

City Oasis

Garden adds green to industrial row

Story: MARY KLEMIC

Photo: CHARLIE KIDD

Nim Quist's typewriter company in Troy is a bloom of success.

In front of the Quist Typewriter Co., 1717 Stephenson Highway, Quist has planted almost every kind of vegetable from artichokes to zucchini, and different varieties of flowers as well.

Visitors to the office are greeted with a little oasis of country in the middle of the busy city. Giant sunflowers, some standing almost 10 feet tall with 14-inch faces, nod slowly in the summer wind while cars rush by on the highway. The scent of roses drifts gently towards you as you enter the door.

Quist said that when he first moved his business to Troy from Detroit six years ago, the land in front of the building was being used as a dumping ground. He decided to turn it into a garden at that time and doesn't see any reason to discontinue it today.

"Why would I do that?" he asked. "I don't put any more money into this than I'd put into lawn and landscaping."

Quist said that customers and passersby seem delighted at the sight of the garden.

"People think anyone who can grow a garden like this must know how to fix typewriters," he said in his soft South-

ern drawl. "They really like to see someone making use of the land."
Parents often point out the different vegetation to their children, he said.

THE BOUNTY of the garden is divided among the 25 company employees. Quist tends the garden himself, assisted by the company's secretary and treasurer, who happens to have the fitting name of Mary Pepper.

Quist, who has traveled to Europe, said that many Europeans have gardens like his.

"In Europe, they all do this," he said. "They always seem to find a place for a garden." But Quist had the idea for a garden before he went to Europe, he said.

The land in front of Quist's office is divided into two sections, measuring 33 by 63 feet and 34 by 96 feet.

"We always had a garden at home," Quist said. "Now I live in a condominium, so I don't have one, but this is the next best thing."

The produce his garden yields includes carrots, melons, cantaloupes, peas, parsnips, cabbage, spinach, brussel sprouts, onions, kohlrabi and leeks.

It also includes red flowering tobacco, tiger lilies, marigolds, baby snapdragons, bachelor buttons and roses.

The roses are Quist's special joy. The 81 roses in his garden this year include some experimental varieties. They con-

tinually bloom from mid-June until the first frost because Quist trims the shoots once a week.

QUIST CREDITS the success of the garden to the rich land and good weather. "I never have to water more than two times each year," he said. He also adds woodchips and fertilizer to the soil.

Much of the garden produce grows on its own. Quist has had to dig out excess gladiolus and iris plants, along with some 50 squash and pumpkins.

The different vegetables yield about the same amount. Quist said he has harvested about one peck of asparagus and 1-1/4 pecks of strawberries. Squash is the most abundant vegetable, yielding four wheelbarrows full one year. The garden contains five varieties of squash, including one large orange and green turban squash that is growing wild.

"I haven't been to a store in years," Quist said.

Quist said that the heavy traffic on Stephenson doesn't bother his plants because the wind comes from the southwest, so the carbon monoxide doesn't blow on them. The plants are more nutritious and better tasting because the wind blows from that direction, he explained.

"I would have planted it anyway, even if the wind was from the other direction," he added.



Nim Quist and Mary Pepper, company treasurer and secretary, have been tending the two small plots in front of Quist's typewriter company for six years. Quist said that the money put into the garden isn't any more than would be put into landscaping — and it's more fun than cutting a lawn.

Eric hops to it—2,225 times

Ten-year-old Eric Cousins of Troy wanted to set a record the other day, so he literally hopped to it.

Eric jumped 2,225 times on a pogo stick without stopping.

"I would have done more, if a bike hadn't been in the way," said Eric, who jumped to glory in his back yard earlier this week.

Witnesses to the event were Eric's brother, Mark, 14; Mike Lamby, 12; Paul Bischer, 11; and Greg Bischer, 9.

"I didn't believe he did it until I counted the marks (on the ground)," Mark said.

The witnesses feel sure Eric has set a local record.

THE BOYS have been pogo stick enthusiasts since Eric received a pogo stick for Christmas three years ago.

They set certain challenges for themselves, such as attempting to hop until they clear a certain number or to hop all the way around their block.

"It's come to be like a hobby," Mike explained.

The boys were jumping in Eric's backyard when Eric set his record. "I just kept on going," Eric said.

Setting this record had its share of ups and downs. Eric jumped for half an

hour and was sore when he finished.

"I could hardly walk when I got off," he said. "My feet burn and I had to go down for about an hour. My arm hurt the most." In addition, his pants soon broke soon afterwards.

The boys said that they would continue to break records.

Eric has a new goal of 3,000 jumps. The world's record for pogo stick jumping is around 100, but the boys aren't discouraged.

"We're just going to keep jumping," Paul said.

At this age, he says, a pogo stick is a lot of fun.

FALL SUIT SALE.

WE'RE WOOLISH ON THE AMERICAN MAN.

Stop in and examine these fine 100% wool and wool blends created by the finest designers in the industry. We are cutting our prices for a few days in order for you to come in and see our new fall lines. You'll find the styles most impressive in a variety of colors. So take stock of your wardrobe, we're woolish on the well dressed man.

ORIGINALLY PRICED TO \$225.00

NOW \$139.90

STEPHEN BRUCE LTD.

NEWBURGH PLAZA (Six Mile at Newburgh)
• Livonia • (313) 464-0766



Brakes Exclusively Our Only Business

\$99.95

30,000 MILE LINING WARRANTY

LATE MODELS PARTS & LABOR

2 HOUR SERVICE • FREE LOANER CARS

LIVONIA BRAKE CENTER • REDFORD BRAKE CENTER

31390 Plymouth Road at corner of Merriman Phone: 261-2220

14154 Telegraph 1 block North of Schoolcraft Phone: 538-5223

LOSE 17-25 POUNDS in just 6 WEEKS

Quick-Safe Permanent! You don't have to have a diet! No shots! No drugs! NO CONTRACTS! Call today and get started on your way to a healthier, happier, thinner life!

30233 Southfield Rd. Seta 112 in the Crestline Center
DAILY DIET COUNSELING
642-5665

Children's Bags - First BIG SALE in 5 years!

AUGUST 23-24-25 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Discontinued merchandise & yard goods must go!

FABRIC 1/2 OFF

- *Serpae fleece reversible strips knit (60") (Desire mills) reg. \$9.99 **1.99**
- Kettle cloth prints (45") **1.69**
- Super Stowe prints (45") **1.09**
- Stowe & Poplin solids **99¢ - 1.09**
- Quilted Ribbon Corduroy (10 colors) **2.99**
- Assorted Cotton Blend prints **99¢ - 1.19**
- Assorted Velvets **from 1.00/yd.**
- Woven & Eyelet Trims **33¢ - 69¢**
- Holly Hobbie prints (44") **1.29**
- Holly Hobbie Quilted prints **2.19**
- Quilted 45" prints & plains **1.49 - 1.99**
- Quilted 48-54" Scotchguard **1.09**
- Decorator prints **2.99 - 3.99**
- Upholstery fabrics (54") **1.99 - 3.99**
- Imported Belgian Upholstery Velvets (54") **6.99 - 7.99**

HANDBAGS & ACCESSORIES 1/2 OFF

- All Beaded evening bags **25% off**
- All Canvas & Matrane **25-50% off**
- Selected Leather Bags **15-50% off**
- Leather Bags for Girls **2.50 - 7.50**
- Selected Fabric Bags **20-50% off**
- Girls Quilted Bags **4.97**

• Sale will continue until merchandise is gone
• Come Early for Best Selections • Dealers Welcome!

daren's bags

16947 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
(bet. 5 & 6 Mile) 522-1479

TOYS 'R' US

the CHILDREN'S Bargain Town

SCHOOL SUPPLIES! REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE. IT'S TOYS 'R' US FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!

AUTOCRAFT 8 1/2" x 12 1/2" \$23	ELECTRONIC ANSWER MACHINE 10%	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
EMPIRE Pkg. of 12, NO. 2 PENCILS 58¢	ELECTRONIC SPEAK 'N' SPELL 48%	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
STERLING UTILITY AND CRYSTAL BOX 36¢	Zip Schocker THEME BOOK 42¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
LASH 9 1/2" x 6" 448	Zip Schocker ROOT ERASERS 48¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
TRI-FOLD ORGANIZER 357	Zip Schocker 5 SUBJECT THEME BOOK 157	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
LASH 3 FT. CRYSTAL WITH COMBINATION LOCK 196	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
LASH 20 INCH HIGH RISE BOYS GIRLS 4297	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
LASH 20 INCH HIGH RISE GUYTONS FLOWER GIRLS 5696	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
LASH 20 INCH HIGH RISE MURRAY BOYS 8396	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢
LASH 20 INCH HIGH RISE MURRAY GIRLS 6787	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢	Zip Schocker 200 SHEETS FILLER PAPER 58¢

MON-SAT 10 AM-9:30 PM; SUN 11 AM-6 PM

TOYS 'R' US WORLD'S BIGGEST TOY SELECTION!

MADISON HEIGHTS 38700 John R. Road at 14 Mile Phone: 462-1000

SOUTHGATE 16333 Oakleaf Road Phone: 366-1000

ROSEVILLE 32070 Grand Ave. at Massena Phone: 366-1000

LIVONIA 28150 W. 7 Mile Rd. at Middlebelt Phone: 462-1000

SOUTHFIELD 27000 Telegraph Rd. at 12 Mile Phone: 366-1000

FLINT 3220 S. Lincoln Rd. at Miller Rd. Phone: 366-1000

72 STORES COAST TO COAST