



The Police Magistrate and Department pictured are: (seated) Clyde W. Knapp, Police Justice; Stephen Swartz, Thomas Burke, and George Marzolf

## The Lyons Police Station, 1934

For many years, the Lyons Police Station occupied a brick structure, west of Trombino's Restaurant. Facing the park, the building was used as a police court, detention quarters for transient hoboos and minor offenders, as well as the residence of the chief of police and his family. The police chief acted as custodian, and his wife served as matron (without salary) when female inmates were detained.

Located in the basement was a tile 'bull-pen', in which tramps and other indigent transients were housed overnight. Any transient without funds was entitled to a night's lodging and supper and breakfast at the Police Station. No one was detained in this room more than 24 hours. The room measured 15 feet by 10 feet and was 8 feet high. It was well lighted and ventilated by two large screened windows. The cement floor, the walls and the ceiling were painted gray annually. The room contained half a dozen benches. The room and its contents were disinfected with creolin after each occupancy, which averaged about seven a month in 1934. The toilet for the "bull -pen" was five feet square and opened off the room. It was well ventilated by a screened window 2 feet square and was lighted by a single electric light. The toilet had no "sitting piece," since the transients were prone to soil it with dejecta. Newspaper slips were provided for toilet paper and there was a fairly clean washing bowl available for cleanup.

On the first floor of the building were the police court and, in an adjoining room, the iron "cage" cells, 8 feet by 6 feet by 7 feet. Each cell was intended for a single occupant, and contained a bunk, mattress, blanket, clean flushing toilet seat, washbowl, and a drinking fountain. The room was poorly lit, since illumination was derived from the windows in the courtroom around the corner.

There was a detention room for females on the same floor, with a bed, blankets, sheets, toilets, bowl, together with hot and cold water, towels, and soap.

The Police Station was inspected periodically by a state official.

**Source: Ennis., Dr. David. "A Sanitary Survey." 1934**