

NEW BUILDINGS AT STATE PENAL FARM

Structures Costing \$235,000 to Be Ready for Use in Few Weeks, Report

New buildings at the state penal farm, at Vandalia, erected at a cost of \$235,000 to relieve over-crowding, are near completion and will be ready for occupancy in about two weeks.

Five new brick dormitories replacing the old, ramshackle wooden barracks, will be the first to be occupied. The new dormitories are fireproof throughout, and will accommodate about 500 men.

Owing to the fact that the population of state farm is 615, the present legislature will be asked for an appropriation sufficient to build another dormitory, a laundry, a kitchen and a dining room so that all of the prisoners may be properly housed.

Change Location

In building the new institution, Rodney H. Brandon, director of the state department of public welfare, and Col. Frank D. Whipp, superintendent of prisons, changed its location to a more ideal site on a high plateau overlooking the swamp land where the old institution was located when it was established some 10 years ago.

The new institution is the result

of ideas obtained by a representative of the state architect's office, Col. Whipp and C. J. Metzger, superintendent of the prison farm, in a visit to misdemeanor institutions at White Plains, N. Y., and in New Jersey, Indiana and Virginia.

Eliminate Jail Types

The best features of the eastern institutions have been used enabling the department of public welfare to get away from the usual fortress-like type of prison building, and yet retain the medium security required for housing the class of prisoners sent to the state farm.

Construction costs show that the new institution has been built at the very low price of between \$550 and \$600 a bed, including all the necessary service apparatus.

Convicts themselves were employed in the construction work, to supplement private labor hired by the contractors. All the hydrastone trimming for the structures was made at the penal farm by inmates. The maximum number of inmate laborers employed on the job was 100.

Childblom Quiets Fear That Naval Station's Activities May Halt

Fears held by civic leaders in Waukegan that the drastic slashes proposed by President Hoover in maintenance costs of the navy would hit

the Great Lakes Naval Training station were quieted when Congressman Carl R. Chindblom, following an investigation advised the Waukegan and North Chicago Chamber of Commerce that the local station would not be affected.

Much anxiety had been felt in Waukegan and North Chicago as to the fate of the naval station when press dispatches from Washington outlined, the president's demand for retrenchment in naval expenditures. Fear was held that the station might be seriously curtailed.

The assurances that the work of the station would not be curtailed was not regarded as final by the Waukegan Chamber of Commerce, however, and it intends to follow a plan of watchful waiting and will be prepared to make further protests if the station is menaced.

Mr. Chindblom in referring to Great Lakes in his answer declared that "Its importance in the middle west is fully appreciated and recognized."

Olathe, Kan., Is New Marriage Rendezvous; Many Wed During Year

The eastern Kansas town of Olathe seems to have developed into a new marriage mill. Although there seems no definite reason why the streams of couples keep pouring into Olathe, it is evident that they do come.

In 1930, 1,264 marriage licenses were issued to persons living in Canada and 23 states; only 120 were issued for residents of this county.

And the work goes merrily on in

1931. For the first three months, the records show issuance of 291 licenses, an increase of 19 over the corresponding period of last year.

Vernon K. Campbell, the bachelor judge, officiates at most of the weddings. His office is known as "Cupid's Parlor." He lives at Meram and obliges the late comers by asking them into his parlor.

He has one inviolable rule. Don't get out of bed to tie the knot, Judge Campbell said if he had married all the couples who had pounded on his door in the midnight hours, his record would be something to really boast about. But if he has retired, they wait until the next day or go elsewhere.

Grade Separation at Lake Villa to Start

Work on the grade separation on Route 21 at Lake Villa will be started as soon as sufficient progress has been made in the construction of the abutments, County Superintendent of Highways R. M. Lobdell was notified last week by G. N. Lamb, district engineer.

The time it will take to complete the work, Mr. Lamb stated, would not be long enough to require the construction of a temporary gravel road around the Lake Villa project. The time such a road would be used and the expense it would require would not justify the gravel road, Mr. Lamb said, in view of the fact that two very good detours are to be had. One detour to Antioch is paved all the way.



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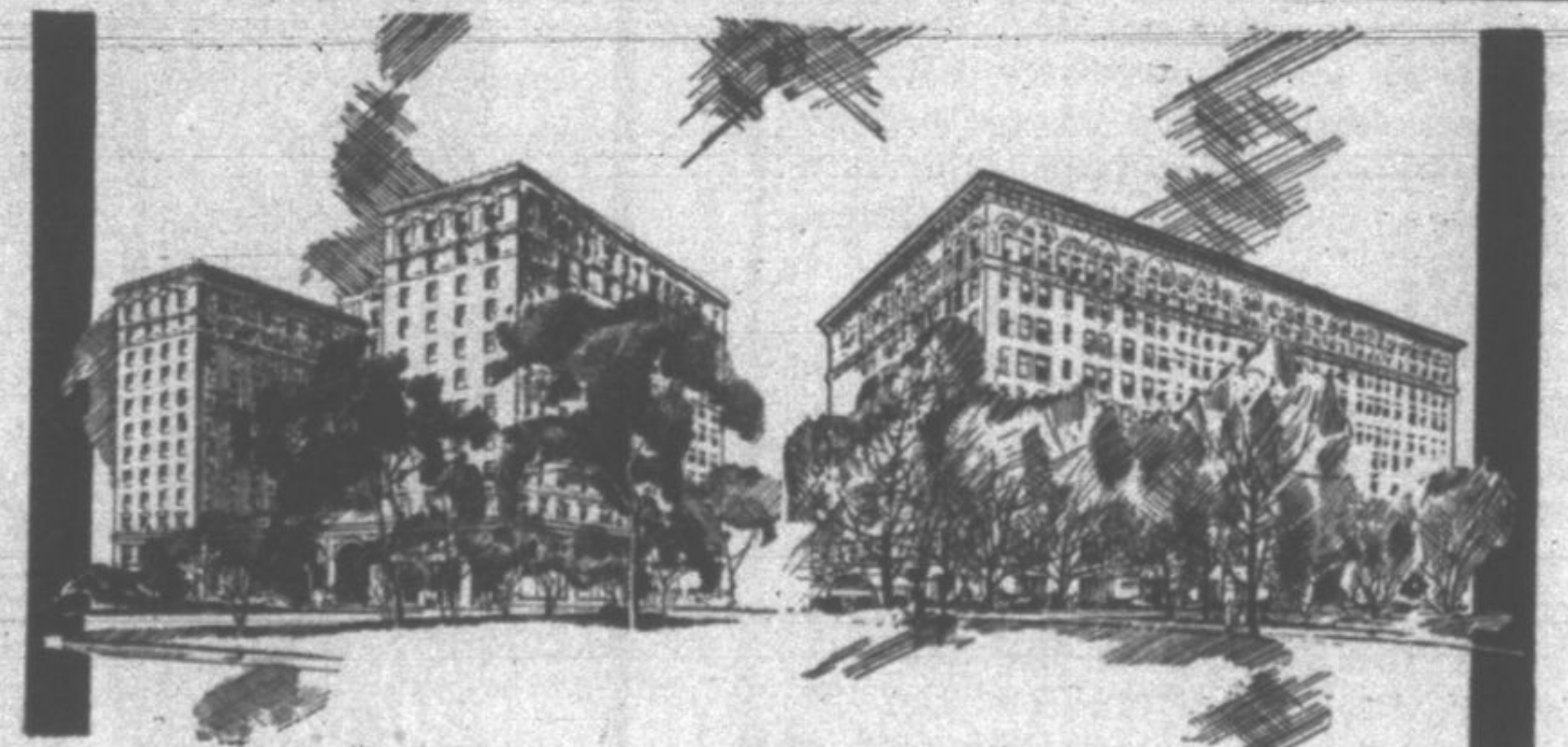
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