

Work release path back to community



OPEN DOOR policy of Multnomah County Correctional Institution shows the minimum security classification of the institution near Troutdale. Residents include

trustees, students in college and vocational schools, enrollees of the work release program and weekenders.



KELLY CARROLL...state work release counselor



ROBERT VAUGHN...Portland State University practicum student

Many type residents at Troutdale center

Residents of the Multnomah County Correctional Institution include trustees, students in college and vocational school, enrollees of the work release program and weekenders.

The weekenders mostly are married men who have been sentenced for drunk driving. During the work week, they live at home but from Friday night to Sunday evening, they serve out their sentence at the Troutdale facility. There are about 45 weekenders each week.

The students incarcerated at the Correctional Institution are young men who were attending school when sentenced and the court permitted them to continue. They attend their classes then return to the Troutdale facility. Currently, there are four in this category.

The trustees are persons serving short sentences of one year or less. They work in the dining room, kitchen, laundry or do janitorial work in the building or at the Court House and 12-Mile Precinct. They are paid a minimum wage. They do not have passes to leave but are permitted visitors of any amount or age from 1 to 4 p.m.

on Sundays.

Work-release residents are sent to Troutdale by County, State and Federal Courts.

The County work releasers are similar to the trustees, men serving a sentence of less than one year. They go to their jobs but return to the Correctional Institution every night. Those who have families receive passes on a merit scale.

The first weekend pass is a "social" one of eight hours. Then comes a pass of 12 hours followed by two weekend passes for 12 hours each or overnight.

State work release enrollees have spent time in the Oregon State Penitentiary, its annex or the Oregon State Correctional Institute. They have been in maximum security situations and now are within three to four months of paroles.

Federal prisoners just prior to release are enrolled in the program at Troutdale so that they can find jobs and be with their families on weekends. The idea behind the work release program is to give a man an opportunity to be a citizen again instead of being dumped back into society after years out of it.



LARRY MORRIS...county work release counselor

By SUZANNE ASHMUN
People Editor

The pressure weighs heavier the longer a person has been in the work release program.

This is the opinion of two counselors at Multnomah County Correctional Institution (MCCI) near Troutdale, which presently houses 51 county work-release men plus 18 on the state program.

The work release resident is in limbo between the outside world of his job and the inside world of the correctional institution.

"Every day he has to make the decision: Shall I come back?" Kelly Carroll, state work release counselor, said. "In prison all the decisions are made for him."

The work release program is a bridge between state prisons like Oregon State Correctional Institution or Oregon State Penitentiary or the county's Rocky Butte Jail. The state leases 25 bunks from the county for its work release residents.

"The work release program provides a transition back into society," Larry Morris, county work release counselor, said. "Ideally, it should be a tool of rehabilitation. The man is getting himself employed and helping with his family."

There are weekend passes if the man is progressing with his job and in the institution, the counselors said.

One big advantage to the program is financial.

In the first three months of 1973, residents had gross earnings of \$46,000, according to Morris. Of this \$10,000 went for state and federal taxes, \$10,000 to the county for room and board, \$12,000 was spent in the community for expenses such as transportation and clothes, \$9,000 went for support of dependents, with the rest of miscellaneous expenses.

"It's a real side benefit to have the resident pay his own way," Sgt. Arthur Auvil, operations correction officer at the facility, which was once the county farm, said. "He's paying taxes and his family is

off the relief rolls."

Robert Vaughn, Portland State University student working at MCCI, cited another plus for the program.

"Most prisoners in the penitentiary are very uncertain about the future," Vaughn said. "They're frightened about being released so that alone is a strong argument for the work release."

When prisoners are released from Oregon prisons they get \$100 and a suit of clothes. This send-off is called "gate money" by the prisoners.

"At least the work release man has a job and community resources when he gets out," Carroll said.

The counselors, who provide on-going supervision for the men, don't find jobs for them.

"We think they're employable, some of them by using skills they've learned in prison," Carroll said. "We work closely with the State Employment Service."

Although there are recreational facilities such as pool tables, crafts, a handball court, baseball diamond and basketball court, most residents are too tired when they get home from work to do much but watch T.V. and go to their bunk, according to Carroll.

"Most of them leave at 6 a.m. and get home anywhere from 5 to 8 p.m. so they're dead tired," he explained. "Most of them ride community transportation and they can't always get a bus at the right time."

Most nerve-racking thing about the 160 man minimum security center is the lack of privacy, Carroll believes.

"There's a lot of pressure because you eat with the other guys, go to the bathroom with them, sleep in the same room," he said. "The only way you can be alone is to put a bag over your head. There's a lot of pressure here and the longer a man's here the more he wants to be free."

Little things become big things and one man working in jail maintenance vented his frustration by flushing the keys

down the toilet, Morris said.

"The majority of people here are not that much different from people you see on the street," the counselor said. "What differentiates them is their failure to make human relationships. They're perhaps a little less intelligent and a little less lucky than the rest of us."

Carroll, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Carroll and a Gresham High School graduate, said he tries to be the work release man's advocate rather than his adversary.

"My approach is very personal," he said. "I dress casually and try to avoid being The Man. I try to deal with employers honestly—they know the man is on work release—and still give the guy a break."

"I try to look at each man as an individual," Morris said, "and have a live and let live attitude. It seems the purpose of an institution like a prison is to punish the man and expose him to some training while

protecting society. If the guy comes out angry, we can't really blame him because we built the institution."

Community support will make the difference in whether the work release program survives, Carroll believes.

It has a good track record statistically. The national recidivism rate is 60 per cent, according to Carroll, but those who had participated in work release had a recidivism rate of 10.6 per cent.

"We need something between inside and outside," Carroll believes. "The men go into the community during the day and yet are sheltered at night."

The community has been receptive toward the program and the counselors said the men didn't have too much difficulty finding jobs.

"Employers are receptive because they know our men are going to be on time, they're going to be sober and they're going to be there every day," Carroll smiled.



LONG ROAD back to society can wind down the path of the Multnomah County Correctional Institution where work release enrollees are lodged at night while working in the community in the daytime.

Treatment, not punishment goal of correction center

By HELEN HANSON
Staff Writer

"Moles create a bigger problem here than the residents," said Officer Dan Koenig about the 105 men serving sentences at Multnomah County Correctional Institution in Troutdale.

"They're all on the honor system and here for treatment not punishment. And they won't abuse it," said the senior officer of the 4 p.m. to midnight shift.

The men at the Troutdale facility are called enrollees or residents rather than cons, inmates or prisoners.

And he is called "Dan" or "Officer Dan" instead of turnkey, bull or guard by the residents.

"That's the new concept," said the officer who has been at the institution since 1971 following training at the Correction Officers Academy.

Previously, he was a Multnomah County deputy sheriff and an officer at Rocky Butte jail.

The new concept of a jail includes the physical plant in which open dormitories replace cells. There are no armed guards or guard towers, no bars on the windows and no electrical fences.

"There isn't a gun in the place," Dan Koenig said with a grin, "and we don't have problems, racial or other kind. There's been one fight in the two years I've been here. Two guys got into it about a girl friend. The whole thing lasted about four seconds."

The doors in and out of the County Correctional Institution are always open. The lock hanging on the open gate is rusted. Men on the work-release program arrive and leave around the clock as their employment hours require, calling out their names and bunk numbers as they pass the desk. A daily log is kept.

"Travel time is adjusted to the transportation the enrollee is using," Koenig said.

"Bus service out here is limited. But if a work-release resident has a car, insurance on it and a valid drivers license, he can keep it here and use it for

his transportation," he explained.

"And if we have to take one of the men down town for a hearing, that's what we use," he added, pointing out an unmarked auto.

"There's no mesh between the driver and the passenger, and we don't have handcuffs," Officer Koenig explained.

Inside the institution, the correctional officers on duty are in a cage-like office that forms the hub of a half wheel, the shape the building takes. The spokes include four open dormitories. Each has a capacity of 37 men, with a night stand and locker for each.

Other spokes or open rooms

include recreational facilities and dining room. There are four pool tables, a bumper pool table, ping pong tables and a library with around 9,000 volumes. The TV section is furnished with easy chairs. Vending machines of all types are in the building. A pay phone is available for use from 6 a.m. until 10:55 p.m.

"Lights are out at 11 p.m.," Koenig said, "but we dim the lights at 10 for those who want to sleep then."

Radios are banned. "They interfere with sleep," was the comment.

Mail is uncensored, but all magazines are censored. "We don't let the por-

nographic ones though," the officer said.

Outside the facility are a ball diamond and handball, volleyball, horseshoe and basketball courts. There is also a rest area.

"When a man first comes here after seven or eight years in a penitentiary, he asks permission to go outdoors," Officer Koenig said.

"When we tell him that he doesn't have to ask, he can hardly believe it," he added.

"This is a halfway house between incarceration and total freedom," Dan Koenig went on. "It's treatment. Outside of one-to-one counseling, this is the best. We have to have more of these centers."



SGT. ARTHUR AUVIL, operations correction officer at Multnomah County Correctional Institution, admires mural painted on walls of foyer. The panorama was painted by a former resident and

represents the view of the Columbia Gorge that can be seen from outside the institution's walls.