

A lifetime of memories

She fights to keep countryside as it was

In 1869 Palmer Sherman built a beautiful home on his farm, located at the top of a small hill along Farmington Road. Sherman sold seed to the Ferry Seed Co. 1 Decades later in 1915 a Detroit attorney, Luman W. Goodenough, was so taken with the beautiful view that he bought the place for his family home.

"He called it Long Acres," recalls Mrs. Eleanor Spicer, who still lives on a part of the farm her father loved so much. "He added a lot of things to the house and built the barns. He loved the garden and worked in it himself all the time."

The Goodenough home was donated to the Farmington Community by the Goodenough offspring in 1968, with a requirement that it be maintained as it is without drastic changes. Mrs. Spicer's mother died the year before, in 1967, at the age of 97.

Mrs. Spicer lives on the farm in a summer home built for the David Gray family and given to Mrs. Spicer as a wedding present.

The Community Center property covers about five acres and includes the large house. The balance of the farm her father loved so much belongs to Mrs. Spicer.

"Marcus Burrowes, an architect

and a contemporary of my father's, built the house I live in as well as the French farm house at the back of the property. (Reached by coming in Locust Drive in the City of Farmington). Burrowes did many beautiful homes in Grosse Pointe and Bloomfield, as well as the Cranbrook Theater.

Thus Eleanor Goodenough Spicer has been here most of her life, coming to Farmington as a little girl.

"We came out here in the summers until Mr. Burrowes finished adding on to the house. We moved in in 1918; by then the Edison poles had been established and we had to pay for them. Before, during the summer, I can remember the lights would flicker because the current was generated by a gas motor.

"Farmington Road was narrow and unpaved. Father put up a white picket fence where the stone wall around the Community Center is now. As we progressed he added the stone wall and the stately entrance.

"A farmer, Perry Wixom, and Mr. Mahaney built the wall. Several other people from Detroit bought farms out here. I bought the farm north of here and it belonged to Richard Weber." Mrs. Spicer recalls.

The 120-acre Weber farm made her

farm about 210 acres in size and Mrs. Spicer is committed to keeping it just that way - farmland. She currently keeps a few animals, including dogs, sheep and horses. She holds a sheep shearing every April on her farm.

"I attended Farmington High School and then went into Detroit (after the eighth grade) to a private school. Grand River was a gravel road and I can remember the sidewalks were raised up high and there were hitching posts and steps up to the sidewalks. And the hill on Farmington Road was called McGee's Hill and we could see the house and barn by the stream.

"I remember driving my father into Detroit in the summers when I got out of college. And, I recall that in 1923 Governor Warner died - father was a good friend of his and was a pallbearer at the funeral. Mrs. Warner came from one of the best farms in this area - the Winter Davis farm. She was Martha Davis. The Davis farm is the location of the McWilliams convalescent home.

"Father and I rode on horseback. We would go up to Farmington and 14 Mile Road to the store up there - owned by Mr. Piskopink and get pop and ice cream.

"People knew each other then and

were very friendly. I remember once we were near Harry McCracken's place (he was in school and township government for years) and father fell. Mrs. McCracken helped us bring him inside her house and gave him a drink of water."

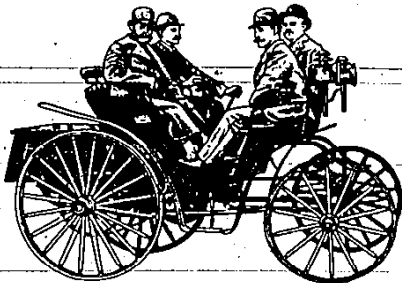
In memory of their father, who loved the Farmington countryside so much, the three children willed the Goodenough home to the community.

Today Mrs. Spicer hopes that developers and real estate men will leave her and the farm she loves alone. "The roots are so deep, I can't give it all up," she notes.

She has other memories. Floyd Cairn's father (he's Hills city clerk) came up the big hill on Farmington Road one day with the Cairn's milk wagon and tipped over, unable to make it to the top. And the place called Sleepy Hollow were Wadenstorer's had the old mill is in her memories. (Howard Rd.)

She moved in 1935 to her present home - a beautiful, long and narrow house set way back behind trees, unseen by motorists passing along Farmington Rd.

The quiet farm reminds visitors of another, quieter age. And that's the way Mrs. Spicer would like to keep it.



DISC BRAKE SPECIALISTS

\$29.95

includes pads and labor on most cars (limited time only)

GUARANTEED for as long as you own your car.

Orchard Ridge Marathon Servicenter



Specializing in guaranteed brake work for as long as you own your car

27745 Orchard Lake Rd. and 12 Mile Farmington

Phone 474-3033 or 474-9588

WRAP AROUND SOUND FOR YOUR CAR!



MOTOROLA

4

CHANNEL SOUND

for your car... it's wild!



This is authentic 4-channel sound. It's an excitingly different sound experience from 2-channel stereo. Model TM920S has 4 amplifiers, 4 deluxe 5 1/4" speakers and specially designed circuitry that bring you wrap-around sound. Hear it today... It's unforgettable! Model TM920S. 4 Channel, 8-Track Tape Player.

Reg. \$169.95

Installation available
1 Year warranty on all parts & labor

\$99.95

While quantities last!

FACTORY OFFICIAL RADIO



30724 Grand River, Farmington Hills 478-0828

