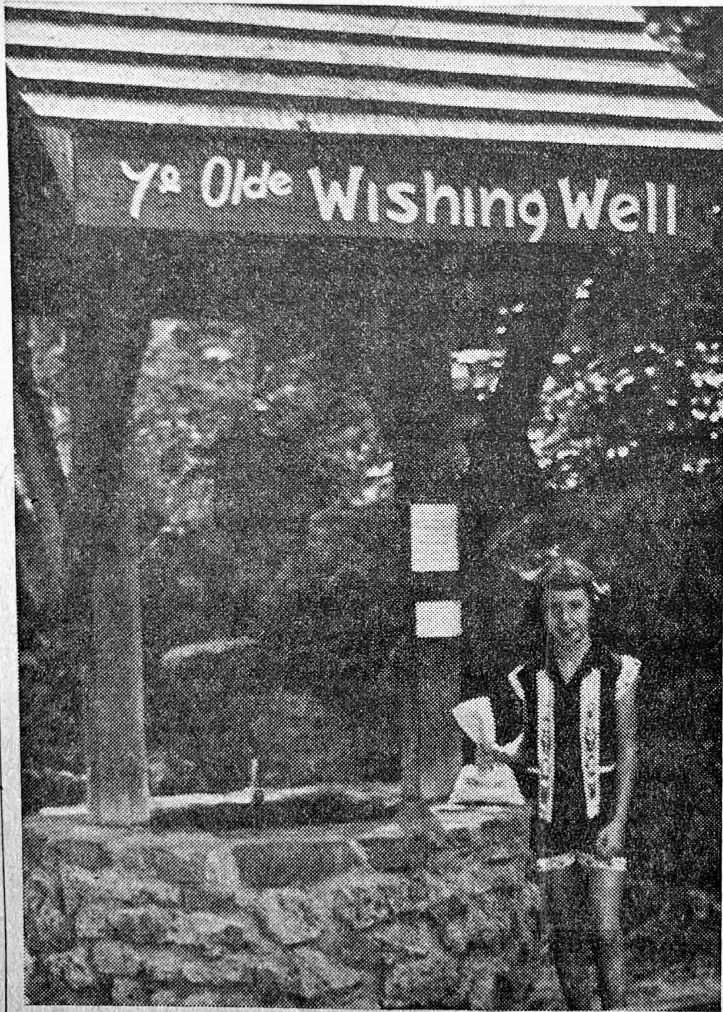


# Partridge May Resign; Attorney Will Confer With County Officials

## More Than 3 Coins in This Fountain



**MORE THAN THREE HERE**—This wishing well at the Seven Caves has sent the current emergency polio fund drive, which opened Monday, off to a flying start. The fund received \$200 from the Judkins family, who operate the Caves, Monday, all taken from the well. The family says they will turn over the rest of the season's collection to the same fund. Last year, the well reaped a coin harvest of around \$600, which was sent to CARE, an overseas relief organization. The idea of the wishing well originated last year with Mary Beth, nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Judkins. She had seen pictures of starving youngsters in newsreel and on television and "thought maybe a little sign" on the well might do the trick. Her grandmother, Mrs. R. J. Judkins, printed a little tag for her and it was put up. The

## Charges Will Be Filed If He Refuses

County commissioners said today that they expected to learn "Wednesday or Thursday" of this week whether Philip Partridge, county engineer, charged with arson in the firing of the Lincoln School building here July 5, will resign voluntarily or whether the commission must instruct Prosecutor Richard L. Davis to file "misconduct" charges against Partridge to get him out of office.

The officials said that charges were to be filed earlier this week, but the action was postponed after the prosecutor talked to Charles (Bud) Wilson, West Union attorney, who has been employed by Partridge in the case.

Wilson reportedly told officials that he would be here this week to meet with Davis and the commissioners to see if they could reach an agreement whereby Partridge would resign his post.

**COMMISSIONERS** asked Partridge to resign on July 7, a few hours after they learned that he had confessed setting fire to the school building during a severe electrical storm, causing damage estimated to be between four and five thousand dollars.

At the time of the request, the engineer refused to resign, saying that he had done nothing wrong "as an engineer." He told officials that the setting of the fire had nothing to do with his job.

The prosecutor had intimated earlier that if Partridge did not resign, he would file "misconduct" charges and would also call the April term grand jury into special session to hear the evidence in the case. If indicted and convicted on an arson charge, the engineer would automatically be out of of-

At the time of the request, the engineer refused to resign, saying that he had done nothing wrong "as an engineer." He told officials that the setting of the fire had nothing to do with his job.

The prosecutor had intimated earlier that if Partridge did not resign, he would file "misconduct" charges and would also call the April term grand jury into special session to hear the evidence in the case. If indicted and convicted on an arson charge, the engineer would automatically be out of office. The conviction must come before any "automatic" ouster is effective, however.

A CINCINNATI bonding firm, that held the \$2,000 bond on Partridge as a county official, lifted their bond after he confessed setting the fire. At the time, commissioners reported that they would not approve any bills from the engineer's office as long as he remained in the post, and said any agreements made by Partridge on behalf of the county would not be honored.

Officials said the engineer has not reported to his office since his return from the Lima State Hospital, last Friday, where he was given examinations over a 30-day period and ruled "legally sane."

A report of the examination and the findings was made by Dr. R. E. Bushong, superintendent of the state hospital, in a letter to Commissioner Davis.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## Partridge May

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

mon Pleas Judge George W. McDowell. The letter was received here Thursday.

**IN THE** letter to Judge McDowell, Dr. Bushong said that Partridge "... has superior general intelligence, but has been rather poorly adjusted for several years. He is rigid, greatly inhibited, overly conscientious and has, for a long time, been sympathetic toward the under-dog."

He cited several intimate points in the engineer's background, and said that these have "... given rise to projection, suspicion and paranoid thinking to a point where he has almost been delusional.

"Another factor which is more or less important," the doctor said, "is that he has driven himself very hard for some time, and this has lowered the threshold for clear and logical thinking, especially since he apparently does not have the capacity or ability to relax."

**AS TO** the offense, the superintendent said that Partridge realizes it was wrong, but his "crusader's spirit" will not let him consider the consequences of such an act.

Although the examination showed him to suffer from impairment of judgment at times to a point where he could almost be classed as "psychotic," Dr. Bushong said that it was his belief that the engineer is sane.

Following his return to Hillsboro, Friday, Partridge was released under the bond that was posted at the time of his preliminary hearing last month.

