



Behind the Walls

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

David Wright #39816
Assistant Editor

By David Crawford

When an inmate of Oregon State Penitentiary achieves "minimum custody" classification, (is judged to have paid the major portion of his bill to society), there are two places they are sent prior to release from CDRC (Corrections Division Release-Center). They may be sent to the "forest camp," which is based on the Wilson River near Tillamook, or they are assigned to the "farm annex" five miles south of the main penitentiary.

"The Annex" as it is lovingly referred to by inmates, is composed of about 2000 acres of farm and dairyland. Barns, sheds, related farm equipment, and the central housing unit complete the physical make-up of the facility. The central structure, built originally in the late nineteenth century as a home for boys, extends three stories into the air and one below ground level. Designed for the needs of fifty to sixty young people, today it provides shelter, dining need, recreation of a sort, and little else for 212 men.

When released to the Annex, a man is generally assigned to the sheet shaking crew, labor 26. This much dreaded but nearly inevitable assignment consists of shaking out loose fecal matter from soiled sheets. These sheets are then sent inside "the walls" to the laundry, and are returned to the State hospital to begin their cycle again. As one inmate commented to a distraught newcomer, "You're lucky to come through now when it's cold! You should try it on a hot summer day...whew!"

From Labor 26, assignments are made according to ability, needs, and

preference, to one of the 24 other crews (or to Annex idle, for the sick, lame, or lazy). Pay usually begins at \$1.00 per day...about 16¢ per hour. From this provender, an inmate may buy cigarettes, coffee, shampoo, envelopes (stamped), an occasional bag of potato chips or cookies, and other necessities. A good worker who is able to obtain a key position may make as much as \$3.00 per day in time.

The Annex operates a complete dairy and beef production unit. About 1450 cattle for both extractions are kept on the grounds. Cattle are cared for and maintained by inmates, milked and fed by inmates, medically cared for with inmate help from the time the calves are born until they reach their ultimate destination...an institutional freezer, or a rendering plant. Milk is extracted, pasteurized and delivered to its destination by inmates. Supervision is adequate, but minimal.

Production of milk and beef supplies state institutions as OSP, OWCC, OSCI, and OSH with at least a portion of their needs. Overages of milk are traded to a local dairy for other dairy products used by these agencies. In the long run, nearly all Salem area state custodial institutions depend on these inmate produced goods.

Beef is prepared for use at the Annex slaughter house. A vocational training butcher shop is maintained for beef preparation, giving opportunity for experience and creditable education program.

In addition, 71 inmates are bused from the Annex to satellite shops along the edge of the main peniten-

tiary. The Industries Garage employs 21 inmates and is responsible for preparation and detailing of vehicles sold at state sponsored public auctions.

Six inmates work to maintain the prison steam heating plant. A greenhouse is maintained and operated, employing six more inmates. Many other inmates work at positions in the Staff Kitchens (9), the penitentiary business office (9), and at the motor pool (5). An inmate is also placed in the Curio Shop.

Without inmate cooperation and willingness to "get their hands dirty and work," none of these operation would be possible. Without staff cooperation and participation, none of these operations would be available for inmates to invest time into constructively. That doesn't mean there aren't serious inconsistencies or that improvements could not or should not be made. Few of the 212 beds have springs that aren't broken. Five beds have no mattresses at all. Blankets are non-existent when the population nears capacity. There are no opportunities for persons developing their education to continue development while at the Annex, and sadly there are no medical services in residence and no regular available psychological services available, as they are at the main penitentiary.

From the Annex, an inmate is generally sent to CDRC or to work release prior to parole or discharge. Contrary to what many would like to have the world believe...most men released on parole make good their goal... "I don't ever want to see this place again." Think about that...

other legal document (driver's licenses and permits are not acceptable) and a parent's signature for acceptance of the application.

-- There are certain occupations that are prohibited to youths 14-15. They include those that involve (but are not limited to) use or operation of most power-driven machinery. Tiffany says occupations like car-washing, cashiering and selling, office work, pet care, outdoor maintenance work of most kinds, child care and food service jobs are good choices for minors 14 and 15.

-- There are also occupations prohibited, for safety reasons, to all minors under 18. Examples are logging, mining, work involving

power-driven saws, paper-product machinery, meat slicers and others. Tiffany urges parents with questions about any minor job's safety to call the Wage and Hour Division.

-- The Wage and Hour Division publishes a bulletin called "Employment of Minors" that lists most state requirements for working youth, including permissible working hours, required wages, a listing of hazardous occupations and rest and meal period requirements.

Any minor or parent with questions about minor employment in Oregon may call the Wage and Hour Division for further information at 229-5750 or from cities outside Portland, toll free 1-800-452-3503.

Minors need work permits

It's not too soon to begin investigating some summer jobs possibilities for your working age children, says Paul Tiffany, Administrator of the Bureau of Labor and Industries' Wage and Hour Division.

But before you do, here are a few things to keep in mind.

-- All working minors, ages 14-17 must have a valid Oregon work permit. Applications for the permit may be obtained at the Wage and Hour Division, (1400 S.W. Fifth Street, Portland) or at most high school campuses or employment offices. Youth must have proof of age like a birth certificate, adoption paper, or

Cell Talk

Asmar Abdul Seifulla, Editor
aka Joe West 40404

Prison is filled with taboos, the men and women who live in prison are forced to except these taboos as if they were as common placed as going to the store or driving a car. What I mean to say is that the taboos that exist in society as a whole are excepted as common practices in prison. The only virtue that means anything in prison is one's ability to survive and grow strong in an atmosphere that inherently weakens normal men and women. Prisoners learn that it's far more profitable to practice the virtues that brought them to prison than it is to learn the virtues that will keep them out of prison.

In essence, prison reinforces the negative as opposed to reinforcing the positive attributes that men and women should take on while serving prison sentences. If a man (or woman) lives in a society that progressively leads toward the lower human desires -- delect -- greed -- perversion -- homosexuality -- dishonesty as opposed to honesty, then it's virtually impossible for him to come out into free society and conduct himself in a manner that's normal. "The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops -- no, but the kind of man the country turns out." (Ralph Waldo Emerson) If there is any validity to this well known statement then the country as a whole must begin to take a look at the kind of men that are being turned out not only in free society but also in prisons and ghettos and barrios all across the country. It's not realistic for the people of this country to view prisoners or poor people as problems that don't effect the whole society. There is just no-way to blot out the countless numbers of people that have been victimized by the silence of the silent majority.

Public opinion has it that all the people that are incarcerated in prison are write-offs or people that deserve to be in prison because of the crimes they've committed while being free.

"True, there are people in prison that deserve to be in prison and by all logical reasoning shouldn't ever be let out of prison." But why must society persecute countless numbers of men and women who actually can be helped by alternatives to prison or prison programs that are designed to meet and solve their problems. Because of the way that our penal system is designed the good is thrown in with the bad -- the brew is then stirred and brought to a boil. All of the good qualities of saveable men are lost in a rush of vapor and steam which leaves them naked, defenseless and ill equipped to deal with the world they must eventually return to.

The Penal System that exist in this country is beyond a doubt failing. I believe that it's failing because we've taken ourselves out of it. We've designed a system that is very good at the numbers game and balancing the books. We've in turn created a Frankenstein monster that isn't able to distinguish fire from water and consequently it either drowns or burns up everything that comes into contact with it. Outside of counting days on a calendar there is no way to judge when a man (or woman) is or isn't ready for release. The public is screaming for stiffer laws and longer prison sentences because it doesn't want to deal with the real implications of crime in America. This in turn creates a situation whereby men and women are raped by a penal system that's supposedly designed to prevent rape. No one wants to be accountable for the conditions that create crime or criminals, no one wants to get their hands dirty, everyone expects crime to be solved by locking away the reaction to a criminal environment. In actuality, fuel is added to the fire by allowing a penal system that destroys men and women rather than repair them.

Don't be misled by stories or storytellers that say that there is anything good happening in prison.

Prison isn't a place of goodness nor is it a place where men and women will learn how to be better people. All the odds are against a man (or woman) once they've gone through the hell of incarceration. The odds will continue to build up against the prisoner until you (the public) get involved in the processes that determine whether or not the man and women now confined in institutions will become productive or non-productive citizens in the future. If you don't care enough to get involved, please don't be upset if prison keeps turning out prisoners instead of free men and women who are able to cope and deal with the outside world.

A PERSONAL MOMENT FOR THOSE WHO CARE

The wind blows on the mountain and the snow is forced into drifts. Each drift protects that which is behind it. The mountain causes the wind to rise and wild animals beyond the mountain are sheltered. Many forced changes are acts of love. Love does not remain constant, each of you will force change and the change may benefit more than just two.

© 1979 Wm A. Kummer

PRESENTED BY

**AMERICAN
STATE
BANK**

2737 NE Union
282-2216

*We are a family in District 14
Let's join together and vote for*



Harold Williams
For
State Representative

Committee to elect Harold Williams
Marva Graham, Treas; 6124 NE 11th Ave., Portland 97211

The House Of
EXODUS
Alcoholism Educational and Treatment Center

1518 NE KILLINGSWORTH
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211
284-7997

EXODUS

Resolves the Mystery and Secrets of alcoholism and drug abuse! A one hour presentation called the "GREAT DIALOG" reveals the truth about addiction.

This presentation is suitable for school classrooms, Assemblies, P.T.A. meetings, Church Social groups, Counselors or any group desiring to know how alcohol and drug addiction really works.

Call 248-7997 8am to 4:30pm Monday thru Friday.