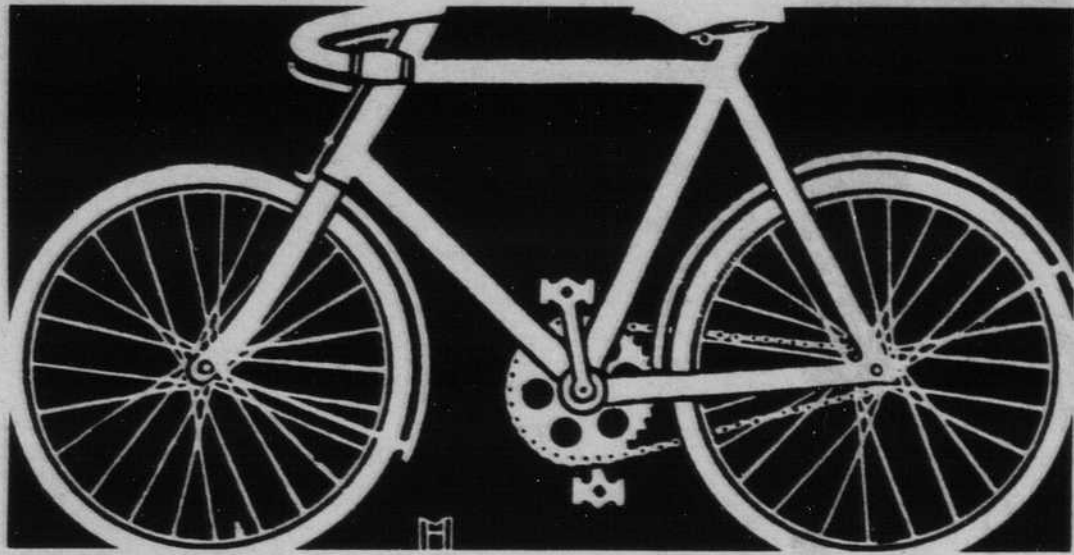


Bicycling



Two-wheelers deluge city

By JACK WILSON
Of the Emerald

No one knows for sure how many bicycles are in Eugene. A 1973 state survey puts the number at 50,000, but that figure was approximate at the time and undoubtedly has changed.

The exact number is actually unimportant, because anyone can see there are a lot of bicycles in Eugene — more and more of them all the time.

Eugene is a bicycle oriented town. The large number of students has something to do with it, as does the fact Eugene is compact enough that most places are accessible by bicycle.

At any rate, Eugene motorists are used to looking out for bicycle riders, and city-county transportation planners also are taking them into account.

There are already twenty-eight miles of bikeways in Eugene. If a three-phase plan prepared by the Lane Council of Government (L-COG) is adopted as part of the Metropolitan Area 1990 General Plan, there will be 175 miles of bikeways in Eugene and Springfield by 1990.

This plan, known as the Metropolitan Bikeway Master Plan, would make bicycling an even more attractive alternative to increasingly costly motor transportation.

According to Oliver P. Snowden, project coordinator for the plan, "We put the plan together primarily to promote bicycling as a form of transportation, and secondarily as a form of recreation." Someday bicyclists will

be able to ride almost anywhere in the Eugene-Springfield area without having to compete for road space with the creatures of Detroit.

Until that day comes, however, bicyclists must live with the automobile. Thirty pounds of aluminum are no match for a ton of steel and vinyl, so the first rule of bicycle safety is to watch out for cars and stay out of their way. Bicycle riders are expected to obey most traffic laws which apply to automobiles: keep to the right, don't run stop signs and use a light at night.

Another major problem bicyclists face is the epidemic of bicycle theft. Bicycle thieves are organized and well equipped. The best lock in the world won't stop a determined thief with a bolt cutter. Last year 1,301 bicycles were reported stolen to the Eugene police, and by the end of July, 698 bicycles had been stolen.

The Eugene police department reports a low rate of recovery for stolen bicycles. Licensed bicycles are much easier to track down, but only a third of the bicycles are Eugene registered. Bicycle licenses are available from the police, campus security and most bicycle shops. If you are determined not to spend the two dollars for a license, at least be sure to record the serial number of your bicycle.

The chances of theft and the hazards of traffic don't seem to have dampened local enthusiasm for bicycling. Bicycle clubs and races flourish on campus and in the community. The city Parks and Recreation Department, in room 105 of City Hall, has information on all types of bicycle activities.

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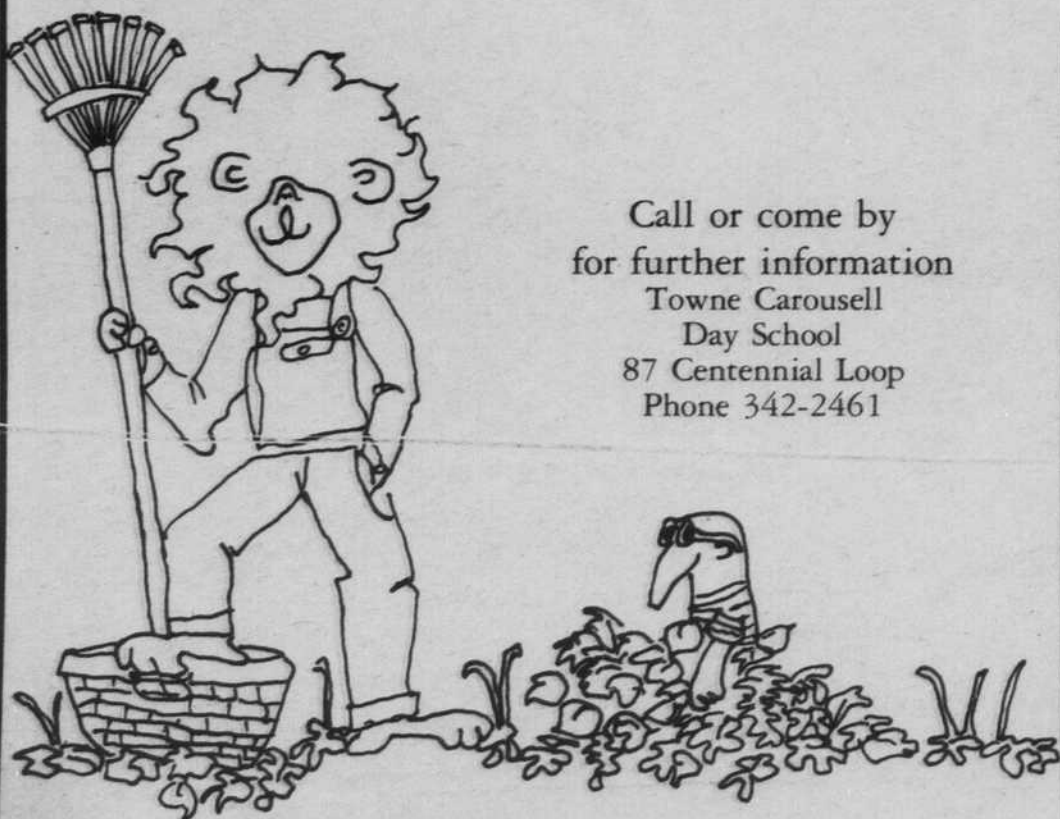
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