

# 1971 Grand Jury

Schools should be encouraged to cooperate in this matter which will help young and old to become better shoppers.

RECOMMENDATION 18: The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors when hiring management consultants to investigate and suggest solutions in problem areas, that prior to entering into any contract with a management consultant the objectives of the management study be clearly defined and methods of implementation of the results of such be included as part of such management study service

The County Administrator should be assigned the responsibility of assuring the Board of Supervisors that the County management concerned in such management studies actually implements and follows the procedures and policies developed by such studies which are in the best interests of the County.

RECOMMENDATION 19: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that before renegotiating a new contract with the Alameda County Fair Association, a study be made to investigate the feasibility of collecting fees in the form of rentals, etc., in light of the following opinion from County Counsel of Alameda County. Subject to the approval of the Department of Agriculture, Section 25906 [Government Code] allows the Board of Supervisors wide discretion in negotiating conditions under which the association would use, manage, or possess the fairgrounds, and the contract could presumably specify that future surplus revenues or a percentage of gate receipts from operations of the fair be made available for unrestricted use by the County, or that the association pay rent on up to 160 acres of the fairgrounds."

Inasmuch as the County Fair is held on tax-free land purchased by the County, it seems only fair that at least a small percentage of the gross income should be allocated for the general fund to be used where needed by the County.

## EDUCATION AND JUVENILE

RECOMMENDATION 20: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the County Librarian be directed to initiate Library Services at both Greystone (Santa Rita) and at the Alameda County Jail at the Courthouse, and that more adequate library facilities be provided at Santa Rita.

In April of this year a resolution was presented to the Board of Supervisors from this Grand Jury in support of the County Librarian's request for a Federal Grant for library expansion purposes. This application was denied. However, the Grand

extent that the present budget will permit.

RECOMMENDATION 21: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the Volunteer Program at the juvenile facilities be expanded to insure a thorough screening process, a comprehensive training program, and workshop sessions that would be offered at spaced intervals, and that an office of Coordinator of Volunteer Services be established and adequately staffed.

Volunteer Auxiliary Programs have been of great benefit to many institutions and school systems throughout the County and State. With proper coordination of activities, personnel and training, a volunteer force from the surrounding community can provide many of the services and "frills" that paid, professional staff is not able to perform due to lack of time. These volunteers can provide a reservoir of resource material that will benefit the children directly and at the same time make the entire community more aware of our County facilities and encourage its support.

We commend the Probation Department on the appointment of a Volunteer Director and would strongly urge that every encouragement be given to the program along the lines suggested to improve and enlarge it within the very near future.

RECOMMENDATION 22: This Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors immediately implement Section 3363.5 of the Labor Code by passing an appropriate enabling ordinance which adopts and applies the provisions of said section to volunteer workers working in behalf of the County of Alameda.

Said section 3363.5, effective August 13, 1971, concerns persons who perform voluntary service without pay for a County and includes them under the definition of "employees" for the purpose of coverage under the Workman's Compensation Law, provided that this section is implemented by enabling County ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION 23: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that a secure fence be built from Juvenile Hall to the playfield immediately above the gym, and that adequate security additions be made to the existing fencing around the entire field.

The large play area above the gymnasium is not now fully utilized due to the fact that the field is insecure. The children from Juvenile Hall are thus denied access to this

area and are confined to small play areas adjacent to their living units for outdoor recreation. The cost of providing an adequate covered walkway from the Hall and a fence extension would be minimal when weighing its advantages. It is urged that the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to proceed with this project as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION 24: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the grandstand-type steps outside of the classrooms at Chabot Ranch be built, that the cinder track be rebuilt, and that the surrounding recreation field be cleared and improved so that these facilities may be used for recreational purposes throughout the entire year.

The concrete steps would replace a dirt bank which is not only unsightly but of no use. The steps would be available for group counseling, games or general outdoor recreation. The project could be financed at a reasonable cost by making the construction a work-experience for some of the boys under proper direction. The whole area around the track field could be utilized on a full time basis (not just during good weather) if improvements are made. The Grand Jury feels that an adequate athletic and recreational program at free hours would benefit the boys at Chabot Ranch by improving morale and providing therapy for active young bodies.

RECOMMENDATION 25: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors create the position of Director of Recreation whose responsibility it would be to initiate a coordinated program of athletics and recreation at Juvenile Hall and adjacent juvenile institutions (Boys' Camp, Senior Boys' Camp, Girls' Home, Kings Daughters Group Residence).

In view of the number of children and young people in residence at these facilities the services of such a Director are at least in proportion to the number of young people in any given area of the County that have access to a Playground Director. The children at Juvenile Hall have an even greater need for such a service.

RECOMMENDATION 26: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the classroom in the lower area of Snedigar Cottage for emotionally handicapped children be relocated.

The present room in the basement of Snedigar Cottage is inadequate in size and not desirable as to location. An additional classroom adjacent to the present portables across the road from the Cottage would serve a dual purpose, as an emotionally handicapped facility and as a regular classroom when needed. A more normal school atmosphere would be an

advantage to the emotionally handicapped child. Furthermore, the present basement classroom is needed for storage.

RECOMMENDATION 27: The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that two additional classrooms be provided for Girls' Home in order to alleviate the present crowded conditions which necessitate the holding of classes in the bedroom area.

The Director of Education has agreed to Recommendations 26 and 27. The Grand Jury feels that educational facilities should be given a high priority in County planning.

RECOMMENDATION 28: The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the present educational survey and evaluation study being made by the Juvenile Justice Commission together with the Director of Special Education and the Director of Juvenile Institutions be continued and acted upon as soon as completed. It is requested that a work progress report from the Director of Special Education be presented to the 1972 Grand Jury Education and Juvenile Committee.

It was the intention of this Grand Jury to make some recommendations concerning the Educational Services at Juvenile Institutions, but it was felt that since a comprehensive study of the entire Work-Study Program has recently been inaugurated it would be premature to make specific recommendations at this time. However, it is strongly urged that the Director of Juvenile Institutions together with the Director of Educational Services be called upon to make periodic progress reports and to implement the proposed changes as soon as a complete evaluation has been made.

RECOMMENDATION 29: The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that Counselors (D.P.O.) be compensated for time spent at in-service training sessions.

Initial and continuous training of staff is deemed to be an essential part of the Department's program to fulfill the goals of prevention, rehabilitation and effective community protection. A wide variety of in-service training programs is made available throughout the year based on the needs of the staff. These courses are designed to improve the knowledge and the expertise of the staff members. However, the staff member cannot be expected to attend these classes at the expense of his own limited free time. He should be compensated for time so spent.

RECOMMENDATION 30: The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors the immediate hiring of a bi-lingual person of Mexican-American descent who is fluent in Spanish to work as a receptionist in the receiving unit of the Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

Juvenile Institutions are from Spanish-speaking families. It would be of special consolation and advantage to parents and family members of these youngsters to have a person who would be located at Juvenile Hall who could converse with them in their native language and answer any questions which they might have. Such a person could be provided by a special Civil Service test set up specifically with this purpose in mind.

RECOMMENDATION 31: The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that a drinking fountain be installed in the hallway of the Boys Receiving Center at 400 Broadway.

The Grand Jury understands that this drinking fountain was omitted from the plans and specifications of this facility through the architects' error and that the omission has never been rectified. The lack of this fixture not only creates a problem for the staff, but is an undue hardship on the boys that are detained. The purchase price of said fountain is insignificant when compared to the difficulties that are encountered because of its lack. We feel that this matter should be given "A" priority.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

RECOMMENDATION 32: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors to convert County hospitals -- Highland and Fairmont -- into COMMUNITY hospitals as quickly as possible and work toward cooperation between all hospitals to eliminate the STIGMA of a county hospital.

The California Legislature provided that County hospitals can become Community hospitals, and the Griffenhagen-Kroeger report encouraged this conversion as soon as possible. In the advent of national health insurance - in whatever form - the number of indigent patients going to County hospitals will decrease even more which will create a patient-load below cost-efficient levels.

RECOMMENDATION 33: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the Health Care Services be decentralized and primary health care be delegated to the neighborhoods by means of contractual services at various hospitals throughout the County, which will provide for a better distribution of health services.

By decentralization health care service would be brought to the people and not vice versa. The clientele of County health