

CP 1-8163

April 30th
(1961)

MRS. A. GEORGE GIGGER
32 BUZZARDS BAY AVENUE
WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr John S. Stokes Jr.
Philadelphia -

Dear Sir -

I have recently been asked
to supervise a "Mary's Garden" which
together with a beautiful Stone Bell Tower
was given to the Catholic Church here in
Woods Hole - The garden has deteriorated
and I am anxious to have it restored.
I believe there are certain flowers which
should be planted. I am not a Catholic -
so know little about it. A cousin of mine
who gave the garden - Mrs Frank Lillie
was a Catholic - so years ago, the
garden was properly started.
I asked the Horticultural Society of Boston to
send me some information - but all they
had, was a brochure telling of your "Mary

"Garden" work - and a pamphlet list -
some of the proper flowers - Very few listed
the common varieties -

Could you help me with any further
information? We shall have to buy the
plants, so cannot consider anything
unusual or too expensive - Ordinary
flowers - such as marigolds - daisies etc - are
what we should prefer -

I would be extremely grateful for any help -
I am doing this work - out of love for my
relative, Mrs. Lillie, given of the garden -
who passed on several years ago -

Sincerely yours -

Margaret E. Ligger -

(Mrs A. George Ligger) -

I have a good gardener - but like myself -
he does not know what we require -

May 3, 1961

Mrs. A. George Gigger
32 Buzzards Bay Avenue
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

It was a distinct pleasure to receive your letter of April 30 telling that you have recently been asked to supervise the Woods Hole "Mary's Garden" established in the early '30's by your cousin, Mrs. Lillie.

An article, "Lillie Tower", published in 1946 describing the Bell Tower and Mary's Garden was the inspiration for the work of Mary's Gardens, undertaken by my good friend, Mr. Edward A. G. McTague and myself after we were able to visit the garden in the summer of 1950. By way of explanation I might mention that Mary's Gardens is a spare time labor of love dedicated to restoring and spreading the Mary Garden custom, which to the best of our knowledge was first brought to this country by Mrs. Lillie. We have written and lectured extensively on the subject; also we provide the service of making available seeds, bulbs and plants to those who may have difficulty obtaining them from their regular garden suppliers . . . although we are not a "business".

In the spring of 1951 we contacted Mrs. Lillie by telephone in Chicago to tell her of the work we were about to undertake and to ask her for any background information she could send us. She gave us her "blessing" and mailed us a number of lists etc.. Then, in the summer of 1952 we visited Woods Hole again and met at the garden with Miss Dorothea Harison, who worked out the original planting plan for Mrs. Lillie, and Mr. Wilfred Wheeler, who, as I am sure you well know, built the Bell Tower, made the original garden planting, and maintained the garden up until several years ago. By that time the original planting of perennials had been wiped out by several hurricanes, and a revised planting had been made with little attention to the original selection of symbolical flowers. However, the garden was fully planted and attractively maintained by Mr. Wheeler's men, and as a result of our interest Mr. Wheeler made a partial restoration of some of the symbolical flowers.

We were not able to visit Mrs. Lillie that summer, but did have a delightful visit with her in, I believe, 1954, when she was able to tell us a great deal about starting the garden and what it meant to her.

The garden was lovely at the time of our 1954 visit in late August, but two or three days after we departed another hurricane struck, again completely destroying the planting. Due to his advancing years Mr. Wheeler was not able to give much time personally to supervise the new restoration of the garden, and subsequently he had to give up the care of it altogether.

L Last summer my wife and I were shocked, on our first visit to the Cape since 1954, to find the garden sadly neglected in late July with sparse plantings of petunias and marigolds evidently set out only a few weeks before. We were informed that Mr. Francisco Tavares of East Falmouth was responsible for its planting and maintenance at the time, and as a matter of fact we were just about to write to him any day now about improving things for 1964 when your letter arrived in the mail. We have mentioned the garden to over 10,000 people who have written to us over a 10 year period, but have been embarrassed when they have gone to visit the garden and have been disappointed about its condition.

Against all this background we're sure you can appreciate how overjoyed we are to learn of your real interest in the garden on Mrs. Lillie's behalf. Please be assured that we are desirous of going to any length, including providing plant materials, to help you restore the garden. We have recently been able to extend our research list of flowers historically associated with the Virgin to over 1,000 associations encompassing over 500 flower species. As a result, we are now able to provide good lists of flowers commonly cultivated today for various types of gardens.

What we propose to do is to draw up a suggested planting list for your consideration. This list would emphasize summer flowers which would provide an attractive garden for July and August of this year, many of which would continue until frost. If desired, spring flowers could be added for next year. We would hope to get this suggested list off to you in the next few days. From it you and your gardener could select those flowers which are available to you and which you consider suitable. For our part, we would be willing to contribute seeds for annuals and plants of perennials which you might want but have difficulty obtaining locally.

You will note a typical list of flowers on the back page of the enclosed article reprint, "Mary-Gardening With St. Francis", although this list is weighted in favor of spring perennials. As mentioned, the list we will send you will be weighted for summer display. This article, incidentally, is the most recent statement of the idea behind our work. It was written for the Franciscans in Ireland who have started a Mary Garden in their Monastery, Adam and Eve's, in Dublin, and are working to spread the restoration in Ireland . . . just one facet of the wonderful tribute the whole Mary Garden movement is to the love and zeal of Mrs. Lillie. We also enclose a copy of the previously mentioned article, Lillie Tower, and also an article published in 1955 which describes our research as of that time, including our successful quest for the original research papers behind the Woods Hole garden.

Thanks so very much for your good letter.

Sincerely yours,

John S. Stokes Jr.

May 7, 1961

Mrs. A. George Gigger
32 Buzzards Bay Avenue
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

As promised in my letter of May 3, I am sending you the enclosed list of flowers from which to make a planting of the Garden of Our Lady at Woods Hole.

This list fulfills the following requirements: a) all flower varieties have been historically documented as named for or otherwise associated with the Virgin Mary in late medieval times, b) they are all commonly cultivated today, c) they present a concentration of bloom during the July - August vacation season on the Cape when most visitors come to see the garden.

If you are able to select a planting from this list it will be the first time since the late 1930's that the garden will have been planted exclusively with flowers specifically associated with the Virgin, in accordance with Mrs. Lillie's original concept (which is also the concept of our Mary's Gardens work). On the other hand it will represent a step forward in terms of providing summer bloom, from the 1930's, since the early research didn't list the larger number of summer blooming varieties now documented.

In case you have not seen them previously, we are enclosing three photographs showing the beautiful but horticulturally complex and difficult to maintain planting of the 1930's . . . the garden as it was when Mrs. Lillie used to greet visitors in it and tell them about the Flowers of Our Lady. While we do not suggest a return to such a complex planting, we would like to call attention to three aspects of the original garden which could be restored today: 1) the trellis at the center of the rear bed for climbing plants such as morning glories, honeysuckle, sweet peas etc., 2) the taller plants around the statue pedestal, and 3) the pole-mounted shelter to the left in which was posted a list of the flowers in the garden, giving both their present-day names and their former "Mary-names". (We would suggest small plant markers, giving both names for each plant variety, be placed at appropriate places in the beds, in addition to a complete list (which could be posted in the Bell Tower, if it was too much trouble to make another special shelter)).

Also enclosed ~~are~~ a color transparency showing the planting maintained by Mr. Wheeler in recent years. I see no reason for departing from the

central bed planting of sweet alyssum border and petunia center planting adopted by Mr. Wheeler, but I would like to see some taller plants (selected from the list) at the very center to prevent the pedestal from standing out like a "sore thumb". Also, if you are able to take on a spring planting in 1962, I would suggest a central bed pattern of English daisies and pansies during May and June which could be replaced with sweet alyssum and petunias in July. Ideally the sweet alyssum and petunias could be grown to pretty good size in pots and then planted in with the English daisies and pansies while the latter were still in good bloom. This would give a good central appearance in early July, instead of the spare look shown in the second (rectangular) transparency which was taken in July of 1953. The square transparency shows the same petunia and alyssum planting in late August, when it is marvellous.

We suggest that the portulaca, used by Mr. Wheeler in the beds to the right and the left as you enter the garden be abandoned since they do not show up in the reasearch (although they are good "maintenance" plants).

Mr. Wheeler made liberal use of marigolds and calendula which of course can be continued.

In general, however, our suggestion is that you and your gardener make a selection from the list based on the plants you know and like and can obtain. The requirements of a Mary Garden are few: a focal statue of Our Lady surround by the flowers associated with her. There is no further formal requirement . . . the gardener having complete freedom to exercise his own artistic and devotional sense in arranging the planting.

In view of the public character of the Woods Hole garden, however, it would be very helpful, as I mentioned previously, if some sort of markers could be used to identify the common and religious names of the flowers. Many visitors don't know "alyssum" from "calendula" etc. so it would be very helpful to them to have markers right by the flowers in the beds.

I would like to suggest that one of Mr. Wheeler's "St. Mary's" Holly trees be planted in the garden (a female, for berries, together with a male) out of tribute to his over 25 years of devoted care to the garden on Mrs. Lillie's behalf. Mr. Wheeler has small potted trees available at his farm in Ashumet. We would be most happy to make the purchase of these two trees for this purpose; and also to contribute financially to other parts of the planting, if this would help you obtain more plants or plant varieties than otherwise. Also, please feel entirely free to consult with me by letter or telephone (Chestnut Hill 7-3779, evenings) if there is any further way in which I might be helpful. There is a possibility I may be able to visit Woods Hole again this summer (my sister has a house in Cotuit each August). I should mention that I took the liberty of mentioning your letter to my neighbor, Mrs. Ann Rivinus, who has a summer house on Little Harbor Road, Woods Hole, is an ardent horticulturalist, and has on numerous occasions expressed an interest in seeing the Garden of Our Lady receive some attention. Mr. Daniel J. Foley, of Salem, Mass., former editor of HORTICULTURE magazine is very interested in the garden and could be helpful to you in locating sources for plants. We will be happy to write him if you need assistance in this connection. He is working right now helping establish a Mary Garden at Marblehead. Sincerely yours,

SUGGESTED PLANT LIST FOR WOODS HOLE "GARDEN OF OUR LADY"

ANNUALS

Alyssum, Sweet: (dedicated to Mary)
Bachelor's Buttons: Mary's Crown
Balsam: Our Lady's Slipper
Calendula: Mary's Gold
Hollyhock: St. Joseph's Staff
Larkspur: Mary's Tears
Marigold: Mary's Gold

Morning Glory: Our Lady's Mantle
Pea, Sweet: Our Lady's Pea
Periwinkle: Virgin Flower
Petunia: Our Lady's Praise
Rocket, Sweet: Our Lady's Violet
Scabiosa: Our Lady's Pincushion
Stock: Our Lady's Violet
Thistle, Milk: Our Lady's Thistle

BIENNIALS

Daisy, English: Mary's Rose
Mullein: Our Lady's Candle

Pansy: Our Lady's Face
Teasel: Our Lady's Little Brushes

PERENNIALS

Aster (amellus): Mary's Star
Baby's Breath: Our Lady's Veil
Bluebells of Scotland: O.L. Thimble
Campion, Rose: Mary's Rose
Carnation: Emblem, Mary's Love
Daisy: Mary's Flower of God
Fern, Lady: Our Lady's Fern
Fern, Maidenhair: O. L. Hair
Forget-me-not: Eyes of Mary
Fuchsia: Our Lady's Eardrops
Funkia: Assumption Lily
Geranium: Beautiful Lady

Holly: Burning Bush (Figure of O.L.)
Honeysuckle: Our Lady's Fingers
Lily (regal): Emblem O. L. Purity
Monkshood: Our Lady's Slippers
Pink, Carthusian: Our Lady's Bedstraw
Rose (single, Betty Prior): Mary's
St. John's Wort: Mary's Bedstraw
Soapwort: Our Lady by-the-Gate
Spiderwort (tradescantia): O.L. Tear
Strawberry: (dedicated to Mary)
Toadflax: Our Lady's Flax
Veronica (longifolia): Our Lady's F

HERBS

Balm: Sweet Mary
Bedstraw, Yellow: O. L. Bedstraw
Costmary: Our Lady's Balsam
Fennel: Our Lady's Fennel
Lady's Mantle: Our Lady's Mantle
Lavender: Our Lady's Washing Plant
Marjoram: Our Lady's Bedstraw

Beebalm: Sweet Mary
Rosemary: Our Lady's Bouquet
Rue: Herb O' Grace
Sage: Legend: Blessed by Mary
Spearmint: Our Lady's Mint
Thyme: Mary's Bedstraw

SHRUBS

Heather: Lady's Adversary
Heath: Mary's Help

Daphne (cneorum): Mary's Rose

Note: The above Flowers of Our Lady are recommended for summer bloom. The following can be added to extend the season: Aster, New England; Mary's Star; Chrysanthemum: Mary's Gold; Goldenrod: Mary's Plant. Many additional spring-blooming Flowers of Our Lady are available if it is desired to begin the garden bloom cycle in April and May.

John S. Stokes Jr.
Mary's Gardens
124 W. Chestnut Hill Ave.
Philadelphia 18, Pa.
May 7, 1961

32 Buzzards Bay Ave.
Wood's Hole -
May 13th
(1961)

Dear Mr Stokes -

How wonderful kind
you are - to write me such delightful
information letters - and to send me all
the helpful literature. I appreciate it
more than I can say - and your advice
is priceless. I was so happy to get the
picture of the garden as it was - until
I was asked to help with its care I had
not been in it very much and had
forgotten about the arbutus. If you do
not mind, I will keep the picture very
carefully until Mr Wright, the Trust
Company Officer arrives here June 7th
as I want to show them - I think I told
you he was coming at my request. He
has never been able to find out what
yearly funds are available for the
garden - but I hope to get some idea of that
and of many other things from Mr Wright.
He is a young energetic man & comes
from his letters, to be sincerely & deeply

interested in restoring the garden -
I would be delighted to have any help or
advice from Mrs. Rivinus, also Mrs.
Foley - I know of Mrs. Rivinus
but have never met her - I also know
of Mrs. Foley through the Horticultural
Society - of which I am a member, and
have read many of her horticultural
articles -

The gardener - (he is really more than that) -
has taken your list of plants - and will
order them this week - did you know he
has and then has ~~harmed~~ lost fall?

The garden was completely washed over -
we lost a tree - and the yew hedge was
badly damaged - Already nearly 400 has
gone out - this spring - in feeding - seeding
and other work in the garden - It is such
a late spring that as yet it is hard to
tell the entire extent of the damage - A
lot of the small evergreens were killed -
I think this year we shall try to get as
many flowering plants from your list as
we can - by fall have a definite plan
of restoration -

I wish your idea of two holly trees as a token

2 of recognition for Mr. Wheeler's services, is
a lovely one - You know Mr. Wheeler also
is a first cousin of mine, as is his wife -
(Two first cousins married so there is the double
connection) - Mrs. Wheeler was a sister-in-
law of Mrs. Lillie - Now I have an
idea which possibly could be worked out.
I have been wondering if Mrs. Lillie's
four daughters, all of whom spend part
of the summer here, would be interested
in replacing the arbor - and the little
"house" to hold the seeds of the flowers -
Mr. Cahoon (the gardener) says the hollyhocks
could be planted in August - if they were
not too large - as if they came from nearby -
If these things could be planned for - in
August - when possibly you could be with us -
we might have a little ceremony - the
garden, with family & friends - I might
also approach the cousin anyway - I'll
ask Mr. Wheeler where the original
arbor etc. came from - It and the "house"
should be of the natural wood - Mr. Cahoon
thinks they might have the material better -
a firm, the "Walpole Woodworkers" - does that
sort of thing beautifully - As you think this
would be a new idea?

I don't know whether I let you that we
have a very flourishing & active Garden
Club here, of nearly two hundred members—
real dirt "dirt gardeners" most of them—
I am a past president—and have been
on the board for many years—just now
I am starting my fourth year as secretary—
my second or third friend as such—I have
always loved garden—My own is at its
best. I like in the spring—and just now is
lovely—with all the bulbs—violets—and
primroses—I do the work—in it myself—
as it isn't kept up as well as I should
be—though the spirit is willing, but?
By the way have you ever been in Assisi?
A few years ago—I was there for a
couple of days—during an extensive tour
of Italy—I shall never forget it—or the
many other lovely places I saw in Italy—
from the monastic gardens—the plants—
which come—
I must get this to the mail—enough of
my ramblings—do write me if you have
any more ideas or advice to offer—
Thank you—again—

Most sincerely—

Margaret E. Lyster—

May 15, 1961

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

Thanks so much for your letter of May 13. Mr. McTague and I are pleased that the plant list we prepared will be helpful to you and Mr. Cahoon in providing blooming plants for the Mary Garden this summer.

Please keep the photos we sent you of the garden as it was in the '30's. We have additional copies, and also negatives from which to make more if occasion ever arises. We prepared the negatives back in 1951 from originals of the photographs kindly lent to us by Miss Dorothea K. Harrison, professional landscape architect who spent her summers in Woods Hole as a girl and who designed the original garden layout for Mrs. Lillie.

We believe Miss Harrison's address is the same now as it was ten years ago: 77 Main Street, Concord, Mass.. She has a file of her successive planting plans for the original garden. If you are interested in obtaining as much historical material as possible, she might be willing to prepare photostat copies of all the plans (probably three or four) if the expense were covered. If you would want to explore this possibility, we are most interested in obtaining photostats of her files and would be more than glad to share the cost with you for two sets if she were willing to have them made. She was most helpful to us in that she met us at the garden, with Mr. Wheeler, in the summer of 1951, as I mentioned in my previous letters, and also lent us the three photographs and sent us one copy each of printed leaflets entitled "Our lady In Her Garden" printed in 1932 and 1937. Also, she sent us one photostat of "Garden of Our lady, Revised Planting Plan, Spring, 1935 . . . Commission No. 23, Plan #2". She was so generous with us that we considered it indelicate to ask for more at the time (and then ten years went by). It was Mr. McTague's and my impression that she was most interested in the possibility of seeing the garden restored along the lines of Mrs. Lillie's original concept but that she sensed at our 1951 meeting that Mr. Wheeler was not in a position to go all out in such an undertaking. I feel sure she would receive any communication from you most cordially and would take a real interest in your plans for restoration.

We note with real interest your mention that Mr. Wright, the Trust Company officer is scheduled for a visit to Woods Hole on June 7. Being keenly interested in a restoration of the garden, our thoughts turned in time to the question of finances. We considered it indiscreet to probe into this matter, but in the course of various conversations we gained the impression that: 1) the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church (at that time Father Stapleton) felt he was not in a position to take any action regarding the garden since the administration and funds of its upkeep came from Mrs. Lillie; and 2) Mr. Wheeler hesitated to increase his expenditures for the garden and grounds because he felt some awkwardness in increasing his billings to Mrs. Lillie . . . especially since it was necessary to incur some substantial expenses in making restorations after the several hurricanes (as is the case this spring). More recently, we heard mention of a trust fund, but had no knowledge of whether the fund was simply to be turned over to the Pastor (or rather the proceeds of the fund), or whether provisions had been made that the fund was available for the maintenance of the garden should be spent under the control of the trustees of the fund.

We mention the foregoing because it may be helpful, if the information we received was correct, in understanding why no restoration was made of the garden planting during the '50's. Our hope, of course, is that now sufficient annual amounts are available to make a good restoration, and that, further, there are specific provisions in the trust that place an obligation on the trustees (or at least give them the freedom) to promote such a restoration.

Another matter which could hardly escape our attention at the time of our visit last summer was that the Bell Tower was badly in need of repairs, inside and outside. It should be re-pointed outside and painted inside. We questioned Mr. Wheeler about this when we saw him, and he said he was quite concerned about this. He mentioned, further, that he had in fact obtained several estimates for the work. If I remember correctly, he said some \$2,500 was estimated for outside repairs and some \$500 for inside repairs. While these needs may drain away funds which might otherwise be available for the garden, they are nevertheless fundamental needs which must be faced. No doubt Mr. Wright plans to get in touch with Mr. Wheeler. Perhaps this is the occasion of his trip. Mr. Wheeler mentioned something to the effect that it wasn't quite clear to him just who to go to to get authorization or action on the repairs, but that he planned to pursue the matter further . . . both because of his devotion to Mrs. Lillie and because he had built the tower and cared for the garden.

Needless to say, our hopes are very high at this point. Most important to us, however, are not the finances but the fact that someone right in Woods Hole is interested in doing something about the garden, and in a position to do so. It seemed just a shame that after Mrs. Lillie's vision and zeal the garden had become a sort of orphan. In our early literature, such as the enclosed "*Our Lady's Garden*", we cited Mrs. Lillie and the garden as the inspiration for our work. We hoped the Church and all the people of Woods Hole would take a real interest and pride in it and that people would come from miles around to see it. Regretfully, when nothing seemed to be happening, we had to "play it down" so people wouldn't be disappointed, although we of course still kept mentioning it . . . hoping; as in the enclosed "*Flowers of Our Lady and Mary Gardens*". We will publish a new booklet this summer. Hopefully we will once again be able to feature the garden in it . . . thanks to you.

Sincerely yours,

July 3, 1961

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

This is to let you know that my wife and I will be able to visit the Cape only very briefly this summer . . . arriving the evening of Tuesday, August 15 and leaving after lunch on Thursday, August 17. We will be staying with my sister, Mrs. John Price, in Cotuit.

We would hope to visit the Bell Tower and Garden on Wednesday, August 16, and would look forward to meeting you personally at that time if it would fit in with your schedule. Mr. McTague will not be able to visit the Cape with us this summer.

Mrs. Rivinus mentioned that she talked with you by telephone when she visited Woods Hole in late May, and that you were moving ahead with plans for this summer's planting. Have you been able to fill out a planting as anticipated?

As I believe I wrote previously, our principal interest is in the establishment of some sort of continuing arrangement for the planting and care of the garden each year, and also for the repairs and maintenance of the structure of the Bell Tower. In this connection, would you be able to report anything favorable as a result of your meeting with the Trust Company officer?

It seems to us that three things are necessary for the continuation of the Tower and Garden: 1) Adequate funds, 2) One or more gardeners among the local residents who would take a real interest in the garden, and 3) Some sort of rapprochement between the church and the community so that both parties would take a real interest in the project instead of leaving it a sort of no-man's land.

There's not too much we can do about (1) and (2), but it occurs to us that we might be able to help generate some interest in the rectory (if it still needs to be generated). In this connection, we were somewhat disconcerted to note the appearance of a "rival" statue of the Virgin of the more conventional and artistically inferior painted sort in between the Church and the rectory, surrounded by flowers evidently not especially considered for their religious symbolism. We weren't quite sure whether this was a sort of "protest" to the garden, or an expression of the church that the Bell Tower Garden was not "theirs", or what (not being in touch with the intricacies of Church-Community-Summer Resident relations).

Hoping to hear from you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Aug. 1st
(1961)

MRS. A. GEORGE GIGGER
32 BUZZARDS BAY AVENUE
WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr Stokes -

I have unfortunately
mislaid your last letter - which I planned to
answer earlier - he has been terribly busy -
The envelope is here - he - no letter. My grandchild
has the unfortunate habit of rummaging through
my desk in search of paper and pencils - so
it is possible the letter dropped out of the envelope
and fell in the waste basket. Will you then
kindly let me know again the date you
planned to be in Woods Hole, as I am anxious
to see you - I had a fine visit with Mr Wright
and as a result - the Town has been completely
re-pointed - many more repairs made, the
interior painted - as near like the original as
possible - furniture refinished etc. The garden
looks quite lovely - in spite of ravages by mind
(we are pulling up a mid-beast fence) dogs and
small children, I think you will when you
in charge for the letter - I have found out
about the financial situation, which I shall
explain to you - when I see you - There are

a number of things I'd like to tell you -
I am planning to contact Miss Harman this
fall - when she will likely have a more definite
plan for the garden for next year -
Excuse this hasty note - but I want to get -
this into to-day's mail - I shall probably be
out of town either the 10th or 11th of August - which
day I don't know yet - I would be here - the
morning of either day however - Some time the 16th -
sticks in my mind as the date you mentioned
for your visit - but I don't recall the month -
It prompts me to have the letter mailed -
I'll hope to hear from you soon -

Most sincerely -

Margaret E. Giffen.

Mrs. Rivins offers to pick up the faded
flowers to ensure longer flowering -



August, 1961
Gryger / Canon Plastics #1

Selected entries covering John S. Stokes Jr. visits with Mrs. A. George Gigger, Mr. Wilfred Wheeler and Mr. Joseph Dias in Woods Hole and Falmouth, August 16th through 21st, 1961

Phone call from Cotuit, Mass. to Mrs. A. George Gigger, 32 Buzzards Bay Ave., Woods Hole (KI8-3323), 7:30 P.M.. Arranged meeting at her house and then on to the Tower and Garden for 3:00 P.M. tomorrow. Mrs. Gigger said Mr. Wright of the Continental Trust Co., Chicago, told her in June that the trust set up for the maintenance of the Tower and Garden had not been given much careful thought, but now he understood the situation first hand he was sure it could be re-invested to provide the necessary annual income in a few years. The pointing of the Tower stonework and the painting of the interior earlier this year had to be paid for out of principal. A vent was put in the upper part of the Tower column to provide greater air circulation to decrease dampness there and in the Tower room. A natural wood fence has been ordered as a winter windbreak for behind the Rosa rugosa hedge at the sea wall. High winds from the pond broke off some of the plants this Spring so they had to be replaced. Mr. Butler painted the gate green, over the beautiful natural wood color, without consulting Mrs. Gigger. She could not very well have the paint removed, so she had it and the three chairs (painted over the natural wood some years ago by Mr. Butler) painted a more neutral warm grey. She considered the present planting experimental and expects to be able to do much better next year. She is bothered that the flowers in the left front bed grew much higher than those in the right front bed.

August 17, 1961

Visit with Mrs. Gigger at Woods Hole Garden of Our Lady, 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.. Some years ago Mrs. and Dr. Gigger made Woods Hole their year-round residence due to Dr. Gigger's poor health (post-coronary). Being in Woods Hole the year round she took on the responsibility of opening, closing and maintaining the two Lillie houses. As a result of this relationship, she was also interested in the maintenance of the Garden and Bell Tower, although she had no authority to control the allocation of the available funds for this. She did, however, investigate the re-painting of the Tower interior some ten years ago. She arranged to have this painting done by a handyman who for years had done work for one of the Lillie families. She instructed him to re-paint the interior the original color, a light cream pink, but was horrified to find it painted a dark maroon which made the interior very gloomy and hard to see in.

After Mr. Wheeler had to curtail his maintenance activities at the Garden, this work was turned over several years ago to Francesco Tavares, a professional garden and maintenance contractor of E. Falmouth. The Trust Company had previously, since Mrs. Lillie's death, accepted Mr. Wheeler's bills for the Garden maintenance without question, but when they began receiving bills from Mr. Tavares they noted they were much greater. As a consequence the Trust Company looked for some responsible and interested person in Woods Hole who could check the work done and approve the bills for payment before they were submitted to the Trust Company. In 1960 Mrs. Gigger was asked if she would do this, to which she agreed. She immediately found that Mr. Tavares did a good job with the hedge and grass, but that his planting and maintenance of the Garden were very inadequate. Then in the late Summer of 1960 the Garden planting, such as it was, was washed out again (the 4th or 5th time since 1932) by a storm.

In the Spring of 1961 (this year) Mrs. Gigger received a letter from Mr. Wright of the Continental Trust Company, advising that he had taken over Mr. Leslie's responsibility for the Lillie Tower and Garden trust, had reviewed the file on the trust, including Mrs. Gigger's correspondence, and was writing to ask if she, Mrs. Gigger, would be willing to assume responsibility for managing the maintenance and repairs of the Tower and Garden. She agreed, but explained there were a number of major matters on which decisions had to be made or would have to be made, and asked if someone from the Trust Company couldn't visit Woods Hole to see ^{things} first hand and discuss them with her. As a result, Mr. Wright, himself, came on to Woods Hole in June of 1961, two months ago.

Mrs. Gigger took Mr. Wright to see the Tower and Garden and, by appointment, invited Father Lowe, the Pastor of St. Joseph's, to join in the inspection and discussion. At this time Mr. Wright approved the expenditure of funds for re-pointing and re-painting the Tower, and also for continuing the planting of the Garden according to Mrs. Lillie's wishes. Subsequently he approved the expenditure for a wooden wind-break fence behind the Rosa rugosa hedge for Winter and early Spring.

Mrs. Gigger then arranged for Nelson Cahoon, for years gardener for the summer homes of the Crane family in Woods Hole, to plant and to maintain the Garden, using the list of flowers supplied to Mrs. Gigger by Mary's Gardens this Spring. Mrs. Gigger said Mr. Cahoon, on her instructions, used only flowers on the Mary's Gardens list. Flowers noted in the planting were Alyssum (borders of outer beds), Dwarf Marigolds (border of center bed), Giant Marigold (border beds), blue Larkspur (or Delphinium), Sweet William, Feverfew, Roses, Violets, Geranium, Petunias, Zinnias and Sunflower. She plans to have Mr. Cahoon add bulbs and plants of Spring flowers this Fall. She said he has a good feeling for attractive garden plantings.

Mrs. Gigger stated that the responsibility for administering the expenditure of the trust income for the Garden rests with the Continental Trust Company and not with the Pastor-Administrator of St. Joseph's Church or the Bishop of Fall River (unless so delegated at the discretion of the trust company).

She stated that Father Lowe "seemed to take an interest in the Garden" but that to date there had been no formal or visible participation by the parishioners in the use or maintenance of the Garden. She suggested that perhaps some of the ladies of the parish could be interested in sweeping and polishing the floor of the Tower room. She said she had had the table and bookshelves rubbed with linseed oil to protect them from the dampness. She suggested that perhaps I, as a Catholic, could better approach Father Lowe on this matter than she, an Episcopalian.

She stated she had been surprised to learn that none of Mrs. Lillie's four daughters, even though they were not Catholics, were receptive to her suggestion that they contribute to the re-erection of a trellis at the center of the rear border. She mentioned further that there was no family tradition of an interest in gardening in the Lillie family. Neither Mrs. Lillie nor her daughters were garden club members or did any gardening themselves. The gardens at the Lillie homes at Woods Hole were planted and maintained by Mr. Wheeler and his men. Mrs. Gigger was horrified to discover one spring that Dr. & Mrs. Lillie had the flower beds next to their house "grassed over" because they read somewhere that the colonial homes in New England did not have flower beds next to them but had grass right up to the foundations all around. Mrs. Lillie retained just one bed which she could see looking out from the living room window and in which "she took a great deal of pleasure."

Therefore, the Lillie daughters have neither a religious nor a horticultural interest in the Bell Tower Garden.

With respect to the Church, Mrs. Lillie had given a Woods Hole house to it as a residence for nuns studying at the Marine Biological Laboratories. She named it "Mendel House". She took care of its maintenance for years, but when she turned this over to the Church it said it didn't want this expense and gave the house back to Mrs. Lillie. Mrs. Lillie subsequently worked out some arrangement, presumably a contribution or an endowment fund which was acceptable to the Church and it accepted the house back . . . although it doesn't appear to be much used at the moment.

Mrs. Gigger said that at the time of Mrs. Lillie's funeral the Pastor of St. Joseph's advised he was not able to perform the final rites of commitment at her grave in the family plot of the Episcopalian Church (even though previous pastors had performed such rites for Dr. Lillie and other Catholic members of the Lillie family there). It was therefore arranged for Mrs. Gigger's son-in-law, and Episcopal minister, to make the final commitment at the grave.

Note: I can readily see how the Lillie daughters - none of whom had become Catholics along with their mother - would not be inclined to take an on-going interest in her Tower and Garden in terms of her motivation for conversion . . . and that the misunderstandings about the financing of Mendel House and about the burial, as well as other matters that may have come up through the years, would militate further against an active interest in them, especially if they had no special interest in gardening.

Miss Thomas, formerly with the now-defunct BOSTON POST, contacted Mrs. Gigger this summer and said she was going to write another article about the Garden for a magazine. She visited the Garden subsequently. Mrs. Gigger didn't recall what the magazine was or when the article was to appear.

After I talked with Mrs. Gigger at the Garden she took me for a brief visit to the two Lillie houses. Mrs. Lillie's house had been moved approximately 75 ft. to the South to improve the view for the second house, formerly the barn and garage of Mrs. Lillie's main house. We met Mrs. Lillie's daughter, Dr. Catherine Gildea of Philadelphia, and some of Mrs. Lillie's grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were sunning themselves on the stone and concrete breakwater and dock. Dr. Gildea still lives in Merion, outside of Philadelphia. She recalled that we had "done a lot" with the Mary Garden idea since she last saw us in 1954. Mrs. Gigger took us up to see the little shrine on the hill overlooking the houses and Buzzards Bay, at the spot where Mrs. Lillie's infant son was buried.

August 18, 1961

Today I visited Mr. Wilfred Wheeler at Ashumet Farm. His legs were pretty bad, with arthritis and he was using crutches. Mrs. Wheeler was out for a drive with her housekeeper. Mr. Wheeler said she was much better than she was last summer when she was just getting over her broken thigh, which had to be pinned. We rejoiced mutually that the repairs had finally been made to the Tower and that the Garden was once again being carefully tended. We also chatted a bit in the small herb garden by the house.

On the way out from Mr. Wheeler's house I stopped to say hello to Mr. Wheeler's greenhouse and nursery foreman. He told me his name was Joseph Dias and that he had taken care of the Woods Hole Garden ever since Mr. Wheeler gave up caring for it personally in the late 30's or early 40's. He said that Mrs. Lillie's daughters had never been interested in the Mary Garden or even in the small gardens around their houses. He was under constant pressure to cut down the amount of time he spent on the gardens. One of the daughters would come out while he was working on the flower beds around the Lillie house and say, "That's enough; that's enough. Just hit the high spots." She even came over to the Mary Garden and told him not to spend so much time there.

He said he retained the arrangement Mrs. Lillie had come to like in the central bed of the Mary Garden: the white Alyssum border and the red and blue Petunias.

Several years ago Mr. Wheeler had to curtail his gardening responsibilities because of old age, and Joseph Dias was asked to recommend an alternate caretaker for the Mary Garden. He knew that Francesco Tavares grew the finest annuals plants on Cape Cod each year at his greenhouse, and after inspecting a very beautiful Tavares planting at a local motel, he recommended Mr. Tavares to take over as his successor. He said he thought the reason Mr. Tavares was not able to do justice to the Mary Garden was

that his men only knew how to mow the grass and cut the hedge so Mr. Tavares himself had to plant and care for the Garden personally, but he didn't have the time to give it the proper attention. He, Mr. Dias, was embarrassed, because he had recommended Mr. Tavares, and was disappointed because all the years he had maintained the Garden he realized how many people came to visit it and saw how big a thing it could be potentially for Woods Hole and the Cape. He was happy to learn that there was a nice planting this year; thought highly of Mr. Nelson Cahoon's gardening work for the Crane family; and was confident Mr. Cahoon was up to doing a good job with the Mary Garden.

He said Dr. Lillie's Chicago house had been bequeathed to the University of Chicago.

He said that at the time of Mrs. Lillie's funeral, Mrs. Wheeler prepared a little bouquet of "the herbs which Mrs. Lillie loved so much" and asked him, Joseph Dias, to go to the funeral home before the funeral and place them in her hand for burial with her. He asked if he could attend the funeral services too. When he arrived at the funeral parlor the funeral director said they were short a pall bearer and asked him if he would serve as one. The bronze casket was extremely heavy and was most difficult to carry up and down the steps of St. Joseph's. He said he saw nothing unusual in the fact that the Catholic priest couldn't make the commitment at the Episcopalean cemetery, although he knew it had been done several times before, with Dr. Lillie and/or other members of the Lillie family. He said he understood there was a "new ruling" which even the Bishop couldn't change.

He said his son was assistant foreman at "Holly Acres" on Route 151 and that they used a lot of mass production methods for propagation and tending.

August 23, 1961

In visiting St. Joseph's Church, I was moved by how appropriate it was, in view of the Garden of Our Lady, that the stained glass window behind the altar represents two angels prepared to honor Our Lady, one with a floral crown and the other with a bouquet; and that the second stained glass window from the front on the right hand side honors Our Lady under the title and emblem of "Rosa Mystica".

August 22, 1961

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

This is a brief note to thank you for your time and courtesies in Woods Hole last week.

It was a profound joy to me to see the Bell Tower so carefully repointed and repainted, and especially to see such a beautiful beginning to the restoration of the Mary Garden.

This is the fulfillment of a fond hope entertained by Mr. McTague and myself for over ten years, and also, we feel sure, of the hope entertained by Mrs. Lillie when she established the Tower and Garden in the 1930's and when she set up the trust fund to perpetuate them.

For your files I am enclosing spare copies (which I am now so glad we obtained and kept) of early articles showing the inspiration of Mrs. Lillie's work for us, and likewise our endeavors in 1952 and 1953 to promote the restoration of the Garden:

- * Article, "Bell Tower Has Garden Dedicated to Virgin Mary", from May 16, 1952, Mail Away edition of the Falmouth Enterprise.
- * Article, "A Different Devotion", by Jean Tucker, from April 11, 1952, Worcester Catholic Free Press.
- * Booklet, "Our Lady's Garden", published by Mary's Gardens of Philadelphia, 1953 (See "Inspiration" inside front cover).
- * Article, "Here 'Mary Flowers' Grow" from the Sunday Boston Post Magazine, August 30, 1953, by Tamena John (Anne Thomas).

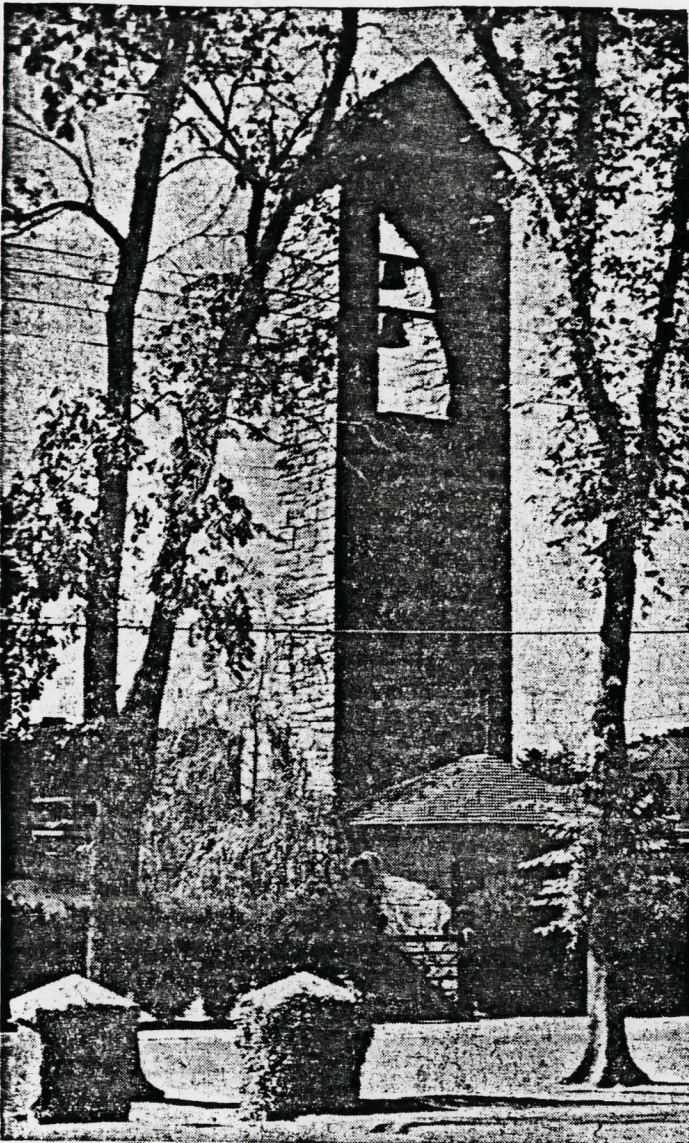
Father Lowe was not available Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, but we will write to him shortly. Also, we missed Mrs. Rivinus, who was on a trip to Orleans, but we did speak to her later on the phone. We did have a nice visit with Mr. Wheeler Friday morning.

Thanks again for everything, and please don't hesitate to call on us if we can help in any way.

Sincerely,

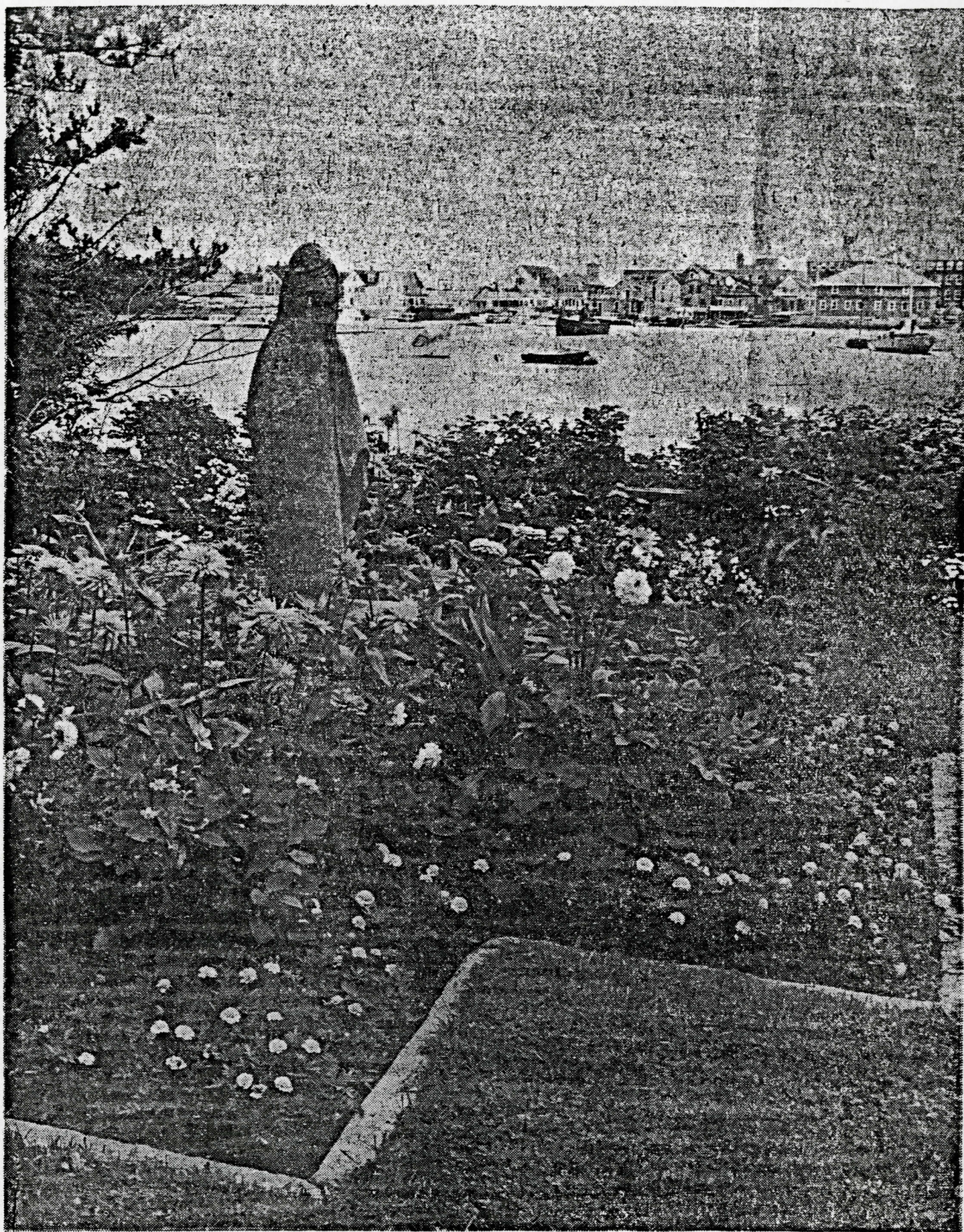
P.S. Could you give us Miss Anne Thomas' address, if you have it? Thank

Mary's Garden



Flowers whose old names honor the Virgin Mary surround her statue in the Mary's Garden; in the background is Eel pond. The angelus bell tower which rises above the garden is a memorial of beauty. Glimpse of tower interior shows the oratory.

*Flowers Named In Honor Of
Virgin Mary Grow At Shrine*



The Mary's Garden shrine at St. Joseph's church in Woods Hole is said to be the first public shrine of its kind in the United States. Full planting of the garden on what was marshland between Millfield street and Eel pond was in 1936. The story of the garden begins in 1929 when Mrs. Frank R. Lillie built the bell tower around which the garden grows.

The tower of pink West Falmouth granite rises 55 feet high across the street from St. Joseph's church. In the red-roofed belfry hang two handsome bronze bells, cast in England. Appropriately for Woods Hole, one of the world's great scientific centers, the larger of the bells is called Mendel, for the great student of heredity; the smaller bell is named for Pasteur who pioneered in the study of microbes.

Bells Play The Angelus

The bells pealed for the first time at 5:45 on Christmas morning in 1929. They now play daily at 7 A.M., 12 Noon, and 6 P.M., for theirs is the call for the angelus, a prayer said by the faithful every morning, noon and night in observance of the Annunciation.

Donor of the tower and its later garden was a convert to the Catholic faith. Her association with Woods Hole began in 1891 and only ended with her death in 1958. She was an invalid when she was flown here in June, 1957, for her last summer at her Gardiner road home in Woods Hole.

Frances Crane, daughter of Richard T. Crane 2nd, founder of a fortune made in manufacture of plumbing fixtures, first came to Woods Hole in 1891 to study biology. Here she met Frank Rattray Lillie who was studying under Dr. C. O. Whitman. Four years later they were married and in 1900 they bought their home on Gardiner road. Dr. Lillie died in 1947 and both

are buried in Woods Hole.

Dr. Whitman and Dr. Lillie were principals in founding the Marine Biological Laboratory. Dr. Lillie became director in 1903 and was president from 1926 to 1942.

Mrs. Lillie's gift of the tower and later endowment of St. Mary's garden were, in broadest sense, gifts both to St. Joseph's church and the Woods Hole which meant so much to herself and her family. Her brother, Charles R. Crane, was the M.B.L.'s greatest individual benefactor. Members of the Fay family gave the land in appreciation of their devoted Catholic employees.

Charles Coolidge, Boston architect, designed the tower. Builder was the late Wilfrid Wheeler. The Most Rev. James E. Cassidy, then auxiliary bishop of the Fall River diocese, dedicated the tower on July 31, 1930. A procession of clergy bore cross and candles across the street

from the church to bestow upon tower and bells the blessing of the Catholic church. The dedication was in honor of St. Joseph.

The tower rises above a small Benedictine monastic oratory. Within the oratory is a writing-seat of the type used in their scriptoria by medieval monks for the inscription and illumination of manuscripts. A table and bookcase offer a small library for religious reading. The books were seriously depleted by water damage of the hurricanes. Walls of the oratory are adorned with bronze tablets representing the 14 Stations of the Cross. The bronze stations and bronze door are the work of Alfeo Facci of New York. Depicted on the door are incidents from the Gospels that refer to St. Joseph.

Miss Dorothea K. Harrison, landscape architect, designed St. Mary's garden which came later. Wilfrid Wheeler did the planting and supervised care of the flowers. Beside the bell tower was a small statue of St. Margaret, patron saint of gardens. The garden was designed in the shape of a cross, marked off by small stones. At the center of the crucifix pattern is a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Names Honoring Virgin Mary

The flowers were chosen after centuries old fashion of pre-Reformation England. In those days more than 500 flowers bore names honoring the Virgin Mary. Flowers chosen for Woods Hole bore such names as Ladysmock, Mary-gold, Rosemary, and Lady Slipper.

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. Benches invited visitors to linger.

When the 1938 hurricane swept through the garden, depositing a boat and boathouse against the tower, the plantings were devastated; the statue of St. Margaret was smashed. Replacement was a statue of the Virgin Mary. The destroyed box hedge was replaced by yew.

During the war years it was decided to simplify the garden by planting flowers best adapted to the location and the soil.

Petunias, marigolds and ageratum replaced the flowers of pre-Reformation names. In 1952 it was announced that many of the original flowers would be restored to the design.

Inspired by Mrs. Lillie's Mary's garden, John S. Stokes Jr., a Philadelphian, launched a movement to encourage similar plantings and arranged to supply appropriate packets of seeds. Mr. Stokes wrote of his visit to the bell tower and garden:

"One shrine which offers a very special tribute to Our Lady and also points in a special way to life eternal is her Mary Garden shrine at St. Joseph's church in Woods Hole. — the first public shrine of its kind in the United States.

Ringling Of The Angelus

"As visitors to Woods Hole we first learn of the shrine when we hear the ringing of the Angelus, or see its bell tower. . . a prominent landmark clearly visible across the inlet from the town center. A short walk or drive around the inlet brings us to the tower standing in a plot

Continued on next page

Mary's Garden

Continued from preceding page

set apart from the street by a handsome yew hedge.

"With a sense of adventure, we put our hand to the wooden gate in the hedge. Opening it, we step through to find ourselves before a door in the tower base. To the left of the door is a bronze plaque bearing the inscription:

SAINT JOSEPH'S BELLS

The large bell is named
MENDEL

its inscription reads
I Will Teach You Of Life
And Of Life Eternal

The smaller bell is named
PASTEUR

its inscription reads
Thanks Be To God

"Mrs. Frank R. Lillie, a convert, who gave the shrine as adjunct to St. Joseph's parish church, named the Angelus bells for Mendel and Pasteur — two Catholic pioneers in the study of life — with a special view to the scientists working at the renowned Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories across the inlet, — of which her late husband was director and president. It was her ardent hope that the shrine would heighten the prayerful sense of the biological work, — seen as a collaboration with God's providence in sus-

taining life, and as a discovery of the perfection of the eternal Creator as manifested in the diversity and total order of His living creatures. The bells have rung out this call each morning, noon and evening since they were blessed in 1930 by the Bishop of Fall River during a special dedication procession and Mass.

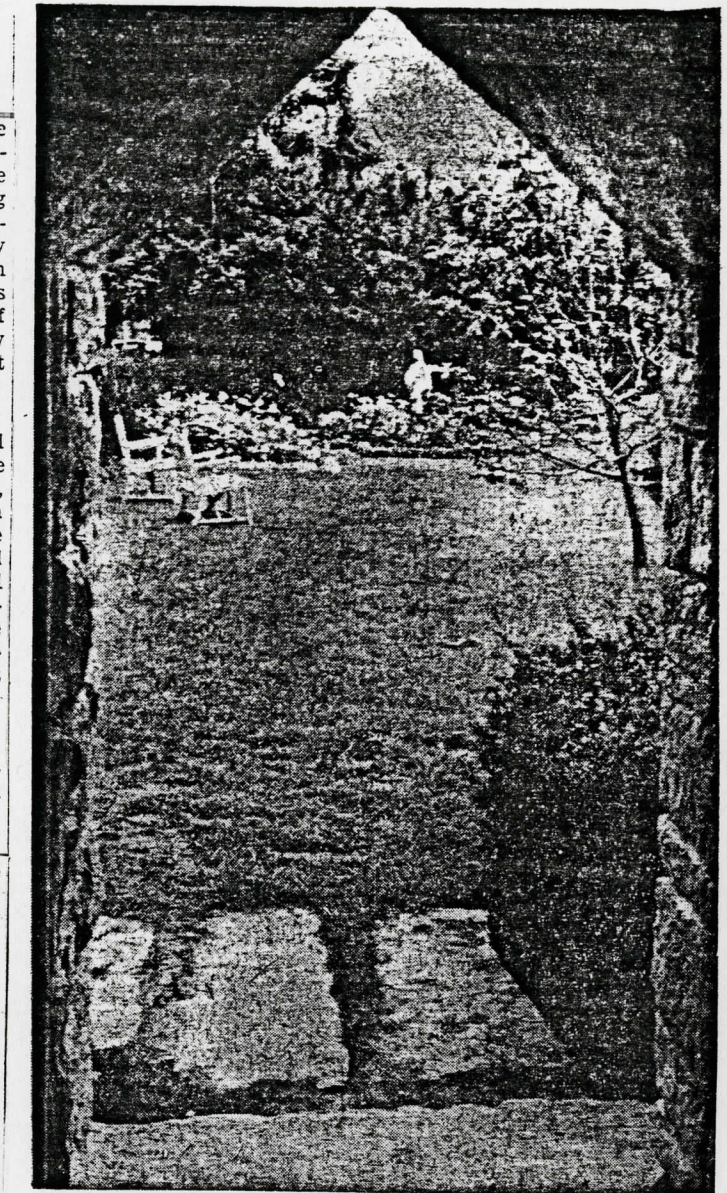
"On the metal facing of the tower door, dedicated to St. Joseph, are six scenes from the life of the Holy Family, telling the joyous message of the Eternal Word become man. They speak, too, for the restoration of art — good art — for God's sake in an age when the end of art is all too often seen as only pleasure, self-expression, or art for art's sake.

Inside Of The Oratory

"Inside the door is a small oratory. Around the walls are miniature Stations of the Cross, calling us to meditate upon Him Who by His death has given life to the world. On a table and some shelves are the Bible and Christian books of many centuries. Stilled for a moment, we see this is a carefully and purposefully assembled library, yet one which has been placed there just for us. Alone, and in silence, we are face to face with the writings of the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, popes, saints and scholars of the Church; holy men speaking out of the ages of God's incarnation, death and resurrection; of His presence with us in His Church until the end of the world; and of His Kingdom which is without end. If the glimpses of life had by leafing through these books move us to read further, a notice assures us we are welcome to take one with us, and to keep it until we have finished with it.

"Stepping out again from the oratory, we behold a garden at the other end of the hedged tower enclosure. But this is no ordinary pleasure garden; it is a Mary Garden dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, around whose statue God's riches and artistry — the plants and blooms — are ordered in garden beds.

"Plant markers, and a notice posted to one side tell more: that the garden is composed of plants which centuries ago, in popular tradition of pre-reformation, Catholic England were seen and named to recall Our Lady and her mysteries. Ordered



View from the Bell Tower Doorway

here about her statue, they join the Angelus bells in singing a litany of her praises: Virgin Flower, Assumption Lily, Mystical Rose. . . Here is truly a garden oratory, where our hearts are lifted up by plant life to Our Lady, Queen of all life.

Heritage Of The Flowers

"The plants and blooms also bring us testimony of the deep

piety of a former age when Christian love and devotion were mirrored in even the 'little' things of daily life, such as the flowers of the field. With penetrating clarity and impact we are struck by the imprint of intimate devotion as out of the silence of the centuries the pendant bloom clusters of primrose once again come into focus as 'Our Lady's Keys'; the pointed seed pods of wild geranium as 'Madonna's Pins'; the stout, erect stalk and

Plants Named for Our Lady

(From research by Winifred Jelliffe Emerson in 1932
at the suggestion of Mrs. Frank R. Lillie)

Religious Name	Popular Name
Annunciation Lily	Madonna Lily
Candlemas Bells	Snowdrops
Joseph and Mary	Lungwort
Our Lady's Cushion	Golden Saxifrage
Lady's Eardrop	Fuchsia
Lady Eleven O'Clock	Star of Bethlehem
Our Lady's Eyes	Forget-me-Not
Lady's Fingers	Golden Chain
Our Lady's Fingers	Honeysuckle
Lady's Frills	Primrose
Lady's Flower	Pansy
Lady's Garters	Ribbon Grass
Our Lady's Glove	Foxglove
Our Lady's Hair	Maiden Hair Fern
Our Lady's Hand	Spotted Orchids
Lady's Mantle	Morning Glory
Our Lady's Modesty	English Violet
Lady's Nightcap	Canterbury Bells
Our Lady's Rose	Rose of Jericho
Lady's Seal	Solomon's Seal
Lady's Shoes	Columbine
Mary's Eyes	Forget-me-Not
Marygold	Marigold
Mary's Heart	Bleeding Heart
St. Mary's Herb	Spearmint
St. Mary's Tree	Rosemary
St. Joseph's Staff	Hollyhock
Virgin's Bower	Clematis
Virgin Flower	Snowdrop
Lady's Ruffles	Daffodil

blossom clusters of mullein as 'Mary's Candle;' the dainty blue blossoms of harebell as 'Our Lady's Thimble;' the slender buds of honeysuckle as 'Our Lady's Fingers'. . . and many others. The faithful have no need of books in order to read. Is there here, perhaps, a glimpse of a vast forgotten heritage from the ages of The Faith — a sacramental view of nature which awaits only the vision of faith to be restored to life?

"Thus edified, and brought to heart, mind and soul we now turn to depart through the gate by which we entered. As we do we see before us across the street St. Joseph's Church, which we perhaps gave little notice in our initial quest for the Angelus tower. Overjoyed that Mary has once again led us to Christ, we proceed from garden to church and kneel before the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

In Retrospect

"Leaving St. Joseph's a few minutes later, restored in spirit, we see once again the tower and Mary Garden; and beyond them across the inlet the Woods Hole town center and laboratories. But the elements of the picture have come together with new clarity. The notes sounded separately are heard in harmony. Angelus tower, Mary Garden, sacred art, holy books, St. Joseph's Church are seen in unity as bringing us to Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life. And beyond them is the world, from which we came and to which we are to return, restoring all things in Christ.

"Ordered here in the most immediate and direct way to prayer, church and Sacrament-architecture, art, books and plant life bring us to a vision of how they may be thus seen and ordered elsewhere, too. And in the Mary Garden particularly, are we afforded an apt means for bringing this vision to our families, friends and neighbors, at a distance from Woods Hole. Not everyone can make a trip to Cape Cod, but any little place—even a window box or flower pot—will do for a Mary Garden. Why not more than one? Why not Mary Garden shrines at other churches, and at homes and schools where where Our Lady's flowers and their care can become a part of daily living and devotion?

Call to Stewardship

"Apprenticeship in the arts-craft of horticulture and the undertaking of faithful stewardship for seeds, plants and blooms for Our Lady, can teach us our responsibility and call to stewardship under God's providence for all His living things, and, by analogy, for the supernatural life of grace in our souls. And as we cultivate plant life dedicated to Mary, and offer its blooms as gifts

at her shrine, we can make yet another offering: the interior offering of the joys and

sacrifices of our work as spiritual bouquets to Mary and her Divine Son and Lord.

"Stewardship for a Garden of Our Lady, prayerfully undertaken contains the "one thing necessary". . . not only for gardening, but for all work, no matter how scientific or technical or how highly organized it may be. It holds up the mirror, asking whether our work is undertaken primarily for earthly pleasure, ambition or solititousness, or properly, as a means to life eternal.

"To work is to pray; and truly prayerful work leads to and is nourished from the sacraments . . . that ultimately the three—work, prayer and sacraments—may become one in us, rising up as a holocaust to God. May Our Lady in her garden help us thus to sacramentalize earth and its fruits and to supernaturalize governance and labor, that we and all things may be lifted up in Christ."

J.M.J.

July 1, 1962

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

Dear Father Galvin,

In case you haven't seen it, Ed and I are sending you the enclosed feature from the May 25, 1962 FAIRMOUTH ENTERPRISE on the Woods Hole Garden of Our Lady.

Mr. Wilfred Wheeler, Mrs. Lillie's brother-in-law, who built the Angelus Tower and maintained the Mary Garden for so many years died in December of 1961. The previous year he gave up the maintenance of the garden, and last spring the responsibility for it was assumed by Mrs. A. George Gigger of Woods Hole, a cousin of Mrs. Lillie's, who is technically the agent of the Chicago bank at which Mrs. Lillie set up the trust fund for perpetual maintenance of the Tower and Garden. Mrs. Gigger, an Episcopalian, is an experienced gardener and a year-round resident of Woods Hole, where she manages all the Crane and Lillie properties. The actual gardening work, under her direction, is performed by Mr. Nelson Cahoon, a long time gardener for the Crane family and no doubt a relative of Sam Cahoon whose market you mentioned in your 1946 article.

Despite the fact that Ed and/or I have visited Woods Hole almost yearly in our continuing attempts to get the garden restored decently, Mrs. Gigger was unable to find anyone who could suggest to her where she could learn about Mary Gardening plantings, which were specified under the terms of Mrs. Lillie's trust. So she contacted the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Boston who in turn referred her to us. We immediately gave her lists of plants - this was in March-April of 1961 - and last summer the planting was most beautifully restored with Flowers of Our Lady. Additional plants have been added last fall and this spring and the garden should be a joy to behold this coming summer, or rather right now. We hope to get up in August.

The article in the ENTERPRISE was occasioned by the restoration of the garden. Also, the Tower has been repointed outside and repainted inside and is in first-class shape. We also inclose our current leaflet, and a reprint of our latest article from THE MARIAN ERA.

Sincerely in Our Lady,

32 Buzzards Bay Ave.
Wood's Hole - Mass.

Sept. 12th
(1962)

Dear Mr. Stokes -
It gave me great
pleasure to see you during the summer,
and I only wished that your visit
could have been longer. The garden
is still looking beautiful - and I have
just heard from Mr. Wright - that
we may have the usual bench
and chairs next season.

I am only in haste to ask you a
favor - some time ago - I promised
a coming mine in Texas (Mrs. Gerald

Brochner, 147 Bedford Drive, San
Antonio) to ask you to please send
her some information on Mary Gardens,
and especially a list of the flowers
used. Mrs. Brochner is a great
gardener - has recently become interested
in Mary Gardens - and I believe
wishes to prepare a paper on them
to be read at a Garden Club
meeting - As I felt I could not spare
any of my precious documents, I thought

perhaps you would be kind enough to
send her some literature. I would be
very grateful, and I know she would
be. She was brought up in Mass -
but went to Texas - some years ago -
when her husband's business (he is an
architect) called him there - I understand
she has made a beautiful garden
at her home there - Must I see her
soon it -

It is hard to realize summer is over -
I shall have one grandson with me -
but he goes back to Yale next week -
then I'll be really alone - It has
been a strenuous summer and I am
really tired - but I know that after a
few days of quiet, I'll wish the
family all back again! I have a
may fall ahead - a president of our
Garden Club - there are many
meetings to attend - besides our own -
and that is only one of my varied
responsibilities -

Also let me hear from you - and I'll

be grateful for any helpful
literature you may come across - or
for any suggestion you care to make -
Best wishes -

Most sincerely -

Margaret E. Lippin -



August, 1963
Gisger / Canyon Planting #3

April 3, 1964

Mrs. A. George Gigger
32 Buzzards Bay Avenue
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

Enclosed is a copy of our first typed draft of MARIANA 1, which we propose to distribute in mimeographed form soon.

We would appreciate your checking the paragraphs on the first page relative to the Woods Hole Garden, and advising us of any corrections which should be made. For example, we were unable to locate any written record of the date of Mrs. Lillie's death, and relied on memory for the year 1958. We would appreciate your corroborating or correcting this date, as well as the other information given.

I regretted missing you in my 2 hour visit to Woods Hole last August while enroute from Rhode Island to Boston. Perhaps I will be able to visit again this coming summer.

How is the garden coming along this spring? I forget whether I wrote you to congratulate you on the new furniture and trellis.

I hope this finds you well.

Sincerely yours,

April 18th - 1964

32 BUZZARDS BAY AVENUE
WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Stokes -

I spent the winter from
middle of December in Dentonville -
as my daughter was very ill - and my
help was needed - I arrived home a
few days ago - utterly exhausted -
Physically & emotionally - found your letter
and manuscript - I am just getting at the
mass of mails which has accumulated -
I found the manuscript very interesting - You
did not say to return it - if you wish it
returned let me know. Otherwise I like
to keep it - There are two corrections -
Mrs. Lillian died in 1958 - I don't recall
the date - month - but I guess the year is
all you want - Also Mrs. Lillian was my
first cousin - not niece - Apart from these
corrections, everything else seems all right -
I had a nice visit with Miss
Harrison who planned the garden
originally - before I came home. She

Gave me a copy of the original plan.
so this summer I shall try to follow
some of the suggestions in that. Last
summer some of the figs did not do too
well - also the two front beds did not
seem well balanced to me - This was due
to the gardener's mistake - in not
following my instruction - I hope this year
to do better.

I was under the impression that last
summer you stopped by - as we made a
flipp flying net to the garden - but
perhaps it was two years ago - Time
goes by so quickly - Mr. Wright, the trustee
from Chicago visited us last summer -
I hope you will drop in this coming
season - and that I shall be home.
My plans are uncertain. My daughter
who is better, goes with her husband to
Berkeley - for a month - leaving June 12th -
are exchanges pastorate - very interesting.
So I shall be very much on the spot
here - until mid July - A classmate
(college) wants me to visit her at her
home on the edge of the Lake & the Woods in

May 10, 1964

Dear Mrs. Gigger,

Thanks for your letter of April 18 giving me the corrections for the MARIANA 1 manuscript. It was very kind of you to write so soon after your return to Woods Hole from Newtonville.

It is good to learn your daughter is now better, and able to make the trip to Bermuda for her husband's exchange pastorate in June. I would be interested to know the name and location of the church where they will be. My wife and I spent a week in Bermuda in mid-April in Paget and were familiar with St. Paul's Church there. In addition to having a perfect trip generally we had a Mary's Gardens field day, photographing all the sub-tropical and tropical Flowers of Our Lady there. We visited a number of wonderful gardens there and met some interesting horticulturalists. MARIANA 1 was a big help because we were able to check the principal horticultural books on Bermuda against it in advance and thus knew exactly which plants to look for.

Your visit with Miss Dorothea Harrison must have been very helpful to you in getting a sense of the beginning and early history of the Woods Hole Garden of Our Lady. When Mr. McTague and I met with her and Mr. Wheeler in July of 1952 she showed us a number of planting plans, on brown drawing paper, and later sent us a photostat of one entitled "Revised Planting Plan - Spring, 1935". We wanted to obtain copies of the others, but getting the photostats made apparently was an inconvenience etc.. We do hope to get a detailed record of these early plantings some time, and wonder if the plan you now have is the Spring 1935 one or another. We will write Miss Harrison again, sending her a copy of MARIANA

Yes, I had a brief 1-hour visit to Woods Hole last summer en route from Rhode Island to Boston. I noted the unbalance between the front two beds you mention, but I noticed more the central bed planting of blue flowers which I didn't like as well as the previous planting of mixed sunflowers (?), Zinnias, Delphinium etc., although this amounts pretty much to personal preference. Perhaps MARIANA 1 contains some new candidates for the garden which would be suited to the climate and location.

Yes, I hope for another visit this coming summer and will try to plan it for some time when you are there.

Please keep the draft copy of MARIANA 1.

Sincerely,