

Ysleta School Bond Vote Set Saturday

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Taxpayers of the Ysleta Independent School District will have an opportunity to meet the needs of the fastest-growing school system in Texas Saturday, when they vote on a \$5.5 million bond issue.

The bond issue would provide some 200 additional classrooms, repairs and needed equipment and materials to meet the challenge of a scholastic growth which has boomed from 3,648 in 1949-50 to nearly 24,500 today.

Ysleta Independent School District presently is the tenth largest school system in Texas.

Board of Trustees of YISD studied the need for new facilities for the past three months and voted to ask district taxpayers to continue a construction program

which has been adding some 200 new classrooms every three years. Records show that since 1950 some \$18 million has been spent for construction of new schools, additions, sites and equipment. Funds for this construction have been provided from bonds (\$10.25 million) federal funds (\$6 million) and current taxes. Prior to 1950 only \$775,748 had been expended for construction and equipment. Estimated replacement value of the district is approximately \$25 million with bonded indebtedness standing at \$10,944,500.

"Fortunately, the rapid increase in students has not outstripped the growth in valuations. New property placed on the rolls has increased in proportion to the scholastic population, thus allowing expansion without overburdening the taxpayers," E. L. Hurt, Board of Trustees president, pointed out.

Valuations in 1950 were approxi-

mately \$10 million compared to \$141 million today.

The district has completed some 18 major construction repair or remodeling projects with upwards of 225 new classrooms and other facilities since 1962 when a \$6.75 million bond issue was overwhelmingly approved. New equipment includes such modern teaching aids as reading and language laboratories, reference books, maps, globes, charts, new science laboratory equipment and supplies and other instructional materials which gives YISD one of the most well-rounded programs of any school district in the U.S.

The 1962 bond money also provided funds to purchase sites for three additional schools and options for two others.

The bond issue of Dec. 12 would provide money to build additions to the existing four high schools and to 12 of the 19 existing elementary schools. Plans

also call for at least four new elementary schools and a new high school which, in addition to an academic program, would provide vocational and technical training and would be open to any student in the district.

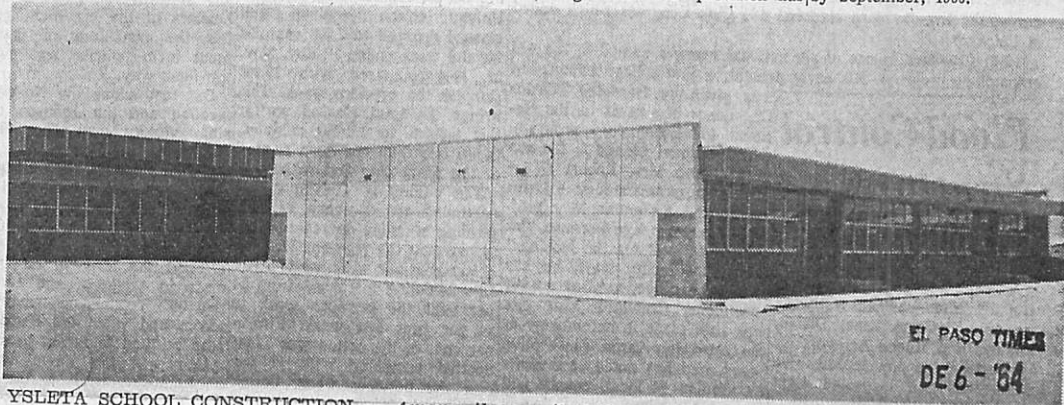
Included in the over-all bond issue program would be expanded facilities for special education, new equipment, repairs and additions wherever necessary to meet need.

The approval of any bond issue also includes voting for a tax to pay for the particular bond issue even though it does not affect the tax rate. Simply stated, part of the present levy must be assessed to pay for the bonds being voted. On Dec. 12 YISD taxpayers will be asked to approve Article 2784E-1 of Texas Public School Law which provides for an increase in the portion of the levy which may be used in retiring bonds. This provision has

been approved by other school districts in this area and throughout the state. It makes possible a better rating for the bonds being voted and therefore a better interest rate.

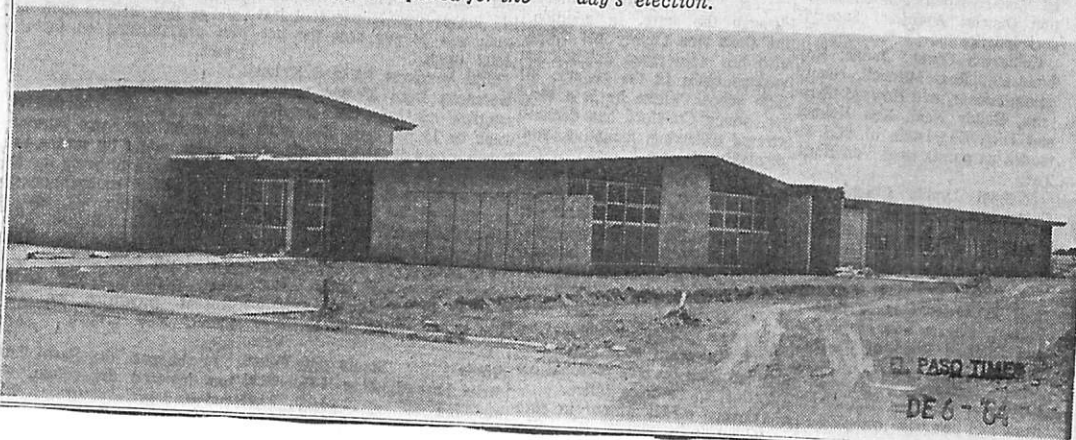
Board of Trustee members said the bond issue should not affect either the present tax rate or valuation. The Ysleta School District operates below the \$1.50 rate approved almost 12 years ago. The YISD tax rate is equivalent to \$1.25 on 60 per cent of actual value on property placed on county tax rolls or \$1.35 based on 55 per cent of value as used by the city, which is the method used for school purposes in other parts of the city.

If the bonds are approved in the Dec. 12 election, it is estimated that construction in the more critical areas could be ready for school opening in September, 1965. Other projects would follow with most completed by September, 1966.



YSLETA SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION — Among the more than 18 major projects completed in the fast-growing Ysleta Independent School District since 1962 are these two new elementary schools. Del Norte Elementary School, top, was opened for the

first time in September together with Thomas Manor School. Both are now at capacity enrollment and would receive new eight-room additions if the proposed \$5.5 million bond issue is passed in Saturday's election.



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