

Longtime resident preserves local history

Continued from Page 1

A return to the Midwest resulted in the Fox family's brief stay in Anderson, Ind., where McGriff was editor of the town paper, the Anderson Herald. Deciding to venture out on his own inspired McGriff's purchase of the Redford Record and the move of his family to Detroit.

It was September 1929, just one month before the infamous stock market crash. "He (McGriff) sunk his life savings into it (the Record)," Fox said.

Evidently able to remain above water during the Depression, McGriff's newspaper holdings expanded to nine other metro-area newspapers — including the Farmington Forum, which Fox started in 1937. In 1972, she started the Novi Sun-Forum.

Fox was initiated into the business one Christmas when she looked inside her stocking and found her father had given her the Southfield Sun.

Chamber lauds Fox

Continued from Page 1

Accepting her awards, Fox told the audience that, "The Oxford Dictionary has not enough words to explain the overflowing feelings of my heart tonight."

BEST KNOWN for her love of history, Fox was named to the Farmington Hills Historical Commission in 1975. In 1979, she formed a committee that completed an architectural and historical site survey of the city.

In 1980, Fox was appointed to the Farmington Hills Historic District Commission. Under her leadership, the district has increased from 34 to 50 historic homes, with 18 now on the Michigan State Registry.

Fox's love of history extends to writing. She is the author of books full of history — "The Windows of Old Warner," "Farmington's Centennial Families," "A Farmington Childhood: The Watercolors of Lillian Drake Avery" and the soon-to-be-released "More than

BEFORE FOX received the gift of a newspaper, she returned to Indiana to attend Indiana University in Bloomington. She studied English, history and French.

It was at Indiana that Fox met her late husband, Orville, "an Indiana boy." The son of an attorney and past president of the American Bar Association, Orville Fox was also an attorney. Orville died in the early '50s, leaving behind Fox and their three children — Joanne, John and Sue.

Joanne lives in West Bloomfield Township and teaches junior high in the Waterford School District. Sue is an entrepreneur in Allentown, Pa. John is a writer in New York City. All three are married and Fox has five grandchildren.

As the newspapers have since been sold, Fox has dedicated her time to community service and various historical endeavors. The recent publication of "A Farmington Childhood: The

Watercolors of Lillian Drake Avery" developed out of a separate uncompleted project.

As publications chairwoman of the Farmington Historical Museum, Fox began a crusade to unravel several mysteries about John Warner, Michigan governor 1904-11, whose childhood home is now the museum.

FOX TOOK on the writing of a complete Warner biography. Now in its fifth year, the project was to be completed in small pamphlet size. However, about 27 chapters can be expected upon completion in 1987 — Michigan's sesquicentennial.

"It seemed that we didn't know as much about Gov. Warner as we thought we did," Fox said.

Among Fox's first steps on her Warner mystery mission was the Michigan State Archives in Lansing. Unfortunately, records are only easily cataloged from 1910, Fox said. Some 200 feet of linear shelving house all state records from 1837 to 1910.

Fox then moved on to the Bentley Library in Ann Arbor, where she found a

box of Warner's personal letters.

The next step was reading through thousands of inches of newspaper articles written in periodicals of the time — including papers from Lansing, Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids, as well as every issue of the Farmington Enterprise from 1888 to 1923.

DURING HER search for information, she discovered two lines in a 1915 Farmington Enterprise revealing that Warner had addressed the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society that year in the Warner House, Pontiac.

So it was off to the Warner House, today the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society's headquarters and also home to many Oakland County historical records.

Fox asked to see the scrapbooks of county historian Lillian Drake Avery. In her search through old periodicals, Fox read a story published in early 1920s editions of The Detroit News written by Avery.

Avery's articles outlined a reconstruction of the underground railroad

in Oakland County and specifically in Farmington. Avery was secretary of the Oakland Pioneers from 1910 to 1930.

The Oakland Pioneers provided Fox an article and a program on Warner's presentation to the society in 1915. But better yet, the society supplied Fox with Avery's regional watercolor paintings.

THE TREASURE was discovered along with Avery's scrapbooks, which lay undiscovered in a flannel-wrapped parcel in the attic of the Warner House. Fox got in touch with Oakland University Professor John Cameron and the two collaborated on the project and

produced "A Farmington Childhood: The Watercolors of Lillian Drake Avery," published in 1985. The book is gaining considerable recognition throughout Oakland County, Fox said.

As the Gov. Warner project was diverted by the Avery book, Fox's latest sidetrack from the project is a sequel to the centennial history of Botford, Ind. in Farmington Hills. The book is expected to be in print by the first of the year, Fox said.

An amateur gardener and a civic booster, Fox leaned back in an antique chair, one of many pieces of furniture from her late husband's family, and said, "Houses make a difference how you live."

a Tavern: The 150 Years of Botford Inn."

She has also edited several books on the history of the Farmington area and is currently working on a biography of the late Fred Warner of Farmington, Michigan governor 1905-11.

WHILE PRESERVING the past, Fox has been equally active in working for the future. In 1977, she was appointed to the Farmington Hills Board of Zoning Appeals and was elected in August 1985 as the board's first chairwoman.

Fox was a member of the original organizing committee of the Farmington Community Center and served as a member of the executive board for seven years. She is also a member of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

And as Grant said, her list of accomplishments and affiliations goes on and on as a former weekly newspaper owner, editor and publisher, and as an active member of the Republican Party.

GARFIELD PRE-HOLIDAY SPECIALS

YOUR CHOICE \$9.95 each



Garfield Angel
7 1/2" with wings, halo & wand.



ODIE Reindeer
11" high with bell.

GARFIELD Characters: ©1978 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

STUFFED SAFARI, INC.
31065 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48018 • 313-855-6577

Featuring the largest selection of plush stuffed animals in the Midwest.



B'NAI ISRAEL

Memorial Gardens

TRANQUILITY, BEAUTY AND DIGNITY ENHANCED BY PERPETUAL CARE

42400 12 MILE ROAD • NOVI, MICHIGAN 48050

Exclusively Serving Our Jewish Community
Featuring the Garden of:
THE TREE OF LIFE and THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

INDUCTORY SAVINGS

NOW Till Nov. 3rd-1985 **LATER** Less Than 3 Years
\$195.00 per space **\$495.00** per space

LIMIT 12 SPACES PER FAMILY
Prices Will Increase Every Six Months

BENEFIT NOW

All the Lowest Price/And The Best Selections Fully Beautified in 3 Years (Across From The 12 Oaks Mall)

FOR MORE INFORMATION & BROCHURE PLEASE CALL OR WRITE TO:
B'NAI ISRAEL MEMORIAL GARDENS
 42400 12 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48050
 or call (313)851-4803

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

would you like to be contacted YES NO

RONALD RESNICK, Manager and Consultant at 851-4803
QUALITY MEMORIALS SINCE 1924




All racquets **20% off & more**
 All shoes **25% off & more**
 All clothes **25% off & more**
 Now through November 16

The Tennis Co. 557-3570
 26441 Southfield Rd. • Lahrup Village, MI 48076

MOVING SALE

Now on videocassette for a limited time only!

BEVERLY HILLS



\$29.95

... It's a Steal!

Movie Rentals from **\$1.99/Night**
 Sales & Service

AUDIO-VIDEO STORE, INC.

29429 W. 12 Mile Rd. • Farmington Hills • 476-5190

"FIX-UP" "CLEAN-UP" SALE

Green Plants
 Selected Landscape Plants **20-80% Off**
 House Plants all **50% Off**
(Odds-ends, one-of-a-kind, irregulars) Large Selection at extremely Low Prices

Landscape Materials

	Reg.	Now
Canadian Peat - 4 cu. ft.	\$7.95	\$4.95
Pine Chunk Bark - 3 cu. ft.	\$4.95	\$2.95
Western Red Chunk Bark - 3 cu. ft.	\$5.95	\$4.49
Cyprus Mulch - 30 lb.	\$4.25	\$3.25

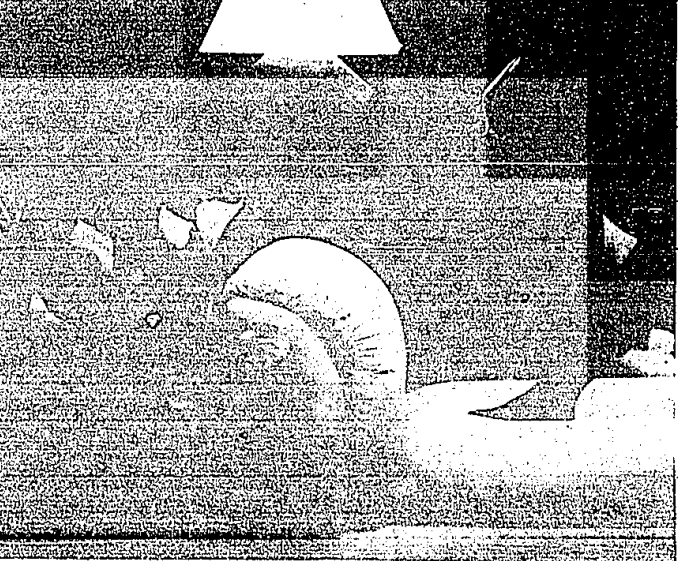
White Supplies Last

PLYMOUTH NURSERY and GARDEN CENTER

Open: Mon-Sat 9-6
 Sun & Holidays 10-5

453-5500

9000 ANN ARBOR ROAD
 7 Miles West of I-75 • 7 Miles E. of US 25



H.J. Stewart INTERIORS, INC.
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

DECO TO GO

If you go for deco, contempo, traditional, or any other design—we've got your style. If you know what you love and hate, but need a little help putting it all together to look smashing—we've got your designer. And don't pay best of all, you don't pay anything extra for a look like no other.

2555 NORTHWESTERN HWY. SUITE 201B
 SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48034
 (313) 552-1720

In la Mirage

Christmas is a special time,
 a season set apart—
 a happy warm remembering time,
 a season of the heart.

IV Seasons Flowers

has captured the warmth
 and excitement of the season
 and invites you to join us.



Open House
 will be held
 Sundays — 12:00-5:00
 November
 3rd-10th-17th
 Christmas Week
 November 24th

149 E. Main
 Northville, Michigan
 349-0671