

PENITENTIARY SURVEY

All Prisoners Either Working Or Attend Education Class

(Editor Note — The following is the third and last of a series of stories on the operation of the Oregon penitentiary under Warden Clarence T. Gladden.)

By JAMES D. OLSON
Capital Journal Writer

Virtually every one of the 1584 prisoners in the Oregon penitentiary, except those confined to the hospital with injuries or illness, are either working or attending educational classes, under a system inaugurated by Warden Clarence T. Gladden.

Just a few years ago the prison flax plant and a cannery were the only industries at the prison and more than half of the prison population were idle most of the time. Now, however, there still is the flax plant and much more modernized cannery, and in addition there is a woodworking plant, a shoe repair shop, a machine shop, a tailor shop and plumbing and electrical shops in operation throughout the work week.

Prisoners Seem Interested
Prisoners assigned to these industrial jobs appear to be interested in them and the various products turned out, such as chairs, tables, cabinets and mattresses cannot be distinguished from similar articles sold on the open market.

The furniture produced at this prison shop are sold to other state agencies and to other state institutions. The workshop operates on an assembly-line system with the rough lumber coming into the shop on rollers, first cut up to pattern, then on to specialty men, who sand the lumber and then begin making up the furniture.

In the mattress section of the shop, cotton, both old cotton taken from old mattresses and new cotton undergates washing and then is run through a machine and comes out in long pads that are used in making up the new mattresses.

Furniture for homes occupied by officials of the various institutions are manufactured in this shop, and some chairs are reupholstered and refinished to look like new.

Uniforms Manufactured
In the tailor shop, uniforms for the inmates are manufactured. Just now they are completing about 1200 well tailored blue denim coats for winter use. Sport-style shorts are also being turned out at this time.

Men assigned to the tailor shop are first trained to put out quality products and then, are trained to speed up production.

On the walls of the machine shop, as well as in the plumbing and electrical shops, signs on proper use of tools as well as safety slogans appear prominently. A visible tool rack, behind a screen holds all the tools needed in the shops and every day at the end of the work, every tool must be accounted for.

This machine shop, formerly a dark, dismal building, has been lighted up through installation of skylights, which Warden Gladden

said he copied from a picture in a magazine. The light, together with the cleanliness makes this shop a much more pleasant place to work in.

Island Out of Bounds

The old island where prisoners were formerly allowed to roam almost at will has been declared out of bounds to the inmates and a portion of it converted into a prison garden. Lettuce is now growing in this area, sufficient not only for the prison use, but enough to furnish other institutions as well. Last year tomatoes were grown in this area, and the production was far greater than could be used in the prison.

Bleachers and a building in which the inmates may store balls, bats, and other sports equipment have been built in the recreation area, where organized, sporting events are scheduled from time to time.

A new power house is under construction just outside the prison walls under private contract. At the same time inmates are building a tunnel through which the steam will be carried from the powerhouse to the prison.

Warden Gladden expressed appreciation for the co-operation given him by members of the state board of control, Governor Elmo Smith, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry and State Treasurer Sig Unander.

"I was always amazed at how rapidly the late Governor Paul Patterson could grasp my problems at the institution," Warden

Gladden said. "And I have found that Governor Smith has this same ability and understands readily what I am trying to do. The other members of the board have been most cooperative in our efforts to improve the conduct of the prison."

As one who has been in the prison many times during the past ten years, this reporter can testify that from the standpoint of organization, control, cleanliness, the Oregon penitentiary has never been operated better in that period of time. Even the atmosphere in the prison has changed for the better, the prisoners themselves appear to be normal working men, and not sneering, vicious, trouble-seeking convicts.

And during the present calendar year the escape column records but one man who walked off the prison farm grounds and when apprehended shortly thereafter said:

"I only wanted to go to town and get me a can of pure olive oil and then I was coming back."

That's a far cry from the 50 to 60 escapes recorded annually back just a few years and only a few less in the first couple years of Gladden's administration, before he had reorganized the prison and installed the present system, providing prisoners with something to do, installing proper controls, and doubtless treating the men firmly but as individual human beings.

Work Proves Important Part of Prison Rehabilitation



Numerous industries are established at prison in comfortable styles are turned out each day, to keep convicts engaged. Above shows a portion of the prison tailor shop where prison uniforms (Capital Journal Photo)

BUSINESS MIRROR

Americans, British Score With Jet Planes

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK — American and British plane makers chalk up a score apiece today in their contest to capture the transatlantic jet airliner business.

The British are first in flying their new turbojet Britannia across the pond today on a selling mission here. It's due to go into commercial service between New York and London next year for the British Overseas Airways Corp.

But the Americans can claim a selling victory with this same BOAC jet chief, Basil Smallpiece, sees the Yankees as the long-run winners.

He says the Britannia should be tops for the transatlantic race—the keenest in the highly competitive airline industry—until 1960. After that, he says, American-made jets will outpace the slower British craft and grab off all the passengers. So he wants the British Transport Ministry to authorize his company to pay out some

100 million scarce American dollars for Yankee jets.

The British sent a team of experts here to look at both Boeing and Douglas jets. Between them those two American companies already have orders for some 200 long-range jet airliners. Convair has orders for about 50 medium-range jet airliners. Convair has

orders for about 50 medium-range jet transports. And Lockheed has orders for around 130 turboprop craft.

The race to capture the transatlantic traffic is so keen because it is so lucrative. Both American and foreign flag air carriers are having their biggest year yet and expect the volume of overseas traffic to go even higher next year.

Speedy jets are expected to take over most of the trade in the 60s.

AIRMAN VISITORS
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SEE TIDEWATER FLYING "A" AD SEC. IV, PAGE 4

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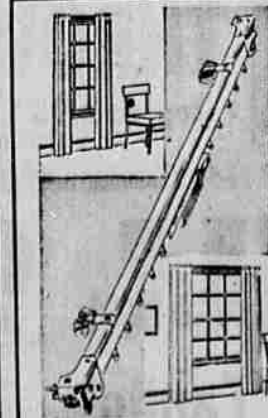
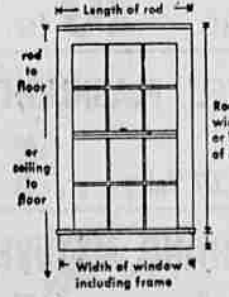
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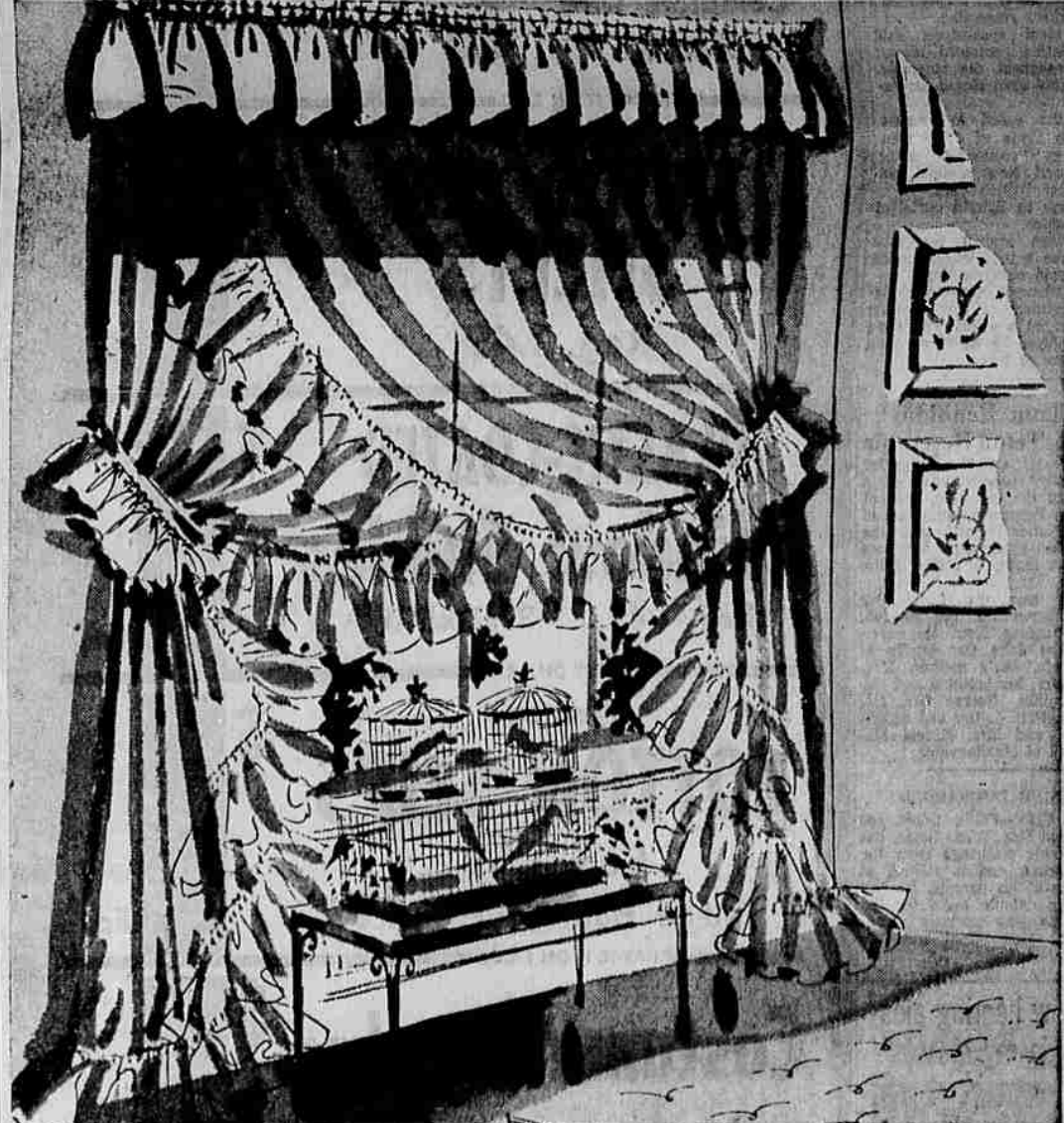
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