

# Famous Cranbrook Gardens Draw Many To Area



PLANTS SOFTEN WALL'S LINES  
Design important at Cranbrook. (Eccentric Photo)

## 'Bearer' Club Has Outing at St. Clair Flat

A number of Birminghamites were in the Detroit Athletic Club Beavers crowd when members of this swimming group and their wives cruised to St. Clair Flat on July 21 for a day's outing at the Old Club.

The party of 120 joined at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club docks to take off at 10:30 a.m. aboard a fleet of members' cruisers. Furnishing music during the trip across Lake St. Clair was the Les Payne ensemble, which also played later for dancing.

Shuffleboard games, swimming in the Old Club pool and boating were favored outdoor pastimes during the day. Dancing during luncheon and at the Beavers' scheduled afternoon tea dance was so popular that the group decided also upon dinner-dancing, which continued until time for the 8:30 p.m. return home.

THE PHIL F. deBeaubiens and Donald J. O'Brien of Birmingham, and the Irving H. MacKenzies and William E. Mackes of Bloomfield Hills, were in a party with the Frederick K. Cook, John R. Barrows and Mr. and Mrs. Roger C. Harris of Grosse Pointe. Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Fred-

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By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In our area we have famous gardens open every Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Cranbrook House on Lone Pine road. It is a rare treat for your out of town visitors as well as yourselves. The tour begins opposite Christ church.

The garden tours have been established for the benefit of the scholarship funds of the various Cranbrook institutions and a well planned and labeled tour is ready for you.

There are thousands of rare trees and shrubs planted so one is at once aware of a feeling of textures from the various leaves and evergreen needles.

The carefully located plant material is in flower until the fall season of colorful leaves.

Groups may visit at a time other than the specified, tour day by special appointment with Mrs. Herbert Hall, who has shared the life of Cranbrook for over 30 years. With her as your guide, it is easy to sense the appreciation of nature which went into the planting of the acreage, as the late George Booth closely supervised each step to fulfill his dream of beauty.

While strolling over the grounds I saw many details which you might enjoy knowing about.

At the entrance to Cranbrook House the terrace entrance is flanked with two large urns. Variegated vinca trails over the sides. The head gardener pointed out to me that this can be removed before a killing frost and when mulched will be your choice plant material for years to come.

The urns held white geraniums with a pansium in the middle to give a fountain effect, then pink verbenas which give just the trailing effect we always want in an urn.

Around the formal circular driveway there were red clipped barberries with yews behind them. To break one corner of the structure was a trumpet vine, most appropriate against the brick. Going up a nearby tree was wintercreeper or Eucyonium fortunei. There will be colorful berries on the vine and the shiny green leaves are beautiful most of the year.

THERE ARE so many architectural features to give interest to



Mrs. Burlingame

the panorama of leaf textures. There is the bridge for you to stroll over as you approach the Greek theater. Evergreens of every variety will give you an idea of the mature appearance of those you are planting.

All types of path constructions are there to study. Wide steps as well as wide paths have a psychological effect upon the viewer. Always avoid narrow paths. Wide paths give an unofficial welcome and leave the walker on to further inspection.

Different levels of terraces for one formal garden section were treated in an interesting way to create a three dimensional effect. The study of the fountains which formed the keynote for most of the intimate gardens portrayed the continental influence in the designs. Stone railings and ornamental stone urns create interest on terrace enclosures.

This last May Cranbrook had a jubilee celebration for the anniversary of the purchase of the land and planted, especially for the occasion, 10,000 daffodils which carpeted a hillside.

I noticed they were using camouflage cloths to cover the roof of the greenhouse instead of a lime wash for summer sun protection. Local greenhouse owners would find this technique easier than a roof wash.

In mid-summer we comment on how effective hydrangeas are with their large white flowers but often forget when selecting shrubs that

this selection is the one plant which will give us dividends in half shade. Right now study the north side of your home, especially if you have some sun coming in from the side for a portion of the day. If you have white trim on a brick home a hydrangea is a natural for a July accent.

SNOWHILL hydrangeas will grow to approximately five feet high and it likes a moist, rich soil. The Pages hydrangea will grow up to 10 feet high and has large panicles of flowers which begin first as pale green, then creamy white in August, then turn pink and will deepen to red. It is a variety you often see dried. It will do well if its roots can be moist and it likes half shade.

There is another fine variety called the oak leaf hydrangea which flowers in June. Its leaves, as the name indicates, are like an oak leaf.

The flowers are narrow upright panicles of pinkish white. It is too coarse for a specimen plant but should be in a shrub row, in front of high shrubs.

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