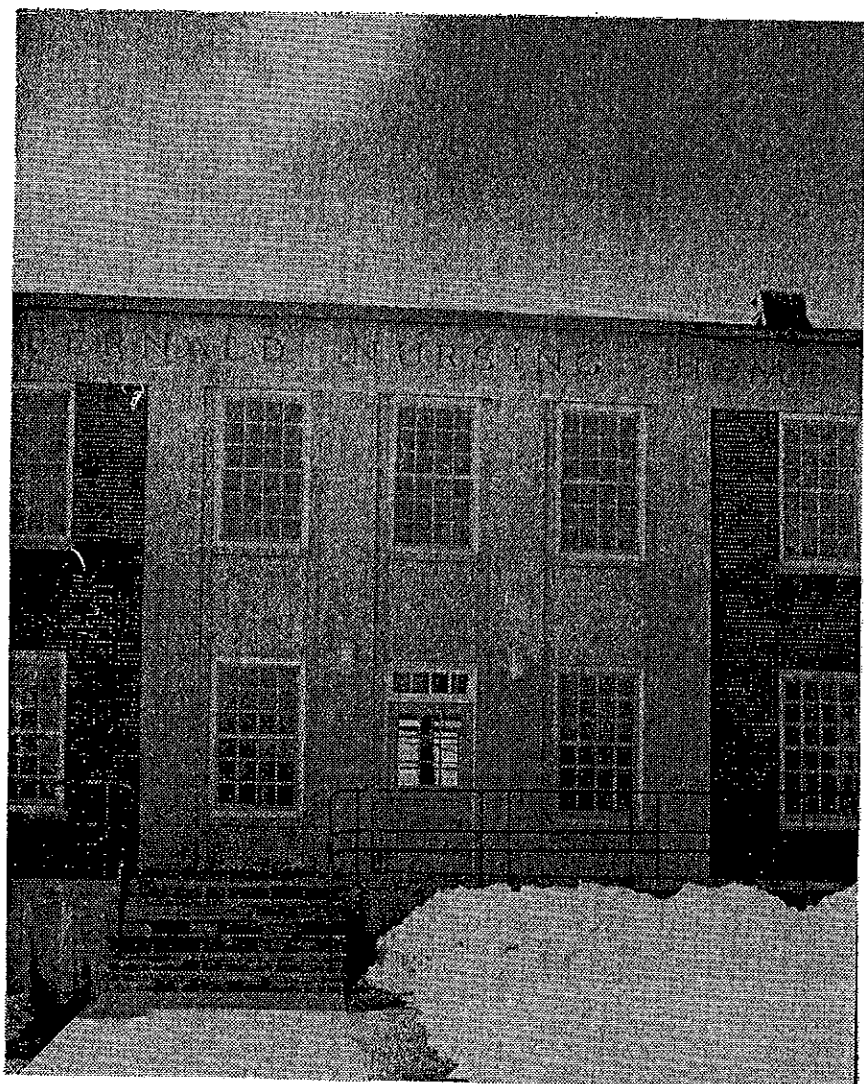


*Dedication
Program*



FERNALD NURSING HOME
BRENTWOOD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sunday, February 16, 1958

In recognition and appreciation for Dr. Fred Fernald's quarter of a century of service and devotion to Rockingham County, the County Commissioners, County Delegation and the Building Committee felt that the county's new nursing home should be dedicated in his honor and bear his name.

Therefore, by vote of the delegation it was their unanimous wish that this building designed and erected to administer to the physically distressed will be known as the Fernald Nursing Home.

Your County Commissioners wish to thank all who had any part in making our plans for a new Nursing Home at Brentwood come true.

To the Delegation and Building Committee they appointed, our special thanks; only by their fine cooperation was it possible.

To the taxpayers of Rockingham County we can only say that we believe your money was well spent and if you accept our invitation to visit us, we are sure you will highly approve of our new building.

Albert G. Fuller

Ira A. Brown

W. S. Bartlett

**BUILDING COMMITTEE
FOR THE
FERNALD NURSING HOME**

Draper W. Parmenter Mary C. Dondero Frank A. Robinson

Lise L. Payette Henry S. Murch, Jr. George G. Carter

William J. Wardwell Edwin W. Eastman F. Albert Sewall

*Walter F. Haigh Ernest Pinkham

* deceased



Swiezynski Photo



—Swiezynski Photo

Dr. Fred Fernald, of Nottingham, attending physician at the Mitchell Memorial hospital for 25 years, is pictured with County Commissioners William Bartlett, Ira Brown and Albert Fuller, following his retirement from service to the county institution.

Dr. Fernald, who was born in Nottingham September 17, 1874, is the son of the late John E. and Sarah A. (Thompson) Fernald. His immigrant ancestors came from England, settling in Portsmouth.

Dr. Fernald attended public schools in Nottingham and was graduated from the Seminary in 1895, the year of his father's death.

After spending two years at Bowdoin College, he entered Baltimore Medical College in 1898 and was graduated from there as an M.D. in 1900.

Upon completion of post graduate work at John Hopkins Medical College in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Fernald returned to open a physician's office in Nottingham where he has since remained.

Dr. Fernald is a member of county, state and national medical societies, elected president of the Rockingham County Medical Society in 1913.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY HOME

In a quiet, remote, almost obscured section of Brentwood is found one of Rockingham county's most valuable and serviceable as well as humanitarian institutions — the Rockingham County Home, Hospital and House of Correction, and now the Fernald Nursing Home — and a staff dedicated whole-heartedly and sympathetically to the health, welfare and personal interests of each inmate.

The Brentwood retreat is made up of much more than inanimate inventory and financial statements. It has a heart and soul. The score sheet of its year to year struggle, existence and improvement is marked with endeavors, labors, joyful successes and heartbreaking disappointments.

From the administration building can be seen neat, sturdy barns and further in the distance some farm machinery near fields that yield a splendid annual crop for the institution's use.

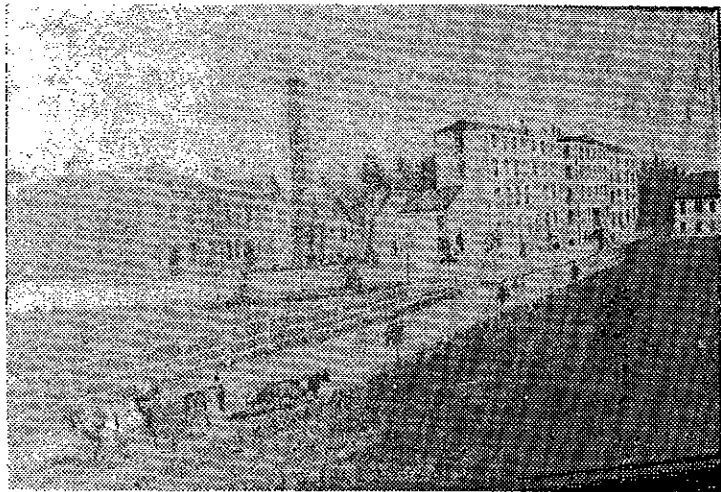
It is good farm land. That fact was realized back in 1868 when a committee from the county convention was authorized to purchase a farm in some central spot of the county to house the poor from surrounding towns.

However, before the county home came to be established, a prolonged evolutionary phase of state government had to be passed through.

Its beginning history dates back to 1771 when the Province of New Hampshire had been operated as a single unit.

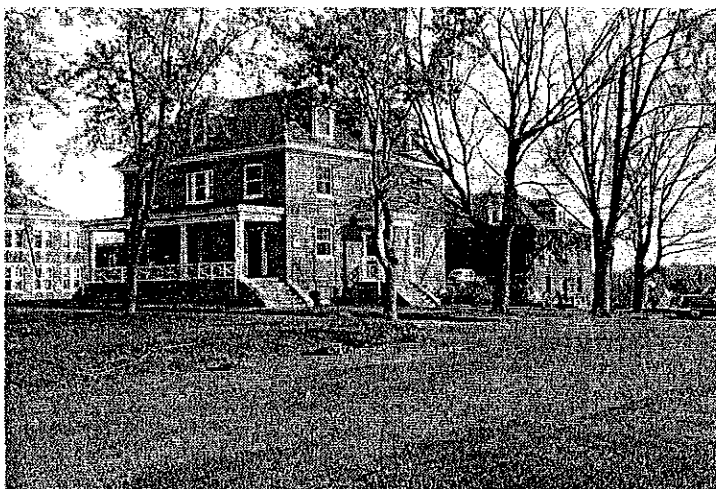
It was at the General Assembly held April 29, 1769 in Portsmouth that an act was passed dividing the Province of New Hampshire into five counties for the better administration of justice, government, etc. The names selected for the five counties were Rockingham, Strafford, Hillsborough, Cheshire and Grafton.

This act was approved by King George III, March 19, 1771.



AN OLD PAINTING, hanging in the reception room of the Administration building at Brentwood, recalls the late 1800's when an insane asylum, right, was also part of the County Farm.

—Hampton Union Photo



NERVE CENTER of the Rockingham County Farm at Brentwood is the Administrative Building shown above with offices for Superintendent and Matron and also houses the two-way radio system for the Sheriff's department. —Hampton Union Photo

By an act of the General Court, 20 years later, February 15, 1791, each town was given the authority to provide a house of correction for work houses in which to set the poor to work.

It also authorized each town at any one of its legal meetings, to raise money for the purchase or construction of necessary buildings for this purpose.

Also this same act placed under the Court of General Sessions the authority to build, or otherwise provide in each town, at the county's expense, a convenient house of correction with proper accommodations thereunto adjoining, to be used for the keeping and correcting of rogues, vagabonds, common beggars, lewd, idle and disorderly persons.

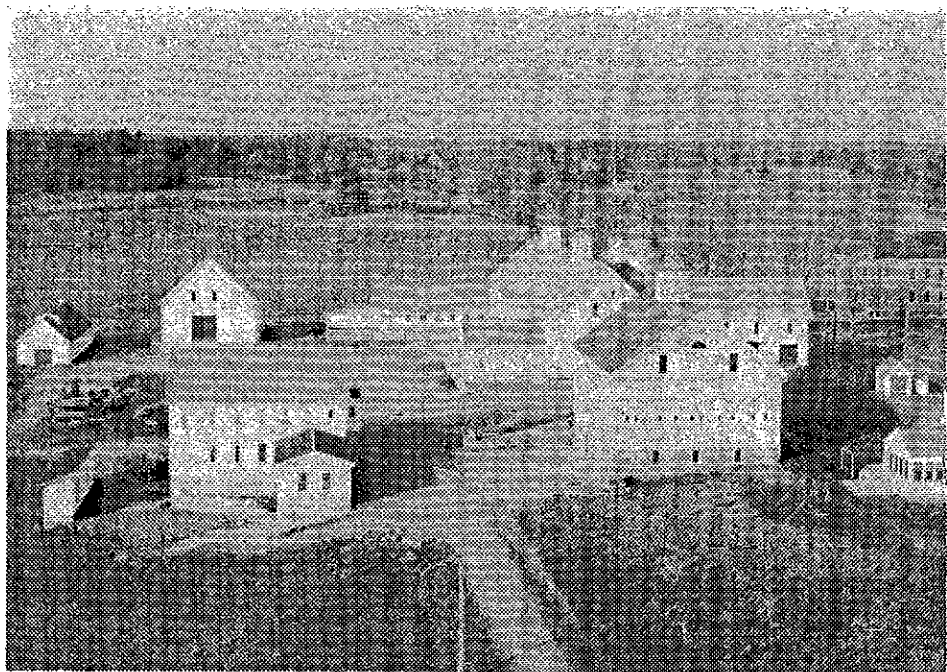
Included in the act was a section stating that the town poor were to be employed in these establishments.

With the General Court given the authority to establish rules, orders and regulations necessary for governing the town houses, it was provided that no punishment should be inflicted by any such regulations except that of hard labor.

It was at the February 21, 1794 meeting of the legislature that the title of the Court of General Sessions was changed to that of the Court of Common Pleas. However the powers and duties of that body remained virtually unchanged.

The Legislature, at its June 12, 1812 session, established the County Convention to be composed of the House of Representatives of each county. At that time the duty of levying taxes for the county was taken away from the Court of Common Pleas and given to the said County Convention.

Prior and during this time with each town caring for its own poor and delinquent, the town selectmen or overseers of the poor in each community had charge of all persons needing assistance.



A PANORAMIC VIEW, taken from the water tower, shows the extensive layout of fa buildings which comprise the Rockingham County Farm at Brentwood.

Often, towns were besieged with an overflow of inmates as the Legislature, at various times, enacted laws which greatly increased the number classed as county poor.

The system of allowing each town to care for the poor within its boundaries led to some evils, and at times got out of control.

Soon town management of its own unfortunates became too expensive and a move was prompted in the state for the erection of county homes to be centrally located where the large and growing group of poor could be better provided.

It wasn't until December 16, 1838, however, that any significant move was made in this direction. The Legislature at that time passed a law authorizing the Court of Common Pleas to provide necessary county lands and buildings for the accommodations, support and employment of the poor who were chargeable to the county. The law also provided for the erection and establishment of a house of correction.

In the interim between the law authorizing the establishing of a county home with a house of correction and the actual purchase of such in Rockingham county, the County Commissioner posts were created.

Meeting Independence Day, July 4, 1855, the Legislature originated the offices of County Commissioners, placing in their hands the general affairs of the county which, up to that moment, had been in the jurisdiction of the Court of Common Pleas.

The first election of County Commissioners under this law came a year later on the second Tuesday, March, 1856. At that time, in the naming of the three commissioners, one would be elected to serve one year, another



buildings, hospital, house of correction, infirmary, dormitories and administration
—Hampton Union Photo

for two years and the third for a three-year term. Each year after, one commissioner would be elected for a three-year term.

The first three elected commissioners had to draw lots to see the length of terms each was to serve. It wasn't until the 1877 meeting of the Legislature that the term of office for the county commissioners was changed to a biennial election, the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, with the term being changed to a two-year service.

In June, 1868 — 30 years after the establishment of a legislative law authorizing the Court of Common Pleas to provide county homes — a firm, definite step was taken to fulfill that measure.

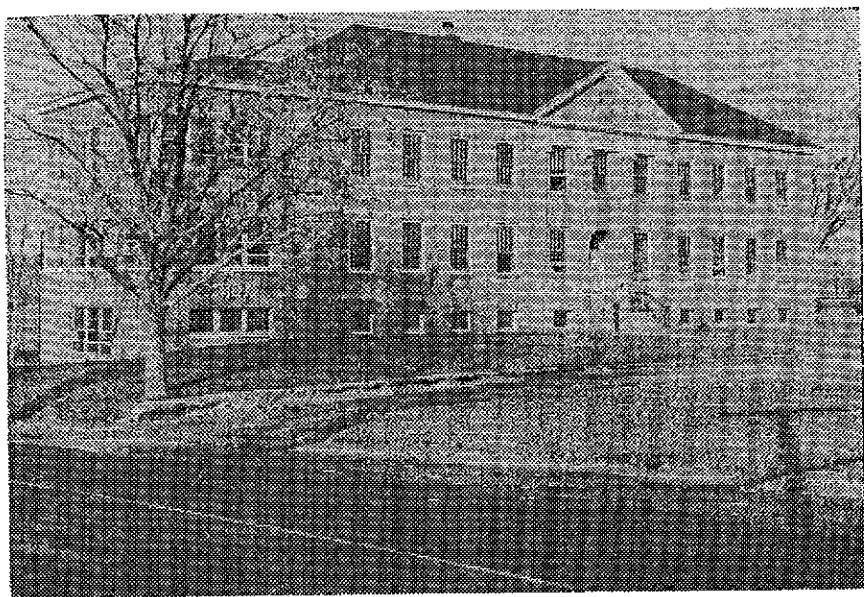
Finally, the Rockingham County Convention, in its June, 1868 session, empowered the purchase of a farm and the erection of suitable buildings to accommodate 250 inmates.

The joint building committee, after considering several potential spots, finally selected the Thyng farm, so called, in Brentwood. There were about 160 acres in the purchase of the original farm situated about two and one-half miles from the Epping depot.

The county paid \$6,500 for the farm which included 30 acres of adjoining land. The total first cost of the almshouse was \$19,632.

Recorded as serving as the first superintendent was William F. Philbrick who remained at the farm for two years.

In the development of the county farm, the following year a three-story wooden building for the insane and a large barn was added. The combined cost of the two was \$9,487. It was in 1869 also that the county convention permitted the commissioners to purchase woodland and pasture and the



MITCHELL MEMORIAL hospital.

—Hampton Union Photo

nearby farm of D. W. Ladd. The additional farm and 160 acres were procured for \$4,500.

With the farm still expanding there was evident need of more accommodations and facilities. Within four years, in 1873, after the procurement of the Thyng farm, more storage buildings were constructed, costing \$2,500.

Then the following year, in the period of enlarging, a boiler house, laundry and other service buildings were erected, costing a total of \$8,150.

In the third and fourth consecutive years of continued building at the Brentwood establishment, the present House of Correction and work-shops were put up for \$12,000.

The following year, 1876, the frame structure for the insane was razed and in its place was built a new brick asylum, costing \$9,000, where now are housed the county's elderly people.

With all the facilities seemingly in order for satisfactory operation of the county home, the period of construction and expansion temporarily came to an end.

The farm operated for three decades before the next substantial building projects were undertaken. In 1910 a new stable was built for a sum of \$4,580 and, in 1912, a new jail, the one now being used, was erected for \$19,686.

In 1913, according to Hazlett's History of Rockingham County, Brentwood County Farm and buildings were valued at \$90,000. Personal property at the farm was recorded as being worth \$25,000. The two above items in 1913 totaled \$115,000.

Today, 42 years later, the annual county report discloses that the Brentwood County Home and Mitchell Memorial hospital are valued at \$898,500 with furniture and equipment belonging to both places having a combined worth of \$120,500.

Adding the totals of the above latter four figures shows that Brentwood is a \$1 million-dollar investment. That is an assessment mark pretty near equal to that of some of the smaller towns in the state.

And, indeed, the county farm can almost be considered a town within itself with its many required administrative and service operations. In fact, to go still further, there can't be many Granite State communities which can boast of more modern, progressive, economical, yet liberal management as that demonstrated by County Home Superintendent George Hilton.

The more severe ill cases along with those necessitating special treatment and bed patients are to be found in the Mitchell Memorial hospital, just beyond the Administration building.

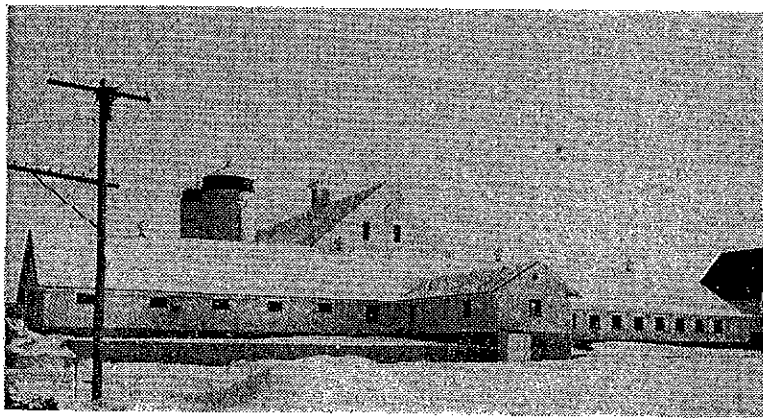
The Mitchell Memorial hospital, under construction as a WPA project from 1935 to 1937, was named in honor of Dr. A. B. Mitchell of Epping who had been the only doctor attending patients at the County Home prior the erection of the hospital.

The hospital was opened in 1937 to operate as a general hospital and during the war time it was closed in 1944 and did not reopen until 1952, primarily as a chronic hospital.

Undoubtedly patients find the most popular place to be the two-deck solarium, with its many windows, off the south wing. Measuring about 25 by 50 feet, it was annexed to the main building in 1952.

Across the road from the hospital is seen a modern \$66,000 barn that would meet the envy of any farmer or dairyman. The county was saved sizeable sums in the construction of the County Home's barn as prisoners at the institute did a great deal of the work.

One of the features of the model barn is the pen stabling method used for the Home's 130 head of cattle which includes 52 milk cows. Pen stabling allows the animals barn shelter along with providing them a large area for exercising.



THE NEW BARN.

—Hampton Union Photo

Inside the barn, next to the stabling pens, is the grain room where cattle feed is specifically weighed and measured to adhere to strict diet requirements, promoting the health of the animals.

Still further within the barn is where the milk cows are kept in a section complete to the very last detail. Results of the modernization may

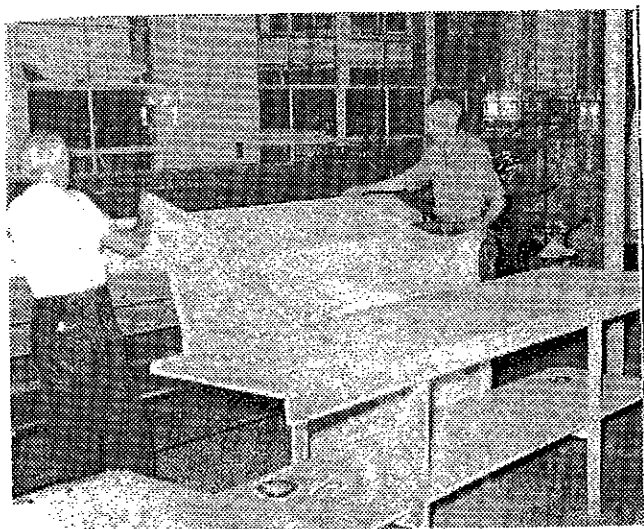
well be seen in County Home records which show that between \$20 and \$25 thousand-dollars-worth of milk are sold from there annually at wholesale prices.

Along with the milk cows, the County Home raises its own herd of pure bred breeding stock which have become top winners in various fairs. Many Home's cows and bulls have also brought good money on the sales block.

It is doubtful that cows anywhere could be any more contented than those at the County Home farm, each possessing a name prefixed with "Rocko," designating Rockingham County.

Located next to the 3-boiler heating plant is the spacious laundry where well ventilated and well-lighted structure, health, efficiency and economy are the only watchwords. The laundry's last word in up-to-date equipment consists of washers, extractors, dryers and pressers, including one large machine that neatly presses bed sheets in seconds.

A MODERN,
well - equipped
laundry lends it-
self to making
the Rockingham
County Farm a
virtual self - sus-
taining communi-
ty within the
county.

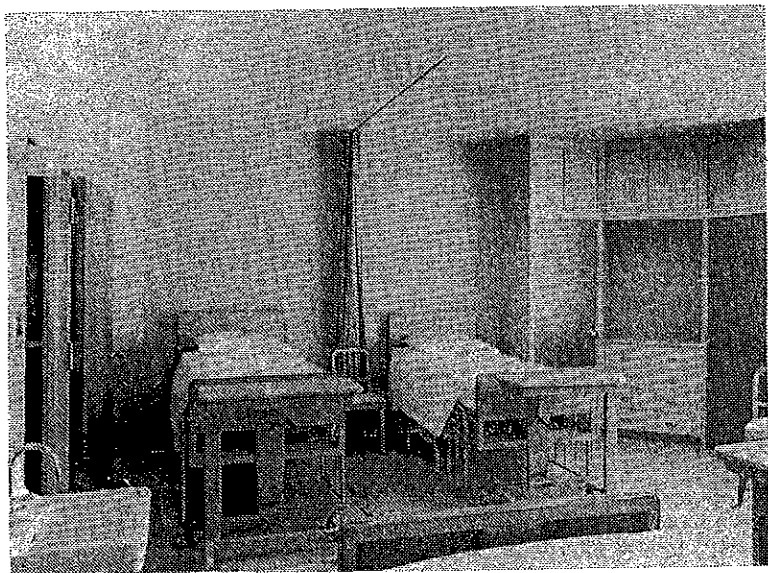


Not too far away from the laundry is the carpenter shop for the maintenance crew with similar space provided, in the old laundry for plumbing and electrical repair work. Although these shops are far from complete they have been built up to take care of a lot of repairs at the Home.

Standing off to one side of the Brentwood County Home and Farm is the cellblock with space for 42 prisoners with misdemeanor sentences of one year or less. Those sentenced to greater lengths are sent to the state penitentiary. Built in 1912 the building is equipped with a master control switch that can open each cell individually or all at one time, a fingerprinting unit and a police radio system.

Recent renovations included an enlarged and attractive reception room and lobby on the first floor and the addition of wash rooms and a clothes dispensary in the basement.

Newest among the institution's buildings is the Fernald Nursing home, which is being dedicated today. It is expected that it will be ready for occupancy on or about March 1st and this 80-bed unit will supplement the facilities of the Mitchell memorial.



THE ATTRACTIVELY decorated rooms in the Fernald Nursing Home are equipped with modern multi-height beds.

—Hampton Union Photo

In 1956 the building committee employed an architect and proceeded with plans to replace the 100-year-old infirmary with a 3-floor nursing home to relieve the seriously over-crowded hospital, and to better serve the town and county cases.

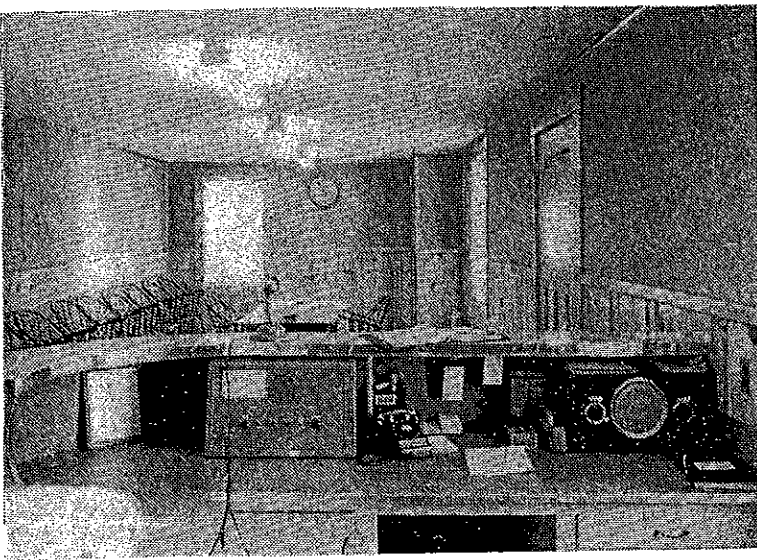
Representing an expenditure of \$859,000, \$183,000 of which was fourth-coming through federal aid, the building was started on March 24, 1957.

On the first floor will be found a modern kitchen and dining facilities which will serve all the tenants of the county home. The second and third floors comprise the 80-bed nursing home — so constructed to make the Mitchell Memorial and the Fernald Nursing Home a single unit.

Close by, and connected to the new building is the Underhill Building (named in honor of William Underhill of Chester, who was County Commissioner at the time of its construction) which on separate floors, is the home for county's elderly men and women who have adapted the Brentwood retreat as their home for their remaining years. Every effort is made by the Superintendent and the County Commissioners to make their life at the County Home as pleasant and comfortable.

The problem of the lack of quarters for "live-in" employees will be solved in the near future when the old infirmary building will be transformed into dormitory rooms.

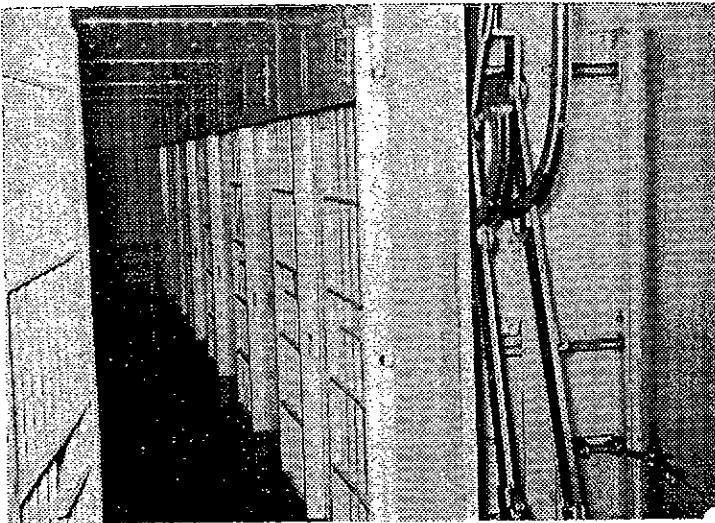
Another major improvement to be included in this current modernization program will be the installation of a large, modern sewage system which will be financed through a \$19,000 grant from the federal government.



SHORT - WAVE RADIO communication between the House of Correction at Brentwood and Rockingham County sheriffs and deputies and recently remodelled lobby in the cell block have added to the efficiency of the county's sheriff department.

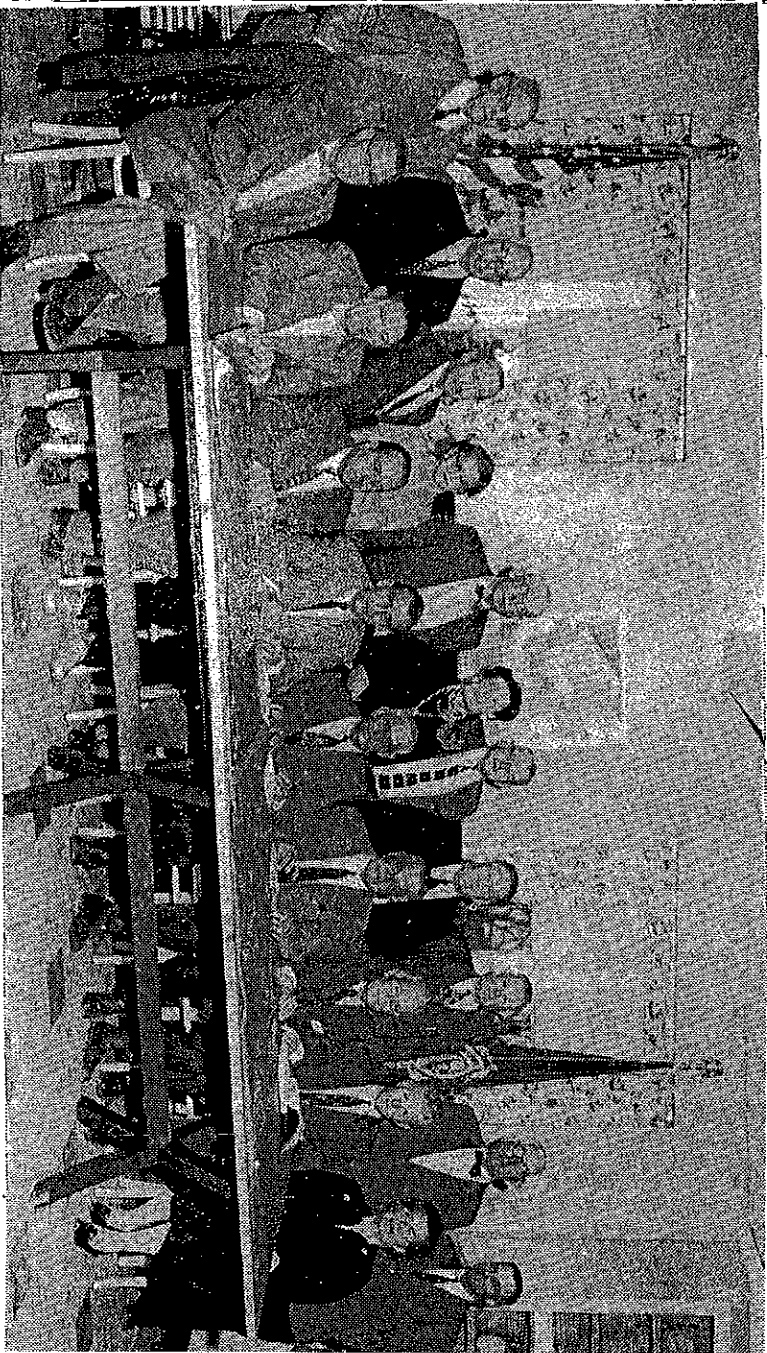
—Hampton Union Photo

The Fernald Nursing Home is the result of a study made in 1955 when the County Commissioners and the County Delegation met to consider remodeling the old infirmary and the old men's home.



THE LINE OF CELL doors are operated simultaneously or individually by levers in the not-too-modern, but still effective cell block.

—Hampton Union Photo



Signing The Contract For The Ferrald Nursing Home, January 29, 1957