



Anxious look precedes gift from Santa

Christmas walk Dec. 5-8

Holiday faces shine at OU

By SHELLEY EICHENHORN
Tis the season for holiday trimmings and Christmas walks. And Meadow Brook Hall on the Oakland University campus is offering both.

Knole Cottage, a dream-come-true playhouse built for little Frances Dodge nearly 50 years ago, promises to be one of the most interesting stops on "The Many Faces of Christmas" walk at Meadow Brook estate Dec. 5-8.

Complete with Rosenthal and Limoges tea sets once used by Frances to serve her stepfather, Albert G. Wilson, the playhouse is alive with beautifully handcrafted Christmas decorations.

The tree in the elegant little dining room is ornamented with dough dolls made by the Knole Cottage committee: Mrs. H. Nelson Long, chairman; Mrs. J. Dale Knowlden of Grand Blanc; Mrs. James G. Vorhes of Birmingham;

Mrs. J. A. Stallings and Mrs. Robert A. Cindric of Flushing. The dough dolls will be on sale in the guard house outside the cottage.

"EVERYTHING WORKS," said Mrs. Vorhes. "There's a functional kitchen, and a large furnace. Each detail of the house is scaled to about 2/3 full size right down to the bricks and doorknobs. The doorways are 5 feet 4 inches," she said.

The six-room playhouse is said to have been the first all-electric home in the Detroit metropolitan area. It cost \$10,000 in 1926 when it was built. The cottage was Frances Dodge's 12th birthday present.

The general admission includes trips to Meadow Brook Hall featuring a "Dickens room" and a visit to the carriage house where there will be candle making demonstration.

Meadow Brook Hall will be

dressed up for the Christmas season with floral arrangements from more than 18 area shops, including ones in Rochester, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Southfield. The 100-room Tudor mansion will have more than a half dozen creatively decorated Christmas trees.

A CROATIAN tree in the Great Hall will be decorated with handmade cookie dough ornaments from Zagreb, Croatia, brought back by Mrs. Lucille Prepolec of Bloomfield Hills.

There will also be an authentic Polish "choinka" Christmas tree with more than 600 handmade ornaments of paper and straw, as well as tiny "dozynki" harvest wreaths. A Ukrainian tree will also be on display.

The ballroom of the mansion, which once hosted lavish gatherings, will be filled with a huge evergreen to be decorated with or-

naments brought to the patron's party to be held at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7. Each year patrons, who pay \$25 per person to attend the buffet supper, bring unusual ornaments which are added to the patron collection.

There is a 300-person limit per evening. Proceeds go toward maintenance and preservation of Meadow Brook Hall.

ON THE PATRON'S night committee are Mrs. Elliott M. Estes and Mrs. Lee A. Iacocca of Bloomfield Hills, Mrs. John J. Riccardo and Mrs. John C. Secrest of Birmingham and Mrs. Frank G. Armstrong of West Bloomfield.

The fourth annual "Christmas at Meadow Brook Hall" has been extended to four days, Dec. 5-8. This year's co-chairmen are Mrs. Richard C. Gerstenberg and Mrs. William E. Hartman Jr. of Bloomfield Hills.

Observer & Eccentric SUBURBAN LIFE

Monday, November 25, 1974

(O)13A

Young visitors to a 'Many Faces of Christmas' preview at Knole Cottage Monday (Nov. 18) were greeted by Santa. And the annual gift-giving season began.



Becky Luley, age 14 months, of Rochester, offers a Christmas surprise.

Brother, sister recall 1-room school, trolleys

By MARY JO BEIL

"If you don't keep up with the procession, you get run over," said 97-year-old Helen Mary Wattles.

Miss Wattles and her 75-year-old brother Morris, two of the area's oldest residents, compared the past with the present at last week's meeting of the Creative Women's Department of the Birmingham Women's Club.

Seated in the living room of Mr. and Mrs. John Percox of Troy, they displayed antiques from their grandfather's estate and reminisced about the way things used to be.

"We have beautiful memories," said Wattles, holding up a paisley throw. "Take this throw. It's from around 1860, and any woman who professed to be in society at all had a throw like this from the town of Paisley in Scotland."

"I remember the school days best," said Miss Wattles. "It was just a district school with one room."

She said she was graduated from Birmingham High School in 1896.

"WE USED to milk cows on our farm in

those days," she said. "We weren't asked if we liked it, we were told to milk."

"And then there were the trolley cars," said her brother. "I miss them not being around anymore."

"Yes," she chimed. "I used to take them from my house all the way down to Detroit to teach."

Their grandfather Alexander, for whom Wattles Road is named, settled in Troy in 1833, and the Wattles live in the same house in which they were born.

Wattles looked proudly at an 1872 land grant which once belonged to his grandfather.

"HE BOUGHT land for speculation," he said. "And I guess this area is a subdivision by now."

"Yes, I think things are changing too fast," she said. "It's gotten too much like the big city."

Both agree there are advantages in both the past and present.

"Things were lovely then," they said, "but there's a lot of amenities now that they didn't have back then."



Morris Wattles and his sister Helen Mary Wattles talk about the past.