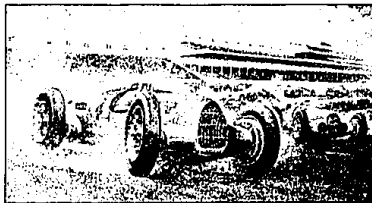


AUTOMOBILE

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this caliber and two or three classic cars on display, but it's also casual. You can walk up to talk to the artists and talk with them. It's one of the nicest events of the entire weekend. Meadow Brook is a mixture of

world class cars with a friendly and personal environment for classic car artists, collectors and spectators. "This year we're emphasizing availability of prints. In the past we only offered original art. It's important because it opens up automotive art collecting to people who aren't ready to invest in original art."



Vintage automobile races are a favorite topic of artist Gerald Freeman including the 1938 Vanderbilt cup pictured here.

For Tom Hale, painting the original is what it's all about. The Farmington Hills artist designs automobiles for General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors for 20 years until deciding to paint full time in 1985. Since then he's steadily built a following for the acrylics that reflect the surrounding scenery in a classic car's chrome and paint. Hale's work can currently be found on the cover and a 12-page spread in Automobile Quarterly. "A person like myself can't purchase one of these classic cars," said Hale. "Painting gives me the chance to show my passion for the automobiles just like the collector who has a passion for buying and restoring. It gives spectators the chance to walk back on the field to take a closer look at the styling then I've done my job. Hale created the first art show at the Meadow Brook

Hall Concours d'Elegance back in 1982 with Richard Tengue. He's exhibited in it every year since then along with classic car shows all over the country including the prestigious Pebble Beach Concours. Four years ago he organized the first Bay Harbor Concours near Foshow so he's especially knowledgeable about the shows. "From an artist's point of view I don't know of any show that integrates the art into the event any better than Meadow Brook," said Hale. "At other concours the art is a small sideshow. Meadow Brook is such a wonderful showcase for artists." British born painter Gerald Freeman hasn't exhibited at Meadow Brook for as many years as Hale but is looking forward to this year's show just as much. "It's probably one of the nicest shows for the artist,"



Gerald Freeman is especially proud of this painting which incorporates his wife and Golden Retrievers.

said Freeman, a Southfield automotive artist who will do 10 shows this year including concours on the East Coast. This is his fourth year at Meadow Brook. "Like Hale, Freeman's enthusiasm for cars began years before he ever picked up a brush. As a teenager he built an Austin Ulster special in his parent's backyard. "Many of my oil and acrylic paintings are historical in nature," said Freeman who studied at the London School of Printing and Graphic Arts and became a freelance illustrator and designer. "I like to introduce the history of racing in the 1930s. Classic cars of the 1930s I like to partner with beautiful scenery. I'm known more for my historical painting and telling a story. There's one of a car by a river with father and son fishing. My latest painting has two Golden Retrievers." Andy Agosta doesn't paint but he's just as enthusiastic

about the Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance. He presides as chairperson of the all-volunteer event "the sun is going to be shining and it's going to be beautiful." "There will be a great array of cars and car judges from all over the country to judge the competition," said Agosta of Rochester Hills. Agosta owns a 1970 Dodge Challenger. "It's fun and Meadow Brook is such a beautiful place for a show. It's such a historic place. And Metropolitan Detroit is the home of the automobile. I grew up in the late 1950s and 60s when muscle cars were popular. My dad worked for Chrysler for 40 years and I retired from Chrysler in 2001 after 37 years. It's all connected in one way or another. It's all in the family. I've come home from the hospital in a Chrysler."

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Grid of movie listings for various theaters including National Amusements Showcase Cinemas, Star Theatres, and United Artists. Lists titles like 'The Bourne Identity', 'The Bourne Supremacy', and 'The Bourne Ultimatum'.



British artist Barry Rowe created the original painting which is this year's art for the Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance poster.

ART ON THE GRAND

brought bar stools with glass seats. Dave Bruner of Fla. will have black and white engravings, realistic but very stylistic. He'll feature one person in an empty theater, spooky but appealing. There will be Hmong fabrics by May Yang, wood bowls by John and Joan Watkins of North Carolina, silk demonstrations by the Farmington Artists Club who are also exhibiting. "It's going to be a blast. It's small yet has a big variety. It's part of the Farmington Area Founders Festival so there are all different kinds of things to do. It's a user-friendly art fair." Pam O'Neil exhibited in her first Art on the Grand last year as a member of the Farmington Artists Club and "thought it was fabulous" so she's back this summer with her own booth. The Farmington Hills painter brings watercolors and acrylics. An interior designer by trade, O'Neil loves color. One of her works Mind Roulette contains reds, yellows, blues, purples, and every

color imaginable. Another painting of Red Rock Canyon in Las Vegas reminds viewers of the beautiful in its rusts, browns, oranges, and blues. Art on the Grand is one of several shows O'Neil will do this year. She displays her paintings at Arts, Beats & Eats in Pontiac Labor Day weekend and in a one woman show at Gallery XVIII in Pontiac in November. "They're contemporary somewhat spiritual abstracts," said O'Neil who's been painting 15 years, eight or nine of them seriously. "I think color is very important in life. Color affects my life. I dream in color, think in color." Art comes from inside of us. I'm very philosophical about that and spiritual. I get a vision in my sleep and get up and paint." Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomlin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomlin@oe.com.

Advertisement for Detroit Shock vs. Miami Sol basketball game. Includes 'SHOCK' logo, game details for July 20, and promotional text for Shockfest and a ZAP Bobblehead Giveaway.