

CLASS OF 1961 CRANBROOK HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

IN 1904 WHEN GEORGE AND ELLEN BOOTH PURCHASED THE PROPERTY THAT WOULD BECOME CRANBROOK, IT TOOK SEVERAL DUSTY HOURS TO TRAVEL ON DIRT ROADS FROM THEIR DETROIT HOME TO BLOOMFIELD HILLS. IN THE DECADES FOLLOWING, WHAT STARTED AS A COUNTRY RETREAT BECAME THE BOOTH FAMILY HOME AND THE CENTER OF CRANBROOK'S EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL BEGINNINGS.

NAMED AFTER THE ENGLISH VILLAGE AND BIRTHPLACE OF GEORGE'S FATHER, HENRY WOOD BOOTH, CRANBROOK WOULD BE THE BOOTH FAMILY HOME FOR 40 YEARS. ELLEN WAS THE DAUGHTER OF JAMES SCRIPPS, THE WEALTHY PUBLISHER OF THE DETROIT EVENING NEWS. SHE WAS RAISED IN AN AFFLUENT ENVIRONMENT, TRAVELING TO EUROPE WITH HER PARENTS WHERE THEY PURCHASED NUMEROUS PAINTINGS, PRINTS AND RARE BOOKS. THESE LATER BECAME THE BASIS OF THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS OLD MASTER PAINTING COLLECTION. GEORGE WAS ONE OF 10 CHILDREN AND BECAUSE HIS FAMILY MOVED SO OFTEN, HIS FORMAL EDUCATION ENDED AT AGE 14. HIS FASCINATION WITH ART AND DESIGN LED HIM TO FOUND A SUCCESSFUL IRON-WORKING COMPANY IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO. THE COUPLE MET AT THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY IN DETROIT AND MARRIED IN 1887. A YEAR LATER, GEORGE JOINED THE SCRIPPS FAMILY PUBLISHING EMPIRE AND HELPED HIS FATHER-IN-LAW BUILD THE NEWS INTO DETROIT'S LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER, A FEAT REPEATED AT PAPERS ACROSS THE MIDWEST. AS HIS WEALTH GREW, GEORGE BEGAN BUYING INTEREST IN OTHER MICHIGAN NEWSPAPERS WHICH LED TO THE CREATION OF THE BOOTH PUBLISHING COMPANY, THE LARGEST AND MOST PROFITABLE CHAIN IN MICHIGAN HISTORY. AT THE SAME TIME THEIR FAMILY WAS GROWING. FIVE CHILDREN WERE BORN. TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, THE BOOTH'S DEDICATED THEIR ENTIRE FORTUNE TO BUILDING CRANBROOK.

THE STORY STARTS ON A RUNDOWN FARM. FILLED WITH RUTS AND GROOVES, A FEW SPARSE TREES AND A DYING PEACH ORCHARD, THE NEGLECTED FARM NEEDED ATTENTION. A CREW OF LANDSCAPERS CLEARED THE UNDERBRUSH AND LITTER, PULLED WILD WILLOWS FROM THE DRY LAKE BED AND RESTORED THE GLISTENING WATERWAY. GROUNDSKEEPERS COLLECTED FIELDSTONE FOR LATER USE IN THE TERRACES AND RETAINING WALLS AROUND CRANBROOK. OVER THE YEARS MORE THAN 100,000 TREES AND SHRUBS HAVE BEEN PLANTED, TURNING THE BARREN HILLS INTO LUSH GARDENS AND FORESTS. OVERTIME CRANBROOK'S HISTORY UNFOLDED...THE COOK MURDERED THE SUPERINTENDENT AFTER A LOVE AFFAIR WENT WRONG. AND IT SURVIVED THE GREAT DEPRESSION. IN THE 1960'S IT WAS ALMOST TORN DOWN AND IN THE 1990'S IT WAS DECLARED ONE OF AMERICAS CASTLES. NOW A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK THE HOUSE AND GARDENS TELL THE STORY OF A TIME AND PLACE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM TODAY.

OVER THE YEARS, THE BOOTH'S PURCHASED MORE LAND, INCREASING THE CAMPUS TO NEARLY 300 ACRES, PRESERVING 40 ACRES SURROUNDING CRANBROOK HOUSE FOR THE LUSH GARDENS THAT GIVE THE ESTATE ITS GRAND AND ELEGANT STYLE. JOIN FELLOW CLASSMATES FOR A GUIDED GARDEN TOUR OF THE GARDENS SURROUNDING CRANBROOK HOUSE. THE DOCENT WILL SHARE MANY STORIES ABOUT THE HISTORY OF CRANBROOK AND THE FAMILY THAT MADE IT ALL HAPPEN. THE TOUR WILL BEGIN AT 1:00PM AND LAST FOR 90 MINUTES. MEET AT 12:45PM IN THE COURTYARD IN FRONT OF CRANBROOK HOUSE. PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHRIST CHURCH PARKING LOT ACROSS LONE PINE RD.. A MAP IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE TOUR.

PLEASE CONTACT BARB LUSCOMBE BUTTON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THIS ALBERT KAHN DESIGNED HOME AND THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF CRANBROOK. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY AUGUST 1ST. CONTACT BARB EITHER BY EMAIL - BUTTONINC@COMCAST.NET, OR BY PHONE 248-258-1695.

WOODWARD AVE

ASSEMBLE HERE @ 12:45 PM

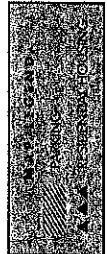
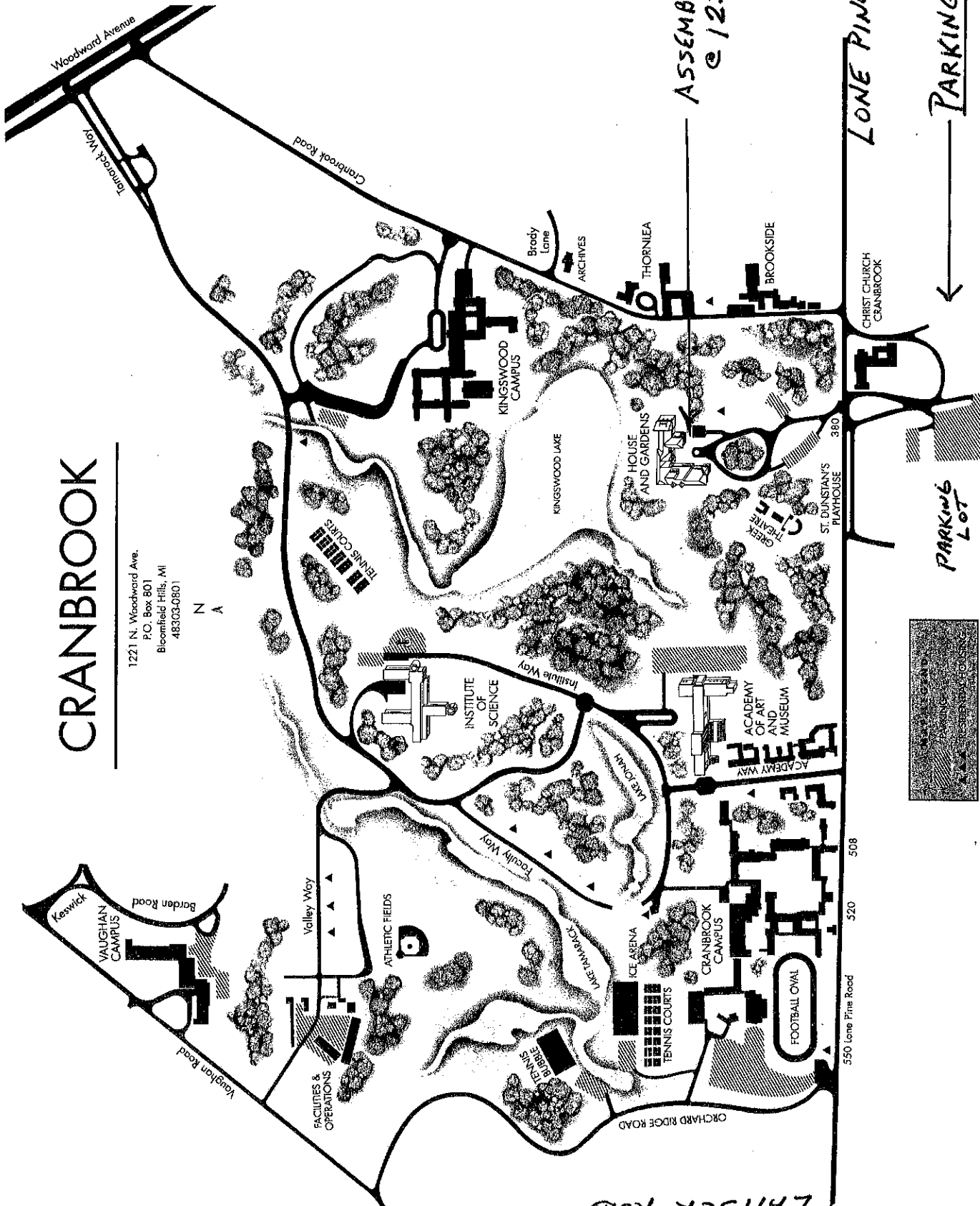
LONE PINE RD

PARKING

CRANBROOK

1221 N. Woodward Ave.
P.O. Box 801
Bloomfield Hills, MI
48303-0801

N



PARKING LOT

LAHSER ROAD

550 Lone Pine Road 508 520