

Gladden Marks 10th Anniversary Of Taking Over State Penitentiary

SALEM (UPI) — Just 10 years ago this month Clarence T. Gladden, a grey-haired, 23-year veteran of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, took over as warden of the State Penitentiary.

Gladden was hired after a special investigating team of three prison wardens found the convicts in virtual control and the guard force demoralized. Discipline, due in part to political meddling, was so bad that guards walked in groups for self-protection within the walls.

Gladden, looking back on the day he took over, says now:

"It was chaos. 'Certain inmates were in the saddle. Their friends were well taken care of. The rank and file wasn't getting proper food or clothing.

"There was no training program for officers... no organization within the walls."

Warden Acts
Backed by three experts borrowed from the federal prison system, Gladden moved to create order.

He coaxed 10 additional officers and more administrative help from the legislature and set up a training program. Guards began to clamp down on the undisciplined prisoners.

Four months later, the word went out along the convict grapevine.

Gladden was to be put to the test.

Convicts rioted, set fire to buildings and flung taunts and demands at guards and state policemen who rimmed the high cement wall ringing the prison.

The new warden ordered most of the rioters sealed in the prison yard. They sat and shivered and sweated and thirsted for three days. The riot collapsed.

Gladden says today those three days of rioting did more to clear the air and establish order than could have been accomplished otherwise in several years.

Hot air rises because it contains fewer molecules than cold air taking up the same amount of room. Therefore the hot air is lighter.

While the prisoners rioted, guards swept the cellblocks clean. One hundred truckloads of weapons, furnishings and junk were hauled away. The contraband included knives, saws, tools, ball bats, clubs, and even sewing machines, typewriters and overstuffed furniture.

Gone also was the "Boss Con," a convicted robber who, as chief inmate clerk, boasted he held more power than the warden.

The tired and defeated rioters came back to a new spartan existence.

Good Work Habits
The prison program now is designed to instill good work habits and to equip prisoners for their return to society.

"The convicts know what we expect from them. And they know what to expect from us," Gladden says.

"They realize that they will be treated like decent human beings, but they are expected to behave in a decent and respectable manner."

Escapes from prison details have dropped from 40 to 50 a year to three or four. Tight security has broken up inmate goon squads, and Gladden boasts only one secreted knife has been found in years.

The prison farm, where inmates once stole eggs to operate their own egg route to the nearby Tur-

ner community, has been put on a productive basis.

Last week the State Senate ap-

proved a measure to allow Gladden and other heads of state in-

stitutions to stay on beyond retire-

ment age at the desire of the

brought to Oregon as a "tempo-

rary" warden, may be on the job

The steely-eyed prison expert, for some time

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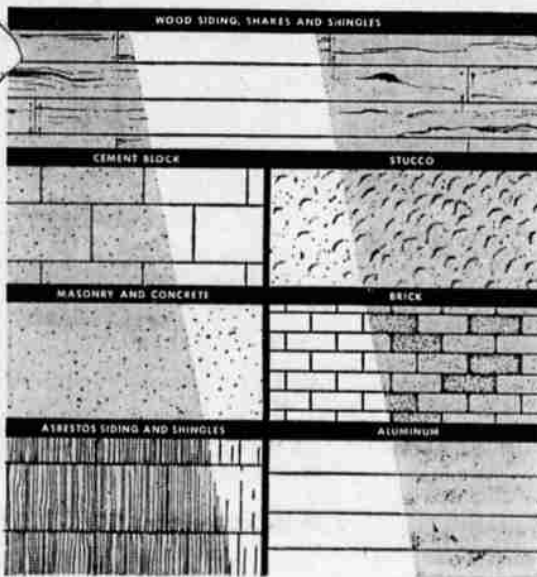
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