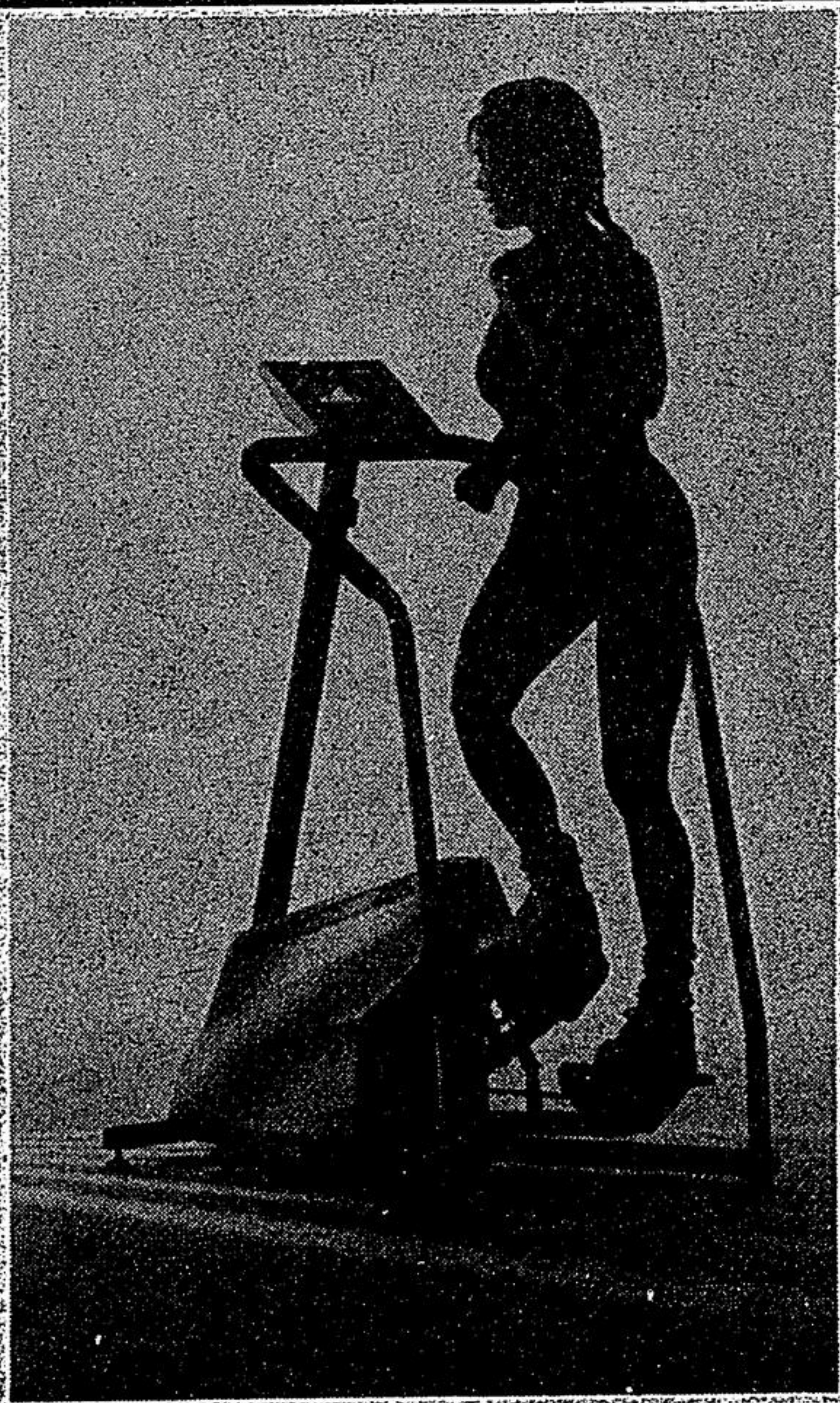


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Good deed helped Art in Park artist

Upon hauling myself out of bed each morning, I usually make a point of vowing to do at least one good deed before day's end.
That way I can at least take solace in the fact that while

I may have contributed to the general mayhem that marks this planet, I at least opened a door for a stranger with two arms full of packages, or picked up a windblown newspaper messing up my neighbor's lawn.



**From
Where
I Live**

Bruce Stapley

Consequently, when I showed up last Saturday morning to assist the dedicated *Tribune* staffers at the second annual Art in the Park in Uxbridge, it was with the hope of being more of a help than a hindrance.

Having been on holidays for last year's inaugural event, I was a little fearful my lack of insight into how the festival operates might leave me severely handicapped in terms of assistance capabilities.

Ruth LeBlanc, she of the much renowned Rural Route Ruth column, took pity when she saw me standing there, looking rather in awe of the huge layout as it quickly began to fill with artists.

She told me to hop on board the golf cart she had hijacked and accompany her to help artists find their proper spaces and generally feel at home.

It soon became obvious that display tables were the high demand items, as the artists began to set up their variety of creations.

At one point, while Ruth was busy problem solving in her own inimitable way, a thoroughly confused lady who had just arrived at the park rolled down her van window and asked me if I had any idea where her spot was.

I didn't, of course, as I was still trying to get the lay of the land myself. I told her to wait right there while I located it.

Luckily, I was able to get pointed in the right direction by a seasoned *Tribune* Art in the Park type.

I gestured to the artist in the van to follow me as I led her to her patch of ground. Noticing how she was going to have to carry her gear across several other sites to get to her space, I offered to help her.

She was delighted. The unloading only took a few minutes, and as I set to move on she asked me if there might be any chance of procuring a table as she had forgotten hers.

Only minutes earlier, the show's assistant manager, John Lambersky, had looked at me as if I had just arrived from a distant galaxy when I asked him about the availability of extra tables.

My Scarborough artist thought she had pre-ordered one, but wasn't sure. Upon scanning the sheet she had faxed to *The Tribune* office to confirm her space, we came to the conclusion she had indeed neglected to request her table.

I regretfully informed her about the scarcity of tables, and she said she understood. She resigned herself to working off the grass for the day, planning to bring a table from home when she returned Sunday.

A few minutes later, while walking towards the show office, I cast a vacant glance deep into a large garage containing various derelict looking picnic tables and other essentially unusable items.

There in a far corner, folded up and almost out of sight, was a long, somewhat frayed display table. I pulled out the three leg sections and found that, with a little improvising, it would do quite well for my Scarborough artist, especially given the desperation of her circumstances.

Along with Uxbridge correspondent Mike Ruta, I strapped the table on the back of a golf cart and transported it to my artist.

Her face immediately broke out in a smile of the deepest gratitude. And I walked away, buoyed by the rationalization that, despite the fact my overall contribution to Art in the Park paled in comparison to the *Tribune* staffers who were putting in endless hours for the second straight year, I had at least salvaged my good deed for the day.

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