

From behind the wall

by Larry Baker
O.S.P. Correspondent

DOES ANYONE KNOW I'M HERE?

Two men forced to live under the same conditions, behind the walls of the Oregon State Penitentiary, — in a prison cell.

Although both have much in common, same age, convicted unrelated of the same crime, eat the same food, wear the same type of clothes, there is a great deal of difference in their lives. One is Black, the other white, each from a different area in Oregon, different background and lifestyles.

This Reporter has asked each man to express in writing their emotional feelings and thoughts while in prison—to accept or reject this time spent in prison is important only to the individual.

I also hope that a few of our faithful readers would take time after reading what each man feels — and write him a letter. A letter is the most important part of a person's life in prison—because it opens up a path of communication of sharing lives and thoughts — and it also answers a very important question in these men's minds. Does any one know I'm here?

by Billy L. Whitmore #39097

The large steel doors slammed shut behind me as I walked to the Receiving and Discharge Room. February 23, 1977 I began my fifteen year sentence for attempted murder, in the Oregon State Prison: an end to 13 years of criminal life.

This time prison life is different than any I've ever experienced before this time. I came to prison with the Lord, Christ Jesus in my heart, and a new outlook on life.

In November of 1976 I was waiting trial for six felon cases; a lost soul in the true sense of the word. Sitting in my lonely cell, God began speaking to me in my heart and convicting me of my doomed self. For the first time in my life I really

realized if I continued to live as I've always lived I would see hell sooner than most. I had tried many times to live a good clean life but I'd never honestly met the Lord Jesus as my personal savior. And soon I'd be back to drinking, taking drugs, then inevitably, crime and jail.

God knew what it would take for me to ever get my life straightened out and that jail cell became a very enlightening room. I mean to say that when the presence of Jesus enters a place things begin to take on a new perspective.

On November 9, 1976 the Lord led a spirit filled Christian man to my cell to visit me. I had decided to really give my life to Christ but didn't know how, and Mr. Don Clause, the founder of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Association for the Lake County Chapter, stepped into my life. He had so many answers I'd been looking for, and for some reason I knew God was speaking to me through him.

That day I pled with the Lord Jesus to forgive me of my terrible life of sin and cleanse me from it, to come into my heart and change me into the person I really am. I did more than just accept Jesus as my savior, I gave my life to him, and since that day I see life as God intended it to be.

I've been in prison almost three months now and I have never been as happy and full of joy as I am now. I see men now as human beings that are no different than anyone else. Convict or guard, they are all the same in God's eyes. I thank the Lord Jesus for the reality I experience living for Him.

A Born Again Christian doesn't have a life "full of song and roses" every day. We experience the same trials, the same heart breaks and discouragements anyone else does. The big difference is that in all these trials we have a Lord who helps us find victory over every single obstacle.

My constant prayer is that each and every man, woman or child come to know the Lord Christ Jesus as their personal savior. Life without Him is death in itself, I know.

A criminal or judge are the same people. Both are doomed to hell if they haven't met Jesus as their Savior.

After one week in prison I found that many other men have accepted Christ and are living for him here. A prison doesn't stop the Lord from giving a person the good life only Christ can give.

A prison doesn't stop the Lord from rebuilding a broken marriage into a solid relationship.

Each day men come and go to work in here and settle down to the "prison life" form of living. But it doesn't have to be a cold, hard experience anymore for me. I meet men daily that are warm, loving individuals. Men who really care about other's lives. Men who once killed, and robbed, but now help a person cry or share problems with each other. Only the Lord Christ Jesus can turn a prison into a home, and fill it with love.

Prison, I know now, is not just concrete walls and iron bars. Prison is that hard shell around an individual's heart that closes him off from reality and drains his being into pure death. Prison lays within one's self. But many men have escaped this spiritual prison and have let Christ Jesus set them free.

I thank God daily that he loves the people in the world enough to give Christ Jesus up unto death so that we can have this life in Him.

May God bless you much.

Love In Christ

by Terrence Williams #38675

THE VICTIM

An I a powerless broken individual so in need of direction that my emptiness has become conspicuous? Believe me, my intentions have been just the opposite. My trying to hibernate those elements that attribute such an attitude has evidently proved futile.

If by chance your initiative to reform that attitude does not prove sufficient—do not feel hurt if I blatantly reject your proposition. When you recognize the need for autonomy there should not be any misunderstanding: Keeping in mind that I'm not dead nor in a state of suspended animation. So it goes; "Anything forced isn't what it's supposed to be;" Otherwise it will be stolen, you would not have to force it.

Excepting your philosophy with the speed I feel necessary for my comfort, does not mean I do not understand your purpose and meaning. For me to adhere to all your philosophies and ideologies would mean I have no self-respect. I am just as much a part of the noise and anguish prevalent in this world as anyone else. Your long lived indoctrination is slowly falling apart. You forgot to contemplate the actions of your Chattel sons.

The many factors constituting this perception is based primarily on your

laws and rules. Some of them are being manifested thru "involuntary servitude" and "court slavery". There seems to be a need for you to prescribe a one-track solution for my problem. The way you initiate your practices and implement insensitive authority makes me reject your archaic human domination. I feel as though you try to adjust my behavior without realizing the premises for my aberrant behavior. I can not find any self gratification emptying my mind to have it "infiltrated" by unwelcome rhetoric.

The sources you so proudly interpret consequently gives you self-gratification. Don't expect me to have the same feelings and effect as you. Through the diverse situations we've encountered,

neither one has thought of the other. Our lives were totally separate, until we met under these circumstances.

After being completely controlled and exploited a person will seek a comfortable outlet.

Thousands and thousands of remedies have been empirically sought for the "taboo" society places on its inhabitants. Under the present "Dichotomy" nothing keeps its true identity — it has been divided into separate categories. The true meaning of "nature" can no longer exist, now it has a counter-part — "nurture". What happened to the creativity we shared? If it's not understood it's institutionalized. Who's the "Feel" and who's the "same"?



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On July 1, 1977, Pacific Power filed for an Oregon electric rate increase. After you say, "Oh no," we hope you'll say "yes" to a way we can help you pay us less.

OSP warden guest speaker

Prison Ministries, Inc. will hold its Second Annual Prison Ministries Tea at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th Avenue, on July 24th.

Among the special speakers will be Hoyt C. Cupp, Superintendent of the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Reverend John Parker, director of Prison Ministries, and his wife, Vivian, have worked diligently all year ministering to prison inmates throughout Oregon and Washington. Prison Ministries, under Reverend Parker's direction, has

been operating since 1964. It was incorporated in 1975 and since then has established a counseling center at 3946 N. Mississippi. For information on the project, call 282-4705.

Coordinator of the Tea is Mrs. George (Odessa) Hendrix, who has prepared an extensive and varied display. Refreshments will be served and entertainment includes music by "Brothers, Sisters and Friends" from Salem.

The Tea will be held from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.

The Nation

Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar has announced a Black Heritage USA series of commemorative stamps to start next year with Harriet Tubman as the first and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be recognized on January 15, 1979, marking the 50th anniversary of his birth.

Almost overlooked by the fact that the Lutheran World Federation chose Tanzania's Bishop Josiah M. Kibira to head the 58-million member organization was the fact that the delegates turned aside proposals to condemn human rights violations in Chile and other non-African countries while calling for an end to racial segregation in South Africa and Rhodesia. They condemned "boundless atrocities" in Uganda.

England's heroin policy

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

"Unless we try it we'll never know."

In the end, the debate over legalization of heroin "must ultimately be a debate about social values," say Prof. Mark Moore, former DEA consultant, now at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Legalization would result only in one additional form of treatment, he contends.

"It doesn't relieve us of the problems of finding jobs for heroin users, preventing new use among ghetto populations or enforcing against the unauthorized

possession and sale of heroin," Moore charges. "To the extent that we do these things badly now, we are likely to do these things equally badly in the future."

*Mark Schwartz, for several years a Bay Area radio and television reporter on California criminal justice, is a member of PNS's foundation-funded urban task force of scholars and journalists. This is the second of an occasional series by Mr. Schwartz on drug use and control in America.

Is Pacific Power filing because customers have conserved too much?
Definitely not.

Conservation by Pacific Power customers, if anything, should and must increase. In fact, it is a permanent level of conservation that is the key to slowing future rate increases.

The major reason Pacific Power's rates are now rising is that new electric plants being built to meet growth in electric load are much more expensive than existing plants. Thus, load growth causes PP&L's average costs, and thus, rates to rise. Permanent conservation will allow Pacific to meet some of this load growth with existing plants, thereby lessening the pressure for future rate increases.

This filing, in fact, includes a new rate schedule which is specifically designed to promote conservation and represents a means whereby the impact of the rate increase may be lessened by residential electric heat customers who choose to bring their dwellings up to current insulation standards.

What does this rate increase mean in dollars and cents?

If this general rate application of 18.7% is approved, the result would be an increase in the average residential customer's monthly electric bill (1,131 kWh) of approximately \$4.71, or an additional 16¢ per day.

This application proposes to increase Oregon annual revenues by approximately \$36,000,000.

Why is it necessary to continue to ask for rate increases?

Some of the reasons have already been mentioned. But here are three factors, in addition to normal inflation in which we all share, that have pushed costs up in recent years.

Growth.

New power plants, new power lines, all the equipment necessary to produce and deliver energy to you starts with continued growth in demand for electricity.

That demand, in the past few years, has been alarming. For example, in Oregon, first quarter 1977... new customer requests for electric service were up 58% over the same period last year. Last year broke all records.

In 1970 the average annual residential kilowatt hour consumption was 11,539 kilowatt hours. In 1976 that figure was 12,876 kilowatt hours.

Hydro Power: Nice while it lasted.

Until the late 1960's practically all the power we used in the Northwest was made at dams, and it was cheap.

About then we started to outgrow the capacity of dams to supply enough electricity... and Northwest utilities started to build coal and nuclear plants to supply growth.

These new plants are much more expensive to build and operate. We're paying for this transition in our electric bills.

Environmental Protection.

Power plants and other activities of Pacific Power involving power generation and transmission of electricity require compliance with a multitude of various state, federal and local environmental regulations.

Although necessary, the cost of this compliance is very expensive. Retrofitting of Pacific's Dave Johnston plant with pollution control devices costing \$60 million... at Jim Bridger, air quality equipment there will total about \$140 million.

How high is up?

Since the early 1970's the price of electricity for Oregon customers has increased steadily.

But have those increases, dollar for dollar, outstripped all other categories of necessary family expense? The accompanying chart depicts increases in the Oregon monthly family budget over the past six years.

OREGON MONTHLY FAMILY BUDGET

1970		1976
Average Family Income:	\$865 (1)	Average Family Income \$1236 up \$371
Expenses		Expenses
Food	\$179 (2)	Food \$258 up \$79
Housing	\$124 (2)	Housing \$191 up \$67
Medical	\$66 (3)	Medical \$118 up \$52
Fed. Taxes	\$121 (2)	Fed. Taxes \$167 up \$46
PP&L Electricity	\$15 (4)	PP&L Electricity \$21 up \$6

1. Current Population Reports. Consumer Income, West Region Median Family Income 1974-76 estimated by regression with U.S. total personal income.

2. Business Statistics: Survey of Current Business Feb. 1977. Total U.S.

3. 1975 Statistical Abstract. 1975-76 estimate based on previous years trend. Total U.S.

4. Average c/kwh at 1000 kwh applied to Form 1 average monthly consumption.

Our new Home Energy Analysis Service. The best way we have to help you pay us less.

For some months now, Pacific Power has been testing a new customer service called the Home Energy Analysis program.

Customers have told us that this new service is proving to be of genuine benefit in understanding and then doing something about lowering electric bills.

Basically, the service is a comprehensive inspection of your home by a trained Pacific Power representative. Your home's total energy saving potential is looked at. Existing insulation, weatherstripping, heating systems... all are examined and a detailed report and conservation plan is prepared.

Besides the report and advice on how to get the job done, on request Pacific will provide assistance in locating financing to accomplish home conservation programs.

The Home Energy Analysis program is conducted at no extra charge to any PP&L customer. We strongly urge you to contact your local office early to arrange an appointment. The demand for the Home Energy Analysis service has been high. We hope you'll bear with us as some customers in certain Oregon locations must necessarily be placed on a short waiting list.

You have a right to know.

This current request for a rate increase in Pacific's Oregon electric rates is admittedly a far more complex matter than has been described.

For further information, copies of Pacific's testimony and exhibits are available for inspection in our local offices statewide. The address and telephone number of the PP&L office serving you is listed below.

If you wish to receive information on the time and place of any public hearing on the PP&L rate increase, a special toll-free number has been established by the Oregon Public Utility Commissioner. That number is 1-800-452-9105 or, you may write: Oregon Public Utility Commissioner, Labor and Industries Building, Salem, Oregon 97310.

The purpose of this notice is to provide Pacific Power's Oregon customers with general information as to the proposals made by the Company and their effect. The calculations and statements contained in this notice will not be binding on the Commissioner.

The People at Pacific Power

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