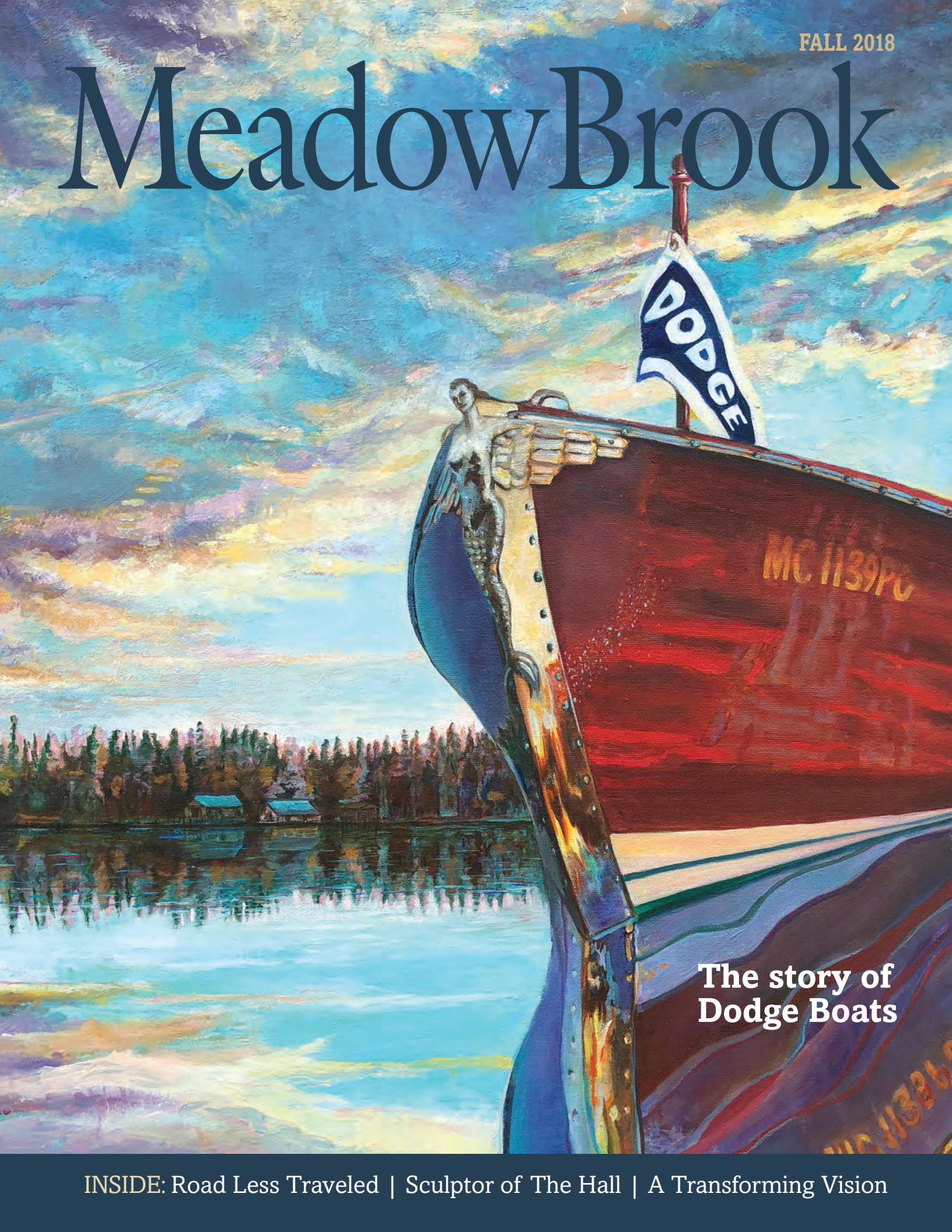


FALL 2018

Meadow Brook



**The story of
Dodge Boats**

INSIDE: Road Less Traveled | Sculptor of The Hall | A Transforming Vision

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Meadow Brook's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign – "Mastery of Craft" – can transform how we convey our region's historical legacy.



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Poster art from the 41st annual Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show in Hessel, Michigan, which this year featured Dodge Boats. The artist, Diana Grenier, is renowned for her portraits of people and landscapes of boats and water. She was born in Hessel and raised and educated in Detroit and now lives and paints in the Les Cheneaux Islands and in Port Isabel, Texas. Diana and her husband, John Grenier, have produced the artwork and graphics for the show poster since 2001. Her work is on display at Les Cheneaux Islands Art Gallery at the blinker in Hessel and online at: www.lescheneaux-islandsartgallery.com

Meadow Brook

MAGAZINE

Editor & Publisher
Geoffrey C. Upward

Associate Editor
Kimberly Zelinski

Assistant Editor
Madelyn Rzadkowolski

Art Direction
Lynn Metzker
Graphic Design

Photography
John Sobczak

Contributing Writers
Faith Brody
Nick Campbell

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EDITORIAL OFFICES
are located at Meadow Brook Hall
350 Estate Drive
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

HOW TO REACH US
Email: zelinski@oakland.edu
Phone: 248-364-6204
Fax: 248-364-6201

ADDRESS CHANGES
Email: stobersk@oakland.edu
Mail: Shannon O'Berski
Meadow Brook Hall
350 Estate Drive
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

MEADOW BROOK

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST
ESTATE HOMES, AN ICON OF THE
AUTOMOTIVE ARISTOCRACY, AND
A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

*The former home of Alfred and
Matilda Dodge Wilson, founders of
Oakland University, Meadow Brook Hall
is located on Oakland's 1,400-acre campus.
The self-supporting auxiliary of the univer-
sity serves as an internationally renowned
historic house museum and cultural center.*

| Editor's Column

A case for support

The articles in this issue of MEADOW BROOK MAGAZINE should be interesting in and of themselves, but collectively they tell an even more powerful story of why Meadow Brook matters...locally, regionally, nationally and, arguably, internationally...and why we are appealing to our friends and the public at large to invest in the deep treasures of historical example that the Great Estate offers.

Our annual Holiday Walk has delighted and educated local visitors young and old for 47 years. This year's presentation will be enhanced, with added outdoor activities focused on families – the generations that we so desperately need to understand the value of what has come before. The decorated house and grounds convey a strong sense of warmth, nostalgia and connection that we believe is

ever-more needed and appreciated in today's conflicted world.

Two of the articles address The Hall's regional influence – the first detailing the life and work of one of Meadow Brook's most notable artisans, Corrado Parducci, who sculpted the Christopher Wren Dining Room ceiling and dozens of corbels and other architectural elements on The Hall's interior and exterior surfaces. Parducci's unique combination of artistry and craftsmanship is keenly felt throughout Detroit's premier buildings, the Guardian Building and the Masonic Temple among them.



Meadow Brook not only serves as possibly

the most outstanding example of his work, but our Archives also contains rare correspondence and a recorded interview from him detailing several of his projects.

Matilda Wilson's regional prominence once again took center stage on the campus she and her husband, Alfred, founded some 60 years ago when a life-size bronze of her was unveiled outside the student center (*see page 32*).

The little-known story of Dodge Boats shows a different, short-lived branch of the Dodge Brothers legacy of innovation and workmanship, yet also with national impact.

And, finally, closer to home, our hosting in June of PBS' most-watched show, the long-running "Antiques Roadshow," will place the Meadow Brook name into significant national conversation when the episodes air on three Mondays in January.

Community, region, country – Meadow Brook impacts them all on a daily basis. Join us as we pursue our vision and plans to greatly increase that impact, which is detailed in "The Power of Philanthropy," beginning on page 26.





5 Reasons Why YOU Should Give the Gift of Meadow Brook Membership this Holiday Season



- ★ Free tours all year long for you and your family, including Holiday Walk, Behind-the-Scenes and Estate Grounds
- ★ Discounts in the one-of-a-kind Museum Store
- ★ Discounts on community events such as Mystery Dinners; Summer Concert Series; Beats, Brats & Brews; Yoga in the Garden; Breakfast with Santa and much more!
- ★ Subscription to the bi-annual MEADOW BROOK MAGAZINE
- ★ Membership supports the preservation of this National Historic Landmark

To purchase your gift membership, call Lauren at
(248) 364-6264.

www.meadowbrookhall.org

Three MBH Generations

Alfred and Matilda Wilson built Meadow Brook Hall “for the sake of the children” and to create a wonderful place for them to grow up. To this day, their vision holds true for the families who come to visit Meadow Brook every year.

In 1987, when Leigh Ustick was three months old, her mom, Nanine Savoie, took her to The Hall’s Holiday Walk. *The Detroit Free Press* happened to take a photo of mother and baby, which ended up on the front page of the newspaper. Thirty years later, the *Free Press* again captured the women at The Hall’s Holiday Walk—this time, with Ustick’s eight-month-old daughter, Maggie, in the picture.



Leigh Ustick, Maggie and Nanine Savoie.

“Coming to The Hall was a big part of growing up,” said Ustick, who recalled many childhood trips to the Great Estate with her mom, brother Jack, and sister Lilli. She fondly

remembered attending the Holiday Walk every year to visit Santa, and being awestruck with Knole Cottage.

After many years of visiting, it seemed natural that Ustick and her husband John got married at Meadow Brook in October 2013. Bonding over their shared love of history, the Usticks have enjoyed attending events like Downton Days. And when little Maggie arrived, it was a no-brainer to kick off the little one’s first Christmas at the Holiday Walk.

Ustick is looking forward to continuing the tradition into the next generation. She’s excited to bring Maggie to the Great Estate to visit Santa every year and learning the history behind The Hall.

“I hope it’s still here for years to come,” Ustick said, “It’s such a treat to come spend the day at Meadow Brook Hall!” –FB



Wendy Santo



Erin Ellis



Nick Campbell

“Hire”calling

Meadow Brook Hall recently welcomed a few new faces! These new staff members will help keep the operations of The Hall running smoothly and expand our ability to educate our constituencies about the importance of the Meadow Brook story to the community and region.

Wendy Santo may be a familiar face at The Hall, but she has a new job! She became the Business Office Manager, and handles a number of accounting duties for the Museum Store and The Hall in general. She also does “what some may consider the most important task – maintaining the proper alcohol inventory for events at the Hall.” She worked at a security company and was a stay-at-home mom before coming to Meadow Brook, but she says “I came here for a job, (but) it’s more than just that.”

Erin Ellis recently joined the staff as the Education Coordinator. She previously taught elementary art and has been interested in historic architecture from a very young age. She currently manages such programs as field trips and Scout tours. Erin wants to expand the program to offer more educational opportunities for adults and kids. “I feel very lucky to be working at MBH,” she says.

Nick Campbell was hired as the Visitor Services Manager. He’s in charge of bolstering the volunteer program, growing the group tour program and making sure that visitors’ expectations of The Hall are exceeded. Nick’s background includes various positions in the finance and museum industries. “Working at such a treasured National Historic Landmark in my home state allows me to help preserve an important piece of its rich history and give back,” he said. – FB

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Passion for The Hall



Janet Cassise

2018 was Janet Cassise's 36th year of volunteering here at Meadow Brook Hall. Throughout her tenure, she has worn many hats. She received recognition for 35 years of service at this summer's Volunteer Awards Dinner. Currently, Janet works regular shifts in the Museum Store, serves as a docent for some of our Behind the Scenes tours and as a hostess for weddings, assists with office work and also provides general support and assistance for community events, notably the Jazz in the Garden series. When asked about volunteering, Janet

said, "It's a privilege to be involved with Meadow Brook Hall!"

Marianne Raffin received the Barbara Thorpe Memorial Award as volunteer of the year for 2017. Marianne frequently serves as a hostess for events and is also a member of the Garden Club, spending most of her time with the Rock Garden team. Since the beginning of 2017, she has spent hun-



Marianne Raffin

dreds of hours assisting Curator Madelyn Rzadkowsky, both replicating and conserving antique lamp shades, the bassinet and doll cradle covers, drapes and bedspread at Knole Cottage, and Library furniture, among other projects. She is currently repairing a draping to hang in the entry hall. Madelyn calls her simply a "priceless" friend of The Hall. – NC



Bricks and mortar

In some respect, old buildings are much like "experienced" people. After decades of withstanding the harsh elements of the environment, things begin to crack, joints become stressed and postures tend to lean a bit. At nearly 90 years old, it's no wonder that Meadow Brook Hall is experiencing these symptoms. But thanks to the generosity of the Matilda R. Wilson Fund, The Hall will soon be addressing these age-related conditions that have caused deterioration to its exterior masonry components.

A recent \$200,000 grant from the Wilson Fund (established by Matilda Wilson in the 1940s) will enable The Hall to preserve architecturally significant details to extend the building's lifespan by restoring its physical integrity and resiliency (as well as walls and other hardscape).

Guiding The Hall through this Masonry Restoration Project are preservation architects HopkinsBurns Design Studio of Ann Arbor. The first phase will include a conditions report that will identify and prioritize restoration work, including repointing, resetting of loose brick and stone, cleaning and reconstruction. Actual restoration work is expected to begin in early Spring 2019.

Now THAT's a garage!

It was only fitting when The Hall initiated the first step in one of its campaign goals (*see related article on page 26*) – to build a new storage garage to free up space in the Visitors Garage for the interpretation of the Meadow Brook estate story – that its builder would be Frank Rewold & Son construction company. Because it was the founder of the company, Frank L. Rewold, who the Wilsons contracted with to build the Visitors Garage some 90 years ago.

The new “Garden Garage” was constructed in the small parking lot adjacent to The Hall and will now store equipment and supplies used by the Meadow Brook Garden Club, as well as serve as a work area for the Squires (MBH volunteer handymen).

The project was made possible through significant discounts and a personal gift from the current president of Rewold & Son, Frank M. Rewold. Numerous Rewold vendors/suppliers kicked in discounts as well, and Meadow Brook Hall friends and volunteers Greydon Hyde and Chris Burnard contributed a generous gift for the project. Oakland University's Capital Planning & Design department served as project managers.

“This key step in Meadow Brook's expansion of its interpretive spaces never would have happened without the foresight and generosity of Frank Rewold and his suppliers,” said Geoff Upward, Meadow Brook's executive director. “The Rewolds have been a mainstay of



The Squires with Facilities Operations Manager Nikki Thomas in their new digs.

civic engagement in Rochester through four generations, and have contributed immeasurably to the development of Meadow Brook Farms and Oakland University.”

“We could not be happier with the quality of the construction by the Rewold team, the versatility of the space and the way it fits seamlessly into the Meadow Brook setting. We owe them a debt of gratitude.”

The building's dedication in late October featured the official unveiling of an interpretive sign honoring the legacy of Frank L. Rewold, who began work at Meadow Brook Farms in 1918 and later became Matilda Wilson's right-hand man up until her death in 1967. Tours of the new garage – carefully built out with shelving, work benches and a variety of storage options by Groundskeeper Mike Katnik and the Squires – followed the ceremony.



MBH Executive Director Geoff Upward (left) and Rewold President Frank M. Rewold.

ADOPT-A-DODGE

Be a driving force at Meadow Brook Hall!

Meadow Brook Hall seeks the help of our friends to preserve the historic automobiles in our collection for the upcoming year. Your tax-deductible adoption will help us make necessary repairs, provide preventative maintenance and pay insurance for the historic vehicles in our care, ensuring they are here to inspire, educate and “spark” the imaginations of this and future generations.

DETAILS

You will adopt the vehicle for a period of one year, beginning November 14, 2018 through November 13, 2019 (*November 14 is the anniversary of the day John and Horace Dodge revealed their first car in 1914*).

COST

\$750 per Dodge per year of adoption

BENEFITS

- Recognition of your adoption displayed by the car and on the Meadow Brook website for one year.
- An invitation to a special event to meet the volunteer team that maintains the cars and to receive a driving lesson (one eligible driver per car adoption).
- Opportunity for a photo shoot for you and family members and/or friends with the car.
- Information and updates on how your car was cared for during the year. **MB**

Up for Adoption

Interested? Contact Curator Madelyn Rzadkowolski by phone at 248-364-6253; by email at rzadkowo@oakland.edu; or by U.S. mail at 350 Estate Drive, Rochester, MI 48309.



1919 Graham Brothers Truck

The first year was a resounding success with adoption of all of the vehicles. Below, Middle: Mr. Greydon Hyde and Mrs. Chris Burnard, sponsors of the 1915 DB Touring Car, enjoy their photo shoot during the driving lesson event.



1925 Dodge Brothers Depot Hack



1964 Dodge Pickup



1927 Dodge Brothers Depot Hack



1915 Dodge Brothers Touring Car



1947 Dodge Pickup



1938 Packard Limousine



holiday walk happenings

Landmark in Lights

Continuing in its 47th year, Meadow Brook Hall's Holiday Walk offers self-guided touring through the elegant rooms of The Hall decked in holiday splendor with over 50 dazzling trees on display.

On select evenings, visitors can stroll the grounds to enjoy this landmark trimmed in lights and sip hot cocoa while warming themselves by the fire during our Holiday Lights and Winter Nights.

HOLIDAY WALK SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Visitors can take self-guided tours through the rooms of the Great Estate trimmed in opulent holiday décor. Visit during the day or tour during extended evening hours. New this year, see the 10-foot tall Poinsettia tree created by 150 live plants displayed in the Sun Porch!

**November 23 through
December 23, 2018**

Self-guided Holiday Walk tours are offered daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and until 8 p.m. on the following dates: December 1, 11, December 17-20 and December 22 & 23.

Last admittance is one hour prior to closing.



SENIOR DAYS

Seniors 62 and older can enjoy \$5 off their holiday tour admission on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the Holiday Walk.

ADMISSION

(November 23-December 20)

ADULTS/SENIORS

\$20 per person

(Free for MBH Members!)

CHILDREN (AGES 6-12)

\$7.50 per person

CHILDREN (5 & UNDER)

Free

MILITARY WITH ID

\$15

Reservations are not required.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Danny's rustic boyhood lodge is the perfect woodsy location for Santa and his elves to create some classic toys. While Santa's away at the North Pole, be sure to tour his workshop and drop your letter in his mailbox.

CLEO'S CANDY ADVENTURE

Throughout the Holiday Walk, kids of all ages can tour The Hall while looking for hidden sweets and treats along the way, then collect their prize at the Candy Cane Cottage!



CANDY CANE COTTAGE

Visit Knole Cottage, the ¾-scale playhouse built for Frances Dodge, decorated with delectable holiday sweets and treats!



meadowbrookhall.org

@meadowbrookhall



HOLIDAY LIGHTS & WINTER NIGHTS DECEMBER 1, 11, 17-20, DECEMBER 22-23

Experience the Landmark In Lights during evening tours when the Great Estate glows a little brighter. On days with extended touring the house will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and guests can enjoy “winter nights” activities in the courtyard beginning at 5 p.m.

- Bonfires
- Strolling carolers
- S’mores kits available for purchase to roast over the fire
- Hot adult (and kid-friendly) holiday drinks available for purchase.

DECEMBER 21-23 FAMILY FESTIVITIES

NEW this year, Santa Claus is coming to town and he’s bringing his reindeer! What would the holidays be without visiting Santa? St. Nick himself will make stops at The Hall on December 21 from 11-4 and December 22 and 23 from 11-8pm. After telling him your holiday wishes in Santa’s Workshop, visit the live reindeer that brought him all the way down from the North Pole. Great holiday photo opportunities!

ADMISSION for the final weekend festivities (December 21-23)

ADULTS/SENIORS

\$22.50 per person
(Free for MBH Members!)

CHILDREN (AGES 6-12)

\$10 per person

CHILDREN (5 & UNDER)

Free

MILITARY WITH ID

\$17.50


Reservations are not required.



For more information on the
2018 Holiday Walk | Landmark in Lights
please visit our website meadowbrookhall.org
or call (248) 364-6252. Happy Holidays!

The Road less traveled by

By KIM ZELINSKI



Producers of the popular PBS TV series “Antiques Roadshow” take a left turn and transform a few select historic properties into film sets . . . and Meadow Brook was one of the lucky and proud destinations

It's what millions of PBS viewers have come to know as that "Roadshow Moment" – the anticipated instant when an appraiser reveals to a collector the monetary value of a family heirloom, cherished possession or curiosity – reality TV at its best. Invariably, the unrehearsed, real-time reactions of "Wow!" or "Oh my god!" are key reasons the 16-time Emmy-nominated "Antiques Roadshow" is the most watched ongoing series on PBS after 22 years.

Meadow Brook Hall experienced many of these "aha" moments firsthand when this time-tested, well-oiled "AR" machine rolled onto its grounds for three days in June – the show's final stop on its 2018 five-location historic properties tour, a departure from its typical convention hall settings.

The success of the show stems from a cycle of mystery and revelation... part treasure hunt and part history lesson. The show's format also promotes a family-like interaction between production staff, appraisers, collectors and the host venue.

The selection of Meadow Brook was serendipitous. The seed had been planted several years earlier when the show's executive producer, Marsha Bemko, attended a "Roadshow" episode preview event at The Hall. Bemko recalls that it was a memorable evening: "I dined, toured and, although it was dark, the house was beautiful."

In 2017 when the show decided to move away from convention and civic centers to instead film at historical locations, Bemko remembered her visit to The Hall. "I thought to myself, I know the house was beautiful at night, I bet it would be beautiful in the day, too. I asked my staff to call Meadow Brook because they are friends to public television, they serve the public and I think they will want us."

And, of course Meadow Brook did. Sharing this National Historic Land-



Only 150 of the 6,000 items brought in made it to filming.

mark, its grounds and collections with a national audience that also embraces history was a fitting opportunity too good to pass up. Based on the overwhelming response for tickets – nearly 20,000 requests, the most of any of the 2018 stops* – the public agreed. Ultimately, "Antiques Roadshow" distributed its standard 3,500 tickets through a random selection, which allowed winners to bring two items for appraisal.

With a set-up day and tear-down day bracketing actual filming, show day began at sunrise on a beautiful Thursday, June 14 – first with security protocols, then the arrival of about 70 crew members, 65 appraisers, 110 volunteers and the entire Meadow Brook Hall staff. Beginning at 7:30 a.m., guests began to file in, at a rate of about 300 each hour, carry-



*Executive Producer
Marsha Bemko*

**The other four locations were the Ca'd'Zan in Sarasota, the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Churchill Downs Racetrack in Louisville and the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego.*

ing antiques of every size and shape. Some eight appraisal tents had been set up around The Hall, with the main filming tent positioned near the entry bridge to take advantage of the building's façade as a backdrop.

Of the estimated 6,000 items that were brought in, only around 150 were identified as having potential for filming – typically those deemed rare or having a great backstory. Roughly 90 of those made the final cut for possible airing.

For many attendees, it was their first visit to Meadow Brook, although for some The Hall was a familiar and treasured place. Mary Beth⁺, a retired vice president of Student Affairs for Oakland University, has been a fan of the show for 20 years. She recalled, "I was lucky enough to score a ticket and participated on a lark, not knowing what to expect. But I was so impressed with how well organized the show was. I heard some really interesting stories and saw incredible things, from WWII memorabilia to a rare art deco necklace to a one-of-a-kind bass fishing lure. I just had a blast."

Mary Beth was one of the lucky 150 who made it to the filming tent. She

+ "Roadshow" privacy policy prevents the publication of guests' full names.



COURTESY LUKE CRAFTON FOR WGBH



COURTESY DETROIT NEWS

Some 3,000 participants were pleased to learn authoritative backgrounds and assessments of their treasures – whether or not they were deemed financially valuable.

brought a painting that has hung on her wall for more than 40 years. The artist, who happened to be a favorite of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, was recognized by the Asian Art appraiser and immediately pitched to a producer. “I was thrilled to learn more about both its history and value,” says Mary Beth. The painting, estimated to be worth between \$8,000 and \$12,000 was a gift to Mary Beth’s late husband when he left his position at Ohio State. “Today when I see the painting on the wall, it has new meaning and is much lovelier to look at.”

Rochester (Mich.) resident Beverly and her daughter Sherrie, also fans of the show, knew exactly what they would bring – a chair given to Beverly’s father-in-law many years ago by Matilda Wilson. Given the oversized proportions of the chair, Beverly believes it may have belonged to Alfred Wilson. The appraiser estimated its worth at \$200, but added if they were able to verify its history with the Meadow Brook estate, the chair would be valued much higher. Pleased with the appraiser’s comments and appreciating its value as more sentimental than monetary, the pair tucked the chair aside and spent a few hours walking around the grounds admiring what others had brought. When they returned, they found someone sitting in the “Alfred” chair. They laughed it off as another memorable experience that contributed to an unforgettable day.

Participating in “Antiques Roadshow” for Marilyn was somewhat bittersweet. She was reminded of her visits to Meadow Brook Hall many years ago when as a little girl she accompanied her parents numerous times when they called on Frances Dodge (her father was Frances’ attorney). Although the memories are a sad reminder of those no longer living, they are also a remembrance of a very happy time in her life.

This special connection to the Meadow Brook estate and Frances Dodge proved advantageous. Marilyn brought a pocket watch that Frances had given her father as a gift. The watch was determined to have significant value and the story worth telling. Marilyn shared the story in what is referred to as an over-the-shoulder taping, explaining that her father was both Frances’ lawyer and a personal friend. “Frances was a very generous person who enjoyed giving gifts,” said Marilyn. She recalled that Frances gave the Tiffany pocket watch to her father to spiff up his look in court. “I never thought I would actually be on television,” said Marilyn.



COURTESY LUKE CRAFTON FOR WGBH

Executive Producer Marsha Bemko said the Meadow Brook setting was most like those in England, where the show originated. Right: The pocket watch gift from Frances Dodge.



Behind the cameras

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI

The honor of being chosen (just one of five historic sites) for the first year of “Antiques Roadshow’s” foray into historic buildings was a testament to and validation of the hard work and dedication (and donations) that our friends, volunteers and staff put into this amazing estate.

Aware that MBH would be “on stage” to the 3,500 guests, appraisers and crew that week – and later on high-definition camera on televisions around the nation – a team of trained volunteers worked hard to dust, shine and straighten The Hall and the thousands of artifacts on view. Though the focus of the three episodes of “Antiques Roadshow” will be on the objects and stories brought in by the lucky guests, they will also include some backstory on The Meadow Brook estate and the families that lived here. I worked with the producers to select the rooms and estate buildings that would be filmed and showcased on the episodes. For two days, I guided a camera crew around to capture these shots. As in-

credibly difficult as it was for MBH staff to choose what to feature, it was rewarding that the “Roadshow” was so im-

pressed by the historic value and beauty of the gardens, farm buildings, playhouses, automobiles and the 88,000 square feet of The Hall that they also found it difficult to not capture it all!

As a devoted fan of “Antiques Roadshow,” I enjoyed every minute of the experience, but most especially the opportunity to observe the live appraisals of objects brought in. When I wasn’t working, I wandered from booth to booth to hear the experts speak on everything from dollhouses to dia-



Rugs & Textiles Appraiser Steven Porterfield and Curator Madelyn Rzadkowski discussed the Paul Poiret and Callot Soeurs fashions in MBH’s collection for a live video on Meadow Brook’s Facebook page.



The camera crew traveled to the best angles of the estate – even going to the roof deck to capture the 3,000 guests below.

mond brooches. Even more incredibly, several guests brought in items with direct ties to the Dodge and Wilson families so I was able to see those in person. Imagine how fun it was to listen in to the Detroit Curling Club’s presentation of their items and let the sports appraiser know that the group’s framed photograph did, in fact, feature Horace Dodge’s home during a curling party on the Detroit River in 1917!

The appraisers are there to identify and price the objects brought in by guests, but after their 12-hour volunteer day was completed, they were eager to explore the collections and rooms of the 110-room home in whose shadow they had worked. The beauty of a house museum is the variety of the collection items, which is a perfect reflection of the diversity of knowledge needed by the “Antiques Roadshow” appraisers. So whatever their backgrounds, there are objects here to intrigue and inspire them ... and I satisfied their interests

by taking down ropes and opening up storage rooms. To further impress them, I couldn’t miss my chance to put my favorite collection on display: rare Art Deco dresses and rugs purchased by Matilda at French fashion houses in the 1920s. The textiles did catch their eyes and led to a tape-recorded conversation with Steven Porterfield, the lead appraiser in the Rugs & Textiles department.



A small exhibit of 1920s French fashions captured the interest of appraisers.

“I was just happy to be back at Meadow Brook. It was an amazing time.”

For participants to truly enjoy their experiences, it takes a lot of organization on the front end, Executive Producer Marsha Bemko explains. “It’s not an easy day for us, but we make it look easy and the public has fun.” Contributing to the seemingly flawless operation are the volunteers, appraisers chief among them. Each of the approximately 65 travel to the show at their own expense and many have been affiliated with the show for more than 15 years.

Other event volunteers are organized by Detroit Public TV, and basically have to meet just one physical requirement – being able to stand for 12 hours.

When Frank came across the call for “Roadshow” volunteers, his initial reaction was, “This looks interesting.” He and his wife, Janet, are both avid viewers of “Antiques Roadshow” and longtime and tireless volunteers at Meadow Brook Hall. For most of the day, they worked together – Janet on a computer entering the names of those who would be filmed and Frank assisting with getting the lucky ones to the various filming locations. This allowed Frank and Janet to see numerous objects and hear many stories. One of the standouts was that of a woman who brought a painting her husband had purchased at an estate sale, hoping that its frame would at least be worth something. The appraiser told her the frame was worth a few hundred dollars, but the painting inside of the frame was valued at \$14,000.

Upon learning that her name wasn’t selected in the lottery for show tickets, Jan, another longtime and valued Meadow Brook Hall volunteer, decided to sign-up as a show volunteer. She got in just under the wire: She was volunteer number 104 of the 110 needed.

Jan recounts that during the training that took place the day before



The production runs like clockwork, which endears it to participants and viewers alike.

filming she realized some of the volunteers were not from the area, but rather “Roadshow” groupies. These diehard volunteers travel from location to location, town to town (even a few who travel to every event) to be part of the “Roadshow” action.

Jan, equipped with comfortable shoes and Advil in her pocket, worked in the Garden Tent, directing guests to appropriate appraisal tables. Other than hearing the sickening sound of a bowl crashing to the ground, the day went incredibly well for her.

When Bemko addressed volunteers during training, she told them, “You will never watch the show in the same way again.” And now, having just watched a few episodes of the current season, Jan agrees. She notes that beyond her own personal experience, she is thrilled for Meadow Brook Hall and the incredible exposure it will get when the episodes air. “I am so glad I volunteered ... however, I don’t see myself becoming a “Roadshow” groupie anytime soon!” **MB**

DON'T MISS A MINUTE!

The 23rd season of “Antiques Roadshow” kicks off in January 2019 and will air locally on Detroit Public Television (DPTV Channel 56). The three episodes produced from the Meadow Brook Hall visit will be shown at 8 p.m. on January 7, 14 and 21.



IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI



COURTESY JOY BURTON

IN THE ARCHITECTURAL WORLD, DETROIT SCULPTOR CORRADO GIUSEPPE “JOE” PARDUCCI IS A LEGEND.

To the general public, he has only recently received the recognition he deserves for creating the incredible details and ornament on many of Detroit’s most-beloved buildings. Parducci was hired to design interior and exterior architectural decorations that fit the styles of some 600 skyscrapers, churches and homes, whether the style was Mayan, Neoclassical or Gothic. Perhaps even more than the architects, he is responsible for the awe inspired by such landmarks as the Guardian, the Penobscot, the Detroit Masonic Temple and Meadow Brook Hall.

Meadow Brook Hall’s plaster dining room ceiling is often called Parducci’s finest work, but a closer look at the stone ornaments he designed for The Hall further reveals his remarkable skill, thoughtfulness and humor.



COURTESY JACK JOHNSON

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

After completing The Hall's dining room ceiling in 1927, Parducci was asked to design more than 90 clay models for corbels, spandrels, fireplaces, clocks and other ornaments that stone carvers would then replicate. The first ones that visitors typically see are the native Michigan stone animals that waddle, run and chase around the front entry (*opposite page and above*). The animals and reptiles are designed to fit vertical and horizontal trim around the Wilson family crest but are depicted as they might be found in the fields and woods around The Hall: The frog prepares to leap from a lily pad, the kitten plays with a ball of string, and the wolf chases the rabbit.



LEISURELY PURSUITS

The corbels and bosses on the loggia (once an open-air porch and today home to the Museum Store) are the best demonstrations of Parducci's creativity and the skill of the stone carvers. The corbels and bosses depict recreational opportunities on the great estate, from horseback riding to ice skating to – of course – motoring.

Though there were many carvers at Meadow Brook, Peter Bernasconi was often hired to execute Parducci's designs. He carefully carved the stone to match the clay models Parducci had created: In the loggia, he captured the determination of the hunter and the thoughtful reverie of the artist sketching a tiny Meadow Brook Hall. The distorted perspectives lend charm and wit to the models while also fitting the characters into the constraints of the traditional architectural features in which they are hidden. Most visitors walk by these grotesques (so named because they are misshapen) without noticing them, proving the skills of



Carved stone ornaments in the Loggia (today's Museum Store) depict recreational opportunities.

Parducci and Bernasconi to make these architectural details either fade into the Tudor-revival style, or, upon closer examination, come forth to tell a story.

FINDING DIRECTION

Meadow Brook Hall was built along an axis, with the primary rooms along the main hallway on the southern exposure. Above the hanging light (*right*) in the entry portal is a boss showing the four directional points. Extensions from those lead to four corbels of Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall. The four seasons are depicted with characters threshing, harvesting, planting and seeking a fire in the face of a cold northern wind.



A closer look at the entry reveals stone carved as the four seasons.



“MANY TIMES WHEN WE TALK ABOUT A GREAT BUILDING, WE ARE ENAMORED BY PARDUCCI’S WORK AS OPPOSED TO THE ARCHITECT’S WORK. IT’S THE DECORATION THAT PEOPLE SEE.”

– JAMES W. TOTTIS, FORMER CURATOR OF DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

COURTESY JOY BURTON



“...I DON’T IMPOSE MY WILL. I TRY TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN THE CHARACTER OF THE BUILDING, YOU SEE. BECAUSE THE WAY I JUDGE A PIECE OF WORK IS IT DOESN’T SCREAM. IF YOU DON’T KNOW IT’S THERE, IT’S STILL FUNCTIONING, THAT’S GOOD, SEE. VERY FEW PEOPLE KNOW THERE’S ANY CARVING THERE.”
– PARDUCCI, 1975

SOMETHING’S FISHY

The 11 corbels on the exterior of the Sun Porch depict 11 of the 12 zodiac symbols. The portrayal of the scorpion for Scorpio, ram for Aries, twins for Gemini and a woman bearing water for Aquarius are the more interesting – and mysterious – grotesques at Meadow Brook. The only remaining correspondence between the architect and Parducci states that he designed “11 corbels” for \$585, but there is no known explanation for who chose to put the symbols on the house or why. There is also no explanation for why the fish of Pisces is missing.

Though the true answer will never be known, supposition points to Parducci having the chief control over whatever he designed, even when working with Alfred and Matilda Wilson, who were notoriously over-involved in every detail of the construction.

And here are possibly other pieces of the puzzle: When young Parducci came to burgeoning Detroit as an apprentice, he worked on the main branch of the Detroit Public Library before its completion in 1921. In an interview he gave in 1975, he recalled the zodiac symbols a senior sculptor put in the frieze. Perhaps they stuck with him, for he would create several incredibly different examples in his career – including in the Native American-inspired design of the Penobscot Building in 1928 – but The Hall seems to be the only location without a full set of the symbols. Parducci, born on March 10, 1900, was a Pisces. Perhaps he chose to skip his own sign, knowing that Meadow Brook, a place thrumming with his skill and imagination, a place he regarded as being one of the finest legacies of craftsmanship, already had his mark. **MB**



From a distance, the Zodiac-themed corbels (details above) can be seen on the exterior of the Sun Porch.

KEEPING TRACK

Corrado Parducci’s work is becoming more recognized thanks to the Parducci Society, a group dedicated to studying and honoring the architectural ornamentation on buildings in metro-Detroit that were created by craftsmen like Parducci. Because of Matilda Dodge Wilson’s meticulous record keeping, Meadow Brook Hall is one of the few locations that has archival documents proving his work on-site. Of even greater significance are three contributions from Parducci recounting his work at Meadow Brook: a 1971 letter from Parducci to Meadow Brook staff describing how he created the dining room ceiling; an interview with Smithsonian in 1975; and a lengthier recorded interview in 1979 with John B. Cameron of Oakland University’s Department of Art & Art History.

OFF ROAD

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI



The Dodges made their name and fortune on land, producing automobiles . . . but their legacy included waterways as well – from racing on rivers and lakes to designing and manufacturing speedboats.

*FIRST OF TWO PARTS:
Horace Dodge, Jr.'s Boat Works*

When Horace Dodge, Sr. moved his family from central Detroit to Grosse Pointe in 1910, he had one agenda: live on the water. Their newly built home, Rose Terrace – designed by famed Detroit architect Albert Kahn – was steps from Lake St Clair, which provided direct access to the Detroit River, the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean, by way of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Horace, Sr.'s family shared his love for the water and boating, and his son Horace, Jr. would find his life's calling in the familiar waters of his youth.

Though Horace, Jr. tried working in his father's Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company, automotive development and management was not a natural fit. After his father's death in 1920, he decided instead to make a name for himself by founding a speedboat company; like automotive industrialists had made cars available to nearly every household, he dreamed he could do the same with boats.

In 1923, after petitioning his mother for part of his inheritance, he announced the start of Horace E. Dodge Boat Works at the National Motor Boat Show in New York City. Though no boats were ready, Horace was prepared with a design, production and sales plan for his models, beginning with a 22-foot runabout he named the Dodge Watercar.

His promotional brochure read: "By concentrating on this model, we can produce it with every luxury and advantage at a low price hitherto thought impossible for a boat of this type... we are fully prepared for the

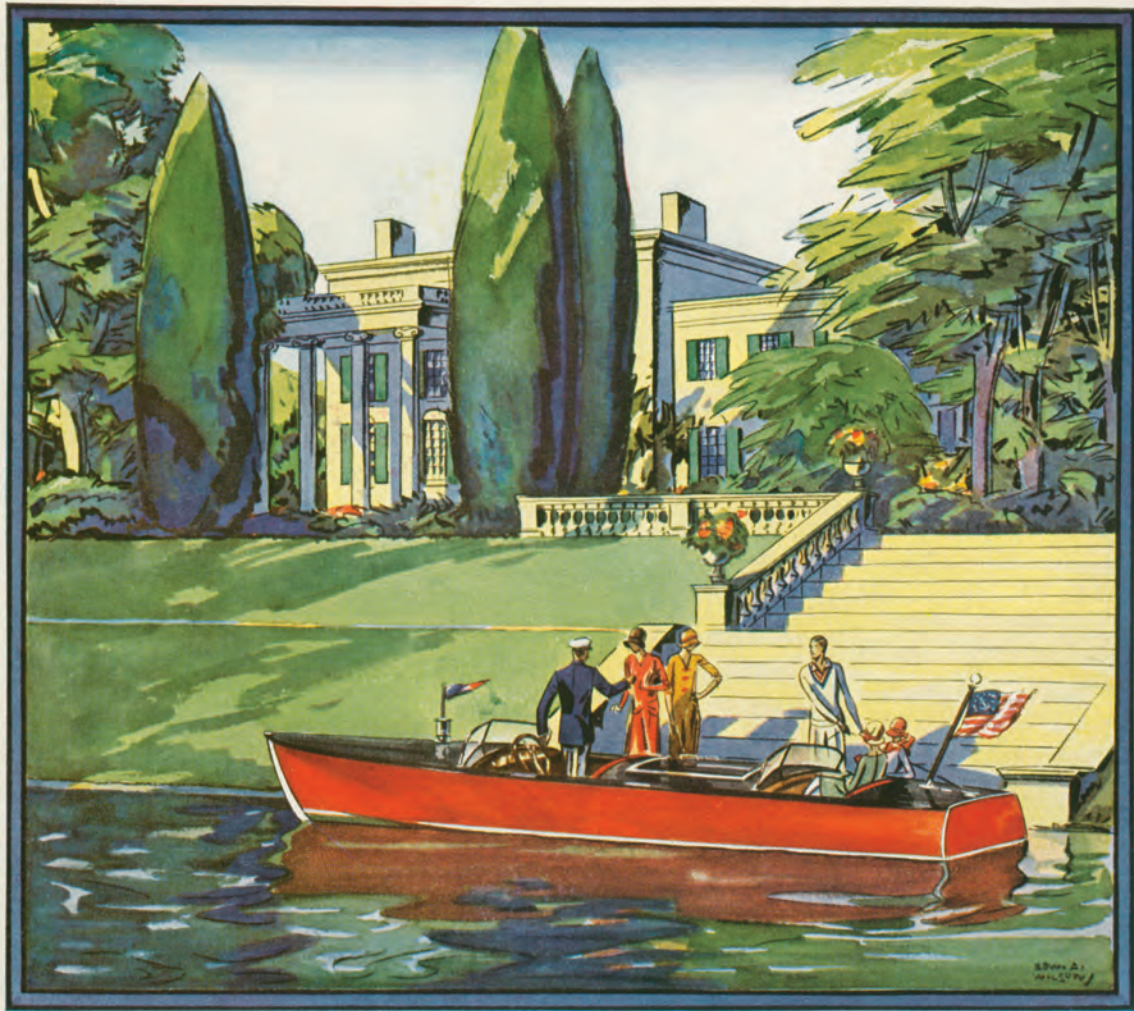


Above: Horace E. Dodge, Jr. shortly before launching his boat company, 1921. Below: Dodge Boats advertisement, 1930. Opposite: The dash of a 1931 Dodge runabout.

NO expert eye is needed to appreciate the beauty and detect the amazing value of the new Dodge Boats. . . . Though your boating lore be nil and your estimate of values based upon the simplest arithmetic, it is easy to see that equal power and speed in other boats cost more. . . . So much more that Dodge values have become a veritable sensation. . . . For instance, the sixteen foot, 5 passenger runabout, ribbed with oak, planked with genuine mahogany, driven at 25 miles an hour by its 40 horse power motor. . . . Those who know boat values naturally expect to find its price up in the thousands. . . . Actually it costs but \$945, little more than the bare outboard hulls and motors which many are discarding in its favor. . . . Values throughout the new Dodge fleet are without precedent. . . . from the 16-footer, through the 21-footer, 25-foot and 28-foot runabouts, up to Victoria Sedans at \$5500. Write for the complete Dodge catalog. . . . It illustrates and describes all Dodge models. . . . It will be sent on request.

DODGE BOATS

HORACE E. DODGE BOAT & PLANE CORPORATION, WORKS: NEWPORT NEWS, VA. GENERAL SALES DEPARTMENT: 21 W. 40TH ST., N.Y.C.



IN their aristocratic beauty, their luxury of appointment, their dependable speed and serviceability, Dodge Boats reveal their distinguished ancestry + + + the Dodge engineering genius, manufacturing proficiency and traditional high integrity + + + Models in stock from twenty feet up, closed or open; prices start at \$1,675. Custom built cruisers and other models designed and built to order.

DODGE BOAT SALON, 3 EAST 52nd STREET, NEW YORK CITY

DODGE BOATS

HORACE - E - DODGE - BOAT - WORKS - INC - DETROIT - MICHIGAN

Edward A. Wilson's contemporary illustrations were used in advertisements showing Dodge Boats in luxurious or exotic surroundings, even as prices got lower to appeal to more customers. This 1930 ad states that boats started at \$1,675.

wholesale public adoption of the water for recreational purposes. And if that happens, and I'm sure it will, it will be because the motor boat builders have learned by the experience of the automobile industry how to build high class boats by standardized production methods offering economy unobtainable any other way."

Horace's revolutionary production plan showed he had learned from his father's and uncle's successes while also eschewing the type of boats his father had owned: unique, custom-built and expensive. Custom boats were also de rigeur of his idol (and competitor) Gar Wood, a legendary Detroit boat racer and builder.

Horace worked with boat designer Martin Draeger to design the Dodge Watercar's sleek mahogany hull that would suit both the standardization process and mass appeal to the public. Its seating and dash mimicked those found in cars and the engine was a

marine conversion of the Dodge Brothers automotive engine that his father had designed, expected to reach speeds around 20 mph.

Horace used his connection with his father's company to sell the boats at Dodge Brothers dealerships across the country. Horace E. Dodge Boat Works also utilized the fortune made by Dodge Brothers Motor Cars: not many new companies could afford to build and tool a new factory and fully manufacture 111 new speedboats before selling a single one to the public. A year after announcing the company, Horace returned to the National Motor Boat Show ready to sell his new Watercars at \$2,250 each. He also that year hired legendary naval architect George Crouch as vice president, a major move in securing respect from the boating community and a strong, capable man to take care of the general management and engineering.

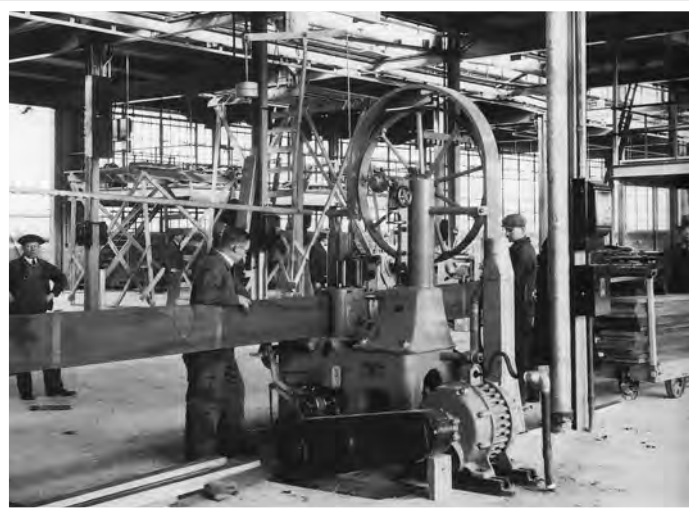
Over the next four years, despite their excellent design and speed, sales of the Watercar were slow, particularly in Dodge Brothers dealerships where a Deluxe Sedan sold for half the cost of the boat – and was infinitely more useful to buyers. Plus, many dealerships were not in close proximity to a body of water.

In 1928, Horace dropped the Watercar name and refocused on another innovative marketing plan. He hired illustrator Edward A. Wilson to draw color advertisements depicting Dodge boats in luxurious settings, which were then printed in business and boating magazines. Sculptor Russell Crook designed a figurehead for the higher-end models of Dodge boats, a Sea Nymph which still today denotes luxury and recognition for the brand.

The marketing plan paid off and sales of Dodge boats climbed steadily, allowing Horace to delve into another



Horace Dodge's new manufacturing facility in Newport News, Va., was opened in 1930. At 210,000 square feet, the main building had the capacity to handle almost all steps in the highly organized process.





In 2018, the 41st annual Antique Wooden Boat Show in Hessel, Michigan focused on Dodge Boats. Sully is a 1931 21-foot runabout.

area of interest: airplanes. Rumors swirled regarding his love of planes, especially after he purchased a large supply of Curtiss OX5 engines from the Air Force in 1925. Though these were purportedly for use in his boats, he would not deny an interest in creating an airplane. In 1929, he broke ground on a state-of-the-art factory, the largest boat-building facility in the world, in Newport News, Virginia, and renamed the brand “Horace E. Dodge Boat and Plane Corporation.” The following year, he opened new offices on Fifth Avenue in New York City. He flew his Stinson-Detroiter between the facilities and the family homes in Grosse Pointe and Palm Beach, Florida.

The Depression brought hard times to the factory, and Horace, busy with family life and his boat racing career, lost interest in handling the multitude of demands from the company. Despite hiring some of the best designers, engineers and artists, and despite his pioneering production and marketing ideas, the constant burden of proving the boats’ worth was too much in the best of times. During the Depression, though sales continued, the strain led to the closure of the business in late 1935. The facility reopened during World War II to build boats for the U.S. Navy. In February 1946, it was sold to Gar Wood for his own, more successful boat building business.

Though Horace Dodge, Jr. never found true commercial success with his brand, the legacy of his ingenuity lives on today in the remaining rare, but beloved, Dodge Watercars and Boats. **MB**

Editor’s note: The history of Horace Dodge, Jr.’s foray into boat construction is only part of the story. UP NEXT (Spring 2019): “Racing the River,” the Dodge family’s history of boat racing.



Top: Russell Crook’s Sea Nymph figurehead design on the luxury models of Dodge Boats is the most recognized symbol of the brand. Middle: Horace Dodge in 1927 with his Stinson Detroiter biplane (he owned the prototype); flying was another of his passions. Bottom: The “Doozie,” a 1928 22-foot runabout, won first place at the Hessel show in 2018.



HORACE E. DODGE BOAT AND PLANE CORPORATION
590 LYCASTE
DETROIT 14, MICHIGAN



THE POWER OF Philanthropy

Meadow Brook's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign –“Mastery of Craft”– can transform how we convey our region's historical legacy

BY GEOFF UPWARD

Meadow Brook Hall is known as the pre-eminent example of the early 20th-Century country estate lifestyle of America's automotive aristocracy. Heralded for its unique American-crafted Tudor-Re-vival architecture, the integrity of re-maining estate buildings and its vast collection of original decorative and fine arts, Meadow Brook Hall is unlike any other historic site in the United States. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012, The Hall's 88,000 square feet and 110 rooms make it the fourth largest historic house museum in our nation.

Although the Wilsons' decision to gift The Hall to the public

(Michigan State University-Oakland, now Oakland University) in 1957 was unprecedented, the home, its contents and property were left without an endowment to provide the funds necessary for appropriate ongoing maintenance and preservation.

As The Hall has gained a reputation for its beauty and national significance, the cost of caring for this major historic house museum continues to grow at a rate exceeding our current revenue capabilities. Comparable peer institutions, even those with less notable history, have endowments ranging from \$200 million to \$6 billion, generating some \$9 million to \$270 million

annually in operational support, respectively.

Today, Meadow Brook operates with an endowment of less than \$500,000, thereby producing an operating contribution of only \$20,000. As The Hall is a self-supporting auxiliary enterprise of Oakland University, we greatly rely on facility rentals, community programs such as the Wild Game Dinner and Holiday Walk, touring revenue and philanthropy.

The pressure is on. Meadow Brook staff need to generate \$8,500 a day in revenue – on average – just to fund public museum and community educational activity, and another \$1,500 a day for the ongoing preservation of the building and conservation of the invaluable collections: \$10,000 a day in total.

To succeed in our commitments to preservation and education, Meadow Brook must increase our operational revenue while simultaneously growing our endowment. Our first focus will be to expand the visitor experience by creating opportunities that increase a typical ticket-holder's on-site stay from a 1.5-hour tour to a half day.

Pursuing this objective while interpreting the significant contributions of a pioneering, 20th-Century automotive family, necessitates designing a 21st-Century museum experience. Meadow Brook looks to create and sustain interpretive facilities with state-of-the art educational programs that enhance our offerings while honoring our history. Strategic in plan and function, these facilities will teach the importance of commitment to quality and inspire creativity.

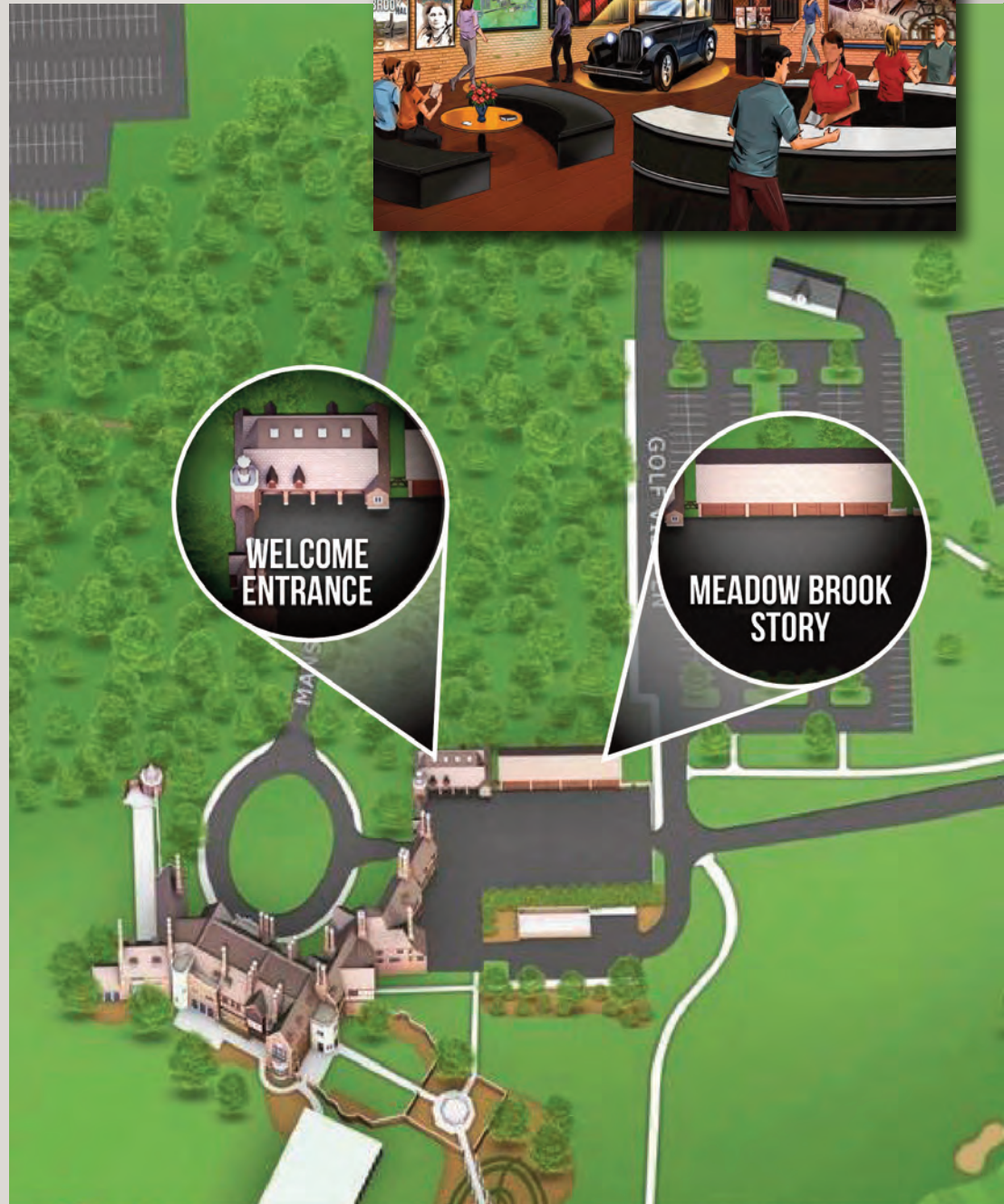
To accomplish these worthy goals, Meadow Brook is tackling two major initiatives through its first comprehensive fundraising campaign, "Mastery of Craft:" ➡➡



Interpretive Facilities Projects: \$6 million

Action: Adaptively repurpose existing, historical structures to create exciting, flexible spaces and environments in which visitors of all ages will have state-of-the-art experiences through content-rich tours, exhibits, educational programming and interactive opportunities. Visitors will gain a more comprehensive understanding of the Dodge and Wilson families – the early titans of the automotive industry – and how their exemplary work ethic and mastery of design developed a new era of the American story.

Result: By preserving the original Meadow Brook Estate structures, these facilities will be responsibly employed to serve an educational mission that is designed to increase revenue through a substantial growth in admission ticket revenue, program ticket purchases, retail offerings and event rental opportunities. Expanding the stories for which Meadow Brook is known will accordingly expand awareness and visitation. With this increase in revenue, Meadow Brook will then be able to adequately manage our stewardship responsibilities while serving our community. ➡



MASTERY OF CRAFT | CAMPAIGN FOR THE GREAT ESTATE

New facilities will include:

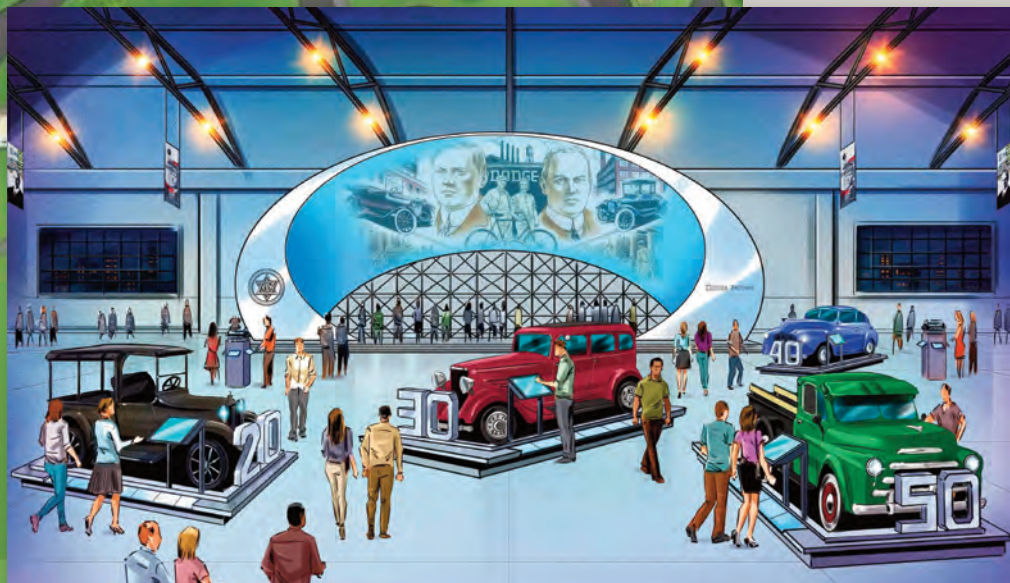
- Meadow Brook Auto Museum
- Meadow Brook Art Center
- Orientation and Education Centers



MEADOW BROOK
ART CENTER



DODGE
MUSEUM





New endowments will cover:

- Building Preservation and Maintenance
- Gardens and Grounds
- Collections Conservation
- Archival Research and Publishing
- Curatorial Internship

Landmark Fund: \$4 million

Action: Grow an endowment that contributes to the long-term preservation of this one-of-a-kind National Historic Landmark, including the unique, hand-crafted features of The Hall, the beautifully designed gardens and grounds and the important, functional out-buildings. Appropriate conservation measures will be taken to care for the treasured 75,000 collection items.


Result: By increasing Meadow Brook's endowment, the institution will have an annual source of income that allows for the appropriate care of the aging buildings, infrastructure, and works of fine and decorative art. Revenue can then be more responsibly administered toward the operational needs that best serve our audiences.





How you can help!

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." – Pericles

Help The Great Estate reach its goals and realize its vision of creating and sustaining three-dimensional interpretive facilities and state-of-the-art educational programs. Partner with us as we use the work ethic and lifestyles of two 20th-Century pioneering automotive families to teach our children and grandchildren the power of inspired commitment to quality. To lend your support, please contact Executive Director Geoff Upward at upward@oakland.edu or 248-364-6240. 



MASTERY OF CRAFT
The Campaign for The Great Estate





A groundbreaking for all time

A scant week prior to what would have been her 135th birthday on October 19, Matilda Wilson's foremost legacy, Oakland University, unveiled a life-size bronze statue of her in a prominent location outside the newly expanded student union on its sprawling campus.

Among the roughly one hundred people in attendance were her grandson, Larry Wilson, and his wife, Debbie, who traveled from Florida for the occasion.

Sculpted by prominent Chicago-based artist Lou Cella, the statue was made possible by gifts from students, alumni and the OU Alumni Association.

Meadow Brook Curator Madelyn Rzakdowski served as an adviser throughout the last two years of the process, contributing photos of Matilda at various ages, in different activities (including groundbreakings) and wearing different clothing. She also critiqued body and facial depictions as the sculptor worked through various stages, even suggesting at the eleventh hour that he add Matilda's signature pearls.

"Though it may be hard to believe, Matilda holding a shovel but wearing a skirt and heels was not an unusual occurrence," Rzakdowski said. "She was a hard worker and never afraid to get her hands dirty. In business, agricultural, civic and philanthropic affairs, she broke through the "glass ceiling" decades before it became a movement." **MB**

Weddings

AT THE GREAT ESTATE



RILEY WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

TIMELESS ♦ ELEGANT ♦ PERFECT

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Meadow Brook

www.meadowbrookhall.org

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Museum Store

Let it Snow! Meadow Brook Snow Globe



Our new snow globe features 3-dimensional artwork on all four sides of the base: Meadow Brook Hall's front façade, Rock Garden, Wilson coat of arms and 1925 Dodge Brothers Depot Hack. The globe itself showcases the Pegasus statue surrounded by a flurry of iridescent snow (when shaken!).

\$26.95/\$24.25 MBH Members



Visit the Museum Store for holiday gift ideas,
order online at www.meadowbrookhall.org/shop or call (248) 364-6206