



WALMAC

THERE is an old saying in Spain that God gives His favorites a house in Seville.

But that is in Spain. In Kentucky He rewards them with thoroughbred farms in the Bluegrass. Here men and nature have collaborated to make a paradise. The velvety green of the turf, the woodland streams, the contours of the country find counterparts of beauty in the slave-built limestone walls, barns of incredible luxury, houses that breathe a spirit of content.

And Walmac is a delightful expression of that unity of man and nature. As veritable a gift of God as any house in old Seville.

Honeysuckle and clematis riot over the pillared entrance, and sunlight, sifting through branches of locusts and maples, gives enhancement to the setting of Walmac's gleaming walls, while song birds hold recitals in the cool, shadowy depths of the green-garden.

Walmac, taking its name from its present owner, Robert Wallace McIlvain, is unsurpassed in its location, lying in the very heart of the race horse belt, five miles from Lexington on the Maysville pike. It once was known as Valley Farm, constituting a part of the two-thousand-acre military grant to Joseph Beckley of Virginia. Part of the tract was bought by Thomas and Elizabeth Lewis, pioneer Kentuckians, and given to their son, Hector P. Lewis, in 1804. Old records of the court relate the story of an attempt made on the

life of Hector Lewis by one of his women slaves, Harriet, who was sentenced to death for having "mixed and mingled a certain deadly poison, to wit, the seed of the Jamestown weed, pulverized in certain coffee," which she gave to her master, "knowingly, wilfully, feloniously of her malice aforethought, with the evil intent that death should ensue to the said Lewis."

The other part of the tract was deeded by the patentee in the same year to Clifton Thomson who erected the house that stands today, though vastly changed, and a portion of the property remained in the Thomson family for more than a century. William Z. Thomson, inheriting the house and several hundred acres in 1824, sold it to Thomas Hughes, who in turn, willed it to his son, W. T. Hughes. It passed by deed to Mrs. Emaline Smith Ford in 1871, becoming in 1910 a part of the vast domain of James Ben Ali Haggin, the Forty-Niner, one of the founders of the Homestake gold mine, a man whose name brings up recollections of the greatest of all Bluegrass estates, Elmendorf, with its classic mansion, Green Hills.

Attracted by mining, Robert W. McIlvain, fundamentally a westerner, also was attracted, quite naturally, by the lure of gold prospecting, and while this was long after the California rush, nevertheless he spent considerable time in developing the precious ore in Idaho and romantic Cripple creek.

His father, Col. William Wallace McIlvain, a great old army officer, spent his early years in the mercantile

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business in Southern Michigan, being well known in business and a powerful political factor in that section. In 1880 he moved to Dakota territory, which eventually became the states of North and South Dakota. Colonel McIlvain directly represented the Interior Department of the government during the period when this new territory was being exploited, and he was responsible for eliminating the many groups and syndicates engaged in fraudulently obtaining titles to government lands there. After leaving the government service Colonel McIlvain continued to reside in the Northwest and became one of the large land owners in the new state of North Dakota.

The colonel's wife was Helen McIlvain, a daughter of S. T. Read, prominent banker, merchant and legislator of Cass county, Michigan. Read was one of the pioneer residents of Southern Michigan and his influence, both financial and political extended far beyond the confines of his state.

Robert Wallace McIlvain, born in southern Michigan, accompanied his family to the West when he was eight years old, spending a large part of his boyhood riding the ranges in North Dakota and Montana. In fact he has no remembrance of a time when he didn't have horses.

There were days of triumph on the Grand Circuit, too, when McIlvain's Goldie Todd took the green pacing championship among the standard-bred mares of

1919. As vice president of The Pure Oil Company, with offices in Chicago, he was an enthusiastic polo player and for a number of years was president of the Oak Brook Polo Club.

So it was only natural that he should gravitate into the breeding of thoroughbreds, and natural, too, that he should come to Kentucky to have his splendid establishment, for he has a Kentucky heritage. His great-grandfather, Capt. Moses McIlvain, emigrated to Kentucky prior to 1800, making his home for a time at Cane Ridge, in Bourbon county, before pressing farther west to Logan county, thence to Champaign county, Ohio.

The McIlvains are of Scottish ancestry. This branch of the family, leaving Scotland in 1693, settled at Ballykeel, Island of Magee, Ireland, later coming to the colonies and making their home in Lancaster county, Pa.

Capt. Moses McIlvain, occupying a grant of land made to his father in Strawberry valley, York county, deeded the property to his brother, John, when he decided to seek his fortune in the west. A grant of land to his son, Moses, took the family later to Cass county, Michigan, where William Wallace McIlvain and his wife, Helen Read McIlvain, were living at the time their son, Robert Wallace, was born.

One look around Walmac Farm leaves no doubt that its master is a perfectionist. Every detail has been carefully thought out and painstakingly executed. The

paddocks have been planned with the same precision with which a city is laid out. The placing of the barns, the avenues, the office and tenant houses has been skillfully handled, and even the spacing of the panels of the fences has come in for meticulous consideration. As executive of one of the largest oil producing, refining and marketing companies in America, Mr. McIlvain has incorporated at Walmac Farm the same business methods used in his offices, placing as manager of his estate Leslie Combs II., great-grandson of one of the greatest thoroughbred horsemen the nation has ever known, Daniel Swigert.

Walmac's master exercised the same care and discrimination in the choice of mares that he did in planning Walmac, selecting only the best lines of English and native breeding.

There is Shaker Lady by Dis Done out of Sketchy by Peter Pan, whose third dam is Artful, one of the greatest mares of all time. And at Shaker Lady's side is a suckling by Chance Shot. Masked Dancer, also with a foal by Chance Shot, is a mare by Disguise out of Tripping by Delhi, and the dam of a number of stakes winners, including Masked Ball. Her two-year-old daughter, Unmasked, by Pilate, is one of the Walmac horses in training. Big Dinner, a four-year-old mare by Black Toney out of Buckwheat Cake by North Star III., has a colt by Imp. Pharamond II., sire of Headley's notable Menow.

Bottle Green, with a suckling colt by Sickie, is an Imp. Chicle mare out of Burgee by Pennant. She is

from the family of the outstanding mare, Imp. Afternoon by Imp. Prince Palatine, dam of The Nut, Today and Afterglow, and Bottle Green's two-year-old son, Olney, by Burgoo King, is considered a promising youngster, having won the Ravisloe Stake at Washington Park against keen competition. Olney, a member of the Walmac training stable, was named in honor of the new oil center of Illinois, property that is being developed by the Pure Oil Company.

Other mares at Walmac include Beaming Over by Imp. North Star III. out of Bandello by Kingston, which has a filly by Gallant Fox, and is the dam of the stakes winner, Bow and Arrow. Other mares on the farm are Dame Marian by Gallant Fox out of Marianne by Imp. Prince Palatine, her second dam Marian Hood, the dam of the stakes winner Sunbonnet, and her third dam Maid Marian, the dam of the great English sire Polymelus; Gala Flight by Imp. Sir Gallahad III. out of Imp. Star Flight by Sun Star, is a full sister to Insko, stakes winner and successful young sire; Dryad by Peter Pan out of Shy Missie by Ayrshire is half-sister to the stakes winner Col. Vennie; Picoline, by Son-in-Law out of Picric by Imp. Voter, is dam of the stakes winner Piccolo; Swank by Imp. Chicle out of Pantalette by Broomstick, is half-sister to the stakes winners Pantella and Trumpery, and has a foal at her side by Chance Play; and Native Wit by Fair Play out of Nature's Smile, a stakes winner in France, by the French horse Rabelais, the next dam of which is

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Nature, the dam of the stakes winners Naturlist, Chiclet and Carnation.

Of outstanding interest at Walmac is the 19-stall barn placed on an eminence and surrounded by low, evergreen planting, every detail of which was planned by the master himself. There are two hospital stalls with opposite exposures, screened and perfectly equipped. The foaling stalls open at each side of the attendant's room; and a complete dispensary is provided. There are chests for the blankets, and saddles of every type, a crusher for feeds that is supplied from enormous bins above; a storage place for hay and straw on the second floor where carloads of grain are kept in mouse-proof compartments.

On a distant part of the farm is the "tobacco unit" with two model tenant houses and a 14-acre barn of most modern construction.

An avenue from the Maysville pike leads directly to the farm office, a white clapboard building with garage, scales and parking space nearby. A small entrance hall opens into the general office on one side, the private office on the other. Above the open fireplace in the private office is a print of Salvator, and other walls are hung with photographs of McIlvain's favorite horses.

In all of this is reflected the vision, the interest and care of Robert Wallace McIlvain. But the house itself bespeaks the personality, the gracious sweetness of his

wife, the former Patricia Ikard, of Henrietta, Texas, daughter of W. S. Ikard, one of the best-known pioneer ranchmen and bankers of the Lone Star state. He was born in Mississippi, moving to Texas with his parents in 1852 when he was five years old. His father, Dr. Milton Ikard, physician, teacher and rancher, served in the Texas legislature for many years and was a member of the convention that framed the constitution for Texas in 1876.

Mrs. McIlvain's mother was Kate Lewis, daughter of a Georgia cotton planter, Col. E. D. Lewis, who emigrated to Texas, built a flour mill, conducted a mercantile and ranching business, and became one of the wealthiest men of the state. The family of both Mr. and Mrs. Ikard originally came from Virginia.

W. S. Ikard was probably one of the first men in America to buy protection from outlaws. Each month he paid \$200 in cash and six beeves to Quanah Parker, notorious chief of the Comanche Indians, to keep his tribe from raiding the Ikard cattle herds on the ranches he operated in Clay, Archer and Greer counties. The ranches covered an area of 266,000 acres, and the cattle herds were among the most celebrated in the West. He also achieved distinction in being the first man to take registered Hereford cattle into Texas, and he won all of the important prizes at shows throughout the country. Two of the bulls that were in his first herd came directly from the ownership of Queen Victoria, and the

British royal crest was stamped on their horns. The State of Texas has erected a monument in Henrietta to his memory as being the founder of the Hereford cattle industry in the Southwest. For many years he was president of the Henrietta National bank, and was one of the first bankers in that section of the state. Ikard gave the land for the town of Henrietta, and donated the land and building for the First Baptist church in the city.

During the War Between the States, when Ikard was a lad of 16, he served as a scout in Billy Mason's company of Texans that did frontier duty, fighting against the Indians. His brother and business partner, E. F. Ikard, served as one of the first captains of the world-famous Texas Rangers, patrolling throughout Texas. And while the Rangers were paid by the state to fight the Indians and bandits, the officers were men of importance who volunteered their services to the communities in which they lived to give protection against the dangers that stalked the frontiers.

The McIlvains have made their home in cities for many years but the urge for a garden and thoroughbreds, and a Kentucky background, finally took form and Walmac came into being. Mrs. McIlvain visited the storage warehouses and out-of-the-way shops of Chicago, picking up pieces of old mahogany that once graced the proud, brownstone mansions of the Gold

Coast, furniture of a period that is remarkably suited to the home for which she bought it.

The house is entered from a screened and awninged porch that forms a delightful outdoor living room. The hall, with its winding stair, like all the lower floor, is carpeted in mulberry, with walls of off-white tint. An English grandfather's clock of Elliott make stands at the left of the double entrance doors, and a table under the stair holds a handsome bronze group, "Wild Horses," by the French sculptor, F. Moreau.

A guest room is on the right, and on the left is the living room with its old hand-carved mantel, its group of bay windows hung with flowered chintz in harmonizing colors, and its deep recess at the far end that opens on the garden side.

Above the mantel hangs a canvas by Parton depicting a pastoral scene beside the Hudson river. An empire card table at the side holds miniatures of George and Martha Washington, and a three-branch candelabra of French gilt and prisms. Keshan and Feraghan rugs are used at various places over the carpet. A table in the window recess holds an ancient Chinese bronze fighting cock on a teakwood base. Another rare Chinese piece is the mirror that hangs above a slant-top mahogany desk.

The dining room, opening at the rear of the hall, has walls of cool Adam green, with an Ispahan Oriental

rug and chintz draperies picking up the color theme. Above the mantel hangs an oval mirror, and the mantel holds a lovely pair of Waterford candelabra to match the Irish crystal chandelier made in 1800 and imported from Ontlegh Tower in Kent, the seat of the Earl of Drax. A flower canvas hangs above the Empire sideboard with its pair of old knife boxes and English Sheffield silver. A large Canton punch bowl holds the place of importance on the serving table, and the shelves of a cabinet are filled with treasures in crystal and silver.

The study is a room of special charm and interest. Above the early New England knee-hole desk hangs a fine painting of English setters, "On the Alert," by Thomas Blinks, R. I., and on the desk is a delightful bronze group, "Hard Heads," by Hughlette Wheeler, a faithful interpretation of a southern Negro on an obstinate mule. Between the windows that are hung with crewel-embroidered linens, hangs a Herring print, "Full Cry," while English prints of the Bachelor's Hall series adorn other walls. The Oriental rug in the study is particularly beautiful.

The upstairs bedrooms are done in lovely shades. One is in peach and brown, the soft tones blending into the rich mahogany. On a chest of drawers is a photograph of Robert McIlvain, Jr., young Yale graduate who is following in his father's footsteps as an oil producer. His room at Walmac has twin mahogany beds,

while carpet and draperies bear out a color plan of green. A bronze of western inspiration forms the base of the bedside lamp.

The guest room has lavender walls, a pineapple four-post bed with dresser and chest to match, while the chairs are graceful early Empire.

Commodious linen presses line the walls of an upstairs hall, and at the rear, overlooking gardens and pastures, is a spacious living room with five large windows, each framing a lovely vista. Sofas and lounge chairs, tables and lamps make it wonderfully livable.

The service end of the house is as complete as the master's apartments. The large white-tiled kitchen has every electric device that makes domestic service one of the fine arts, and the butler's pantry is a tap room in miniature.

At the right of the house is a green-garden, a charming spot of shade among holly and hawthorne and pines. A path leads from the rear of the house to the vegetable and cutting garden with its broad turf walks, and on to a crystal pool, a reservoir that is one of the beauty spots of Walmac.

Hemlock and bush honeysuckle hedges border the perennial garden where an avenue of pink dogwoods leads to a terrace centered by a circular lily pool. Beyond the terrace, where weeping Japanese cherries drop their pink rosettes and flowering crab apples perfume all the garden in the early spring, the deeper hues of

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autumn, marigolds and ageratum, golden glow and
asters, are having their last fling before the frost,
bringing to mind the lovely verses of Bliss Carman:

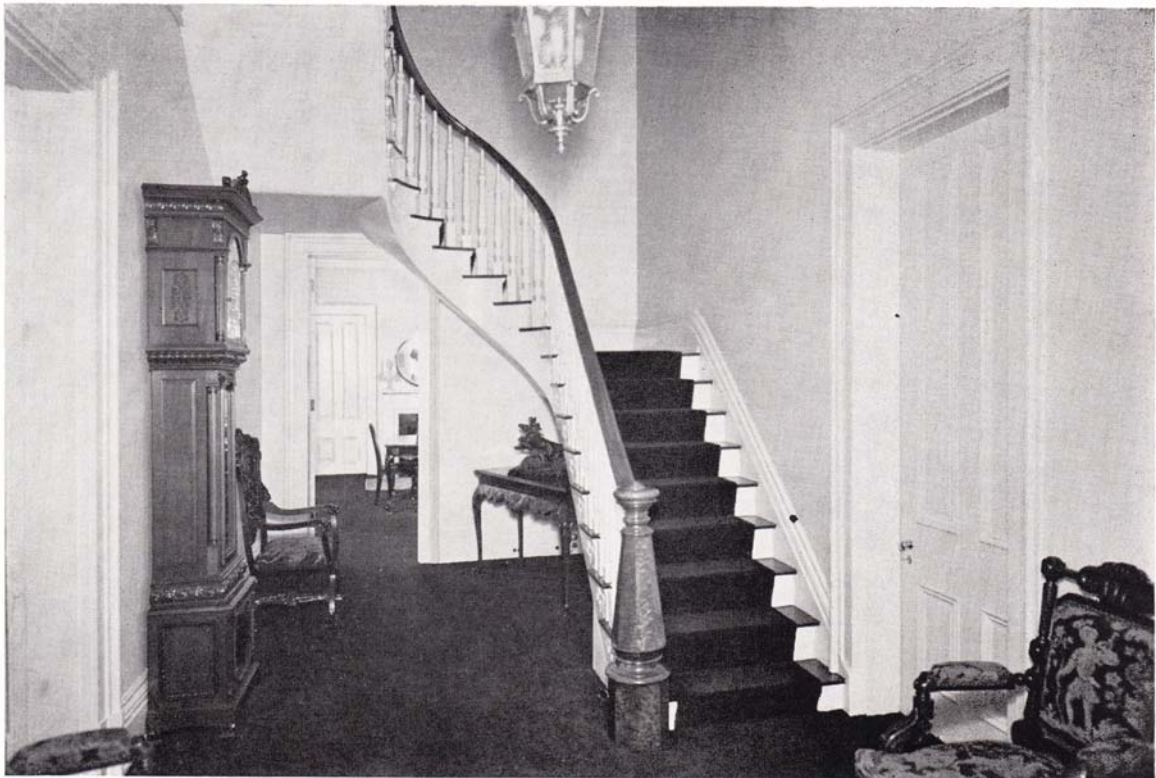
There is something in the autumn
that is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood;
And my heart is like a rhyme,
With the yellow and the purple
and the crimson keeping time.

The scarlet of the maples can
shake me like a cry
Of bugles going by.
And my lonely spirit thrills
To see the frosty asters like
smoke upon the hills.



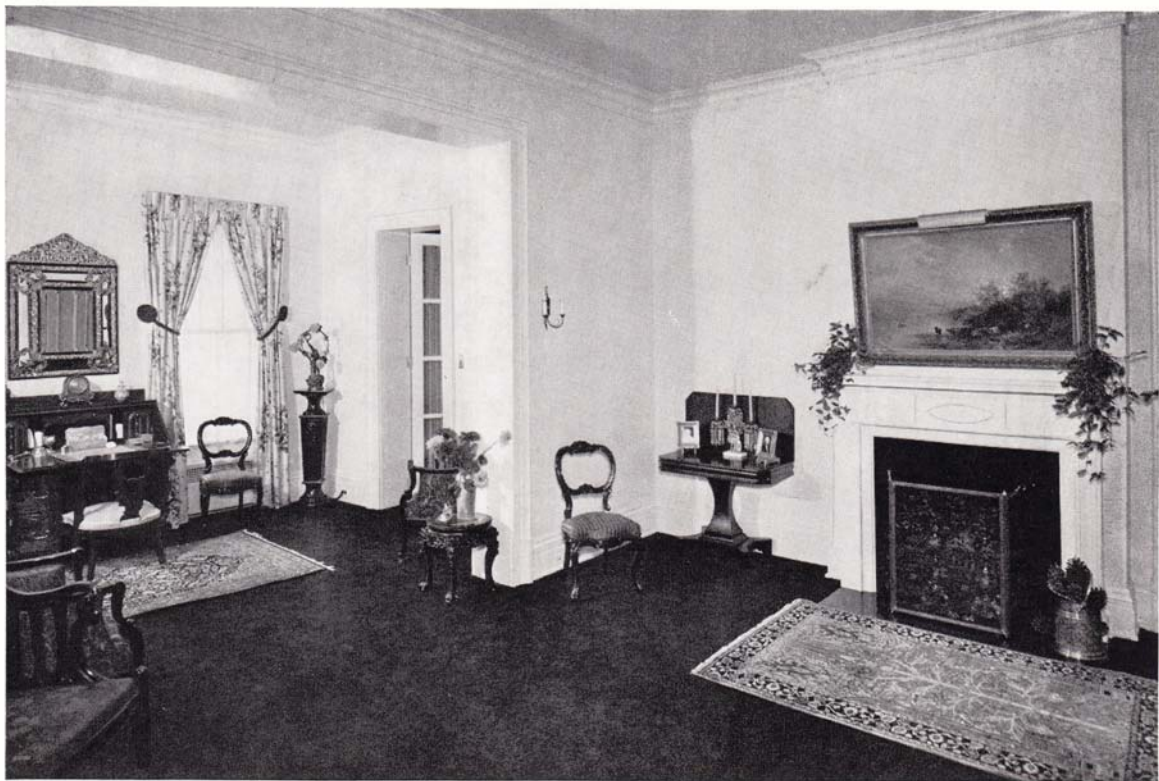
WALMAC FARM

Lafayette Studio



HALL, LOOKING INTO DINING ROOM

Lafayette Studio



WALMAC LIVING ROOM

Lafayette Studio



STUDY AT WALMAC FARM

Lafayette Studio

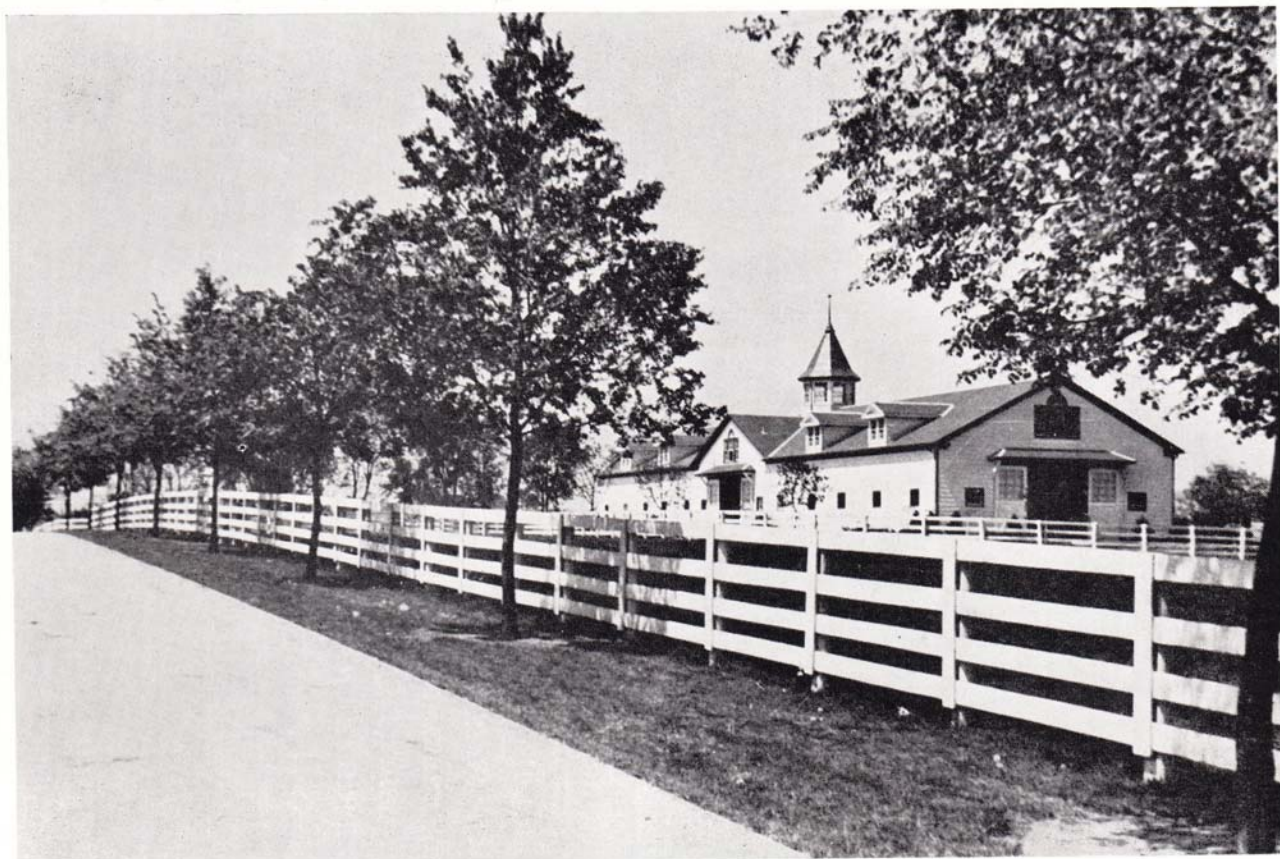


UPSTAIRS LOUNGE

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DOGWOOD AVENUE TO GARDEN Lafayette Studio



BEAUTIFUL McILVAIN BARN

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SWANK, WITH A FOAL
BY HIGH TIME

BOTTLE GREEN AND HER
FOAL BY SICKLE