



The new site for Focal Point Studio of Photography on Grand River was formerly a tool shop. Focal Point owners Michele and Jerzy Jakacki gutted the old factory and built around original walls to make a home for their photography business.

## Beautification Eight take home state awards

Farmington resident, businessman and community leader Walter Sundquist was placed in the Keep Michigan Beautiful Hall of Fame this month for his efforts in beautifying the Farmington community during the last 20-plus years.

Sundquist was one of eight Farmington and Farmington Hills people or groups lauded recently for their efforts.

The Farmington-based KMB issued its awards at the group's annual meeting in Charlevoix Oct. 6-7.

ALSO AWARDED were:

- A Large Michigan Plaque to the city of Farmington's Beautification Committee for its annual Flower and Shrub Sale, which encourages residents and businesses to plant and beautify their areas. Proceeds are used to trees placed on city property and to buy benches for city parks.

- A Small Michigan Plaque to the Farmington Garden Club, a non-profit group of some 50 members, for "many outstanding" beautification contributions in the area. Gardens at the Farmington Historical Museum, flower arrangements in the museum, dried flower arrangements at both local library branches, and maintenance of a flower garden at the Farmington Community Center are just a few of the items noted.

- A Small Michigan Plaque to the Focal Point Studio of Photography for its renovation of the old Precision Tool Co. factory into new studios. "What had been considered an eyesore... has now become a beautiful addition in the center of the downtown," organizers said.

**Keep Michigan Beautiful is a non-profit, educational public service corporation established in 1962 by Michigan citizens and designated by the governor as the coordinating agency for beautification activities throughout the state.**

- A Small Michigan Plaque to Farmington Hills landscape architect John Grissim for his many winning municipal and business landscape projects. A member of the Farmington Hills Beautification commission, Grissim has also provided the Farmington school district with professional services.

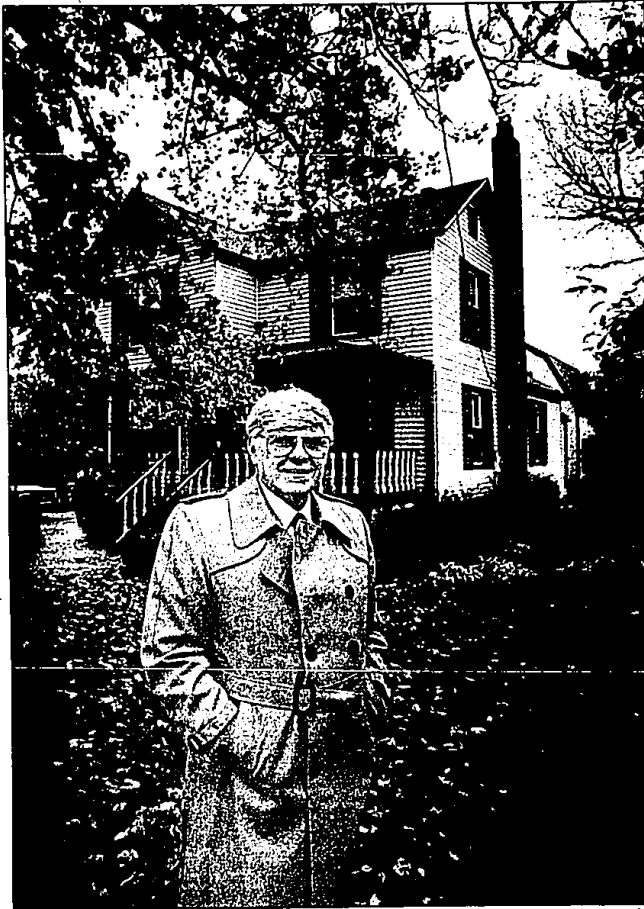
- A Small Michigan Plaque to the Mobil Oil Corp. for its capital improvement project, which included gas stations in both Farmington and Farmington Hills. Plantings and landscaping are an integral part of all the company's units.

- A distinguished service plaque to Robert Rock for his work at the historical Marker Garden at Oakland Avenue and Grand River. The downtown businessman also maintains gardens at his funeral home across the street. "He has successfully achieved his goal of doing something for Farmington," organizers said.

- A Distinguished Service Certificate to the Michigan Regional Lily Society, which began a lily bed at the Farmington Historical Museum some seven years ago as a volunteer project.

OFFERING REMARKS at the awards meeting was Farmington city councilwoman Shirley Richardson, president of Keep Michigan Beautiful.

KMB is a non-profit, educational public service corporation established in 1962 by Michigan citizens and designated by the governor as the coordinating agency for beautification activities throughout the state. Also from the Farmington area and on the 1988 KMB board of directors this year is Lincoln Avery, Farmington Hills Beautification Commission chairman; and Carol Kurth, a resident of Farmington Hills and chairwoman of the Farmington Beautification Committee.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Among the sites civic booster Walter Sundquist has been honored for beautifying is an old house on Grand River, just east of the Downtown Farmington Center.

## Local panel honors 76 for beautification efforts

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington residents, businesses and other groups were honored last week for making that extra effort to keep Farmington beautiful.

"Farmington — we're looking good, we really are," Mayor Richard Tupper said, speaking at the city's 20th annual awards presentation.

"All of you... have gone above and beyond general housekeeping." Beautification committee chairwoman Carol Kurth concurred.

"We together can make our city a comfortable and unique city," she said. "That is why we're here today." For the first time, the committee held its annual awards luncheon outside the city, at the Botanical Inn in Farmington Hills, where more than 100 people attended.

Seventy-six businesses, groups and individuals were honored for their contributions in the categories of: business, industry, renovation/improvement, places of worship, auto service facilities, civic buildings, apartments/condominiums, clubs/organizations and shopping plazas. Good Neighbor awards and other special commendations were also given.

THE AWARDS are made after a full year of judging, Kurth said, with

committee members traveling some 22½ miles several times during the year.

"They are looking for 'ongoing maintenance and concern throughout the year,'" she said.

As always, local beautification promoter Walter Sundquist received much praise from committee members.

He received his 20th beautification plaque — the group's top award — for the work done around the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, plus a Good Neighbor Award for work done at the Farmington Masonic Lodge garden at Farmington Road and Grand River.

Others receiving Good Neighbor Awards included: Chatham Hills Homeowners' Association, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for work at the historical museum, the Downtown Development Authority and the Farmington Area Jaycees.

ALSO SPECIAL this year was the sole renovation and improvement award. It went to Focal Point Studio of Photography and owners Michele and Jerzy Jakacki, who renovated an old tool shop on Grand River. The new, two-story building was called a "beautiful addition" to the downtown.

Other businesses receiving top

honor plaques included: Drakeshire Professional Center, Walter C. DeMatteis, Farmington A & W, Michigan Bell, Peters & Wilmering, Plaza Pet Complex, Professional Pavillion, Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, the Village Mall, Chesley Industries, Jay-Cee Sales & Rivet and H.R. Krueger Machine Tool.

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, the Huron River Hunting & Fishing Club, the Crossroads Mall and the Village Commons Shopping Center also received plaques.

Village Commons also received a special commendation from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce for its landscaping and design.

OTHERS RECEIVING top awards included: Benner's Amoco Service, Clark Oil & Refining, Mobil Oil, and the city offices (including the community library), the public services building on Nine Mile, the historical museum and the 47th District Court. Apartments and condominium winners included: Anderson Apartments, Farmington Place, Jamestown Apartments, Ringline Co-op, Valleyview Condominiums and Wynset condominiums.

An additional 39 businesses received honorable mentions, commendation certificates or certificates of appreciation.

## Local firm named in indictment

A Farmington machinery company was one of nine companies charged last week with conspiring to rig bids at a public auction of used industrial equipment five years ago.

Bob's Machinery Inc., 34800 Grand River, Farmington, was named in a one-count felony indictment filed Oct. 19 in U.S. District Court in Cleveland. Charged were six Detroit-area companies plus three others from Connecticut, Ohio and Massachusetts.

Robert Verrast, owner of Bob's Machinery, could not be reached for comment on the charges. According to advertisements, the company focuses on specially designed machinery.

The companies are accused of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, which carries a maximum \$1 million fine on conviction.

THE INDICTMENT alleges the companies conspired not to bid against each other for equipment, including milling and tooling machines, auctioned in 1983 at the Warner & Swasey division of Bendix Automation in Cleveland.

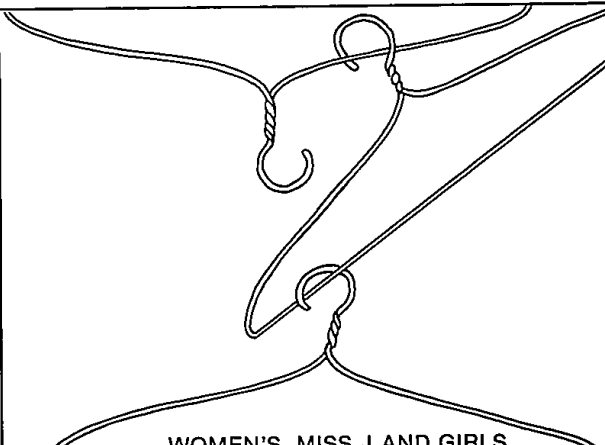
The companies then held a private auction with the items they obtained, and distributed a portion of the proceeds among themselves, the indictment said.

Other Michigan companies

charged under indictment are Campbell-Sorenson Co. Inc. of Sterling Heights, Air Met Industries Inc. of Romulus, Equipment Trading Co. Inc. of Livonia, Gibbs Machinery Co. of Warren and U.S. Equipment Co. of Detroit. Calls to each of those businesses were not returned.

Also indicted were Fairfield Equipment Co. Inc. of Bridgeport, Conn., Noll Machinery Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio and Wigglesworth Machinery Company of East Boston, Mass.

The indictment did not identify company officers by name. The Associated Press contributed to this story.



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