

# Cruz Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1950

## Killed In F OPS TO PHONE

### Juvenile Hall, With Homey Atmosphere, Gets First Occupants

By Jane Haas

A home away from home, or the way a true home should be, will be the aim of Grover B. and Helyn Spotts, superintendent and assistant superintendent of the county's new juvenile hall which opened yesterday.

After nearly four years of talk and planning, with a good many financial and other problems to be overcome, the county juvenile hall, formerly termed detention home, received its first two occupants last night.

The attractive cement block building with some wooden construction, cost in excess of \$42,000. The original bid was let to Leonard English, Santa Cruz general contractor, March 23, 1949, at a price of \$32,986.

Later, the California Youth Authority insisted upon additional rooms in the structure. The two extra rooms, along with installation of a playground and a drainage culvert, brought the cost of the building to \$42,000.

Still later, additional funds were required for a steel fence.

Matching funds for at least the original bid have been sought by the county from the state.

Occupancy of the building, designed by Charles E. Butner, Salinas architect, was held up because specially built beds, ordered from the Simmons company, were delayed due to the recent steel and coal strikes.

The low lying, one story building, belies its institutional purpose. The fence enclosed playground in the front has a grassy sward. In the back, an enclosed black-topped yard, also serves as a playground.

Except for the 10 rooms in the fireproofed block, where inmates will spend the night, there is little evidence that this is a place where children are detained, whether against their wills or otherwise.

In two separate corridors of this wing there are six rooms for boys and four rooms for girls. There are four regular rooms for the boys and two strong rooms. There are two regular rooms for girls and two strong rooms.

At the main building end of each corridor there is a lavatory. Each bathroom boasts a shower.

Toilet facilities are built into the strong rooms. This, and the fact that meals are served through locked openings in the wall, are the only differences from the regular rooms.

(Continued on page 13)

### U. S. Corporal Convicted Of Espionage Try

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, April 15 (P)—A United States air force court martial convicted Cpl. Gustav Mueller today of attempting to give American military secrets to Soviet Russia and sentenced him to five years in prison. He had denied the charge in tearful testimony.

Described in a report by army doctors as "immature and emotionally unstable," the 19-year-old airman from St. Paul, Minn., insisted he was only trying to trap some Russian spies with the melodramatic activities that led to his arrest last fall. In a clipped, British-type accent, he said:

"I never meant to betray the United States. I am not a Communist. I hate communism. I am loyal to the United States and always shall be. I know I did wrong and I am sorry. I tried twice to kill myself because of this affair. But I already have been punished by six months in jail at hard labor while awaiting trial. I would never do such a thing again."

He repudiated stories he told U. S. army agents who posed as Russian operatives and obtained documents from him after he sent a telegram to the Soviet consulate in Bern, Switzerland, last September, asking for contact. They testified he told them he believed in communism and wished to help out the party cause.

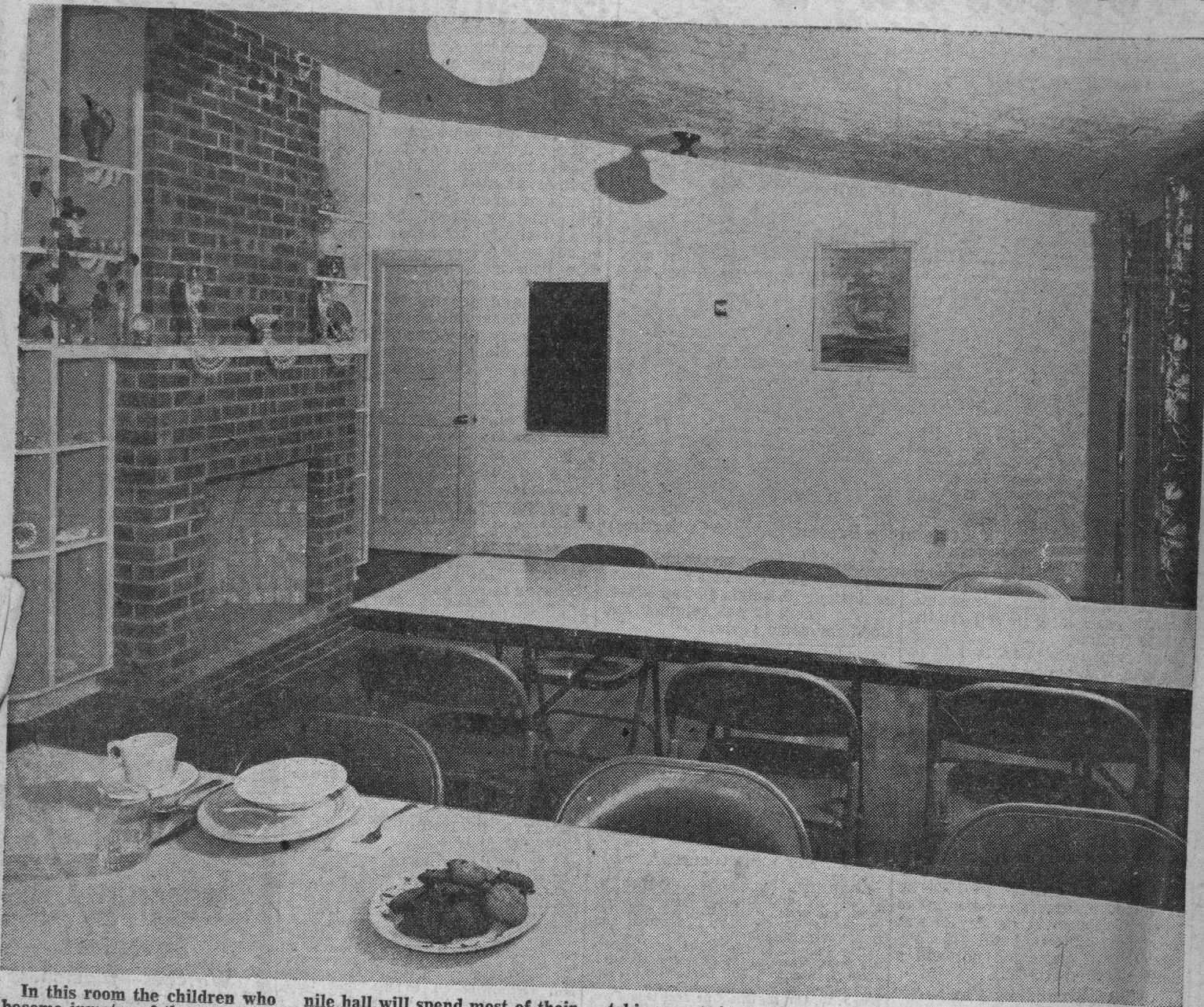
Mueller was the only defense witness in the two-day trial.

### 700 Send In Guesses On Population

Has Santa Cruz's population gained 1500 persons in the last two

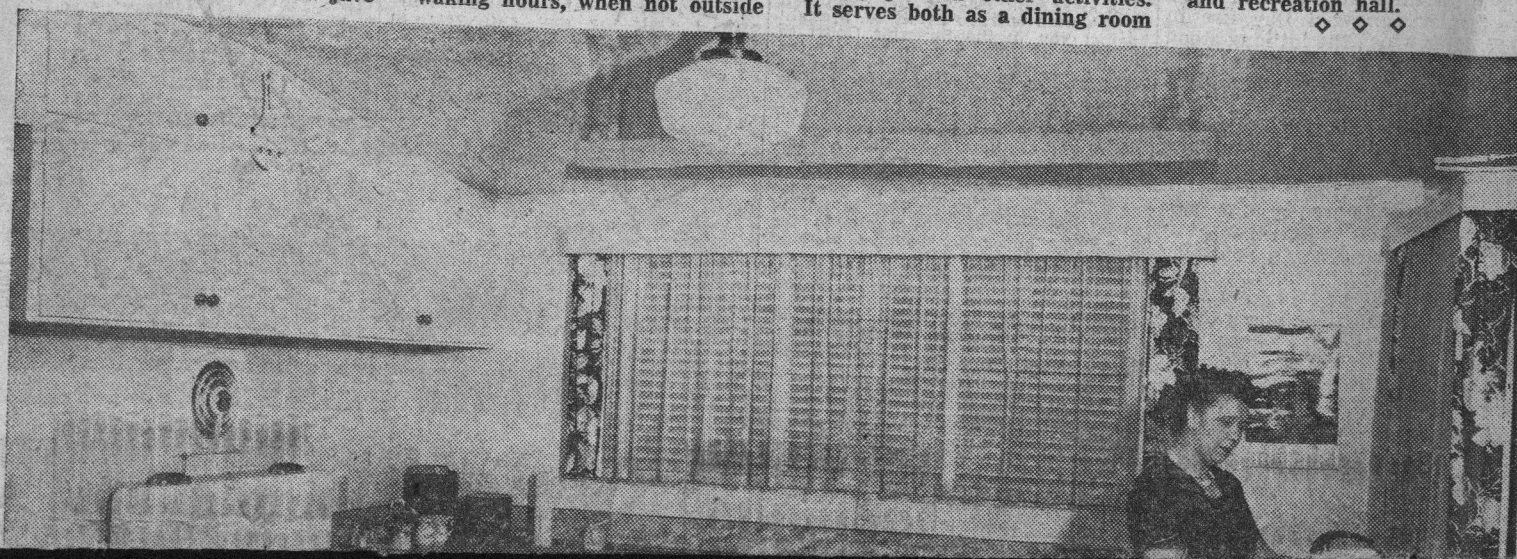


# +County Juvenile Hall Is Institution With Homey Atmosphere+



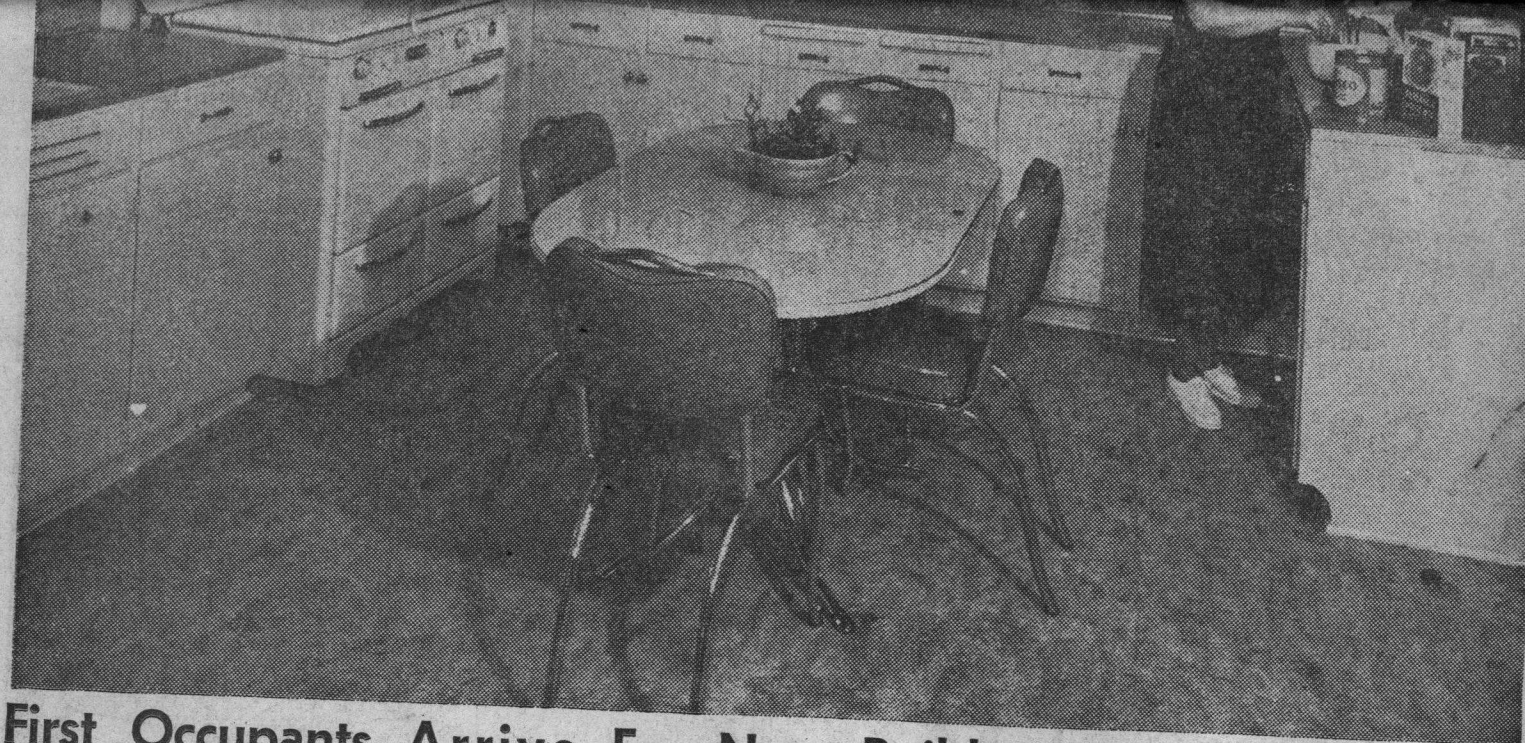
An ardent gardener, Superintendent Grover Spotts clips away errant grass near the entrance of the new county institution which was opened yesterday and has two occupants. In the background can be seen the enclosed front yard.

In this room the children who become inmates of the new juvenile hall will spend most of their waking hours, when not outside taking part in other activities. It serves both as a dining room and recreation hall. ♦ ♦ ♦



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Here is the kitchen which will provide food for both the Spotts family and children who find

temporary haven at the juvenile hall. Helyn Spotts does her own baking — makes good waffles, too, her husband says.

This is an interior view of one of the rooms in the boys' corridor of the fire proofed juvenile hall. Separate toilet facilities show this to be a strong room, practically the same as other rooms, except that occupants of rooms such as this do not leave their quarters to join the other children.

Spotts receives a monthly salary of \$208 a month and his wife, Helyn, \$173. He has been on the county payroll since November 15, 1949. She went on the payroll yesterday.

Juveniles assigned to the home will not be permanent residents, but will remain only while they are being processed by the courts or other youth agencies.

It was not the intention of the supervisors to set up an institution where children would be held for long periods.

While they are there, however, there will be opportunities for girls to learn needle and embroidery work, and the boys shop, plastic and woodcarving. Spotts hopes a shop can be added to the set-up in the future.

In the meantime, both he and his wife are anxious to improve the appearance of the two-acre site with flowers and vines. Donations of clippings, slips and cuttings of flowers, vines or trees will be appreciated by the operators of Santa Cruz county's newest project.

## First Occupants Arrive For New Building On Emeline Street

(Continued from page 1)

Each room has a single bed, springs, mattress, new spick and span sheets and pillowcases, covers with new blankets. A metal dressing table and bench, a throw rug and towels complete the furnishings in each room.

The rooms are 12 by seven feet. Each has a window and thanks to the Spotts, the concrete walls have been softened with different shades of pastel overcoats.

Leaving the confinement center proper, making an approach to the building at the main door, one steps into a small but adequate office. Here the children are received, arrangements made, etc.

To the left of this, is the main room of the building. Occupants are visible to persons in the office, but cannot see into the office themselves.

The main room is the combination dining, living and recreation room, approximately 30 by 18 feet in size. Opposite the front wall of windows, which have venetian blinds, is a large fireplace.

Above this are a number of nick-nack shelves which contain Mrs. Spotts' collection of figures and vases. Above two long composition tables with matching chairs, young diners will see a decorative plate arrangement.

On the opposite side of the room are a settee, several chairs and floor lamps for reading.

Future plans include a loud speaker to bring radio and phonograph programs from the Spotts' living quarters to the recreation room.

And then there's the kitchen! The answer to any housewife's prayer. A beautiful new Wedgewood stove, with two large ovens, a large Frigidaire, tile sinks, lots of sunny windows and cupboard space galore are but a few of the exceptional points.

It is here that any girls who occupy the hall will spend part of their time assisting Mrs. Spotts.

Under an agreement between the board of supervisors and the Spotts, the latter will furnish food to occupants of the hall at the rate of 40 cents per meal. The superintendent will buy their own food and prepare it in the kitchen provided for that purpose.

Helyn Spotts says she does all her own bread and pastry baking, and shelves of fruit testified to her canning proclivities.

The agreement with the supervisors also states the Spotts are to receive all fruits and vegetables produced at the county hospital, not needed by the hospital for its own use.

The assistant superintendent has already prepared a list of menus for several weeks to come. A sample for Sunday includes fruit juice, waffles and syrup, jam, milk and cocoa for breakfast; for dinner, fried rabbit, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, green salad, gravy, biscuits and jam, milk, pie and assorted relish and for an evening snack, egg sandwiches, picnic potatoes, pickles and milk.

Meal times are breakfast at 8:30 a.m., luncheon from 12 to 12:30 p.m. and dinner between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

Rising time, lights out and visiting hours will be determined by Ernie Balke, county probation officer, who is in charge of the hall.

The Spotts' own living quarters, which they have furnished themselves, consist of a living room, bedroom and bath. In their bedroom is an automatic device which opens every door in the entire building in case of fire or other calamity, Spotts pointed out.

Other members of the Spotts family living on the place include a golden canary, "Honey," a long-haired friendly chihuahua, and "Nigger," an independent black tomcat.

The heating system is the newest, consisting of a General Electric forced air system. The temperatures

are controlled through the superintendent's living quarters and each room may vary in degrees if desired. In the summer time, the air is sucked back through the mechanism, filtered, and blown out cooled with fans.

In emergencies, four outside floodlights, one on each corner of the building, may be turned on. Each light is several thousand

and candle power and lights up the area so clearly that a newspaper can be read by the glow.

Wherever possible both Mr. and Mrs. Spotts want occupants of the hall to feel a part of a family group. Mrs. Spotts explained she formerly operated foster homes for children in San Mateo county and here. They came to this county a year ago last October.



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