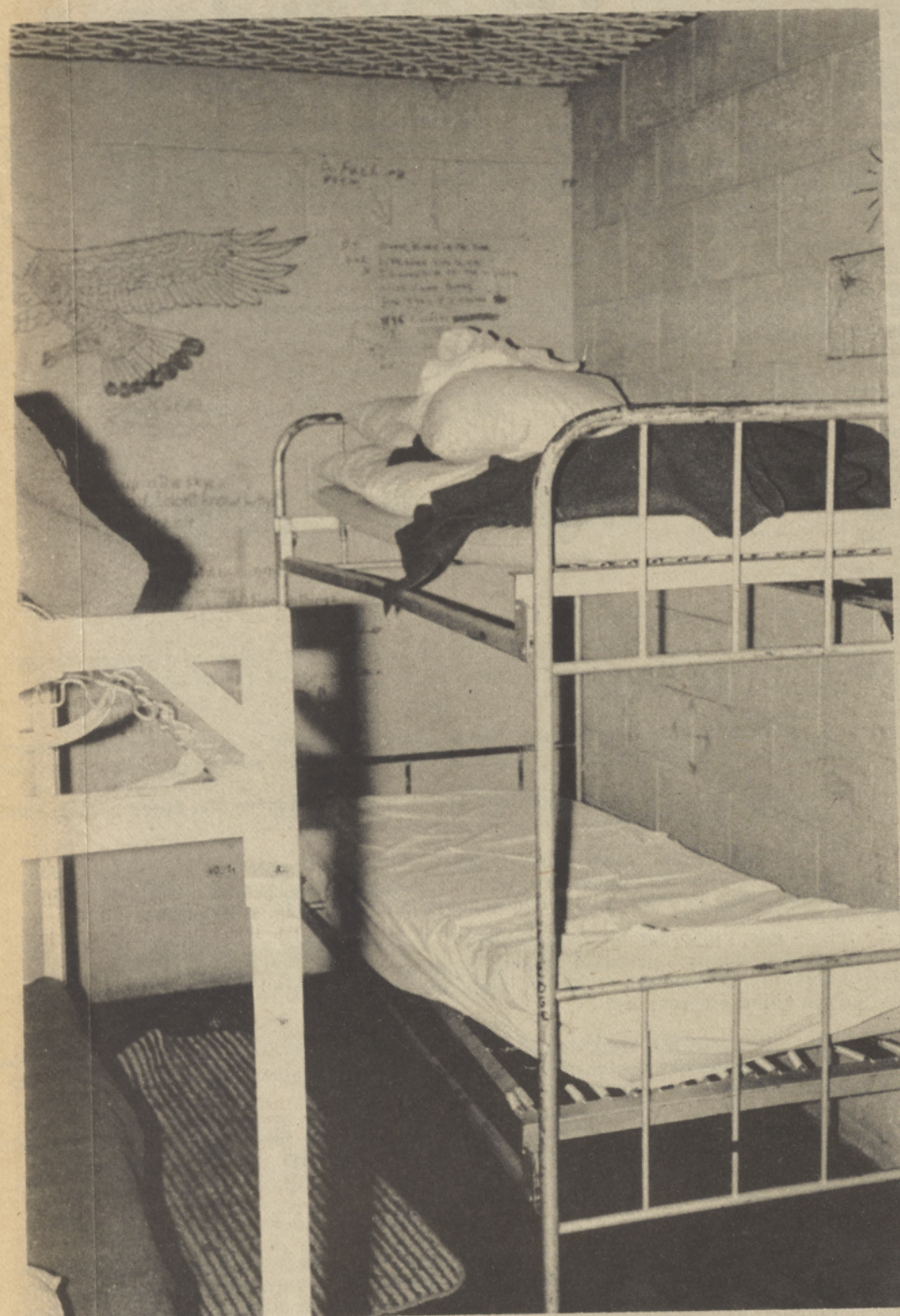
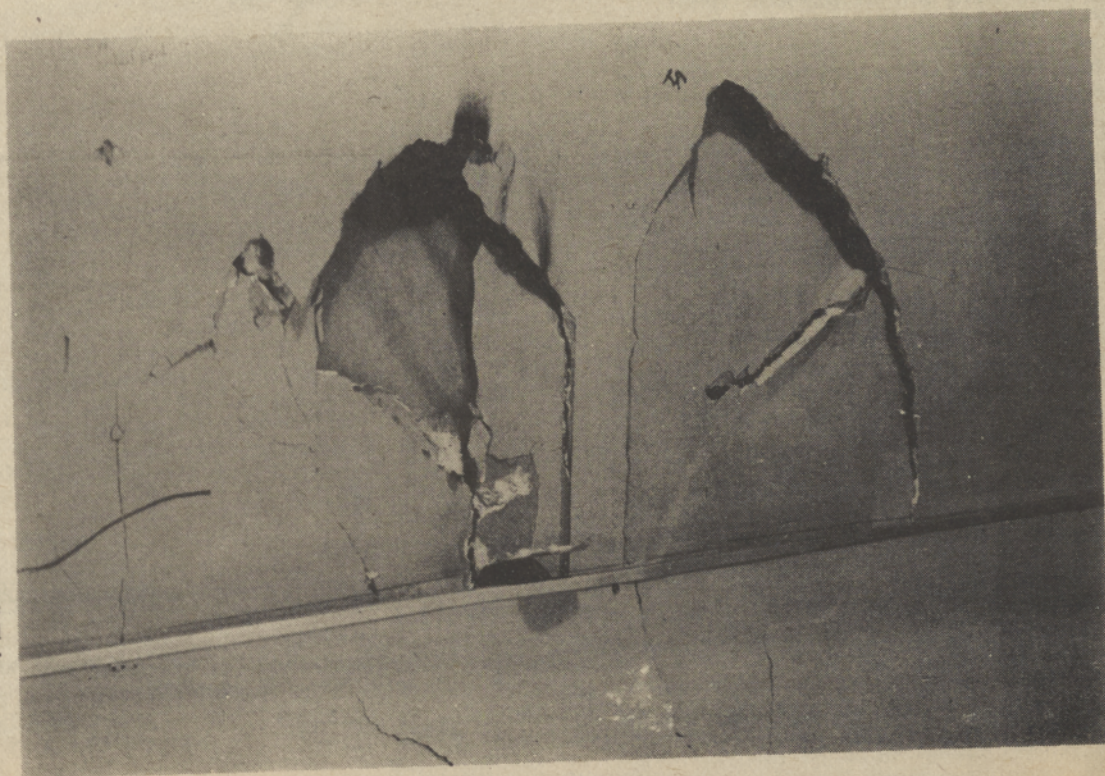


The Tribal Jail - A Community Shame



Non jail-standard bunk beds pose a threat to prisoner safety and create space problems within the cell. The bunks should be the type that bolts to the wall and can be folded up to the wall when not in use.

Plasterboard walls in the corridor have been punched through by inmates with their hands.



The Warm Springs Tribal Jail, originally built as a juvenile detention facility in the 1950's, is in shocking condition.

After two decades of use it has deteriorated to the point where it poses a threat to prisoner and staff safety.

"In fact," says Municipal Manager Warren 'Rudy' Clements, "there is the existing danger that the Tribes are violating the civil rights of prisoners because of the condition of the jail."

Perhaps because of lack of awareness on the part of the community, jail conditions have been allowed to reach the deplorable state they are now in, it was suggested.

Aside from the maximum security cell, there are presently only three useable cells, two for the men and one for both adult and juvenile women. At peak times this results in overcrowdedness.

Prisoners suffer in sweltering temperatures in summer because of poor ventilation. Says Tribal Police Chief Jeff Sanders, "In the summer it gets up to as high as 120 degrees in the cell block area."

He also points out the inadequate sanitation facilities. There is one so-called "shower" for men which is really not

satisfactory, and there are no shower facilities for women.

It is almost impossible to see inside each cell because the window is covered with heavy wire mesh. Poor lighting inside the cell adds to this problem as well as creating a dungeon-like atmosphere.

The jail has experienced three suicides and numerous attempts in the last two years, and Sanders says the inmates would have been prevented if the jail were properly equipped and met jail standards.

The present wobbly bunk beds, sinks, and toilets in the cells are unsuitable for jail use. The heavy steel frames make the beds awkward to move for cleaning, yet they can be moved by prisoners and used to damage the cell.

"We should have kind of beds that bolt to the wall, the kind that swing down to place when needed and that can fold up to the wall when not in use," says Sanders. This type of bed would afford more space in the cell and cannot be used to commit suicide.

The conventional paint-coated sinks and toilets currently in use are easily and frequently damaged by prisoners because they can be kicked off their mounts or broken. Pieces of pipe can be

used to dig out the mortar between the bricks. (Even fingers can easily remove the mortar.) It is then an easy matter to break up the bricks, according to Sanders.

The plasterboard walls in the corridors have been punched through by the hands of prisoners while taking out their frustrations - another example of non-jail standard materials used in the facility.

Prisoner safety is of the greatest concern to Sanders. A combination of poor cell lighting, hampered surveillance of prisoners, unsafe beds, inadequate sanitation facilities, unsafe wiring (prisoners receive shocks), and poor ventilation all threaten prisoner safety. And this touches upon just a few of the problems in that respect.

It is not worth remodeling because the materials used to build the structure do not meet jail standards, according to Clements and Sanders.

So the Tribes are looking at alternatives for the funding of the construction of a new jail. "Due to the urgency of the situation and the extreme need, we're going to use the alternative that will allow us to get it done as soon as possible," says Clements.

The first alternative would be to obligate existing BIA contracting funds available to the Tribes. Tribal funds could

be used to build the facility, then the BIA funds could offset the cost over a period of time.

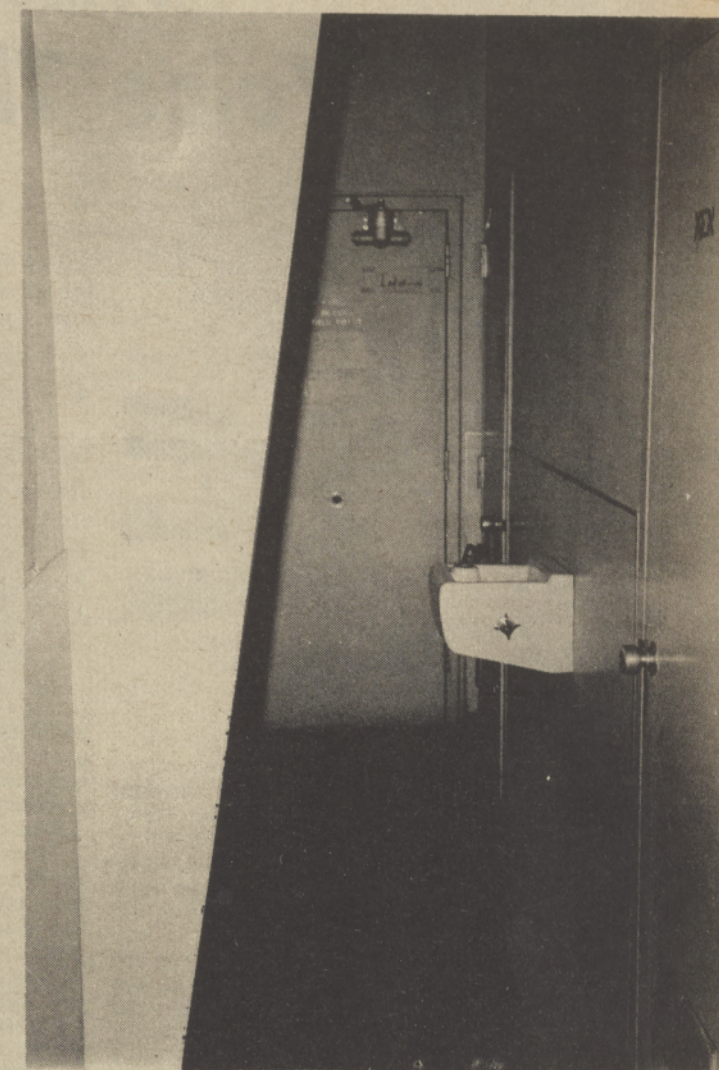
The second alternative could be to ask for funds in a tribal referendum as soon as it could be scheduled.

The third alternative would be to request federal funds, but that is a lengthy process and the time factor involved would be undesirable considering the situation. "Federal programs aren't famous for funding jail facilities," says Clements.

Tribal authorities are meeting the week of July 25th with the architect who designed the juvenile detention facility. The Tribes are in need of an architect immediately, but if the BIA architect cannot meet the Tribes requirements or is unavailable, the services of the tribal architect will be used.

Sanders and Clements are now putting together a data profile to assess needs. The project, which is high on the Council and management priority list, will take into consideration needs for the present as well as twenty years from now.

There is great concern on the part of the Tribal Council, Management and staff for the welfare and safety of the prisoners, according to Clements. "Just walk through the jail once and you can understand."



A solid steel support beam presents problems in the hallway leading from the booking desk to the cell area. Intoxicated or violent prisoners often injure themselves in the narrow passage.

PHOTOS TEXT BY SANDY RANGILA



Demonstrate just how unsafe the Warm Springs Tribal Jail is, police Chief Jeff Sanders displays what could be used as a means of suicide. It was made by tearing up a pipe found under a mattress during a precautionary check.



In the women's cell mortar has been dug out with fingers and the brick removed and broken up. A rough-edged pipe sticks out from the plumbing creating a hazard. Neither the structural materials used in the cell nor the sanitation facilities meet jail standards.

Tribes Eye Justice System Needs

The Tribal Government has announced it will undertake a study this summer to determine law enforcement and justice system needs in the community.

The study, which was commissioned by General Manager Ken Smith, will seek recommendations on how justice programs on the reservation can be improved. The study will be carried out through interviews with tribal officials, tribal members, and others knowledgeable about reservation jus-

tice system program. The study will focus on such matters as police services, operation of the Tribal Court, the juvenile justice program, natural resource program enforcement, and referral services.

The justice system study is under the direction of a committee of eight, chaired by Municipal Manager Rudy Clements. Others on the committee are: Chief Judge Irene Wells; Dennis Karnopp, Tribal Attorney; Clayton Earl, BIA Community Service Officer;

Eugene Greene, Chairman of the Tribal Council; Uren Leonard, Assistant Tribal Planner; Dick Montee, Juvenile Program Director; and Police Chief Jeff Sanders. The research work will be carried out by consultants, John Svcarovich and Steve Robbins, acting as staff to the committee.

As a result of the study a report of findings and recommendations will be submitted by the committee to the General Manager early this fall for appropriate action.