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## Manitowoc defies Hitlerism.

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# MANITOWOC DEFIES HITLERISM



## A town in Wisconsin models Americanism in the parade of "isms" this Sunday over NBC

**M**ANITOWOC stretches along the brown Manitowoc River and the blue Lake Michigan and the good green earth of Wisconsin—one of those "typical" American towns, rousing itself to social and industrial consciousness.

But this Sunday something not at all typical will happen in Manitowoc—something that has not happened anywhere in the United States in the century and a half of the nation's existence.

This Sunday morning the 25,000 residents of Manitowoc will rise as usual from their beds, and when they step out of their dwellings they will feel the same sunlight that has always shone on Wisconsin soil and the same kind of breeze that has blown from Lake Michigan for a century across Manitowoc. But there will be something shining in the sunlight and ruffling in the lake breeze to set this day apart. The red, white and blue of Old Glory will mark this as Citizenship Day—the first such day in American history, and a day that you and you and you, Americans everywhere, can well afford to heed.

You will sit at your radio Sunday and hear a program from Manitowoc that may assume such future proportions as that historic "shot heard 'round the world." You will wonder perhaps if this has any permanent meaning. You know about those silver-shirts grimly drilling behind locked doors in

that empty hall downtown. You've heard avowed Nazi sympathizers openly brag of the establishment of American Bunds. Maybe you're one of those who has heard the shots and shrieks of the last war and wonder vaguely if this has any connection with that.

But no shots will be fired in Manitowoc. No Hitleric vocal volcanoes will erupt in your loudspeaker. No bugles sounding a charge. No "Over There." Only Old Glory flying above the good green earth of Wisconsin; and 700 twenty-one-year-old lads and lasses standing beneath Old Glory; and the sun smiling down on Citizenship Day.

Come along and stand with the people of Manitowoc County and see something that may kindle a spark of

resolve in your eyes and prime your heart with pride.

The big parade is over. The floats decorated in patriotic themes have wound through the streets of Manitowoc and have reached the huge bowl-shaped athletic field of the high school. The citizenry of Manitowoc County is gathered there for the day's climax activities. The butcher, the baker and the shipyard worker are there. The governor of the state and Dr. Dykstra, University of Wisconsin president, and many other notables are there. So are the National Broadcasting Company announcers and engineers.

There also is a little man whose face bears deep lines and deep-sunken

eyes. If you ask him his name, he'll tell you. He'll proudly tell you, too, he's a naturalized citizen. But he won't say much about Hitler and his storm-troopers, because he still has relatives back there near Munich. You can tell, though, by the mingled wistfulness and pride in those sunken eyes that he appreciates fully that this may prove to be American democracy's ideal answer to Hitlerism.

Look with the rest of the spectators down into the center of the bowl and you will see a glorious sight. Seven hundred boys and girls, just turned twenty-one, stand at solemn attention. (Each year 2,500,000 such youths in the United States arrive at the threshold of manhood, womanhood and citizenship.) Those seven hundred are the flower of Manitowoc County's population. (You think, perhaps, of your own youth or that of your own son or daughter.)

You involuntarily repeat with them as seven hundred earnest young voices rise in unison to utter these memorable words:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin and the laws enacted pursuant thereto, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties and obligations of a citizen of the State of Wisconsin to the best of my ability."

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# MANITOWOC

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As those words echo, let us go back and see just how it all came about. The University of Wisconsin, as you may know, has a reputation for its progressive plan of education. Dr. R. J. Colbert is one of the institution's outstanding figures. He is director of the school's extension social-science department. One of the seeds germinating in Dr. Colbert's mind was an idea about spurring active "citizenship participation," especially by the "new citizens." He nourished the seed for some time and tried to sow it in various places, but the roots just didn't catch hold—not until he dropped it again in Manitowoc.

"It would be a fine step," Dr. Colbert told one of his vocational classes in Manitowoc last October, "if we should annually induct all boys and girls of each county into the electorate when they became twenty-one, after giving them an idea of what a democratic government expects of them and after acquainting them with the issues and problems of local government."

The public-spirited people of the town and county seized the torch with both hands. They began to lay a foundation with lectures, forums and discussions, designed to give the new citizens bedrock acquaintanceship with the practical workings of democratic government. The whole movement has been handled strictly through educational channels and has been kept free thus far from party politics—a blessing, no one can deny.

Manitowoc's seven hundred youngsters will have a pretty solid idea of what it's all about when they become the center of the ceremonial honors in the climax of Citizenship Day. They'll accept their special certificates with more pride even than they felt when they clutched that all-important high-school diploma. The honor means much to them—and to future America. Witness their own words.

Says Jerome A. Mahlberg, chairman of the Young Citizens: "I feel that, if we continue to spread our spirit of enthusiastic Americanism, we will set an example which, if followed nationally, will become a powerful factor in making our county, state and nation better places in which to live." John E. McCormick, clerk in a telephone company, says: "We hope to spark lagging patriotism and make 'Americans in name' 'Americans in action'." Leon Doncheck of Two Rivers, Wisconsin: "The Citizenship Day program to me has meant a new interest in my government and its relation to my daily life." Mabel Hunsader, farm girl: "This citizenship activity gives me a new appreciation of what it means to be a citizen of a land where freedom and democracy are our heritage."

And young Orville Eichman believes that a national movement such as Manitowoc has instituted would be more than enough to protect America from Nazi, Fascist and Communistic ideologies. Says Orville: "Germany and Italy have their youth movements. What we need is a democratic youth movement, not compulsory like theirs, but something to make young people realize how many advantages we have

in our country and how important it is that we take an interest in our government to see that nothing happens to it. It's exciting to realize fully that the future of your country is as much your business as anybody's."

The zeal of such youth may be the key to America's destiny. Their ideals are our hope, their dreams our need.

Will the Manitowoc movement lead to a national Citizenship Day? The chances are strong that it will. Already foundations are being laid for such activities in other towns and cities, perhaps in your own Squeegee County. A bill has been introduced in the Wisconsin legislature to make the movement a compulsory educational feature for the whole state. Already, too, congressional action to put the event on a national scale is being discussed in Washington.

The militaristic youth movements of

the dictators may flourish now. Let them. American Bund leaders may put a few sympathizers into uniforms and parade them with swastika armbands. Or foreign leaders may cry that democracies are old-fashioned and too impotent to defend themselves. Let them.

But let the free voices of 2,500,000 new American citizens be raised each year in unison in the ringing words:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States . . ."

That will be this Democracy's best answer.

—Don Moore.

The Manitowoc County Citizenship Day broadcast may be heard Sunday over NBC at:

Eastern Daylight  
1:30 p.m.  
Eastern Standard  
12:30 p.m.

Central Daylight  
12:30 p.m.  
Central Standard  
11:30 a.m.

Pacific  
9:30 a.m.

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