

# Overflow Of Pupils Puts County Schools In Tight Spot

## Townships Facing Financial Troubles

By DAVID WATSON

The Marion County School system is in a bad spot. It has pupils coming into classes and no place to put them.

It needs money and is hard pressed to find it.

Records in the county superintendent's office show the combined township debt is nearly \$3 million. They also show the townships have a borrowing power of little less than \$1.5 million.

Only two of the nine townships in Marion County can boast no bonded debt at all.

At least 130 classrooms could be used at once.

Robert F. Gladden, superintendent of county schools, said some of the needed rooms are now under construction and others are in the planning stage.

But the county still faces a major obstacle.

### Enrollment Jumps

Pupils are coming into school faster than the rooms can be built.

And school enrollment estimates were up this year, too.

County officials expected an enrollment of 21,000. The final count showed 22,000 had entered.

Most townships in the county have some sort of future building plan. Some do not. For two reasons. They don't know where the money is coming from. They don't know what the city's next annexation move will be.

Classroom costs have tripled since 1939.

Rising property values and new construction have not gone far to equalize the balance.

In the strange county financial picture, it is not always the county with the greatest bonding power which finds itself well off.

### Population Shifts

Most of the township trustees agree that population shifts have knocked economic planning into a cocked hat.

This is the way the school picture shapes up by townships.

**CENTER:** By shifting pupils around, can get by without immediate building. It is out of debt and has a borrowing reserve of about \$121,326 under its bonding limits.

**MAJOR:** Problem is that city is annexing its territory, but the children still go to county schools. City is short on space. It has loaned two rooms to Perry Township, and has no special building tax levies.

**LAWRENCE:** Next year it will start collecting money under a special 75-cent building fund levy. More rooms are needed. No immediate half-day sessions are foreseen.

**More building will be needed, but no one seems to know how much.**

The township will be out of debt next year, giving it a borrowing reserve of about \$221,543.

**No Building Tax:** This township just finished an addition, but has immediate need of at least two more rooms. No special building fund tax has been levied, although it could be had upon petition of taxpayers.

This is one of two townships which can also take advantage of an old state law which, in effect, doubles its borrowing power. Superintendent Gladden said. It can be done by using civil township bond issues to build schools.

Mr. Gladden said bonds can be issued under both plans up to 2 per cent of the township's property valuation.

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**Even if the township got the additional two rooms, it is estimated they would need more by the end of the school year.**

**WARREN:** Pupils are to move into six new classrooms tomorrow, and into another six later. The long range program has placed two new building sites under option. Negotiations have been started on a third.

**Two Rooms Donated:** While this is going on, however, two rooms donated by Naval Ordnance Plant are in use by the township. There is a 50-cent building fund tax levy, and it has already paid off \$110,000. It will bring in about \$220,000 for a full year.

In 1953 Trustee Charles Kohlmeier expects to start building Shadeland School additions. By the fall of 1953, he said, construction of a new elementary or junior high school is expected to start.

He said the township can now keep its bonded debt down and make classroom gains on the overflowing enrollment unless a big jump in new entries comes. Warren Township is about \$585,000 in debt, and has a reserve of about \$215,000.

**PERRY:** This township needs about 24 rooms, but has eight of

them already under construction, said Mr. Gladden. By next fall it should have another eight. Perry has a special building fund tax levy and a borrowing margin of about \$174,980. It is about \$227,000 in debt.

**WASHINGTON:** Trustee Chester McKamey said he has 23 rooms going up. He hopes to have them by Jan. 1. The township is under a 75-cent building fund levy, bringing in \$220,000 this year, and \$291,000 next year. The rate has been raised from 50 cents.

Mr. McKamey said he will need 12 to 15 more rooms next fall. He said he is now using 13 rooms at State Fairgrounds. He also said he has no bonding margin left, and has 220 John Strange pupils on half days.

Mr. McKamey said building will be delayed while the township awaits tax collections. He added townships need a new state law which will let them use their credit through private firms.

He added his township's building program was started too late to keep pace with incoming children. The cumulative building fund might take care of the grade school children, but trouble will come when the big volume reaches high school.

**DECATUR:** This township took advantage of the law allowing it to double its borrowing margin. It does not have a special tax levy for a cumulative building fund.

Trustee Fred Butler said a citizen's committee drafted a long range plan, but the attack is being made one step at a time with revisions as needed. There are 16 rooms being built, they have finished six rooms. A total of 22-room additions have been planned.

He has no half day sessions, but had to increase the budget to build. He plans to knock down the tax rate after getting the rooms.

**FRANKLIN:** New drafting long range school plans through a citizen's committee. A new school will be needed if enrollments keep growing, sometime within the next six years. The township will start collecting on its 75-cent building fund next year.

**WAYNE:** It has been estimated at least 40 rooms are needed here. Children are on half days at Fleming Gardens, Drexel Gardens, Mars Hill and Ben Davis Grade School.

It has a 75-cent building levy starting this spring and should get about \$307,000 a year out of it. The township has asked for federal help, especially in housing about 400 Tyndall Town children.

The township is \$569,500 in debt, and has a margin of about \$200,000.

Trustee Parker Dunn said he wants to get 36 rooms within the next two years. Two grade schools are hoped for next year. The township has received 29 rooms in the last 13 years. It got 18 last year, Mr. Dunn said.

He pointed out his population growth is about nine times the national average.

**Tech Student Hit By Car, Arm Broken**

A 15-year-old Technical High School student was in fair condition at General Hospital today after he was struck by a car while riding his bicycle late yesterday in the 2600 block of E. Newton Ave.

William Zantman, 217 S. Keystone Ave., suffered a fractured left arm. Police said driver of the car was George Lindville, 65, of 306 N. Irvington Ave.

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ENTRANCED—Keith Billhimer, 7, Atlanta, Ind., (left) and Karen Zane, 6, Anderson, watch their elders covort at Indiana Square Dance festival last night in Manufacturers' Building State Fairgrounds. More than 2000 packed the building for the gala country-dancing fun-fest.



SWING YO' PARTNER Three girls join in the fun during an old-time number. (Left to right) Vera Mushrush, 1426 Hoefgen St.; Norris, 535 Middle Drive, Woodruff Place, and Joan Moyer, 2030 N. Centennial St. Later in the year, the best Hoosier callers will go to Chicago to compete in an international square-dancing contest. Champion callers led all the numbers last night as the crowd whooped, hollared, and romped. This was the second annual state festival here.

## Prep Grid Star Shot, Killed

By United Press

DETROIT, Sept. 27—A star high school guard was shot to death today by an angry football fan who got a punch in the nose when he made fun of the athlete's grid-iron ability, police reported.

Charles Goodloe, 18, was held for investigation of first degree murder after police said he confessed firing six shots into James Motton, 18, a six-foot, 205-pound all-city lineman.

Motton was cut down on a dimly-lit downtown street as he was walking home at 1 a. m. Only a few hours before, he had played 60 minutes of football for North-eastern High, which was trounced by Pershing, 31 to 6.

Edward Sawyer, 18, told police Goodloe had approached the husky lineman in a restaurant after the game and insulted him about his playing.

"If I had been playing that game, they never would have gotten through me," the youth quoted Goodloe as telling Motton, who answered the taunts by punching the needling fan.

Sawyer told detectives Goodloe got a car and "tracked" the grid star, spotted him and yelled to him to "come over here, I want to talk to you."

As Motton approached the car, he was felled by the bullets.

## Vonnegut's

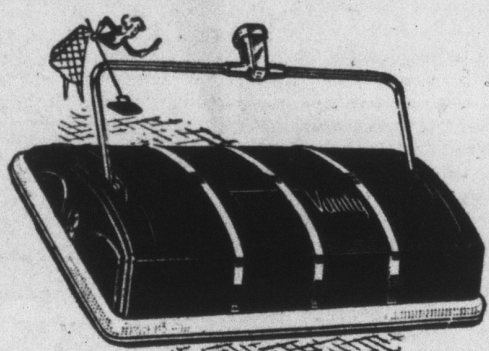
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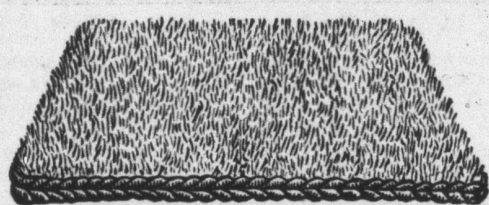
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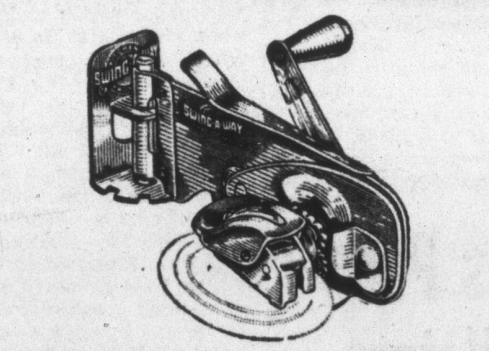
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