## Meadow Brook Hall dons holiday dress

Meadow Brook Hall is a breath-taking place to visit anytime of the year. But during the week of the annual Christmas walk, the hall becomes a child's and adult's fantasyland.

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There are special holiday exhibits daplayed in many of the 100 rooms in the Avon Township mansion on the grounds of Ozkland University for thire days of the Christmas walk.

In contrast to walks of other years, this year's doesn't have a theme. The fresh floral decorations and exhibits of the present of the contrast to walks of other years, while year's doesn't have a theme. The fresh floral decorations and exhibits of the present of th

event for months.

CHAIRPEOPLE MR. and Mrs. F. James McDonald of Bloomfield Hills supervised over the selection of 17 florists who will spend \$500 in fresh materials for the arrangements theylin make for different rooms. The McDonald State of the arrangements of the make for the arrangements theylin make for different rooms. The McDonald State of the arrangements of the McDonald State of the Arrangements of the McDonald State of the Arrangement of the McDonald State of the Arrange House and Knole Cottage on the hall grounds.

The Carriage House will have a candle factory upstairs and food and beverages for sale on the street level. State Claus will be visiting with children in Knole Cottage, taking lists of

**/POTLIGHT** 

year-long dreams back with him once the Christmas walks are over. At a recent preview of the walk, Margaret Twyman of Meadow Brook Hall said last year's event drew 17,000 visitors to the mansion. Extra patrons parties and carefully-planned special exhibits are expected to attract even more this Christmas. The Wawel Folk Ensemble will perform and on display will be the Von Oettingen Creche.

THE VON OETTINGEN CRECHE was handmade between 1815 and 1922 by the parents of Elizabeth Won Oettingen, a former librarian at the Detroit public Library, now living in Grand Rapids.

She remembers her parents working on the explicit figures and recognizes many of the fabrics her mother used in the clothes.

the clothes.

The creche, in addition to the others that will be on display, will fill the ballroom in the lower level and will lake four days to set up.

One item of interest that won't take so long to prepare is Santa Caus. Guernsey Jones, who has been Santa for the walks for two years, seid he's coming back this year because he lowes the children who come to visit him.

Helping Santa will be the Toy Sol-dier, reindeer, and other figures who will entertain the people waiting in line to get into the hall.

Once inside, visitors will see floral arrangements an exhibits as they walk through the Tudor-style hall built in 1829 at a cost of \$3.500,000. Meadow Brook Hall was the home of Alfred and Mailda Dodge Wilson. Mrs. Wilson was the widow of auto pioneer John Dodge. Dodge.
Guests will have the pleasure of

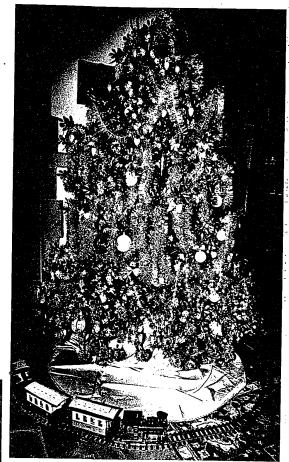
knowing that their admission fee for the walk will be used for preservation of the hall, which was given to the Bate of Michigan. The bulk of the estate, according to the Wilsons' wishes, was used for the founding of Oakland University. Since 1971, Meadow Brook Hall has been used as a cultural and conference center, shar-ing its contents of original furnishings and art works with the public.

THE FLORISTS who will enhance the already magnificant home for the the already magnificant home for the decady magnificant home for the decady magnificant home for the following the fo

Other floral arrangers are Jacob-sen's Flowers of Bloomfield Hills, Pon-tiac and Lake Orion, Jim's Florist of Warren, Jourdan Flowers of Troy, Mr-FLorist, Inc. of Troy, Orchid View Poirst of Royal Oak, Perkin's Flow-ers, Inc. of Lapeer, Planterra Green-houses of Troy and Reid's FLowers and Gifts of Flint.

ano cluts or Finit.

For those who want to see the hall in a more intimate, light, they can attend the patrons dinner parties scheduled by a second of the patrons dinner parties scheduled per person, guests will have. For \$30 pcm person, guests will have. For \$30 pcm person, guests will have. When the parties of \$30 pcm person, guests will have to be person, who is 11 years old, will play the piano and organ for the receptions. For reservations, contact the hall at 377-3140. The amount of \$30 of each patron's party ticket is considered a donation and qualifies for Michigan income tax credit.



A mistletoe tree in the great hall has its own toy train for atmosphere.



Andrew Keyes, a representative of the Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop eads on toy soldiers for displays.



Elizabeth Von Oettinger tells visitors in a preview of Christmas at Meadow Brook how her parents made the figures in the creche on



Betty McDonald (left) who with her husband James is chairing the Meadow Brook event, greets Marilyn Stephens and Howle Anderson, both of Bloomfield Hills, at the preview.

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