

# City, County Co-operate On New Jail

1-13-50

Forsyth County and the City of Winston-Salem have decided to work together on the planning of a new jail to be built by the county, Roy Craft, chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, said today.

At a meeting yesterday, he said, city and county officials agreed that a new jail should be a central one to be used for housing the prisoners of both the city and county.

At present, the city houses its prisoners in about 25 cells on the top floor of City Hall and the county uses about 32 cells and a large room in the county jail near Fifth and Main Streets.

A new jail has been in the talking stage for several years, but proposals that it be built at the County Farm, for use of the county alone, were criticized by law enforcement men and lawyers.

## Favored City Site

Recently, the County Commissioners have been favoring a site behind the City Hall, now used as a parking lot. Part of the site has been owned for years by the county and several months ago was added to by the purchase of more land adjacent to it.

Mr. Craft said today he had asked Gorrell Stinson, architect, to draw a "working sketch" of a new jail on this site after determining what the needs of the county and city for housing prisoners are.

"This sketch," he said, "is not intended to be a final plan, but only one to work with, a preliminary one."

He added, however, that the Commissioners intend to construct the jail this year, "if at all possible."

He said he could give no idea yet how large the jail will be and what it will cost.

## 40 Average

Sheriff Ernie Shore said the average prisoner load at the county jail is "about 40." Ten four-person cells, he said, would take care of the average, but several more cells would be needed to

take care of maximum loads.

The county jail now has far more than enough cells to house its prisoners but the building and its facilities are somewhat outmoded, he said.

Captain J. M. Tucker, in charge of the Records Division of the City Police Department, said the number of cells the city has are "generally" enough for the flow of prisoners. "Now and then we are crowded," he said.

"But our prisoner load varies so much, everyday, that crowded conditions don't usually last long." He said the cells are four-person ones.