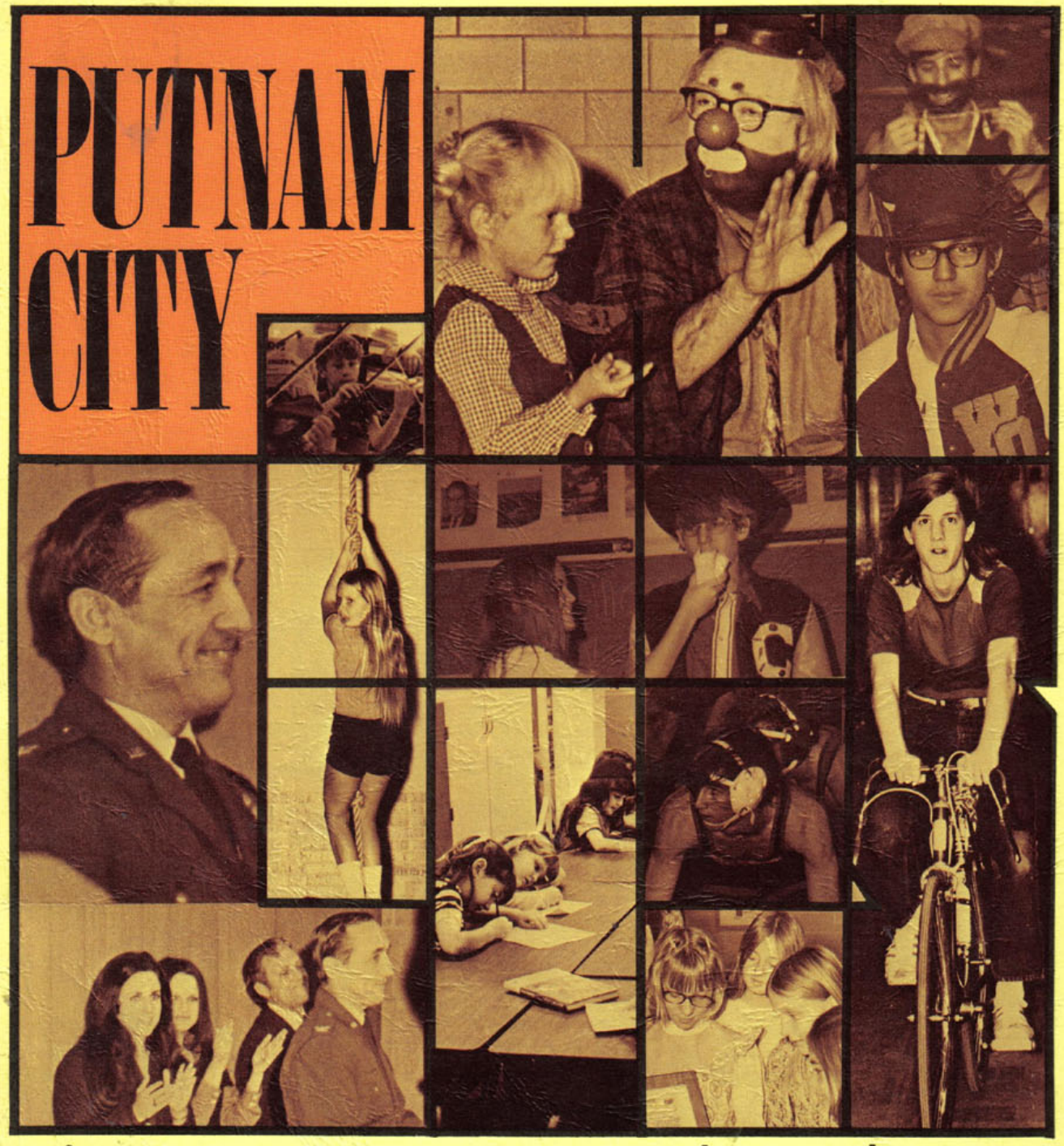

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PUTNAM CITY

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Volume 11, Number 1

PUTNAM CITY HI-LITES is published annually by the Putnam City High School Journalism Department, 5300 N.W. 50th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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Acknowledgements

Debbie Brake, Terry Corey, Sunny Davis, Patty Drilling, Sam Hyden, Paul Madison, Lynn Martin, Dan Robnett, Wade Russell, Susie Shellenberger, Kim Schubert, David Thompson, Randy Whitlow, PC West Journalism Department, University of Oklahoma Photography Department, Tribune-Review, John Clark; consultant.

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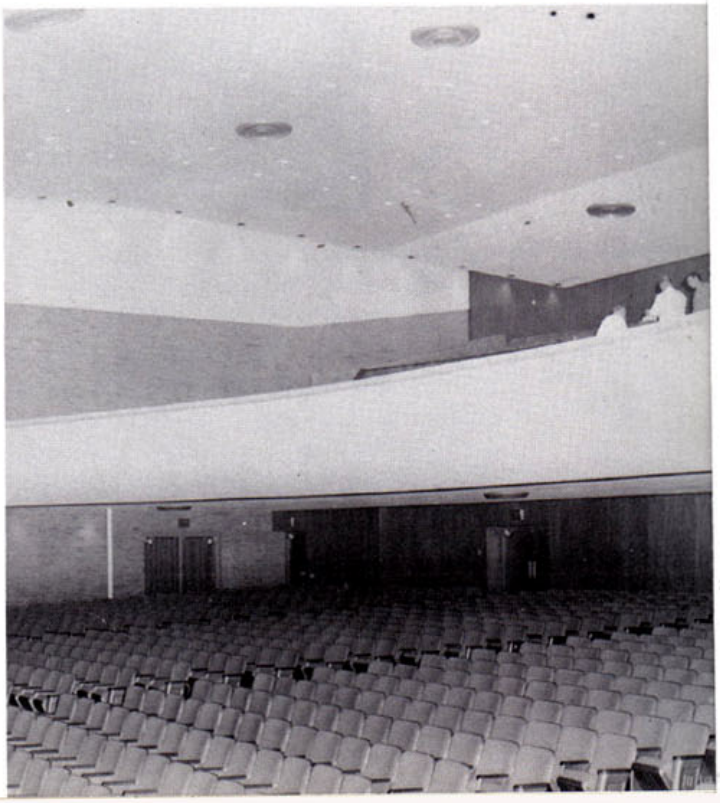
PUTNAM CITY '63-'73
Ten Years Later

A lot of changes and events have occurred in the world and in Putnam City since the first issue of the Hi-Lites in 1963. Prices have increased and the value of the dollar has decreased. But in Putnam City most of the changes have been for the better. Growth has been the key word for the system over the past decade as building after building has been added. Sports has also brought recognition to Putnam City Schools. Having retired one Mid-State All Sports Trophy after winning it three years straight, the Pirates of Putnam City have started on their second one. 1973 was the year the Patriots of Putnam City West captured the Boomer Conference and the Pirates of Putnam City captured the Class 4A Conference in basketball. Scholastically, 1973 was also the twenty-third year that Putnam City took first in the Edmond Scholastic Meet.

The 1973 edition of the Putnam City Hi-Lites would like to look back on some of the "highlights" from 1963 to 1972.

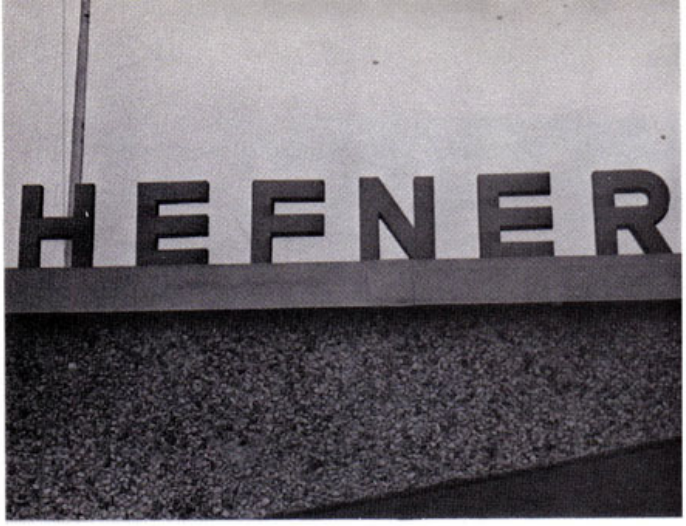
1963 Rollingwood Elementary, located at 6301 Ann Arbor, was constructed to alleviate the heavy load of young students at Central Elementary. Rollingwood consists of 32 classrooms and a music room.

1964 The largest and finest high school auditorium in the state of Oklahoma was completed at Putnam City High School in January of 1964. The auditorium, in a blue-green color scheme, contains cushioned naugahyde seating for 2400 people in air-conditioned comfort. Convenient dressing and make-up rooms are in use throughout the year, as are the special storage rooms for props. Reostatic light dimmers and movable spotlights on the catwalk above the balcony aid in the special lighting effects of the auditorium.



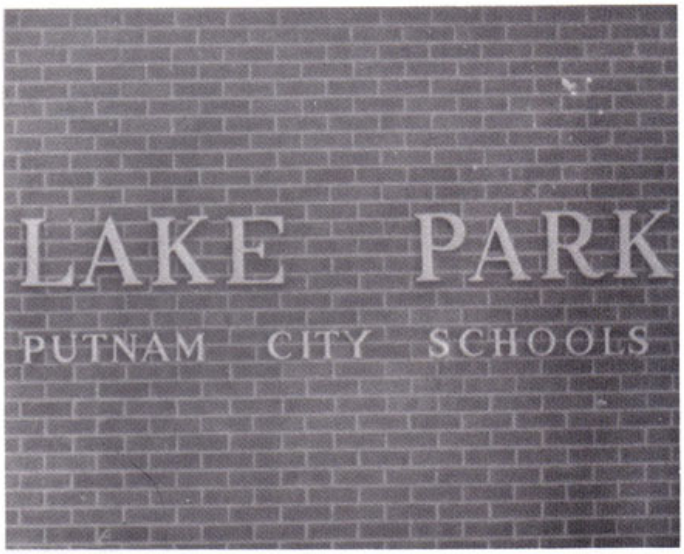
1964 Denver D. Kirkland retired after serving 14 years as the superintendent of the Putnam City School System. During the Kirkland administration, many changes occured in Putnam City. When Kirkland began his term as superintendent, Putnam City consisted of 76 teachers, 2349 students, and 4 buildings. Fourteen years later, there were 419 teachers, 11,069 students, 22 permanent buildings and 6 temporary buildings. Taking over Kirkland's role was Leo C. Mayfield, current superintendent of the Putnam City schools.

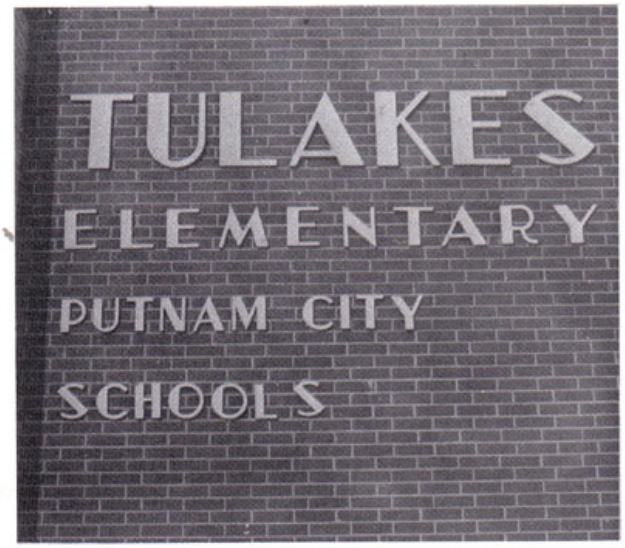
1965 To accommodate the increasing number of children in the Putnam City District, another elementary had to be built. Overholser Elementary, which consists of 23 classrooms and a cafeteria is located at 36th and Council.



1966 Putnam City's third junior high was built 3/4 of a mile north of N. W. Highway on MacArthur. Hefner Junior High School has a two-story classroom section which is separated by a central landscaped courtyard from the noisier areas such as the shops, music rooms, cafeteria, the boys' gymnasium and the girls' gymnasium. The library provides a quiet place for the students to study.

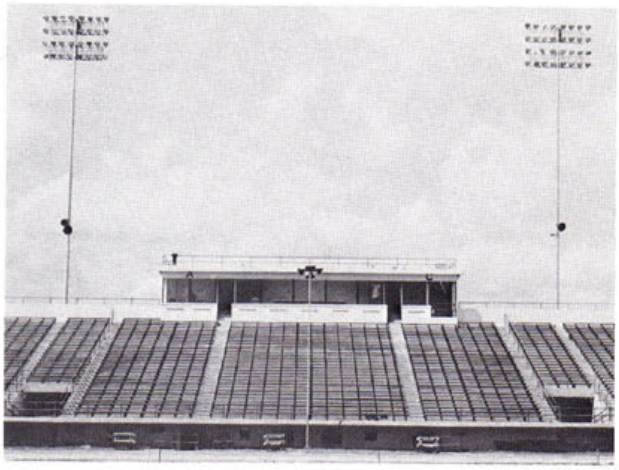
1966 One of Oklahoma's most modern elementary schools is Lake Park Elementary. Some of its features are a gymnasium, library, rooms with folding partitions, a drinking fountain and sink in each room. There is carpeting throughout. Each room is individually heated.





1967 Putnam City proved again to be ever-increasing in size as need for a tenth elementary was discovered. Tulakes Elementary, located near 63rd and Mueller, is a fire-proof, air-conditioned building, with a library and an area for team teaching.

1968 Putnam City West, the district's second high school, reached its completion in time for the class of '68. At N. W. 23rd and Eagle Lane, West has a boys' and girls' gym, cafeteria, library, small theater for 140, courtyard in center, air-conditioning, terrazo flooring, and portable walls in many classrooms.



1968 One of the bond issues passed by the patrons of Putnam City aided in the remodeling of Pirate Stadium. Seating for an additional 4,000 was added, along with a new press box, new dressing and practice rooms and bright, modern lighting.

1969 A new dimension of education was added to the elementary program when Mrs. Helen Burnett initiated the Strings Program into Putnam City's eleven elementary schools. Putnam City is the only public school system in the Southwest which offers a kindergarten class in instrumental music.

1970 Putnam City High School innovated a new idea in counseling when it enlarged the counseling staff from five counselors and two secretaries to ten counselors and four secretaries. This system allowed a closer relationship between student and counselor as the ratio between them was decreased to 270:1 from the original 700:1.

1971 A true open-concept school was added to the Putnam City System with the advent of Apollo Elementary. With carpeting and air-conditioning throughout, Apollo houses a gym, cafeteria, science facilities, resource center, and music and art rooms. A further difference in this elementary is that P.E. classes have replaced the normal recess periods.

1971 One of the best libraries in the state is at Putnam City High School. Four glass-enclosed rooms encircle five major areas of the library. Back periodicals and microfilm are in one area while another room is where all the processing is done. There are two conference rooms—one for students, the other for teachers, parents, and counselors. The magazine area is on the north, reference section on the west, study area on the east, and group study on the northeast.

1971 On December 28, a major part of Central Junior High was destroyed in a pre-dawn fire. 20 classrooms, the library, and administrative offices were completely destroyed. Smoke damage was suffered by the auditorium and gymnasium. 60% of all the contents were lost to the fire. Temporary classrooms were held in Putnam City Baptist Church and in makeshift rooms in the Central cafeteria.

1972 Pirate Basketball team captured its first state championship. Putnam City became the largest class team to go a season without a loss since El Reno in 1949.

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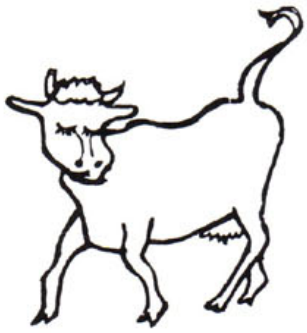

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DOCUMENTS MAKE HISTORY LIVE

The great heritage of the United States has come alive to Central Intermediate students thanks to the Northwest Chapter of the National Exchange Club of Oklahoma City. The club presented the school with the Freedom Shrine, a collection of twenty-eight authentic reproductions of documents which illuminate the great heritage upon which the nation was founded.

The Club consists of approximately thirty members whose basic goal is "unity for service." The Club is deeply involved in community projects, especially in youth emphasis programs. Saturdays, members spend time with kids at the Children's Convalescent Hospital. The Exchange Club is also the originator and sponsor of Crime Prevention Week.

The Northwest Chapter, having Putnam City alumni Frank Sisney and Chuck Faison among its membership, is working towards the goal of someday presenting all the Putnam City Schools with a Freedom Shrine.

Mr. Terry Wellman of the club comments "At this age (fourth to sixth grades) the students are more pliable. They're studying these documents in school, so the reproductions would mean more to them than to, let's say, the junior high students. I know they would have helped me in school."

George Hall, Dennis Reid, Frank Sisney, Terry Wellman, Chuck Faison, from the Northwest Chapter of the Exchange Club look over national documents.

Kids Study in "Ocean"

"Fullingim's Ocean" is a new approach to teaching oceanography to first grade children at Lake Park Elementary. The "ocean" is a 12' X 24' inflatable clear plastic bubble. There is an opening for an entrance and a six foot tunnel for inflating with a fan. Inflated, the bubble is about three and a half feet high. The originator of the "ocean," Mrs. Barbara Fullingim, used strips of blue and green crepe paper along the top of the bubble to simulate the sea, and secured blue and green felt underneath the bubble to simulate seaweed.

Inside the bubble, the atmosphere is quiet and relaxed. Transparencies of a whale and a squid are illuminated on the sides of the bubble via overhead projectors. The children's "ocean" is complete with sea sound effects and a cool ocean breeze created by a fan.

The quiet and relaxed atmosphere gives the students an opportunity to learn and also gets them away from the normal classroom environment.

"They love it," says Mrs. Fullingim. "It's like they're going into their own little world." To the students, it is their own little world. They're careful to take off their shoes before entering the bubble and they eagerly instruct others as to how to use their "ocean."

The students mainly do their reading in the "ocean." It will hold about thirty first graders, but usually the students go in the smaller groups, which have assumed such names as the Sea Horse, the Sharks, the Starfish and the Whale. During the students' free time, they may go into the bubble to read. But the bubble isn't only a reading room. It's a place to sing songs, read poems, play games and even eat tuna fish sandwiches, when studying about "Charlie—the tuna."

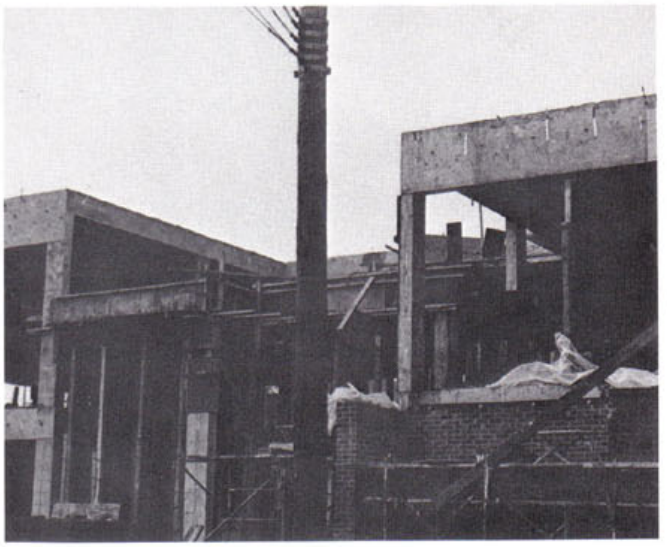
So intrigued were some of the other teachers by this bubble, that they too have used it for special assignments.

Mrs. Fullingim's "ocean" was the result of a requirement for obtaining her master's degree at Bethany Nazarene College. As far as she knows, her creation of "something new and different for teaching purposes" has never been used before in a classroom. Her bubble will have another use after the oceanography study. It's next use will be as an outer space center.

Since other teachers at Lake Park have expressed interest in the bubble, Mrs. Fullingim hopes her idea will catch on and that more teaching methods like this will be used.

CONSTRUCTION Marks Year

D. D. Kirkland Elementary became the recipient of a small gymnasium this year. The gymnasium provides an area for the enthusiastic students to practice tumbling and other means of physical education.



A new, three-floor structure, which includes the basement, will replace the Central Junior High building that was destroyed in a fire a year and a half ago. The new structure, to be completed this summer, will house twenty classrooms including home ec rooms, a new library, counselors' and principals' offices and instrumental and music rooms.

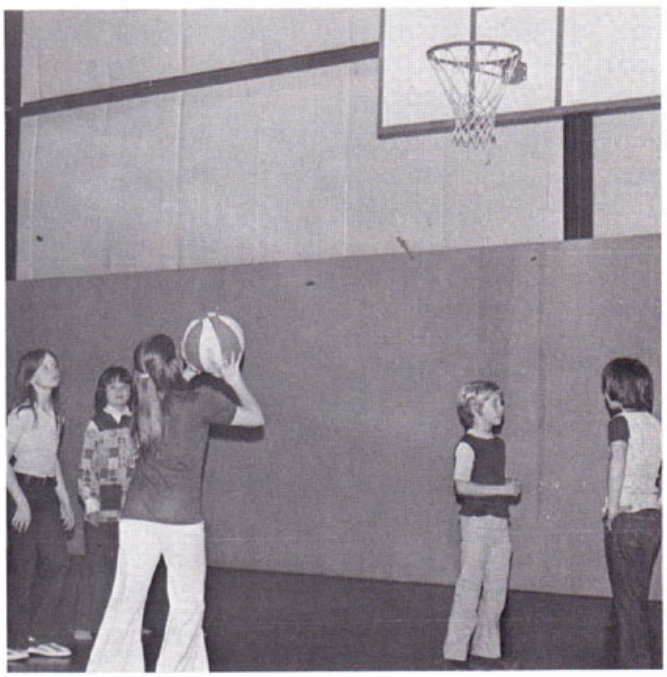
To alleviate the overcrowding of cars in the Putnam City High School parking lot, the school board purchased an acre of land across from the school on Ann Arbor. The new parking lot will accommodate approximately 90 additional cars.

Community Launches Satellite Gym

More than two years ago Carter Wrinkle was coaching a basketball team in his spare time. Because of such high rental prices and the insufficient number of gymnasiums, Wrinkle was scrounging for places where his team could play. While seeking locations he saw that Coronado Heights Elementary also needed a place where their students could play during bad whether. In the meantime, Coach Wrinkle had been discussing the situation with Ross Arnold and Tom Hudman, fathers of two of the players, when the idea, "Why not build our own gym?" was born in the minds of three men.

A new gym seemed to be the answer, but the matters of property and funds loomed ahead. Who could, and would, support such an effort? Wrinkle, Arnold and Hudman presented the need and their solution to Carroll Cornett who was ultimately elected president when the Satellite Athletic Association Inc. was formed. After other parents had been informed of the plans, they enthusiastically agreed to help finance the operation. Eight interested parents borrowed a total of $20,000 on their own personal assets to cover beginning construction costs.

Money was no longer a barrier, but a suitable building site was the problem. Always conscious of the inadequate facilities at Coronado Heights, Wrinkle was determined to build the gym there. Thanks to the cooperation and foresight of Super-



intendent Leo C. Mayfield, the Satellites secured the right to donate the gym to the Putnam City schools, and specifically to Coronado Heights Elementary.

The men had realized that a facility of this magnitude should be utilized all the time, rather than the usual six or eight hours during school. With this in mind, the terms of the agreement were that the district would maintain the building and that the school would use the gym for physical education classes while the Satellite Association would use it after school, on weekends and during the summer.

Most of the construction was done on a voluntary basis. A local contractor proved a tremendous help by donating tools and lending the aid of a building construction supervisor. Mrs. Jean Wrinkle, one of the girls basketball coaches, reflects, "It took lots of help to build the gym. The kids even helped by carrying boards and nails." Because of the great turn-out of volunteer workers, the structure cost only $35,000 but is appraised at $96,000.

The total building measures 120' X 100' and can be divided into three practice courts. The Putnam City School District paid for the installation of a tartan floor over the primary playing court.

The Satellite program was in full swing by November (after a year of construction) with over 700 kids involved. Basketball, baseball and wrestling were the sports emphasized. Boys weren't the only participants, as over 40 girls started out in fundamental basketball. Also, a track program is a recent addition under the direction of Coronado Heights teacher Mrs. Pat Stringer.

The youth, which range in ages from 7 to 14, were certainly grateful that someone was concerned enough to help school and community put it all together.

Hefner Students Stage Typical

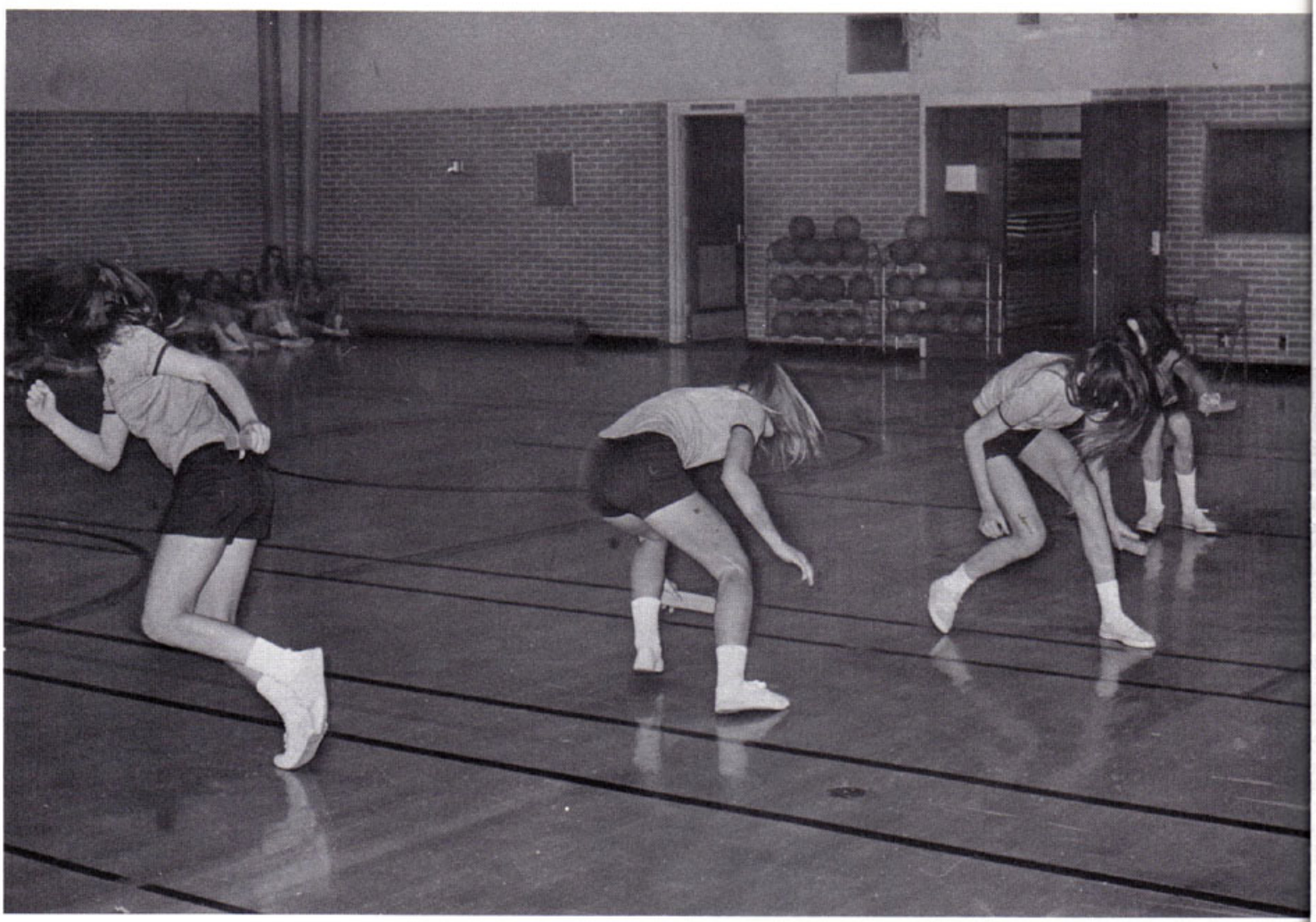
Hefner Junior High is a Demonstration Center. Does that mean it's a school where the students learn to make picket signs and stage protest marches? No, this type of Demonstration Center is a part of the overall effort to improve the physical fitness of America's youth.

One of ten such schools in the state and the only one in the city, Hefner has been selected three times to be a Demonstration Center because it already has an outstanding physical education program and it meets the necessary requirements established by the President's Council on Physical Fitness. The Council requires that Demonstration Center Schools make provisions for (1) Periodic health appraisals for all students. (2) Identification of the physically underdeveloped and measures to eliminate or alleviate their problems. (3) Periodic physical achievement tests. (4) A daily period of PE emphasizing fitness.

"We're proud we've been chosen. We just hope we're worthy of it," states Ward Fowler, Hefner's athletic director. "You only have one body to carry you around during your life. Through the junior high years there will be some abrupt changes, so we hope our fitness program will give a strong foundation for the adult body which they're going to be stuck with the rest of their lives."

During the year, a wide variety of activities are offered in the PE class. Included are soccer, track and field, flag football, volleyball, basketball and gymnastics. After a unit, or several units, are completed, sports skill tests, written knowledge tests and fitness tests are given. Outstanding students receive awards for their performances at the end of the year.

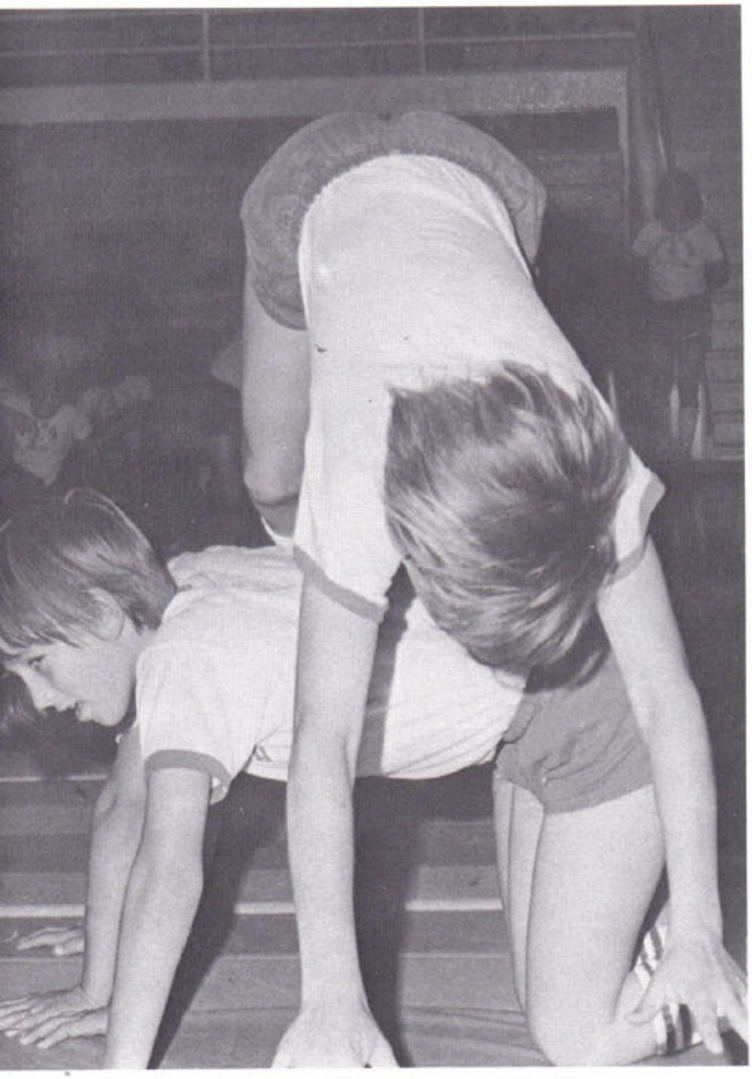
Hefner also uses community resources to broaden its physical education program. This past year interested students formed a bowling league that

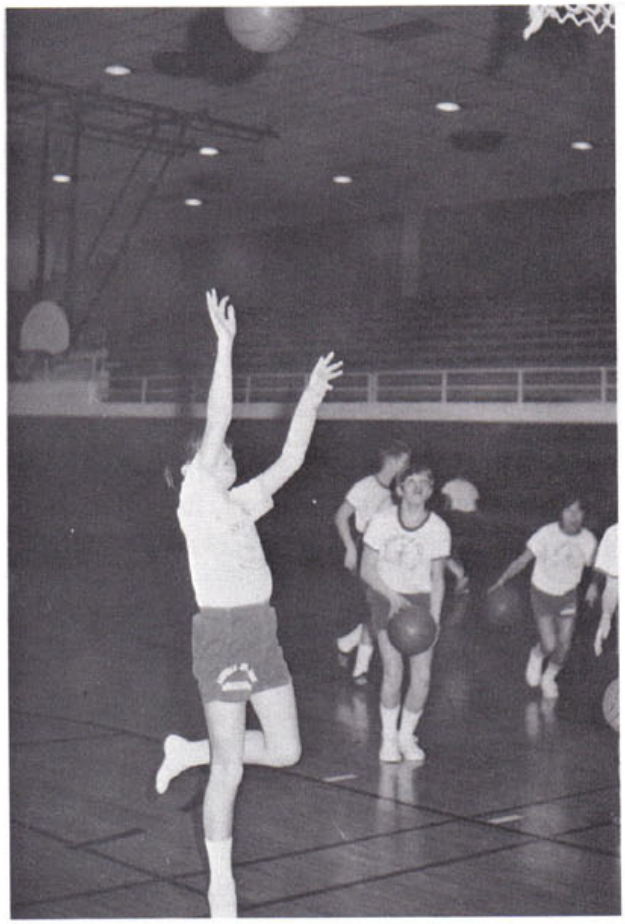


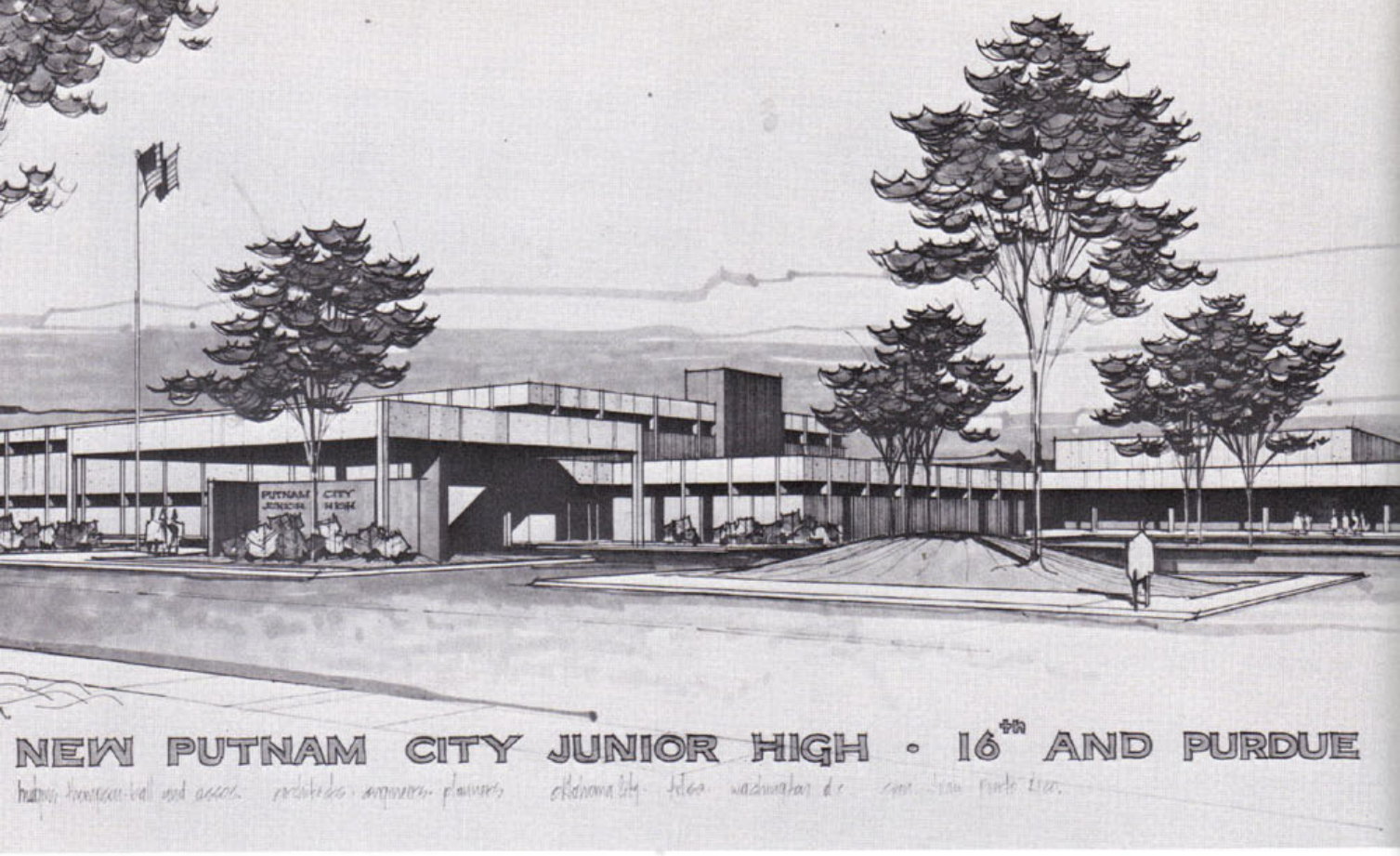
Demonstration

played at Coronado Lanes on Friday afternoons. The girls' elective sports class took sailing lessons at Sail-a-Rama and golf lessons at Hefner Golf Course. Tennis at the Warr Acres courts, roller skating at the Comet, and ice skating at the Sports Arena were other activities in which the girls participated. The boys had intramurals in many of their sports and student officials were used extensively.

The Physical Education Department stresses fitness as a basis for living every day to the fullest. If a person is physically fit he (or she) will be able to participate physically, mentally and emotionally with enthusiasm in all he does. As skills improve, a student will gain confidence in himself and his potential.







NEW PUTNAM CITY JUNIOR HIGH · 16th AND PURDUE

PROGRESS IN THE PUTNAM CITY SCHOOLS

When students enroll in the new Putnam City junior high school in September, 1974, they will be the first to enjoy studying in progressive Putnam City's most versatile junior high school structure to date. It was designed by Hudgins, Thompson, Ball and Associates, and Superintendent Leo Mayfield. This, the fourth junior high school in the system, has many progressive features.

It will have an open classroom instructional area in the center of each of its two floors, surrounded by five classrooms. The open classroom concept, uncommon in Oklahoma junior high schools, permits the exciting learning situation possibility of team teaching. One instructor may lecture to a larger than average group, then small groups may meet in adjacent areas for discussion. The resource center on each floor surrounded by the five classrooms will contain no walls and will be used principally for social studies and language arts.

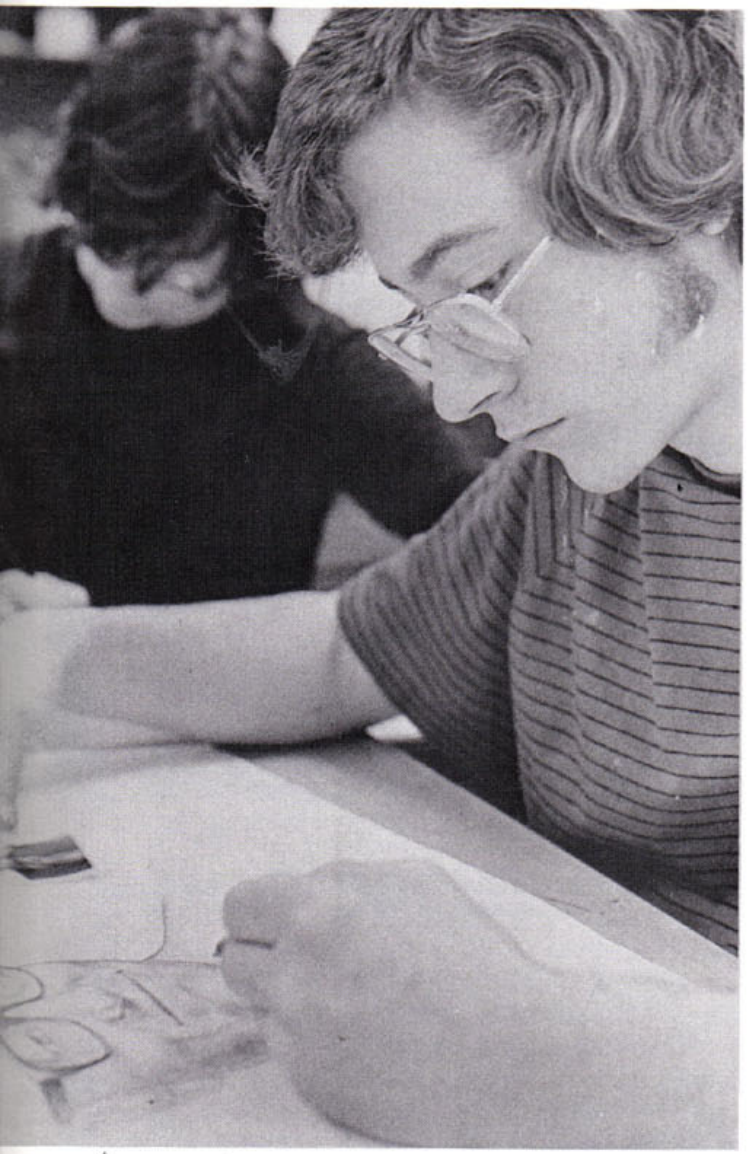
This school is the first in the Putnam City District to be built of fire-resistent, pre-cast concrete. When completed, the exterior surface will be coated with a tone-down color, adding beauty and dignity to the facility.

The school will relieve the enrollment of the other junior high schools in the district and is one of the major projects to be constructed with the four million dollar bond issue voted in 1971.

This new Putnam City junior high school will be located at Northwest 16th and Purdue, on a site having a 960 foot frontage and a 1,320 foot depth. The structure will contain 95,000 square feet.

PUTNAM CITY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PUTNAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT — OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA



Student Designs State Medallion

Joal Morris, a Putnam City West High School senior, was honored by the Oklahoma Bicentennial Commission when he designed a medallion which will represent Oklahoma's part in the United States' bicentennial celebration in 1976.

"I started to use the theme of past, present, and future and went from there," explained Joal. His chosen theme is inscribed in a circle on the medallion. A cowboy on a horse representing the past, an oil well showing the present, and the modernistic First Christian Church representing the future, are engraved on the medallion front, along with the state seal. On the reverse side of the medallion is inscribed the first known record of the Spanish exploration of Oklahoma.

Joal seems to live and breathe art. In his senior year Joal received a special award in the Red Ridge Art Show and was named an alternate for a scholarship in the Oklahoma Young Talent Show. "I am planning to major in illustration or teaching art," said Joal. He will use the $1500 scholarship, which he received in a special presentation at the Oklahoma State Capitol, to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Frisbee Commons Makes Way For New Auditorium

When the plans for Putnam City West High School were blueprinted, many additions were planned, but never actually built. Many people are under the impression that West will never have such things as an auditorium or a swimming pool. There are now plans that the auditorium will be constructed on the grounds south of the gym, called Frisbee Commons by the student body. Construction will begin as soon as several financial arrangements are worked out.

Some of the delay in West getting a new auditorium has been because it was hard to determine just how it should be built. "It was hard to justify the construction of the auditorium as merely a gathering place," says Mr. Leo Mayfield, Superintendent of Putnam City Schools. Plans had to be made so that several teachers at one time could also use the auditorium as a learning institution with no confusion.

Mrs. Charlotte Moore, head of the drama. speech, and debate departments at the school says, "I think that the auditorium is a much-needed addition to the school.

Mrs. Patsy Corrigan, head of the chorus department, is also excited about the upcoming addition, "I think that it will be wonderful."

Mr. David Price, band director, feels that the auditorium will be very good for the school. "We will be able to hold concerts, and many other things that we can't in a gym."

The five windows which now line Patriot Hall on the south will all be doors which will lead into the auditorium. Also, the building will be designed to seat between 1800 and 2000 people, which is large for a high school auditorium, but is not larger than Putnam City High School's. There will be an advanced sound and lighting system included in the plans. Speculation is that there will be a basement with possibly underground parking and storage. All seats will be padded and there will be central heating and air conditioning.

A small minority of students at the school are opposed to the chosen building location. They feel, generally, that the auditorium is being built on Frisbee Commons as some sort of punishment for something somebody has done. When asked about this, Duane Jindra, Assistant Principal at Putnam West, replied, "If anyone can find a better or more useful place to put a building, we'll put it there. The plans for the school have always stated that the auditorium would be there."

Mr. Mayfield, when approached on the matter said, "There will definitely be some green space left around the building. Besides, there are 27 acres of land behind the school that the kids can use almost anyway they please."

When asked how he felt, generally, about the auditorium Mr. Mayfield went on to say, "I feel that the auditorium will add greatly to what Putnam City West already has. West was built from the best ideas of several different schools. I feel that students need a chance to come together under non-athletic conditions. After all, a gym is a gym, and does not always add to the content of an assembly."

Financing for the new auditorium was planned through a bond which was passed in November of 1971. In that bond, money was allotted first to the construction of Wiley Post School, secondly to the construction of the new junior high school, and thirdly to the construction of the auditorium for Putnam City West.

Mr. Gary Webb, Principal of Putnam City West said, "I think that the auditorium is a great idea."

However, not too many students at West are really excited about the upcoming auditorium. It is a thing that isn't at the present time really too tangible. As the contracting and construction time approaches though, interest is growing. The students of West are watching their school grow and become a better place to learn.