

MINNESOTA MEMORIES

By RUTH THOMPSON

Plant Reserve Memorial to Teacher

THE MERRY MONTH of May is here, "queen of blossoms and fulfilling flowers." She is showing off a profusion of her beauties in the native plant reserve of Theodore Wirth park, Minneapolis. In this wild flower garden, are grouped together plants that one might fail to find in a trip throughout the state.

The inscription on the memorial tablet placed in this plant reserve, May 4, 1934, tells this story: "In loving memory of Eloise Butler, 1851-1933. Teacher of botany in Minneapolis schools, founder and first curator of this native plant reserve, this oak has been planted and this tablet erected by a grateful public. To this sequestered glen Miss Butler gathered from all sections of our state, specimens of its beautiful native plants and tended them with patient care. This priceless garden is our heritage from her and its continued preservation a living testimony of our appreciation."

REGRETTED CHANGES

For over 20 years Miss Eloise Butler taught science in Central high school of Minneapolis, and for 6 years botany in South high school. She delighted to take her pupils and friends on botanizing trips, especially through Glenwood, now Theodore Wirth park. Saddened over the disappearance of the wild flowers, she once wrote:

"In the early 80's, Minneapolis was a place of enchantment, a veritable fairyland. Wild flowers grew everywhere. What changes have been wrought by the rapid growth of the city, and the onward march of 'improvements'!"

So Miss Butler and other city botany teachers petitioned the park commissioners to set aside a tract of land, which might become "a living museum of the flora of Minnesota."

FOUNDED IN 1907

The park board in April, 1907, set aside a three-acre tract in Glenwood park as a wild botanic garden, later named the Eloise Butler native plant reserve. The area now comprises 30 acres, including the 10 acres added last summer for an upland prairie garden.

The tamarack swamp, the wooded and open hillsides, and the high ground afford varying degrees of soil, light, and moisture for the different kinds of native plants, trees and shrubs. The reserve now con-

tains hundreds of plant specimens, more than half of which have been introduced.

The most abundant trees are the white birch, ironwood, northern pin oak, the white and red oak, white ash, red maple, basswood, and large-toothed aspen.

Until 1942, a white oak, said to be about 700 years old, was "monarch" of the woods. It died and was cut down, but its great trunk is left on the ground as its memorial.

In an adjoining glen there stands, on what was once the shore of an ancient lake, an American elm more than 300 years old. Its large trunk rises

BRITAIN TELLS THE WORLD OF IT'S CULTURE

Melita Spraggs in the
Christian Science Monitor

INTERNATIONAL organizations for preserving world peace and friendship will have increasing prospects of success when the peoples of the world understand each other better; when they sing each other's songs; keep step with their national folk dances; read and exchange books, films, music, and plays; when they understand each other's work-a-day problems.

That view has led the British parliament to raise the grant for the British Council's cultural activities from 5,000 pounds to more than 700 times that sum in the 10 years since its inception in 1935.

Overseas activities are now in charge of 31 representatives in that number of countries. A hundred British institutes and other centers are in operation.

undivided to a height of 50 feet, and at its base it has a diameter of 4 feet and a circumference of more than 14 feet.

BIRD BATH POPULAR

Evergreens, not native to the area, have been set out near the southern boundary of the reserve. Near there is the office of the curator, Mrs. Martha Cron.

A large boulder into which a bird bath has been chiseled is a popular community center for the many birds which nest in the Reserve. Many migrants make the garden a stopping place for refreshment. Small animals enjoy the paradise. But there are mosquitoes!

Just now, the plant reserve is a spring tonic for spirits wearied by the long winter.

DOROTHY KILG

G Men Ready to Into Candy Bar

THE OPA and the department of justice will crack the front pages with arrests in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia in a \$20 million candy bar black market.

Buddy DeSylva is plotting an elaborate Broadway musical. May write the lyrics himself.

Clark Gable's girl-of-the-moment is Virginia Cherrill, who was Lady Jersey after she was Mrs. Cary Grant.

Pat di Cicco and Prince Mike Romanoff were a recent fracas.

Have Clarence Stroud, of the comedy twins, and Billy Boze, a former Mrs. Manville, been secretly married for a month or more?

John Hodiak and Anne Baxter are on the brink of the Big Step.

Deanna Durbin is shunning her public because she's between 15 and 20 pounds overweight.

SNAGGED IN LINES

Detectives are being assigned to nylon lines in mid-Manhattan. Too many cases of pick-pockets preying on stocking-mad women have been reported.

Lana Turner and Bob Hutton are steady-dating despite temperament trouble. They entered the Copacabana smiling the other evening—and exited glaring at each other.

Chico Marx is touring the obscure night clubs looking for promising comedians for the