

DEDICATION

To River Forest Youth who have before them
many opportunities for service
to
their country
their community
their schools
and
themselves
and especially to
their mothers, fathers, guardians, and teachers
who have helped provide
these opportunities.

HISTORY OF RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

The story of River Forest High School starts early in the year 1956. At that time, Hobart City Schools notified the township trustee that there was no room at Hobart for the freshman class of the coming school year. After investigating all possibilities, it was decided that the only way out was to house the incoming Hobart Township freshmen in the Henry S. Evans School, and to start a holding company in order to build a proper high school.

In the summer of 1956, a holding company was formed, known as the Hobart Township Building Corporation. An architect and attorney were hired, and plans for the new building were started. On March 1, 1957, it was announced that the State of Indiana would lend the money for building construction.

In June of 1957, the cornerstone was placed, and on August 17, 1958, there were 3,000 township residents looking over the new school in its open house ceremony. On September 24, 1958, the new River Forest High School was formally dedicated.

At the dedication the school had progressed from a dream into a realization of one of the finest school facilities around. This project was accomplished by a unified effort of all people in Hobart Township; it was the outcome of a community that wanted the best for its youngsters and went out and got it.

The junior high addition was begun in 1958. It was opened for the 1959-60 school year. Further renovations to the junior high-high school complex began in 1986 and continued through 1988. Modernization of the high school gym lobby, restrooms, home economics department, science department, and business department was included, along with the construction of a new gymnasium, locker rooms, and computer lab for the junior high building.

ACCREDITATION

River Forest High School has been a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1962. "The object of the association shall be the development and maintenance of high standards of excellence for universities, colleges, and secondary schools, the continued improvement of cooperative relationships between the secondary schools and colleges and the universities within the territory of the association, and the maintenance of effective working relationships with other educational organizations and accrediting agencies."

In carrying out this objective, the association sets standards which must be maintained. Some of these include the length of the class period, the school year, the size of classes, teacher preparation, etc. It also evaluates instruction through occasional visits by authorized agents. Schools failing to meet the requirements are dropped from membership. That River Forest has never been dropped is a tribute to the high standards we maintain.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

River Forest High School has been certified by the Indiana State Department of Education as a high school of the first or highest grade.

WHAT IS AN INGOT?

According to Mr. Webster, an ingot is a mass of refined metal cast into some convenient shape for transportation. It is quite fitting that this symbol be used to display the philosophy that underlies the educational process at River Forest. An analysis of the meaning might show us why.

The first significant word in the definition is MASS. The word means principle part, or main part. When this part of the symbol (the INGOT) is used, it naturally refers to the young people at River Forest. It refers to you and your fellow students. You are the mass that the school has to shape.

The next significant word is REFINED. To be refined, one must be cultivated in taste, manners, appreciation, and thought. If you can live up to the challenge that being an Ingot gives you, you will graduate from your school as a polished individual. You will leave the River Forest campus as a cultured person. You will have reached the stage of perfection that makes you a true Ingot. You will be refined.

METAL is also a very significant word in the definition. The very geographical location of River Forest tells you that ingot is one form of steel. There are also gold ingots, silver ingots, and platinum ingots. Steel depicts strength, zeal, courage. Properly refined or tempered steel, gold, silver, or platinum signify the spirit of River Forest. If you will strive to obtain the proper temperament while at River Forest, it will mean that you always put forth your best effort, you will always do the very best that you know how to do. A true Ingot will have the honor and dignity that comes from the courage and zeal to take on a job, do his very best, and stick to it until the job has been completed.

To CAST is to mold, or to form by molding, and is the next important step in the definition. River Forest does not want one mold, and therefore end up with one type of Ingot. Your Creator made your mold, and River Forest is an institution that will try to see that you fill the mold the way that it was intended to be filled by your Creator. Your mold is unique. It has potentials or differences that distinguish it from all other molds.

If you are to be a real Ingot, you will fill that mold or cast to the fullest capacity. You will develop your potentials to the ultimate.

The last word in the definition is TRANSPORTATION. Even though it is the last word in the definition, it is the beginning for an Ingot. If you find that you can pass the test--the test that makes you a true Ingot--then River Forest will issue you a ticket. This ticket will be a diploma that sends you out to the first real station in life. Pick your destination, and at graduation day you shall be handed a ticket that will bring you nearer to your destination.

Good luck to the future Ingots of River Forest High School. May you be proud and uphold the moral standing of your school as those students who passed before you.

SCHOOL COLORS: GOLD AND CARDINAL

JOE MAGARAC

Some say he was born in the veins of an iron mine; some say he stepped full grown from a gondola car loaded with iron ore. Anyway, heat never hurt Joe Magarac, the strong man of Steel Valley.

Night and day he'd sit in the door of No. 7 furnace on the open hearth, stirring and tasting the melting steel. When it tasted right he'd scoop it out by the handful and spill it into the ingot molds.

Then he'd take and squeeze the ingots until the prettiest rails you ever saw came rolling out between his fingers.