

**Bethel Park—Poison Ivy—Out To Get Them**

# Vandals Paint Selves Into Trouble

## Tunnel Cleanup Short-Lived

They thought they were being cute.

But the culprits who insist on defacing the Logan Road tunnel in Bethel Park face a double kickback today.



Mayor Peter J. Page is out to get them.

The pranksters already may be in misery suffering from a bad case of poison ivy.

Each face and the two walls of the tunnel for years have been the billboard of the lesser IQs of high school students.

In unsteady painted print are the names of Stella, Rodney, Alvan, Squeaks, Mike and Bill.

It's a shame, in a way, that two of the "celebrities" — or their friends — could not spell Alvin or Squeaks properly.

Then there are "Bethel 60" and other assorted, ugly distractions.

Lance Kirby, 17, a senior at Bethel Park High School, became upset at the image that was cast on his fellow students when The Press' Roto Magazine ran a picture of the tunnel, referring to the school name.

A leader in student activities, Lance and some of his classmates addressed Borough Council on the problem, asking help to clean the tunnel.

They learned that the borough could not accept the responsibility, since the tunnel is property of the **Montour Railroad**.

But, despite objections from the **railroad**, concerned about possible damage suits, Bethel Manager Ralph Bowen agreed to let the youths have their way.



*This is how Logan Road tunnel in Bethel Park looked after years of painting pranks.*



*Bethel students applied fresh coat of battleship gray in burst of civic spirit last Saturday.*

Young Kirby, who lives at 3655 Mapleview Dr., Bethel Park, told council he and his friends would paint the tunnel to get rid of "that image."

#### Father Provided Paint

His father, Albert, provided 19 gallons of paint at a cost of more than \$100, the Bethel Junior Chamber of Commerce helped out and in four hours last Saturday the tunnel was clean again.

Both faces and 10 feet of the walls from the road up were given a fresh coat of battleship gray.

But the paint was just dry when the vandals returned with their buckets and brushes early yesterday.

They wanted to be cute again, but again revealed the amount of their intelligence by spelling "paint" without an "n."

#### Police To Investigate

Mayor Page ordered the police to investigate the matter.

This time borough officials may find out who has been marking up the tunnel, because police were called by several people who witnessed the pranks early yesterday.

The mayor said he arranged for a \$50 reward "through some of my friends" for information leading to the culprits.

Mayor Page also said he would press vandalism charges against the suspects once they are caught, while attempting to force the youths to repaint the tunnel at their own expense.

"I think their parents would co-operate with us," Mayor Page said.

"If it'd be my kid, I'd say 'certainly'."

Whether they are caught or not there's a chance they are suffering with poison ivy, since they tramped through the stuff while spashing new markings on the walls.



*But no sooner was the gray paint dry when the paint-brush vandals returned with tarnished mischief.*