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Planner.

EDITORIAL

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

In the past several weeks our daily newspapers have been filled with stories concerning juvenile delinquency. It would be interesting to know how many of the persons involved have now, or will obtain in the future, a high school education. I would venture to say that two-thirds or more have less than ten years of formal schooling. Primarily this is due to the fault of the parents of those involved. They are the guilty persons not the child. I know that this may cause a storm of protests from parents but let's face it. We as parents are too busy making a living and striving to give our children more than what we had. We seem to believe that spending money, fine clothes, nice homes and better surroundings will in themselves give our children a proper perspective and greater incentive to do what our society considers right. We fail to realize that basic teachings in everyday living are the proper foundation for sound character. We send our children to Sunday school on Sundays and forget about their religious teaching the following Monday. Church is becoming a place of social gathering for our children rather than a place for moral and religious teaching. We ridicule the church, criticize the minister to, or in front of, our children, yet expect them to respect that which we criticize.

We send our children to school expecting the teachers to teach and discipline them. At the same time we are prone to criticize them when they fail to control their unruly actions, but it is we who sanction our children in their criticism of what our children believe is the harsh discipline of their teachers. Yes, the school is becoming a day nursery for parents who do not wish the responsibility of raising their children. Mind you, this does not mean that parents do not love their children, but rather as basic neglect on some of the fundamental rearing of children.

Education begins early. It begins in the home long before the child attends any school. Not so much through actual teaching, though this may be helpful, but rather I believe by instilling in the child a desire for learning. By teaching him a profound respect for wisdom and the marvelous avenues open to those who possess it. Teach him not only the monetary values that an education can

bring, but also the value of knowledge for the sake of itself.

For history has shown that man has progressed to his present state of civilization by education. Our children can continue to progress only if we the parents instill within them a thirst for knowledge.

Yes, today we have juvenile delinquents and I venture to say that in the coming generations we will have some of the same, but we can cut down on the great amount of delinquency by proper teaching and incentive towards education.

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