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PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Vol. 33

March 1983

No. 1

The Board of Directors for the Friends of the Wildflower Garden met Saturday, January 15, and will meet again Saturday, April 16. Meanwhile, the Nominating Committee (Lynn Deweese, Chr.; Kenneth Avery and Marie Demler) ask for your suggestions for two vacancies on the Board. Call Lynn, evenings, at 824-8394, by April first. The Garden will re-open for the season April 11.

THOREAU AND THE MINNESOTA CRAB-APPLE TREE

(Editor's Note:) Marian Grimes, M.D., retired from practice in 1968, and from 1968 till 1980 she headed the volunteer recruitment and scheduling that has kept the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden open six hours daily during the season. Marian lived close by at 1105 Washburn Avenue South; and when volunteers were few,

she would serve in the Shelter herself and use its phone to recruit more volunteers. Marian now lives at 8915 Colfax Avenue South, Bloomington. Recently she was reading Update, a publication of the University of Minnesota -- an article about Henry David Thoreau's visit to Minneapolis in June 1861. One objective of his trip was to see a fine crab-apple tree he had heard of. The article says, "Someone sent him to a Mr. Grimes. ... They found quite a cluster of them." Marian wrote the Update editor that "a Mr. Grimes" was her grandfather. She writes the following for our "Fringed Gentian":

"I had heard that Thoreau had visited my grandfather's nursery in Edina. It was called the Calhoun Nursery, and I've been told it was the first nursery in Minnesota." (Ed. Note: The editor has lived on what was the Grimes farm for 43 years, and has heard that Jonathan Grimes kept a rowboat moored at what is now 42nd Street and Grimes Avenue, and that he could row from there through swamps to Lake Calhoun.) (Marian continues:) "My grandfather, Jonathan T. Grimes, came to Minnesota from Virginia because he disapproved of slavery.

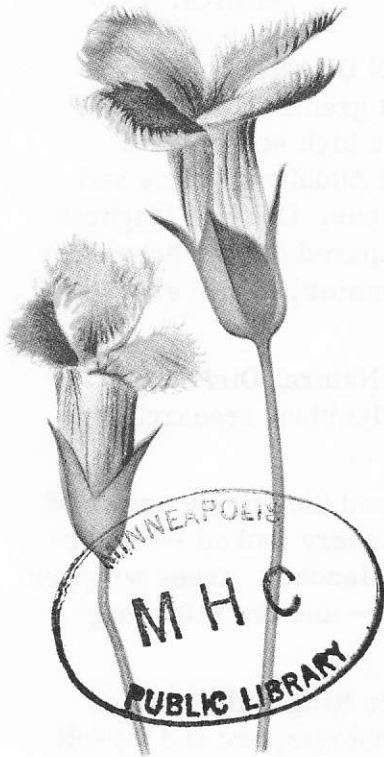
"When my parents were married, Grandfather gave my father the eastern part of his farm, the block between 44th and 45th Streets and Beard and Chowen Avenues South. (The pronunciation of 'Chowen' was 'Kowen.')

"I like to think that the wild apple tree in our garden at 44th and Beard was the one Mr. Thoreau spotted. I picked many a gorgeous bouquet of blossoms from this tree in my childhood and gave them to neighbors. The apples, though! They were like round green olives, very hard, and didn't even soften from freezing.

"The Jonathan T. Grimes home at 4200 West 44th Street in Edina is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is considered to be the best example of Gothic architecture in a home in this area. Richard E. Stallard, D.D.S., Ph.D., is the present owner, and has accomplished much in restoring the old homestead, as I like to call it. He is a director of Edina Historical Society. Last summer he transplanted a clematis vine from my yard to his. It originally came from the Calhoun Nursery.

"Possibly this farm of my grandfather was a magnet for naturalists. Dr. Roberts of bird fame hunted deer there frequently.

"My mother, Jennie Alden, was a student of Miss Eloise Butler. I hope this account provides a bit of 'meat' for the Fringed Gentian and explains my interest in the Eloise Butler Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary."



A YOUNG SCIENTIST THANKS OUR COMMITTEE ON GRANTS

(Editor's Note: In January 1979 our Board decided to award modest grants to students working in conservation and ecology. Last May eight students at area high schools and colleges received a total of \$1,100. We also awarded \$320.00 to the Audubon Society and \$200.00 to AFS. Several students wrote letters of appreciation; and one, Dolores Maghrak of the College of St. Thomas, sent a report of over 3,000 words, prepared for the School for Field Studies, describing her field work on Mount St. Helens last summer. Some excerpts and condensations:)

"I participated in the Mount St. Helens expedition, 'Ecology of a Natural Disaster.' Evie Merrill headed the animal research, and A.B. Adams directed the plant research and provided basic history on the volcanic activity of Mount St. Helens. . . .

"First impressions of the devastation area: I couldn't comprehend the mighty power of a volcanic eruption until I had seen the results. How awesome the scenery looked — lunar-scape surroundings, colored pools scattered amidst the débris — avalanche, trees wrapped about the contours of the mountainsides — the standing dead forests — and the returning plant life no matter how small or isolated. . . .

"Another 'humble' moment for me was my venture to Studebaker Ridge, the base of Mount St. Helens. A. B. Adams, two other students, a free-lance photographer and myself hiked up the débris-slide to establish some vegetation plots. I cannot remember another time when I felt so compelled to do something. It was as if the mountain were a magnet, and I had a belly full of iron pellets! All I could concentrate on was my environment: where I would place my next step, the hot sun, and the activity of the mountain. . . .

"I had no idea that elk were so large (850 pounds average) or so beautiful! We had the good fortune to see a bull removing the velvet from his antlers! . . . Radio telemetry was the major technique employed for elk-data collection. . . . Each student was assigned a radio-collared animal for which he was responsible, and was required to make at least three radio-visual sightings. Each collared animal has a unique radio signal. The equipment to track these animals included a receiver, an antenna, a vehicle for transportation, and a map of the lumbering roads. To locate the animal, the student employed triangulation. Usually, readings through radio telemetry are taken on high elevations first to establish a general location. You set the radio receiver at the required frequency, attach the antenna, rotate it along a 360° path, and observe needle-bounce for clues to location of your elk. The animal is generally in sight if the volume is at zero and a beep is still audible — except in heavy cloud-cover where visibility is reduced to four feet. Once the animal has been located, binoculars and / or spotting scope aid in animal-behavioral observations.

"In addition, I participated in elk excavation. . . . We discovered that most of the animals on this site died of asphyxiation because they appeared to have fallen dead in their tracks. . . .

"Tom Brown, Jr., in his book, The Tracker, expresses my feelings about my experiences at Mount St. Helens: ' Most of what it feels like to be there in the woods is inexpressible in any language. The only language for some things is experience. Some experiences simply do not translate. You have to go to know. ' "

THANK YOU, DOLORES!

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Send dues to Treasurer, Doris S. Larson .. Box 66, Chanhassen MN 55317

Make Checks payable to "DORIS S. LARSON, TREASURER." Dues are tax-deductible.

Membership categories: Active, \$5.00 a year. Other categories, call Doris at 934-7648.

And would you like to help us keep the Shelter open? Call Marie Demler, 938-5856.