

The moment an individual becomes a candidate for a political office, that moment what he or she says is discounted as a political utterance, even though it is the truth.

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 3

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1940

\$1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

## Christ Church Cranbrook History Told

**Beautiful Edifice Now Being Used Constructed in '25**

(This comprehensive history of Christ Church Cranbrook was written for *The Eclectic* by one class in the development. He has chosen the pen name "Thistle.")

By "THISTLE"

Christ Church Cranbrook is thought of as a rather new institution. Its real beginning took place, however, as far back as 1904, only four months after Mr. and Mrs. George G. Booth had purchased the old and run down farm belonging to Samuel Alexander, and renamed it Cranbrook. It was then, on the fifteenth day of May, that Mr. Booth's father, Henry Wood Booth, started what he called a Sunday School. It was held in a tent on the high ground just across Lone Pine Road from the present church. Those attending that first meeting were: Mr. and Mrs. Allen; Frances and Ethel Allen; Mr. Querton; Miss Parks; Blanche and Bernice Parks; Cedric and Edith Tom; Ann, Amelia, Emma and Eric Kurth; Flora Brose and a Detroit friend. None of the Booth family was there at that time as they had not yet moved to the farm for the summer.

**Service in Tent**  
These services continued throughout that summer, and for years afterward. Henry Wood Booth continued holding services from time to time in a tent, on the porch of Cranbrook Cottage where he lived or in what is now known as the Studio at Cranbrook House. From the first year there was talk of eventually buying a chapel to take care of the needs of the community. No doubt George Booth made a sketch of such a building appearing out of the trees and overlooking Knob Hill where Kingswood's flag now flies, for it was in this spot that he first dreamed of constructing a permanent house of worship.

However, in 1918, the Meeting House was built as a community center where religious services could be held on Sunday afternoons and entertainment and moving pictures given on Saturday nights. It was so cost little because there were so many old but useful building materials on hand. As work progressed, there were not considered satisfactory, and were replaced by new. Katherine McEwen decorated the roof trusses with interesting patterns, and painted wisemen consulting their scriptures and astronomical instruments relative to the Star of Bethlehem portending a new era. This was placed over the fireplace as a symbol of hope for true peace after the World War.

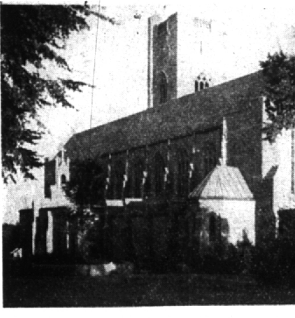
**Visiting Clergy**  
This delightful part of what is now Brookside School, the cradle of all the Cranbrook development, was first used for divine worship on the first Sunday of the year 1919. Henry Wood Booth conducted that service and those which followed for several months afterward. In July it was necessary for him to give up this leadership. Hereafter, clergy of different denominations were asked to officiate from week to week.

Soon after the Meeting House was opened, Miss Geraldine Chrome Tritton started a Sunday School for children with four pupils. She was a hard and devoted worker, and single-handedly built up the attendance to 30 children, when she finally got some volunteer help. One of the highlights of this undertaking was a Children's Fair held by the brook in 1921, as a means of raising money to be used for local relief. The program ended with a movie and the needed sum of money in Miss Tritton's "stocking."

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AS SEEN IN SUMMER



Seen in summer midst its beautiful surroundings, Christ Church Cranbrook is one of the most beautiful in the United States. In the tower is a carillon of 62 bells, covering four octaves, and every September, the eminent carillonneur, Anton Brees, gives a series of concerts. The church seats about 600, and has several notable stained glass windows, particularly the west window, depicting the attitude of women. (Photo by Cranbrook Academy of Art.)

Present Rector



The Rev. CHARLES H. CAPLAN was called to the rectorship of Christ Church Cranbrook in April of 1939. Two new assistants were recently appointed, the Rev. William Hamm and the Rev. Robert DeWitt, neither of whom has yet begun residence here.

and in particular for those famine-stricken in Russia. The pauper was effective in its symbolism and teaching, for it reminded those who were removed from the soil that they were all dependent upon God the Creator for the good and simple gifts which sustain life. One year this service was postponed time after time because of rain, and finally abandoned for the year. By the little farm land remained in Bloomfield Hills. The last such service was held that year, attention being devoted to the new church project.

Talk of New Building

By the summer of 1924 talk of the building of a church became serious. The site considered first was the Lone Pine Inn property because of its accessibility by interurban car. However, automobiles were being used rather generally by that time, so it was decided there was no reason the proposed church should not be built on Cranbrook. Here it would be away from traffic and the noise of D. U. cars bouncing over the hills and the nearby railway whistles. The original site in the woods was not considered because it seemed out of the way. At least one sketch was made for a small church in the cramped

quarters adjacent to the Morris Mill on Cranbrook road, and then the present location was approved after its purchase from the Kingswood family.

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue did before he was able to visit this hillside. His able successors, however, were engaged to develop plans for a small church overlooking the valley of the Crane just across Lone Pine road from the spot where the Founder's father had conducted services in a tent 20 years before. Plans were enlarged as time went on, until a choir school was included in the plan, prompted by the fact that the location of the church in the country made it difficult to obtain boys to sing. This part of the scheme was later abandoned because there would be insufficient ground for a playground and other requirements of a boys' school. This general development later into the Cranbrook School.

While this discussion and planning was going on, conferences were being held with Dr. Samuel Simpson Marquis, formerly dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, and then rector of St. Joseph's Church, Detroit, with the idea of his taking charge of the proposed mission in Bloomfield Hills. He finally consented to accept this leadership, largely because of the prospect of his being able to work with boys and girls in the proposed school. With his support the mission was appointed Dr. Marquis Missionary-in-Charge.

**Ground Broken in 1925**  
Plans for the church, parish house and rectory were completed by the middle of June, 1925, and the contract was signed almost immediately. After holding the first service of the new mission on July 5 in the Meeting House, Dr. Marquis led the congregation up the hill for the breaking of ground. This he could not do with a spade, the sun-baked clay being so hard. Mr. Booth used a pick several minutes before a respectable spadeful of earth could be removed.

While the building was under construction the donors were acquiring old ecclesiastical equipment and having modern craftsmen create fine embellishments for the interior of the church in order to make it an inspiration to even the most casual visitor. Among these enrichments is the great fresco in the sanctuary. It was done over a period of nearly three years by the same Katherine McEwen who had painted the wisemen anticipating a better day on the wall of the Meeting House ten years earlier. The upper part of the fresco depicts the

vision of the Apocalypse; the lower section pictures the work of the Church in every area of its work, carrying humanity ever upward and upward to the feet of Christ, the King. A Pilgrim's Guide to Christ Church Cranbrook has been published, which gives not only historical data on many of these things but their religious significance as well.

The first service to take place in the new edifice was on Easter Sunday, 1926, when the Chapel of St. Dunstan was crowded with worshippers even though the nearby roads were deep with mud, and the congregation had to walk the plank to reach the chapel. The chapel is named in honor of the Patron Saint of the Artists and Craftsmen and the windows represent the patrons of the arts. The second important service was the Midnight Communion of Christmas Eve the following year, the first occasion when the church proper was used. Bishop Pace consecrated the buildings on September 29, 1928, all work being completed by that time. He was assisted by Dr. Marquis and the Rev. Warner Forsyth of St. James.

**Plans Enlarged**  
In the beginning, the Rector wondered from where a congregation would come, even to fill the Meeting House. Later on, however, he was persuaded that possibly the church had not been planned large enough after all. Consequently, after the foundations were all in, both the parish house and church were extended. This was in anticipation of possible future needs (which it was thought would not be realized for years) an event which is denoted on one of the choir carvings—Mr. Booth and Mr. Murray, the architect, are seen pulling the church apart. This action proved wise immediately for the congregation and student body of Kingswood school grew rapidly, the latter so fast it became necessary for all the younger children to hold their classes at Brookside School until an adequate church school building was built two years ago. Serving as both a parish church and a chapel for both Kingswood and Cranbrook School, naturally increased the demands for space.

The addition to house the Sunday school was completed in November, 1938. The new quarters contain 21 modern class rooms and an up-to-date kitchen and enlarged dining room.

The women began their social service during the early days of the life of the mission. As the mission developed the organization became larger until at the present time there is a well-organized Woman's Auxiliary and Altar Guild. During recent months the rooms of the Woman's Auxiliary have been devoted to the emergency work of the American and International Red Cross.

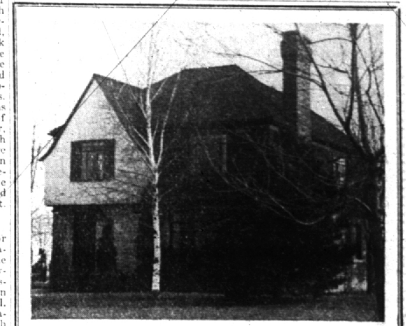
**Serves All of Community**  
Although Christ Church Cranbrook is an Episcopal Church, the purpose of the Church is to meet the spiritual needs of all the members in the community. This in-

attention has tended to bring together many people of divergent church backgrounds.

The Church under the leadership of Dr. Marquis always emphasized work among the young people. The annual Commencement exercises for Cranbrook and Kingswood Schools together with the annual Baccalaureate service for the three schools of Bloomfield (See CHRIST CHURCH, Page 8)

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