

# The Distaff Side...

By Jerry Wendt, Women's Editor



**RADIANT AT THE SUCCESS** of the Meadowbrook Festival, Mrs. Ben Mills (left) greets members of the Executive Committee of Meadowbrook Festival, Mr. and Mrs. Weiting.



**CONGRESSMAN BILLIE S. FARNUM** and Mrs. Farnum were among the 120 guests who gathered at the Varner home preceding the Meadowbrook Festival.



**FIRST LADY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**, Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson, (right) greets Mr. Mott, (left) at the garden party preceding the Meadowbrook Festival. The party was at the home of Chancellor and Mrs. Varner.



**A HANDSOME COUPLE** at the Varner party, preceding the Meadowbrook Festival were Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Townsend.

**It's A Girl**

Mrs. and Mrs. James A. Ralston of Farmington announce the birth of a daughter, Pamela Ann, on June 3 weighing seven pounds, seven ounces and a half ounces. The grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Ralston are former residents of Farmington, now residing in Allen Park. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Smith, of Detroit.

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Michigan was honored in the arts this week with two famous attractions which drew the attention of people of the world over: the Opening of the Meadowbrook Festival and the Opening of the Greek Theatre.

The Ben Mills, chairman of the Festival, and a group who glory in setting high goals and then surpassing them. But with the Meadowbrook Festival Opening on Thursday, June 30, they topped anything they could ever hope to attain. It is doubtful if there ever has been or ever will be anything to top that evening in the memory of those attending.

Their hearts must have been filled with pride as, with the slopes of the hills filled to the very top, with not a blade of grass showing, still people kept streaming in, down the sides and cascading in an overflow crowd, over the Festival grounds.

Everything, transparently, in the evening perfect, the weather, the arrangements and the star-studded guest list. A party mood prevailed among the 120 guests and members of the festival committee who gathered at the beautiful home of the Oakland Chancellor and Mrs. Durward B. Varner, gracious hosts for the party.

Cocktails were served in the home and in the garden. Mrs. Mills, dollied in a pink sheath and her handsome husband, greeted the guests.

Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson, a petite, patrician featured lady, enjoyed the party as much as any of the guests and happily greeted her many friends. (Mrs. Wilson donated the estate on those grounds Oakland University and the festival grounds were built.)

Following the party, the guests boarded buses and were taken to the OUP's tables had been set up and the guests dined on such delicacies as sturgeon of beef, and cream Paris topped with wild strawberries.

Then, on to the concert, where Sixteen Ehrling directed the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Henryk Szeryng, a Polish violinist was the guest soloist and performed beautifully. Never has there been a more profound tribute to Orpheus, the God of Music. Thousands lined the grassy slopes to hear the concert and were orderly and quiet.

Afterwards the guests boarded the buses again and were taken for a festive finish to the evening to the Alfred Wilson estate to attend a gala reception.

Many writers adopt a blasé attitude and like to convince their readers that they are accustomed to almost anything. But *The Observer* wasn't attempt to say that it wasn't a great thrill to enter the halls of famed Meadowbrook, the Wilson estate.

A galaxy of red carpeted rooms, filled with beautiful paintings and carvings stretched on each side. The guests were greeted by the Dr. Varner, Mrs. Wilson and the Mills.

It is easy to understand the enormous popularity of the Mills, for they declined to accept all the cash, in doing thanking all the committee members. Their friends couldn't resist teasing them. "Did you offer the moon, especially, too?" For a perfect golden moon sailed across the sky, making the event complete.

On the lawn of the vast garden, a scene of elegance from a bygone age greeted the guests. While coaxed butlers served refreshments from linen covered tables. Marble fountains splashed high in the air, and the rose gardens scented the night with their lush fragrance, were lit by hundreds of Japanese lanterns.

Inside the mansion, a supper buffet awaited the guests, and they were free to roam the many rooms. How anyone could have managed to give this gorgeous estate a cozy look, I don't know. But despite its grandeur, it is warm, comfortable, and intimate.

Perhaps it lies in the family photographs, the small bouquets, and the letters, nonetheless everything is a tribute to Oakland University's First Lady, Mrs. Wilson, who was always noted for her dedication to church and family.

If Orpheus, the God of Music, witnessed the evening in his honor, he must have been unhappy that he couldn't descend and join his worshippers, for it was a never-to-be-forgotten evening.

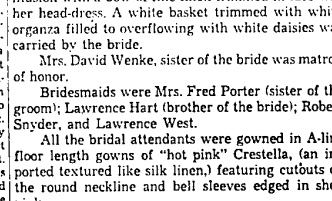
The Muse, (Greek God of Drama), received an outstanding salute Tuesday night at the opening of the Greek Theatre in Ypsilanti. The opening play was "The

Hart-Bean Takes Vows

In Double Ring Ceremony

Barbara Lynn Hart became the bride of Gary R. Bean, in a double ring ceremony, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Farmington on June 27.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Margaret Hart, 23917 Grace St., Farmington. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Carlson, 6740 Westwood, Detroit. Rev. Walter Rutovsky performed the ceremony.



MRS. GARY R. BEAN

The bride came down the aisle wearing a gown of linen in an unbroken A-line. The lace insets ran down the front of the dress and the elbow length sleeves. The detachable train was also an A-line with lace edging around the entire train. A chapel length illusion with a row of fine linen trimmed in lace was her head-dress. A white basket trimmed with white organza filled to overflowing with white daisies was carried by the bride.

Mrs. David Wenke, sister of the bride was matron of honor.

Bridesmaids were Mrs. Fred Porter (sister of the groom); Lawrence Hart (brother of the bride); Robert Snyder, and Lawrence West.

All the bridal attendants were gowned in A-line floor length gowns of "hot pink" Crestella, (an imported textured like silk linen), featuring cutouts on the round neckline and bell sleeves edged in shell pink.

Their head-dresses were fabric flowers on gathered lace, gathered into a circle, with shell pink streamers. Nosegays of "hot pink" daisies surrounded by shell pink roses on gathered organza with shell pink streamers, to match the head-dresses, formed their bouquets.

Richard Bennett was best man and ushers were Fred Porter (brother-in-law of the groom), Lawrence Hart (brother of the bride), Robert Snyder and Lawrence West.

Following the ceremony a dinner and reception for 300 guests was held at Roma Hall in Livonia.

The bride is a graduate of Wayne State University and Farmington High School. She is president of Alpha Delta Phi Sorority and the Pan Hellenic Council and a member of Theta Sigma Phi Professional Journalism Fraternity. The groom is a graduate of Cody High School and attended Detroit Society for Arts and Crafts. He is employed as an interior designer and is vice-president of and chief designer at Silvers, Inc. in Highland Park.

Out of town guests were the matron of honor and best man from College, Alaska; and Glendale, Calif. respectively. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. Wagoner from Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson and Ludwig Tulson from South Dakota.

Following a trip to New York City, the couple will be at home in Dearborn.

Orestes starring Dame Judith Anderson. You either like Greek Theatre or you don't but whatever it is you should have an appreciation for the beginning of all drama. It is fatal to compare it to modern films for example, which rely on all sorts of visual effects and devices. Greek Theatre relies on the beauty of the spoken word.

The play opens with the return of Agamemnon from the Trojan War. Helen of Troy (the face that launched a thousand ships) was the sister of Clytemnestra, therefore Agamemnon was compelled to go to war.

When he returns after ten years, and accepts her professed fidelity, and chides her for spreading the red carpet for him, he loses the sympathy of every woman in the audience.

When he introduces the beautiful sully Cassandra (riding in a chariot behind him) as "the most exquisite flower of them all," his "prize trophy of all his wars" and bids his wife give her royal welcome, there are those who would have commended Clytemnestra for her fortitude in not dispatching him on the spot instead of waiting until she was behind closed doors.

Dame Judith dominates the stage, even when she isn't on it, so great is her stage presence. Audiences will feel a thrill from her first appearance, when, majestic in scarlet and gold robes, she steps upon the stage. The chorus is before her and the torches flare into the night, and you are transported back into time to the height of all theatre, the Greek drama.

It is superb entertainment, but we feel it goes even deeper than that. Every aspiring person who would like to enter the theatre should see this.

The chorus is outstanding. One of our favorite scenes is where Orestes, driven half mad by the avenging Furies, flees to the hall of justice or the Aeropagus. The statue of Athena, Goddess of Wisdom, remains immobile, and the furies close in upon him. Suddenly the statue comes to life, and the beginning of all law begins with the forming of the Aeropagus, the court of justice, dispensing justice with mercy.

Also impressive are the scenes where a Cassandra sees dark visions of the future, thus giving the name of Cassandra to all soothsayers for generations to come.

The opening scored another triumph in the star-studded career of Dame Judith, one of the greatest actresses of our time. (Watch her hold the audience, for almost 300 lines before she even speaks.)

It is the first time *The Observer* has ever witnessed a standing ovation of over five minutes, which was accorded Dame Judith. The members of the audience who were from Europe shouted "Bravo, bravissimo!" instead of our customary applause. The Greeks had a word for it and it would have been perfection, if they had been there Tuesday night.



**DAME JUDITH ANDERSON** as the Ghost of Clytemnestra in "The Eumenides." Third part of the "Oresteia" trilogy at the Ypsilanti Greek Theatre.



**MR. AND MRS. ALBERT MASSOLL, Sr.**, 14086 Fox, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 25, with a family dinner at Dearborn Inn. They were married 50 years ago at Christ Lutheran Church in Reese, Mich. Before his retirement in 1961, Mr. Massoll operated a howling alley for 35 years. The Massolls have two sons, Albert, Jr. and Stanley; a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Skronek and six grandchildren.

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