

By JUDITH BERNE

A short, multi-colored line of cyclists is seen daily leaving the Lowell Reams home in Livonia, usually shortly after the dinner hour.

The Reams and their two daughters, Leann, 7, and Lori, 9, are avid bicycle riders. They make it a practice to take "at least a two mile ride" as a family every day after supper--as long as the weather is good.

"We can hardly wait until dinner is over so we can head for our bikes," Linda Reams related. "I often leave the dishes and we just go."

Mrs. Reams got her bicycle five years ago, "before it became popular for adults to ride." She had a rummage sale, specifically so she could use the proceeds to buy a bike. "I liked it so well that when my husband turned 30, I bought him a bike for his birthday."

At that time her youngest child was just two, so she purchased a "hitchhiker" seat so that Leann wouldn't be left behind. "In those days, if we didn't take our ride the minute after dinner was over, she would be asleep on the bicycle seat before we got back."

WHERE DO THE REAMS RIDE?

We try to go to a different subdivision each evening, Mrs. Reams said. "I guess we're nosy, but we like to see what people have done with their homes and with their landscaping." The Reams are presently building a new home in Plymouth, where they hope to implement some of the ideas they've seen.

Mrs. Reams will often ride to a friend's house for a visit or up to a local market for a quart of milk or loaf of bread "just for the exercise and the fun of it." As for her husband, "It really helps him to unwind at the end of a working day. It is a

very relaxing way to spend some time." Actually, he liked bike riding so much he went out and bought a motorcycle.

Lowell Reams has just started a new assignment as resident engineer for the Ford plant in Toledo...a long commute. "With gas prices going up, he was thinking he might be better off riding his bike...or at least his motorcycle," Mrs. Reams smiled and said.

Daughters Lori and Leann are enthusiastic about their family rides. "I like to ride with my family. We go farther places," according to Lori. She is restricted to riding around the block when she is not accompanied by her parents.

"My dad is the leader, usually," Leann added. "Sometimes I am the leader if I specially ask."

"WHEN WE FIRST GOT our bikes we were thought of as a weird thing," Mrs. Reams recalled. "Now, I must say that quite a number of our neighbors have gotten bikes, especially the ladies."

On one of their nightly outings, the Reams found their dog Jingles. A neighbor called out, "Do you want a free dog?" as they rode past. The kids nagged us all the way home, so we finally went back and got him. It is not an unusual sight to see Jingles riding in one of his young mistresses' bicycle baskets. You might hear him even if you don't see him, Lori noted. He yelps a lot... I guess he really doesn't like bicycle riding.

The Reams spend the summer in a camping trailer at a church camp near Jackson. But do they leave their bikes at home? They do not.

"When my mother comes to visit and counts the number of wheels which inhabit our garage, she can not believe it," Mrs. Reams said.



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE when he is lifted up off the good earth to ride on one of these new-fangled contraptions. In the Reams' home everyone is a rider -- like it or not! (Evert photo)

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