

# Jail Ruling Is Expected In A Few Weeks

The county jail went on trial Tuesday, accused of failing to provide adequate facilities for inmates, and a federal judge in San Jose will rule sometime in the next few weeks on what the county must do to rehabilitate it.

Judge Robert F. Peckham took the matter under submission following a long day of arguments. Assistant County Counsel Terry Slocum made a case for doing the least possible, since county supervisors have voted to build a new jail.

Keith Lesar, accuser of the jail's inadequacies on behalf of several inmates, led the plaintiff team in arguing that major renovations should be made. He said the county may be unable to find money to build a new jail because many residents are opposed to it.

Judge Peckham seemed impressed by this point: "It would be a most unfortunate scenario," he said, "if the county did not go ahead and approve renovation, then found out a year or so from now they can't get the money for the permanent (new) facility."

Attorneys on both sides agreed that no firm figure has been put forward as to the cost of a new jail. Part of the problem is that some supervisors want only a new jail, while others — notably Board Chairman Dan Forbus — think extra courtroom space and sheriff's offices should be included with the jail in a "law enforcement complex".

So the cost could be \$3 million or as much as \$10 million, or somewhere in between.

Renovation would cost a minimum of \$250,000, according to Assistant Public Works Director Gene Delucchi. He testified renovation would take a minimum of a year-and-a-half, while building a new jail would take three to four years.

The plaintiffs argued that the now-vacant second floor of the Front Street jail should be made into a dormitory for pre-trial detainees who have not been convicted of any crime. Also on that floor, they said, a dining hall and recreation facilities including a library should be built.

Delucchi broke down the \$250,000 as follows: \$100,000 for the dorm and dining room.

\$70,000 for a library, multi-purpose room, recreation and day room, \$45,000 for architects' fees, \$10,000 for a dining area outside the cell blocks on the third floor, \$10,000 for noiseproofing on the third floor, \$5,000 for eight windows on the third floor, \$5,000 for showers and toilets on the third floor, and \$5,000 for improvements to the roof.

The roof would be used for outdoor recreation by about 10 inmates at a time.

Lesar argued that the jail population should be reduced from over 70 to 29. Under 1963 standards, the jail can hold 71 inmates.

Much of the discussion consisted of county counsel suggesting compromises in the plan put forth by the plaintiff team. Slocum proposed the population limit be held at 71, but on other issues — such as privacy in toilets and showers — he leaned toward accepting modifications of the changes argued by plaintiffs.

Delucchi said it now costs about \$1 million per year to operate the jail, and most of this is in salaries. He warned that accepting all the proposed improvements would hike

operating costs by \$500,000 per year.

Under questioning by Lesar, Deputy Sheriff Bill Plageman — who runs the jail — said about 25 more deputies would be needed to improve inmates' security, and to staff the proposed new activity areas. At \$13,700 per year in salary and benefits for each one, this cost would be an additional \$342,500 per year. Civilian personnel also would be added.

Lesar asked how many deputies would be needed to staff a new, more modern jail.

"I haven't the foggiest," Plageman responded.

Judge Peckham also said he is concerned about the effect that closing the city jail Jan. 1 will have on the county jail population.

Plageman estimated that the increase in bookings will be 44-78 per cent, depending on the season. But, he added, little change is expected in the number of inmates staying at the jail, because City of Santa

Cruz detainees already are kept at the county jail.

Plageman also expressed "no doubt" that human relations training would help reduce tensions in the cell blocks. The plaintiffs have asked that guards receive this training.

Robert Wandruff of the county administrative office said \$1,335,000 in revenue sharing funds already has been set aside toward construction of a new jail. He suggested that the

board of supervisors could do this again each year until the project is done, "though at the cost of other programs."

Judge Peckham reminded Wandruff that Delucchi had testified that all the money would have to be available by January, 1977, tentative bidding date on the big project, in order to go to bid.

Supervisors are "confident they will get the funds," Wandruff testified.

"Have you given any thought to applying for any renovation grants?" asked Lesar.

Wandruff answered that there is no grant money for renovation projects unless the county were willing to commit itself to a 20-year use of the renovated building.

Supervisors, who recently voted to begin looking for an architect to design the new jail, may take up the subject again Tuesday.

## Cabrillo Concert Slated Dec. 4

Performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto in F, the premiere of a new work and a baroque string ensemble playing Handel's Concerto Grosso, will highlight the fall concert of the Cabrillo Orchestra Dec. 4 at 8:30 p.m. in the college theater.

The 50 member student orchestra, under conductor Vincent Gomez, will also play works by Haydn, Telemann, Nelhybel and the first movement of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony.

Featured work of the evening will be Mozart, with Dr. John Orlando of the music faculty as soloist.

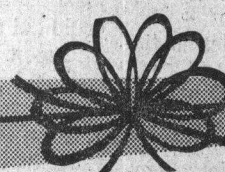
The orchestra will also premiere a new work scored for film by Fred Squatrito, a new member of the Cabrillo faculty. The concert will open with Gomez and Susan Brown on violins and cellist Roger Immanuel of UCSC, performing as a baroque string ensemble. Admission is \$2 general and students, \$1.

## Membership Drive Nears Deadline

Membership chairman Pat Russell reminds that Dec. 1 is the deadline for reaching this year's goal of doubling membership for the Santa Cruz County Association for the Retarded.

She noted that for the past 22 years, the association, with support from the community, has furnished assistance to mentally retarded persons in Santa Cruz County.

The most visible program, she noted, is the skills center, a rehabilitation workshop for the vocationally handicapped at 950-41st Ave. That also is the location of the association office, presided over by Executive Director Cal Bock.



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