

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Meadow Brook

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Finest...Again**

INSIDE: Summer Events | Games People Played | Frankophile

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Friends, Guilders, Cornerstone Society members, foundations, and corporate and Adopt-an-Artifact donors build a strong case of support for the Meadow Brook Estate.

On the Cover:

Knole Cottage, the world's finest dollhouse, has reopened after a year-and-a-half of restoration and conservation work. *Photo by Rick Smith.*

Meadow Brook

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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

Time marches on

Meadow Brook's business model is unusual, if not unique, among the country's historic house museums. Without the obvious benefit of a significant endowment that contributes ongoing investment income, we must work creatively and diligently to generate on average \$10,000 a day to fund operations, interpretive programming and preservation projects.

Unquestionably, renting The Hall and grounds provides the lion's share of our income. And, therein comes the challenge. Rental events provide much-needed revenue to finance museum and educational activities, but events can also be disruptive to touring and cause significant wear-and-tear on the building and collections.

A recent mishap offers a "timely" example of how this conflict can play out. In December, an attendee at an evening social function tripped coming down the grand staircase and reached out to break her fall. The object she reached for was a c. 1905 eight-foot-tall grandfather clock, placed on the landing by Matilda Wilson in the 1960s.

Fortunately, the guest was not hurt, but the clock suffered a different fate, crashing down the stairs and shattering into dozens of pieces. Unfortunately, the significant cost precludes a full repair and rebuilding. While we are looking for a suitable replacement – in terms of age and scale – these are not easy to find.

Nor will it be easy to find a replacement for another longstanding Meadow Brook institution: Director of Catering Matt Durack. Matt and his company began preparing and serving food and beverage for Meadow Brook events in 1988, only 20 years after Matilda Wilson's passing.

His team's four-star cuisine and dining service has set a high standard of quality for the past 30 years, appropriately reflective of Meadow Brook's storied history and its National Historic Landmark status. And their consistent delivery has been invaluable in attracting and pleasing the clients and guests who are the lifeblood of our business model.

But time was winding down on Matt's career, and he retired in January, passing the torch to two extremely capable partners.

Hats off to Matt . . . with our unending gratitude for building a sound platform of service excellence and professionalism . . . and for playing such a key role in Meadow Brook's success. He was always there for us, and like our grandfather clock, The Hall somehow won't be the same without him.



Matt Durack

Save the date! 9 | 20 | 2018

It's Wild!

TICKETS & TABLE SPONSORSHIPS NOW ON SALE!

Your evening will include tours of The Hall, live and silent auctions, cocktail & hors d'oeuvre reception, a four-course gourmet wild or mild game dinner and more.

All proceeds support the preservation of this National Historic Landmark

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MEADOW BROOK'S
gourmet
WILD GAME
DINNER



Denim & Diamonds

No doubt the sounds of boot-stomping, hand-clapping and fiddle-strumming down-home country melodies last November were the first ever to bounce through Meadow Brook's traditional halls. Swing yes, but country?

The event, dubbed "Denim & Diamonds," was a celebration of the 65th birthday of John Van Lennep, son of Frances Dodge. John and his wife, Julie, were thoughtful enough to use the occasion to help The Hall raise funds for daily operations.

The theme was all theirs, following

along with the horse world legacy of the Dodge family. Julie's sister, Janene DiRico, a noted equine sculptress, donated one of her outstanding pieces for a raffle.

The nearly 200 guests who pulled on their cowboy boots and donned their best denim (and bling) enjoyed country vittles, drinks served at the "Dodge City Saloon" and a poignant and unforgettable concert by Suzy Bogguss, a Grammy-nominated country music artist.

Will country ever grace The Hall again? Better not fold your hand!



John Van Lennep, wife Julie (left) and singer/songwriter Suzy Bogguss.

Gone, but not forgotten

Saying goodbye to an old friend is sometimes bittersweet, even if inanimate. This particular friend, a Toro Groundsmaster mower, had been in the Meadow Brook Hall equipment inventory since 1986 and in mower years that turns out to be 195 years old! Retiring this old standby has allowed The Hall to acquire two "hand-me-down" mowers released from Oakland University's equipment inventory. Although they are much younger, these newbies have big swaths to cut.



Randy Walker, a member of the volunteer Squires group, drives the Toro into the sunset.



Antiques "Action!"

Three thousand eager antique owners poured onto the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall on June 14th for the filming of PBS' most-watched series, *Antiques Roadshow*. The show selected The Hall as a filming location as part of a new format change — moving filming sites from conference centers to historical locations. In-depth coverage of the event, including airing dates in 2019 will be covered in MEADOW BROOK MAGAZINE's 2018 Fall edition.

From the Halls...

For the last three and half years, Oakland University student James W. Moir has worked weekends as a Meadow Brook Hall security guard helping to keep the building, collections and occupants safe. He also spends weekends training as an officer in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, helping to keep our country safe.

This juggling act will soon change when James graduates from Oakland University in December 2018 with a degree in Information Technology and then starts active duty in the Marine Corps in early 2019, training in the aviation program.

James joined Meadow Brook Hall when the security program was expanded in 2015. He believed The Hall would be a unique place to work, and liked the connection to the Dodge name, as both his grandfather and father have been engineers with Dodge.

The Meadow Brook family wishes James success in his military career and extends our gratitude for his service to our country.



James W. Moir



The greatest show horse in history turns 75

In April, Meadow Brook was fortunate to host the American Saddlebred Horse Association of Michigan's celebration of world champion Wing Commander's 75th birthday. Wing Commander was foaled in Dodge Stables on Meadow Brook Farms on April 23, 1943. During his career, Wing Commander won 237 first class ribbons, was crowned the five-gaited world champion six times and was named the greatest stallion in show horse history by *Life* magazine in 1954.

The event coincided with the release of *Riding on the Edge: Frances Dodge and Dodge Stables*, written by Karel Bond Lucander and published by MEADOW BROOK PRESS. Meadow Brook's curator, Madelyn Rzakowski, lectured on Frances and Dodge Stables during the weekend's festivities and Lucander traveled from her home in North Carolina to do two book signings.



Karel Lucander

Start those engines!

The nine historic cars in Meadow Brook's care need a lot of TLC – and good old-fashioned know-how – to stay in running condition. Thankfully, a dedicated crew of volunteers helps maintain, repair and search for parts and as is the case with old cars, sometimes scratch their heads until they find a solution. The majority of the volunteers hail from the Dodge Brothers Motor Car Club and



thus have decades of passion and expertise behind them. Since Meadow Brook started collecting vehicles in 2013, volunteer and Dodge Club past president Barry Cogan (center) has led the charge by finding the cars and

the crew to keep them in order. With Cogan as the estate's Chief of Historic Vehicle Maintenance, a faithful group of volunteers – and the funds from a fully "adopted" fleet, thanks to the first and very successful Adopt-a-Dodge campaign – the engines are roaring. Stay tuned for news of more vehicles and further interpretation of Dodge Brothers history.



hall (Hillcrest Hall) at Oakland University (*left*), scheduled to open this September. It is the third dorm the company has built at OU – the first in 1962 – and is among a long list of construction and preservation projects the company has been involved with since Frank L. Rewold’s first job

One company, one family, one century

After 100 years in business, through four generations, Frank Rewold & Son knows what it takes to be a centenarian company. They have attributed this success, in part, to the lasting relationships the company has maintained over the years. Case in point is the long-term association they have had with Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland

University... and this year, the connection has come full circle.

Rewold finished construction this Spring on a new storage garage at Meadow Brook Hall, a fitting project given the company constructed the original Visitors Garage in 1928. They will also complete their largest project yet, a \$70-million 750-bed residence

on Meadow Brook Farms in 1918 (*see related article page 22*).

Oakland University’s prestigious Pioneer Award will be given to Frank Rewold & Son at OU’s Alumni Awards Banquet in October in recognition of their 100 years of construction service to Meadow Brook Farms and Oakland University. This is only the third Pioneer Award given out over the past 50 years.

“Lost” can be “Found”...with your help

For more than a decade, Meadow Brook has searched for some of the more notable and valuable paintings from The Hall that were sold or bequeathed by her estate after Matilda Wilson’s death in 1967, with a goal of replicating them and hanging them in their original locations. This will be a huge step toward interpreting the house as it was when the family lived there – with a target date of 1929, the year it was completed.

Due to a significant grant from the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation and a major gift from Oakland University President Ora Pescovitz, as well as two gifts from the OU/MBH community for the conservation of paintings in the collection, the fundraising drive is more than half accomplished.

With \$41,550 raised, we now need additional support from friends of The

Hall to reach our goal of \$80,000 to replicate the frames and further conserve other art that will be moved to new locations in the house to make way for the replicated works.

The existing collection will often times be moved to their original locations, like the Louis Betts portrait of Frances and Dan Dodge that will once again hang in the Upper Great Hall, between the entrances to their bedroom wings. The results will be visually compelling. Matilda and Alfred Wilson carefully chose the paintings in their beloved art collection, and returning The Hall to its original appearance – a family home full of both personal items and impeccably curated art – is as important in telling their story as it is in preserving history.

Any additional funds beyond the goal will be used for further conserva-



The Wilsons with their Gilbert Stuart, no longer in The Hall.

tion of the art collection, from cleaning to repairing to protecting the hundreds of paintings, prints and frames.

Tree-rific!

On April 27, Arbor Day, a group of 50 volunteers from Meadow Brook Hall, Oakland University, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and the community came together to help restore Meadow Brook's Woodland Entrance, planting trees, spreading woodchips and removing invasive plant species along the entrance drive.

"In just a few hours these volunteers made a difference that can last decades," said Nikki Thomas, The Hall's facility operations manager.

Onsite to help coordinate the effort was ReLeaf Michigan, a statewide volunteer nonprofit tree planting organization whose mission is to educate the public on how to properly select, plant and maintain trees. The organization also provided \$1,000 toward the purchase of 11 trees – matching contributions from a social media appeal to Meadow Brook Estate friends and community members.

The Arbor Day ceremony was co-hosted by the City of Rochester Hills, a Tree City USA, and was officiated by Mayor Bryan Barnett who read the Arbor Day proclamation and handed shovels to members of the Musson Elementary Daisy Troop for the ceremonial tree planting.

Over the summer, students Dane



Volunteers, young and old, dug in to clean up and plant on Arbor Day.

Andrews and Savannah Patterson, members of Oakland University's Environmental Science Resource Studies program, will continue restoration efforts by focusing on mapping and identification of tree species, insect and disease problems and invasive species. They will also plot out walking paths.

Those interested in helping out with this project can join Meadow Brook's Naturalist Committee by contacting Thomas at thomas23@oakland.edu.

Estate improvements

A new, 1,440-square-foot garage will store Meadow Brook Hall's landscape supplies and equipment, freeing up space in the historic Visitors Garage for interpretation of The Hall's vintage Dodge vehicles and estate history. The new building's construction was made possible by a generous cost reduction and contribution from the builder, Frank Rewold & Son of Rochester, and a gift from longtime Meadow Brook supporters Christine Burnard and Greydon Hyde.

Also this Spring, new fencing and gates (*below*) were installed to provide perimeter security for Meadow Brook Hall's grounds and buildings after business hours and during special events. Installation of the fencing also re-instates a historical feature (pasture and woodland fencing) present during Matilda and Alfred's residency on Meadow Brook Farms. **MB**





Summer & Fall Calendar Up Next

Summer Sizzles at the Great Estate!

Meadow Brook Hall offers a variety of community events and programs throughout the year. In the spirit of Matilda Wilson's gracious hospitality, we invite you to join us for Free Fridays, summer concerts, educational lectures and more!

Daily Summer Tours

*Now through September 2.
Reservations not required.*

House Tour: Tour the family's living quarters and entertainment spaces on the first three floors of The Hall.

- Daily at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Behind-the-Scenes Tour: Explore rarely seen areas of the home, such as staff quarters and the children's playrooms.

- Daily at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

Walking Estate Tour: Stroll the gardens and grounds as you learn how the modest Meadow Brook Farms transformed into the Great Estate. The tour also includes admission to the Dodge Brothers exhibit in the Family Garage, along with a chance to view restored Dodge vehicles.

- Daily at 2 p.m.

JUL
15



Yoga in the Garden

Sunday, July 15, 9-10 a.m.

\$12 per person in advance or
\$15 at the door

Channel your inner peace in The Hall's Rock Garden while flowing through restorative yoga poses. This class welcomes yogis of all levels and will take place rain or shine. Rain back up is located in the Ballroom.

Free Friday

Friday, July 27, 1-3 p.m.

Explore the world of art. Visit the "DIA Away" truck in the courtyard during the July Free Friday, then children can enjoy a masterpiece-inspired craft. The afternoon also includes self-guided tours of Knole Cottage and Danny's Cabin. Reservations are not required.

AUG
2



Summer Concert Series

Thursday, August 2, 7-9:30 p.m.

\$35 per person

Jazz vocalist Ben Sharkey will be performing his Sinatra-inspired routine in The Garden Tent. You may recognize this talented Michigan native from his five-year-and-counting residency at the Axis Lounge in the MGM Grand Detroit casino.

JUL
18



Enchanted Evenings at the Great Estate

Wednesday, July 18, 7-9 p.m.

\$25 per person

Enjoy a magical evening at The Hall with a guided tour. Cap your evening under the stars with live musical entertainment, delectable desserts and a cash bar.



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AUG
13

A Masterpiece Revealed

Monday, August 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

\$15 per person

Lecture: Madelyn Rzakdowolski, curator of Meadow Brook Hall, will discuss the journey of the painting, "Infant St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness," by Bartolome Esteban Murillo, after being "discovered" by a curator at the DIA after being out of the public eye for 90 years. Learn about the past and future of the painting, from its journey from a monastery to a great English home and the collaboration between the Detroit Institute of Arts, Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland University.



AUG
16

Summer Concert Series

Thursday, August 16, 7-9:30 p.m.

\$35 per person

Kimmie Horne, related to both Lena Horne and the Fantastic Four's Cleveland Horne, will perform the grand finale of our Summer Concert Series. This internationally recognized jazz artist will blow you away with her original songs and covers, including "I Will Survive" and "Perfect."

Horace Dodge Birthday Lecture

Sunday, September 16, 3-5:00 p.m.

\$15 per person

Horace and John Dodge were inseparable brothers who built an automobile empire and followed each other closely in death. Meadow Brook Hall will honor Horace Dodge's legacy and 150th birthday with a lecture (and cake!) on his life, business and untimely death. A 1938 Packard limousine that Horace's widow, Anna, purchased will also make its public debut at the lecture.



SEP
16

Enchanted Evenings at the Great Estate

Wednesday, August 22, 7-9 p.m.

\$25 per person

The final date for our brand-new event, Enchanted Evenings offers a unique touring opportunity at dusk. Relax on the Loggia Terrace with a drink from the cash bar, sweet treats and live musical entertainment after your tour.

Yoga in the Garden

Sunday, August 12, 9-10 a.m.

\$12 per person in advance or
\$15 at the door

Enjoy the tranquility of Meadow Brook's Rock Garden while flowing through restorative and rejuvenating yoga poses, led by a certified yoga instructor. This class is open to any level of yoga experience.



AUG
24

Free Friday

Friday, August 24, 1-3 p.m.

Explore the "Glorious Gardens" of the estate, talk with our garden experts and enjoy outdoor family activities. Reservations are not required.



Summer & Fall Calendar Up Next

SEP
27



Meadow Brook's Beats, Brats & Brews

Thursday, September 27,
6-8 p.m.

\$25 per person

Spend a fall evening at the Great Estate and enjoy craft beer, brats, live music by acoustic artists Athens Creek and Michigan microbrews in the Rock Garden. Admission includes a beer and brat. Additional drinks and food may be purchased. Brats are provided by The Mean Weenie food truck. Wine and cider will also be available.

OCT
4
11
18



Dinner and a Movie

Thursday, October 4, 7-10 p.m.

Enjoy viewing a classic Alfred Hitchcock movie in the ballroom, where the Dodge and Wilson families frequently watched films and home movies. On top of that, Meadow Brook Hall's executive chef will prepare you a delicious dinner! The film on October 4th is "The Birds."

Dinner and a Movie

Thursday, October 11, 7-10 p.m.

Meadow Brook Hall's Gothic-inspired ballroom doubles as a movie theater for Alfred Hitchcock's "The Lady Vanishes." Watch this classic film while savoring a delectable dinner and a cash bar.

Dinner and a Movie

Thursday, October 18, 7-10 p.m.

An Alfred Hitchcock classic (*tbd*) will be screened in Meadow Brook Hall's ballroom for the final Dinner and a Movie. Executive Chef Patrick Gazzarato will prepare your dinner during the movie. Sip a drink from the cash bar while watching a Hitchcock masterpiece.

Free Friday

Friday, October 26, 1-3 p.m.

Learn about the "stranger things" of The Hall during the monthly Free Friday. This Halloween-themed free event is perfect for all ages and includes a self-guided house tour and Halloween-themed music on the organ!

SEP
20



Wild Game Dinner & Auction

Thursday, September 20, 6-10 p.m.

\$125 per person, table of 10 \$1,200

Whether your taste is wild or mild, you won't want to miss the annual Wild Game Dinner. Feast on an incredible dinner prepared by Meadow Brook's Executive Chef and bid on live and silent auction items. All proceeds of this fundraiser directly benefit the preservation and interpretation of The Hall. Hurry, as tickets go fast!

Free Friday

Friday, September 28, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Explore rarely seen staff and family areas in this free Behind-the-Scenes tour. Reservations are required for this Free Friday only. This Free Friday is full. To be added to the waitlist, please call Faith at (248) 364-6211.

SEP
28





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Join today!

Lots of fun events happening at The Hall! Become a member today to receive special discounts and exclusive perks, while proactively contributing to the preservation of this historic gem. For more information, please call (248) 364-6264 or visit meadowbrookhall.org

All community programs directly contribute to the operational and preservation efforts of Meadow Brook Hall. Reservations are required in advance for all community events (with the exception of Free Fridays). To make a reservation, please call Jill at (248) 364-6252 or visit meadowbrookhall.org 

OCT
25



Mystery Dinner

Thursday, October 25, 7-10 p.m.

Meadow Brook Hall's extremely popular Mystery Dinner is featuring a speakeasy theme! This interactive murder mystery dinner includes dinner, cocktails, and an unforgettable evening.



Ask the woman who owns one!



The gift of Anna Dodge's 1938 Packard Limo sets the stage for a broader Dodge story

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI



The limousine (center) on the day it arrived at Anna Dodge's Grosse Pointe home, 1938.

The latest car to enter Meadow Brook's vehicle collection is more than meets the eye. The 1938 Packard Series 1608 Twelve Limousine, a gift from Michigan State University professor emeritus and Packard expert Charles Blackman, will serve to intrigue visitors as both complement and contrast; it is as Dodge as any in the diverse Dodge collection, which includes everything from Evans & Dodge bicycles to Graham Brothers trucks. 80 years ago this year, the 7-passenger limousine left the Detroit factory in which it was built and was delivered to 12 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe, the home of Anna T. Dodge, widow of auto pioneer Horace Dodge.

Anna gave the car to son Horace, Jr. in 1950. He used the car when attending hydroplane races in which his boats met success — and proved the line of succession of his late father’s engineering abilities. A unique aftermarket feature is a large gas tank in the trunk, thought to be a way to provide “boost” to the motor as it is a common feature in racing boats. The limo might have been there in 1950 when he won the APBA Unlimited Trophy at Lake Mead. Or, in 1954, when his boats took 1st and 2nd in the Silver Cup power boat races on the Detroit River. An original American Racing Boat Association sticker remains on the front windshield.

In 1955, Horace, Jr. sold the car and it went through a couple hands before finding security from 1959 until now. The first two owners of the Packard limo were Dodges and the next two were preservationists, keeping its history, style and provenance secure for 59 years. It came to Meadow Brook Estate in 99% original condition with under 16,000 miles. The low mileage suggests the car was only occasionally used, and oral history states Anna Dodge only used it when her 1938 Packard Town Car was not available. The Packard Twelve — named for its 12-cylinder engine — is the nicest and most expensive of all of Packard’s luxury brands, and of the 35,000 Packard Twelves produced from 1933 to 1939, this is one of only 20 remaining limousines.

Thanks to the generosity of the staff of OU INC, Oakland University’s business incubator housed in the former Dodge Stables buildings, the 20-foot limo is currently stored in the former tack room. It will be brought out for display on special occasions while it is being sympathetically restored. Blackman did quite a bit of work in order to donate the car in running condition, so restoration will focus on mainly cosmetic issues. Meadow Brook curatorial staff and a loyal group of vehicle maintenance volunteers, with input from Blackman,

will clean and repair upholstery, preserve the original custom exterior paint job and replace missing parts, like the headliner clock and wheel covers.

Donor and history-lover Blackman feels strongly about context in storytelling and thinks carefully about choosing the right home for his collections, ones that will best interpret and preserve the history of an object. This car is a huge first step in broadening Meadow Brook’s interpretation of the

Dodge story, which includes the architectural magnificence of Anna T. Dodge’s now-demolished estates, Rose Terrace in Detroit and Playa Riente in Palm Beach, Fla., her legacy as contributor to arts and culture in Detroit, and the boat engineering and racing feats of her son Horace Jr. and daughter Delphine. With the help of friends, the legacy of John and Horace Dodge, Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company and their families will be preserved. **MB**



*Clockwise from below:
Donor Charles Blackman and Meadow Brook Curator Madelyn Radzkowski with the limousine in its new home, the Dodge Stables tack room; the steering wheel; an American Power Boat Association sticker on the front windshield.*





The world's finest dollhouse...

Once Again

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI



The living room after restoration.

A year-long restoration project has returned the charm and historical significance to Knole Cottage, the ¾-scale playhouse on the Meadow Brook estate. Given to Frances Dodge in 1926 by her parents for her 12th birthday, the enchanting six-room cottage was furnished with appropriately scaled furniture, textiles, decorative art and fully functioning appliances. It was intended to teach Miss Dodge the art of homemaking, including decorating the playhouse and managing a checkbook.

Designed by Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, the same architectural firm that built Meadow Brook Hall, the playhouse was equipped with electricity and running water and cost a total of \$23,000 to build and furnish. In 1972, Frances' children donated the original furnishings of the cottage back to the estate and it was decorated and re-opened for touring with the help of a local Girl Scout troop. Over the following 45 years, play, time and a lack of access to proper conservation took their toll on the playhouse and its contents, resulting in a rather dingy space that was no longer historically repre-

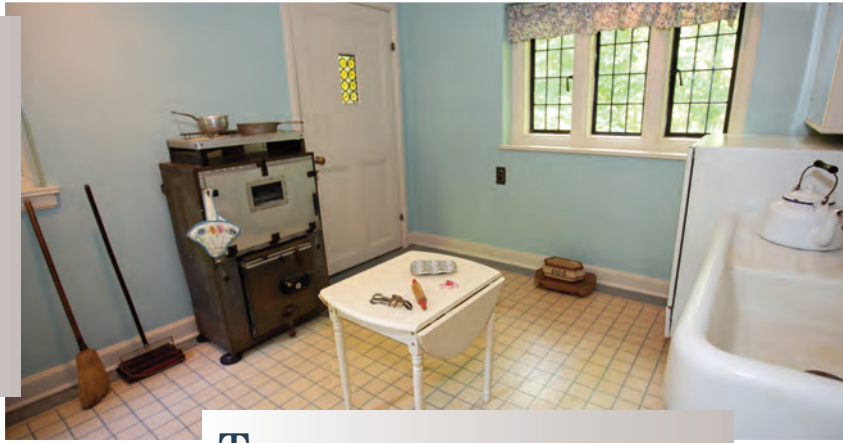
sentative of when it was built.

Thanks to a generous donation from longtime supporters Gretchen and Ed Adler, the collections and interiors of Knole Cottage were restored and re-opened in May 2018. The work included replication of the original wallpaper patterns, replication and conservation of the original linoleum floors, doll repair and restoration of the textiles and furnishings throughout the playhouse. Meadow Brook volunteers donated hundreds of hours of their time to bring the playhouse back to life. Grant support from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund addressed extensive repairs to the exterior structure, including restoration of the wood timbers and leaded glass window frames, as well as new paint.



Clockwise from top: bedroom in 1926; the dressing table was broken and warped before its total restoration; the bedroom's wallpaper, curtains and linens were replicated, while the 1929 linoleum floor was restored (after the playhouse was moved in 1928-29, the linoleum floors were updated to match those in the Hall's service areas).

During the 2018 restoration, the original linoleum floors were either conserved or replicated by skilled artists. The original wallpaper was replicated in the dining room, bedroom and nursery while the original paint colors of the walls and cabinets in the kitchen and bathroom were restored.



The cracked linoleum floor (*left*) and missing porcelain handles and soap dish of the faucet (*below*) were made new.



This pair of large vintage-style tea towels were embroidered by a local craftswoman to match a pair from the kitchen at Knole Cottage. Frances likely embroidered the playful scenes of tea cups come to life; though the stitch is accomplished, the simplicity and theme suggest a child sewed them. The reproduction towels are available in the Museum Store for purchase.



In the dining room a small sample of wallpaper was found preserved behind the 1970s replacement (*right*). A local artist used the scrap to design a replica wallpaper (*left*).



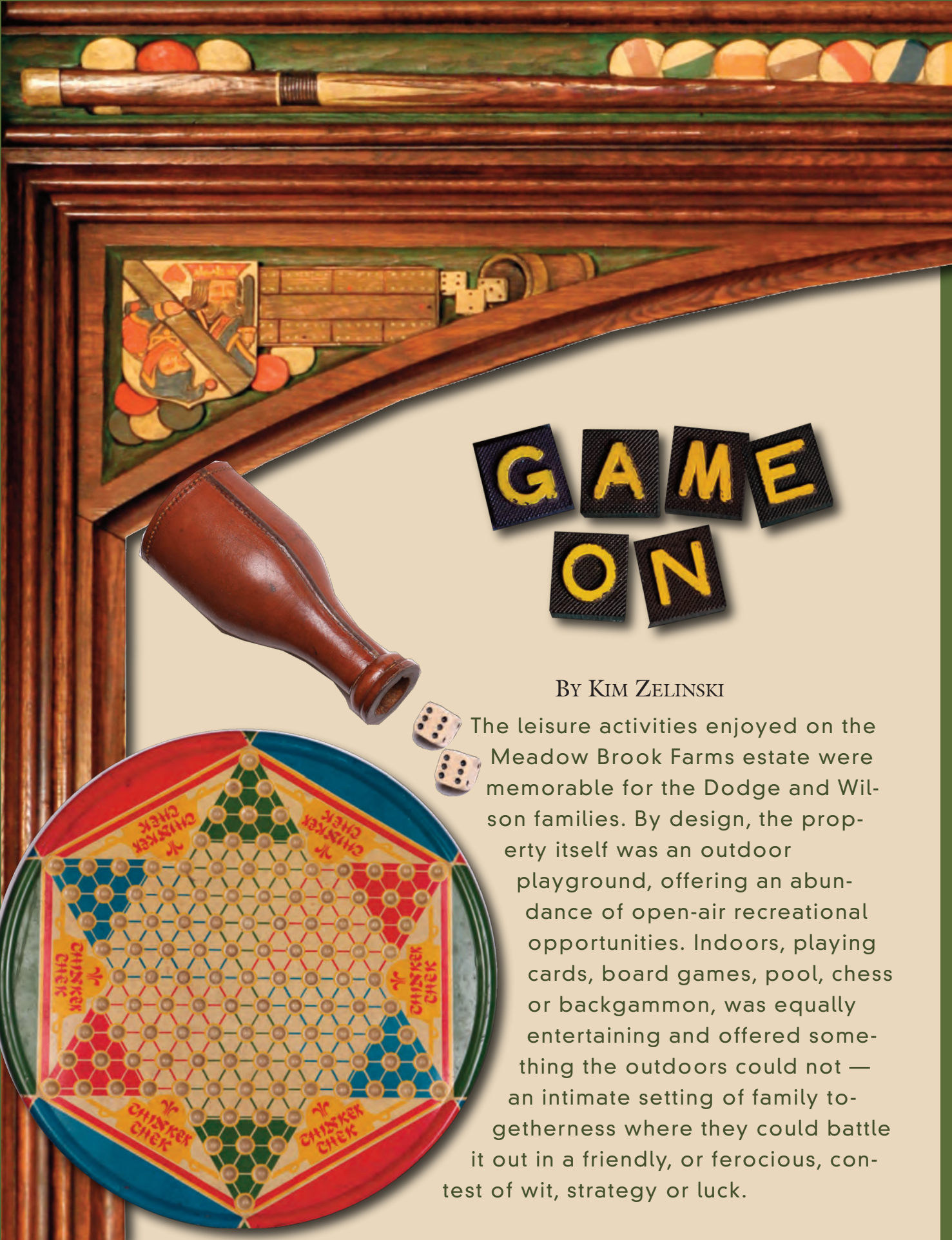
Curatorial volunteer Marianne Raffin spent 65 hours replicating the original satin and lace covers on the bassinet and doll cradle (*both were too damaged to salvage, right*). Using photographs and remnants of the originals for clues, she created nearly identical replacements (*above*). She also recreated the flowered linen valance and blue taffeta drapes and bedspread in the bedroom (*see page 15*).



Frances' nursery was overhauled, with restoration of the dolls, furniture and bassinet. The linen closet door was replaced with a clear plastic panel so guests can see the dolls' shoes, frocks and coats inside. MB



Oakland University 2018 graduate and costume designer Shelby VanOphem (*left*) replicated the dress, hat and undergarments of the large Simon-Halbig doll, one of Frances' favorites. OU Theatre professor Leslie Littell (*right*) assisted. The doll was also conserved.



GAME ON

BY KIM ZELINSKI

The leisure activities enjoyed on the Meadow Brook Farms estate were memorable for the Dodge and Wilson families. By design, the property itself was an outdoor playground, offering an abundance of open-air recreational opportunities. Indoors, playing cards, board games, pool, chess or backgammon, was equally entertaining and offered something the outdoors could not — an intimate setting of family togetherness where they could battle it out in a friendly, or ferocious, contest of wit, strategy or luck.

Built in 1915, the Dodge Clubhouse quickly became the hub of indoor entertainment for the extended Dodge Family at Meadow Brook Farms. Above the building's indoor pool, a comfortable lounge furnished with over-stuffed leather seating and a round Stickley table and chairs served as the special place where family could gather to play popular games of the time. To accommodate weekend outings with friends, business associates or other Dodge family members, John and Matilda Dodge always had eight extra card tables on hand.

While the Clubhouse was a draw at the estate throughout the years, Matilda and Alfred Wilson also built a special room into Meadow Brook Hall with indoor play in mind: the pub-styled Games Room. Themed elements, including game pieces of chess, pool and cards were designed into the room's woodwork (*see borders on these 4 pages*), door hardware and light fixture. Two tables took center stage in the room – a custom Brunswick table, adaptable for both pool and billiards, and a round wood table that converted to a poker table. A dart board was concealed behind wooden doors in the wall.

For larger gatherings of card playing, including the bridge parties Matilda hosted for her charitable organizations, the spacious Ballroom

was ideal. A nearby storage room housed an inventory of folding card tables and chairs, or for more formal events, wooden flip-topped game tables were used. Matilda also kept bridge accessories on-hand, including special table linens, napkins, dishes and custom-monogramed bridge cards.

Although the Games Room and Ballroom were used for special occasions, the family gathered in Alfred's Study to either listen to the radio or play games. The room was more intimate and casual and, importantly, its butler's pantry was kept stocked with refreshments. The Wilsons' daughter, Barbara, recalled that after dinner, the family would retire into the den to play bridge, canasta, backgammon or checkers. No matter the game, when choosing partners was in play, the same twosomes always squared off – Matilda





and Richard against Alfred and Barbara.

Card playing was also a New Year's Eve tradition. Alfred, Matilda, Richard and Barbara (typically joined by four other couples) played bridge until early morning, breaking around midnight for a lobster dinner and a New Year's toast of champagne or a "Tom and Jerry" cocktail.

Card playing was undoubtedly one of the Wilsons' favorite pastimes, not only at Meadow Brook Hall but also their vacation homes in Scottsdale, Arizona and Bar Harbor, Maine. Matilda and Alfred often teamed up with neighbors to play bridge, canasta or samba. And, in their retirement home on the Meadow Brook property, Sunset Terrace, it was not unusual to see Alfred and Matilda at a card table playing canasta with lap robes on.

The Dodge and Wilson children could play in their very own private spaces: Frances had Knole Cottage, Dan a rustic cabin and the Wilson children a playhouse. Stored on shelves and cabinets and hanging on walls were an array of games that kept them occupied for hours, including Tiddley Winks, Snakes and Ladders and Steeple Chase.

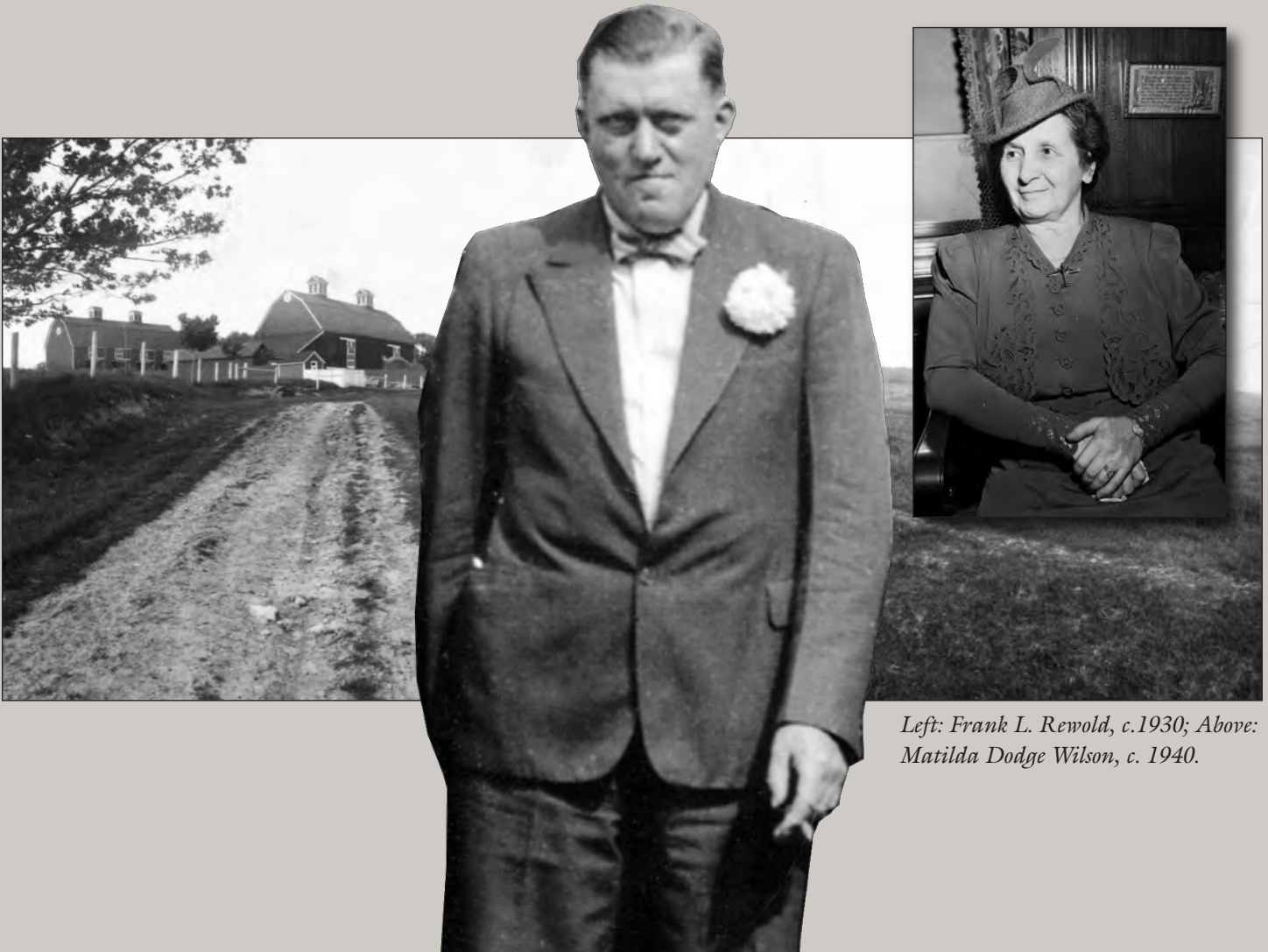
Games played by the family are kept in a special storage room in The Hall. The collection represents a time capsule of what the Dodge and Wilson families played on rainy afternoons, in the evening after dinner, or anytime they were just feeling a bit competitive. Game on! 



Let's be Frank

By KIM ZELINSKI

Handyman, builder, lock picker, coffin maker, mentor, genius...a few of a long list of descriptors used to characterize carpenter Frank L. Rewold's nearly 50-year association with Meadow Brook Farms. However, it was his honesty, dedication, talent and hard work that earned him his most important title: right-hand man to Matilda Dodge Wilson.



Left: Frank L. Rewold, c.1930; Above: Matilda Dodge Wilson, c. 1940.

Country estates such as Meadow Brook Farms were managed much like small communities, dependent on countless numbers of staff who attended to the needs of the owners and day-to-day activities. While the Wilsons employed a traditional staff mix in this regard – maids, butlers, secretaries, cooks, stable and farm managers, chauffeurs, dairymen, gardeners and engineers – there was one who stood head and shoulders above the rest: carpenter Frank L. Rewold, who in no small way, played a key role in the estate’s development and success.

Getting started

Frank Rewold’s connection to Meadow Brook Farms began with his father, Henry, a German immigrant who became a well-known farmer in Michigan’s Avon Township (present day Rochester and Rochester Hills) in the early 1900s. In addition to working as a farmer, Henry was president and manager of the Rochester Creamery Company, served on the Rochester Village council as highway commissioner and sometime after 1915, was hired to build fences on the Meadow Brook Farms property. This association led to Frank’s own employment at Meadow Brook around 1918 as a seasonal farm worker (John and Matilda Dodge had purchased Meadow Brook Farms in 1908). With a steam-engine threshing rig and a few men, he would travel from farm to farm during the Fall harvest season, threshing grain for local farmers. One such stop was Meadow Brook Farms. In the winter, Frank was also hired to cut ice from a lake on the Dodge property and haul it to the farm’s Ice House for storage.

Although Meadow Brook’s farming operation slowed down following the death of John Dodge in 1920, Henry, and occasionally Bert Rewold, Frank’s younger brother, continued building fences. Frank, on the other hand, experienced steady work on the farm doing various carpentry projects. In 1924, widowed Matilda Dodge purchased



Frank L. Rewold leaning on threshing rig, c. 1919.

several adjacent farms and hired Frank to tear down, move, and/or repair many of their barns and houses.

This work presaged the monumental change that would unfold in 1926, when newlyweds Alfred and Matilda Wilson commissioned an elaborate estate master plan. The plan would guide the development of the farm property from a summer get-away into a grand country estate that would feature residential life, farming, equine operations and recreational facilities.

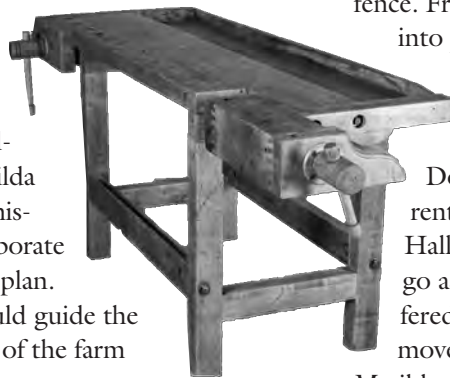
While planning for their new residence, Meadow Brook Hall, was under way, Matilda in 1926 moved forward with one of the estate’s smaller components – her daughter Frances Dodges’ playhouse, Hilltop cottage. Matilda

hired Frank to craft the living room’s wood-paneled wall, build cupboards and doors and install the fireplace’s stone hearth, door hardware and picket fence. Frank’s carpentry skills came into play two years later when the playhouse (renamed Knole Cottage) was moved from its original location by the Dodge farmhouse to its (current) site near Meadow Brook Hall. However, the move did not go as planned. The playhouse suffered extensive damage during the move, nearly breaking in half.

Matilda again hired Frank to dig its new basement and repair both the interior and exterior.

A capable builder

In 1927, the Wilsons also turned their attention to developing the estate’s farming and recreational operations. At the top of the list was a new horse stable. A corner of the stable – later incorporated into a larger equine





Top: Knole Cottage after move in 1928. Bottom: Knole Cottage before move in 1928.

when 12 year-old Dan Dodge engraved his birthdate into the garage's concrete foundation.

Sporting and recreational facilities were developing apace. Two complexes were constructed under Frank's oversight: the Belgian horse barn where Matilda Wilson boarded her Belgian draft horses, and in 1935 expansion of the original horse stable Frank built in 1928 into a sprawling equestrian complex. Dodge Stables, owned by Frances Dodge, and the Avon Pony Stable, owned by Matilda and Alfred Wilson, were added. Between the two stable

buildings, a shared 20,000-square-foot Riding Ring was constructed. At the time it was built, the Riding Ring was one of the largest steel-frame buildings in the region. Nearby this complex, Frank constructed the Frances Dodge dog kennels, outdoor swimming pool and cabana, and Richard and Barbara Wilson's

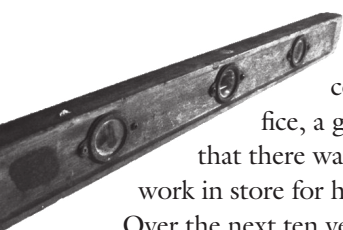
playhouse.

The last major building erected on the Meadow Brook Farms estate was the Wilsons' retirement home, Sunset Terrace, built between 1951 and 1953. The project re-united architect William Kapp and Frank Rewold. Frank's son, Roy, had now joined his father's business, which soon became known as Frank Rewold & Son.

The Sunset Terrace project was strained from the start. Kapp was designing the 12,587-square-foot residence at the same time the Rewolds started building it. At some point, they were even building it at a faster pace than Kapp could design it. In the end, this frustration resulted in the

Wilson's decision to have the Rewolds complete the project without Kapp, including both design and construction.

During this ongoing con-

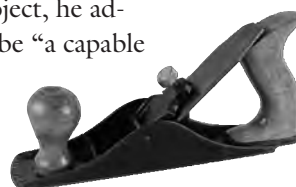


complex – became Frank's construction office, a good indication that there was much more work in store for him.

Over the next ten years, the transformation of the estate was profound. In all, six farm groups, comprising some 28 buildings, were built by Frank and his crew of about 10 men. The dairy farm group was the first to take shape, including several barns, scale house, creamery and residence. Systematically, the other farm groups rose up on the various quadrants of the-then 2,000-acre property, housing pedigree stocks of hogs, sheep, beef and poultry. All the group's boasted the finest materials and state-of-the-art equipment.

In between building the various farm

groups, Frank occasionally did carpentry work inside Meadow Brook Hall while it was still under construction (1926-1929). And, in 1929 Frank was hired to construct Meadow Brook Hall's open auto shed, which became known as the visitors garage. This building was somewhat of an afterthought for the Wilsons and rather than involving The Hall's general contractor, they commissioned Frank to do the work. Meadow Brook Hall architect William Kapp from the firm Smith, Hinchman & Grylls provided architectural drawings, and while he was apprehensive about Frank taking on such an important project, he admitted that Frank would be "a capable builder, no doubt convinced by the Wilsons." Frank was likely nearby





struction boom on the estate, the Wilsons became one of the biggest employers in the Rochester area. Matilda insisted whenever Frank did work on the estate that he buy the materials from Rochester businesses. She felt strongly about supporting the Rochester community and its economy. On many days, Frank would travel several miles to Dillman and Upton in Rochester for lumber and building materials, or to C.W. Case and Rochester Elevator for various supplies.

Financial arrangements between the Wilsons and Frank were approached with both practicality and trust. Construction blueprints were provided to Frank by an architect, primarily Meadow Brook Hall architect William Kapp, for design of the residences, and one from Jamesway Manufacturing Company for the design of the farm buildings. For a few projects, a simple letter of agreement (sometimes handwritten) was drafted, or on larger projects a contract. But in many cases, a verbal agreement between Frank and Matilda sufficed.

A Jack of all trades

“He was an engineer, mechanic and everything put into one. I never knew



Top: Meadow Brook Farms equine complex, c. 1940: (left to right) horse stable and location of Frank’s construction office; Frances Dodge’s stable and Riding Ring, Matilda and Alfred Wilson stable. Bottom: Riding Ring under construction, c. 1935.

what his job was because he did everything,” said Barbara Wilson, daughter of Alfred and Matilda.

In a 2009 interview with Roy Rewold, he recalled that his dad “was on the estate all the time – Sundays, holidays, or whenever – just to see what was going on and make sure that everything was okay.” Roy believed his father loved being around Mrs. Wilson, listening to her ideas and what she had in mind for the estate. He felt that the best part of his day was meeting with her and the rest of the day was a piece of cake. He always left their meetings enthused about the next project.

At least weekly, Frank and Matilda would meet in Matilda’s Morning Room at The Hall or in the Breakfast Room at Sunset Terrace in later years. And, it was common practice for

Matilda to climb into Frank’s navy blue, side-fender, $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton Chevy truck, broom hanging out the back, and drive around where she would point out the projects she wanted done.

Roy defined his and his dad’s job duties as “five-thousand different things.” They graded the gravel roads, replaced screens on doors, and did plumbing repairs. Seasonally, they cleaned eaves troughs, changed the flags, opened and closed the buildings and performed carpentry duties such as re-shingling roofs, building turkey shelters and constructing a garden tea house.

Occasionally, the unexpected happened, such as the time Frank was asked to open Sunset Terrace before the Wilsons returned from one of their vacation homes only to discover a pipe break that had apparently been leaking



for some time. Several inches of water had filled the room and floating across the floor were Matilda's collection of hats.

A few of Frank's projects fit into the "above and beyond" category. Matilda could forget to grab her big ring of keys before leaving the Linen Room and the door would automatically lock behind her. Frank, and then Roy in later years, would get the call to come out and pick the lock.

Frank stockpiled a large stash of lumber, milled from trees on the estate, just in case a special project came up... and there were many.

The Rewolds custom-made wooden horse stalls to go inside a train's mail car so their horses could travel in style to horse shows all over the country. They fashioned wooden coffins for the family's favorite animals, particularly their horses and dogs that were then buried in the estate's pet cemetery.

To protect the Wilsons' rare Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington en route to their vacation home in Bar Harbor Maine, the Rewolds built a

Above: Sunset Terrace, c. 1965 and under construction, c.1952. Opposite page: Frank L. Rewold in Rochester parade, c. 1965.

custom case and drove the painting as far as they could go in one day in the farm truck, landing in Troy, New York. Worried about how they were going to protect this priceless painting overnight, the Rewolds drove to the Troy police department and convinced the officers to hold it in an isolated area for safekeeping.

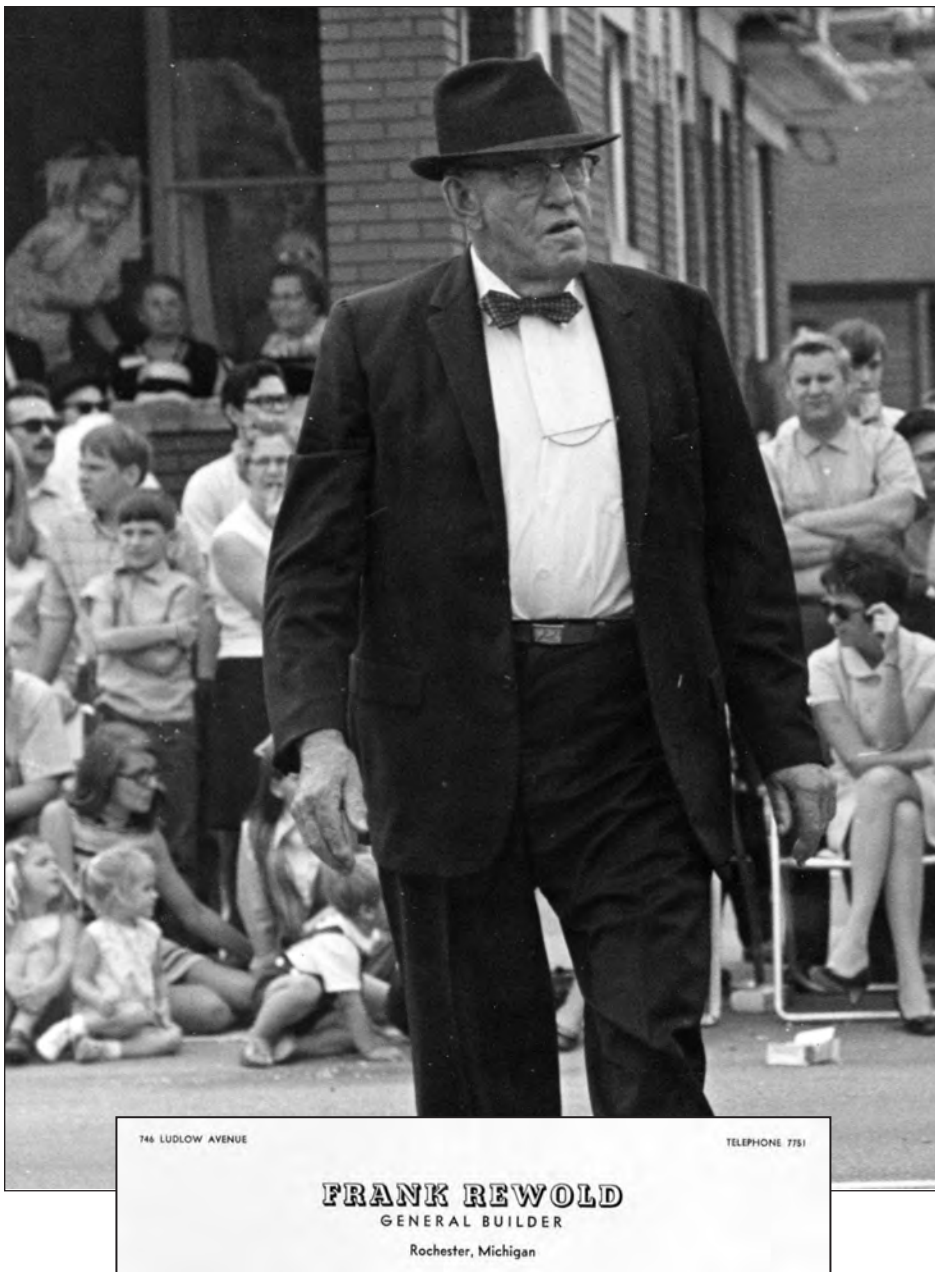
A Lasting Legacy

"There wasn't a day that he didn't enjoy," said Roy Rewold, speaking of his father, Frank.

By all accounts, Frank loved his job. Likewise, Matilda Wilson was indebted to Frank for both his skills and faithful service. A bond between the two fur-

ther deepened their working relationship. Their backgrounds were similar, both from rural upbringings, both having German immigrant parents. They communicated intuitively with each and shared a similar work ethic and regard for quality workmanship. And, they believed in the educational principle of "learn by doing."

Frank was instrumental in mentoring George Karas, hired in 1958 by Matilda to become Meadow Brook Hall's 18th engineer, and the first employee of the soon-to-be Oakland University. What George didn't learn from Matilda, he was taught or trained by Frank. George recalls that "I learned honesty, integrity and literally service



to the community from Frank Rewold. It just came to him naturally.”

Frank was heavily involved in the Rochester community. Over the years, he served as the city’s mayor, and a volunteer fireman. When one of the buildings at Dodge Stables caught fire in 1935, Frank was one of the first to arrive. When he climbed the ladder with the fire hose in his hand, an unexpected blast of water threw the fire hose back and cut a large gash on his face and forehead, knocking him off the ladder. The barn suffered some fire damage but 18 valuable horses, equipment and saddles were saved by his quick and selfless action. His injuries

healed, but he sustained a permanent scar on his face.

Frank’s good deeds did not go unnoticed or unrewarded. Alfred and Richard Wilson were driving around the estate one day in the late ‘30s and came across a somewhat inebriated Frank and farm manager, Art Ferguson, who were sitting in Frank’s truck. One of them fell out of the truck, which didn’t set too well with Alfred, and he fired them both on the spot. However, Matilda, hired them back the very next day. She was very faithful and forgiving to those who did a good job for her.

In theory, Frank might have been

able to make a better living working outside of Meadow Brook, but he felt part of something important – a feeling shared by many of the families that lived on the estate and the staff who worked there. They were part of a special community, a family of sorts. Roy remembers coming to Meadow Brook at a young age, riding in hay wagons, riding horses in the Riding Ring, and driving the tractors and going to the creamery to taste freshly made butter-milk. For the Rewolds, Meadow Brook was a lifestyle, not a job.

A profound sadness came over Frank when Matilda Wilson died in 1967. Still grieving, he cleaned out his office in the stable and was faced with the realization that an era had ended. Looking across the landscape today, many of the buildings Frank built are gone. Those that remain – several of the most important, such as the Riding Ring, Sunset Terrace and the Visitors Garage – are remnants of a once thriving estate and a testament to the character of a man whose energy, intelligence and dedication ably assisted the Wilsons in keeping it all going with an attitude characterized by just a few important words:

“Don’t worry, I’ll take care of it.” **MB**

FRS100



Three-generations of Rewolds from left to right: Frank L. Rewold, Frank H. Rewold, Roy Rewold, c. 1960. See article (One company, one family, one century) on page 6 for details of FR&S 100th anniversary and current involvement at Meadow Brook and Oakland University.



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Every year the Meadow Brook Estate teaches thousands of individuals, families, and school-children about the significance of the Dodge and Wilson families and the rich heritage they contributed to the community.

The support of the individuals listed here makes it possible for us to continue this work.

Their gifts allow us to preserve and maintain the National Historic Landmark building, its grounds and outbuildings, and to present programs that show how the values of hard work and mastery of craft have impacted our region. We are grateful for every contribution that allowed the Meadow Brook Estate to fulfill its mission last year.

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The Hall's extensive collections of art, furniture, ceramics, glass, silver, textiles, costumes and archival materials are highly regarded for being original to the house as well as for their intrinsic value. Much conservation work is being accomplished through the Adopt-an-Artifact program, as well as the Adopt-a-Dodge program for the growing historic vehicle collection.

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Happy Birthday, Horace!



Horace (left) and John (second from right) and friends on the S.S. Nokomis, 1916. Photo courtesy of the Clarke Historical Library.

The arrival of Anna Dodge's 1938 Packard Limousine (*see page 12*) coincided with Horace Dodge's 150th birthday anniversary. Born in Niles, Michigan on May 17, 1868, Horace would become one of the most important and influential mechanical minds of the 20th century. Four years younger than John, the brothers were inseparable throughout their lives, but most notably in business. Horace's mechanical genius combined with John's business acumen to create an incredible success of their 1914 founding of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company.

The social and business stories of John and Horace Dodge are told in the seasonal installation of an automotive exhibit in Meadow Brook's Family Garage. For Horace's 150th birthday, the exhibit delves into his maritime activities, including the series of speed cruisers and yachts he built from 1899 to 1921 (his largest and most well-known yacht, *S.S. Delphine*, was completed after his death in 1920). The rare photographs and memorabilia in the exhibit are gifts from the Horace Dodge family. 

Join us for a celebration!

Join us for a lecture on Horace Dodge's life and legacy. The event will include the first public display of the "new" 1938 Packard limousine... and a birthday cake! September 16, 2018, 3-5:00 p.m. *See page 9 for event details.*

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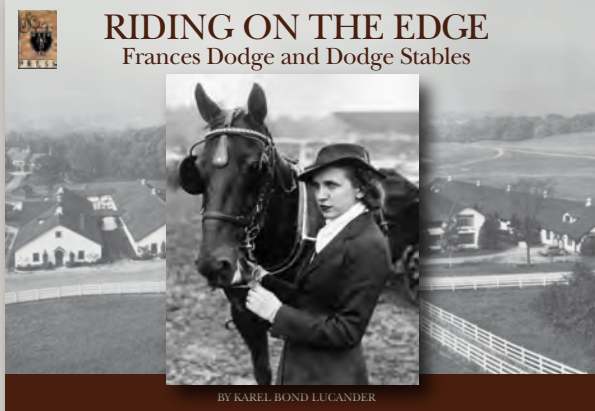
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Museum Store

Commemorate the 75th anniversary of Wing Commander, Frances Dodge's champion American Saddlebred, with your copy of *Riding on the Edge: Frances Dodge and Dodge Stables* – the fascinating biographical account of automotive heiress Frances Dodge and her ascendancy into the highly competitive worlds of horse shows, harness racing and high society...with a trend-setting style all of her own. \$11.95/\$10.75 MBH members.

Fit to a Tee

A new line of apparel has arrived in the Meadow Brook Museum Store. The men's and women's t-shirt line is fashioned in trendy colors and crafted in soft, lightweight material, styled in a relaxed fit. Sizes range from S-XXL and are priced at \$24.95/\$22.45 MBH members.. Also, arriving later this summer, a new winter apparel line which will feature more t-shirt styles and baseball caps.



To order, visit Meadow Brook's Museum Store or
contact store manager Kelly Lenda
at 248-364-6206 or email glaza@oakland.edu.