



From behind the wall

by Larry Baker #35021
O.S.P. Correspondent

As this Correspondent walked through the cell blocks of O.S.P. on New Years Eve, he could not help but notice the silence instilled on every tier. Although it was only 9:00 p.m. many cells were already dark with prisoners asleep - while other prisoners were on their steel bunks, trying to write a letter home to family and loved ones. Those who were not struggling with pen and paper in hand were found reading books, which would hopefully distract their minds from this night. But there were those who merely just sat and stared off into space with a look of sadness upon their faces. On New Years Eve when everyone else was rejoicing many of these men found this night just like any other night.

It was not easy to ask these prisoners to write for this week's "Behind the Walls" column, prisoners who are serving twenty, thirty and fifty years; to relate what they might be looking forward to in 1978. How do you ask a man doing "Life" such a question? Each prisoner knows the importance and value in individual contributions, to keep this communication open for the people of Oregon and the outside world.

It is to these men, we, the staff of the "Behind the Walls" column say "Thank You."

Our New Years Resolutions will be to do everything within our power to expand the "Behind the Walls" column into as many newspapers in the state - so that all people may hear the messages, each week, from these same cells. With the help received last year from many of the inmates, O.S.P. Officials, and the staff of the **Portland Observer, WE WILL NOT FAIL.**

For the year of 1978 I look forward to: Getting out - getting a job and being able to walk tall and proud. **Robert B. Cooyler #39743**

Relief! Spending high times with my children, enjoying a woman's companionship, swimming, snow, and fresh vegetables from my own garden. And to the growth of greater interest in the health of our people - cuz the sickness of minds and bodies has gone far beyond far. **Charles Armsbury #39861**

Many things, but one in particular. Attending the Junior National Power Lifting Championship of America, which I feel I can at present place in the top three nationally. Permission and custody are the word or words I look to. **William Keyler #37715**

I would like to see many great things. But in particular I would like to see a union of mankind to come together in peace and love and all be one with God and infinity. **Don J. Penrod Singh, Jr.**

I am really looking forward to marrying a young lady that has been very near and dear to me for the last five years. We are getting married the 28th of January, here at O.S.P. It'll be nice after so long of waiting and hardships to have this beautiful young lady, Karen J. Schimbele, become Mrs. William F. Mesplay, Jr. (I love you Karen.) **William F. Mesplay #39699**

For the year of 1978 I don't look forward to doing more time in this pit of hell. **Robert Mosqueda #39645**

Strengthening my faith in Jesus Christ, that I may be a better witness to His Love and Grace. **James McHone #39399**

I look forward to seeing (progressive people) understanding places like, prisons, etc. And then doing something about it, like following up the tacit understanding they freely acknowledge they possess within themselves. **Vince Carr #36781**

My resolution will be a simple one, of a limited amount, so it will be realistic. 1. I will work a little harder in the vocational training that I'm taking, as often as possible. This will help me to get a job one day, and be prepared for it. 2. Since I've got nothing but time to do I'll work on my art and guitar talents with a little more concern. 3. Try to deal with my problems more honestly, keeping an open mind on new ideas. **Clark Duggan #39305**

I am a poet of the morrow
Yet my words speak of the now

I am a poet who's theme changes
As night and day, as the four
winds blow, the four hours of
Time in a seasonal repast -

Winter to spring, spring to
fall
fall
to
summer,

And it was in the summer that
the fall really began - or - was
it an awakening to the blindness
existing through time pouring
from a surrealistic knowledge,
instilled and submerged within
the old folks,

passed along
the line and rhine of
life

as
sweet, bitter wine.

A truth man - an undeniable truth!!!
surpassing the understanding
surrounding a journey where
self crawled within self,

Seeking a comprehension of
All reality without, but instead
found a path leading through

fields
of
unknown
words, people, places, faces of
no
names.

Like grandpa father's father father
strong in youth, brave, free and proud
in the motherland, and still after the
whips
chains
slave makers
&
breaker
John Hopkin -

the
good ship hope
was and is still
a reality
of
time.....

Time, like the hands
on a clock continue
to move,

yet
one day it stopped! Only
for a moment
but -

it stopped -
it stopped for Coltrain
it stopped for Jimi Hendricks
it stopped for Lady Day

Satchmo
Malcolm
King
Johnathan
George

it stopped for Garvey
Nat Turner
Otis
Sam Cooke

it even stopped for Miss Birdsong,

A big voice was silenced -
but ideologies and deeds can
not be shut out -

A
truth is a truth!

.....De
ath is for
real
man!

SPRING OF...

A
phy
si
cal
De
a
th
beget
decomposition

of a genetic
intelligence -

God bless the child that got his
own -

A
physical
death -

Got
his
own
Steed (white horse of hell)

Got
his
own
Gun (mind blown power death)

Got
his
own
Rolls Royce, double duce, he's Harlem
Chicago (lower east side) Watts

Got
his
own -

Catering to the whims and
wishes of an infant systems nurtured,
matured on the sweat and blood of others.

And it was in the spring of 45 a
hope was born
and
a psychological
death
began
to develop into
a physical
new
birth

A dream running through
fields of yesterday - now
graveyards of today
and
the dead
crying
to
be
set
free

Running through fields of
yesterday, chasing tomorrow
realities -

steel bars and cement walls
are still

a
man made
hell!

Got
his
own

psy
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logi
cal
/
ma
teri
a
lis
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D
E
A
T
H
Oppression
Is...

by Julius Snowden #38013

Tax aid available

PORTLAND - Joint Federal-State taxpayer assistance is being offered in Portland, Eugene, and Salem this year. Originated in these three cities in 1975, this program provided joint assistance to over 40,000 Oregonians last year.

The service will be available from January 3rd through April 15th, according to Ralph B. Short, Internal Revenue Service District Director for Oregon, and John J. Lobdell, Director of the Oregon Department of Revenue.

The offices for this joint assistance are located at 1220 S.W. Third Avenue, Portland; 595 Cottage Street, N.E., Salem; and 211 E. Seventh, Eugene. Taxpayer assistance will be provided in Portland, Eugene, and Salem, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Year's Resolution for Smokers

The American Lung Association offers these suggestions for smokers to start any day - or every day - of the new year. RESOLVED that I decide here and now to make a commitment to my own body and health and to give myself the respect I deserve.

RESOLVED that I know I can take steps to adopt more positive lifestyles to celebrate life and promote my wellbeing. I recognize that becoming a non-smoker is one of those lifestyles.

RESOLVED that I will consider the adverse effects of my smoking on all those around me - at home, at work, in public places, with friends - and I will make a greater effort to avoid polluting

the air they must breathe.

RESOLVED that I will take seriously the future effects of my continued smoking, that I will ponder the impact on my life of the possibility of developing severe lung disease or heart distress. I will allow myself to imagine the effects of such a disability - or my early death - on all those who love me.

RESOLVED that I will find out for myself just how easy or how hard it is for me to quit smoking. Many people quit smoking several times, and each time they are actually practicing becoming nonsmokers. Others can quit once and make it stick. I can select bits and parts of a whole variety of techniques and

choose how to become a non smoker - in my own way.

RESOLVED that I know deep down I can change my behavior and smoking patterns - if I want to enough. I am convinced quitting smoking is one of the best things I can do for myself and those I love.

RESOLVED that I realize I can reach out for all the help and encouragement I need. I don't have to go it alone, although I can if I want. I can also join a group with others who want to stop smoking. I can ask for all the help I want - from my family, my friends, my co-workers, and from the Oregon Lung Association.

Justice Department charges SF police department

The Department of Justice filed a civil suit December 22nd, charging that the San Francisco police department discriminates against Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and women in employment opportunities.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said the suit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, California, against the city and county and ten officials, including Police Chief Charles R. Gain.

Filing of the suit automatically suspends Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds to the police department within 45 days unless the court orders LEAA to continue the financial assistance.

San Francisco receives about \$20 million a year in revenue sharing funds and another \$1 million a year in LEAA funds, part of which go to the police department, the suit noted.

The suit said the defendants pursue policies and practices that discriminate

against women and the three minority groups in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the LEAA financing act of 1968, and the revenue sharing act of 1972.

The department has 1,638 police officers, of whom 94 (5.8 percent) are Blacks, 67 (4.1 percent) are Latino, 20 (1.2 percent) are Asian, and 68 (4.3 percent) are women, the suit said.

The suit said the defendants have refused to recruit, hire, assign, and promote Blacks, Latinos, and Asians on an equal basis with whites and have refused to recruit, hire, assign, and promote women on an equal basis with men.

In addition, the suit said the defendants have used selection standards and tests in their hiring and promotion practices that have had a disproportionately adverse impact on women and the three minority groups, compared to

white males, although the standards and tests have not been shown to be needed or predictive of successful job performance.

The suit asked the court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting the defendants from continuing to engage in the alleged discriminatory employment practices.

It also asked the court to order affirmative, corrective steps, including a program to recruit women and members of the three minority groups, the adoption of hiring and promotion goals, and providing back pay to alleged victims of discrimination.

The suit further asked the court to order the repayment of revenue sharing and LEAA funds for any period in which the defendants are found to have been in violation of the anti-discrimination provisions of those laws.

State program aids crime victims

Victims of violent crime in Oregon can now receive help under a new program which became effective January 2nd.

Under the Crime Victims' Compensation Program, administered by the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF), a person can be compensated if the crime-related injury results in financial loss of more than \$250. Dependents of deceased victims are also covered by the program.

Victims must notify law enforcement officials of the crime within 72 hours after its occurrence, according to Jack Parks, program director for SAIF.

Parks said there are not income limits in determining who is eligible for compensation, but other financial resources such as insurances for medical or disability benefits will be deducted from amounts paid out of crime victims' compensation. Victims can be compensated up to \$23,000.

Parks said police officers will play a key role in relaying information about the program to victims.

"Law enforcement officials will issue wallet cards to victims which explain if they qualify and whom to contact," Parks said. District Attorneys and hospitals have also been alerted to the program.

Benefits under the Crime Victims' Compensation program include up to \$10,000 for medical expenses; wage losses up to \$200 a week with a maximum of \$10,000 and up to \$3,000 for rehabilitation.

Dependents of deceased victims are entitled to the same medical and loss of income benefits, plus \$1,000 for burial expenses.

The program does not provide compensation for "pain and suffering" or for property damage.

The 1977 Legislature authorized the Oregon program and appropriated \$600,000 for compensation payments for the biennium.

Oregon is the 23rd state to adopt a compensation program for crime victims.

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