

# POLICE LOCK UP OLDEST STATION AND ITS GHOSTS

## Desplaines Outlives Its 19th Century Heroes

BY GEORGE WOLTMAN  
(Picture on back page)

They closed down the old Desplaines st. police station, Chicago's most historic precinct house, yesterday, and not one of its old heroes was on hand to give a farewell salute.

The red building with its dungeon-like lockup had outlived its bluecoated heroes. Not a single member was left of old company A that marched a block north of the station May 4, 1886, to quell a demonstration of anarchists in Haymarket square, where a bomb killed eight policemen and wounded several more.

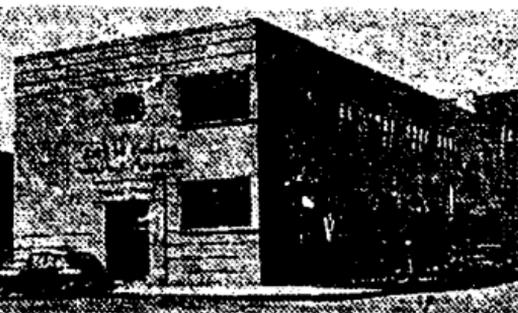
Nor were any present who had barricaded themselves in the station and fought off mobs that sought to lynch a prisoner who had slain Ald. Gaynor. None was there to recall the time the station's force resisted another mob that wouldn't believe, until Billy Allen's body was displayed, that the young Negro, accused of beating two women and killing two policemen, had been fatally wounded during his capture.

The old station, at 120 N. Desplaines st., had outlived them all.

### New Station on Racine

More than one policeman packed up his gear with nostalgia as he prepared to move to the new and modern headquarters at the southwest corner of Racine av. and Monroe st.

Capt. Joseph Hartnett moved into the new quarters at midday. In place of his old, dingy, high walled quarters, he found a modern office



The new station

equipped with new desks, new telephones, recessed radiators, and walls decorated in soft pastels said to be untiring to the eyes.

The lockup is in direct contrast to the old one. Sanitary cells, 14 of them, have steel bunks and pick-proof locks. The kitchen is equipped with an electric refrigerator, a gas stove and a vermin-proof pantry.

The desk sergeant's realm is the last word in design. It could be mistaken for the reception desk of a national bank; marble counter topped with stainless steel, sound-proofed teletype, muted buzzers and telephone bells, and accoustical telephone booths.

### Courtroom Like a Church

On the second floor of the new station are the squad room, with tables, chairs and lockers for the personnel, and the courtroom, also done in pastels and with indirect lighting. Twenty-two pews that match the judge's bench give the room a church-like dignity.

The new \$300,000 building is a far cry from the 77 year old structure, sedate in the day of plush homes and horse drawn carriages, that deteriorated with the district and became a lodging house for nobos and derelicts.

One question arises—how the inhabitants of skid row will take to the new building and its modernities. They may find some assurance in the sight of one anachronism. There's an old-fashioned stem-winder alarm clock on the sergeant's desk. Some one forgot to provide outlets for the electric clocks.

# -Open New Police Station on Monroe St.



[TRIBUNE Photo]

**Lockup Keeper James Finnegan puts Otto Barta, his first prisoner, in new Monroe st. station lockup.**

*(Story on page 13, part 2)*

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