

Meet Your State Institutions

Prison Annex Used as Stepping Stone In Rehabilitating Convicts to Society

(Editor's Note: This is another in the series of articles designed to give readers of The Statesman an accurate picture of activities at the state institution in the Salem area.)

By NORMAN R. ANDERSON
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Not all prison life is spent behind bars and walls. About 150 Oregon State Penitentiary inmates spend nearly all of every day out in the open, far from bars and walls and guards, at the Penitentiary's 1,100-acre farm annex five miles east of Salem.

Soon this former quarters of the State Training School for Boys will take on increased importance within the scope of prison organization.

Warden Virgil O'Malley announced recently that he plans to send at least 50 additional and possibly more inmates to the prison farm, rather than request the 1953 legislature for more buildings—other than those already on the drawing boards.

Next Best to Parole

Life and work—at the prison farm is still the next best thing to parole as far as the present inmates are concerned. The food is excellent and plentiful; quarters are airy and comfortable.

But most important of all, there is little guarding. The men are at liberty to roam over the farm's acreage in pursuit of their jobs. Only at night, when the main doors of the dormitory and the quarter floors are locked, is there evidence that the farm annex is still part of the prison and the men can go no place but to bed.

There is nothing particularly new in a prison farm such as this. Only the lack of actual supervision is new. For years, prisons have run farms—outside prison walls, but with "gun gangs" where inmates work under supervision of guards carrying guns.

It is not lack of personnel which prevents close security measures. The prison farm is for "minimum security" prisoners. These are the ones most likely to be returned to the outside world as respected citizens. What guarding there is at the farm tends mostly to forestall temptation to walk away.

Staff of Guards

Head of this adjunct of the prison—under Superintendent George Alexander and Warden Virgil O'Malley—is a tall, hefty young former guard at the prison, Ray Francis. He has held the post as superintendent since 1950, coming to the farm after 10 years as a guard "inside" the walls. His immediate staff is three security officers, whose job it is to roam about the farm keeping a check on the whereabouts of the inmates.

The headquarters of the farm is the administration building, a cream-colored, three-story structure sitting on a hill just off the Turner highway. On the first floor are the dining room, the administrative offices, a recreation room for the inmates, barber shop, lavatories, and first aid room.

The second and third floors are sleeping quarters. Beds are scattered along the windows with the men's possessions in foot lockers at the end, and in make-shift shelves and closets between.

Downstairs, in the basement are some temporary sleeping quarters, for those inmates who must be awake for farm work in the early morning hours. Here also are the electric shop, storerooms, butcher shop and so on.

In Use Since 1941
This administration building has only been in use since 1941. Before that the men were quartered in the bleak, foreboding old building of the state training school, which is now used as a blacksmith shop and for other similar purposes. Other evidences of the former occupancy are the guard towers on the corners of the hill, both now neatly landscaped by shrubs and flowers and sitting at the edge of green, freshly-clipped lawns.

All of this is manned by the inmates. Some of them have been at their jobs for a long time. The inmate who is in charge of the chicken farm is an expert at the job, having done it off and on for the 23 years he's been in prison.

(He has been humorously cautioned against repeating the mistake of one predecessor who sold eggs on the side.)

Vast Sea of Mud
No one particularly likes "hog dirt," where 1,200 to 1,500 pigs are raised for pork for the institutions. The buildings are old and dilapidated. During the winter the ground is a vast, flowing sea of mud. The hog farm sits on its own hill in a grove of trees, high enough for the smells always to be carried over the rest of the farm.

Back in the hills, a little farther east of the hog farm is the turkey farm. During the winter months, there was little activity here, as most of the crop went into Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's dinners at state institutions.

But probably the most efficient and important part of the farm annex is the dairy farm. The herds of holsteins and jerseys are the very best, and are inspected three and four times a week by a state veterinarian. Two cow barns are now in use. A third one is being rebuilt for a cow infirmary. The creamery, modern and efficient, still cannot supply the butter and other dairy products needed by the many institutions.

Quick Re-Capture

Although now and then inmates decide to walk away from the farm—and it is not too difficult to do—considering the number who pass through each month, the farm still has an excellent mark. The average of actual escapes is less than two a month. And re-capture is quick in most cases.

Logically enough, the inmate



Spacious, cool, comfortable and a good place to lay around is the dormitory sleeping quarters of the Oregon State Prison farm annex, one of which is shown here. The other is on the third floor of the administration building.



Guards are still in evidence at the Prison Farm. Here Charles Ward, correctional officer signs two inmates in who've returned for more chow from assigned work.



In a setting not too unlike an Army barracks, a half dozen inmates of the Oregon State Prison farm annex lounge before the entrance of the administration building. In use since 1941, the three-story cream-colored structure houses 151 inmates, has a dining room and recreation facilities and is the center of the 1,100-acre farm.

who decides he doesn't like the annex and tries to walk away, is moved from there. When he's caught he's returned to the main institution for more confined quarters in the prison's isolation cells, a long way from green fields and open skies.

Hawaii Vacation Winners 'Having Wonderful Time'

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Drees, Salem Route 8, are finding Hawaii great fun, they have reported by letter to John Adlon, president of the Downtown Salem Merchants Association which is sponsoring their trip.

The couple was given an expense-paid air trip to the islands at the climax of prize drawings during the merchants' recent Spring Festival.

Mr. and Mrs. Drees were "having a wonderful time" after enjoying their flight over the Pacific, the letter said. Among their sight-seeing had been visits to sugar plantations and factories and bus and plane trips to various parts of Hawaii.

SKIRT EMPHASIS

NEW YORK, (INS)—The white ball dresses worn by debutantes at the start of the social season usually set the style for what teenagers will be wearing to parties. At the Debutante Cotillions in New York and Chicago, almost all the girls displayed a strapless bodice, a tiny waist, and an enormous full skirt.

Maj. Trick at Phoenix Base

Maj. Carl O. Trick, son of Mrs. Elsie M. Trick, 1277 S. Commercial St., is reported assigned by the Air Force to Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Ariz.

He is to be attached to the 127th Pilot Training Wing of the Crew Training Air Force.

Trick graduated from Salem High School in 1927 and was for 15 years in the construction department of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Immigrant to U. S. Brings Own House

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. (AP)—When Mr. and Mrs. H. Reitman and their five youngsters, immigrants from Holland, arrived in Canada the first thing they did was unpack their house.

Before leaving Holland, Reitman heard of Canada's housing shortage. He also knew it would be impossible to take over enough money to buy a house because of his country's foreign exchange controls. So he sold his house and bought a prefabricated house. It was shipped here via the Panama Canal.

Reitman figures he brought his family here, along with their furniture and their new house, for less than \$3,000.

SP to Appeal \$41,500 Ruling In Damage Suit

PORTLAND (AP)—Southern Pacific attorneys said Saturday they would ask a new trial in a federal court case here in which a jury awarded a former Springfield woman \$41,500 damages.

The award was won by Mrs. Alma Raish, 56, who was injured in the collision of a freight truck and an automobile. Her husband, Ivan Raish, 63, and a nephew, Jimmy Callahan, 4, were killed in the crash.

She said in her suit that a Los Angeles-Seattle Motor Express Company truck hit a railroad over-pass abutment and crashed out of control into the car in which she was riding.

She collected \$27,000 earlier from the express company, and the railroad was given permission to deduct that amount from the jury's award. Mrs. Raish now lives in Akron, O.

Entrants Are Registering for 'Bug' Derby

Entrants definitely in sight for the Salem Soap Box Derby approximated 100 Saturday, information from derby headquarters indicated.

The derby, for boys 11 to 13 who must build their own "bug" will have its Salem finals Sunday, July 13, on a run-way contemplated for Bush Pasture just west of the grandstand. Winner will go to Akron, O., in August to compete in the All-American derby for a \$5,000 college scholarship.

Sponsors of the derby in Salem are the Capital Journal and the McKay Chevrolet Company, assisted by VFW Post 661, the Optimist Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Boys register at McKay Chevrolet and must be accompanied by at least one parent. Each boy also must have a sponsor. Entrants must do the manual work on their

"bug" themselves and expenses are limited to \$10, plus \$12.24 and freight for official wheels.

Derby Director is Ron Gemmell; assistant director is William Byers. The area eligible for the Salem event extends west to Grand Ronde, north to Aurora, east to Idanha and south to Lebanon and Albany.

Full details are available at the McKay Chevrolet Company.

Gen. McCarty Given Command

TOKYO (AP)—Brig. Gen. Chester E. McCarty, Portland, Ore., will take over the command of the 315th Air Division, Combat Cargo, The Far East Air Force announced the assignment Saturday for the former commander of the 403rd Air Wing, which was based at Portland until last week. He is a former Oregon state senator and a former assistant Oregon Attorney General.

H. E. Dokken, Family, Visit

Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate H. E. Dokken is visiting in Salem following two years duty on the Island of Guam in the Pacific. His wife and young son, who spent the last year in Guam with

him, also are here visiting at the home of the caller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Dokken, 2135 Hazel Ave.

Chief Dokken and his family intend to leave Monday for Norfolk, Va., where he will be stationed.

Lichens is found all over the world, with only a few species thriving in polar regions. But the same species are found in both Arctic and Antarctic regions.

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