

Barbara Flanagan



OUR PARKLANDS WON'T PERISH as long as people work to improve them.

Last week a bunch of junior Girl Scouts from south-east Minneapolis scoured the Mississippi River bank between Franklin Av. and the Shriner's Hospital collecting beer cans and other debris the litter-mongers left behind.

Bravo, girls! Now all they have to figure out is how to have 25,000 beer cans hauled away.

And at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park Thursday, the Friends of the Garden dedicated a new \$24,000 shelter house.

Funds for it are being raised by the Friends. Anybody can contribute. When it's finished, the building will provide room for meetings. A terrace will give bird-watchers and wildflower fans a new vantage point in that lovely and leafy bower.

Mrs. Martha Crone, wildflower curator from 1933 until 1959, was on hand with her great-grandson, **Alan Wander**, 3, to hammer in a golden spike. The shelter is being named in her honor.

The garden, as you know, was started by a private person — **Eloise Butler**, a Minneapolis botany teacher. From 3 acres planted in 1907, it now covers 20 acres and there is plenty of parkland for expansion.

It's a top tourist site — and unique to our town. About 100,000 people, including schoolchildren, visited the garden this season.

I'd say the Friends of the Garden deserve a big hand — and any help we can give them.

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