

Wednesday, April 17th, 1974

AYS  
AL  
fact-  
sup-  
work-  
ment  
nual  
ustri-  
ociat-  
ector  
es of  
ealth  
was  
ipat-  
the  
age-  
40",  
rity  
only  
ble  
ity  
ic-  
s-  
m-  
ic-  
se  
ers  
ed  
pt-  
il-  
ro-  
on,  
ab-  
he  
cy  
be  
ty.  
u-  
is  
ty  
al  
e  
v  
-  
-  
f  
if  
r

## M.H.S. STUDENTS VISIT ALGOMA STEEL CORPORATION

By D. E. Pugh

On Wednesday, 20 Michipicoten High School students chartered with their own money one of Lloyd Smiths school buses for a trip to Sault Ste. Marie and a tour of the Algoma Steel Company. After Bill McGee's excellent driving, the tour began at 1:30 with a very knowledgeable guide, Floyd Edwards, assisted by two retired Algoma Steel foremen.

Passing through the primary production region, with its docks and piles of coal, limestone and sinter, the students learned that Wawa sinter was prized in Algoma's blast furnaces. Its porous nature permits superheated air to pass through readily to ignite the coke. Coal exported from West Virginia's mines, was transformed before the students' eyes in Canada's largest coke ovens; vast smelly black creations, stretching as far as the eye could see. Coke mixed correctly with limestone and sinter, and dumped by skips into the hot blast furnaces, creates iron which the students watched being transported in heavy railway torpedo cars to the basic oxygen furnaces. Here, startled by the gigantic immensity of this big operation, their wide staring eyes reflected the hot yellow glow of white iron being poured from a huge steel bucket into a vast witch's cauldron. With the injection of a water cooled oxygen lance, excess carbon was burned off, in a witch's brew of blinding light, roaring steam and flying sparks. Alloys, the students learned, were added according to buyers' specifications to make the steel more pliable than brittle iron. From the basic oxygen furnace the group

followed the guides over dirty steel stairs to the rolling mills. Here white hot ingots of steel were transformed into lengthy strips of steel plate under the modern guidance of an advanced computer.

Throughout the trip intelligent questions were tossed by the students at the guides, with Goldie Kendrick stumping Mr. Edwards with the question: "Why wasn't Wawa's iron ore pelletized?" John Kertesz, Tim Bouliane and Ed Alho offered a number of quick answers to such questions as the three products of the coke ovens. Kathy Knapp, hiding her face in her hands, seemed overcome by the fumes of the ovens. Mark Marcil and Eric Mikus managed to dirty their hands from the soot covered railings. Following the tour, the students were free to shop and view a movie. Although some students chose American Graffiti, The Sting proved the most popular with Lorne Willoughan even managing admission at the below 12 years of age rate. At 9:15 everyone, including Monika Droszic, Shelley Gabora, Cheryl Spencer and Bridget Vachon promptly showed up on time, and but for a slight case of sickness by Kathy Killins, the bus arrived safely to Wawa, accompanied by the animal howls and jokes of Don Mackinnon. In Wawa Bruce Macleod, Doug Nabignon and Lorne were put up for the night by Mr. Pugh.

So ended a fun and educational experience, proving that significant learning may occur more readily without as well as within the walls of an educational institution.