

The Minidoka IRRIGATOR

A Weekly Devoted to the Interests of the Residents of the Minidoka WRA Center, Published by the Minidoka Consumers' Cooperative at Hunt, Idaho

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Our Delinquency Problems ...

Today, one of the nation's major problems is juvenile delinquency.

While there may not be many cases of major delinquencies, the cigarette butts that still lie around out of bounds of the high school campus in spite of the student council's commendable action, the indiscriminate use of lipstick and smeared powder by 12 and 13 year olds offer proof of the sad lack of correct family life and diverting activities.

Fifteen and sixteen year olds puffing away on "weeds" and pipes with a cocky slump of their lips are not an inspiring sight. Gangs of boys and girls crashing parties, screaming at movies, making too many cracks at talent shows would ordinarily be bounced out in pre-center days.

This does not mean that all of our young people are delinquent. Most of them are earnestly trying to form good social clubs and athletic teams but they lack leadership.

Our Community Council have mooted the problem, and have set up a juvenile delinquency committee. The Community Activities is doing all they can with their limited staff and facilities.

Our large scale relocation has been pointed to as the stumbling block with all the leaders going out.

But Mt. Mountain, Granada, Topaz and others are all hitting relocation paces, and yet they have rec halls going full hours, activities, sports, and classes.

Plans were being formulated for a summer camp for young people to take care of some of the youths.

A youth center is being planned, but lack of equipment and personnel is pointed out as obstacles.

The solution may lie in volunteer leaders, or a Fund Campaign, or activities such as hikes, swimming parties, or hobby classes.

Whatever the solution, juvenile delinquency is a problem that is real, and the pressing need for action is immediate.

1944 Graduates ...

Though the feeling will be mixed, the backdrop strange, and the garb unfamiliar, the emotions of the 286 students of the graduating class will be the eternal youth, hopeful, trusting, confident.

They will walk up to the makeshift stage, perhaps trip on their gowns, regain their poise, receive their diplomas, and realize that they are alumni. They will sing their song lustily, they will bow their heads in deep prayer, they will look around and see the friends they studied and worked with, and know that they have come to the end of another chapter.

They will look beyond the stage and see the twilight rays and know that theirs will never be the setting sun. They will glance

at the barren and twisted sagebrush and promise themselves they will rise above the common multitude.

They will follow the tumbleweed rolling along lonely and aimlessly and assure themselves that they will have aim and purpose and inner resolve.

They will see the flag catching the breeze and know love and loyalty.

They will see the shrunken old man standing on the rim of the hill and resolve that they shall keep their youth.

They will catch the cheering looks of their friends and know that they will never be lonely.

They will see the proud looks of their Dads and Moms and vow that they shall succeed—for them.

They will not wonder and they will not doubt. They will know—because they are Youth—and Youth is eternal.

Our Auditorium ...

To us who have already graduated or who aren't bouncing with youthful vitality, the construction of an auditorium is a seemingly trivial matter.

But to the thousands of students who were depending on a place to exercise without worrying about the frivolous whim of Idaho weather; to the 286 students who were anticipating forgetting the war for just one night and glorying in their commencement exercises in an auditorium, the bare two-by-fours staring out into the sky was a bitter disillusionment.

The need for a large enough building to accommodate the residents for forums, entertainments and holiday events has been felt for a long time. During the winter months, many of the activities can be scheduled at the auditorium now under construction. Basketball games may be played without fear that Idaho's adverse weather will interfere with the sports events.

Considerable construction work has taken place during the recent few days of good weather. We hope that this construction pace will be maintained during the summer months and by fall the auditorium will be ready for use.

Soap and Water Treatment ...

When we wear old clothes and old shoes, we generally don't care much about where we sit or what we step on, but when we have our best bib and shoelaces on we become particular about where we settle, and what path we take.

When we're low on gas and feel slightly dispirited, psychologist tell us to get under a shower, pick out a fresh shirt, fix our hair a different style, and see if we could figure out what we were feeling low about in the first place.

Thusly, the morale boosting power of soap and brush becomes indisputable. The same thing applies to things, too, like houses and towns.

And that's where we come to the local angle, Clean-Up Day.

Hunt has gone under a thorough scrubbing behind the ears. The cans and rubbish that rubbed dirt into the spectator's eyes here and there are no more. Everything detrimental to the city morale has been picked up and taken somewhere far away, somewhere only the garbage collectors know.

Sunlight will no longer filter through the haze. It'll strike and soak on the victory gardens, it'll hit and bounce on the rooftops.

This is the one time we could bend double backwards and pat ourselves on our backs. Heaven knows we needed a brooming.

Hunt is beaming now, clean and scrubbed, and we're going to do our darndest to keep it that way.

Fisher Urges Relocation From Coast