

SPENDING TIME INSIDE...

THE PEN

My preconceived image of a state penitentiary was of rows and rows of dark, cold, cramped cells. On my first visit to one, I found they're not nearly as cold or dark as some of the inmates' faces.

Inside the approximately 30-foot tall concrete wall surrounding the Oregon State Penitentiary, I had to sign in and show "authorization" at the administration building before I was allowed to go any further.

Everyone visiting is filed through a metal detector and all packages are searched and X-rayed. People have been known to smuggle things inside unopened cigarette packs and even inside hollow boot heels.

Anyone visiting the pen must be accompanied by a guide. My guide was Carl Beals, the OSP's social services manager.

After we passed through security it took us 15 minutes to pass down a 30-foot hallway, where a succession of four metal-bar doors are opened electronically, and one by key. Each door must close and lock before the next door can be opened.

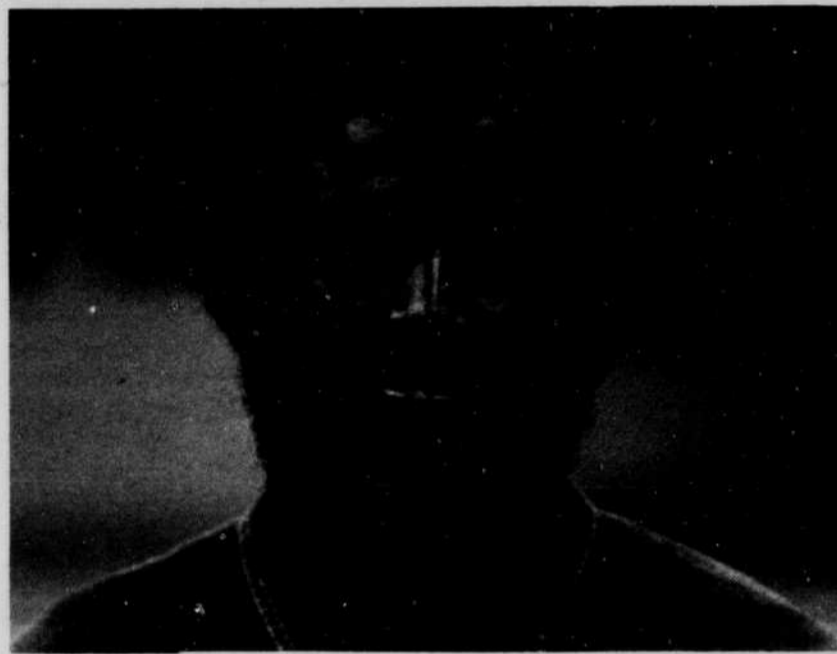
As the final door clanged shut behind us, I was informed we were inside the prison. The building was surprisingly bright, with floor-to-ceiling windows spanning the outer walls.

Several inmates walked through the hallway dressed in prison blues. I stood out in my bright red shirt, two cameras and a photo bag draped around my neck.

Currently, there are 1,450 inmates confined in OSP, though there are only 1,101 individual cells. Two of the four cell blocks, A and C, have been converted to double cells. The most desirable place in the pen, says Beals, is sub-C in the basement of Cell Block C. The doors are never locked there and the inmates have more access to a television.

Inside the pen there is a furniture factory as well as a vocational training center where inmates can learn skills including engine repair, carpentry, auto repair and painting, diesel and auto mechanics, drafting, welding and building maintenance.

After spending three hours inside the Oregon State Penitentiary I left wanting never to go back for anything but another brief visit.



Clockwise from the upper left: a staff member talks on the phone inside Cell Block D; a guard on one of eight towers on the wall; the inside of a cell in Cell Block A; inmate Larry Cunningham, No. 36338.

**PHOTOGRAPHY
AND STORY BY
MARK PYNES**

Where did you shop?

Compare the prices and the selections

Product	Drive-N-Save (30th)	Food-op (U of O)	McKays (Franklin)	Safeway (18th)	Little's (13th)	Mark-N-Pak (Springfield)
1. Hunts Ketchup 32 oz.	1.45	NA	1.45	1.45	NA	1.35
2. Iceberg lettuce head	.79	.42	.89	.79	1.00	.89
3. Henry Weinhardts 12 plus dep	6.35	NA	6.29	6.35	6.80	5.64
4. Skippy peanut butter 18 oz.	1.95	NA	1.95	1.99	2.57	1.80
5. AA Large Eggs dozen	.96	1.10	.97	.96	1.05	.95
6. Hamburger 30% fat per/lb.	1.59	NA	1.48	1.48	NA	1.47
7. Chicken breast per/lb.	1.49	NA	2.05	2.48	2.29	1.99
8. 2% Milk gallon	1.89	2.34*	1.85	1.93	2.41	1.79
9. Tillamook Cheese Med. per/lb.	2.98	2.52	2.60	2.95	2.80	2.31
10. Cracklin Bran	1.09	NA	1.09	1.09	1.09	NA
11. Flav-R-Pac Orange Juice 12 oz.	.69	NA	1.03	1.15	1.29	.88
12. Kellogg's Raisin Bran 6.5 oz.	1.15	NA	1.29	1.15	NA	.85
13. Kellogg's Raisin Tuna 20 oz.	1.99	NA	1.74	2.19	NA	1.74
14. Navel Oranges per/lb.	.29	.35	.34	.34	.49	.25

NA - either product was not carried by store or store did not carry specified size.
All figures from Dec. 2, 1981.

*Calculated by using half gallon price twice.

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