



Brookline Historical Society

Incorporated April 29, 1901

Spring Meeting: "The Golden Age of Brookline Gardening", slide presentations by author and landscape designer B. June Hutchinson and Elizabeth Mundell of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club.

Date: Sunday, June 4, 3 p.m. (note time carefully).

Place: The Coolidge Corner Branch Library downstairs meeting room, 31 Pleasant St.

All members and their guests are invited to attend.

President's Report

Our next meeting is an indulgence on my part. It combines two of my favorite pursuits: gardening and the study of local history.

The idea for the meeting arose from the reaction of the audience to the excellent presentations concerning Larz Anderson Park heard at our winter meeting (texts are reprinted inside). There were many who marvelled at the national and even world reputation that the gardens of the Anderson Estate once enjoyed. They found it difficult to reconcile that past with Brookline's present. Although the town continues to have an enviable amount of public greenspace, it is seldom thought of today in connection with magnificent gardens.

In fact, the town was once a garden capital of the United States -- a reputation that it will perhaps earn again someday. One woman who has done more than her share to reawaken us to this aspect of Brookline's past is B. June Hutchinson, our featured speaker for the spring meeting. Her forthcoming book, tentatively titled "Victorians Out of Doors: American Gardens 1840-1900", draws heavily upon 19th century Brookline landscaped gardens as examples of the height of the art in this country.

To bring us more up to date on the still-thriving gardening culture of the town, Elizabeth Mundell of the Chestnut Hill Garden club will present some of that group's slides representative of gardening activity in recent decades.

I want to thank Corliss Engle of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for helping to arrange this meeting. I hope everyone -- gardeners and non-gardeners alike -- will find the topic of interest.

Membership

Inside you will find the list of paid-up members. This year sets a record, I believe, for the number of new members who have been invited to join. We hope they will make their membership permanent in the years ahead.

When bills went out for 1989, members were invited to comment on programs they would like to see in the months ahead. Here are some of the responses:

"Tappan (as in Tappan Street) and Brookline's involvement in the abolitionist movement."

"Changes in ethnic diversity, political change in Brookline."

"History of rent control/affordable housing: why in Brookline?"

"The history of the hills (Pill Hill, Corey Hill, etc.) and their roles in the settlement and development of the town."

Interesting ideas all, and I hope the Society gets around to them.

Generous Gift

The Society has been the beneficiary of a most generous gift from the estate of Abigail W. Washburn, a late member. To date, \$3,473 has been donated from a larger sum willed to the Society. We are fortunate to have been remembered in this fashion.

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The once and future Larz Anderson Park

The following paper was adapted from a slide presentation before the Brookline Historical Society on February 12, 1989

By Mary Dewart

Larz Anderson Park is a magnificent parcel of rolling landscape, a drumlin of open meadow and woodland. From the park's hilltop we find inspiring vistas of modern Boston to the east and a panorama of tree covered hills and open skies to the west. This compelling 62-acre parcel is Brookline's largest historic park.

What Brookline calls Larz Anderson Park today was once the site of a private estate called "Weld." The building of "Weld" began when a wealthy and colorful couple, Larz and Isabel Anderson, purchased the site and created enchanting gardens in the landscape. Regretably, much of the estate's former grandeur and identity has been destroyed, hidden, and neglected over the past forty years. We can, however, discover fragments of grandeur - the draped sculpture poised by the skating rink walk, the elaborate wrought iron fence along Goddard Avenue, stone structures like the curved sitting wall at the top of the hill, all suggesting a craftsmanship and elegance not seen in Brookline's other public places.

The Andersons were world travelers and diplomats, amateur artists and writers, philanthropists, and horticulturists. Isabel was the energetic heir to the large Perkins fortune, a fortune made in the merchant shipping business. She was considered one of the wealthiest women in the world. Larz was a charming and privileged diplomat and friend to world dignitaries. They were married in Boston in 1897.

Both Larz and Isabel wrote about their shared infatuation for "Weld." A passage from Larz's book, **Letters and Journals of a Diplomat**, speaks of his apparent affections.

"We have just been enjoying a perfect winter's sunset; it has been like walking through some enchanted land. We turned in for a moment in the barn where the cows were being milked, and Isabel had her glass of fresh milk. Then we went and saw the full moon rising through the maze of trees; when we looked back from the high terrace of the upper garden, the moon was all silver in the sky, while the deep red sunset lighted up the western horizon.

We make rather a point of watching the sunset together. We let the sun go down on our happiness and it seems to make it more secure."

Isabel's version of the same scene declares her fascination.

"Together in a perfect winter's sunset,
We walked in our enchanted garden.
A silver moon rose behind a maze of trees,
A deep red glow lighted up the west.
Together we always watched the sunset,
We let it go down on our happiness.
It seemed to make our happiness more secure."

Their shared imagery suggests a couple who shared notebooks as well as walks in the garden.

One of the Anderson's finely rendered bookplates with statues framing their Italian Garden reveals a deep personal attachment to "Weld". Larz seems to be the bearded male statue, called a herme, on the left. Isabel seems to be the female statue on the right. Between them in the distance is the sculptured Italian garden with guests at table to dine. The Andersons happened to be a childless couple. It almost seems that the Italian garden, alive with friends and family, represents the child they never had.

Old photographs from the Transportation Museum Archives and a private postcard collection help reconstruct the estate in complete detail. The Andersons acquired the property in 1899 after Isabel secretly bought the property from her cousin's widow. She may have been upset by possible subdivision of the land and desired to keep her family's ancestral property intact.

When the Andersons bought the estate they found a spacious, shingled, round towered mansion at the top of the hill. The house had been built in 1885 by Edward Wheelwright for Isabel's cousin, William Weld II. The property also had a carriage house, now the Transportation Museum, with its castle style architecture, modeled after the Chateau de Chaumont in France. The carriage house, dating to 1889, was also designed by Wheelwright and built by Isabel's cousin.

From their earliest days on the property, the Andersons worked with the magnificent rolling topography, transforming certain sections of the site into lush gardens. What they designed was a beautiful fairy tale, the enchanted land evoked in their writings. The estate was begun during the country home era of American landscape design. These were the days before the income tax. Wealthy Americans were spending fortunes on designing and building country estates. The Andersons built a poetically inspired landscape and spared no expense in doing so. They developed the estate into two major areas. One was the dense, more formal gardens to the right of the curving entrance drive off Newton Street. The other side of the drive was more natural, open and picturesque.

The Andersons used their estate as a private retreat away from their Washington, D.C. home and for entertaining a wide circle of world dignitaries. A favorite entertainment site was the "round point," an outdoor theater called the Four Seasons. There Isabel performed her own plays and those of her friends. The Andersons loved to invite young people from all over Boston to annual celebrations on the grounds. Public spirited, the Andersons allowed a thousand tourists into the gardens of "Weld" in July of 1907. At other times they handed out rare orchids which became a "source of pleasure" to garden lovers.

Comparing old and new photographs has been critical for piecing together Weld's original identity. The present entrance for Brookline's Parks Maintenance Department was, during the Anderson era, a well-kept rose garden, designed by the firm of Fox and Gale in 1902. It is said that Isabel took afternoon tea with her friends in the small house with the orange ceramic tile roof.

At the very top of the hill was the former mansion where the present parking lot now rests. Larz is said to have had a hand in designing the addition to the Wheelwright shingled house in 1914. The addition was meant to resemble Lulworth Castle on the British Channel. The interior was reported lavish with furnishings and art garnered from the Anderson's world travels.

The existing skating rink was constructed in the late 1960's. The site was the location of the Anderson's famous Italian garden designed by Charles Platt in 1901. Platt was the American designer responsible for bringing the formal Italian Renaissance style garden to America. The red ticket office at the north end of the skating rink obscures the estate's dedication plaque. The plaque reads simply, "This garden was Built in 1901 and called Weld."

Platt was the premier designer of the Renaissance revival in America. His reputation in America began with the Anderson garden and another across Newton Street at the Brandegee Estate. Platt's hilltop plan called for a progression of rectilinear spaces - first, an open bowling green closest to the mansion, next a mysterious pine grove with walks framed by the herme statues, and then the elaborate formal Italian garden and pergola. The scheme was tied together with a series of linear promenades. Platt's design included vegetation sculptured into playful beasts, numerous Italian pots, and the elaborate fountain. Platt apparently travelled to purchase garden sculptures and pots for his clients.



Italian garden in all its glory



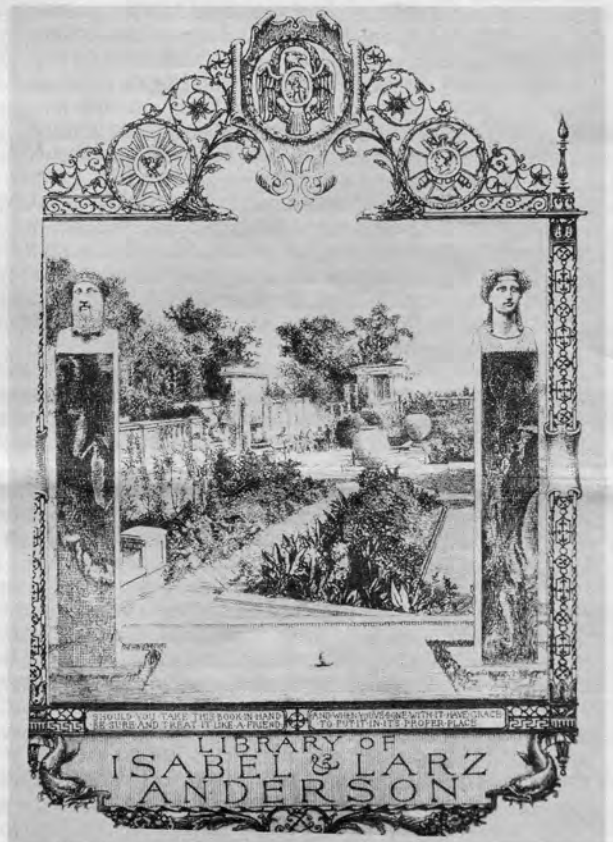
At play in the water garden.



Four seasons theater



The hilltop mansion of the Anderson Estate



Bookplate of the Anderson Estate

The area just down the rounded steps from the hilltop parking lot was a Japanese garden designed in 1907 by the master, Onchi San. Larz apparently convinced the master to come to "Weld" following Larz's ambassadorship to Japan. Onchi San is said to have lived at the estate until the beginning of World War II.

The asphalt parking lot across from the skating rink was once a tennis court lined with columns, ballustrade, and pergola. The firm of Fox and Gale also designed this area in 1902.

The present park maintenance area was once a slope for growing vegetables to feed the compound. The garden staff grew celery, rhubarb, onions and raspberries according to Mr. Albert Sullivan, a former gardener at the estate. This enclosed space, referred to as the Walled Garden, also included large, productive greenhouses.

The aging domed structure known to Brookline as the Temple of Love was part of a lush water garden begun in the spring of 1910. Mr. Sullivan had heard that the temple had been built for the childless couple in hopes of gaining fertility. This area known to us as the lagoon was designed by the firm of Little & Browne. The romantic pond inspired Isabel's actress nymph to pose, arm raised, on the rocks. The pond had its own picturesque island, richly sculptured causeway, and beach with soft naturalistic plantings along the edges. The water garden area was rich in plant species as were other sections of the estate.

The overgrown area near the Community Gardens running parallel to Newton Street was the site of an elaborate wooden trellis. It ran the length of the pond, parallel to Newton Street. In front of the trellis are Larz's collection of wooden German gnome figures which were later left to the town according to one report. The intricate structure had a Chinese pagoda with bells on top. Mr. Sullivan described the trellis as thick with grapes in his day.

The story of the landscape would not be complete without mentioning several other details. Mr. Sullivan said that Mrs. Anderson also maintained a hydrangea garden, lilac garden, as well as a pet cemetery for her dachshunds at the Goddard Avenue end of the pond. The west part of the great hill was mowed for hay, the middle part was merely "left wild." What is now the baseball fields was the site of the first polo field in the United States and on the slope behind the skating rink were the first "golf links." Both the field and "links" were probably endeavors of the previous owner, Isabel's cousin.

I have focused on the story of the landscape for the purposes of this presentation but there were four residences on the property which served as housing for the Anderson's staff. The estate also had several simple outbuildings or sheds which served as functional support for the compound. The Putterham School, located just across from the Transportation Museum, was not part of the original estate. The school was moved to the park in 1966 in hopes of providing better security.

The Anderson estate was renowned in its day. Magazines and publications like *Country Life and Estates and Gardens* celebrated Platt's accomplishments. The subtitle of one article announced, "Why most of our formal gardens are disappointing and why one American example takes rank among the world's masterpieces in garden architecture." Classic postcards disseminated views of the entire grounds throughout the world. In 1922 the estate was on the tour of famous Massachusetts properties and reviewed in *Gardener's Chronicle*.

Isabel Anderson continued to live at Weld even after her husband's death in 1937. She spent time there until after she fell and broke her hip in 1948. She died several days later. She apparently surprised Brookline by leaving the town most of her "Weld" property. The condition of the will stated that the town must use the property for educational, charitable or recreational purposes. She gave the town one year to decide on whether to accept the parcel.

The town debated the move. Discussion centered on the possibility that \$12,000 would be taken off the tax rolls. Taken by surprise, the town had no immediate mission for the property but finally accepted the move. The plaque at the top of the hill was placed as a memorial to the Anderson legacy.

The face and character of the estate began to change shortly. As early as March of 1949 the selectmen began to consider tearing down the hilltop mansion. The Park Commission fell into seeing the building as a white elephant. They simply did not come up with any sustainable uses. They soon decided to make a profit by tearing down the mansion and selling treasured features for parts.

The property's decline may have had to do with the location of Larz Anderson Park at the edge of town. Brookline seems to have inward looking neighborhoods that carefully guard their own interests. This was a regional park with no clear citizen advocacy group to save the historical features.

The town placed the estate under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. The Parks Department was advocating programmed recreational development all over town. It was the late 1940's and a recreational movement was sweeping the nation. Organized play and sports programs were becoming a civic responsibility. Historical values began to lose out bit by bit. The park was seen primarily as a recreational facility, not a significant historic property. These were the days before ideas of historic preservation gained strength.

In the 1960's, the town engineered the skating rink and hilltop parking lot. The firm of Everett and Untermann were hired nine years later to consider further changes such as a outdoor swimming pool and a football and track complex. Town reports indicate that these projects were not completed because of money rather than historical considerations. Some people say recreational development was taking place at Larz Anderson because the town lacked other feasible open space. Yet other estates, like the Dane estate, much flatter and more suited to recreational development, had at one time been offered to the town.

Nomination papers for the National Register of Historic Places were placed by the Historical Commission about 1983. Even though the property had been altered and lost some of its integrity, it was still considered significant enough to American history to achieve Register status. In spite of the historic designation, jurisdiction of the park remained in the hands of the Parks and Recreation Department. Public advocacy for the park's historic values never really surfaced. Demands for organized recreational uses continued.

A view of the sculpture and skating rink together seem to represent the different historical and recreational values expressed in the park today. Brookline has recently been granted \$1,000,000 to begin to renovate the park. Hopefully we can work out a plan which can begin to evoke some of the property's original dignity and character. The park's historical values have been woefully neglected. Citizens who care about the park must come forward and advocate for restoration and proper maintenance or the gardens will be lost forever.

The Brookline Greenspace Alliance

By Michael Berger

(From a slide talk given at the spring meeting of the Historical Society.)

As you can see from the previous presentation, we are here in a gem and this is an opportunity to polish that gem and to give a sense of place back. This estate once had a sense of place and it is somewhat confused now. We have the opportunity to bring together all of those people who have an interest in historic sites and better programs in the town for athletics, and to talk and to come up with a reasonable plan for the town and also for the park.

How does the park fit into the overall plan? This is a draft of the open space plan for Brookline. It's about one hundred pages put together by the Conservation Commission. It is a five-year planning document for the town. And these are the goals:

"Adequate provision of recreational space, protection of the environment and preservation of historic and scenic assets."

Here at Larz Anderson, we have all of those occurring at the same time and it's a real opportunity for the town to find a way to deal with apparent conflicts like that.

Now Brookline's open space has a certain character to it. Here there are 619 acres of open space, 72 parcels, over half of it occurring in South Brookline. And 80 percent is concentrated into ten parcels. Eighteen percent is neighborhood parks, many of which have friends groups who actively petition the town for betterment. Fifty eight percent is town-wide recreational open space such as athletic fields, and twenty four percent non-recreational.

Here at Larz Anderson, we have a combination of recreational and non-recreational space.

This is another map of the town. Again, Route 9, Boylston Street north, many streets, many small pockets of open space. And to the south, rather large tracts, a lot of them used for so-called passive recreation. These are terms that you've heard, active recreation and passive recreation, and I think those terms are very misleading. Those of you who have participated in raking up leaves, clean-ups and building boardwalks know that the so-called passive recreation is very exhausting.

This is Robeson Field. That is near Route 9 and Hammond Street. An interesting sign there, it says "Playground closed until further notice." It was being renovated, and you could see people playing soccer in back of it. This is a potential site for more active athletic facilities. The playground was closed because it was being renovated. There is always transition between parks that are being allowed to run down and parks that are being renovated.

This is the reservoir. A nice combination of active recreation, jogging, and just sitting and enjoying the beautiful scenery. Another combination of active and passive recreation at Hall's Pond and Amory Field: baseball players, and behind that beautiful tree is Hall's Pond. That's located in a rather densely located area of town.

The open space plan considers boulevards, wide streets, as part of our natural resources. This is going to be very important when you consider the town is starting to get more tax base. We have to be aware there's a certain character, a sense of place about Brookline. A lot of people want to maintain that sense of place.

This is Leverett Pond. Now there are recognized problems with the open space. One is the unequal distribution that we talked about. There's really not very much and a lot of the facilities have

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Reprint -- Brookline and Public Health: Smallpox and Polio

Reflections on Two Remarkable Public Health Discoveries Made by Brookline Physicians -- first published in the Jan. 21, 1973 papers of the Brookline Historical Society.

By Francis D. Moore, M.D.
Moseley Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School
Surgeon-in-Chief, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital

The concept of inoculation for smallpox was not new in 1721, but Zabdiel Boylston proved it effective and in so doing he made possible the amelioration of smallpox epidemics for many years, and set the stage for ready acceptance of vaccination when it was advanced, by Jenner and then in America by Waterhouse 80 years later.

Two hundred and twenty years later, in 1940, the concept of immunization against polio was likewise not new. But John Enders made virus culture possible and in so doing set the stage for the development of inoculation against polio and the conquest of one of the great epidemics of our time through the production of polio vaccine and its widespread use, by Salk and Sabin.

The two stories involve many interesting and amusing parallels even though separated by two centuries. They are both stories of the Town of Brookline, and the town can be proud since both these great pioneers of American public health, Zabdiel Boylston and John Enders, lived and worked their entire professional lives in our town. There was no Nobel Prize to give Zabdiel other than recognition in his own time. This he richly deserved and finally received both in this country and abroad. But he went through parlous trials and hard times and public discredit before he finally received this recognition that was his due. John Enders was given the most significant international recognition we know, when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery in 1954.

Both of these tales are well known to many residents of our town and it is surely carrying coals to Newcastle to retell of these scientific conquests. But both episodes reveal much about the public acceptance of science, the relationship between science and religion, the ethics of human experimentation, and above all the imagination and tenacity of two great men of Brookline.

In the early eighteenth century epidemics of smallpox had several remarkable characteristics which set them aside from some of the other plagues and epidemics of the time. First, they had a very high mortality; the disease was dreadful in appearance, very painful and highly lethal. Second, the inception of each epidemic was often known or isolated to the advent of some one ship, boat, or army arriving in an area that had not had an epidemic recently. It must have been a terrifying thing to live in a city such as Boston in 1702 and know with absolute certainty that a smallpox epidemic was coming, which indeed it did. In that particular epidemic virtually every resident of the city who had not formerly had the disease came down with it. The overall mortality approached 20 per cent. The third remarkable thing about smallpox was that its scars were left clearly on the face and skin. It had therefore been known since primitive ages that the possession of these scars of previous infection indicated a state of resistance or immunity.

Considering these three remarkable facts together, then, it is not surprising that by 1720 there was increased interest both in England and the United States in the practice then occasionally used in Turkey (and in primitive Africa) of intentionally inoculating persons with the smallpox pus -- the virus itself -- so as to give a (hopefully) mild case that would confer this resistance of immunity. Despite the obvious hazard of such an experiment, it had but rarely been carried out in the western world. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, that brilliant early advocate of women's liberation, the daughter of a British aristocrat, unhappily married to an unsuccessful diplomat, had also been interested in the matter

and had written and corresponded about it on the basis of her stay in Turkey.

It always remains for some one individual to perceive the need and then take the first public step with an innovative program, in any field of science and public health. It was Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, who took this step. But it was not without some prodding and it is historically significant that that prodding came from conservative, organized, puritanical religion.

The Reverend Cotton Mather was one of the towering figures of the late seventeenth century, in the New England colonies. A strict puritan, born in 1663 and very active in the witchcraft trials of 1692, he was nonetheless interested in science, keen about medicine, and anxious to improve human welfare. He learned of the practice of inoculation against smallpox by correspondence with the Royal Society. He found obdurate opposition in the entrenched medical conservatives. Finally, in 1721, he found his man. He prevailed upon Dr. Boylston of Brookline, then 46 years of age, to carry out the experiment because an epidemic was imminent, a smallpox-infected ship being anchored in the harbor. Dr. Boylston took up the challenge and initially inoculated one of his own children. Just prior to and during the epidemic of 1721, he inoculated over 200 people. There were six deaths. This surely would have called down upon his head all the strictures of the law and ostracized him from the ranks of respected science in the twentieth century. But those were desparate days; life was uncertain, death from some epidemic was virtually a certainty, and it was, curiously, not those deaths that called down upon his head the scorn and wrath of his colleagues and of the public. It was instead their discomfiture over having a new idea put forward and then proven correct. This discomfiture changed a bit when, in a classic monograph (now residing in the Countway Library) Dr. Boylston proved statistically and conclusively that the mortality from inoculation was less than half that encountered in the natural epidemic. The medical profession finally had to come around. After much strife, including bomb plots and threats on the lives both of the Reverend Cotton Mather and Dr. Boylston, they were both vindicated. Dr. Boylston traveled to Europe, lectured before the Royal Society, and became a hero in his day. The practice of inoculation against smallpox persisted for approximately 80 years until replaced by inoculation with cowpox and termed "vaccination" (by its origin from a cow -- "vache") which has essentially removed smallpox from the world save for those areas where public conscience or public health rules do not require vaccination.

Without straining our analogy, the situation with poliomyelitis in 1940 was rather similar. Epidemics were recurrent. They came in wave-like form, usually in the summer. Their advent was often anticipated because of the occurrence of a few cases in a specific region or city. Those who had suffered the disease carried the crippling for the rest of their lives and this demonstrated them to be resistant and immune. Such attempts to inoculate persons with the actual virus of polio took place in the middle 1930's. But unlike the experiment of Dr. Boylston, this was not successful. It was not based on adequate scientific study, there was unacceptable morbidity and even some mortality. Those physicians who undertook it suffered the most severe criticisms, both of science and of the law.

During the 20 years between 1930 and 1950 the disease itself - poliomyelitis - changed a great deal. Viruses do evolve and modify the form of their disease. Formerly a disease of young children, producing peripheral paralysis of the legs or arms (infantile paralysis) the disease had become more virulent, attacking older people. These were usually young men and women between 18 and 30 years of age. The disease produced severe respiratory depression (bulbar polio) with a high mortality rate. If the person survived he might make a complete recovery without any residual paralysis. Clearly, what was needed was a way to grow this virus in controlled cultures so that it could be studied more adequately and then modified or "changed" so that it would confirm immunity without producing a severe disease. This was accomplished by Dr. John Enders, with the brilliant assistance of his two young associates, Dr. Thomas Weller and

Dr. F.C. Robbins. During and immediately following World War II they perfected a method of growing the virus in tissue cultures of human and monkey cells. This growth of virus in tissue culture was a brilliant advance that made the conquest of polio possible, made it feasible to grow the virus in huge amounts, and it was the basis for the establishment of a safe vaccine and for awarding the Nobel Prize to Dr. Enders and his colleagues.

Events thereafter moved with great rapidity. Many laboratories took up the method, particularly those of Dr. Salk and Dr. Sabin. Within a few months there was general acknowledgement that an altered or "killed" vaccine would be available, and then at a later time when even more was known about the virus, a "live" vaccine could be used.

The effect on this advancing disease of the development of polio vaccine must surely be one of the most spectacular public health stories of our age. A disease that was widespread in the middle 1950's, killing many townspeople here in Brookline and over the country and the world, filled the wards of all our hospitals with patients on respirators. Patients often died within just a few days of the first symptom of the disease. This disease disappeared almost completely.

There are many lessons here. But possibly the most important is that biomedical science still finds the origin of its brilliant discoveries in the minds of individual persons -- men and women of science -- who build within their minds new structures, ideas, concepts, and innovations, always with gratitude and with full understanding of the work that has gone before. In our society this sort of work and these discoveries require laboratories, support, equipment, and public understanding.

These are days of bitterness about scientific funding and a severe government reduction in spending of public monies for scientific advance. The idea has become widespread in Washington that public and tax monies expended for science have somehow not been yielding adequate benefits for mankind. Who is to say? Who is to say what benefits are adequate? Those who sponsor this view are blind to the fact that it is in the very nature of science that one is always working at the frontier of human knowledge. Many experiments, ideas, and trials must be carried out that are unsuccessful. The advances both of Dr. Boylston and Dr. Enders were built on the work of others who went before them whose outcome was unsuccessful but whose observations were penetrating and truthful.

Those who would reduce funding for science in this country should realize that the conquest of poliomyelitis is strictly an American achievement of the first order. It is the direct result of the application to human illness of modern quantitative biology. It is American research science at its very best and most brilliant, and with a worldwide impact for human welfare.

Here on the local scene, we of the Town of Brookline can be very proud of our latter day Boylston, Dr. John Enders. One never understands the meaning of civil recognition such as the naming of streets, squares, or the putting up of the statues! Possibly they are a wholly inadequate recognition to the great men of a community. The Brookline Historical Society should give some attention that we have a Boylston Street and an Aspinwall Avenue, a Warren Street, a Holyoke Place, and, indeed, even a Cushing Road to honor some of our great medical scientists of the past. Need we say more? Thus, after more than 200 years, we find a parallel experience in polio more difficult, more sophisticated, but even more definitive than the great accomplishment of Boylston in 1721. Brookline can cherish them both.

The Brookline Greenspace Alliance

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been allowed to deteriorate to the point where they need a lot of funding, both for continued maintenance and also for capital improvements. Athletic fields in the town have a lot of heavy use which calls for more funding to keep them green and improve the turf.

Access is a very big problem. The goal is to have open space accessible to residents of the town. One of the problems at Larz Anderson is that it's too difficult to get to. You have to have a car: no public transportation brings people down here. That's something to be considered.

The Brookline Green Space Alliance has publicized the need for greater funding and for public involvement. We publish a newsletter quarterly and we surveyed the town: how do you like the facilities? The results were okay, but not really okay. It turned out that the facilities that got good funding people really liked, like the golf course: good town maintenance, good capital improvements, and it got a very good rating. The skating rink got a "D." The skating rink has to be improved. There are plans for redoing it with a warming hut.

We've also studied the budget. We found that in the future, the source of capital improvement funds is very uncertain. The only thing that we could count on is money coming from tax revenues - where parks have to compete with very strong advocacy groups like schools, police, fire.

So how are we going to make our parks better? This is one way - this is the Sawmill Brook in the Hoar sanctuary behind the Baker School. There's a boardwalk in the picture, but after seven or eight years in the sun that pressure-treated boardwalk will decay. The Green Space Alliance, the Boy Scouts, neighbors got together and we rebuilt the boardwalk. There really is a pool of liquidity other than money that the town needs to tap, and it's you and me who get together: particularly that applies to Larz Anderson.

This is a portion of the open space plan. And basically, Mary summarized it, but I'll just quote part of it:

"The park (Larz Anderson) is on the edge of total disintegration. If the many areas such as the pond, the temples, bowling green and skating area are not corrected immediately, they may be lost forever."

Larz Anderson: My son's in the skating program. It's an outstanding skating program. This is a real resource for the town, the skating rink. On the other hand the Italian gardens were there before.

Many of you might have noticed people were skating on the lagoon: that might be considered a beautiful place to skate. And this is an outstanding athletic program: sledding at Larz Anderson. Here again, a very good meshing of active use, of good use that does not really change the landscape.

Here's another one, it's the first arts festival in the park held two years ago at Larz Anderson. The temple is draped somewhat, but not out of modesty, probably somebody was advertising something. There was music and a good time for all.

This spring, the park is beautiful, but the edge of the lagoon is really decayed -- that has to be repaired. It's a time for decisions: what to do with Larz Anderson? The needs of the town are for more people to get involved in how the town is going to make Larz Anderson fit in.

There is a new group, the Friends of Larz Anderson, formed a couple of weeks ago and if you're interested in joining a group that will discuss how this place will be used, please let me know.