



A DISPLAY at the Detroit Institute of Art serves as the background for its artist, Ruth Hegwood, (center) a student at Harrison Intermediate School, Garden City, shown with her mother, Mrs. Hegwood (left) and Miss Katherine Stava, art coordinator at Harrison, Burger, and Radcliff schools.



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## By George Maskin observing sports

According to the airline statistical tables, we logged some 4995 miles since last we punched this typewriter on the home front.

From Detroit to Chicago to Seattle to San Francisco to Los Angeles to Detroit — all in something like 14 hours of actual travel time!

Fantastic to say the least, when the pilot on United's hop from Seattle to San Francisco tells the passengers we are humming along at a speed of 685 miles per hour.

On any trip, one is bound to see some interesting sights.

There's the trip to the Space Needle in Seattle, a close-up ride past Mount Rainier in Washington, the beauties of the San Francisco Bay area, the lakes carved into our mountains, the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, Rhonda Fleming cheering against the Pistons.

But what impressed us most was looking at — and hearing about — the Astro turf football field they have in Seattle.

Astro turf, they say, one of these days will do away with grass. It will save us the chores of cutting the lawn, watering it, and still seeing it turn yellow and brown during the hot, summer days.

The "turf" is what they installed at the Astro-dome in Houston when they found that ordinary grass wouldn't work.

Up in Seattle's schoolboy stadium, the results have been astounding, the director of the city's prep athletic league told a group of sports writers.

"It's worth the money alone not to have the field show a single mark of wear," the gentleman said "after we have played 40 games and held 22 practices there."

On most gridirons you know, the grass is churned up after a few games or two, especially when games are played in the wet and mud.

On Seattle's Astro-turf field, it makes no difference what the conditions are, the field always remains perfect.

"We did have one slight rip," the prep head said. "It easily was fixed and now it's impossible to tell where it happened."

But what excites the Seattle athletic folks more is the marked effect the new turf has had on reducing the number of injuries.

"We have not had a bad knee injury or ankle injury suffered by any player yet this season," the gent in charge continued.

"A year ago our kids suffered nine very bad knee injuries, not to overlook some bad ankle injuries, etc."

The feeling is that with the uniformity of the field, with no bumps and overall smoothness, a player is less apt to get his foot stuck and then cracked when hit by a rival at the same time.

We bring up the matter of Astro turf strictly as a suggestion for area officials who may be thinking of fixing up their football fields or building new ones.

Until we saw it ourselves, we only had heard nice things through remote sources. But now that we have seen it, we really believe in the great values that come from installing Astro turf.

**POST-TRIP THOUGHTS:** Miles no longer mean a great deal. You cover some 5,000 miles in the air and the total time you're aloft is around 14 hours.

The trip-home from Los Angeles takes just 3 1/2 hours and if you think that's fast, folks in Seattle, where they are building the supersonic jets, tell you that one of these days coast to coast trips will require under two hours.

The most impressive sight from an airplane window has to be the approach over the San Francisco Bay . . . looking out at the University of California through one window and down at what used to be Alcatraz on the other side.

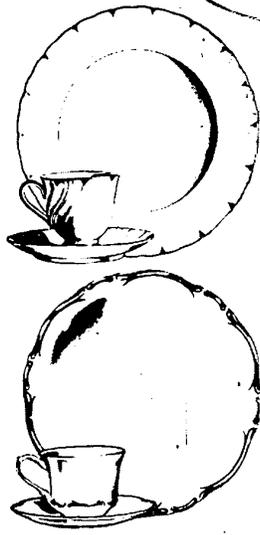
The difference in the weather also "gets" to you. The guys back home tell you it's cold and snowy like . . . But as you talk via the long distance phone, you sit in shorts and haul in 70-75 degree sunshine. It hits you wondering, why live in the cold country?

But maybe if you had to sweat it out the year around, you wouldn't be happy either.

As the old saying goes:

There's no place like home.

And there isn't — the mortgage payments and all other costs, notwithstanding.



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