

**Pierce Field House Offers Athletes Improved Facilities**



**BUILDING IN USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**  
Includes equal units for home and visiting teams.



**MANAGERS DAVID MORGAN, PHIL ASHTON AND DAN FRICKER**  
Fieldhouse locker room has ample space for drying equipment. (Dick Shirk Photos)

**New Field House at Pierce Is Answer to Many Problems**

By RAY DENNIS

Besides filling an important function for high school athletic squads, Birmingham's field house at Pierce field is being used on a year-round basis, according to Franklin Whitney, school athletic director.

After football season has concluded, the building serves as a storage place for food and supplies used in the various school cafeterias.

During the spring, the high school baseball and track teams use the facilities, and in the summer it accommodates recreation program activities.

The field house was constructed and opened in 1949 and relieved a serious situation. Prior to its construction inadequate facilities for high school football, track and baseball squads were located in the small Pierce school locker rooms.

**WHEN THE HIGH** school first started using the school locker rooms, only 35 men were out for football. In recent years, close to 80 have reported. During spring athletic season, more than 100 boys have been out for track and baseball.

The new field house is divided into separate units for home and visiting squads. Each unit has a training room, locker room and showers. Fifty lockers are located in each unit.

There are also toilet facilities for spectators. On the upper floor, there is storage space.

Whitney pointed out that in former days, injured players had to be carried to the school locker room. As telephones are located in the main office, a master key had to be found and there was considerable delay before doctors and ambulances could be contacted. In addition, there was very little space in the locker room to handle an injured person.

**NOW HOWEVER**, there is a telephone in the field house, an ambulance can drive right up to the door, and injuries can be taken care of with ease.

Another advantage of the field house is that there is ample space to dry uniforms. In the old facilities, no room was available for drying, and the equipment remained damp until sent to the cleaners.

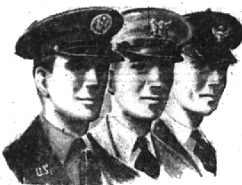
During football games, the Pierce school toilet facilities had to be kept open, and the building therefore suffered, especially in rainy weather.

Whitney stated there are "a thousand and one little conven-

iences" which the new field house used by the hand at games can offer. As one example, the chairs easily be stored in the building.

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