

**MARYLAND MANOR**

**CARROLL AND ASSOCIATES INC.**

**5201 MARYLAND WAY  
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027**

**CONTACT  
NELDA RAPP  
(615) 370-8351**

10/10/01  
10/10/01  
10/10/01

10/10/01  
10/10/01  
10/10/01  
10/10/01

10/10/01  
10/10/01  
10/10/01

10/10/01  
10/10/01  
10/10/01  
10/10/01



## Maryland Farms

No organization or institution has been more influential in setting the pace for Brentwood's lifestyle than Maryland Farms. The institution began as a pacesetter. For many years, the name Brentwood was synonymous with fine-blooded horses. So was the name Maryland Farms.

Maryland Farms had its beginning in 1937 when J. Truman Ward, then the owner of WLAC Radio Station in Nashville, bought 100 acres of stump land along Old Hickory Boulevard near the village of Brentwood. He later added other acreage, making Maryland Farms, named for his wife, Mary, a 400-acre spread unsurpassed in the South.

Ward's love for horses manifested itself in this showplace for fine horses. He began by building a twenty-stall stable measuring 44 by 155 feet with an interior of wormy chestnut and knotty pine ceilings. Twenty by twenty foot stalls were finished in oak. Both American saddle horses and Tennessee walking horses were stabled there in the beginning for training. Other barns and pastures enclosed within the farm's five-mile white fence were home to 50 brood mares.

### American Ace

In 1941 Ward bought seven mares and a stallion named American Ace, who achieved worldwide fame as an outstanding show performer, from Spindletop Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. American Ace was the leading sire of his breed in the late 1940's. He died in 1953.

Many notables visited Maryland Farms. Some who bought its horses were Gene Autry, Barbara Stanwyck, and Norrie Goff of the radio team "Lum and Abner." Also, industrialist Victor Emanuel came to purchase horses and remained to locate a plant at Nashville, Vultee Aircraft Corporation, now AVCO.

Maryland Manor, the Ward residence, was built in 1941-42. The two-story Colonial-style structure was built in fine architectural style of classic design and featured over 7,500 feet of living space.

After the death of American Ace, the Ward family replaced their horse operation with a cattle farm boasting over 200 head of Hereford cattle. In 1958, Maryland Farms once again became a horse farm, this time by lessee Edward Potter, founder and president of Commerce Union Bank and the Tennessee Thoroughbred Training Association, of which he was president. A three-eighths mile covered training track was moved from the Tennessee State Fairgrounds to Maryland Farms. There was also a five-eighths mile open track. During this period, there were over 100 horses in training at Maryland Farms. Middle Tennessee weather was deemed ideal for this type of operation.



Maintenance workers at Mooreland Mansion have talked with floating specters.

# A Tale of Two Mansions

*From working farm to  
working neighborhood*

With two major office parks anchored by picturesque historic homes, Brentwood is unique in Tennessee—and perhaps the Southeast—in the way its businesses have joined forces to preserve the past and, in fact, put it to work for the city's future.

## *Style, Grace and Ghost Stories*

Alexander Moore was the fourth member of his family to have a hand in building Mooreland, the landmark Greek Revival plantation home that is now the well preserved focal point of Brentwood's Koger Center. Moore's grandfather, father and brother all held the deed to the property at separate times, and all died before the manor was built.

When the task passed to Alexander, the finished product was on a lesser scale than was originally planned, and a wing on one side was drastically reduced—thus the off centered front door.

One hundred years and several gen-

erations later, the Moores sold the 28 room house. Mooreland's current inhabitants—the law firm owned by attorney Kirk C. Waite—have inherited the ghost of Ruth Moore. She was Robert Moore's niece, whose death in her upstairs bedroom on the eve of her wedding remains unexplained.

So far, Waite hasn't seen her. But his employees say they have.

One evening Waite got a call from a cleaning woman at the law firm. "She was at the foot of the basement steps and wouldn't move. We had to go get her," he said. She had seen a woman in a blue dress float down the steps and



PHOTOS BY DAVID HAUJD

Jim Ward remembers visits from Andy Devine to his Maryland Farms home.

point out places she had missed in cleaning. Blue, Waite said, was the color of the dress Ruth Moore was buried in.

Among other stories about Mooreland are those related to its use as a hospital after the Battle of Franklin, when Mrs. Moore sent 26 slaves far and wide to bring in anyone who was wounded and dying. Local residents still claim to see gray-coated men wandering about the grounds of Mooreland.

## *Working in a Dignified Manor*

From 1942 until 1958, the focal point of Tennessee's most well known horse farms, Maryland Farms, was the lovely Ward mansion. Today, Maryland Farms is a progressive, 400-acre office park, whose developers, like those of the Koger Center, have made large capital improvements in Brentwood and are avid participants in the community. And its focal point is still the Ward mansion.

Only now, the forty-seven year old manor home helps convey a feeling of community throughout the park, and will take one of Maryland Farm's tenants well into the future.

Where famous horses once strode the grounds and famous horsemen once lingered to visit, the Ward mansion is now the home of the law offices of Gordon & Bottorff. "Our objective was to preserve the character of the house as the center of Maryland Farms, and make it a functional structure for our firm," said attorney Ed Gordon, partner in the firm occupying the mansion since 1981.

Jim Ward, who lived in the home from ages 11 to 24, now spends his days in his office at Maryland Farms Developers across the street from his old house.

"We had a rope swing in the big tree out front," Ward said. "We called it the grandchildren's tree because they all stayed on it. The rope was still there the last time I looked.

"People were always coming in and out of that house," he said. "It was a real entertainment center."

Today, Tom Bottorff's law office operates in the room that was Ward's boyhood bedroom.

## A Look at Brentwood



DAVID MUDD

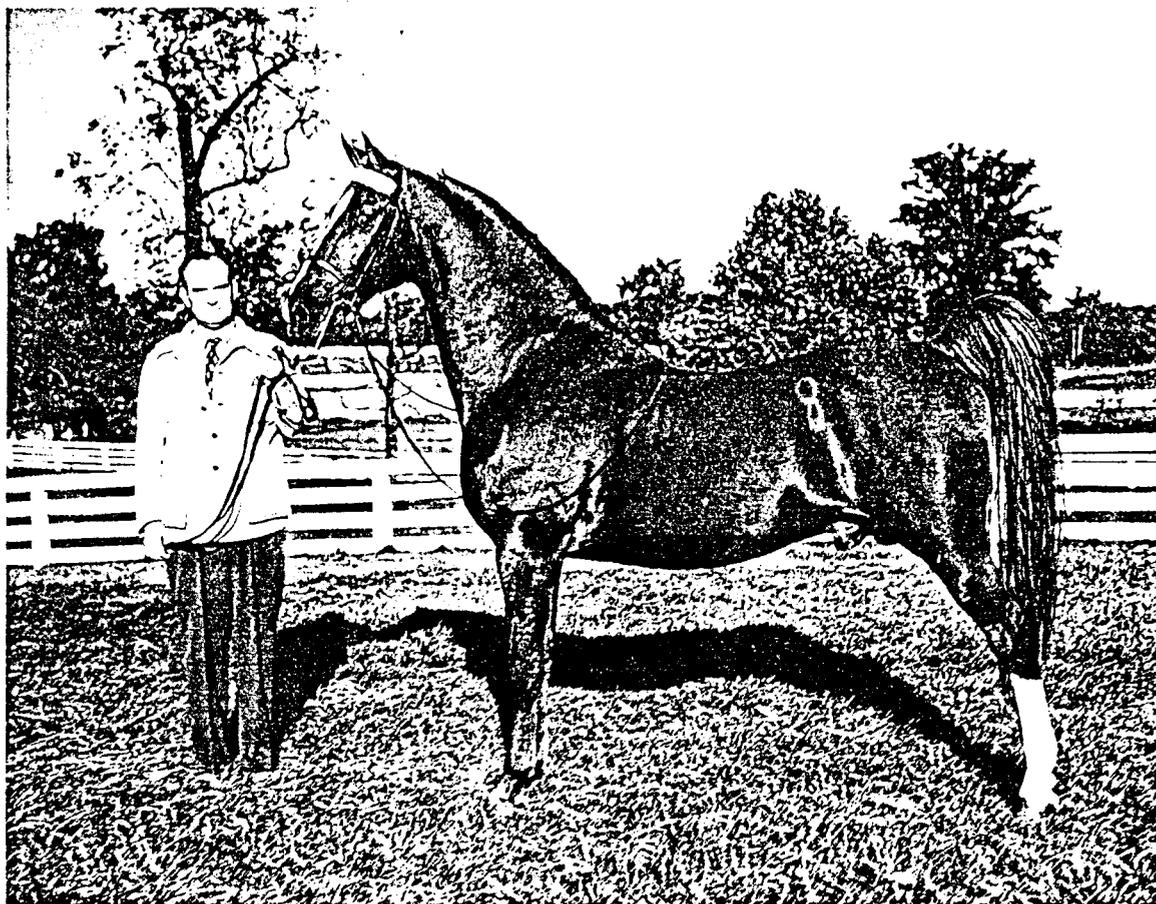
## And a Pearfest Near the Pear Trees

Bradford pear trees, along with lanterns, horses and stone fences, have come to be a symbol of Brentwood. When more than 200 of the trees were planted along Franklin Road in a 1983 city beautification project, the idea caught on. Now scarcely a Brentwood business, residence or common area goes without a pear tree.

What better way to celebrate

Brentwood's newfound flora than a day of food, festivities, children's games, art, crafts and entertainment, all on the grounds of the Koger Center's Mooreland Mansion?

Usually held on the third Saturday in May, Pearfest is sponsored by the Band Parents Organization of Brentwood High Schools, with support of the Chamber of Commerce and other local civic groups.



J. Truman Ward, founder of Maryland Farms, with American Ace.

Maryland Manor, the Ward residence, was built in 1941-42. The two-story Colonial-style structure was built in fine architectural style of classic design and featured over 7,500 feet of living space.

After the death of American Ace, the Ward family replaced their horse operation with a cattle farm boasting over 200 head of Hereford cattle. In 1958, Maryland Farms once again became a horse farm, this time by lessee Edward Potter, founder and president of Commerce Union Bank and the Tennessee Thoroughbred Training Association, of which he was president. A three-eighths mile covered training track was moved from the Tennessee State Fairgrounds to Maryland Farms. There was also a five-eighths mile open track. During this period, there were over 100 horses in training at Maryland Farms. Middle Tennessee weather was deemed ideal for this type of operation.