

—ACROSS THE MILES—

Of course, Spring will make itself felt. We shiver and wonder, but just take a walk in Wildflower Woods and you will see the wildflowers waiting too.

The last week in March I ventured down into the garden to check my Wildflower corner. There, so brightly blue, were some blossoms of Siberian Squill! Perhaps the seeds blew there from the patch south of the garage. Another nursery catalog listed this bulb as Dutch Squill, so perhaps it is not a true wildflower. Since it blooms so early in that corner I'll still include it.

There was only one or two Coltsfoot blooming, but the Celandine Poppy's leaves were very green. I could name all the plants there but you might be disappointed in not finding your favorite unless you visited there every week from now on through the summer.

This corner takes little care, so I can weed it and clip out any seedlings before we head North.

Does your flower guide list Harbinger-of-Spring? Well it took me many years to decide that was the name of the first flower to bloom in our yard. I had wondered why this delicate little bloom I knew as Salt and Pepper was not ever listed. Neil Case in his Nature Notes calls it Pepper and Salt! It takes a keen eye to see it, either in woods or lawn.

Do plan a trip to Wildflower Woods soon.

Betty Felton Wilson



OPEN HOUSE WELCOMES 1500 to GENE STRATTON-PORTER

The Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site had a very successful Holiday Open House, November 11 & 12. We were expecting approximately 1000 visitors, however by Sunday, November 12th at 5 pm we had greeted over 1500 from as far away as California.

Our guests consumed 148 dozen cookies, 28 gallons of cider 5 pounds of coffee and 2 bushels of apples. They enjoyed piano and organ music played by Gus Butcher, the Madrigal Singers, and the Quartet Con Brio for which the Society paid \$250.00.

On Saturday, November 11 visitors were given a special treat by being allowed to tour the Curator's living quarters on the second floor.

Members of the Gene Stratton-Porter Society plus 5 volunteers assisted the staff as hostesses and hosts throughout the cabin.

SUNRISE SERVICE

An Easter Sunrise Service was sponsored jointly by the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site and the Church of the Nazarene. The Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society provided coffee, juice, & doughnuts.

Summer 90



"GENE, DO SING-SONG 'BOUT THE FLOWERS"

Miss Rose Mary lost her breath,
turned up her toes and died an awful death,
'Cos Skunk Cabbage stuck up his head,
Close beside her in the Orchid bed.

Creeping Charlie danced hop-scotch,
When he lost Solomon's Seal with his watch.
Nimble Kate tossed back her locks,
and said: "Tell your time by the Four o'clocks."

Pussy Willow went to the Milkweed bed,
To see that her kittens were properly fed.
They were scared coming home in the dark,
Because the mean old Dog Wood bark.

"Touch-me-not!" Blue-eyed Mary said.
When Sweet William tried to turn her head.
He offered Blue Bonnets and Queen Anne's Lace,
If she'd let him kiss her lovely face.

from MORNING FACE by Gene Stratton-Porter