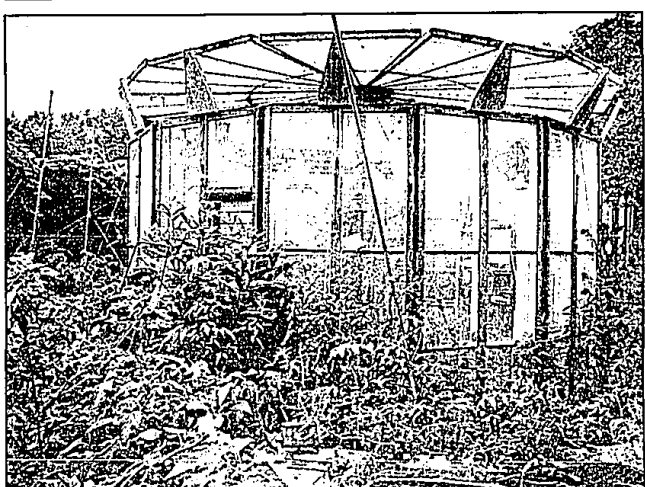
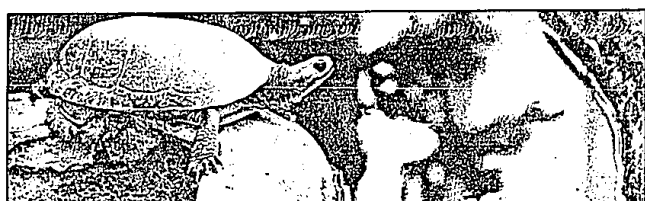


Harvest from page 1A



Greenhouse effect: A greenhouse full of aloe, peppers and edible vegetables sits in the Meinke backyard.



For the wildlife: Ponds have been created for fish, frogs and turtles.



Urban farmers: The Meinke family and a friend pose on the urban farm they've built over the years. Pictured are (standing from left) Lisa Berry, Kirk Meinke and Herman Meinke; (bottom from left) Cloriece, Christine and Susan Meinke.

"When they (neighbors) have a problem, they'll come to me," he said. "But then you'll see that they're gone for a couple of days and the chemical trucks come in."

Meinke continues all types of experiments, involving limited ionization of water, a device often called a "cloudbuster" that changes the atmosphere and restores rain to a small area.

It is just part of a concept of biodynamic or holistic farming that has gained a following in Israel, Greece, Crete and Cyprus and has been used successfully in the Netherlands.

Since holistic farming depends on a natural environment to thrive, Meinke believes that it can't be successful if the environment is poisoned.

"It only took a little drum of toxins to ruin the Love Canal," he said. "This (pesticide) evaporates into the air we breathe. And it amounts to a ton of the stuff."

While residents in the area complain that their purple plum and Russian olive trees don't survive, an assortment of the same varieties along with Paw Paw banana trees, Tarragon herbs and Carpathian Walnut trees prosper on Meinke's land.

"I think lawn chemicals are like an addiction for some people," he said.

Meinke doesn't claim to have the answer to every problem, and the self-educated amateur radio operator said some people will ask him to try something because "God told him it would work. Some ideas are just nonsense," he said.

But he's not a stickler for pure scientific research, either. Meinke has gone through old patents for methods that have not been used and found many that work.

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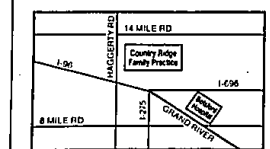
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Farmington Observer
USPS 187-8400
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Second class, postage paid at Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48009-0910. Telephone 482-1100.

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One year (Oakland County)	(elsewhere in Michigan)	per copy, 50¢
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One year		\$36.00
One year (elsewhere in U.S.A.)		\$60.00

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