

Prison Branch of AA Helping Men Make It Outside

Cummings Prison Farm, Ark. (UPI) — Arkansas Prison Supt. Lee Henslee had a long distance telephone call late one night from Chicago.

The man at the other end had violated his parole from the Arkansas penitentiary by getting drunk, and was ready to return and "face the music."

Henslee sent him a bus

ticket, and the man returned and served out his sentence. Henslee heard from the man again recently. He had taken a job, received promotions, and was in the \$15,000-a-year income bracket — strictly legitimate.

The superintendent attributes the man's comeback to membership in an organization set up at the prison farm eight years ago—the Arkansas Fellowship of Alcoholics Prisoners. It is a branch of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It was Henslee himself who had the idea for the organization.

Fast Living

"Most of the men are in the penitentiary because of fast living, drinking, gambling and women, and it usually started from drinking," Henslee said.

Approximately 300 prisoners who have joined AA during their stay at the prison are now "on the outside," Henslee said some of them have slipped and returned, but many of them have become sober, useful citizens.

A recent anniversary meeting drew former inmates from all parts of the nation, and more than 200 are expected for the 1960 event.

Henslee said 17 men were in the original group. The organization now has 177 active members. A chapter for women prisoners was organized in 1952.

Many of the alumni keep in touch through the secretary, who usually is one of the convict-aides to the superintendent, or through the superintendent himself.

The units meet one night each week. Each Sunday afternoon all seven units meet in the prison dining room. An open meeting is held the fourth Sunday in each month, and outside members of AA may attend.

The units receive two mimeographed publications each month, published by the inmates.

Continuing Problem
Henslee said alcohol can continue to be a problem after the men are committed to prison. One of the trusty truck drivers recently took in a bottle of vodka. He gave another trusty part of it to bury the bottle in a stall in the horse barn.

Prison officials heard of the contraband through the grapevine, and confiscated more than half the contents of the bottle.

Several years ago, Henslee sponsored legislation which made it a felony for any person to take alcoholic drinks onto prison property. The trusty faces from one to three additional years for violation, will lose his privileges and be returned to the ranks to work in the fields.

Singer Will Be Sentenced Tuesday
New York—(UPI)—Folk singer Pete Seeger, 42, will be sentenced Tuesday on a contempt of Congress charge for refusing to answer questions of the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1955.

Seeger was convicted by a federal court jury Wednesday after a three-day trial. He faces a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine on each of 10 counts of contempt.

The banjo player and singer had refused to answer the committee's questions about his associates and political beliefs on the ground they violated his rights under the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech and assembly. The committee was inquiring into communism in the entertainment field.

College Enrollment Reaches 989 Students
Ashland — Enrollment at Southern Oregon college has reached 989, an increase of about 6 per cent over the 930 students who had registered on a comparable date last year, college officials said today.

The last day of registration is April 3. Last year's total spring term enrollment was 1,116.

Straub Says Durno's Vote Defeated Bill

"Two and a half million American working families have lost their chance of being guaranteed a minimum decent wage by the single vote of Congressman Durno of the fourth district," State Senator Robert W. Straub, Democratic state chairman said today.

In a special release to the Mail Tribune, he added: "The \$1.25 minimum wage bill proposed by the national administration would have given almost 4 million workers the modest weekly base pay of \$50 per week, but this was too much for the newly elected Republican congressman from this district who voted to cut 10 cents an hour off of the minimum and so reduce the coverage by 2½ million

working families. As a direct result of Durno's vote, the proposed bill lost by a single vote, 186 to 185.

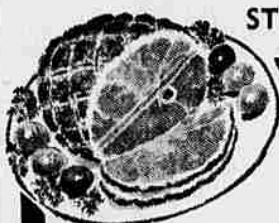
"This is another consistent example in the unfolding pattern of Mr. Durno's voting record," Senator Straub said, "a record which the people in the fourth district will want to watch very carefully throughout this session of Congress."

Senator Straub stated that "not only would the coverage of the administration bill, had it not been defeated by Mr. Durno's vote, have helped many underpaid workers in the fourth district itself, but it also would help close the competitive gap between Oregon industry and low wage regions elsewhere in the United States."

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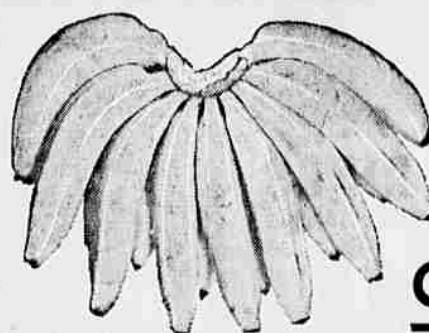
Spaghetti Dinners 2 PKGS. 39¢

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