

POLICE CHANGE LOCKUP MENU DATING TO 1833

Will Serve Hot Soup from Trays

BY JAMES C. GAVIN

Ever since the first law breaker sat in a Chicago jail back in 1833, the daily menu in police lockups has consisted of bologna and coffee.

Now, after 128 years, all of that is to be changed. Under what old-timers call the most drastic change in police department history, there will be a new menu.

Lockup prisoners in all Chicago police stations will be able to order a hot bowl of soup, fresh or evaporated milk, sugar for their coffee, and the traditional bologna sausage sandwich served up in a wax paper bag.

Served From a Cart

All of this comes wheeled into the inmate's cell on a cart, manned by the lockup keeper. He will be custodian of the spoons, which prisoners are not allowed to have in their cells. If a prisoner is a coffee drinker and wants sugar and milk, the lockup keeper will do the stirring.

Yet to be determined is who will wash the "dishes." This is a simple chore because the only item involved is the prisoner's tin cup, from which he will drink his coffee, milk, or soup.

The new menu has been installed by Supt. Orlando W. Wilson, who said his policy is to make a prisoner's stay as comfortable as possible. Lt. Richard McGuinness will supervise the operation.

Coffeemakers Arrive

Coffeemakers with a 120 cup capacity and serving carts began arriving at police stations thruout the city last week. Each station also will be equipped with a hot plate.

Some 250 prisoners a day are handled in the lockups at the Central police station, 11th and State streets. Hundreds of others are housed overnight in district stations.

Stanley Gayda, a lockup keeper at Central station for 10 years, pushed his serving cart around the cells last week and shook his head.

"The restaurant's open all night," Gayda said wryly. "We never close."