

Commercial Leader

AND THE SOUTH BERGEN REVIEW

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Lyndhurst, N. J., February 11, 1954

High School Gymnasiums

A sports department survey of the county's high school gymnasiums, gravely reported last week that few of them are adequate.

But adequate for what?

Well, in Lyndhurst it was found that the playing space was 78 by 38 and has an audience capacity of 250.

Adequate?

No, reported the surveyor.

North Arlington is 78 by 47 and can accommodate 900.

Adequate?

Yes, reported the surveyor.

Queen of Peace's is adequate, too, because the team uses North Arlington High's gym.

But East Rutherford, at 60-40 and 225 capacity is inadequate, as is St. Mary's 66-30 and audience capacity of 200.

In fact, only 12 of the gyms surveyed in the county's school districts were considered adequate.

Sportswriters presumably may be prejudiced on the subject. Their idea of an adequate gym necessarily would be a nice, big, airy place with lots of elbow space and writing room. The players themselves don't like to fall into the laps of the spectators. The cheerleaders want more room in which to lead cheers and the spectators would like a seat and some air.

Most of the gyms don't have enough audience space. Recently this problem was settled in a high school where a riot took place. The spectators were cleared from the hall and the teams finished their game in relative loneliness. At the same time in an-

other game a priest was being punched, and in another gymnasium a riot also took place.

It is essential to point out that the games were being played at night.

In view of Parent Teacher Association protests over part time classes because of the lateness in which children are dispatched to their homes, it is a wonder that night games are permitted if the games are for the students rather than their elders!

Much of the inadequacy of the present gymnasiums is due to the fact the crowds which surge into them at night can't be accommodated. Afternoon games would appear to be the best solution to that problem. In one community they allow only high school students admission at any time.

In fact one sports-writer reported that he had to pass a knothole test performed by hovering supervisors behind a door before they would allow him to enter.

The trouble, of course, lies with the educational concept that places a gym within a school. It is a costly item, bulky and restricted to only the students during the school year.

Were the gymnasiums located in separate buildings, built according to modern economical planning they would be big enough for big events, both community and high school. One could visualize an or near school grounds a large, airy building that would not only be a gymnasium but a community center that would be used for all kinds of events by all types of organizations.

It would be accessible, it would be available, it would be useable.

We wonder when some Board of Educa-

tion will have gumption and imagination classrooms and erecting outside the school enough to figure out means of converting structure the kind of gymnasiums suitable their present gymnasiums into much-needed modern needs.

Antiques at NJC Exhibit

Stupendous quantities of antiques will be on display at the 1954 Antiques Exhibit at the New Jersey Club, 1000 Washington University, which opens from the fourth through the sixth of this month. The exhibit is being held in honor of the club's 25th anniversary.

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Approximately 45 antiques dealers will be exhibiting their wares. The exhibit is open from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily.

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Whose annual Easter Seal Campaign will be held in Bergen County from 8:30 to 10:30 P.M. on April 11-14 to raise funds for the treatment of mental patients.

Whose public support will be sought through a series of appearances and through work and sales of Easter Seals made by the handicapped, the selling being done by young volunteers.

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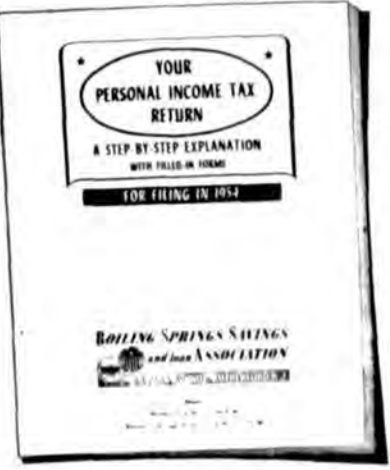
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