

Teacher, Youth Leader Held In Molesting

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"as many as 21 other young boys."

Hacker's reputed popularity with the boys and his interest in youth athletics may have helped him develop close relationships with pupils, Marshall said.

THE CHILDREN who came forward told police Hacker often would molest boys following after-school athletic activities, but most often in the back seat of his private car as another pupil drove, Marshall said.

Police were told Hacker often would begin relationships with playful overtures connected with athletics, such as "wrestling" with a boy before committing a sexual act in the car.

The locker room incidents reportedly occurred in Hacker's capacity as a youth leader of the YMCA's "Gray-Y" athletic programs at School 57 for

boys in fourth, fifth and sixth grades, Marshall said. Hacker discontinued his "Gray-Y" activities in May, 1968, after nearly five years as a program leader.

HACKER ALSO was a leader in education organizations.

He was elected last March as a district representative to the executive board of the Indian-

apolis Education Association and is chairman of the association's human relations committee.

Last July, he was elected chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee on School Desegregation.

Marshall said the two boys who came forward claimed Hacker began wooing boys into indecent acts soon after he began teaching at School 57 in September, 1967. He came there from School 21, 2815 English Avenue, where he had taught since September, 1962, according to school officials.

MARSHALL SAID the investigation has thus far concerned only School 57.

However, Marshall said investigators will question other boys from School 57 and their parents partly to determine how widespread were Hacker's alleged activities.

Hacker's resignation as scoutmaster came at the request of the troop's committee of parents, according to Frank

M. Chase, executive of the Central Indiana Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Chase said the committee had received complaints "from boys in the troop."

Although aware of the complaints and the resignation, Chase said, he had not notified police of the matter. When informed yesterday by a reporter, police said they would investigate Hacker's Scout activities.

AS A RESULT of the complaints, Chase said, Hacker has been placed on the Scout's national "red flag," or undesirable, list to alert all Scout troops in the country. The listing bans Hacker from Scout leadership "for the rest of his life," Chase said.

Paul E. Samuels, School 57 principal, said he had been "unaware" of Hacker's alleged activities "during school time" until the police investigation.

Samuels declined to respond to a reporter's question about Hacker's activities as leader of the after-school athletic program.

Marshall said police also were concerned about any "psychological problems" pupils may have developed from association with Hacker. Samuels said such problems would be dealt with "as they come up."

ALTHOUGH the warrant on which Hacker was arrested called for bond of \$2,500, he was released on \$250 cash bond by Judge D. William Cramer of Municipal Court, Room 10.

Cramer approved the bond reduction, requested by Richard W. Guthrie as attorney for Hacker, because Hacker surrendered voluntarily, has been a lifetime resident of this area, is buying a home and has a family.

Hacker is slated to appear today in Cramer's court.



THOMAS E. HACKER
Surrenders to Police