City's Oldest Tree Periled by Flames in Glenwood Park

MINNEAPOLIS' oldest tree, a white oak, estimated to be 400 years old by Park Forester Boeglin, was threatened with destruction by fire Wednesday.

Park Keeper Carl Erickson, in charge at Glewood, where the tree grows in the wild flower garden, fought until he was exhausted and called the fire department to aid him in putting out a fire started by skaters on Birch pond, which ran through dead leaves and dry grass in the Glenwood woods.

Two thousand evergreens recently set out in the vicinity by park foresters were burned.

FENCE FOR OLD OAK IS ASKED

Petitions asking that the "great oak" on Franklin terrace by protected with an ornamental iron fence, and that the tree, said to be centuries old, be named "the Eloise Butler Oak," in honor of one of the pioneer teachers of biology in the city, were read at a meeting of the park commissioners Wednesday afternoon.

The fence has become a necessity in order to protect the roots of the tree, which is one of the landmarks of the city, Dr. O. F. Schussler, originator of the plan, declared. The suggestion was referred to the improvement committee of the park board.