

# THE WHISPERING HOLLOWES GAZETTE

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## Modern Mansion Rises on Town Outskirts

### Local Inventor's Grand Design Challenges Traditional Architecture

In a departure from our town's modest architectural traditions, inventor Edgar Hollowbrook's controversial mansion nears completion on the western outskirts of Whispering Hollows. The imposing structure, standing three stories tall with its distinctive glass-domed observatory, has become the talk of the community.

"It's certainly something to behold," remarked Town Council Chairman George Whitaker. "While some might consider it rather grand for our humble community, Mr. Hollowbrook has at least had the courtesy to build away from the town center, preserving the traditional character of our main streets." The mansion, designed by Hollowbrook himself in collaboration with Boston architect James Morton, combines modern Art Deco styling with what Hollowbrook calls "scientific innovations." The structure spans an impressive 6,000 square feet—nearly ten times the size

of typical local homes—and features a circular central tower rising 45 feet from ground to observatory dome.

Among the mansion's notable features are curved windows of unprecedented size, chrome architectural details, and what Hollowbrook describes as "an advanced electrical system." The building includes a two-story library, a conservatory, and multiple laboratories where Hollowbrook intends to pursue his various scientific interests.

Local contractor Samuel Hayes, whose team has been working on the project for the past eighteen months, expressed admiration for the building's innovative design. "Mr. Hollowbrook's specifications have been exacting," Hayes noted. "The electrical system alone required bringing in specialists from Boston. I've never seen anything like it in thirty years of building." The property, situated on ten acres of wooded land, will be approached by a winding drive

lined with newly planted elm trees. Hollowbrook has retained much of the natural landscape, integrating the mansion into the existing hillside rather than clearing the entire plot as is common practice.

When asked about the mansion's departure from local architectural norms, Hollowbrook responded through his secretary: "Progress requires us to look forward, not backward. This house represents not just a home, but a laboratory for the future."

The mansion is expected to be completed by late August, with Hollowbrook planning to take up residence before the first frost.

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## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CHANGES

The Ladies' Auxiliary Committee for the annual Whispering Hollows Strawberry Festival announced several changes to this year's program during yesterday's meeting at the Methodist Church Hall. Despite the ongoing economic difficulties, the committee remains determined to maintain this beloved summer tradition, now in its twenty-third year.

Mrs. Eleanor Blackwood, committee chairwoman, revealed that this year's festival will introduce a new "Depression-Conscious" category in the preserves competition. "We want to recognize the ingenuity of our local homemakers who have found creative ways to stretch their strawberry harvests," Mrs. Blackwood explained. "Entries using strawberry substitutes or extending

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preserves with apple will be judged separately from traditional recipes."

The festival, scheduled for June 30th, will also feature a reduced admission price of 10 cents for adults and 5 cents for children under twelve. "We understand these are difficult times," Mrs. Blackwood noted, "but we believe it's more important than ever to maintain our community traditions."

Local farmer Henry Jenkins has generously offered the use of his north field for the festival grounds, as the usual location behind the schoolhouse is currently being used for the town's victory garden project.

Entertainment will include performances by the Whispering Hollows Junior Band and a special appearance by the Hammond Sisters, whose rendition of "We're in the Money" at last month's church social was much acclaimed.

The pie-eating contest, traditionally a highlight of the festival, will continue as planned, though portion sizes will be modestly reduced. "We must all do our part," commented Mrs. Blackwood, "but there's no reason we can't have a little fun while we're at it."

Those wishing to enter preserves in any category should deliver their entries to Mrs. Blackwood's home no later than June 28th. Entry forms are available at Perkins' General Store.

Related: See page 6 for Mrs. Blackwood's "Economy Strawberry Preserve" recipe

