealed to my heart when I read it in 1946, it was not until last August that I had an opportunity to visit the Lillie Tower and Garden in Woods Hole. Yet it was worth waiting for. My joy was beyond expectation!

But in speaking of Mary's Flowers to friends in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, I was disappointed to learn that not one of them knew their story or knew of Mrs. Lillie's Garden. And in asking myself the reason for this, I concluded it lay in the fact that the story of the flowers is not at present told at the garden (there are no leaflets and there is no longer even a sign identifying the flowers, or giving the correspondences between the old and new names), and the 1946 issues of Perpetual Help and Our Lady's Digest are no longer to be found on reading tables. Apparently "the right man" of whom you spoke in your article never made his appearance to carry on and expand the apostolate of Mrs. Lillie's Garden.

In the course of a discussion of this situation, my friend, Mr. McTague, suggested: "American's are 'doers'. Why don't we prepare and sell at a modest price a set of ten or twelve seed packets of our Lady's flowers, so that hundreds of people can have their own little Mary's Gardens in their backyards and show them to their friends? Then the word will really get around; and perhaps people will wish to visit Woods Hole to see Mrs. Lillie's garden".

We became so enthused with this idea that even though it was the end of January, - with little time until the spring planting season, - we decided to undertake the project on a small scale this year. Mrs. Lillie, with whom I talked over the telephone long distance, kindly obliged by sending us several copies of her list of flowers. And with her list and some historical and horticultural research done locally, we reached the point where we were able to select seeds for ten flowers.

The enclosed advertisement, which was run in the New York Herald Tribune, the Philadelphia Inquirer and two diocesan papers; and the enclosed acknowledgement card; - together with the garden package (which you will receive under separate cover in a few days) tell the rest of the story. We are testing various means of advertising - all the way from ads in metropolitan dailies to pushing doorbells in Catholic neighborhoods - in the hope that we will find the right one(s). To date our success is moderate, but we hope to move our present inventory of seeds and literature by the end of this month so as to get enough of our money back in order to promote the sale of pamphlets and additional flowers, etc. in the future. And it is an anticipation of this possibility that I inquire about reprinting "Lillie Tower". We would of course give you full credit, - just as we have Mrs. Lillie in our first leaflet, - and I assure you it will be freely and thankfully given, as it was a joy to carry your article around in my heart for three years before I even saw the garden.

Thanking you for the inspiration you have given us, and looking forward to the pleasure of a reply, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John S. Stokes Jr.

P.S. - I would appreciate learning any further information about the flowers of our Lady you may have obtained in the course of writing "Lillie Tower" or from reader response to it. We would give anything, for example, to obtain a copy of the research which uncovered the 500 flowers named after our Lady, as mentioned both at the bottom of Mrs. Lillie's list and in your article. -
J. S..

MOUNT



ST. ALPHONSUS, ESOPUS, N.Y.

PERPETUAL
help
MAGAZINE

EDITOR, REV. JAMES GALVIN, C.S.S.R.

April 7 1951

John S Stokes Jr
9503 Meadowbrook Lane
Philadelphia 18 Pa.

Dear Mr Stokes

When your letter came I was busily selecting fillers to complete articles in our next issue. At the moment I needed 13 lines. So presto! I had one entitled "If you have a garden", giving the address of Mary's Gardens at the close.

First of all, you have permission to reprint the article on Lilly Garden. I have written to our Business Office in Melrose to see if they may have a copy of the issue ~~you~~ are looking for. I believe it was somewhat condensed in the Digest reprint.

If you saw Woods Hole and the Garden last year, you saw it at its poorest (at least in my opinion) When I first discovered it in 1943 there was a much wider variety of Lady flowers growing. All I saw last summer were petunias and phlox, if I remember rightly!

But now for your idea. It's a genuine inspiration. I think it wonderful and wish you all the success in the world. It will take time for it to catch but meanwhiles keep plugging the idea through every channel possible. Why not get on the TV program "What's my line" telecast on Sunday night at 10 PM? Be interviewed on the radio. Have someone write a letter about you and your project to local papers. Offer the 10 packets of seeds free to anyone who has a statue of Our Lady in their own garden. The publicity would be well worth the price. Begin such a garden yourself, and have a photo of it taken. Have photos of Mary Gardens sent you..like

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the enclosed from Joan Ronay of Edgerly Road Harundale Maryland. (Just in passing Mrs Ronay was quite furious at me for condensing and altering some details of her story!)

Myself, I should like to write the pair of you up. . . but I think we should wait till there is more to the story. It is, of course, the Marian angle I will treat

Now about research on the subject of Lady Flowers....all I have is a page in an out of print book called Our Lady's Dowry by Thomas Bridgett c SSR (London: Burns and Oates) 1875. He in turn makes reference to 3 books you might secure in the library:

Church of Our Fathers, vol III, p 283
by "Dr. Rock".

The Catholic Florist by ? ?

Popular Names of British Plants, by
R.C. Prior, MD.

If I come across anything in my constant reading, I shall make a note of it, and send it along to you. There are of course similar Lady names for flowers in other lands and languages. . .but English, I presume, is what you are hunting for.

Hoping you will keep me posted from time to time on the progress of the Mary's Garden project,

Cordially in Mary

Jana J. Balvin
05-8

Falmouth Enterprise

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April 11, 1951

Dear John:

Please excuse brevity of this note. I want you to get the information herein before the weekend.

The county seat for the Cape is in Barnstable, which is about 25 miles from Falmouth. A civil engineer who I know was down at the registry of deeds Monday. He spent almost two hours with his assistant looking up the deed of the property but could not find it. It is his opinion (and he is one of the best informed persons in town on property ownership) that the property was sold by a family whose last name is Fay to the bishop of Fall River (I forgot his name) but the deed was never recorded. The sale must have occurred about 1880 and it is on this land that Mrs. Lillie had the tower erected and the garden ~~box~~ made.

Will write later, regards, D.E.H.

9503 Meadowbrook La.
Philadelphia 18, Pa.
January 27, 1952

Dear Don,

Ed and I have recently been giving a lot of thought to Mrs. Lillie's Mary-Garden at Woods Hole, and we have come up with a proposed plan of action in which we hope you will take part.

As you know from your own discussions with the present Pastor of St. Joseph's and with the garden caretaker, there has been little interest during recent years in preserving (not to mention improving) the Garden in accordance with its original conception in the mind and heart of Mrs. Lillie. Of the 40 Flowers of Our Lady called for in the garden plan, which you sent us last year, apparently only 4 or 5 are still growing. To quote Father Galvin's letter to me of last April 7th:

"... If you saw Woods Hole and the Garden last year, you saw it at its poorest (at least in my opinion). When I first discovered it in 1943 there was a much wider variety of Lady Flowers growing. All I saw last summer were petunias and phlox, if I remember rightly!"

Since Ed and I will have seeds, bulbs and plants available for some 40 varieties of Our Lady's Flowers, we propose to send sufficient quantities of these to Woods Hole - at our expense - for the restoration of the Garden according to its original plan. We want to do this not only out of love for Our Lady's Flowers, and out of special affection for Mrs. Lillie's Garden as the source of our inspiration, - but also because the Woods Hole Garden could very easily turn into a sort of religious gardening shrine, after our articles and Garden instructions spread word of it all over the country for several years.

What we would like you to do is to take whatever steps you consider best suited to get our seeds sown, our bulbs and plants planted, and all of them cared for - in accordance with the original garden plan.

Our hope is that the present caretaker is already engaged for sufficient time each week so that once he receives our seeds, bulbs and plants, he can simply go to work on them instead of on petunias and phlox. Incidentally, who pays for the caretaker? How many hours a week is he engaged for? When does his "season" start in the spring and end in the fall?

As for the Pastor of St. Joseph's... he already has the garden on his hands and shouldn't object to having someone help him gratis to do it justice. In fact the possibility of its gaining national recognition, of visitors calling, and even of its becoming a source of revenue for the Parish, should have an appeal for him.

The third group to be approached is the parishioners, parish societies, sodalities, etc.. With a little support from the parishioners in the form of very little greenhouse and cold frame space, earlier blooms could be obtained each year for the annuals flowers, and perennials could be raised apart from the garden and then transplanted to it after they have had one or two years' growth.

From my knowledge of your personal and work circumstances, I assume that you would have time for little more than to visit the Pastor at St. Joseph's, tell him about us and what we would like to do for the Garden, and give him a letter similar to the enclosed. (The enclosed is only a tentative draft, and would be retyped - incorporating any revisions you might suggest - on our MARY'S GARDENS letterhead, which should be ready in a week). Of course, if you have time to spearhead the project a bit among the parishioners, with the blessing of the Pastor, of course, we would be happy to have you do this. As indicated on the draft letter to the Pastor, we would be glad to send copies of the PERPETUAL HELP reprint (which should be available in about a week) - together with an introductory letter, on our letterhead stationary, telling about the role the Woods Hole Garden is about to play nationally - to any list of possibly interested parishioners the Pastor might suggest.

Please let me hear from you in regard to the above. If you don't have time for a letter, just drop me a postal telling that you will be able to call on the Pastor & check again with the caretaker (or that you won't be able to), so that we can get ready for the next move (viz., send you the letter for the Pastor, or write one to him directly). I hope you can personalize our approach to him for us. This type of approach always does a lot more, - and, if necessary, you can vouch for our apostolic and non-commercial intentions and objectives. I would suggest that the Pastor should be contacted about February 15th.

Sincerely in XP,

P.S. What is the name of the Pastor of St. Joseph's?

9503 Meadowbrook La.
Philadelphia 18, Pa.
January 27, 1952

Rev. James J. Galvin, C.S.S.R., Editor
PERPETUAL HELP
Esopus, N. Y.

Dear Father Galvin:

As Ed and I want to see the original varieties of Our Lady's Flowers restored to the Woods Hole Mary-Garden . . . both out of our affection for it in itself, and also because we don't want to disappoint any visitors who might come to see it as a result of your articles, our Gardens, etc., . . . we are about to take steps to achieve this objective.

Our plan is to make seeds, bulbs and plants available (at our expense) to the caretaker in time for most effective utilization this coming spring and summer. A personalized approach is to be made to the Pastor of St. Joseph's by my close personal friend, Don Hurford, who "covers" Woods Hole in the course of his job as reporter for the weekly FALMOUTH ENTERPRISE.

It will be pointed out to the Pastor that the investment has already been made in the garden property and tower (which, as you undoubtedly know, are Church property), that the original landscape gardening plan showing the proper location of the various Lady-flowers is already at hand (we had photostats made from the caretaker's copy, borrowed for us by Don last spring), that the caretaker is already engaged (and might just as well care for Our Lady's flowers as phlox and petunias), and that we will provide seeds, bulbs and plants.

We will further offer to make reprints of "My Garden Prays" - and even mimeograph copies of your original "Lillie Tower" - available both to the rectory, and also by direct mail to any of his parishioners who might be interested in seeing the Garden restored in anticipation of its becoming a possible gardening "shrine" and who might therefore be moved to make available or obtain from neighbors the small amount of greenhouse and cold frame space required to get the earliest blooms on annuals and the best start for biennials and perennials seeds.

I should mention that the caretaker reported to Don last spring that he was disheartened by the lack of interest shown in the original conception of the garden, and that he would be glad to cooperate in making a restoration if the proper seeds, plants and interest were forthcoming. Since Mrs. Lillie is an aged invalid (in Chicago all winter) and the Pastor of St. Joseph's is regularly transferred every several years, what is needed is some interested, year-round parishioner who will spearhead the stewardship of the Garden. - as you pointed out in "Lillie Tower".

Now that Ed and I appear, D.V., to be in this project on a long-term basis, and can back up the local effort with our seed procurement, etc. and love of the work, Don is going to see if he can locate such a spearhead among the permanent residents. (Although Don is happy to act as our agent and go-between, he can't give it the necessary time on a regular basis himself, as he is overburdened with other responsibilities and cares, and only gets to Falmouth once a week or so.)

The purpose of this letter is to ask your advice as to the fine points of approaching the Pastor of St. Joseph's. Did you talk to him about the garden last summer? On the basis of your knowledge of the situation, would you suggest any variations in the plan of approach outlined above? Would you - as the original spearhead of this restoration - care to contact the Pastor directly yourself?

Meanwhile our work continues in Philadelphia. Our direct mail advertising envelopes are half addressed (1,500); and my wife, Patricia, and sister, Martha, have organized another "envelope party" tomorrow afternoon to wrap it up. We've got Episcopalians, Quakers, Jews....."everybody", working for Our Lady.

Incidentally, we've settled on a 2" ad, to be run in the March and April issues of EXTENSION and in 6 weeks of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR - DENVER REGISTER. . . reaching the better part of 2,000,000 Catholics. Our advertising agency - which has over 30 nursery and seed house accounts - advises us that these two publications have given the best returns of any Catholic media on their regular nursery and seed ads.

Looking forward to hearing from you as to any ideas you may have on the restoration of the Woods Hole garden. . .

Cordially,

REV. JAMES J. GALVIN, C.S.S.R., EDITOR

February 2 1952

Mr John Stokes Jr
9503 Meadowbrook Lane
PHILADELPHIA 18 Pa.

Dear John:-



You have me in a dilemma! I don't like to let you down, but on the other hand I don't know the new Pastor at Woods Hole at all. Sincerely, I think it best that you drop him a note explaining your predicament: you've been advertising his Lillie Tower and Mary Garden, as the model Mary Garden in the USA. You're afraid people visiting the Cape will be disappointed if they find nothing but pansies and phlox in the Garden. And then your proposition to supply Lillie Garden with Mary seeds etc..

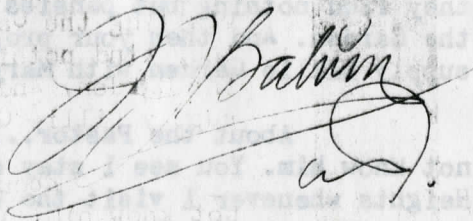
About the Pastor...I said I do not know him. You see I stay at Falmouth Heights whenever I visit the Cape, and in the course of a tour may pass thru Woods Hole for a few minutes in a summer.

Back in 1943 when I was stationed in Boston I was assigned to help out at Woods Hole on several week-ends. That was how I came by a knowledge of the tower and garden. (The pastor at the time was very interested in the project.)

Just in passing, ads for your MARY GARDENS inc should be found at Lillie Tower. The pastor might well purchase 100 sets as a start, and sell them to visitors next summer. (But don't mention that in your first letter.)

Woods Hole parish is getting national publicity through PH and your reprints...the Pastor should know about it....and do something about it. (I've contacted the PRIEST also. . . maybe their February number will carry something about Mary's Gardens.)

God prosper you all.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Bahin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

February 11, 1952

Rev. Thomas J. Stapleton, Administrator
Church of St. Joseph
Woods Hole, Mass.

Dear Reverend Father:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the February issue of PERPETUAL HELP Magazine, which features an article, "My Garden Prays", by Rev. Jame J. Calvin, C.S.S.R., Editor. This article describes a religious gardening work in which a friend, Edward A. McTague, and I have been engaged for about a year, in our spare time. This work has as its aim the restoration of the true dignity and religious sense associated with gardening in former centuries . . . as in pre-reformation England.

You will note from the article, and also from the enclosed leaflet, that we have been profoundly inspired in our work by the original idea behind the garden across the street from St. Joseph's. This idea was to plant a garden comprised of flowers which bore names honoring Our Lady in old popular English tradition . . . flowers which today are popularly known by other names.

Now that the garden of St. Joseph's is gaining public attention as the model Mary-Garden, we would like to see restored to it the "Our Lady" flowers called for in the original landscape gardener's planting scheme . . . in order that any visitors who may wish to see these varieties will not be disappointed. As we have seeds, bulbs and plants for many of these varieties available, we would be happy to send them to Woods Hole at our expense for planting in the garden . . . assuming that the cooperation of the caretaker can be obtained.

If this plan meets with your approval, Mr. Hurford will discuss it with Mr. Wheeler, with a view to working out a planting program for this spring.

As we are having 10,000 reprints made of the PERPETUAL HELP article, we would be glad to send you any number you might like to have for your parishioners, so that they will be informed of the recognition being given their parish garden.

Hoping that you find merit in our proposal, I am, Reverend Father,

Respectfully yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

Falmouth, Mass.
65 Palmer Ave., Rear
March 9, 1952

Dear John:

I have good news for you. Yesterday (Saturday) I saw Wilfrid Wheeler and after twenty minutes or so of conversation left with his agreement to cooperate with your and Ed's plan to restore the Woods Hole Mary's Garden.

An intelligent man of good-will and a professional horticulturist^{al}, Mr. Wheeler listened to my explanation of what you and Ed are doing and read your first letter to me (on the subject of restoration) with interest and attention.

In answer to the questions posed in your letter (written or rather mailed Jan. 28) he supplied the following information: He is paid (the exact amount depending on his bill) out of a fund set up by Mrs. Lillie in a Chicago bank for maintenance of the Bell Tower grounds and garden. On the average he devotes about five or six hours a week to the garden, starting in April and ending in October.

He went on to say that he tries to keep the cost of maintenance low so that there will be enough in reserve left to cover emergency restorations, as occurred twice in the hurricanes of 1938 and 1944 when the garden was wrecked by the inrush of water. "The expense is now one-half what it used to be," he mentioned at one point.

Why wasn't the garden kept up according to the original plan?

Mr. Wheeler explained this at length, in more-or-less the following terms: The original plan was, to sum up the difficulty in a nutshell, too involved (complicated) and therefore too costly to be practical.

The fact is, from the outset (you recall how on the diagram I sent you some of the flowers called for were indicated as omitted) the

architect's layout was not followed. Too many of the plants called for were annuals, with the result that the ~~garden~~ most of the garden had to be replanted every year; some of the plants, such as Bedstraw, were too coarse, and not enough consideration had been given to choosing flowers which ~~had a long season of bloom~~ would be in bloom over a period of weeks.

The first planting of any consequence, which was done in 1935, cost \$500, Mr. W. says, and to have kept up the garden anything close to the original design would have been extremely costly. So, with the concurrence of Mrs. Lillie (Mrs. Wheeler's sister, by the way), Mr. W. sent ahead with a modified version, a diagram of which was posted in the garden until the hurricane took it away in 1944 (I think it was then). Since then, fearful of costs and as a result on Mrs. Lillie's part it seems of lessening interest/in the idea embodied in the garden, there has been little or no attempt to keep faith with the original purpose.

But -- sursum corda -- since you are interested Mr. W. says he is willing to cooperate. The original plan for the garden is too impractical, too costly, but a simplified plan faithful to the Mary Garden idea could be worked out, and if you will send him a list of the flowers you have available in seed form he will choose 15 or 20 varieties from the 40, ~~and~~ map out a new scheme of arrangement, and plant the flowers accordingly this spring. His choice of flowers will be governed by what can be grown without too much difficulty and expense and by the need for having the garden present a colorful picture to visitors all summer.

Mr. W. dismissed as impractical the thought that the assistance of interested parishioners could be enlisted by having them grow plants, perhaps, and in this respect I am inclined to agree completely

as experience has taught me you can't depend on people in such matters and ~~their~~ responsibility should not be divided. No, the only sure way of accomplishing your object is through Mr. W., who has the knowledge, the facilities and who is already being paid to do some kind of a job at the spot in question. And, since Mr. W. is agreeable, what could be better! I suggest therefore that you communicate with him immediately, sending the list and thanking him for his willingness in the matter. Perhaps later, if it proves highly desirable and ~~you~~ you can manage it, you might like to come down in person and work out some of the details. I told him this was a possibility.

As for Father Stapleton, there's not much to say. "Objectively," as he phrased it, he is all in favor of the idea of restoring the garden since it is a means of honoring the B.V.M. But "practically" he has little to do with it since its maintenance is entirely outside the administration of his church. He therefore leaves it entirely up to us to work out with Mr. Wheeler whatever arrangement we can as best we may. Parenthetically, I might add that I think he could very well ~~execute~~ do a little persuasive pushing in the right direction, and effectively, seeing how he is pastor, but fundamentally he appears not to be too interested in this kind of devotion. Anyway, he is not at all antagonistic to the restoration, so we have that to be grateful for. Perhaps in time, he will even warm up to the garden a bit, who shall say otherwise.

Some of the St. Joseph's parishioners may in time come to appreciate the garden to the point of offering their services, but there's not too much they can do -- "too many cooks spoil the broth" -- and at present no one seems to care greatly. I'm slowly distributing leaflets both in Falmouth and Woods Hole and ~~expect~~ have had a half-dozen persons comment favorably on the scheme. The Enterprise will carry a story of the magazine article, impending restoration and the

garden background this week. I'm not writing it, but I shall do my best to guide its composition. I'll forward a copy for your files.

My apologies for not seeing Mr. Wheeler earlier (I saw Father S. about ~~threexxx~~ two or three weekends ago). Procrastination was involved at the outset, then later we had three heavy snow falls which piled up snow so badly that getting down to see Mr. W. in Ashumet (an outlying part of Falmouth) was impossible. The road to Ashumet is dirt and as it was I nearly got stuck in the mud when I went down yesterday. Anyway I sincerely ^{hope} the delay on my end does not prevent your getting started on the spring program in time to have the flowers for the Garden in time.

* * * * *

Congratulations to you ~~at~~ on the birth of your second son and third child. I hope he lives to become a saint.

God love you all,

Don

March 15, 1952

Mr. Wilfred Wheeler
Ashumet
Falmouth, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

I was very happy to receive a letter from Mr. Hurford this week telling of his recent conversation with you and reporting that you would give favorable consideration to restoring a larger variety of flowers with "Our Lady" names to Mrs. Lillie's Woods Hole garden if my associate, Mr. McTague, and I at MARY'S GARDENS would provide the necessary seed.

We fully realize that most of the flowers in question were given their "Our Lady" names as they grew individually in the hills and dales of England, and that they therefore present certain problems in terms of garden design and continuity of bloom. We are accordingly in complete agreement with your suggestion, as reported by Mr. Hurford, that a simplified plan faithful to the Mary-Garden idea be drawn up which will include 15 or 20 of the most appropriate varieties and will also include whatever petunias, phlox, etc. are necessary to present a colorful picture to visitors all summer. As a further thought we suggest that it might be possible to reserve several smaller bed areas where just a few of the more difficult and expensive varieties could be grown.

The enclosed Booklet which we send out with our seed packets for 12 or 25 variety "Gardens" lists those varieties to which we are calling attention this year. For your assistance in working up a garden layout, I have marked an (S) beside each variety for which we have seed, and a (P) for each variety which, according to the nurserymen we have contacted, can be purchased this year as plants. You will note that the booklet also gives information as to bloom period, etc., although I am sure that you have probably gained more knowledge of these varieties as a group through actual experience than any other one person. Mr. Hurford mentioned that you have available certain funds for the maintenance of the garden, but we would be happy to contribute up to, say, \$50.00 worth of plants, in addition to the seeds, for some of the more difficult varieties which you would not otherwise feel justified in purchasing or growing.

If it is agreeable to you to proceed with the restoration of the garden on this basis, we will be happy to immediately send you seed and place orders for plants for those varieties which you select as being suitable for including in your plans for this season.

As Mr. Hurford no doubt told you, we are receiving a most rewarding response to our articles and ads, and we are hopeful of sending out "Gardens" to the better part of 1,000 people this spring. As you will note under "Inspiration" in the front of the Booklet, we publically announce that our inspiration came from your Woods Hole garden (which I read about in an article, "Lillie Tower", by James J. Galvin, Editor, which appeared in the August, 1946 issue of PERPETUAL HELP; and which I visited briefly in the summer of 1950); and we hope that more people will now visit the garden each summer. The idea of a Mary-Garden seems to have a universal appeal, as we receive letters from adults and children; men and women; clergy, religious and laity; and Protestants, Catholics and Jews.

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Lillie myself; although I called her up on the telephone in Chicago about a year ago. At that time she mentioned that she was not certain just where her original research papers as to the 500 "Our Lady" flower names found in England was. I wonder if you have any knowledge as to the whereabouts of these papers or of the full list of names. Were they perhaps used by the landscape gardeners and horticulturalists who worked up the original Woods Hole garden plan? I note that the name, Dorothea K. Harrison, Landscape Architect, appears at the bottom of the 1935 Planting Plan which you so kindly lent to me via Mr. Hurford last year; but I have been unable to locate such a person. . . . I do have the shorter printed list of names, a copy of which Mrs. Lillie sent me after I talked to her.

I hope and expect to make a weekend trip to Falmouth and Woods Hole this summer, together with Mr. McTague. I will look forward to making your acquaintance at that time, and to discussing with you the possibility of drawing up some sort of, say, "5 year plan" for the garden.

We are very happy with this unique gardening work, and very much appreciate your willingness to work towards the restoration of a larger number of flower varieties to Mrs. Lillies garden . . . the source of our inspiration.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, and with thanks, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

cc: Mr. Hurford

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March 30 1952

Dear Mr. Stokes;

I have been unable to answer your letter mainly because of illness and a broken bone in the family.

I enjoyed your letter and the small list of plants, it is kind of you to want to do something toward restoring the original idea of the Tower garden. During the war it was impossible to get the plants and more difficult to get any help to operate on the larger scale, the same conditions as regards labor is now even more difficult, there was another thing that we found in the planting of the great variety of things, that it was much more difficult to keep the garden in color, that is ^{many} ~~many~~ of the things went by quickly and in order to keep color which seemed to be more pleasing to the visitors, we had to change the plants in many cases several times in the summer; this had something to do with the decision by Mrs Lillie to plant the garden with some thing that had color and kept the place more easily in color.

I appreciate your offer to send us \$50.00 of seeds and plants but this year even if accepted I would not know where to plant them or care for them, for we are up against the worst labor situation that we have had in years. We are going to plant the Morning Glories as we used to also Rosemary, Foxglove and several others. I hope that you will understand ~~our~~ situation we are in.

I do not know where the original papers are, Miss Harrison had them, you might get some information from her, her present address is Concord Mass. I hope to see you when you come up to Woods Hole this summer.

Again thanking you I remain Sincerely

Walter Wheeler

*Acknowledged
4/15 J.S.*

HORTICULTURE

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Daniel J. Foley

EDITOR

March 27, 1952

Mr. John S. Stokes
Mary's Gardens
901 South 47th St.
Philadelphia 43, Pa.

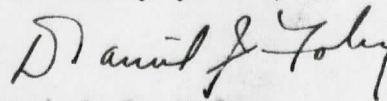
Dear Mr. Stokes:

Recently I received from Mrs. Foster Stearns of Hancock, New Hampshire a copy of the "Commonwheel" containing a story about your garden. Previously I had seen an advertisement and sent for seeds.

(AMERICA)

At the present time I am gathering together notes on the Mary Gardens of the Middle Ages, a subject in which I have been interested since my college days. Can you tell me who planted the Mary Gardens at Woods Hole, Mass. and whether or not it is still maintained? I shall also welcome any other information you may have concerning Mary Gardens in other parts of the country.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel J. Foley
Editor

DJF:LC

April 5, 1962

Mr. Daniel J. Foley, Editor
HORTICULTURE
300 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Foley:

Thank you for your valued inquiry concerning MARY'S GARDENS. My associate, Mr. Edward A. McTague, and I have had what we consider to be a wonderful response during the thirteen months of our work. The Mary Garden appeals directly to the heart, and people write to us accordingly. We are especially happy about your interest.

If you will bear with me, I will set forth our work and our hopes at some length: both for your information, and also with the thought that you could make some helpful suggestions.

First I would like to say that MARY'S GARDENS (registered under the Pennsylvania Fictitious Names Act, March 7th, 1951) is a spare time, non-commercial venture . . . a work of love. It grew out of an association between Mr. McTague and myself on a teacher-student basis at St. Joseph's College Institute of Industrial Relations, Philadelphia, where Mr. McTague was teaching a course in Postulates of Economics which I attended in the spring of 1949. I had read an article in the August, 1946, issue of PERPETUAL HELP Magazine called "Lillie Tower", which described the Mary Garden planted by Mrs. Frank R. Lillie of Chicago adjacent to St. Joseph's Church at Woods Hole, where she spent her summers. This article mentioned the fact that many hundreds of flowers and plants possessed familiar names recalling Our Lady, in the centuries old popular religious tradition of pre-reformation England. Mrs. Lillie assembled, or had assembled for her, a large listing of such names . . . obtained from English sources; and from this list some fifty varieties were selected by her horticultural advisors as being suited for use in the Woods Hole Garden, which was planted in the 30's. I mentioned this to Mr. McTague while inspecting some marigolds from his back yard garden in the fall of 1950; and it was his suggestion that "people would like to know about this". This was the real beginning of MARY'S GARDENS.

It was our thought that the Mary-Garden idea could best be publicised and spread and put into practice not by planting a garden and telling people about it, and not by another journalistic effort, but by use of present-day merchandising means. Accordingly, we undertook some horticultural research to determine whether we could get together some sort of "Garden" Package which we could publicise and sell. By January of 1951, research into the old names, conducted with the assistance of Miss Code at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Library; and investigations conducted among established gardeners such as Mrs. Edward Cheston, and Mrs. Edward Garra of the Ambler School of Horticulture convinced us that we should be able to go ahead with a 10-variety "Garden" for the 1951 season. With the help of Mr. Rex. D. Pearce, Seedsman, of Moorestown, N. J. we made a final determination of the 10 varieties, and then took steps to compose our instruction leaflet, & select a suitable prayer to complete the package. We then conducted a small scale test promotion through one-shot advertising, letter writing, word-of-mouth etc., and achieved the modest results set forth in the enclosed reprint of the feature article of the February issue of PERPETUAL HELP. Quantitatively our results were not very extraordinary (136 Gardens sold), but qualitatively they prompted us to undertake a second season. On the basis of further research into the old names, we were able to offer a 25-variety Garden this year; and also a 12-variety Garden of all annuals, or biennials-as-annuals. Also, with more time at our disposal we were able to compose the enclosed 16-page Stewardship Booklet in place of the Leaflet offered with our last year's 10-variety annuals-perennials Garden. Our promotional campaign has been geared to a national basis this year, and it includes two magazine articles (PERPETUAL HELP and AMERICA), the back cover of a religious articles wholesale house catalog (Kilner's, Phila.), 3,000 letter direct mail campaign, and six weeks of national advertising in the Catholic Press. Over 400 Gardens have been ordered to date, and we hope to approach 1,000 by the end of the season.

The calling of public notice to the "Our Lady" names of flowers, however, is not our ultimate objective; it is only a means to our broader aim of restoring the prayerful, religious sense and true dignity to gardening, which it possessed in the ages of faith. Our constant care is that the Garden lift the heart and mind to contemplation of God. We are not "in the seed business". We are not ruled by "big" sales of the Garden. And not appealing primarily to the senses, emotions or imagination - but to the intellect and heart - we are not concerned that every flower offer "unbelievable beauty and riotous color", etc.. Also, we are not concerned that a number of Our Lady's Flowers are perennials and some a bit difficult. "Our Lady's Garden" is not only for those who have a sense for our aim, but also for those who are willing to take the trouble to acquire understanding and to develop the practical habits of the arts-crafts of horticulture. Those who want to "play", or to throw some seeds in a few scratches in some clay can buy their zinnias and petunias from the corner super-market. We recommend to our "customers" the Parable of the Sower.

Our seeds are procured from the various growers in this country and Europe via. Mr. Pearce in bulk quantities, and we package them in kraft packets by means of semi-automatic filling and sealing devices of our own design and construction. The quantities of fill have been determined on the basis of Mr. Pearce's standard packet fills. A survey of eight of the largest commercial seed houses disclosed that one had as many as 15 of the 30 varieties for which we have seed, and the rest had lesser numbers of varieties, down to a minimum of 9. The commercial seed house quantities of fill varied greatly, and most were in excess of the Pearce quantities.

As a basis for answering inquiries from our customers, and also for our own instruction, we have made and are making sowings of seed under various conditions - window flats, cold frames, garden beds; garden soil, loam-humous-sand, vermiculite; etc. on which we keep careful logs.

In general, we have given ourselves three years to become established: last year we were testing, this year we are introducing; and next year we hope to be established. Another one of our aims is a 30-year program to get Catholics, who of course mostly live in the large cities, to garden. But our project is not parochial in its conception. It's bearing on Catholics is obvious, but it also has a broader historical interest in terms of the medieval monastery gardens etc.. However, our most fertile soil for the immediate present is among Catholics, and our gardens are pouring out to Religious, Clergy, Housewives, Children, etc.. There are endless possibilities of garden clubs, flower shows (how joyous it would be to see a Mary Garden in the midst of the Boston, New York & Philadelphia flower shows some year), publications, competitions, flowers of the Saints, etc., etc..

Our most pressing problem for next year is along the lines of Mary Garden planting plans and design. The technical problems of research, procurement, packaging, promotion, composition and garden tending this year . . . on a spare-time basis (and with Mr. McTague out of the picture in the hospital for the past month) has seriously limited ~~our~~ endeavors along these lines. And here is where I hope you may be able to give us some guidance: if not technically, at least to suitable persons who might aid us.

As a group, the Flowers of Our Lady which we have been able to authenticate and procure present certain serious limitations from the viewpoint of harmonious design and continuity of bloom. They assumedly mostly acquired their names as they were considered individually in the wild state in hill and dale, and were not selected as a group for formal planting arrangement. This circumstance suggests two lines of thought: 1) the best possible layout using Our Lady's Flowers exclusively (based on more complete research, which will increase the number of varieties); and 2) a layout incorporating Our Lady's Flowers against a background or within a pattern of other suitable varieties.

The experience of Mrs. Lillie's garden is pertinent here. (Mrs. Lillie is now a very old woman and an invalide. I telephoned her long distance at her home in Chicago last spring for clues as to the whereabouts of her original research. She did not know where it was, although I'm still on its trail. She sent me a shorter printed list of some fifty varieties, most of which were uncovered by my own

independent research, and are listed in the Stewardship Booklet enclosed with this letter.) Mrs. Lillie employed a landscape gardener to make her original garden layout, and a planting was made accordingly about 1935. However, it was necessary to change many of the plants several times a summer to retain an "attractive, colorful appearance" all summer long; and after the planting was largely destroyed by a Cape Cod hurricane in the forties, restoration was made on a petunia, phlox basis, which was the status of the planting when I visited the garden briefly during August of 1950. (My visit was nevertheless a deep inspiration, as the statue of Our Lady still remained the central theme to which the beds were subordinated; and there is also an old medieval bell tower to the right of the garden which has been excellently executed). I have since been in contact with the pastor ("administrator") of St. Joseph's Church, the caretaker and others through a personal friend on the staff of the Falmouth weekly ENTERPRISE . . . offering to give them seeds and plants and to work out a several years' plan of restoration along the lines of the original conception behind the garden. To date I've had little success (other than to have five or six of the easier varieties restored) . . . the main objection being on the part of the caretaker, with respect to the "trouble" involved in making and maintaining such a restoration.

Actually, what it comes to, in my opinion, is this: Mrs. Lillie had the idea, but had to depend on others to execute it (due to her fairly advanced age, even at the time the original planting was made). She employed a landscape gardener for design, a sculptor for art work, and a horticulturalist (and relative by marriage) for maintenance. In addition to this, she was absent from Woods Hole every winter due to her residence in Chicago, and also, probably, part of every summer through travel, etc.. What has been missing, as Father Galvin pointed out in his 1946 article about the garden, is a "loving caretaker" of the type no doubt found in the monastery Mary-Gardens. Just from my own first approximations, I have faith that all the problems set forth above will melt away before the loving caretaker . . . in Woods Hole or anywhere else. (Just give me another year or so in my own back yard).

You can see from the foregoing, Mr. Foley, why we would be so happy to receive your letter which discloses, in addition to your horticultural stature, an interest in the medieval Mary-Garden since your college days. We would be most grateful if you could help us in this matter of Mary-Garden design; and it occurs to us that out of our work an interesting article might develop for HORTICULTURE . . . written by, say, you or Miss Tegtmeier. (At this point I can't help but go on record as saying what a joy your December, 1951, issue brought to Mr. McTague and myself: your remarks on "Peace in a Garden"; Miss Tegtmeier's "Plants Make it Christmas"; the articles on Rosemary and the Christmas Rose; and the mention of an old prayer on the cover of one of the garden club yearbooks. Two thoughts here: our MARY'S GARDEN motto might be, "Plants Make it Christendom"; and, we wrote the Garden Club mentioned and were interested that by coincidence they had selected for use on their cover the same prayer we included in Our Lady's Garden.

Another of our weak points is the very question of research as to the nature of the medieval Mary-Garden. The secular sources available to us in the local libraries are highly selective and, I suspect, prejudicial in their portrayal of medieval gardening . . . disclosing little of the love, devotion and meaning associated with it. From them

one would receive the erroneous impression: 1) that the gardens were tended by monks who, although they somehow preserved a modicum of horticultural technique, were illiterate and in ignorance of inductive science, and therefore had little to offer which would be of value to modern man; and 2) that the medieval herbals were written by formalistic "copiest" monks who progressively corrupted the "pure" ancient Roman and Greek herbals until their contents had little correspondence to what was growing in the gardens and fields. This sad state of affairs was supposedly finally remedied by the naturalistic spirit of the Renaissance, Arab science, etc. which prompted men: a) to turn to the uncorrupted classical sources; and b) to take a new look at the plants themselves.

While there is undoubtedly some truth to the foregoing, there obviously is a much more sublime truth about both the technical and devotional aspects of medieval gardening which is entirely missed. We would be most appreciative of any clues you could give us along these lines also. No doubt you've been able to pick up a great deal more information since your college days than we have in one year. I wrote to Mrs. Foster Stearns on this last matter, incidentally. She gave me some very valuable little gems, but not the broad, comprehensive sort of material I hope exists.

So . . . here is our whole proposition wide-open for your examination. If you would be interested in looking into the Woods Hole situation, I would be glad to arrange for my friend in Falmouth to introduce you to the caretaker at the garden or at his home. Whether it is possible to "move in" on this garden, I don't know. It's somewhat of a delicate matter due to the family relationship between the caretaker and Mrs. Lillie. (Mrs. Lillie "gave him permission" etc. to settle for petunias and phlox). In any case, you'd probably want to see it; and I can send you a photostatic copy of the original layout. (I have a photostatic negative, and will get positive made for you next week).

I hope you haven't been sunk by the weight of this letter; but I wanted to give you the whole picture.

Thanks again for your letter. I hope something comes of this correspondence, and I'm sure it will. Just putting all this down in writing has done something for me.

With best wishes to you, in which Mr. McTague joins me, I am,
for MARY'S GARDENS,

Sincerely yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

April 5, 1952

Miss Dorothea K. Harrison, Landscape Architect
Concord, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Harrison:

re: Garden of Our Lady, Comm. No. 23.

For the past year a friend, Edward A. McTague, and I have been engaged in a religious gardening project, MARY'S GARDENS, which received its initial inspiration from the idea behind Mrs. Lillie's garden at Woods Hole . . . as described in a magazine article: "Lillie Tower", by Rev. James J. Galvin, C.S.S.R., Editor, PERPETUAL HELP, August, 1946.

The enclosed booklet, prayer, seed packet and reprints set forth the nature of the project and our first year's experience. Thus year we are moving ahead on a much larger scale. MARY'S GARDENS, incidentally, is a spare-time, non-commercial, work.

In response to our mail inquiry, Mr. Wilfred Wheeler, Lillie Garden caretaker lent us your plans for the 1935 revised planting plan (No. 2); and just this week he gave us your address in Concord.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether you have or know the whereabouts of a copy of the original list of some 600 flowers and names compiled by and for Mrs. Lillie from English sources, which was used as a basis for selecting the varieties finally included in your planting plan. I made a similar request of Mrs. Lillie by telephone from Philadelphia last spring, but she informed me that due to her advanced age, etc. she had lost track of this list . . . although she did send me several copies of the shorter list of 100 or so names, - a good number of which are also included in your plan.

The importance of the larger list to our project is evident, as we have not been in a position to go to English sources as Mrs. Lillie did. If you have or can gain access to a copy of it, we would gladly stand the expense or fee of having another copy made from it - together with any notes as to sources, etc. - for our files. If you do not have or know the whereabouts of this list, we would appreciate receiving from you any "leads" as to its possible whereabouts or any suggestions as to how it could be reconstructed.

You are no doubt informed of the fact that the original garden planting was washed away by one of the Cape Cod hurricanes in the early '40's, and that restoration was made largely on a petunia and phlox basis. Mr. Wheeler has advised me that the original idea behind the garden was allowed to slip back into oblivion for a combination of reasons: viz., difficulty in obtaining seed and plants for some of the rarer varieties during the war; interest in a pleasing appearance and continuity of bloom, with a minimum of maintenance, rather than in execution of the original conception; higher labor cost of maintaining the rarer varieties; etc.. However, he has agreed, as a result of our interest, to restore five or six of the easier-to-grow varieties this spring.

It is our hope that we can locate someone in the Falmouth-Woods Hole area who would be interested in supplementing Mr. Wheeler's work on a "loving caretaker" basis, so that over a period of several years a larger number of the original varieties could be restored . . . while still including other supplementary varieties, as needed, for decorative background.

For our part, we are endeavoring to interest various competent persons to help us in drawing up some smaller planting plans incorporating the varieties listed in our Stewardship Booklet. In any printed materials which we make available on this aspect of our MARY'S GARDENS, we will of course give credit and thanks to you in connection with your plan for Mrs. Lillie's garden . . . just as we have acknowledged Mrs. Lillie's garden itself as the source of our inspiration, in the the page of our present booklet marked "Inspiration".

We would be most deeply appreciative if you could extend us the favor of an early reply in regard to the foregoing; and we would of course also be interested in any information of a general sort you could give us about "Lillie Garden". For MARY'S GARDENS, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

Mr. John S. Stokes, Jr.
901 South 47th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

April 10, 1952.

Dear Mr. Stokes:

This is in answer to your letter of April 5 inquiring further about the garden which I designed for Mrs. Frank R. Lillie, the Garden of Our Lady at St. Joseph's Church, Woods Hole, Mass.

Mrs. Lillie originally commissioned me to design this garden in 1933 and I worked over it for five years. It was to be a setting for the sculpture of Our Lady by V.M.S. Hannell. Mrs. Lillie had been collecting some religious names of plants and wanted to use such plants in the garden. I might add that Mrs. Lillie was primarily interested in the names and was not really a gardener herself. I think that is shown by the fact that in her garden lists she insisted on using what she called "familiar names" opposite the religious names of the plants to explain them instead of the Latin names.

Now as you probably know there is nothing more uncertain than the common names of plants, they vary as to locality and time. As a matter of fact the religious names of plants are just another common name given to plants. Many of these have not gone out of use such as Lady Fern, St. John's Wort, Lady's Tresses, Star-of-Bethlehem, Jerusalem Cross, etc. *Madonna Lily*.

Then Mrs. Lillie had a friend, Mrs. Alfred Emerson, 5554 Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, who was working on a book "Religious Symbolism in Plants". I saw this work in manuscript and out of the whole lot of names got only 31 plants that were useful for the garden. I do not know whether it was ever published. *Only 20 names for Our Lady*

In addition I did some reading on my own and added names that I knew of. For instance I see that you put down *Aconitum napellus*, Mary's Slipper. I do not know where you found that name but a friend of mine who had travelled in Canada said that the French Canadians called the blue and white variety *Aconitum napellus bicolor* Mary's Slippers.

Where did you get the figure 600 names of plants? I am sure ^{of} that there might have been that many named for Mary in all, but the religious names, that Mrs. Emerson had covered all types of religious names such as plants named for saints Saint George's Herb, St. Bruno Lily (this latter now in common use).

To go back to Mrs. Lillie and the garden. At first she wanted as many different plants as possible used although I told her that many were very insignificant looking and were just roadside weeds or possibly used as medical herbs and would not look like much in the garden. Also that someone that knew a great deal about plants and loved them would have to take care of it so that one would not crowd the other out. Well the first plan had some forty different

plants in it. Then Mrs. Lillie realized that it could not be kept up so easily and I made a simplified plan which you saw, the 1935 version. One of the nice effects was a simple wood arch (made by slanting off the corners of a rectangle and planting one side with a "Heavenly Blue Morning-glory, which the Mexicans call the Mantle of Our Lady, because it is blue and white, I suppose, and the other side with Virgin's Bower, Clematis virginiana).

I had rather hoped that it would be possible to get the ladies' guild of the church, I am sure every church has one, to take care of the garden but I did not succeed in so doing. Father McClellan, who was the pastor there when the garden was built and interested in horticulture, died not long after it was made.

Just last week I heard from Miss Jean Tucker of the Catholic Free Press in Worcester that you and a friend of yours had seen the garden and had started this Mary's Gardens movement. I am interested that you received the idea from the Woods Hole Garden and I hope that you will not mind if I ask you a question and give you a friendly word of warning.

How much do you know about gardening? Have you an extensive knowledge of plants? If you do send around names of plants and seeds all over the country and world I would suggest that you stick to good garden flowers and avoid those that might be pestiferous weeds. I should think that you might get some help from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in checking over the list or they would know who could. The thing that brought this to mind was your inclusion of Our Lady's Thistle, *Silybum marianum*. I had that on the first garden plan but not on the one for 1935 and I do not know that we ever planted it. I see that it is used as food in Europe like the cardoon and also that it has escaped in California. Now I should think that might be a weed if it escaped in irrigated land along the irrigation ditches but I don't know.

Thank you for sending me the printed matter about the Mary's Gardens. One thing I would like to correct. The religious names of the plants used were not all English and we did not get all the plants from England. I believe we used a few packets of Sutton's seeds one year. This was all, no plants came from there. This is in correction of a statement in My Garden Prays in the paragraph starting "John Stokes.....". Also many of these religious names especially the mediaeval ones might have been very local, there were few people that read and no garden magazines. All these names are by no means mediaeval for instance Assumption Lily, *Hosta plantaginea*. That is a plant that was introduced from eastern Asia either in the end of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th. I just happened to know the common name Assumption Lily for it and added it to the list. I haven't an idea where I first heard it. That is the fascination about these names. That name probably came about because it is often in bloom around Assumption Day.

Here is a suggestion rather than relying entirely on all the old names many of which cover weeds why not pick out the best garden plants. Then when you send out your garden packets ask the recipients to send back any religious names of plants that they know of in that

From these lists

way I should think that you might find many names that never get into print.

In closing I would like to add that Mrs. Lillie was interested in encouraging good religious art by contemporary artists and that this garden was designed to provide a setting for such a piece of sculpture. This sculpture of Our Lady was designed for concrete and so made that it would shed the rain and so stand the winter's frosts. I always felt it had a true religious feeling and so was good art as well.

Besides the sources mentioned above I consulted various books most of which were written in the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries when there was a great interest in England especially in mediaeval times and folklore. I list them below.

THISTLETON*DYER, T.F. The Folk-lore of plants. London 1889, Chatto-Windus. Ch. XIX Sacred Plants.

FRIEND, THE REVEREND HILDERID, F.L.S. Flowers & Flower Lore. London, 1886, Swan, Sonnenschein, LeBas & Lowrey. Ch. III The Virgins's Bower.

FLOWER LORE, The Teachings of flowers, historical, legendary, poetical & symbolical. Belfast, McCaw, Stevens & Orr, Linenhall Works. No Author given, purchased by the Mass. Horticultural Society in 1879. Ch. I Sacred plants of the monks.

FOLKARD, RICHARD, Plant lore, legends, and lyrics, embracing the myths, traditions, superstitions & folk-lore of the plantkingdom. London, Sampson Low, Marston & Co. 2nd ed. 1892.

SKINNER, CHAS. M., Myths & legends of flowers, trees, fruits, & Plants Lippincott 1925.

FORSTER T. THE perennial calendar and companion to the almanac, London 1824. One or more saints for every day & appropriate flower.

Rohde, Eleanor Sinclair, Gardencraft in the Bible and other essays. London 1927, Herbert Jenkins, LTD.

BRENCHLEY, WINIFRED E., Weeds of farmland, London 1920, Longmans, Green. Ch. XIII Popular and local names of weeds.

It was only possible to glean a few plants here and there that were useful for the garden. Then there are the duplications Lady's Slipper being used for a number of plants as well as Lady's Tresses. I would always pick out the plant that would really grow easily in the garden as you wish to reach many and not only the trained horticulturist.

I think you have chosen quite well in the lists for the Stewardship pamphlet. It might be helpful to make out a list for a dry sunny place, and for a shady place.

Perhaps some of these suggestions will prove helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy F. Harrison

P.S. This letter is getting rather long but I wish to add that I appreciate that you plan to give credit to me and Mrs. Lillie in any connection with my plan.

One more source of names in current use are variety names of plants. When I planted it originally I put in several roses. One was a modern hybrid tea called Innocence, which I believe a single white. Then two old-fashioned roses which were carried by Bobbink and Atkins, East Rutherford, New Jersey, Rosa centifolia Vierge de Clery, and Rosa gallica Rosa Mundi.

I still am puzzled about this list of 600 names of flowers which you say was compiled by and for Mrs. Lillie from English sources. Who told you about that? Mrs. Emerson's list was quite lengthy as I remember it but it had all kinds of religious names not only those in connection with Mary. I picked out twenty names from her list in connection with Mary and 31 in all that were useable. Melissa officinalis has several names it is known as Sweet Mary, Costmary and the Pubitans, who brought it to New England, called it Bible leaf because it made such a good bookmark. DKH

Apr. 7th - your letter was dated April 5th, postmarked
this airmail - I received it on the 10th so am sending

May 15, 1952

Miss Dorothea K. Harrison
77 Main Street
Concord, Mass.

Dear Miss Harrison:

Since last writing you I have exchanged two letters with Mr. Emerson, in Chicago, with the result that he has agreed to try to find time to look through Mrs. Emerson's research papers, which are stored in his attic, for some clues as to the more complete list of flower names referred to at the bottom of Mrs. Lillie's shorter printed list.

I have also written again to Mrs. Lillie, asking if someone in her household might be able to locate her lists, correspondence files, etc. on the subject.

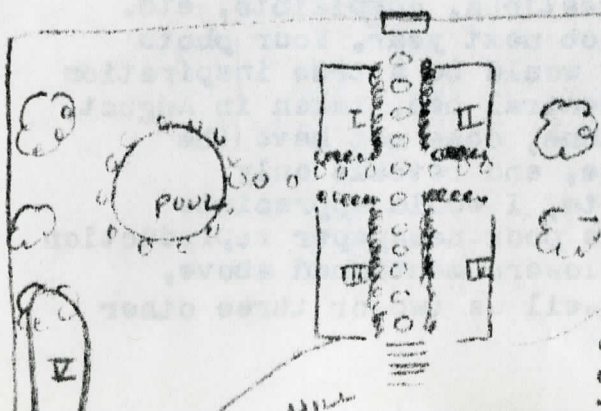
If we have any success, we'll let you know.

Also, since writing you, we have received copies of Miss Jean Tucker's article, which we liked very much, although we notice that the Father Galvin "myth" of flowers imported from England is perpetuated. We especially rejoiced over the excellent photo of the central bed and statue which was reproduced with the article. As Miss Tucker informs us that the original photo was lent to her by you, I am writing if it would be possible for us to borrow this same photo for use in a mid-season mailing we are sending out to our list of 1,000 or so "Mary-Gardeners". This mailing would consist of a reprint of another article on our project, "Be A Mary-Gardener" by Frank Nieset, on one side of an 11"x14" sheet, and a message from us on the other side, including your garden photo, with credits, and a request that photos, sketches, ideas, suggestions, complaints, etc. be sent to us so that we can do a better job next year. Your photo of the statue and the central bed planting would be a true inspiration to all Mary-Gardeners. (Our photo of the central bed, taken in August, 1950, shows up the statue in much darker tone, does not have the Virgin's Bower - Our Lady's Mantle trellice, and reveals only petunias and phlox.) If you send us the photo, I would appreciate your identifying the blooms shown. From the poor newspaper reproduction I believe I recognize, in addition to the flowers mentioned above, Iris, Tradescantia, Madonna Lily . . . as well as two or three other indistinct varieties.

Another thought which comes to our minds is this: Would you be interested in writing up Mrs. Lillie's project from a technical, horticultural, landscape architecture viewpoint? (Or perhaps you already have.) In the five years you spent on the project you must have gained great experience in connection with bloom color, season and duration; sun-shade, soil and moisture requirements etc. of the various varieties which would be interesting and helpful to others. Also, even to the established horticulturalist, I would think that the problem of using flowers selected on the basis of their historical names and symbolisms, etc. as the materials to be incorporated in a harmonious design and layout would present an interesting challenge.

There are a number of possible uses for such an article, ranging all the way from submitting it to a magazine such as HORTICULTURE, to publication in the Catholic Press, to mimeographing for distribution by us. Mr. Daniel F. Foley, Editor of HORTICULTURE, is one of our "customers", and some time ago he wrote us telling of his interest in the medieval Mary's Gardens "since his college days" and asking for complete information about Mrs. Lillie's garden and our project. (I am sending him a copy of Miss Tucker's article this week). We would be happy to read over any draft you might prepare of such an article and make suggestions, etc., if you wished.

From my own two year's back yard experience with some sixty varieties I have accumulated and am accumulating a wealth of carefully recorded data as to bloom period, etc. as well as to germination; and already I can see various devices for obtaining continuity of bloom without any changing of plants in mid season. I have in mind building the basic design around the long bloomers, and then having separate beds which bloom more or less in succession, such that at any given time, in addition to the historical interest in the plants, there is an over-all pleasing appearance and also several individual beds which are more or less completely in bloom. In my garden, for example, the primary axis (leading from steps from the house to a garden seat with arbor) and the secondary axis (leading from a yard area to a round pool) are both flagstone paths forming a cross. The arms of the cross are bordered by 2 ft. high English Boxwood which in turn are the borders for two sides each of four beds. The boxwood is high enough so that as you walk around the cross you only see one bed at a time, but always in relation to the pool, which is kept in color all season. (There is also another long bed to the side of the cross opposite the yard area). In other words you don't see the entire garden all at once, but piecemeal and gradually as you enter and walk through. And of course the route by which you walk through with visitors is varied to give best attention to whatever is in bloom.



If it is agreeable to you to lend us the photo, we would appreciate your sending it to us at an early date so that we can get under way with our mid-season mailing piece. Thanks again for the information you have given us. For MARY'S GARLENS, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

Bell Tower Has Garden Dedicated To Virgin Mary

Beside Woods Hole's familiar bell tower on Millfield street is a small statue of St. Margaret, patron saint of gardens.

St. Margaret looks down upon a distinctive and beautiful garden, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. On a quiet summer day the benches adjoining the garden are a source of delight for year-round and summer residents alike. Over the trimmed hedge of Rosa Rugosa can be seen the smooth water of Eel pond and within the garden itself are blue and white patterns

formed by flowers planted by Wilfrid Wheeler of Ashumet.

This garden, believed to be the first in the United States dedicated to Mary, is maintained by a fund given by Mrs. Frank R. Lillie, also donor of the bell tower.

It was made after the centuries-old fashion of pre-Reformation England. In those days more than 500 flowers bore names honoring the Virgin Mary.

First Full Planting

First full planting of the garden, built on marshland owned by St. Joseph's church, was in 1936. Flowers used were those bearing Catholic names—Lady-smock, Mary-gold, Rosemary,

Lady Slipper. It was designed in the shape of a cross, marked off by small stones. At the center of the crucifix is a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Along the street side of the garden was a magnificent box hedge grown on a Virginia estate. Background cedar, pine and privet enclosed the garden.

It was costly and difficult to preserve the Mary's garden. Most of the plants were annuals and had to be replanted each year. Some were not able to grow satisfactorily in the soil. Many of the flowers bloomed only for short periods each year.

When the 1938 hurricane swept through the garden, depositing a boat and boathouse against the bell tower, the garden was devastated. The box hedge was destroyed and was later replaced by yew.

During the war years it was

decided to simplify the garden, planting flowers which would preserve the beauty but reduce the cost and care necessary.

Petunias, marigolds and ageratum were planted. These flowers, more hardy and less costly, have been growing in the garden since then, tended by Mr. Wheeler. The expense is about half what it used to be.

Recently, two Philadelphians heard of the Woods Hole garden and began a project to plant Mary gardens all over the country, using the original religious names. They now hope to provide, at their own expense, seeds, bulbs and plants for restoration of the Woods Hole garden to its original planting.

June 28, 1962

Miss Dorothea K. Harrison
77 Main Street
Concord, Mass.

Dear Miss Harrison:

Thanks very much for your note of the 24th, which I especially appreciate in view of your labor troubles and recent illness. I hope that you are now feeling better, and that with the spring planting season behind you the pressure for labor will let up.

Despite the aforementioned circumstances, I am writing to tell you of a visit Mr. McTague and I plan to make to Cape Cod and Boston on the weekend of July 12th and 13th. The immediate, practical purpose of the trip is to visit Lillie Garden, to become acquainted with Father Stapleton, Administrator of St. Joseph's, and to see what we may be able to do to get Mr. Wheeler (who also has labor problems) to begin some sort of restoration of the Garden according to your plan.

However, we hope that we may also extend the trip so that we may be able to visit you, Mr. Foley, Mrs. Foster Stearns (Ed. THE HERBARIST) and Father Galvin (who gave us our first good publicity) while we are in the Massachusetts area. We expect to spend Saturday night (July 12th) at Nahant and could drop by Concord late Sunday morning or early Sunday afternoon if you could give us an hour of your time. Or, better still, if you are in the Woods Hole area on Saturday the 11th we could meet at Lillie Garden. We expect to be at the Garden in the morning, then invite any of our friends who may be able to come to join us for luncheon, and then return to the Garden in the afternoon.

After so much correspondence, we sincerely hope we can meet face-to-face with those intimately associated with or interested in Mrs. Lillie's garden or MARY'S GARDENS. And we especially hope that we can become better acquainted with you. In view of the pressure under which you have been operating, we realize that it's probably out of the question for us to even mention Woods Hole; but if by any chance you want to communicate with me at the last minute, I can be reached on Friday the 11th c/o Mr. Don Hurford, 65 Palmer Ave., rear, Falmouth, Mass..

Sincerely,

P.S. - I am also writing Mrs. Foster,

July 3, 1952

Mr. John S. Stokes, Jr.

The Photographs of
Our Lady's Garden
Woods Hole, Mass

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Here are three enlargements of the garden in Woods Hole with dates as bases. I thought the glossy one would be most useful for reproduction but the one Miss Treiber used was the August 1935. I was shocked to see that they smeared it up with red crayon but that I suppose is the luxury of newspaper work.

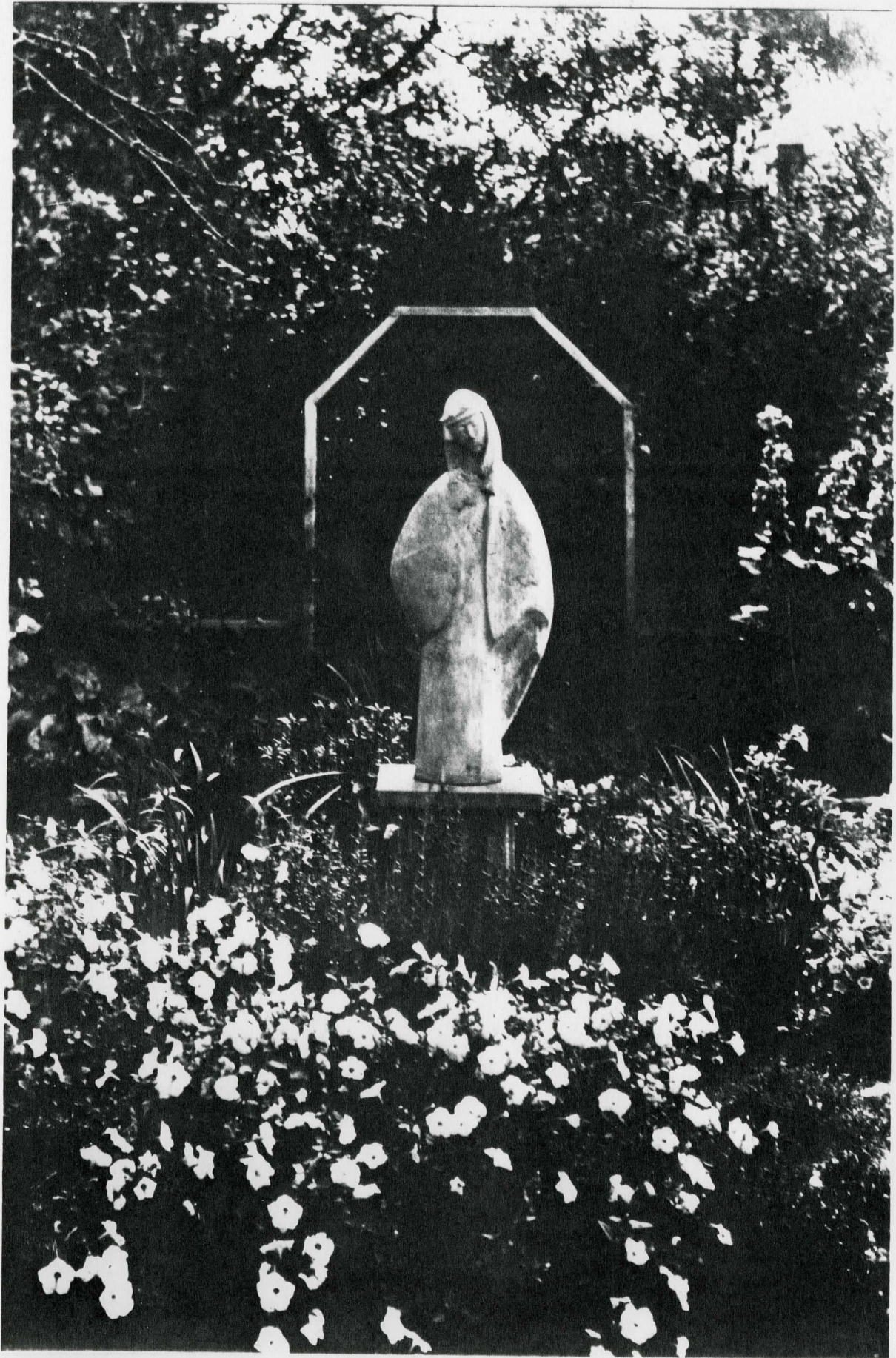
I would like these three returned & not mailed up. If I can I thought it might be worth while to have glossy enlargements made of the June '37 & Aug. '35 when I return to Concord after the weekend & will send or give them to you when you come to Massachusetts.

I would like to meet you & come to Woods Hole if it is possible on Sat. the 12th but shall have to see how my plans work out. These plates not the best prints in the world but thought they would give you an id.

Member of American Society of Landscape Architects

Sincerely - Dorothea K. Harrison

August 1935



June 28, 1962

Mr. Daniel J. Foley, Editor
HORTICULTURE
300 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Foley:

On the weekend of July 12th and 13th Mr. McTague and I plant to be in Woods Hole and Boston for the purpose of visiting Mrs. Lillie's Mary-Garden and making the acquaintance of several people in the Massachusetts area who have been intimately associated with or interested in Mrs. Lillie's Garden.

On Saturday the 12th we will be in Woods Hole attending to the practical tasks of our trip: namely, seeing what steps can be taken to restore to Mrs. Lillie's garden the Flowers of Our Lady called for in Miss Harrison's original planting plan. Sunday morning and early afternoon we will be in the Boston area making several visits.

I am writing to ask if there is any chance that we could pay you a brief visit on Sunday, if you are in the Boston area at that time. Or, better still, if you are in the Woods Hole area on Saturday, perhaps we could meet you at the Garden, and could have you as our guest at luncheon.

We are writing a number of people of our plans, including Mrs. Foster Stearns; Miss Harrison; Miss Tucker (who wrote the Worcester, CATHOLIC FREE PRESS article I sent you); Mr. Wheeler (Garden caretaker, and Mrs. Lillie's brother-in-law); and Father Stapleton (Administrator of St. Joseph's Church in Woods Hole). We are also writing to several Catholic editors who have done so much for us: Father Galvin of PERPETUAL HELP; Father Gardiner of AMERICA; and Father Sheerin of THE CATHOLIC WORLD. How many, if any, of these people can meet us in Woods Hole we of course can't tell on such short notice; but we're making the trip anyway for the purpose mentioned above, and we just can't get the vision out of our minds of how nice it would be if some or all of those mentioned above could meet at the garden.

May I hear from you? I can be reached Friday night, July 11th, c/o Mr. Don Hurford, 65 Palmer Ave. (rear), Falmouth, Mass.

Cordially,

June 29, 1952

Mr. Wilfred Wheeler
Ashumet Farm
R.F.D. 1
Falmouth, Mass.

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

On Saturday, July 12th, my MARY'S GARDENS associate, Mr. McTague, and I plan to visit Mrs. Lillie's Garden (which Mr. McTague has never seen).

Mr. McTague and I would be most happy if you could meet us at the Garden in the morning and join us for luncheon, so that we can make your personal acquaintance and learn first hand about the history of the Garden, which has been the inspiration for our work. Also, while recognizing the existence of labor problems and the difficult cultural characteristics of some of the flowers called for in the original plan, we would like to discuss too the possibility of restoring more of the additional varieties over the next few years.

We are writing Mr. Hurford, Miss Harrison and Father Stapleton of our planned visit . . . and also a half dozen religious and gardening magazine editors who have been interested in our work. On such short notice probably few, if any, of them can join us at the Garden on Saturday the 12th; but we have written them just in case they happen to be near to Woods Hole on that date.

The main purpose of our trip remains to see the Garden and to meet you. We sincerely hope you will be able to give us some of your time on the 12th. May we hear from you? (Incidentally, if you should wish to communicate with us at the last moment, you could send us a message c/o Mr. Hurford at the ENTERPRISE or at his home, 65 Palmer Ave., rear, Falmouth . . . where we expect to call after supper on Friday, July 11th.)

Cordially,

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July 3 1952

Dear Mr. Stokes;

Your letter received for which I thank you.

I will be able to meet you at the garden late in the morning, but as for luncheon I am not sure at this time as Saturday is a bad day for me in some ways, I will however hope to be able to do so.

I doubt if any of the others can come at this time for unless they are staying in Falmouth the travel on Saturday is bad.

I am not at all sure just what Mrs Lillie has planned for the future of the garden, but I hope to see her soon and will ask her more about it, I have a feeling that she wants it kept much as it now is .

Looking forward to seeing you I am

Very Sincerely,

Wilfrid Wheeler
Wilfrid Wheeler

June 29, 1962

Rev. Thomas J. Stapleton, Administrator
Church of St. Joseph
Woods Hole, Mass.

Dear Reverend Father:

On Saturday, July 11th, Mr. McTague and I plan to visit Woods Hole to see Mrs. Lillie's garden across the street from St. Joseph's . . . the inspiration for MARY'S GARDENS.

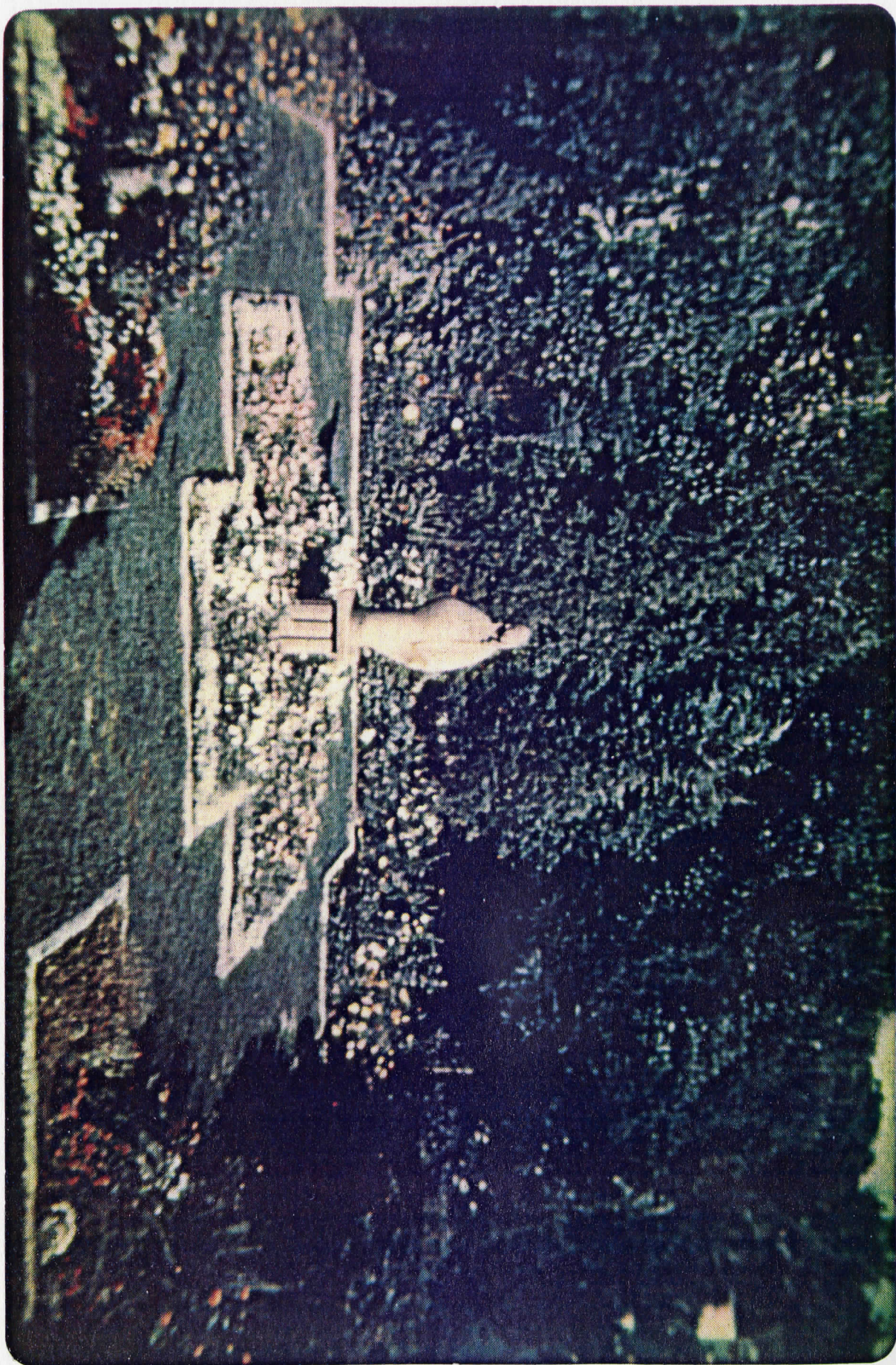
We are writing Mr. Wheeler, with whom we have exchanged several letters this spring, informing him of our planned visit, and we hope he will be able to meet us at the garden Saturday morning to discuss the history of the Garden and the possibility of restoring a larger number of the Flowers of Our Lady called for in the original landscape architect's planting plan.

We of course are looking forward to making your acquaintance at this time, and, if it would be convenient, we would be happy to have you, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Hurford as our guests at luncheon on Saturday.

On the chance that some of our friends who have been intimately connected with or interested in Mrs. Lillie's garden and/or MARY'S GARDENS might be in the Boston - Cape Cod area on the 12th, we have written a number of them telling ~~you~~ of our plans and asking them to join us also. Among these are Father Galvin (PERPETUAL HELP), Father Gardiner (AMERICA), Father Sheerin (CATHOLIC WORLD), Mr. Daniel Foley (HORTICULTURE), Mrs. Foster Stearns (THE HERBARIST), Miss Jean Tucker (Worcester CATHOLIC FREE PRESS) . . . and also Miss Harrison, the landscape architect who worked out the original garden plans for Mrs. Lillie. On such short notice, and summer plans being what they are, we of course can't tell how many, if any, of these people can join us. As stated above, the immediate purpose of the trip is to visit you, Mr. Wheeler and the garden. If some of the others can join us, so much the better.

We sincerely hope that you will be in Woods Hole on Saturday the 12th. May we hear from you? (Incidentally, a last minute communication will reach me c/o Mr. Hurford, 65 Palmer Ave., rear, Falmouth).

Respectfully yours,



1952, July
Wheeler/Dar Planting

Selected entries on July 12, 1952 meeting in Woods Hole of Edward A. G. McTague and John S. Stokes Jr. with Rev. Thomas J. Stapleton, Wilfred Wheeler, Dorothea K. Harrison, Francis Goffin and others

Mrs. Lillie used to sit in the Garden, reading and telling any visitors the story of the Tower and the flowers.

Mr. Wheeler personally directed the building of the Tower. The land was formerly a dump, but after it was acquired by the Church it was filled in. It was necessary for Mr. Wheeler's men to dig down 25 feet to reach solid ground for the foundation, and happily at that depth they struck several very large boulders on which they were able to anchor the foundations. That their "house was built on a rock" has been evidenced by its withstanding of two hurricanes. The stones of which the Tower was constructed were "pink" granite, mined from local quarries. Mr. Wheeler personally selected many of the pieces for color and texture - from the quarries, and from previously cut pieces from old and demolished buildings.

During "the" hurricane (1938) a 50 to 60 ton boat was washed up on the Garden, and a boat house was "wrapped" around the Tower. The original Virginia-box hedge was destroyed. The central statue was untouched, but the smaller one of St. Catherine, although firmly grounded in concrete, was partially knocked over. The St. Catherine statue was the gift of another Woods Hole resident.

The caretaker of the Bell mechanism (who sets it once a week) painted the gate, 4 chairs, wood parts of the chapel door and window frames "park bench" green . . . thereby hiding the natural cedar texture . . . much to the horror of Miss Harrison, who personally knew and commissioned the craftsman who constructed the chairs and gate. Miss Harrison's unusual gate design was "to let the people look in, and yet keep the dogs out."

As we were talking in the Garden, people came and went with complete ease and naturalness, as we saw them. Father Stapleton expressed astonishment at the number of people who stop their cars for a visit to the Tower and Garden during the summer months.

Mr. Wheeler stated that nothing would distress Mrs. Lillie more than to have the Garden commercially exploited. Also, he was concerned about certain errors appearing in our publicity about the large number of varieties of flowers in the Garden and their identification by their religious names (this despite the fact that he had fallen from the whole idea behind the Garden to a partial, horticultural view: of a pleasing appearance, minus Our Lady's Flowers, minus the list of names and story behind them. Viz., he is protecting from abuse by us what he has already permitted to die from neglect, and is concerned that we have been tireless in endeavoring to learn the truth about the Garden from Mrs. Lillie, Mr. Emerson, Miss Harrison, Father Stapleton . . . and him.)

. . . Actually, out of gratitude and appreciation, we have acknowledged our debt to Mrs. Lillie . . . even though from a purely legal viewpoint she has no patent, trade mark or legal right to the idea. Our problem is . . . can we continue even giving acknowledgement if her Garden isn't fixed up . . . thereby running the risk of disappointing our inquirers who may visit it?

What did Mrs. Lillie write? (She had a secretary). Miss Harrison reported she published an illustrated book on religious art.

From several statements made, it appeared that \$500 to \$600 per year is available for the maintenance of the Garden, although at Mrs. Lillie's request only about half of this is now spent - the balance being saved for any future restoration which may be necessitated by new floods.

Mrs. Francis Goffin, year-round resident of Woods Hole, who lives next to the Rectory and across the street from the Tower and Garden was introduced to Ed McTague and myself by Father Stapleton, and in her parlor she told us the following:

In

In 1938 there was a big hurricane and flood. 13 people were drowned. She showed us photos of the boat and boat house washed up onto the Garden and Tower.

In 1949 there was a lesser flood.

Mr. Wheeler had to plant three weeping willows, after the 1938 flood, before achieving a successful restoration.

Mr. Lillie, Mr. Frank R. Crane and others underwent conversions to the Catholic Church, in which the Tower and Garden were instrumental. Mrs. Lillie was mindful of her husband, as well as of the MBL scientists generally. They hear the bells, see the Tower, admire the hedge, read the books, learn about flower names . . .

For each child Mrs. Lillie had, she adopted one. She constructed a little shrine for one of the adopted children who died. Also, she established a widow's assistance fund in Chicago, to aid widows in keeping their families together.

Was a Mrs. Star, an intimate friend and Catholic from Chicago, instrumental in Mrs. Lillie's conversion?

Many of the original books of the Tower - a powerful attraction because of their caliber and, often, rarity - were destroyed or damaged by the 1938 hurricane. Mrs. Goffin and others salvaged what they could and sent them back to Mrs. Lillie in Chicago for rebinding. (Father Stapleton has now assumed charge of the books.)

Mrs. Lillie's husband was a death-bed conversion . . . and he, as Director of the Marine Biological Laboratories, was the special aim of the Tower, Garden, Hedge, Books, Bells, etc. . . . hence one reason (the other being proximity to St. Joseph's Church) why the Tower & Garden were built a) on a dump, b) exposed to the weather, etc., visible from Dr. Lillie's MBL office window across Eel Pond.

Mrs. Goffin reported overhearing a conversation between Mrs. Lillie and an archbishop in the Garden, during which Mrs. Lillie stated that she couldn't understand why everyone didn't become a Catholic; whereupon the Archbishop reminded her that conversion was brought about by the Holy Spirit, and that "where he listeth, knowbody knoweth."

Father Stapleton said that "Mrs. Lillie wouldn't think of permitting a contribution box to be placed in the Tower." Also: "The Bishop of Fall River admitted to me that even he didn't know with certainty who owned the Bell Tower property."

No ads for Mary's Garden to be placed in the Garden, but literature to be available at the Rectory.

Father Stapleton (after seeing some color slides we showed him and Mrs. Goffin): "I've been living across from this Garden for two years, but this is the first time anyone made it clear what it was about."

Mrs. Goffin: "I'm sure Mrs. Lillie meant everything you said" (in showing the slides, and presenting Mary-Gardening as a prayerful work).

Clearly the aim of Mrs. Lillie through the Tower, Garden and Books extended beyond the 75 year-round parishioners of St. Joseph's . . . to all residents, workers and visitors in Woods Hole, and in Cape Cod generally. But, this aim would not be shared by Mr. Wheeler and the bank which is trustee for the maintenance fund she established.

"Christmas trees" are cut and placed in line on the Eel Pond side of the ewe hedge for winter protection.

Mr. Wheeler has done heroic work - (but for a purpose other than Mrs. Lillie's)

Visit to Mr. Wheeler's Home and Nursery:

While we had previously understood that Mr. Wheeler was a landscape gardener who was caretaker of the Garden, he showed us and told us that he was also a farmer and a nurseryman . . . but way more than this, a distinguished horticulturalist and a former Massachusetts Agricultural Commissioner; former Boston Flower Show Committee Member and Chairman for several years; a specialist in holly - developing strains hardy in New England and yet bearing red fruit (berries) in time for Christmas (propagated by cuttings and "leaf roots"); and a long time intimate of leading horticulturalists on the East Coast. Moreover, he was also Mrs. Lillie's Brother-in-law, being married to her sister. In addition to this he was a builder and an authority on the Cape Cod Bungalow; and had landscaped many of the more prominent estates on Cape Cod. Also, he was a planter of state roads, and a bird lover.

He easily sensed how we could have become confused about his relationship with Mrs. Lillie, transcending that of Garden "caretaker".

We showed him the memo of our February, 1951, phone call to Mrs. Lillie, in which we set forth our Mary-Garden project, and received her blessing.

Miss Harrison is to work out a revised, simplified planting plan (vs. #1 and #2) restoring a number of varieties, as compared with the 1952 planting. This is to be modified and/or approved by Mr. Wheeler and put into effect in the Garden with a minimum of bother to Mrs. Lillie.

Regarding Mr. Wheeler's concern to avoid our "exploitation" of Mrs. Lillie's Garden:

- a) The flower names are not Mrs. Lillie's, but part of our religious heritage.
- b) How can we exploit something which doesn't exist (a Mary Garden with Mary-Flowers)?
- c) And if we were building up ourselves, we would do it, say, in Philadelphia and New York . . . we certainly wouldn't have to drive all the way to Woods Hole.
- d) If in fact we were using or exploiting them, Woods Hole would be the last place we would want to make an appearance.
- e) Actually, we are expressing gratitude and thanks to Mrs. Lillie; and it is out of appreciation of her original concept and vision of the Garden, and the inspiration we received from it, that we wish to see it restored.

Mr. Wheeler went all the way to Virginia to obtain the original box hedge for the street side of the Garden . . . bringing it back in three "cars".

He lamented over the present-day contractors who fail to utilize existing trees, etc. on the plots where they build houses . . . but who instead level the entire plot with a bulldozer and even remove and sell all the top soil. Whenever he contracted to build a house, he insisted on contracting for the landscaping also.

Regarding Mary's Gardens of Philadelphia, Mr. Wheeler stated: "Anything which gets people interested in gardening does so much for them."

Mr. Wheeler suggested the possibility of additional beds on each side of the grass plot between the Tower and Garden - viz. adjacent to the hedges.

Mr. Wheeler ~~and Miss~~ and Miss Harrison both counseled against seeing Mrs. Lillie, because of her ill health, poor memory, unpredictability, etc.. They would take care of things. Also, she has been depressed since the death of her husband five years ago.

Copy of Longhand Letter

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

Sorry we were detained so long in Falmouth-Woods Hole this afternoon that we missed you.

Thank you for your time. We are made to realize your long devotion to the Tower and Garden.

We are glad that you and Miss Harrison will consider the possibilities of working out a simple plan for including additional Mary Flowers in the Garden.

We want to thank you for telling us of your work to introduce a St. Mary and St. Ann holly. We do hope that you will be able to send us specimens.

Sincerely,

(John S. Stokes Jr.)

(Edward A. G. McTague)

July 12th
5:30 P.M.

Note: Mr. Wheeler returned to his home just as we were leaving this letter for him, and he spent with us and showed us his nursery for an hour or so.

J. S.

July 16, 1952

Miss Dorothea K. Harrison
77 Main Street
Concord, Mass.

Dear Miss Harrison:

It was indeed a pleasure for Mr. McTague and myself to make your acquaintance on Saturday. We wish to thank you for arranging to be in Woods Hole at the time of our visit.

Saturday afternoon we returned to the Garden to take additional photos, etc., and were favored with another hour or so of Father Stapleton's time. He introduced us to a Mrs. Francis Goffin, who lives in the white house next door to the rectory, and has lived there since before the Tower was built. She reminisced for an hour or so about Mrs. Lillie and the Garden - from the viewpoint of one of the town people; giving us many little gems of information. She also showed us photos of the Tower and Garden taken after the 1938 "flood", which helped us appreciate Mr. Wheeler's heroic work of restoration.

Late in the afternoon we visited Mr. Wheeler's farm, where he told us more about the Tower and Garden and showed us his holly. We were most happy to clear up our misunderstanding as to Mr. Wheeler's status as "caretaker". We had no inkling of his distinguished position in the horticultural and agricultural worlds.

As for the Garden itself, we rejoice over your offer to work out a simplified planting plan, which will be more faithful to Mrs. Lillie's original idea behind the Garden and yet practicable in terms of the present maintenance budget etc.. We rejoice both because of our deepened fondness for the garden itself and the personality behind it, and because we can continue to publically acknowledge it as the occasion of our Mary's Gardens inspiration with assurance that anyone visiting it to see some Flowers of Our Lady will not be disappointed in that respect.

We will of course be eager to see a copy of the plan you and Mr. Wheeler agree upon. Also, if you could obtain, at your convenience, a photostat of the original Planting Plan #1 which you showed us, we would appreciate having one to round out our historical information about the Garden.

As we mentioned on Saturday, we would be happy to offer assistance in layout, typography and printing of the new plan and list of names to be displayed in the Garden. Following your suggestions and sketches, we could have the work done by our own people; and proofs could then be sent to you and Mr. Wheeler for approval or revision.

Thanks again for joining us at Woods Hole. We hope we may see you again at the Garden in future years.

Sincerely yours,

July 16, 1952

Mr. Daniel J. Foley, Editor
HORTICULTURE
300 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Foley:

Mr. McTague and I regret that we did not get in touch with you during our Mary Garden trip last weekend. Regrettably your letter of the 7th - although mailed in ample time - was not delivered to us before we left Phila. at noon on the 10th. Hence we mistakenly assumed you were away on vacation.

We hope to meet you at some future time.

Our visit to Woods Hole was a most interesting and happy one. The big surprise for us was to learn that Mr. Wilfred Wheeler, who had been identified for us as the Lillie Garden "caretaker", was in fact, as you know, a distinguished horticulturalist . . . having served as Massachusetts Agricultural Commissioner and as member and chairman of one of the Boston Flower Show committees, as well as being a specialist in Holly, etc., etc..

Despite the fact that the Garden contains few Mary Flowers, Mr. Wheeler's work for it has approached the heroic: including not only the original Bell Tower construction and Garden layout, but also two Garden restorations following the 1938 and 1944 hurricanes and floods. The disappearance of the Mary Flowers from the Garden in favor of others is accounted for by the flood damage, the necessity of simplifying the Garden to reduce maintenance costs (as a means of paying for past and future restorations), and the inability of Mrs. Lillie - now eighty-two years old - to take an active interest in the original idea of using Mary Flowers in the Garden.

At our meeting in the Garden on Saturday morning, Miss Harrison offered to work out over the weekend a new, simplified planting plan which would restore a larger number of Mary Flowers to the Garden (Mr. Wheeler restored six this spring in cooperation with our suggestion). She was then to meet with Mr. Wheeler Monday morning to go over it with him and to decide upon a definite program for next year. Mr. Wheeler, incidentally, is Mrs. Lillie's brother-in-law, and Miss Harrison is a Lillie family friend.

Although we were not able to meet Mrs. Lillie, her presence was felt by us at every turn. One of the year-round Woods Hole residents, Mrs. Francis Goffin - to whom we were introduced by Father Stapleton, Administrator of St. Joseph's Church, and who lives next to the rectory and directly across from the Tower and Garden - told us how Mrs. Lillie used to sit in the Garden to tell the story of the Tower and Mary Flowers to visitors. These visitors were attracted in the first place by the sight of the Tower, the sound of the two bells ("Mendel" and "Pasteur", which ring out the Angelus), the beauty of the Virginia Box hedge (since destroyed and replaced with a yew hedge - also beautiful), the uniqueness of the Garden and Tower statuary and decoration, or the rarity of the religious books in the reading room at the base of the Tower (many of which were destroyed by flood). In her conception the Tower and Garden were a means especially directed toward the restoration and strengthening of a religious sense in the lives of the scientific workers at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories, from which the Tower is conspicuously visible, and of which Mr. Lillie was the former director.

Our trip began with a visit to the herb garden and the Unicorn Tapestries at The Cloisters in N.Y.C.. We were most interested in the plan of the garden . . . incorporating as it does a large number of small beds in which the herbs are given excellent display as individual plants, as well as parts of an over-all harmonious design. The garden contained some 25 Mary Flowers from our list. Also, it was instructive to us to see and read of the botanical accuracy with which the over one hundred flowers portrayed in the tapestries have been represented . . . in contrast to the inaccuracies of many contemporary 15th & 16th century herbals.

Our last stop on the Cape was a visit to Mr. Wheeler's home and nursery, where he told us of his work with holly, and especially of the two new strains he is introducing nationally . . . "St. Mary's" and "St. Ann's". It was indeed a joy to make his acquaintance.

We were indeed happy to learn from Mrs. Stearns (who was unable to join us) that you are working on a Mary Garden subject for THE HERBARIST. We hope your presentation will prompt people to take action on the Mary Garden idea in their own gardens.

Again may we express our regrets at having missed meeting you. We do hope you will visit Lillie Tower and Garden this summer, and learn its history first-hand from Mr. Wheeler.

Sincerely yours,

July 17, 1952

Dear Father Stapleton:

It was indeed a pleasure for Mr. McTague and myself to make your acquaintance last Saturday. We wish to thank you for your time, your hospitality and your interest in our work with Our Lady's Flowers.

We are most happy over the outcome of our talks with Miss Harrison and Mr. Wheeler, namely their agreement to work out a new Garden planting plan for next year which will restore a larger number of Mary-Flowers, according to Mrs. Lillie's original conception, but which will also fall within the limits of the funds available to Mr. Wheeler. Also, a new "sign" is to be posted in the Garden, telling the story of the Mary-Flowers.

It is our hope that this sign will also encourage visitors to go from Garden to Church (from prayer to prayer, from "sacramental" to Sacrament), - although it is not clear at the moment just how this can be worked out. As agreed, we will send on to you in a few days a set of magazine and newspaper articles which show the national interest created in the Mary-Flower idea as a result of the impetus of the Woods Hole Garden.

After we concluded our enjoyable and instructive visit with Mrs. Goffin, we visited Mr. Wheeler at his farm and nursery. When we departed we felt that we were now friends and that we had attained a unity of purpose and action with respect to the Garden.

In other words, our trip was a most enjoyable and successful one, and again may we thank you for your audience and assistance.

Respectfully yours,

July 17, 1962

Goffin

Mrs. Francis Cofflin
Millfield Street
Woods Hole, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Cofflin,

Mr. McTague and I wish to thank you for your hospitality last Saturday afternoon. It was indeed a pleasure to meet you and to hear all the interesting stories you told us about Mrs. Lillie's Tower and Garden . . . and about Mrs. Lillie herself.

We are sending you under separate cover "Our Lady's Garden" . . . the package of seeds which we have gotten together to interest people in growing Our Lady's Flowers and in undertaking gardening as a prayerful work. It is of course late in the season for sowing seeds, but we are sending them to you anyway to show what we have been able to do after learning of Our Lady's Flowers from Mrs. Lillie's Garden.

If any of your friends and neighbors would be interested in having copies of the article reprint, "My Garden Prays" by Father Galvin, we would be happy to send you a quantity of copies. You will recall our mentioning Father Galvin's 1946 article in PERPETUAL HELP as first calling our attention to Lillie Garden.

Again, please accept our thanks; and we hope to see you during our return visits to the Garden in future years.

Sincerely yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

July 21, 1952

Dear Don:

Many thanks for your contribution to our recent Woods Hole weekend, which, needless to say was a most happy one for us.

After we left you Saturday, we were most warmly received by Mr. Wheeler. at his home. Apparently he had reached a favorable decision in his own mind during the afternoon. Anyway, it was all peaches and cream, and I think it could now be said that we are friends. Two things seemed to please him particularly as we talked on this new basis: the fact that we were acquainted with and had received MARY'S GARDENS assistance from several top flight horticulturalists for whom he had a profound regard (the horticulturist of the Morris Arboretum across the street from my house, for example, has a complete set of Mr. Wheeler's new holly strains which he is testing in the Philadelphia climate); and the fact that we were promoting a new means of interesting people in gardening generally. It was mutually regarded as quite understandable, and in fact quite humorous, that we had mistakenly regarded him as "caretaker" and that he had held us suspect as "exploiters". He had a good laugh over Ed's report of how he rose from a) "caretaker" to b) "farmer" to c) "nurseryman" to d) distinguished horticulturalist, who has done almost heroic work for the Bell Tower and Garden (albeit missing the significance of the Mary-Flowers).

July 28, 1952

Dear Father Galvin:

Ed and I regretted that you were unable to be with us at Woods Hole last weekend . . . especially as the outcome of our visit was a most happy one.

On the way up from Phila. we visited the herb garden and "Unicorn Tapestries" at The Cloisters in New York. We were much interested in the plan of this garden . . . which incorporates a number of small beds in which the plants are given ample individual display, but which nevertheless contribute to a harmonious over-all design. The garden contained some 25 Mary-Flowers from our list (albeit mostly under other names). Also, it was instructive to us to read of the botanical accuracy with which the over 100 flowers in the tapestries have been represented . . . in contrast to many of the herbals of the same early 16th century period.

After a sunrise visit to Lillie Tower and Garden, at which time we heard the Tower bells ring out the Angelus, we attended Mass at St. Joseph's. Then after breakfast we returned to the Garden where, by appointment, we met Miss Harrison (designer of the garden 19 years ago); Father Stapleton, and Wilfred Wheeler, Garden "caretaker". The big surprise for us was to learn that Mr. Wheeler was in fact a distinguished horticulturalist . . . having served as Massachusetts Agricultural Commissioner and as member and Chairman of the Boston Flower Show Committee, as well as being a specialist in Holly, of which he is introducing nationally two species which produce red berries in time for Christmas, (which he has named "St. Mary's" and "St. Ann's" Hollies (note: this might be an interesting fill for your December issue next winter. I'll write it up for you. Although Mr. Wheeler is an Episcopalian, he is evidently devoted to St. Mary, and although he has not done too well by her flowers in the Garden, he has nevertheless done heroic work for the Tower and Garden as such.) Late Saturday afternoon we were Mr. Wheeler's guests at his home and nursery in Ashumet (N. Falmouth), where he told us more about the Tower and Garden, and gave us some Holly specimens. He is a most fine and distinguished man, and it was indeed a joy to make his acquaintance.

Miss Harrison and Mr. Wheeler were able to give us a good picture of the history of the Tower and Garden. Also some gems of information were given to us by a Mrs. Francis Goffin - to whom we were introduced by Father Stapleton, who lives next door to the Rectory, and who said she remembered you. According to Mrs. Goffin, in Mrs. Lillie's con-

ception, the Bell Tower and Garden were a means directed not only at reminding the MBL scientists of the existence of God, but also particularly directed at the conversion of her husband, Mr. Lillie, who was at the time Director of the MBL. Mr. Lillie became a Catholic before his death, and was given a Catholic burial etc..

Mrs. Lillie used to sit long hours in the Garden, telling visitors the story of the Tower and of the Mary-Flowers. She attracted people to her by means of her web of bells, tower, hedge, books, art and flowers. Other good works reported of Mrs. Lillie were the adoption of a child for each of her four own; the establishment of a fund in Chicago for the assistance of widows with families; the sponsoring of impoverished Catholic artists; etc.. Although we have not met her, we consider that we already know her very intimately from her works.

The Tower was constructed of "pink" granite from local quarries, personally selected and matched by Mr. Wheeler, who supervised the construction of the Tower for Mrs. Lillie. (Mrs. Wheeler is Mr. Lillie's sister) To assure a firm foundation he dug down 25 feet and anchored it in rock. The solidity of the Tower was proven when it successfully withstood the 1938 hurricane and flood . . . which deposited a 50 to 60 ton boat on the Garden and "wrapped" a boat house around the Tower (which we saw in photos in Mrs. Goffin's album). After this storm and also after another almost as severe in 1944 Mr. Wheeler heroically cleaned up the grounds and restored the Garden planting.

The disappearance of the Mary Flowers from the Garden in favor of others is accounted for by the storm damage, the necessity of simplifying the Garden to reduce maintenance costs (as a means of paying for past and future restorations) and the inability of Mrs. Lillie (now 82) to take an active interest in the original idea of growing Mary-Flowers in the Garden. Thus, while Mr. Wheeler has done a wonderful job horticulturally in giving a pleasing garden appearance, circumstances and the absence of the Idea have relegated the Mary Flowers to oblivion.

However, at our meeting in the Garden on Saturday morning, Miss Harrison offered to work out over the weekend a new, simplified planting plan which would restore a larger number of Mary Flowers to the Garden next year. She was then to meet with Mr. Wheeler at his nursery on Monday morning to go over it with him and to decide upon a definite program for next year. Incidentally, Mr. Wheeler had restored some six varieties of Our Lady's Flowers this year in cooperation with our request. Also, I should mention that the books are again back in the Tower. They fall under the responsibility of the Administrator of St. Joseph's, Father Stapleton, who also put them back for the summer as a consequence of our interest.

Father Stapleton, incidentally, was most friendly and cooperative; and after we showed our (growing) collection of Mary-Garden color slides to him, Miss Harrison and others on our projector and screen in the Rectory parlor, he reported: "I've been living across the street from this garden for two years, but this is the first time anybody made it clear to me what it was all about". I should also mention that part of the restoration program for next year is the posting of a sign or plaque telling the story of the Garden and listing the flower names.

In an indirect way our visit to the Garden is bringing us closer to the alleged list of 500 Mary-Flowers (which I last reported to you as being wholly or partly in the attic of a Mr. Emerson in Chicago).

Having previously sent Mr. Emerson a copy of the Worcester, Mass. CATHOLIC FREE PRESS, which gave his late wife credit for the research in flower names behind the Garden; I then wrote him again about our trip . . . telling him of the plans for the Garden restoration, and also enclosing a copy of the (enclosed) clipping on the Garden restoration run in the FALMOUTH ENTERPRISE. The last elicited a warm note concluding: "It is a pleasure to know that the work my wife put into this project is not lost and that it has born such fruits". Soon I will write him again telling him that Mr. Daniel Foley, Editor of HORTICULTURE (which as you know is the oldest and most distinguished horticultural magazine in the U.S.) is working on an article on a Mary-Garden subject and that he has written us asking for complete information on the Woods Hole Garden, and on the Mary-Garden subject generally. I will point out that with this sort of interest among horticulturalists (as well as religious interest) his wife's work may very easily bear many more fruits . . . if he will make the necessary trip to the attic. It is also our hope that the new Garden sign at Woods Hole will give credit to Mrs. Emerson.

Toesum up, perhaps the most important aspect of our trip was the personal friendship established between us and Mr. Wheeler and Miss Harrison (who have been in on the Garden from the start, and who more or less have the power to make it or break it, regardless of the wishes of the Administrator of St. Joseph's). I think, judging by the warm reception we were given by Mr. Wheeler at his home, that we were able to demonstrate that our's was a work of love, and that - far from wishing somehow to "exploit" Mrs. Lillie's Garden for base ends - our interest in the Garden was one of expressing gratitude, appreciation and credit where they were due. Fortunately also I had in my files which I brought along the notes I had made after my phone call to Mrs. Lillie in Chicago made in February 1951 in which I had asked and received her blessing for our project. . . showing that we had given proper attention to due procedure. Also, he was happy to be recognized by us as other than "caretaker". As Ed said to him, he had progressed in our estimation from a) "caretaker" to b) "farmer", to c) "nurseryman", to d) distinguished elder horticulturalist. Also, other things came up such as his warm regard for our seedsman, his old friendship with Dan Foley, his work with Mr. Skinner . . . Director of the Morris Arboretum, across the street from my home, who has specimens of Mr. Wheeler's Holly etc., etc..

Finally it should be reported that Our Lady favored us with perfect weather for the trip, and we now have excellent color slides of the Garden for use in our lectures this winter and spring. And to show you in one more way how our providential blessings continue to pour forth: a Mr. Irwin, who was formerly chief accountant for the late Mr. Dreer, of Dreer's seed house, has joined the firm with which I employed, and is pouring out all sorts of helpful information about seeds and gardening.

Sincerely,

P.S. I am writing your subscription department for a copy of your Dec. '51 issue containing "Christmas Greenery" - for Mr. Wheeler.