

State Prison Warden Tells Of Improving Conditions

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
 SALEM (AP) — Warden Clarence T. Gladden looked backward Thursday upon a full year's work at the Oregon State Penitentiary. He found that he had achieved all of his major objectives except for a vocational education program.

"Our big task now," Gladden said, "is to get industries at the prison, so we can teach men vocations. That will require action by the Legislature."

Big changes have occurred since Gladden, a retired federal prison official, took over April 1, 1953. There had been considerable prison unrest and political interference at the prison.

It is a calm, orderly place now. The inmates are busy and well disciplined. School classes are held day and night. The food is better. The trouble makers are in the new segregation building where they can't create disturbances.

The men seem contented, and

they respect Gladden. They got this respect for him last July when they held their four-day rebellion. They rebelled to find out who was boss, and Gladden showed them. "Is there any likelihood of further trouble in the prison?" I asked.

"I doubt it," the warden replied. "The men don't have much incentive to cause trouble, because they are more contented and secure. No trouble can occur in a prison if every officer does his job, and if every inmate is treated equally and fairly."

TIGHT DISCIPLINE
 Gladden regards the tightening of discipline as a major achievement. This applies both to inmates and guards.

"We have installed a record office, so now we have complete records about every inmate. We have individualized treatment, so every man is classified to be placed on jobs for which he is most suited."

"We've broken up the system under which some inmates ran the institution. Guards now can work with confidence that they won't be punched in the nose by inmates. We've stopped the theft of food. We've saved \$1,000 a month just by stopping coffee theft."

"Stricter controls have made it hard for the men to get narcotics and benzadrine. And the manufacture of pruno (home-made liquor) has been virtually stopped."

RATION SYSTEM
 Gladden now is putting in a new ration system, under which each inmate gets five pounds of food a day, or 4,000 calories. This includes a half pound of meat, pint of milk, and half an egg.

In one month, the prison uses 18,500 pounds of meat, 28,000 pounds of potatoes, 15,200 pounds of bread, 3,360 gallons of milk, 17,000 pounds of vegetables, and 11,200 pounds of fruit.

The warden is proud of the way he's made over the 1,400-acre prison farm to increase production. He's putting in a beef cattle operation, revamping the hog and chicken layouts, and changing the locations of the gardens to better sites.

The warden has modernized the hospital. It now averages 20 patients a day, compared with 50 before he took command.

A recreation program, based mostly on intramural sports, is being started. This program was held

back for many months because the convicts burned up their sports equipment in the July rebellion.

Guards are better paid now. All of them get an instruction course, and Gladden is putting in a rifle and pistol range on the farm so guards can learn to shoot straight.

During Gladden's first year, he completed the segregation building, which houses 60 men; installed a modern bakery, put in a shoe shop to serve all state institutions, and installed a tailor shop to make all prison clothing.

Now he's beginning construction of a 150-cell building for minimum security prisoners. He estimates it will be completed in 11 months.

There are 1,373 men and 28 women at the prison, 140 inmates at the farm, and 54 at the forestry camp in the Tillamook Burn.

There are 170 guards, an increase of 29 over a year ago. Gladden hopes something can be done for the women, whose life is rugged because they are cooped up without adequate facilities for them. He would like to see the Legislature provide a separate institution for them.

Gladden allows any convict to write to him, and he gives prompt attention to their letters.

"The only way a warden can run a prison is to keep in close touch with the inmates," he says. Gladden does keep in close touch, too. No detail is too small to notice, and the guards and inmates are amazed at the things he can find wrong on his walks through the prison grounds.

Gladden was given a free hand when he took over a year ago, and he still has it.

He's glad, he says, "because I don't know the first thing about politics."

Spring Water Forecast Told

JOHN DAY (AP) — The Harney and John Day basins will have this year at least as much irrigation water as they did last year.

Water forecasters said at meetings in Burns and John Day Wednesday that the amount of water available, however, will be under the average of the past 10 years.

That is because the snow cover in most places is lighter, and much of the snow already has melted at lower elevations.

This is offset in part by the fact that the ground still is well-soaked from a wet fall. About the only place in the two basins where this is not true is in the Condon area, where drying winds have been blowing.

For the John Day River the forecasters said the main fork runoff will be about 89 per cent of normal and the middle and north forks about 86 per cent of average.

In the Harney Basin the Silyles River runoff is expected to be about 55 per cent of average; the Donner and Blitzen River 86 per cent of average, and Trout Creek 88 per cent of average.

The forecasts, now being made in a series of meetings over the state, are cooperative projects of the Weather Bureau, the Soil Conservation Service and the Oregon State College Extension Service.

FLOODS

BAGHDAD, Iraq, (AP) — This capital city and the southern oil center of Basrah braced their defenses Thursday against the threat of new flood crests. The rampaging Tigris River already has caused Iraq's worst floods in hundreds of years.

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