

Average Age of Oregon Penitentiary Inmates Drops To 23.3 Years

Trend Toward Younger Men, Shorter Terms

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of four articles on the Oregon penitentiary.

OF BICE HUNBERT
United Press International

SP-1 — The average age of inmates today in Oregon State Penitentiary is 23.3 years. It was 26 two years ago.

The major population trend is toward younger men with shorter sentences.

Many of these men can use vocational or regular education and that's what the classification committee tries to give them.

The large committee includes the counselor assigned to the man, both deputy wardens, the psychologist, director of education and vocational training, both chaplains, Harold C. Stone, head of the admission and orientation block where the man has been staying during his first three days in prison, and classification officer John Aiken.

It's a day of tension for men waiting quietly down the hall from the committee room. Interviews are brief, but human, and the committee seems genuinely trying to give each man an assignment in line with his desires and abilities.

All Day in School

If a man does not have a fifth grade education he is required to go to school and some men spend their entire sentence in all-day classes.

Statistic studies by Warden Clarence Gladden indicate that most men at OSP have normal intelligence but little education.

Just over 100 men now in prison are illiterate, 705 have an 8th grade education level and 1,000 are in the 10th grade or better.

All regular school courses except remedial readings are taught by inmates.

school diploma while in prison and college extension courses are available through the general extension division.

Last year, 52 men got high school diplomas and 150 or more are now enrolled in college extension courses.

Some High IQs

In addition, there are cell study courses run by inmates, the librarian can set up reading programs and a "great books" program is available for the cognoscenti; 31 men have IQs of 120-129 and five are over 130 on the Stanford-Binet scale.

Inmates are avid readers. Books help out the bars and ease the deadly monotony of confinement.

The 10,000-book library reports from 12,000 to 14,000.

Progress Noted Since First Jail Built in Oregon Territory

Salem — (UPI) — J. R. Johnson, security officer of Oregon State Penitentiary and an expert on its history, thinks there has been a lot of progress since the first jail was built in the Oregon territory at Oregon City in 1845.

It was a two-story block-house. Prisoners were taken to the second story by an outside staircase and dropped through a three-foot hole in the floor down into the first floor area.

A guard was stationed upstairs and if a prisoner made so bold as to stick his head through the hole, he got a sharp whack with a club for his pains.

The jail was burned down in 1946—possibly with a little help from one who got whacked.

visits a month and most men check out the maximum of four books a visit. They also are permitted to subscribe to a number of magazines and newspapers which are delivered uncensored.

Most men who appear before the classification committee

want vocational education of some sort and they have to want it before they can get it.

Working or getting training from civilians in a prison shop or industry is a privilege that must be won by good behavior at OSP.

In general, younger men are sent to school and the more mature given assignments in industry.

Flax Plant Gone

Maintenance shops include the heating plant, print shop, sign shop, drafting and blueprint shop, carpenter, plumbing and electric shops.

The industrial program is extensive, centering around a furniture factory which replaced the old flax plant, an upholstery and mattress plant, a shoe shop, a laundry, a tailor shop, sheet metal and machine shop and a large cannery.

Men who earn the privilege of working in prison industries may make from 25 cents to \$1 a day plus getting credit for two days a month "good time" toward their eventual parole or release.

The best of the men who work in prison maintenance shops also are paid on the same scale and many would be competent journeymen on the outside.

The difference between shops and industries is that the industries do work for other state institutions that would cost more if ordered outside the walls.

Hospital Laundry Done

Currently the furniture shop is producing stakes for the highway department, desks, chairs, church pews and other items as good as can be obtained commercially.

The laundry handles 450,000 pounds of dry wash a month, 75 per cent of it for the state hospital.

The tailor shop makes denim uniforms for the pen and other institutions and the shoe shop handles shoe repair problems for several institutions as well as making braces and other special equipment.

The sheet metal shop is now welding bunks for the intermediate penal institution and the cannery processed one million pounds of tomatoes in 1956.

Prison officials are frank in saying they don't know exactly what use is made of vocational training when a man gets out, but they also say that, for some men, prison work is the first useful thing they've done in their lives.

Work, even monotonous work, also makes the days go faster and up to \$15 a month may be spent in the prison canteen for cigarettes, candy, shaving lotion and other extras.

Bulgarian Given Remote Post

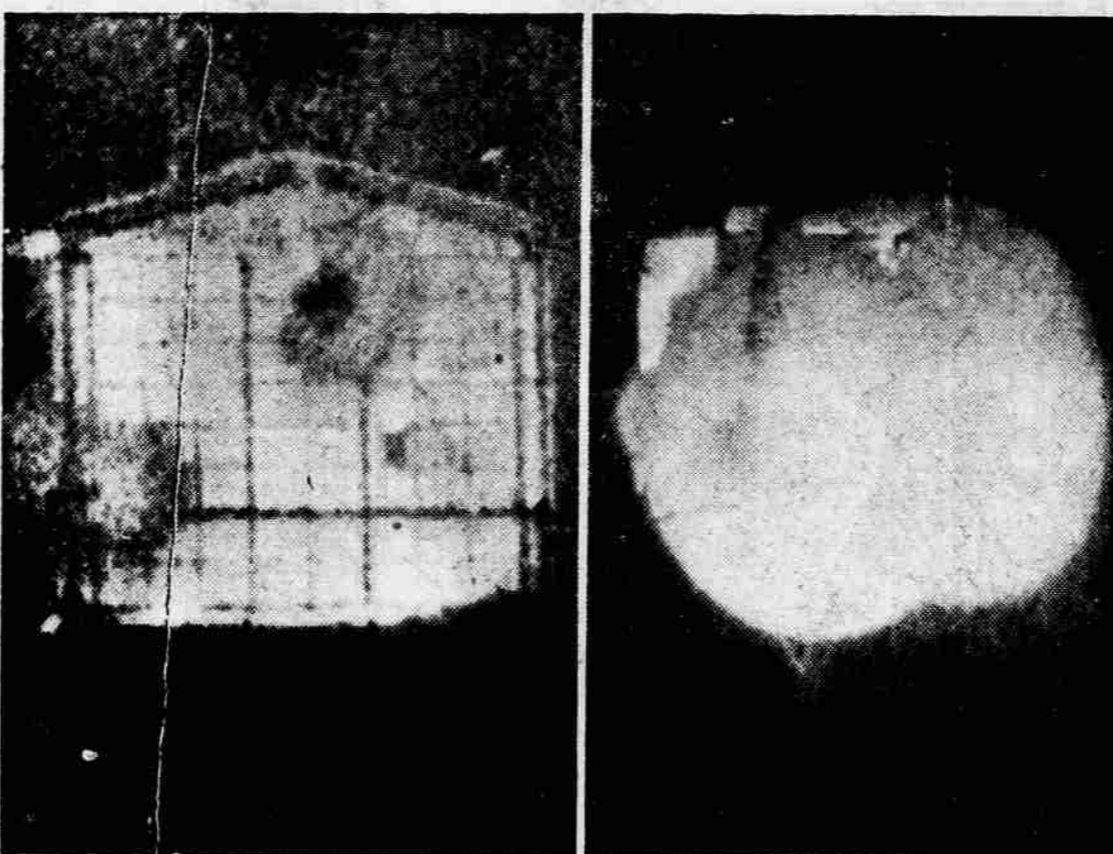
Moscow — (UPI) — Former Soviet Nikolai Bulganin has been assigned to the regional economic council in Stavropol in the North Caucasus, it was reported today.

If the reports are true it would indicate the white-bearded Bulganin has been considerably downgraded. There have been reports in recent weeks he might be.

Bulgarian lost his job as premier at a March meeting of the Communist Party and the duties were assumed by Nikita Khrushchev, already leader of the Communist Party.

He was assigned then to the presidency of the state bank, a relatively high post. But it was reliably reported he never assumed the job.

The former premier disappeared from the Moscow scene for some time, but when questioned about it at a British Embassy party June 12 Khrushchev told newsmen that Bulganin had been in the hospital for an operation.



'BIRTH' OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION—These two photographs show, for the first time the birth of a nuclear explosion. They were taken at the Nevada Test Site of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), by the famous "Rapatronic Camera." The photo at left shows the "cab" atop the steel tower, illuminated from within by the fiery start of the chain reaction. This is during the first sub-millionth of a second. The photo at right, taken only a few millionths of a second later, shows the fireball emerging and enveloping the cab. An infinitesimal fraction of a second later, the searing heat of utter destruction covered hundreds of acres surrounding the tower. The blast was timed, fired and photographed for the AEC.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Natalie R.—My daughters abused me.

Louise R.—How could she stoop so low?

Natalie R.—I am a widow of 45 with two daughters, ages 22 and 24. We are all working and maintain a lovely apartment.

Since my husband died three years ago, I have gone out with a few men, but the prospects of marriage just don't seem very bright. I have been bitterly lonely and recently got involved in an affair with a married man.

I'll admit I did wrong, especially in having him stay over at our home, but I don't think I deserve the kind of treatment I got from my daughters as a result of this. They abused me in a disgraceful way, calling me the worst names. Now they say they want their own apartment—even though I have promised nothing of this sort will ever happen again.

Louise R.—I don't know how other young women would react to waking up in

her abuse of her parent may be considered an equally serious breach of morality.

We will not undertake to recommend any particular course of action to these two sisters. If they feel their home conditions are intolerable they are certainly old enough to live on their own.

It would be a mistake for Natalie to try to stop them. She couldn't do this and she only places herself in a shamefully abject relationship to them.

Natalie should realize, however, that whether or not her daughters remain with her she has a good deal of thinking and planning to do about the future course of her life.

She should recognize that her desperate action was no cure for loneliness. In fact, it will bring on greater loneliness than she has ever known. She will lose even the comfort of her own self-respect.

Natalie needs to take some constructive steps to enlarge her activities, her circle of friends, her interests. We certainly can't promise she'll never be lonely and heart sick, but we believe she'll find more pleasure, comfort and human warmth than she would in a series of illicit affairs.

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4-H Prefair Set At Crater High

Central Point—A 4-H club Prefair will be held at the Crater High school cafeteria at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to Miss Marilou Garner, 4-H club extension agent here.

Members of the Central Point-Westside area clubs will prepare demonstrations and exhibits in foods, clothing, flowers and knitting. A judging contest, open to all club members in the county in home economics, is planned in conjunction with the exhibits.

The prefair is a preliminary to the county fair and is designed to train club members to prepare and judge exhibits, and to give demonstrations.

In the judging contest, trained judges rate the exhibits first and then contestants judge the same exhibits. The contestants are scored on the basis of how nearly they come

to rating the exhibits the same as the judges did.

Prefair judges include Miss Garner, judging contest; Miss Mary Pat Lucy, foods and clothing exhibits; Mrs. Lester Gordon, flowers exhibit; Mrs. Beverly Lyons, foods demonstration, and Mrs. Don Bradshaw, clothing demonstration. No judge has yet been named for the knitting exhibit.

Butte Falls Man Given Suspended Sentence

Lester Lee Price, Butte Falls, was given a suspended sentence and three years probation by Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna Monday morning.

Judge Hanna previously found Price guilty on charges of taking three electric motors from the Reter Fruit company, Medford, on March 9.

Civil Service Jobs Available in Northwest

Applications for management analyst and budget examiner positions in the Northwest states and Alaska are being called for by the Seattle regional office of the Civil Service commission.

University graduates and persons experienced in budget preparation and the development of new and improved procedures and systems are encouraged to apply.

Additional information may be obtained at the Medford post office.

BOMB SCARE

New York — (UPI) — The Montreal Limited was held for more than one hour at its platform in Grand Central terminal early today while police checked a report that a bomb had been placed aboard the train. No explosives were found.

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| 9:00 | Shorthand 1 | IBM—Key Punch | Beg. Typewriting | Speedwriting |
| 10:00 | Business Law 1 | IBM—Key Punch | Business Math | |
| 11:00 | Speed/Building | IBM—Key Punch | Speed/Building | Office Pract. |
| 12:00 | Bus. Machines | IBM—Key Punch | Bus. English | Letter Writing |
| 1:00 | Bus. Machines | IBM—Key Punch | Typewriting 2-3-4 | Typewriting 1 |

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