



Muriel Bird, whose frequent walks through Farmington made her a vibrant familiar figure to downtown shoppers and workers, talked about her love for the city in a 1984 interview.

## Muriel Bird

### Familiar downtown figure dies

By Louise Okrutsky  
staff writer

Muriel Bird — whose short, bespectled, white-haired presence was as much a part of downtown Farmington as the Sanders or the A&P stores she frequented — died Tuesday in Braeburn Nursing Home, Bloomfield Hills.

She was 92. During the 12 years she lived in Farmington, she made the acquaintance of many who worked and shopped regularly in the city's downtown area. It was almost from the start, a mutual love affair. "I loved Farmington, period. I really did," she said when she left the area to live closer to her daughter.

Mrs. Bird was the first person to occupy her apartment in the Drakeshire complex. At the time she moved, she said, "It was like tearing my heart out when I had to leave." She was born Muriel Amanda

Morse on Jan. 31, 1894, in her parents' farmhouse in Fairfield Township, four miles north of the Michigan-Ohio border. Mrs. Bird was proud of the fact that her family settled in Michigan in 1835 — two years before the territory became a state.

MRS. BIRD attended classes in a one-room schoolhouse before moving on to Adrian High School and Adrian College. In 1916, she graduated from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. Music and language were her chief interests.

She married Evert Bird, a Michigan Employment Securities Commission employee, Oct. 10, 1921. That year, they moved to Detroit.

They lived there and traveled extensively before moving to Farmington in 1972. Two years later, Mr. Bird died after suffering a stroke. He spent his last two years in Oak Hill Nursing Home, Farmington.

Survivors include one daughter, Martha Scrase, of Bloomfield Hills; two grandchildren, Dr. David Scrase of Ann Arbor and Julie Scrase Menassaka of Grand Blanc; and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday in Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit.

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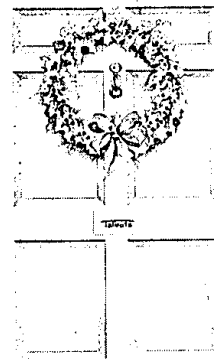
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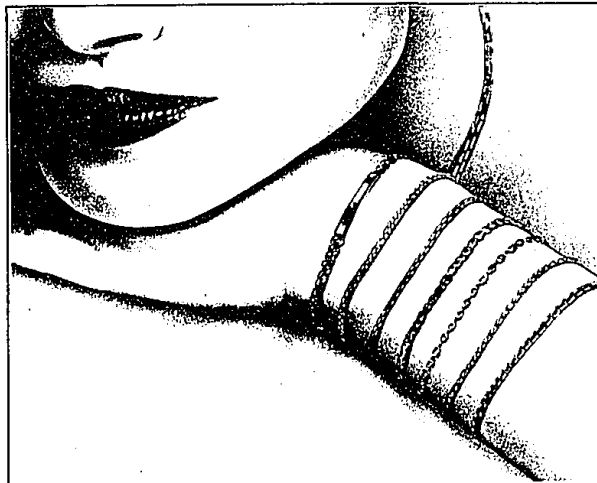


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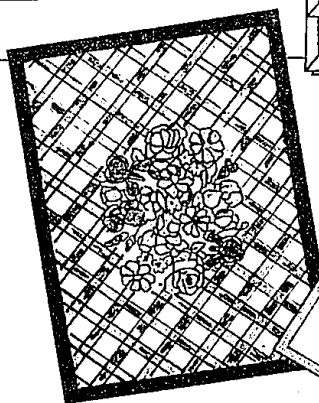
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