

A Special Cell For Sirhan

By Ed Montgomery
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Sirhan Sirhan, admitted killer of Sen. Robert Kennedy, will receive the red carpet treatment when, eventually, he arrives at the California Medical Facility for prisoners at Vacaville.

No one contemplates an acquittal.

The verdict, it is assumed, will be either life imprisonment or death in the gas chamber at San Quentin.

Even a sentence of death would result in at least a one year delay while the State Supreme Court ponders the automatic review accorded all convicted murderers sentenced to death.

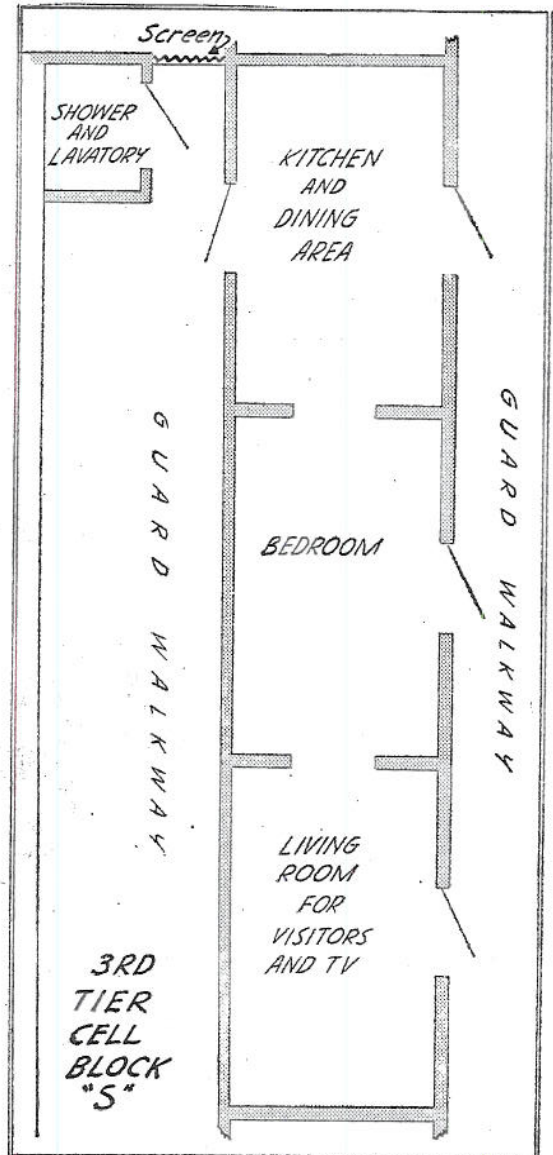
Workmen at Vacaville are pressing to finish a special three-cell suite on the third tier of Cell Block S, destined for Sirhan.

Electric drills already

have opened a passageway interlocking three consecutive cells that are approximately ten feet by fifteen feet in size.

One cell is being converted into a kitchen, and dining area, complete with a stainless steel stove and oven,

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Approximate diagram of "Sirhan Suite"

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sink and garbage disposal, The Examiner was told.

This cell will be presided over by a civilian chef who will purchase and prepare all meals for Sirhan.

The middle cell will be a bedroom

The third cell will be a reception room, containing a television set. It is here Sirhan will meet with counsel and visitors.

Special Shower

Immediately adjacent to the three cell complex a special shower and lavatory is being installed for the prisoner's use. It is flanked by a special screen shutting off the view of prisoners in other cells.

The cells Sirhan is destined

to occupy, for months or for life, normally are used for extreme mental cases.

They are not equipped with standard lavatories but rather with a hole in the floor to alleviate the possibility of an inmate harming himself. As a rule, the inmates are served their meals through a specially designed aperture in the cell door.

24-Hour Guard

An order has gone forward, The Examiner was told, for special guards to serve around the clock in the 24 hour daily watch of Sirhan.

A spokesman for the governor, in confirming the fact unique arrangements are being made in anticipation of Sirhan's commitment, said the project is being under-

taken as a "security measure."

See Chance to Kill

He said word has been received that certain prison inmates would relish the opportunity of killing Sirhan, and thereby become something of a national hero, in the event he was confined as an ordinary prisoner serving a life term.

Prisoners awaiting execution normally are given relaxation or recreation hours outside their cells, the spokesman explained. Life termers more often than not are given relaxation time in the "big yard."

In the case of Sirhan Sirhan it is felt that such latitude could result in a fatal attack, he said.