

To the midwestern prairie farmer and his family, New York is the someday vacation for which they have been tossing loose change into the cookie jar and economizing on Christmas presents. To the suburban businessman, New York is a sweltering, over-populated city and he yearns for a sparkling mountain stream and peaceful camp site. To the New Jerseyan across the Hudson, New York is a wall of skyscrapers and a necklace of neon signs and lights at night — sights which never cease to awe his out-of-town visitors. To the New Yorker himself, the city is a home in which he lives, works, plays, of which he often wearies (that, however, is characteristic of any man and his home), and which he loves as all men do their homes.

A representative of each of these categories may often be found on a single street corner — the midwesterner gazing at the manmouth structures that rise from the crowded city sidewalks, the businessman impatiently waiting for the street light to change and hoping to catch the 6:10, the New Jerseyan casually eyeing Macy's Herald Square window display, and the New Yorker carrying home a box of tomatoes from an outdoor vegetable stand.

The growth, the survival, the future of New York depend on each.

We can compare New York to one of its skyscrapers. Its natives are the structure's foundation and they, therefore, are its most vital composite. The strength of the foundation determines the stability of the building. Careless construction of the framework may jeopardize the lives of the building's occupants and eventually it will be condemned and admission forbidden.

So, too, the strength, the courage, the determination of each New Yorker is mirrored in his city. We read of citizens protesting the city's failure to place a traffic light at a dangerous intersection, of a group of teenage girls volunteering babysitting services to working mothers, of New Yorkers organizing a committee to demand that litter baskets be installed on each street corner. These citizens are strong and solid beams in New York's foundation.

We read also of suicide victims who hurl themselves from the George Washington Bridge, of young teenagers jumping, beating, and robbing an elderly man in Central Park, of a group of hypocritical Americans who rise indignantly when a Negro family moves into their neighborhood. These people are weak pillars in the city's foundation. They are selfish in that they seek the satisfaction of the desires of their own passions, without regard for the reputation of the whole of their society. They take little pride in their citizenship and fail to realize that they have social as well as personal obligations before God.

From these two groups the foundation of our skyscraper is molded; let us only hope that there are many, many beams strong enough to compensate for the weaker ones.

This foundation must support the building itself. Its walls must be able to withstand wind, sun, and rain, to reinforce the framework of the building, and to protect its occupants. We may compare the building to the store and factory owners, city workers, and businessmen. They are obliged to deal honestly with

their buyers and to realize that their businesses exist not only for personal benefit but for the well-being of society. The restaurant owner has an obligation to serve his customers wholesome food at reasonable prices; the policeman must realize that many human lives depend upon his alertness and efficiency.

The building itself has been completed. So far it represents a town where businesses are working to protect the interests of the citizens and to provide for their needs. This could be any town. What, then, makes New York different?

Its immensity and variety attract millions of tourists, shoppers, and conventioners annually. These include the residents of outlying areas who make frequent use of the city's extraordinary shopping districts and the thousands of Americans who vacation in New York each year. These symbolize occupants in our skyscraper and so great is their number that they exert excessive pressure on the structure's foundation (hence, it must be extremely strong).

New York's future, then, will be shaped by three classes of people —

out-of-towners, who must continue to support New York's stores, hotels, and restaurants if the city is to remain a world leader in buying and selling. They must people our skyscraper.

businessmen, who must establish reliable business firms for the use of the city and its many guests, and thus shield them from dishonesty and corruption as the skyscraper's walls shield its occupants from wind, sun, and rain.

citizens, who must create a society which will not tolerate injustice, which will strive to prevent rather than punish crime, which will care for the physical, mental, and spiritual health

of its children, and which will abide by the opinions of the majority but will honor the opinions of all. It is only such a foundation that will be able to support a strong building. And it is only in such a building that people will feel secure and contented.

The New Yorker himself is the only one who is able to predict the city's many tomorrows. He is New York's future.