

# Meadow Brook Hall jazzes up

## Holiday Walk

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

This year's Holiday Walk at Meadow Brook Hall will have visitors thinking jazz along with jingle bells.

The 31st annual event, Flappers and All That Jazz, focuses on the Roaring '20s. It will run Dec. 1 through Dec. 20.

Meadow Brook Hall was the home of Oakland University founders Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred Wilson and their family from the late 1920s through 1967.

Flappers and All That Jazz will display items from Meadow Brook Hall collections that aren't regularly on view, putting them in the historical context of what was happening during the 1920s as well as amid holiday decorations.

"It's a great history lesson and a fun one," said Lisa Baylis Ashby, executive director. "Up close and personal."

What a decade it was: of flappers and Emily Post etiquette, of suffrage for women and liquor prohibition, of Charles Lindbergh and the Great Gatsby.

"It was a tremendously exciting decade, a tremendous change in the way we live, work and play," Ashby said.

The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, giving women the right to vote. A sample ballot from 1924 — possibly the first election in which Matilda Dodge Wilson was able to vote — will be exhibited.

The 18th Amendment, which prohibited liquor, was ratified in 1919 and repealed in 1933. Pre-Prohibition whisky stockpiled by John Dodge will be displayed.

Charles Lindbergh completed his non-stop, solo flight from New York to Paris in 1927. He was a hero of Daniel Dodge. Newspaper clippings about Lindbergh's life and achievements, and an illustrated map

of the famous flight, will be shown in Danny's bedroom.

Flapper fashions will be exhibited, including Mrs. Wilson's housewarming party gown, feather fan and beaded headband. The flapper represented the new freedom of women. Objects on display will tell of Matilda Dodge Wilson's early involvement in women's clubs.

Meadow Brook Hall itself, a 110-room, Tudor-revival style mansion, was built during the 1920s. The story of this architectural style's popularity in the '20s will be told through blueprints and drawings of the mansion. A 1929 Christmas card, featuring the Hall on the cover and a poem by Alfred Wilson inside, will be exhibited.

Furnishings include Art Deco objects in the then-new Modernism style that will be shown, such as Lalique glass.

The nation's interest in jazz surged during this decade, spreading the craze over jazz

music. During the Holiday Walk, the 1923 Steinway player piano will play jazz music and the family's 1928 radio, a record collection and a Victrola will be displayed. The latter was among the family possessions when they lived in Detroit.

### Information

Holiday Walk hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (last admittance 4 p.m.), 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday (last admittance 8 p.m.). Tours are at the visitors' own pace; docents will be stationed throughout the Hall to provide information and answer questions.

Admission — which includes admission during daylight hours to Knoke Cottage, the completely furnished playhouse where Santa Claus will greet visitors — is \$12.50 for adults; \$10 for adults in groups of 20 or more with advance reservations; \$6 for ages 3-12, and OU affiliates with ID; \$5 per student for school groups; and free for under age 2. Dec. 13 is OU Night, when OU affiliates may bring their families for the OU price.

Seatings for holiday group lunches will be 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A minimum group of 20 is required; the maximum is 48 in any one group. Cost is \$25, adults or children, including lunch, tax, gratuity and tour. Advance reservations are required.



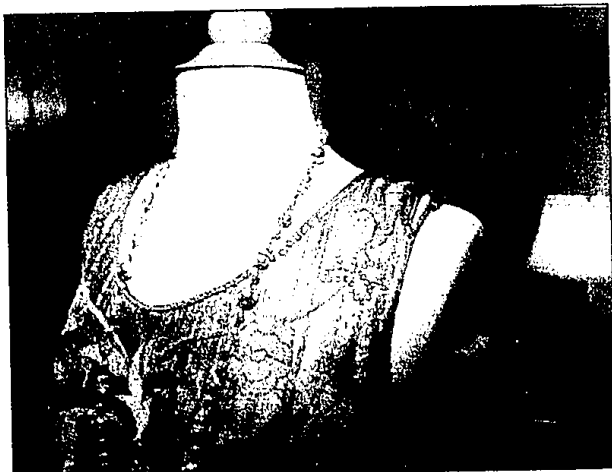
The gift shop, featuring unusual items added for holiday and souvenir shopping, will be open to the public during Holiday Walk hours. Elegant gala evenings are scheduled Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, with reception and touring 6:30 p.m., dinner 8 p.m., and dancing and afterglow following dinner. Cost per person is \$200 patron, \$275

benefactor. Advance reservations are required, and black-tie attire is preferred.

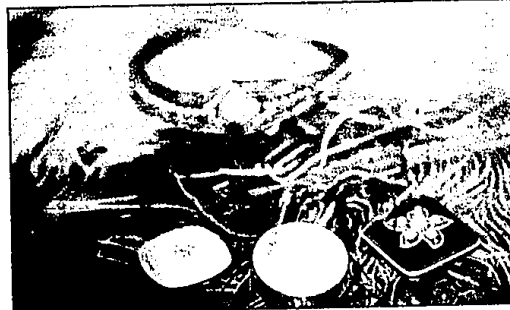
Meadow Brook Hall is on the OU campus, off Adams in Rochester. For more information, call (248) 370-3140 or visit [www.meadowbrookhall.org](http://www.meadowbrookhall.org).

All proceeds from the Holiday Walk are used for the preservation and interpretation of Meadow Brook Hall.

'20s fashion: Matilda Dodge Wilson's feather fan and beaded headband will be shown in Flappers and All That Jazz at Meadow Brook Hall.



In style: This gold tissue evening gown is embroidered with lavender flowers and rhinestones.



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