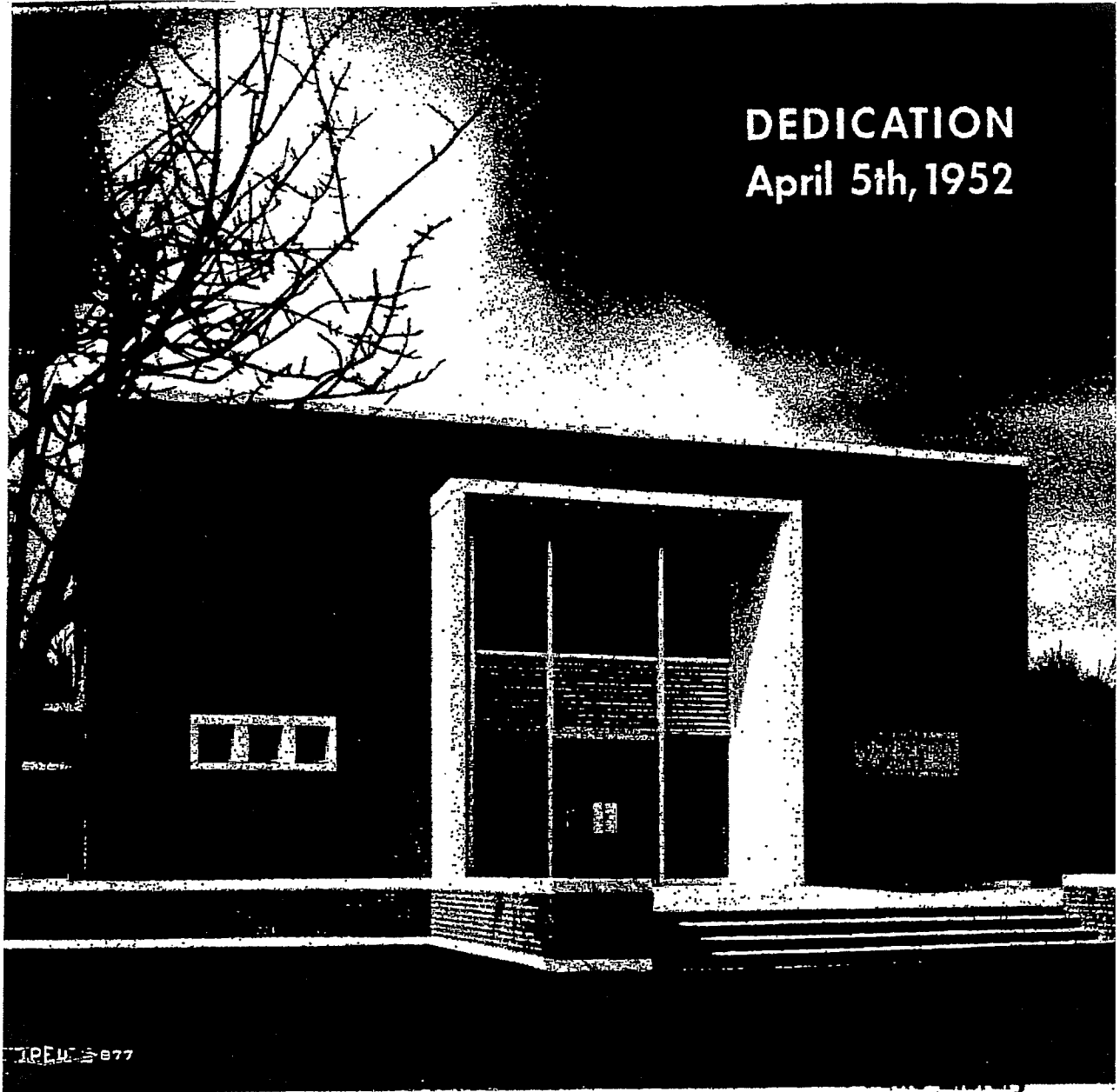


DEDICATION
April 5th, 1952



KING COUNTY, MAY 1 1952

YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

*"To the service of children of King County,
Washington, we dedicate this
Youth Service Center"*



JAMES A. GIBBS, *Chairman*

DEAN C. McLEAN

WILLIAM H. SEARS

Board of County Commissioners

YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

Basic Purpose

The Youth Service Center was planned, designed and built to translate into the lives of unfortunate children the central basic philosophy and mandate of the Juvenile Court Code, viz:

“The care, study and discipline of a dependent or delinquent child shall approximate as nearly as may be that which *should* be given by its parents.”

Every detail of this structure is built to effectuate some detail of service to a child. Truly it is a “*Youth Service Center*”!

History

This project really started in 1939, when the National Probation and Parole Association, after a survey of our needs recommended a complete reconstruction of all our Juvenile Court facilities. World War II temporarily delayed further progress.

But in January, 1945, the murder of a child in the county jail exploded the entire community into immediate action.

The Board of County Commissioners empowered me as Juvenile Court Judge to prepare comprehensive plans for complete reconstruction of all physical facilities.

A planning project was set up enlisting the participation of national, state and local leaders in the field of child care and youth protection. From beginning to completion, Philip Green, former Director of Probation; Carl B. Erickson, present director; the entire Juvenile Court staff; National Probation and Parole Association; and many others have rendered continuous and invaluable technical assistance in preparing the plans now matured into reality.

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These plans were not the brain child of any one person. They represented the composite judgment of the best skill and experience available from many fields. They were approved by the commissioners.

But the project could not be completed without *money*.

In 1948, the Board of County Commissioners, composed of Taylor M. Greene, Dean C. McLean and William H. Sears, placed on the ballot a bond issue proposition for \$1,250,000 to finance construction.

But bond issues just do not pass themselves.

A citizens' bond issue committee, under the chairmanship of Alfred H. Lundin, went into action. It was composed of leaders of P.-T.A.; American Legion; V.F.W.; D.A.V.; A.F. of L.; C.I.O.; Catholics, Protestants; Jews; Sheriff's Office; Police Department; community clubs; Republican and Democratic Parties; and others.

The entire community mobilized for the bond issue which overwhelmingly carried.

In due course, the County Commissioners, with James A. Gibbs as chairman, let the contracts for construction. But inflationary costs made the bond issue money insufficient to complete the job according to plans so the commissioners appropriated the deficiency from current funds, thus making the total cost approximately one and a half million dollars.

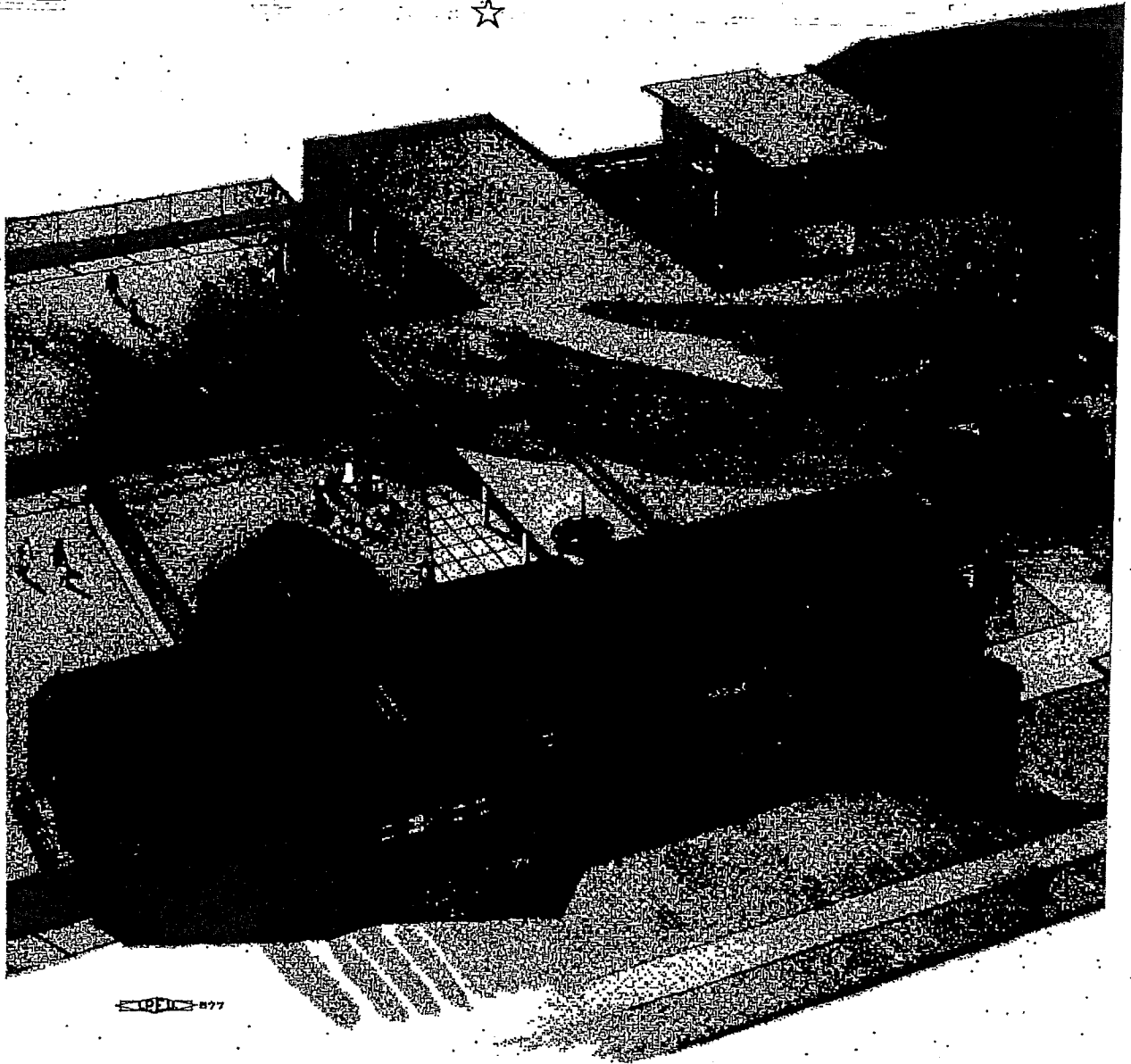
Throughout final planning and construction an advisory building committee, composed of Alfred H. Lundin, George C. Wheeler, and Carl H. Mengedoht, has served constantly and has performed outstanding service, guarding over the expenditure of every dollar of public funds.

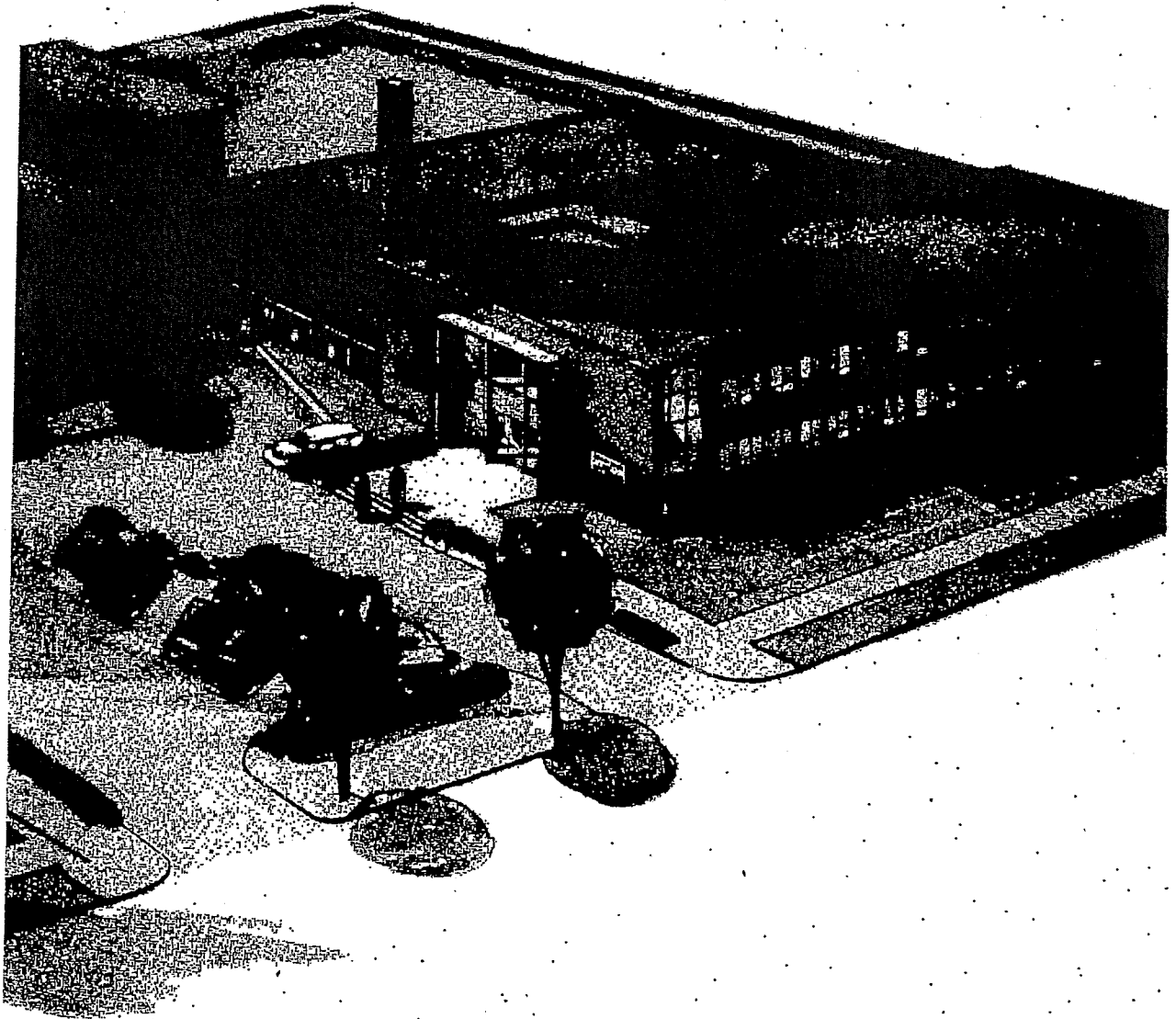
Limitations of space prevent the mention of all of those who have contributed so much to the final completion of the project. So suffice it to say that this structure stands as a monument to the devotion and work of many people who are entitled to feel proud of the part that they have played.

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*"... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto
one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done it unto me."*

Matthew 25-40.





YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

Housing Juvenile Court, Probation, Detention, and Adoption Services.

1211 EAST ALDER STREET
SEATTLE WASHINGTON



Pertinent Facts

1. The structure is composed of several connected buildings with a floor space of 66,000 square feet and, with playfields, occupies an area of two city blocks;

2. It will house the Juvenile Court, probation department, detention service, adoption service, and administrative offices connected therewith;

3. Living quarters for children provide for both dependent and delinquent children under the age of eighteen years, and can accommodate a population of 145 children at any one time and a yearly load of some 2500. Future expansion is provided for to meet future increased needs;

4. Flexibility for specialized care is amply provided for. There are separate living units for dependents and delinquents, boys and girls, and for age groups ranging from babies to children up to eighteen years of age. High security units provide for those who are highly disturbed and dangerous. No longer will it be necessary to house children in a jail.

Children can thus be easily segregated according to age, sex, and emotional condition while the building remains a compact administrative unit;

5. Health protection is provided by an infirmary unit staffed by a physician and nurses;

6. Food is furnished by a modern kitchen and dining facilities presided over by competent dieticians;

7. Recreation programs will be carried on in segregated play areas, gymnasium, hobby and craft shops under trained supervisors;

8. Specialized educational instruction will be provided by the Seattle Public Schools;

9. Juvenile Court service consists generally in the following:

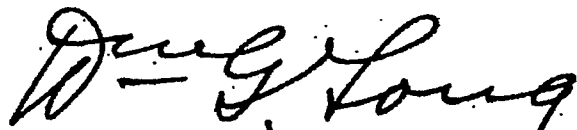
- (a) Diagnosis of every case (over 4,000 per year);
- (b) Referral for treatment or other disposition by court action;
- (c) Follow-up supervision when indicated;
- (d) Temporary detention care when necessary pending diagnosis and disposition.

10. Philosophy of court intervention is therapeutic, not punitive;
11. All services are performed by specially trained personnel selected on the basis of character, temperament and general fitness for the particular job. Present staff totals approximately ninety-five persons;
12. By recent superior court action, the adoption service (approximately 600 cases per year) has been integrated into the Juvenile Court operation;
13. Provisions are made to provide practical training for selected graduate students from universities so that we may not only develop a source for recruiting young staff personnel for our own department, but also to help other jurisdictions as well.

Conclusion

In the completion of this Youth Service Center, the people of King County have brought unto themselves high credit and great respect from all over the United States. We now have the facilities for rendering to unnumbered thousands of children yet to come that type of care which "should be given by their parents." For all of this we are deeply grateful.

But this structure, so beautifully designed and built, and so noble of basic purpose, is *not* self-executing! It cannot be translated into the lives of children without an adequate staff of specially trained and dedicated people — always on the job. And we cannot get those people unless the citizens of this county who *really* care *perpetually* guard this project and *perpetually* demand that succeeding public officers provide the funds and leadership necessary to make this center *really* serve.



WM. G. LONG

Juvenile Court Judge.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Alfred H. Lundin, George C. Wheeler, Carl H. Mengedoh, Ross P. Williams, Mrs. Donald V. Trueblood, William D. Shannon, Charles Norman and Geo. V. Powell.

ARCHITECT

George Wellington Stoddard & Associates

SPECIAL TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

Will C. Turnbladh and Milton G. Rector
*of the National Probation and Parole
Association, New York City,
and Ralph G. Wales*

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

J. C. Boespflug Construction Co.
General Contractor

Thorgaard Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc.
Mechanical Contractor

Industrial Electric Co.
Electrical Contractor

OTHER CONTRACTORS, SUB-CONTRACTORS and SUPPLIERS

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