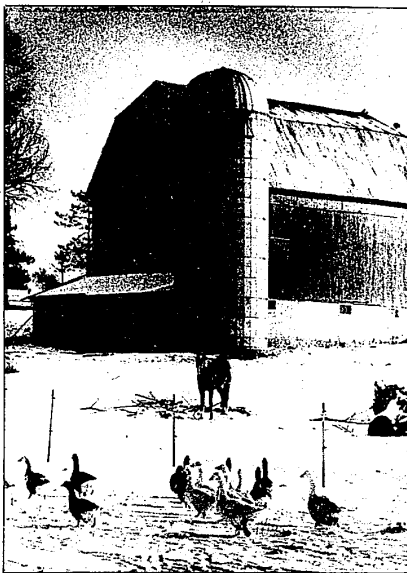




Sheep, out for a run on a winter's day, play follow the leader.



Geese and horses on the Spicer farm keep up their daily routines in spite of winter's rigors.



Eleanor Spicer strikes a reflective pose in the living room of her Farmington Hills home.

## Watching winter's bewitching ways down on the farm

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Near modern condominiums but far from the bustle associated with the suburban life style, the Spicer farm gives testimony to a time when Farmington was a rural community.

There was a time when winter was characterized by sheep fattening with early spring lambs and by geese walking across the snow to feed on grain. Now, only a handful of farms remain to remind Farmington Hills residents of the area's past.

Winter life on the farm goes on at the Spicer's. Watched over by Eleanor Spicer, the remaining geese, horses, chickens and sheep continue the ancient cycles of farm life.

"It's not glamorous. It's work."

Mrs. Spicer says of her farm.

This year, the lambs will be born in May instead of January since Mrs. Spicer remained undecided over when to purchase a ram.

But the sheep still warm themselves in the hay of the barn bought by Mrs. Spicer and transported to the farm from its original location on Nine Mile and Farmington Road.

BOTH OF THE barns on the Spicer property were transported from other sites.

The large red barn used for the horses was transported from its original location on Eight Mile and Telegraph. It was dismantled and taken to the Spicer farm in three sections.

"It was done at night so they could take the wires down," Mrs. Spicer recalled.

The barn is set on a hill at the center

of a fenced in area for the horses. Of the four horses outside, two are Arabian.

"I rode that one last summer," said Mrs. Spicer pointing to a chestnut brown horse. "She was very gentle and easy."

In the winter, the horses stand and trot outside, little clouds of warm air hovering around their nostrils.

Nearby a gaggle of geese waddle their way across the snow and towards a feeding station. Staying together like conventioners in a strange city, the geese move back and forth across the yard, squawking at strangers.

Chickens stand in the corner of their fenced off yard hesitantly looking at the snow covered ground. Only one brave chicken soul ventured across the white stuff. Inside the coop, the only rooster peered out of the doorway.

"WHEN WE BOUGHT the chicks the man assured us there weren't any roosters among them," said Mrs. Spicer, eyeing the rooster's large comb which flopped over one side of his head.

The rolling landscape of the Spicer farm reminded her father's groundskeeper of his native Scotland, she said. Years ago, the groundskeeper pronounced the landscape to have "hills alike Scotland" and he tended the land with tender care.

But the groundskeeper is gone now and the land around the Spicer property is covered with subdivisions instead of other farms.

"They're ugly," Mrs. Spicer said of the surrounding subdivisions.

"You could put up a condominium in the middle of the desert. But you can't just find land like this," she said.



### Farm life, quiet life

Winter settles its mantle on the Spicer home, built by Marcus Burrows. The 17-door home is one-room wide and based on a mixture of English country and tropical buildings. Against the sheep barn (below), an old-fashioned wooden carousel horse and an ox yoke are warmed by the winter sunlight.

Photos by  
Karl Wellman

## Is Hard, Rusty Water Your Problem?

If It Is, Call Culligan . . .

THE WATER CONDITIONING PEOPLE

We will rent or sell you a water conditioner to correct your problem water with features other brands can't offer.

- Exclusive Aqua-Sensor controls—Recharges only when needed—Saves salt, water & energy.
- Widest selection of equipment—the exact type of unit that best fits your water needs, at the best-value price.
- Fully automatic dependability, proved year after year in thousands upon thousands of homes.
- Exclusive Tript-Hull tank with the strength of heavy steel, enclosing attractively molded jacket.
- Space-age solid state electronic controls, including Culligan's unique Electro-Brain timer. Custom pre-set, it automatically regulates recharge time and frequency.
- Unequaled factory-trained service by your Culligan Man. A responsible local businessman, he's your neighborhood water specialist, ready to give you immediate service. Culligan dealers coast to coast employ more than 2500 factory trained servicemen — and offer you 40 years of service experience.

Plus, the solution to almost any water problem you may have. In addition to household water conditioners, your Culligan Man offers water filters, feeders, and drinking water systems.

And Culligan Water Conditioners give you 3 optional ways to enjoy soft, rust-free, conditioned water

You can try soft water, most economically, with our Portable Exchange service. We install the unit, take care of everything. Or you can rent a Culligan for only pennies a day and apply your rental payments to purchase. Or buy a Culligan with all the exclusive features that have made it the quality standard throughout the world. And don't be misled—the best costs no more—often less! So go Culligan class! Call and say—

**"HEY CULLIGAN MAN!"**

WE ARE FACTORY OWNED AND OPERATED  
Detroit Call 984-2246 Pontiac Call 682-6600  
925 ORCHARD LAKE ROAD, PONTIAC  
2 Blocks East of Telegraph  
FREE WATER ANALYSIS  
FREE ESTIMATES IN YOUR HOME

(Serving Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties)

SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER

TRADE IN  
SPECIAL  
ON YOUR OLD  
WATER  
CONDITIONER  
UP TO  
\$50  
ALLOWANCE

