

Fifty years ago, justice was swift

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SANTA CRUZ — Allan D. Boggs shot and killed his wife on April 17. A jury found him guilty on June 14. Eight days later he was sentenced to hang.

Justice was swift 50 years ago.

A 22-year-old man, described in the sheriff's jail log as "the toughest kid yet," was sentenced to San Quentin just four days after his arrest for rape.

This look back at the old days of justice came about when Sheriff Al Noren uncovered some old jail records last week in an old storeroom at the Sheriff's Office.

The wheels of justice really turned back then. There were few delays. Court calendars weren't crowded by mountains of motions and oodles of objections.

Perhaps it was because people didn't mince words back then. The entire transcript of a suspect's arrest, trial and

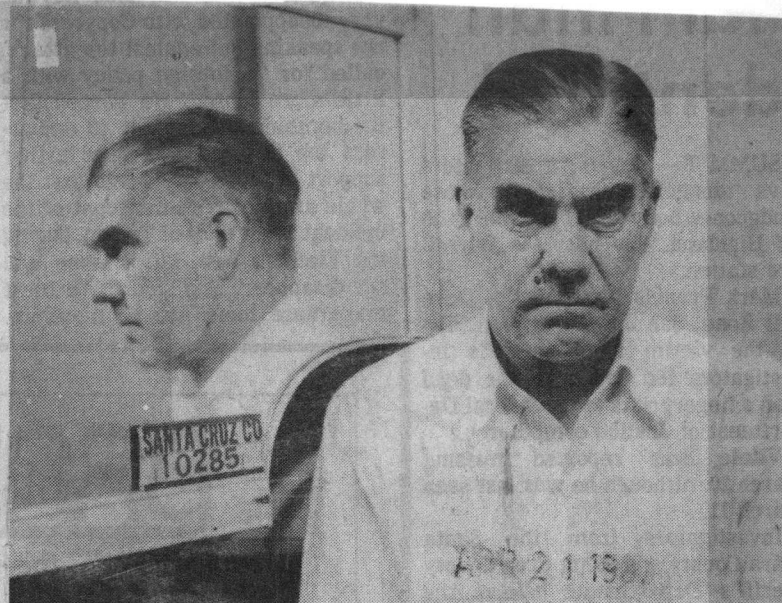
sentencing was contained on a postcard-size document. Handwritten. No copies.

Only one photo was needed, because the suspect posed by a mirror to get both frontal and profile views in one.

- A man arrested for "monkeying with little Watsonville Mexican kids" was sentenced to Folsom Prison. A man who "ran amock with a knife" was sentenced to jail for assault with a deadly wapen.

- A man arrested for reckless driving in 1935 was described as "cocky as hell." Another arrested for firing shots from a .22-caliber rifle into a Boulder Creek cabin was described as having a "bad reputation" and being "quarrelsome." He got nine months in County Jail to improve his attitude.

- A man arrested for striking a cop at the Capitola Dance Hall in 1936 was described as a "Big man. Ganged up on the cop."



Mirror gave a second view of convicted
murderer Allan Boggs

- Of a youth who stole money to give to his father, it was written, "Some member of family always in prison or jail."

- A Highway Patrol officer wrote of a man arrested for drunken driving in 1936: "Defendant fell on face. Worst case of drunk driving ever seen."

- A 56-year-old man found with

nitroglycerene was said to be a "Two-time loser. S.Q. (San Quentin) and Folsom." At the time, Santa Cruz County crooks went to either one of the two pens.

There was room on the card for comments in defense of the suspect.

Usually the notation was that he or she was a friend of a judge, police officer or well-known citizen.

- "Seems to be a good kid, but just went haywire," was the comment about a 21-year-old arrested for stealing a motorcycle in 1936.

- A 29-year-old man was caught inside a hamburger stand at the Boardwalk late one night. The defendant "had all to eat he could lay his hands on. Lots of beer, too." To his credit, the defendant was said to be "a graduate of Brown University and a good man when sober."

- A 17-year-old took his mother's car without her permission and wrecked it, injuring his girlfriend. The notation on his card said: "Had talk with the defendant. He will watch his step."

- They didn't tell a "Homosexual, drug-addict, one-legged beggar" to watch his step. He was sentenced "to get of the county in 3 days" and "stay out."

- Some of those arrested skated. Charges against a man arrested for exposing himself on Pacific Avenue one Saturday night were dropped "for lack of evidence."

- On May 13, 1940 a 49-year-old

man was arrested for taking a shot at another man during a fight in Ben Lomond. "Considerable public sentiment in Ben Lomond in favor of the defendant," was noted on his card. His attempted murder charge was reduced to simple assault, and he was sentenced to three months in jail.

- A man arrested in January, 1936 for cashing a bum \$15 check was described as a "very decent sort of chap, just off on the wrong track."

But back then there were no excuses for crime. The wheels of justice rolled over him and in just 13 days he was on his way to Folsom.

REFERENCE

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
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