

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



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East side of the Case House just after the 1938 hurricane. Pine trees, whose shallow roots had been loosened by several days of rain prior to the storm, were especially hard-hit. The hexagonal room, added as a sunroom for "Mrs. James B." in about 1913, is visible in this photograph. At the time of its construction, the hexagonal room was labeled "Dudley Street Station" by the neighbors.

THE HILLCREST GARDENS

Continued from May 1982

In Weston her generosity found many avenues of expression. She was an active member of the First Parish Church and many benefits were held at Hillcrest Gardens for this parish. In the same manner she supported the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Likewise, the local public schools received her attention. She offered prizes for the best essays written on topics which she suggested. Prizes were offered from 1921 until 1932. In the latter year forty-two prizes were awarded (generally books of poetry) in grades seven through twelve. She was an active participant in the Weston and Wayland Grange and for at least one year (1929) was president of the Wayland Garden Club.

The school at Hillcrest Gardens received her constant attention. She personally selected the boys and watched their work and development, keeping in touch with them even after they had left Hillcrest. As one student wrote in 1913, "It seems to be a settled policy with Miss Case that when a boy has entered the work here and as long as he continues here that he is never out of her reach." Miss Case personally selected many of the leaders from among the boys, encouraged the development of others, and disciplined those who needed it. During the school term she met with the boys in study periods to watch their work and regularly took a period each week to read to them from the works of challenging authors. No summer was complete unless Miss Case read to the boys Sill's "Opportunity", Longfellow's "Fiftieth Birthday of Agassiz," Lowell's "Vision of Sir Launfal" and Wordsworth's "Happy Warrior". Others of her favorite readings included Van Loon's "The Story of Mankind" and "The Americanization of Edward Bok". In one of the first classes a black boy was chosen from a State Normal School in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. After his successful work at Hillcrest he served in WWI and Miss Case published several of his letters from overseas. When nearly 35 of the "graduates" from Hillcrest gathered for the 30th anniversary in 1939,



Looking north, #142 Wellesley Street barely visible on the right, on September 23, 1938, two days after the great hurricane. The Cases lost 2500 pine trees, 500 oaks, 250 maples, 74 apple trees, and 29 other fruit trees. Hillcrest trees were hauled to an impromptu sawmill set up in Wayland, producing 130,000 board feet of lumber. A second sawmill was set up behind B. L. Ogilvie and Sons. Canadian woodsmen were brought to the area to help with cleanup operations which lasted over a year.

the man from North Carolina, unable to join the group, wrote from a New York address of the lasting benefits which he had received from the school.

Although there was no lack of applicants from whom Miss Case might select boys for her school, she reported on at least one occasion that her "chief trouble has been to find a man to take charge, who liking boys knew something about agriculture or a man wide in farm knowledge who would have patience with the boys." Three men of her choosing, Thomas Park, Jack Williams and Dennis Crowley, were largely responsible for the signal success of Hillcrest as a school for boys.

Each summer began with having pictures taken of the boys. These pictures hung on the wall of the clubhouse throughout the summer. One year Miss Case wrote, "One boy coming into my studio to have his picture taken asked me if I thought he had grown since last summer. I was able to tell him I thought he had grown in everything that makes a boy worth while."

Today many of these same graduates, a number of whom still live in Weston, speak with pride and pleasure of the influence of Miss Case and Hillcrest on their youthful years.

Since Hillcrest was a truck farm, it operated in competition with other farmers in the area. But the income from the produce grown at Hillcrest never equalled the cost of the school and Miss Case's many horticultural philanthropies. The wages paid to the boys were low and perhaps for this reason Miss Case feared criticism. In several of the "green books" she questioned the appreciation of the townspeople in Weston for her efforts. In 1917 she wrote, "Sometimes I wonder if the good people of Weston who buy these vegetables at low market prices, delivered to their doors, ever stop to wonder who pays for raising them and the berries, plums, apples and peaches which three times a week are sent around town." There follows a bit of homely philosophy in which she musingly writes of herself in the third person, "She can have boys trained to teach other boys to grow food for the people. Is she willing to pay the cost? She needs the interest and appreciation of her neighbors." This appreciation came shortly after the publication of the booklet in the form of a petition signed by sixty-four of her neighbors. It read, "The accompanying petition will, I hope, assure you how greatly Weston people appreciate Hillcrest Farm. We the undersigned desire to express our appreciation of the service rendered to the townspeople during the past by Hillcrest Farm and to request that its products will continue to be distributed in Weston." The boys, however, needed no encouragement to express their appreciation. They wanted to work successive summers and one was finally told, after twelve years, that he should seek

employment elsewhere for his own benefit. The following year, however, he returned to be in charge of the boys. Another reported, "The selling of the produce brings the boys in contact with the customers and is very instructive to them. It is one branch of the farm work which gives the boys a good business training and also helps them to develop patience and tact as they meet so many different kinds of customers." The picnics, automobile rides, lectures, movies, and wages were valued by the boys and few who began the summer dropped out for lack of interest.

The land comprising the Hillcrest Gardens was purchased by Miss Case in five pieces, supplementing her original inheritance of land. The first purchase in 1909 was twenty-three acres and included the Williams House. About 1910 Appletree Cottage was purchased, and in 1912 an additional forty-six acres, known as the Milton lot, was added. This included the Milton house, garage, and an old gray barn, later dismantled. Mr. Milton was allowed to occupy his house until his death in 1918. In 1916-17 the five acres between Wellesley Street and Ash Street, known as Crosslots, were purchased from the Hastings family and brought under cultivation. Apparently the Hastings House at 131 Wellesley Street was included in this purchase. The final purchase, another five acres between 137 and 163 Wellesley Street, contained a pine woods and a large swamp and was purchased to screen Hillcrest from the real estate development along Chestnut Street.

The first summer at Hillcrest was spent clearing the rather poor farm lands of rock and pruning the neglected apple and peach trees. Large boulders were hauled to one side and used to make two outstanding examples of the wallbuilders' art. The large, freestanding wall, ten feet high, six feet thick, and 200 feet long, is the longest of its kind known in New England. The inspiration for such a wall came when Miss Case, on a visit to Tokyo, was deeply impressed with a vista "where pines towered over grey stone walls," as they were to do at Hillcrest.

The clubhouse, now 133 Wellesley Street, was under construction as a private residence in Crosslots when purchased by Miss Case in 1914 and moved to its present location, formerly the site of a "yellow barn". A bell cupola was added and in 1927 the large veranda was constructed. The second floor of the clubhouse was partitioned to accommodate a toilet and a darkroom for the boys' use. The first floor was used as a display and sales area for produce and the second floor, with its dais, served as a study hall and classroom. During the many benefit open houses held at Hillcrest, the veranda was used for serving lunches and teas, and as a platform for instrumental or choral groups.

Another item constructed from native stone was the large incinerator built in 1924 to the rear of 137 Wellesley Street. Brush and debris from the farm was burned in this massive structure to secure ashes for fertilizer.

The large yellow barn at 135 Wellesley Street was started on the 18th of April, 1927, and was dedicated in the late summer with a reception for the National Farm and Garden Association and later with the Labor Day exercises. The barn, designed by Samuel W. Mead of Weston, and constructed by William Kellar, was an outstanding structure for its time. The cold rooms for storage of fruits and vegetables and the special facilities for storage of manure were advances in design.

Throughout her travels, Miss Case accumulated figures or objects of art for inclusion in the garden. A few of these remain, such as the Italian bird tiles built into the cellar window of an old barn and now seen next to 133 Wellesley Street. Some were commissioned by Miss Case, such as the painting representing Demeter and Triptolemus by Alberti Angeli of Florence, Italy, which was hung on the wall of the clubhouse. A special stone settee with a wrought iron back bearing a design of two Hillcrest boys in uniform and an oval spray of roses and pansies, as well as an iron chain of 250 links can still be seen next to 101 Wellesley Street near the groundcover display.

Two concrete benches, copies of an original built by Russell G. Crook of Lincoln in 1921, feature Puck playing with a goat and some Byzantine birds. One of these benches is in the perennial garden and the other is between the yews near 101 Wellesley Street. The figure of a Hillcrest boy was used as a device for a fountain and bird bath made in 1935 by Hugh Bigelow and the well-known Hillcrest boy weathervane was on the barn until the hurricane of 1938.



In 1910, Philip Coburn became a Hillcrest boy. This photograph, taken in 1912, displays his Hillcrest uniform. Each boy was provided with two khaki shirts, two pairs of long trousers, a Norfolk jacket with "HC" monogrammed on a patch on the sleeve, a green silk necktie, and a Stetson hat, all from McCullar Parker, one of Boston's best clothing stores. The uniform later became a green sweater with a gold shield "Hillcrest" in green letters. Every boy had a physical examination with Dr. Wood. Miss Case then lectured on work and study habits and supplied each boy with a diary, notebooks, and pencils with which he was expected to record his observations and keep field notes for his Labor Day paper.

The Farm and the Gardens

From the beginning, Miss Case maintained high standards based on her broad knowledge of gardens in many parts of the world. The Hillcrest farm and gardens, she felt, must be outstanding in every way and she would tolerate no lesser aim. The original land purchase consisted of neglected agricultural land. Subsequent purchases, increasing the land area to 100 acres, added not only more agricultural land, but also a forest and a swamp. By 1917 approximately twenty-five acres were under cultivation and in 1930 there were forty acres of crops and gardens. Every year, as a result of her many contacts and memberships, Miss Case received new seeds or plants for trial. These were carefully tended and regular reports were sent to official sources when these were required. The first introductions mentioned were three rows of espaliered fruit trees imported from England in 1910 and grown on trellises near the big stone wall. An interest in native herbaceous plants culminated in the development of a woods garden and special attention was given to the selection of seed from the best of the New England wild flowers or berried plants such as blueberries and blackberries. These selections were distributed in exchange for seeds from other sources.

Much of the produce was custom grown. When townspeople expressed interest in a particular fruit or vegetable or in a certain variety, Miss Case often obtained these seeds or plants and the produce was soon supplied. Many grape varieties were reserved for special customers. The old apple and peach trees on the original land formed the first produce offered for sale, but expansion was rapid. In 1914, 800 grape plants were purchased and the famous vineyard of forty varieties became productive in 1916. Wild blueberries were picked from the land and the best plants were dug and brought under cultivation. In the early years Miss Case offered a prize to the boy who found the first plant producing blueberries the size of a dime. Such a plant was not found at Hillcrest, so the prize was offered to all members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and in 1931 was finally awarded to Mr. Albert C. Burrage. Anticipating a market among the people of Italian descent, Miss Case introduced plants of European dandelions. In 1918, partly due to the wartime need to produce footstuffs, Hillcrest had sixty varieties

of vegetables under cultivation. Notwithstanding this effort to produce vegetables in quantity, the school proudly maintained its high standards of quality, as is attested by the many awards received for its fruits and vegetables. Ninety-seven awards and votes of thanks were received from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1920 and fifty-two awards were received at the Weston Grange fair in 1922.

Hillcrest Gardens used the latest methods of cultivation and followed closely the agricultural developments of the day. Both surface and overhead irrigation was used, the Skinner overhead system being tried there for the first time in Massachusetts. The animals of the farm supplied manure, but chemical fertilizers and sprays were also employed generously. The original horses and plows gave way to the first Fordson tractor in the Weston area in 1920 and that to the Rototiller and Farmall tractors in 1933.

Originally the produce was sold to residents of Weston but deliveries to Waltham and Boston proved even more profitable. A bicycle express provided delivery service in Weston in 1911 while the Hillcrest team and wagon carried produce to greater distances. A Ford truck replaced the horse and wagon in 1913. By the year 1918, produce was sold at the farm, though deliveries were still made twice a week to Waltham and Boston and three times a week in Weston. However, in 1920 Miss Case noted that it was no longer necessary to make commercial deliveries for merchants were willing to come to the farm for the fruits and vegetables. In 1921 a Hillcrest teahouse and market was started in a yellow barn at 494 Boston Post Road, near the village smithy in Weston Center. A woman was hired to run the teahouse with the help of the boys from Hillcrest, who also operated the stand. The teahouse and market operated until 1933. After that all produce for Weston was sold directly to the Quality Market.

To Mr. John Wister, President of the Iris Society, who came to Hillcrest as a lecturer to the boys, and to Mr. Arthur Williams, belong the credit for the horticultural developments at Hillcrest Gardens. After Mr. Wister's first visit he sent to Miss Case a number of *Iris versicolor* varieties for the swampy areas at Hillcrest. In 1923 Mr. Wister spent most of the summer planning the roads and paths, the special woods gardens and a test garden for the American Iris Society. He also made a catalogue of all the ornamental trees and shrubs under cultivation and suggested that a peony garden be established. Thus, in 1924 between 500 and 600 iris cultivars were planted in approved form next to Appletree Cottage and in 1925 an old potato patch was replanted to peonies. The woods garden was established the following year and the spring garden in 1931. By 1934 the iris garden, having outgrown the existing beds, was replanted with over 700 cultivars. Mr. Williams and his family came to Hillcrest in 1922 and his deft touch with plants, together with his constant search for better cultural methods, produced the outstanding horticultural specimens for which Hillcrest became known.

Hillcrest Gardens flourished in the 1930's, but on the afternoon and early evening of September 21, 1938, a disastrous hurricane swept through the area. Much damage was done to the fine specimen trees on the grounds, many of which stood alone without the protection of mass plantings. In the orchards seventy-four large apple trees and twenty-nine other fruit trees were destroyed. The woodlands behind the gardens were severely hit and the Sentinels, those famous pines standing guard behind the high stone wall, were toppled. In the forest 2500 pines, some exceeding three feet but all averaging at least eighteen inches in diameter were felled, as were 500 oaks and 250 maples. Many trees and shrubs in the garden were hauled erect and staked into position but many others were lost. During the winter months the woods were cleared and logs salvaged from the tangle which nature had created. The government established a saw mill in Wayland and by team, truck and tractors, logs from Hillcrest were hauled to the mill. The resulting 130,000 board feet gave ample evidence of the hurricane's destruction.

The Boys at Hillcrest

During the first summer at Hillcrest in 1910, six boys were hired to help on the farm. This number was increased to eight the second summer, and to eighteen in 1912. Twenty was the maximum number enrolled in the school. Originally, Miss Case planned to divide the boys into two groups according to age; a younger group which would work mornings only, and an older group to work all day. Work began at Hillcrest in the middle of June after the close of the public schools and at a time when the straw-



“Case’s Corner” — the intersection of Wellesley, Newton, and School Streets on June 30, 1930 — the twenty-first summer of Hillcrest Gardens. The principal area of cultivation visible in this photo is “Cross-lots”, the area between Ash and Wellesley Streets. About forty acres were cultivated in 1930. Regis College is in the upper left corner, thus the view is toward the southwest. Just to the right of the intersection is the Case House at 89 Wellesley Street. Note that the present driveway on the north side of the house had not been



built. Above the Case House are the roofs of the barn — now destroyed — and the cement cow barn still standing on Case Estates property. To the right of the Case House is the site now occupied by the Field School. The Case greenhouses are located on what is now a playing field behind the school, adjacent to the road which leads from Wellesley Street to the farm ponds, the current Town Pool.

berry crop was ready to be picked. During the early years the boys were all photographed individually and, foreshadowing the group health plan later to cover all Hillcrest employees, all received a physical examination from Dr. Wood, a family physician of Weston. In 1911 each boy was supplied with two khaki "uniforms" consisting of a Norfolk jacket with the Hillcrest emblem on the left sleeve, the Hillcrest hat, and a tie. By 1937 the uniform had changed to two green sweaters, one for dress, each with a gold felt shield bearing the name "Hillcrest" in green letters, and a green tie.

At the first assembly of the season Miss Case presented each boy with a diary in which to make daily entries of the weather and of his activities. Pencils and notebooks were also supplied for his drawings and observation papers and the notes to be taken for the required Labor Day paper. Then Miss Case outlined what was expected of the boys in diligent work habits on the farm and in their studies. For the first several years the boys worked from eight in the morning until noon and from one to four-thirty in the afternoon with two half-hour recesses, and on Saturdays from eight until noon. A one-hour lecture was given on alternate Mondays and the boys prepared a program of entertainment for themselves on the intervening weeks. On Wednesdays there was a study hour of drawing or reading, and on Fridays Miss Case read or heard the boys read or speak. Eventually the educational aspects became more significant under the guidance of the various men in charge of the school. For the greater part of its existence, the school consisted of one hour a day for drawing, reading or study, with a program featuring a guest lecturer one full afternoon each week and an earned outing on Saturday afternoons. The younger boys drew leaves, the older ones flowers and whole plants. At one time the younger boys studied agriculture and farming, the middle group studied botany from Gray's "How Plants Grow" and the older boys studied from Bailey's "Nursery Book". Bird identification was an important part of their education, and one boy made a list of sixty-five different birds observed at Hillcrest in the summer of 1918. Elocution lessons were offered at times under the direction of a Mr. Gifford of the Emerson College of Oratory, who gave the boys regular "vocal calisthenics". Observation papers were required and the best were published in the green books.

Discipline was strict, enforced by the teachers and by Miss Case herself. During 1922 there was a rule that "nothing is thrown on the grounds, not even rubber balls" and was applied to the children of the superintendent and the gardener, but later the boys had a ball team. A system of demerits was imposed for infraction of rules and the boys with the most demerits were threatened with being dismissed or with being ineligible for employment the following year; yet no boy was ever guilty of sufficient infractions for either of these punishments. On the other hand, good work was rewarded with Miss Case's praise and prizes of photographs, books or money.

The chores for the boys were varied. The clubhouse must be kept clean; the vegetables and fruits must be picked and washed for market and peddled from door to door; the donkey needed care; the barn must be swept; and the vegetable and flower garden must be weeded.

The outings during the year were eagerly anticipated, reported upon and long remembered. When the first motor car was bought, a ride to Concord, Salem, Sharon (Moose Hill Sanctuary), the Navy Yard, Franklin Park, Waltham Field Station, Benson Animal Farm, East Boston Airport, Walden Pond, the Proctor estate, or even a trip to Boston to see Buffalo Bill, rewarded the boys yet combined education with pleasure.

An annual all-day picnic was also held for all of the boys. The favorite spot was Paragon Park at Nantasket, but one trip to Hampton Beach was timed so that the boys could see an eclipse of the sun.

Extra activities found their way into the program as well. Eager to march in the parade celebrating Weston's 200th anniversary, the boys formed a marching unit complete with drums made of cheese boxes with paper-and-curtain heads. Later Miss Case bought six snare drums, a bass drum, eight fifes and a pair of cymbals for the unit, so impressed was she with their efforts. During the period of the First World War, patriotism became the motivating force at Hillcrest. The boys collected money from door to door to have a plaque placed in front of the library during an appropriate ceremony. The need for growing and conserving food was impressed on the farm boys, who labored long and hard to grow good crops. One kitchen on the farm was devoted to



Looking southward from the Case greenhouses in winter, the potting shed roof is visible on the right. The shed, also visible in the 1930 aerial photograph, has now been moved to the south end of Field School. The two stone walls in the center of this picture border the road which runs up to Wellesley Street — to the left — from the farm ponds which have become our present Town Pool.

canning. Jars were solicited and finally purchased by the carload and during 1917 over 900 jars of fruits and vegetables were preserved to meet an anticipated food shortage in the winter. Since vegetable seeds were difficult to obtain, the Hillcrest boys saved seed from their crops in 1918 for the following season and made available the surplus to others.

For these and similar efforts the boys received wages. In 1911 Miss Case thought that one dollar a week for the younger boys and twenty dollars a month for the boys working full days was appropriate. By 1925 the standard was ten dollars a month, increasing five dollars each month for each year's service to be maximum of twenty-five dollars. In addition, the boys received produce from the farm. Few there were who went home empty-handed. Only during the depression year of 1933 did Miss Case find it difficult to finance the farm. This was reflected by more stringent rules of behavior and a decrease in the maximum wage to twenty dollars. While most of the boys were from Weston in the early years of the school, boys were accepted from adjacent towns and a few came even greater distances. Miss Case insisted that applications come from the boys and not from their parents. Most boys commuted to the farm every day but a few boarded at Hillcrest. For this they were charged \$8.50 a week while earning \$10.00 a month. Obviously, there were parents who recognized the value of this unique training ground and were anxious to give this opportunity to their sons. Yet rarely did the farm meet its expenses. Hillcrest and its school proved to be one of Miss Case's many charities.

Perhaps one of the best known activities of Hillcrest Gardens was the summer lectures, generally held on Wednesday afternoons. The clubhouse was swept and an attractive display of flowers, fruits and vegetables were offered for sale on the first floor. The local papers and the magazine *Horticulture* announced the speakers who were outstanding men in science or in public life. Special groups from settlement houses, the Perkins Institute, the garden clubs or churches and schools were often invited. These



Hillcrest Farm horses owned by Marian Roby Case. Miss Case at various times owned "Nancy", "Pluck", "Try", and "Win". This photograph, taken in May, 1935, is probably of "Try" and "Win".

lectures, six each summer, were offered from 1911, when the speakers were William F. Denton (butterflies), F. W. Barret (bees), B. F. McDaniel (soils), Wilfrid Wheeler (apples), W. G. Kendall (grapes) and John T. Nichols (birds), until 1941 when the speakers were The Reverend Miles Hanson, Jr. (English composition, E. D. Merrill (Romance of Plant Names), Harold S. Tiffany (propagation of plants), The Reverend Waitsill H. Sharp (Meaning of German occupation in Europe), Charles F. Whitney (Lore of North American Indians), Lawrence B. Fletcher (public reservations), A. B. Stout (The Plant Breeders Work), Edmund Mezitt (edible and ornamental berries) and Ernest Little (use of chemistry on the farm). During these thirty years, 115 men, including college presidents, outstanding scientists and former Hillcrest boys, appeared on the lecture programs. Remunerations up to \$100 plus expenses made the trip worthwhile for the speakers and indicate Miss Case's generosity and interest. As she expressed it, "In order that we may keep in touch with the best work that is being done in agriculture and also interest the boys in nature, we have had lectures through the summer by specialists."

A favorite speaker, Dr. A. B. Stout of the New York Botanical Garden, appeared on the program fifteen times. Close runners-up in the popularity contest were John Wister (Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation) and E. H. Wilson (Arnold Arboretum). Such outstanding scientists as Glover Allen, Charles Brues, M. L. Fernald, Richard Fisher, Marshall Howe, John Jack, B. Y. Morrison, Robert Cushman Murphy, Harris Reynolds, Harold St. John, Clark Thayer and C. A. Weatherby joined propagators and poets, ministers and English teachers on the Hillcrest lecture platform.

The summers ended on Labor Day with annual exercises. To these the parents and neighbors were invited. The boys marched up the stairs to the second floor of the clubhouse led by the oldest or the most outstanding boys carrying the American flag and the Hillcrest flag and singing "America". The American flag was presented to Miss Case who held it while the audience joined in the singing. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Hillcrest school song was sung and the program introduced by Miss Case. She announced the names of the judges who would decide on the best papers to be read by the boys and the prizes to be awarded for work during the year. Each boy then read his paper and when all were done Miss Case presented first the Hillcrest pin to those boys completing with distinction their first year at Hillcrest and then the Semper Paratus pin bearing the motto of the school, to the boys of three or more summers. Then the prizes were awarded for the best papers read that day, and finally the prizes for work during the year, for the best work in the field, in the study hour, the best report of the lectures, the best drawings, observation papers, the wild flower

collection and the bird list. During one year fifteen of the eighteen boys on the farm received prizes. In such a manner Miss Case won the hearts of the boys.

Following the exercises the boys returned home. A few worked on the farm on Saturdays into the fall and for several winters Miss Case had Saturday or vacation work or classes for the boys who wished to attend. Classes in woodworking and weaving were offered at one time, and during the First World War, a class in first aid.

During the winter Miss Case usually travelled to the Mediterranean. She found time, however, to edit the reports of the boys and to publish the annual green book, to order seeds and to plan the gardens, to correspond with former Hillcrest boys, and to select the ones for the coming summer.

The End and a New Beginning

During 1939, the thirtieth anniversary year of Hillcrest, Miss Case was seriously ill. The summer followed its usual course with twenty boys employed on the farm, fourteen of them having worked previous years. The Labor Day exercises were special, however, for all former Hillcrest boys were invited to return for a reunion or to send greetings. The group gathered at noon for a luncheon, the birthday cake, and special speakers. Dr. E. D. Merrill spoke, as did Thomas Dooley. A roll call of former Hillcrest boys, with responses, followed by a talk by John Wister on the future of Hillcrest.

Mr. Wister considered the possibilities of continuing Hillcrest to meet the goals which Miss Case had established in 1909 and maintained to that day. He dismissed the suggestion that the land become a park for the town of Weston or even a part of the Boston Metropolitan Park System. Instead, he expressed the hope that some organization such as the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Harvard College, Wellesley College, or perhaps the state university at Amherst might be able to continue to do the "research work in various fields connected with flower gardens". Mr. Wister, recognizing the improbability of continuing the school, pointed out that "We cannot lay down exact programs for the future. All Miss Case can do is to express her wish that her present work should continue. She and all of us must trust to the intelligence and good faith of the person and organizations who may take over the work here. If they follow the spirit of the founder, there will be many years of usefulness ahead for these gardens started in 1909 by Miss Marian Roby Case." Mr. Wister's talk is published in the green book of 1939.

Hillcrest Gardens and School operated through 1942. On July 4, 1944, Marian Case died. Having determined that the Massachusetts Horticultural Society did not feel capable of operating the estate, she bequeathed the property to Harvard University for the purpose of the Arnold Arboretum.

In this decision, her sister Louisa's influence is shown. Louisa Case was interested in maintaining the family property intact. In 1942 she gave to Harvard University \$50,000 and some fifty-nine acres of the original Case property, including her residence in Weston, as a memorial to her father, James B. Case. Perhaps the family relationship to President Lowell influenced her in this direction. Perhaps, too, Marian Case felt inclined to follow her sister's lead since, having been on the Visiting Committee for the Arnold Arboretum, she knew something of its needs. In any case, both bequeathed their properties to Harvard University, with endowments to maintain the land.

The two pieces of property, nearly 200 acres, were accepted by Harvard University for the purposes of the Arnold Arboretum and were called the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum. Almost immediately Harvard University was approached to release a portion of the Case lands to the town of Weston for the purpose of new school construction. Miss Louisa Case, who outlived her sister Marian, was consulted and by agreement, to avoid eminent domain suit, Harvard sold to the town 43 acres, including the original Case mansion, a barn and extensive ranges of greenhouses. In 1957 the town again required land for a program of school construction, and this time, by an eminent domain suit, another 32.5 acres, mostly land bequeathed by Louisa Case, were lost to Arboretum purposes.

The land is used principally as nursery and testing areas for the new plant introductions of the Arnold Arboretum. The Case Estates, offering both room for the growth of such plants and more rigorous environmental conditions than those prevailing in Jamaica Plain, serve this purpose admirably.

Many acres, as well as smaller, casual plantings, are devoted to species of less ornamental value and are grown there permanently so that records of the species may be maintained for future taxonomic studies and for breeding programs. Many other acres of land have been devoted to long-range growth studies of trees. The wooded areas serve as natural zones of vegetation for use of classes. Special display plantings of ground cover plants, shrubs for perennial gardens and small street trees have been established. Large areas have been landscaped for the enjoyment of visitors.

The Case Estates remain open to the public, even as did Hillcrest Gardens, but there could be no Hillcrest School without the vibrant personality of a Miss Marian Case. A few high school students are employed each summer and college students, carrying on graduate research programs, continue Miss Case's goal of scientific leadership in the fields of agriculture and horticulture. Hillcrest Gardens established a standard of excellence in the years of its existence from 1910 through 1944 which the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum hope to maintain.

Richard A. Howard

FROM THE EDITOR

The photographs of the Case's farm pond, "Rocklawn," and the aerial view were loaned by Hugh Chandler, a "Hillcrest boy" whose mother, Mary Williams Chandler, was a relative of Louisa Williams Case. The snapshot of the Case mansion after the 1938 hurricane was loaned by Margaret Mosher, whose father, Allen Mosher, was in charge of the grounds. Thank you. Hopefully, articles like these on the Case family will trigger additional memories. Please contact me if you have a "Case House" story to tell!



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SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: \$5 per person; \$8 per family including children under 21

Life: \$250 per person

Gift memberships are suggested

(Currently the age span of our life members is from 5 to "over 80!")

Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed.

All checks should be mailed to: Weston Historical Society, Inc., Box 343, Weston, MA 02193

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter, Jr., 899-3533, or Donald G. Kennedy, Editor, 893-1319; also by calling at the Josiah Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon during "Open House". If you have a spare copy of BULLETINS, vintage 1963-70, our Curator, Mrs. J. E. Fraser, 894-2872 would be glad to have them.