

Meadow Brook Concours

by Bob Stevens

Part 1

It's called the "Best of the Midwest" and every year it lives up to its vaunted reputation, assembling some of the most innovative, rare and classic-styled automobiles in the world. And in 2002, the Corvette was an honored guest at the invitation-only concours held in the American automobile industry's hometown, Detroit.

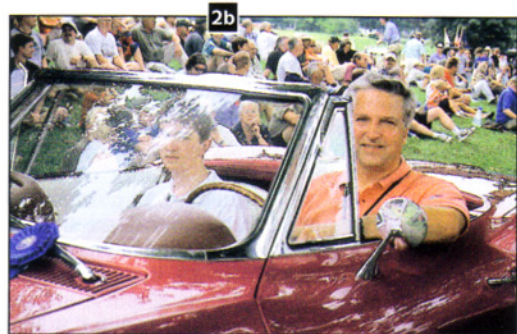
The actual show site is the stunning 110-room, 80,000-square-foot Meadow Brook mansion with Tudor-revival architecture commissioned by auto baron John Dodge and his wife Matilda. Though Dodge died before the mansion's construction, his wife continued on with the building of Meadow Brook and the development of the huge estate, which includes its own golf course. And that's where the concours is held, on a portion of the golf course. Meadow Brook Hall is located in Rochester Hills, Mich., due north of Detroit about 20 miles.

Normally there is just a small smattering of Corvettes, with some found in the

**Honors
50 years
of Corvette
in two
impressive
displays**

breed were on exhibit in the concours. In addition, another 50-plus Corvettes, representing every year, were displayed at the entrance to the Meadow Brook grounds, greeting concours spectators and participants as they arrived. Retired GM engineer Werner Meier, who now operates Corvette Restoration Services, Farmington Hills, Mich., organized the extra special display. ■

Next Time
Corvettes at the Concours



Photos by the author, except where noted

1. The prestigious Meadow Brook

Concours in Rochester, Mich. is known for

the exhibition of grand classics, from Packard V-12s and Cadillac V-16s to Duesenbergs and Cords. But this year's concours also featured the Corvette on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and the display was breathtaking. The primary sponsor for 2002 was General Motors, and it displayed several Corvette concept cars and racers, plus its own 1953 Corvette roadster, seen here silhouetted against the majestic Meadow Brook Hall, the mansion built by auto magnate John Dodge and his wife, Matilda. (Photo by West Peterson)

2. Retired GM engineer Werner Meier, Farmington Hills, Mich., pulls his 1963 GM styling car out of the Corvette display (2) and heads for the reviewing stand (2a). Werner and his son, Brian, are all smiles as they prepare to drive the one-off Corvette show car before thousands of admiring spectators as they pass the reviewing stand (2b), where they received a Meadow Brook Concours Lion Award for best Corvette styling. The '63 Corvette styling car has been on display at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky.



3



4



5

3. Tuxedo Black '63 Corvette split-window coupe with a red interior was entered by Darwin Clark, Grand Blanc, Mich. The first-year coupe was awarded a blue ribbon.
 4. Also driving off with a blue ribbon was this superb Rally Red '68 T-top coupe driven by Dave Sullivan, Brighton, Mich.
 5. Kevin MacKay, owner of Corvette Repair, Inc., a restoration shop in Valley Stream, N.Y., poses proudly with his 1966 Sunoco L-88 race car, the famous number nine sponsored by Roger Penske Chevrolet.



6

6. There was a tremendous display of historic Corvette race cars, and among them was this blue and gray 1957 Super Sport owned by the Indianapolis Speedway Museum, Speedway, Ind. It won a blue ribbon.

7. The lovely young Jennifer Kerbeck poses with the family gem, 1953 Corvette EX-122, the Motorama show car unveiled at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, the first Corvette shown to the public. Assembled in late 1952 by Chevrolet Engineering's Experimental Department, the hand-built prototype was painted white with a red interior and fitted with a Chevy in-line six with three sidedraft carbs and a beefed-up Powerglide two-speed automatic. After its appearance on the show circuit, the car was returned to Chevrolet Engineering for use as a test mule. At one point, a 265-cid V-8 was installed in the car and it was subjected to a 25,000-mile durability test, which it passed, clearing the way for the introduction of the V-8 in the 1955 Corvette. Along the way, the car was also repainted red.



7



8

8. EX-122, after extensive testing, was refurbished and used as a courtesy car, for about 5,000 miles. GM then put it up for sale. Russell F. Sanders, director of engineering at GM's Rochester Products Division, Rochester, N.Y., bought the car on April 11, 1956. He had difficulty registering the car. "The serial number, EX-122, denotes an experimental car," he explained. The car was sold on Oct. 30, 1959 to John Ingle, Rochester, N.Y. It was then sold to George Kerbeck, Kerbeck Chevrolet, Atlantic City, N.J., on July 12, 2002. It was featured in the Bloomington Gold Special Collection II in 1985 and the Bloomington "Motorama Gold" in 1993. It was one of the first 33 cars inducted into the Bloomington Gold Hall of Fame in 1997. At the 2002 Meadow Brook Concours, it was awarded best in class honors.



CORVETTE WEBSITE

www.muskegonbrake.com

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calipers • Pads • Brake Lines • Master Cylinders • Rotors • Shocks • Leaf Springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Brake Components • Power Steering Pumps • Control Valves • Front & Rear Suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slave Cylinders • TRW Design Composite Springs • HD Rear End Covers And Much More!
---	---	---

See a complete list of parts on the web or order your FREE catalog today!

Make No Mistake

MUSKEGON BRAKE

Precision Rebuilders

BRAKE AND SUSPENSION SPECIALISTS

848 E. Broadway
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 733-0874 TECH LINE
FAX (231) 733-0635
TOLL FREE 800-442-0335