

24 hours a day. As far as security is concerned, Iowa's prison is one of the tightest in the country. The occasional escapes that take place are "walkaways" from trusty assignments outside the walls.

This, or any prison, can best be compared to a walled-in city. The inmates do the work and reap the benefits of at least a partially normal life by conducting themselves as citizens anywhere would. There are rules, just as there are outside. No man likes being imprisoned, no matter how decent the surroundings; but most try to make the best of things.

The prison for the most part is a huge school, with many workshops and vocational units teaching the prisoner a useful trade while he is paying his debt to society.

The vocational-training program directed by J. Roby Hilpert has made great progress in the last five years. Hilpert, a former college football star, saw the need for giving prisoners something concrete to build their lives on. From a one-room operation in 1949, Hilpert has led the vocational school to proficiency in such trades as automotive repair, body and fender repair, radio and

television servicing, sign painting, commercial art, and welding.

The automotive school, probably the most popular, has sent 74 men back to society in the last six years. Of these, only three got into further trouble with the law—as compared to an over-all repeater rate of more than 50 percent.

The radio-repair school, operating much the same as the automotive school, has returned an average of 15 men a year to society as competent craftsmen—not criminals. Not one man who completed this course of training has returned to his former life of crime.

There are no restrictions on the men who are permitted to attend these schools. If the space is available, anyone in prison is eligible regardless of the crime for which he was sentenced.

One man, trained in the automotive school, was a seven-time loser in prison. But after four years' training in auto mechanics this oft-convicted felon returned to society, got a job in a garage, and today has his own auto-repair shop.

Cooks and bakers receive training in the



State Penitentiary. The publication is a rehabilitative measure to give convicts a forum.

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