



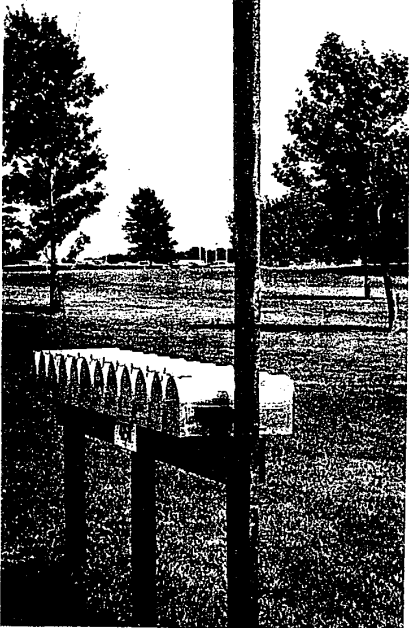
An enterprising member of a Livonia church fixed up an unusual holder for congregational epistles.

Carrying the mail

The messages and goods that come through Uncle Sam's postal service come in a great variety of shapes and sizes, and so do the containers that hold the mail for householders.

Driving around these suburbs in assorted seasons, Observer & Eccentric photographers Art Emanuel and Bob Woodring spotted mailboxes assuming many shapes and fitting in many ways into the surrounding environment.

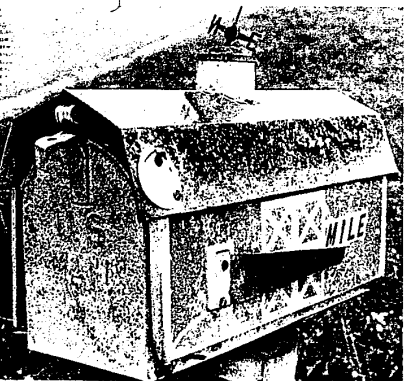
A few samples show that ingenuity in decoration doesn't stop with the outer walls of homes here.



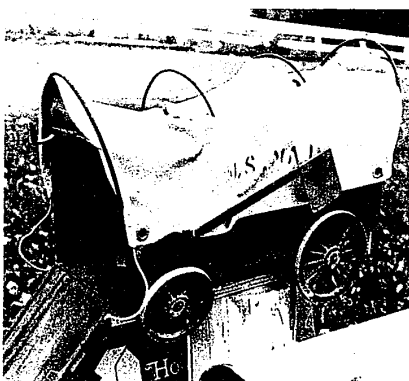
Passersby wonder if this mailbox is for the birds.



A gnarled stump forms a natural holder for this mailbox.



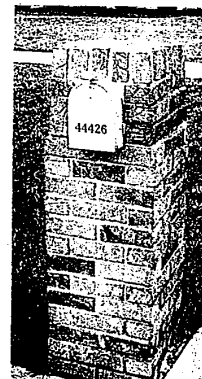
A mailbox can be disguised as a weathered barn.



Or as the kind of wagon that used to carry the mail.



Snoopy tells the mail tale. Up, there's mail to pick up; down, the doghouse is empty.



In newer subdivisions, mailboxes show up in decorative settings to blend with the architecture. The ones above and at the right are not only attractive but structurally sturdier than most boxes on posts.

Photos:
Art Emanuel
Bob Woodring