

Army Detachment To Be Stationed In Old County Jail

As soon as mattresses, beds and refuse are cleared from the old county jail, the Works Progress Administration will take over in making the building suitable for barracks for a detachment of U. S. Army troops.

The detachment will be stationed here for training and for military police duty should an occasion arise, Col. Willis Shippam, of the Second Corps Area of Ft. Ontario, Oswego, said today. Time of the troops' arrival and their number is a military secret.

A. C. Survey To Be Basis Of New Home Quota Here

A new quota of defense houses for the Elmira area will be established by the Division of Defense Housing Coordination, based on a survey to be started immediately by the Association of Commerce to determine the number of factory workers who will need accommodations.

Assurance has been given that the quota will be generous and that there will be adequate materials, Secretary Calvin K. Snyder said today.

Six months ago the Federal Housing Administration established a national quota of 200,000 homes and assigned limits on the number of houses which could be built in specified localities. The time limit on this quota has expired and new limits are to be established. The quotas will be changed from month to month. All must be built for less than \$6,000.

The survey will cover particularly factory employees who are commuting to work and who face possible loss of transportation because of tire rationing.

Preliminary studies show that about 25 per cent of the local industrial workers are driving up to 60 miles daily. Nearby housing

Col. Shippam said that Elmira has been selected as a strategic point in this area. Other detachments are in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo, he added. Until arrangements were made with county officials the detachment was scheduled to be stationed in Binghamton, he said.

Preliminary work in a survey of alterations to be made in the old jail building is being conducted by Capt. Thomas T. Crenshaw. He is attempting to get WPA workers started on the project as soon as possible.

Only as much of the steel cell blocks will be removed as is necessary, Col. Shippam said. Entire cell blocks will be taken out where need be but at some parts of the building only the cell doors will be removed, he said.

When the dismantling of the steel work is completed, the interior will be given a thorough cleaning and painted throughout. Army supplies, including beds and bedding, will be moved in.

Capt. Crenshaw expects to complete his report sometime today or Friday. He in turn will turn the job of putting the building in shape over to Carlisle Pontius, district manager of WPA in Elmira.

Officers of the detachment are expected to occupy the quarters formerly used by Sheriff George H. Jenkins. The kitchen will be used in preparing meals but the troops will be fed in a mess hall to be set up in the basement of the new jail.

Procurement of the building for the troops halted all operation by county officials in converting the structure into a shelter for children which has been under consideration. It also has been suggested that the county may use part of the building for garages.

Whatever plans the county may have, however, will be postponed indefinitely. The Army will use the building "for the duration."