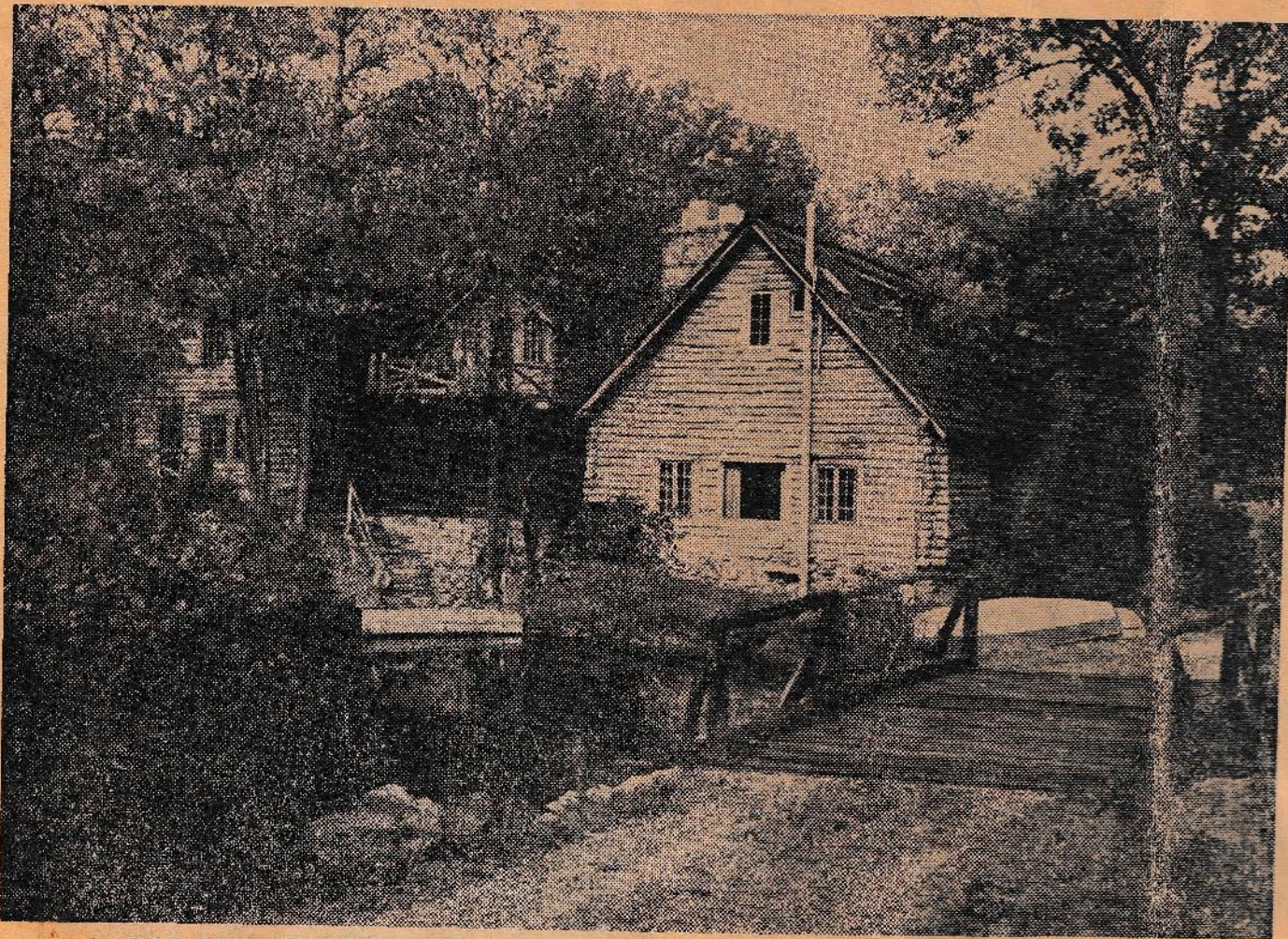


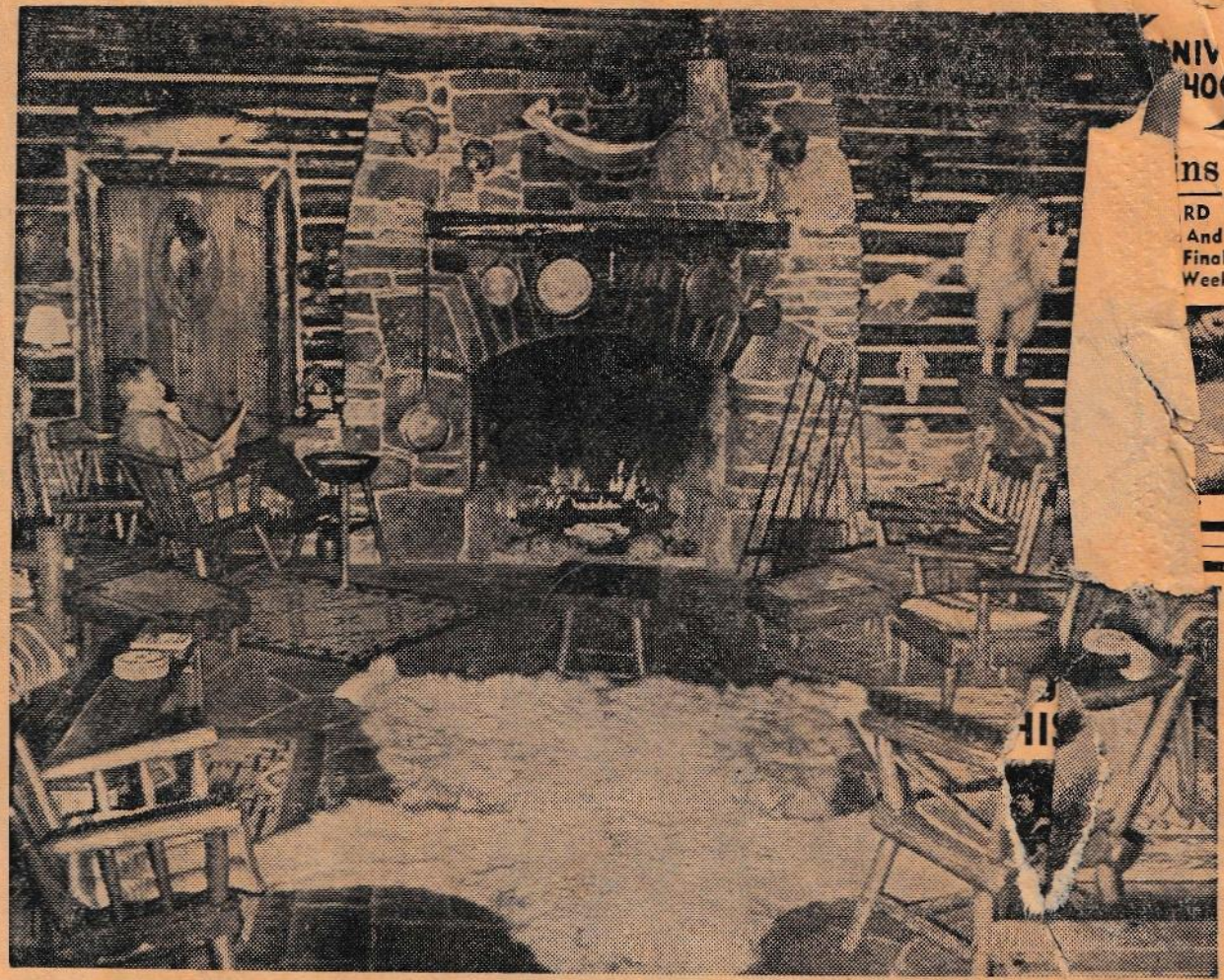
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Fairmount ANNEX
 AFTERNOON SHOWING
 WALT DISNEY'S
 "BIG RED"
 Plus—Cartoons—3 Stooges
 EVENING SHOWING
 B. Lancaster-Karl Malden
 "R... of Alcatraz"
 Movie Guide



LOG CABIN LODGE at Paradise Game Preserve borders on a pond stocked with trout.

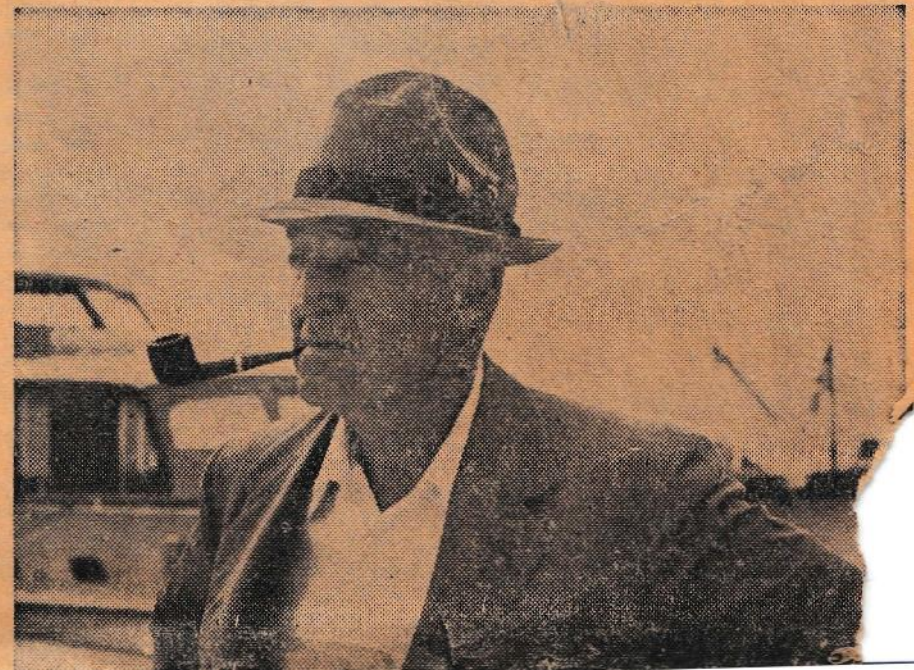


POLAR BEAR RUG covers floor in front of one of the three huge fireplaces in the lodge.

THE LATE A. C. GILBERT'S GAME PRESERVE

Paradise In Hamden

Editor's Note: Unseen and its existence unknown by a largesegment of the New Haven area population is the Paradise Game Preserve in Hamden inhabited by all manner of deer, fish and game birds in their natural habitat. Crated by the late A. C. Gilbert, it is now owned by banker G. Harold Welch who gav special permission to The Register Feature Magazine to tour the area with camea and notebook for the photographs on this page and the story on Page 2.





ABOVE: G. Harold Welch, New Haven banker and resident of Mount Carmel, relaxes in the trophy room at the lodge. The mounted animals were shot by A. C. Gilbert who created Paradise Game Preserve in a wooded area of Hamden.



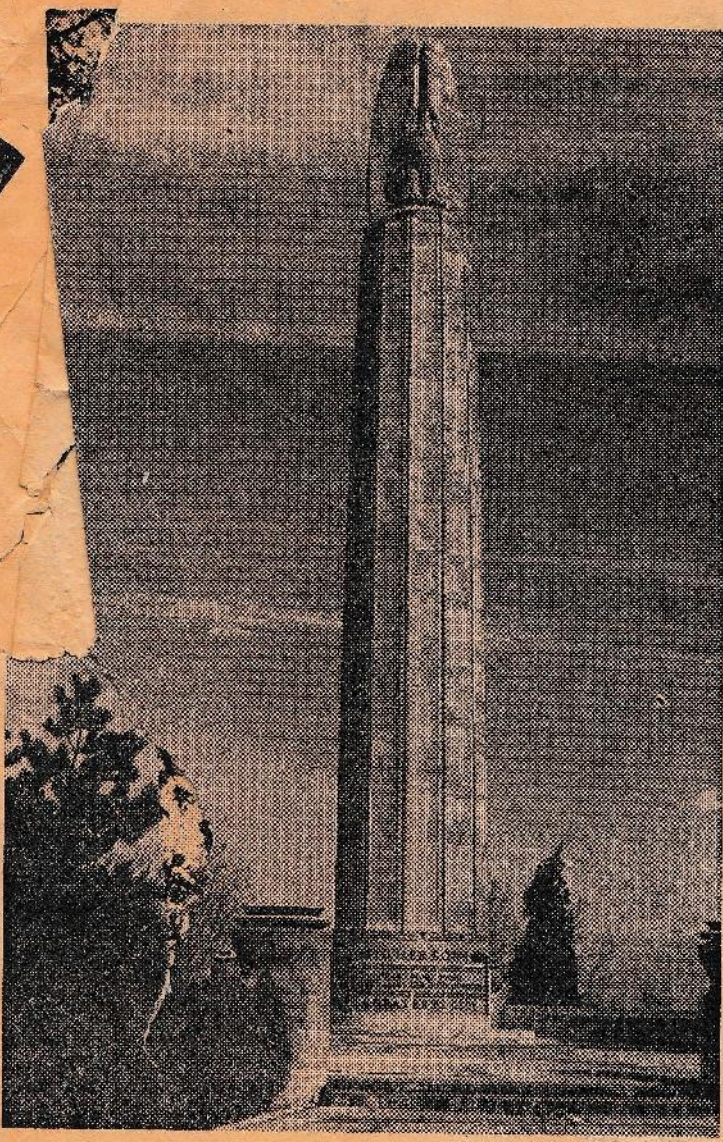
THE LATE A. C. GILBERT, who loved the great outdoors, is shown photographed at a marina a few years before his death.



ABOVE: Wild mallard ducks make their home in some of the seven ponds in the preserve. Here two of them fly off as cameraman approaches.



RIGHT: Melville Roberts (on left), manager of the preserve, converses with Mr. Welch, current owner. Mounted bear in background stands 10 feet and weighed 1600 pounds when shot by sportsman-manufacturer A. C. Gilbert.



THE WORLD WAR I memorial on top of Walnut Hill, New Britain, is dedicated to the sons of the Hardware City who went away to war and never returned.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE memorials in the State is the World War I monument on the summit of Walnut Hill Park, New Britain. This monument, pictured above, is a massive shaft of limestone, 97 feet high and surmounted by stone eagles.

THE MONUMENT was dedicated in 1928. The shaft, reflected in a fountain-fed wading pool, and lighted by floodlights at night, is visible for many miles. The inscription on the monument reads:

"To Her Sons Who Gave Their Lives In The World War Their Names Are Here Inscribed; Their Memory Lives In The Hearts Of A Grateful City."

IT WAS THE NOTED HISTORIAN George Bancroft who said of Connecticut, over a century ago: "There is no State in the Union, and now not any in the world, in whose history, if I were a citizen, I could find more of which to be proud and less which I would wish to blot."

THE TOWN OF BERLIN was named for the German capital, in honor of Frederick the Great, who had been an ally of England in the Seven Years' War. During World War I, because of hatred for the Kaiser and his troops, a movement was begun to change the name of the town, but nothing ever came of it.



1. For three-quarters of a century previous to 1875 Connecticut had two capital cities. What were they?
2. At one time Connecticut extended across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. True or false?
3. As one travels east from Manhattan what is the first Connecticut town one enters?
4. The "Nutmeg State" has been known by several other titles. Can you name one of them?
5. What is the highest point in Connecticut?
6. Was Connecticut one of the original 13 states?
7. What star on the U. S. flag is the Connecticut star?
8. What great prelate of the Catholic Church in Belgium visited New Haven and Hartford at the close of World War I?
9. Who placed a Connecticut Yankee in an English court in one of his books?
10. A martyr and a traitor came out of Connecticut during the Revolution. Who were they?

(Answers will be found on Page 8)

Patrol Guards Surviving Deer, Birds And Fish

(PHOTOS ON PAGE 1)

With fish jumping in the backyard pond, deer running wild through the fields and pheasants, ducks and quail flying overhead, a virtual paradise for the sportsman still exists at Paradise Game Preserve in Hamden, created by the late A. C. Gilbert.

Located north of the Wilbur Cross Parkway in the western central part of Hamden, the game preserve is a monument to a man, whose life-long love was the outdoors.

Acquired within the last year by G. Harold Welch, a director of the First New Haven National Bank, and a resident of Mount Carmel, the game preserve is only a fraction of its former size, but it still retains its charm and air of elegant living and past good times.

During its heyday, Paradise Game Preserve was sprawled over some 700 acres. Within its fence-enclosed confines there were a herd of some 150 deer; seven well-stocked ponds containing varieties of trout fish; 2,500 pheasants and a similar number of mallard ducks; a kennel for hunting dogs; wild turkeys, partridge and other wild birds; a long, low log-cabin lodge; acres of forest land and the second largest laurel stands in the state.

While the game preserve contains less than a third of the acreage that it once did, it retains many of the features that made it a boyhood dream come true.

Mr. Gilbert chose the name of Paradise Game Preserve, because he felt that the land was really a "paradise" bounded by Paradise Avenue. The

longer he owned the land, the more he was convinced that the name he chose for it was appropriate.

NATIVE OF OREGON

A. C. Gilbert, who founded the toy company that bears his name, was born and brought up on a farm in Oregon. He inherited the love of the outdoors from his father, a pioneer who helped settle Oregon. At age seven the boy shot his first deer and then went on to bag 640 of them throughout his life.

He never got tired looking at deer and that is why he stocked his game preserve with them.

Young Gilbert's early hobbies involved action and movement. The boy showed this at an early age, combining it with a disposition that leaned toward running a business.

Before the turn of the century, Oregon State officials had publicly declared that squirrels were a nuisance and were doing much



FROM THE PORCH of the stock

damage. The state offered a bounty of three cents for each squirrel skin brought in.

Young Gilbert, who was then seven or eight, set out a lot of traps and took care of them all summer. When fall came he had more than 500 skins and collected the state's bounty for each of them.

Brought up on a farm, Gilbert's chores as a youth included tending several cows and carrying fire wood into the house.

Retaining the love of the outdoors, which he found "a wonderful diversion from business," it was natural for Mr. Gilbert, after coming to Connecticut, to seek a place where he could feel close to nature.

In the late 1920's Mr. Gilbert began buying up acreage from farmers after locating an area where the laurel stands were particularly beautiful. He continued buying land in the area for the next 14 years and by 1942 he had bought up more than 700 acres, according to Melville J. T. Roberts, who had been his superintendent, in charge of farming and maintenance of the game preserve.

Currently, Paradise Game Preserve is bounded by Paradise Avenue on the north and south, by Benham Street and Cooper Lane on the east and west, Dunbar Hill Road on the south, and Hill Street on the north.

PATROLLED DAILY

It now covers about 190 acres and has four miles of fence around the property, which is protected and patrolled daily.

All of the land was enclosed with a nine foot fence to keep the deer in and the poachers out.

In 1929 Mr. Gilbert started



THE MILES OF PATHS through Paradise Game Preserve present many picturesque scenes, like this one. Almost completely covered by fallen leaves, it seems to dissolve into nothingness around the bend.

A Sportsman Had His Game Preserve



FROM THE PORCH of the Paradise Game Preserve lodge, the late A. C. Gilbert could throw a line into the trout-stocked pond. The pond is so small the fish couldn't get very far away.

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Brought up on a farm, Gilbert's chores as a youth included tending several cows and carrying fire wood into the house.

Retaining the love of the outdoors, which he found "a wonderful diversion from business," it was natural for Mr. Gilbert, after coming to Connecticut, to seek a place where he could feel close to

building a log cabin lodge, completing it in 1932. He had it constructed of hand-hewn chestnut logs. Even the floors are made of broad chestnut planks. A perfectionist, Mr. Gilbert hired old time Norwegian and Swedish ship builders, who were known for their expert craftsmanship, to do the work.

The lodge is a two-story structure and is long and rambling. It can accommodate 14 persons comfortably for sleeping. It was the site of many hunting parties from 1939 through 1947.

The lodge is very attractively furnished with rustic furniture. Wild animal and fish trophies are distributed throughout the interior. Fur rugs and pillows of bear

not be choked. There are currently about 90 acres of laurel on the preserve.

Mr. Roberts also supervised a herd of 30 Jersey cattle. Their milk, which was sold in the cafeteria of the A.C. Gilbert Co. factory on Peck Street, was credited with having a high butter fat content.

TRAIL BLAZER

Mr. Gilbert spent many afternoons on the grounds of the game preserve. Loving outdoor work, he cut down many a tree with an axe and blazed many a trail through the wilderness.

He did his own surveying for the construction of ponds and roads on the property.

Being a perfectionist, he wanted things to be just right. He would

trout, bald eagle, king salmon, porpoise, Rocky Mountain goat, mountain sheep, elk, albino skunk, mountain lion, coyote, brush wolf, moose, caribou, polar bear, timber wolf, many varieties of pheasants, golden eagle, otter, Arctic fox, wolverine, porcupine, beaver, musk ox, walrus opossum, pronghorn antelope, muskellunge, badger, lynx, land-locked salmon, marten, and owls.

Because of his perfectionist qualities, he would only permit prize specimens of the animals he shot to be mounted and displayed.

Mr. Gilbert started chopping off parts of the game preserve in 1937 and sold lots for homes, continuing the practice until 1960, by which time he had disposed of some 500 acres of the

began buying up acreage from farmers after locating an area where the laurel stands were particularly beautiful. He continued buying land in the area for the next 14 years and by 1942 he had bought up more than 700 acres, according to Melville J. T. Roberts, who had been his superintendent, in charge of farming and maintenance of the game preserve.

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All of the land was enclosed with a nine foot fence to keep the deer in and the poachers out.

In 1929 Mr. Gilbert started

the structure.

Heavy wooden exposed timbers and three large stone fireplaces set the atmosphere in the lodge. All of the decorations have a manly feel to them. It is a place where a man can feel close to and rub shoulders with the great outdoors.

After the lodge was completed, Mr. Gilbert had a creek dammed up to form a pond at the rear of the building. It is so close that he could stand on the second story bedroom balcony, cast a line into the pond and catch fish immediately upon arising in the morning.

The pond was always well-stocked with brown, brook and rainbow trout.

HUNTERS HAD TO PAY

He put the game preserve on a commercial basis. Hunting parties paid for the privilege of shooting pheasants and ducks on the preserve.

Some of the outstanding sportsmen, bankers and brokers of this country and Canada came to the preserve to shoot the birds. The preserve also had wild turkey, woodcock and partridge.

For the sporting shoots, Mr. Gilbert raised 2,500 ducks and a similar number of pheasants on the game preserve. At designated times the fowl would be let loose from a duck walk ramp and the sportsmen would shoot at them in flight.

This practice has been discontinued, however, and it is not likely to be resumed, according to Mr. Welch.

Mr. Gilbert, who loved to look at deer, did not permit hunting of the animals on his property, but he did weed out the numbers periodically to keep them from over-populating the preserve.

The number of the deer in the herd currently has been estimated by Mr. Roberts at about 30. About 700 apple trees are maintained on the grounds to provide food for the deer.

Mr. Roberts, a native of England, went to work for Mr. Gilbert in 1929. A former tin miner in England, Mr. Roberts had to learn about outdoor life and work from scratch. He supervised the building of 17 miles of roads and trails on the property and helped Mr. Gilbert build seven ponds and a score of bridges.

They did considerable drainage work and clearing of land to enable laurel plants to develop and flower. They had to clean the underbrush so the laurel would

exact and had specific ideas on most everything concerned with the preserve, from the exact location where trees and shrubs should be planted, to the shape, size and laying of a stone wall, to the position of a post for a fence. He always insisted on straight lines in fence building.

Mr. Roberts remembers him as "a very fair man." He says Mr. Gilbert would disregard hearsay and gossip about others, and wouldn't believe anything about another man until he learned it for himself.

An outstanding sportsman as well as a famous athlete at Yale, Mr. Gilbert did considerable hunting in Alaska and British Columbia, where he also owned a preserve.

The 300-odd mounted animals in the lodge, especially in the big game trophy room, are mute testimony to his marksmanship and the number of hours he spent hunting.

One of his prize trophies is a massive Alaskan brown bear that stands about 10 feet tall and weighed 1,600 pounds. There are other smaller bears in the big game trophy room as well as the skins of three bears now used as rugs.

In addition to the bears, there are trophies of various varieties of deer, bobcat, red fox, raccoon, Dolly Vardon and other types of

He is said to have developed \$800,000 worth of real estate in his time. Parts of Main Street, Hill Street, Paradise Avenue and West Shepard Avenue in Hamden were all part of the game preserve at one time. The 31-acre tract of land that is now Paradise Park was also once a part of the preserve.

Mr. Welch, formerly the senior vice president of the First New Haven National Bank, plans to maintain the 190 acres of the game preserve in its present state. Although he is not a big hunter, he enjoys fishing and horseback riding.

He says he plans to maintain the trophy room in the lodge, where his daughter, Miss Carolyn T. Welch, had a coming-out dinner party last September.

AIR OF SERENITY

Mr. Welch feels that the game preserve provides "a climate of serenity." He adds that there are very few commercial places where one can enjoy the type of atmosphere found on the game preserve.

He entertains various groups and business associates at the lodge and has held some meetings there. His four sons, Noble W., Perry, Wilford H., and G. Harold Welch Jr., all of whom are graduates of Yale, love the game preserve and have spent some very pleasant times there.



scenes, like this one. Almost around the bend.



"Pop's patients are so conditioned to TV doctors, Mom has to put makeup on him and play background music!"