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Meadow Brook Hall on the Wilson estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson



Michigan State University OAKLAND

ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON in May, a small lady pushed a silver shovel into the ground and planted the roots of Michigan State University in Oakland County.

University officials and hundreds of citizens gathered on the spot where a new University building would rise to hear Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson tell of future hopes for Meadow Brook Farms.

"This meadow," she said, "is close to our hearts. We are proud of our farm products, our horses, cows, swine, sheep, and flowers.

"Ten years ago, Mr. Wilson and I dreamed of establishing a park or a sanctuary here under the direction of M.S.U. officials.

"Then, a year and a half ago, the idea of its use as a university site was suggested.

"We believe a university established here will be of the greatest service to the greatest number of people. We believe these acres, under the wise and skilled direction of Dr. Hannah and his faculty will produce a new product—educated men and women of high standards and ideals to serve mankind."

The site of the ground breaking ceremonies was the Meadow Brook Farms estate which Mr. and Mrs.



Connor D. Smith, left, and President John A. Hannah watch Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson break ground for the first building at M.S.U.-O.

Right: Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, left, and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson see President John A. Hannah receive a certificate making him an honorary citizen of the Village of Rochester from Sidney Q. Ennis, village president.

Far right: Two views of Meadow Brook Hall.



Wilson gave to Michigan State in January, 1957, together with \$2,000,000 to finance construction of the first building.

It is hoped that the new building, which includes 39 classrooms, scientific laboratories, a library, and offices will be ready for students by the Fall of 1959.

Four-Year College

M.S.U. President John A. Hannah said standards, admission requirements, and objectives of the new branch will be the same as those at Michigan State, although M.S.U.-O. will be tailored to serve the people of the area to the greatest possible extent.

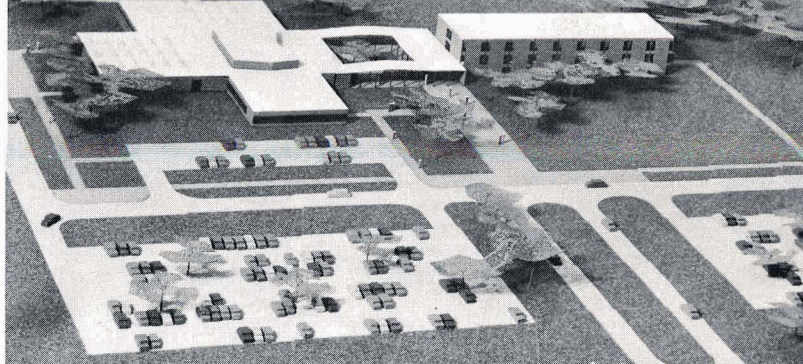
The area which the branch will serve is by far the largest in Michigan without a public institution of higher learning. It produces the second largest number of high school graduates each year, and has the second largest number of high school graduates currently in college.

Within a 15-mile radius of Meadow Brook Farms—considered by educational authorities to be a reasonable commuting distance—the population is now about 516,000. This includes portions of both Oakland and Macomb counties. It is estimated that the college age population (18-24) will increase to 54,000 by 1960, and exceed 103,000 by 1970.

The 1,400-acre Wilson property, together with the lovely 300-acre estate given earlier by Miss Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, a former member of the University's governing board, brings the University's holdings in Oakland County to 1,700 acres. The rolling hills of the area form a picturesque setting for the beautiful campus that will grow here.

Meadow Brook Hall, considered to be one of the world's outstanding private residences, is itself an art treasure that will eventually become a part of the Oakland campus. Built at a cost of \$3,128,000 and furnished at a cost of more than \$6,000,000, the Hall is an architectural and cultural treasure. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will retain a lifetime title to the main house and a smaller, ultramodern home located on the estate.

Meadow Brook Hall is the result of many years of planning by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Prior to its construction, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and an architect visited many outstanding residences in England and on the Continent.



Model of the first building at M.S.U.-O.

When they found features which appealed to them, the architect took careful measurements of room dimensions and made notes of decorative details on which to base, what are in effect, reproductions of many famous rooms.

Some of the world's outstanding works of art are in the mansion. Included are Gilbert Stuart's original painting of George Washington holding his sword and Thomas Gainsborough's famous painting of Winston Churchill's forebearer, the Duchess of Marlborough. Paintings by Rembrandt, Van Dyke, Corot, Lawrence, and Reynolds also hang in the Hall.

Member of State Board

Meadow Brook Farms, the most generous gift ever received by M.S.U., is the result of Mrs. Wilson's long service and association with the University.

In one of the major events of the Centennial year, Michigan State conferred upon Mrs. Wilson an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the cause of higher education.

Mrs. Wilson served on the State Board of Agriculture between 1931-37. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have for many years been members of the Board of Trustees at Beloit College.

Durable and Enduring

President Hannah, speaking for M.S.U. at the ground-breaking, reminded the audience—

"What we are beginning today will be here centuries after we are gone."

And before the crowd had left the field, large earthmovers began digging the foundation of an enduring memorial to the vision and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson—M.S.U.-O.

