

Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Increasing cloudiness this afternoon. Chance of showers tonight. Mostly fair Tuesday. Little temperature change. High Tuesday in 50s. Low tonight mid 30s to mid 40s. West to northwest wind 12 to 25 mph.

Temperatures for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today: High 61, low 35.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

116th Year—No. 43

MONDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 22, 1971

20 Pages

15 Cents

County Jail Riot, Fire

By DON RIGHETTI
Sentinel Staff Writer

Sheriff's deputies today are investigating a riot which forced the evacuation of John Linley Frazier and some 70 other prisoners to escape the fumes of smoke and chemical mace.

Guarded by deputies and police dogs, all the prisoners but Frazier were herded to the jail roof. Frazier, accused slayer of four members of the Dr. Victor Ohta family and the doctor's secretary, was put in leg irons and kept apart from the other men in a security cubicle.

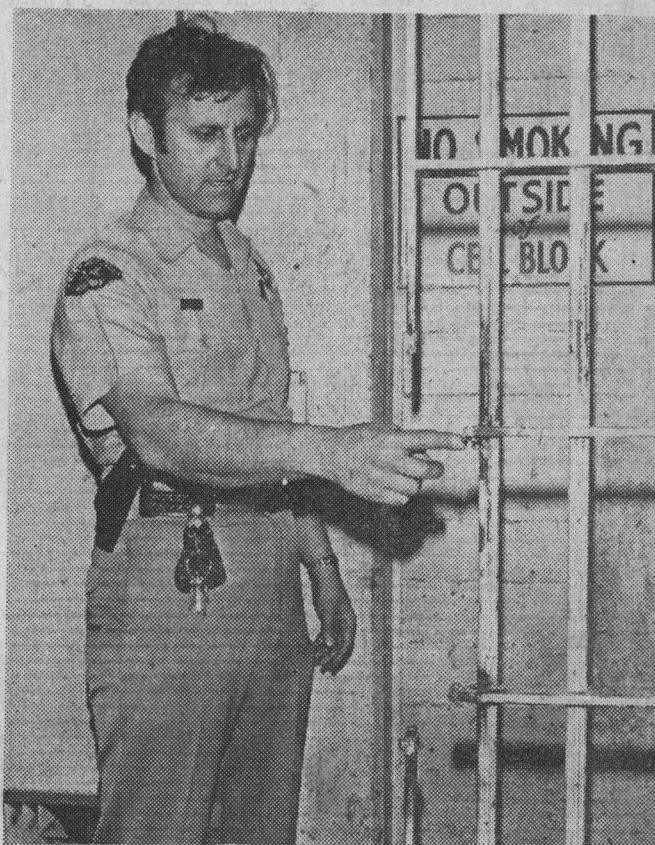
Frazier and the 15 other inmates of his cellblock had to wait while firemen used a blowtorch to cut through bars and rescue them from the fumes. Deputies said the cellblock's lock had been jammed with wax and a piece of a spoon.

One unidentified inmate was hospitalized due to smoke inhalation.

Firemen put out flames in four mattresses set in Numbers 1 and 2 of the floor's four cellblocks. Deputies said an undetermined number of rioters threw dishes and broke two lights and two windows before the disturbance was broken up with mace.

Female prisoners, confined in another wing, were not involved in the disturbance.

No one yet has been charged in the riot, jail officials said. They noted the disturbance apparently resulted when a trusty who usually makes purchases for the confined men from vending machines, refused to make his Sunday night sales run. Deputies said he apparently had become involved in an argument with the men on Saturday.



Deputy Sherman Unell shows the bars firemen were forced to burn open Sunday night to rescue some 16 prisoners from a cell tank filled with smoke from burning mattresses. The lock had been jammed with wax and a broken piece of spoon. Smoke from the fire choked the entire cellblock, forcing the evacuation of some 70 prisoners. Sheriff's men today were attempting to find out why the fires were set. They said no one as yet had been booked for setting the blaze.