

Behind the Walls

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

David Wright #39816
Assistant Editor

Elizabeth W. Browne, chairperson of the five member Oregon State Board of Parole, recently spent an evening with 17 prisoners in the Education Department of the Oregon State Penitentiary.

The purpose of the meeting was to investigate different avenues in which to filter information and decision-making policies made by the parole board more available to the prison population.

Over the past eight months, the inmates have formed a special fact-finding group under the guidance of the Class of Legal Processes and the Oregon State Penitentiary Department of Education to do a study and present that study to the parole board on the most productive methods for channeling information between the board and the prison population... This proposal was first presented to the Class of Legal Processes by Ira Blalock, prior board chairperson on his first visit to the class. The 30 inmates meet every Wednesday evening and invite outside citizens who are skilled in the legal professions (i.e. judges, law professors, attorneys, etc) to lecture on federal, state, civil and criminal statutes.

It has always been a problem at this prison just as it has in other prisons, to filter down the correct information on many of the direct rules and regulation changes to every inmate. The normal procedure is placing the board's decision on the bulletin board in the library for those to read. But usually it gets torn down or there are those who do not use the library, or those who do not read or comprehend as well as others. Many times the same problems occur if such information

is printed in the prison's weekly bulletin and passed out among the inmates. It has been a general consensus that, if important information given to a prison population has been mis-construed, it can create an unhealthy atmosphere among 1500 prisoners in a state or federal institution.

It is very unusual to witness a group of prisoners and a parole board working together on any project. In fact, it is almost unheard of. But over the past eight months, Ira Blalock has directed the board's previous executive administration director, Nancy Farra, to meet every Sunday morning with the Class of Legal Processes fact finding group and search for additional channels.

At Ms. Browne's recent appearance, she introduced the group to Ms. Anna Helm, the board's new Assistant to the director, who pledged to continue working with the inmates along with the chairperson for a solution to channeling information.

The pilot project's purpose was for the Class of Legal Processes fact finding group to make a request to the Oregon State Penitentiary administration for office space and equipment which would be accessible to the inmate population. The office would be staffed with from three to five inmates with rotating duties. Every Friday morning, Ms. Browne and Ms. Helm would meet with this group and indoctrinate them with any of the board changes made in the matrix system or proposed changes, and receive any feedback from the population. Plus it would be this group of inmate's responsibility to have sessions with the new inmates

going through "admissions and orientation" program, which all prisoners must do during their first two weeks at OSP. The fact finding group could assist inmates on OSP rules and procedures. This information would be offered to them by the prison later. The group could create tapes that could be translated not only into Spanish, but into plain and simple English terms that most prisoners could understand. The tapes could be put on our radio system and broadcast a certain number of hours per week. The group could have a newsletter direct from the parole board, which would be circulated to every inmate's cell.

Before going to the board, he could be assisted by the group in preparing himself with documents, letters and information that could assist the board in reaching its decisions. The group could attend different prison club meetings and discuss different aspects of a rule or procedure that may draw the club's interest.

The main purpose of the group would not be to criticize, condemn or condone the board's decisions or the matrix system, but to become so well versed in its procedures that all questions can be answered.

So that this article does not get knocked out of perspective, this matrix fact finding group is still in the proposal stages and has not been endorsed or accepted by the Department of Corrections, Oregon State Penitentiary, or the Board as of this writing. But the Class of Legal Process has completed an eight month study and has an analysis report.

"Behind the Walls" applauds those inmates who spent hours

volunteering their time putting such a report together. "Behind the Walls" also tip its hat to those members of the Oregon State Board of Parole and Administration who volunteered their time and services working with the inmates on a worth while project.

Who knows, it may set a precedent for other state prisons to follow, if successful. Communications is a valuable tool in any system in this day and time. Regardless if that communication is from one agency to another, or from an administrator to a recipient.

Lindberg seeks input

Mike Lindberg, Commissioner of Public Works, announced that his office is mailing questionnaires on the proposed street name changes to property owners and tenants on Vancouver and Williams Avenue.

The Black United Front has requested that Vancouver Avenue be changed to Rosa Parks Avenue and that Williams Avenue be named Malcolm X Avenue.

Persons with businesses and residents will have an opportunity to give their opinion on the changes by returning an enclosed postcard or can call Dick Johnson of Streets and Structures at 248-4415.

Commissioner Lindberg said he believes it is important that Black historical figures be recognized, but that through public input and cost data must be obtained before the City Council can consider the changes.

File for property tax refund

The Oregon Department of Revenue, has authorized Counties to accept late applications for property tax relief until September 2, 1980.

Applications for 1980-81 tax relief on owner-occupied (as of June 30, 1980) homes can be applied for until that date. The previous deadline for filing was April 1.

Accessors will be accepting late applications this year only because of confusion among taxpayers over the filing deadline for Oregon's new Property Tax Relief Plan.

"A number of property owners have confused the filing deadline of the new program with the deadlines for other programs," said Don Clark, Multnomah County Executive.

Clark noted that the Multnomah County Division of Assessment and Taxation had requested that the late applications be allowed.

Under Oregon's 1979 Property Tax Relief Plan, the State pays part of the property taxes on owner-occupied homes. The state pays a percentage of the taxes levied by the local districts, up to a maximum of \$800 per home. This payment is made directly to the County in the fall on behalf of the taxpayer, the homeowner then receives a property tax statement showing the State payment as a credit and, thus, with a lower tax bill to pay.

Many homeowners who have not filed must submit applications to the Division of Assessment and Taxation, Multnomah County Courthouse, Portland, 97204, by September 2, 1980.

Many homeowners filed in 1979. Those who have already filed and have not moved or changed the use of their property should not file again. Their tax relief will be continued automatically.

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Crime Prevention unit provides services

The Portland Police Bureau's Crime Prevention Division has been in existence since 1977. The original purpose of the division was to create programs where citizens and police could work together to eliminate crime.

Today the division has seven program areas to serve the community. The principle goals are to increase awareness of crime prevention techniques, encourage the use of those techniques, to safeguard life and property, and reduce the fear of crime. To accomplish those goals crime prevention staff and volunteers are trained to carry out specific duties.

The Residential Crime Prevention program provides information to homeowners and renters about ways to reduce their fear of vulnerability to crime. Information is presented through the Property ID Program, Neighborhood Watch, Security Surveys, and Block Meetings. All these things are provided free of charge.

The Locks Projects employs a crew of six CETA workers (five utility workers and one lead carpenter) who install locks and other security hardware on the homes of qualified residents, based on recommendations of security surveys performed by Crime Prevention staff or volunteers. To be eligible to have locks installed, a resident must own or be buying the home, live in an HCD (Housing and

Community Development) area, and have an annual income of less than 11,500. (Money for the purchase of locks is provided through Portland Development Commission.)

The Senior Citizens Program has several basic services. Information sharing covers street safety, home security, "neighborhood problems," and coping with fear. It also acts as a resource to other government agencies. Another service, the **Telephone Reassurance Service** is a new program where volunteers are paired with isolated elderly or handicapped through a brief daily telephone call. The purpose of the call is to reassure the person of their worth and to pass along crime prevention information. In situations where the subscriber does not answer, direct contact is made to determine the cause. Engraving on property, security surveys, etc., are also encouraged.

Juvenile Crime Prevention addresses juveniles as possible victims, possible offenders, and as "junior crime fighters." Services include volunteer training schools, professional training for police, nurses and teachers; block homes, and special programs as requested by neighborhoods and schools.

The Rape Prevention Program program provides information to homeowners and renters about ways to reduce their fear of vulnerability to crime. Information is presented through the Property ID Program,

offers direct services on two subjects: Community Education on Sexual Assault and Self-Defense for Women. Both areas utilize and rely on a large corp of volunteer speakers and instructors. The Community Education segment offers public presentations on an on-going basis with speakers available anytime of the day, weekends and weekdays. The six-hour, self-defense workshop is offered on a regular basis. The instruction methods and content are very similar to that taught to female cadets at West Point.

The crime prevention programs for Commercial Businesses include burglary and robbery, shoplift, and building security. This program area is also prepared to respond to service requests on any topic of crime prevention and the commercial business. This area could include procedural controls, executive protection, internal or employee theft, and other specialized areas of concern.

The Media Program is designed to utilize any and all segments of the media to educate the public about crime prevention.

Using crime prevention techniques is one way neighbors living in high crime areas can learn to protect themselves. Crime Prevention is a self-education project that has proven to be effective and produce long term results. Neighborhood Watch, Security Surveys, and Block Meetings. All these things are provided free of

charge.

Neighbors can instruct neighbors on how to beat the bad guys and save themselves from emotional trauma and higher insurance costs.

For more information about how to secure your home, contact the Crime Prevention Division at 248-4126.

Architects honor Unthank

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building, completed in 1977; the Lane County Courthouse with courtroom remodeling and addition; the University of Oregon Law Center; at least five bank buildings for the U.S. Bank in Eugene and Madras; the Benton County Corrections unit at Corvallis; Electronic Facilities for Pacific Northwest Bell System at Sutherlin and Beneta, and the Lane Community College Performing Arts and Humanities Facilities in Eugene.

The S.W. Oregon A.I.A. conferred honors and awards upon Unthank with frequency during the 60's and 70's for his work projects in building commercial facilities, school buildings and important residences.

The King Neighborhood Facility,

Portland, was designed by Unthank who spent his early childhood in this city.

The prominent architect, the son of the late Dr. De Norval Unthank and his wife, the late Thelma Shipman Unthank, attended Hosford grade school and Franklin high school during his growing-up years.

The architect keeps his membership at Portland's Church of St. Phillip the Deacon. He was a faithful acolyte there through his boyhood. At the start of his budding career in architecture young Unthank was commissioned to design the pews for the newly built church. Also, in Portland, he designed and built the modern residence for the late Rev. Lee Owen Stone, then vicar at St. Phillip.

With architects, apparently the "future is now" and Unthank's

firm at this point, is in the planning and designing stage for the Veterans Administration Medical Center Hospital at Roseburg. "Other works in progress he said, include two condominium developments under construction now in Eugene; the planning and design for a downtown office/complex in Eugene, and a variety of commercial and residential projects.

"Currently," Unthank added, "We are working on the design for State Department housing at the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka, Japan. "One of the satisfactions," Unthank said in summing his feeling about his career, "That I derive from architectural practices, is the experience of working with people, to help them find solutions to their environmental and spatial problems."

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FROM THE FRONT DOOR

BY TOM BOOTHE
VII

From the front door, I was asked by several readers, "how do I go about finding or establishing a specific purpose"? The essence of my conversation with these persons was as follows:

Number one, you must be totally committed to **SUCCESSING** in something as an objective or goal -- you must determine what your present **POSITION** and resources are -- you must learn to control your **TEMPERAMENT**, attitude, reaction and attention span -- you must learn to honestly evaluate your **PERFORMANCE** ability under various situations and circumstances.

After you have learned to act and think in this context, and this knowledge is crystal clear in your mind, and this thought process has become a habit, and you are no longer guessing and lying to yourself regarding your true position in reality; you must then adopt as your basic **PURPOSE** for the rest of your life the following subjective attitudes:

1. the will to **SUCCEED** at good and positive things.
2. to project a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** in all that you do.
3. to be conscientious of your **HEALTH** in all three dimensions; the **SPIRITUAL** dimension, the **MENTAL** dimension, the **PHYSICAL** dimension.
4. to be conscientious of **WEALTH** from a productive and constructive point of view.
5. To be **RESPECTFUL** of yourself, equal to others at all times.

Remember the law of life's motion says that **PURPOSE** is only one fourth of the success process; you must still **PREPARE** (practice), set specific **DIRECTION** (sub-goals and objectives) and be **CONSISTENT**. If you fail to follow through you will fall victim to someone else's purpose.

Since I am only interested in good and positive purposes, my answer is, if you structure your thinking and actions accordingly your basic foundation of purpose will have been achieved and from this foundation you can build a successful, purposeful life. Building a solid foundation is most important.

If you are not structural and purposeful thinker, a copy of my "Final Wisdom" publication will help you, you may get one from the,

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Final Wisdom, statement number 15. "First comprehend and remember that the most any person can be responsible for giving their **Best Effort**, if it is truly their best effort.

Final Wisdom statement number 21. "First comprehend and remember that each of us has a purpose and a small part of that purpose is to know what that purpose is," the rest is performance.