



Auditorium

Aubrey M. Gaines, owner of the Gaines Construction Co., of Highland Park, and Tom Downs, chief architect of DUSAF, joint venture of architects and engineers responsible for construction of the National Accelerator Laboratory at Batavia, look over a model.

Highland Park firm wins AEC contract

A Highland Park construction firm operated by a black recently was awarded a contract to construct a circular auditorium building for the Atomic Energy Commission at Batavia.

Aubrey M. Gaines, owner of the Gaines Construction Co., 89 Lincolnwood Road, submitted a low bid of \$1,166,500 for the job, about \$30,000 under the next low bidder of ten.

Atomic Energy Commission officials said it is probably one of the largest contracts in the United States to be awarded to a minority firm.

This doesn't seem to worry Gaines who said over the phone, "I've seen just as

much trouble on a \$100,000 job as there will be on this one."

The auditorium building will adjoin a 16-story high rise central laboratory now under construction and will be used for meetings, seminars and film shows.

The completion of the building is scheduled for September 1972 in time for the International Conference on High Energy Physics hosted jointly by the National Accelerator Laboratory and the University of Chicago.

Gaines will subcontract the excavation for the building, but his firm will do the remainder of the work and is now hiring a labor force through existing

facilities in the area.

Before coming to Lake County in 1971 to form his own construction company, Gaines was employed by the Morrison-Knudson Construction Co. of Boise, Idaho for 12 years.

As an employee of the company he supervised the concrete and excavation work on the Titan Missile base in Denver, Colo.

But he decided to "try it on his own" and came to the Chicago area where he said there are more opportunities for black contractors.

Gaines, 41, and his wife, Bernice, live at 2020 Natoma Ave., North Chicago, with a daughter, Dawn, 11, a student at Neal Junior High School.