

Western Wayne H.S. Not Likely To Be Ready by Fall '72

Construction of the \$5.5 million Western Wayne High School is progressing, but due to a few complications the huge educational plant probably won't be completely ready for the beginning of the next school year.

Because of a wet summer and fall, the muddy condition at the site of the new school, and a seven-week operators' strike, construction is about six weeks behind schedule, according to Robert Obuhosky, the "clerk of the work" at the school project site and also a member of the state school authority. He mentioned that about 70 per cent of the exterior of the facility is now completed and the remaining portion should be finished before too long.

Obuhosky added that the contractors

will probably try to push the job to make up for the lost time, but it is almost certain that the entire building will not be completed for the start of school next September. Originally, the completion deadline was scheduled for Sept. 1, 1972. Not long ago, an eight-week extension was given to the contractors which means that all of the finishing touches may not be in place until one year from now.

Obuhosky explained that the next date of importance is Thanksgiving. At that time about 60 per cent of the floors should be poured. After about two weeks of pouring, 30 per cent of the concrete floors have already been completed. The percentage of the floors completed during the next few weeks may tell just how much of the six-week lag the workers can make up.

The clerk mentioned that only the areas floored will be heated and finished during the winter. Crews, which at the present number about 68 men, will move into the heated areas and completely finish them before moving onto the next.

Although some of the sections inside the school may not be totally ready for the start of the next school year, one section housing about 30 classrooms will be ready, Obuhosky added. The date for the completion of the classroom section should be some time next March. After that the school board and the rest of the officials will decide just what areas the contractor should finish first. Those areas waiting for the nod may be the gym, auditorium, cafeteria, and the outside grounds. Although the immediate grounds, including the side-

walks and the like, will take little time to finish, Obuhosky indicated that the huge athletic fields behind the school will take more time.

All the structural work at the site has long been completed, and now the tedious inside work is the main concern. The auditorium and the spacious gym are nothing more than shells, and the large courtyards between classroom sections are muddy, as the Sutter Corporation, the general contractor at the site, continues work. Other contractors are Turner, doing the plumbing work; Riggi, the electrical work, and Walsh, which has the heating contract.

In the 13 months of construction much of the heavy work has been done, but a lot more remains.