

# School Board Plans Appeal

## Will Seek Reversal Of Zoning Action

A statement prepared and approved by four members of the Hillsboro Board of Education in recent action of the city zoning commission, rejecting a proposal that a section of school property be rezoned, was released this week by Marvel K. Wilkin, board president.

The board members approving the statement said they planned to carry the issue to city council but they wanted, first, to state their side of the case.

The request for the re-zoning of the property was made by the board after it had approved a plan, although not unanimously, to lease a vacant lot on the corner of Main and Elm Streets to John L. (Jack) Matson, local auto dealer.

The zoning commission voted unanimously against the re-zoning. Under city regulations, the board of education can appeal the commission's action to city council. The zoning commission said they opposed the move because it would be "spot zoning" and also because public opinion was against the leasing of the lot to Matson.

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**FOLLOWING IS** the statement of the board written by Wilkin:

"To the parents and all persons interested in the 2,000 or more children in the Hillsboro City school district, I, as president of the board of education, will try to explain our program for fixing the Hillsboro Public School playgrounds. This can be done from the 20 acres which the board of education now

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of Ohio who has appeared with the Naval Band in Washington, D. C., and the Chicago Symphony.

Added to the cast of The Musical Notes on the Friday musical menu will be Judy Storm, a dance stylist; Economy Square Dancers, a group of TV teen-age dancers from WLW; Ace Willard, magician; Nancy Miller, formerly with Horace Heidt's orchestra as a tap and acrobatic dancer. This group will replace Roselott and Gene Young from the Thursday show.

## School Board

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owns. Less than 10 acres is now usable as playgrounds.

"The former boards of education for the last 10 years have not seen fit or had the money to develop this waste ground.

"This spring, a business man came to a board meeting and made an offer of \$1500 to rent a strip about 70 feet by 135 feet for a period of three years. He further agreed to spend approximately \$500 to fill in and level this unsightly corner. This is across from the livestock barns and across from the Chevrolet garage. He wanted to park used cars on it and agreed to keep it clean and orderly. Since the land hasn't been used and the board has no immediate use for it, we thought this a good offer. The new grade school was voted to be erected at the Webster site instead of this site.

"The board took about two months to check the general reaction of hundreds of people on this subject before voting to rent the ground. They then passed a motion to rent it for three years for \$1500. This would help with the expense of fixing our play grounds at Webster and Washington schools. There is one acre usable at Washington out of five acres and the 500 or 600 pupils at the school need all the land that is available.

"The board felt that if it received \$500 for rent they could put \$500 a year with it for the playgrounds.

"We started the program by fixing Webster playground this summer so that it might be used the year around. The cost was a little more than \$1,000. Next year we were planning to do the same at Washington. Then we planned to go to the high school and fix the 6 or 7 acres there. If we can continue our program we will eventually get a nice swimming pool which the young people badly need. The board is thinking of opening our multi-purpose rooms in the new Washington and Webster buildings a couple of nights a week for the children of the town under the supervision of the P. T. A. or Mothers Club.

"It is not only our job to educate the children but do all we can for them all the time. The board is made up of young men with children of their own and will do all they can for the schools and the children.

"I think the town has done a good job in the past but can always do better.

"The action that stopped us was a demand for a restraining order on behalf of David Evans presented by his attorneys, Curtis Wilson and Richard Davis, to the city solicitor to stop the board from renting the lot for commercial use. Since it was zoned as a residential district, the board asked their attorney what could be done. He advised us to apply to have it rezoned. We asked the zoning board for a temporary permit but were refused. They did not notify the board or all the people living near this area. They acted hastily and did not have all the facts and went against approximately 2,000 children in the area.

"There are some people in this town that don't like children. But

most people will remember that they were young once and want to help.

"Our council is made up of good, hard working men and I am sure they will do all they can to benefit the children.

"Hillsboro is behind on a lot of things but it doesn't always have to stay behind. So, let's all do our share."—Marvel K. Wilkin.

THE NEWS-HERALD 3  
HILLSBORO, OHIO  
Thursday, Sept. 2, 1954

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Fravel, Giny, and Mary Lynne of Reynoldsburg, and Miss Helen Boyd of Geneseo, N. Y., spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boyd and Bill.

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