

SUBURBS ARE MAKING HISTORY

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newly dominant middle class. Here is spectacular development of new areas. And here certainly is one of the great staging areas for those 5,000,000 children arriving among us annually.

In the hurly-burly of commuting and taxes and upkeep and P.T.A. a man may not often stop to think of himself as making history, or explain to himself in so many words how he came to abandon the comparative ease and shelter of city life for the responsibilities and efforts that go with owning a house and land in a bursting, busy suburb. From the perspective of France, *Realités* shows him himself as others see him.

"The Americans," they tell their readers, "are increasingly turning away from their skyscrapers, and the fast pace of their cities. Preceded by their factories, in this last great migration, and followed by their stores, they are moving to the suburbs, which are growing six times faster than the cities. It is the suburbs which will absorb the greatest part of the population increase in the years to come. Today 53,000,000 live in the great cities, against 47,000,000 in the suburbs; fifteen years from now there will be 85,000,000 in the suburbs, only 61,000,000 in the cities. Take the case of Los Angeles: within the next fifteen years, five million more people will have settled there; the city will have literally burst out for seventy-five miles around into 'Greater Los Angeles,' suburban communities will stretch out as far south as the San Diego area, and north to Ventura."

As *Realités* sees it, Americans, and particularly young Americans, are going out to the suburbs because there they find a better way of life. In the same way, at the beginning of the century, Americans, and particularly young Americans, left their sleepy little home towns and flocked to the cities.

"Today," the editors observe, "people of middle

Here are some of the ways people are making history in the suburbs—they are using and developing their land resources . . . their young are being raised there . . . the building of churches and hospitals and parks and community pools is made everyone's business . . . and with the great migration has come an unprecedented boom in house building and road building, in home furnishings and household equipment and automobiles. After surveying scenes like this across the country—scenes which we take for granted—the editors of Realités came to the conclusion that the growth of American suburbs was indeed making history and was "one of the best reasons for having confidence in the American economy today."



income are ordering their lives as the prosperous have for twenty years—the city to work in, the country to live in. This is a dream come true for millions and millions today; thanks to the mass production of automobiles."

According to the French editors, U. S. suburban development entered a new and highly productive phase around 1953 when offices and industries, in their turn, followed their workers out of the city. With the shopping centers and the supermarkets, the industries and businesses newly arrived in suburbia have added their incentive and riches to the life of the pioneering, bustling developments.

"In the new American suburbs," *Realités* finds, "people emerge from the anonymous crowd and make a place for themselves. Young people have a chance to meet each other through sports and community parties and glee clubs. Older women find outlets for their energy and knowledge, operating community services like libraries and clinics and town improvements. The building of churches and hospitals and parks is made everyone's business. Everyday life is good-humored, and casual, based on good will, familiarity and simplicity."

Commenting further on the U. S. suburban scene, they say:

"The pursuit of happiness is always one of the driving forces in American society. American

