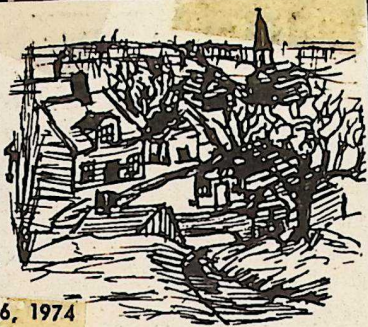


Village View by Andrea Leonard

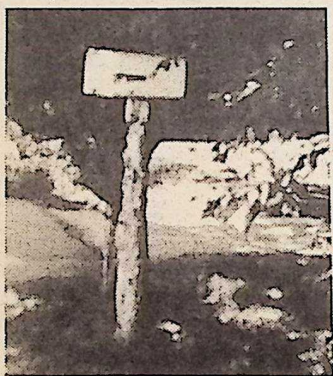


VILLAGE ADVERTISER May 16, 1974

This week -- May 20 to 25 -- is Mailbox Improvement Week. It really is. Officially proclaimed by the U.S. Postal Service, our attention is called to our mail boxes and the fact that they can use some periodic TLC. (Tender, loving care).

The pictures accompanying this article were taken in Centerville, Osterville, Santuit and Cotuit; I wonder if you can identify them.

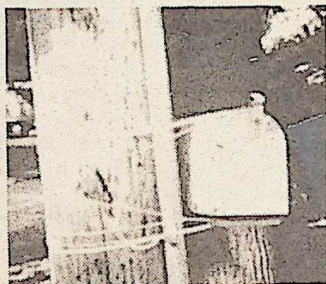
Here we have a fine example of a typical regulation mail box. It's galvanized metal and sits upon what's left of an old fence post -- cedar, probably -- and serves efficiently. Rustic, it is; beautiful, it's not.



In contrast, a similar style is mounted on a graceful bracket supported by a painted metal pole. This mail box reflects someone cares!



Quite different is this one tied somewhat precariously to a utility pole. Is this your idea of making the neighborhood more attractive?

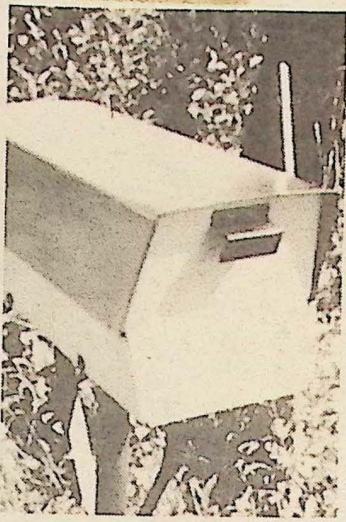


Not far away, a self-styled artist displays his or her handiwork. The boats spread their white sails against the sky-blue background of this mail box.

(boats not visible in picture below)



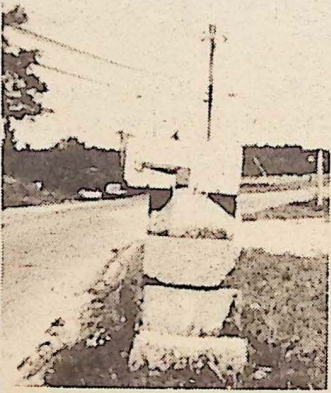
And looking much like a miniature mobile home, this color-



ful modern type serves the postal service, the home-owner, and the community with its simple utilitarian design. It's tidy and efficient; painted black and red, the mailman can spot it easily as he drives along.

Slightly less handsome but perhaps equally as efficient,

and surely as stable as any, is this box tied firmly to a stack of concrete building blocks.

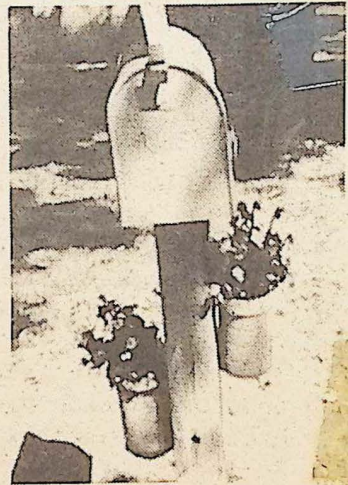


You probably pass it often and many have noticed -- before its owners resorted to the pile of blocks -- it was often knocked down by careless motorists.

Maybe an ivy plant

at its base would grow and soften the lines of the sturdy support this location seems to require.

Of all the boxes, this shows the most imaginative concern for adding to the beauty of the landscape. The proud owners really care how their place looks.



Next time you drive past your own house, take a look and ask yourself if your mail box adds anything to the neighborhood's appearance. Does it enhance the place you call home?

Attention to little details makes a big difference in how your house looks to casual passersby, your neighbors and friends. People who wouldn't consider letting their lawn become shaggy or their flower beds weedy often overlook this opportunity to add a bit of beauty at their mail box.

If yours could do with some sprucing up, there's no better season to do it. A plant, a few well-driven nails, a coat of paint, a new stand -- plus some creative imagination on your part -- may put a finishing touch to your residence.

Let's make it a project. Who will come up with the most interesting solution? Keep in mind.... lots of people will notice, because lots of people will do something with their own boxes.

They'll be looking at yours to see what you do, too.