

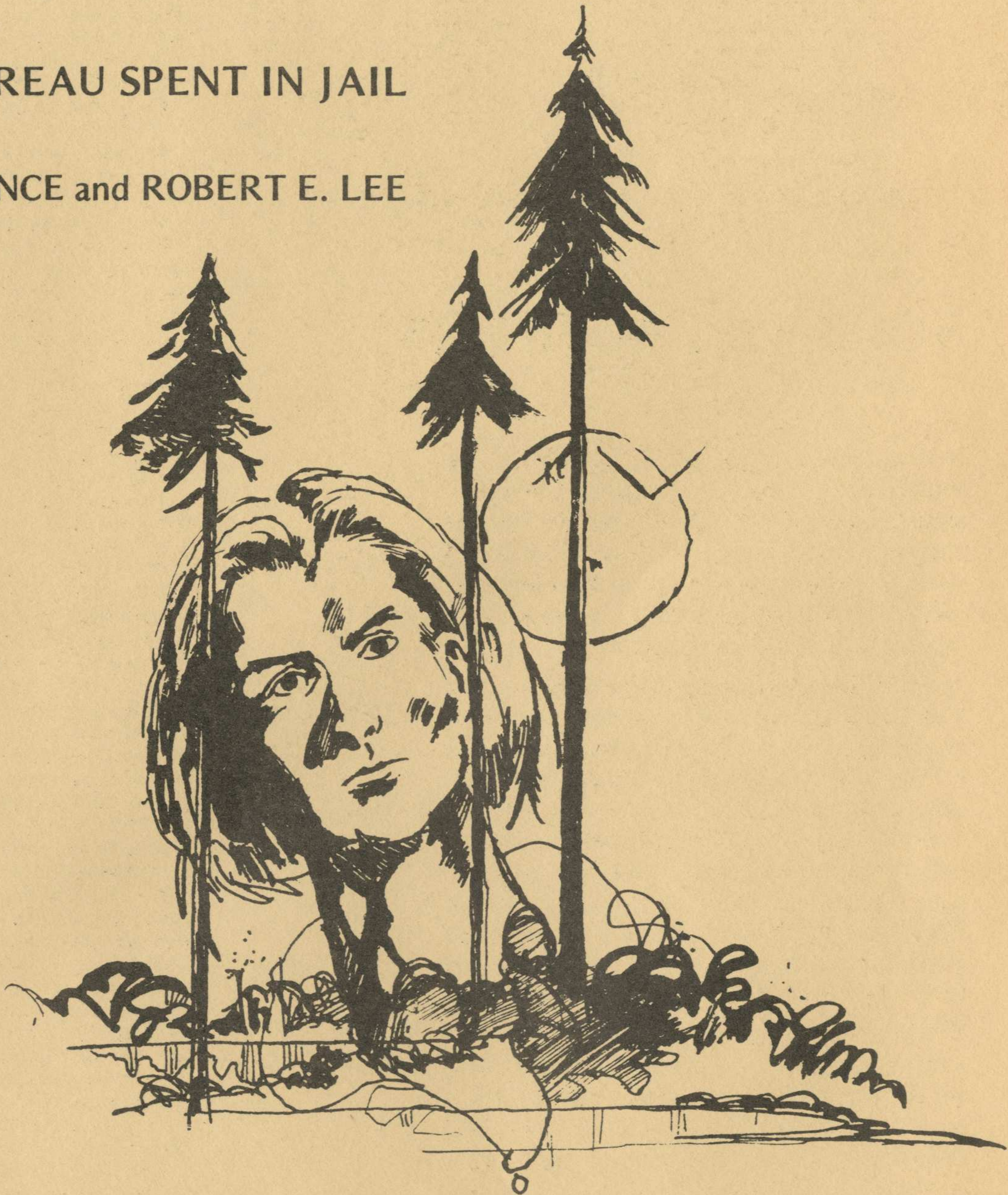
1976-1977

Worthington High School Thespians

presents

THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL

by JEROME LAWRENCE and ROBERT E. LEE



Worthington High School Auditorium Gala Opening

December 2, 1976 – 8:00 p.m.

December 4, 1976 – 7:00 p.m.

Dedication and Introductions, December 2, 1976

THE NOW THOREAU

THE MAN imprisoned in our play belongs more to the 1970's than to the age in which he lived.

For more than a century, Henry David Thoreau was dismissed as a gifted weirdo. Only a rebel like Emerson's handyman would dare to question the benefits of technology! Why, it is obvious to any educated mind that technological advancement and progress are synonymous. To create a better world, all we have to do is make things bigger, faster, stronger, or cheaper.

But materialism is not the way.

THOREAU KNEW THAT.

He smelled the smog before we saw it.

It smarted his soul before it smarted our eyes.

He spoke out; but in those television-less days men were slow to listen. He sang out in nonviolent defiance, but how few men since could carry the tune: Ghandi, Count Tolstoi, Martin Luther King.

It was the material-mindedness of his government which drove the mystic Thoreau to the shores of Walden. His outrage is closely akin to the anger of many young people today. Young Thoreau was disgusted by the lies and confusion which clouded the bloody conflict with a smaller nation, Mexico.

The President of the United States (James Polk) had made a pretense of trying to settle differences at the conference table. Then, without a declaration of war or Congressional approval, U.S. forces plunged into Mexico. An inaccurate and incomplete report from the President (which has been lamely explained by the lack of electrical communication) brought authorization from Congress.

Hawks and white supremacists of the day cheered. But the intellectual community gasped in horror.

The text of the play contains a denunciation of the war actually made by a young Whig Congressman from Illinois—who was not reelected because of his stand, but who later became the first Republican President of the United States.

American secret agents smuggled in a puppet president from Havana. Overwhelmed by U.S. armor, the Mexicans resisted all the way to the gates of their capital, which fell only when their ammunition ran out. On the side of the invaders, there was hot friction between secret envoys from the White House, an alarmed Congress, and the ambitious military leaders—two of whom became Presidents of the United States and one of the Confederacy.

A captain in the army of General Winfield Scott reported that the American troops acted like savages. They shot noncombatants on trivial pretexts. "Their conduct toward the poor inhabitants has been horrible and their coming is dreaded like death in every village."

Another eyewitness, Ulysses S. Grant, wrote in his memoirs: "I do not think there was ever a more wicked war than that waged by the United States on Mexico. I thought so at the time, when I was a youngster, only I had not the moral courage to resign." Grant had the option of resignation, which has not been granted to youngsters of later wars.

According to Santayana, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it." Perhaps this play will jog our memories as we relive the poetic protest of one of America's freest men.

Time is awash in this jail cell. We are not trapped in happenings past, but are concerned about THE NOW THOREAU—the explosive spirit who addressed himself to the perils of our time with more power and clarity than most angry young men writing now about now.

Thoreau is a fascinating paradox:

A man who was—and is.

A self-effacing giant.

A wit who rarely laughed.

A man who loved so deeply and completely that he seemed, sometimes, not to have loved at all.

JEROME LAWRENCE
ROBERT E. LEE

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jerome Lawrence, graduate of Ohio State University and Robert E. Lee, graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, are native Ohioans. The two men met in the Air Force during World War II where they were assigned to write for the service radio. This assignment was the beginning of a collaboration that has lasted a lifetime.

Jerome Lawrence was master playwright at New York University and has been visiting professor of playwrighting at Ohio State University. Robert E. Lee is on the faculty of UCLA. Their plays have won many prizes and awards, including multiple Tony Awards, Donaldson Awards, and critics' prizes. Their most well-known plays include "Inherit the Wind", "Auntie Mame", and "Look, Ma, I'm Dancin'", all of which have had world wide performances. THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL is their thirteenth produced play.

Both men have taken a strong stand for extending the American theatre beyond the confines of the Broadway stage. They have offered the annual Margo Jones Award for Theatres producing plays by beginning playwrights. They were also founding members of the American Playwrights Theatre, an organization through which plays by established playwrights may be given premiere productions in university theatres. THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL is one such production. It premiered on April 21, 1970 at the Ohio State University under the direction of Dr. Roy Bowen and through APT has been produced almost one hundred different places by resident, community and university theatres throughout the United States.

THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL
by JEROME LAWRENCE and ROBERT E. LEE

Act One

10 Minute Intermission

Act Two

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR Bronwynn Hopton
TECHNICAL DESIGNER & DIRECTOR Jim Scowden
STUDENT DIRECTOR Tami Troll
ASST. DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN Susan Haney
PROGRAM DESIGN Jim Kammerud
..... Jeff Smith
CONSULTANTS David Hopton
..... Elaine Hottenroth
..... David Ayers
BANQUET ASSISTANTS Sue Bookwalter
..... Karen Frank
..... Ruth Rieppel
SOUND ASSISTANT Bill Carpenter

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LYDIAN EMERSON..... Kathleen Aston
MOTHER THOREAU..... Elizabeth Aston
HENRY THOREAU..... Michael Weld
JOHN THOREAU..... Thom Metz
DEACON BALL..... Ted Gallagher
ELLEN SEWELL..... Ana Lucia Roland
BAILEY..... Jim Kammerud
SAM STAPLES..... Jeff Smith
EDWARD EMERSON..... Mark Morrison
WILLIAMS..... Mark Holland
CONGRESSIONAL VOICE..... Creighton Miller

TOWNSPEOPLE

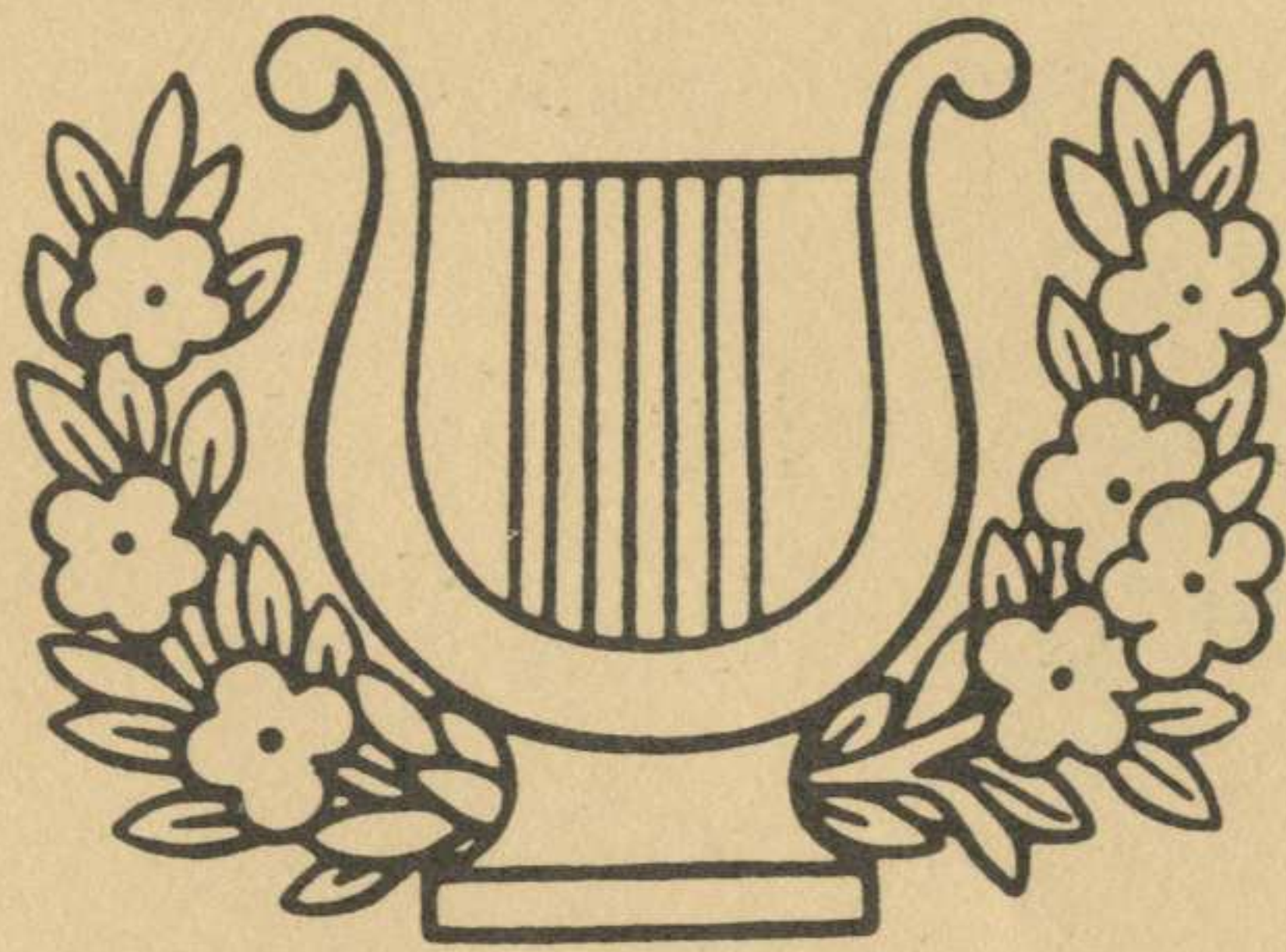
Denise Aichele
Charles Ault
Doug Althausen
Brian Belskie
Sarah Bender
Linda Burkman
Melanie Circle
Debbie Combs
Sally Florence
Maureen Flaherty
Pamela Jackson
Susan Kinsley
Carolyn Klunk
Richard Longstreth
Margie Maddox
Ken Morrow
Kalpana Murthy
Joy Pfefferle
David Rau
Kathi Svoboda
Todd Troll
Cindy Trimble
Stan Voedisch
Shirley Voight
Tim Williams
Terry Wolfe

CHILDREN

Judy Blackmore
Beth Cherwinski
Chris Cooper
Nancy Curran
Paula Hartman
Kevin Herrick
Mark Horstmeier
Chris Howard
David Johnson
Kisa Katz
Lisa Koob
Kimmy Klunk
Phil Lanese
Leslie Liming
Amy McFarland
David McGlaughlin
John Metz
Karen Moore
Jeff Millican
Todd Musgrove
Betsy Patchen
Charles Rizzute
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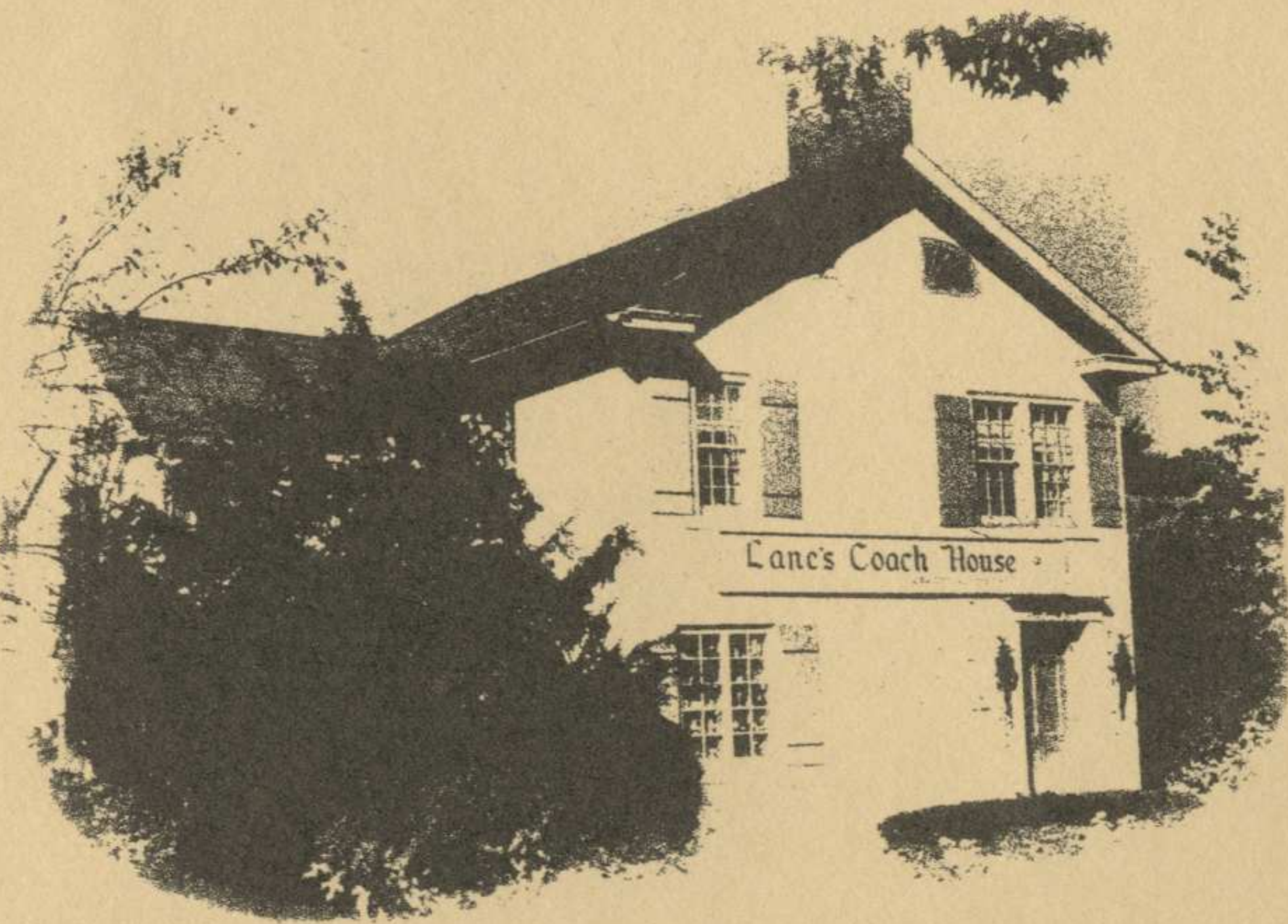
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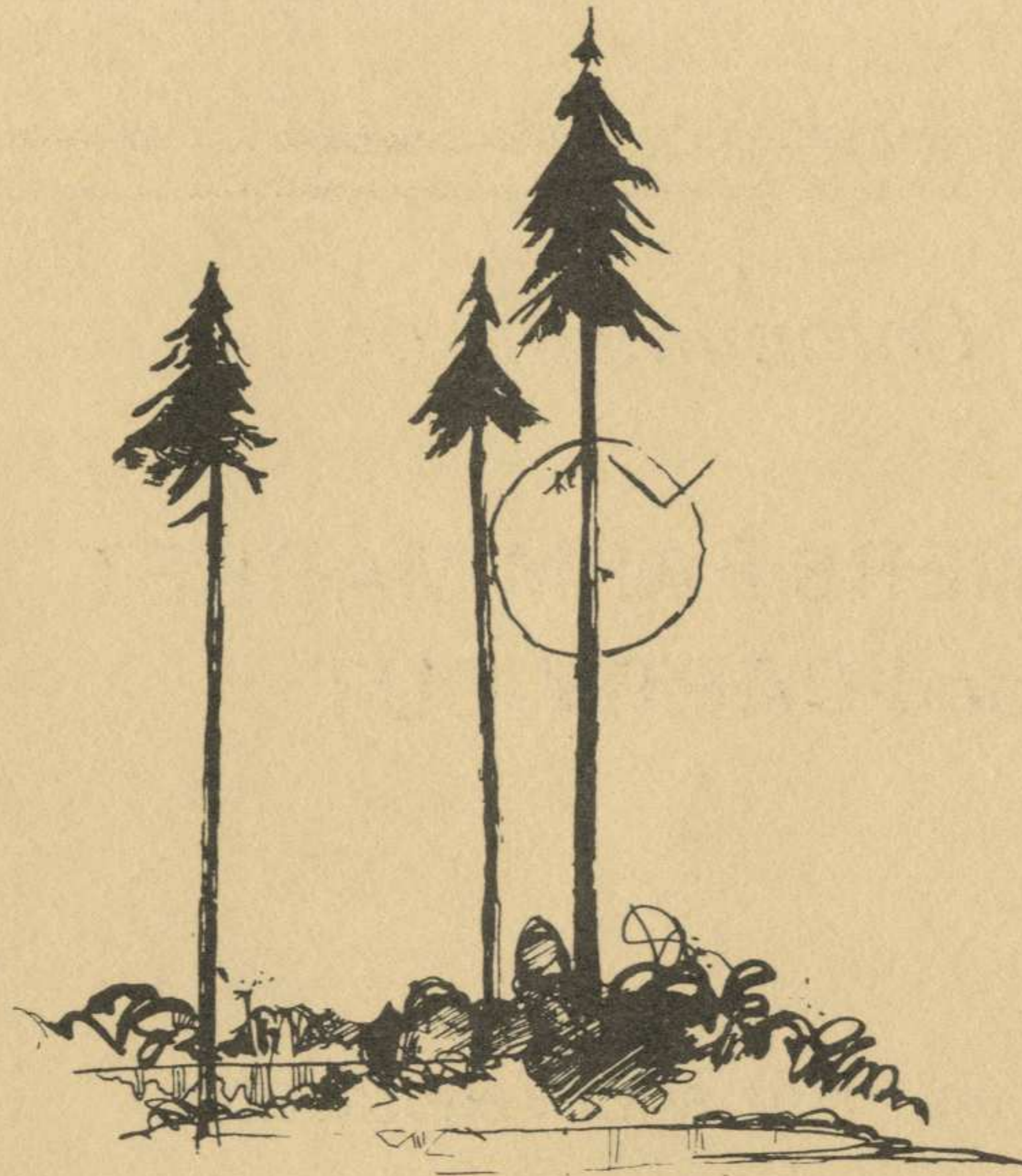
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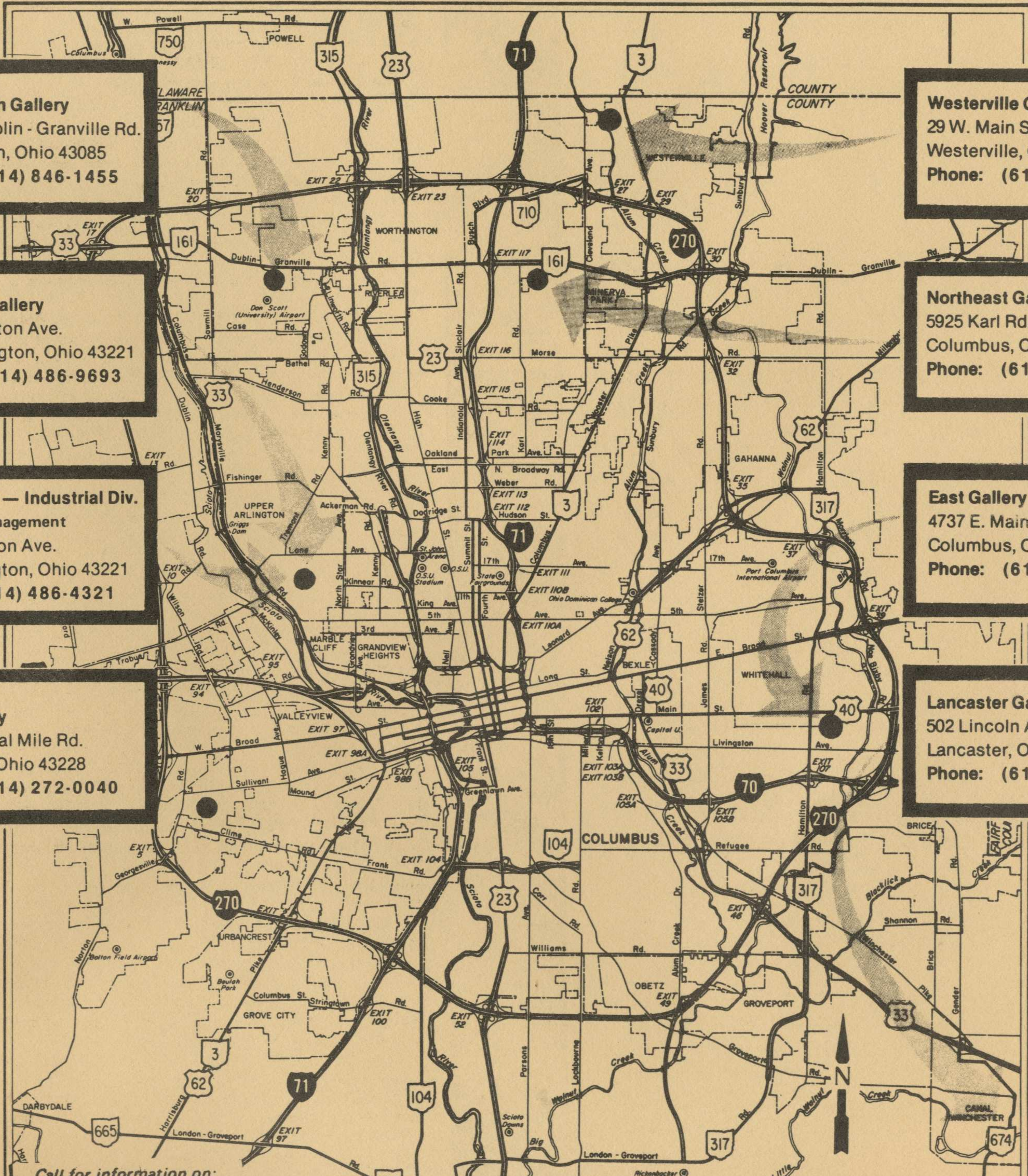
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