

December 10, 1971

County Receives 'New Courthouse'

By Peter Schenck
Of The Gazette-Times

Walls crumbled at the Benton County courthouse last night, floors shifted, new rooms sprang up and the long-lived space problems of the older building vanished.

Unfortunately, the vast changes took place only in the drawings and minds-eyes of a group of University of Oregon architectural design students who had adopted the courthouse as their "vehicle for a study problem."

Under the tutelage of Arthur W. Hawn, assistant professor of interior architecture, the group has spent the last several months studying the building's problems and creating hopeful solutions.

At last night's unveiling of the group's findings, Hawn noted that time limitations had allowed the group to reach only preliminary conclusions. However, county officials attending the meeting appeared pleased.

Circuit Court Judge Richard Mengler, who assisted in the coordination of the project, beamed his approval and had numerous compliments for the group effort.

The group was asked by Hawn to provide an architectural solution to the structure's problems — a solution which would make the building functional for up to another 15 years and then make it

eligible for restoration as an historic edifice.

Without exception individuals in the group voted to add a third complete floor to the courthouse to utilize now dead space.

The separation of the circuit and district courts was another mutual conclusion as was the construction of two circuit courtrooms to meet existing overloads.

All supported construction of circular courtrooms, noting that interaction between the affected parties would be much improved.

One student overwhelmed by space problems in the sheriff's department decided to award the sheriff control of the entire first floor.

Sheriff Jack Dolan, who was present at the session, thanked the young lady but asked rather that she back him in his bid for a new law enforcement building.

Each student's personality was interestingly displayed in his work, as some worked to tear it all apart and start again while others attempted to make sense out of the patchwork style of architecture that pervades the building now.

No one talked about money because, as one said, "Who wants to talk about money when you're just dreaming?"

One student even suggested a plush employes lounge under the clock tower of the building.

The group will move onto a yet to be determined project in Marion County for next term.

May 11, 1972

Police Arrest 26 Protesters

By Rod Deckert
And Peter Schenck
Of The Gazette-Times

Authorities arrested 26 people Wednesday afternoon during a war protest in downtown Corvallis after protesters blocked SW Fourth Street, backing up traffic for several blocks and forcing a detour.

Those arrested were part of a group of about 250 protesters who marched from the Oregon State University campus into the downtown area to protest the Vietnam war and President Nixon's recent decision to mine North Vietnamese harbors.

See Pictures Page 9

Most of the crowd took to blocking the street after chanting and singing briefly in front of the U.S. Army and Air Force Recruiting station at the corner of SW Fourth and Monroe Avenue.

Once situated in the street, Corvallis Police Chief James Goodman, backed by the Corvallis police riot squad, implored the crowd to clear the area. Officers from the Benton County Sheriff's Department waited in the wings.

Members of the protesting group replied they wanted only to occupy the street for a half-hour, then they would leave.

Goodman and the police allowed the group to sit for the half-hour while noontime traffic on the street was rerouted around the protest area.

As the half-hour time period ended, protesters gradually began to stand and move off the street. But some remained sitting, calling out, "Wait, wait."

People took turns speaking with Police Capt. Bill Hockema's electronic bullhorn, each side imploring the other either to clear the street or return to the street.

"I came here to get arrested. Let's not compromise," said one young man. He sat back down on the pavement.

Another said, "We came for a show of civil disobedience." He pleaded with the crowd to stay on the street, but to be

passive and nonviolent when arrested. He sat down and was later dragged away by police.

A middle-aged woman took the bullhorn microphone and told the crowd, "This isn't going to solve anything . . . Be good Americans and clear the street."

She was shouted down.

At 1:17, with about 25 still sitting in the street, Goodman said, "Ladies and gentlemen, you've had your half-hour."

The riot police moved in as the crowd chanted, "One, two, three, four. We don't want your f—ing war."

Working in pairs, policemen began carrying, dragging or leading protesters to two rental trucks parked nearby.

At first, those being arrested went limp as people on the sidelines urged, "Don't resist, don't resist."

Protesters then locked arms, sat in tight circles and began to resist. Their faces flushed red as they strained to stay entwined while police slowly pulled them apart.

With the remainder of the crowd pressing in close to cheer those writhing on the pavement, the officers took the brunt of the dissenters' bitterness about a war that started when many of them were in grade school.

Verbal abuse and taunts were almost constant. "You f—ers, why don't you just bomb us," a girl screamed repeatedly at police.

One girl broke and ran from a pile of bodies, kicking and flailing at police who chased her. She was subdued by three officers.

"Feel proud of yourself, pigs," a protester shouted in the ear of a policeman.

Police restrained their emotions, but used muscular force to break the intertwined bodies.

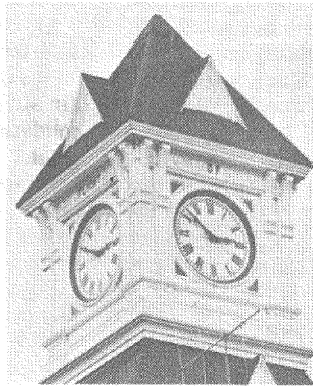
The last three protesters to be arrested were dragged together toward the trucks, skin scraping on asphalt.

Protesters who remained standing were not arrested.

(Continued On Page 16)

Housing County Government A Piecemeal Approach

Editor's note: Benton County's building problems are becoming acute again and county officials are seeking a solution. This is the first of four articles detailing the needs and alternatives the county faces.



By Mike Bradley
Of The Gazette-Times

When the dingy little Veterans Service office in the basement of the Benton County Courthouse was painted and a rug laid, Verla Bushnell, director, appreciated it so much she sent the board of commissioners a colorful bouquet of flowers and a note of thanks.

"It's done so much to improve our attitude," she said later when asked why she made the gesture of appreciation.

The decorating and rug cost the county less than \$400, said the commissioners.

Similarly, the larger tax collection office on the main floor was painted and a wall-to-wall rug laid at a cost of less than \$1,000.

When the sheriff was given additional room in the courthouse, deputies volunteered to do much of the work in designing and remodeling the room to keep the cost under \$4,500.

The trend is indicative of the thinking in the courthouse.

"We're going to be here a long time, we might as well make the best of it," one county employe said.

But painting the walls and laying rugs isn't meeting the real building problems of the county, the commissioners admit.

They also admit that the building problems they face seem almost insurmountable. The only thing that saves them from complete discouragement is that most of the county officials are relatively new to the county government and haven't had their proposals knocked down by the voters as did their predecessors.

But sooner or later, it appears, the county will again have to go to the voters to finance one, two or three new buildings, depending on the alternative chosen.

Or the county can continue to buy buildings piecemeal, without voter approval, dispersing its operations throughout Corvallis, and pay rent when it can't buy.

The county now operates out of seven main buildings, not counting the fair building or buildings it recently acquired at former Adair Air Force station.

Specifically, the county has 33 separate structures on which it pays insurance. The replacement value of all 33 structures is listed at \$1,681,628. The 85-year-old courthouse is the most valuable at \$979,801.

Overcrowding of the courthouse has compelled county officials to acquire some buildings as stop-gap measures.

In 1959, they bought a house, across NW Fifth street from the courthouse, for \$30,942. The county health department moved into the house and has been there ever since.

Two and a half years later, the county bought the house next to the health department for \$22,500 and the juvenile department moved in.

In 1964, the county bought still another house, this one on NW Sixth Street behind the two Fifth Street properties, paying \$21,500. Another house on Sixth Street, next door to the first, was acquired in 1966 for \$21,600. The mental health department occupies the two buildings.

More recently the county built its engineering and road maintenance complex on SW Avery Avenue that is valued at more than \$175,000.

The most recent building purchased by the county was across NW Fourth street from the courthouse. It houses the assessor's office. The county paid \$36,720 for it.

All of the buildings except the engineering and road department structures required repairs and remodeling. The county spends about \$6,500 a year for repairs to the buildings.

Over the years, the interior of the courthouse has been remodeled to meet the demands for space to accommodate employes.

What was once one large circuit courtroom on the second floor has been remodeled several times and now is mainly three courtrooms and other legal offices.

More than \$25,000 has been spent on the courthouse the past year, for remodeling and repairs.

Changes are still being made in an effort to get the most out of the available space. Microfilming of records in the clerk's vault will give a little more room in the future. But that will only ease slightly the overcrowded conditions in that office, county officials say.

However, they emphasize, colorful walls and soft rugs won't alleviate the lack of space that hinders the efficiency of county government.

Corvallis Gazette-Times
October 8, 1973



Courthouse Changes

Remodeling continues in the Benton County courthouse as a room that once was occupied by the tax collection department is readied for use by the sheriff's office. It is one of many changes made in recent years as the county squeezes more and more people into the 85-year-old structure. (Photo by Tom Warren)

Source: Benton County Sheriff's Office Archives

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

July 24, 1974

Courthouse clock bell is going to ring again

By William Monroe
Of The Gazette-Times

Benton County Circuit Judge Richard Mengler believes the image of an all-American town is never complete without the re-assuring sound of a courthouse bell ringing majestically through the day as townspeople go about their business below.

And he is doing something about it.

For nearly 10 years, Corvallis has been without its sonic umbrella on the courthouse square. People have only a wailing siren at noon to remind them that it's lunch time.

Nights and days have come and gone — in silence.

But the clangor is coming back and soon Corvallis residents will once again trip to the periodic tune of hourly and half-hourly ringing.

Acting on a request by Judge Mengler, the county commissioners are going to have the bell re-activated.

Commissioner Jeanette Simerville said the bell, which dates back to 1889, was turned off by former commissioners about 10 years ago after complaints from a nearby business.

Monday, Mengler approached the commissioners, who then contacted a Cor-

vallis city public works supervisor, Joseph H. St. Louis, who used to work on the electrically-driven bell mechanism.

Mrs. Simerville said St. Louis has agreed to show courthouse workers how to operate the bell but he asked to wait for a cool day.

"A lot has happened in the past 10 years," Commissioner Simerville said. "People are kind of getting back to bandstands and bells ringing."

For Mengler, the ringing gong will cap part of a long-held dream to return the courthouse to its former glory when it was a center of county activities.

A few pieces of original 19th century furniture are safely enshrined in Mengler's chambers and a nearby jury room.

"It will be nice to hear the bell again," Mengler said.

"Another pet project of mine would be to get a flag flying from the top of the courthouse tower like it used to," he added, passing a hand over the dusty bell.

Nearby, a smaller bell, once used for summoning the community to fires, sits — also unused.

Mengler peered through a hole in the floor where a rope had hung to the base of the tower, 30 feet below.

"Now, I wonder where that went?" he said.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

July 24, 1974

COURTHOUSE CLOCK BELL IS GOING TO RING AGAIN



Judge Richard Mengler blows dust from the bell which soon will be sounding the hours again. (Gazette-Times Photo by John Bragg)

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JULY 9, 1975

Corvallis Gazette-Times

Community

Did anybody hear the bell?

Did the courthouse bell ring any longer or louder than usual last Friday? Was freedom's ring heard in Corvallis?

Circuit Court Judge Richard Mengler can't find anyone that thinks so except himself, his wife Mary, and two deputies who were in the sheriff's office downstairs.

Mengler and his wife participated in a prearranged bell-ringing ceremony in Corvallis at noon, July 4. The courthouse bell was to be the focal point of the Independence Day gonging.

But even though the large bell (a smaller one in the courthouse belfry accompanies a clock) hasn't been rung to anyone's memory since 1895, no one noticed.

Mengler spent much of Monday wandering through his courthouse asking if anyone heard the bell. The two deputies were the only responses.

"Maybe we'll have to have an encore," he said.

Burglarize the courthouse? Not difficult, officer warns

By William Monroe
Of The Gazette-Times

The Benton County Courthouse isn't a very safe place to lock anything up according to a man who should know.

Sgt. Randy Martinak, crime prevention officer for the Benton County Sheriff's office, told the county board of commissioners Wednesday that most of the locks on courthouse doors could be jimmyed by a professional burglar in a matter of seconds.

An amateur burglar might take as long as a minute to get through the locks, Martinak said.

Martinak made his comments during a presentation to commissioners about crime prevention and a report on his progress in the past year in establishing a program in the county.

He asked commissioners to participate in a free security survey and then told them about the relative unsafety of the courthouse.

"What about the vault?" one commissioner asked. Martinak smiled.

"I've been told that on one of the vault combination doors, no one knew the combination, so they just set it at three zeros," he said.

There are two basement vaults in the courthouse with combination locks on their doors and one between the departments of records and elections. Martinak said that none of the combinations have been changed for many years.

"In a situation where there are so many employees coming and going over the years, the combination should be changed regularly," he said.

Also, Martinak said, padlocks throughout the courthouse used to lock up inner-office files still have serial numbers on them. "They should be taken off," he said, "because anyone can take the serial number, walk to a locksmith's shop and have a key made."

William Flynn, director of records and elections, said that the combination of the vault door between his two departments was changed last May after employees were unable to open the door using the old combination.

He said he was unsure whether the new combination has any numerals but believed it to be mostly zeros.

In the downstairs, vault, nobody knows the combination, he said.

"It doesn't really matter though," Flynn said. "Those doors are only for fire protection. There are inner doors to each vault which have key locks."

Cash from his office's business is kept locked in another container inside the first-floor vault, Flynn said.

"Besides we have bars on all the windows," he said.

Martinak said that the home security survey will be done for anyone who asks for it and said his department has several engravers which can be used to identify property with driver's license numbers.

Martinak said the county's burglary rate would drop 40 per cent if everyone marked their property and said the burglary rate has slacked off, leading crime prevention officers to believe that their programs are beginning to have an effect.

After property in a home has been marked, a window sticker is available identifying the home as a participant in the program.

In Corvallis and Benton County, no homes with stickers in the windows have been burglarized since the crime prevention programs began.

Benton County Herald

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JULY 24, 1975

Courthouse Locks Easy To Pick

The Benton County Courthouse isn't a very safe place to lock up valuables, according to a man who should know.

Sgt. Randy Martinak, crime prevention officer for the county sheriff's department, told the Benton County Board of Commissioners that most of the locks on the courthouse doors could be jimmed by a professional burglar in a matter of seconds.

An amateur burglar might take up to a minute to get through the locks, Martinak said.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

AUGUST 20, 1975

Construction goof severs courthouse water line

By William Monroe
Of The Gazette-Times

The Benton County Courthouse lost its water supply Tuesday afternoon when a two-inch pipe supplying the building was accidentally dug up by a bulldozer which was being used to tear down the old county jail.

According to Harold Marx, county administrative assistant, the bulldozer also unearthed and bent up several other pipes and neither Marx nor other courthouse workers really knows what pipes go where.

Marx and head custodian Richard Nelson picked their way through the jail rubble and dirt early today with Corvallis city water employees looking at the network of bent pipes.

"The plans for the courthouse aren't very good where plumbing is concerned," Marx said. "We know there are some pipes under the basement."

By mid-morning, they had located the pipe's entrance to the courthouse and connected a temporary hoseline to provide water to bathrooms on each of the building's three floors and in the basement.

Signs at all outlets warned against drinking the water.

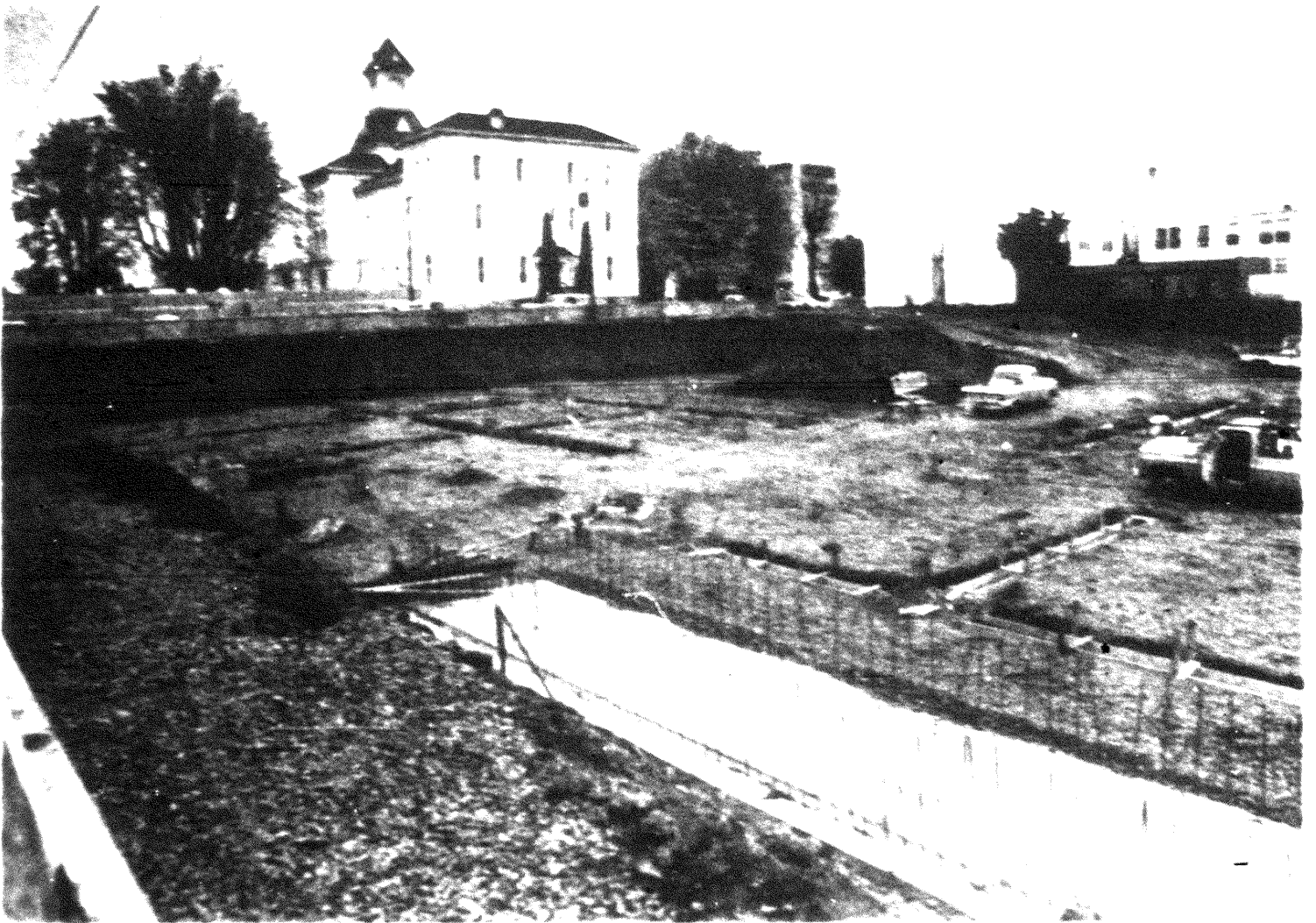
Coffee, was made from water drawn at the new temporary jail building on the northeast corner of the courthouse green.

Marx said that the lines to the building from the city water supply are so rusted that they will have to be replaced. He did not know when that would be done.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

NOVEMBER 8, 1975



Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

NOVEMBER 21, 1975



Gazette-Times Photo by John Bragg

Honest, officer

Benton Electric, which is working on the new city-county jail, parked this van in a NO PARKING zone on nearby Jackson Street to use as an on-the-scene shack and storage area. Problem was, no one told Corvallis police, who kept giving the van tickets every

night for the parking violation. After having several tickets taken care of without fines, workers got tired and put a sign in the van's window explaining its presence. The job foreman, Burt Palmer, said there have been no tickets since the sign was put up.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

DECEMBER 2, 1975

Affront to our court house

Amen to Meredith Wiley's Readertorial, Hideous addition, on Nov. 26.

Construction of the efficient, concrete abomination on the north insults the stately, cherished old Benton County court house. To our chagrin, the Gazette-Times endorsed the ballot issue that helps pay for the mutilation.

Too much we wanted a replacement for the condemned jail and a joint city-county law enforcement building. Too much we and the voters bought on faith. Never again.

In a hurlyburly to get federal funds, to buy property, to remove houses, to approve plans to beat construction costs which inflate daily — the deed was done. Nobody seemed to care when we splashed the plans all over the editorial page last year and pleaded for change (except some in charge who objected to "premature release" before final approval).

When the Benton Government Committee chose the architects, the clinching factor was the pitch that the firm could best respect and retain the integrity of the historic court house and blend the new structures into a harmonious grouping with Central Park, the library and other existing buildings. Plus the ability and ingenuity to create a functional design within estimated construction funds. So much for that — although the firm is not exclusively to blame, not by a long shot.

The architects designed buildings to serve the purposes assigned them; no doubt excellent buildings. Except the corrections center debases our heritage. Consider what early Benton County folk left us; what we leave our great grandchildren.

Too smart, too late. As Mrs. Wiley implores, may all of us learn from this and care more, enough to act.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

APRIL 30, 1976

County gets electric bells

Equitable Savings and Loan Association of Corvallis has donated its electronic carillon bells and console to Benton County.

According to Dale Schrock, county commissioner, the sound system and console have been installed in the bell tower of the county courthouse.

Schrock said that one part of the sound system has to be replaced before the bells can be played.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JULY 1, 1976



Gazette-Times Photo by Tom Warren

Old giant toppled

A tractor, operated by Tom Cafazzo, an employe of Holes Tree Preservation of Corvallis, completes the toppling of a 100-plus-year-old bigleaf maple tree on the Benton County Courthouse lawn. County commissioners have slated two trees for removal, this one and a dead one on the south side of the

courthouse. This tree, according to commissioners, had its roots damaged from construction of the new jail and was diseased, as well as presenting a hazard to the inner jail courtyard from falling limbs. It was also close to the jail's rear entrance. The other tree is nearly dead and will be removed next week. Both will eventually be replaced, commissioners said.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JULY 2, 1976

Courthouse carillon will play

An added attraction to the Fourth of July events in Corvallis will be the playing of the carillon (a set of stationary bells) recently donated Benton County by Equitable Savings and Loan.

The carillon, which has been installed in the tower of the Benton County Courthouse, will be played at noon Sunday.

County Commissioner Dale Schrock said yesterday that the carillon was tested and programmed for its Sunday debut. No daily schedule yet as been worked out for a carillon concert, coming from the courthouse tower, Schrock said.

The bell set can be pre-programmed for 10 player rolls of music, but it can not be manually performed as can the carillon in the Memorial Union Building at Oregon State University. Thomas E. Roberts, professor of music at the university, will play that carillon from 2:20 to 2:30 p.m.

Source:
Benton
County
Sheriff's
Office
Archives



Gazette-Times Photos by Tom Warren

Behind historic Benton County Courthouse, which was dedicated in 1888, a color guard raises American and Oregon flags on a pole in front of the new Corvallis-Benton County law enforcement building. More than 200 persons attended dedication ceremonies Wednesday.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

March 10, 1977

Courthouse remodeling to enhance history

By Anne Wood
Of The Gazette-Times

Tall, white and dignified, the grand old Benton County Courthouse, constructed in 1898 and the oldest courthouse in Oregon still in use as a courthouse, looks much as it did in the past.

But, on the inside, it is a hodgepodge of office partitions and electrical, mechanical and plumbing alterations that have been done piecemeal over a period of decades.

A study by Corvallis architect Cy Stadsvoid, though, has convinced the Benton County Board of Commissioners that the building is structurally sound and capable of being converted into a more convenient, modernized and even more historic courthouse.

Further, the architect has discovered that there is more space in the courthouse than meets the eye. Between the law library and district attorney's office on the third floor is an unused space directly above the district and circuit courtrooms, which could be turned into offices. The fourth floor, now used only for storage, could be used for the law library.

About 5,200 square feet of floor space would be gained. The basic

idea is to convert the courthouse into just that, a courthouse.

Some county departments — finance, personnel, veterans' services, the Benton County Board of Commissioners — will be moved across the street to the now unfinished and unoccupied second floor of the city-county law enforcement building. —

All this takes money. Finishing the second floor of the law building will cost an estimated \$400,000. The county has its \$200,000 share (the city has to come up with the other \$200,000), plus about \$151,000 to begin work on the courthouse itself.

The first phase of work on the courthouse would be to renovate the basement area as offices for the office of records and elections. District Court, now on the second floor, would be moved to the first floor and Circuit Court would use the present District Courtroom. It is estimated that this phase would cost about \$64,000.

The second phase calls for reparation of the second floor and reinforcing of the ceiling so that the unused space above the courtrooms would be redone as offices for the district attorney. The cost is estimated at \$187,000.

Then, the fourth-floor attic would

be converted to a law library and the belltower would be an employees' lounge. The cost of this phase is estimated at \$44,000, bringing the total cost of the courthouse work to \$275,000.

How will this work affect the historic value of the interior of the courthouse?

Once the piecemeal plumbing and electrical alterations have been removed or hidden some of the original architectural details of the courthouse can be restored. For example, the former ceiling detail of the circuit courtroom, consisting of a plaster radius with a cornice at the edges and a medallion at the center, is still visible and intact but needs repair.

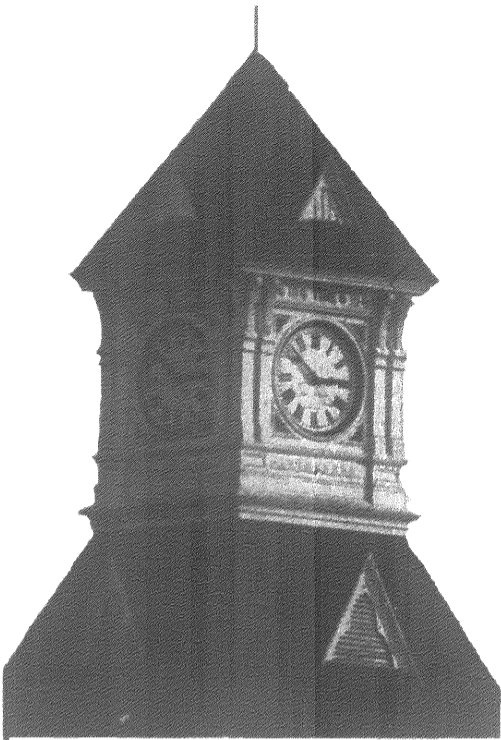
An ornate wooden panel behind the judge's bench and a low railing dividing the audience and participants at trials have been removed but could be reconstructed from photographs.

The restoration of the original judge's benches, which tickled the fancy of Circuit Court Judge Frank Knight when he saw the architect's plan, could be expensive. But Commissioner Barbara Ross suggested that people might be willing to support a restoration fund with donations. Although no fund drive has started, one person has already indicated interest in making such a donation.



The fourth-floor attic of the Benton County Courthouse, now used for storage, would be made into a law library if plans for renovating the courthouse are carried out. The ladder at the left leads to the belltower.

Gazette-Times Photo by Tom Warren



That clock? It's broken

By Kevin Miller
Of The Gazette-Times

"Go find out why the clock on the courthouse isn't running," said the city editor.

It was an important assignment. The hands on the four clock faces on top of the Benton County Courthouse had been showing nine minutes 'til three for a couple of weeks. How much longer would the county have to live with the stigma of clock that's only right twice a day?

"Right, chief," I said. "I'll get to the bottom of this." (I didn't really say that, but I've always wanted to.)

A photographer and I made our way over to the courthouse.

Time may have been standing still on the outside, but things went on as usual inside. It was traffic court day and silent people milled about in the hallways, perhaps mentally rehearsing their defenses.

We asked a courthouse employee if she knew what happened to the clock.

"No," she said, "but Ed might know."

She said she didn't know where Ed was, so we decided to take a look for ourselves.

Up, up, up we went, into the musty confines of the clock tower. There sat the clock works, silent, not emitting the slightest tick or tock. The gears were greased, and a can of oil sat nearby. Obvious clues that someone had been working on the clock. But who? Repairman? Saboteur? Ed?

We headed back down, looking for sources. A youngish-looking guy approached us. Not knowing we'd already visited the tower, he tried to scare us off.

"Don't go up in the tower, Kevin," he said. "It sways in the wind. You might fall out."

There was no wind. Maybe this guy had something to hide. He was Peter Sandrock, Benton County district attorney. Knowing Sandrock would be on his guard if he knew anything about the clock, I decided to throw him a trick question.

"You know what's wrong with the clock?" I asked.

"It's broken," he said.

No kidding?

He did say something about parts from Boston. I asked him if the clock being broken had anything to do with hooking up the carillon bells that play Christmas carols from the tower. He said he didn't know.

"We can't hear 'em in here, anyway, thank God," he said, Scrooge-like, and retreated to his office.

We wandered downstairs. One courthouse worker was kind enough to help us.

"Ed the maintenance man knows," she said.

We asked where Ed was. Nobody knew.

After an unsuccessful search for the mysterious Ed, we headed back to the office. On the courthouse tower, it was still nine minutes to three.

One last chance was a call to Judge Richard Mengler's office. The judge is known for his interest in the care and upkeep of the courthouse. Maybe he'd know.

Leslie Reeves, one of Judge Mengler's deputy clerks, told us the judge was in court. Getting desperate, we asked Mrs. Reeves if SHE knew anything about the clock.

"It just kind of slowed down and quit," she said. "I think they're sending for a new motor. You know, you shouldn't quote me on that, by rights."

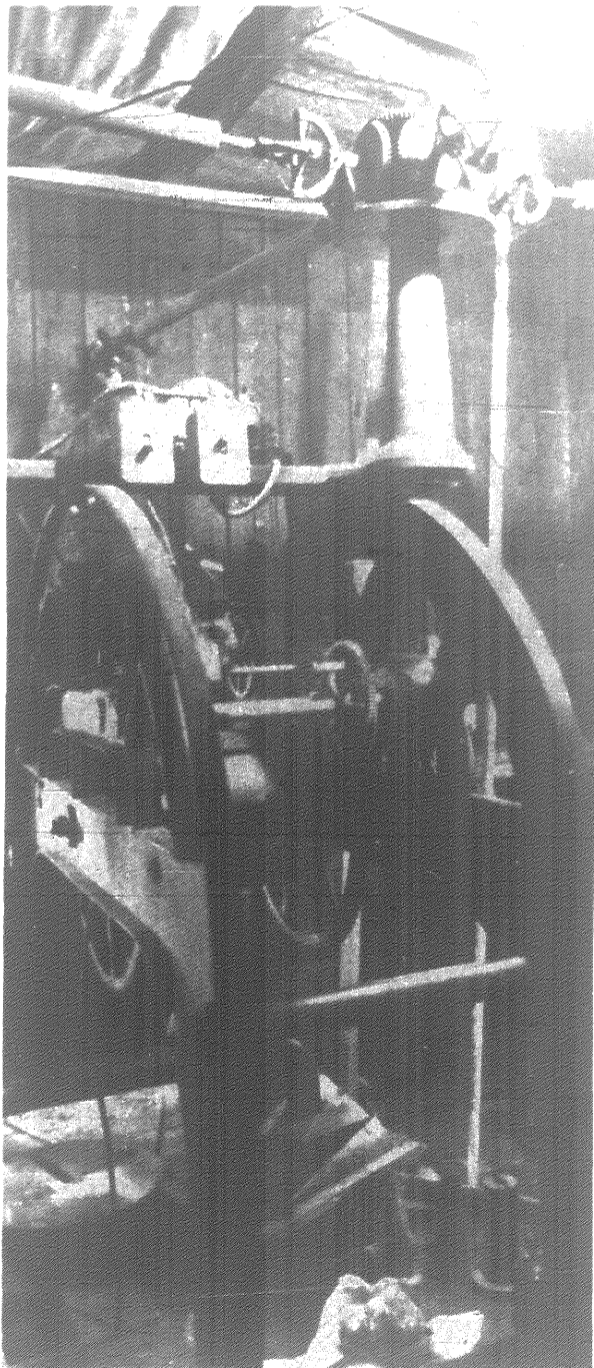
"But it is what Ed told me."

Then, finally, the phone rang. It was Ed. Ed Moser, maintenance man, and he really knew.

"It's a little bitsy motor that went out," he said. "We

had to order one from Massachusetts, and it's on its way. Should be here in about 10 days, then we'll have 'er running again. Okay?"

Okay, Ed.



Gazette-Times Photos by John Bragg

Inside the clock tower of the Benton County Courthouse, the clockworks are silent, waiting for the new motor that will allow the clock to show the right time, instead of nine minutes until three.