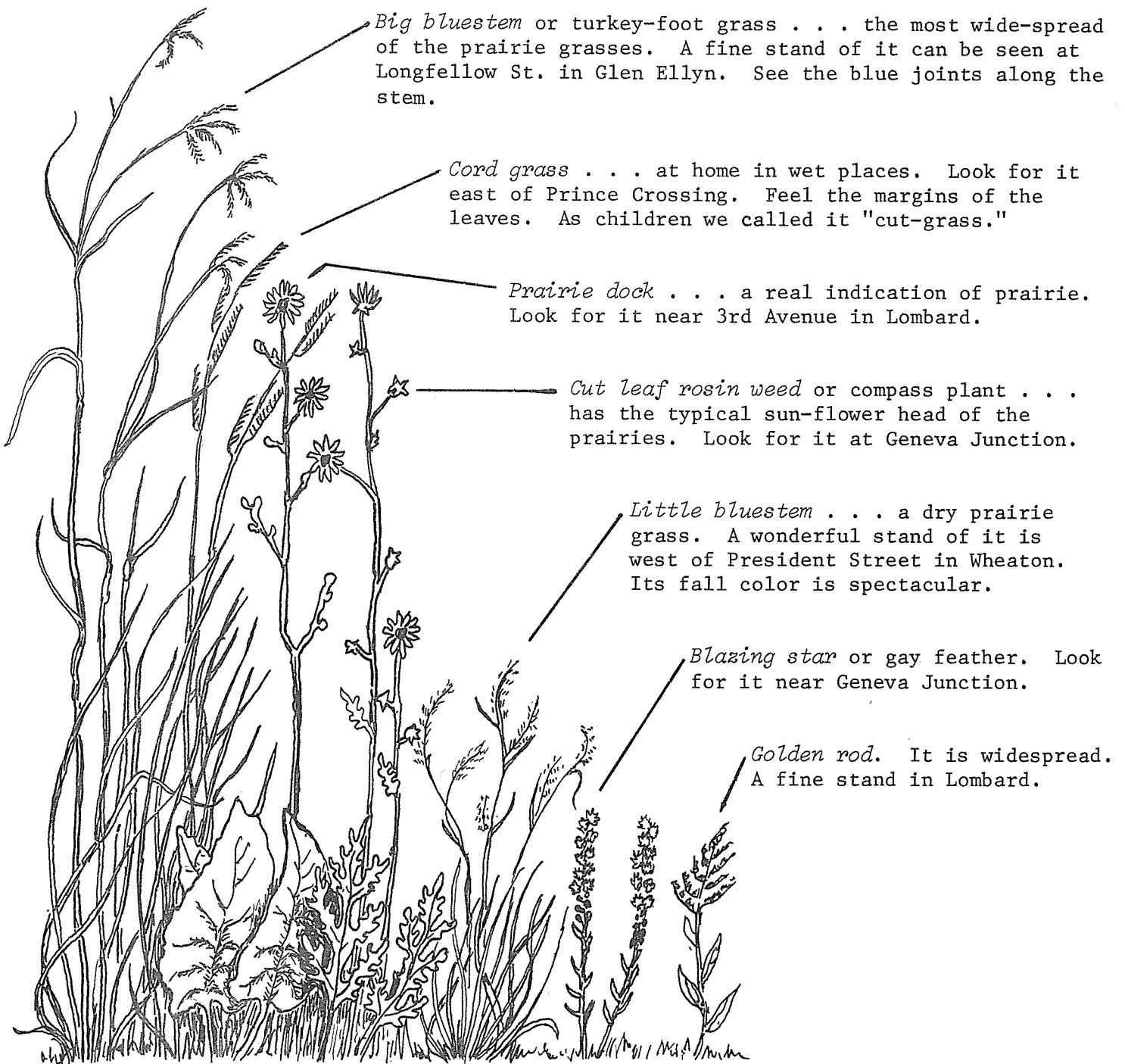


THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWS LETTER

Summer 1969

WHAT TO SEE

"What's in a name?" People ask, "Why *PRAIRIE* path?" . . . Some who come to walk hope wistfully to find themselves on a narrow footpath, once beaten down by buffalo or Indian, and winding through seven-foot grass. Such a trail was made by feet following the contour of the land. Our path was originally surveyed for a railroad. You won't find the "sea" of waving grass that delighted, and at the same time frightened, the pioneer. That is gone. But wherever we have managed to keep the earth-moving machines off, you will find the margins rich with the native prairie plants, a reminder of the time when Illinois was really the Prairie State.



WORK OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

There has been much activity on our Path in three communities this spring. In *Villa Park* the work is being done through the village officials. In *Elmhurst* the Jaycees have adopted the Path as one of their projects (more about this in the next issue of the News Letter).

In *Warrenville* the development is a project sponsored by many community organizations in cooperation with the mayor and city council. For several years the Warrenville Civic Association, headed by Mrs. George Kolze, worked to preserve and clean the Path. It was discouraging. Last year the city decided to convert the old C.A. & E. station into a city hall. There followed many meetings, large and small, in schools and homes, involving clubs, scouts, schools, the P.T.C., community organizations, city officials, and Prairie Path board members. Enthusiasm runs high. The 6th grade, following a talk by Mrs. Sindt, took up a collection called "Pennies for the Prairie Path" and collected \$8.79 which will be used to help beautify the city hall; memorial trees have been planted; fifteen flowering crabs and a hedge were donated by the Chamber of Commerce and planted by boys of the junior high under the supervision of Mr. Rogers; a community Christmas tree was set out and the area seeded; many bulbs for spring flowering were donated by the Lund Greenhouses and planted by the Girl Scouts. Plans for this summer include memorial benches and perhaps a fountain. Next will be the making of a playground between Batavia Road and the river. Plans and work continue under the guidance of a local committee.

ACTIVITIES

Walks May 3 was a beautiful day and more than 80 people turned out for our annual walk. About 30 Prairie Club members chose the same day for a walk on the Path. They came from the city by train to Villa Park, walked to Glen Ellyn, and then returned by train.

The weather did not cooperate for the last two members walks. It rained on the day of the prairie walk led by Mrs. Goodrich, and also on the day of the cross-country hike led by Mr. Irwin.

On May 11 a group of Freedom Walkers used the Path as their route from Villa Park to Wheaton.

Talks Mrs. Sindt has given a number of talks this spring . . . one each in Wisconsin, Brookfield, Clarendon Hills, Barrington, and four in Warrenville.

Publicity On June 14 Studs Terkel interviewed Mrs. Watts on WFMT. A good part of the dialogue concerned the Prairie Path.

Reference was made to the Path in an article, "The Tightened Landscape," by W. H. Whyte in the last issue of *Horizon*, and in "A Day's Walk" by Richard Frisbie in the June issue of *Woman's Day*. The column "Along The Prairie Path," written by Mrs. Headen, continues to appear in the *Wheaton Daily Journal*.

Other Activities A survey of the entire Path was made by the T.K.E. fraternity of Elmhurst College on April 26. The men made special note of the places needing improvement in the surface.

We want to thank some anonymous friend who has planted trees on the Path at Poplar Avenue in Elmhurst.

The Elmhurst Garden Club has initiated a contest open to any youth group, with an adult sponsor, to plant gardens at street intersections in Elmhurst. Groups will be given financial and advisory help and the gardens will be judged and awards made in late August.

About 80 square feet of the bulldozed area at Geneva Junction was planted with prairie seeds by Jon Duerr of St. Charles.