

Commissioners Take Steps To Provide Room At 'Home'

Superintendent's Home Moved Across Road

The first of two steps designed to relieve congestion at the Cambria County Home for the Aged near Ebensburg was announced on Tuesday, when the Cambria

County Commissioners purchased additional property.

Commissioners said they intend to purchase a house, located near the county home, which will be used as the living quarters of Superintendent Frank Burns.

The property is located on the Loretto Road in Cambria Town-

ship and is owned by Clifford J. Owens of Ebensburg. Plans for the purchase are nearly completed.

Commissioners said they already have reached an agreement with the owner on a purchase price of \$12,500. The home will be paid for out of institutional district funds.

In another effort to relieve the overcrowded conditions, commissioners are endeavoring to have the state assume responsibility for some of the county home in-

mates. Although results of the effort cannot be foretold now, the commissioners have induced the state authorities to look into the problem.

Dr. Saul Greisman, visited at the county home yesterday. He is assistant superintendent of the Torrance State Hospital for mental patients.

The commissioners hope that county home inmates who are mental patients may be transferred to Torrance or other state institutions which are better equip-

ped to handle mental cases.

Acceptance of mentally-ill patients has been largely responsible for the rapid increase in the inmate population at the county home.

A substantial percent of the inmates are mentally affected and, in the opinion of the commissioners, should not be in the county institution. Twenty-nine of the inmates are classified as "violent" and "constant watch."

Forty-seven of the inmates are former inmates of Torrance. This is the result of an exchange system under which the county has been required to accept a patient from Torrance every time some Cambria County resident is admitted to the state institution.

Purchase of the new home for Superintendent Burns will aid in relieving congestion to some extent. Commissioners said his present living quarters, located in the main building of the institution, will be transformed into bed-

space for about 35 inmates.

In addition to providing more space, the new home for the superintendent will remove him from what commissioners consider an unsatisfactory environment. With the increase in number of diseased and mentally-ill inmates, commissioners feel the superintendent's living quarters should be apart from those of the inmates.

The Owens home is located about a half-mile from the county home. However, Mr. Burns' of-

ice will be located at the institution.

The purchase remains subject to approval by the county court and the State Dept. of Welfare. The court will be asked to approve the purchase on Feb. 20 if no objections are not entered by that time by any taxpayer or other interested person. The matter was discussed with state authorities about two weeks ago and approval from that level is expected momentarily.

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