

June 4, 1953

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

As the several pieces of literature which we sent you this spring have indicated, Mr. McTague and I were able to continue with the offering of the idea and means for sowing and tending Gardens of Our Lady this year.

While the number of people undertaking such gardens is not yet proportionate to the journalistic acclaim received by Mary's Gardens, this number is steadily increasing . . . both in this country and abroad. Full length articles appeared this season in the CATHOLIC ART QUARTERLY, CATHOLIC DIGEST* (translated into seven languages and braille), COLUMBIA*, CATHOLIC WORLD, ~~and~~ CATHOLIC MIND* and the HERBARIST (Dan Foley's article) in this country, and in the IRISH ECCLESIASTICAL RECORD* and NOVENA* (English) . . . reaching several millions of readers. As the articles in all the publications marked with an asterisk ~~and~~ made mention of the Woods Hole garden as the source of our inspiration (as does our booklet), we continue to be hopeful that the Tower and Garden will become better known and visited, and that the Church will be moved properly to undertake their care at such time as this responsibility falls in its hands.

We have not heard from Miss Harrisson whether or not she was able to work out with you a further simplified restoration of the original Flowers of Our Lady to the Garden; but we hope continued progress will be made this year . . . so as not to disappoint any visitors. We are of course mindful of the difficulties involved.

As my sister, Mrs. John Price, and her family plan to spend the month of August in Cotuit, I hope to be able to pay a double visit to her and to Woods Hole, with my wife. I hope we shall have the opportunity of seeing you and Mr. Hurford at that time. I hope, too, that Mrs. Wheeler is feeling better than at this time last year.

Sincerely yours,

Horticultural Service
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June 9 1953

Dear Mr. Stokes;

I never heard from Miss Harrison about any changes in the garden and so planted it this year about as it was last year altho I have added a few of the old flowers that were there originally.

The plants in the garden are all doing well and if we have a normal season I am sure that any visitors will be pleased with it. It seems to me that you will run into the same trouble that we did after trying to keep to the Flowers of the Bible in the garden, namely that there is not enough color to carry thru the summer and also that there is a lot of work to keep many of the varieties looking well, that is they bloom quickly and then either the leaves look badly or in some cases the entire plant dies and has to be replaced, it would seem to me that some non-Bible plants should be combined with the garden so that people will not get discouraged and not try it again.

Our help problem is as bad as ever and we are struggling on with just about one half that we should have.

We had a good winter here and while the weather was mild it rained a lot and the weather in the spring has been cold and wet up to this time, when we are ^{now} so dry that it begins to look like last summer, not the best for plants.

Mrs. Wheeler is a lot better and I hope that she will be able to get out more. Thanking you I remain

Very sincerely,

Clara Wheeler

*shall be glad to see
you in August*

Perpetual Help
America
Falmouth Enterprise
Benedictine Review
Catholic Art Quarterly
Horticulture
Irish Ecclesiastical Record (rep)
Columbia
Catholic World
Catholic Mind
Novena

July 1, 1953

Rev. Thomas J. Stapleton, Administrator
St. Joseph's Church
Millfield Street
Woods Hole, Mass.

Dear Father Stapleton:

Mr. McTague and I are happy to report that with the assistance of friends, and especially the Catholic press, the work of Mary's Gardens has continued to grow since we visited with you last summer. Full length articles appeared in the Catholic Art Quarterly, Catholic Digest, Columbia, Catholic World and Catholic Mind, among others; and also in the Irish Ecclesiastical Record and Novena (British). Seed sales were up about three times from 1952.

Somehow in the midst of our various tasks we never got off to you the set of representative articles etc. which we promised last year. We are now finally sending them off under separate cover, so that you can have them in the rectory or make any other use you want to of them.

Enclosed herewith are copies of the article reprints "Gardening for Our Lady" and "Honoring Mary with God's Artistry"; also of our blue coupon. We have these available for quantity distribution without charge, in case you or perhaps one of your parishioners could use a quantity of them. We recall our discussion with you and Mr. Wheeler and Miss Harrison in which it seemed prudent not to have any leaflets in the tower room at present, but if another set of articles such as the one we are sending you could be so used, just give us the word, and we'll pull another one together.

Mr. Wheeler wrote us recently that he has restored a few more of the Mary flowers of popular tradition to the garden this year, but that Miss Harrison was not able to proceed with the more extensive plan and restoration of the notice about the flowers etc. which she proposed at our meeting last summer.

Mr. McTague and I hope that one or both of us can visit Woods Hole in August; and if we can we will certainly look forward to renewing our acquaintance with you at that time.

Respectfully yours,

July 3, 1953

Dear Mr. Foley,

On the assumption that you won't be able to get to Phila. this summer, as you wrote you might, I'm dropping you a line to mention that my wife and I have arranged to visit with my sister in Cotuit during the third week in August, and to suggest that perhaps you could arrange to visit the Woods Hole garden etc. and Mr. Wheeler with us.

During recent weeks we have been doing quite a bit of work with a set of $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ colored lantern slides we have been developing. It was recently suggested to us that while the slides show quite well the Flowers of Our Lady and various garden shots etc., we should endeavor to develop some photos which would have the type of "earthiness" and "guts" which would move those who have not previously done any gardening to want to rush out and get their hands into the soil etc.. Something which would give a sense of the soil and work, as well as of beauty and devotion. Something which would move people to get out into their back yard, rather than just say, "Oh, how beautiful!"

Perhaps with your lecturing experience and editorial experience combined you could make some suggestions along these lines. Do you know, for example, of any good large color illustrations or photos of seeds sprouting and of roots growing into the ground . . . perhaps in successive stages? (We noted with interest the article "The Time-lapse Movie" on p. 82 of the July 6, TIME. We saw the work Ott did for Disney's "Nature's Half Acre". This is the sort of thing we are looking for. In fact, I'm getting a letter off to Ott.)

Another thought. Looking ahead to next year, we are considering the possibility that we might be able to get an article of some sort in one of the secular magazines such as House and Garden. If you have any suggestions as to authors, editor contacts etc., or other ideas, we'd appreciate having them. We have in mind a combination of the Woods Hole shrine and the Mary Garden work. (We wrote an article along these lines recently for the religious press, which we are endeavoring to get published.)

I hope we finally get to see you this summer.

Sincerely yours,

July 15, 1953

Dear Miss Harrison,

As the several pieces of literature we have sent you from time to time during the past months have indicated, Mr. McTague and I have been able to continue with our Mary's Gardens work in the year since we had the pleasure of meeting you in Woods Hole last July.

Mr. Wheeler wrote us a few weeks back that he has restored a few more of the old flower varieties to the Garden of Our Lady this spring, but that you and he were not able to get together to work out a revised and simplified planting plan along the lines proposed last summer. We of course can appreciate the obstacles of time, travel and prior obligations which may have prevented this.

If it appears that you will not be able to pursue this matter of the revised plan, I wonder if you would have any objections if we were to go into this question in a little more detail with Mr. Wheeler ourselves. My wife and I plan to visit with my sister in Cotuit the week of August 16th, which will give me an opportunity to spend a little more time with Mr. Wheeler. If you happen to be in the area at the time, I hope I will see you again. I can be reached c/o Price, the Wesson House, Cotuit.

Mr. Daniel Foley, of HORTICULTURE, hopes to meet me in Woods Hole to see the Tower and Garden. You probably saw his article, "Mary Gardens", in this year's THE HERBARIIST.

Hoping this finds you well, and with best wishes for the summer, in which Mr. McTague joins me, I am,

Sincerely yours,

HORTICULTURE

PUBLISHED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT

300 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS, KENMORE 6-9280

Daniel J. Foley
EDITOR

July 8, 1953

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

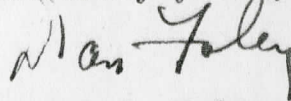
Dear Mr. Stokes:

Thank you for your letter of July 3. I am remiss indeed for not having sent you the reprints on the Mary Gardens. These are going forward to you under separate cover today.

I shall be most happy to discuss your ideas when you come to Cotuit in August. It is really difficult at the moment to answer you adequately since we are shortly going into color and the pressure of my duties are such that I cannot give adequate time to my correspondence at the moment. However, the best way to accomplish what you want is to trash it out in conversation. Believe me, I am looking forward to meeting you.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Daniel J. Foley
Editor

DJF:lc

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300 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS, KENMORE 6-9280

Daniel J. Foley
EDITOR

July 21, 1953

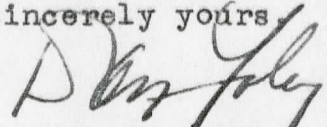
Mr. John S. Stokes Jr.
901 South Forty-Seventh Street
Philadelphia 43, Pennsylvania

Dear John Stokes:

Thank you for your letter of July 19. I am happy to know that you were pleased with the reprints. I am sure that we can arranged to have additional copies made by offset if you need them. Usually the printer holds the type for a few months but I will be glad to do what I can to help you in this matter.

Thank you for giving me your summer address in Cotuit. I am planning to visit you because I am most anxious to talk with you. With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Daniel J. Foley
EDITOR

DJF:dm

July 21, 1963

Editor
The BOSTON SUNDAY POST
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

We have just now received a letter from a friend visiting Woods Hole, Mass., informing us that an article is being written by a young woman on the subject of the Angelus Tower and Garden of Our Lady, St. Joseph's Church, Woods Hole, . . . for publication in several weeks in an edition of the SUNDAY POST.

Enclosed is an article manuscript on the same subject which we are sending you in the thought that it might contain some background or interpretive material which would be helpful to your writer, if her article has not yet been written.

As we at Mary's Gardens are engaged in a non-profit, religious work, we are happy to offer this material to you gratuitously for any use you may see fit . . . including publication in whole or in part. If your use of it is limited to source material, we would appreciate it, however, if you would return it to us after it has served its purpose, in order that we may proceed with our original plan of seeking publication in the religious press.

For the added assistance of your writer we are also enclosing some printed materials on our work, which received its impetus from the Woods Hole garden, which your writer may keep for her files. Included in these materials is a reprint of an article by Daniel J. Foley, Editor of HORTICULTURE magazine, Horticultural Hall, 300 Hundred Massachusetts Avenue, Boston.

Very truly yours,

MARY'S GARDENS

John S. Stokes Jr.

ESTABLISHED 1831

The Boston Post

Telephone
Lafayette 3-7900

259 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON 6, MASS.

SUNDAY DEPARTMENT
JULY 23, 1953

Dear John Stokes:

Your material has come to us unfortunately too late for any of it to be usable in the story on the Woods Hole Garden which I have already written and which already has been set, though it's not slated to appear in our magazine for about three weeks, I guess.

I would have liked to see your material for the names of the flowers and the information about the bell tower. Though I went to Mrs. Lillie's home and talked to her daughter, I did not find out exactly all the information I would have liked. I wrote my story with what I had, for we cannot spend overly long on newspaper pieces.

However, I'd like to tell you that the identifications to which you refer in your story are missing in the garden. Not only have the varieties of flowers been reduced, but there's no way of identifying what's there. The pastor of the church did say you planned to get up identifications this summer there, and I hope you do, especially since Mrs. Lillie is no longer able to do anything about her garden and the pastor has enough to do outside it. (Not that you may not, too! But he'd never know how to identify the flowers.)

I think the Mary Gardens are a wonderful idea. In my story, though, since it is for a secular paper, I had to tone down the religious angle quite a bit. Your name and your partner's are mentioned in it, though. I do plan to buy some of your seeds and distribute them to gardener friends and when I have a moment to think it out, will mail you a check and an order.

Sincerely,

Anne Thomas
Anne Thomas

MARY! GARDENS JOURNAL of John S. Stokes Jr.

and Falmouth

Selected entries covering John S. Stokes Jr. visits in Woods Hole/with Wallace K. Butler, Rev. Thomas J. Stapleton, Mr. & Mrs. William McNeece, Daniel J. Foley, ~~and~~ ^{also} Wilfred Wheeler and others, August 16th through 24th, 1953

On arriving at the Garden August 16th, I found that this year Mr. Wheeler had added the annuals, Our Lady's Thistle, Our Lady's Earrings and Our Lady's Pincushion . . . in addition to Our Lady's Eardrops, Our Lady by-the-Gate, Rosemary, Mary's Gold and St. Joseph's Staff, which were there last year. The central bed is still ageratum and petunias (mostly blue and white, but some red).

John Price took 100 ft. of 16mm colored movies of the Tower and Garden for me, (speaking of the statue as "Mary": "I'd like to shoot this shot from here, so as to get both Mary and that bed there in, as well as the water" etc.).

On returning to continue the photos after lunch, we met a man ^{who came} and his assistant to do some work on the Angelus Bells mechanism. The man was Wallace K. Butler, Woods Hole, Mass., a retired General Electric Company technician, who had devised an accurate automatic ^{electric} timing device to ring the bells, which - after several months of testing - he was just then permanently connecting. The bell mechanism is energized when a series circuit is closed through the clock hour, minute and second hands, when they are at the proper time (10 seconds before the fire house whistle.") The mechanism is especially designed and constructed so that it can be stopped 30 seconds after (by the clock reading) the time (e.g. 12:00 Noon) the time the setting is to be made by the firehouse whistle. When the whistle blows, you wait 20 seconds and then start the clock with a special switch . . . leaving it still 10 seconds ahead.

Mr. Butler tripped the bells manually for me so that I could make a tape recording of their ringing . . . 3 3's high (Mendel); 3 3's low (Pasteur). Mr Butler stated that although the sign at the left of the Tower door stated the opposite, the high pitched bell was named Mendel, and the low one Pasteur. I later corroborated this by directly reading the names and inscriptions engraved on the bells when - at his suggestion - I climbed up inside the Tower to the top to take some photos looking down at the Garden. I also made a tape recording of Mr. Butler's story of the Bell mechanism. Needless to say, it is more reasonable that Mendel, which rings first, should have the inscription, "I will teach you of life and of life eternal", and Pasteur, which rings second, should have the inscription, "Thanks be to God."

Transcript of tape recording:

W.B. "I have had charge of the bell-ringing mechanism for some 35 years, since its installation, and its mechanism consists of two units. One operates the hammers that strike the bells, the mechanism being in the Tower; and the other is a clock in the priest's house which trips the ringing mechanism three times a day - morning, noon and night. The tripping mechanism, all the apparatus of which was built in England, consists of a weight-wound clock which runs a week with one winding, and trips the bells at 7:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon and 6:00 at night. The difficulty has been that not only does the clock require winding every seven days, but it is impossible to keep a clock on perfect time. It will gain or lose slowly so that after a few days or so, it will be either a few minutes fast or a few minutes slow - not that it matters particularly, but of course if it wasn't attended to it would soon be prohibitively out of the way.

"In order to overcome that, I, with Mrs. Lillie's permission made inquiries into what I could get in the way of what they call a program clock - that is, a device that they use in schools and other places to ring the bells at desired intervals. But I found on account of the war conditions, and government restrictions on metals, it was impossible to get anything, and neither could I find exactly what I wanted, in any event. So, having

a shop of tools and being mechanically inclined, I spent last winter in designing and building an apparatus which works on the same principle as the common household electric clock; that is, a little synchronous motor that keeps perfect time . . . year in and year out, the only difficulty being of course if the electric current is interrupted, then the clock stops and when it starts up again it is slow that much. I have a red light that indicates that has happened and I come down and re--set it. The beauty of the electric device is that it can never gain or lose; and once it's set correctly it never varies.

"That is just being installed now this very day. It was installed on a trial basis for several months this Spring; operated very well; so that now it's going to be permanently installed and take the place of the clock in the Parish House, the priest's house, which will be used as an auxiliary in case the device here needs repairs or needs to be taken out.

J.S. "It's certainly my good fortune that on this day, when I've been taking photographs of the Garden and came with the express purpose of recording the bells ringing the Angelus, I should meet you here. I'm sure that most of the people who hear the bells ringing have no idea of the art and science which have gone in back of it to make it possible.

"I understand that THE FAIRMOUTH ENTERPRISE, however, wrote up some aspects of your work. When was it? Just last week?"

W.B. "They made a botch of it."

J.S. "Thanks ever so much; and I hope to see you every year when I come up."

W.B. "Life is very uncertain and I have a young neighbor friend, Mr. Frederick Lawrence, sixteen, who is as good or perhaps a better mechanic than I and understands the mechanism. With the instructions I have given him, if anything happens to me, he is all ready to take over. Freddy, why don't you say just one word?"

F.L. "I'm not much on making speeches."

J.S. "It's wonderful that not only have you taken care of the present, but you're looking forward to continuity on the future. We're sure that steps will be taken to see that the Garden is well maintained in the future, too."

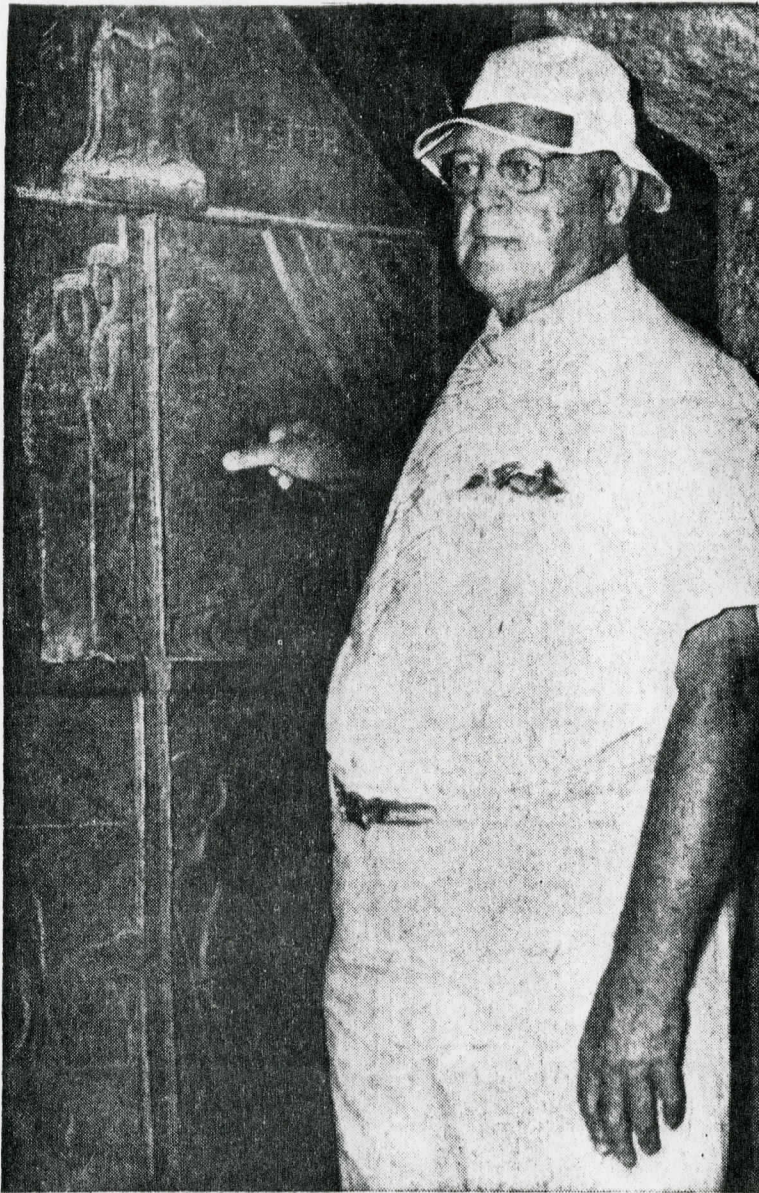
"Thanks again ever so much."

W.B. "If you publish any magazine articles, I wish you would send me copies . . . or if you have any printed matter."

J.S. "I certainly will. I certainly will."

W.B. "All right."

J.S. "Thank you."



WALLACE K. BUTLER

Engineer's Home-Made Mechanism Rings Bells In Woods Hole Tower

Last November Wallace K. Butler of Woods Hole, a retired electrical engineer, decided to design and build an electric program clock that would ring the bells of St. Joseph's tower on Millfield street. This week the mechanism was completed and tested and next week will be placed in the tower's chapel room.

As caretaker of the bells Mr. Butler has for many years attended to the winding, adjusting and setting of the old weight-driven clock at St. Joseph's rectory. His newly completed electrical mechanism eliminates all the attention required by the

old clock and has the added advantage of exact accuracy, barring any power failures.

Mr. Butler spent all of last winter and spring completing the device. His earlier inquiries about purchasing such a clock from manufacturers revealed that the kind particularly needed for St. Joseph's tower would have to be made to order.

Home Workshop

Mr. Butler, who retired from General Electric in 1910, has a well equipped shop at his home where he has designed many unusual electrical devices to incorporate in his house. Here he produced the intricate mechanism for the church tower.

Like any program clock, such as the kind which rings school bells automatically, this is designed to ring the bells at certain times. In this case the bells ring at 7 00 A.M., noon and 6 P.M. It is designed with a sweep second hand, a minute hand, and an hour hand. These revolve on a 24 hour, double dial and therefore do not ring the bells at similar hours in the night. Several other hands show the ringing hours and serve as contacts.

When a ringing hour arrives the tip of the second hand touches a contact which closes a circuit. By closing this circuit, which is the same principal as plugging a lamp in a wall, a motor starts up near the bells which causes the bell hammers to strike.

Glass-Windowed Box

When Mr. Butler attaches the clock to the chapel ceiling next week it will be encased in a small wooden box with a glass window. He has designed it so that the clock can be removed for repairs without unfastening the entire box.

Mr. Butler used the clock to ring the bells during the past three months. He removed it recently for final adjustments before putting it into permanent service.

Born in Boston Mr. Butler came to Falmouth as a boy. He lived in what is now the Crane house which was built by his father at Butler's Point, now called Juniper Point. He lives quietly in his home on Nobska road tending his garden and working in his shop occasionally.

I also met at the Garden: Mrs. George Ferris, P.O. Box 422, Woods Hole, Mass., who came up to us and said, "I couldn't help overhearing all you've been doing and saying. Tell me what publication you're writing this up for. I'd like to have a copy when it comes out." This presented an excellent opportunity to show both her and Mr. Butler the box file of '52 and '53 publicity. Mr. Butler appeared overjoyed that the shrine was becoming known all over the U.S. and world. "I didn't realize there was anything particularly unusual about it. Aren't there other Angelus Towers? I thought Mrs. Lillie had something to do with one in Chicago somewhere. Also, I didn't realize there was a story behind the Garden." Later, he said, "This is the first time in my life I've either been written up in a newspaper, or made a recording . . . and both within a week." "I gave the FALMOUTH ENTERPRISE a technical description of how the bell ringing mechanism works. When the article came out, there was a long story about me and nothing about the bell mechanism."

Mr. Ferris said that he had lived in Woods Hole for years, but was just now visiting the Tower for the first time, after reading the ENTERPRISE article about Mr. Butler. Mrs. Ferris was most interested in the CATHOLIC DIGEST copy I showed her, and wrote down the subscription address.

I spoke briefly to Father Stapleton and made a date for 10 A.M. Tuesday. He introduced me to another priest with him, Father Madden. S.J..

Father Stapleton: "Do you have your projector and slides with you? Bring them on Tuesday. There's a man and his wife in the parish who would like to see them. They're very interested in gardening, and I've given them your file of articles to read."

While we were making the tape recordings, Mrs. Rodman Hanson and her sister, Mrs. Santa Maria, visited the shrine; and from the post card photo we had sent them in '51 (Prouille Retreat House list, Philadelphia) they recognized the garden as the original Mary Garden. They forgot entirely that Woods Hole had anything to do with Mary's Gardens, but -being dealers in art objects - they remembered the association of the statue.

Mrs. Ferris: Isn't the statue an oriental one? Mrs. Lillie's brother, Frank Crane, from Chicago, also a convert, spent a great deal of time in the Orient, in China . . . which she knew from a relative who used to work for the Cranes.

Mr. Butler: "Mrs. Lillie now has three nurses, on 24-hour duty, and is very feeble. She has very few lucid moments. It would be very difficult to visit her."

Mr. Butler: "Mr. _____ gave the shrine land to the Church, so that its view would never be blocked."

August 18, 1953

Kept my appointment with Father Stapleton at St. Joseph's Rectory. He apologized that the parishioners he had mentioned were not able to come at that time, as he had hoped, but gave me their name and address and said he would make a tentative appointment for me to visit their home after lunch, Thursday, which I should confirm: Mr. & Mrs. William McNeece, Main Road, West Falmouth, Mass.

However, Father Stapleton's assistant for the summer was there: Rev. Arthus J. Madden, S.J., Holy Cross College, Worcester 3, Mass, and wanted to see the color slides. "Father Madden loves flowers. When we're driving along the road, he'll make me stop the car so he can get out and look at some wild flowers."

Father Stapleton noted that despite all the plans made for the restoration of the original flowers and an explanatory notice or sign last summer, nothing had happened. He said that on several occasions, people had asked him the names of the flowers and he wasn't able to help them out. He said that markers right at the various flower varieties would be

most helpgul. He had reference here particularly to Anne Thomas of the BOSTON POST Sunday Department, who had come to do an article several weeks ago. He said that fortunately a Doctor Bloch, "head" of the University of Pennsylvania Dept. of Botany was sitting in the Garden reading, and was able to identify the flowers botanically, although not religiously. Dr. Bloch: "This is the most peaceful spot in all of Woods Hole."

Father Stapleton repeated once again that he has no definite knowledge about the fund that Mrs. Lillie is supposed to have set up for the maintenance of the Tower and Garden. He said that a "man from a Chicago bank" who is trustee for the fund was supposed to have visited him last Fall to discuss the matter, but changed his plans as the time grew near, and did not make the trip. He said that he would expect that the responsibility for the maintenance would fall to the Pastor of St. Joseph's, and he thought that would be alright provided that sufficient income was available for the maintenance of the Garden. He didn't want to see the Church "left holding the bag . . . because the Parish isn't self-supporting anyway." He said that he himself wouldn't have time to give any sort of close attention to the detailed care of the Garden; but that if he had a planting plan and some funds, he could certainly employ a caretaker, just as he does for the Church and Rectory grounds. I suggested that a committee of parishioner-gardeners would be the best thing, because it would bring about active parishioner participation, and "really make the Garden a parish project." Also, it would cost less, and thereby permit funds to accumulate for major restorations, such as the retaining wall, or building up the ground as it settles, or after storm damage. I repeated our thought of last year that the shrine should in any case become a source of income for the Church. . . pointing out that in view of the international acceptance and acclaim being given the Mary's Gardens idea, the Woods Hole Tower and Garden, together with St. Joseph's Church, could - especially as a parishioner-maintained religious work - become a world-famous shrine which people would visit. This could move them to start similar gardens at their own churches, schools, institutions, homes, etc. Each time I brought up a committee of parishioners, he said, "I think a lot of good will come from seeing the McNeece's."

Father Madden mentioned all the Catholic gardeners who work for wealthy Protestants' estates around Boston - "The gardeners are practically all Catholics" - and suggested what wonderful Mary Gardens they could produce, with all their training. "I don't like the (Hannel) statue of Our Lady very much, do you?" "Well, it did seem very different at first, but I've come to think very highly of it." "You mean it sort of grows on you?" "Yes."

I asked Father Stapleton whether the Bishop of Fall River had particularly inquired of him into the matter of the Tower and Garden. "No, he's much too busy with other more pressing matters." "But he hasn't indicated any objection to the publicity being given to them?" "Oh, no, nothing like that."

August 20, 1953

Drove to Woods Hole in time for the noon ringing of the Angelus. Mr. Butler was there to set the clock by the Fire House horn. To me: "To give the devil his due, I must say you're a pretty suave and agreeable guy. I hope you'll look me up the next time you come back. And don't forget to send me copies of the photographs." He told two amusing anecdotes about people who asked him, while he was inside the Tower working on the bell-ringing mechanism: 1) "How do you get into the Church?", and 2) "What is this, a memorial to fishermen?"

I visited the McNeecees by appointment at 3:00 P.M. in West Falmouth. Lovely new little house with plenty of shrubs and petunias and marigolds along front and side walls and borders of the yard, and in front of the house. Mr. McNeece had been ill recently, and now has to "slow down and take it easy." He used to do all the gardening work himself. Now he has to employ a man to do the heavy work, under his direction. We showed the

slides to them and to another couple who were visiting, proposing that it would be good if the Woods Hole Garden of Our Lady could be tended by a parishioner committee, as a parish project. They had a sense for, and were most receptive to both the Mary Garden idea and the idea of a parish committee.

They explained that "All the people who have been maintaining the Tower and Garden have been Protestants, so that the parishioners have never really felt it was theirs . . . not to mention thinking of tending it. Also, the work that these people are paid to do represents a source of income which they guard and watch most jealously. Each man in a small community like Woods Hole has his finger in a lot of pies - financial, real estate, stores, maintenance jobs for summer people, etc., etc. - which results in a very delicate interlocking and overlapping of interests. And there are very few Catholics in Woods Hole, you know."

After the slides were finished, we went out into their backyard flower and vegetable garden. In addition to their regular Mary Golds, they had planted a number of Our Lady's Earrings, obtained as seedlings from a Polish neighbor, after learning of the Mary Garden idea from Father Stapleton. They had many rows of beautiful Gladiolas, which they grow for the altar at St. Joseph's (I had noted them on Sunday). I told them the legend about the golden chrysanthemum. All their plants looked extremely healthy and vigorous. He showed us his cold frames, in which he starts annuals seeds about April 1st. (This year a rat got in and destroyed a lot of the seedlings, so he had to augment his own with some purchased from a local greenhouse man.) When I espied a small Mary's Candle growing as a "weed" in the field around his garden, he showed me a tremendous one, about 8 ft. tall, with three or four levels of secondary candles. Literally hundreds of Madonna's Herb plants were growing in the grass around the edges of the garden also. Many rose bushes at the back of the house. Morning glories (Our Lady's Mantle) climbing up a pole. They showed us a color slide of a painting of Our Lady of Fatima, by a European artist, in the Portuguese Catholic Church of East Falmouth.

As we left, I urged them to press the parish committee idea for the Garden of Our Lady, since they were so horticulturally proficient.

August 21, 1953

Talked briefly with Mrs. Goffin today, next door to the rectory. She kept apologizing for not having started any sort of Mary Garden herself, since our meeting last year. "I've had so many relatives visiting me that I haven't been able to get to my garden this year." I said that of course we would be happy if she had a Mary Garden, but whether she was able to have one or not, we hoped she would like to know of the progress of our work, and of the acclaim being received internationally by the Mary Garden idea . . . which had been in the past, and could be in restoration, the moving force behind the Garden of Our Lady across the street from her house.

Finished my cataloging of books in the shrine library.

Met Daniel J. Foley, Editor of HORTICULTURE, at 11:45 at the Woods Hole R.R. station, and reached the shrine in time for the ringing of the Angelus. He thought well of the religious sense of the Garden, and pointed out: "It's small enough so that almost anyone could have one like it. You ought to make up a planting plan which others could follow. They could adapt it to a rectangular shape, etc. if required by the shape of their plot." Re. the statue, he said, "It's much more beautiful than it showed up in the photographs. I could have it sketched by an artist in such a way as to bring out the grace and beauty in a way which would be difficult with a camera."

In respect to the restoration of the Garden, he spoke with understanding of the role of the Founder, in any organization, and the difficulties encountered in maintaining continuity in making the transition to the surviving organization. Often the Founder, himself or herself cannot see what has to be done; and someone else who does - and

who yet sees the good which the Founder originated - has to take initiative. He saw that this was the situation here, with Mrs. Lillie; and also he appreciated all the local circumstances of pastor vis-a-vis donor, parishioners vis-a-vis caretakers, etc.

After lunch we visited Wilfred Wheeler's farm. Most of the time was taken up by horticultural conversation between Mr. Foley and Mr. Wheeler. The following points, however, were covered regarding the Woods Hole Garden of Our Lady:

1. Mr. Wheeler is desirous of restoring additional flowers to the Garden. He wants to keep the central bed more or less as it is, for color, but wants to put the Mary-Flowers in the border beds.
2. In view of Mrs. Lillie's present condition: irrational, 3 trained nurses, etc. he feels free to proceed without the necessity of obtaining permission from her. (He mentioned that Miss Harrison had attempted to obtain approval from Mrs. Lillie for last year's proposed action, and had received an unpleasant or irrational response.)
3. We are to write him proposing varieties for restoration.
4. We are to prepare sign or notice copy, which does not necessarily have to follow Mrs. Lillie's 1932 and 1937 notices. Also, markers for the beds.
5. We will obtain plants from Rex Pearce, our cooperating nurseryman in Moorestown, N. J., as required, and also seeds for annuals.

The whole (1 hour) visit was most friendly and sociable.

August 24, 1953

Said good-bye to Father Madden, S. J. (Father Stapleton was not in), and paid a return visit to Wilfred Wheeler. We sat and talked with Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler in their herb garden terrace. Then Mr. Wheeler and I went into the dining room, and his study, where he showed me Hume's new book on Holly. Among the photos and mementos on the wall of his study was a Madonna and Child with Madonna Lilies. He had a book by his niece, which just came out this year: "Period Flower Arrangement", by Margaret Fairbanks; Marcus, Barrow, N. Y., 1953, which had a chapter on the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods. He was delighted over the parallel to the Mary Garden idea.

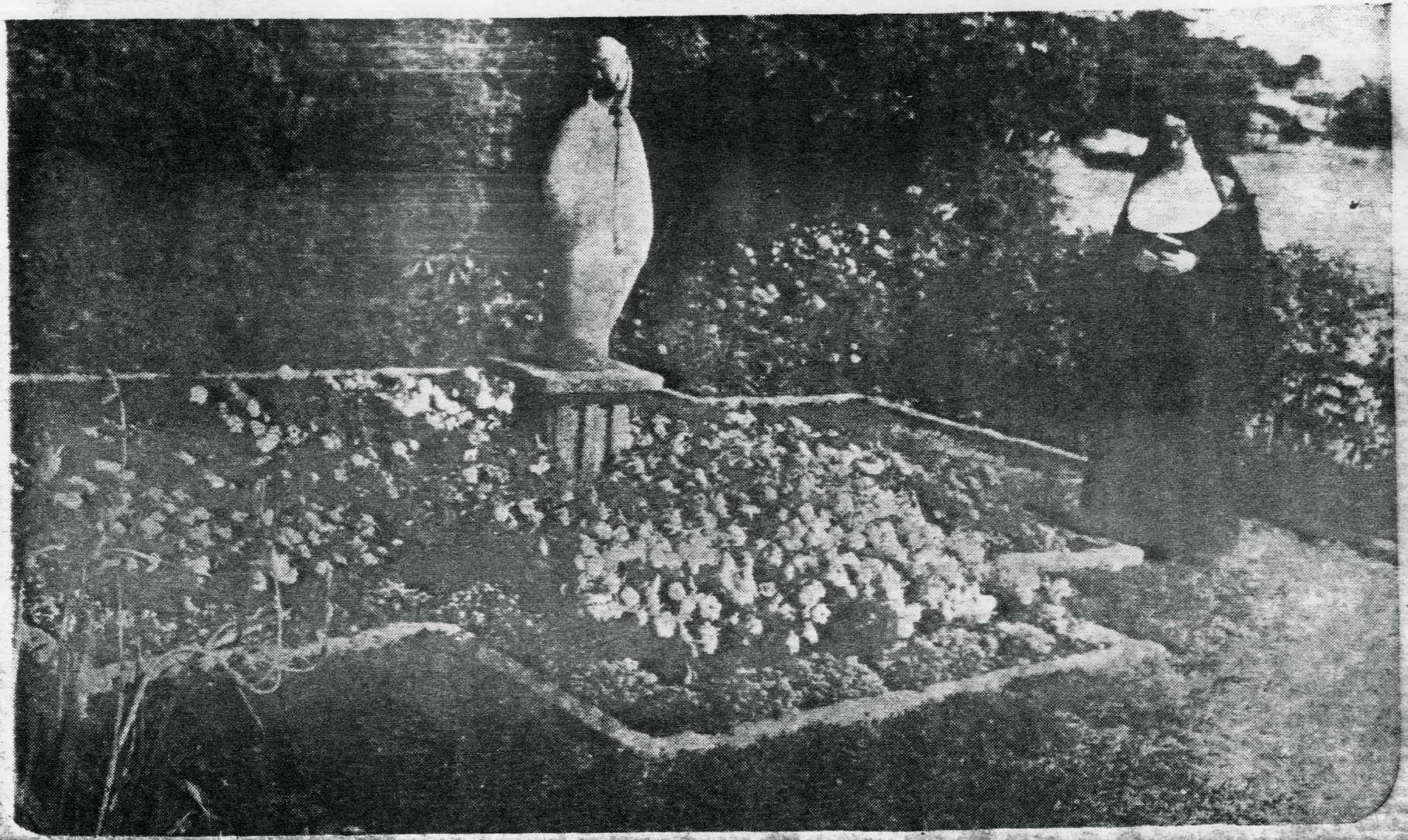
He gave the name of the architects who designed the Angelus Tower as Coolidge, Bullfinch & Shepley, Ames Building, Washington St., Boston. It was through work they did for the Marine Biological Laboratory buildings that they were chosen by Mr. & Mrs. Lillie to design the Tower.

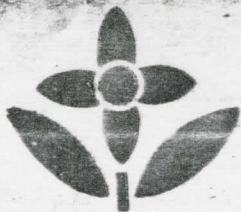
He continued in his enthusiasm for the Garden restoration. He mentioned that he has seen annuals flowers continue blooming, without a killing frost, after Thanksgiving, and suggested that Christmas and Lenten Roses could be planted for winter and early spring bloom. He referred periodically to the financial limitation of 2 hours per week to maintain the Garden during the summer . . . except for the additional time required for Spring planting. He suggested that Hollyhocks treated as annuals for late Summer and early Fall bloom, to supplement spring hollyhock bloom. He also thought well of Briza maxima (Our Lady's Tresses), which Dan Foley noticed growing in a nursery bed Friday. This, Our Lady's Thistle and Scabiosa were from our seeds sent to Father Stapleton the previous year. "These were about all that came up, although they were a year old."

Mr. Wheeler stated that he would see if he could, under the present circumstances of Mrs. Lillie's health, obtain charge of the entire shrine, instead of just the Garden. He was horrified at the red-brown paint which had been put on the Tower interior - just as he was at the green paint which had been put on the gate and garden chairs the year before. He believed that the red-brown paint had been put on at the direction of "some nurse" acting for Mrs. Lillie. "I don't think that anyone of her immediate family has any interest at all in the Tower." . . . "I wish someone closer would take an interest in the Tower and Garden."

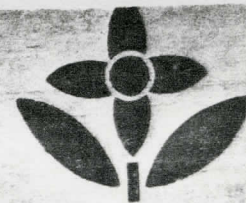
He said he had not put any hollies in the Garden, because of the probability of theft. "After all, we don't want the Garden to take on the role of a temptation." He stated that a friend of his was planting several church yards with hollies, and that he would watch and see what happens. He said that there had been practically no disturbance of the Garden of Our Lady, except of some of the rarer varieties included in the original planting. About the only abuse he has noticed is the depositing of paper bags, etc. (Note: Mrs. Goffin reported that children were using the Tower grounds more and more as a place to play. Once this summer they broke a fairly large branch while climbing on the willow tree. Three or four children came in once while I was there, and Mr. Butler chased them out. At one point Mr. Butler observed: "We don't want to see this place ruined by becoming too popular.")

Here "Mary Flowers" Grow





A statue of the Virgin stands in the "Mary" garden. Sister Frances Salano of Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y., who is working at the Marine Biological Laboratory, enjoys the flowers. The bay is visible in the background.



First Medieval Garden in U. S. At Woods Hole Has Inspired Planting Of Hundreds Like It Across Land

By TAMENA JOHN

HOOKED in the elbow of a small Woods Hole inlet nestles one of the land's tiniest, but most picturesque — a medieval "Mary" garden.

It is an area not much more than 20 feet wide and 50 feet long, the "Mary" garden, tucked out of old England, some at the foot of an old Italian bell tower—the tower of St. Joseph.

On one side, the garden goes quickly down to a tiny beach. On the other side a 6-foot ledge of soft English yew hides it from view. In its centre the ledge is broken by a wooden gate which invites the stranger with a sign reading: "Please enter, but close the gate." The garden is a sanctuary of peace and silence where anyone is welcome.

On the opposite side of the inlet stands St. Joseph's Church. And across the bay in the gently sloping garden stands the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. These

two landmarks, each in its way, had a bearing on the origin of this secluded haven.

Twenty-five years ago, Mrs. Frank R. Lillie of Chicago and Woods Hole — a convert to Catholicism—wanted to make a floral tribute of her devotion to the Virgin Mary. She wanted this tribute to stand where her husband Frank, an eminent scientist who served as director and president of the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, could see it from the windows of his summertime offices.

TO HONOR MARY

On land owned by St. Joseph's Church, she established the medieval garden, unlike anything seen anywhere since the 16th century. In Medieval England, when the country was known as "Mary's Dowry," there were some 500-odd varieties of "Mary-flowers." All through the countryside, gardens were planted with flowers honoring the Virgin. After the

Reformation, the names of these flowers were changed.

Mrs. Lillie, with the aid of her landscape architect and her gardener, dipped into the ancient past to resurrect the old flowers and their old names. And these she had built in St. Joseph's bell tower, which still contains a tiny library for those who want to use their solitude for reading instead of reverie and prayer.

HEARS THE ANGELUS

Through his open windows at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Dr. Frank Lillie could hear the Angelus three times a day ringing sweetly over the waters from the bell tower.

Until his death a few years ago, he could see in the distance the blooms of the "Mary" garden, all known by their ancient English names. There were: Our Lady's Mantle, morning glory; Virgin Flower, periwinkle; Our Lady's Delight, pansy; Eyes of Mary, forget-me-not; Our Lady's

Glove, foxglove; Our Lady's Keys, cowslip; Our Lady's Fingers, honeysuckle; Our Lady's Tears, lily-of-the-valley; Purification Flower, snowdrop; Our Lady's Eardrops, fuchsia; Our Lady's Slippers, columbine; Our Lady's Thimble, bluebells of Scotland; Our Lady's Modesty, wild violet; Our Lady's Birthday, aster; Our Lady's Earrings, balsam, and Mary's Gold, marigold.

And there were vast numbers more. Today, Dr. Lillie is dead, and his wife, Frances Crane Lillie (herself a doctor of medicine) is 84 and ailing, but the Mary's Garden still stands, though Atlantic storms have whittled down some of its floral variety.

LABOR OF LOVE

The Lillie garden gave impetus three years ago to the idea of "Mary" gardens throughout the country. Two Philadelphians, John S. Stokes, Jr., and Edward A. McTague, who had seen the Woods Hole

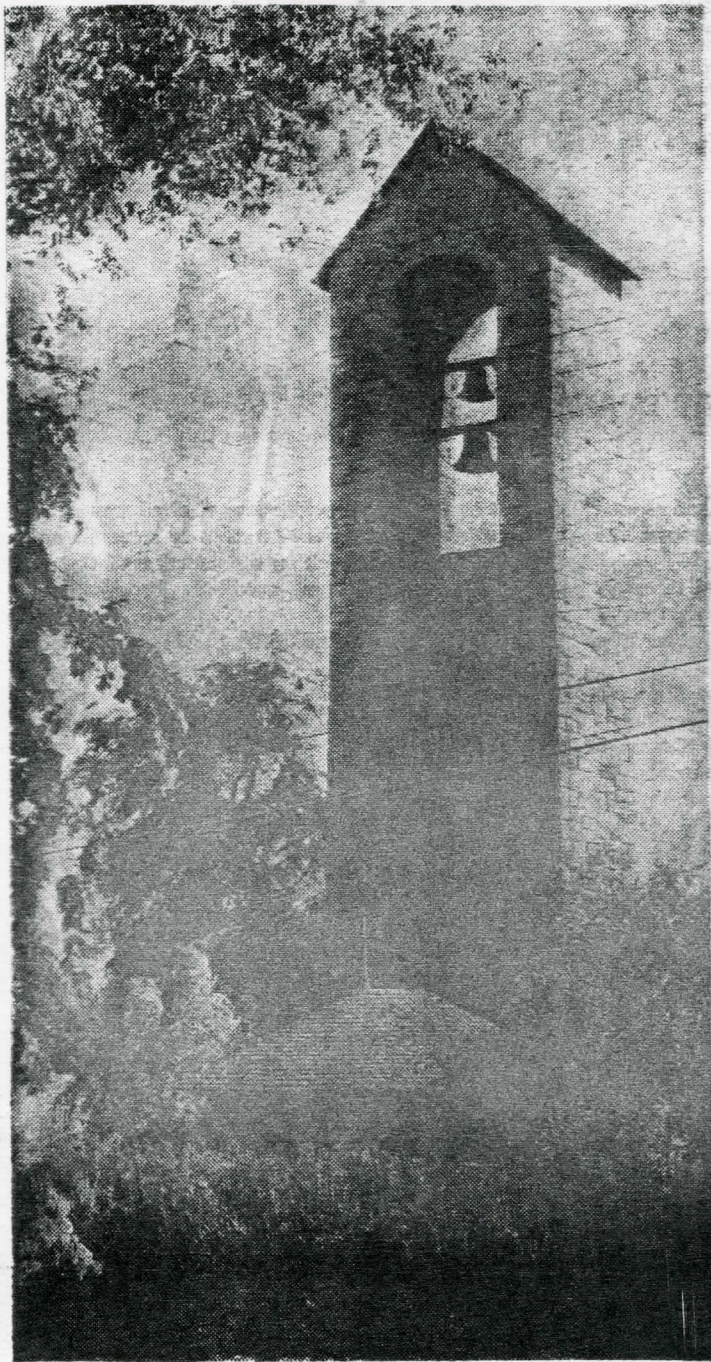
garden did considerable research into the history of old English flowers, packeted seeds for Mary's Gardens and began a mail-order business to encourage these medieval gardens. Their venture was a purely non-profit one, a labor of love. Last year, nearly 500 "Mary" gardens bloomed across the land.

HER SECOND HOME

Mrs. Lillie — born Frances Crane of the wealthy industrial Cranes of Chicago—considered Woods Hole her second home. She spent 60 summers there and it was there in 1894, she and her husband, Frank, met. A year later, they were married.

In a day when serious education for women was frowned upon, Mrs. Lillie had studied medicine and received her degree from Northwestern University. Her husband was a professor at Chicago University most of his professional life.

The Lillies had four children — all of them girls. To compensate for the lack of sons, they adopted three boys. Frances Crane Lillie loved traveling and lived abroad in France a good deal. It was while there



St. Joseph's bell tower in the "Mary" garden at Woods



Through this gate, leading through a hedge of English yew, the visitor enters the "Mary" garden, and the shadow of the bell tower

she met the German Baron Von Hugel who was instrumental in her conversion to Catholicism.

The bell tower at Woods Hole, like the garden around it, is also a medieval reproduction. Its massive sculptured door and the tiny Stations of the Cross inside are the work of the noted Italian sculptor, Alfeo Faggi of Woodstock, N. Y.

A Boston landscape architect, Miss Dorothea K. Harrison, had a hand in planning the garden 25 years ago.

Frequently, painters will be found in the tiny retreat committing to canvas the beauty of the garden or the bay. People in the Marine Lab across the water find the garden a welcome retreat for a few moments at the end of their busy day.

A German professor—Jewish—who escape Hitler and Berlin in the crazed days preceding the war, said:

"Ten years ago, from the

windows of the lab where I worked, I saw this garden. That night, I came to find it. Every summer ever since when I have come to work here, I have taken a room close by so that I could come and sit here for a while each evening."

Father Thomas J. Stapleton, pastor of St. Joseph's Church across the street, rings the angelus bells in the bell tower through an electrical control in his rectory and he himself comes frequently to sweep out the bell tower. But he knows very few of the people who come to seek the peaceful loveliness of the Mary Garden. Most of them, like the professor, are not members of his church.

Mrs. Lillie's garden and bell tower for a quarter of a century has been a source of release and peace for all who chance to discover it. In these things, it has been a common denominator to all men.



Mrs. Emilyann Cramer of St. Louis, daughter of Mrs. Frank Lillie, who created the "Mary" garden at Woods Hole, watches her 15-months-old daughter reach for a miniature Madonna.

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Daniel J. Foley
EDITOR

September 2, 1953

Mr. John S. Stokes
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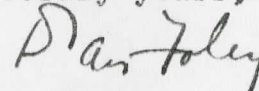
Dear John:

It certainly was nice to have been able to visit with you a week ago last Friday at Falmouth, and I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you again when I get to Philadelphia.

I have a few things to report. The story which appeared in the Boston Post last Sunday is enclosed. Then I must tell you that Father Dunn, Executive Secretary of the National Rural Life Conference, wrote a story entitled "Taxi Cab Saint Invoked as Patron of Gardeners" which appeared on the front page of the Pilot. This article is also enclosed.

Under separate cover I am mailing you a copy of Louis Mercier's book "Our Lady of the Birds" which I hope you will enjoy. Please accept it with my compliments because it is sent to you that way. With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Daniel J. Foley
EDITOR

DJF:dm
Enc.

October 8, 1963

Dear Father Galvin,

Two years ago you expressed the hope that Mary's Gardens would hit the metropolitan Sunday papers. We are happy to report (in case it hasn't already come to your attention) that the Boston Sunday POST ran an article this summer . . . thanks to the Editor's learning of the project and the Woods Hole garden through Jim Conniff's article.

We were able to spend a week in the Woods Hole area this summer, and we are happy to report that several more Mary Flowers were restored by Mr. Wheeler. These were grown from our seeds. Now that he has had a year to look us over, he has promised to go about a restoration in a big way next spring. We made several visits to his home, and have become most friendly. Mr. Foley, Editor of HORTICULTURE spent a day with us at the Garden. He's 1000% with us, and plans a winter of lectures in Boston. We also talked with Father Stapleton of St. Joseph's, who continues to be most cordial. He introduced us to several of his year-round parishioners who have a lovely garden in which they grow flowers for the altar. Mrs. Lillie is very ill, incidentally, and no longer exercises or is capable of exercising any voice in the supervision of the Tower and Garden. It is for this reason that Mr. Wheeler now feels freer to cooperate with us in making changes in the garden, and that Father Stapleton is looking for parishioners who would be willing and qualifies to take on the garden as a truly cooperative parish project in due time.

Thanks once again for the mention of Mary's Gardens in your October issue of PH. One doesn't have to worry about being alone in working for Our Lady. It indeed looks like a wonderful marian year coming up. Our story will be Mary Garden Shrines for '54, and we are getting ready to plug away again with mailings, articles, ads, lectures etc.. We hope the Boston POST article, of which we obtained a number of copies, will help get us into other Sunday papers. Also, we're asking Jim Conniff if he'll be able to do anything further for us this year (not that he can do much more than he already has done!).

Cordially,