

editorial opinion

BY CORINNE ABATT

Making some predictions

Without benefit of tarot cards or crystal ball, I would like to make a prediction about life in the suburbs.

In the years ahead, we will become a more stable society and more oriented to outdoor activities. In greater numbers, we will be participants in community and individual sports activity.

Instead of two cars in every garage, we will move toward three bicycles in every garage.

There will be softball and soccer teams for every age group and those who don't play some kind of team sport will be in the minority. There will be a big emphasis on physical fitness and less concern with very expensive leisure time activities.

The swing to this was most noticeable this past summer. For 12 years I have lived next door to high school playfields and tennis courts. That sport has rapidly growing but playfields are used steadily over the summer if a change.

For the sake of an expanding waistline and a desire for a tension reliever, I ride a bike for a couple of miles each evening.

THEIR WAS USUALLY a men's softball game going at the high school after supper. When it was a pick-up game, the women played too. In another area, there was usually a small crowd watching a soccer match often as not, there was a girls' league softball game on another diamond.

Golfers picked the far corners to practice swings. One or two dog owners were working with

their pets on dog obedience exercises. It was the first summer I have seen these facilities used so consistently.

Some evenings when the weather was clear I would ride my bike to Twelve Mile in Southfield and pedal the bikepaths between Evergreen and Lahser. These were put in when Twelve Mile was widened last year. In many places there are sidewalks in addition to the asphalt bikeways.

Sure, I have heard comments about bikeways, being frivolous when money is so sorely needed for education or other community improvements, but they are used and enjoyed. They keep bikers off the highways and encourage residents to unlock their doors and come outside in the early evening.

Besides, there's a developing spirit of goodwill among bikers. A woman who rides the bikeway on the other side of Twelve Mile always has a friendly wave for me, clear across the lanes of fast moving traffic. It's as if she is saying, "Hi fellow biker. Isn't this a great way to spend a summer evening?"

There is no age limit to these bikeway riders. They range from kids to very mature adults. They smile a lot, they exchange greetings and they look very pleased with themselves for having discovered how good it feels to be active on their own power.

Changes in attitudes can't be legislated, but such things as bikeways can implement them.

It sounds so silly. The only thing is—it works.

"Arouind the edge"

by Jackie Kite

A newsaholic confesses

The old saw about the busman's holiday applies to most newspaper persons. At least it does to me.

Whenever we go on vacation, we buy an extra earning case for the out-of-town papers I save. That's probably one of the reasons my husband seldom goes away with us, away from it all the time, for fear of getting buried in the bundles of papers I accumulate always, tip the scales.

STRAY DOGS

may be a problem in Skokie, but they make headlines in the London press. First, London City Council decided to seek authority from the province to impose tougher dog controls, including a maximum penalty of \$1,000 for owners whose pets trespass, leashed or unleashed, on private property.

The province responded mildly, that it was undertaking its own study of dog control and licensing. Council earlier rejected a \$1,000 dog census proposal.

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