

Like an Old English Castle

AKRON'S Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens

*A Literary-Musical
Shrine for Ohioans*

By Fred B. Barton

IF YOU wanted to write a novel about King Arthur and his knights you'd want first to find an old English castle. It would help if you found what you needed as nearby as Stan-Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron.

You'd be in seventh heaven if the castle turned out to be open to the public, so you could go there, take pictures, load your memory with impressions, and perhaps even get your book started.

Since April 1956 the family of the late F. A. Seiberling, one of the country's original automobile tire barons, has made his \$2,000,000 home a beauty-spot open to the public and a shrine for lovers of gardens and music and books.

Incidentally that \$2,000,000 figure represents what the house and 38 acres of

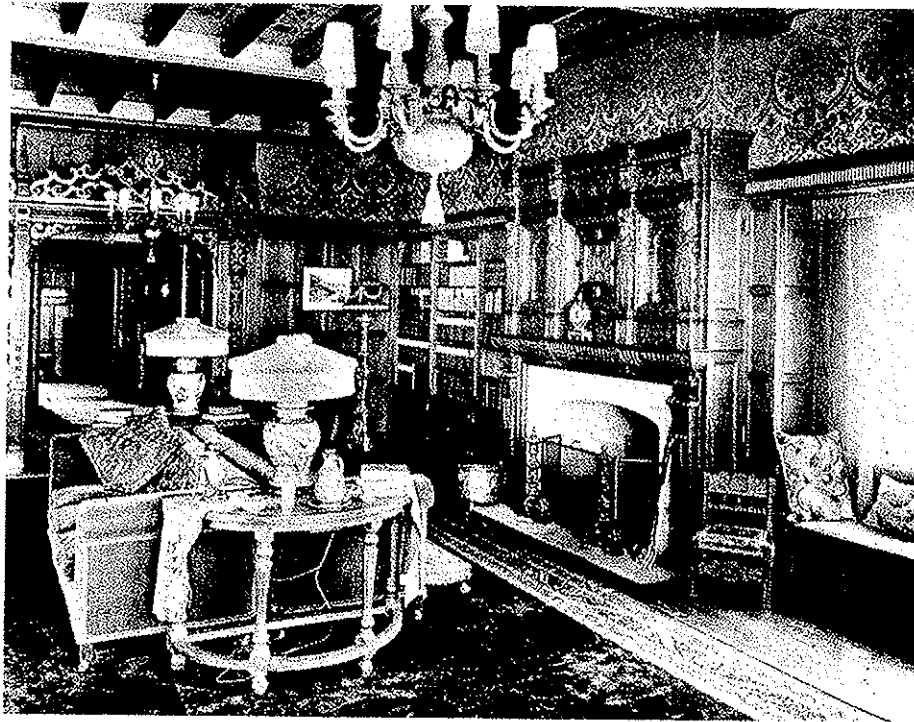
lawns and gardens cost back in 1914. Today's estimate runs nearer \$12,000,000. It is being operated as a community enterprise by a volunteer organization.

Famous Visitors

Visitors who know old England recognize Stan-Hywet's stone-floored Great Hall as echoing the grandeur of Ockwells Manor and Compton-Winyates. The building is massive, with 65 rooms including a ballroom and concert hall seating 400. Here have appeared such musical greats as Rosa Ponselle, Madame Schumann-Heinck, Akron's Evan Williams, Galli-Curci, Percy Grainger, Helen Jepson of Akron, and the great Paderewski. James Melton announced his engagement to an Akron girl by serenading her here in the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet."

A worthy place for any Ohio composer to start work on his symphony. Akron's

Mr. Barton, a native of Wellington, is a free-lance writer now living in Akron. He is the author of several books.



Library of Stan-Hywet Hall

Tuesday Musical Club was born in these rooms; today after 40 years it still brings the country's best musical talent to the city at reasonable prices.

There are heirlooms a-plenty: the pianoforte which once belonged to Haydn; rich Gobelin tapestries, heavy wood carvings, and original paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Henry Raeburn, Sir Thomas Lawrence and George Romney.

While so far as is known no Ohio artist, composer or poet has yet received his inspiration here, there is no telling what lies ahead. Camera-fans galore flash their color pictures indoors and out. Garden lovers come back to note the march of the seasons. Mrs. Seiberling's prized English Garden has been replanted by local garden clubs. Thousands of bulbs are set out anew each season to make the lawns and grounds sparkle.

Theatre Groups

A theatrical group has staged *Macbeth* on a new wooden bridge thrown across a lagoon. The local Weathervane Theatre has designs on the coach house. In time—who knows?—Stan-Hywet may apply its entrance fees and any future bequests to set up a McDowell-type colony on part of the grounds where authors and artists and composers can court their muse.

As a development of the cultural and educational purposes of Stan-Hywet, a year-round program of events has been offered to a newly established "subscribing membership." The subscribers may not only make use of privileges of house and grounds tours; they may attend a repertory of professional Shakespearean plays in July, a series of concerts throughout the year, an annual Christmas celebration in music and drama, and a variety of similar programs.

Stan-Hywet is on North Portage Path, about two miles west of downtown Akron. The building is open for house tours daily except Mondays (until Fall) from 1:30 to 8 P.M. The grounds are open from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. There is a small fee and volunteer guides are available. Already Texaco and Shell maps of Akron show Stan-Hywet Hall and Gardens; other oil companies may make similar mention on future maps. Here is a sight which last year brought visitors from all 50 states.

WHO'S RIGHT?

In Ne-vay-da, Ohio, they pronounce Ne-vah-da Ne-vadda, according to the president of the State School Board.

NO OTHER RHYMES?

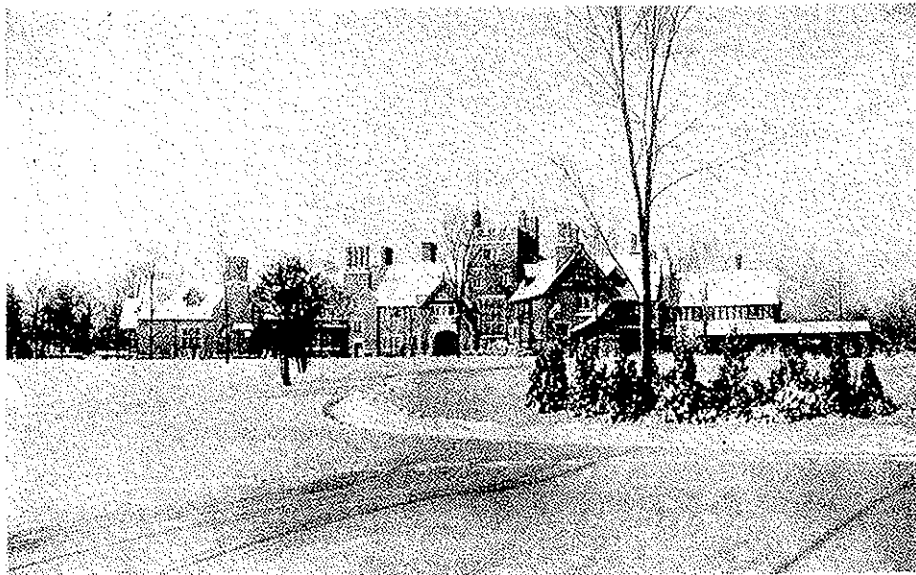
A girl born and raised in Ohio
 Fed with songs sung *allegro con brio*;
 Removed to a State
 Where it wasn't her fate
 To be loved to the rhyme:
 "Me-oh-my-oh!"

Harley Alan Roth
 Alliance—Author of
Songs of the Open Mouth, etc.

A COMMUNICATION

Editor, *Ohioana: of Ohio and Ohioans*
 —Will you kindly correct the *error* on
 page 30 of the Spring 1960 issue of your
 splendid magazine, *Ohioana*? I am the
 author (not editor) of *Hessian Soldiers in
 the American Revolution*.

Marie Dickore'



Winter View of Stan-Hywet Hall and Gardens