

# Celebrating the life and times of a great home

By HELEN ZUCKER

It rained the day I visited Meadow Brook Hall. Red and gold leaves were falling into the fountains, and the flowers bordering the lush, green gardens danced into the rolling mist. White and pale rose petals blew along the damp earth, and the great leaded windows, studded with stained glass, beckoned invitingly.

Walking up the driveway, I couldn't help thinking how like the rolling land of New Hampshire the estate grounds are. The great attention to detail that is everywhere evident — from the 36 brick chimneys, all of different design, to the door latches indoors — brought back memories of New England where I lived for nine years.

And simultaneously, I could imagine that I was standing outside of Hampton Court a few miles from London, along the Thames — a building I hadn't seen since 1973.

Meadow Brook Hall evokes these memories with good reason. Like many of the great houses in Newport, R.I., Long Island, and New England, it is modeled on English architecture.

BUT MATILDA RAUSCH Dodge Wilson was a very intelligent lady. She built this Tudor marvel with her second husband, Alfred Wilson, and did something highly unusual for her time.

Unlike Isabella Gardner and other great collectors who left homes that are now museums, Mrs. Wilson didn't import blocks of marble,

church doorways or castle chimneys.

And unlike Mrs. Gardner, who traveled through Europe crating and shipping European art treasures to her home on the Fenway in Boston, Mrs. Wilson believed in American workmen, native materials. All of the woodwork carvings and fixtures in the hall were made by American artisans.

C. J. Paredesi, who is responsible for the gorgeous carved ceiling in the dining room, is still alive and living in Detroit.

I stood inside the great hall before the long, antique table covered with needlepoint draperies, lit by a Tiffany floor lamp, and surrounded by portraits. A pastoral scene by Rousseau, a Renaissance Madonna and Child by Del Garbo, a hunt scene, deer coaches, and a rosewood chair all led to the feeling of déjà vu.

I stood on stone floors covered by Oriental carpets, while above my head, wood paneling of "linen fold" design, modeled after Cardinal Wolsey's rooms in Hampton Court, played off the soft lighting.

The ceiling didn't soar into infinity. The oak beams looked as if they would last forever. The room felt comfortable, used.

One could envision Mrs. Wilson's children kicking off their snowboots, throwing logs into the fireplace, or sliding down the banisters of the "grand stairs."

Flowers, beautifully done by volunteers, were everywhere. People talked freely, moved about the rooms, sat on couches and chatted.

In "London pub-style," several

friendly strangers waved me into the breakfast room for cider and doughnuts.

**THE DRAWING ROOM** — (Mrs. Wilson always called it "the living room") — is done in English Oak after the Bromley Room in Kensington Museum, England. With its ceiling copied from the Reynolds Room of Knole House, I thought of Wilfred Owen and Rupert Brooke, the two English poets who died shortly before the end of World War I.

Brooke's poem, "The Soldier," begins: "If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England. There shall be in that rich earth a richer dust concealed; A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware."

No one thinks in quite this fashion anymore, but in ways that could not have guessed how the heritage of England has come to roost in many foreign fields. If Owen and Brooke could suddenly find themselves in the drawing room, the Christopher Wren dining room, or the pub-like games room at Meadow Brook Hall, they would feel quite at home.

Constable's "The Farm By The River," Turner's "Rocks At Colgar on The Ganges," and Mrs. Wilson's favorite painting, (a beauty), Joshua Reynolds' "The Strawberry Girl" are all hanging in the drawing room. The Michigan landscape has been enriched by the Wilson's tribute to English architecture, by the incredible carvings wrought by American artists, by the intricate exterior and

chimneys designed by Smith, Hinchmann and Grylls.

IN RECOGNITION of the Wilsons' achievement, a Governor's reception in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation will take place at Meadow Brook Hall on Sunday, Oct. 14.

LI Governor James H. Brickley will represent Governor Milliken at the three-day conference on planning for the future of large homes and estates.

The rising costs of fuel, the decline in tourism, and many crucial issues related to preserving historic buildings have brought experts such as Joseph Duffey, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, James Biddle, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and others to the hall.

Meadow Brook Hall is now Oakland University's cultural and conference center. President Donald O'Dowd will open the meeting and help hang a state historic marker.

MEADOW BROOK ART gallery is celebrating Meadow Brook Hall's 50th anniversary and the hall's inclusion in the "National Register of Historic Places" with a show of 40 photos, two watercolor proposals by T. E. King, and several architectural renderings.

Directed by John Cameron, chairman of the art department at O.U., the show was three years in the making. Cameron, who specializes in medieval architecture, is well-known for his interest in Michigan archi-

ture and his monumental knowledge of great houses. He said he could never have completed so vast an undertaking without the help of 15 very special students who did the necessary research.

"The students, working on independent projects, dug up plans no one had seen for years," he said.

Meadow Brook curator Kilichi Usui, who helped mount the arresting display of Meadow Brook Art Gallery rooms alongside their English models, said that this show

wouldn't have happened without Cameron and his persistent students.

Called "Meadow Brook Hall: Revival of Architecture and Decoration," the show includes excellent photos of all the rooms mentioned here, a touching portrait of John Dodge and his daughter, Frances, and a photo of the Hutton House garden room, still on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Mrs. Wilson's study was modeled after it.

**NEW!! DELUXE SLIMS**  
AUTOMATIC WATER CONDITIONERS  
BY REYNOLDS

Reynolds Slims are designed to be beautiful and also to last amidst any space — only 10 inches wide. Same extraordinary quality you expect from Reynolds with high capacities up to 35,000 grains.

And, if you have really rusty water, the new exclusive Reynolds Rust Purge System is for you. The Rust Purge System eliminates the problems most water conditioners leave with iron content in water.


Yes, you may rent them too! Rental fees apply toward purchase.

REYNOLDS Michigan's oldest water conditioning company. Since 1931. A name you can trust.

CLIP THIS AD AND CALL TODAY for a free water analysis from a factory representative. No obligation.

**TOLL FREE 1-800-572-9575**  
Local representation since 1931

**REYNOLDS WATER CONDITIONING CO.**



**MIRRORS**

for good looks!

**reflections**  
"the ultimate in mirrors and glass"

33491 Seven Mile at Farmington Rd. 476-8410 258-9100

**THE RED BELL** Children's Nursery and Kindergarten

31195 W. 13 MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48318

For Information Call for Brochure 626-3020

*designs on you*

Join us for LUNCH & FASHIONS at MOUNTAIN JACKS every Thurs. Noon - 1:30

at Oakbrook shopping plaza Wake & Grand River 476-1150



**SEWING MACHINE CLINIC**

A trained sewing machine mechanic will CLEAN, OIL, AND ADJUST TENSION WHILE YOU WAIT.

all brands, all models, all ages

For Only \$9.95 Free independent estimate if any additional work or parts are needed on

ONE DAY ONLY WEDNESDAY NOV. 7th 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

**a&m SEWING MACHINES**  
33539 Plymouth Rd. W. of Farmington Rd. 422-2130

We Have the Hairstyle for Your Holiday Lifestyle

• Jharmack Products • Senior Citizen Discounts every Monday and Tuesday

**Hatch's Hair Design Studio**  
Thomas and Richard Hatch and staff

16717 Middlebelt One Block South of Six Mile

Open Mon-Sat Livonia 425-2777



**Decorator Gifts**

Unique decorator gifts for the home by DAUM, VANNES le CHATEL, IITTALA I FINLAND, KOSTA BODA, LLADRO and many more.

Gift Wrapping at No Charge

**Sherwood Studios**

FINE FURNITURE TO LIVE WITH  
OPEN SUNDAY 12-5 MON-SAT. 10-9  
TEL-TWELVE MALL, Telegraph at 12 Mile Southfield 354-0000



**Tear out this ad and Discover Bonanza!**

Discover a delicious steak, baked potato or french fries and Texas toast. Plus a mile high salad from our "Discovery" Salad Bar. Two meals — just \$4.99. Delicious!

**Bonanza's famous Boneless Strip Dinner**  
2 for \$4.99

COUPON Expires Nov. 15, 1979

**12 OAKS MALL NOVI 349-5730**

**BONANZA**

**ODD YEAR GENERAL ELECTION**

To the Qualified Electors:  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That an Odd Year General Election will be held in the

City of Farmington, County of Oakland  
State of Michigan

ON  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1979**

AT THE PLACE OR PLACES OF HOLDING THE ELECTION IN SAID CITY AS INDICATED BELOW, VIZ:

PRECINCT 1—Farmington City Hall, 23800 Liberty Street  
PRECINCT 2—American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River Avenue  
PRECINCT 3—Farmington Senior High School, 32000 Shilohwasse  
PRECINCT 4—Flanders Elementary School, 32600 Flanders Street  
PRECINCT 5—Longacre Elementary School, 34850 Arundel Street  
PRECINCT 6—Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street (Formerly Farmington Jr. High School)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:

**THREE COUNCILMEN**  
and voting on the following proposal:

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND CHAPTER 12, SECTIONS 12.1 AND 12.2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON**

Shall the Charter of the City of Farmington be amended to increase the dollar amount of contracts for sales and purchases, for which the City Manager shall be responsible, from \$1,000.00 to \$4,000.00.

The Polls for the said Election will be open from 7 o'clock A.M., and remain open until 8 o'clock P.M., of the same Election day.

NEDRA VIANE, City Clerk

Publish: Nov. 1, 1979

**BONAVENTURE SKATING CENTER**

Valid Wed., November 7, 1979 ONLY  
**FREE PASS**  
4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.  
SKATE RENTAL NOT INCLUDED

**WINTER SCHEDULE**

ADULT DISCO SESSIONS Friday and Saturday Midnight - 2 A.M. 10th admission 75c skate rental	Sept. 4, 1979 thru June 18, 1980	PRE-SCHOOLER'S SESSION Friday 10-11:30 A.M. \$1.50 Admission (includes skate rental)
--	--	---

**ADULT OPEN SESSIONS**

<b>TUESDAY SPECIALS</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
MONDAY CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTIES	CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTIES	12-2:30 P.M. - \$2.00 STAYOVER - \$1.50
TUESDAY 6-8:30 P.M. - \$2.50 9-11:30 P.M. - \$2.00 LADIES NIGHT-HALF PRICE	FRIDAY 6-8:30 P.M. - \$2.50 8-11:30 P.M. - \$2.50 12-2:00 A.M. - \$2.00 (16 YRS. & OVER)	2-5:30 P.M. - \$2.00 6-8:30 P.M. - \$2.50 STAYOVER - \$2.00 8-11:30 P.M. - \$2.50 12-2:00 A.M. - \$2.00 (16 YRS. & OVER)
WEDNESDAY 4-6:00 P.M. - \$1.25 8-11:30 P.M. - \$2.50 (ADULT SESSION - 18 & OVER)	SUNDAY 1-3:30 P.M. - \$2.00 STAYOVER - \$1.50 4-6:30 P.M. - \$2.00 7-9:30 P.M. - \$2.50 10-12:00 A.M. - \$2.00 (ADULT SESSION - 18 & OVER)	

RENTAL SKATES - ALL SESSIONS - 75c


**CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT BONAVENTURE**  
CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT BONAVENTURE! BRING YOUR CAKE AND CANDLES AND GIFTS ALONG WITH YOUR GROUP AND WE'LL FURNISH THE FUN. MAKES FOR A VERY MEMORABLE DAY. AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE MESS AT HOME.

BONAVENTURE SKATING CENTER IS A FIRST CLASS, WELL-SUPERVISED RECREATION CENTER.

**BONAVENTURE SKATING CENTER**  
24505 HALSTEAD RD. FARMINGTON HILLS 476-2200

(1 Block N. of Grand River)

**NOVEMBER TUESDAY NOV. 6th**



**SECURITY BANK OF NOVI**

Open Lobby Drive-In

Mon.-Thurs.	9:30 - 5	8 - 5
Friday	9:30 - 7	8 - 7
Saturday	9:30 - 1	9:30 - 1

10 Mile at Meadowbrook - Novi - Ph. 478-4000  
43395 Nine Mile Road at Novi Road - Ph. 348-0320

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER  
DEPOSITS INSURED UP TO \$40,000 BY FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.