

The Birmingham Eccentric



BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

New High School Facilities to Improve Students' Physical Education Program

By RAY DENNIS

When the new \$2,109,765 Birmingham high school building is completed, besides having a much more adequate secondary education program, local students will have the use of one of the finest physical education plants in this section.

For years, the high school's athletic and health program has been curtailed because of the limited facilities in Baldwin high school.

THE PRESENT cramped gymnasium at Baldwin high school provides approximately 600 old type seats and standing room for about 200. In past years for some games, as many as 1,000 persons were crowded in, but fire prevention rules now make this practice unsafe and prohibitive.

At the new gymnasium, 200 new foldaway seats will be located in the spectator galleries. In addition, another 1,000 seats can be set up on the main floor, and about 900 more in the ends and in the inter-actium gym.

The new gym will have a separate entrance. This means that the school building will not be tracked up by spectators at games. A mud and grill cleaner will also be located on the outside approach.

At Baldwin high school, crowds must enter through the school corridors to get to the gym.

THE LOBBY to the new gymnasium will be approximately 132 feet by 24 and entrance from the outside will be made through eight doors. The lobby will have two separate sets of rest rooms besides ticket booths, display boards and public telephones.

The south wall of the lobby will have 42-foot long trophy case. The lobby is planned so that it can be closed from the gym, and used for the convenience of spectators at football games.

The floor space at Birmingham's present "bandbox" gymnasium is about 99 feet by 53. Because of the overhanging running track, the playing floor space is reduced to 60 by 42 feet.

There is no drinking fountain or seating sections for basketball games. Having no storage facilities; old type windows and radiator stoves at one end, school officials regard this gym as a handicap for maintaining an efficient physical education program, and mud grill cleaner will also be located on the outside approach.

When Varsity basketball games are not being played, the area used for seating spectators can be utilized for gymnasium activities. New type foldaway seats can be pulled back almost to the walls. These floors are 120 feet by 32.

Five storage rooms, two custodial closets and two physical education offices for girls and boys instructors are included in these units.

Separated from the main floor by a folding door will be a gymnasium approximately 124 feet by 54, which can be used by the school band at basketball games or provide seating space for spectators.

This smaller gymnasium will be completely equipped for remedial work, intramural and physical education activities for boys and girls. It will provide for such activities as golf driving, archery, riding, trampolining, heavy apparatus and advanced tumbling.

A HEALTH UNIT will be located at the south of the gymnasium, and will contain a waiting room, rest room, examination rooms and health office.

Another new provision will be a training room which will provide first aid and whirlpool, light, and massage therapy.

Only nine shower heads are available for use in the entire Baldwin high school. These locker rooms have old style half-length lockers, concrete floor, projecting radiators and little or no natural daylight. There are no storage spaces or provisions for drying equipment.

In addition, when visiting athletic teams play at Baldwin, they must use the girl's locker room.

The new facilities will have complete locker room units for both boys and girls. Each unit will contain 24 shower heads, two drying rooms, double toilet, sections, towel and uniform distributing station, two storage rooms, full size lockers, self draining tile floors and natural daylight.

FRANK WHITNEY, director of athletics, said that the basket system will be used to keep clothes while the gym classes are in session.

Visiting teams will have a separate locker room from that which the girl's use in the new building. However, these teams will probably use the girl's shower rooms.

Baldwin high school has provisions for two badminton courts, one basketball court, one volleyball court and two baskets for throwing. There are no facilities for tennis.

The new school will provide for 11 badminton courts, two basketball courts, three volleyball courts, two tennis courts and 10 baskets for ball throwing.

OTHER NEW ACTIVITIES which formerly haven't been possible are indoor archery, golf driving, trampolining, heavy apparatus, girl's hockey, baseball practice, hurdling, pole vaulting, light apparatus and remedial.

Game spectators will have the advantage of a large, hard surface sighted parking lot. In addition, the outside environs can be flood-lighted.

Whitney said that he regarded one of the outstanding features of the new athletic setup, as utilization of space in the gymnasium so that more persons can be seated.

When all these new physical education facilities are utilized, Birmingham will have an athletic setup of which both participants and fans will receive new benefits.

Local Man Called To Active Duty In Air National Guard

Rodney Smith, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Smith, 652 Bloomfield Court, is a member of the 137th fighter wing of the Air Corps National Guard which will go on active duty Feb. 1.

This unit is now drilling nightly at Romulus air base and Smith expects to leave for Arizona, Feb. 15. He is a senior at the University of Michigan.

Residents in Birmingham Park Allotment Subdivision—Consisting of Hawthorne, Aspen and Linden Streets—are Circulating Petitions for the Resurfacing of their Streets, This Wanderer Learns.

adequate play area on the cement area in the front of the school.

On City Commissioner Chad M. Ritchie's suggestion, City Clerk Irene Hanley is going to send notices to those property owners who might have an interest in the matter to be discussed. In the past, notices have gone out only to those living in the particular district concerned.

Watches are wonderful animals to have around, most of the time. Once in a while one becomes over-zealous in the performance of his duties and goes beyond the call of duty. Such an incident happened in Birmingham a few days ago when a stray dog took over the duties of guarding a Holland avenue home. The trouble was he refused to let the owner enter his house or car. Police came to the rescue and the dog took off across a vacant lot, still unidentified.

Mrs. Robert L. Williams, 779 Southlawn, reported that she and her husband saw a small reddish brown owl in the driveway of their home Thursday evening. Mrs. Williams said that as she and her husband arrived home, the owl was in the drive. It then fluttered onto a post, but later flew away when the Williams' dog started barking. She said it was the first time she has ever seen an owl in the winter in this area. The owl didn't utter a sound, according to Mrs. Williams.

At last week's Southfield township board meeting, Mark Cheevers of the Beverly Hills association, asked the board members if a check had been made in the township to see if there are any frozen fire hydrants. He was told that much time is spent each fall to pump them out; and that contractors must get permission from the township before using hydrants.

Landscaping of the Torry school yard will be started as soon as weather conditions permit. However, until the grading and planting is done, children will have an

Murray D. VanWagoner, 175 Abbey, last week was elected a director of the City bank in Detroit at its annual meeting.

Heading south on Woodward the other afternoon, this wanderer overheard two interesting bits of conversation between a young mother and her son. The little fellow was repeatedly telling his mother "I have to go home, Mummy. I have to go home right now!" Mother, with a firm grip on his hand, insisted that they finish their shopping first. A few minutes later we saw them again. Mother, this time, clutched two large bundles and was saying "We can go home now, dear." The boy, as he pranced and danced along beside her replied in one of those clear, far-reaching childish tones "Oh that's all right Mummy. I don't have to go home, now." He didn't.

Birmingham shared the excitement that gripped St. Joseph Mercy hospital in Pontiac last week Wednesday morning when the "quads"—two boys and two girls—were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Rosebush. Melvin Dafoe, 611 Bennaville, shared the arrival of his daughter. In the "inner sanctum" Dr. Harold Stahl, physician to the quad's mother, was given an assist in his part, as well as Dr. Frederick Adams, 1885 Washington boulevard.

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