



LAST RING—Paula Owens, center, taps the old bell from atop the Washington School, while her two classmates, Moisselle Shoemaker, left, and Diana Lemon give a listen. The bell was removed from the building last week by a demolition crew, preparing the Washington School for rebuilding. All three girls were in the fifth grade this past year and will have to hike across town to the Webster School this fall. The bell itself is a 44-inch steel-alloy church bell, made by the C. S. Bell Company here. It had hung in the Washington School since late 1896 or early 1897.

(Staff Photo)

58-Year-Old School Bell At Washington Removed

The old bell that has summoned children to school and called them in from recess for 58 years at Washington School has rung its last. The bell has been removed from the top of the building by the Cupp firm, which is demolishing the building.

No action on disposal of the bell has been taken as yet although Hillsboro High School Alumni Association officials have discussed the matter. Some have suggested that the old bells at both the Washington and Webster Schools be fixed up, repainted and erected on a platform of some type in the yards of the new buildings. The one at Webster, of course, will probably

not be taken down until the old school there is demolished, possibly some time next summer.

THE BOARD of education has looked with favor on such proposals, but feels that it is a project for some group such as the alumni association to carry through.

The bell at Washington was apparently installed sometime late in 1896 or early 1897. It was recalled that the Washington School was opened in March, 1897, during spring vacation, when books and supplies were moved from the old Children's Home on East Main St., then being used as a school.

The building was built by Philip Geyler and Samuel Hannaford & Sons, of Cincinnati, were the architects. Some of the old beams and the internal structure was a masterpiece of that day. Most of this is now being removed.

The bell itself was apparently new when it was installed. It was made by the C. S. Bell Company here. It was apparently the third largest size made by the company, being 44 inches in diameter. The company, at that time, made 48-inch and 54-inch bells. This size of bell is not manufactured any more. The local firm now makes only a few smaller bells for use as farm bells. Miss Virginia Bell, head of the firm, said she knew of no firm that makes large bells such as these. Obviously, you just can't get that kind any more.

Fire Protection Levy Asked In Union Township

Trustees of Union Township Tuesday filed a proposal with the Highland County Board of Elections, asking passage of levy of one-half of one mill for fire protection.

The levy is to run for five years and township officials said that the money would go to pay fire contracts.

Union Township now holds contracts with both the New Vienna and Lynchburg departments, each unit being assigned to one-half of