

# Alexander Chides Pen 'Do-Gooders', Applauds Gladden

By WINSTON H. TAYLOR  
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"It was sort of rough; O'Malley turned it practically upside down," but Gladden can do a good job as warden at the Oregon Penitentiary, former warden George Alexander told Salem Exchange Club Wednesday.

Alexander, in his first talk since getting out from "behind bars" after the Legislature abolished his job as prison superintendent, told of his 15 years at the institution.

He decried the efforts in recent years of "do-gooders" to make prison a "featherbed" and blamed changes by recently-ousted Warden Virgil O'Malley for much of the pen's trouble in the past two years.

But the new warden, Clarence Gladden, has had 23 years in the "fine federal system" and "I don't see any reason why he can't do a good job," Alexander asserted.

### Too Many Unemployed

"Too many unemployed prisoners" is one of the biggest problems at the institution, in the opinion of Alexander, who said the men are "happier when they work hard and sleep well." Although there is a flax mill, shoe and machine shops and the farm, there are not enough industries at the pen, he added. He expressed hope that state auto license tags could be made there, although the recent Legislature rejected the plan.

There is a new shop building within the walls, and, "I believe the warden will find more industry."

### Points to Smuggling

O'Malley wanted to change the program when he came, said Alexander, and moved old-time guards to less desirable jobs and put in inexperienced men. Then "it got away from him" and the convicts were telling the guards what to do, resulting in the smuggling in of "dynamite, guns and drugs to prisoners."

He added that O'Malley had let the prison property run down and prisoners had been allowed to roam freely between the cell blocks and outside. Gladden has been cleaning up, he noted.

As to the prison's work program, recently charged with having benefited private parties, Alexander said he tried to find work for the men, including wood-cutting and harvesting food crops. "If we could get these things by not paying for them, it saved the state money," he opined.

In 1939, the prison annex needed 1,500 cords of wood but could get only 200 cut, so the warden began buying stumps and cutting it with convict crews. Some was sold also to other state institutions until many switched to other fuels. At least one crew has been occupied in the woods each year.

Then in the Jefferson area, Ralph Nelson was the first to offer Alexander wood for the cutting. Convicts cleared off some 700 cords and another 1,000 cords on neighbors' property, all for free. Alexander also said crews have picked much fruit and nuts, sometimes purchased and sometimes harvested on shares.

The ex-warden told how he was "drafted" from his job as deputy state police superintendent. He took over the prison

## Murders Keep Job Of DA Interesting

BUTLER, Pa. (AP)—Anyone who thinks a district attorney's job is a snap should confer with Clark H. Painter, district attorney for Butler County's 100,000 residents. Since Painter took over his job 14 months ago he's handled more murder cases (four) in his tenure than any other district attorney in the Western Pennsylvania county's 103-year history. Tossed in, for good measure, was a \$115,000 home safe robbery.

## 161-Mile Dike Keeps China Free of Floods

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The flood menace of China's biggest lake has been checked by the work of 250,000 peasants who in 70 days built a dike system more than 161 miles long, the Peiping Red radio says. The broadcast, monitored here by the Associated Press, said the work was completed in time to save the rice fields of northern Hunan province from spring flooding by Lake Tunting.

from James Lewis, "one of the best of wardens." He also expressed high praise for Eugene Halley, recently retired as deputy warden.

His chief purpose was to rebuild the prison plant, including new buildings and more area within the wall, said Alexander. Only one cell block had been built in 80 years until the past decade.

The pen population reached a peak of 1,584 in July, 1951, and is now some 1,540. There hasn't been room to care properly for this many, he said, but more building and establishment of an intermediate institution will help.

As to why the country has had so many prison riots recently, Alexander said one group of on-edge prisoners is encouraged by news of other troubles. Since many prisoners like publicity, he recommended giving them none.

Out of his experience, Alexander said "it would be a fine thing for many discharged prisoners to get out of the state." He noted that only about 300 are Oregon natives or long-time residents.

## Rain Clouds Worry WU Fete Planners



It looks like rain, and these five Willamette students in charge of this week's May Week end festivities aren't very happy about the prospects. They dropped in on the weatherman yesterday for a word of encouragement, but all he would say was, "More of the same over the weekend." Shown left to right at the airport weather bureau are George Buland, Ruben Menashe, Donna Cheney, Weatherman M. S. Main, Jim Bergmann, May Week end manager, and Chuck Seagraves. (Statesman photo.)

## May Festival Starts Saturday At Willamette, Rain or Shine

Officials for Willamette University's 47th annual May Week end celebration on campus were watching the sky Wednesday, wondering if the events this weekend will have to be carried out under roofs.

Most concerned are the persons in charge of coronation ceremonies which are scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. In the event of inclement weather plans have been made to hold the ceremony in the gymnasium.

Coronation ceremonies will crown Queen Dona Mears, Roseburg, and her princesses, Marie Corner, Bothell, Wash., and Jane Fooshee, San Leandro, Calif.

Events for May Week end will begin tonight with the first night production of the musical comedy "Good News," beginning at

8:15 o'clock in the Parrish Junior High School auditorium. The show stars Lollie Coffey and Malcolm Campbell, both of Portland, with 19 principals, vocal and dancing choruses and an orchestra.

Friday a parade through the downtown business district will begin at 1:30 p. m. Later that afternoon, Sweetland Field, on campus, will be the scene for the

freshman-sophomore greaspole climb at 2:30; tug o'war at 3 p. m. and an all-school barbecue at 4:30. The second showing of "Good News" will be held starting at 8:30 o'clock that evening.

The annual all-university song contest will begin at 10 o'clock Saturday morning in the gymnasium and will include competition between all men's and women's living organizations on campus. After the coronation ceremonies there will be a Willamette-Lewis and Clark northwest conference baseball game at McCulloch Field starting at 2:30 p. m. The coronation ball in the gymnasium to be held from 9 to 12 Saturday night will end Saturday's events and Sunday morning the Queen's breakfast will be held in Lausanne Hall from 8:30 until 10:30 o'clock, concluding May Weekend.

## 'A Steak on Every Platter,' Says Politico

FLORENCE (AP)—Spaghetti-eating Italians are going to have a chance in the forthcoming general elections to vote for a college professor who promises a daily steak on every platter. Corrado Tedeschi, a professor of Economics and publisher of a crossword puzzle magazine, was dining with friends one night. One diner suggested that everyone should be privileged to eat as well. Tedeschi agreed, telephoned his magazine and had a notice included to that effect.

"All Italians have a right to eat at least one, big, first-rate tender steak a day," read the notice.

Tedeschi began getting hundreds of letters enthusiastically supporting his ideas. Overnight the circulation of his little magazine doubled. Tedeschi found himself the leader of a new political movement, promptly adopted the name "Italian Steak Party" and announced his candidacy for Parliament.

Tedeschi hasn't yet frightened leaders of the country's 20-odd other parties, but many serious politicians concede he may wind up in Parliament after the elections early this summer. Others have won, on equally wild platforms.

## Rio to Recruit Female Policemen

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Some of the policemen in Rio de Janeiro soon may be women. The city police commission is studying a plan to create a corps of women police officers. The policewomen would be given a special course in police school.

The duties of the women officers would include working with juvenile delinquents and women prisoners.

But, the newspaper O Globo says, "beautiful detectives" also could be used to trap "crooks,

## Testifies



WASHINGTON—Col. Charles T. Tensch (above) testifies before a Senate subcommittee in Washington probing waterfront racketeering. Tensch said he recommended against steps that would have led to the firing of criminals employed at a vital New Jersey waterfront terminal supplying overseas airbase with construction materials. In the Army Engineering Corps, Tensch at the time was responsible for operating the terminal. (AP Wirephoto.)

spies, thieves and delinquents in general."

SALEM MAN TO WED SEATTLE (AP)—An application for a marriage license was filed Wednesday by Robert W. Beem, 46, of Salem, Ore., and Ruth E. Engman, 37, Portland.

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