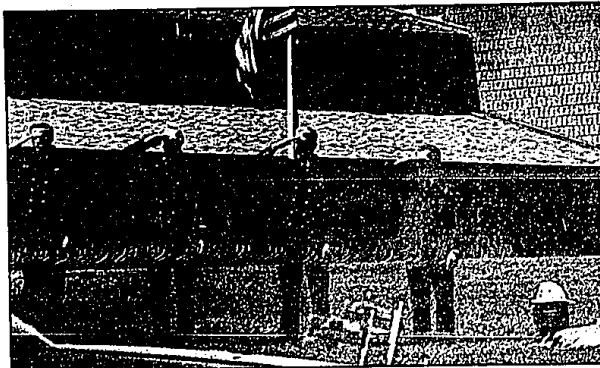


Stroller and strollee: Muriel Lewis pushes grandson Trevor Schroer along Oakland in Farmington.



Boots of a firefighter



Paul Button honored: Paul Button received a firefighter's sendoff Tuesday at his funeral in Farmington. Mr. Button, who owned Button Orchards on 12 Mile Road and was a volunteer firefighter for 21 years, died Aug. 20 in Georgia at age 78. The funeral service here involved transporting his books and hat (right) from the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home to the Farmington Hills Fire Department Headquarters — which bears Mr. Button's name — on Drake Road. At headquarters, fire department inspectors (above, from left) John Wells and Don St. Clair and firefighters Tom Mitchel and John Zylka salute the funeral procession as it passes. Mr. Button was chief of Volunteer Station No. 4, first located in his barn.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEHMAN

Picture from page 1A

Fondness for one's neighborhood is to be expected. Those who live in this stately area, though, grasp the concept of community with a kindred zeal.

A little history perhaps explains why. The neighborhood endured a period of transition, and uncertainty. Some historic houses were going, unkept, causing the city to label parts of it a blighted area in the late '60s.

There was even talk of rezoning for new parking at one point.

"It was kind of scary wondering what was going to happen to those houses," said John Cotton, whose family has lived on Oakland Street since 1956.

Then, families such as the Munters and the Larsons moved in, fixing up their homes and signaling a rebirth of an area now considered a treasure by many.

"We wanted an older home," said Don Munter, who renovated a house originally built in 1890. "There wasn't many around here."

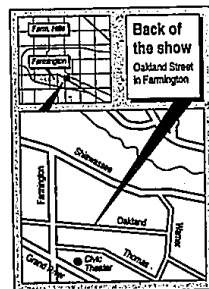
Those families still live there, along with many new couples who share a similar pride.

The Relds have since extensively remodeled their home. Neighbors even gather annually for a street sale in September (Saturday, Sept. 11 this year) to sell wares and swap home decorating tips.

Get-togethers don't stop there. On the Fourth of July, a resident has a potluck. The Cottons



Doggie in the window: Molly, the family dog, looks out of her early 20th-century home on Oakland Street.



host an informal gathering on Memorial Day.

At Christmas time, neighbors gather for caroling and drinking cider. And there's always plenty

to talk about.

The latest topic is the four baby boys that have recently been born to families in the area.

"I thought that was phenomenal that we restocked the neighborhood," said Reid, whose son Adam is one.

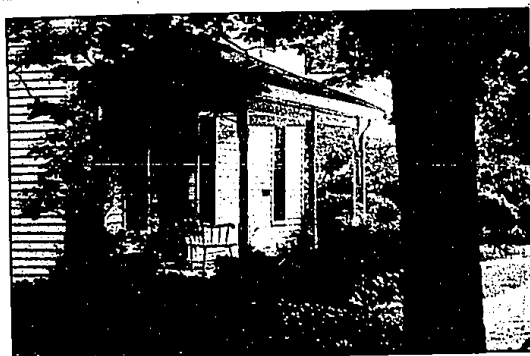
Muriel Lewis walks with one of the four bouncing baby boys down the sidewalk. She's Trevor Schroer's grandmother.

"It's just so beautiful," Lewis said. "You walk down the street and you feel like you're in a Victorian village. Then you walk down the street and then there's a T.J. Maxx (on Grand River). It's a different lifestyle."

Lewis lives in Livonia, but like others who drive down the street to marvel at the houses, sees something special. They tell their friends about it, and no doubt have no problem telling them where to look.

behind the show.

Comfortable look: Most Oakland Street properties have lots of trees, flowers and greenery. Just about every front porch has a chair or glider.



NM

Events In-Store at Neiman Marcus

Thursday, August 26

Join us for a special presentation of the Andrea Jovine fall dress collection, with informal modeling from 11 to 3 in Galleria Collections, Level Three.

Friday, August 27

Top off your fall wardrobe with an irreplaceable hat from the Patricia Underwood collection. See all the options during our trunk show in Accessories, Level One.

Friday and Saturday, August 27 and 28

Don't miss our trunk show of the Marian Clayden fall collection, with informal modeling from 11 to 3 in the Couture Salon, Level Three.

Saturday, August 28

Discover men's clothing worthy of the Neiman Marcus name during our Marcus* trunk show in The Man's Store, Level One.

Meet designer Carmen Marc Valvo from 10 to 4 in Galleria Collections, Level Three. Informal modeling of day dresses and alternative options from 11 to 3.

Learn how to relax your style without relaxing your standards with DKNY for men and women. Special presentations in Leisure Sportswear, Level Two, and Men's Sportswear, Level One. Informal modeling from 11 to 3.

Wednesday, September 1

Ralph Lauren proves it's no coincidence that "classic" begins with "class." See all the options in women's career separates and shoes and men's sportswear during our special presentations in Sport Shop and Shoe Salon, Level Two, and Men's Sportswear, Level One. Informal modeling from 11 to 3.

Black Tie from Oleg Cassini turns any after-five event into a memorable occasion. Special presentation in Galleria Collections, Level Three.

Neiman Marcus
How to look.

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Store open Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9; Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10-6; Sunday noon-5.