



DESPITE EVERYTHING YOU  
READ ABOUT DELINQUENCY

# WE'RE RAISING



**JERRY WHEELER**  
built boat, made  
a 200-mile trip

## A GREAT CROP OF KIDS

By Jhan and June Robbins

Photograph by Maurice Miller

NEVER before in our history have we Americans experienced such a wave of fear and distrust of our teen-age youth. Throughout the country adults frankly admit that they are afraid of today's teen-agers. Perhaps you have felt it. The sight of a group of hulking 16-year-olds ambling down the street makes you wonder uneasily whether you left the ignition keys in your car. When you see your neighbor's pretty daughter racketing around in a hot rod with her boy friends, you have misgivings about her morals. Many believe from what they have heard that it is a rare teen-ager these days who is not giving both parents and home community a rough time.

Everywhere adults are taking defensive measures against the entire juvenile community. On a recent trip

around the country, on assignment from THIS WEEK Magazine, we learned of 21 states where there are towns with a 10 p.m. curfew for everyone under 18.

In one Southern community last summer everyone between the ages of 12 and 18 was summarily barred from a Fourth of July fireworks display. The Chief of Police explained, "Last year a bunch of kids played some pranks and darn near blew up the whole crowd. We can't afford to take chances like that again!"

Everywhere there is an increasing reluctance to take chances on our youth. Even our young people's job opportunities are being restricted:

A baby-sitting service in southern Connecticut no longer employs teen-agers.

A large summer camp in Arizona which has successfully employed teen-agers as junior counselors for 25 years is this year advising that no teen-agers need apply!

### Guesses on Delinquency

IN MANY areas these days an entire teen-age population is being labeled a menace before any of them even get a chance to step out of line! To a surprising number of adults today the words *teen-ager* and *delinquent* mean the same thing!

Try talking, as we did, to half a hundred apparently well-informed grownups. A decided majority of them thought that the percentage of young people who tangled with the law in some manner before leaving their teens was upwards of 35 per cent! Some guessed as high as 75 per cent.

We cannot ignore our juvenile delinquents. We dare not neglect them. We must continue to look for new ways

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### GOOD NEWS ON THE YOUTH FRONTIER

Recently every medium of communication has hammered home the seriousness of juvenile delinquency. We agree that no responsible person can ignore the problem or neglect the boy or girl in trouble. But all our delinquent teen-agers add up to less than five per cent of our juvenile population. So we intend to talk here about the almost forgotten 95 per cent.

From time to time, we shall publish more articles about teen-agers who carry out ideas that are enterprising, adventurous, ingenious or just lots of fun—on America's Youth Frontier.

We hope these articles will reassure adults and strike some constructive sparks among teen-agers themselves. — The Editors