LEVIS' LINES
Swimmingly

TIME magazine determined the 1996 Olympic Games deserve a "Special Edition." This summer marks 100 years since competition among 13 countries took place in Athens, reviving athletic tradition dating back to ancient Greece.

Let's "date" back only 90 years. A gal now named Aileen Riggin Soule, who lives in Honolulu, where she still swims for the - brace yourself - Humuhumunukunpua Swim Club.

When Aileen Riggin was just an eighth-grader from Brooklyn Heights, she competed for the Women's Swimming Association of New York. The year was 1920 and at age 14, Aileen was the gold medal winner in women's springboard diving at the Olympics in Antwerp.

At 4 ft. 7 in. and 65 lbs., Aileen was the smallest Olympian. She made the Olympics again in Paris in 1924, and came away with two more medals. (She still has the medal certificates).

She became one of America's first female sports writers. She danced for Busby Berkeley in Roman Scandals. She skates in a Sonja Henie movie and performed in the first Acquade for Billy Rose and fellow mermaid, Eleanor Holm.

In May her family gave her a 90th birthday party and then put her on a plane for the U.S. Masters Swimming Championships in Cupertina, Calif. She won four gold medals in her age group.

She has done just SWIMMINGLY!

DICK LEVIS

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BIRD CHIRPINGS

In the last week of June, RON and DORIS OSTRANDER of Lakewood Court drove into their driveway and to their surprise found an Osprey sitting in the middle of their drive. The bird sat for several minutes before flying away giving RON and DORIS a good opportunity to view the bird from their car. It is not unusual for wild birds to tolerate automobiles being much closer to them than they ordinarily let humans approach. The automobile acts as a sort of bird blind.

PHIL PARR of Pine Lake Drive related how she has an odd combination of ducks visiting her yard. A drake Mallard and a hen Pintail Duck have been coming to her yard on a regular time-table and the birds are always together. Pintails are generally more common in our area during the winter months but it just goes to show again that birds sometimes do as they please not always what we expect them to do.

In my yard, I have a Bluebird nest with four eggs and it seems the nest has been abandoned. Generally birds do not leave a nest with eggs unattended but it sometimes happens. It is my guess that something happened to one of the adult birds by way of an accident or possibly a hawk. On the positive side, a pair of White-Breasted Nuthatches have just completed a nest in a bluebird box and should have finished laying eggs by the time you read this.

During the month of May, a bird count was taken in North Carolina and two teams were assigned to the Whispering Pines area. Each team was given a specific area with Niagara Carthage Road being roughly the dividing line. One team had 61 species while the other team had 71. These numbers are about the same as past years and are a true indication of the variety of birds in our area.

Keep the bird sightings coming.

KEVIN SHEA

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PERSONALS

Thanks and more Thanks to all you Village dolls and guys. After my recent sojourn at Moore Regional, I have some advice, stay out of the hospital, but if they insist on you going, be sure and do so while you have Whispering Pines for support.

Some of you even "sat" with my BETTY while I was indisposed. If I could think of anything better I would use it but "Thanks" is the only way I know. By the way, I did get a bionic hip for my trouble, but I don't have wallet size copies of the x-rays yet. Most Sincerely,

DICK THOMAS

To the great and generous people who were so kind to us during my hospital stay and since recuperating at home...a very sincere Thank you. The flowers, calls, cards, taxi service, delicious food, the Guardian Angel and Home Shopper were certainly appreciated. Sincerely,

KATHIE GRIFFITH