

Hills Board Seeks To Reduce Costs Of High School

Building plans for the new \$1,150,000 Bloomfield Hills high school have been gone over "with a fine-tooth comb" by the board of education in order to reduce costs. Supt. of Schools Eugene L. Johnson said following the board's meeting Wednesday night, June 9. Bids were taken for construction of the high school three weeks ago and they were about \$140,000 too much.

Revised plans calling for cost cuts-of that amount will be discussed with low bidders by Swanson Associates, architects, and contracts may be let at a special meeting later this week, Johnson said. The board seeks to save the amount by reduction in size of shop and art room areas, setting up the shop in the basement, hooding up blacktopping of roadways until a later date, eliminating a spare boiler, and postponing purchase of some classroom equipment.

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Inquiry

(Continued from Page One)

was turned in, consists of: James Spencer, a lawyer, who has been president of the Birmingham plan board; Jack Ball, Birmingham businessman and president of the Birmingham chamber of commerce for the second straight year; and Charles Kase, past president of the Birmingham Community house, and president of the B'ham-Bloomfield-Franklin Council on Community Services.

Commissioners have instructed this board to determine whether any incompetency was involved, and if so, who was to blame.

RISING SAID Monday night that it was his estimate that 20 to 25 minutes elapsed before firemen attempted to put any water on the blaze.

"It was the most poorly trained, least cohesive I've ever seen to fight a fire," he said, then left the room.

When he had returned, he continued, "I just got to thinking about those people—I don't feel I'm adequate as a fire protection officer."

"Last night was a dreadful thing. Have I overdone this thing?" he said to his neighbors in the audience.

"You certainly haven't!" came the immediate response.

COMMISSIONERS, however, refused to condemn the fire department or any of its personnel as a result of these criticisms.

As Watkins explained to his colleagues, "I think we city commissioners would be derelict in our duty if we did not cause to be appointed a board of inquiry to sift all this opinion for the facts."

"We should go to any expense to learn if there was any incompetency, and if so, take the steps necessary to correct it."

GRIFITH SAID he and his men would welcome any inquiry, for they are convinced their Sunday night actions were without fault.

6-Minute Period Seems Heart of Controversy

The Eccentric appears to have narrowed down the controversy to a six-minute period between 12:56 and 1:02 a.m. Monday morning.

This is how it was to be appointed a board of inquiry to sift all this opinion for the facts.

The alarm was received at the fire station at 12:50. Say the men

Share Softball League In Pontiac

The Rite-Way team in the Pontiac Recreation Softball league reached a four-way tie for first place in the league this week after winning six of the season's first eight games.

The team, manned almost entirely by Birmingham boys, is sponsored by Rite-Way Service here.

In last Thursday's game with Stadium Inn, the Birmingham nine scored a 3-2 win behind the pitching of Roger Reynolds. Monday night Rite-Way beat Knights of Columbus 6-2 with Atwood the

Chas. Edwards Post Has 1954 Election

Officers for the coming year were elected at a special meeting Friday evening, with Jerry Cronin named commander of Charles Edwards Post, American Legion.

Others holding office will be: J. Capron, senior vice commander; Ben Brown, junior vice commander; Al Brown, finance officer; Del Miller, sergeant-at-arms, and Roy Webb, chaplain.

took only 60 seconds to awake from a sound sleep, get dressed, start the two trucks and get rolling from the garage, 12:51.

IF ANYONE can drive a big fire truck to 1189 Brookwood in less than five minutes, he probably has the qualifications of an Indianapolis Speedway driver, 12:55.

The general alarm sounded at 1:02. At that moment Chief Griffith was at the corner of Brookwood and Raymont. He was on his way to the fire, having been notified at his home. A few seconds later he had assumed charge of operations.

He immediately learned one man had been saved, attempts were being made to locate other possible survivors at the rear of the house. He returned to the front of the house to direct efforts at fire control, ordered additional hoses connected to the hydrant.

HE ALSO directed engine No. 2 to another hydrant upon its arrival at 1:06.

Here's what happened during that critical six minutes:

The first engine arrived at the house, a roof ladder, strung more hose to the hydrant. The three men went right to the rear of the house and began rescue attempts.

Ladder No. 1 arrived about a minute later. Four men were on this truck, and they, too, ran to the rear to assist in rescue attempts.

THUS THE SEVEN MEN BECAME A RESCUE COMPANY rather than an engine crew and a ladder crew. This was part of their training and they were only following orders. Try to save lives first, brick and wood second.

AND IN these critical six minutes, these seven men raised three ladders, rescued one man, called back for the sounding of a general alarm, broke windows to let out some of the several hundred degree heat, used two booster hoses and 250 gallons of water to further cool down the bedroom so they could continue their search for possible survivors, then equipped with gas masks and having to heat and smoke, located the bodies of the three victims.

Admittedly, emotions ran high that night—and each pounding heartbeat seemed to tick off minutes rather than seconds, in anxious moments such as occurred very early Sunday morning.

It is this reporter's prediction that the board of inquiry will find among the opinion and the emotion the facts that the critical six minutes were well spent — well spent, indeed.

GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Sharing Softball League In Pontiac

winning hurler.

All games are played at Beaudette Park.

\$10,000 Awaits Top Riders

With cash prizes adding up to more than \$10,000, Irving A. Duffy, president of the Detroit Horse show, said entries are expected to exceed the all-time record established in 1953.

The show, scheduled to run June 24-27 at the Bloomfield Open Hunt club grounds, East Long Lake road, is drawing entries for 101 classes and eight divisions. Duffy predicts it will be the most diversified show in the 27 years the event has been scheduled.

Duffy said major events carry prize monies up to \$1,000, and that more than a score of coveted trophies will be at stake.

For the fourth consecutive year two classes are to be judged under the renowned Federal Equestrian International rules.

A SECOND feature will be competition for the United States Equestrian team trophy, in which judging will be under strict Olympic rules. A special open jumper class, this group has 10 obstacles which must be cleared up to the maximum five feet three inches. Duffy once again pointed out that, although the Detroit Horse show is staged at a private club,

it is open to the public. General admission tickets may be purchased through the Detroit Boys' club, who receive a large share of the proceeds.

Competition begins at 9 a.m. each of the four days, resuming again at 12:30 p.m. for the afternoon. Night shows under lights start at 6:30 p.m., with numerous major events scheduled after 8 p.m.

AMONG THE trophies riders will work for is the McClay trophy, given in the ASPCA horsemanship event; Shuell Memorial for the

Lathrup to Open Water Department

A wholesale water contract with Detroit and a two-year lease on Lathrup Village's water system was approved by city councilmen at a special meeting Friday night. The city will lease the system from Louis Lathrup Kelly, owner of Lathrup Village, until the council decides to ask for a vote of residents to take over the system.

The Detroit contract is expected to become effective July 1 when the city hopes to have a water department in operation.

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For Father's Day

JUNE 20th... that's Father's Day '54. And for this special occasion for Dads this Shop is replete with gifts which are bound to please him—for the day alone, and far into the future.

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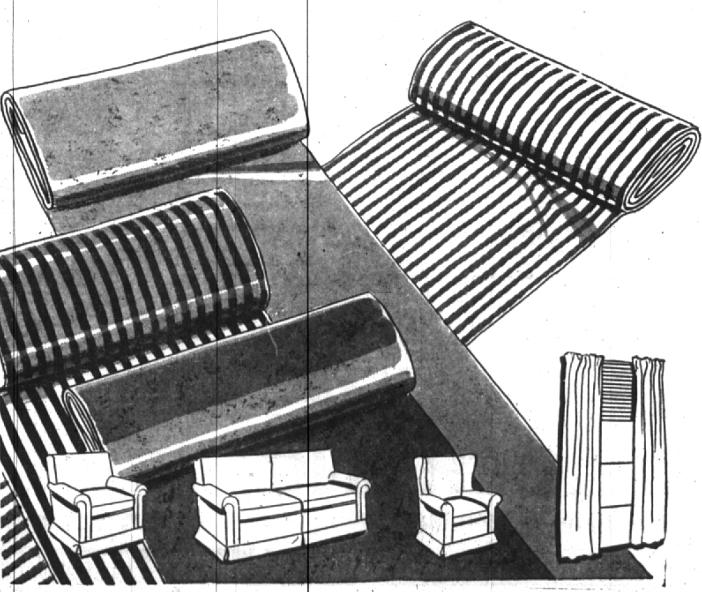
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