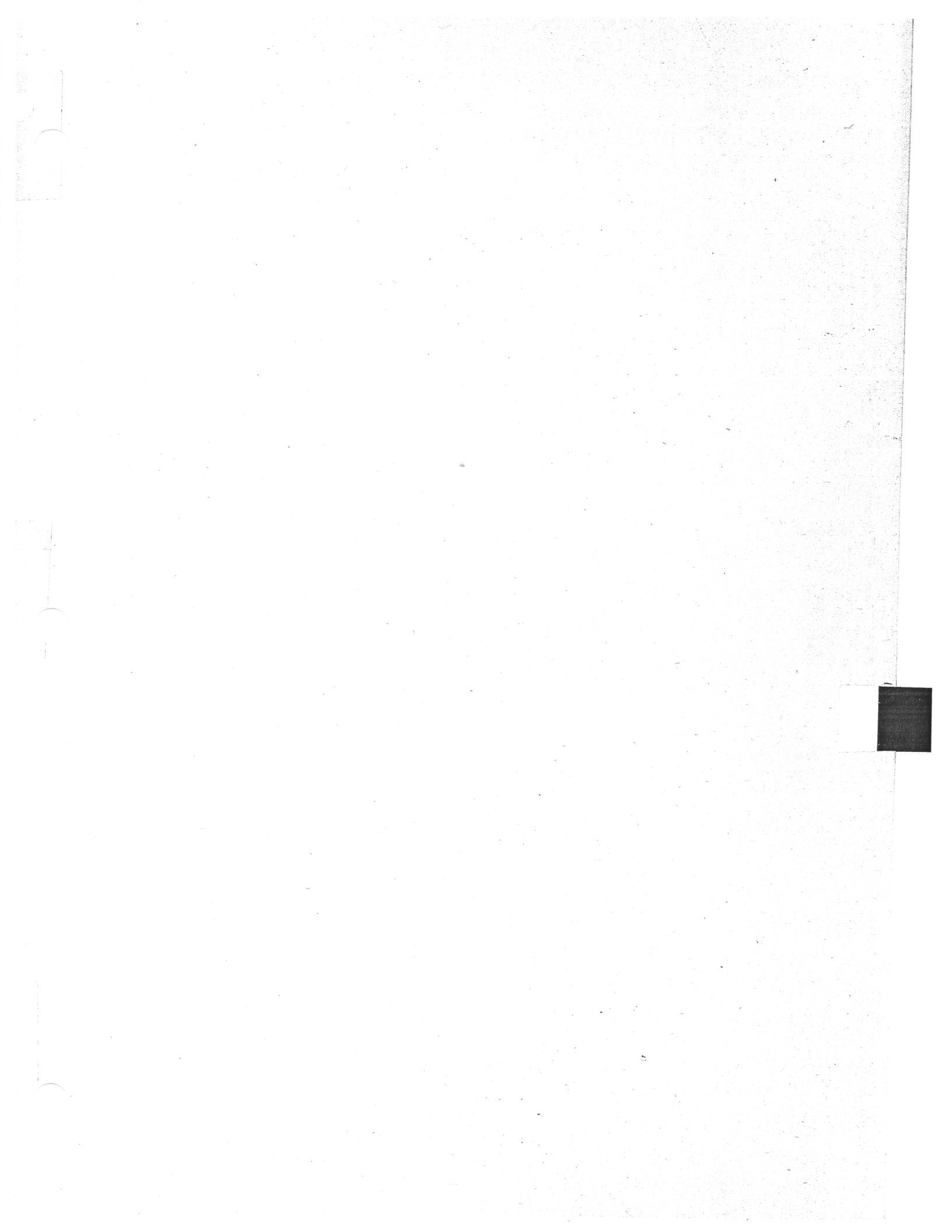


#1

Volume 5

1950-1960's



659

February 22nd, 1950

The Columbian

## DEPUTY WARDEN RETIRES

Terminating a career of thirty-six years in the B.C. Penitentiary and Department of Justice Service, John Lewis Goss, Deputy Warden, on Thursday commences six months retirement leave, Warden R.S. Douglass announced today.

Mr. Goss joined the service in 1914 and served in World War I, returning to the Penitentiary Service after the war.

He was in charge of the Piers Island "Pen Camp" set up for the Doukhobors from 1932 to 1934. He was appointed Chief Keeper at New Westminster in 1925 and appointed Deputy Warden in 1946.

F.C.B. Cummins is now acting as Deputy Warden. On the 24th of February 1950, Lt. Col. Fred C.B. Cummins, Officer Commanding Westminster Regiment has been appointed Acting Deputy Warden at the B.C. Penitentiary. Col. Cummins, former Chief Clerk at the Penitentiary, will succeed Lewis J. Goss, who has retired. Cummins has been seventeen years in the Penitentiary Service, he has a distinguished military record with the Westminsters during the Second World War.

March 2nd, 1950

The Columbian

CITY MAN TO BE INSTRUCTOR AT ROCKCLIFFE

C.A. Williamson, Head Schoolmaster and Librarian at the B.C. Penitentiary has been summoned to Ottawa on loan as Instructor at the Penitentiary Officers Training Course at Rockcliff, Warden R. Douglass announced today.

Mr. Williamson leaves for the east on Friday. The next course starts around March 13th.

The Chief Supervisor of the Rockcliffe School, Walter Johnstone, is also from the New Westminster Institution.

During the past two years the Department of Justice has been giving courses in all branches of penology to staff officers.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31 st  
MARCH 1950. R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an increase of nine during the last fiscal year. The total stood at 487 as of 31st March 1950 of which 452 were actually in prison of the remaining 35, 15 were in provincial mental hospital 4 on temporary ticket of leave for medical reasons and 16 Doukhobours were at Nelson, B.C. in charge of B.C. Provincial Police, where they were appearing as witnesses for the Crown Counsel. There were 168 males and 4 female convicts received during the year. One of these was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence as a habitual criminal. This makes a total of three convicts serving indeterminate sentences. 150 male convicts were discharged from the institution by reasons of expiration of sentence, ticket of leave licence, pardoned and other reasons.

No deaths occurred during the year in the convict population. The incidence of venereal disease dropped to approximately 1% of the total population, all received the necessary treatment. On December 22, 1949 160 pints of blood were donated by convicts to the Red Cross Clinic for blood transfusions. Prior to this Col. M D. Robertson Provincial Doner Panel Organizer addressed the population over the public address system and later an educational film was shown. The response from the convict population was gratifying.

Rev. Father J. M. Barry replaced Rev. Father O'Sullivan as Roman Catholic Chaplain on September 1st, 1949. He reported an average attendance at Sunday Service to be 125. An effort is being made to have those convicts who are **excused** church attendance return for regular religious instruction. The well equipped library is not being used by the convicts as much as it might. The weekly papers and periodicals appear more popular. The Rev. B. H. Wallace, Protestant Chaplain, reports good attendance at the church at the regular services throughout the year. Bible instruction classes were continued with good results. 12 inmates were taking correspondence courses in Bible study and the Christain way of life. Several of these courses were completed and proved of value. From the Salvation Army, under Major Martain and later Major Wagner, visited monthly. The Gideons held four services during the year. Classes were held in 174 noon sessions with an average attendance of 18 and a total attendance of 68 convicts.

Those above grade six standing or registered for correspondence courses were assisted during the school periods. Those with less than grade six were taught in classes.

The first aid certificates were granted to two successful candidates. One

student is registered for courses from Queens University Extension Department and one is taking a mechanical engineering course from the International Correspondence Schools. Two classes in mineralogy were continued. 16 of the 18 inmates who wrote the examination at the conclusion of the course were successful in qualifying for the government grub-stake allowance. Through the cooperation of the Canadian Fishing Company and Nelson Bros. Fishing Company, Department of Fisheries and International Salmon Fisheries commission a series of lectures was given on all aspects of commercial fishing. This year control training was commenced in the carpenter, machine and tinsmith shops, garage and engineers Departments. A control training committee was formed and regular meetings with those shop instructors concerned have taken place to discuss syllabi and solve training problems as they arise. There is control training in all shops with the exception of the Tinsmith Shop owing to the resignation of the Instructor in September. With appointment of a new Tinsmith Instructor in January 1950 control training in this shop will be carried out during the coming year. All Departments under the supervision of the Chief Trade Instructor were well supplied with work during the year. The quality of work turned out was on the whole quite good, and the majority of the men thus employed received good training in their respective trades.

Production was up slightly from the previous year, another severe winter caused damage to berry canes, shrubs and climbing roses. Education films on horticulture, educational books and pamphlets were made available to convicts and practical illustration of knowledge thus gained is proving of benefit to those inmates intending to follow an agricultural vocation on release.

The Rev. J. D. Hobden was appointed as Western Representative of the Remission Service. A report on each applicant for ticket of leave licence is now prepared giving a resume of the inmates work record and attitudes while incarcerated. The discharge program continued to improve with increased cooperation from the National Employment Service, the John Howard Society and the Salvation Army. A representative of the National Employment Service visits the Penitentiary once a month to interview inmates to be discharged in three months time and applicants for ticket of leave licences. Convicts employed in the kitchen are given every opportunity to receive instruction in the various elements of cooking and baking. The line cooks are taught nutrition, palatability, in boiling, stewing, roasting, and deep frying. Bakers are being taught in the art of bread making, baking cookies, pies, cakes and sweet doughs. Sanitation is continually stressed. Cleaning of all equipment and floors is daily routine. Everything possible is done to discourage insects and rodents, including immediate disposal of all garbage and swill. 36 convicts were employed in the kitchen during the past year.

As each Officer is taken on staff he is presented with a list of books recommended for reading to acquaint him with the new penal system. This is in conjunction with on the job training given by Senior Officers and lectures by the Deputy Warden on prison routine, discipline and security worked very satisfactory in turning out a reasonably well instructed officer in the initial training of two weeks. A total of 10 officers attended the Penitentiary Officers training course at Rockcliffe, Ontario during the year. All officers proceeded on the course reported enthusiastically of the conduct of the course and the information gained from attendance. An innovation this year was the formation of a radio committee, whose members were chosen from the convict population. This committee comes under the guidance of the Chaplains. They select the programs to be heard, based on a ballot vote of all inmates.

Basketball was introduced as a recreational activity during the year. Teams were chosen and a schedule drawn up for the season. A basketball committee composed of inmates was chosen and functions under the direction of the physical training instructor. Teams were selected from the various gangs and shops and a clean healthy rivalry has existed. The beneficial effect of this activity has been noted in the change of conversational trends during talking periods and the wholesome attitude towards competitive sport. A trophy cup was presented to the league winner, this year it was won by the team from the Carpenter Shop.

Two of our senior officers were retired during the year, Chief Keeper B.C. McDonald and Deputy Warden G.L.H. Goss. The Chief Keeper joined the service as a guard on March 4th, 1921 and was retired from the service owing to age on August 17th, 1949. After 36 years of service Deputy Warden Goss proceeded on six months retiring leave on February 23rd, 1950. Senior Clerk F. C. B. Cummins was appointed Acting Deputy Warden during the retiring leave of Mr. Goss.

END OF REPORT

April 18th, 1950

The Columbian

PEN LIGHTS TO BRIGHTEN COLUMBIA STREET

Penitentiary ornamental lights blaze again, for the first time since the wartime blackouts. Alderman R.W. Ballantyne, light committee, reported the Penitentiary Officials had been asked to turn on their street lights to help illuminate Columbia Street as before the war.

The Institution agreed to do so and will turn on some lights immediately. It was discovered that other circuits were decayed and need repairing.



662

May 4th, 1950

Item states:

B.C. Penitentiary, if and when moved, will not be constructed anywhere along the South bank of the Fraser River, discussions in Ottawa have disclosed.

Word received here from Government officials state that a Penitentiary on the South bank of the river would be too near the International Boundary. Should a "Pen" be constructed along the North Bank, the river provided a natural barrier against anyone escaping to the United States. The news came as a reply to a petition sent to William Mott, M.P. by residents of this area. (Langley)

663

May 16th, 1950

The Columbian

A BOUQUET FOR THE B.C. PENITENTIARY for at last putting its front yard into lawn again, was proposed by Alderman A.J. Allison at the council meeting on Monday, ornamental street lights are also back in operation after the war years.

Alderman J.A. Courtney recalled some lack of cooperation from the Penitentiary in the past but Alderman Allison was sure there had been some change of heart.

A letter of commendation will be sent anyway.

664

June 10th, 1950

The Columbian

## CONVICTED DOUKS TO BE HELD IN QUONSET HUTS.

More than one thousand male Doukhobors sentenced to terms in the Penitentiary, will be housed in Quonset huts to be built on the Penitentiary property here, it was learned exclusively by the British Columbian today.

The Columbian had previously learned of Government plans to house the arsonists and nude-paraders in Naval Barracks in Comox, but this plan was dropped following bitter protests from the citizens in the area.

Quonset huts to be built in the ravine area to the rear of the Penitentiary proper. These will be fitted up as bunk-houses. Dining rooms and cook houses will be separate. The Douk convicts will act as their own cooks, under supervision.

While no trouble was experienced on Piers Island, in the Gulf of Georgia, where more than six hundred Doukhobor men and women served their terms following an arson and nudist outbreak in the Creston area years ago, arrangements are said to have been made for a high wire fence to be installed around the special area.

It is thought probable that the Doukhobors will be mainly employed on the prison farm, work at which they are adept. Practically all are vegetarians.

While the new premises are being prepared in the deep ravine area, the convicted men will be kept in Cakalla under an arrange-

664 A

between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. At Oakalla they are being segregated from others imprisoned for various offences. Quonset huts have been erected and the men cook their own meals.

Mayor J.L. Sangster could not be located to find his reaction to this latest trend of events but two members of the city council, Alderman J. Percy Copp and R.W. Ballantyne, have voiced their opposition to the move. It is thought likely that similar disapproval will be made known to the Federal Authorities by the Senior and Junior Trade bodies.

Both Alderman Copp and Alderman Ballantyne expresses the opinion that any further building on the Penitentiary property will delay the day when the Institution is moved to another location and thus release valuable real estate which is getting scarce in New Westminster.

Boards of Trade in Comox and Courtenay, City Councils of the two cities, and private residents are known to have inundated Stewart Carson, Minister of Justice at Ottawa, with telegrams and letters of protests against the Doukhobors being sent to Comox.

They were all of the same vein, they don't want the trouble makers on Vancouver Island.

665

June 13th, 1950

The Columbian

## ENLARGING OF PEN IRKS COUNCIL:

News that the Department of Justice will house Doukhobors in extra Quonset Huts at the B.C. Penitentiary aroused a storm of protest in the City Council on Monday with the Aldermen blasting for this move on various grounds.

After a wild free for all against the Penitentiary in general and the Douks in particular, the city fathers simmered down and admitted that they could not interfere with the wheels of Justice. A protest will be sent to the Minister of Justice on the following basis:

"That New Westminster regrets the Department has to extend its buildings in New Westminster to house Doukhobors or any other prisoners, especially when the City has understood that the local Penitentiary would not be extended but would eventually be moved to another location".

Mayor J. Lewis Sangster declared that the Douks were prisoners, convicted of a crime against the law of the land and had to be duly punished.

Our city has the Penitentiary, so the Doukhobors have to be accommodated at the Penitentiary by the Department of Justice or where the Department has accommodation, only the men will be kept here, the women will have to proceed to Kingston as far as we are informed.

The Mayor said "I believe there are already one hundred or more Douks in the Institution and the citizens have not noticed

665 A

anything. Additional inmates in the huts should not attract notice".

City Aldermen, were very bitter about the whole business and throughout various criticisms and suggestions.

"The Federal Government has a white elephant at the Agassiz Experimental Farm, why not send the Doukhobors up there, or let the Government build the Quonsets at Thrums, or put them to work clearing a new Penitentiary site".

Some Aldermen feared a fire hazard from the extra huts and remarked "Disrobing Douks might become an attraction for children".

Alderman Mrs. E. Wood said the imprisonment of the Doukhobors on Piers Island failed to cure their disrobing tactics. They may do the same here and annoy our citizens. We should protest the Doukhobor imprisonment in our city and support the Provincial Government in urging that a new community may be set up elsewhere. Imprisonment will do them no good. They need rehabilitation.

Mayor Sangster pointed out the prisoners were not sentenced to be rehabilitated but to be punished for Arson and other offences.

Mayor Sangster and the Council were unanimous in objecting to the Doukhobor invasion of New Westminster and to any enlargement of the Penitentiary. The Council agreed that an airmail letter

665 B

to this effect be sent at once to the Minister of Justice.

On June 27th, 1950, the following article appeared in the Columbian:

Two bulldozers and a carryall are at work on the ravine at the west side of the B.C. Penitentiary, levelling the ground for several huts which will house the Doukhobors from the Kootenay country who have been convicted of arson and nudism and conspiracy. Some thirty-five of the Douks have been accommodated in the Institution but the main body is still being kept at Oakalla Farm, much to the inconvenience of the Provincial Authorities.

It is understood the Doukhobors will have their own dining rooms and cook houses, they are vegetarians.

Miles and miles of barb wire is understood to have been ordered and this will be strung around the new encampment. Electric lights will also be installed to flood the area during the night hours.

666

August 12th, 1950

The Columbian

## IMPRISONED DOUKS FIRE SHED IN SHOW OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

Radical Sons of Freedom Doukhobors lodged a firey protest against imprisonment at B.C. Penitentiary Friday afternoon.

Prison Officials said Douk prisoners were responsible for a fire which destroyed a tool shed inside the Penitentiary grounds, damage was minor. Most of the imprisoned members of the sect are serving sentences for arson following a violent outbreak of fire setting in the interior last spring.

The blaze broke out in the tool shed located in the Douks orchard early in the afternoon. Prisoners were orderly and did not disrobe, guards report. New Westminster Fire Department was called to extinguish the fire.

Warden Robert S. Douglass described the incident as a publicity stunt on the part of the prisoners.

They are disgusted with their brothers in the interior for not protesting their sentences.

The imprisoned Doukhobors are housed separately in the prison grounds. Huts raised for them in a ravine bordering on the Mental Hospital property west of the Penitentiary proper.

It is understood that some forty-five Sons of Freedom who have been in the prison for several years from previous outbreaks were not involved in Friday's fire. More than one hundred others are presently confined.



September 20th, 1950

The Columbian

## OTTAWA PAROLES NUDE PARADERS

Despite a Government's decision to free all Sons of Freedom Doukhobors for nude parading, the B.C. Penitentiary will have more than two hundred of the minority group within its walls.

The Justice Department remission of penalties covers only nudity. Other Douks are in prison for arson and other acts of violence.

The Douks to be freed at Oakalla will number about one hundred and twenty, and the balance of the two hundred and ten now held there may be moved to the Penitentiary when others are released.

About one hundred in the Penitentiary will not be effected by the parole order.

Warden R.S. Douglass of the Penitentiary said today he had received no orders covering the date of release of the prisoners. The order will come from the B.C. Attorney General's Department, he said. It is expected releases will be made in a day or two.

At Ottawa the Justice Minister, Stuart Garson announced the remission of penalties imposed on two hundred and seventy-eight men and one hundred and seventeen women who were convicted of parading nude during the series of riots.

Most of the prisoners had served from four to six months of

667 A

sentences ranging from two and a half to three years.

Garson said the release was ordered following an unanimous decision and strong recommendation by the Doukhobor research committee of the British Columbia Government.

The imprisoned religious fanatics all were members of the Sons of Freedom, a Doukhobor Branch that rioted in the Grand Forks, Kootenay and Southern Okanagan Valley regions last spring. They burned homes and barns and some schools and paraded nude.

January 18th, 1951

The Columbian

CONVICT ORDERED TO COURT

In one of the first cases of its kind on record here, an inmate of the B.C. Penitentiary will appear in city police court Friday to face a charge of possessing narcotics.

An order from Warden R.S. Douglass to release inmate Edward Burns, 22, no fixed above, to R.C.M.P. narcotic squad officers was signed in county court here Wednesday afternoon by Judge J.A. McGeer.

Details of the case are unknown, but the release order alleges that Burns, who was sentenced to two years on January 3rd for possession of stolen goods, "Did unlawfully possess a salt of Discetylmorphine," while a prisoner in the Penitentiary on January 15th.

The charge followed extensive investigation by prison officials, guards, and is believed to be one of the first of its kind to reach court here.

Checking of inmates for smuggled goods as they enter the Institution, and even after they had been interned, is carried out with exhaustive regularity in detail.

On the 26th of January 1951 preliminary hearing of Edward Burns charged with possessing a salt of Discetylmorphine while a prisoner in the Penitentiary, was held before Magistrate T.R. Selkirk, K.C. in city police court this morning.

668 A

Crown witness A.G. Ferguson, a keeper at the prison, testified today he saw two convicts carry parcels past Burn's cell. He stated he thought the convicts had passed Burns a note from his brother, lodged in another wing of the prison, and decided to investigate.

He called Burns out of his cell, searched him and found the capsules in the convict's possession. When asked about the dope Burns replied, what explanation can I give? They were in my possession. Thats all I can say.

On February 14th, 1951 Thomas Burns, inmate of the B.C. Penitentiary was sentenced to two years and six months in city police court today for possession of narcotics. This sentence was to run concurrently with the two year sentence imposed for the same offence in Vancouver. In addition to the prison term there was a fine of two hundred dollars.

February 7th, 1951

The Columbian

DOUK HUT BURNS

B.C. Penitentiary officials today opened an investigation into a cooking oil explosion which caused a fire and ten thousand dollars damage to the administration hut in the Doukhobor compound at the Penitentiary at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Slashed fire hose hampered the staff fire-fighters until the city fire department was called that indicated that an arson plot is suspected.

Warden R.S. Douglass said that no details of the cause will be known until the investigation is conducted by the department and reported to the Inspector of Penitentiaries.

The fire was a flash type fire and followed an explosion in the store-room where cooking oils for the Doukhobors was kept.

Flaming oil spread in all directions and blasted through a door to other quarters. The oil barrel burst, how it was caused we do not yet know, said the Warden.

Four Doukhobor patients were in the hospital ward of the building. They were not injured and were ordered out by the guards.

The fire gutted the inside of the steel type hut which was lined with wood and insulation board.

669 A

The furniture was burned, as were the personal clothing and suit cases of the Doukhobor inmates stored in the hut. The loss in clothing may amount to several thousand dollars.

Guards were on regular duty in the hut when the blast ripped from the store-room at about 8:45 p.m. Guards pulled out the hoses and found they had been cut.

Hoses had been inspected not long before, said Warden Douglass. The cuts were hidden and not noted until the hoses had been pulled out.

We have had no trouble with the Doukhobor inmates to date, most of them were orderly and cooperative, some are probably more fanatical than others, said the Warden.

Two Doukhobor inmates helped fight the fire by playing a small hose from the kitchen and mess hall adjoining.

During the fire excitement the Doukhobors were kept in order in their own huts and there was no panic or disturbance. A substantial fence surrounds the huts and other buildings in the Doukhobor compound which was built last year.

On February 8th, 1951 Warden Robert Douglass said today that the results of an inquiry into a fire which gutted a Penitentiary building Tuesday night will not be made public. The Warden said that 'some' of about one hundred Doukhobor prisoners quartered in the compound where the fire occurred but at the same time he said a few Douks helped to fight

the fire.

Warden Douglass said he has not determined who, or which group effectively hamstrung the prison fire department by slashing the hose.

The possibility a crude time bomb was used to set the fire which did about seven thousand dollars damage, was discounted by the Warden.

670

February 13th, 1951

The Columbian

PEN. OFFICIALS RAPPED, CHARGING LACK OF COOPERATION

Lack of firefighting cooperation with the B.C. Penitentiary authorities was sharply rapped by the chairman of the fire committee, at the council meeting on Monday.

The fire chairman urged a proper understanding with the authorities and a full knowledge of the cities rights and responsibilities involving the Institution.

We do not know where any of their hydrants or equipment are or what dangers and problems are in the Institutions, it does not seem right for us to risk our men and equipment in a place we know nothing about.

The Alderman referred to the recent fire in the Doukhobor compound where the city wagons were called in to unfamiliar territory.

Maybe the city should decline to attend fires in the Government Institution and term it a Penitentiary responsibility.

The fire committee urged that the problem be looked into, suggesting city fire department should have a plan of fire equipment in the Penitentiary and some understanding with the authorities. Whether the city could conduct inspections was not clear.

City Solicitor thought that some understanding could be reached. He pointed out that the city could hardly reject



670 A

responsibility in case of any fire imperilling the city.  
The fire committee was authorized to study the problem  
further.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 1951. R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an increase of 76 during the last fiscal year. The total as of 31st March 1951 was 563, of which 551 were actually inside the prison. Of the remainder 8 were in the provincial mental hospital, 3 were on temporary ticket of leave for medical reasons, and 1 in the custody of the R.C.M.P. for production at Assize Court in Victoria, B.C. under a court order. There were 372 male and 24 female inmates received during the year, one of them was sentenced to a indeterminate sentence as a habitual criminal. This makes a total of four inmates serving indeterminate sentences. Included in the total of 372 inmates received is a group of 90 Doukhobours who have been sentenced to the Penitentiary for arson, they were received from the Provincial gaol in a group, and confined in an encampment outside the walls of the Penitentiary, which had been constructed to house them. Of the female inmates received 14 were Doukhobour women. There were 296 male and 24 female inmates discharged from the Institution by reason of expiration of sentence, ticket of leave and pardon. The 24 female prisoners were transferred to Kingston Penitentiary and included 14 Doukhobour women. 97 Doukhobour inmates were released by ticket of leave. The general health of the inmates during the year was good, no deaths occurred among the inmate population.

On December 23rd, 1950 a total of 193 pints of blood were donated by the inmates to the Red Cross for blood transfusion. The response from the inmate population was gratifying, in fact the Red Cross clinic was not able to handle in one day the number of inmates who offered their blood. In appreciation the Divisional Director of the Blood Donor Panels, Red Cross Society, sent individual letters of thanks to all inmate who donated.

The Rev. P. H. Wallace, Protestant Chaplain reports good attendance at the regular church services throughout the year. Bible and instructional classes were continued with good results. The formation of an Alcoholics Anonymous group within the prison took place this year. This group is run by the inmates themselves under the supervision of the two Chaplains. Members from outside Alcoholics Anonymous groups visit the institution at regular intervals, and the meetings conducted have shown marked success. There is every indication that the prisoners Alcoholic Anonymous group are receiving the guidance and the faith they will need to avoid alcoholism on release and which has been one of the main causes for their incarceration in prison.

The services <sup>are</sup> conducted every Sunday morning at nine o'clock in the Roman Catholic Chapel with the assistance of inmate servers and choir. One Officer ( a Catholic

when possible) is in attendance. The average catholic population has been 140 during the year. Rev. Father Barry reports that the facilities and cooperation provided for the Chaplain interviews are very much appreciated. The Chapel lends itself well to making these interviews and counsel periods comfortable and private for the inmate. Classes were held in 166 afternoon sessions with an average attendance of 16 and a total of 88 inmates at school classes during the year. Those with above grade 6 standing were registered for correspondence courses and assisted individually in class. Group classes were continued for those students having less than grade six standing.

A record player and a set of french and spanish records for correspondence courses in these languages have recently been acquired and it is anticipated that they will greatly stimulate the progress and study of these subjects. A lecture program was conducted by University of British Columbia, consisting of six lectures by the University staff. The average attendance was voluntary-amounted to 140 inmates per lecture. Seven inmates obtained a pass mark and received certificates for eligibility for the Provincial grup-stake allowance.

All departments under the supervision of the Chief Trade Instructor were well supplied with work during the year. Good weather during the winter and summer months enabled large outside gangs to be kept constantly employed which facilitated the completion of the Coukhobour encampment, and the construction of the wire fence enclosing the new recreation area. Progress was made in the sphere of control training. One class completed and another commenced in the garage department. the newly provided equipment promises greatly improved results. Control training is also proceeding in the Carpenter Shop and the Machine Shop.

The new drafting school is now in operation under the direction of a drafting instructor. 38 men were enrolled for drafting courses this year in connection with work in their respective trades.

The wiring of cells for earphones was completed in the North Wing B-2 and cell block B-3. All cells in cell block B-7 have been wired for earphones and the phones installed. A new radio was purchased and installed in the East Wing with related earphone installation, and the unit is giving complete satisfaction.

Seven inmates wrote and successfully passed their examinations for fourth class engineers certificates and at the present time a further class of our inmates are preparing for examination.

The construction of the Doukhobour encampment curtailed other projects. The construction such as the re-piping of the East Wing. Fire Protection of this encampment presented a special problem. Equipment was purchased and placed at

strategic points. This equipment was regularly inspected and fire lectures and fire practice drills were held there weekly.

Farm production was well maintained during the year. The fruit trees which had been attended by Doukhobour inmates during the previous year gave a very good apple crop. The green-house was run to capacity producing quantities of cauliflower, celery and other plants as well as flower seedlings for ornamental grounds. There was an increase in egg production of about 300 dozen. Produce from the farm during the year totaled \$13,077.85 of which the value of vegetables, fruits, pork and eggs supplied to the Stewards Department totaled \$12,045.75. The new lawn on the ornamental grounds in front of the Penitentiary has been completed and has greatly improved the appearance of the approaches to the Institution from Columbia Street, the main throughfare.

A conference of classification officers was held at Ottawa under the able guidance of Deputy Commissioner McCulley and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Gendreau.

A reception area has been established in this institution and has functioned successfully since November 1950. All new comers are segregated there on arrival for a period of one month. On June 14th, 1950, MR. B. D. Morrison Supervisor of Construction arrived to take over the supervision of the building of the encampment to house the Doukhobour population in the ravine south of the Penitentiary. With the cooperation of the Canadian Area Commander the Royal Canadian Engineers provided the heavy bulldozers and the necessary army crews to level and prepare for the encampment. On June 24th, 1950 a gang of inmates commenced erection of the first board fence and by October 7th, 1950 the encampment was ready and 141 Doukhobours were housed there. The buildings consisted of steel huts, three of these to serve as dormitories, one as a kitchen and dining room, one as a laundry and one as an administration building, containing offices, storeroom for effects and supplies, hospital cells, Doctor's offices, waiting room and visiting room. Under the auspices of the B.C. Provincial Government and the University of British Columbia a committee named the Doukhobour Consultive and Research Committee was set up for the study of the history and background of the Doukhobours with a view to effecting plans for their eventual rehabilitation. A former assistant commissioner of the R.C.M.P. and a former commissioner of the Provincial Police of British Columbia, Professors of the University of B.C., representatives of the various Doukhobour sects, local municipal and social authorities from the areas inhabited by the Doukhobours formed part of this committee and its sub-committees.

Mr. C. A. Williamson, School Teacher-Librarian at the B.C. Penitentiary was appointed Chief Keeper in charge of the Doukhobour encampment and was also named to the consultive committee

A representative from the imprisoned inmates, chosen by themselves, also attended the meetings of the committee and its minutes were made available to the inmates after each committee meeting. The spiritual leader of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobours also visited the camp at frequent intervals with a view to screening the prisoners and effecting their release in selected groups. A total of 98 were so released, of whom 58 were released prior to the opening of the encampment and 40 released (except one who refused to be released) thus leaving in the encampment only prisoners undergoing sentence for arson and destruction of bridges and railway by dynamite and arson. The inmates made determined attempts to destroy the encampment and their effects by fire. On November 29th, 1950 a fire set among prisoners effects stored in Number 3 hut was quickly extinguished. The effects were then transferred to the store room in the Administration building and on February 6th, 1951 a fire was set there which destroyed about 75 - 80% of these effects, as well as some stores of the Stewards Department. The building was gutted together with some of the office equipment but the records were saved, being in filing cabinets which resisted the flames. The office was then transferred to Hut #3. On February 15th, 1951 the installation of earphones for radio listening was completed in the North Wing. The East Wing and Cell Block B-7. This adds to the reception and therefore offers more enjoyment. No longer are there blaring loudspeakers. Those inmates who are taking a serious part in the educational program are now enjoying conditions for greatly improved study. The inmates are not compelled to listen to programs which do not appeal to them. The inmates have in many cases expressed gratitude and the cooperation of the Commissioner and his staff in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Deputy Warden Goss retired from the service under the terms of the superannuation act on 22nd August 1950 after 26 years of service. Senior Clerk F. C. B. Cummins was promoted to the permanent position of Deputy Warden of B.C. Penitentiary, effective 23rd August 1950. Deputy Warden Cummins joined the service 17th February 1933.

#### GENERAL REMARKS:

There is a more cooperative feeling noticeable among the inmates. The development of softball leagues, competitive sports of various kinds, installation of earphones in the cells, organization of New Years and Christmas concerts, in which inmates largely participated, formation of the Alcoholics Anonymous Group, the drawing up of a creed of ten objectives for better living in the Protestant Chaplain's congregation, the wide choice of study courses available, ranging from University to Elementary levels, control training, all have combined to make the inmate realize that he is not a forgotten man. That there are active agencies willing to put him back on his feet, and when he leaves the Institution, equipped with a trade which he did not know before, fortified by courses in his speciality which give him certificates of acquired skills and provided with a job on release, obtained for him by the Classification Department in conjunction with the National Employment Service, he is able to face the world on an equal footing with his

fellow men, and has ceased to be one of the unwanted of society. More prisoners through their uncooperative attitude have presented an extraordinary and troublesome problem to the institution for which our facilities were not intended, and consequently were not adequately equipped to treat them successfully. This situation is unique in Penitentiary history, the British Columbia Penitentiary's frequent behaviour problems which require careful consideration and handling so far as these Doukhobours are concerned. Close liaison has been maintained with the Doukhobour advisory committee of the University of B.C. and consultants and consultations are held regularly with this committee.

This Institution takes pride in an outstanding accomplishment with inmate labour. During a period of three months, approximately from July to September inclusive, 6 large buildings were erected in the Doukhobour encampment and were ready for occupancy using mainly unskilled prisoners in every phase of construction except finishing plumbing. This accomplishment is a credit to the prisoners and also the Officers who supervised this project. These building consisted of three huts, each designed to accomodate 100 Doukhobour prisoners and three administrative buidings such as Kitchen and Mess Hall, Laundry, Administrative Offices and stores.

The introduction of the shorter work week commenced on June 7th, 1950. This has been received with appreciation by the Staff and is noticed in a notable raising of moral in the Institution.

END OF REPORT.

May 14th, 1951

The Columbian

### FREEDOM FIRES GUT TWO MORE BUILDINGS

Police, Firemen and Prison Officials categorically denies reports that a near riot followed Sunday mornings fire in the Doukhobor compound on the B.C. Penitentiary.

The blaze broke out at about 5:45 a.m. Sunday, and although prison officials clamped a security ban on information, it is understood two Quonset huts, used as dormitories by the radical Sons of Freedom, were completely gutted.

Early reports stated city police officers rushed from New Westminster to quell the near rioting and had to use billies when the Doukhobors got out of hand, the report also said that police were patrolling outside the walls of the Penitentiary today.

Said Warden Douglass, that is definitely not true.

The police were called; they attended the fire as normal procedure, no demonstration accompanied, or followed the fire, and police are most certainly not patrolling outside the walls of this prison today.

These statements were corroborated by Police Chief Jack Donald and Fire Chief Claude Highsted.

However, Warden Douglass declined comment concerning details of the fire and referred all questions to the Minister of

671 A

Justice in Ottawa.

It appeared, however, that the fires, like the one in the compound last winter had been deliberately set.

The Police Chief said when our boys arrived, the fire was under way and the Douks were standing in a corner singing hymns.

Other reports indicated that after the demonstration about seventy-six Doukhobor inmates of the compound were removed to the main prison.

When firemen arrived the Freedomites were said to be chanting hymns in Russian and that many of them were nude, but for their boots. Bedding, mattresses and the Doukhobors' own clothing went into the blaze, an unconfirmed report stated that about a dozen fires were burning at one point during the demonstration, but that the most were small bonfires.

Chief Highsted denied rumours that several inmates had suffered burns in the fire. He said also that he had been requested by the Warden to withhold information concerning the fire.

It is believed the blackout on the news was ordered because officials were fearful that demonstrations would fan outbreaks in the East Kootenay area of the province, home of the Sons of Freedom Sect.

Federal Commissioner R.B. Gibson at Ottawa revealed today that the suspected ringleaders of the outbreak have been isolated.



May 28th, 1951

The Columbian

SPORTS NOW PART OF PEN'S NEW CURRICULUM:

For the first time in the seventy-three year history of the B.C. Penitentiary, an outside ball team invaded the confines of the towering prison walls to engage the convicts in a spirited Sunday softball fixture. (May 27th 1951)

The men behind the move, Warden Robert Douglass, stated that sports now play a major part in the rehabilitation and education of the prisoners. It is a move that was first instituted two years ago but is just now coming into full being.

In the short time a baseball diamond has been at their disposal the convicts really have showed a mighty squad of hickory wielders.

This was proved yesterday when "the Seals" as their team is called, walloped the Burnaby, Westminster Firemens' Senior Ball team 12 - 6. And it probably is the first time that fans "pro cons", more than 400 inmates lined the newly constructed field and cheered lustily as their mates proved themselves capable of coping with one of the best teams from the outside.

I hope this was the start of more outside teams paying us a visit for a friendly contact, said Warden Douglass prior to the game. And when it was all over he extended a standing invitation for a return match.

672 A

Nestled in a surrounding of bush land, the diamond is the result of the work of the convicts themselves. They started last March and since then have levelled a playing area, erected a huge backstop and have the nucleus of one of the smartest parks in the area.

June 6th, 1951

The Columbian

DOUK CONVICTS ON HUNGER STRIKE

B.C. Penitentiary Officials have instituted a forced feeding plan in an effort to cope with a three week old hunger strike by the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors. Prison authorities declined to comment on the move when questioned by the Columbian today.

The reports said the imprisoned Doukhobors were lying around in their bunks and have had to be fed by means of a tube. Unconfirmed reports led to the assumption that the injection diet was started only after concern was felt for the health of the prisoners.

It is estimated that there are up to two hundred Sons of Freedom in the Penitentiary but it is not known if all are involved in the strike. One June 7th the Columbian reports that the Doukhobor hunger strike enters 25th day in the Penitentiary.

Reports of the hunger strike by seventy-two Doukhobor inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary were confirmed by Warden Douglass today.

The Warden said forced feeding would be done with the assistance of a male nurse on the Doctor's orders only. The Warden made a tour of the Doukhobor cells as the hunger strike entered its 25th day today but reported no change in their physical condition.

673 A

Doctors have ordered the forced feeding of only one Doukhobor so far, the Warden reported.

The seventy-two Sons of Freedom are drinking plenty of water and may be able to go without food for some time yet prison authorities said.

The strikers are not being forced to work because the Doctor does not think they are fit, Warden Douglass said.

Major General Gibson said he and other prison officials are not too concerned over the situation just now, it is not unusual for them to fast said Major General Gibson.

On the 9th June, 1951 the Columbian reports three more radical Doukhobors confined in the B.C. Penitentiary have joined the ranks of the small group again taking food.

The first break in the rebellious hunger strike came Thursday when four took food for the first time in twenty-five days. Three more ended their strike on Friday. Six others were forcibly fed on Friday by the Institution's Doctor and an Assistant because of their condition, Warden Douglass said.

Food is made available for all members of the group at every meal but others are taking only water.

On June 13th, the Columbian reports hunger strike by fifty-five imprisoned Sons of Freedom Doukhobors was in its 31st

day today despite a plea by their spiritual leader Stefan Sorokin to break their protest fast.

Sorokin made a visit to the B.C. Penitentiary Tuesday but as yet it has had no reaction on the fasting Douks, Deputy Warden Cummins said today.

Eight of the Doukhobors are on prison physician A. Pedlow's list for tube feeding today and seven others are taking food voluntarily.

The Deputy Warden said the food given the strikers is very nourishing but supplementary feeding is continued each day as a safety precaution.

Warden Douglass is in Ottawa discussin the Doukhobor situation with Federal Prison Authorities.

Doukhobor fasting ends at Pen June 16th, 1951, a protest hunger strike of seventy-three Doukhobor prisoners at the B.C. Penitentiary was ended today by Penitentiary Officials. All remaining fifty-four fasting Doukhobors were being fed a special formula this morning under Doctor's supervision.

Up to Friday nineteen striking Doukhobors were taking food voluntarily, or by forced feeding where in a weakened condition. Of the remaining fifty-four, despite thirty-four days of fasting, all but two or three are reported in good condition. Those weakened by the hunger strike were spoon fed.

673 C

Acting Warden Cummins said that feeding of all Doukhobors was ordered this morning under a new method devised by the prison Doctor. The food is administered by mouth and swallowed and no tubes or violence are involved.

The nourishing diet mixture comprises a pint of milk, two eggs, grapefruit juice, codliver oil, sugar and thickening of powdered milk.

The spiritual leader of the Sons of Freedom, Stefan Sorokin, has made an appointment with the Warden to visit the Doukhobor inmates today. Sorokin will urge the Doukhobors to abandon their starvation strike and other obstructive tactics in the Penitentiary.

October 31st, 1951

The Columbian

#### CRASH OF RUNAWAY CAR FATAL TO FORMER WARDEN

A runaway car tore down fourth street hill at seventy miles an hour, crushed an Austin station wagon in its path like an eggshell and crashed into two store windows on Columbia Street last night to kill driver Col. William Meighen, 72 year old retired Penitentiary Warden.

Catholic Father George J. Booth, station wagon driver, and his three women passengers miraculously escaped injury in the crash which occurred at 5:30 p.m. in the middle of the daily traffic rush period.

Colonel Meighen was taken to the Royal Columbian Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival at 6:00 p.m. He was a brother of former Prime Minister of Canada, Arthur Meighen.

Police believe the elderly driver suffered a heart seizure and his car came speeding down the hill out of control. No one will ever know what caused the auto to run away, because the ex-warden was alone in his vehicle and never regained consciousness after the crash. Warden Meighen retired from the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary in 1946 after twenty-six years with the Canadian Penitentiaries.

Mr. Meighen was the only man in the Dominion to serve twenty-six years as a prison warden. He served as a warden in four of the five Penitentiaries he was attached to. He came to

British Columbia in 1935 and since his retirement from the Penitentiary in 1946 he has continued to reside here.

During Col. Meighen's years service he never had a prison riot on his hands. One escape marred his twenty-six year perfect record and that took place while he was on holiday.

Warden Meighen entered the service as an accountant of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary at Prince Albert and was later elevated to the position of Deputy Warden. He served there for six years.

On April 1st, 1920, he was appointed Warden at Edmonton. Within a year of his appointment the old Pen was dismantled and he went to Dorchester as Warden, remaining there for three years. From there he went to Stony Mountain, Manitoba, and finally in 1935 he came to the B.C. Penitentiary.



November 14th, 1951

The Columbian

### 52 DOUKS STILL HELD IN PRISON

A group of 20 Doukhobors of the seventy-three held in the B.C. Penitentiary since the bunkhouse fire in May this year are being released today. Another man may be released in a few days.

This leaves fifty-two in the Penitentiary doing terms for Arson and similar offences. Whether any of these will be released ahead of their full terms is not known, in addition some twenty-one women are still serving terms in Kingston.

On the 27th November the British Columbian reports, nudest Doukhobors in the Penitentiary have no effect on government regulations. They get a new suit of clothes on release like all other prisoners. The fact that the Douk inmates this spring destroyed most of their personal belongings and clothing did not change the policy. Many of them had no luggage to take home, except the government suit.

Doukhobors released on parole this fall have stepped out of the prison quite happily wearing suits. There was no talk of taking them off.

On the 11th January, 1952, the British Columbian said, it was disclosed today that John Sherstibitoff, sentenced on July 7th, 1950 at Nelson to fourteen years on six counts of Arson, will be freed in a few days provided he leaves the province.

675 A

It was intimated by Officials that some of the forty-eight remaining in the Penitentiary are still "die hards" who have come forward to sign the pledge to keep order.

Under the plan of the committee, all Doukhobors who indicate they will be good citizens are interviewed and given a good chance to return to their normal life.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH  
31, 1952 - R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an decrease of 46 during the last fiscal year. This was due to the reduction of Doukhobour prisoners. 60 were released under the ticket of leave act, on recommendation of the Doukhobour Consultive Committee of the Provincial Government and the Attorney General Department of the province of B.C. Three Doukhobours were also released by expiration of sentence, while one died of natural causes. The Doukhobour population in the Penitentiary was thus reduced from 103 to 39 as of March 31st, 1952 and at the same time the grand total of inmates in the Penitentiary was decreased from 563 to 517. There were 206 males and 12 female inmates received during the year. Five inmates received indeterminate sentences, four as habitual criminals and one as a criminal sexual psychopath. This makes a total of nine inmates serving indeterminate sentences here. Seven as habitual criminals and two as criminal sexual psychopaths. 254 males and 10 female inmates were discharged from the institution by reason of expiration, ticket of leave, pardon and transfer to other Penitentiaries. In addition there were four deaths due to natural causes, one of these being an inmate serving life and confined for many years at the Provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale, B.C.

The general health of the inmates during the year was good. On January 4, 1952, the Red Cross Clinic for blood transfusions visited the Penitentiary and 272 inmates voluntarily donated their blood. This represents an increase of 79 pints over the total last year, it is anticipated that in the coming year we will have two visits from the Red Cross Clinic for blood donations, the first of which is expected in July 1952.

The Rev. B. H. Wallace, Protestant Chaplain reports that the regular work was fully maintained. Church attendance was good though more inmates attended in the winter than in the summer months. The members on the Inmate Church Council functioned throughout the year and was a great help to the Chaplain in many of his activities. Its members, on occasions conducted lay readings in chapel, and specialized in encouraging young inmates to attend divine services, provided newcomers with information on the activities of the group and contributed to the prison magazine "Transition" and to radio programs. In the fall of the year, arrangements were made with the Protestant

inmate choir to sing over the New Westminster radio station CKNW through the medium of recordings which were made at the Penitentiary for rebroadcast at the Christmas season. Under the auspices of the New Westminster Ministerial Association the Protestant Chaplain conducted a morning service over the radio for a period of one week and used the inmate choir recordings.

Rev. Father M. J. Barry, Roman Catholic Chaplain reports that the activities of his department have been well maintained during the year. Mass is said every Sunday at nine o'clock in the morning, with the assistance of the inmate servers and choir. On one occasion a visiting choir sang a high mass which was most favourably received by the inmates. The average Catholic population for the year was 147. The Chaplains conference took place in Ottawa from May 30th to June 6th, 1951. Rev. Wallace and Father Barry states that it has proved most helpful to them in their functions at the Institution.

The Alcoholic's Anonymous group, which was formed during the previous year has met twice monthly with outside visitors attending. A Narcotics Anonymous group has been formed. Though many difficulties exist in the operation of such a group it is felt that the initial steps taken have been worthwhile. The Penitentiary Psychiatrist has been requested to sponsor the group with the assistance of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Chaplain. An executive committee has been elected and some literature has been obtained from Mr. Danny Carlsen of New York, the founder of the N.A. in the United States.

On March 31st, 128 students were studying course in 59 different subjects. 183 new registrations were made during the year with the school. 56 courses were completed, 70 discontinued because of discharge and 7 because of lack of interest and application.

Cellular activities continue to expand. At the close of the year 62 inmates were engaged in hobby work. The sale of hobbycraft articles was instituted, the money so received being placed in the Trust Fund of the inmate concerned.

For the first time in Canadian Penitentiaries there commenced in February 1952, at this institution, a course in Effective Speaking and Human Relations given by the Dale Carnegie Institute. By March 31st, indications of the success of this course were noticeable. All

4015

the textbooks needed were donated to the Penitentiary by the Dale Carnegie Institute. 33 inmates are attending the class. A further innovation was the publishing of an inmate magazine the "Transition" a monthly issue. The first number appear in March 1952. All materials for the magazine were purchased by the inmates recreational fund, subscriptions were sold to subscribers at \$1.50 per year. Subscriptions from the outside public are welcome. The inmate Editorial Staff is advised and supervised by the Library Board.

A schoolteachers conference was held in Ottawa from 17th to 26th May 1951, the gathering of these officers and the pooling of knowledge and practices will prove to be of benefit to the educational program.

The Chief Trade Instructors Department was well supplied with work during the year. The men were kept fully employed, the variety of work was constructive and interesting, while they received good training in their respective trades. The extension to the Laundry building C-4B comprised of a new shower room, barber shop and dressing room was completed. This has provided a continuous system of bathing which is a great improvement over the previously existing facilities. The interior of this extension has been attractively finished in white tile and modern fixtures, it can be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition with very little difficulty. The new recreation area has been completed, backstops for baseball were installed, also bleachers and toilets. A more extensive sports program may now be considered. Initial work has been completed in the installation of a new refrigeration plant in building B-6, concrete bases have been installed for all the machines in the Machine room. When finished the new installation will afford improved facilities for refrigeration and storage of food stuffs.

Farm operations were maintained during the year. A prolonged drought lasting three months effected certain of the crops, however generally good crops were realized. A very good crop of apples was harvested and a fair crop of plums. There was an increase in egg production of about 430 dozen. The electric brooders were successfully, only two chicks out of a total of 700 being lost compared with a loss of 25 last year. Produce from the farm for the year 1951 -1952 totalled \$11,987.81 The value of vegetables, eggs, pork supplied to the Stewards Department amounted to \$11,045.55.

A new power mower was purchased during the year. It has maintained the ornamental grounds in excellent condition, sixteen additional flower beds have been added to these grounds during the past year. In December 1951 the inmates Canteen commenced operations, the purchase of supplies and the storing of same before issue for consumption being carried out by the Stores Department. The value of supplies delivered to the Canteen during the four month period totalled \$2,267.62 at selling prices.

In my report for the previous fiscal year 1950-1951 mention was made of the difficult problem presented by the incarceration in a special encampment of a group of fanatical prisoners, belonging to the Russian Doukhabour sect, serving sentences for arson. On May 13, 1951 these prisoners were successful in destroying their dormitories by fire with the result that they, 79 in number, were transferred to the main prison. The two dormitories were completely gutted and a determined effort was made to destroy the office building, however these were saved and preserved intact. In the main prison the Doukhobours continued through their uncooperative attitude to present a problem. They indulged in a prolonged hunger strike alleging they they desired freedom for all. The attitude of these Doukhobour inmates continue to be uncooperative, there is improvement in their behaviour.

The visit of Our Gracious Queen, then Princess Elizabeth on October 26th, 1951 to New Westminster, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh afforded the Penitentiary Staff an opportunity of showing their devotion and respect to the first lady of our land. The Royal Couple alighted at a platform built by the Penitentiary, where a civic reception by the municipal and military authorities took place. In order to deal with the large crowd of spectators expected the city authorities asked for, and received the cooperation of the Penitentiary staff for security purposes and other related duties. The staff paraded between eleven **thirty** and fourteen ten hours, every officer wearing his military service medals. The fine weather which prevailed combined to afford all concerned a memorable souvenir of this visit of our Royal Family. Letters of appreciation in which the staff acquitted themselves of these special duties were received from civic and police officials.

The conference of Warden's took place between June 13 and June 23, 1951. During the year four officers attended Penitentiary Officers Training

Course #20 which finished in April 28th, 1951. Two officers proceeded to course #27 which commenced March 25th, 1952 and was still in session at the end of the fiscal year. In the past Officers have returned from these courses with added enthusiasm and better understanding of their duties and functions.

Reference has been made to Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics' Anonymous groups.

The much needed appointment of a full time physician, Dr. Allan Pedlow and the creation of the position of Penitentiary Psychiatrist to which Dr. D. C. MacDonald was appointed, are forward steps in this direction. Commencing as of October 1st, 1951 a new system of remuneration was established, accomplished by the grading of the inmate and payment on a graduated scale. This had the effect of raising the interest of the inmate in his work and in work habits, and affording an incentive to improving his attitudes and himself so that he may be rewarded by a higher grade of pay.

This year for the first time inmates were permitted to purchase gift parcels for the Christmas season. The parcels were of fixed contents and priced in three categories, \$1.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00. Inmate orders for parcels were placed with one of the large department stores which offered the best assortment. The parcels were delivered to the Institution and boxed individually in suitable Christmas wrapping. Papers were permitted for the first time in Canadian Penitentiaries, Daily, Weekly and Monthly newspapers are freely available to the inmates provided that they are mailed direct by the publisher thus the inmate is without distortion, well informed of events taking place in the outside world, after being read the subscriber the papers are available to any other inmate who wishes them. The opening of the new recreational areas has greatly enlarged the opportunity for healthy physical recreation.

Throughout the summer season an intra-mural soft ball league was in operation, in addition an all star Penitentiary team selected by the inmates themselves and named them the "Seals" contested with the various teams of the New Westminister Softball Association. The Seals were able to win most of their games, 11 wins to 4 losses, against both New Westminister and Vancouver Teams of the class "B" League.

4910

On July 2nd , 1951 was the occasion of a sports field day. About 200 inmates divided into 15 teams competed against one another in various events such as the 100 yard relay, 100 yard dash, sack race, three legged race, wheelbarrow race, etc. There were such other events as the fat mans race, horse shoes. Prizes in the form of ice cream, soft drinks and 15 packages of tobacco purchased from the recreation fund for the competitors. Softball games took place with outside teams on both July 1st and 2nd. At Christmas and New Years concerts were provided. On Christmas Eve a Boys Band consisting of 25 boys under the direction of Mr. Turner of New Westminster and a group of 19 inmates under the direction of Guard McWhinney, provided a program of concert music. On December 31st, 1951 Mr Mawhinney and his concert group of inmates provided the entire program which was greatly enjoyed by the inmates. Many encores being requested. The inmates heard the music in their cells by means of an ear phone system. Both concerts were a success.

Establishment of such **amelioration** as an increased remuneration scale, the inmates Canteen, issue of personal shaving articles, subscriptions to daily newspapers, increased number of entertainment films, enlargement of library facilities, distribution of Christmas gift parcels, has been received by the inmate population with appreciation, which is demonstrated by the improved general conduct and attitude.

END OF REPORT.



June 10th, 1952

The Columbian

#### PRISONERS GRADUATE AS PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Completing an experiment unique in the British Commonwealth, a group of inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary last week finished a course in public speaking and human relations arranged within the walls by the Dale Carnegie Institute.

Warden R.S. Douglass revealed today that the class of thirty-one volunteer inmates, short term men, had been surprisingly successful.

The course of seventeen weeks was climaxed with a banquet in the prison on Saturday where the student speakers greatly impressed various officials attending. Wal Angus, Instructor from the Carnegie Institute which provided the course free of charge to the Penitentiary, said he was proud of the class and the amazing transformation developed in the men. The students at the graduating banquet were presented with official institute certificates.

This was a further experiment in advanced penology, said Warden Douglass. The New Westminster Institution has been a leader in the field in Canada in trying to develop rehabilitation principles. It is not known yet whether we will be able to continue the Carnegie classes, although we have already had many requests to do so.

June 11th, 1952

The Columbian

NINE TIME LOOSER AT LARGE

Armed prison guards roamed the banks of the Fraser River today searching for a thirty-nine year old habitual convict who slipped out of the grey walled B.C. Penitentiary in a garbage truck Tuesday June 10th.

William Munavich, alias William Brown, drug addict-burglar and nine time looser to the law, was still at large today.

Munavich, serving an indeterminate sentence under the habitual criminal section of the code, touched off a lower mainland search when he was reported missing at the five o'clock suppertime roll call Tuesday night.

Prison Officials said the convict was last seen working within the huge, sentry patrolled walls and advanced a theory that he had slipped out buried in a truck load of kitchen garbage.

The truck, operated by a guard, makes regular trips to the New Westminster dump.

Warden R.S. Douglass issued an immediate report for duty order to all off duty and holidaying guards who set up road blocks and patrols at all possible escape routes. Some sixty men joined the search.

The convict's hat and shirt were found near the city garbage

677 A

later and it is believed he got off the rear of the truck before the prison officer dumped the load.

Prison officers did not see Munavich after 3:00 p.m. when he was supposed to be cleaning up the gardens and yard of the prison. He was not missed until the prison closed for the regular check up at 4:40 p.m. and the general alarm was sounded.

Prison guards, carrying flashlights, stopped all traffic at the North end of the Pattullo Bridge and searched cars.

It was the first clean getaway from the Penitentiary in more than twenty years. An attempt by several prisoners to climb the wall was foiled in 1939. A prisoner escaped from a street gang in 1930 and another escape from a wharf in 1929 but both were picked up later.

Warden Douglass stated today that an investigation is being conducted into the circumstances of the escape.

"Strict rules are laid down for all activities and movements of individuals and trucks in the prison under constant supervision of guards", said the Warden.

"There may have been a gap of a minute or less when the prisoner might have climbed into the garbage piled on the dump truck".

Other guards searched through car loads of workers leaving night shifts at Fraser Mills and other industrial plants in Sapperton.

677 B

Guards were stationed as far east as the Pitt River Bridge other patrols guarded the Coquitlam-Port Moody area.

His conviction as a habitual criminal was the first in Canada under the 1947 ammendment of the Criminal Code providing special penalties for those found guilty of being confirmed criminals.

Evidence produced showed that Munavich had served nine prison sentences on charges including breaking and entering, retaining stolen property and escaping lawful custody.

It is believed his break was a stroke of amazing luck and opportunity.

On the 12th of June 1952 the Columbian reports:  
Forty hour manhunt for William Munavich, 37 year old B.C. Penitentiary escapee, ended today in Vancouver's east end.

Police had traced him there through a description supplied by wary residents. Dressed in Penitentiary clothing, Munavich did not resist capture and was carrying no weapons police said.

Two prowler officers arrested Munavich after a salesman alerted police at 8:10 a.m. An eyewitness described Munavich as a cold and miserable sight, wet to the knees, unshaven and dirty.

One June 25th, 1952 the Columbian reports:  
Charges of escaping lawful custody will be laid against 37 year old William Munavich this week, B.C. Penitentiary

677 C

Officials disclosed today.

Action against prison guards responsible for the escape is pending stated a report from Ottawa.

On 26th June, 1952, the Columbian reports; An application to have B.C. Penitentiary inmate William Munavich released to face trial on a charge of excaping lawful custody was granted in County Court today.

November 14th, 1952

The Columbian

MAN FOUND HANGED IN CELL

A 32 year old prisoner of the B.C. Penitentiary committed suicide in his cell early this morning. Kevan Carroll, a native of Ireland, hanged himself by a torn blanket from the highest point of his cell gate.

It is believed that Carroll was depressed because he was to be deported back to Ireland. He did not want to go.

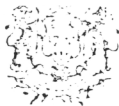
Warden R.S. Douglass said that Carroll was a moody individual and did not mix with the other prisoners.

He appeared to be upset at the thought of going back to Ireland.

He was sentenced to two years imprisonment in Vancouver in June this year but learned recently that he was to be deported.

Warden Douglass said that Carroll was seen by the duty officer at 4:45 a.m. today, and was discovered hanging from a torn blanket in his cell at 5:20 a.m.

New Westminster Fire Department Inhalator crew were summoned and worked for an hour to try and revive him, but without success.



CANADA

OFFICE OF  
THE COMMISSIONER OF PENITENTIARIES  
OTTAWA

REF. NO 6-5-2

January 7, 1953.

The Warden,  
The Penitentiary,  
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Re: Penitentiary Reserve,  
Re: Goose Island.

Dear Sir:

1. I enclose herewith copy of letter received from Messrs. Lawrence A. Elliott and Warren T. Malone, of New Westminster, offering to purchase 60,000 lineal feet of cedar poles, and some fir saw logs from the penitentiary property known as Goose Island. If this transaction were to be considered, it would, of course, be necessary to declare the timber surplus and turn the matter over to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation to make all necessary arrangements for its sale.
2. This letter raises the whole matter of the ultimate use of this Island and whether there is any object in the Department retaining it. I have studied the Warden's letter dated June 21st, 1943, your file 6-48, and your own report accompanying it which described your visit to the Island. I have also considered your report dated May 27th, 1950, your file 21-53, which described the difficulties of making any practical use of this Island for penitentiary purposes. I am inclined to think that there is not much point in continuing to hold this Island and that it might be wise to declare the whole Island surplus to our requirements and turn it over to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation for disposal of either land or timber, as it may see fit, to the best advantage of the Crown. In any event, proceeds of sale of either land or timber would not accrue to the benefit of the Penitentiary Vote.
3. I would be glad to have your views on this matter before replying to Messrs. Elliott and Malone's letter.

Yours truly,

Commissioner.

# COPY British Columbia Penitentiary

All Communications to be  
addressed to the Warden

WARDEN'S OFFICE

5-2  
Our Ref. ....  
8-5-2  
Your Ref. ....

RSD/TWH

New Westminster, B.C., January 13th, 1953.

The Commissioner of Penitentiaries,  
Department of Justice,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

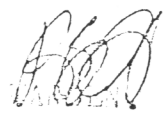
Dear Sir:            Re - Penitentiary Reserve  
                          Re - Goose Island.

1.                    Reference your letter of January 7th, 1953, I must agree with you that there is not much point in continuing to hold Goose Island. I am unable to see it being of any practical use to the penitentiary in view of the many difficulties outlined in my letter of May 27th, 1950, file 1-1-79.

2.                    The island was originally granted to the penitentiary in 1903 as a source of supply for fuel and rock. No use has been made of the island since 1909. With our present methods of heating by coal and oil, any resources that might be obtained from the island are now not required. In any event, to obtain wood from the island with inmate labour, staff supervision and purchase of equipment such as logging supplies and a large boat would present a prohibitive cost. In addition the danger of inmates escaping would be always present.

3.                    I would recommend that the island be declared surplus to our requirements and turned over to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation of disposal as it may see fit.

Yours truly,





February 24th, 1953

The Columbian

FORMER CONVICT RETURNS TO PEN WITH A MESSAGE:

A former convict returned to the B.C. Penitentiary voluntarily on Saturday with a message of hope for those who fear the world outside. It was the strangest incident in the history of the Institution, the first inspirational break in the dark problem of crime prevention and rehabilitation.

The occasion was a graduation luncheon held for thirty-five inmates who had just completed Dale Carnegie course of sixteen weeks in public speaking and human relations.

Prior to the prison luncheon a smartly dressed young man appeared at the prison and asked for the Warden. Warden R.S. Douglass remembered him as a former inmate who had taken a similar relations course a year ago.

"This is more than a visit", the young man told Warden Douglass. "I would like to tell the boys it can be done". This he did. The group that listened treasured every word. "I was on parole. I was afraid to take a job. I was afraid of people. But I found the people outside were friendly. The National Employment Service looked after me with tact and care and located a suitable job for me. Those first days going to work were torture. I was self conscious and scared. The Carnegie course helped me to hold my own and try to meet people. I mix with my fellow men again, and I thank God for

679 A

the AA's who gave me strength, I have a good job now and have just received a promotion. You can do it too".

Warden Douglass had fifteen officials and guests from various organizations attending the luncheon for the class graduates. It was an experience in human relations none will ever forget.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
31st MARCH 1953. - R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an increase of 32 during the last fiscal year, rising to a total of 549. There were 238 males and 24 females received, while totals of 203 males and 27 female inmates were discharged. One death occurred during the year.

As of March 31st, 1953 there were 9 inmates confined in the Provincial Mental Hospital, these inmates remain on the register of the B.C. Penitentiary while so confined at the mental hospital. The Doukhobour population was reduced by a total of 39 to 17 by ticket of leave releases, which were recommended by the Doukhobour Consultive Committee of the Government of British Columbia and by normal expiration of sentence.

The health of the inmates has been good during the year. Pending completion of the new hospital it was necessary to utilize one of the cell tiers as a temporary hospital where 14 patients were treated. The new hospital was opened on December 10th, 1952 and marks another step in the improvement of our treatment services. The bright, clean sanitary and up-to-date wards with modern kitchen, office and operating room, give the institution an opportunity of providing a good measure of helpful and scientific medical treatment towards rehabilitation. In addition to the new hospital X-ray equipment has been installed which is proving to be of great help. With the appointment of a permanent part-time dentist, who has been provided with satisfactory accommodation and equipment, it is now possible to further improve the health of all inmates. On July 4th, 1952 the Red Cross Clinic for blood donations visited the Penitentiary and a total of 278 inmates voluntarily gave a pint of blood each.

Following the resignation of Rev. Bryce Wallace, to return to outside ministry, the Rev. D. J. Gillies was appointed Protestant Chaplain at the Penitentiary in October 1952. In December 1952 a series of tape recordings were broadcast over radio station CKNW. These recordings comprised fifteen minute addresses together with renditions of hymns sung by the inmate choir. Mr. Ray MacNess our organist, has given of his time and effort preparing the choir for these broadcasts. Considerable outside appreciation of these programs was forthcoming and showed itself in the form of telephone calls and letters

expressing gratification to the Chaplain.

Father M.J. Barry, Roman Catholic Chaplain reports that the activities of his department have been well maintained during the year. Mass is said every Sunday at nine o'clock in the morning with the assistance of inmate servers and choir. A high percentage of the Catholic population attends services regularly and Father Barry attributes this in part to, the favourable climate which prevails in the institution and encourages such attendance. The Chaplains take a most active part in the activities of the institutional inmate Alcoholics Anonymous Group with the attendance being forty. On two occasions former members have returned to the Penitentiary to address the institutional group, and this action has made a lasting and beneficial impression.

The bookbinding department has increased its volume of production. A total of 3,813 books were bound or repaired which included 489 books for the New Westminster School Board and 50 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Shaughnessy Military Hospital, 43 for Port Moody School Board, 7 for the Surrey School Board and 127 for officers revenue.

High School Correspondence courses were continued as in the past years under the auspices of the Provincial Department of Education. The cellular activities has continued to expand. As of April 1st, 1953 128 inmates were engaged in hobby work of some kind, sales of hobbycraft articles to officers, official visitors and at two bazzaars sponsored by the Rev. J.M. Barry and D. J. Gillies the two chaplains of the Penitentiary amounted to a total of \$1,681.80 during the year. A hobby revolving fund has been set up and is in operation whereby an inmate wishing to pursue a hobby and having no funds may borrow the necessary money. A Class in effective speaking and human relations conducted by Mr. Warwick C. Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute was conducted in June 1952 with 33 inmates receiving their certificates at graduating ceremonies held at the Penitentiary

The inmate magazine "Transition" which was first published in March 1952 continued to increase in circulation. As of April 1st, 1953 524 paid subscriptions were in force.

The Vocational Officer has many diversified duties among which the following may be mentioned, participation in the grading committee, classification board. The Work Committee which meets to allocate

work assignments. He takes part in the grading committee meetings at the end of each quarter. Both work and classification meet now almost every week on Wednesday mornings, the work board has had fifty and the classification board forty three sessions during the past year.

The National Employment continues to interview each inmate three months before his discharge, after assessing his abilities and skills which he may have acquired during his term of imprisonment, undertakes to try and place him in suitable and gainful employment.

Among the work projects and alterations accomplished some of the more noteworthy may be cited as follows: completion of the new hospital, relocation of the dental lab, construction of a brick and plaster canteen building in the main cell block dome, remodeling of the main hall passage, hospital plumbing, the installation of oil storage tanks for the oil burning boiler in the Engineers Department. The new refrigeration plant in the Kitchen Department was completed. Tenement building #5 was rehabilitated with the installation of modern furnace, plumbing and kitchen fixtures.

The appointment of an Instructor Drafting, D. Percy in July 1952 made possible a class in drafting in September of that year. Seven inmates were prepared for examination for their fourth class engineers certificates and all were successful in passing their examination which were presided over by the Provincial Boiler Inspector. Certificates of graduation were duly granted to the successful candidates.

Farm operation was well maintained during the year and an excellent crop was harvested. With the exception of potatoes, it was possible to meet all the requirements of the Stewards Department for vegetables during the winter and spring.

The program of recreational activities has been maintained throughout the year. The Softball team competed this year in the New Westminster league which has been raised from grade "B" to grade "A" standard. It has become one of the major sporting activities here. The New Westminster City Police kindly loaned a boxing ring and donated considerable equipment. Boxing tournaments were held on November 11, and December 26th, 1952 and again in February 15th, 1953. Constable Whalley of the New Westminster City Police refereed these bouts. They also provided a young outside boxer to fight against one of our

inmates in an exhibition bout. Both contenders are well known lightweight champions who boxed against each other in civilian life. Recreational activities now include weight lifting, gymnastics and tumbling, chess, checkers, contract bridge, table tennis as well as the major sports of baseball, football and boxing.

The inmate band has been further developed and is now composed of two parts. The old timers or hillbilly groups consisting of seven musicians and a modern band composed of eleven instrumentalists. During Christmas and New Year season they provided all inmate concerts, which added to a successful holiday season for all the inmates of the institution.

A conference of Chief Keepers and Censor Clerks and in each conference many important matters relating to the duties of these two classes of officers were examined and discussed. Eight custodial officers and three instructors attended the Penitentiary staff college.

The upsurge of the population in the past years in the province of British Columbia is reflected in the prison population rising to a point where cell accomodation is strained and the institution is in grave danger of becoming over crowded. This situation is common to all other types of prisons in the province and is receiving the earnest attention of provincial authorities.

END OF REPORT

April 13th, 1953

The Columbian

CITY CHOIR PAY VISIT TO PENITENTIARY.

For the first time in many years Choral Eucharistic Communion was celebrated in the B.C. Penitentiary, when the full choir from Holy Trinity Cathedral visited the prison Sunday morning.

Over one hundred prisoners took part in the service which was conducted by the Rector, Rev. I.T.H. Pearson, assisted by the Rev. Gillies, the Penitentiary Chaplain.

Sixteen prisoners took communion during the service and the Holy Trinity Choir sang the anthem "Joy Fills the Morning", directed by Cathedral Organist, Frederick Nelson.

700

October 29th, 1953

The Columbian

## BUILDING NEW HUT FOR PEN PRISONERS

Forty-seven Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, serving sentences for nude parading will be moved to the B.C. Penitentiary around the first of the year.

Prison Officials said Wednesday work was being rushed on the new army type "H" Hut dormitory, but that it was not expected to be completed until around the end of December.

B.C. Penitentiary Officials said the new dormitory will house a group of fifty inmates selected from the present prison population so that the Douks may be moved into fire-proof cells.

The new Dormitory (of fireproof wooden construction) houses twenty-five prisoners in each of the two wings with the central portion of the structure housing showers and toilet facilities.



December 30th, 1953

The Columbian

CONVICT SLIPS PAST DRAGNET.

Escaping from the B.C. Penitentiary piggery farm about 4:00 p.m. December 29th, Anders Berg, 54 year old convict, during the night and this morning successfaully eluded a dog tracker and a dragnet of guards and police spread over the lower mainland area. Several new leads are being investigated today.

He was missed at 4:05 p.m. from the piggery squad outside the prison said Warden R.S. Douglass. We believe he ducked into the Glen Brook Ravine. He must have got a head start of half an hour or so to evade our immediate flying squads.

Anders Berg was recaptured on a downtown street early today, police reported.

A department spokesman said Berg did not put up a struggle when captured in the 200 Block Georgia St., shortly after 9:00 a.m.

Guards from the Penitentiary were immediately sent to police headquarters to take charge of the man, who escaped after serving all but six months of a two year term for breaking and entering.

March 2nd, 1954

The Columbian

HUMAN RELATIONS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

"I can hold up my head again in the outside world".

This poignant hope is expressed by a group of inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary who have worn a new faith in themselves and the humanity of normal society.

More than ninety convicts in the past year volunteered for the special Dale Carnegie courses in human relations and public speaking conducted within the high walls of the prison.

The B.C. Penitentiary was the first institution in the Commonwealth to introduce this innovation in rehabilitation. The success of the course has attracted gratifying attention from high officials and modern penologists.

On Saturday, February 27th, the third class graduated. The thirty students, selected from those with short terms to complete, had worked for sixteen weeks with Wal Angus, instructor and director for the sponsors, the Dale Carnegie Institute.

Of fifty-one students who have left the Penitentiary from the first two courses, forty are reported to have attained satisfactory jobs and a happy life. At least three have won promotion to executive positions in business.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
31st MARCH 1954 - R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an increase of 89 during the past year, rising to a total of 638, which is partly occasioned by the arrest and incarceration of a group of Doukhobours totalling 47, who were admitted to the institution in February 1954. There were 331 males and 11 females received while 248 males and 13 females were discharged. Two deaths occurred during the year. As of 31st March 1954 there were 9 inmates confined in the Provincial Mental Hospital. These inmates remain on the register of the Penitentiary while so confined at the mental hospital. The general health of the inmates during the year was good.

February 5th, 1954 the Red Cross Clinic for blood transfusion donations visited the Penitentiary. A total of 303 pints of blood were given which represents the highest total yet obtained at the Institution

The Penitentiary Psychiatrist reports that he held 793 interview with individual inmates. Group therapy was initiated during the year with two separate groups participating, while a third group will commence treatment shortly. When the electroshock machine presently on order, is received, it is hoped that many of the cases, which have up to the present been committed to the Provincial Mental Hospital will be treated at the Penitentiary.

The Rev. D. J. Gillies, Protestant Chaplain reports that the regular weekly work and the Sunday Services have been well maintained during the year. The choir and the religious services contributed to the spiritual welfare of the inmates during the year. The inmate attendance was on a voluntary basis, once more gave consistent gratifying indications of the interest maintained in spiritual values. Twice during the year in April 1953 and again in January 1954 a series of tape recordings were broadcast over the local radio station CKNW. The addresses were broadcasts of fifteen minutes duration accompanied by the inmate choir.

Rev. M. J. Barry reports the activities of his department have been well maintained. Chapel attendance has been most satisfactory, particularly on Good Friday, Easter and Christmas. In winter, on alternate Sunday afternoons, fourteen variety shows by outside professional entertainers were provided and the performances were made available to

to the entire prison population. Elementary and High School correspondence courses were obtained from the B.C. Department of Education. As of April 1st, 1954, 137 pupils were on register for courses in 65 different subjects. A lecture program made possible through the extension department of the University of B.C. consisted of 6 lectures. Average attendance on a voluntary basis amounted to 210 inmates each lecture.

A class in effective speaking and human relations conducted by Mr. Warwick C. Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute was concluded in February 1954 when thirty inmates received their certificates of graduation. These classes consisted of morning and afternoon sessions on 17 Saturdays. Cellular activities continued to expand. As of April 1st, 1954 181 inmates were engaged in various forms of vocational work in their cells. Sales of hobbywork to officers, visitors and the bazaar sponsored by the Rev. M. J. Barry and the Rev. D. J. Gillies amounted to \$4,484.54. At the end of the fiscal year there were four tiers of cells, totalling 44 cells in one cell block used by inmate hobbyist.

The inmate magazine "Transition" continued a successful year of publication. Several of its articles were reprinted in local daily newspapers. As of April 1st, 1954 there were 512 paid subscriptions 409 of which were from outsiders. In 1953 Classification Officer Mr. Ward Cook resigned in order to accept the position of Western Representative of the Remission Service and was replaced by Mr. B. Wilby.

Among the work projects accomplished it may be of interest to list some of the more noteworthy. Removal of the laundry building from the former Doukhobour encampment and the resiting on the farm. Construction of the inmates canteen in the Dome, renovation of the Main Hall passageway, conversion of the former record room in the Administration building into a visiting room, conversion of #3 boiler to oil firing, construction of the new dormitory building B-9, situated between the kitchen and cell block B-7, affording additional accommodation for 50 inmates, alterations to the Protestant Chapel, providing an improved view for those seated at the rear of the building, redecoration of the R.C. Chapel, re-flooring the cement floor in the Stores with mastic, thereby providing a level and pliable surface, work was also commenced on the vocational school building F-1. The Instructor

D. Percy attended a special course for vocational training officers in July 1953 in the Penitentiary Staff College at Kingston. Instructor Motor Mechanic Etson and Guard W. Morris his assistant in the garage department attended short courses by outside firms on welding, automotive clinic, and demonstration of power steering. Guard Morris began the first of an eight day course, one day in each of eight successive weeks in February 1954 in the latest methods of diagnosing general automotive troubles.

Inmates completed their preparations for examination as fourth class engineers and successfully passes their examination presided over by the provincial Boiler Inspector and obtained their fourth class certificates. A further 11 students are undergoing instructions four of whom are ready for examination this year.

Under the joint auspices of the institutional and inmate hobby committees a large display of hobby articles was entered in the Pacific National Exhibition held in Vancouver in August and September of 1953. The Penitentiary exhibit won the first prize for enteries, winning a silver medal and the Canadian Hobbywork Magazine trophy for a year and receives a replica of same for future retention.

Soccer was a major outdoor activity in the realm of sports in the winter seasons, the institutional soccer team, the "Penguins" had a successful season. Entered in in division 3A of the Coast Soccer League, in competition with outside teams representative of widely distributed interests, the team attained fifth position in the league out of a total of nine teams, winning nine games as against seven losses.

Boxing again was featured as one of the main sporting activities of the year. The softball team had a successful season once more and the team captain of the Penitentiary "Seals" received a replica of the Al Curran Trophy for the batting championship of the league, with a batting average of .488, participated in thirteen league games, making 22 hits in 45 times at bat.

The inmate entertainment group has developed into a proficient unit of musicians and variety performers. At Christmas and New Year they staged a diversified program of entertainment that was wildly acclaimed by the inmate population. In view of the excellence of the

preformance and the good publicity which resulted therefrom, the local radio station CKNW requested and obtained permission from the Commissioner of Penitentiaries to make recordings of the show. The training of officers continued, courses #38,39,40 and 41 at the staff college in Kingston and were attended by officers of this institution.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The remission service, the John Howard Society, the Salvation Army, the special placement division of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, Alcoholics Anonymous group of Vancouver, British Columbia Department of Education, the University of British Columbia and Wall Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute, rendered most helpful and commendable services to the institution during the year.

The steadily increasing population has necessitated construction of additional accomodation and it is anticipated that more construction along similiar lines will be rendered in the coming year.

END OF REPORT

703

May 13th, 1954

The Columbian

## HALL IS CHIEF KEEPER

Promotion of Thomas W. Hall, former senior clerk at the B.C. Penitentiary, to the post of Chief Keeper, was announced today by Warden R.S. Douglass. The appointment took effect from May 1st. Mr. Hall succeeds David McLean, transferred to Kingston.

Mr. Hall is well known as a Bisley Marksman and veteran of the New Westminster Regiment, serving overseas as a Major.

He joined the Penitentiary service in 1933 as a guard at Piers Island and in 1935 was transferred to the B.C. Penitentiary as clerk in Personnel. He was on leave for war service from August, 1939, to February, 1946, with the Westminster Regiment (Motor) and was company commander and acting 2nd, in command for a time in Italy. He continues service in the reserve battalion.

A keen rifle shot, Major Hall was a member of the Canadian Bisley team which attended the famous meet in England in 1952 where he contributed to an outstanding score for Canada.

704

June 1st, 1954.

The Columbian

## JOHNSTONE WARDEN OF KINGSTON.

Walter F. Johnstone, 49, New Westminster Native Son, has been named Warden of one of Canada's largest Penitentiaries, Kingston, Ontario.

The new Warden joined the ranks of the Department of Justice at the B.C. Penitentiary in 1934, and rose to the position of Warden's secretary. In 1948 he was transferred to Ottawa as a training officer.

In 1953 he was named Superintendent of the Penitentiary Staff College in Kingston.

He succeeds Richard M. Allan, a 40 year veteran of the Penal Service.

---



705

June 5th, 1954

The Columbian

## MAYOR AROUSED BY OTTAWA REFUSAL

New Westminster will continue to press for removal of the B.C. Penitentiary despite Justice Minister Stuart Garson's hope-shattering comments Friday that removal would cost \$10,000,000.00.

Mayor F.H. "Toby" Jackson said today that the City Council was continuing to press as hard as they could for removal to another site.

A Penal Institution right in the middle of the city is not tollerated anywhere else and there is no reason why it should be here, said the Mayor. We are definitely continuing our fight to have it revoked, however much it may cost.

In the House of Commons Thursday Justice Minister Garson told New Westminster M.P. George Hahn that it would cost 10 million dollars to build a new Penitentiary in B.C., if the present one were removed from New Westminster, and that the government would not be able to recover anything from the present one except the value of the land.

Mayor Jackson said today that a move was desireable not only from the point of view of the city but also for the benefit of the inmates who had insufficient room to carry out rehabilitation work.

They could certainly use a bigger farming area, said the Mayor, and you can bet we will continue to go after Ottawa for removal of the prison.

706

September 4th, 1954

The Columbian

## MINOR DISTURBANCE ON PEN REVEALED.

Reports of a disturbance in the B.C. Penitentiary this week are explained today by Warden R.S. Douglass as a minor "noise" session by a score of inmates in their cells.

The incident took place September 2nd, for about an hour when a small group of prisoners made a noise and clatter with their furniture. Actual damage was negligible, Warden Douglass said. The group is but a fraction of six hundred inmates.

The Warden said that minor disturbances by disgruntled inmates do crop up occasionally.

Disciplinary action has been taken, said the Warden. Conditions in the Institution are quiet and normal.

---

707

November 20th, 1954

The Columbian

## CONVICT ELUDES PARK DRAGNET

A fifty man army of Police and Prison Guards were still combing Queens Park area early this afternoon for a 27 year old convict who fled a B.C. Penitentiary work gang this morning. It is now admitted he may have dodged out of the area or even used a bicycle to make distance.

Still at large is Robert Bates, who was serving a three year term for burglary.

Bates was missed at 11:45 a.m. from a work gang repairing Pen Row Tenements. Prison Officials flashed word to all lower mainland police departments and road blocks were set up at Pattullo Bridge and other strategic points. On Sunday morning, 21st of November, Bates jumped Ken Morton, Provincial Registrar of Voters, on S.E. Marine Drive in Burnaby, and forced him at knife point to drive him to Vancouver's west end.

Bates told Morton the only reason he broke out was to go and finish off his wife in Winnipeg. Bates was recaptured in Stanley Park on December 7th. He was cornered Tuesday in bush between 2nd and 3rd beaches by two traffic officers shortly after noon.

The officers fired three shots at the escapee and one of the bullets grazed his arm. Bates surrendered after a revolver in his possession misfired. On December 22nd, 1954, Bates was sentenced to one year additional in the B.C. Penitentiary.

708

December 24th, 1954

The Columbian

## STEAK, CREAM PUFFS FOR PRISONERS' TABLE.

T.-Bone Steaks and Cream Puffs and a movie "From Here to Eternity", are among the feature items marking the Christmas of inmates in the B.C. Penitentiary.

Warden R.S. Douglass said today special menus have been prepared for Christmas day meals, but instead of the traditional turkey dinner, the prisoners will feast on T.-Bone Steaks and Plum Pudding. Other meals of the day include Cream Puffs, Cake and Date Bars.

Also on the bill for Saturday are religious services and a special movie, while tonight artists among the prisoners will broadcast a variety show from the Auditorium that will be heard over cell block radios.

On Sunday morning the thirty voice Choir from Holy Trinity Cathedral will sing at the prisoners' church service, under the direction of Fred Nelson. In the afternoon a soccer match has been arranged with an outside team, and another movie will be shown.

709

February 3rd, 1955

The Columbian

## PEN MAGAZINE SUSPENDED AS INMATES QUIT

Publication of the B.C. Penitentiary Magazine "Transition" has been suspended temporarily as a result of a dispute with the inmate editors as to content. A censor board at the Institution objected to some references to Department of Justice Officials planned in the December issue. The six inmate editors quit rather than delete the objectionable articles as advised by Warden R.S. Douglass.

The tiny publication, started in 1952, was intended to express the literary talents of inmates and has resulted in many interesting issues, officials said, but it was not intended to stray into abusive comments.

It is expected the publication "Transition" will be resumed before long.

---

710

February 10th, 1955

The Columbian

## PETER DALL FOUND DEAD

Peter R.M. Dall, 60, 35 Columbia Street, died this morning at his residence on Pen Row, Government home of B.C. Penitentiary employees.

A guard at the prison for many years, he had been in ill health.

He was found in the garage at the rear of the home, and efforts of the Fire Department Inhalator squad failed to revive him.

---

31 March 1955

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1955  
R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN:

The population has shown a further increase of 40 during the past year, rising to a total of 678 inmates. There were 270 males and 10 female inmates received 230 males and 10 females were discharged. 190 released by expiration of sentence; 28 by ticket of leave licence; 9 by unconditional release; 12 by transfer to other penitentiaries; and one by death.

There were three inmates confined at the Provincial Mental Hospital and three at hospitals outside the Penitentiary under temporary ticket of leave. One inmate unlawfully at large, having escaped from the Provincial Mental Hospital.

Reverend D.J. Gillies, Protestant Chaplain and Reverend Father M. J. Barry, Roman Catholic Chaplain report a successful year.

There were 338 books of fiction. 975 non-fiction and 607 reference books on stock in the library. During the year 37,756 books were issued. 174,077 magazines were issued from the library. A total of 27 students were registered in school for 187 courses in 62 different subjects. One student took an International Schools Course in Structural Engineering. A fourth class in Effective Speaking and Human Relations conducted by Mr. Warwick and C. Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute was concluded on February 19, 1955. 32 members received their graduation diplomas. There were 250 inmates engaged in Hobby work. Sales of hobby were \$6, 167.90 during the year.

Forty-seven Classification Board Meetings took place in which 268 inmates were considered, together with 41 Work Board meetings dealing with approximately 600 inmates.

Numerous work projects being completed during the year. 2 new dormitories B-9 and B-10 were completed and placed in operation, each providing accommodations for 50 men.

The new staff house H-14 is ready for plastering. The Vocational training school F-1 was completed and will serve to further develop the rehabilitation program.

One hundred and nine inmates were enrolled in various vocational courses. 15 graduated, 5 were discharged prior to graduation and 62 continued their training.

A total of 35 inmates have been employed in the Stewards Department during the year. 685,917 inmate meals were served and 32,190 duty meals in the Officer's Mess.

10,809 dozen eggs were produced, 40,681 pounds of pork, 38,890 pounds of cabbage, 132,510 pounds of potatoes, 25,020 pounds of onions, 18,300 pounds of lettuce, 11,034 pounds of beets, 12,520 pounds of cucumbers.

The Penitentiary "SEALS" entered in the New Westminster soft ball league, and the "PENGUINS" a soccer team was entered in the third division of the Vancouver and District soccer league, and played a total of 28 games, winning the Championship and a nice cup.

Six Penitentiary Officers' training courses were held at Calderwood during the year in which 18 Officers from this Penitentiary attended.

I have been advised by my physican that my health is impaired and that my early retirement is advisable. I am, therefore, taking this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation for support and co-operation I have received from the Commissioner, Major General R.B. Gibson. I would be remiss in my duty if I failed to mention the friendly co-operation and loyalty which at all times I have been accorded by my staff here at the Penitentiary.

---



711

May 3rd, 1955

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY ACRES NOT USED

Federal Government rejection of an offer by city council to purchase 3.7 acres of B.C. Penitentiary property was scored by Alderman Alex Courtney Monday night.

Communication from Justice Minister Stuart Garson said the property east of the Cumberland Road was needed as a working ground and food supply for the growing population of inmates.

Alderman Courtney said the piece of property had not been in use for some time and government officials were poorly advised as to its value to the institution.

Mayor Fred Jackson also said he had advised the government to place a price tag on the property since Ottawa Officials has said the City's \$600.00 per acre offer was unsatisfactory.

---

712

June 4th, 1955

The Columbian

## ACTING WARDEN

The Acting Warden for the B.C. Penitentiary from today will be Deputy Warden F.C.B. Cummins, Warden R.S. Douglass, who ended active duty on Friday, June 3rd, 1955.

Warden Douglass commenced his retirement leave after forty-two years of service. Acting Deputy Warden will be T.W. Hall, Acting Chief Keeper is G.G. Foulkes, Principle Keeper.

Warden Douglass is on leave until the end of the year, by which time new appointments will be announced from Ottawa.

---

589

June 14th, 1955.

The Columbian

ALCATRAZ OF PITT LAKETIME CRUMBLES LOG JAIL

PRISON GHOST HAUNT LAKE 'PEN' ISLE

SIR:

SEND UP THE GAS BOAT. CONS 30 AND 25 HAVE MADE A MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON SELF AND ANOTHER INMATE. MATTER UNDER CONTROL, PRISONERS HANDCUFFED.

OFFICER W. WALSH.

This cryptic message, sent by carrier pigeon on May 28th, 1908, sent officials of the B.C. penitentiary into a hum of activity, for there was trouble at "Pen" Island, Pitt Lake's little-known penal colony.

\* \* \*

Today, alone and forgotten, the penitentiary outpost is a crumbling ruin - a forgotten chapter in the colorful history of New Westminster.

\* \* \*

Pen Island was deeded to the B.C. Penitentiary by act of parliament on Feb. 4, 1903, as a stone and wood-cutting camp. Technically, the island was known as Goose or Wright Island, but following occupation by prisoners and their guards in June, 1906, it became known as "Pen" Island, and so remains to oldtimers of the Pitt Lake country.

B.C. Penitentiary records show that two guards and seven prisoners moved onto the lonely island, situated in the geographical center of Pitt Lake, on June 6, 1906. Within

## 589 A

a month and a half the work party had built the stout bunkhouse, officers quarters, road and wharf that are still in evidence today.

But the outpost never met the dreams of the government planners, who envisioned scow loads of cord wood and cut rock moving down the 25-mile river road to New Westminster.

The prison records show that 200 cords of wood was cut by 14 prisoners in 1906, and that the island was occupied again for the summer months of 1907 and 1908. More wood was cut in those years, but there is no evidence that even a single rock was quarried on the island.

The problem then was prison control. At least four prisoners escaped the island, and the carrier pigeon message that is still in the files of the penitentiary today, shows that at least one prisoner riot was encountered.

The two escapes, however, served to further establish the colorful reputation of William Patchell, a custodian at the prison, who later became the first man to rise through the ranks to the post of warden of the B.C. Penitentiary.

## DAVY CROCKETT

"Bill" Patchell, according to many of the old-time Pitt Lake residents, was the "Davy Crockett" of his day. His outstanding craftsmanship in the woods was the undoing of two of the four men who escaped, and it forced the third to give himself up at the very gates of the Royal City prison.

The first two escapees, reached the eastern shore of the lake on a makeshift raft, and landing at Raven creek, headed across country for Haney and the rail line.

Patchell, chief keeper of the prison at the time, tracked the men through the dense forest for days and finally effected their arrest in the rail yards of Haney.

The second bid for freedom was made by two Indians, who attempted to reach Stave Lake. Patchel "hound-dogged" the pair on his own clear through the primeval forest to Stave river. One was never recaptured, but the second appeared at the gates of the main Royal City jail, and begged to be taken in and fed.

The last prisoners left the island in September, 1908, and although still the property of the B.C. Penitentiary, was never used again.

Today, nature has moved in where the men wielded their axes and built the stout buildings. For years hunters and woodsmen used the quarters as emergency shelter, but now the walls have crumbled and only the ghosts of a forgotten era remain.

October 18th, 1955

The Columbian

CUMMINS HEADS B.C. PENITENTIARY

New Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary is former Deputy Warden F.C.B. Cummins, who has been Acting Warden during the retirement leave of R.S. Douglass.

The announcement was made in advices received today from Major General R.B. Gibson, Commissioner of Penitentiaries, Ottawa.

Also appointed were Chief Keeper T.W. Hall as Deputy Warden, Principle Keeper G.G. Foulkes as Chief Keeper.

Appointments date from July 1st from the Order-In-Council and confirmation was dated October 7th.

All three officials are veterans of Penitentiary and War Services. Warden Cummins joined as a Clerk in February, 1933, and took over the duties of Deputy Warden in February, 1950.

G.G. Foulkes has been with the service for twenty-three years and a veteran of the R.A.F. during World War I. He joined the R.C.A.F. in World War II in the Provost Branch and retired as Squadron Leader. He was appointed Principle Keeper last year.

No changes in the operation policy of the B.C. Penitentiary are contemplated at the present time, Warden Cummins said today.

713 A

The Institution at New Westminster is considered one of the most advanced in Canada in penology, procedures and rehabilitation. At present there are some six hundred and fifty inmates and a staff of one hundred and ninety.

714

November 1st, 1955

The Columbian

## ALEX WILSON NAMED TO PRISON POSITION

Another promotion has been announced by Warden F.C.B. Cummins of the B.C. Penitentiary in the appointment of Alex Wilson, former Keeper, as Principle Keeper. He takes the post formerly occupied by Chief Keeper G.G. Foulkes.

Principle Keeper Wilson has been with the service for thirty-three years and is a well known New Westminster resident. He first joined the service in 1914 and then served with the Seaforths overseas in World War I. He rejoined the staff in 1919 and resigned in 1923 to enter private business as a service station operator and Motor Agency. In 1932 he re-entered the Penitentiary Service and in 1938 was appointed Keeper. His promotion has been dated July 1st, and has been confirmed at Ottawa.



31 March 1956

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 March 1956 -  
F.C.B. CUMMINS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an increase of 14 during the past year, rising to a total of 692.

There were 340 inmates received, 326 discharged. Of these discharged, 192 by expiration of their sentences, 92 by ticket of leave absence and 14 by transfer to other Penitentiaries. Two deaths occurred during the year. As of March 31, 1956 there were three inmates confined at the Provincial Mental Hospital, 1 under section 58 and two under section 61 of the Penitentiary Act. These inmates remain on the record of the Penitentiary while so confined at the Mental Hospital.

The mobile clinic of the Red Cross Transfusion Service visited the institution on July 5, 1955 and January 3, 1956, a total of 595 pints of blood being donated voluntarily by the inmates.

Letters of appreciation from Col. D. M. Robertson, the Divisional Director of the Blood Doner Panel, was published in the inmate magazine "Transition".

The Psychiatrist reports that he held 899 interviews with individual inmates while 1568 took part in group therapy sessions.

The Rev. D. J. Gillies, Protestant Chaplin reports the Alcholics Anonymous meetins were held once a week. The Protestant and Roman Catholic Chaplins alternating in supervising the same.

The broadcasts over the local radio station CKNW were recorded with the accompanymnt of the inmate choir. Outside the appreciation of these broadcasts were manifested by numerous letters and telephone messages addressed to the Chaplin.

The Rev. Father M. J. Barry reports that the activities of his department have been well maintained. The Chapel attendance has been satisfactory and the respect and reverence shown by inmates at the religious services is gratifying.

As of the 1 April 1956, 80 students were on register for 119 courses in 87 different subjects. Sales of hobbycraft through various sources such as to Officers, Visitors, Hobby Displays, reached a total of \$12,078.73 for the past year.

The inmate magazine "Transition" resumed publication on a bi-weekly basis, with the issue of July, August 1955 addition.

#### The Chief Trade Instructors' Department

Numerous projects were completed during the past fiscal year, interviewing facilities completed in the Office of the Classification Officer. The new Staff house H-14, for the Chief Keeper was completed and occupied in October. The second dormitory building B-10 was also completed and placed in operation. A motorized stores elevator was installed in the Storekeepers Department. Total Industrial production in the various shops reached the sum of \$81,995.72 while maintenance charges totaled \$3,394.21. Material supplied for projects totaled \$15,602.88.

Vocational courses are being conducted in Motor Mechanics, Drafting, Carpentry, and Sheet Metal Trade shops. The Commercial course is also in operation under the direction of a part time civilian teacher, and the results are comparable to the results of outside schools.

Conversion of #2 Boiler from coal burning to oil burning was completed during the year.

A total of 34 inmates have been employed in the Stewards Department during the

year. A total of 726,030 meals were served to the inmates during the year and 33,000 duty meals in the Officer's Mess. The Stewards Department were provided with 11,410 dozen eggs.

Recreational activities such as soft ball, soccer, boxing, volley ball, weight lifting, chess, chequers, contract bridge, table tennis and lawn tennis. Of these the most important are soft ball, soccer and boxing. The Penitentiary "Seals" competed in the New Westminster soft ball league, finishing second in the league. In Soccer the Penitentiary "Penguins" competed in the Lower Mainland Soccer Association league and finished in fifth place.

The retirement of Warden R.S. Douglas resulted in the promotion, effective July 1, 1955 of Deputy Warden F.C.B. Cummins to the position of Warden, of Chief Keeper T.W. Hall to the position of Deputy Warden and of principle G.G. Foulkes to the position of Chief Keeper.

END OF REPORT

715

June 7th, 1956

The Columbian

## THREE GUNMEN GET 25 YEAR TERMS

The only interest in this article to the B.C. Penitentiary is the fact 23 year old Korean Veteran Herbert Howerton was shot and killed in an attempted bank robbery at the Burquitlam Royal Bank on April 3rd.

Howerton was working as a guard at the B.C. Penitentiary when he was shot and killed in the attempted bank robbery.

716

June 23rd, 1956

The Columbian

## FOULKES DEPUTY WARDEN

Gordon George Foulkes, former Chief Keeper, has been appointed Deputy Warden at the B.C. Penitentiary, Warden F.C.B. Cummins announced today following confirmation from Ottawa.

Deputy Warden Foulkes has been in the service for twenty-four years and is a veteran of two world wars. He was commissioned in the Westminster Regiment in 1932-34, he served in the Infantry and the Royal Flying Corps. of the R.F.C. in World War I, and was a Squadron Leader in the R.C.A.F. in World War II, later appointed Provost-Marshal at Patricia Bay.

His new appointment dates from May 17th.

733

July 23rd, 1956

The Columbian

## E. WELSFORD APPOINTED CHIEF KEEPER

E.B. Welsford, veteran of the Penitentiary Service for twenty-four years, has been appointed Chief Keeper at the B.C. Penitentiary, according to announcement by Warden F.C.B. Cummins today. The promotion dates from July 1st.

Mr. Welsford joined the staff in 1932 and has been store-keeper since 1947. He fills the post of Chief Keeper formerly held by G. Foulkes, now Deputy Warden.

Mr. Welsford served with the Westminster Regiment overseas during the war and was wounded in Italy in August, 1944. He is a Major in the Militia.

W.J. McCutcheon who joined the staff in 1946, has been appointed to the post of storekeeper. He also served with the Westminster Regiment and is a Major in the Militia.

November 15th, 1956

The Columbian

PRISONER IN HOSPITAL AFTER ATTACK

A prisoner who went berserk Tuesday in the B.C. Penitentiary and injured another inmate with a sledge hammer, has been committed to the Provincial Hospital, Essondale.

The victim received one blow to his head before he rolled away from the attack that came while the two were working on the prison's mason gang. Only first aid treatment was needed for the wound.

The prison psychiatrist examined the hammer wielding prisoner Wednesday and reported strong homicidal tendencies.

(This attack happened on a Monday morning, the inmates were coming to work and were being checked in on the gang labour ticket. During this period the inmate was attacked by another inmate, when the altercation started the officer in charge ordered them to stop the horse play. As a rule there were always a few members on the gang who were playful and enjoyed practical jokes and it wasn't until several calls for assistance that the officer realized that the attack was indeed serious. The two inmates were separated and the inmate who received the wound was sent to the prison hospital to have the wound attended to, meanwhile the other inmate was subdued and quieted, when the second officer on the mason gang arrived he escorted the inmate to the hospital for examination. When the inmate arrived at the prison hospital under the escort of

734 A

of the second officer he saw the inmate whom he had attacked earlier, he took a fire extinguisher off the wall and proceeded to attack the inmate again, the two were separated before any further damage occurred.

The inmate who went berserk was transferred to Essondale that afternoon. He remained in Essondale for all but the last month or two of his sentence when he was transferred back to the B.C. Penitentiary.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
31st MARCH 1957 - F. C. B. Cummins, Warden

---

The population showed an increase during the past year, rising to a total of 718. There were 331 inmates received, while 305 were discharged. Five deaths occurred during the year. On March 31st, 1957 there were five inmates confined in the Provincial Mental Hospital, these inmates remain on the register of the Penitentiary while so confined at the Mental Hospital.

The health of the inmate population has continued to be excellent, despite the everincreasing condition of the Institution, which compels placing inmates in corridors and all available space. Five hundred and twelve inmates showing emotional distress were referred to the Penitentiary Psychiatrist for evaluation. First Aid courses are proceeding under the direction of the Hospital Officer, who is a qualified instructor, approved by the St. Johns Ambulance Association. 21 inmates have successfully passed this course. The department of psychology has been in operation since the appointment of Dr. R. E. Hozinger PH.D. as Penitentiary Psychologist on November 1st, 1956.

A series of lectures on basic psychology for the officer in service training courses has been delivered illustrating the function of psychology in relation to the modern penology and criminal activities. Mac Donald Penitentiary Psychiatrist, to conduct additional group therapy sessions with inmates selected by him as an extension of his services. The Rev. D. J. Gillies, Protestant Chaplain, reports that the regular work and services have been well maintained, and that the attendance on the whole is satisfactory. In the case of special services held at Christmas and Easter, the attendance was noticeably higher.

Alcoholic's Anonymous meetings are held weekly the two chaplains alternating in supervising them. Broadcasts of our service were recorded on local radio program CKNW from December 24th to December 30th, 1956 on the morning devotion period with the participation of the inmate choir. The number of telephone messages and letters received by the Chaplain from the outside public testify to the fact that such services are appreciated and perform a useful purpose. Rev. Father Barry reports a year of continued activity in his department. Chapel attendance was satisfactory. The Catholic Chaplain has again been the initiator of the

of the program of week end entertainment provided for the inmates through his contacts with Mr. Garfield White and the back stage club. During the winter months from November to the end of April live shows have been regularly brought to the Penitentiary consisting of talented artists who provide their services entirely free of charge to the Institution. The Catholic Chaplain together with the School Teacher-librarian and the Protestant Chaplain constitute the library board, which among its duties, includes that of acting in an advisory capacity in regards to the articles submitted by the inmates for publication in the "Transition". Close attention is paid to the need of a more constructive outlook on the part of inmate writers. The Chaplains alternate as the Chairman of the Alcoholic's Anonymous group which continues to show a beneficial result for its members. This group also has its publication and the Catholic Chaplain points out that the articles submitted by the A.A. Members, demonstrating their sincerity and the study devoted by them to the A.A. Program.

Elementary and High School courses were obtained from the B.C. Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs. As of March 31, 1957 113 students were registered for 131 courses in different subjects. The sixth class in Effective Speaking and Human Relations conducted by Warwick C. Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute was concluded on March 13, 1957 when 22 graduates received their diplomas at the commencement ceremonies and banquet held for the occasion. These classes were held on Friday morning, under the able direction of three graduate inmate directors over a period of 14 weeks, the afternoon session being under the direction of Mr. Angus himself.

The selling value of the hobbycraft leaving the Institution either by direct sales or taken by inmates on discharge or by direct gift by the makers to relatives is not less than \$30,000.00. Three tier cells comprising 88 cells in the B-7 cell block are allocated to the use of hobbyists with noisy hobbies.

The Chief Trade Instructor reports that overcrowding continues to be a main problem effecting the continuous employment of the inmates as a result it is necessary to overman shops and construction crews in order to avoid the creation of a large gang with no work. Shop construction and maintenance crews were kept comparatively busy. The tinsmith shop was completed in May 1956, the ground floor being used as a lumber storage shed, farm office and storage in the south end. This is a valuable

addition to shop space.

Tennis and volleyball courts were completed in May 1956 in the exercise yard. Work is well under way in the construction of an addition to the visiting room, which will also contain a storage room for hobby articles. Much work on roof repairs was carried out. The Wardens residence was renovated, a double garage was completed for staff house H-14 and a roadway leading to the garage completed. Work in the shops totalled \$99,835.25, maintenance charges in shops totalled \$5,900.38 and construction charges amounted to \$7,419.41 making an all inclusive output for the year \$113,155.10. The total of work performed for the B.C. Penitentiary amounted to \$68,578.48.

Vocational courses are being conducted in the following trades: drafting, motor mechanics, carpentry, sheet metal, diesel mechanics, while a commercial course comparable to those held in outside commercial schools is also in operation. Control training is also in operation. It is carried out in eight industrial shops in connection with their regular work. The courses are machinist, drafting, bricklaying, shoe repairing, upholstery, electrical, fourth class stationary engineering and first aid. The latter course is conducted by the Hospital Officer and upon graduation the successful candidates receive first aid certificates of the St. Johns Ambulance Association.

Thirty-six men have been employed in the Stewards Department during the year. 546 gallons of processed vegetables were produced from 5,458 lbs of the raw product, while 33,500 lbs of meat products having a value of \$6,506.00 were processed. The total meals served to inmates reached 763,689 and officers meals served amounted to 33,250. Egg production totalled 10,269 dozen. They were produced at a cost of .35 cents per dozen, but had to be sold to the Steward at the same price as previous years namely .30 cents a dozen. With the increased cost of feed and bedding this loss was unavoidable. The quality of baby chicks obtained has not been up to the standard of previous years. To provide the quantity of potato crop additional land is urgently required so that a proper rotation of crops may be initiated. In this respect the filling in by the city of New Westminster of a portion of the Penitentiary ravine will in the course of two or three years provide an additional tract of two or three acres of fresh farm land which will partially offset this problem. To avoid erosion which is taking place at present it is recommended that plots one and two which are on a side hill be planted

with raspberries and gooseberries.

The recreation program covers a wide field of activities and embraces such sports as softball, soccer, touch football, volleyball, weightlifting, chess, checkers, table tennis, horse shoes, boxing, and also contract bridge. The Penitentiary "Seals" again performed well in the softball league and finished in second place in the standings. Television of the world series and the grey cup football game was presented at this Penitentiary. The Institutional entertainment group again provided concerts for Christmas and New Years holidays.

Three inservice training courses of three weeks duration were conducted during the year at which 20 junior officers, with less than one year of service attended. The instruction has again proved of great value in preparing new officers for their instituional duties, and is a basic training program for those who at a latter date will receive more advanced training in modern penology at the Penitentiary Staff College in Calderwood. This training is in addition to the ten day period of orientation training which all officers undergo at the commencement of employment. Six senior officers attended the three penitentiary administration courses #55,60 and 61, they comprised three keepers, one senior clerk, one storekeeper and one instructor.

The growth of the population of this Penitentiary has continued to assume alarming proportions, and this naturally interferes with the execution of the general program of administration. The influx of inmates does not seem likely to decrease in the foreseeable future. Some measure of relief has been afforded by the transfer on April 29th, 1957 after the close of the fiscal year, of 36 inmates to Manitoba Penitentiary, but even so our population has again risen to 711 as of May 24th, 1957.

END OF REPORT.

April 15th, 1957

The Columbian

PEN INMATES FIND NEW HOPE IN HUMAN RELATIONS COURSE

Saturday, April 15th, was graduation day for twenty-two students, but none were able to take their diplomas home. The students were convicts.

The completed course was Dale Carnegie's effective speaking, human relations and leadership training. The graduation ceremonies took place in the barred dining room of the B.C. Penitentiary Officers' dining hall.

The course, exclusive in Canada at the B.C. Penitentiary, is fourteen weeks, and according to Warden F.C.B. Cummins, it does wonders towards rehabilitation.

Saturday's class was the sixth to complete the course and, in the words of their instructor, Warwick "Wal" Angus, was my best, as all the others were.

Each student spoke on subjects ranging from the Grey Cup to juvenile delinquency, each spoke well.

The course is calculated to unwind "a convict emotionally". The main theme of Saturday's speeches was the hidden fears which lead most of them to where they are now.

On hand for the graduation ceremonies were the Mayors of Victoria, Nanaimo and Duncan.

736

August 17th, 1957

The Columbian

CHARGED WITH THEFT OF JUNK OUTSIDE OF PEN

Edward Arnold Luken, charged with stealing a quantity of copper wire from a junk pile in the shadow of the B.C. Penitentiary walls pleaded not guilty in City Police court.

Prosecution witnesses including Warden F.C.B. Cummins and four Penitentiary Guards.

The trial was adjourned until next Friday to hear a witness for the defense.

On Friday, the Penitentiary Guard told how he was making his early morning checks when he spotted "something that was either animal or a being" moving near the outside gate.

He said he flashed his watchman's lamp and spotted a man running down the hill, he gave chase and captured the suspect.

He testified that when it was daylight he returned to the junk pile and found four bags, three filled with copper tubing, and a black leather jacket.

737

December 27th, 1957

The Columbian

## MOVING OF PEN URGED

New hope to have the New Westminster Penitentiary moved or the prison lands decreased in size has been voiced by New Westminster M.P. George Hahn.

Mr. Hahn, home for the Christmas Parliamentary recess, said, Justice Minister Davie Fulton is showing new interest to have the prison reduced to include only the land within the prison walls and at a later date to have the prison moved altogether.

The New Westminster M.P. said that neither step would be immediate.

He said the Conservative Government was definitely considering the construction of a new and larger prison in either Alberta or the Interior of British Columbia to relieve the acute overcrowding in the B.C. Penitentiary.

738

March 7th, 1958

The Columbian

## MOVING THE PENITENTIARY

The moving of the B.C. Penitentiary to the Interior of the Province or at least the construction of a new Federal Pen in the Interior, is gaining more public support.

At one time several department officials looked over various suggested sites, with a specific eye to transport facilities farm land and good security.

Tranquille Sanitarium at Kamloops, owned by the Province and only partially used now for T.B. patients, was proposed as a ready made choice if the Province would sell the Institution cheap to the Federal Authorities.

The scheme encountered an uproar of protest. The B.C. Department of Health claimed the T.B. Hospital is still in use and does not want to let it go. The residents of Kamloops objected to a Federal Penitentiary in their suburbs.

Now there seems to be a change of heart. Salmon Arm, Kamloops and Chase have come out as being strongly in favour of a Federal Institution in their areas.

Kamloops, Chase suggest the Pen be established at Pritchard, twenty-five miles East of Kamloops. Salmon Arm invites the Ottawa Government to build in the Salmon Arm District.

Justice Minister Davie Fulton, member for Kamloops, has been



738 A

wisely silent during the past year, he has not committed himself on the Tranquille issue or the feelings of Kamloops citizens.

Need for another modern Federal Penitentiary for B.C. and Alberta has become acute. The building in New Westminster has been overcrowded for some years, and every few months groups of inmates have been shipped out at considerable expense to other Federal Institutions less crowded.

Department of Justice Officials have already examined sites in the Crows Nest area, the Kootenays, Okanagan, Nicola and Kamloops districts for a joint Penitentiary.

No firm recommendation has been disclosed but in the light of the renewed interest of the Interior Communities, Mr. Fulton, if he is returned to office, should be justified now in ordering the definite action towards locating and starting a New Penitentiary.

739

March 11th, 1958

The Columbian

## ALEX WILSON RETIRES FROM PEN SERVICE

Alex Wilson, 35 East Columbia Street, retired Monday, March 10th, after thirty-five years of service in the B.C. Penitentiary, latterly as Principal Keeper.

At a gathering of staff and former officers in the office of F.C.B. Cummins, the presentation of an arm chair was made to Mr. Wilson by his fellow workers. He will move in June from his residence on Pen Row to a new home at Langley.

Mr. Wilson first joined the service in 1914 and served overseas in the 29th Battalion, returning in 1919.

In 1923 he resigned to open a gas station at Dublin and 12th Street and in 1928 took the local Studebaker Agency, which he left in 1933 to resume employment at the Penitentiary.

He was named Principal Keeper in 1955. He has also been president of the Institution Credit Union for a number of years. He has two grown sons and two smaller children in school.

He has been a most efficient and faithful officer, and we will miss him said Warden Cummins.

Among the former officers attending the function in honour of Mr. Wilson were ex-Warden R.S. Douglass, Fred Williams, B.S. McDonald, Bert Enefer, W.J. Decker, Charles Barstow, D.C. Allan, George Grozier and A.G. Ferguson.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED 31st  
MARCH 1958 - F.C.B. Cummins, Warden

---

The past year has been noteworthy at this institution for the initiation of the new prerelease mechanism adopted for certain selected inmates who have served long sentences here. Three such long termers were freed under a system of temporary releases, by which, over a period of several weeks they were let out daily into the outside world, to mix with the free population, under supervision if thought necessary, returned to prison at night. Two of these had been convicted under the habitual act and had little hope of ever seeing freedom again. The other one, a problem case had been considered a pyromaniac, who would be a menace when free. The first of these 44 years of age, had been condemned by the courts as a habitual criminal, he had been a drug addict and he had a long record of criminal activities. On the positive side while in prison he had developed a continuing healthy interest in athletic activities, particularly softball. He had been a professional hockey player in his youth. He learned a trade, he participated in the Dale Carnegie course. The second man was a pyromaniac, considered as extremely dangerous, in that respect prior to his admission here. He had spent ten years in continuous custody, during his confinement his mind gave away temporarily and he was transferred to a Mental Hospital, where understanding medical personnel gradually restored him to sanity and in due course returned him to the Penitentiary.

The contribution of the Roman Catholic Chaplain was invaluable in his case. He assisted him in the practice of religion, encouraged and reassured him continually, accompanied him to his home and to his friends and prepared final plans for his release. Prior to his discharge, arrangements were made with the fire prevention and police officials in the areas where he would reside to make them familiar with his case and to ensure that should be chance, crimes occur in his vicinity he would not be subject to sudden routine interrogations as a positive suspect. The man was also serving an indeterminate of preventative detention. He was actually the first man in Canada ever to be sentenced under the habitual criminal act. Though a long record of criminal convictions, in prison he had been industrious and had acquired skills in hobbycraft by means of the sales of these products he had accumulated the sum of \$1,500.00 in his trust fund. He was also released under the system of temporary release as authorized by the Remission Service and encouraged under super-

vision and guidance to look for a small business in which he could earn his livelihood while continuing the skills he had learned here. With wise counselling by qualified persons he did purchase such a business paying \$1,000.00 in case for same, which left him over \$500.00 in cash for working capital. After care agencies report he is doing well and the free world which once he sought to attain by an escape from the Penitentiary has now become his, by virtue of honest work and welfare.

The population of this institution will continue to increase at an alarming rate and a further bulk transfer of inmates to other Penitentiaries will be needed in the near future. A total of 136 inmates were transferred to Kingston Penitentiary, 23 female inmates were included in this group. The general health of the inmates continues to be excellent in spite of the continuous heavy influx of newcomers, with the consequent overcrowding of available space.

The Red Cross transfusion service visited the institution in July 1957 and again in January 1958, 687 pints of blood were donated over 60% of the inmate population giving their blood for this good cause.

Rev. D. J. Gillies, Protestant Chaplain reports that the regular work and services have been well maintained. About 45% of the total Protestant population attend regularly while a special service, the attendance is notably higher. Broadcasts of our services were broadcast over radio station CKNW from August 12th to 18th, 1957 inclusive as part of this stations morning devotion period with participation of the chapel choir. Father M. J. Barry, Catholic Chaplain reports that all activities in his department have been maintained. A total of 237 inmates of the Roman Catholic faith were on register at March 31st, 1958.

Elementary and High School courses were obtained from the B.C. Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs. As of 31st March 1958 142 students were on register for 199 courses. The seventh class in Effective Speaking and Human Relations again conducted by Mr. Warwick C. Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute and assisted by two inmate graduates, commenced on January 24th, 1958 and will terminate with graduation ceremonies and the annual banquet, about May 10th, 1958. At that time 27 inmates are expected to receive their diplomas. Prior to the present course 177 have graduated from previous classes so that over 200 may be expected to have passed when the seventh class celebrates its commencement exercises in May.

1079

On March 31st, 1958, 397 inmates were on register for hobby work of some kind. Eight cell tiers and an adjoining corridor are allotted to men with noisy hobbies. Twenty-one loans totalling \$247.87 were approved for hobbyists from the revolving fund. Since its inception in 1953 the total loans approved amounted to \$3,763.37.

The Chief Trade Instructor and lack of space in the Industrial Shops continues to interfere with efforts to keep all inmates gainfully employed. Application for work in the shops are in excess of the space available for work or instruction. None the less industrial shops and maintenance crews are kept comparatively busy, though more contract work for blacksmith and tensmith shops would be welcome. Protective fencing in front of tenement H-1 to H-11 has been completed. Extensive roof repairs were carried out to the main buildings of the institution. The incinerator building C-8 was rebuilt and is now much improved. Considerable work was effected towards completion of the sports building A-10 and also the central bookkeeping accomodation building F-1, in which the shelving and storage space was finished and decorating underway. Visiting facilities in Building A-1 were completed and now present modern and comfortable premises for visits, with adequate adjoining office space for the supervisory personnel. Considerable work was carried out in renovating tenement H-1. General maintenance repairs throughout the Institution was actively continued.

The farm department: crops were generally good, cabbage totalled 36,000 lbs, carrots 29,500 lbs, beets 16,000 lbs, cucumbers 10,000 lbs, parsnips 14,000 lbs, potatoes 82,300 lbs. and tomatoes 10,500 lbs and turnips 28,500 lbs being some of the larger items.

A successful year was experienced in the domain of sports. The recreational program again covers a wide field. The object being to allow every inmate to find some measure of participation in such activities. Tennis has increased in popularity in the institution and is played nearly the whole year. Championship playoffs are held in the fall months. 70 regular players participate in addition to many part time players. Three in-service training courses for staff of three weeks duration was conducted during the year, at which 14 men with short service attended and there was one course of more senior officers having from two to ten years service also held this year. The latter course was in the nature of a refresher course and was operated largely by groups or panel discussions. A total of grade one Guards and one assistant steward attended Penitentiary

Officers Training courses #64, 65, 66, 67 and 70 at the Staff College in Calderwood.

During the past year it was necessary to transfer three groups of inmates, each group comprised 35 to 36 men to other Penitentiaries. It seems noteworthy that these transfers were effected without shackles or handcuffs, without any untoward incident, and that the Canadian National Railways authorities report that the railway vehicles used on these journeys covering thousands of miles arrived not only in an undamaged state but actually in better condition than at the start. This surely is indicative of the fact that discipline within the Penitentiary can be instilled without arising the animosity of the individual, and that one of the main obstacles to reformation and rehabilitation of inmates, namely their ingrained hostility to society can be removed, making them more receptive to readjustment when released.

END OF REPORT

740

August 25th, 1958

The Columbian

J.L. GOSS

A former Deputy Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary, John Lewis Goss, 2582 Douglas-Grandview Highway, died on Saturday, August 23rd, in the Royal Columbian Hospital. He joined the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary in 1914 as a guard, and became Deputy Warden in 1946, retiring in 1950.

A veteran of the first World War, Mr. Goss served overseas with the 47th Battalion for three years.

Born in London, England, Mr. Goss was 74 years of age and had been a resident of this city for 45 years. Surviving are his wife Jessie, one daughter, Mrs. Cicely Brown of Penticton.

Last rites will be held on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Woodlawn Funeral Home. Cremation will follow the service.

September 10th, 1958

The Columbian

EXPENSE DELAYS MOVE OF PENITENTIARY

Only the terrific expense is delaying the relocating of the B.C. Penitentiary from New Westminster to somewhere in the Interior of the Province, W.A. McLennan, M.P., said today on his return from the Ottawa sessions.

The Penitentiary occupying some one hundred and fifty acres of valuable real estate in the heart of the city, definitely will be moved before too long to an Interior location, Mr. McLennan said today.

Fresh from consultations with the Minister of Justice, Davie Fulton, on a problem of major importance to New Westminster, Mr. McLennan said governmental studies has shown it could cost \$10,000,000.00 to find a new and suitable location and erect suitable buildings.

A number of sites have been studied including the city of Fernie, which has shown some eagerness to have the Penitentiary located there.

An important consideration would be a location where a large farm could be established to help make the Penitentiary more self-supporting.

Relocation with a free choice of real estate to bring nearly \$200,000.00 a year in tax revenue to the city.

The total acreage would subdivide into six hundred building lots.



December 13th, 1958

The Columbian

OTTAWA PLAN TO EASE PEN OVERCROWDING

Warden F.C.B. Cummins of the B.C. Penitentiary and ten of his officers, mostly technicians, left this morning for William Head, eighteen miles west of Victoria. They will prepare the old Quarantine Station buildings as accomodation for overflow inmates from the Institution at New Westminster.

We are renovating two main brick buildings for Administration and Dormitory for sixty-four inmates said Warden Cummins.

Our work party should take about two weeks on the job and we will be sending over the first draft of inmates after Christmas.

Warden Cummins said that only selected inmates due for rehabilitation and remission will be sent to William Head.

Department of Justice announced the "borrowing" of several buildings and about ninety acres of the William Head Quarantine Station owned by the Department of Health and Welfare.

Use of William Head for overflow inmates is an emergency and temporary measure only, it has nothing to do with the Federal plan for Penitentiaries to take over Provincial prisoners sentenced to between one and two year terms.

That move involves new Penitentiary construction now under consideration and likely to take several years to complete.

Meanwhile the B.C. Penitentiary at New Westminster had become so congested that emergency action became necessary.

Several drafts of overflows have been sent to Prince Albert and other Institutions.

The Royal City Penitentiary was designed for five hundred and fifty inmates but at present houses seven hundred and sixty-three, many of them berthed in hallways and storerooms.

William Head will provide plenty of work for the selected inmates. Other buildings will be renovated for staff use and workshops. The grounds require landscaping and roads, a security fence will be erected between the Pen section and the remaining Health Department area.

One of the Quarantine buildings will be turned into a cabinet shop immediately. The station site occupies about one hundred and eighty-five acres, of which half is being assigned to the Department of Justice.

Most of it is on a rocky point bounded on three sides by waters of the straits of Juan De Fuca. The remaining boundary will have a one thousand foot fence.

A Deputy Warden and special staff will be appointed to operate the new temporary Penitentiary Branch at William Head.

Use of the William Head buildings was discovered by the planning committee appointed by the Federal Government and comprising A.J. McLeod, Director of Remissions, J.A. McLaughlin,

741 B

Assistant Commissioner, and Col. Jim Stone. The committee is now studying a new Penitentiary construction program as all penal institutions in Canada are now crowded to the doors.

The choice of a new site for B.C. has not yet been made.

December 24th, 1958

The Columbian

TURKEY DINNER, YULE CONCERTS FOR INMATES AT INSTITUTIONS.

Concerts, Religious Services, and special Christmas Menus will highlight Christmas and New Year holidays for inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary.

Prisoners will, for the most part, arrange and stage their own entertainments.

B.C. Penitentiary inmates will be entertained tonight with a musical program by the prison orchestra, with the aid of nine outside musicals, and Christmas carols will be interspersed with sprightly numbers.

Parcels for the inmates were being distributed today with a great deal of glee following a big breakfast at the Pen.

Prisoners are not allowed to receive parcels from the outside. Relatives may send them money with which they can purchase parcels whose contents have been carefully supervised, from the prison commissary.

There will be a special breakfast and luncheon on Christmas day, and the bill of fare for the afternoon will be Witness for the Prosecution. (movie)

The inmates will have steak for Christmas supper, the demand for turkey legs being what it is in the Pen.

743 A

The inmate orchestra have been practicing for the last few months for a special concert on Friday which, with the boxing card to be staged on boxing day, will climax the Christmas celebrations.

Sunday they will enjoy a variety show staged by their own performers.

(Christmas Day 1958 was on a Thursday)

744

January 30th, 1959

The Columbian

## NEW JOB

A new job has been announced for G.M. "Bill" Laporte, a twenty year veteran of the Penitentiary Service in British Columbia.

He has been appointed Principal Keeper at the B.C. Penitentiary to succeed John Grant, who was transferred to William Head to head the extension of the Penitentiary.

Mr. Laporte was born in France, and came to Canada in 1928. He joined the Penitentiary Service in New Westminster in August of 1938.

ANNUAL REPORT OF B. C. PENITENTIARY 1959

Annual Report of the B. C. Penitentiary for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1959 F.C.B. Cummins-Warden.

The past year is noteworthy at this Penitentiary for the inception of William Head Installation, our "staellite" to the main prison, located on Vancouver Island. In November of 1958, as the result of overcrowding, it was of dire necessity that we explore the possibilities of obtaining additional accomodation to take care of the heavy influx of inmates. About this time, the Correctional Planning Committee arrived from Ottawa with a view to assessing available accomodation in the area. They visited the Quarantine Station at William Head, and negotiations were undertaken with the department of Nation Health and Welfare, and the Department of Public Works to take over part of the Station for Penitentiary purposes, with some small alterations recommended to existing buldings. Thus the "Satellite" station of the Penitentiary was launched.

The Warden and our Technical Staff subsequently made an inspection of the installations and buildings to determine what requirements were necessary to put the accomodation into suitable condition for housing a select group of inmates from the overcrowded population of the Penitentiary. A note was made of required furnishings, equipment and transport, together with the structural changes that would be necessary. Fortunately, these were not extensive. This assessment was made with the utmost rapidity, and the first draft of three inmates was posted to William Head on January 9, 1959 and by the end of the month the total population amounted to 55.

At this time our efforts were directed mainly to renovation and clean up, construction of roads, the erection of a boundary fence, in order to supply a measure of security. The Staff in the initial stages consisted of sixteen, this work provided much needed and useful employment, and was welcomed as a means of relieving our badly overcrowded prison, whose population at that time was

averaging 756.

By the end of February the staff at William Head was 25, with 72 inmates. At the end of the fiscal year the inmate population had risen to 89 with a staff of 28. The rapidity with which this "Satellite" was placed in operation taxed our resources to the utmost and placed a heavy strain on the staff and facilities at the main prison but the situation was met with cheerfulness and resolution of purpose, and existing obstacles were overcome.

The beginning of March saw the commencement of the first class in Effective Speaking and Human Relations at William Head. The class consisted of 37 inmates under the direction of one instructor from the Dale Carnegie Institute of Victoria.

In spite of one draft of thirty inmates transferred to Manitoba Penitentiary in June of 1958, the population at the end of the fiscal year showed a marked increase of 90 over that of 1957-1958. During the past year a total of 432 inmates were received and 342 discharged, 207 were released upon expiration of sentence, 2 died and 1 deported to the United States and 55 by transfer of which 24 were female prisoners transferred to the female prison at Kingston Penitentiary.

The general health of the population has been maintained at a high level with an apparent growth in all phases of treatment and care. Admissions have been heavy resulting in a corresponding increase in the demands made upon the hospital for medical care. Transfusion service of the Canadian Red Cross Society visited the prison on two occasions, July and December, when a total of 731 pints of blood were given by the inmate population.

The chest X-ray unit of the division of Tuberculosis control, provincial board of health, visited the prison on February 15th and 16th when a total of 856 chest plates were taken of officers and inmates. Penitentiary Psychiatrist



reports increased activity in his department. Expanded quarters were provided during the year, but due to the overcrowded conditions it was necessary to use a portion of the new quarters as a schoolroom. The regular schoolroom was converted to a dormitory. Individual interviews numbered 835 while with the inclusion of group therapy, the total reached 1,344. Eighty-three group sessions were held, and individual counselling took place with 123 inmates. This year there were six committals to the Provincial Mental Hospital at Esson-dale, B.C. involving five inmates.

The Protestant Chaplin reports that there is a considerable interest shown by the inmates at Chapel Service with slightly over 50% of the total protestant population attending regularly. Visiting Clergymen conducted bible classes on several occasions, the kind of co-operation of the outside clergy is appreciated.

The Church Service was recorded on local Radio Station ~~CKNW~~ twice during the year, in August and January, and the morning devotion period with the participation of the Inmate Choir. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held weekly with the two chaplains and the Classification Officer conducting the group every third week alternately. The Penitentiary A.A. group published a periodical entitled "Pen Pages". It is gratifying to have the constant co-operation of Brigadier Nyreod of the Salvation Army and his staff.

Rev. Father M. J. Barry reports a year of continued activity in his department. The Chapel attendance averages 80 of a population of 262 Roman Catholics. Bishop James Hill of Victoria has kindly made arrangements for Rev. Father William O'Brien to take care of the spiritual needs of the Roman Catholics inmates at the William Head Institution. Father Barry has visited the installation on two occasions and reports that the Catholic Chaplaincy there is in very capable and zealous hands.

At the end of the fiscal year there were 3,523 fiction, 1,117 non-fiction and 607 reference books on hand in the Library. The bookbinding department bound or repaired 2,023 books, and 4,426 magazines during the fiscal year including 280 volumes for government departments, 14,750 envelopes for the Institutional magazine "Transition" and 100 X-ray envelopes. The shortage of space precludes any expansion in production.

Elementary and High School correspondence courses continue to be obtained from the B.C. Department of Education and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Guard Maloney was appointed to Librarian effective August 25, 1958. The attitude of this member of the staff made it possible to hold school classes on a full time basis. His assistance to the school and library departments has been invaluable. The eighth class in Effective Speaking and Human Relations conducted by W. C. Angus of the Dale Carnegie Institute was started January 9, 1959 with an enrolment of 35 inmates. It is expected 24 will graduate at the commencement ceremonies at a banquet held April 25th, 1959. Mr. Angus has been conducting these classes at the B. C. Penitentiary for the last seven years. After session six of this year Mr. Angus was called away to Europe and the class was conducted by Mr. Jack Scott of the Dale Carnegie Institute of Vancouver.

Hobby activities has continued its phenomenal expansion. 468 inmates were on register on the 31 March 1959 for hobbycraft activity. The Inmate Committee entered a display at the Pacific National Exhibition held in Vancouver in August 1958 and were awarded a silver cup for the best club entry. The value of hobbycraft handled during the year amounted to \$23,197.00.

Employment problems faced by the inmates on discharge have received the serious consideration of the National Employment Service, Special Placements Section. They held 271 interviews with inmates during the year. The John Howard Society of British Columbia held 268 interviews, the John Howard Society of Vancouver Island 237 and the Salvation Army 531.

It is becoming clear that employment in the majority of cases is the crux of the successful rehabilitation of released inmates.

Departments under the supervision of the Chief Trade Instructor were provided with plenty of work during the year, crowding and a lack of space in the Industrial shops make it impossible to expand. The Carpenter Shop is very busy in the production of combination wardrobes and tables, cell chairs and other items of furniture for William Head Installation, the efforts put forth by the Carpenter Instructor was commendable.

In the Machine Shop we have been very successful in the manufacture of security steel sash for the new warehouse building A-9. The Machine Shop has completed all the aluminum spinning articles requested by the service. Several of the inmates have shown an interest in aluminum spinning. With the retirement of Instructor Painter A. W. Ivens last November, the Paint Shop has been in charge of a custodial officer who has shown aptitude and enthusiasm in his work. The construction and maintenance program was retarded for a time as a number of Instructors and all trained working inmates were sent to William Head Installation to prepare the buildings for occupancy.

The following projects were completed during the fiscal year:

- The restuccoing of the North Wing
- Placement of concrete coping on both North and East sides
- Replacing battlements and
- Restuccoing of the East Wall which is now nearing completion.
- The driveway to the back entrance of the Warden's residence was relaid - greatly improving the condition and appearance of the grounds and this house.
- The North Wing walls, building B-2 was replastered to a height of ten feet on both East and West walls. (This was necessary due to the removal of the old heavy Steam Heating Coil and hangers when the new blast heating system was installed, the appearance of these passages has been considerably improved.

- The conversion of the pig runs is 57% complete
- The perimeter and dividing concrete walls and two large pen floors have been poured.
- The oil storage building is nearing completion
- The new warehouse building A-9 is about 35% completed (work on the warehouse was retarded due to frost and rain during the winter months)
- Alterations have been completed to the third floor of South Wing, building B-4 and the Psychologist and Psychiatrist are occupying the office provided for them.

Due to lack of space no new vocational courses have been organized during the fiscal year although efforts were made to ascertain what accommodation might be available for a Welding Course.

With exception of the Drafting Course all vocational courses showed progress during the year. The drafting course was retarded due to lack of an Instructor, but it is expected that an Instructor will be appointed in the near future. Seventeen inmates were enrolled in the St. John Ambulance First Aid course. The seventeen trainees were awarded certificates, two received vouchers and one received the medallion.

Machinery throughout the Institution has been regularly inspected and serviced as well as the electric motors. Monthly fire drills and lectures have been given and documentary films on fire protection and fire fighting shown to the Officers attending inservice training classes.

The Engineers Department has been very busy during the latter part of the fiscal year assisting to establish the new installation at William Head. The wiring in the first class building required renewing, it was very old and in a very dangerous condition, in the second class building which is used as a dormitory for inmates, the heating system which consists of a coal fired low pressure steam boiler, was converted to automatic thermostatically controlled oil fired operation which eliminated the expense of having a fireman in constant attendance.

The plumbing in this building required considerable repairs. A building that was originally provided for cooking rice was converted into the laundry building, it was rewired and laundry machinery was received in late March 1959. An automatic switchboard was installed by the Engineer Staff at William Head and functions well. Secondary electrical and telephone lines were strung on poles salvaged from the beach.

WILLIAM HEAD INSTALLATION:

In November 1958 William Head Quarantine Station situated on Vancouver Island was found to consist of many unused permanent type buildings, and with a view to coping with the severe overcrowding at the B.C. Penitentiary, the Correctional Planning Committee together with the Warden conceived the ideal of establishing an open prison there.

Overtures were made to the Department of Health and Welfare and rapid strides were made to obtain housing for inmates.

In December arrangements were made for the alterations of the quarantine buildings at William Head in preparation for occupancy of staff and inmates selected for transfer from the B.C. Penitentiary. William Head Installation is situated on a peninsula on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, bounded on the north by the waters of Perry Bay, on the south by Pedder Bay and on the east by the Straits of Juan De Fuca. The only road serving the peninsula is to the west which turns almost immediately north and then east. A number of Officers skilled in the building trades under the direction of the Plant Engineer, G. D. Foster, hastened the renovation of an essential building to permit occupancy by the first group of three inmates in January 1959.

Mr. John Grant, former principal Keeper at the B.C. Penitentiary was appointed Chief Supervisor effective January 1, 1959.

For the first four days the inmates were housed in the Administration Building with the Officers, during which time they assisted in the preparation of the

dormitory which they occupied on January 13, 1959. On January 15, the Officers who had been temporarily accommodated in the Administration building moved to their quarters in the first class building. The Officers dining room was opened in this building on January 26, after required installations had been made in the Kitchen. As at March 31, 1959 there were 89 inmates housed and employed at the William Head Institution with a staff of 28. At the date of writing the count of inmates at William Head is 94, but on several occasions during May this count has been up to 100. The staff strength has steadily increased until at the time of writing is 33.

There are two prominent beneficial aspects at William Head open type installation. Firstly it is possible to employ inmate for a full eight hour work day on healthful constructive employment. Secondly, it does not resemble a prison in the accepted sense that there are no walls, barriers, or security fences.

The general health of the inmates has been excellent, the hospital located on the second floor of the dormitory building was opened on January 16, and is equipped with three beds, although there is sufficient space for six beds. In addition there is the surgery room and office. Dr. A. L. Pedlow, Penitentiary Physician has made many visits to William Head and has been most cooperative in arranging for medical and dental requirements. Arrangements have been made with the medical dental clinic at Collwood 12 miles from William Head for the attendance of a physician in case of emergencies and dental needs are taken care of by Dr. D. S. Phillip of Victoria.

The spiritual needs of the population are ably attended to by the Brigadier R. Thierstein of the Salvation Army and members of his staff. They voluntarily attend every Sunday and services are conducted in the assembly room.

Rev. Father William O'Brien of Langford, administers to the spiritual needs of the Roman Catholic population. In the short time of his attendance Father O'Brien has gained the respect and admiration of all with whom he comes in contact. His services are given voluntarily and may include week day visits.

A television set was installed in the assembly room on January 30 and the antenna was placed on the roof on 14 February. The inmates are permitted to watch T.V. until 2330 hours but on special occasions they may watch it until a later hour.

A three channel radio system has been installed at all beds. Prior to the installation of this system, inmates were permitted to have their personal radios at bedside, but these have now been withdrawn and placed in storage.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The growth of the inmate population of the Institution has continued in an upward trend throughout the year. The increase has taxed the limits of the administration in no small measure. It is not anticipated that the population will decline to any great extent in the foreseeable future. Some measure of relief was gained by the transfer of thirty inmates to the Manitoba Penitentiary on 4 June with an additional 89 inmates being housed at William Head as of 31 March. In spite of this the population continues to mount, at the close of the fiscal year the total population within the walls was 713.

We have not had considerable experience in transferring inmates, not only to two other penitentiaries but to the William Head Installation. In June 1958 a bulk transfer of thirty inmates was completed to Manitoba Penitentiary without shackles or handcuffs and there was no untoward incident. The Canadian National Railways again praised the condition of their equipment at the end of the journey. Transfers to William Head Institution are done by Public Conveyance, air or steamship. The inmates are dressed in civilian clothes so there is

nothing to indicate that inmates are being moved from the Penitentiary to Vancouver Island.

Visitors to the Penitentiary comment favourably upon the cleanliness and the wholesome atmosphere that prevails through the whole institution. Buildings cell blocks, kitchen, dormitories, and sleeping quarters are maintained in a sanitary condition, through the constant supervision of the Staff. The same attitude prevails with respect to inmate clothing and appearance. Visitors continually remark about the healthy appearance of the inmates.

END OF REPORT



745

May 16th, 1959

The Columbian

## WILLIAM HEAD ESCAPEE ADMITS IDEA IDIOTIC

A "shy" 25 year old escapee from William Head Penitentiary Camp on Vancouver Island, admitted to his captors Friday afternoon that his escape an idiotic idea.

Francis William Sykes of Mission, serving life for sex murder, was handed over to police by a man who held him captive with a loaded rifle in one hand while feeding the escapee sandwiches with the other.

Sykes stumbled into the home on Rocky Point Road, two miles from the Penitentiary Camp from which Sykes had escaped about eight hours earlier.

The escapee was recognized from the description and held captive with a rifle. Sykes was soaking wet, bedraggled and appeared lost when he appeared at the door requesting the use of the telephone. The escapee said he wanted to telephone police or the prison.

Sykes was the first inmate to flee from the minimum security William Head Institution since it was established to accomodate an overflow of trusted prisoners from the B.C. Penitentiary.

He left a note behind which the prison psychiatrist said indicated Sykes intended to take his own life. In the note he said he was sorry for breaking jail and hoped restrictions would not be tightened as a result of his exploits.

745 A

Here is what B.C. Penitentiary Warden Fred Cummins had to say of the first escape from William Head Institution of which he is also in charge.

We consider the man, not the crime he has committed, when we consider who will be transferred to William Head.

Warden Cummins said Sykes had been transferred there because we felt the time had come to transfer him to an open institution.

He has spent seven and one half years in the closed environment of the Penitentiary. He has always been retiring and shy, with a quiet personality.

We hoped William Head would help him and would bring out his personality. It was more of a case of trying for social adjustment than anything.

746

October 2nd, 1959

The Columbian

## GUARD BREAKS PEN RAID

Shots shattered the early morning quiet of McBride Ave. today when two men broke into the B.C. Penitentiary grounds.

The escape in reverse left city police with a first class mystery on their hands, plus two suspects, a man and a woman who are now being held for investigation.

The male suspect has a record of convictions for drug possession, breaking and entering and theft.

The sequence of events began at one a.m. when a Penitentiary Guard spotted the shadowy figure of two men near the pigery in the Institution's grounds.

The Guard shouted a warning to halt and then fired several shots when the pair started to run.

Minutes after the Guard fired the shots city police believed they were investigating a case of malicious damage. Later they discovered the windshield of a citizen's car had been shattered by something smaller than a pistol bullet. First report of the shooting sent police patrols to the scene. Officers reported seeing a man at McBride and 8th Ave. who vanished when he saw the police car.

Minutes later another officer saw a second man at Cumberland and 8th. The man disappeared into the bushes. Police reinforcements came in from Surrey and Burnaby R.C.M.P. Detachments

746 A

and as numerous reports at the Penitentiary grounds and surrounding streets were picked up the suspects' car was found parked on the city grounds near the police station. Officers found a map of the search grounds area in the street.

Police are investigating the possibility that two men who entered the Penitentiary grounds had been delivering a cache of drugs or other contraband.

November 11th. and 14th.1959 was the first time a Western Football Final had been shown to the population of the British Columbia Penitentiary.(Winnipeg -Edmonton).

T.V.sets on loan from Woodward's Stores.

747

November 19th, 1959

The Columbian

## PEN MEN AIDING OUTSIDER

B.C. Penitentiary inmates are coming to the aid of an outsider. Inmates are donating \$1000.00 worth of handi-craft products to help soccer player Dave Breckenridge, who broke his leg October 25th, during a game in the Penitentiary.

The Westminster Nationals centre half broke his leg in three places in collision with a Penitentiary player. Breckenridge was in hospital for two weeks. Doctors say the leg will be in a cast for another six months and it will be another seven or eight months before Breckenridge, a plumber by trade, can return to work.

The Scottish born player, who came to Canada in 1957 recently exhausted his savings by bringing his Mother over from Scotland for a holiday.

When the Pen inmates heard of Dave's plight they went to work making Yule boxes, leather purses, wood carvings and other handicrafts.

The products will be auctioned December 4th, at a smoker at the P.N.E. Garden Auditorium for Mainland Soccer League injured players.

748

December 21st, 1959

The Columbian

## PRISONERS STAGE CONCERT FOR WIVES

Inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary Sunday night staged their first concert and entertainment for guards and instructors and their wives, and the experiment was a huge success, says Warden F.C.B. Cummins.

It was the first time wives of guards and instructors had been permitted to visit the Institution in a body. The concert was also staged as one of the rehearsal series enjoyed by the inmates in preparation for the Christmas and New Years entertainment.

There is an amazing amount of talent in the prison population said Mr. Cummins, and the rehearsal, one every afternoon for some time before Christmas and New Years provides an outlet for the energies of the inmates.

The inmates went all out on the deal, making their own western costumes, complete with fancy boots, in the prison shop.

The affair gave the wives an insight into the type of work their husbands are engaged in. There were no other outsiders than the wives at the concert, held in the prison auditorium. (This would be the Protestant Chapel.)

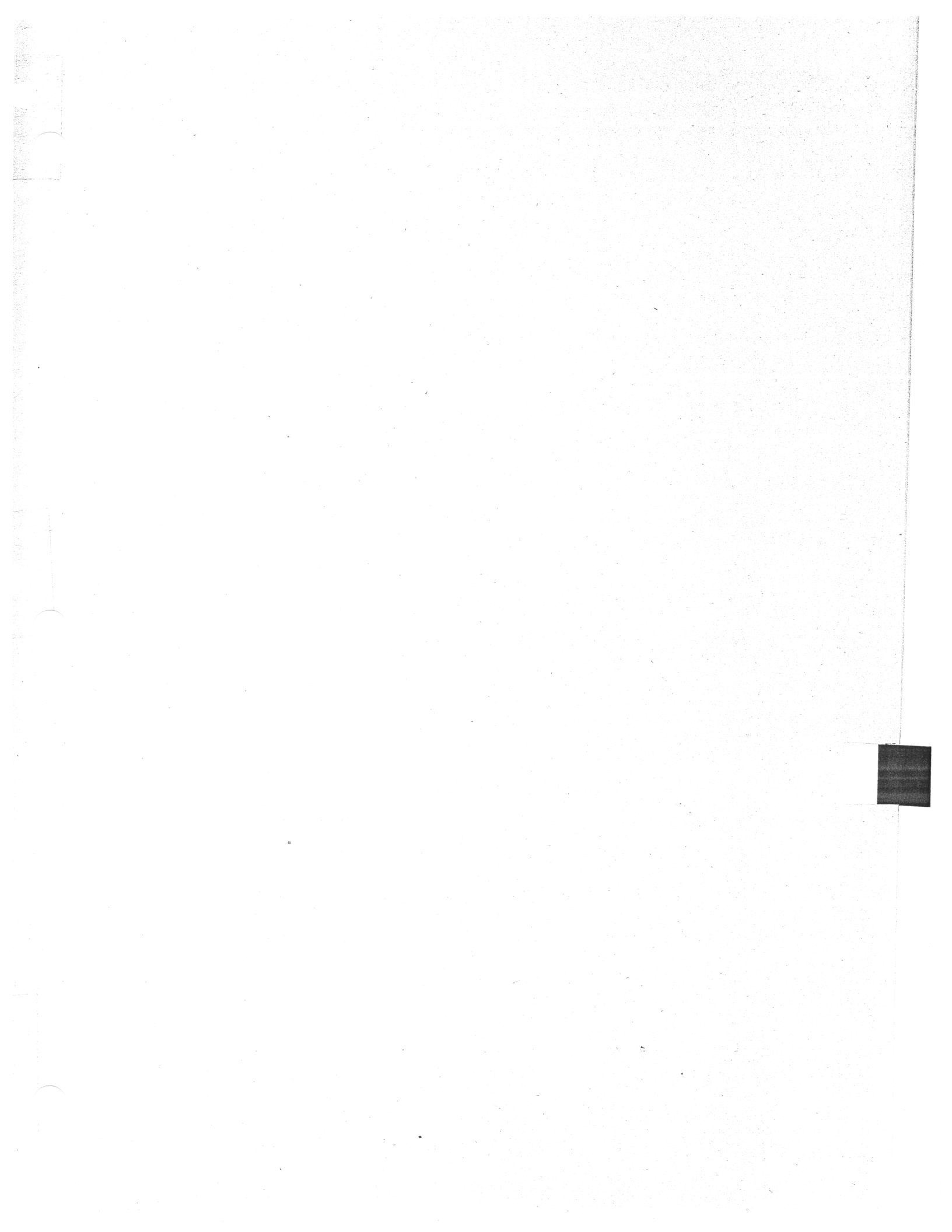
The great majority of the inmates listened to the concert on their wired P.A. system through earphones provided in every cell, while some fortunate few were able to watch from their

748 A

tiers of cells above the auditorium.

Prison concerts, said Warden Cummins, are a welcome relief for the inmates at this time of the year, sated as they are with Christmas carols which are popular on every radio station schedule.





682

January 4th, 1960

The Columbian

J. M. HYDE

Former guard at the B.C. Penitentiary for thirty-three years, John Michael Hyde, 814- 10th Street, died on Sunday in St. Mary's Hospital.

He retired in 1950, born in Ireland, he was 75 years of age.

749

February 15th, 1960

The Columbian

## TRAIN CRASH PROBED

The track was cleared Sunday night and service resumed when the C.N.R.'s main line through Northern Ontario when the Super Continental passenger train collided Saturday with a freight train west of Hornepayne.

The engineer of the passenger train was killed and four other trainmen injured when they jumped for their lives.

Several passengers received medical attention but by Sunday night had resumed their travel west, most of them being taken to Winnipeg on a special train.

Among the passengers were members of the Penitentiaries from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia who were returning from a basic administration course in the Penitentiary staff college in Kingston.

Two were slightly injured from the B.C. Penitentiary staff, J. Clawson and Gordon Parslow. Mrs. Parslow was also aboard having been an escort on transfer of female prisoners to the womens' Penitentiary in Kingston.

The greatest injury to Gordon Parslow was his two broken bottles of Scotch.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B. C. PENITENTIARY, 31 March 1960

F. C. B Cummins, WARDEN

---

We have been honoured by the Honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. E. Davie Fulton with a visit to this Penitentiary on 20 April 1960 and to William Head on Vancouver Island on the 21 April 1960.

While these visits did not occur during the fiscal year under report, they occurred prior to the time of writing and we are taking this opportunity to express our appreciation and to acknowledge this honour. To our knowledge this is the first occasion on which a Minister of Justice has ever visited this Penitentiary. The result of the visit was that of raising the moral of the Officers and Inmates.

Our moral and the climate of the Institution is good and has been recognized by all visiting dignitaries, however, the Minister of Justice served to increase the good climate prevailing.

During the year a total of 337 inmates were received and 419 inmates were discharged. Three inmates died during the year. During the past year there have been no epidemics, and the health of the inmate population has been very good. The Red Cross Blood Clinic visited the Penitentiary on two occasions and a total of 567 pints of blood was donated by the inmate population. On the visit of the Clinic to William Head Institution they collected 36 pints of blood.

An interruption in the routine of the Psychiatry department with the resignation of Dr. McDonald, 1 October 1959, his records show an attendance in group therapy of 720 inmates and psychotherapy attendance of 200 inmates. On 1 March 1960 we were fortunate in obtaining the services of Dr. P. M. Middleton who comes well prepared in the medicine of Psychiatry.

During the month he saw 30 cases which were referred to as useful referrals, the services of Dr. Middleton will no doubt be a tremendous asset to the treatment program.

Rev. D. J. Gillies, Protestant Chaplin reports that religious services are fairly well attended and considerable interest is shown by inmates. The Alcoholics Anonymous group has had a successful year and the Rev. Gillies and the Roman Catholic Chaplin alternate in conducting the meetings. The interest of the New Westminster and other local groups has brought about increased enthusiasm among the inmates. The A.A. Magazine is distributed quarterly. The Rev. Father M. J. Barry reports a continued active year as in the past. Rev. Father O'Brien was appointed to the William Head Installation and it is felt his devotion to this assignment will render a great service to the inmates and the Institution. Father Barry was instrumental in having inmates visit their critically sick relatives outside the Institution and also in attending funerals. In every case the inmates and their immediate family have expressed their appreciation for this consideration and he hopes for its continuance when security will allow.

A good deal of emphasis has been placed on the pre-release program and the Chaplains report of this year. He has taken a keen interest in this program and assisted in every way possible.

The High School courses are still in great demand with 233 students registering for 311 courses. The Librarian, J. Maloney, left the Department during the year and has been replaced by D. M. Moor who has been instrumental in putting into effect an improved system of book distribution. The Dale Carnegie Class still remains the highlight of the Department. The Eighth class included 24 inmates who received graduation certificates at the graduation exercises, held in the Officer's Mess, hosted such personalities as Mayor Elesibeth Wood of New Westminster, Mayor Carrie Gray of Prince

George, and Mayor P. Maffeo of Nanamio. Talks by the inmates were outstanding and sincere praise was given them by the guests. The ninth class of the Dale Carnegie Institute commenced 2 February under the direction of Mr. Wesley Horne with a total of 35 inmate participants. It might be pointed out that one member of this group who received a parole requested that his release date be postponed until the completion of the course and this was arranged in accordance with his request. The first Dale Carnegie course at William Head Installation commenced in March 1959 and the graduation took place 20 June 1959 with sixteen inmates receiving graduation certificates.

The program of cellular activities has continued its expansion. 530 inmates were on register on 31 March for Hobbycraft activity. 6,336 hobbycraft articles were sold at a value of over \$31,000.00.

The Classification Board has for the greater part of this year, screened inmates for the transfer to William Head. A schedule set up for the assessment and screening of inmates for transfer to William Head Installation has been successful to a large extent in eliminating inmates not amenable to a minimum security institution. It is noted that a marked increase has taken place in the number of parole applications being submitted. The Acting Classification Officer remarks on the number of interviews he makes in this connection who seem to be unfamiliar with the functions of parole. In addition to the Regional Representative of the National Parole Board giving short talks to newly received inmates, it is hoped that the proposed brochure on parole will soon be available.

The Chief Trade Instructor points out that overcrowding and lack of space in the Industrial Shops continue to interfere with efforts to keep all inmates gainfully employed. Applications for work in shops are in excess

of space available for work and instruction. This condition applies particularly in the Canvas Shop and the Paint Shop. Never-the-less the Industrial Shops and the Maintenance Shops have been kept comparatively busy. More contract work for the Blacksmith Shop would have been welcomed. Blacktopping of the road at the back of the tenments, replacement of old wood and picket fence with chain link wire, and the decoration of the interiors of tenements H-1 to H-6 presents an improved appearance. The remainder of five pig runs were concreted and concrete block pig shelters were constructed in each run, making a good sanitary condition for the raising of hogs. The completion of the masonry oil storage building has proven of considerable assistance to the Stores Department in the issuing of various types of oil and greases required in the Penitentiary. A Records room and inmates Effects room was made by converting a room in the basement of the South Wing, Building B-4. This provides additional storage for inmate effects held by the provincial keeper and also provides a small room for Classification Department records. The Tailor Shop was completely rearranged to enable it to concentrate on the manufacture of inmate discharge clothing for the Western Penitentiaries. Three additional steam presses were put into service and the lighting improved. At the end of the fiscal year the Tailor Shop was fulfilling its requirements with supplying its quota of discharge clothing.

The farm incinerator was completely rebuilt. During the year the masonry walls were completed, floor slabs poured, steel trusses and roofing installed on the new warehouse building, A-9. Work was held up waiting glass for sash, plaster material and heating and electrical material. This project has proven interesting to the inmates and good workmanship has resulted. The Plant Engineer reports the cost of fuel at \$27,787.00 and is the lowest recorded cost for the past ten years. The the year #3HRT Boiler was declared surplus and disposed of through Crown Assets Corporation. The boiler

setting was dismantled and the salvaged material was utilized in the conversion of #1 boiler to oil fired operation. All boilers examined by the provincial Boiler Inspectors Department and were certified as being in good condition.

As in the past recreation continues to play an important role in the daily activities of the inmates because of the large number participating. Soft Ball, Touch Football, Soccer, Basket Ball, Volley Ball, Tennis, Horse Shoes, Table Tennis, Chess, Checkers, Weight Lifting, Handball, Boxing and Bridge comprise the sports and entertainment program. Softball is the most popular sport with about 30% of the inmate population taking part, the teams are broken down into three leagues which constitute a well organized sports program and interesting games. The Institutional team, the "SEALS" played fourteen regular season games and seven exhibition games ending the season in second place.

Several staff courses were held during the year with a total enrollment of 31 officers, eight guards and one assistant Hospital Officer attended the P.O.T.C. number 78, 80, and 83 at the Penitentiary Staff College, Kingston. Three Officers consisting of 1 clerk, 1 guard and one guard storeman attended the clerical course P.O.T.C. 79. In service training officer J. T. Ellis and Keeper J. Sheridan attended I.S.T.O. Conference (P.O.T.C.81). Steward G. S. Parslow and Instructor Mason J. S. Clawson attended administrative course P.O.T.C.82. Chief Vocational Officer Halfhide attended R.C.A.F. Instructional techniques course 557 at Toronto, Ontario in February. Chairman of the Institutional Safety Committee, Plant Engineer G.D. Foster attended a course in accident prevention co-sponsored by the University of British Columbia from June 1 to June 5 inclusive. The course was designed from the management aspect but also dealt with the practical side and it was felt to be very worth while.



The Installation on Vancouver Island provides the nearest equivalent to normal living conditions while still being in prison. This is due to the long, arduous working hours, in comparative freedom and the obvious trust placed in the inmates.

The prison numbers were taken from the outside of their clothing and placed on the inside. This in itself contributes to the restoration of the individual. There are three full time instructors at William Head and control training is taught. First Aid is taught by the Assistant Hospital Officer. We expect enrollment will be substantially increased in all aspects of this training in the coming year. The Vocational Carpentry course consists of ten months scheduled training, continuous with training and practical work concurrently. The emphasis is placed on house construction, augmented by appropriate institutional projects being utilized as practical work, which is of benefit to the trainee and also does much for needed maintenance. The masonry course consists of ten months training with theory and practical work. The course covers bricklaying, plastering, tilesetting and concrete masonry. The course allows scope for the trainee to gain experience in a number of segments of the trade and employment possibilities should be favourable when the building industry overcomes the prevailing slump in this province. The masonry course was designed to accommodate fourteen full time trainees, while the initial enrollment is small, it is expected that the class will be brought up to strength at an early date. Eighteen inmates commenced training in First Aid conducted by the Assistant Hospital Officer. It is expected that the training on an overall basis will proceed at a satisfactory pace during the year.

In the year under report 24 selected inmates were removed from the dormitories into separate cubicles. This has the effect of giving the older inmates the dignity and privacy and is greatly appreciated and has provided

an incentive for continued good behaviour.

A dining room was provided during the year in which the inmates could eat their meals. It became increasingly apparent that it was not satisfactory for the men to eat in their sleeping quarters, which was the practice when William Head first opened. As the program progressed we were able to convert one of the dormitories into a dining room. This had a remarkably good effect on the cleanliness and the moral of those working and living at William Head.

Mr John Grant who had been Chief Supervisor at William Head was promoted to the position of Deputy Warden at the British Columbia Penitentiary. Mr. Harry Collins, Keeper at the Main Institution was promoted to the position of Chief Supervisor.

A playing field was bulldozed in January and there is now a regulation sized soft ball field available. There are nine teams in the league who play at least once a week. The nickname for the inmates at William Head being the William Head "STEELERS".

The Officers who have contributed voluntarily to the program of gradual release before outright discharge have all done splendid work, special recognition is due the Roman Catholic Chaplin, Rev. M. J. Barry for the active interest he has taken in our pre-release program. Since this system was put into operation in 1957 a total of 23 have undergone a period of adjustment to the outside world. Father Barry has insured the complete success of this venture and has given unsparingly of his time taking these inmates under his wing and offering the needed counselling and guidance to insure their successful adjustment to society.

END OF REPORT

April 22nd, 1960

The Columbian

## NEW PENOLOGY MAY SPEED HOPE FOR REMOVAL OF LOCAL PRISON

A new policy for Penitentiary facilities appears to be under consideration at Ottawa, but the Department of Justice seems to be very slow about doing anything and very mum.

Justice Minister Fulton toured a crowded B.C. Penitentiary Wednesday and discovered what has been known for some years, that it is crowded. The occupancy is 651 in accommodation for 500. A further 100 are at the branch centre at William Head, Victoria.

Mr. Fulton was very cagey in his comments. His negative response made one thing clear, the local Pen won't be moved for many years.

He did say he hoped to have plans for another supplementary Institution in B.C. by fall. Inmates would be accommodated in twenty to thirty man units. Whether these units would be field labour camps, or part of a large prison farm, or in several medium centres like William Head, has not been detailed.

But the net result seems to be that the New Westminster Penitentiary will be retained as a maximum security prison.

Efforts of the city council to get rid of the Penitentiary and regain the valuable Glen valley property do not look bright.

There is that possibility that some of the farm land of the Pen. may be relinquished, and that is about all, so far.

We do not think the city should diminish its representation. Evolution may bring some hope.

We presume the Federal Authorities themselves are struggling to adopt new concepts of modern penology and don't know yet how to do it. The system has to be dislodged from the old method of immuring convicts behind grim stone walls. Reforms, inspired in parts of Europe, include decentralization, clinics, degrees of work and trades training, rehabilitation and probation.

If all these facilities are provided, and operating properly, then the final maximum security prison might be a very small place.

If and when so, the sprawling New Westminster Pen. could be declared obsolete, and demolished.

In fairness to the city, we feel the Department of Justice should be able to spell out its new policies and construction plans for B.C. It should be possible to set a target date for evacuation of the Pen. in this city.

April 22nd, 1960

The Columbian

### PRISON INMATES WILL HAVE MORE VISITORS

Justice Minister Fulton indicated Thursday he will seek amendment of existing Penitentiary legislation to allow men in Minimum-Security Prisons more frequent visits from relatives.

He said one of the most difficult burdens borne by some prisoners is the breaking up of their family while they are serving Penitentiary terms. Present regulations allow one visit a month. On compassionate or business grounds additional visits may be arranged at the discretion of the Warden.

Mr. Fulton also announced that the next step in penal reform will be creation of work camps for inmates who will also be on a minimum-security basis. Authorization for such camps has already been granted by the Federal Government.

The camps with even less security than that at William Head, if that is possible, he said.

19th. August, 1960

PEN WARDEN TRANSFERRED TO PRAIRIES;

B.C. Penitentiary Warden, Fred Cummins is being transferred to Saskatchewan after 28 years service here.

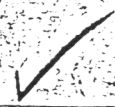
Prince Albert Penitentiary Warden, T.W. Hall, who was born in Victoria and worked here from 1933 to 1939, will be taking over the B.C. Penitentiary. Warden Cummins joined the B.C. Penitentiary as a guard in 1933 and except for six years during the Second World War, he has been here since. He was a lieutenant-colonel commanding the Westminster Regiment during the war.

His appointment as Deputy Warden was made in 1950 and as Warden in 1955. He is a Vice-president of the New Westminster Kiwanis Club and a member of Holy Trinity Cathedral committee.

The date of exchange of Wardens has not been announced yet.

VF NW - PRISONS

19-8-60  
C



# Pen wardens switch

Wardens of federal penitentiaries at New Westminster and Prince Albert, Sask., will switch jobs next month.

The Columbian learned today that F. C. B. Cummins, warden here for six years, will be transferred to the Saskatchewan institution.

He will be replaced by Thomas W. Hall, warden at Prince Albert for four years.



The changes are the first of a series of moves planned by federal justice department, in line with a policy of periodic transfer of wardens and deputy wardens across Canada.

Cummins, 50, has served at New Westminster since he joined the penitentiary service in 1933.

His term as warden saw opening last year of the minimum security prison at William Head, also under his command.



Lt.-Col. Cummins was officer commanding the New Westminster Regiment from 1947 to 1951. He is vice-president of the city Kiwanis Club.

Hall served at the B.C. Penitentiary for 20 years, latterly as Cummins' deputy warden, before he became warden at Prince Albert. He was a major in the Westminster Regiment.

Institutions are of similar size, Prince Albert with 700 inmates and New Westminster with 735.



WARDEN F. C. B. CUMMINS, New Westminster, and his former deputy, Tom Hall, now warden at Prince Albert penitentiary, will switch posts shortly according to announcement today.

685

August 20th, 1960

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARIES CHIEF APPOINTED.

Allen J. MacLeod, forty-one year old chairman of the Justice Departments Correctional Planning Committee, has been appointed Commissioner of Penitentiaries effective September 1st, Justice Minister Fulton announced today.

He succeeds Major General R.B. Gibson, 65, who takes over the new post of special adviser to the Justice Minister with the rank of the Deputy Minister.

Col. James R. Stone, 52, former Provost Marshall of the Canadian Army and also a member of the Correctional Planning Committee was appointed Senior Deputy Commissioner of Penitentiaries.



686

September 22nd, 1960

The Columbian

## MINIMUM SECURITY CAMP SLATED FOR FRASER VALLEY

The Federal Justice Department has decided to enter the field of work camps for minimum security prisoners, Justice Minister Fulton announced Wednesday, with the first camp to be set up at Agassiz for between seventy-five and eighty-five prisoners.

The first such camp will be at the Federal Experimental Farm at Agassiz, in the Fraser Valley, where prisoners will work at a drainage ditching operation and lumbering, brush clearing and conversation jobs in the farms timerland.

The cost, Mr. Fulton said, should not be in excess of One hundred and fifty-thousand dollars for this type of work camp.

The move is the first in a program previously attempted only by British Columbia and Saskatchewan Provincial Governments.

The closest Ottawa has come to such a program are minimum security institutions at William Head, and at Valleyfield, Quebec.

Among the advantages of the Agassiz operation, Mr. Fulton said, will be that one or two supervisory personnel will oversee the operation from the B.C. Penitentiary at New Westminster while a minimum number of guards would supervise

686 A

the carefully screened prisoners at the camp.

This is only a beginning. We have to provide useful occupations for the prisoners, we can't leave them idle behind walls.

687

September 24th, 1960

The Columbian

## WARDEN MAY GET KEYS BACK

Warden Tom Hall's missing wallet and car keys, which he left for a moment Wednesday on a counter in an uptown bank, may just possibly be on the way back to Prince Albert Penitentiary in Saskatchewan.

The Warden was recently transferred to B.C. Penitentiary in an exchange with Warden F.C.B. Cummins. But all the new Warden's identification paper connect him with the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, and Police think the wallet and keys may be on their way back there now.

October 19th, 1960

The Columbian

NEW PENITENTIARY SERVICE POST FOR JOHNSTONE:

A former city man, J. Walter Johnstone, 54, Warden of Kingston Penitentiary for six years, has been promoted to a new executive post in the Department of Justice, Ottawa.

Justice Minister Fulton has announced his appointment as director of staff training for the Canadian Penitentiary Service, starting December 1st.

Warden Johnstone started in the Penitentiary Service in B.C. in 1934 and held various posts at the Institution in New Westminister. With revisions in penology ten years ago, he took advanced courses and was named Instructor of the Justice School at Ottawa. In 1954 he was appointed Warden of the Kingston Penitentiary.

The present Warden, Tom Hall in New Westminister and Warden F.C.B. Cummins at Prince Albert attended the schools for advanced penology.

689

November 16th, 1960

The Columbian

CONS LIKE SEVEN HOUR WORK DAY, GET EXTRA EVENING RECREATION  
More than seven hundred inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary are now putting in a seven hour work day, and getting four hours extra evening recreation, according to Warden Thomas Hall.

This drastic change was put into effect nearly four weeks ago, very soon after reforms were discussed at the departmental and Wardens' conference at Kingston, and compares with the former work day of about five hours and cell lock up from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Today the lockup is at 10:00 p.m.

The change is working out very well and is keenly supported by the staff and by all inmates, said Warden Hall.

Our shops are producing twice as much in a day and we expect the shops may be soon expanded with the advice of the Federal Industrial Department of the Service.

A new Auditorium has been started as a winter works project, to be used for Basketball, Handball, Physical exercise and concerts.

Detailed plans have been prepared for the new work camp to be erected at Agassiz. Construction will start early in the new year, as soon as funds are available. It will be erected on the Dominion Experimental Farm No. 2 and the work program will be for the farm.

689 A

We cannot move any prisoners to Agassiz until the buildings are ready. This may be by April. We would start with a small party and increase to a maximum of eighty-five as soon as facilities are completed. The inmates will be carefully selected pre-release prisoners.

Warden Hall said that a number of other experiments are being conducted in prison reform and in rehabilitation methods. They are proceeding slowly and are being checked very closely before being adopted as permanent practices. Any abuses of the new priveleges and concessions are severely dealt with by the Warden and his staff.

16th. November 1960

'Cons' like 7 hour work day, get extra evening recreation.

More than 700 inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary are now putting in a seven hour work day and getting 4 hours extra recreation in the evening, according to Warden Thomas Hall. This drastic change was put into effect nearly four weeks ago, very soon after reforms were discussed at the departmental and warden's conference in Kingston, and compares with a former work day of about five hours and cell lock up from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Today the lock-up is at 10 p.m.

The change is working out very well and is keenly supported by the staff and inmates, said Warden Hall.

Our shops are producing twice as much in a day and we expect the shops may soon be expanded with the advice of the federal industrial department of the service.

At present the local "pen" shops manufacture shoes and clothing for the service and for discharged prisoners. The carpenter and blacksmith shops will make more articles under contract for government departments.

Warden Hall revealed that the new "union" day resulted in sharp alterations of routine schedules. Meal times are regular and faster. The noon period is also used for bathing, classes and other group activities. After supper the inmates have freedom from their cells in designated recreation areas until 10 p.m. These places include a TV room, bridge room and concert practice room.

A new auditorium has been started as a winter works project, to be used for basketball, handball, physical exercise and concerts.

At present there are more than 600 inmates in the penitentiary. A further 100 pre-release prisoners are taking vocational training at William Head minimum security institution. They are also on the same 7 hour work day schedule.

Detailed plans have been prepared for the new work camp to be erected at Agassiz. Construction will start early in the new year as soon as funds are available. The camp, to be like a logging camp, will be on the Dominion Experimental Farm No. 2, and the work program will be for the farm. It will include clearing 115 acres for farming, digging irrigation

ditches and logging 1000 acres of timber belonging to the farm. We cannot move any prisoners to Agassiz until the buildings are ready, says Warden Hall, "this may be April". we would start with a small party and increase to a maximum of 85 as soon as facilities are completed, the inmates will carefully selected pre-release prisoners. Warden Hall said that a number of other experiments are being conducted in prison reform and in rehabilitation methods. They are proceeding and are being checked very closely before being adopted.



November 24th, 1960

The Columbian

PRISONERS MAY FIGHT FOREST FIRES.

Inmates at the minimum security camp to be built at Agassiz next year will be thrown into the Provinces annual forest fire battle.

The Federal Commissioner for Penitentiaries, Allen MacLeod said Wednesday, prisoners will be trained and encouraged to combat forest fires.

We have always been reluctant to release men from maximum security Institutions because of the public outcry, but we don't expect any objections to taking prisoners out of an unguarded camp.

Opening of the eighty prisoner camp is part of a "top-to-bottom reorganization of the federal penal system", MacLeod said. The Agassiz camp, one of five to be opened across Canada, will have neither fences or armed guards, and will relieve overcrowding at the Penitentiary in New Westminster.

691

January 28th, 1961

The Columbian

## B. C. PEN. CONTRACT AWARDED

W.A. McLennan, M.P. for New Westminster, announces that he has been advised by Davie Fulton, Minister of Justice, that a new Auditorium and recreation building will be constructed at the B.C. Penitentiary as part of the Federal Government's winter works program.

The construction will commence immediately, the auditorium and recreation building will measure 80' X 134' X 20' and will be metal clad. In addition to the main contract approximately Seven thousand nine hundred dollars has been authorized for the completion of the interior of the building. (by inmate labour).

692

January 31st, 1961

The Columbian

## B.C. PEN. LINKED TO CHEQUE RACKET.

The Edmonton Journal says that Police have evidence that two Penitentiary printing shops were used by inmates to print false identification papers later used to pass bogus cheques on a national scale. The Penitentiaries are at New Westminster and Kingston, Ontario, the newspaper says.

The Journal says the identification business was uncovered when police checked the credentials of a man arrested in a forgery case. His identification cards showed him to be an Inspector of the Federal Department of Justice and an investigator for the Postal Department.

Both cards were printed on glossy stock and bore a coat of arms and a photograph. The newspaper says police pulled each card apart and found the glossy side of the card was the back of a photograph. The photograph showed persons watching a soccer game played by the "Penguins". A check showed that such a team belonged to the New Westminster Penitentiary.

Warden T.W. Hall said this morning certain materials were found in the printing room of the Penitentiary here which would lead to conclusion that they could have been used to print bogus identification papers.

The articles were found last July, Warden Hall was not appointed Head of the Penitentiary staff here until later in the year.

692 A

The prison has a small hand operated press on which the prison inmates magazine "Transition" is printed, but the Institution has no regular print shop as such.

The ancient press was donated to the prison some years ago by an old lady living in this area. A search uncovered in the prison print shop two dies of a coat of arms which matched the coat of arms on the false identification cards.

717

March 8th, 1961

The Columbian

## PEN STAFFER CHARGED ON DRUGS

A 55 year old B.C. Penitentiary employee was charged in New Westminster Police Court today with possession of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking.

John Ascroft York, Burnaby, a Vocational Instructor at the Institution for the past five years will appear in New Westminster Police Court at 9:30 a.m.

York was apprehended by R.C.M.P. narcotic squad detectives at the Penitentiary gates this morning as he entered to go to work. R.C.M.P. said they found fifty-eight capsules of narcotics.

They said the move this morning followed joint investigations by B.C. Penitentiary staff and R.C.M.P.

Warden Thomas Hall had no comment to make on the move this morning. He will release a statement at 8:00 p.m. tonight at his office at the Penitentiary and discuss the entire question of drug smuggling behind prison bars.

On the 16th of May, 1961, John York was found guilty of drug trafficking charge. On the 31st of May, 1961, York was sentenced to nine years in the Penitentiary.

York died in Stony Mountain Penitentiary about two years later.

954

Monday, May 15th, 1961

The Columbian

## PEN-MADE "WALKERS" PUT CRIPPLED BACK ON FEET

"Walkers for the handicapped" built in the B.C. Penitentiary to the design of a New Westminster Doctor are putting scores of B.C. handicapped back on their feet.

People partially crippled by arthritis, polio, strokes, accidents and other causes, have been freed from wheelchairs or crutches, and given freedom of movement by the light weight tubular steel walkers.

They are now being made in Penitentiary Shops from material donated by Canadian Western Pulp Mills, Pacific Veneer, Royal City Bedding, and Simmons Ltd.

The walker is a hip-high frame of tubular steel, mounted on four rubber-tired casters.

The user stands inside the framework and steadies himself with the hand-rails on the top.

The frame has a folding seat on the rear, and a removable tray in front.

Dr. Reich, the designer, points out to prospective users that the walker is not designed for severely crippled people, but for those with a fair balance, and some strength in their legs and arms.

954 A

Larger models for unstable patients may be made to order.

The walkers are being sold by Dr. Reich on a non-profit basis.

The minimum cost is seventeen dollars but persons who can afford a few dollars more are asked for twenty dollars to help other parts of the project.

955

Tuesday, June 6th, 1961

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY INMATES WILL LIVE IN TRAILERS

Nearly one hundred prisoners from the British Columbia Penitentiary here will live in trailer this summer as they clear brush for a Government Farm Site at Agassiz.

The eight trailers, some fifty feet long, will leave in a cavalcade June 13th, for the Fraser Valley Site.

A Government release said that under the plan, prisoners will not carry out work which would normally be undertaken by regular labour forces for a period in excess of ten years.



718

June 27th, 1961

The Columbian

## PRISONER GETS AN OUTSIDE VIEW

The grim grey walls of the B.C. Penitentiary on Columbia Street will look less forbidding, at least from the outside, when a face lifting program now under way is completed.

The first stage of the job will be to replace crumbling coping on the top of the wall, which has been declared a hazard to anyone standing below.

Inmates are working on the top of tall scaffolding to break off weak masonry, and replace it with new.

The job prompted one inmate to quip, within hearing of Warden Thomas Hall, "this is the first time I have ever looked over a wall into prison".

Warden Hall said a repainting program being carried out on the buildings inside of the wall is nearly finished.

956

Thursday, July 27th, 1961

The Columbian

## ESCAPEE CAUGHT IN CITY'S ARENEX

A knife wielding escapee was caught this morning behind the door of a telephone booth near the entrances to Queens Park Arenex after less than an hours freedom from the nearby B.C. Penitentiary.

Ronald McCall, 46, was found by 26 year old R.C.M.P. Constable who called three nearby Police Constables to help him wrest a knife away from the cornered man.

McCall was serving a four year term for robbery with violence and was considered dangerous. Penitentiary Warden Tom Hall said, "I'm sure it was an impulsive action, he was very quick tempered and probably found something that didn't please him".

719

September 11th, 1961

The Columbian

## CITY OFFERED ALL PENITENTIARY FARM

The Federal Penitentiary Service is prepared to offer the City of New Westminster a larger tract of the B.C. Penitentiary farm for civic development.

W.A. McLennan, M.P., said this morning in a telephone conversation from Ottawa that he had been advised by E.Davie Fulton, Minister of Justice, that an offer would be made as soon as the tract can be appraised by the Commissioner of Penitentiaries, A.J. McLeod.

The land to be offered to the city will be all the Penitentiary farm land north of the Penitentiary wall, except a buffer zone to be established by agreement.

No price has been indicated, and no formal offer will be made to the city until the appraisels have been studied, Mr. McLennan said.

That's tremendous news, Mayor Beth Wood exclaimed when notified of the impending offer this morning by the Columbian.

This offer must include the entire piece that the city was hoping to get last year. We have been discussing the top piece, for development into a cultural centre, about 23.5 acres.

719 A

The Penitentiary and its farm occupy a total of 107.79 acres and the size of the buffer zone would decide the total to be made available to the city.

957

Monday, November 20th, 1961

The Columbian

## CITY AND OTTAWA AGREE

The City of New Westminster and the Federal Government have agreed on a sale price of \$99,500.00 for a thirty acre piece of B.C. Penitentiary land which the city wants for a sports-culture centre site.

The announcement was made jointly by Mayor Beth Wood and Bill McLennan, M.P., at noon today, that negotiations started in March 1960 for the sale of the property had been completed.

The property, bounded by Sixth and Eighth Avenues, McBride Blvd. and Cumberland Street, formerly used as farm land by the Penitentiary, is planned as the site of a \$2,000,000.00 sports and cultural centre for which preliminary plans are already completed.

March 27th, 1962

The Columbian

SONS' JAIL SITE NOW AT AGASSIZ

The site of the new maximum prison to house members of British Columbia's Sons of Freedom Doukhobor Sect convicted of terrorist activity has been switched to the Fraser Valley near Agassiz, Justice Minister Davie Fulton announced Monday.

The Institution originally was to have been built in the Columbia Valley. Plans were altered after a large number of residents in that area protested to the government, Fulton said.

He said the site was switched to Agassiz after civic, farm and business leaders in the region expressed their willingness to have it located there.

The Institution will be built on a section of property away from the main roads and populated areas.

Fulton repeated the government view that it would be unwise, if not dangerous, to place the Freedomites in prisons across Canada. These facilities already were crowded, he said, and introduction of the Freedomites, who refuse to accept training or treatment, would greatly hamper the existing penal reform program.

He added, however, that any convicted Freedomites should show a desire for reform might be switched to regular Institutions once facilities could be provided there for them.

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries for the  
fiscal year 1961-1962

The new Penitentiary Act, the most important development in relation to the penitentiary service in the fiscal year 1961-62, was the enactment by Parliament of a complete revision of the Penitentiary Act. Parliament's first legislation concerning penitentiaries was passed in 1868 but it was not until 1883 that all of the legislation was consolidated in one statute. After 1883 the Penitentiary Act was amended from time to time in one respect or another but it was not until 1961 that Parliament was presented with a Bill that would revise the Act completely and put it in a form and give it a substance consistent with an enlightened approach to the problem of penitentiary operations.

The main changes in the law governing penitentiaries were these. It permitted a reorganization of headquarters of the service in Ottawa along functional lines and also the establishment of regional penitentiaries. The Bill was designed to bring all officers and employees of the service under one central authority for the purpose of appointment, promotion and transfer. Prior to 1933 penitentiary officers were appointed under and were subject to the Civil Service Act. In 1933 headquarters staff in Ottawa was appointed by the Civil Service Commission, but Wardens, Deputy Wardens, and other administrative or executive officers in the institutions were appointed by the

Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Commissioner approved by the Minister of Justice. All other employees in penitentiaries such as guards, trade instructors, and other subordinate officers were appointed by the Commissioner upon the recommendation of the Warden of the penitentiary concerned.

During the year new penitentiary service regulations were drafted to come into force on April 1st, 1962. The new regulations established four divisions in the service: inmate training, organization and administration, finance and services, and industries. They authorized the issuing of standing orders and routine orders by institutional heads. In relation to the appointment, promotion, transfer and dismissal of penitentiary officers they established procedures very similar to those that apply in relation to members of the Public Service who are subject to the Civil Service Act. The regulations authorized the establishment of staff disciplinary boards to hear charges against members of the service. The regulations follow very closely the provisions of the Civil Service Act and regulations in relation to such matters as holidays, leave of absence, pay and overtime.

Regulations were enacted to provide a modern basis for the custody and training of inmates.

In the year under review the service achieved in whole or in part the construction goals that it had set for itself.



Correctional work camps each for the training of eighty inmates under the conditions of minimum security were established at Agassiz, B. C. to carry on land clearing and land drainage projects on the experimental farm operated by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

Major-General R. B. Gibson, who had served as Commissioner of Penitentiaries from 1948 until 1960 and who in that year was appointed as special advisor to the Minister of Justice in the field of correctional planning, retired from the service in January 1962.

List of senior positions - J. Moloney, promoted and transferred from British Columbia Penitentiary to Superintendent, Agassiz Correctional Work Camp, effective April 1st, 1961. J. Norfield, promoted and transferred from Saskatchewan Penitentiary to Assistant Deputy Warden (on C) at British Columbia Penitentiary, effective July 1st, 1961. H. I. Grest, promoted to Chief Vocational Officer at British Columbia Penitentiary, effective July 1st, 1961. G. S. Merritt, transferred to British Columbia Penitentiary as Assistant Warden 1 O and A, effective May 1st, 1961. G. Welsford, promoted to Assistant Warden (S & S), British Columbia Penitentiary, effective May 1st, 1961.

In 1961-62 the start of the construction of the auditorium building at the British Columbia Penitentiary and the new institution for the treatment of drug addicts, British Columbia Penitentiary

Saturday, July 21st, 1962

The Columbian

THIS answer to TERRORISM?

The new Agassiz Mountain Prison for convicted Sons of Freedom Doukhobor Terrorists may be the key to ending an era of bombings and burings in B.C.

For this is a prison with a difference. Newsmen taken on a tour of this still uncompleted building Friday say this for themselves.

Allen J. MacLeod, Commissioner of Penitentiaries, explained why the new \$300,000.00 jail was different.

"In other Institutions we emphasize a work program for the inmates", he said, "remembering past experiences with Doukhobors, no such program has been planned here".

Mr. MacLeod listed the privileges that go to an inmate who works. He may watch television, listen to the radio, play cards, write letters, play baseball, read, and attend movies.

"We've found that Doukhobors refuse to do anything while in jail", therefore they will be given no privileges.

If individuals or the group as a whole ask to be allowed to participate in the work program, and show a genuine willingness to co-operate, we may consider individual transfers to the B.C.,

968 A

or the start of a work program here.

At present, the schedule calls for each prisoner to get one visitor a month for half an hour. The visitor must be a close-blood relative. Each inmate may write only one letter a month. These are their sole privileges.

Living conditions, again with past Doukhobor performances in mind, are spartan.

The huge dormitories inside the enclosed barbed wire fences are constructed entirely of metal apart from the floors, which are concrete.

Light fixtures are high on the ceiling and are covered with wire mesh. Windows are grilled with heavy wire to. Mattresses and bedding are made of fireproofed material.

No chairs are provided. Small heavy steel stools are all that are available. Beds are double-bunks, again solid steel. Segregation according to age, rank and sex will be rigid.

Sect leaders and council members will live on their own. The younger, easily swayed prisoners, will never see their leaders. All meals, exercise and work will be separate.

Women prisoners will be housed on the far side of the one hundred and sixty acre prison separated from the men by some sixty yards and a high wood and barbed wire fence.

968 B

Should a married couple both be in jail, they will be allowed a half hour supervised each month. Single male prisoners will never see a woman.

The Doukhobors will cook and serve their own meals. They will be given daily supplies of food, a limited amount of fuel for their stoves, and told to feed themselves.

They will keep their living quarters clean, chop enough wood for each days cooking under the supervision of the prison's twenty-two staff members and do their own laundry.

This will be their daily routine. Day in day out, no books, no radio, no cards or recreation.

Prison officials are determined the Doukhobors will be given no chance to demonstrate. Inmates will be moved into the four hundred head capacity jail in small numbers and in secret, if they burn their clothes we will make them wear fire-proofed ones.

969

(Editorial)

Monday, July 23rd, 1962

The Columbian

## STEEL CAGES FOR FREEDOMITES

Many people will be saddened by the fact that the Department of Justice has had to build massive steel gorilla cages at Agassiz for convicted dissident Freedomites.

Displayed to the press last week, the maximum security prison has the latest devices for confing wild animals - steel and concrete construction and fittings, no combustible materials, barbed wire and chain-link fences, and no human amenities which other convicts get - unless they work.

According to the authorities, guards will be instructed to fire a warning shot and then shoot to wound any would-be escapees.

There is no doubt that this grim prison camp will get the widest publicity around the world. Is it justified?

The fanatic Freedomite Sect has been causing trouble in Canada forty years. The members are established Canadian Citizens flouting the laws of Canada to the extent of a rampage of bombings, arson and destruction in the Kootenarys. Our normal law seems unable to deal with them.

In less advanced countries, destructive terrorists are executed out of hand. Enlightened Canada has tried every other means of inducing more orderly behaviour, with little success.

969 A

Ottawa offers not much for terrorists other than a steel cell or a padded cell.

British justice takes a dim view of unnatural punishments, subtle persecution, or illegal brainwashing. Even a convicted murderer can listen to the radio. We feel that our justice and penal experts should take a second look at the Agassiz policy and see if the smell can be removed from it.

The concentration theory may be an expedient, but may not be the wisest method in the long run. We believe much more study should be given to applying our normal laws to the troublesome Freedomites. Routine procedures could mean sending prisoners to Saskatchewan where they came from, or dispersing them in other Institutions across Canada. Nor is hope for rehabilitation to be abandoned.

Gorilla cages at Agassiz do not appear to be either routine or normal.

Thursday, July 26th, 1962

The Columbian

AGASSIZ PEN GETS FIRST ARRIVALS

Federal Penitentiary Officials have begun the transfer of convicted Doukhobor terrorists from the B.C. Penitentiary to the new special prison near Agassiz.

Seventeen were transferred on Tuesday and seven more Wednesday. Groups will be transferred daily until the full complement is in the new prison, relieving pressure on the Penitentiary here.

A total of about ninety-five will be moved from the Penitentiary and other jails in B.C. A group of twenty-six serving sentences at Nelson have been sent to Cakalla prison farm.

R.C.M.P. have been keeping the movements of the prisoners secret to avoid demonstrations by Freedomite women.

721

August 1st, 1962

The Columbian

## NINE DAY STRIKE HITS AGASSIZ JAIL

Every Son of Freedom Doukhobor in the new Agassiz Maximum Security Prison is on a hunger strike, prisoners have been in the new \$300,000.00 prison since July 24th, have not eaten at all up to date.

He said that the first seventeen prisoners taken in July 24th, had refused to eat but appeared today to be cheerful and in good health.

They were joined in their strike by the other thirty-five prisoners since then.

The Doukhobors claim the cooking, wood chopping, and laundry should be done by the prison staff. The Doukhobors are supposed to do all their own cooking and look after their living quarters.

Our Guards have been instructed not to give in, said Commissioner McLeod. These men have been given food and it is up to them if they want to eat.

In addition to having to care for themselves, the Doukhobors at Agassiz are denied any of the privileges given to inmates in other prisons.

Before the Penitentiary was opened, Commissioner McLeod said that since the Doukhobors had refused to take part in normal



721 A

prison activity in the past, no provision would be made for recreational facilities.

Mr. McLeod said that he believed that the strike was planned by Doukhobors in other prisons.

The Commissioner said that on the first day the Doukhobors moved into the prison, they refused to pick up their bedding, or in fact, do any work.

He said that the prisoners are examined daily by a federally-appointed physician. He said that all the prisoners are in good physical shape.

722

August 6th, 1962

The Columbian

## WOMEN STRIP IN RAIN OUTSIDE SONS' PRISON

Ten Freedomite women from Krestova will spend the next six months in jail for stripping outside the new prison at Agassiz because they were refused permission to visit their husbands in jail.

When refused permission by the prison Superintendent, they stripped, in a heavy rain. R.C.M.P. were summoned from the Agassiz detachment and arrested them.

On Thursday, two women who had sought permission to see their husbands, were granted interviews when the prison administration considered the interviews might aid in ending the current hunger strike by the inmates. The strike is still in effect in its 14th day.

On August 7th, 1962, the British Columbian reported the Doukhobors had made no attempts to try and talk the fifty-two convicted terrorists out of their hunger strike, Penitentiary Warden Tom Hall said today.

The Warden when commenting on a report that self style Sons of Freedom public relations man, Bill Verigin, had undertaken to persuade the fasting prisoners at Mountain Prison near Agassiz to call off their latest protest.

On September 13th, 1962, the Columbian reports a threat to free prisoners. Lt. Col. T.W. Hall, Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary,

722 A

warns that no group of citizens would be allowed to force their way into the special Agassiz prison.

He made this statement in a warning to Freedomite Doukhobors threatening to march on the Agassiz Mountain Prison from Grand Forks.

The Warden's statement followed a stern but guarded one from Provincial Attorney-General, at the Freedomite plan to march on the Agassiz Prison and free sixty-seven men jailed for terrorism would alter the character of the gathering.

The statement of both law enforcement officers were regarded this morning as warning that Freedomite plans bordered on insurrection.

723

September 15th, 1962

The Columbian

## SOLDIERS PULL OUT OF AGASSIZ

Over one hundred and sixty soldiers worked under the glare of flood-lights till 3:00 a.m. this morning strengthening the defences of Agassiz Mountain Prison with a third perimeter fence. The men, members of the 3rd Field Squadron RCE, were ordered out around 8:00 p.m. last night as the Sons of Freedom Doukhobor march on the prison moved into its final stages.

The fence built by the soldiers, consists of rolls of barb wire, spiked with sharp wooden pickets which support and also deter would be climbers. It is roughly 2000 feet long and surrounds two 14 ft. wire fences around the prison.

Warden Hall said that the new fence will be guarded in the usual fashion with prison staff.

724

March 6th, 1963

The Columbian

## CONVICTS FIRST OVER WALL IN FORTY YEARS

As the manhunt for B.C. Penitentiary escapees Edward Beaver and Thomas McCauley intensified this morning, Vancouver police swooped down on a home on Oxford Street and arrested five persons.

Officials said that Beaver was known to have stayed at the house in the past. The raid was made on the belief that he may have gone there after Thursday nights escape.

Warden Tom Hall nonchalantly paced the floor of his office in the B.C. Penitentiary this morning and quietly discussed last nights escape. Between phone calls from various news gathering sources, he stressed the prison is not ashamed of the break. "Of course we are concerned at a couple of internal security questions"; said the Warden. "Remember these are the first two men to go over the wall in the past forty years".

The break came somewhere between 8:30 and 10:00 p.m. while about one hundred inmates enjoyed intermural games of floor hockey and volley ball in the new Penitentiary Auditorium.

- - -  
Edward Beaver who escaped from the Penitentiary on the 6th of March was captured in a house in Vancouver on the night of April 10th.

McCauley who escaped at the same time is still at large.

\*\*\*\*\*

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries for the  
fiscal year 1962 and 1963.

During this period there were new minimum correctional work camps established. They were in various parts of Canada. However, the one located at Agassiz, British Columbia is most important to this document. In addition, the service established a new institution near Agassiz, B. C. for the confinement of Sons of Freedom Doukhobors convicted of acts of terrorism in the British Columbia area and sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more. The institution consists of two compounds, one for male and the other for female prisoners. Each compound is surrounded by two chainlink fences. Within the fence compounds prefabricated metal buildings provide dormitory accommodation for the inmates.

It came as a great shock to us to learn of the death of Major-General R. B. Gibson on August 3rd, 1962. F. C. B. Cummins of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary/<sup>who</sup>was first appointed to the penitentiary service in 1933 died suddenly at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on March 3rd, 1963. Warden Cummins, who was 54 years of age at the time of his death, was appointed Deputy

Warden in 1950 and Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary in 1955. He became Warden of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in 1960.

Other developments during 1962-63 - for the first time in the penitentiary service guard dogs were used at the British Columbia Penitentiary on an experimental basis to assist in the maintaining security during the evening hours.

Appointments: B. C. Penitentiary - J. L. Bennett promoted to Supervisor of Industries, effective April 1, 1962; J. Norfield, promoted to Assistant Deputy Warden, Custody, effective April 1, 1962; a staff training officer was appointed to the British Columbia Penitentiary during this fiscal year.

The construction of Mountain Prison, a special camp type for institutionalization of Sons of Freedom Doukhobors at Agassiz, B. C. at a cost of \$433,000. Land was purchased and an initial contract let in January 1963 for self-development work for a special institution for the confinement and treatment of drug addicts sentenced for criminal offences near Abbotsford, B. C.

\*\*\*\*\*

556

April 20th, 1963

The Columbian

## LIFE BUYS A DEAL AND LONGEST NIGHT OF TERROR IS OVER

Three convicts Casey, Carlson and Wood held B.C. Penitentiary guard Pat Dennis hostage when their attempt to escape from the auditorium failed. It was announced that Alan J. McLeod, Commissioner of Penitentiaries had notified Warden Hall that the convicts demands were to be met in order to free the captive guard.

Birny Wood, who demanded a transfer to Stony Mountain Prison in Manitoba, agreed to free Dennis only after Webster took his convict companions to Vancouver Airport and saw them off personally.

As soon as Webster confirmed in person to Wood that the pair had left, the last defiant inmate agreed to cut the guard free. At exactly one minute after 11:00 a.m. Webster told Wood that the conditions had been complied with to the full.

Wood then released Dennis from his bonds. The guard walked out and the long night of terror was over.

The riot was the second in twenty-nine years at the New Westminster prison. In 1934 prisoners also broke up furniture and defied guards.

The riot started about 9:15 p.m. Friday night when the patrolling guard surprised three convicts attempting an escape through a window in the prison auditorium.



The guard immediately challenged the men and they failed to halt and when they failed to halt drew his revolver and blasted three shots at the fugitives.

The three convicts armed with Molotov Cocktails made of light bulbs filled with gasoline, threw a bomb at the guard and **climbed** back into the auditorium.

Three three than seized the guard, on duty inside, bound his wrists behind his back with copper wire, tied another piece around his throat then sat back for the seige. An immediate alarm was sent out from the Penitentiary asking all available officers to report from their homes. Similar alarms flashed to Surrey, Coquitlam, Maillardville, every lower mainland R.C.M.P. detachment, for immediate help.

When the Penitentiary officers attempted to herd the remaining prisoners into their cells the convicts adoped passive resistance tactics and refused to budge.

Only about two hundred were forced in and locked up, the remainder milled aimlessly about in their cell block. Between 3 and 4 a.m. the destruction started. From far down at the Penitentiary gates, the shattering of glass could be clearly heard, as the nearly three hundred convicts who had refused to go back to their cells started their wave of breaking.

Yells and roars could be heard as the windows continued to crash. Three fires started and then the R.C.M.P. moved into action.

With guns unloaded by order, they moved up the hill with gas masks and the guns to fire the tear gas bombs. Some of them carried riding crops. The night boomed with the crash of tear gas bombs blasting away against the walls and the yells of the convicts carried away by what Warden Hall called hysteria.

A trickle of convicts were seen dimly huddling together against the prison walls. The trickle gradually swelled into a stream and with all the bombs continued to splash into the prison, the clearing of task continued slowly.

Then at 5:30 a.m. a weary Warden Tom Hall announced to newspapermen that the situation was under control but for the auditorium where the three men, described as ring leader, the situation still held.

April 22nd, 1963

725

The Columbian

Warden Hall said this morning that it may be necessary to suspend the prison's recreation activities.

There may be good reason to question whether the inmates are responsible enough to have such a program, said the Warden.

He said that two important questions to be settled at the scheduled inquiry will be how the men managed to steal the gasoline for their Molotov Cocktails and where they obtained the three razor sharp knives with which they held Dennis captive.

This morning, prisoners are still clearing the debris from the cell blocks where convicts smashed, burned and demonstrated through the night.

Sunday night, prisoners whom Warden Hall described as still "in a state of tension" held a brief shouting session.

On the 23rd of April the British Columbian reports that the last of one hundred and fifty regular army troops called to the B.C. Penitentiary after the week-end rioting returned to their Chilliwack base this morning as the prison settled down.

Warden Tom Hall said that the prisoners are now back in their normal routine and that things are settling down after the riot.

725 A

On April 30th an Administrative Inquiry opened into the fourteen hour riot at the B.C. Penitentiary on the night of April 20th - 21st. It is being held by Col. J.R. Stone, Deputy Commissioner of Penitentiaries, who came from Ottawa to conduct it.

Warden Tom Hall said inmates involved in the riot will probably be called as witnesses, but no further information either during the proceedings, or at the conclusion, will be released to the public.

726

April 30th, 1963

The Columbian

John Grant, Deputy Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, collapsed and died at the Institution this morning. He had spend the past twenty-nine years in the Penitentiary Service, and had been attached to the New Westminster since 1959.

(The date 1959 is in error, John Grant transferred to the New Westminster Institution in the early 1940's from Dorchester Penitentiary and was the Superintendent at William Head Institution when it opened.)

750

May 4th, 1963

The Columbian

## ANTI-RIOT STEPS URGED

Canada's 32,500 member Civil Service Association wants to meet Justice Minister Lionel Chevrier to discuss better conditions for Prison Guards.

The Association shocked by the brutal knife slaying Thursday night of Guard Raymond Tellier, 35, at St. Vincent De Paul Prison in Montreal, has sent a wire to Chevrier asking for the following measures.

A crash program to build institutions for psychopaths.

Legislation to give compensation to widows and children of Guards slain in the line of duty. (Tellier leaves a wife and three children.)

Special salary rates to recognize the continued hazards of a prison Guard's work.

A probe into the discipline currently effective in Canadian Prisons.

Legislation to allow additional sentences for prisoners found to be incorrigible.

In New Westminster, Deputy Commissioner of Penitentiaries J.R. Stone, probing a recent riot at the B.C. Penitentiary, predicted that a super maximum security prison for psychopaths will be built near Montreal. He estimated that about 60/0 of

750 A

Canada's 7000 inmates are psychopaths who need such super maximum 'security'.

751

May 7th, 1963

The Columbian

## GET TOUGH POLICY FOR PENITENTIARIES

Canadian Penitentiary Officials intend to shed the velvet glove and get tough in order to prevent violence against guards.

Col. J.R. Stone, Deputy Commissioner of Penitentiaries, warned today that inmates won't in future get away with incidents like those that have taken place at the B.C. Penitentiary here in New Westminster, St. Vincent De Paul in Montreal and the Regina jail.

In all three cases, convicts held guards hostage.

Stone promised the 'get tough' action as he spoke to newsmen at the conclusion of the investigation into the rioting that took place at the B.C. Penitentiary.

He said that he believed that the B.C. riot 'inspired' the seizure of the St. Vincent De Paul guard last week.

The guard died after being stabbed by the convicts and accidentally shot by his would be rescuers.

"Every time there is a riot in one of our prisons, the repercussions have been felt in others' Stone said.

It is true that this hostage taking practice spread because there was a temporary impression of success here. It encourages others to do the same thing.



751 A

I think the prisoners will soon realize how false this impression is. Stone said the three convicts, who held B.C. Pen Guard Pat Dennis for fourteen hours, face possible charges for their action.

The B.C. Attorney General's Department will get all the information and they must decide what charges, if any, they can lay on the basis of that information, said Stone.

The Deputy Commissioner said he did not come to New Westminster to make heads roll. " I am here only to look for administrative weaknesses".

Stone said that he was satisfied that the handling of the riot was correct but that any public statement in his investigation would have to come from the Commissioner of Penitentiaries.

752

May 9th, 1963

The Columbian

## PEN INMATES LOSE PRIVILEGES

J.R. Stone, Deputy Commissioners of Penitentiaries, said in Vancouver Wednesday, prisoners at the B.C. Penitentiary will lose their privileges as a result of last months riot.

Stone said the privileges consists mostly of night recreation, and also include the buying of soft drinks in bottles. "The bottles were used as missiles in the outbreak," he said.

The Deputy Commissioner said it will be a long time before government funds are used to replace the prisons' television sets smashed during the riot, and the prison auditorium will be out of bounds until it is secured.

It was in the auditorium where a guard was held hostage by three prisoners for fifteen hours, when privileges are restored, they will be only for prisoners who conform to discipline.

The Deputy Commissioner said the provincial attorney general's department will be asked to bring charged under the criminal code against the three ring leaders in the riot.

753

June 13th, 1963

The Columbian

## FILTHY PENITENTIARIES BLAMED FOR INMATE RIOTS.

Penitentiary conditions, no better than they were a quarter of a century ago, today were blamed for prison riots that have cost two lives and many injuries.

The information was contained in a summary of commission findings on the reasons behind recent Penitentiary riots, tables in the Commons by Justice Minister Lionel Chevrier, in reply to a question by Harold Winch.

The summary of commission findings speaks of teeming, vermin, dirt, and gross overcrowding as contributing factors in the riots over the last thirteen months.

The inquiry commission investigating the April 19th-20th disturbance at the B.C. Penitentiary found the prison "grossly overcrowded and has insufficient segregation accommodation available for difficult inmates. In fact over eighty inmates are accommodated inside the walls in dormitories and another group is forced to sleep in the cell corridors."

"They were playing for keeps," remembered a B.C. Penitentiary guard responsible for thwarting an escape attempt April 19th.

LaVerne (Dutch) Sherk, yard security officer when convicts touched off a night of terror and rioting with their bid for freedom, said deadly gasoline bombs were thrown at him.

He was testifying at the preliminary hearing of Gerard Caissey, Bernie Wood and Wayne Carlson, facing four charges arising from the Penitentiary incident. It was the first public statement made by the guard who was armed with a revolver and was accompanied by a police dog, when he intercepted the inmates shortly after 9:00 p.m.

He said he heard a metallic clang, then noticed shadows moving around the corner of the building.

I knew it was an escape attempt said Sherk, and I yelled "the jig is up, I'm taking you back."

The guard said a ball of flame sailed past his shoulder, then more came.

Right then I knew these boys were playing for keeps and I fired in their direction.

He said one gas bomb landed less than ten feet away while another hit the prison wall, sending flames shooting about thirty feet up.

(This is part of the newspaper article) The hearing was slated to continue June 20th.

754

June 25th, 1963

The Columbian

PEN LAND RECREATION CENTRE GETS O.K.

A Royal City recreation complex came a step nearer reality when Aldermen approved a plot plan.

The proposed site of the sports centre is a parcel of former B.C. Penitentiary property between 6th and 8th Ave.'s, McBride Blvd. and Cumberland Street.

On it, the committee proposes construction of a new arena, a rink for minor hockey, a curling rink, a swimming pool, a hall of fame, tennis courts and extensive parking.

(A part of the article as it effects the Penitentiary)

755

August 2nd, 1963

The Columbian

## WARDEN DOUGLASS PASSES IN HOSPITAL

The former Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, Robert Samuel "Bob" Douglass, died Friday in the Royal Columbian Hospital.

He retired in 1955 after forty-two years of service.

Mr. Douglass first joined the Penitentiary staff in 1913. He served overseas with the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders and was wounded in action.

He re-entered the Government service after World War I and rose to the position of Deputy Warden in 1929 and was appointed Warden in 1946.

Douglass was born in Stanley, New Brunswick, 69 years ago and lived in the Royal City for fifty-one years.

Funeral Service will be held Monday, August 5th at 1:30 p.m. Cremation will follow.

756

August 20th, 1963

The Columbian

## DROP US AT THE PRISON

This article is concerned with the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors from Vancouver to Agassiz Mountain Prison where they plan to camp outside the prison gates.

The Freedomites have spent several months in the coastal area after a previous march on the prison, which holds one hundred and twenty of their friends and relatives, was thwarted.

Three Pacific Stage Line busses appeared, and loaded one hundred and twenty older Doukhobor and children aboard.

Drivers told newsmen they had been hired to drive up to the prison gates. The trip would take two hours. The fares were \$1.75 per seat.

Members of the sect were prevented from entering Kent Municipality which contains the town of Agassiz and the nearby Doukhobor prison last year by a hastily enacted by-law later found to be un-enforceable.

There aren't enough camping facilities in all of Kent to accommodate all the Freedomites, Municipal Authorities say, so they may come and go, but they can't stay.

On August 21st the Columbian reports, Officials of Kent Municipality during an emergency meeting this morning ordered R.C.M.P. to break up the illegal camp and if necessary to charge

756 A

leaders of the sect in court with the violation of by-laws.

B.C. Penitentiary Warden Tom Hall, Administrator of the Agassiz prison, arrived shortly after with Federal Penitentiaries Commissioner Allen MacLeod, and said they had broken off a routine inspection tour of William Head Prison on Vancouver Island to take a look into the Agassiz situation.

Most of the one hundred and six prison inmates are being forcefully fed through a tube inserted through a nostril into their stomachs, MacLeod said.

The Doctor tells us which inmates must be fed, then they are offered a choice, they can either pick up their glass of eggnog and drink it, or have the tube.

The prison superintendent R.A. Wilson said about twenty-five had broken their fast on Monday and had been drinking eggnog. But yesterday the prison Doctor had ordered food for sixty-three, and all were being fed through the tube, no doubt the number will increase tomorrow he said. This morning, the camping Freedomites threatened to go on a hunger strike in sympathy with the inmates inside the prison.



757

August 23rd, 1963

The Columbian

## FASTING FREEDOMITE DIES.

A twenty-two year old Doukhobor Freedomite died early today of malnutrition while fasting at the Doukhobor prison in Agassiz.

Prison officials said the inmate was transferred from Mountain Prison to the hospital in Chilliwack about midnight when his condition worsened. A Doctor was in attendance at the time.

On the 27th of August the Columbian reports, ninety-four Sons of Freedom in prison at Mountain Prison continue to fast despite the fact that nine of their members have been hospitalized and one has died as a result of the hunger strike.

The Federal Government stepped up measures yesterday in an effort to keep the prisoners alive. Four of the young male prisoners were transferred to the B.C. Penitentiary where they were reported taking liquid nourishment.

Yesterday, a Canadian Army Medical Team consisting of a Doctor, four orderlies and a nurse were brought to the prison to aid in the care of the Freedomites. They joined a Doctor, a nurse and three other orderlies already on duty at the Institution.

Officials said most of the prisoners were now accepting nutritive liquid twice daily, providing a cup is lifted to their mouths.

758

November 12th, 1963

The Columbian

## PRISONERS NOT HURT COURT TOLD

A B.C. Penitentiary inmate who claimed he was beaten as a warning against giving Court testimony, had no bruises to show, a Doctor told a New Westminster Supreme Court Judge and Jury today.

Raymond Sweeney started to give evidence on November 4th in the trial of Wayne Carlson, Bernard Wood and Gerard Caissey, faced four charges for their part in the April 19th-20th riot in the prison.

During the cross examination he volunteered that he had been beaten the previous Friday about 10:00 a.m. by five guards, and told, "this will teach you to keep your mouth shut."

Judge T.W. Brown ordered an immediate medical examination. "A beating like this must certainly have left bruises", he commented.

After a weeks recess because the Judge was ill, Court opened this morning with Dr. L.S. Chipperfield on the stand.

I looked for bruises, I found none, he said.

There was no tenderness, no swelling, nothing to indicate the type of a beating. In my opinion he had not received a beating lately.

928

Friday, November 29th, 1963

The Columbian

## CONVICTS TERMS BOOSTED

Three B.C. Penitentiary convicts had terms ranging from four and one half years to six years added to their present jail terms when they were sentenced today for their parts in the April 19th-20th riot at the prison.

Gerard Caisey, ringleader of the attempt escape and riot which followed, drew four terms which will add six years to the twelve he has remaining of a seventeen year sentence for robbing a bank in Montreal and wounding a guard.

He was previously found guilty on four charges. For attempting to escape he was given four years - attempting to throw a Molotov Cocktail at Guard Laverne Sherk, four years, for confining Guard Pat Dennis for fourteen hours during the riot, four years.

All his four year terms will be served concurrently, but at the end of his former sentence.

Inmates Wayne Carlson and Bernard Wood were found guilty of assaulting and confining Guard Dennis.

Each drew two years consecutive to the sentence they are presently serving for assault.

For confining and attempted escape, each was given four and one half years today to run concurrently with the two years.

This adds four and one half years to the time in jail for both Carlson and Wood.

Monday, February 17th, 1964

The Columbian

WARDEN HALL HEADS NEW PRISON REGION

T.W. Hall, Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, has been promoted to the newly created position of Director of the Western Region of Canadian Penitentiaries. The appointment takes effect April 1st.

He will be succeeded as Warden by the present Deputy Warden, John Maloney.

H.A. Collins, Superintendent of William Head Prison, will be promoted to Deputy Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary.

Announcement of the changes, from Allen J. MacLeod, Commissioner of Penitentiaries, also said that Hall will supervise all Penal Institutions in Western Canada.

Mr. Hall's territory will include the four Western Provinces, containing Federal Institutions.

His headquarters will be in New Westminster, offices will be established in one of the Penitentiary Residence Buildings.

Mr. Hall said his staff will include a team of specialists in prison administration.

Mr. Hall also announced that a staff college for the Western Penitentiary Service will be established in the Royal City.

Maloney will have been Deputy Warden for one month less than a year when his promotion takes effect. He joined the Penitentiary

929 A

Service in 1957, and became Deputy Warden of the Penitentiary in May, 1963, following two years as Superintendent of the Agassiz Correctional Work Camp.

Collins, has been with the Penitentiary Service since 1948, and Superintendent of William Head since 1959.

Tuesday, March 10th, 1964

The Columbian

GUARDS LEARNING CLOSE COMBAT

Future Instructors in the Penitentiary Service are undergoing practical training at the Canadian Provost Corps. School, Camp Borden, Ontario.

Army Provost Corp. Instructors are teaching the guards practical military skills of unarmed combat, handling of weapons, crowd control and basic foot drill. The training is part of a three months course, eighteen experienced guards from the Penitentiaries across Canada are taking at the correctional staff college in Kingston.

Shown in a photograph are Marcel Musa, of British Columbia, Cyril Soderland, Saskatchewan, and William Hall of Manitoba Penitentiary.

931

Friday, April 17th, 1964

The Columbian

## NEW PRISONERS TO BE SEPARATED

The Commissioner of Penitentiaries, A.J. MacLeod, said today his department is attempting to develop a system of specialized institutions in the B.C. Region.

He said part of the system will be a "reception unit" at the B.C. Penitentiary where all prisoners will be taken after being sentenced.

They will be separated from the prisons' main population for three to five weeks, pending decision on how rehabilitation and detention might best be carried out and where.

The Commissioner said, from this unit a prisoner might be lodged in the main portion of the Penitentiary, or he could be sent to any other various Minimum or Medium Security Institution that applies to the Province.

Commenting on overcrowded conditions at the B.C. Penitentiary, MacLeod said that about two hundred and fifty of the inmates are dope addicts.

He said the opening of the narcotics treatment centre at Matsqui will see the transfer of most of these addicts to the new centre, relieving B.C. Penitentiary conditions to the extent that only about five hundred and fifty inmates will remain. Some others will be sent to Mountain Prison as Doukhobor Inmates complete their sentences.

Friday, July 24th, 1964

The Columbian

### PRISON COLLEGE HOLDS GRADUATION

The first induction training course at the Correctional Staff College at the B.C. Penitentiary in New Westminster has graduated its first class.

The College, officially opened in May by the Regional Director, Col. T.W. Hall, former Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, was set up as part of the nation-wide training program of prison reform within the Federal Penal system.

Arrangements for establishment of the training program, be given for custodial recruits of the Penitentiary Service a three month course of correctional training, inmate management, personnel administration, public relations and unarmed combat, were made by A.J. MacLeod, Commissioner of Penitentiaries.

The course assigned recruits - there were twenty-three in the first course at the B.C. Penitentiary - to practical work in B.C. Institutions under the watchful eyes of selected experienced officers.

The college is located in the residence formerly occupied by the Warden and Deputy Warden of the Penitentiary.

For physical training and unarmed combat instruction, facilities of the Westminster Regiment Armory on Sixth Street were used through permission of Lt. Col. W.E. McKinney, Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

There were fourteen recruits from British Columbia in the graduating class.



933

Wednesday, November 4th, 1964

The Columbian

## MOUNTAIN PRISON HOME FOR THE AGED

Agassiz Mountain Prison (a satellite of the B.C. Penitentiary) the prison built four years ago especially for convicted sons of freedom, is gradually to become "the old age home" of the federal penal system in B.C.

Already forty-nine prisoners, selected because of their age and infirmity have been transferred to the prison from the B.C. Penitentiary.

The development was part of the expansive and radical scheme for prison reform outlined recently by Allen J. MacLeod, Commissioner, a man who is probably most responsible for major improvements in Canada's penal system and a newly announced fifty million dollar prison building plan.

The plan for Mountain Prison is to gradually fill accommodations left vacant as Freedomite leaders are released with prisoners who can only do a minimum of work because of their age and illness.

The first transfer was made when the last of the Freedomite women were released earlier this year. The Freedomite men still in prison were transferred to the womens' compound and the forty-nine oldsters from New Westminster moved into the former mens' compound.

The last of the Freedomite's would be released in 1973 if not released before under parole.

933 A

By that time all of the one hundred and seventy-five accommodations at the prison will be filled with the "senior citizens" from Federal Institutions in the Province.

Among those Penitentiary officers who is particularly pleased with the plan is John Moloney of the B.C. Penitentiary, for whom it means an easing of the constantly crowded conditions at the Institutions.

Friday, January 15th, 1965

The Columbian

WOMEN PRISON GUARDS NEEDED

Some women Penitentiary Officers may be trained at the New Westminster Staff College later this year, Regional Director Tom Hall said today.

The womens' section of Agassiz (should read Matsqui) prison is proceeding and should be ready to house up to one hundred and fifty inmates by October requiring a female staff of fifty or sixty.

Details are being studied now as to procedure and requirements, said Hall, some of the female officers at Kingston may be transferred to Agassiz (Matsqui), and some new ones will be engaged and trained.

Definite policy will not be known until the end of the fiscal year and the preparation of estimates after April 1st.

If the female officers are to be trained in New Westminster they would get almost the same three month course given male officers, plus female subjects. The course, if decided, could be around August, to time with the opening of the womens' section at Agassiz (Matsqui) in October.

935

Monday, April 5th, 1965

The Columbian

## PRISON GETS JAYCEE UNIT

The Junior Chamber of Commerce has moved behind bars with the formation of a unit in the B.C. Penitentiary. The unit to be known as Bridgeview Jaycees, will receive its charter from Provincial President Bert Kennedy of New Westminster, next Sunday.

The Unit was officially formed in January, when an election of officers was held among the seventeen original members. Membership is now twenty-four announcement said, and is expected to climb to thirty-five by the end of this week.

The program of the Unit will probably include courses in public speaking and Parliamentary procedure for the members, and a Red Cross Blood Donor drive among Penitentiary inmates.

There are several Jaycee units in prisons in the United States, but this is the first one in Canada.

Tuesday, June 8th, 1965

The Columbian

MOLONEY GOES TO MATSQUI

A major shuffle among senior officers has been announced by the Penitentiary Service.

John Moloney, of the B.C. Penitentiary has been appointed Warden of the new Matsqui Institution expected to be open by the end of the year.

Moloney, who has been Warden of the New Westminster Institution since April, 1964, begins his duties at the new narcotics treatment centre at Matsqui in August.

His place at the B.C. Penitentiary will be taken by C.E. Desrosier, who is now Warden of the Joyceville prison in Ontario.

Arthur Trono, Assistant Director of classification for the Western Region, has been appointed Superintendent of the mens' unit at the Matsqui Institution.

Two Assistant Wardens for the Matsqui Institution also have been named, they are James McCutcheon, now Storekeeper at the B.C. Penitentiary, and Herb Fowler of the Kingston Penitentiary.

James P. Bultitude, of the Western Regionals Headquarters, has been appointed Assistant Warden of the Dorchester Penitentiary.

J.L. Bennett, Superintendent of Industries at the B.C.

Penitentiary, has been appointed Assistant Director of Industries for the Western Region.

John Ward, Works Officer of the Manitoba Penitentiary will become the new Assistant Director of Works for the Western Headquarters here.

A.I.D. McNally of the B.C. Penitentiary will be Storekeeper of the Matsqui Institution.

John Sneezer who is now Senior Clerk of the B.C. Penitentiary, will become Superintendent Clerk of the Regional Headquarters.

Monday, July 19th, 1965

The Columbian

#### AGASSIZ JAIL FOR ELDERLY

Mountain Prison at Agassiz, where imprisoned Sons of Freedom Doukhobors have been held for the last three years, will become a Medium Security Prison for elderly convicts.

T.W. Hall, Western Regional Director, for the Penitentiary Service, said Kent Municipal Council, where the jail is located approved a \$300,000.00 conversion of the jail this week and the Federal Treasury Board has been asked to approve \$200,000.00 for construction of additional facilities to house some two hundred prisoners - the total will be reduced later.

Friday, August 6th, 1965

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY COMMISSIONER DEFENDS "GLORIFIED HOLE" UNITS

Federal Penitentiaries Commissioner A.J. MacLeod said today plans for Canada's new Penal System must be pushed forward to help prison officials effectively combat "a much younger", more vicious and aggressive inmate.

The program outlined last November by former Justice Minister Guy Favreau, has come under criticism because the use it will make of "Special Detention Units" for segregation of hard-core trouble makers.

The units have been termed "Glorified Hole" that would cause psychological problems for men confined in them.

MacLeod and other Penitentiary Officials today rejected the criticism and said the units were necessary if the program that will be dramatically change Canada's Penal System by 1973 is to be completed successfully.

MacLeod said every prison had "hard-core" inmates who constantly tried to create trouble and upset the programs.



Friday, October 8th, 1965

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY JAYCEES CO-HOST CONVENTION

The new Junior Chamber of Commerce Unit in the B.C. Penitentiary will co-host, with New Westminster Jaycees, the fall conference of the Jaycees Board Governors for B.C. and the Yukon.

The Jaycees member in the Penitentiary won't get out to greet the visitors, who will meet at the Royal Towers Hotel for the two day conference on Saturday and Sunday.

But part of the two hundred delegates at least will be invited to visit the thirty-member Jaycees unit behind the "Penitentiary" walls on Sunday.

Principal speakers at the conference will be Chuck Brown, National Vice-President of Canadian Jaycees, coming from Regina on Saturday, and Jerry Ferris, Washington State President on Sunday.

Wednesday, January 26th, 1966

The Columbian

MISSION SITE CHOSEN FOR PENITENTIARY

B.C. Penitentiary will be moved from New Westminster to an area north of Mission, Reeve F.A. Hall of Mission District said Tuesday. He said that the Federal Government had already started buying land for the new prison. It is understood that the purchases are being made in the Cedar Valley area.

Commissioner of Penitentiaries announced last year that the Penitentiary would be removed from New Westminster in the 1970's but he said then he could not give the exact date or say where the new Federal Prison would be located.

Rumours about the possible site of the new prison may have been circulating Mission District for the past month and it is understood that the Government's purchase in the area have brought on some land speculation in the Cedar Valley area.

941

Thursday, December 22nd, 1966

The Columbian

## NO CHRISTMAS VISITING IN PRISON

Inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary will enjoy many of the traditional trappings of Christmas, though they are deprived the opportunity of sharing the season with their families.

Like people on the outside, the men behind bars will have a change of routine to mark the occasion, and will enjoy festive meals, special Church Services, and extra recreation.

Christmas weekend will be studded with a program of films and live entertainment in the prison Auditorium with sports, handball, volleyball, and soccer, going on almost continuously.

One of the highlights of Christmas day will be 9:00 a.m.

Church Services in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Chapels.

Meals will be dressed up with Christmas goodies, including fresh grapefruit for breakfast, ham and two kinds of salad for lunch, and a full turkey dinner with traditional plumb pudding in the evening.

The Penitentiary will be closed to visitors on Sunday,

Christmas day, but will be open on Monday.

Saturday, December 24th, 1966

The Columbian

BOOBY-TRAPPED GIFT RIPS SURREY HOME

A ten year old youth-at the edge of death since 5:30 p.m. Friday when a booby-trapped Christmas parcel blew off his prison guard father's hands and scorched the youth from the waist up, was still listed in "very serious condition" at Royal Columbian Hospital today.

Norman's father, Frank Newton of Surrey, lies in only fair condition today. Both his hands were amputated at 6:00 p.m. Friday.

Newton, a B.C. Penitentiary guard and correction officer of eighteen years arrived home to find a wrapped Christmas parcel about eight inches deep and one foot wide, addressed to himself marked "personal" in the upper left hand corner. He began opening the gift with his son at his side, but Norman did not touch the package.

As the wrapping slipped away an explosion blew out two windows, flattened a table, with the concussion "wrecking" both the kitchen and bathroom of the home, police said.

One member of a massive R.C.M.P. investigating team after the victims had been rushed to hospital said the parcel must have contained a very powerful explosive. It is supposed that enmity for Newton by a former Penitentiary inmate resulted in the tragic crime.

All other guards and officers of the New Westminster

Penitentiary were phoned and ordered not to open similar gifts.

It is unknown today how the parcel was delivered to the Newton home. Warden C.E. DesRosiers told police so far as it is known Newton had not been threatened by any Penitentiary prisoner. Newton was described as "an excellent officer" with a clear record with personal relationships, both with the prisoners and his colleagues.

On Thursday, December 29th, 1966. A request of the prison officers' section of the Public Service Alliance of Canada for a \$25,000.00 reward for apprehension of the bomber whose parcel Christmas Eve injured a B.C. Penitentiary guard and his son has given the cabinet's order paper in Ottawa for study today.

Ray Jones, **National** Vice-President of the prison officers' section, who is a guard at Mountain Prison at Agassiz (Hospital Officer) said this morning he was sure the request would be given immediate favourable consideration.

Meantime, he said, the prison officers appeal for funds to set up a trust for the injured boy are receiving good response.

Friday, December 30th, the Columbian reports: Guards and employees in the B.C. Penitentiary have boosted their rewards for information in the bombing of a fellow guard and his son Christmas Eve to \$1000.00.

Thursday night, the group at an executive meeting, voted to increase the reward, Robert Taylor, a member of the executive, announced the increase this morning and added that the group hoped the national executive will post a reward.

Wednesday, January 18th, 1967

The Columbian

On page 1 a picture of Jack Harder, Penitentiary Engineer,  
below the picture it says:

Proud Fire Chief of the B.C. Penitentiary at New Westminster  
puts his crews through practice drills with extra snap this  
week, after his fire prevention program ranked almost at the  
top of a competition among six hundred Canadian and American  
Government owned buildings.

The Chief Penitentiary Engineer Jack Harder is seen in the  
foreground above, as helmeted staff firemen practice scaling  
a wall with ladder and hose.

V.F. N.W. PRISONS  
Columbian  
BIAN, MON., FEB. 20, 1967



Six ancient homes in Pen Row, adjoining the B.C. Penitentiary in New Westminster are being demolished because repairs and modernization are uneconomic. The houses were formerly occupied by penitentiary staff and their families, but have been empty for eight months. No plans have been an-

—Columbian photo by Basil King  
nounced by the penitentiary service for new construction on the site. Western regional offices of penitentiary officials are housed in large trailers between Pen Row and the Penitentiary, but a decision on renting or building permanent accommodation has yet to be made.



944

Monday, November 6th, 1967

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY SITE SUGGESTED FOR PROPOSED JOINT COLLEGE

Some forty acres of B.C. Penitentiary land is under serious consideration as a future Regional College site, revealed Stu. Leggatt, of Coquitlam, Chairman of the College Steering Committee, today.

Asked if the Penitentiary lands would be available for such use, Leggatt said he thought they would.

We have not made an official inquiry into this, he added, "but we have talked about it unofficially and we do not anticipate a problem".

The forty acres eyed by the Committee are at the back of the Penitentiary lands, an area not now being used.

Tuesday, November 7th, 1967

The Columbian

New Westminster Aldermen have expressed strong opposition to a suggestion that a proposed Regional College to serve an area north of the Fraser River, located on forty acres of B.C. Penitentiary land.

The land in question, between Sixth Avenue and the Penitentiary, has been promised to the City by the Federal Government which four years ago indicated the Penitentiary would be moved from New Westminster in 1973.

The choicest residential land in the city is now taken up by the Penitentiary, Woodlands, and the Cemetery, declared Alderman Tom Padbourne. We hope to use the Penitentiary land for residential and park use. It would be a beautiful place for garden apartments.

946

Thursday, March 28th, 1968

The Columbian

## B.C. PENITENTIARY FIRE PROGRAM WINS

Staff of the B.C. Penitentiary were elated this week to learn that their fire protection program for 1967 has been rated third among several hundred in International competition.

In annual awards made by the National Fire Protection Association of the United States and Canada, the Penitentiary was judged in the class of multiple buildings, government group.

In the Canadian section the Penitentiary's program placed second.

In previous awards, the B.C. Penitentiary had placed 11th and 8th., and after rising to third place in the 1967 competition, staff members are looking forward to the day when their Institution will reach the top spot.

In the competition for the Prime Minister's Trophy for the best Fire Protection Program among Canadian Government Departments, the Penitentiary was credited with a major part in the win of the Solicitor's Department.

The two trophies won by the Penitentiary were presented to Warden C.E. DesRosiers and his staff by Commissioner of Penitentiaries Allan MacLeod, during a visit to the West Coast Wednesday.

Jack Harder, Chief Engineer of the Penitentiary was responsible for putting the fire entry together.

Thursday, February 13th, 1969

The Columbian

### PRISONERS MAY GET "GRAD" CERTIFICATES

The New Westminster school system has been invited to extend its adult education division into the B.C. Penitentiary, so inmates can receive standard certificates for their educational achievements.

In an outline of the proposal for Schoolboard Trustees Wednesday, Superintendent Stuart Graham said it rose from the Solicitor-General's Department in Ottawa and came to him through the Provincial Department of Education.

Both academic and non-academic programs are required.

At present, inmates can study academic subjects only through correspondence and results are discouraging.

The Penitentiary has facilities and Instructor for technical and vocational training, but cannot issue certificates at the end of courses which are recognized on the outside.

In a division of the New Westminster Adult Education, the Penitentiary students would receive certificates which would not indicate they were behind bars when they earned them, Graham pointed out.

The Penitentiary Service would like to start on a pilot program in the B.C. Penitentiary, then expand it to other lower security Penal Institutions in the Province if it turned out well.

959

April 16th, 1969

The Columbian

## PRISON TO SET UP PRE-RELEASE CENTER

Starting in May, long-term prisoners of the B.C. Penitentiary in New Westminster will spend the final two to three months of their sentences in a pre-release center in downtown Vancouver, to prepare them for the return to the outside as law abiding citizens.

Deputy Penitentiary Commissioner Col. J.R. Stone announced the opening of the center during a visit to the Penitentiary Tuesday. It will be the third in Canada, he said.

Others are in Quebec and Manitoba, both have been successful he said.

An old three storey home is being renovated by the Department of Public Works now and will accommodate up to eighteen prisoners and six counsellors.

During the final weeks of their sentences, the inmates will go out during the daytime for job interviews. The program is part of a long-range aim of motivating prisoners toward self-improvement, Col. Stone said, stepped up under recent criticism which he suggested was inspired by ex-inmates.

Thursday, April 17th, 1969

The Columbian

A picture shown on page three of the Columbian and underneath says:

The B.C. Penitentiary has won two top awards in competition with six hundred and eight-seven Government buildings in Canada and the United States with the quality of its fire protection program. Deputy Penitentiary Commissioner J.R. Stone, presented the Howard Green Trophy for Canadian competition. The large one being held by Chief Engineer John Harder, and the National Fire Protection Association Shield for International Competition, is held by Warden C.E. DesRosiers in a ceremony this week.

961

Tuesday, May 13th, 1969

The Columbian

## PRISON WARDEN DIES

Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, Charles E. DesRosiers collapsed of an apparent heart attack at home Monday night and died in Royal Columbian Hospital early this morning.

He was 56, and had been Warden of the Penitentiary here since August 1st, 1965, when he succeeded Tom Hall.

Warden DesRosiers was born in Saskatchewan, and educated at the Universities of Saskatchewan and Alberta, taking post-graduate studies in psychology.

He joined the Penitentiary Service in 1936, and was in Britain studying the Penal System at the outbreak of World War Two.

He returned to Canada and enlisted in the Saskatoon Light Infantry and spent the remainder of the war overseas. He retired with the rank of Lieut. Col. and was loaned by the Penitentiary Service to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

He returned to Penitentiary work in 1951 as Head-Keeper at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, and was promoted to Warden in 1957.

He served as Warden at Dorchester Penitentiary in New Brunswick and at Joyceville Institution near Kingston before being posted to New Westminster.

Friday, June 6th, 1969

The Columbian

PRISON WILL BE HERE UNTIL 1976

The Federal Government's current restrictions on spending will result in a later date for the transfer of the B.C.

Penitentiary out of New Westminster to a site chosen sometime ago in Mission area, says the head of Canada's Penal System.

Transfer of the Penitentiary from New Westminster had been previously expected by 1973. The policy change will delay the transfer now to at least 1976.

The Commissioner said that the ten year program for overhauling Penal Institutions, begun five years ago, is being extended to thirteen years and it is "only fair to say" that this is in keeping with the Federal policy on spending as a long-range, long-haul program.

The B.C. Penitentiary is only one of the Institutions affected by the change to more modern facilities and policies whose object is the rehabilitation and not solely the confinement of inmates.

The Mission site, he said, is being equipped with a complete set of facilities in preparation for the ultimate transfer of the Institution from New Westminster. Emphasis will be on rehabilitation.



Friday, June 13th, 1969

The Columbian

PRISON WARDEN NAMED

The B.C. Penitentiary is to have a new Warden on August 15th, Solicitor General George McIlraith announced Thursday.

He will be Eric C. Atkins, 54, at present of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary at Prince Albert.

He will succeed Charles DesRosiers, who died May 13th, of a heart attack.

Atkins was born in Halifax and joined the Penitentiary Service in 1937. He was Deputy Warden at Kingston Penitentiary before being appointed Warden at Prince Albert.

His place at Prince Albert will be taken over by John Norfield, now Warden of the Joyceville Institution near Kingston.

Deputy Warden H.A. Collins has been Acting Warden of the New Westminster Penitentiary since the death of DesRosiers.

Monday, September 29th, 1969

The Columbian

#### PENITENTIARY CLUB WANTS NO MEMBERS

There is a unique club in the B.C. Penitentiary. It's aim is to fold up for lack of members.

The club is the Penitentiary's Indian and Metis Educational Club and the members want nothing more than to tell society their side of the story.

They tried to do this Sunday by inviting the press to one of their weekly meetings and allowing the Indian inmates to sound off in their own language, some of it shocking to the visiting press.

The Club President, an Inmate, blamed automation for the Indians' plight. Another member protested the parole system which uses only the White man's standards in setting out the points which eventually give an inmate parole.

There are about six hundred inmates in this place and over ten per cent of them are Indians, the percentage is even higher in other jails in this Province. Indians make up only two per cent of the B.C. population.

Life was good for the Indian until about 1940 or so. We had plenty of drunks and we liked to fight but we didn't have all the White man's crime.

Before 1940 there were few Indians in jail except for fighting and drinking. Then automation started taking over our non-

964 A

skills seasonal jobs. Then the Indians started drinking, fighting and turning to crime, he said.

About ten of us in this club have started a project to write a three volume book titled Indian: past, present and future. The book will be written in the Penitentiary by club members with information supplied by outside Indians.

Thursday, October 16th, 1969

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY GUARDS MAP ONE DAY STRIKE

If a protest move now being discussed by Security Officers at the B.C. Penitentiary is carried out, the Penitentiary will become a virtually guardless prison for at least twenty-four hours sometime between now and Christmas day.

The protest move will take the form of a one day outbreak of sickness which will effect most of the one hundred and twenty Security Officers at the prison. Only a picked skeleton staff of officers will remain on duty to avoid a complete breakdown in daily Penitentiary Administration.

The date of the one day sick leave strike has not yet been decided.

The planned protest is the latest product of months of unrest among the Penitentiary Guards who are angry at the lack of conclusive action in contract negotiations between their representative body and the Federal Government Treasury Board. The P.S.A.C. representative said "the major problem is that the people representing the Treasury Board at the bargaining in Ottawa do not have the authority to make decisions, they have to keep going back to consult with the Board. It is the time taken up by these endless consultations which has delayed the signing of the contract". And the other aspect of the situation

which is angering our members is that by the time the contract is eventually signed, we will then be at the time to start negotiations for the next contract, it could be an endless situation.

On Monday, October 27th, 1969 the Secretary of the Solicitor General component wrote the editor of the Columbian newspaper as follows:

The executive of the New Westminster Local object to the untruths that are at present being printed in your newspaper, that the correctional staff of the B.C. Penitentiary are planning to book off sick for one day before Christmas in protest to the handling of the collective bargaining by the Treasury Board. We, the executive, feel that this would be a breach of our present contract and would not condone this.

This type of protest has never been discussed at any meeting of the executive or members.

The correctional staff has a sworn duty to the citizens of Canada and our past performance shows that we have always put this ahead of anything else.

The National Vice-**President**, with all good intentions contacted your columnist in an attempt to have the truth printed but it would appear from what was printed the following day that your columnist is not interested in facts as this was clearly indicated in these stories.

965 B

These stories have caused undue anxiety among the inmates, administration and staff and we do not appreciate this type of journalism.

Your columnist states that he has an informant inside the walls.

If this is true he should have no objections to printing this informant's name. The informant, if there is one, should have no objections to this as the truth can in no way harm him, but we feel that this is just a figment of his imagination.

We sincerely hope that this unfortunate incident can be rectified in the very near future.

Saturday, November 1st, 1969

The Columbian

PEN CLUB GETS AID

A B.C. Penitentiary Club for Indians is among six Indian related projects to be awarded a total of six thousand four hundred dollars by the Koerner Foundation.

The Indian and Metis Club gets four hundred dollars to assist it's various projects.

A major project is the compilation of a three volume book titled "Indian: Past, Present and Future", which they hope will someday be used in schools as a non-discriminatory, history textbook.

Friday, November 21st, 1969

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY WIVES MARCH IN PROTEST

A group of wives of prison guards at the B.C. Penitentiary in New Westminster demonstrated today to protest the two per cent wage increase offered by the Federal Treasury Board.

A spokesman for the group, who asked that her name be withheld, said the demonstration has nothing to do with our husbands.

We are doing this because we're completely fed up with scrimping, budgeting and mixing powdered milk for our children. The women marched with placards, in front of the Penitentiary.

Later, the group plans to join other wives delegations from the Matsqui and Agassiz Medium Security Prisons for further demonstrations at Harrison Hot Springs, where Prime Minister Trudeau and Finance Benson will be attending the National Liberal Federations Thinkers Conference.



belongs to  
A.E (TONY) MART

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ARCHIVES CANADA

This copy is provided for research purposes only.  
Responsibility regarding questions of copyright  
that may arise in the use of this print is assumed  
by the recipient.

Cette copie a été préparée pour fins de recherche  
seulement. Le récipiendaire sera tenu responsable  
de toute infraction au droit de propriété de ce  
document.

#1 VOLUME 5 1950'S TO 1960'S  
10 \_\_\_\_\_ ACCESSION 2010-008146  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ BOX 0  
APRIL 18 2011