



Teen-Age

Talk

By Brenda McKinney

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WHILE THE primary and secondary education doors slowly close after 12 years, for graduating High School Seniors it heralds a brand new entrance to education. Preparation for graduation is now being made and the enormous number of Seniors graduating this year is over 2,000. Yes, 2,000 young men and women have accomplished Part I Section A of life and of education. Tears and laughter will mark this momentous event.

Surely everyone will look back on the past years with smiles and tears of remembrance. The gay times, the hard times, the sad ones, the unforgettable ones--all will briefly run through the minds of 2,000 graduates. It means something to press your way to school, sometimes while sick and disheartened, but always remembering the opportunity afforded by an education and therefore being determined to make the grade.

THE SENIOR trip, which has become an annual affair, consists of the temporary departure of the different Senior high classes for various places for the last time as a Senior class together. It means, in many cases, seeing your old school chums for the last time.

As June 1st comes, and each goes his way; some taking the marriage road, and others involving themselves in all walks of life, the remembrance is strong and sad. However, we are not afraid of the future. As each of us take our individual steps of reality out on our own, we cannot say that we were not prepared, we cannot blame the past for our present, but rather we thank our past for the guide it has given us to our unpredictable future.

The Senior trip is one of happy participants. Be there Seniors! It may be your last time seeing ole' buddy boy, or seeing Sweet Sal again--be there because you'll never know how much your friends really mean to you until they've gone, be there because old brother loneliness will meet you down the road and you won't be prepared, be there because of the real meaningfulness of the trip and you've worked too long and hard to miss it.

AS I CLOSE for this week with the hope I have not lost the respect of my readers, I'd like to say a word about the wonderful organizations that make "DECENT" kids the wonderful young adults they can be. I encourage the Boys Club of America, I speak for the Girl Scouts of America and for each individual club that should be recognized. I ask for that deserving bit of recognition that belongs to each of them. I ask it in the name of tomorrow and tomorrow's blessings.

Rancho High School Senior Brenda McKinney will be a regular contributing columnist to the Las Vegas VOICE. She welcomes all news items from all the High Schools in the District--social, scholastic, etc. You may send them to her in care of The Las Vegas VOICE 958 W. Owens Ave., or call her at her home--642-7308.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS CLARIFIED SENIOR GROUP



Members of the "Happy Hour" Senior Citizens Club recently enjoyed an informal, but most informative, session at Doolittle Center with Dr. John R. Crear, as guest speaker, presenting a detailed explanation of Medicare Insurance and Hospitalization benefits to the group... During the question and answer period that followed Dr. Crear's enlightening talk, much interest was evinced in health benefits of salt free and low sugar diets.

A follow-up meeting will soon be scheduled at which time a staff member of the Social Security Office will disseminate information to members not registered in the Medicare program.

Pictured above are "Happy Hour" members with their guest speaker--seated, from left to right are Nota Williams, Mary Russaw, Lily B. Jackson, Maude Rowe, Rosie Gaines, and Clara Finley... standing (l-r) are Lillian Carter, Operation Independence VISTA volunteer; Gertrude Fortson, Delia Booth, Dr. Crear, Julia Samuels, Gussie Hills, Eliza Harden, Daisy Buffington, Mary V. Smith, and Mattie Leixon.

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of his formidable white opponent, yelled such epithets as 'Cold-Feet Johnson!' 'Yellow!' 'Now you'll get it, you big black coward!'

"Jeffries was the favorite at 10 to 4, with plenty of money at 2 to 1. One oil man placed \$35,000 on him. Johnson, calm, displayed his famous golden smile and bowed politely to the hostile crowd. The New York Times said of him: 'Surrounded by a crowd among whom he had but few friends, he was as courteous as he was brave.'

"BOTH MEN were in splendid condition. Jeffries was taller than Johnson and out-sized him in all save biceps and forearm measurements. He looked flawless. Every muscle was rugged and taut; legs sturdy; chest, vast and hairy--a veritable Hercules. As befitting his role, he wore American flags on his purple trunks.

"Johnson weighed 218 pounds and was three years younger. His beautifully tapering body would have thrilled the most esthetic sculptor of ancient Greece or Rome.

"Addressing the crowd, Jeffries announced: 'This fellow has bothered me for a year and made me work like a dog. I'm going to give him the licking of his life.'

"To this Johnson jovially replied: 'I'm going to tire Mr. Jeffries and then I'll get him.'

"The outcome was apparent in the very first round. Johnson strutted about good-naturedly, toying with Jeffries like a cat which lets a mouse get near its hole and then stops it just before it can reach it. At times, he deliberately offered his unguarded chin to Jeffries meanwhile beaming at the audience, and joking with the reporters and telling them what to write over Jeffries' shoulders. In fact the fight on which the world had hung so breathlessly for months was a farce. When, during one of the clinches, Jeffries hung on to him more desperately than ever, Johnson laughed, 'Oh, Mr. Jeff, don't love me so.'

"BY THIS time Jeffries was a pitiable sight. What had been his right eye, looked like a blue slit in a mess of puffed flesh; his left was swollen to almost twice its size. His nose was cracked, blood trickled down from his mouth and he spat out gobs of blood. Johnson was almost untouched. The only blood on him came from his opponent.

"Johnson permitted the fight to drag on, and Jeffries, with the blind instinct of a fighting animal, kept gamely on while the crowd pleaded with Johnson not to hit him any more.

"The end came in the fifteenth round. It was swift and terrible. Johnson, springing like a panther at Jeffries, rained blows on his battered face and Jeffries fell like a log. A vast roar of rage and disappointment went up from the crowd.

"When Jeffries was brought to, Johnson went over to him. 'Mr. Jeff,' he said, kindly, 'you fought a square fight. I hope you have no hard feelings.'

"No," said Jeffries, 'but I ought to have got you.' Then remembering how he had been drag-

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est men considered qualified for military service (presently the 19-year-old group).

--That there is no justification under present circumstances, especially in view of the prospective shift to a 19-year-age group induction priority, for "occupational deferments."

--That any young man called for military service and found unqualified because of a remediable inadequacy be given whatever training or treatment is required to make him qualified.

--That there be greater emphasis in military service on training which prepares the individual for both military and civilian usefulness.

--That there be procedures which assure the ex-serviceman adequate civilian training or employment opportunity.

NOTING THAT many employers are skeptical about hiring draft-age youth, Mr. Wirtz said: "The induction of young men at age 19 would not only limit their 'period of uncertainty,' but, in addition, would take them out of the civilian job market at a time when their chance of being unemployed is highest."

If the draft call focuses on 19 year olds, he sees little basis for occupational deferments from military service in the present or prospective manpower situation.

Half of the current 250,000 registrants receiving occupational deferments, he said, "are neither in essential activities...nor in critical occupations..."

He warned of the danger of putting young men in "double jeopardy" because they are poor if the question of deferments--for college and training--is not "thought all the way through..."

MR. WIRTZ noted that, despite high employment levels in 1966, about one in five men discharged from military service during the year received unemployment compensation for an average of over 10 weeks.

He said that the Department of Labor is currently extending its services to assist returning veterans in finding jobs or occupational training.

Today let us protect our loved ones with constant vigil and strong defenses against those who seek to destroy our God-given freedoms.

ged into this fight, he said to the reporters, 'Save me from my friends.' Later, he declared that making the fight a racial issue had unnerved him from the start and that he had entered the ring unfit. Several experts held otherwise, however. They insisted that Johnson would have defeated Jeffries even at his best. William Muldoon, the celebrated trainer, said, 'I believe he could have whipped Jeffries at any time during his professional career. The white man had plenty of strength up to the very finish. Therefore, I should say there is no excuse to be made. The best man won.'

(To be continued)