

Seal Harbor Steamboat Wharf

Nelson Rockefeller at the Seal Harbor steamboat wharf, where one could catch the Norumbega side-wheeler to Bar Harbor and the Maine Central Railroad station at Hancock Point. This photo was probably taken in late summer, 1924, when J.D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his three oldest sons joined the rest of the family on Mount Desert Island after their trip West. As Abby Rockefeller wrote to her sister Lucy on August 29, 1924: **John and the three boys returned from the trip looking splendidly well. Nelson seems suddenly to have become a man. He weighs 150 pounds and except for his childish actions at moments, you would think he was very grown up.** (Dunham Family Collection, Courtesy of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.)

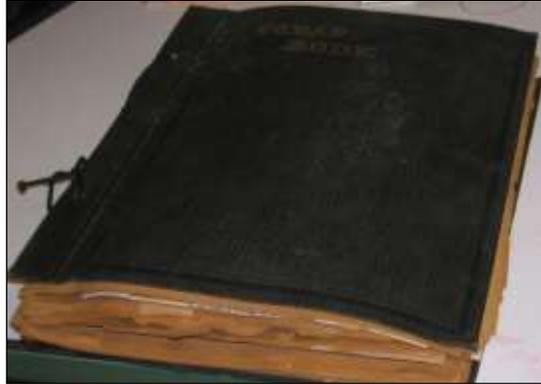


Back at the Eyrie on Mount Desert Island, their usual summer retreat from New York's bustle, Abby and J.D. Rockefeller, Jr., did what several other patrons of American Indian art did in the 1920s and 30s: They furnished a room with Navajo rugs, Pueblo pottery, Hopi baskets, Blackfoot carvings, Dakota quillwork and paintings by Taos artists. The "Indian Room" in their estate's small rest house annex was a favorite retreat for the couple over many summers. *Left:* Featured with an article about the 1931 Indian Tribal Arts Exposition, this photo presented a new idea: decorating one's home with American Indian furnishings – in "Earliest American" style.



The "Indian Room" created by Abby and J.D. Rockefeller, Jr., in the 1920s. Until Abby's death in 1948, they came here on an almost daily basis during summer stays in Maine. (Rockefeller Archive Center.)

These trips to the West provided my brothers and me with the opportunity to see Father's informal, fun-loving side. They were extraordinary adventures in every way – the train rides through spectacular country, the new and fascinating people, the wonderful camping and the special feeling you have when you are doing something interesting with members of your own family. They also gave me and my brothers an insight into how Father approached philanthropy, not always as a part of a grand design, but spontaneously because the chance to do something important had appeared suddenly before him. (David Rockefeller)

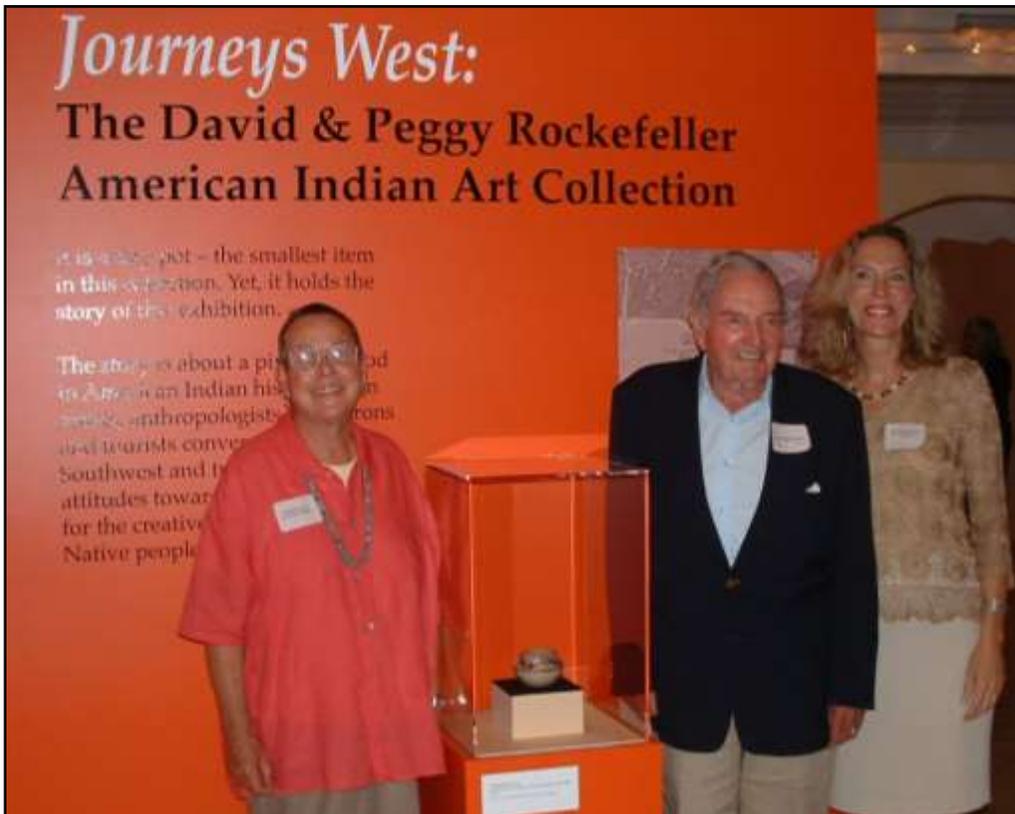


Abby and J.D. Rockefeller, Jr., expected their children to keep track of what they saw and learned on their journeys. Young David Rockefeller, who celebrated his 11th birthday during the family's 1926 Western trip, chronicled the journey in this scrapbook. (Rockefeller Archive Center.)

[This exhibition also includes a hands-on mock scrapbook/photo album comprised of trip photos from family albums and from photos of pages from DR's scrapbook – with a caption that reads: Please touch! This book features copies of pages from David Rockefeller's boyhood scrapbook, along with photographs from albums his brothers put together after the 1924 and 1926 Western journeys.]



Curator Bunny McBride walking David Rockefeller through the exhibit.



Exhibition designer Betts Swanton, David Rockefeller, Bunny McBride