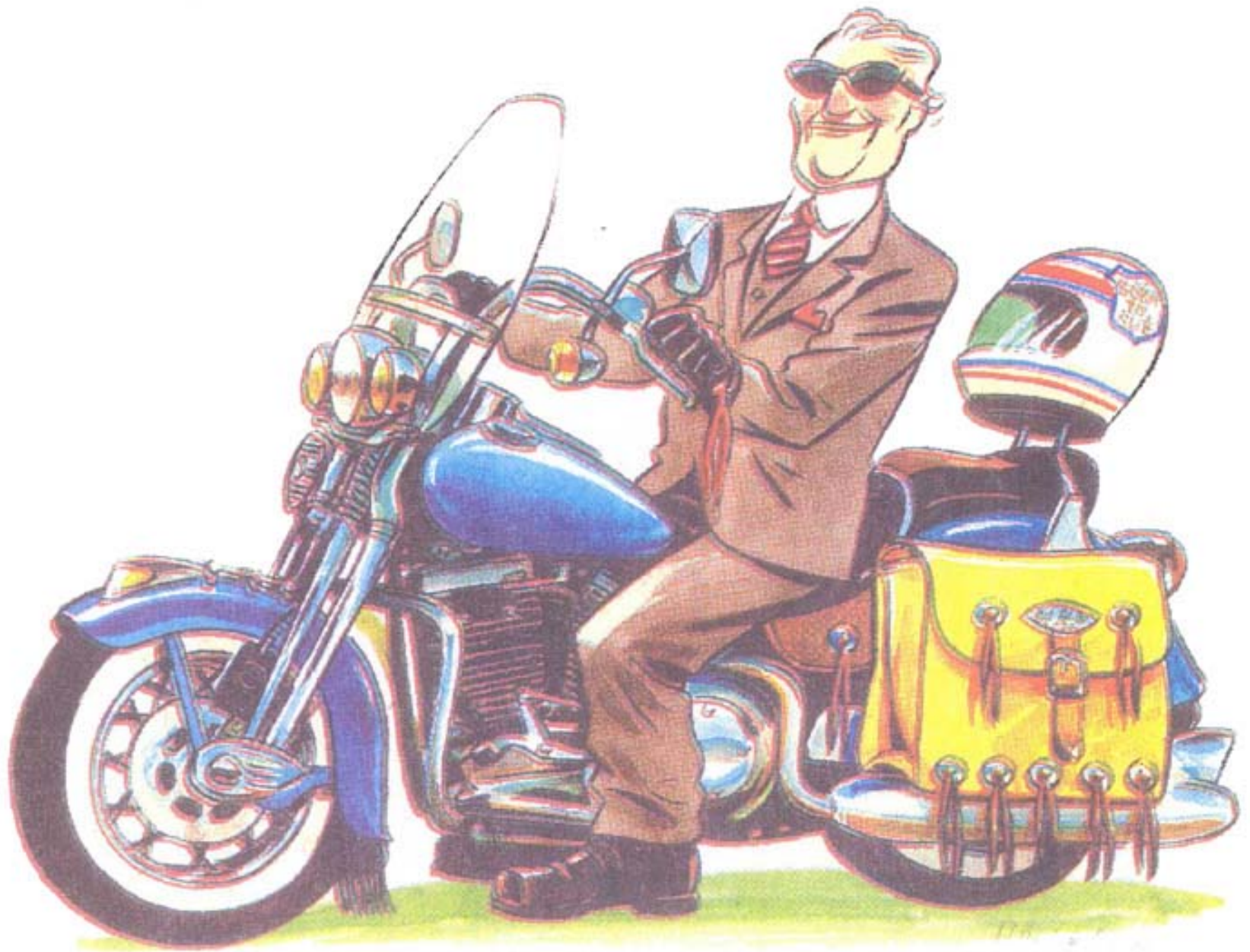


The New York Times

Escapes

With Real Estate, Auto
And Classified Advertising

F1
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H A V E N S

A New Identity, Just for Weekends

Also living a conflicted life is Steve North, a Manhattan personal injury and malpractice lawyer who spends weekends in Amagansett, N.Y., riding his turquoise-and-chrome Harley-Davidson Soft Tail. His most frequent biking buddy is an orthopedist. "Having seen and represented

people who died on motorcycles it's kind of strange to be doing this," said Mr. North, who began biking to avoid the mile-long walk to the beach. "Every doctor I deal with asks me about it. I know there are no fender benders on a bike. It's brain damage, the loss of a leg or death. It may just be a counter-phobic reaction." Or, he suggested, a midlife crisis.

For some, the appeal of the Walter Mitty weekend is the sheer incongruity of it, and the escape. "I enjoy the dichotomy of being a striped-tie,

white-shirt trial lawyer and also a guy on a motorcycle," Mr. North said. "I'm just not the sort of person people expect to have a Harley tucked away in the garage. And it keeps my mind away from 'who's the next witness.'"