

ALSIP DIGEST

VILLAGE OF ALSIP, ILLINOIS

...PROGRESS THROUGH LEADERSHIP...

Volume 3

September, 1980

Number 3

SIDEWALKS FOR SHOPPERS

BEFORE



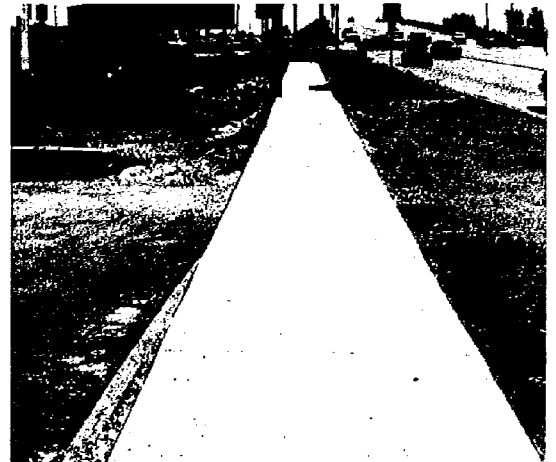
MUD PATH

... AND ...

The Alsip Village Board says the good news for shoppers these days is sidewalks!

According to Trustee Jack Yock, the stores and shops along Crawford Avenue between 115th and 123rd Streets will be more accessible to shoppers because of the new sidewalk improvement, plans for which got off the ground in November 1978, with work about 75% completed at the end of this summer.

AFTER



NEW SIDEWALKS

The project was jointly undertaken by area businesses, the Alsip Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Alsip as a more economical alternative than a special assessment. Thus, many costs were cut because as a group, participants were able to take advantage of special fees, etc.

Sidewalks are situated a safer distance from street traffic than the former mud paths which forced pedestrians dangerously close to the street. Shoppers now can walk nearly uninterrupted from one store to another more easily and more safely.

As a further convenience, all curbs have been lowered at corners to accomodate bicyclists, parents pushing buggies or handicapped persons using canes, walkers or wheel chairs.

Further plans for improving the area, include the installation of streetlights along Crawford Avenue, between 115th and 127th Streets which will begin this September and hopefully completed before the end of this year, depending on weather and material availability.



Trustee Yock admires lowered curb.

Mayor Arnold Andrews urges Alsip citizens—both those who live and those who work in the village—to support local business because the sales tax thus generated benefits Alsip. There are many fine products and services available either a short ride or walk from most Alsip homes and the industrial sector, making such shopping convenient and economical, particularly in view of today's soaring gasoline prices.



Looking South on Crawford Ave.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMERFEST



Enjoying the fun and festivities of Summerfest '80 are: (L-R Rear Row) Clerk, Bob Gruber, Trustees, Jim Howe and Jack Yock; (Front Row) Penney Black, Bob Sterba, Ray Morrison.

Summerfest '80 in Alsip was another shining success, with crowds surpassing those of last year. It offered something for toddler, teenager and senior citizen. Plans are already under way for more of the same next year. The Summerfest Committee wishes to express their gratitude to all the businesses, community organizations and individuals whose hard work made it all possible. The Alsip Chamber of Commerce is looking for feedback. Any comments or suggestions? Please call: Mary Schmidt at the Chamber: 597-2668. Also, if you would like to work on plans for next year's Summerfest call Mary now.

BRUSH PICK-UP SCHEDULE . . . RESIDENTS PLEASE NOTE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY IN THE OPERATION OF YOUR STREET DEPARTMENT IS DEPENDENT UPON RESIDENT COOPERATION IN ADHERING TO PICK-UP SCHEDULES. PLEASE NOTE BELOW THE DATE DESIGNATED FOR PICK-UP IN YOUR AREA. THEN BE SURE TO CALL THE STREET DEPT. AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO DESIRED PICK-UP TIME. ALL BRANCHES MUST BE CUT IN 3 TO 4 FT. LENGTHS, STACKED NEATLY ON PARKWAY.

WEST OF CICERO AVENUE: SEPT. 22, 23

EAST OF CICERO AVE. TO PULASKI: SEPT. 24, 25

EAST OF PULASKI: SEPT. 26

SCHOOLS SERVING ALSIP

DISTRICT NO. 125—3900 W. 116th Place, Alsip 60658—Tel. 388-3487, Schools: Hamlin Upper Grade Center, Lawn Manor, Meadow Lane

DISTRICT NO. 126—5201 W. 115th, Worth 60482—Tel. 389-1900, Schools: Stony Creek, Prairie Jr. High, Lane, Hazelgreen

DISTRICT NO. 128—6610 Highland Drive, Palos Heights 60463—Tel. 448-0060, Schools: Arrowhead, Chippewa, Indian Hill, Navajo Heights, Independence Jr. High

DISTRICT NO. 130—12300 So. Greenwood, Blue Island 60406—Tel. 385-6800, Schools: Kerr Jr. High, Greenbriar, Greenwood, Lincoln, Revere, Sanders, Whittier, Hale Middle, Hale Primary, Hale Intermediate, Horace Mann

DISTRICT NO. 218—5933 W. 115th Street, Worth 60482—Tel. 597-6300, Schools: Dwight D. Eisenhower High, Old Main, Harold L. Richards High, Richards East, Sauk Area Career Center

FOR INFORMATION ON SCHOOL BOUNDARIES, CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE NEAREST YOUR PLACE OF RESIDENCY.

NEXT ALSIP BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER. PLAN NOW TO DONATE BLOOD OR TIME. HELPERS NEEDED. TEL.: SANDY EICH—385-6902.

DONOR REQUIREMENTS: Must weigh at least 110 lbs., be between the age of 17 and 65 and must be in good health. Must be 8 weeks between each donation.

SERPE SAYS: "RUN FOR YOUR LIFE"

When Mike Serpe agreed to a family portrait about 12 years ago, little did he anticipate that the event would create a complete reversal of his lifestyle.

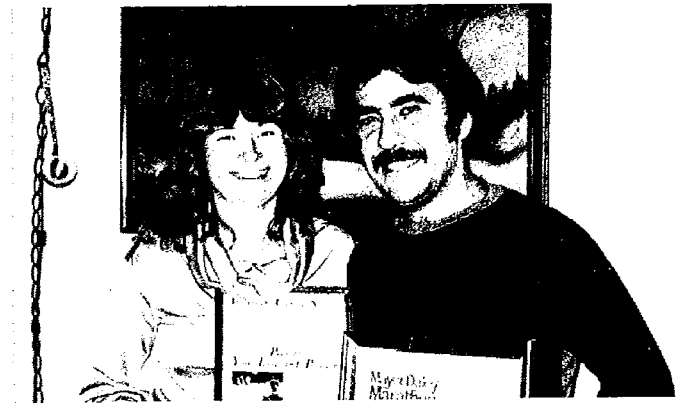
"One look at the picture convinced me that I had to do something about my weight," says Serpe with a bright smile. And he did. He quit smoking and "took to the streets". But first he donned a sweat suit and jogging shoes.

"I also had a pretty bad cigarette cough at that time which was starting to cause me a lot of discomfort."

Serpe says he thought running would be a good way to get started with some exercise, and in the beginning was running only about 3 or 4 times a week. Last year he averaged 45 miles a week, logging a total of 2,344 and surpassing his 1978 total of 1,960.

He seems as amazed as anyone about his progress, considering he participated very little in high school sports and not at all in track or gymnastics. Mike says that the exercising hobby developed into an avid avocation when he began to set goals for himself. About five years ago, he began carrying a lap counter and regularly recording daily progress.

Then in 1977 Serpe had his first opportunity to test his ability when he participated in the Mayor Daley Marathon. He said that event motivated him to step up his training even more. By 1978, he again ran the Daley Marathon, but says his best performance came in 1979 at America's Marathon Chicago where out of nearly 5,000 runners, he placed 604th. His time for 26.2 miles was 3 hours, 44 min., 15 sec. In his age group (35-39), Mike ranked 99 out of 669. (He just celebrated his 39th birthday in January of this year).



Mona and Mike Serpe

"That was a killer. The weather was against us with exceptionally high humidity which made the heat worse."

Mike says he managed to soak his head with water at the water and aid stations spaced about 2½ miles apart, but it was a battle all the way. However, he says it was an exciting experience to compete with runners from all over the world who came to Chicago to test their endurance along Chicago's waterfront.

Also, in 1979, he finished 76th out of 300 runners in a Cancer Society fund drive.

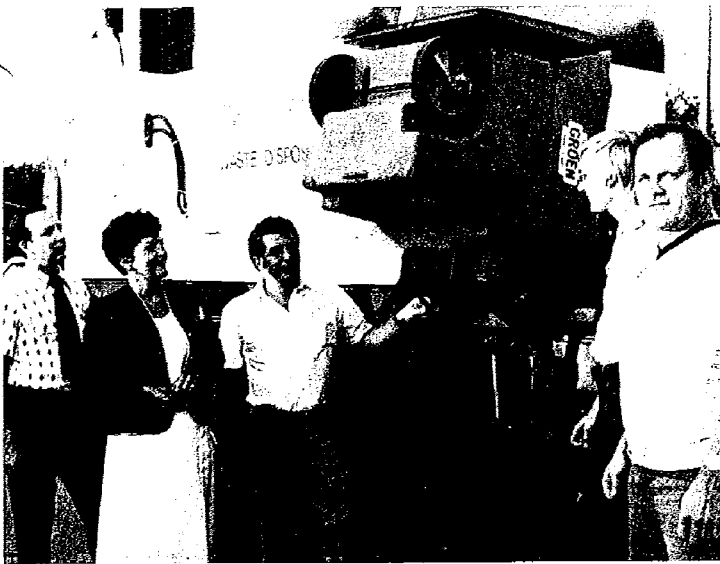
Upon Mike's daily return from work at a desk job, he runs first and eats later. He uses the Maris High School track or that of a health club. But he also regularly pursues a stretch in the winter and during last year's blizzard, could be seen stomping a path between snowbanks.

"Actually winter jogging is better because heat can be more dangerous than cold. At least you can dress properly to combat the cold. But dogs often interfere with outdoor summer running," he contends.

Mike and Mona, his wife, are 14 year residents of Alsip and have four children—Joe 15, Jennifer 13, Craig 12 and Traci. Mona is also an occasional jogger, but says she doesn't p sue it quite as passionately as Mike. Occasionally one of the kids might tag along.

When Serpe talks about jogging and what it's done for him these past years, there is almost a contagious effervescence about the handsome Alsip jogger. He's undoubtedly a dynamic testimonial to the rewards of regular exercise.

GROEN'S NEW TRUCK BRINGS ALSIP BETTER SERVICE



(L-R) Trustees Morrison, Black; Mayor Andrews, Roger Groen, Trustee Yock look over new vehicle.

Groen Bros. Waste Disposal Service, serving the village of Alsip, is pleased to introduce its newly designed garbage truck manufactured by Lodal, Inc., Kingsford, Michigan and selected because of its unique ability to serve Alsip at greater savings.

Trustee Ray Morrison says the new vehicle is not used for the long haul to distant landfills, but is patterned to provide faster, more efficient service between the regular route in Alsip and Groen's Waste Transfer Station in Blue Island. From there, semi-trailers will later carry loads on the longer journey to a landfill.

A great savings in time is thus realized because the new truck can return to the route within minutes after ejecting a load at the nearby, EPA approved Transfer Station. Alsip's close proximity to the station makes it possible to take advantage of this more economical method of hauling away village waste.

Other time saving features of this truck are its smaller design which permits easier maneuverability than conventional trucks; its ability to be driven or loaded from either side; and the housing of its hopper in the mid-section, allowing faster access between cab and hopper by the driver.

However, despite its smaller size, the new truck has an operating compaction pressure of over 118,000 lbs., which more than compensates for the difference in size. The greater the pressure, the more material can be pressed into each load by the ram after garbage is deposited into the hopper.

Alsip is one of only two places in the midwest in which this type vehicle is operating. Currently there are about 40 in operation across the country, but according to Groen, they are growing in rapid popularity.

BANK HONORS BOCHNIAK

Edward Bochniak, an Alsip resident and student at Shepard High School, has been named the recipient of the Palos Bank and Trust Company's President Award.

Ed is a cooperative education student who works part-time at the bank and the first such student to receive this award. According to bank president Marvin Siensa, Ed was selected on the basis of his dedication which serves as an inspiration to other employees to provide prompt, courteous and efficient customer service.

POLICEMAN PRAISED

A nine year resident of Alsip would like to publicly praise police officer Ron Comparin for his heroic efforts during an apartment building blaze. Arriving first on the scene, he personally entered the smoke filled building to knock on each door until he alerted every sleeping occupant to evacuate the burning building.

RABIES REMINDER

There has not been a case of human rabies in Cook County since 1954, and only two rabid animals cases reported in 1978—both involving bats. However, residents are reminded to exercise care in avoiding the disease and may refer to the following:

1. Obtain rabies vaccinations for all pet dogs and cats.
2. Do not allow pets to roam loose.
3. Avoid all stray dogs and cats and wild animals.
4. Report any sick or injured animal to Cook County Animal Control, 865-6050. **DO NOT TRY TO CAPTURE THE ANIMAL YOURSELF.**
5. If you are bitten by a stray dog, or cat or a wild animal, immediately contact Animal Control, your doctor and the Cook County Dept. of Public Health: 865-6308.

HOT MEAL HELPERS WANTED

Alsip Health Commissioner Sandy Eich announces formation of a program to deliver hot meals to the homes of the handicapped, incapacitated or convalescing elderly residents of Alsip. The recipients of the meals pay for the food, but not the delivery service. That's where volunteers come in. If you are interested in either delivering meals or helping co-ordinate the program, please call: 389-6241 after 4 p.m. Please plan now to help our elderly!

ALSIP ADVISES PREMIUM RELIEF LEGISLATION

The Alsip Village Board recently passed a resolution to approve legislation restricting the cost of WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE. Copy of the resolution sent to the Governor and legislature in Springfield, urges re-examination of the Workman's Compensation Insurance Program to facilitate legislation that would restrict the escalating costs of premiums.

Trustee Bob Sterba says the action was prompted because Alsip as well as other municipalities throughout Illinois are caught in a tight budgetary squeeze because of an inflation rate of 18% annualized as measured by the Consumers Price Index, coupled with citizen outcry for property tax relief. Escalating premiums in Workman's Comp. Insurance have had a severe effect on wage and salary increases.

Such legislation could enhance productivity as well as the Illinois business climate in general, assuring the people of Illinois continued economic growth.



(L-R) Attorney Pete Loutos and Trustee Bob Sterba review resolution.

