

# Birmingham Blazes a Trail In Sensible School Design

## Does Well in Economy, National Leaders Say

Dynamic Detroit is pushing to ward greater economy and flexibility in its school construction. Diminutive Birmingham has been showing the way for at least a decade, claim its school leaders, Drs. Dwight B. Ireland and Richard L. Featherstone.

Others—Special Executive Magazine, to be specific—have recognized these qualities in Birmingham's school planning and design (tions) to double, triple or quad-

the Detroit area, particularly when one considers that a swimming pool is included in the cost," said assistant Supt. of Schools Featherstone.

The magazine presented the school district with the Walter Cocking award for the design of the new junior-senior high school, one of five schools chosen from a field of 145. This is Birmingham's third such award. It cites the school's flexibility, functionality and economy.

Detroit, in its last year of school construction—1957—paid an average of \$18 to \$19 per square foot," George L. W. Schultz, Detroit's head school architect said.

Figured on Detroit's scale, cost of Birmingham's new junior-senior high school would run \$14.10 per square foot. Linn C. Smith, of Architects, Smith, Tarrapata and MacMahon, said.

HEATHS ON SCHOOL systems are quick to point out that comparison of school costs is at best a tough job. Few systems use the same method of calculating costs.

Local factors push prices around. Detroit, Schultz said, has a land problem. She is forced to go up—build multiple story schools. Suburbs have the land on which to spread out and build the lower cost, one story unit.

The \$14 and \$18-\$19 figures made a "reasonably fair" comparison, though, according to the school authorities.

Birmingham, taking over the methods of the F. W. Dodge corporation, came up with \$13.28 per square foot. This method allows the school board to make some fairly close comparisons with other districts.

FEATHERSTONE pointed to an upstart junior high school up for bids when Birmingham's most recent contract was let. Without a swimming pool, the Ypsi school cost \$14 per square foot.

Des Plaines, Ill., is building a school for \$16.25 per square foot. It's only fair to point out that they have two swimming pools. So, they're not far behind us," Featherstone said.

A Dearborn county (Ind.) school is going up for the amazingly low

price of \$10.26. The school, however, has only 12 standard classrooms, no swimming pool, and a mammoth gymnasium—which adds greatly to area and little to cost.

St. Joseph, Mich., is building a high school for \$15.49.

"WHAT ALL THIS proves is that it's extremely hard to compare costs in different districts," Featherstone pointed out. "But we can deduce that Birmingham is doing well—better than, or equal to most."

That Birmingham's schools for the last decade have been flexible in design, there is no doubt. That they show long-run economy, there is little doubt, although only time will prove or disprove economy.

Local school boards seem to have an eye for true economy, a knack for deciding in each instance whether low initial cost or durability sells the real bargain.

"We'd love to have terrazzo floors," Featherstone said. "They last forever. But asphalt tile costs about one-fourth as much. We can replace it three times before we reach the cost of terrazzo."

BIRMINGHAM BOARDS have followed principles laid down by the national council on schoolhouse construction.

Flexibility and expandability are two. The new school adheres rigidly to them. Classrooms are arranged in four-room clusters. The cinder block walls between the rooms can be removed (at less than the cost of movable partitions) to double, triple or quadruple a room size.

These walls contain no pipes or wires. Nor do they support the roof. Removal cost thus is kept to a minimum.

ROOMS CAN be added to the building at relatively low cost. Corridors, pipes, electrical conduits are extendable. No walls have to be torn down. New pipes connect to the ends of existing pipes.

"Metal pan ceilings" (panels held in place by clips) will allow for future electrical additions—television sets, for instance.

"This and other schools are built on the 'modular' plan," Ireland said. "It is designed so all steel beams can be pre-cut to standard lengths before delivery."

Construction workers only have to rivet beams in place.

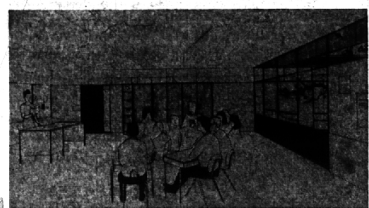
All cabinets have been prefabricated to standard sizes. They are fitted into prepared slots, saving time in the assembling of the building.

Simplicity of design means economy. The new school is termed "exceedingly simple"—basically a rectangle. Courts have been cut into the rectangle between the four-room clusters to allow a maximum of natural light.

"MULTIPLE USE" guided this and other Birmingham school designs.

"Even the cafeteria can be used for a study hall if the need arises," Featherstone said.

Designed to handle 1,600 students



The classroom. A distinguishing feature is the narrow window along half of the right wall. A short, inexpensive curtain permits sufficient black-out to show films. Designed for use, chalk boards in math rooms are high enough to accommodate a meter-stick.

The four room cluster. Heavy black lines represent permanent walls. Dotted lines represent maneuverable cinder-block walls which can be removed with relative ease.

gymnasium with a stage has to fill the bill," he sighed.

UNIFORMITY and prefabrication are two tricks used to keep costs down.

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## General Motors' Field Relations Has New Manager

Appointment of John Reedy, 783 Abbey, Birmingham, as manager of the field relations section of the General Motors public relations staff with headquarters in Detroit is announced by Anthony G. De Lorenzo, GM vice president in charge of public relations.

Reedy has been Detroit regional manager since June 1, 1955. Succeeding him will be Charles V. Hagler, who was assistant Detroit regional manager.

In his new position, Reedy will have supervision over the General Motors management clubs, GM community relations activities, Preview of Progress high school science show, and various special projects.

Reedy joined General Motors in 1930 as a member of the Parade of Progress. During World War II he was on the faculty of General Motors Institute in Flint. In 1946 he returned to public relations and helped reactivate the

4-A THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCESTRIC June 25, 1959

Preview of Progress traveling show. He was named assistant regional manager of public relations in Los Angeles in 1954, a position he held until returning to Detroit in 1955.

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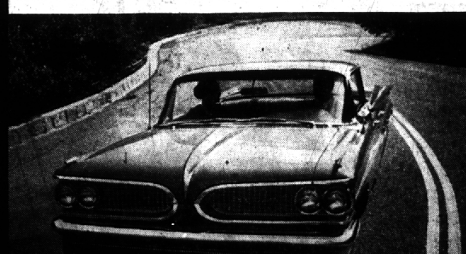
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## Obituary Notices

### Mrs. Gallogly Clubwoman

Funeral services were Tuesday, June 23, for Mrs. West H. Gallogly, 55, of 5500 Woodlake court, Bloomfield township, from Christ Church, Cranbrook. Burial in Woodlawn cemetery, Detroit followed. The Rev. Robert DeWitt officiated.

Mrs. Gallogly died Saturday, June 20, at Henry Ford hospital, Detroit, after a long illness.

A life-time resident of the Birmingham area, Mrs. Gallogly attended Liggett school and Bennett college. She was a member of Tau Beta association, Christ Church, Cranbrook and the altar guild at Christ Church.

She was active in the Junior League of Birmingham, a board member and vice president of the Neighborhood Service organization of Detroit, Women's Village club of Birmingham, and the Bloomfield

branch of the WNPGA.

She is survived by her husband, West H.; a daughter, Mrs. John Bacon, Shaker Heights, Cleveland, O.; a son, West H. Jr., of Allegan, Mich.; and William G. of Birmingham; her mother, Mrs. William G. Harry, Birmingham; two grandsons; a sister, Mrs. C. Booth of Bloomfield Hills, and a brother, William R. Harry, of Milwaukee, Wis.

### John P. Boothe

Mr. John Persigola Boothe, 45, of 6750 Castle drive, Bloomfield township, died Thursday, June 18.

Surviving are his wife, Pearl I.; his father, Karl, Sr.; two brothers, Karl C. of Lincoln Park, and Edward, of Trenton; a sister, Mrs. Zora Czarnecki, Mrs. Clemens, and Mrs. Boothe.

Mr. Boothe was a co-owner of the Pepsi Cola-Nehi Distributing company, 2240 Van Horn boulevard. He was a member of the Northwest Lions club, the Northwest Sportsman club and served in Europe during World War II.

Services were Monday, June 22, from the R. G. and G. R. Harris funeral home, 14751 McNichols. Interment was in Roseland park cemetery.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Clarence Bismack, Atty., 207 Wabash Bldg., Birmingham, Michigan 17,212

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

In re: the estate of John P. Boothe, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the above estate is further notified and ordered to be sold and the proceeds thereof to be distributed to the heirs and assigns of the said John P. Boothe.

It is further ordered that notice be given to all interested parties to show cause why they should not be allowed to participate in the sale of the said estate.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 14th day of June, 1959.

ARTHUR R. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

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