

WORK IS nearly completed on the new Westchester Elementary School on Maple near Cranbrook road. By the time school starts in early Sept., workmen will have cleared away the aftermath of construction and the school will be ready for its new occupants.

B'ham, Hills Complete Multi-Million Projects

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Both the Birmingham and Bloomfield school districts will complete multi-million dollar expansion programs this year.

Bloomfield leads the way with a new junior high, a new elementary and a 30-classroom addition to the high school.

Birmingham counters with two new elementary schools and additions to several other buildings.

Bloomfield's total construction cost is estimated at about \$2 1/2 million for the year, while Birmingham's building program was financed from the \$1,915,000 bond issue which was approved by voters in Nov., 1961.

THE NEW facilities in Bloom-

field are expected to take care of the school population growth for the next three to five years according to superintendent Eugene Johnson.

With the new buildings the Hills school system consists of six elementary schools, two junior highs and one senior high.

The addition to the Hills high school includes language and science laboratories, enlarged cafeteria and library and a little theater with a seating capacity of 400. East Hills Junior High at Opdyke and Kensington roads is located on a 30 acre parcel of property formerly owned by Bloomfield Township. The land was a gravel pit at one time.

DESIGNED TO accommodate 600 students, East Hills will fea-

ture 20 classrooms, gym, cafeteria, (cafeteria and auditorium combination) library, science laboratory and conference rooms.

Tarapata-MacMahon, Architects and Engineers of Bloomfield Hills, have designed the school like a small campus.

It has four main areas — academic and research; physical education; cafeteria, kitchen and offices; and the allied arts. The George G. Booth Elementary School is located on Wing Lake Road, south of Maple. Built on an 18 acre site it consists of 14 classrooms and a library.

IN BIRMINGHAM the new Westchester Elementary will be open and ready for the fall semester. Finishing touches in the building are expected to be com-

pleted by Oct. 1.

Additions are nearly completed at five schools; Barnum Junior High, and Franklin, Pembroke, Harlan and Bloomfield Village elementary schools. The new Meadow Lake Elementary is expected to be finished by Nov. 1.

tending school is slowing down as the area becomes more heavily populated.

In 1953 and 1956 the increase was about 1,000 new pupils per year. In 1956 alone, four new schools were constructed.

In 1962, the increase is about 400 new students but an expanded program marks the end of a long period of growing up to the broader range of academic and non-academic subjects, requires physical school facilities. The increase in the rate of children at-

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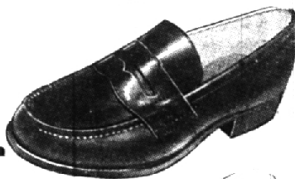
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