

THE BIG JOB

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"That Future Americans May Enjoy Liberty"



Basic Townsite, Pittman, Basic Trailer Camp and Railroad Pass--all peopled by workers on a project being built to preserve democracy--assembled in a thoroughly American institution last Saturday and became one. The common interest which drew them together was a public school--the new educational institution in Basic Townsite. The day was both patriotic and social. Under the enthusiastic sponsorship of BMI Post, American Legion the school was formally dedicated in the afternoon, and hundreds of men, women, and children from the whole region gathered for a dance in the auditorium at night. If you weren't there, it was a good thing. There wasn't room for another person. Net proceeds, aggregating more than \$500, are being turned over to the school by the Legion for purchase of musical instruments.

JITTERBUGS--WALTZES

It was a bang-up party--this first social gathering of the whole community--with jitterbug competition for the nimble and a waltz contest for the more sedate. But



TOP--Congressman James G. Scrugham speaks at dedication of school in Basic Townsite.

BOTTOM--Camp Seibert Guard accompanies Old Glory to platform where flag is presented to school by Legion.

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those were details. More important is the fact that folks hereabouts now have a place to stage a shindig of their own. And if success of the first blow-out is any indication, there's going to be a series of good times right here on the project, come thin tires and rationed gasoline, or what have you.

A PLANT TO PROTECT A SCHOOL

There were a number of speeches at the dedication in the afternoon, when in an impressive ceremony the Legion Post presented the school with an American flag. Congressman James G. Scrugham who is Democratic nominee for U. S. Senator flew in from Washington to be present. He spoke. Miss Mildred Bray, State Superintendent of Public Instruction came down from Carson City and officially dedicated the school. Major C. J. P. Ball, Vice-President of BMI; Bob Smith, President of the school board; Roy G. Petrie, School Superintendent, and a few others spoke. There isn't space here to present what they all said, but there isn't a man, woman, or child on the project who can't take the general theme of the talks and let it burn into his heart.

THE GENERAL IDEA

"Here is a great democracy at war--fighting for its very life, battling to preserve the things it holds dear--its liberties, its free institutions, its way of life. And here too is a great plant, partly in production, partly still under construction. Amid the life and death realities of war we still build a beautiful school for the children of the men and women who are here to help build the plant. The plant is a major necessity of today--the school a necessity for tomorrow--both built so that future Americans may enjoy liberty.

"Thank God we live in a country where we can fight for democracy without failing our democracy during the struggle."

ADDS MEANING TO PROJECT

That was the general idea--that and a warm feeling which every American has when he is doing something for children. One rather felt a deeper significance in the project itself as he realized that the school is one of those treasures of democracy which the big plant is being erected to preserve. So--the quicker the plant is completed and the output of magnesium increased, the safer is going to be the future of the 1000 children or so who are enrolled here, and the millions of others who are going to school all over the United States. If magnesium will protect them against being brought up as gangsters under German and Japanese instruction--well you and I know where our duties lie. Our part is to finish the plant and keep it rolling.

MAGNESIUM, THE MIRACLE METAL

(Continued from last week.)

By JOHN R. GILLINGHAM
First Lieutenant, Air Corps

A Cyclone 14-cylinder engine of 1700 horsepower is 91 pounds lighter when magnesium is used wherever possible, instead of aluminum. In a twin-engined airplane, this is quite a saving. It is the equivalent of an extra man. Or it can mean greater speed or carrying capacity. When used throughout the airplane, in every possible place--in the wings, in the fuselage, in mountings, in tanks, in panels, in flooring, in wheels, in ventilating ducts, and in dust covers, to name but a few of the many uses for magnesium alloys in a modern combat airplane--the saving is tremendous in terms of increased performance.

Of course, there are many places where magnesium cannot be used, where the strain is greatest, and in certain moving parts. But magnesium is coming to increasing use all the time. It is easy to weld, and it has been treated against corrosion with increasing success. The previous hazard of inflammability has been largely eliminated, thanks to new and improved techniques.

We are fortunate in America because we have enormous resources for the manufacture of this all-important metal. We have plenty of the basic ingredients, which are brine, sea water, and magnesite. Our only restriction, up to now, has been in the men, buildings, and power necessary to turn it out in the greatest quantity; but we are taking care of that now, with huge plants all over America.

Basic Magnesium, Incorporated, will soon, as you know, be the largest producer of magnesium in the world. The American aircraft industry is going to use every pound of that metal which you can produce, and more, too. No matter how much of it you make, it will never be too much for our warplanes. The Army Air Forces are relying on you to provide our airplanes with the extra margin of superiority that will bring this war to an end as soon as possible. You have a vital part to play in securing Victory for our cause, and it will mean hard work, extra hard work, for all concerned.

But you are going to be repaid for what you do, every time you pick up the newspaper and read of another American aerial triumph. You will know that magnesium had a lot to do with it, the magnesium which you yourselves have produced. You will have the thanks of the people of America, and especially of those gallant airmen who fly their airplanes in mortal combat against the enemy. They know what that extra margin means. It's the margin of life and death, of Victory or defeat, for them!