Engineer Admits Setting Blaze

Hospital Board Asks Commissioners To Put Issue on Ballot

The Highland County commissioners, at a meeting held here Tuesday morning, accepted a request by the board of directors of the Highland County Hospital to place a bond issue for the construction of a new hospital on the ballot in the next general election.

The request, signed by six members of the board, was read, and it was decided that this will be set for presentation to the regular session of the board of directors, Monday afternoon.

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In the meantime, the hospital board, in a letter to the commissioners, indicated that the hospital would need the additional space for the hospital's future needs.

"The hospital is in need of a new facility," the letter read. "We believe that the hospital is in need of a new facility. We have been working with the hospital administration to develop plans for a new building. We believe that the hospital is in need of a new facility. We have been working with the hospital administration to develop plans for a new building.

City to Seek $108,957 To Operate Next Year

City council approved the finance commissioner's budget request for $108,957 on which to operate during 1954, with a request held in public hearing on the budget in conjunction with the regular council meeting, Tuesday night.

The request, which will be the only increase in the city's budget for the next year, is to cover personnel for approximately $10,000 more than the preceding year, the request made last year for approximately $10,000.

"The $108,957 figure, submitted by offices, was based on the estimated expenditure in such funds as street repair, water fund, sewer fund, etc.

Vesper Set Next Sunday

Second in Series of Services Scheduled

The second in a series of summer vesper services will be held Sunday, July 11, at 7:30 P.M., at the Hillsboro High School athletic field. The services are sponsored by the Hillsboro High School and the American Legion. The principal speaker for the program will be Henry Black Evans, minister of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Company H, Local Guard Unit, Will Leave Here Sunday for Encampment

With 14th Infantrary at Camp Perry

Confession Is Made By Partridge

Phil Partridge, county engineer, confessed to authorities about midnight Tuesday that he had set the fire at the Lincoln elementary school here Monday, Prosecutor Richard L. Davis revealed.

Partridge, following the confession and subsequent questioning, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace David Boothby about 1 A.M. Wednesday and held for grand jury action on a charge of arson. Bond was set at $5,000. A property bond was provided and Partridge was released.

Davis said Partridge was apparently "motivated" in setting the fire by the "inequalities between the white and colored elements here." He did not elaborate further.

Partridge was committed to a county corrections and, apparently, was confessing to a previous incident.

"The reason for the confession," the prosecutor said, "was that Partridge was apparently "motivated" in setting the fire by the "inequalities between the white and colored elements here." He did not elaborate further.

William Davis said Partridge was apparently "motivated" in setting the fire by the "inequalities between the white and colored elements here." He did not elaborate further.
WEDNESDAY morning, Partridge issued the following written statement to this newspaper:

"Ohio passed a law abolishing segregated schools twenty some years ago. But we still have segregated schools in Ohio.

"The Supreme Court's recent decision abolishing segregated schools may not take effect for another twenty years or longer.

"The most devastating weapon of the enemies of freedom is infiltration. Daily they grow stronger and we do not dare to wait this long for progress.

"We must take unto ourselves the whole armour of freedom.

County commissioners were called into special session Wednesday at noon to discuss the situation concerning the county engineer. No action had resulted up to press time.

Partridge came here in the early part of 1950 from Clinton County. He was with the Clinton Construction Company in that county. He is the father of three children.

Partridge, 43, was appointed in 1950 to fill the unexpired term of Claude West as county engineer. Then, in 1952, he was elected to a four-year term in the post."