



Monday, July 7, 2003

Concours d'Elegance celebrates 25 years

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

One of the world's most prestigious auto events returns to Oakland University this summer as preparations are being made for the 25th annual **Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance**, which is operated by the Concours d'Elegance of America.

More than 20,000 auto enthusiasts from all over the world will gather at Meadow Brook Hall Sunday, Aug. 3, to celebrate America's love affair with classic cars and to view about 250 of the world's most prized automobiles.

The 25th Concours will feature a stunning presentation of 25 Duesenbergs, the crown jewel of the classic car world, and centennial celebration displays of Fords and Buicks.

Owned by movie stars and industry moguls of the day, the rarely seen Model J Duesenberg automobile was built to outclass and outlast anything on the road. On display at this year's Concours will be Clark Gable's 1936 and Gary Cooper's 1935 SSJ LaGrande Supercharged Duesenberg Speedsters. Also shown will be the "Mormon Meteor," considered to be the most valuable Duesenberg in existence.

Ford Motor Company is sending representative vehicles from company and private collections that span the beginning of automotive history through later-era production cars, including an 1898 Quadracycle, 1907 Model K, an Edsel, and pre- and post-war era Lincolns.

Buick, which also is marking its centennial, is providing production and concept cars including a Buick Wildcat II and a 1953 Buick known as the Howard Hughes Special Sedan.

The Concours d'Elegance is the main event climaxing a weekend-long celebration of classic automobiles. Other events include an automotive art exhibit and auction, haute couture fashion show, vintage car auction and black tie fund-raiser.

Proceeds from Concours d'Elegance events help support Meadow Brook Hall.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 1

Mode du Concours Fashion Show

Saks Fifth Avenue will present a runway fashion show and luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Meadow Brook Hall. Featured designer Naeem Kahn also will appear in person.

General admission is \$75. Benefactor tickets with premium seating are \$100 and \$125. Reservations are required by Friday, July 18. For more information or to make a reservation, call (248) 269-7672.

Automotive Art Exhibition Preview

A preview of works by 12 renowned automotive artists will be on display Friday, Aug. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Oakland University's Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. The works will include automotive art sculptures by Stanley Wanlass and Ford Motor Company's Centennial Artist Ken Eberts. The Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance selected Eberts as the signature artist for its 25th anniversary commemorative poster. The artwork also will be on display during the main event Sunday, Aug. 3.

Tickets for the preview are \$35, which also includes the RM Classic Cars Vintage Motor Auction preview. For more information, call (248) 269-7672.

Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2

RM Classic Cars Vintage Motor Car Auction

The classic automobiles in the auction will be available to preview from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion and will be auctioned off from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. This year's featured consignments include a 1931 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Henley, a 1931 Marmon Sixteen Sport Coupe and a 1962 Bentley S2 Saloon.

Tickets for the preview are \$35, which also includes the automotive art exhibition preview. For more information, visit the **RM**

Classic Cars Web site or call (248) 269-7672.

Saturday, August 2

Art Auction and Gala Evening

Enjoy a spectacular evening at Meadow Brook Hall during which original art pieces will be auctioned, including the original Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance poster art. The reception begins at 6 p.m., auction at 7 p.m. and strolling dinner at 8 p.m. The evening also includes entertainment and an afterglow.

Tickets for this black tie fund-raiser are \$200. For more information, call (248) 269-7672.

Sunday, August 3

International Classic Car Show

This outdoor exhibition of approximately 250 of the world's most prized classic automobiles is Sunday, Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Meadow Brook Hall.

Admission is \$25 and includes a souvenir program. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets may be purchased by calling (248) 269-7672 or at the gate the day of the event. Parking on the Oakland University campus is free and shuttle busses will be available. Handicap parking also is available. For more information, visit the **Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance** Web site or call (248) 269-7672.

SUMMARY

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