

CRANBROOK

ARCHIVES

Stephen Farr Booth Papers (1925-2011)

Papers, 1939-2009
2.5 linear ft.

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| Acquisition Number: | 2005-06 |
| Acquisition: | Items were given to the Archives in June 2005 with subsequent deposits by Stephen F. Booth and his wife, Elizabeth B. Booth. |
| Access: | Access to the collection is unrestricted. |
| Copyright: | Copyright to this collection is held by the Cranbrook Educational Community |
| Magazine Index: | See end of finding aid. |
| Processing: | Scott A. Jankowski, 2013 |



History

Stephen “Steve” Farr Booth was born in Detroit, Michigan on November 13, 1925. He was the eldest son of Henry Scripps Booth and Carolyn Farr Booth, and grandson of Cranbrook founders, George Gough and Ellen Scripps Booth. He graduated from Cranbrook School in 1943 and attended Purdue University. He served as an aviation cadet in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War, from 1943 to 1945. In 1947, after Steve Booth’s military service, he married his first wife, Betty Louise Mann, with whom he had three sons: Douglas, Charles, and George. During the 1950s, he became a journalist and an editor for the Pontiac Daily Press and later a publicity manager at WWJ TV & Radio, Detroit, Michigan. Within the WWJ-TV, he created and produced “Hobbies In Action” during the mid-1950s.

During the 1960s, Steve Booth created shows and films for education and public relation services, including live air shows in Michigan and Arizona that featured aerobatic plane displays. In 1967, he produced a children’s movie, “Brighty of the Grand Canyon.” Being an enthusiast for life-size and miniature trains, he wrote extensively on the subject, including multiple books and more than one-hundred articles. He also wrote off-road motorcycle and sailboat articles.

Steve Booth spent twenty years living in California with his second wife, Suzanne Pugh, whom he married in 1976. Steve Booth later married his third wife, Elizabeth, and moved to Sarasota, Florida. He died on December 29, 2011.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection covers Stephen F. Booth’s photographs, articles, and writings throughout most of his life. It is alphabetically arranged in four series: I. Biography, II. Photographs & Slides, III. Publications, and IV. Oversize. The folders are arranged alphabetically and items within each folder chronologically. Oversize materials include two scrapbooks on airplane exhibitions and his time as a producer on a film, “Brighty of the Grand Canyon.” Within Booth’s articles, there are folders with his newspaper clippings and magazines, such as the *Pontiac Daily Press*, *Live Steam*, and *Modeltec*. His book, *Master Railroad Builder*, is held in the reference books in the Archives. Also, the “Brighty of the Grand Canyon” poster is held at the Poster Collection (Folder 5) and a CD with digital train images is included in Image CD Collection. Due to the vast amount of magazine articles, there is a magazine index at the end of the guide.

Related Collections

- Henry Scripps & Carolyn Farr Booth Papers (1982-05)

Box Number--Description

Box 1

SERIES I: BIOGRAPHICAL

1. Brighty of the Grand Canyon, Promotional Materials, 1966
2. Correspondence, 1954
3. Military Information, c1940
4. Personal Writings, n.d.
5. Pilot License Information, c1940
6. Obituary – Suzanne Pugh Booth, 1993

SERIES II: PHOTOGRAPHS & SLIDES

7. Booth, Betty Mann, c1950
8. Booth, Stephen Farr, c1950–1996
9. Booth, Suzanne Pugh, 1976–1993
10. Brighty of the Grand Canyon, 1966
11. Brighty of the Grand Canyon Sculpture, 1967–1968
12. Cranbrook, 1988
13. Family, 1939, 1945–1959, 1978
14. Hobbies In Action, 1956–1957
15. The Longest Train, 1992–1999
16. Military, c1940
17. Military, 1943–1944, 1946
18. Thornlea, 1939–1946, 1980

Box 2

1. Trains, 1938, 1941, 1957, 1960s
2. Trains, 1938–1987, 1992
3. “Trystin” Sloop (Sailboat), 8 Sep 1972
4. Vacation, 1939–1941, 1945, 1947–1949
5. Vacation, 1973–1976, 1977–1980, 1988–1990

SERIES III: PUBLICATIONS

6. Clippings – Pontiac Daily Press, Apr 1950–Jan 1951
7. Clippings – Pontiac Daily Press, Feb 1951–Jun 1951
8. Clippings – Pontiac Daily Press, Jul 1951–Jan 1952
9. Clippings – Index, Pontiac Daily Press, n.d.
10. Hobbies In Action, c1950
11. Magazines – Boats, 1973–1982
12. Magazines – Local Periodicals & Vehicles, 1962, 1973–1974, 1981

Box 3

1. Magazines – Motorcycles, 1982–1986
2. Magazines – Motorcycles, 1973–1975, 1977–1984
3. Magazines – Trains, 1950–1951, 1993, 2005–2009
4. Magazines – Trains, 2001–2006
5. Magazines – Trains, 1985–1986
6. Magazines – Trains, 1986–1988
7. Magazines – Trains, 1988–1992
8. Magazines – Trains, 1992–2002
9. Magazines – Indexes, n.d.

Box 4

SERIES IV: OVERSIZE

1. Scrapbook – Michigan Air Spectacular, 1968
2. Scrapbook – Brighty of the Grand Canyon, 1964–1967

Magazine Index

- American Motorcyclist*, 3:1
Sep 1982–Aug 1984
- Australasian Dirt Bike*, 3:1
Jan 1984
- Boating*, 2:11
Feb 1974–May 1977
- Cruising World*, 2:11
Mar 1976–Oct 1976
- Cycle Canada*, 3:1
Jan 1984
- Cycle World*, 3:1
Apr 1977–Jan 1984
- Detroit Free Press*, 2:12
Dec 1973
- The Detroit News: The Sunday News Magazine*, 2:12
Jul 1973–Nov 1974
- Dirt Bike*, 3:2
Aug 1973–Sep 1975
- Dirt Rider*, 3:2
Jan 1983–Jun 1986
- Impresario*, 2:12
May 1962
- Lakeland Boating*, 2:11
Apr 1973–Jun 1973
- The Live-Steamer*, 3:3
May/Jun 1950–Mar/Apr 1951
- Live Steam*, 3:3
Sep/Oct 1993
Nov/Dec 2005–Mar/Apr 2009
- Locomotive & Railway Preservation*, 3:3
Sep/Oct 1993
- Mainline Modeler*, 3:4
May 2001–Mar 2006
- Modeltec*, 3.5–3.8
Feb 1985–Oct 1986
Nov 1986–Sep 1988
Oct 1988–Jan 1992
Aug 1992–Jan/Feb 2002
- Motor Boating & Sailing*, 2:11
Mar 1973–Apr 1975
- The New England Trail Rider*, 3:2
Dec 1993

Sea, 2:11

Aug 1978–Jan 1982

Special Interest Autos, 2:12

Apr 1981

Yachting, 2:11

Sep 1981