



A SEVEN-MEMBER board has been chosen from a group of about 50 Birmingham young people to work in conjunction with the Community House board toward the reopening of the Ranch Room. Pictured here are (front row, left to right) Ann Wist, treasurer, and Stuart Kempf, chairman; (back row) Dave Allen, program chairman; Marvin Green, vice chairman; Dick Dexter, sergeant-at-arms and Jim McMahan, membership chairman. This group will meet to draw up by-laws and appoint committee heads, to be approved by others among the young people and the adult board. Mrs. Velma Isley, House director, said it was expected that the Ranch Room would be re-opened in the near future. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

## Schools Share in Bond For County Treasurer

By GIL HERMAN

One expense item that has been popping up on ledgers of local school systems in ever-increasing amounts each year is a bill from the Oakland county treasurer's office for each school system's share of a surety bond covering the county treasurer.

This bill has grown to sufficient size that it has begun to catch the eyes of school board members. Some board members, because they have been recently elected, or because they haven't noticed it before, are wondering just what the money is for, why the bill is so high, and why school boards are asked to pay it.

Because of the interest this bond premium has aroused at recent school board meetings, and because it is an apparently little known item of tax expense to the public, a Birmingham Eccentric reporter last week checked with the Oakland county treasurer to find the answers. Lloyd Sibley, deputy Oakland county treasurer, explained that the basis for the whole business is a law passed by the Michigan State legislature in 1949.

"THIS LAW provides that a county treasurer shall be covered by a surety bond in the total amount of the taxes he collects. This 100 per cent coverage necessarily results in a high bond premium."

The law further provides that, for the portion of taxes collected for other governmental units, the bond premium must be paid by the school boards which the taxes are collected. This explains why school boards are billed for a portion of the total bond premium, since much of the county's school taxes are handled through the county treasurer.

Oakland county's school and county tax levy for 1953 came to \$1,105,070. The treasurer is bonded for the full amount at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 for a total premium of \$16,575.50.

"THE SCHOOL districts' share of this premium was \$9,555.01. Because of the growth of population and industry in Oakland county more and more taxes are being collected. As taxes increase in a school district, so does the district's cost for a bond on the treasurer."

Some school districts pay considerably more on this premium than others. This is so because of the differing assessed valuations districts, and because they vary in size.

Also, city school districts within the confines of a city's boundaries do not figure in the picture since taxes therein are handled by city treasurers, who are bonded under city laws.

SOUTHFIELD township school district carries a heavy portion of the bond premium. The latest bill to Southfield amounted to \$1,572.50. Birmingham school district also ranks high, paying \$1,171.44 this year. Troy township district paid \$822.17, while Bloomfield Hills paid \$229.32.

Portions of city school districts which lie outside city limits also are charged for a portion of the bond because the county treasurer must collect taxes from such an area. For instance, a small part of Royal Oak school district lies in Royal Oak township. The taxes collected in this portion of the district amount to \$2,126 for which the district must pay \$106.67 as its share of the bond.

OAKLAND county also must bill out-of-county school districts whose boundaries lap over into Oakland county. In one case, according to Deputy Treasurer Sibley, an out-of-county district's share comes to a mere 15 cents.



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- Tomatoes SELECT SOUTHERN GROWN 14-OZ. CTN. 19c
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