

Commencement Speech - June 1962

Jan Horbaly

WHO ARE WE?

On the "Temple of Delphi," are inscribed the words of the great Greek philosopher Plato - "Mothi Seuton" - know thyself.

To know ourselves, we must know who we are and what we mean to the society in which we live. What do we mean to our parents, to our school, to our country and to ourselves. Let us look back to see where we have been and what we have done. Let us find out who we really are:

To our school we are the class of 1962, the first four-year class to graduate from Rocky River High School. As a class we have profited from the new concepts in education in our advanced mathematics, science, and English curriculums.

We have achieved many honors both collectively and individually. We have produced our scholars, journalists, actors, leaders, and athletes. We have been prepared to face the future challenges, in education, in work, in the family, and in life in general. Our future accomplishments will reflect the experiences of our four years in high school. We hope that we can be pointed to with pride in the coming years.

Who are we to our Parents - We are their children - we are their pride and

frustration, their hope and their concern.

We are the total of their efforts. As graduating seniors we are now about to pursue life without their close guidance. We are impatient, enthusiastic, and anxious to become young adults in an adult society.

Who are we to our Community - We have been the paper boys, the baby sitters, the mowers of lawns, the delivery boys, the camp counselors, the hospital aides, and "just kids" in the neighborhood.

At times we have acted irresponsibly. Our pranks and our cars and our parties and our noise have made it apparent that we are around. True, we have been a source of irritation, but this will soon pass for it merely is a phase in our maturation.

We have brought recognition to the community with awards in scholarship, in Quiz Bee, in the Rotary Speech Contest, and in championship athletic teams.

We have profited a great deal from these experiences because we have learned the values of community living which will remain with us always whether we return here to make our homes or settle elsewhere.

Who are we to our Country - We are the potential defenders of our nation, the citizens, the future leaders, workers, doctors, lawyers, scientists, and educators. We are the life line and the hope of the future. The problems of our country and of

the world will be ours to solve in the coming years. Our country has great faith in us for we are her investment in the future.

Who are we to Ourselves - We are friends and contemporaries. We are teammates and competitors. We have worked and played together and have experienced accomplishments and setbacks together. But now we have fulfilled the requirements of this school system and this, the class of 1962, will be dispersed and each of us will endeavor to make his mark in the world.

So, who are we? You know us all, the class of 1962, we are your children, your students, your citizens, and America's investment in the future.

Jan Horbaly