

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)

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This Day In History

Marietta -- In 1981, **STRAIGHT Inc.**, a privately funded, non-profit drug rehabilitation program for adolescents, was expected to open its first Georgia center in Cobb County and center officials said they hoped the center would help ease the growing drug problem in Cobb and the metro area. A vacant building formerly housing an A&P supermarket on Austell Road in Marietta was being renovated for the center. Eventually it would house some 350 young people seeking

freedom from drug dependency. Improvements to

be made on the

18,000-square foot building included the addition of kitchen facilities, a dining area and office space, according to Jerry

Rushing, a Cobb resident who was associate

director of the new

Atlanta area **STRAIGHT** program. "Local parents did most of the work on finding a site for the program," Rushing said. "We are a very parent-oriented program -- a lot of responsibility rests on the parents." Some \$150,000 in local contributions was raised to finance the new center.