

# Letter to the Editor: Bike Path Awareness

Dear Editor,

Now that I have survived to be 50-ish, I began an effort to get healthy and maybe even lose a few of my excess pounds. I quit smoking in December and began to power-walk on our lovely bike path from mm 101.7 down to the Key Largo Community Park, about 2.5 miles for me, one way. Then, if I survive the trip down, I power-walk back home. The question of survival is not based upon my ability to do the distance, it is whether or not I get hit by the unmindful passenger car and pick-up truck drivers who do not seem to realize that pedestrians in crosswalk have the right-of-way. Nor do they know they need to look BOTH WAYS when pulling into the bike/jogging path.

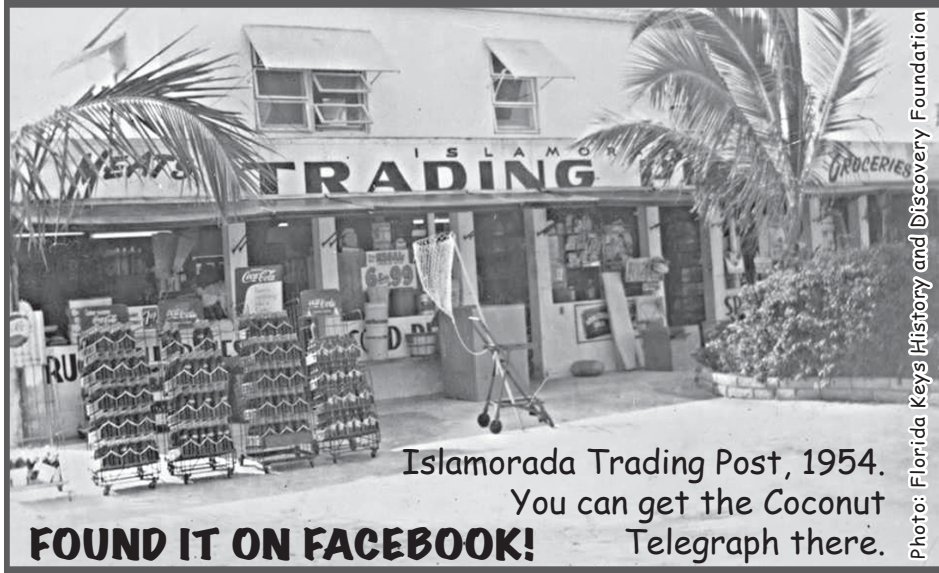
The commercial vehicles pulling out into the path, including dump trucks, are extremely courteous and careful, as are the bus drivers and utility company vehicles. These are professional drivers. It is the private cars and pick-up trucks that do not look for, or see, or respect us.

I am not alone in my concern as our plight becomes the topic of conversation at happy hours and other social gatherings all over the Upper Keys. There are all kinds of people on the path every day. There are people in the pursuit of health and people just trying to get to work or to the grocery store. We deserve to be safe.

I hope the drivers who read your awesome publication will learn something from this about bike path awareness.

— Maggie McKeehan

Editor: Thank you for your excellent letter, Maggie. Drivers, please be careful, especially around MM 100 where the DOT has installed the new, what I call "suicide" crosswalk. Local motorists aren't used to it being there, but visitors assume we are, so it is very dangerous.



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Photo: Florida Keys History and Discovery Foundation

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